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**GILLESPIES**

CREATIVE DESIGN FOR MASTERPLANNING,  
LANDSCAPES AND URBAN SPACES

CAPABILITY BROCHURE

**LANDSCAPE & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING**



# CONTENTS

FOREWORD	4
PRACTICE PROFILE	7
LANDSCAPE PLANNING	8
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING	10
RESIDENTIAL AND MIXED-USE	12
ENERGY	58
WATER	126
RETAIL AND LEISURE	144
EDUCATION & HEALTH	166
TRANSPORT	176

# FOREWORD

BY SARAH GIBSON, HEAD OF LANDSCAPE PLANNING

Landscape architects and environmental planners have a key role to play in protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment for the public benefit. This is of even greater importance in light of Covid-19, a stark reminder of communities' needs for well-designed and accessible open space for all, which is climate resilient and adaptable to social changes.

Our responsibility to the environment is key to our company's future success. Whether you have a national strategic infrastructure project requiring support through the DCO process, or a more localised town and country planning application, we are here to help you achieve your project goals and objectives, while delivering resilience to climate change and creating environmentally sustainable places that enhance people's well-being.

We have the skills to ensure that development is located in the most appropriate location to begin with, and then to develop the structure and ultimately the detail of how a new development can best function sustainably, respond to its context appropriately, protect and conserve existing assets, have a net environmental gain, and become a valued part of the landscape and urban fabric.

This brochure presents a series of case studies that demonstrate the breadth and scope of our landscape planning work across a variety of sectors. As an independent landscape practice, we have the freedom to provide the highest levels of customer service to our clients, whether this is using our in-house staff or by bringing together a bespoke team of technical specialists.

Essentially, we care about people and building trusted relationships with each other and with our clients. We want our clients to come back to us time and time again.... and they do.







# PRACTICE PROFILE

## ABOUT US

Gillespies helps clients to lead the way in landscape and urban design, masterplanning and landscape planning.

From our UK and international offices, our team of over 140 people work closely with our clients and partners to deliver responsibly designed, transformative and award-winning spaces that focus on creating wellbeing and sense of place.

Our mission is to help our clients and partners create places in harmony with their surroundings and the environment, that offer real meaning and value to the people that will use them.

From the smallest community park or rooftop garden to an entire city-wide masterplan, we set out to create inspirational spaces with a purpose: to make people's lives measurably better.

This approach and the quality of our work wins multiple awards for our clients. But we believe that no matter how well-executed a design, strategy or plan is, the real measure of success is that the work becomes well-used, indeed loved, and stands the test of time.

These are principles we have been using since 1962, and they have made us one of the most successful practices in our industry.

## OUR EXPERTISE

The practice is well-equipped to manage projects of all scales, and is particularly skilled in all aspects of landscape planning and design, from the initial identification and appraisal of sites, to the design and delivery of large-scale masterplans and public realms.

We apply multiple skills to overcome what are often complex environmental and development challenges, working across a wide

range of scales, budgets and sectors including residential, mixed-use, cultural, leisure, energy, commercial, transport, education and healthcare. Collectively, our studios have worked on some of the largest and most prestigious commissions available to our profession, working broadly across the UK, Europe, the Middle East, China, South East Asia and North America.

## OUR DESIGN APPROACH

Improving people's quality of life is at the heart of our design approach. Our work is underpinned by research and a thorough understanding of people and how they interact and respond to spaces, nature and each other, helping us to deliver healthy and intelligent places that add real value to people's lives.

We plan each project thoroughly so that no detail is left unattended, and know our subject exhaustively so our designs, plans and recommendations are as complete as we can possibly make them. It is about leaving no stone unturned to deliver thoughtful, considered, well-researched outcomes that deliver high quality spaces of exceptional quality.

## RESPONSIBLE DESIGN

We understand that we have a responsibility to lead and promote the development of sustainable landscapes that are responsive to the environment, actively contribute to the development of healthy communities and protect and enhance wildlife. We embrace the principles of sustainability through design, land use evaluation, conservation and sensitive management to create beautiful spaces that foster environmental responsibility, engender wellbeing and benefit both the community and the environment that we all share.



# LANDSCAPE PLANNING

## OUR OFFER

Our award-winning landscape planning team offers services across a range of sectors - from large-scale energy and infrastructure through to small housing projects and sensitive heritage sites. We support infrastructure providers and utilities companies, government bodies, developers, architects and contractors, ensuring that projects are better planned, communicated and delivered.

As members of the Landscape Institute, we offer the following landscape planning services:

- Landscape, townscape and seascape character assessment
- Landscape and visual impact assessment
- Landscape and visual sensitivity and capacity studies
- Mitigation and enhancement
- Planning for future landscapes and climate change
- Presenting information

### **Landscape, Townscape and Seascape Character Assessment**

Landscape and/or townscape character assessment is concerned with how a range of natural and socio-economic factors contribute to sense of place and how that place is perceived, valued and experienced by people.

Our expertise in character assessment has developed over many years and has been applied at regional and local scales for local authorities, land owners, developers and infrastructure providers. We have prepared LCAs to inform a wide range of activities, including planning policies and decisions, land management plans, place-making strategies, green infrastructure, waterway and regional park strategies, and renewable energy. These are playing an important role in managing and guiding future landscape change.

### **Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and Townscape Assessment (TVIA)**

Changes to the existing landscape or townscape are often the most contentious element of new developments. By identifying the effects of proposals on views and on the landscape, LVIA can often be key to planning decisions. LVIA/ TVIA may be carried out formally as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment, or as an informal contribution to the appraisal of development proposals and planning applications.

Our expert assessors undertake LVIA/ TVIAs across the full spectrum of property and infrastructure development, including transport and

energy infrastructure, residential, mixed use and commercial, education and healthcare, water and leisure projects.

In recognition of this expertise, we are regularly approached to undertake independent peer reviews of LVIA/ TVIAs in terms of their content and quality of methodology and assessment of impacts.

### **Landscape and Visual Sensitivity and Capacity Studies**

Landscape and visual sensitivity assessment has become an important way of using an understanding of landscape character to inform the management of landscape change. Landscape and visual sensitivity is defined as the ability of a landscape to accommodate change of a particular type and scale, whilst maintaining or enhancing landscape character and visual amenity. It combines judgements about landscape and visual susceptibility and landscape value.

Gillespies has built market leading expertise in this area of landscape planning, undertaking assessments at a variety of scales, from a strategic to local scale on behalf of local authorities and developers. We have developed a systemic assessment framework which uses carefully selected criteria to systematically assess the sensitivity of the landscape and identify those areas which can potentially accommodate different types of development without impacting key landscape and visual qualities.

Our landscape planning partner, Sarah Gibson, is part of the working group helping National Resources Wales develop its new national guidance for assessing landscape and visual sensitivity and was on the working group for Natural England's 2019 guidance '*An approach to landscape sensitivity assessment - to inform spatial planning and land management*'.

### **Mitigation and Enhancement**

Mitigation measures are measures that are proposed to help avoid, reduce or offset landscape and visual effects. These may include measures that are developed through the design process and are embedded into the project design, standard construction measures for avoiding and reducing potential impacts, and secondary measures designed to address any residual effects (such as replanting hedgerows which have been lost).

Our landscape planners work closely with our design teams to avoid likely impacts, or seek opportunities to offset or compensate for unavoidable effects. They are also skilled at helping our clients



identify measures to improve or enhance the existing landscape as part of their development proposals. This can make a very real contribution to sustainable development and the overall quality of the environment.

### **Planning for Future Landscapes and Climate Change**

Human activity is putting increasing demands on our landscapes. This activity modifies existing landscape patterns and processes either inadvertently or deliberately, for example through the effects of climate change. Landscape planners have an important role to play in understanding these pressures and advising on how future change can be sustainably managed in a way that is sympathetic to the landscape, allowing it to be maintained for future generations to enjoy.

Gillespies' landscape planners have achieved a high academic standard and are skilled at predicting change and seeking creative and innovative solutions to help protect the environment. Three of our landscape planning projects recently won national Landscape Institute awards due to their innovative and best practice approach to problem solving.

### **Presenting Information**

The choice of appropriate presentation techniques is crucial to good communication.

Our landscape planning teams are carefully selected for their ability to write impartially and dispassionately, presenting information and reasoning accurately and in a balanced way, and making clear where statements are based on the author's professional judgement. Our written work is supported by high- quality, informative maps, illustrations and photographs.

Gillespies' skilled and creative graphics teams produce 3D static illustrations and technically accurate photomontages, as well as more dynamic 'fly through' presentations. Recent developments in digital technology mean that these can be developed far more efficiently and cost effectively than ever before, which means they are increasingly being used as a tool during the design and assessment process to test development scenarios and their likely impact. We work closely with TrueView Visuals, a company which provides 3D augmented reality (AR) tools using a build-up of map data, digital terrain models and aerial photographic data. AR involves placing a 3D model of a proposed design onto an existing space using an iOS or Android mobile device. It means that we can provide our clients, on-site presentations of their proposed development, which increases efficiency by saving time and money.



# ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

## OUR OFFER

### Environmental Planning

Gillespies' environmental planning work covers a diverse range of development proposals, including some large and high profile infrastructure schemes, which often generate considerable public interest.

We have the expertise and resources to help clients at all stages of the planning process: from the initial identification and appraisal of sites, through to the co-ordination of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), detailed assessments and submission of Development Consent Orders (DCO); to giving expert evidence at public inquiries and DCO hearings. Post-consent, we can assist with discharging conditions and obtaining approval for non-material amendments. Our clients include private developers, utility companies, local authorities and statutory and government agencies.

Our environmental planning services include:

- Environmental impact assessment
- Development planning
- Expert witness
- Master planning
- GIS

Our EIA co-ordinators are experts in their field, which is more important than ever before, as EIA Regulations now stipulate that the onus is with the developer to ensure that EIA is undertaken by competent experts.

### Environmental Impact Assessment

Working collaboratively with our clients, co-professionals and stakeholders enables us to understand the likely effects of developments on the environment and ensure that proposals meet regulatory and policy obligations. Where impacts are unavoidable, we seek to find ways to reduce or mitigate them and identify ways in which the environment may be improved, as part of the development process.

Ours services include:

- Screening and scoping advice
- EIA co-ordination
- Environmental Statement / EIA report production
- Peer review

Gillespies is a member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), our commitment to excellence in our EIA services.

### Development Planning

With our extensive experience, we help our clients through the full cycle of development from initial studies, through EIA, to the submission of applications and supporting documents, and the subsequent discharge of conditions and requirements.

For major infrastructure developments a DCO under the Planning Act may be required. Our team has experience of guiding projects through the process, including statutory and non-statutory consultation, stakeholder liaison, Statements of Common Ground, submission of the application, Examination, granting of a DCO and discharge of requirements.

We also have experience of a range of other consenting regimes including Section 37 of the Electricity Act, and applications under the Town and Country Planning Act.

Pre application can require active involvement with a number of stakeholders, sometimes over a number of years. Our team has the skills and experience to identify and engage with the wide range of interested parties that are involved with major projects including communities, elected members and statutory organisations. Developing and maintaining good relationships is key to ongoing successful dialogue.

### Master Planning

Gillespies produce high-quality and award-winning masterplans across a range of sectors, both in the UK and internationally.

To design a destination where appeal and value endure, which enhances prosperity and is an attractive place in which to live and work, a multi-faceted approach to design is essential. Gillespies emphasise the integration of market analysis, urban design, infrastructure engineering and delivery strategy in the preparation of our masterplans, ensuring that our solutions are economically viable whilst simultaneously environmentally and socially responsive.

### Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

GIS is used through all our services and projects, allowing spatial analysis and map production to be undertaken in a fraction of the time that is required using traditional techniques. We apply it to many of our projects, including spatial strategies, growth options assessment, Green Belt Assessment and sustainability appraisals, as it is not only more efficient, but also avoids scope for human error, resulting in a clear and defensible audit trail. Once the GIS model is set up, it is very easy to include new constraints, criteria or data, and assessments can be easily re-run or applied to a new area.

One of our most common applications of GIS is constraint analysis, whereby areas that may be off limits to development or could potentially accommodate development only in certain circumstances, are analysed quickly and consistently. By identifying areas that are least constrained, development can be targeted to those areas, which will bring about the greatest benefits and cause least disturbance to the environment.

Gillespies' skilled GIS teams are constantly establishing new ways to meet the needs of diverse audiences, and of integrating GIS into the production of high-quality materials.



# RESIDENTIAL AND MIXED-USE

## SELECT WORKS









# LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL SENSITIVITY STUDY FOR SHROPSHIRE, UK

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Gillespies produced a landscape and visual sensitivity assessment for the county of Shropshire. A key requirement of the brief was that the landscape and visual sensitivity assessments should be prepared and presented separately.



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**CLIENT:** SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL  
**LOCATION:** SHROPSHIRE, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE & VISUAL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

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The study, which focussed on 60 settlements, was needed to inform the selection of housing and employment sites for allocation through the Council's Local Plan Review. It also provided a robust evidence base to support existing Local Plan policy, which seeks to protect landscape character and visual amenity in Shropshire through the development control process.

The assessment considered the landscape and visual sensitivity of over 200 land parcels. This required a rigorous approach, detailed site work, attention to detail and the application of careful terminology. Throughout the process, Gillespies worked proactively with the Council's Steering Group to empower those who are charged with the delivery and defence of the study findings and subsequent Plan decisions.

The report includes thoroughly researched baseline information, consistent assessment thresholds across both landscape and visual sensitivity, clearly understandable assessment narratives and supporting graphics that present conclusions simply and clearly.

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# ISLE OF ANGLESEY, GWYNEDD AND SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT, UK

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Award winning landscape sensitivity and capacity study of the landscapes of Anglesey, Gwynedd and Snowdonia National Park, focused on a number of development types.



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**CLIENT:** ANGLESEY, GWYNEDD AND SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK  
**LOCATION:** NORTH WALES, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE & VISUAL SENSITIVITY & CAPACITY STUDY

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Working with a project steering group that comprised representatives from the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Planning Policy Unit (JPPU) and Snowdonia National Park Authority, Gillespies was appointed to prepare a landscape sensitivity and capacity study for the development of wind energy, field-scale Solar PV, static caravan / chalet parks and extensions, telecommunications infrastructure, and 400 kV overhead lines.

The report aims to help to protect sensitive and distinctive landscapes from inappropriate development and encourage a positive approach to development, in the right location and at an appropriate scale. It provides a robust evidence base for determining planning applications and informing the development of Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Key requirements of the brief for the study by Gillespies included that it should be user-friendly, concise and consistent with approaches in neighbouring authorities. The strategic scale of this project required extensive use of LANDMAP and ArcGIS during desktop research.

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# SOUTH LAKELAND HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT LAND SEARCH STUDY, YORKSHIRE, UK

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Gillespies undertook this important strategic study aimed at understanding the potential to create housing and employment urban extension areas around a number of settlements within a study area extending from the Lake District to the Yorkshire Dales National Park.



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**CLIENT:** SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCIL  
**LOCATION:** YORKSHIRE, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE CAPACITY STUDY  
**IMAGES:** © SHUTTERSTOCK

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Gillespies was appointed by South Lakeland District Council to carry out a series of audits of the South Lakeland area to identify the main drivers and constraints for the location of new housing development. Essentially this was a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis to identify broad locations for potential development. There was no attempt to rank settlements or locations at this stage, rather the aim was to identify the 'possible'. At the same time as identifying the potential constraints and opportunities for development, the team carried out a process of site identification. This was based on a localised assessment of each settlement and the surrounding landscape context. Importantly, these two processes were carried out in parallel. The identified sites were then subjected to systematic appraisal in terms of their sustainability (environmental and landscape context, accessibility, facilities) and deliverability (services, location, feasibility and viability), using a bespoke set of criteria.

In addition to the above appraisal, a number of specific comments were made based on the strategic analysis, consultations and discussions with stakeholders as to a site's suitability.

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# NORTH WEST LEICESTER LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY STUDY, UK

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On behalf of North West Leicestershire District Council, Gillespies prepared a landscape and visual sensitivity study to help inform a review of the Local Plan, in particular the allocation of sites for development.



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**CLIENT:** NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
**LOCATION:** LEICESTERSHIRE, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE & VISUAL SENSITIVITY STUDY

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National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) refers to the need to recognise the importance of 'the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside' and to allocating 'land with the least environmental or amenity value'. The overall aim of this study was therefore to provide an understanding of which areas of the district were, in landscape terms, the most sensitive to the impact of new development and thereby ensure that future development is directed to the most appropriate locations.

