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Appendix B1 – Strategic Landscape and Visual Appraisal – Spetchley Site

1.0 Description of land parcel

1.1 Location

1.1.1 The Spetchley Estate's/ Hallam's land control expands to a 90ha parcel of land, located to the south-east of Worcester. The Site is situated to the east of Junction 7 of the M5 and to the south of Spetchley Park, with the main part of the Site to the north of Whittington Road, and a small additional area to the south of Whittington Road, in close proximity to Junction 7. The Spetchley Site forms the majority of the northern-western part of the Worcestershire Parkway New Settlement Area.

1.1.2 The location of the Site is shown on **Figure 01**. Broadly the Site is bounded by:

- Whittington Road and agricultural fields to the south;
- the M5 to the west;
- agricultural fields with the Cross Country Route (south-west to north-east main railway line) beyond to the east; and
- Spetchley Park and agricultural fields to the north.

1.2 Site Description

1.2.1 Existing landscape features of the site are shown on **Figure 02**. The topography of the Spetchley Site is predominately low-lying and gently undulating. The western part of the Site, adjacent to the M5 is low lying (between 45-50m AOD). The southern and central parts of the Site are slightly elevated, with land rising from around 40m AOD in the east of the Site, and 50m AOD in the west, to the highest ground of approximately 60m AOD at the centre of the southern boundary. The north-western part of the Site generally comprises more level ground. There are a number of ponds, and a tree lined watercourse runs through the eastern part of the Site.

1.2.2 The Site is currently used as farmland, and comprises medium to large sized arable and grazed fields. The field boundaries are geometric and are formed by hedgerows, some of which contain a number of hedgerow trees. There are farm buildings within the south of the Site, a farmhouse (Old House

Farmhouse – Grade II listed) is located adjacent to the northern edge, and Old House Farm Cottages within the centre of the Site. An existing sewage treatment works is present in the north western corner of the Site.

1.2.3 To the south, and outside of the Site, there are residential properties along the Whittington Road. The M5 runs adjacent to the western boundary of the Site, and the Cross Country Route main railway line runs south-west to north-east, generally at grade with the site levels, to the east of the Site.

1.2.4 Field survey forms were used to capture the landscape features and characteristics of different areas of the Site, these are included at Appendix B2, and discussed further in Section 2.1.

1.3 Public rights of way

1.3.1 Public rights of way within or adjacent to the Spetchley Site are shown on **Figure 02** and comprise:

- A public footpath (WT-550) running east – west through the centre of the Site;
- Two bridleways (NJ-502 and NJ-503) running north – south within the eastern part of the Site; and
- A bridleway along the northern boundary of the Site (formed of WT-523, WT-524, WT-525, WT-526, WT-527).

1.3.2 There are a number of local public rights of way in the area surrounding the Site. These include a bridleway and public footpaths to the south of the Site, connecting Whittington Road to Norton. To the north of the Site, a bridleway and public footpaths run north-east, connecting to a public footpath which runs through the deer park within Spetchley Park.

1.3.3 The Millennium Way long distance path runs broadly north – south to the east of the Site, passing the Site approximately 1.9km to the east, at the nearest point.

1.4 Statutory and Non-Statutory Designations

1.4.1 Statutory and non-statutory designations are shown on **Figure 03**. There are no landscape designations within the Spetchley Site itself. There is a listed building within the north of the Site – Old House Farmhouse (Grade II).

1.4.2 A 'Significant Gap' is identified running from eastern edge of Worcester to the western edge of the M5 within the South Worcestershire Development Plan. The Significant Gap is located approximately 100m to the west of the Site at the nearest point.

1.4.3 Significant Gaps are defined within the SWDP¹ as:

“A local planning designation intended to protect the settings and separate identities of settlements by:

- helping to avoid coalescence;*
- retaining the existing settlement pattern through maintaining the openness of the land; and*
- securing the quality of life benefits of having open land close to where people live.”*

1.4.4 The Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is located approximately 11km to the south-east of the Site and the Malvern Hills AONB approximately 11.5km to the south-west.

1.4.5 Spetchley Park Registered Park and Garden (Grade II*) is located approximately 500m to the north-east of the Site. The Spetchley Park Conservation Management Plan (2014)² identifies a number of views that form part of the historic designed landscape. These are discussed further in Section 3.1.

1.4.6 The nearest Conservation Areas to the Site are:

- Whittington Conservation Area, approximately 230m to the west of the Site; and
- Stoulton Conservation Area, approximately 2km to the south-east of the Site.

