



Northumberland County Council

**Construction of a publicly accessible landmark,
commissioned to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II
and the Commonwealth**

**Land at Cold Law, near Kirkwhelpington,
Northumberland**

Landscape and Visual Evidence
Summary (J.3.2)

Prepared by David Stokoe CMLI

Local Planning Authority Reference: 19/00247/FUL

Planning Inspectorate Case Reference: APP/P2935/W/20/3244389

Report for

Gordon Halliday
Planning Services
PLACE Directorate
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
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Document revisions

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1	Final issue	08/02/21



1. Summary

- 1.1.1.1 I have provided evidence for the purpose of addressing the landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development on behalf of the local planning authority, Northumberland County Council (NCC).
- 1.1.1.2 My name is David Stokoe and I am currently employed as a Principal Landscape Consultant at Wood Group UK Limited. I have been a chartered landscape architect (CMLI) since 2000 and I am also a qualified and experienced urban designer. The evidence which I have prepared and provide for this appeal is true and has been prepared and is given in accordance with the guidance of my professional institution and I confirm that the opinions expressed are my true and professional opinions.
- 1.1.1.3 My evidence considers how the landscape character of the site and wider area would be affected by the Proposed Development; a large scale landmark sculpture. Overall, it has been found that the introduction of the sculpture with associated development would be incompatible with, and damaging to, the prevailing landscape character. These detrimental effects would be most notably experienced in relation to the distinctive landforms of the upland area in which the Proposed Development would be sited and through a reduction in the strong sense of remoteness and rurality which pervades the site area and adjoining landscape character areas.
- 1.1.1.4 It has also been found that the development would result in adverse visual effects as a consequence of the dominating presence of the sculpture which would adversely affect a range of receptors including residents as they travel through the area and recreational users of the local path network and areas of open access land.
- 1.1.1.5 Overall, I believe the original decision to refuse the planning application on the basis of failure '*to recognise the intrinsic character and nature of the countryside in this location*' to be based on a sound understanding of the likely adverse landscape and visual effects which the Proposed Development would introduce and recommend that this judgement is upheld.

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