The study provided landscape and visual sensitivity analysis of areas in and around 23 selected settlements across the district, and also put forward mitigation measures, which could be adopted to limit the effects of development on particular settlements. After gaining an understanding of the existing landscape and visual character, each area was appraised against a bespoke set of landscape and visual criteria. This was a strategic assessment that can be used to inform more detailed studies relating to specific site allocations and development proposals undertaken at a local authority level, as part of the Local Plan and development management process.





# TELFORD AND WREKIN LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL SENSITIVITY STUDY, SHROPSHIRE, UK

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Telford and Wrekin Council want to ensure that all future developments are built in the right places, and contribute to the wider community and environment. Gillespies has prepared a landscape and visual sensitivity study that will help inform the allocation of new residential and employment development sites in the landscape around 11 existing settlements, ensuring that all future developments are assigned to less environmentally-sensitive locations.



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**CLIENT:** TELFORD AND WREKIN COUNCIL  
**LOCATION:** TELFORD AND WREKIN  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL SENSITIVITY STUDY

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Following on from our award-winning landscape and visual sensitivity study for Shropshire Council, our experience assisted Telford and Wrekin Council in undertaking a complementary assessment to help inform the allocation of future development sites. All local authorities have to plan for new housing and employment land, a study such as this is a key piece of information to guide new development to the most appropriate locations and will become even more essential if the proposals of the Draft Planning White Paper 2020 come to realisation.

Telford and Wrekin is home to some notable landscape features including The Wrekin in the Shropshire Hills AONB and two Strategic Landscapes which have valued landscape characteristics and special qualities. Judgements of landscape value and susceptibility are taken into consideration in the assessment process, in order to ensure that future change is managed in a way that is sympathetic to landscape character and visual amenity, directing any new development to the least sensitive locations in landscape and visual terms.

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# MASTIN MOOR, DERBYSHIRE, UK

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On behalf of the Chatsworth Settlement Trustees (CST), Gillespies prepared a masterplan and LVIA for 650 new dwellings on land at Mastin Moor, Derbyshire. Once complete, The proposal will provide opportunities and benefits for all sections of the local community, helping to overcome issues that can lead to deprivation and adding real value to peoples' lives.



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**CLIENT:** CHATSWORTH SETTLEMENT TRUSTEES  
**LOCATION:** MASTIN MOOR, DERBYSHIRE, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN, LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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The residential settlement comprises mostly 1950s and 1960s houses, with some bungalows and more recent infill development. The proposed 15ha development site occupies a shallow valley on the edge of the village, close to the M1 and proposed route of HS2 Phase 2B.

Gillespies was commissioned to appraise the context and character of the site and develop a vision and masterplan to support an outline planning application. In response to the natural and built context of the area, a series of design principles were also developed, to inform subsequent detailed design and reserved matters planning applications and ensure that the development has a distinctiveness that relates to the areas local character. A range of surveys were undertaken to support the outline application, which included an LVIA to ascertain the likely effect of the proposed development on views from nearby settlement and surrounding landscape.

Once complete, the development will double the size of the existing community garden, and provide new homes and 21ha of new parkland, play areas and other green infrastructure.

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# KEW BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON, UK

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Gillespies designed the masterplan and landscapes, and also undertook detailed Townscape and Visual Impact assessments for this new development in Kew. The site occupies an area of open space set back from the road, on a site previously used by the water industry.



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**CLIENT:** ST JAMES URBAN LIVING  
**LOCATION:** LONDON, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES | ASSAEL ARCHITECTS | STOCK WOOLSTENCROFT  
**SERVICE:** TOWNSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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When designing for this new residential area, Gillespies' objectives were to identify opportunities for the public realm areas, the residential amenity and to create a distinctive sense of place. The focus has been on the quality of the experience for future residents, to create an attractive and sustainable place for living, visiting and moving around. Gillespies designed a series of landscapes that promote a sense of well-being and belonging, and reduce opportunities for anti-social behaviour. Water has been used to animate key spaces, and the use of wildlife friendly planting and native trees maximise the site's nature conservation value.

Mixed-uses for this new development are encouraged and facilitated. There are areas for sitting and relaxing, play areas, signage and wayfinding for visitors, and pedestrian and cycle routes are defined with amenities such as cycle racks. A linear park forms a pedestrian link for the development and is part of a longer route to Kew Bridge Rail Station.





# EAST WITNEY LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT, OXFORDSHIRE, UK

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Gillespies was appointed to produce a critique of Witney Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and create a Vision for East Witney. Both reports were prepared to support the promotion of land east of Witney through the West Oxfordshire Local Development Framework.



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**CLIENT:** CARTER JONAS LLP  
**LOCATION:** OXFORDSHIRE, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** VISION + LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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Gillespies has been working with East Witney Land Consortium to assist in promoting their land to accommodate the scale of growth proposed for Witney while providing sustainable transport solutions for this thriving market town in West Oxfordshire. A landscape character assessment of the local area was carried out to critically review the existing LCA documentation and provide a baseline for further development planning.

The Vision for East Witney aimed to deliver a sustainable urban extension that would build on the proximity to the town centre, enhance the existing community by creating new facilities and services, make use of existing transport infrastructure and provide new and enhanced habitats including significant woodland planting. The proposed scheme would make a major contribution to transport infrastructure in West Oxfordshire through the provision of a Park and Ride site and an upgrade of the Shores Green A40 Junction, which would relieve traffic congestion in Witney. In addition, the proposals aimed to make a significant contribution to sustainable travel patterns in the area by providing further cycle and pedestrian links.





# STAVELEY WORKS AREA 1, YORKSHIRE, UK

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Chatsworth Settlement Trustees, part of the Chatsworth Estate, applied to Chesterfield Borough Council for outline consent to build 700 homes and community facilities on the former Staveley Works site. The planning application was the latest stage in a regeneration process linking with the overall aims of Chesterfield Borough



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The Staveley Works site had been derelict for several years after its 200-year history of industrial development, including mining and iron and steel making, came to a close. Gillespies was appointed as part of the collaborative design team to develop a masterplan for the site and the wider Staveley and Rother valley corridor with the aim of delivering inclusive and creative places that improve peoples' well-being and add real value to their lives. As well as new housing, redevelopment of the 100-acre brownfield site will include a primary school, a marina on the Chesterfield Canal, retail

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Council and Derbyshire County Council to deliver new investment and infrastructure into the area.

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# SOUTH MACCLESFIELD DEVELOPMENT AREA, EAST CHESHIRE, UK



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South Macclesfield Development Area (SMDA) is a 53ha strategic development site on the southern edge of Macclesfield. The proposals represent a comprehensive approach to the development of the brown and greenfield site. The mix of uses includes new homes, green infrastructure, community facilities and a primary school.



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**CLIENT:** POZZONI ARCHITECTURE LTD  
(ENGINE OF THE NORTH)  
**LOCATION:** EAST CHESHIRE, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE STRATEGY,  
LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT

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A new 1.5km link road opens up the site and improves connectivity around Macclesfield for the community. The site is a priority for East Cheshire Council and is allocated within the adopted Local Plan.

The design evolution sought to retain as much of the existing natural habitats as possible and to promote opportunities for habitat enhancement. A landscape strategy was submitted in support of the application which included detail on the planting to potentially be retained as part of the development and areas highlighted for proposed additional planting.

Gillespies worked collaboratively with the client, wider design team and other key stakeholders to prepare the landscape strategy for the site, providing technical guidance and an LVIA as part of the formal EIA process. This considered the impact of the proposed development on landscape character and on a number of visual receptors, including people using public footpaths and roads, as well as occupants of residential dwellings.





# BARNSELY WEST LVIA, SOUTH YORKSHIRE, UK

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Developers Strata Homes and Sterling Capitol PLC worked in collaboration with Barnsley Council to prepare the Barnsley West Masterplan Framework document for land south of Barugh Green Road, Barnsley. The plan proposes a mixed-use development on a former open-cast mining site to provide around 1,700 new homes and 43ha of employment land.

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**CLIENT:** STRATA HOMES, STERLING CAPITOL AND BARNSELY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
**LOCATION:** BARNSELY, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** MASTERPLAN, LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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The site is well-located to provide a high-quality, sustainable, mixed-use community. Barnsley West will create an accessible landscape for walking, cycling, growing food and biodiversity. As a landscape-led development, health and well-being is at the heart of the masterplan.

Gillespies was appointed by the developers to contribute to the masterplan and vision document for the mixed use development, which also includes a primary school, shops, other community facilities, and a new access road. The development will be linked by a new green and blue infrastructure network with formal and informal open greenspaces, wildlife corridors, flood water attenuation basins and swales, and new pedestrian and cycle routes that will serve as a setting for the new community and workplace that will become Barnsley West. The vision is to provide a sustainable community, combining high quality homes with jobs, facilities and open space, available to new and existing residents.

Gillespies also prepared the LVIA for the proposed development as part of the wider EIA. The output from the assessment was used as part of an iterative process to inform the design evolution and ensure that the proposals complement the surrounding landscape and minimises the impact on neighbouring areas and also contribute to climate change resilience through tree planting, sustainable drainage and reduction in car use. The development is intended to tie into Barnsley's aim to be carbon zero by 2045.





# MEDIACITYUK: PHASE 4-7, SALFORD, UK

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To support proposed new phases of MediaCityUK over a 20-year period, Gillespies has prepared the townscape and visual impact (TVIA) chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

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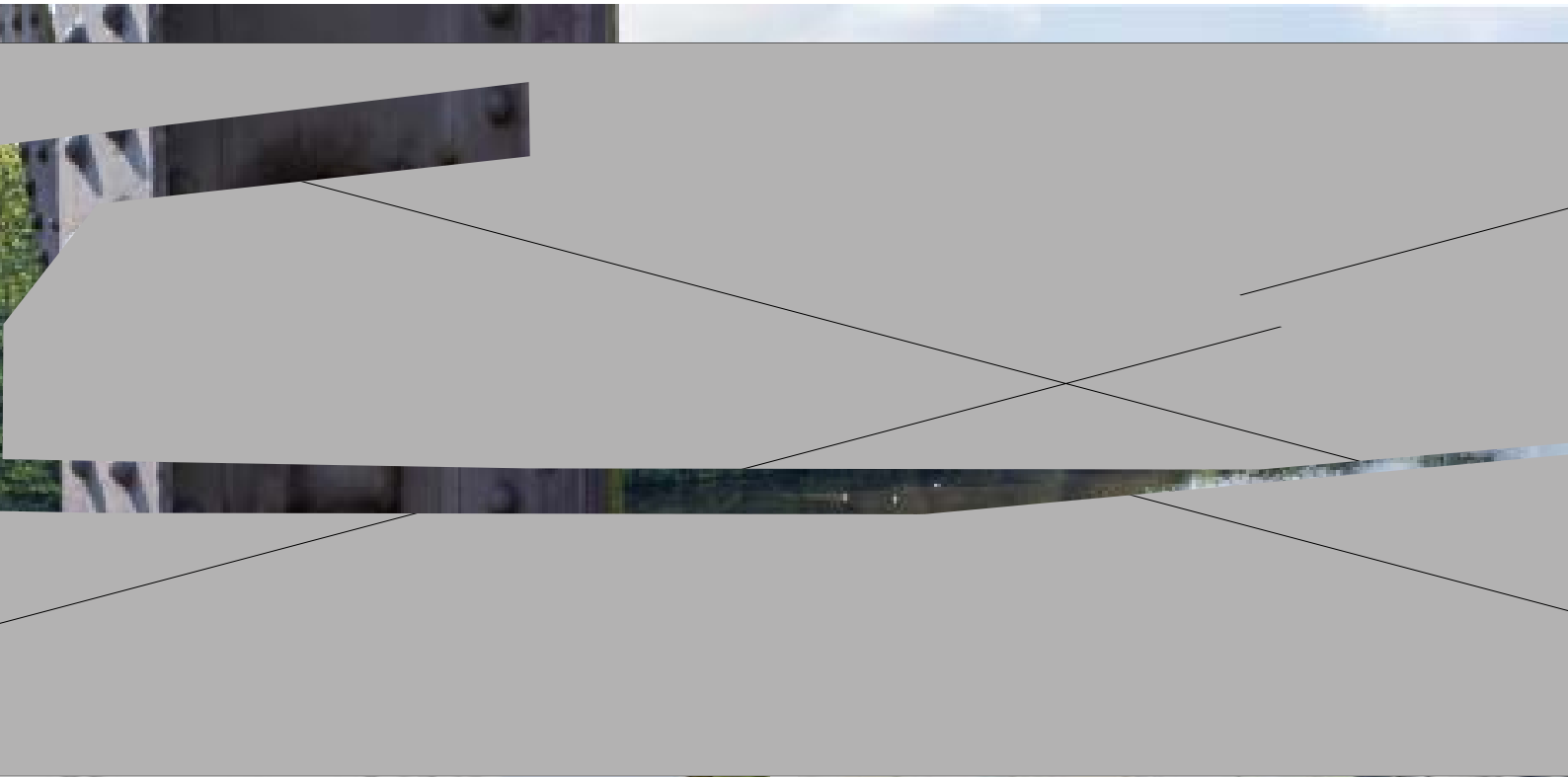
**CLIENT:** PEEL GROUP  
**LOCATION:** SALFORD, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** TOWNSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

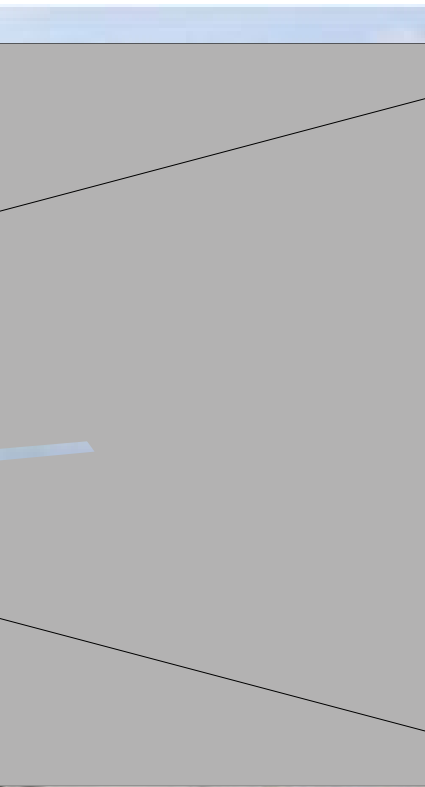
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High quality public spaces, effective green infrastructure and creating a sustainable community with a responsible approach to energy and resource consumption, are central to the planned new phases of development. In line with 'green' priorities, Gillespies' landscape design includes water features, green roofs that enable rainwater harvesting, improved pedestrian, cycle and public transport links, and the retention of existing trees to create an strong 'ecology corridor'.

Rooted an exceptional new landscape that ensures a continuation of the high quality public realm spaces created in Phase 1, the new plans for MediaCityUK include an additional 459,000 m<sup>2</sup> (5 million sq ft) of mixed use development. This includes some 212,000 m<sup>2</sup> of new offices; 95,000 m<sup>2</sup> of residential; 26,000 m<sup>2</sup> hotels; 8,000 m<sup>2</sup> retail space, 2,500 m<sup>2</sup> leisure and 115,000 m<sup>2</sup> of car parking. Potentially delivered over a 20 year period the plans are expected to be delivered in four main development phases.

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# TRAFFORD WATERS, TOWNSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, UK

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Comprising some 3000 new dwellings, commercial development, new Metrolink extension and a large landscape infrastructure, the Trafford Water development in Trafford is one of the largest residential led developments in the North West.