1.4.7 The nearest Scheduled Monuments to the site comprise:

- ‘Motte castle, moated site, and medieval agricultural remains at Crookbarrow Farm’, 250m to the west of the Site; and
- ‘Moated monastic grange and fishpond complex at Middle Battenhall Farm, 450m north of Upper Battenhall Farm’, 1km to the west of the Site.

1.4.8 Refer to the separate heritage report, which has been prepared to appraise the site in relation to the relevant heritage assets.

¹ South Worcestershire Councils (2016) ‘*South Worcestershire Development Plan*’. [online] Available at: https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?page_id=12262 [Accessed 23.10.2020]

² Debois Landscape Survey Group (2014) ‘Spetchley Park Conservation Management Plan’

2.0 Landscape Character

2.1 Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment³

2.1.1 **Figure 04** illustrates the Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment for the Site and its context.

Landscape types

2.1.2 The Spetchley Site is defined as 'Principal Timbered Farmlands' landscape type by the Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment. This landscape type is described as "*a small- to medium-scale wooded, agricultural landscape characterised by filtered views through densely scattered hedgerow trees*". The key characteristics of this landscape type are set out in **Table 1**, and the extent to which the Spetchley Site displays these are discussed.

Table 1: Appraisal of Landscape Type key characteristics

Landscape Type: Principal Timbered Farmlands	Key Characteristics (Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment)	Discussion - extent to which characteristics are shown, their role in the landscape and condition
Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Hedgerow boundaries to fields</i> 	Yes – most field boundaries are formed by hedgerows. Whilst these vary in species richness and some hedgerows are fragmented in places, they contribute to the sense of enclosure. This characteristic, especially due to the extent of tree cover, is stronger in the central and eastern parts of the site.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ancient wooded character</i> 	Partially – There is no ancient woodland within the Spetchley Site. However, the deer park within Spetchley Park (Registered Park and Garden) to the north, contains an area of ancient woodland. This has an influence on the northern part of the Spetchley Site, where there is intervisibility with the parkland. Future liaison required with heritage consultants.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Notable pattern of hedgerow trees, predominantly oak</i> 	Partially – hedgerows contain more mature trees within central and eastern parts of the Site. Willows are also notable along watercourse in eastern part of the Site.
Secondary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Organic enclosure pattern</i> 	Partially – there are also some regular field boundaries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Small-scale landscape, hedgerow trees creating filtered views</i> 	Yes - hedgerows contain more mature trees within central and eastern parts of the Site, which contributes towards these areas feeling more enclosed and smaller-scale. Fewer trees/ more open landscape in western part.

³ Worcestershire County Council 'Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment' [online] Available at: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20014/planning/1006/landscape_character_assessment [Accessed 23.10.2020]

Landscape Type: Principal Timbered Farmlands	Key Characteristics (Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment)	Discussion - extent to which characteristics are shown, their role in the landscape and condition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Brick and timber building style of old properties</i> 	Yes, including Grade II Listed Old House Farmhouse - brick and timber framed building.
Tertiary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mixed farming land use</i> 	Yes – currently predominantly arable
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Dispersed settlement pattern</i> 	Yes. Also some linear settlement along Whittington Road.

2.1.3 The Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment 'Landscape Type Information Sheet'⁴ notes that one of the key challenges to retaining the character of the Principal Timbered Farmlands Landscape Type, is the loss of scale and structure. This has mainly been brought about through a loss of tree cover, particularly of hedgerow trees. Oak is one of the key hedgerow tree species and it is stated that the:

"The age distribution of hedgerow oak is extremely unbalanced, with the majority of specimens classed as mature or veteran, with little evidence of new stock being planted, or natural regeneration being encouraged, to replenish these."

2.1.4 The landscape guidelines for the area therefore include:

- "maintain the tree cover character of hedgerow oaks, and enhance the age structure of the hedgerow oak population;*
- encourage the planting of new woodlands, reflecting the scale, shape and composition of the existing ancient woodland character, favouring oak as the major species;*
- conserve and restore tree cover along water courses and streamlines;*
- seek opportunities to enhance tree cover along highways and other non-farmed locations;*
- conserve and restore the pattern and composition of the hedgerow structure through appropriate management, and replanting;*
- conserve the organic pattern and character of the lane networks; and*
- maintain the historic dispersed settlement pattern."*

⁴ Worcestershire County Council 'Landscape Type Information Sheet: Principal Timbered Farmlands' [online] Available at: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/downloads/download/808/worcestershire-landscape-type-profiles> (Accessed 23.10.2020)

Landscape Description Units

2.1.5 The Site falls within Landscape Description Unit (LDU) MW107.1 – Spetchley Principal Timbered Farmlands. The commentary provided for this area within the Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment is:

“An area of soft rock comprising mixed mudstones and sandstones producing a rolling, lowland topography and free draining brown soils. The tree cover comprises relic patches of ancient woodland, often associated with densely scattered hedgerow oaks and streamside tree cover. It is an area of mixed farming with farmsteads and groups of wayside dwellings associated with a moderate to high level of dispersal and a small to medium scale field pattern.