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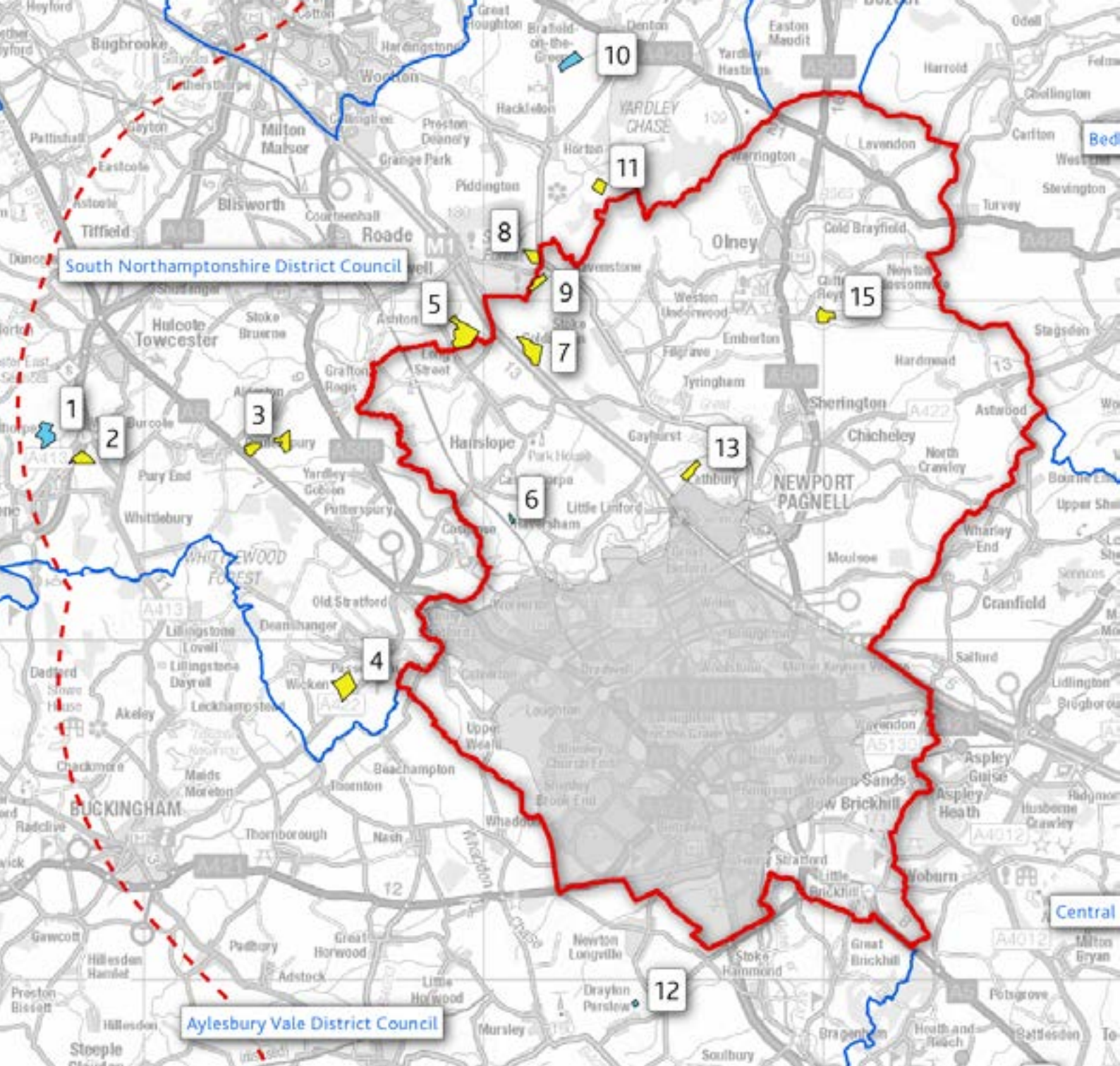
**CLIENT:** PEEL GROUP  
**LOCATION:** MANCHESTER, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** TOWNSCAPE AND  
VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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The landmark development will bring much needed new affordable housing development and regenerate a brownfield site on the banks of the Manchester Ship Canal.

For this ambitious and transformational project Gillespies were instructed by developer Peel as the landscape architect responsible for the landscape masterplan and were authors of the townscape and visual impact assessment (TVIA) that supported the planning applications Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). As one of the largest planning applications the local planning authority had ever received, the complexities of the application and the challenges of negotiations with Officers at the Council were considerable and required careful and accurate attention to procedure and detail. The TVIA required the identification of over 30 representative viewpoints from across the city and from these the assessment of both immediate development effects and cumulative effects, i.e. the townscape and visual effects anticipated associated with other major development proposals.

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# MILTON KEYNES LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT, UK

Gillespies reviewed and updated the landscape character assessment for the Borough of Milton Keynes. The assessment will undergo a public consultation process and will be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance.



**CLIENT:** MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL  
**LOCATION:** MILTON KEYNES, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Developed as an SPD for the new local plan for the Borough called Plan:MK, Gillespies reviewed information produced for the 2007 draft Landscape Character Assessment and updated the study in line with guidance from Natural England in An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014). Landscape Character Types were identified and boundaries adjusted for relevant Landscape Character Areas. Site survey work was carried out to identify any significant changes to the strength of character, condition and sensitivity of each Landscape Character Area.

Landscape strategy and management and development guidelines were produced for each Landscape Character Type reflecting the finding of the work above.





# PORTUGAL STREET EAST LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN & TVIA, MANCHESTER, UK

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Portugal Street East is a residential development comprising two towers situated east of Piccadilly railway station in Manchester. The site which is in the Portugal Street East Masterplan area is adjacent to the proposed new (HS2) station entrance..



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**CLIENT:** OLYMPIAN HOMES  
**LOCATION:** MANCHESTER, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** MASTERPLAN, TOWNSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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The landmark development will help transform a currently under utilise part of the city centre and be the anchor development framing the Portugal Street Quarter which is a new residential area being brought forward close to the city centre.

In partnership with a wider design team and instructed by developer Olympian Homes, Gillespies prepared the landscape and public realm masterplan for the twin-tower development and authored the townscape and visual impact assessment (TVIA) that formed an integral part of the planning application and supporting Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This TVIA required the identification of over 25 representative viewpoints from across the city and from these the assessment of both immediate development effects and cumulative effects, i.e. the townscape and visual effects anticipated associated with some 13 other major development proposals in this part of the city. To support the assessment the Gillespies team utilised advanced visualization and augmented reality software.

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# EDMONSTONE PARK LVIA, EDINBURGH, UK

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The Edmonstone Park proposal comprises around 800 homes and community facilities on the Edmonstone Estate, a historic but neglected parkland estate located some 10km south-east of Edinburgh within the Green Belt.

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**CLIENT:** EDMONSTONE HOUSE LTDP  
**LOCATION:** EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** MASTERPLAN, LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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Gillespies worked alongside EMA Architects to prepare the masterplan for the site, which included new parks and open spaces linked to a comprehensive network of sustainable drainage interventions including rain gardens, swales and stormwater attenuation ponds. The design responded sympathetically to the historic parkland character of the site, retaining historic structures, parkland trees and mature woodland. The aim was to help the client deliver a scheme which makes a strong connection to the historic characteristics of the estate, thereby giving the occupants something of real value, beyond the visual or highly functional.

Augmented reality software was used to help understand the potential visibility of various development options from selected viewpoints. These included tourist destinations such as Holyrood Park, nearby settlements such as Danderhall and Millerhill, and designated landscapes, including Craigmillar Castle and The Drum. By working with the architects, the design and heights of the buildings were altered to ensure the development would not be visible above the vegetation surrounding the site, or on the skyline, lessening the impact on its surroundings.

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# DUNBEG CORRIDOR, WEST HIGHLANDS, SCOTLAND

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Gillespies produced the landscape-led residential masterplan for the development of 300 affordable new homes at Dunbeg, south of Oban on the scenic west coast of Scotland. The proposed development lies within an area designated as Countryside Zone in the adopted local development plan.

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**CLIENT:** LINK GROUP LTD  
**LOCATION:** DUNBEG, SCOTLAND  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** MASTERPLAN, LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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The development presents the opportunity to create a gateway to Oban and the Isles and create a place that will stand the test of time and put Dunbeg on the map as a sought after location, which will encourage people to live, work and visit the area.

In approving the application, policy lead for planning and regulatory services, Councillor David Kinniburgh, said "This represents a £3.6 million investment from the council, through its Strategic Housing Fund, to ensure that Oban has the affordable housing its residents need and deserve. It was a challenging site to develop, but the mixture of housing options, recreational spaces for young people and exceptional natural location will make it a sought after place to settle. The prospects for growing our population, the economy and Oban's place as a university town are very exciting".

A Design and Access Statement, Footpath Plan, Play and Open Space Provision Plan and LVIA prepared by Gillespies accompanied the application. The study area for the LVIA was defined by a Zone of Theoretical Visibility and extended to circa 5km around the proposed development. Following an assessment of the baseline landscape and visual character of the study area, an assessment was undertaken using guidance presented in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition, which ensured that the assessment would be robust and, if necessary, defensible at Public Inquiry.







# HIGH WYCOMBE STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT, UK



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On behalf of Wycombe District Council, Gillespies developed a landscape sensitivity methodology and undertook a comparative landscape assessment of 24 potential housing sites. Most of these were located close to villages in the Green Belt and in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



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**CLIENT:** HIGH WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL  
**LOCATION:** HIGH WYCOMBE, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE APPRAISAL

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Fundamental to this study was the need to develop a methodology for determining the relative susceptibility and value of the landscape, drawing on its key characteristics and by applying a series of criteria such as landscape quality, scenic quality, conservation interest (ecology and historic associations), recreational value and perceptual aspects. This informed an understanding of the intrinsic qualities of the landscape, the constraints and opportunities presented and also the implications of potential development and how this may be accommodated.

The results were presented on an individual site basis, with plans showing constraints and opportunities, development and mitigation guidelines together with a tabulated summary. Each site was categorised into one of four value classes – development promoted, development supported, development not generally recommended and development strongly resisted. The sites went through the local plan inquiry process and some were adopted within the relevant Local Plan.





# MICHIGAN AVENUE VIEWS STUDY, SALFORD, UK

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Having designed the external works for the hugely successful MediaCityUK at Salford Quays, Gillespies was subsequently appointed to assess options for a proposed cluster of towers housing 1500 residential units at Michigan Avenue next to Broadway Metrolink.



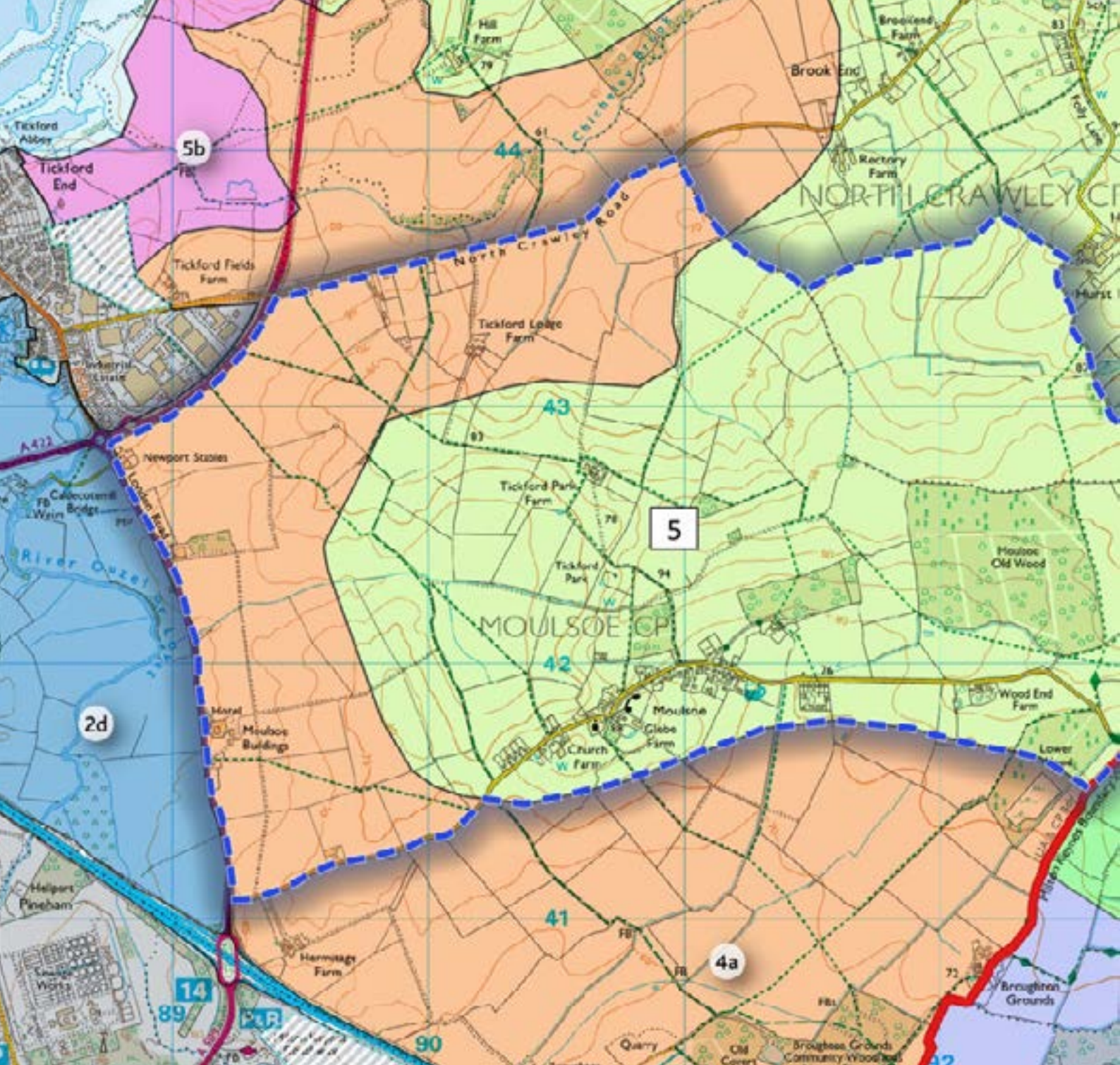
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**CLIENT:** EMA ARCHITECTS  
**LOCATION:** SALFORD, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** TALL BUILDING STUDY

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The developer, Peel Land and Property, submitted a development framework for the site setting out parameters and design principles, to be refined at reserved matters stage. This document provided a flexible framework to inform the extent, height, layout and design of proposed building plots and public realm. The development was recommended for outline approval in early 2019.

Peel Land and Property sought consent for development across the site rising in height from south to north, from a minimum building height of 43.5m to a maximum building height of 162m, which would be around 46 storeys. Individually, or in groups, buildings of this height can significantly affect the image, character and identity of towns and cities as a whole, and over a long period. Because of this, Gillespies was commissioned to undertake a view study of the potential effect of the proposed development on the skyline of greater Manchester. Six potential layout and height configurations were assessed, both in their own right and more strategically in combination with other planned and consented developments of a similar scale. TrueView augmented reality software, supplemented by site survey ensured a robust assessment in accordance with English Heritage Advice Note 4, which seeks to ensure that tall buildings are delivered in a way which makes a positive contribution to the urban skyline.





# LANDSCAPE CAPACITY & SENSITIVITY STUDY, MILTON KEYNES, UK

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A landscape sensitivity and capacity study for residential development in Milton Keynes and adjoining boroughs.



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**CLIENT:** MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL  
**LOCATION:** MILTON KEYNES, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY STUDY

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Gillespies was appointed to prepare an evidence based assessment of the relative sensitivity and capacity of landscapes in Milton Keynes and neighbouring authorities to accommodate residential developments.

The study informs strategic planning guidance and assists Milton Keynes Council in the assessment the landscape and visual effects of proposed residential expansion and for development control purposes.

The study considers the main factors that influence the sensitivity of different landscape characters types in Milton Keynes and those in adjoining authorities to residential development. It describes how those factors combine to identify spatial variations in relative sensitivity. It then provides an indication as to where residential development might best be located and an appropriate scale of development. The project required the extensive use of ArcGIS during the research stage.





# SCHOLES LVIA, LEEDS, UK

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Gillespies undertook the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for a development of 700 residential dwellings being proposed on agricultural land, adjacent to the village of Scholes near Leeds.