- *localised parkland and ornamental grounds with associated features*
- *elm prominent in hedgerows*
- *good representation of tree cover components, with local fragmentation*
- *poor age structure of hedgerow and parkland trees*
- *mixed farming of moderate intensity with generally intact field pattern*
- *woodland poorly represented in places*
- *hedgerows generally in good condition except those associated with parkland*
- *localised high impact of motorway*
- *localised moderate impact of roadside dwellings.”*

2.1.6 The Site is located within the western part of the overall Landscape Description Unit. Whilst hedgerows are present across the site, there is some subtle variation, with the eastern part of the Site having greater numbers of hedgerow trees thus displaying the characteristic of *‘good representation of tree cover components’*. The character of the western part of the site, adjacent to the M5 corridor is strongly influenced by the *‘high impact of the motorway’*.

Landscape cover parcels

2.1.7 The Spetchley Site spans parts of three of the Land Cover Parcels (LCPs) identified within the Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment. The north-western part of the site falls within MW107.1c, the central part of the Site is within MW107.1d and the two eastern fields of the Site are within MW107.1b, **Figure 04**. These three areas are discussed below.

2.1.8 A field survey sheet was completed for each of the three areas within the Spetchley Site, to record landscape character as experienced during a site visit by Nicholas Pearson Associates (20 August 2020). These are included within Appendix B2 and inform the discussions below.

2.1.9 Appraisal has been made with regard to any changes in the landscape from the Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment. This has judged that the assessment of features remains valid for the purposes of this strategic appraisal at this stage of the project. **Figure 02** illustrates the existing landscape features within the Site.

Western part of Site (MW107.1c)

2.1.10 The western part of the Site is low lying, with land rising up towards the east, where it meets the ridge of higher ground through the central part of the Site. Fields are generally medium sized with geometric boundaries. The area has a sense of openness.

2.1.11 Land use is primarily mixed farmland. However, the M5 motorway adjacent to the western edge of the area has an urbanising influence with vehicle movements, lighting columns and traffic noise.

2.1.12 Field boundaries are formed by hedgerows. There are some mature hedgerow trees, however the frequency of these is more limited here than in other parts of the Site.

2.1.13 A public footpath runs through the area connecting to the footbridge over the M5 motorway and Whittington beyond. A bridleway runs along the northern edge of the area.

Central part of Site (MW107.1d)

2.1.14 The central part of the Site spans a north-south ridge and is locally elevated. A track containing a bridleway runs north-south, and connects Old House Farmhouse (Grade II Listed) and Old House Farm cottages to Whittington Road. This adjoins the bridleway running broadly east – west along the northern edge of the Site. A footpath also crosses the area east – west.

2.1.15 The land use is agricultural, and fields are medium sized with geometric boundaries. The frequency of mature field boundary and hedgerow trees is generally greater in this area than in other parts of the Site. Whilst there is a sense of partial enclosure, due to the elevated ground, there are also some longer distance views available, particularly to the south.

2.1.16 There is influence of Spetchley Park (Grade II* Registered Park and Garden) to the north, which displays a strong parkland and ancient wooded character.

Eastern part of Site (MW107.1b)

- 2.1.17 The eastern part of the Site is gently undulating. Field sizes are medium. and the area has a feeling of enclosure.
- 2.1.18 Land use is agricultural. A bridleway runs north – south through the area, following the line of the watercourse. A second bridleway runs east – west along the northern edge of the area.
- 2.1.19 The railway line runs to the east of the area, elevated slightly in places on a low embankment. The wind turbine to the east of the railway is seen from the area.
- 2.1.20 A tree line containing a number of willows follows the watercourse. Hedgerows vary from sections containing clusters of mature trees, to non-treed sections.

2.2 Strategic landscape appraisal

- 2.2.1 Development of the Spetchley Site has potential to cause both direct and indirect adverse effects upon landscape receptors. The landscape effects will relate to the substantial change from the open agricultural landscape to the proposed mixed use development. The level of these effects, as assessed as part of future detailed impact assessment, will vary according to the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of change. For example, designated landscapes, such as Spetchley Park (Grade II* Registered Park and Garden), will typically have a higher sensitivity than areas where the landscape is in poor condition, or the character has been degraded, e.g. through loss of hedgerows. Similarly, magnitude of change is likely to be higher for a local landscape character area, than for a regional or national character area, due, in part, to the proportion of the area being affected.
- 2.2.2 In order to minimise adverse landscape effects, the masterplan should, where possible during design development, seek to; retain key landscape features (such as mature trees, woodland, hedgerows and watercourses); as well as maintain key characteristics of the Principal Timbered Farmlands landscape type (e.g. the *Notable pattern of hedgerow trees, predominantly oak*). Residential uses in the central west, central and eastern parts of the site will seek to respond to existing hedgerow patterns. With respect to employment land, during design development, there will be a review of hedgerows with consideration given to planting sections of new native hedgerow as replacement where appropriate, and as integrated elements within the scheme. These considerations are discussed further in Section 4.0 – Landscape Led Design Principles.

2.2.3 In addition to adverse landscape effects, there is also potential for beneficial landscape effects, particularly where there are elements of the landscape in poor condition. Therefore, opportunities may also be sought to provide landscape enhancement, such as planting new native trees to diversify the age structure across the Site, and improve resilience of the wooded landscape character. These are also discussed further in Section 4.0.

3.0 Visual Context and Values

3.1 Visual context

3.1.1 Visual receptors are groups of people who may experience common views towards the site. Visual receptors for the Spetchley Site include local residents, road users, users of public rights of way and residents of and visitors to Spetchley Park. More specifically, and grouping geographically, the visual receptors groups as set out below, have potential to experience visual effects, related to development of the Site. A selection of photographs from representative viewpoints have been taken from within the Site and the surrounding area, these are located on **Figure 05** and reproduced in **Figures 08-11**.

- **Local residents** of: Old House Farm, Old House Farm Cottages, Whittington Road, Whittington, Norton, Hatfield, Low Hill and Sneachill;
- **Road users** travelling along: Whittington Road (B4084), Woodbury Lane, Church Lane, Hatfield Lane, B4084 to north-west of Stoulton, Evesham Road (A44) between Sneachill and Egdon, A44 north of Spetchley Park, and M5 in proximity to Junction 7;
- **Users of public rights of way**: including - public footpath within Site (WT-550), bridleways within Site (NJ-502 and NJ-502), bridleway along northern boundary (WT-523, WT-524, WT-525, WT-526, WT-527), public rights of way to the north of the Site, including those through Spetchley Park, public footpaths on Round Hill, Millennium Way in proximity to Upper Wolverton, and public rights of way on Crookbarrow Hill, Bredon Hill and within the Malvern Hills;
- **Spetchley Park**: designed views from the house and Round Hill.

3.1.2 The values associated with the range of views comprises:

- Views of key landscape features including Crookbarrow Hill, The Malvern Hills and Bredon Hill;
- General views of the open landscape and associated features, including mature trees, hedgerows and water courses;
- Views available along public rights of way (i.e. footpaths and bridleways).

3.1.3 There will be a range of visual effects to receptors depending on the nature of change associated with the proposals. Such effects and associated mitigation will be considered as part of further impact assessment work, as noted below in section 3.4.

Spetchley Park (Grade II* Registered Historic Park and Garden)

3.1.4 The Spetchley Park Conservation Management Plan (CMP) (2014)⁵ identifies a number of views that form part of the designed landscape of Spetchley Park. These include a series of outward looking 45° views from the house, from both the portico and from the south front (principally seen from the Library bay) and designed views from Round Hill, **Figure 07**. The CMP states that distant features such as Crookbarrow Hill or the Malverns may have been the focus of some of these designed views. Of relevance to the site is the 45° south-west view to Crookbarrow.

3.1.5 The value associated with this view is that it is a designed view from within a registered park and garden.

3.1.6 **Figure 10** shows a photograph taken from the south front of the house along this designed 45° view. The CMP (p.38) states that this:

“view was to Crookbarrow Hill, framed by the trees in Front Field and in the north of Park Close”.

3.2 Views into the land parcel

3.2.1 Views looking in to the strategic growth area, as identified within the main body of this report, are appraised below, in relation to the Spetchley Site.