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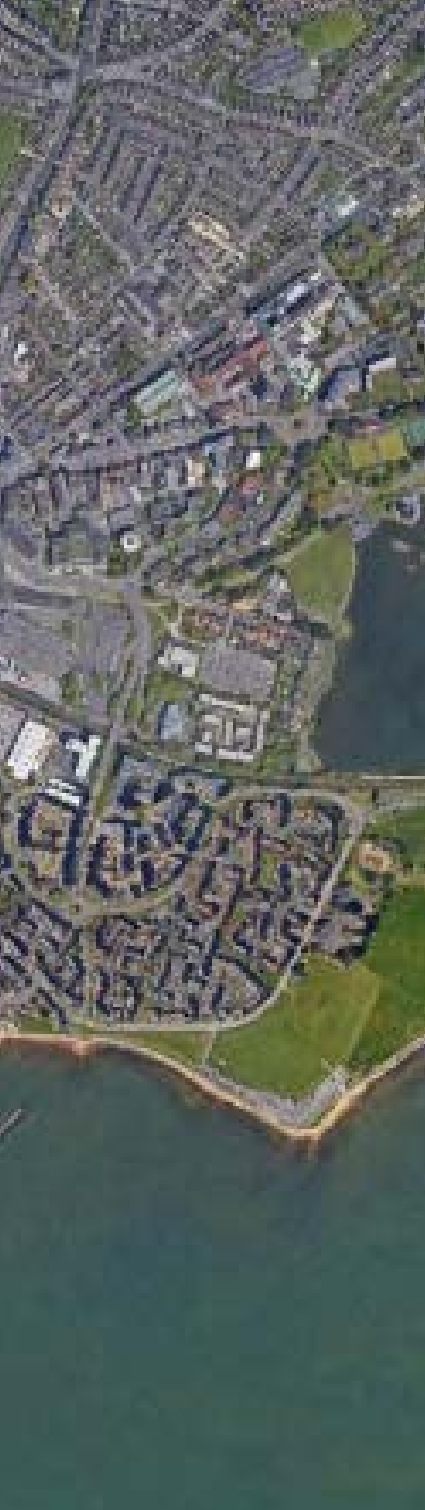
**CLIENT:** GMI PROPERTY GROUP  
**LOCATION:** YORKSHIRE, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** MASTERPLAN, LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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Due to the potential effects on landscape character and visual amenity from a development of this size, essentially doubling the size of the village, LVIA was required to ensure that the scheme developed with consideration of the potential effects to landscape character and visual amenity. The assessment was undertaken using viewpoint analysis to consider key views of the site from receptors and key features. Recommendations of mitigation measures were also made to be incorporated during detailed design and construction phases of the project to minimise the impacts.







# POOLE HARBOUR, POOLE, UK

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Gillespies helped achieve full planning permission for a £100m waterfront residential and commercial scheme in Poole, Dorset. The proposals will create 291 high-quality apartments at West Quay Marina together with 9,000 sq ft of commercial space, including restaurants and shops.



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**CLIENT:** WEST QUAY DEVELOPMENTS  
**LOCATION:** POOLE, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** PUBLIC REALM DESIGN,  
TOWNSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT

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Gillespies worked closely with Calder Peel architects in designing the public realm, which includes a quayside walkway along Upton Lake, new landscaped areas and car parking. In developing the scheme, a key townscape consideration was the relationship of the proposed development in the context of Poole's wider townscape and the waterfront including the Twin Sails Bridge. At a more strategic level was the need for the proposed development to serve as a landmark feature positioned on an important gateway site close to Twin Sails Bridge and the town centre.

Gillespies also prepared the TVIA for the proposed development, including a series of accurate verifiable visualisations. The study area for the assessment extended to 5km beyond the site and encompassed much of Poole, Poole Harbour from the Wareham Channel to the Sandbanks Peninsula and the northern edge of the Dorset AONB and Jurassic Coast World Heritage site. The assessment concluded that the proposed development would provide a considerable improvement to the existing townscape by virtue of the quality of its design and the associated new promenade along the waterfront. Very few long-term adverse townscape or visual effects were identified.

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**ENERGY**  
SELECT WORKS









# HINKLEY POINT NUCLEAR POWER STATION, SOMERSET, UK

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Gillespies provided landscape design and landscape planning services for Hinkley Point C Power Station and associated development, which was granted a DCO by the Secretary of State and is currently in construction.



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**CLIENT:** EDF ENERGY  
**LOCATION:** SOMERSET, UK  
**COMPLETION:** 2015  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL  
IMPACT ASSESSMENT, EXPERT WITNESS  
& DEVELOPMENT CONCENT ORDER

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Gillespies was commissioned by EDF Energy to undertake the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs) for the Environmental Statement as well as Landscape Strategies for the main site and the off-site associated facilities. These included accommodation campuses, wharf and freight handling facilities, park and ride schemes and a new bypass. Gillespies' work covered the construction phase and restoration proposals as well as the permanent effects of the development.

With potential views from sensitive locations up to 25km from the site, including a National Park, the LVIAs by Gillespies required extensive visual surveys, 3D modelling studies and the creation of photomontages for the assessment of the visual impact. The assessment was accompanied by landscape and visual mitigation measures, including landform modelling, and advice to the project engineers and architects. Gillespies' work involved regional-scale consultation for both the public and statutory consultees, the production of consultation material required for the DCO submission and providing expert witness services.

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# SIZEWELL C NUCLEAR POWER STATION, SUFFOLK, UK

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Gillespies was commissioned to work on EDF Energy's proposed Sizewell C nuclear power station in Suffolk.



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**CLIENT:** EDF ENERGY  
**LOCATION:** SUFFOLK, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL  
IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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The team prepared appraisals of the landscape and visual implications of options for the enabling works. In addition, Gillespies we undertook arboricultural appraisals and photomontages as part of a report to the Local Planning Authorities. These formed the basis for discussion on the implications of the scope of the enabling work for the future Nuclear New Build of Sizewell C.

The coastal site is located within the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is heavily constrained by designations for wildlife conservation at a national and international level.

Gillespies was previously been involved in both landscape and visual assessment and also the early masterplanning of this complex and sensitive site. The masterplan prepared by Gillespies sought to mitigate possible habitat loss by restoring a landscape of lowland heathland, wetland and woodland maintaining ecological connectivity along the coast and enhancing the value and accessibility of the area in the long-term for recreation.

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# WYLFA NEWYDD NUCLEAR POWER STATION, ANGLESEY, WALES, UK

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Gillespies was commissioned by Horizon to provide Development Consent Order (DCO) application support for landscape aspects of the Design and Access statement and a Landscape and Habitat Management Plan.



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**CLIENT:** HORIZON  
**LOCATION:** ANGLESEY, WALES  
**COMPLETION:** 2019 - ONGOING  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER, LANDSCAPE AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN  
**IMAGE:** © GILLESPIES & SHUTTERSTOCK

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The development area has within its boundary areas of designated environmental sensitivity such as Marine SAC, SPA, AONB, Heritage Coast and Ancient Woodland, SSSIs, Wildlife and RIGS sites. Taking the relevant landscape sensitivities into account Gillespies produced the landscape design aspects of the Design and Access Statement setting out the process of design evolution for the operational development within the Power Station Site which will be a certified document under the DCO.

Gillespies also produced a Landscape and Habitat Management Strategy (LHMS) for the development area which will also be a certified document under the DCO. The LHMS principles set out how key landscape and habitat elements within the development area will be safeguarded or created and managed in order to help mitigate adverse effects and also sets out illustrative landscape and habitat design and management proposals that will demonstrate how the landscape and habitats could be delivered in accordance with the principles.





# MOORSIDE NUCLEAR POWER STATION, CUMBRIA, UK

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NuGeneration (NuGen) purchased a 200Ha site adjacent to Sellafield nuclear processing site on the Cumbrian Coast for a £2.8 billion planned development comprising three new nuclear reactors. The ambitious scheme comprised one of the UK's largest ever power generation investments and, alongside Architects Scott Brownrigg, Gillespies was appointed to prepare a masterplan to anchor the development into the local landscape.

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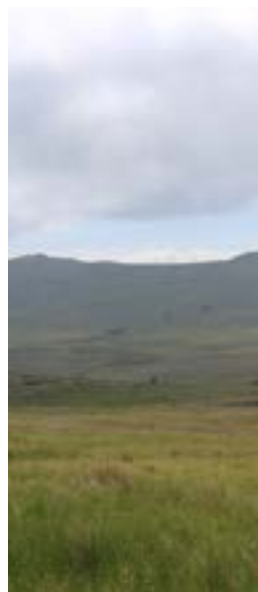
**CLIENT:** SCOTT BROWNRIGG LIMITED  
**LOCATION:** CUMBRIA, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES

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Located close to the Lake District National Park, World Heritage Sites, coastal footpaths and local communities, despite the scale of the development, the landscape plan was sensitive to its surroundings and provided an ambitious design solution that responds to the existing landscape and the changes in its character as a result of the development.

The work required a collaborative approach with an experienced and technical design team and brought together Gillespies' design and planning expertise to present a sensitive landscape masterplan that limited the development's impact in its local environment and harmonised the industrial typology within its natural setting. The design developed in response to detailed landscape and visual site analysis to understand important views, sight lines from local communities and key visitor attractions and was based on detailed research to understand local history, ecology, geology and coastal processes. Unapologetically blending industry and landscape, the masterplan introduces linear ordered arrays of structures, landform and planting into the local landscape that reflects human and technological development over millennia and helps convey the purpose and meaning of the power station to visitors.

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# NATIONAL GRID VISUAL IMPACT PROVISION PROJECT (VIP), UK

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National Grid established the Visual Impact Provision (VIP) Project to reduce the visual impact of overhead lines in Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and National Parks.



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**CLIENT:** NATIONAL GRID  
**LOCATION:** ENGLAND AND WALES  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES | LUC |  
PROFESSOR CARYS SWANWICK  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT

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There are around 580km of high voltage transmission lines crossing seven National Parks and 19 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales. As part of its commitment to make use of funds from a £500m allocation from Ofgem to reduce the visual impact of existing electricity infrastructure on nationally protected landscapes, National Grid instructed leading landscape architecture practices: Gillespies and LUC together with Professor Carys Swanwick, to carry out a comparative landscape and visual impact assessment to identify and prioritise potential mitigation projects that could yield the greatest visual improvements.

National Grid's stated objective is "to achieve the maximum enhancement to the landscape in England and Wales from the available funds whilst ensuring that no significant adverse impacts arise as a result." The aim of the project was to work with stakeholders to identify the stretches of existing transmission lines in National Parks and AONBs that currently have the most significant impacts on the landscape and on people's views and visual amenity.

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# NATIONAL GRID LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE, UK

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National Grid wants to reduce the visual impact of its existing transmission lines and enhance the quality of the affected designated landscapes. Gillespies is supporting National Grid as landscape advisors for the Landscape Enhancement Initiative, using our expertise to help mitigate the landscape and visual impact of the existing electricity infrastructure.



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**CLIENT:** NATIONAL GRID  
**LOCATION:** ENGLAND WIDE  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE PLANNING  
ADVICE AND REVIEW

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The Landscape Enhancement Initiative is a grant scheme for National Parks and AONBs which forms part of National Grid's Visual Impact Provision project. The project provides grants to undertake work which will reduce or offset the landscape and visual impact of National Grid's existing electricity infrastructure on these designated landscapes.

The project applies to 30 National Parks and AONBs which are impacted by National Grid's transmission infrastructure. As landscape advisors, Gillespies is undertaking a key role in the project through reviewing and assessing grant applications. The team assist applicants through the process and report back to the project's Stakeholder Advisory Group, with recommendations on which projects to take forwards. Projects completed to date include bridleway restoration in North York Moors National Park, viewpoint creation in Clwydian Range AONB, and pedestrian trail improvements and dry stone walling in Snowdonia National Park.







# NATIONAL GRID MID WALES CONNECTION PROJECT, UK

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The proposed Mid Wales Electricity Connection (National Grid) comprised a new marshalling substation and a new 400kV connection between the new substation and the existing National Electricity Transmission System.

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**CLIENT:** NATIONAL GRID PLC  
**LOCATION:** WELSH BORDERS, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, PUBLIC CONSULTATION, VISUALISATIONS, GIS

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Gillespies was part of a multi-disciplinary team commissioned to identify a sustainable route for the connection through the Welsh Borders in Powys, which is highly sensitive in terms of landscape and historical/cultural issues. This sensitive and controversial project presented a number of challenges, including the requirements of the DCO process, the need to respond to Welsh and English planning policy and the application of LANDMAP to a linear development.

Gillespies contributed extensively to the project in terms of its design and routeing. To ensure that the proposed development minimised impacts on the environment and communities, a pioneering approach to assessing the sensitivity of the study area using LANDMAP data was developed by our landscape planners in collaboration with officers from Natural Resources Wales.

In 2015, DECC refused planning consent for four proposed wind farms in Mid Wales, which would have used the proposed connection and work on the project was suspended.





# NATIONAL GRID MID WALES SUBSTATION & CABLE SEALING END COMPOUNDS WALES, UK

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Part of National Grid Mid Wales Connection Project required the identification of a new site for an 400kV substation, to collect the electricity from several proposed wind farms in Mid Wales ready for onward transmission. The study also required the identification of sites for two new cable sealing end compounds (CSEC) at either end of a section of underground cable.

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**CLIENT:** NATIONAL GRID PLC  
**LOCATION:** CEFN COCH, POWYS, WALES, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICES:** SUBSTATION SITING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

As a framework provider, Gillespies was commissioned by National Grid plc to provide landscape and visual services on this Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project to assist in the identification and assessment of suitable sites. This included liaison with national agencies, key stakeholders and attendance at over 60 public consultation events.

The landscape-led siting process and began with the identification of areas large and level enough to accommodate the proposed infrastructure. The approach to identifying and evaluating potential sites was underpinned by the following core principles: It was designed to meet National Grid's statutory obligation to develop and maintain an efficient, economic and co-ordinated transmission system, which causes the least disturbance to people and the environment;

- It responded to the policy objectives set out in the Development Plan and National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-5;
- The overall approach was influenced by the Horlock Rules;
- The approach was iterative with emerging and identified constraints and opportunities used to influence the progression or elimination of siting options; and Information was reconsidered at every stage in the process.

In 2015, DECC refused planning consent for four proposed wind farms in Mid Wales, which would have used the proposed connection and work on the project was suspended.

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# SP MID WALES CONNECTIONS PROJECT, UK

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The SP Mid Wales Connections Project was a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) and therefore subject to the planning process set out in the Planning Act 2008. It comprised the development of eight new 132kV overhead line connections from proposed new wind farms in Mid Wales to a new National Grid substation at Cefn Coch in the rural uplands of Powys.

Gillespies was part of a multi-disciplinary team in the initial routeing of these projects and, on the basis of this work, were then appointed by SP

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**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER, LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, PUBLIC CONSULTATION, VISUALISATIONS, GIS

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Manweb to undertake the detailed routeing, and EIA and DCO application process.

In identifying routes for the multiple connections, we applied SP Manweb's approach to routeing, which aims is to ensure that new electricity lines have minimal effect on the environment and the people within it. Throughout the process, consultation with landowners, local communities and specialist bodies (such as heritage and environment groups) sought feedback on the work and the options. This feedback was used to check the decisions made during the routeing process and provide information to develop a detailed design.

In 2015, the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (DBEIS) refused to grant permission for a number of the wind farms and work on the project was suspended.

**CLIENT:** SP MANWEB PLC  
**LOCATION:** POWYS, WALES

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# NORTH WALES CONNECTION PROJECT, WALES, UK

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National Grid submitted a DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate to connect Anglesey's proposed Wylfa Newydd nuclear plant and marine energy developments in the Irish Sea to the national electricity network. The project, worth £700m, included a 20-mile section of overhead pylon line and provision for a tunnel under the Menai Strait to carry the cables from Cemaes to Pentir near Bangor.



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**CLIENT:** NATIONAL GRID  
**LOCATION:** WALES, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICES:** DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER, LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, PUBLIC CONSULTATION, VISUALISATIONS AND GIS

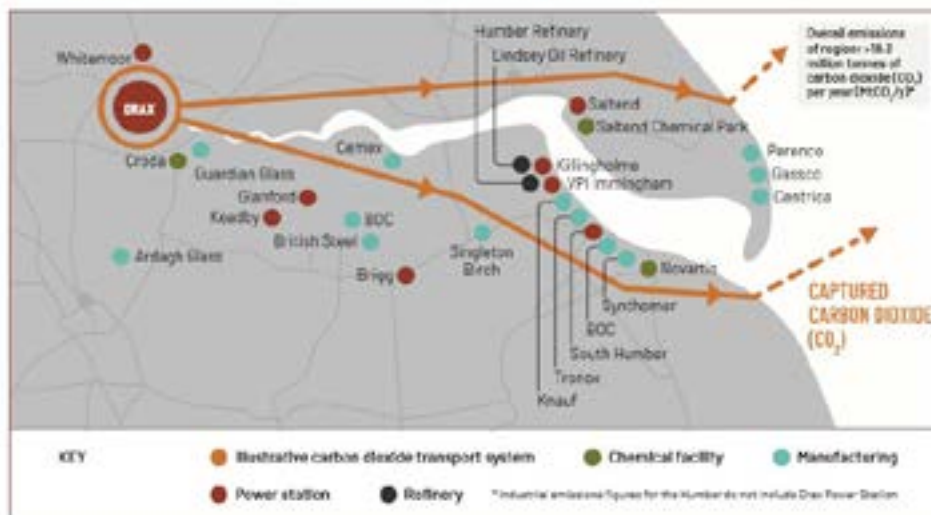
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As lead landscape architects, Gillespies worked with the project team, including the heritage and ecological specialists, to identify and design a route for the 400kV grid connection that as far as possible would avoid impacts on communities, landscape and visual amenity, cultural heritage and ecological resources. The GIS constraints mapping and routing process followed National Grid's 'Approach to the design and routing of new electricity transmission lines'. We were also guided by National Planning Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-5. A particular challenge of the project was how to address the likely impact on the 'setting' of Snowdonia National Park and Anglesey AONB.