Table 2: Appraisal of Views into Site in relation to Spetchley land holding

Location of views (area, route or elevated vantage point)	Applicable to land holding?	Potential for views of the land holding	Design considerations to avoid/ minimise effects
Footpaths and noted viewpoints within Malvern Hills	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spetchley Site seen beyond and in combination with other parts of the new settlement area, as part of wider panoramic views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of green infrastructure, including tree planting throughout, to help disaggregate areas of development and assist with integration into the wider landscape Urban design considerations, including scale, massing and height of the proposed development in relation to the surrounding context.

⁵ Debois Landscape Survey Group (2014) ‘Spetchley Park Conservation Management Plan’

Location of views (area, route or elevated vantage point)	Applicable to land holding?	Potential for views of the land holding	Design considerations to avoid/minimise effects
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of building materials and colours, appropriate for the local context
Bredon Hill viewpoint	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spetchley Site seen beyond and in combination with other parts of the new settlement area, as part of wider panoramic views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of green infrastructure, including tree planting throughout, to help disaggregate areas of development and assist with integration into the wider landscape • Urban design considerations, including scale, massing and height of the proposed development in relation to the surrounding context. • Selection of building materials and colours, appropriate for the local context
Spetchley Park, including Round Hill	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern part of Spetchley Site falls within SW view corridor from house to Crookbarrow Hill • Potential for parts of Spetchley Site to be seen from Round Hill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space land use within designed view corridor and minimised extent of development • Sensitive design approach to built form
Stonehall Common and escarpment to the west	No – other landholdings would intervene in views to the north	NA	NA
Low Hill and elevated part of A44 corridor from A44 between Sneachill and Egdon and from public footpath 500(C), 501(C)	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land holding seen in middle distance to the west, and generally filtered by intervening vegetation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green corridor along north-eastern edge of land holding assists in filtering views into the site
Croome Court - Landscape Park	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land holding potentially seen beyond and in combination with other parts of the new settlement area, as part of wider panoramic views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of green infrastructure, including tree planting throughout, to help disaggregate areas of development and assist with integration into the wider landscape • Urban design considerations, including scale, massing and height of the proposed development in relation to the surrounding context • Selection of building materials and colours, appropriate for the local context

3.2.2 **Crookbarrow Hill** – there is no public access to Crookbarrow Hill, and as such it is not appropriate to include views from this location within the scope of a landscape and visual appraisal, or landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA).

3.3 Views out of the land parcel

3.3.1 Consideration has been given to the views from within the site, looking out, such that it may inform the masterplan development process. Views looking out of the strategic growth area, as identified within the main body of the report, are appraised below, in relation to the Spetchley Site.

Table 3: Appraisal of Views out of Site from Spetchley land holding

Location of views (area, route or elevated vantage point)	Relationship with land holding		Design considerations
	View from within land holding?	Land holding falls within view corridor	
1. From footpath 550(C) to north of Whittington Road (B4084) on rising ground towards Old Farm Cottages	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider open space land uses within this more elevated part of site.
2. Botany Bay Lane - bridleway 527(B) between Drovers Bridge and the railway bridge	Yes	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of existing boundary vegetation to retain view
3. Vicinity of wind turbine bridleway to north 525(C) (no public access to foot of wind turbine itself)	No	Yes – peripheral part of view corridor to the north	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of the position and design of built form along south-eastern edge of land holding
4. Elevated land around Mucknall Abbey including bridleway 510(B), 615(C), 512(C), 513(C), 514(C), 524(C)	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of green infrastructure, including tree planting throughout, to help disaggregate areas of development and assist with integration into the wider landscape Urban design considerations, including scale, massing and height of the proposed development in relation to the surrounding context Selection of building materials and colours, appropriate for the local context
5. Elevated land east of Stoulton PROWs to east of Stoulton	No	No	NA

Location of views (area, route or elevated vantage point)	Relationship with land holding		Design considerations
	View from within land holding?	Land holding falls within view corridor	
6. Millennium Way in the vicinity Lower and Upper Wolverton Farms 527(C), 519(C)	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of green infrastructure, including tree planting throughout, to help disaggregate areas of development and assist with integration into the wider landscape • Urban design considerations, including scale, massing and height of the proposed development in relation to the surrounding context • Selection of building materials and colours, appropriate for the local context
7. Footpath 523(C) between Mucknell Abbey and Lower Wolverton Farm	No	No	NA
8. B4084 on elevated land north-west of Stoulton	No	No	NA
9. Public footpaths between Norton and Pershore Road (B4084) in the vicinity of Wood Hall and avenue access road – bridleway 511(B)	No	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of green infrastructure, including tree planting throughout, to help disaggregate areas of development and assist with integration into the wider landscape • Urban design considerations, including scale, massing and height of the proposed development in relation to the surrounding context • Selection of building materials and colours, appropriate for the local context