Gillespies also provided advice for the siting of the tunnel head houses, sealing end compounds and Pentir substation extension. Using guidance in the Horlock Rules and applying our extensive experience of siting high voltage electric infrastructure, locations were selected, which as far as possible would minimise any impacts.



**POWER STATIONS AND INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES IN THE HUMBER REGION**



**CAPTURE FOR GROWTH**

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**ZEROCARBON HUMBER**





# YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE YORKSHIRE, UK CROSS COUNTRY PIPELINE, UK

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The Yorkshire and Humber Carbon Capture and Usage and Storage (CCUS) Project is a vital project for the UK as it repositions its economy to a more sustainable and low carbon footing. This major project brought forward by National Grid will make a significant contribution in tackling climate change allowing the storage of greenhouse gases rather than their release into the atmosphere.



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**CLIENT:** NATIONAL GRID  
**LOCATION:** YORKSHIRE, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE PLANNING, EIA  
COORDINATION & DCO CONSENTING

The CCUS project comprises a range of infrastructure elements, most significant of which is a 85Km pipeline between the former Drax Power station on the Ouse and the Holderness coastline. Due to its scale the project was classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 and required a Development Consent Order (DCO). Gillespies supported the National Grid consents team deliver this complex and challenging project.

The role included working as a member of the National Grid project team, representing National Grid at meetings, liaising with stakeholders, supporting the consultation process, production of DCO documentation, and review of documentation produced by National Grid. DCO consent was refused in 2017 primarily due to the need case which diminished following withdrawal of the Government's £1bn funding for the carbon capture and storage commercialisation programme.





# NORTH SHROPSHIRE REINFORCEMENT PROJECT, SHROPSHIRE, UK

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Gillespies was commissioned by SP Energy Networks to assemble and co-ordinate a multidisciplinary team of environmental consultants to prepare the supporting information for an application for DCO for a new 132kV overhead line between Oswestry and Wem. This project was a response to the need to reinforce North Shropshire's distribution network.

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**CLIENT:** SCOTTISH POWER ENERGY NETWORKS  
**LOCATION:** MID WALES, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICES:** ROUTEING, DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER , LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, EIA COORDINATION , PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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Our initial role as lead consultant was to identify and comparatively appraise a number of route options, which culminated in the selection of a preferred route. Comprising a 20km wood pole overhead line extending between Oswestry and Wem substations, this was considered to give rise to the least likely environmental effects whilst being technically and economically viable. The routeing process was undertaken using SP Manweb's approach to routeing, which was developed with input from our landscape team and builds on the principles set out in the Holford Rules.

Gillespies subsequently worked closely with the SP Manweb's engineers and land agents to refine and the preferred route. Various iterations to the route were developed and assessed, before a proposed route was agreed which then progressed to formal EIA and preparation of a DCO application. In addition to co-ordinating all environmental disciplines required for the EIA, Gillespies produced the landscape and visual assessment and planning chapters, all visualisations, graphics and GIS mapping, as well as specialist planning and expert witness advice at the DCO hearings. The application for a DCO was consented in early 2020.





# WHITELAW BRAE 33KV WINDFARM CONNECTION, SCOTLAND

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Whitelaw Brae Wind Farm grid connection is a major electrical infrastructure project in the rural Southern Uplands of Scotland. It comprises the development of two new 33kV wood pole overhead lines, connecting the electricity output from the consented Whitelaw Brae Wind Farm substation into the wider electricity network.

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**CLIENT:** SP ENERGY NETWORKS  
**LOCATION:** SCOTLAND  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** EIA AND ROUTEING

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The design and routeing of overhead lines is a complex process which requires a careful balance between statutory obligations, technical requirements, economic viability, land use and the environment. Major electrical infrastructure projects generate considerable public interest and debate, and must, therefore, be supported by a clear explanation of how the project has developed and why decisions have been made.

Gillespies was commissioned by SP Energy Networks to assemble and coordinate a bespoke multidisciplinary team of environmental consultants to prepare the supporting information for the application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit. This included the preparation of a Routeing and Consultation Document, Screening Report/ Request, Environmental Report and a Mitigation Measures report. The routeing process followed established guidance including the Holford Rules and SP Energy Networks sequential approach to routeing of overhead lines. This ensured that all issues were fully considered and that the route selected avoided the most sensitive, valued natural and man-made features and landscapes.





# CHAPELCROSS TO GRETNA 132KV OVERHEAD LINE, SCOTLAND

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Due to an increased level of generation in the area, SP Transmission Ltd (SPT) requires the rebuilding of 17.5km of existing overhead line through the Scottish Borders between Chapelcross and an existing high voltage overhead line, which eventually links to Harker Substation at Gretna.

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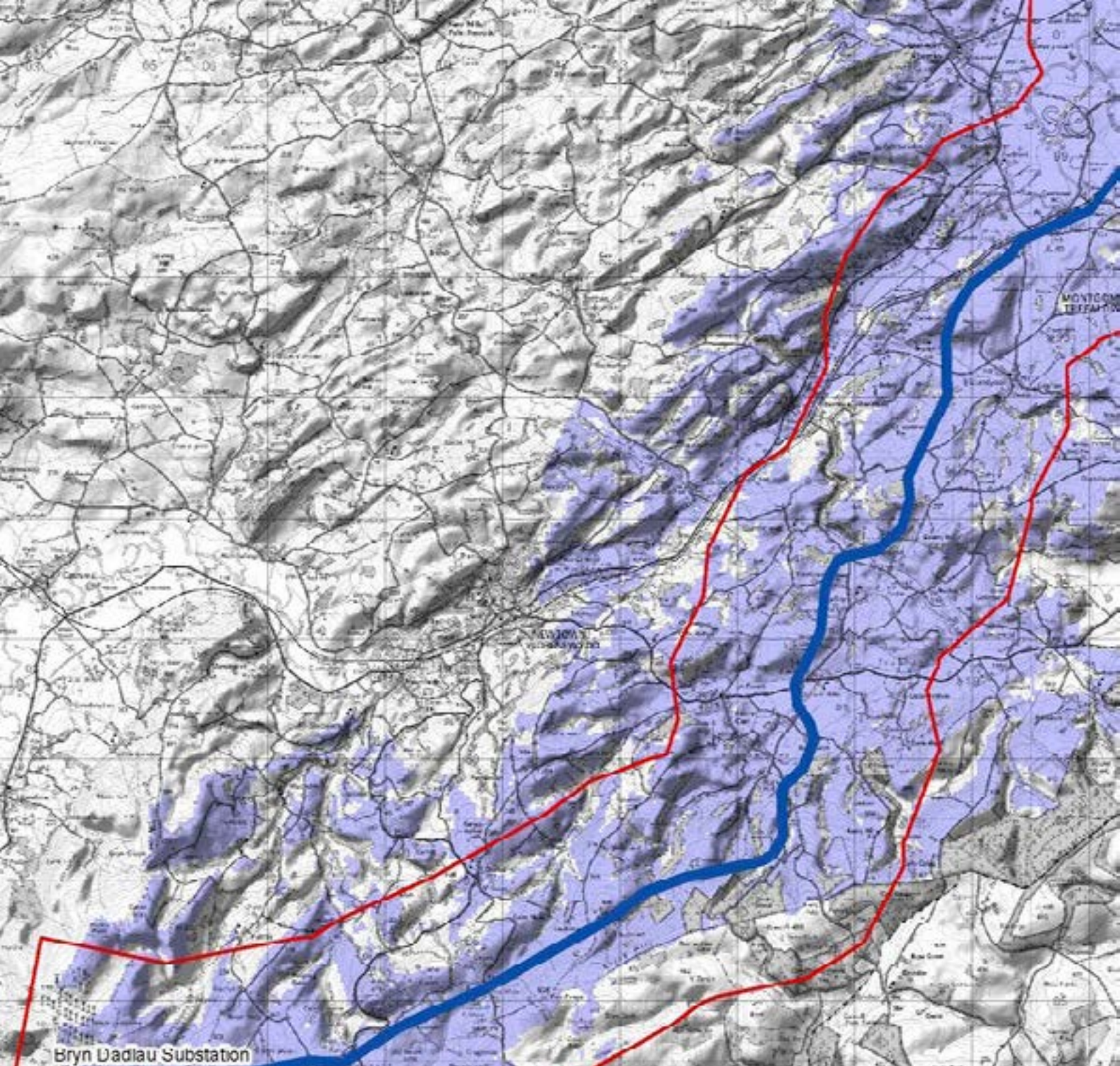
**CLIENT:** SP ENERGY NETWORKS  
**LOCATION:** SCOTLAND  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** EIA AND ROUTEING

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The 132kV connection is to be carried by a wood pole, including single and double pole types. The existing 132kV pylon line along the route is to be dismantled. The project requires consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, to construct and keep installed the overhead line. Section 37 Applications are made to the Energy Consents Unit within the Scottish Government's Energy Division, who have responsibility under the Electricity Act for processing Section 37 applications.

Gillespies' team was commissioned by SP Energy Networks to apply their particular expertise in supporting electricity transmission and distribution projects through the route optioneering, feasibility, consenting and construction phases.

The routeing process followed established guidance including the Holford Rules and SP Energy Networks sequential approach to routeing of overhead lines. This ensured that all issues were fully considered and that the route selected avoided the most sensitive, valued natural and man-made features and landscapes.







# LLANDINAM 132KV OVERHEAD LINE, POWYS, WALES, UK

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Llandinam 132kV overhead line connection was an electrical infrastructure project in the historic Welsh Border region. It comprised 35km of new overhead line between Llandinam Wind Farm in the hills above Newtown, to Welshpool Substation in the Severn Valley.



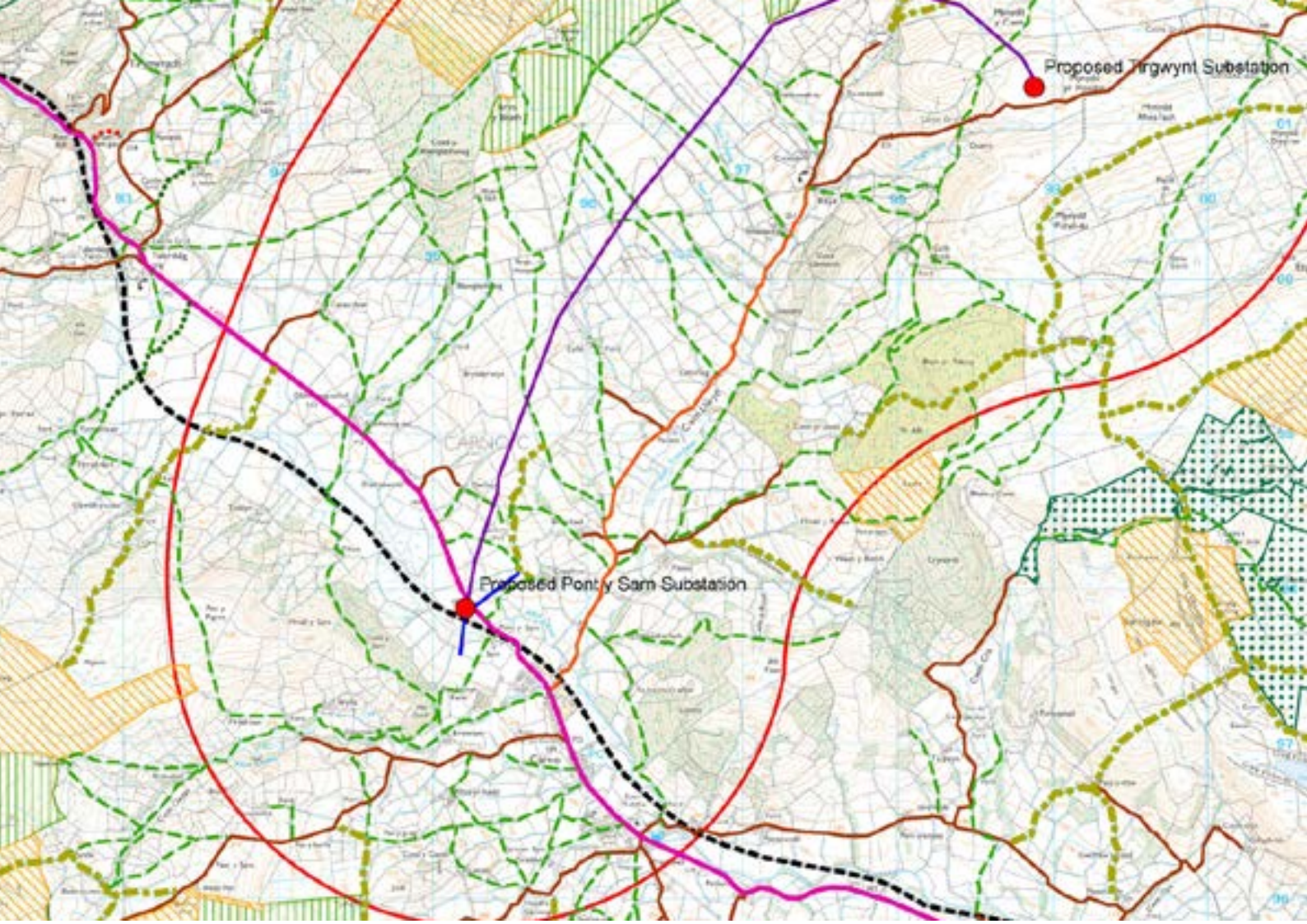
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**CLIENT:** SP MANWEB  
**LOCATION:** WALES, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** EIA + ROUTEING

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Gillespies was commissioned by SP Energy Networks to assemble and coordinate a bespoke multidisciplinary team of environmental consultants to prepare the supporting information for a section 37 application to Powys Council. This included the preparation of a Routeing and Consultation Document, Screening Report and Scoping Report, Environmental Statement and mitigation measures.

Gillespies subsequently represented SP Energy Networks as landscape witness at the Mid-Wales Conjoined Wind Farms Public Inquiry. The inquiry examined proposals for six wind farms (each over 50MW) and the Llandinam grid connection. The schemes were examined together so that cumulative effects could be considered in a coordinated manner.





# TIRGWYNT 132KV OVERHEAD LINE, POWYS, WALES, UK

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Tirgwynt Wind Farm grid connection was an electrical infrastructure project in rural Wales. It comprised the development of a new 132kV heavy duty wood pole overhead line between the proposed Tirgwynt Wind Farm and a new substation on the wider electricity network near Carno.

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**CLIENT:** SP MANWEB  
**LOCATION:** WALES, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** EIA + ROUTEING

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The design and routing of overhead lines is a complex process which requires striking a careful balance between statutory obligations, technical requirements, economic viability, land use and the environment. Gillespies was commissioned by SP Energy Networks to assemble and coordinate a bespoke multidisciplinary team of environmental consultants to prepare the supporting information for a section 37 application to Powys Council.

This included the preparation of a Routeing and Consultation Document, Screening Report and Scoping Report, Environmental Statement and mitigation measures for the overhead line and a new 132kV substation. The routeing process followed established guidance including the Holford Rules and SP Energy Networks sequential approach to routeing of overhead lines. This ensured that all issues were fully considered and that the route selected avoided the most sensitive, valued natural and man-made features and landscapes.





# NORTH WALES WIND FARMS CONNECTION, WALES, UK

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North Wales has been identified as an important location for renewable energy generation. In 2016 the DCO was granted to SPEN for the North Wales Wind Farm Connection, connecting a number of new wind farms to the electricity distribution network



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**CLIENT:** SCOTTISH POWER ENERGY NETWORKS  
**LOCATION:** NORTH WALES, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER, LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, PUBLIC CONSULTATION

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A number of wind farms were proposed in and around the Strategic Search Area A – one of the seven areas identified by the Welsh Government as being capable of accommodating large-scale wind power developments. SP Energy Networks had agreements in place with a number of wind farms to provide the infrastructure to connect them to the electricity distribution network. This infrastructure included a new substation and a new 132kV connection at the existing St Asaph substation.

Our team provided environmental and planning advice including route appraisals for the proposed new power line, assessment of landscape and visual impacts, community consultation support, and co-ordination and production of the Environmental Statement and Planning Statement. Following the submission of the DCO application, the environmental and planning team also provided assistance throughout the determination process, including responding to questions from the Examining Authority and appearing as expert witnesses. The DCO was granted in July 2016 and Requirements have now been discharged. The overhead line is now complete.

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# ST ASAPH 33KV SUBSTATION, DENBIGHSHIRE, UK

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To reinforce the local distribution network, SP Manweb identified a need to build a new switchroom and transformer compound at the existing 33kV St Asaph substation in North Wales. Gillespies' role was to assess the effects of the proposal and prepare a Design and Access Statement (DAS) to accompany the planning application to the local authority.

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**CLIENT:** SP MANWEB  
**LOCATION:** WALES, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** SUBSTATION EXTENSION,  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, DESIGN  
AND ACCESS STATEMENT

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The existing substation is located on the west side of St Asaph, close to the A55 Expressway. There are few environmental constraints in the area. The most sensitive receptor was Bodelwyddan Castle, which lies some 1.2km to the west of the existing substation. The castle is a scheduled monument and is surrounded by a large 18th century Grade II Registered Park and Garden. It is managed as a hotel and regional outlet for the National Portrait Gallery. The site survey revealed that views of the substation and its proposed extension would be screened by intervening buildings and trees.

The DAS reported on the character of the site and its surroundings, with a particular focus on community safety, environmental sustainability of the proposals, and access and movement within the site.

The application was consented and the extension is built and operational.

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# TIR GWYNT 132KV SUBSTATION, WALES, UK

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Alongside a Section 37 application for a new 132kV overhead line, SP Manweb submitted a planning application for a new 132kV substation in order to connect the output from a new wind farm to the local 132kV distribution network.

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**CLIENT:** SP MANWEB  
**LOCATION:** PONT Y SARN, CARNO, WALES  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** SUBSTATION SITING AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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SP Energy Networks had agreements in place with a wind farm developer to provide the infrastructure to connect a proposed wind farm in the uplands above Carno to the electricity distribution network. This infrastructure included a new substation and diversion of a section of existing 132kV overhead line.

Gillespies led a multi-disciplinary team, providing environmental and planning advice including an options appraisal and review of alternative sites, assessment of landscape and visual, cultural heritage, ecological and recreational impacts, supporting the community consultations, and coordinating and producing the EIA and planning application. In developing the application, consideration was given the community and local landowners concerns.

The project received planning consent.





# GRETNA SUBSTATION TO EWE HILL AND NEWFIELD WINDFARMS 132KV TRANSMISSION LINE, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY, UK

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In response to planning permission being granted for a new wind farm at Ewe Hill and a proposed wind farm at Newfield, in the Annandale and Eskdale District of Dumfries and Galloway, SPT proposed construction of two new overhead electricity lines supported on double wood poles. A short section of underground cable and a new 132kV electricity substation and access road at Crawthat Hill also formed part of the proposals.

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**CLIENT:** SCOTTISH POWER  
TRANSMISSION (SPT)  
**LOCATION:** EWE HILL, DUMFRIES AND  
GALLOWAY  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE & PLANNING  
LEAD (INCLUDING CONSTRAINTS  
MAPPING, ROUTEING AND SITING)

Gillespies was commissioned as part of a multi-disciplinary team to provide landscape and visual services throughout the routeing/ siting and EIA process. This included authoring the landscape and visual chapter of the Environmental Statement that was prepared to accompany the Section 37 application (under the Electricity Act 1989) to the Scottish Ministers. Other tasks included the identification of a ZTV and representative viewpoint assessment, site appraisal, evaluation of the effects on Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) landscape types, identification of local landscape character areas and preparation of a report looking at the option of using wood poles or a pylon line.

The assessment demonstrated that there would be some environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed scheme. However, the assessment has also demonstrated that these impacts and residual effects would be localised and would not materially affect the landscape quality, biodiversity interests or cultural heritage of the study area and its wider setting. Therefore, the proposed development was consented and is now operational.

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# HEADS OF THE VALLEYS LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY & CAPACITY STUDY FOR WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT, WALES, UK

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A study looking at the sensitivity and capacity of the landscape of Heads of the Valley and the Gwent Levels to wind energy development.

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**CLIENT:** BLANEAU GWENT COUNCIL  
**LOCATION:** SOUTH WALES  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND  
CAPACITY STUDY

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The project was commissioned to help local planning officers assess the growing numbers of applications for small and medium- scale wind turbine developments. The Planning Guidance is intended to help both local planning officers and developers in preparing EIA screening opinions. It also sets out the minimum requirements for LVIAs undertaken for different wind turbine typologies. The Guidance was prepared with the support of the Heads of the Valleys Landscape Officers and Planners and the South Wales Landscape Liaison Group, comprising representatives from 12 local authorities, 2 National Parks and Natural Resources Wales.

The guidance was underpinned by the output of two sensitivity and capacity studies - one for the Heads of the Valleys upland area (including the southern part of Brecon Beacons National Park), and one for the Gwent Levels. These studies used LANDMAP, the Welsh approach to landscape assessment, as the evidence base for identifying the landscape and visual factors that determine a landscape's sensitivity to wind turbine development. Capacity assessments were also undertaken based on current operational and consented development.

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# WIND TURBINES & PYLONS: GUIDANCE ON THE APPLICATION OF SEPARATION DISTANCES FROM RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES VARIOUS, UK

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Gillespies was commissioned by Gwynedd Council, the Isle of Anglesey County Council and Snowdonia National Park Authority (the Authorities) to prepare planning guidance on the application of separation distances between vertical development and residential properties.

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**CLIENT:** GWYNEDD COUNCIL  
**LOCATION:** ENGLAND & WALES  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICES:** LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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Whilst GLVIA 3 provides guidance on assessing the visual impacts of such developments, there is no nationally recognised method for using identified visual impacts to establish minimum separation distances between wind turbines or pylons and residential properties. To address this issue, the Authorities commissioned Gillespies to prepare landscape planning guidance with the aim of achieving more robust, transparent and consistent decisions.

The outcomes of the study led to the development of a series of 'residential visual amenity assessment trigger distances' for different height bands of wind turbines and pylons (or any other vertical structure). These distances are based on the findings of the study which concludes that when a wind turbine or pylon appears to be around 7.5 cm (or more – when viewed at arm's length) it may give rise to a very large scale of visual impact and significant adverse effects on visual amenity.

The document forms part of the evidence base for the draft Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan.

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# RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGETS YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER, UK

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The Renewable Energy Targets Yorkshire and the Humber project developed strategic information on the resources and capacity for renewable energy for each local authority within what was then the Yorkshire and Humber region. Its purpose was to set the context in which targets for individual local authority areas could be formulated in line with regional and sub-regional energy policy.

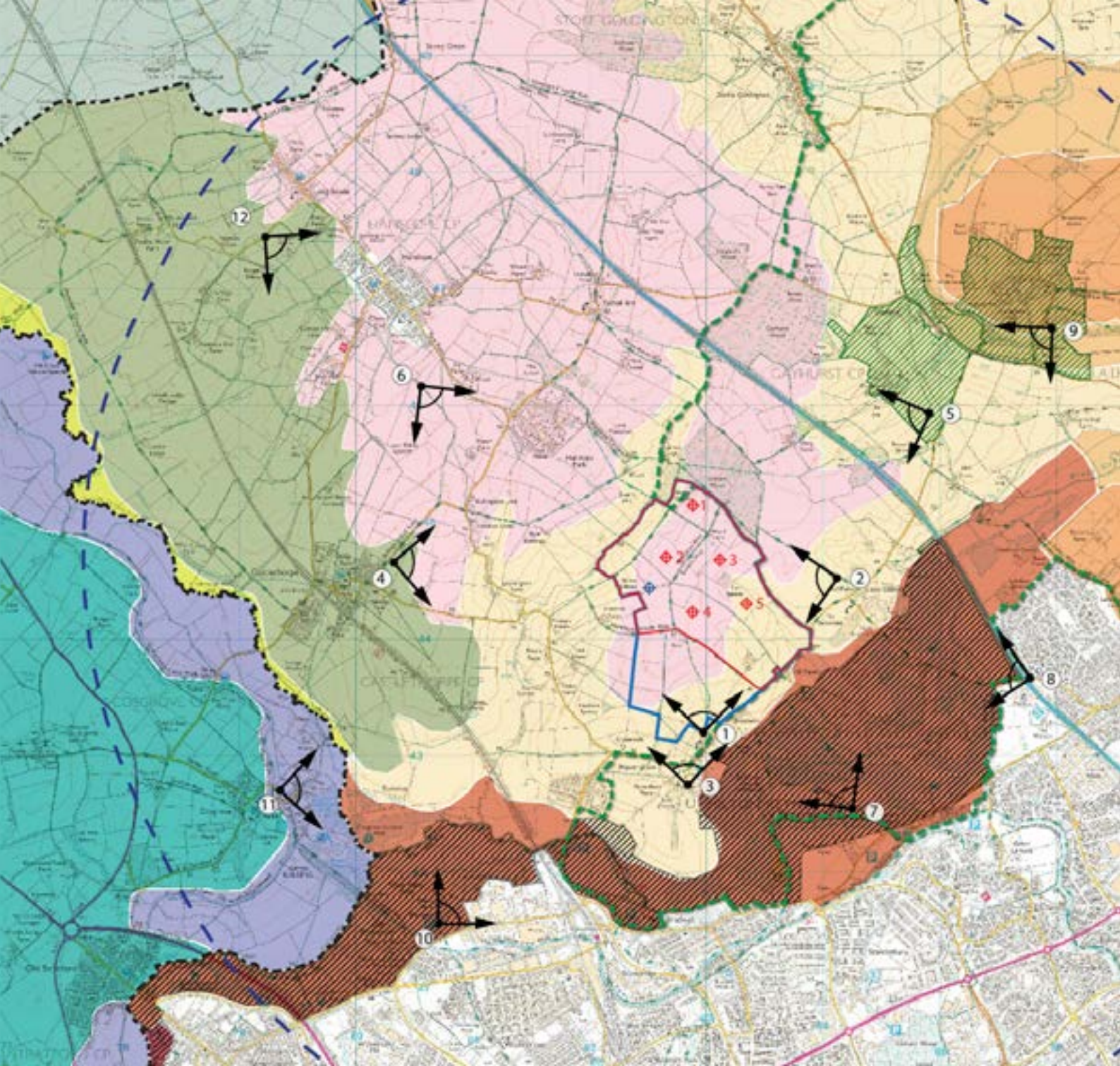
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**CLIENT:** GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR  
NORTH YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER  
**LOCATION:** YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER,  
UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** PLANNING POLICY REVIEW

A planning policy review was carried out by Gillespies to inform the process of target setting. This included consultation with all local authorities into current and emerging policy on renewables and a review of national policy and best practice in the light of government guidance.

Following this, a strategic landscape sensitivity assessment was prepared, which was based on the premise that wind energy development should avoid areas that are valued for their scenic, undeveloped and recreational opportunities or high biodiversity interest. Elsewhere, wind energy development should be broadly acceptable in areas, where any adverse effects could be mitigated through sensitive design and siting at the local level and taking into account potential cumulative impacts.

A bespoke methodology was developed for the assessment which was then applied to landscape character types, which were already identified in published studies. This used a series of criteria physical criteria such as landform, settlement pattern, visual composition and experiential criteria such as remoteness, naturalness, sense of place and land cover and how the landscape is experienced. The judgement was arrived at through a balanced assessment of all the criteria. Broad comments were made on the background to the conclusions drawn and the typology of any wind farm development which may be appropriate.





# ORCHARD WAY WIND TURBINE PUBLIC INQUIRY, MILTON KEYNES, UK

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A review of the findings of a landscape and visual impact assessment of a wind farm development in Milton Keynes held at Public Enquiry.



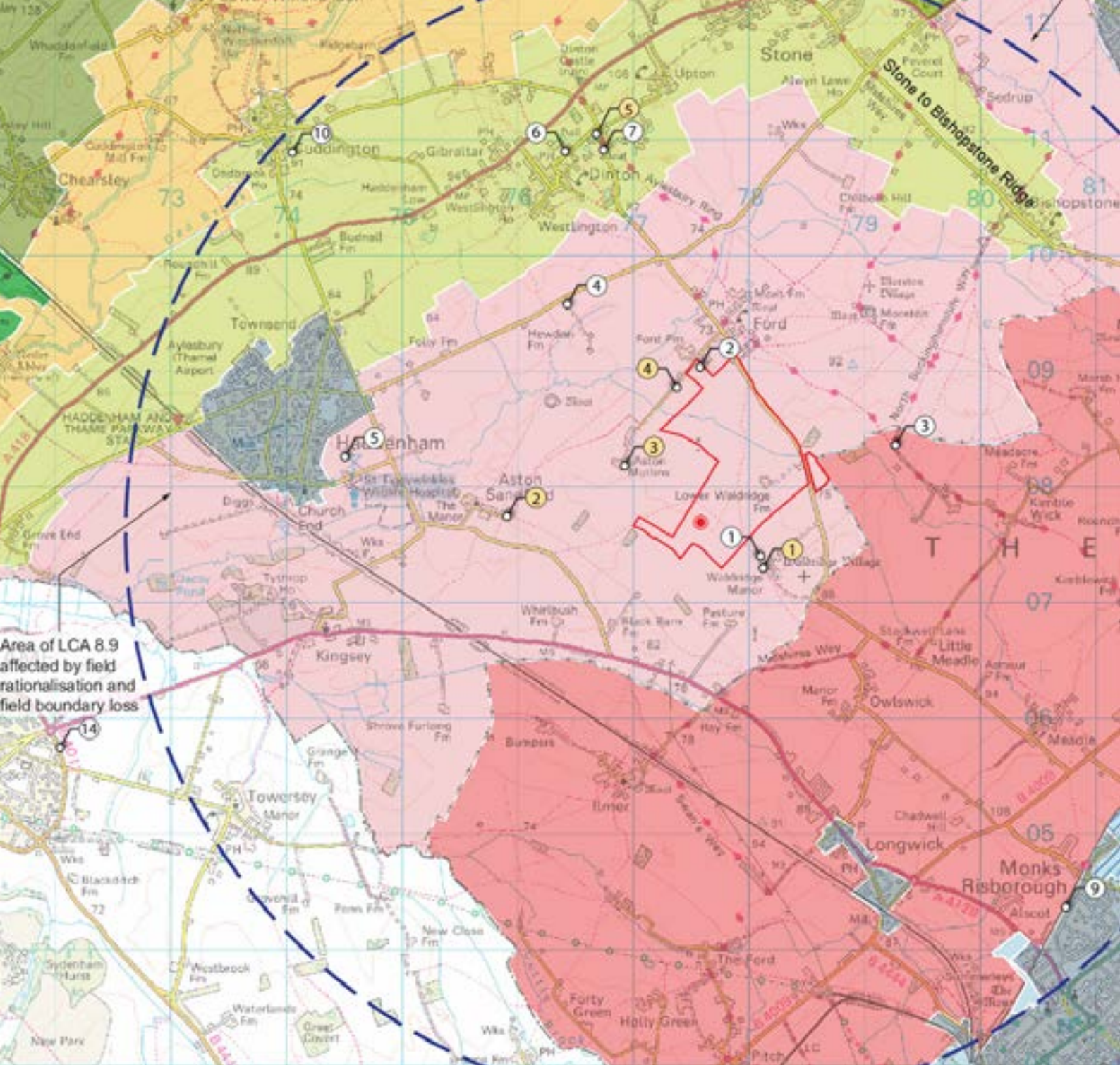
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**CLIENT:** MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL  
**LOCATION:** MILTON KEYNES, UK  
**COMPLETION:** 2013  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL  
IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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In May 2013 Gillespies was requested by Milton Keynes Council to review the landscape and visual impact assessment submitted with the application for the construction and operation of a wind energy development comprising five wind turbines, together with ancillary equipment and infrastructure known as Orchard Way Wind Turbine Development.

The review, presented at Public Enquiry included a systematic analysis of the methodologies employed by the applicant in their assessment of landscape and visual effects and impacts on residential amenity.



# LOWER WALDRIDGE FARM PUBLIC INQUIRY, AYLESBURY VALE, UK



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A review of the findings of a landscape and visual impact assessment of a wind turbine development held at Public Enquiry.



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**CLIENT:** FORD ACTION GROUP AGAINST TURBINES

**LOCATION:** AYLESBURY VALE, UK

**COMPLETION:** 2015

**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES

**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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In October 2012, Gillespies was instructed by the Ford Action Group Against Turbines (FAGAT) to undertake a review of the landscape and visual impact assessment submitted as part of the Environmental Statement and to assess whether it was considered that the landscape could accommodate the proposed turbine without significant adverse impacts on the existing landscape character.