3.4 Strategic visual appraisal

- 3.4.1 Overall, development of the Spetchley Site has potential to cause varying degrees of change to available views of the site. For example, in local views there is likely to be large scale changes to the composition of views, whereas in longer distance views, development within the Site may be seen as part of wider panoramic views, and in combination with other parts of the new settlement. The level of these effects, would be assessed as part of a future Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) at the planning application stage.
- 3.4.2 Key matters to address within the proposals, with respect to the visual context will relate to considering and responding to:

- The key historic designed views within Spetchley Park;
- Providing opportunities for views beyond the site including towards Crookbarrow Hill, the Malverns, and Bredon Hill; and
- Visual amenity associated with public rights of way.

4.0 Landscape Led Design Principles

4.1.1 The landscape and visual sensitivity analysis described above, has been used to inform the emerging masterplan for the Spetchley Site. Key design principles, which respond to the landscape and visual context of the Site are described below.

4.2 Landscape considerations

4.2.1 In relation to landscape character, the masterplan seeks to retain key landscape features, to provide a mature landscape setting. This includes a network of green corridors across the Site and retention of mature trees, hedgerows and ponds within them. The existing public rights of way within these corridors are retained to provide active travel routes. The tree-lined watercourse within the eastern part of the Site is retained within an area of open space.

4.3 Visual considerations

4.3.1 The visual analysis identified the potential for development of the Site to impact upon historic designed views from Spetchley Park, including the SW view from the house towards Crookbarrow Hill. The northern part of the Site falls within this view corridor. In response, building heights have been carefully considered, and open space land uses are identified for the northern corner of the Site within the masterplan.

4.3.2 The Site will be variously seen in local views and as part of longer distance views. A network of green infrastructure is proposed across the Site, including corridors containing retained mature trees, which alongside new tree planting, will assist in integrating the development into the wider landscape.

4.4 Landscape strategy

4.4.1 The following outline landscape strategy has been developed to minimise potential adverse landscape and visual effects, whilst maximising opportunities for enhancements to landscape character. The strategy is illustrated within **Figure 06**.

1. **Green infrastructure network.** Develop a multifunctional network of publicly accessible landscape and green infrastructure across the site, which identifies and integrates with existing landscape

features, provides opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, and promotes equal access to green spaces. SWDPR Policy 49 - Worcestershire Parkway requires a minimum of 40% green infrastructure across the allocation.

2. **Sustainable drainage strategy.** Develop, at an early stage, a strategy for surface water management through sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). This to be integrated within the landscape and green infrastructure network. Consideration should be given to opportunities to provide amenity and biodiversity benefits, alongside the management of surface water quality and quantity, through the design and implementation of SuDS features. The SuDS strategy should consider aquatic typologies already present within the area and identified within local landscape character assessments.
3. **Landscape scale planting and climate change resilience.** Proposals for large scale planting of woodlands, trees and hedgerows, should seek to form part of the landscape framework across the Site. Such planting should be appropriate to the local landscape character and help to integrate development with the new landscape surroundings. Consideration should be given to recommendations for the 'Principal Timbered Farmlands' landscape type, which identifies species, hedgerow and woodland types characteristic of the area and would provide combined benefits of greater carbon sequestration, air quality, visual containment, biodiversity, shelter and shade over time. New planting should also seek to reinforce the character of the historic landscape to the north of the Site.
4. **Public access, open space and connectivity.** Connect to and integrate the existing public right of way network, with routes through the site, where appropriate and achievable, in order to encourage walking and assist with providing associated health and wellbeing benefits.
5. **Existing landscape features.** Undertake further, more detailed landscape and visual, tree and vegetation surveys to identify key specific features and develop protection, retention and enhancement strategies. Consideration to be given to the protection and re-use of soil across the site.
6. **Landscape management.** Proposals should be designed and developed with consideration, as appropriate, for the management of the component elements of the landscape (including soils, vegetation cover and water) in the short, medium and long term. This will assist in the successful establishment of the green infrastructure network and its on-going maintenance and monitoring.