The review, presented at Public Enquiry, included a systematic analysis of the methodologies employed by the applicant in their assessment of landscape and visual effects and impacts on the setting of the Chilterns AONB and residential amenity.





# SENSITIVITY STUDY, MILTON KEYNES, UK

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A landscape sensitivity and capacity study for the development of wind turbine and solar PV development in Milton Keynes.



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**CLIENT:** MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL  
**LOCATION:** MILTON KEYNES, UK  
**COMPLETION:** 2015  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY AND CAPACITY STUDY

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Gillespies was appointed to prepare an evidence based assessment of the relative sensitivity and capacity of landscapes in Milton Keynes to accommodate wind turbine and solar PV development of varying scales.

The study will inform the development of strategic planning guidance and assist Milton Keynes Council in the assessment the landscape and visual effects of wind turbine and solar PV development for development control purposes.

The study considers the main factors that influence the sensitivity of different landscape characters types in Milton Keynes to wind turbine and solar development. It describes how those factors combine to identify spatial variations in relative sensitivity. It then provides an indication as to where wind turbine and solar PV development might best be located and an appropriate scale of development. The project required the extensive use of ArcGIS during the research stage.







# WIND TURBINE ASSESSMENT, WALES, UK

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Gillespies provided planning guidance for the LVIA requirements for wind turbine development, and Sensitivity studies for the Heads of the Valley Area in the South Wales and the Gwent Levels.



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**CLIENT:** BLAENAU GWENT COUNTY BOROUGH  
**LOCATION:** WALES, UK  
**COMPLETION:** 2014  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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The project, funded by the Welsh Planning Improvement Fund, was commissioned to help local planning officers assess the growing numbers of applications for small and medium scale wind turbine developments. The Planning Guidance is intended to help both local planning officers and developers in preparing EIA screening opinions. It also sets out the minimum requirements for LVIAs undertaken for different wind turbine typologies. The guidance is due to go out to public consultation with the intention that it could subsequently be adopted as a SPD by local authorities.

Alongside the guidance, two sensitivity and capacity studies have been undertaken, one for the Heads of the Valleys upland area and one for the Gwent Levels. These studies have used LANDMAP, the Welsh approach to landscape assessment, as the evidence base for identifying the landscape and visual factors that determine a landscape's sensitivity to wind turbine development. Capacity assessments have been undertaken based on current operational and consented development.

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# BRYN LLYWELYN WIND FARM, WALES, UK

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Gillespies' landscape planners provided expert witness services at the Public Inquiry to determine if further wind turbine development could take place in an area identified by the Welsh government as a Strategic Search Area.



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**CLIENT:** CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
**LOCATION:** WALES, UK  
**COMPLETION:** 2014  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** EXPERT WITNESS

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At inquiry, the Planning Inspector concluded that while the development would contribute to the UK's target of 15% energy from renewable sources by 2020, and that the site was contained in a Strategic Search Area for renewables development, not all such land was environmentally suitable for major windpower proposals, and that the site in question should be preserved as a "special place".

The Inspector also considered that the proposals would harm the setting of several Bronze Age Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs). The Welsh housing and regeneration minister concurred with the Planning Inspector's decision and dismissed the appeal.

Acting as an Expert Witness on landscape matters for Carmarthenshire County Council, Gillespies presented an assessment of the landscape concerned and concluded that the development would be very harmful to the perception of Mynydd Llanllwni as a wild, empty and quiet landscape and to the value placed on it by local people and visitors alike.

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# CLOCAENOG FOREST 132KV SWITCHING SUBSTATION, DENBIGHSHIRE, NORTH WALES, UK

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On behalf of SP Manweb, Gillespies co-ordinated the preparation of a substation siting study and EIA for a new 132kV collector substation in an upland commercial forestry plantation. The substation was required to gather the electricity from four proposed wind farms and route it northwards to an existing SP Manweb substation at St Asaph.



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**CLIENT:** SP MANWEB  
**LOCATION:** CLOCAENOG FOREST,  
DENBIGHSHIRE  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** SUBSTATION SITING,  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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Gillespies co-ordinated a team of environmental consultants who worked closely with SP Manweb's engineers to ensure that a site was selected which, not only was suitable from an environmental and technical perspective but also was the least risky option in terms of achieving planning consent.

Discussions with key agencies, stakeholders and the local community were carried out from the initial stages of the collector substation siting work. This ensured that environmental and planning issues were identified and integrated into the development and selection of the preferred collector substation location. An iterative approach to the selection of potential sites was adopted within the established search area. The overriding aim was to balance the technical and economic issues against the need to limit as far as possible the effects on the local environment, especially those areas of highest environmental/ amenity value and sensitivity. The NGC and SHETL clarification notes on the Holford Rules were used when considering each site.

The elevated and open nature of the area's landscape means that a substation and associated infrastructure could be visible across a wide area. Each site has therefore required an appraisal in the field to assess in more detail its likely effects on the landscape. The proposal was granted planning consent and is now constructed and operational.





# CONWY SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC STUDY, WALES, UK

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To inform planning for renewable energy in the Borough, Gillespies was commissioned by Conwy County Borough Council to produce landscape sensitivity assessments of two Local Search Areas in terms of their potential for solar photovoltaic development (solar PV development).

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**CLIENT:** CONWY AND DENBIGHSHIRE  
**LOCATION:** NORTH WALES, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY & CAPACITY STUDY

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The Local Search Areas were identified in the Conwy Renewable Energy Assessment Report. Gillespies assessed their sensitivity to solar PV development using a series of carefully selected LANDMAP criteria and information contained in Conwy's Revised Background Paper – Special Landscape Areas.

After considering the characteristics of solar PV development and mapping the location of existing and planned solar PV developments, we identified and appraised the baseline landscape character and environmental conditions in and around the Local Search Areas. This included areas of high environmental value and Special Landscape Areas. The subsequent assessment of landscape sensitivity combined judgements about the 'value' attached to the landscape and its 'susceptibility' to change arising from the specific characteristics of solar PV development. To account for localised differences in landscape character, the Local Search Areas were further subdivided and assessed before recommendations were made as to their potential to accommodate solar PV development.







# CONWY FALLS HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME, SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK, WALES, UK

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Gillespies was commissioned by Snowdonia National Park Authority to prepare an appraisal of the landscape and visual impacts and mitigation recommendations for a proposed hydro-electric scheme at Conwy Falls. This was submitted in respect of an application for planning consent for a new hydro-electric scheme on the Afon Conwy near Betws y Coed.



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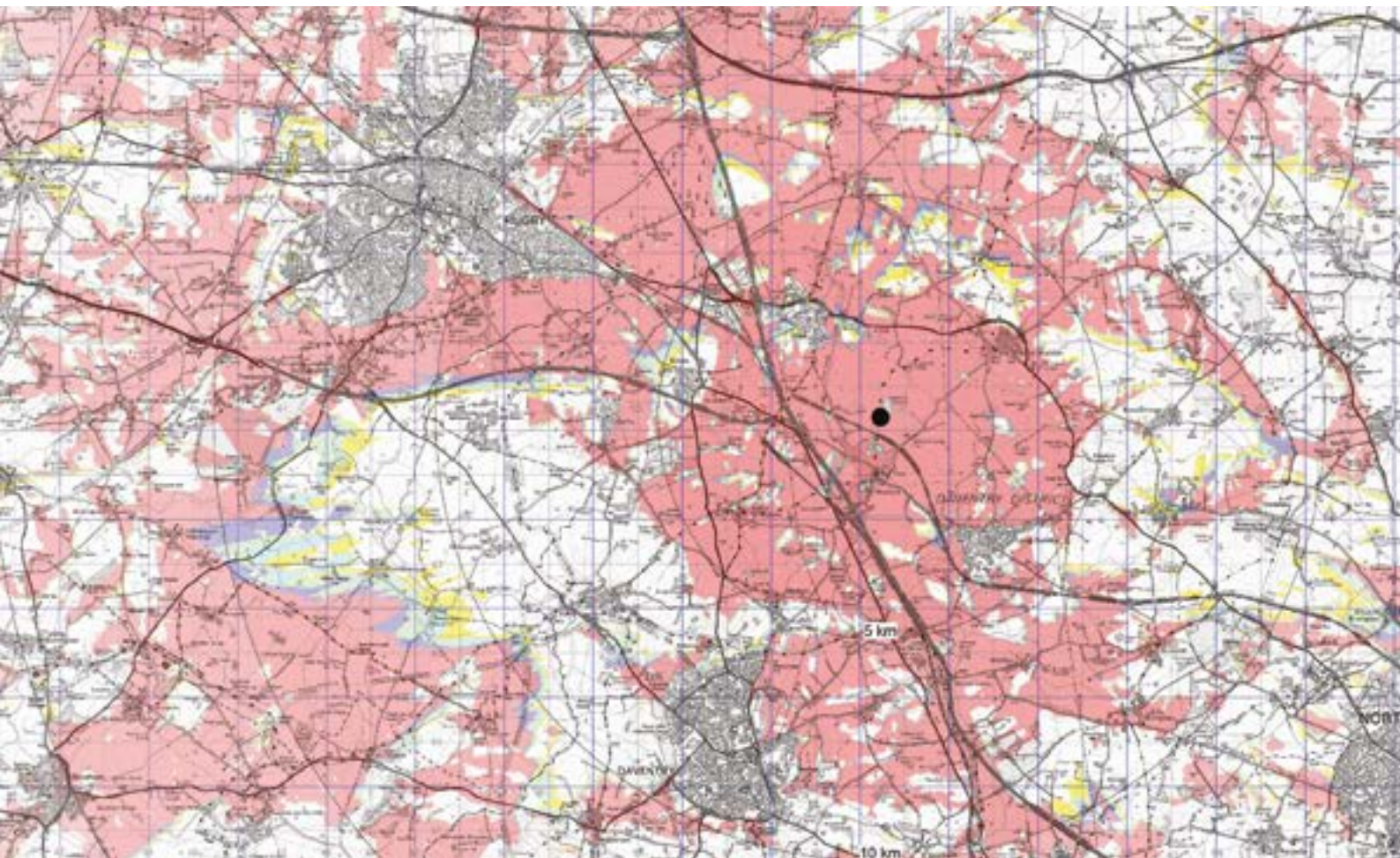
**CLIENT:** SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
**LOCATION:** BETWS Y COED, WALES, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** REVIEW OF LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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The proposed development comprised a weir pool, intake structure, tunnel portal, tailrace outfall, fencing, temporary and permanent access tracks, parking areas and connection into the electricity grid system.

In appraising the likely effects on landscape character and visual amenity, key planning policy documents were referenced, along with relevant guidance documents including GLVIA 3, National Resources Wales LANDMAP database, Scottish Natural Heritage's 'Guidelines on the Environmental Impacts of Windfarms and Small Scale Hydroelectric Schemes' and 'Hydroelectric Schemes and the Natural Heritage'. Screening opinions were taken into consideration, in addition to consultation with stakeholders such as Natural Resources Wales. Consideration was given to site layout and context, water abstraction, and mitigation proposals including landscape restoration works, earth modelling and mitigation planting, improved footpath links within the existing PROW network and viewing platforms allowing visitors to experience the Falls.

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# WATFORD LODGE FARM LVIA, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, UK



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Gillespies was commissioned by Volkswind UK Ltd to produce an LVIA for a new wind farm of five turbines near the village of Watford in Northamptonshire.

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**CLIENT:** VOLKSWIND UK LTD  
**LOCATION:** NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL  
IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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Despite the planning officer's recommendation for approval, the application was initially refused by Daventry District Council's planning committee but subsequently granted on appeal by the Planning Inspectorate. The wind farm, which is now operational, has a combined output of 10.5MW. It will provide clean, sustainable electricity for approximately 6,000 households and lead to the displacement of circa 8.5 tonnes of carbon emissions annually.

To inform the assessment, a bespoke landscape character assessment was undertaken. Northamptonshire is a county characterised by undulating landform, nucleated villages and historic houses, parks and gardens of varying importance making the assessment of the impact on both views and the local character an important part of the Environmental Statement.

Within the report, Gillespies produced a set of detailed analysis plans and computer generated visual envelope plans to clearly illustrate the Zone of Theoretical Visual Influence. This work was further supported with the production of photomontages for the wind energy proposals.





# COMBINED HEAT AND POWER PLANT SOUTH HOOK WALES, UK

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Qatar Petroleum, Exxon Mobil and Elf Petroleum UK proposed a new 500MW Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Plant at South Hook in Wales. This major development, located close to the existing Milford Haven gas storage plant and fuel-landing jetty at Milford Haven Sound, would be within the Pembrokeshire Coast National in South Wales. Deemed a significant development, the proposals were required to be considered by the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC).

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**CLIENT:** SOUTH HOOK CHP  
**LOCATION:** WALES, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** SEASCAPE, LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

As part of a statutory review of the applicant's EIA, Gillespies was commissioned by Pembrokeshire Coast National Authority (PCNP) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to evaluate the seascape and landscape and visual impact assessment of the proposed development and determine whether the applicant's considerations and approach were accurate and developed with reference to best practice techniques.

Gillespies' assessment applied best practice techniques in landscape and seascape assessment and referenced the finding of these against those of the applicant, and in drawing a view on the appropriateness for the development in landscape, seascape and visual terms.

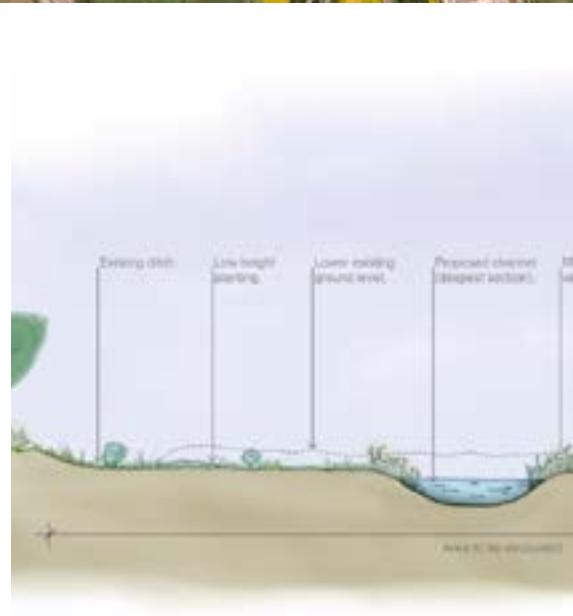
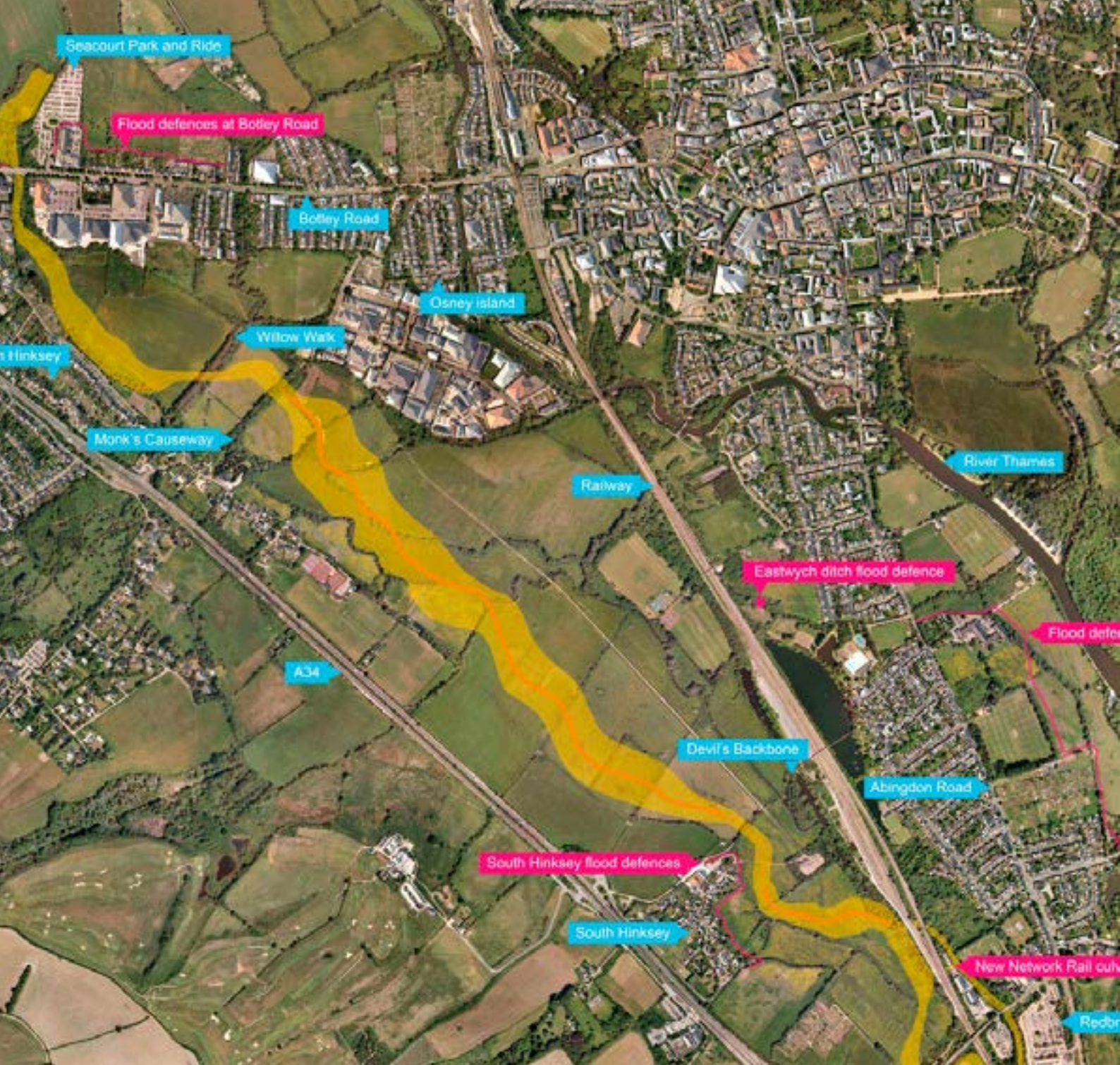
The report summarised that the CHP development would not be appropriate and would result in significant visual impact that would be detrimental to the special qualities and beauty of the National Park. As a result, Gillespies' report concluded that the proposed development would be contrary to the purpose of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park designation, contrary to national landscape policies and the application was refused by the Planning Inspectorate.

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# WATER





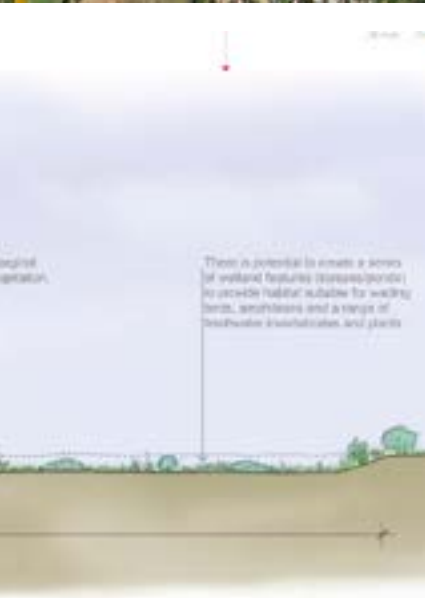






# OXFORD FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME LVIA, OXFORD, UK

The Environment Agency is working in partnership on a major new scheme to reduce flood risk from the River Thames in Oxford. The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme will cost around £150 million and is one of the biggest flood schemes in the country. The scheme will lower the existing floodplain to the west of Oxford to create more space for water; reducing flood risk.



**CLIENT:** ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  
**LOCATION:** OXFORD, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Gillespies was appointed by the Environment Agency to prepare an LVIA to support the planning application for the scheme, which will include the creation of new flood channels, culverts and bridges. The scheme will create over 20 ha of new wetland habitat. It will work with the natural floodplain and fit in with the existing environment. It will be landscaped to include around 4 ha of backwaters, scrapes and ponds. These will have a variety of depths, dimensions and gradients to encourage biodiversity of wetland and aquatic wildlife. The new channel and its associated habitat will link into the existing network of wetland sites. This will create a wildlife corridor to the west of Oxford, further increasing biodiversity.

Particular sensitivities which were addressed in the LVIA were the network of protected views across the city, the likely impact on the historic setting of the city centre and proximity to rural and urban fringe settlement. Due to the cultural importance of the flood meadows it was necessary to ensure that the proposals not only conserved the amenity and value of the site but actively sought to enhance its setting and wider contribution to the landscape.





# MERSEY WATERFRONT REGIONAL PARK, LIVERPOOL, UK

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A study to establish a strategic geographical framework and unique vision for the creation of a new Regional Park in the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage Site on the Mersey Waterfront in Liverpool.



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**CLIENT** MERSEY BASIN TRUST  
**LOCATION** LIVERPOOL, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** STRATEGIC PLANNING  
**IMAGES:** © SHUTTERSTOCK

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The Mersey Waterfront currently extends to some 135km of estuarine and coastline environments. Its character and unique sense of place is defined by the variety of land uses along the river, which range from major ports and heavy industry to leafy residential areas and internationally important wildlife sites. The aim of this study by Gillespies was to establish a strategic geographical framework and vision for Mersey Waterfront Regional Park, analyse current and planned facilities, review and set out the strategic context define the place in terms of its geography and environmental characteristics, advise on quality benchmarks, set out a framework for investment priorities to 2020 and consider and make recommendations for a future organisational structure. In preparing the study, a wide-ranging consultation exercise was undertaken. The resulting framework seeks to establish a focus for the Park's future both in terms of activity by identifying the function of the Regional Park relative to the key assets of the Waterfront and also geographically by setting out a spatial framework that placed the spotlight on a number of key locations for activity and investment.

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# MEDLOCK VALLEY STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN, GREATER MANCHESTER, UK

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Gillespies delivered a strategic study aimed at delivering a sustainable future for the Medlock Valley, linked to the successful regeneration of East Manchester.

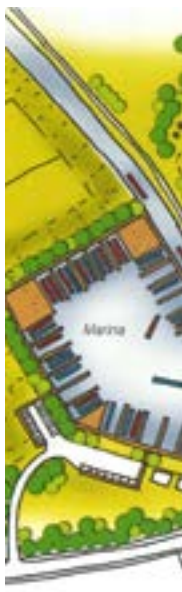
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**CLIENT** MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
**LOCATION** GREATER MANCHESTER  
**DESIGN TEAM** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** STRATEGIC PLANNING  
**IMAGES:** © SHUTTERSTOCK

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Arising from the baseline analysis of the valley and the consultations carried out, the strategic Action Plan brought together an approach to the future of the Medlock Valley that was both imaginative and deliverable. The key was to create a valley system that is both cohesive and functional, able to meet the needs of visitors and residents alike, as well as ensuring that the use and environment of the valley are radically enhanced.

This required the identification of a number of interventions to be delivered through the development of a vision related to the valley via a series of interconnected themes and projects. The study concluded with the identification of five sub-areas. Each of these was considered in turn in relation to their character, the issues that were specific to the location and the key projects to be brought forward in terms of the bespoke implementation of strategic proposals at the local level.





# LINEAR PARK AT TARLETON AND HESKETH BANK, WARRINGTON, UK

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Gillespies was appointed as part of a small team to prepare a design, development and delivery proposals for a linear park along the Canal and River Douglas at Tarleton and Hesketh Bank. This would serve as a gateway site to the Ribble Coast and Wetlands Regional Park.



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**CLIENT** WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL, LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND TARLETON AND HESKETH COUNCIL WITH BECONSALL PARISH COUNCIL  
**LOCATION** WARRINGTON, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** STRATEGIC PLANNING  
**IMAGES:** © GILLESPIES & SHUTTERSTOCK

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The area lies to the east of the settlements of Tarleton and Hesketh Bank and to the west of the River Douglas which forms its eastern boundary. The study area lies within the Ribble Coast and Wetlands Regional Park. It follows the course of the river and includes part of the Leeds Liverpool Canal which joins with the River Douglas. A thorough analysis of the site and its surrounding landscape context and sensitivities was undertaken.

The study set out a vision to transform the area and establish a unique identity for a new park based on its waterside location and heritage. The overall masterplan was broken down into a series of improvements projects which fell into one of the following three categories: Accessibility, tourism/visitor facilities and development opportunities. Each project was described in terms of its physical and green infrastructure components, implementation timetable, sustainability credentials, deliverability and outline costs. Potential funding sources were also identified.

described in terms of its physical and green infrastructure components, implementation timetable, sustainability credentials, deliverability and outline costs. Potential funding sources were also identified.







# CROAL-IRWELL REGIONAL PARK, GREATER MANCHESTER, UK

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This strategic study concluded with a summary of the key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the Croal-Irwell Valley, one of the largest and most important of the river valleys of Greater Manchester.



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**CLIENT** RED ROSE FOREST  
**LOCATION** GREATER MANCHESTER, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM** GILLESPIES | AMION  
CONSULTING  
**SERVICE:** STRATEGIC PLANNING  
**IMAGES:** © DAVID DIXON &  
SHUTTERSTOCK

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The Croal-Irwell valley exhibits varied, often dramatic landforms and has an extensive system of small, deeply incised tributaries. The Industrial Revolution had an important influence on the valley and by the 20th century both the river and air were badly polluted and the valley floors degraded. Closure of a large portion of the industry in the late 20th century led to the abandonment of much of the industry, with derelict land colonised by grassland and scrub becoming widespread.

This strategic study was undertaken by Gillespies and Amion Consulting, to provide a comprehensive picture of the various aspects of the valley, including physical, historical evolution, biodiversity value, water resource, land quality, ownership, access and infrastructure and existing groups and organisations working in the area. Each of these issues was addressed in turn and a list of ongoing and potential projects drawn up during the extensive consultation process. The key themes and aspirations for the Croal-Irwell Valley, which were implicit in this study, are still focussed on recreation and the environment with initiatives being undertaken by Manchester's Red Rose Forest Partnership and more latterly the City of Trees movement.





# A STRATEGY FOR THE RIBBLE ESTUARY REGIONAL PARK, LANCASHIRE, UK

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A strategic landscape strategy to develop the Ribble Estuary as a potential regional park, taking full account of its environmental and biodiversity status.



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**CLIENT** RSPB  
**LOCATION** LANCASHIRE, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** STRATEGIC PLANNING  
**IMAGES:** © SHUTTERSTOCK

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Extending some 31km between Preston and Lytham, the Ribble Estuary is an important feature of the UK coastline and makes a substantial contribution to the character of the North West. It is also of international importance for wildlife and is one of the most significant wetland sites in Britain. Gillespies was commissioned alongside Amion Consulting to prepare a strategic study and respond to the challenge of how to turn a largely unknown, inaccessible area into a publicly accessible wildlife resource of the highest value.

A structured approach was developed that evolved from the identification of a clear vision, setting out the basis of the Regional Park, its intended purpose and what it sought to deliver. A series of strategic objectives evolved from the vision and formed the basis for the development. This brought together three key management plans (environment management plan, interpretation and visitor management plan and access management plan) into a single integrated physical strategy for the future development of the estuary. Under each of the management plans, a series of projects and initiatives were also presented.





# MANCHESTER WATERWAYS STUDY, MANCHESTER, UK

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Manchester City Council commissioned Gillespies to carry out a study to examine the future role of the waterways in the city and how they can best serve the exciting changes that Manchester is undergoing.



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**CLIENT:** MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL  
**LOCATION:** MANCHESTER, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** STRATEGIC PLANNING

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The waterways of Manchester are a major asset for the city and provide significant opportunities to raise perceptions of the city through links to regeneration, the environment and transportation.

The vision that emerged from this work represents an all encompassing approach seeking to build on existing strengths and to embrace new opportunities. It defines the need to balance the aspirations for tourism, regeneration and economic growth with the need to protect the natural assets of the waterways and to maximise them as a resource for the resident population.

The primary action is to establish a city-wide management body for the waterways to cover the city as a whole. Once established this citywide partnership will concentrate on 6 key areas - Enhancing Access; Regeneration; Ensuring Good Quality Design; Environment & Biodiversity; Tackling Crime & Fear of Crime; and, Enhancing Community Involvement.





# THAMES TIDEWAY TUNNEL CENTRAL SECTION, LONDON, UK

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The Thames Tideway is a major infrastructure project that will modernise London's ageing sewage system and dramatically improve the environment by preventing millions of tonnes of sewage overflowing into the river. The project offers a unique opportunity to create new above-ground public spaces on land reclaimed from the river foreshore.



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**CLIENT:** TIDEWAY  
**LOCATION:** LONDON, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES | FERROVIAL  
| LAING O'ROURKE | AECOM |  
HAWKINS\BROWN | STUDIO DEKKA  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE DESIGN IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH DCO PARAMETERS

IMAGES COURTESY OF  
HAWKINS\BROWN

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As part of the contractor's design team, Gillespies worked on the central section of the project alongside lead architect Hawkins\Brown and a multidisciplinary team of engineers, lighting designers and artists who were commissioned to design and deliver the landscape and public realm for eight sites in central London.

As a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, it was critical that the designs were developed in accordance with the consented DCO parameters in terms of landscape and visual impact and the key characteristics and sensitivities of each site. An important aspect of the design therefore was to interpret the unique history of the eight sites and their relationship to the river both within the public realm design, artwork narratives and within the bespoke Tideway Wayfinding Strategy, which Gillespies developed in collaboration with Hawkins\Brown. The stakeholder liaison process was complex and required extensive consultation with the Port of London Authority, Environment Agency, Transport for London, Marine Management Organisation, Historic England, Thames Water and five London Boroughs.

# RETAIL AND LEISURE











# TATTON PARK SETTING STUDY, UK

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Located in rural Cheshire and home to a Medieval Old Hall, Neo-Classical Mansion, 50-acres of landscaped gardens, a rare-breed farm and 1,000 acres of deer park, Tatton Park is one of the UK's most complete historic estates.

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**CLIENT:** NATIONAL TRUST  
**LOCATION:** CHESHIRE  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

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The landscape around Tatton Park is experiencing increasing pressure from development, including major infrastructure proposals, such as HS2 and the expansion of Manchester Airport. This change needs to be managed in a way that is sympathetic to the landscape and heritage assets of the park and its setting, allowing it to continue to be maintained for future generations to enjoy.

Gillespies was appointed to help the National Trust better understand the contribution that the wider setting of the park both in heritage and landscape terms makes to the significance and experience of the estate, thereby providing a comprehensive evidence base, to help to ensure that development is targeted to the most appropriate locations.

A key part of the study was the identification of the setting and an evaluation of the degree to which the settings makes a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated. The starting point for this stage of the assessment was therefore to consider the significance of the heritage asset itself and then establish the contribution made by its setting. This utilised the Assessment Step 2 checklist in GPA3.

Views are also related to appreciation of the wider landscape, where there may be little or no association with heritage assets. The study therefore also included an assessment of the wider landscape and visual amenity using the approach developed on other projects by Gillespies and guidance set out in Guidelines of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment published by the Landscape Institute and IEMA.







# WORCESTER WOODS RETAIL PARK, WORCESTERSHIRE, UK

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A landscape strategy and landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) for a high quality shopping facility on the edge of Worcester.




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**CLIENT:** LAND SECURITIES GROUP  
**LOCATION:** WORCESTERSHIRE, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICES:** LANDSCAPE STRATEGY AND LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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The site is on greenfield land and a key aim of the strategy has been to create external spaces that contribute to this sensitive setting by providing a richly detailed and extensive planting programme that will provide screening where needed to mitigate the visual impact of the proposed development.

Due to the size of the development and its position on a greenfield site in close proximity to the urban edge of Worcester and a local country park, an LVIA was required to ensure that the scheme was developed with consideration of the potential impact on landscape character and visual amenity. The assessment was undertaken using viewpoint analysis to consider key views of the site from key receptors. Recommendations of further mitigation measures were also incorporated through an iterative process with the design team in order to minimise impacts.





# MILL GREEN OUTLET VILLAGE, CANNOCK, UK

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A landscape strategy and LVIA for a new £110m outlet village in the West Midlands. With approximately 130 designer-outlets units, new restaurants, a heritage trail and around 2000 car parking spaces, the 23,558 square metres village will be the biggest development of its kind in the region.



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**CLIENT:** RIOJA DEVELOPMENTS |  
DEVELOPMENT SECURITIES  
**LOCATION:** CANNOCK, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICES:** LANDSCAPE STRATEGY  
AND LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT

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Gillespies produced a landscape strategy and an LVIA for a new outlet village on the edge of Cannock. The strategy built on the proximity of the site to the woodland within Mill Green Nature Reserve, establishing a strong buffer of trees and planting that seamlessly integrates the new outlet village into the local context and reduces the development's landscape and visual impact on its surroundings.

The proposals include remodelling of existing landform; commercial units; outdoor play areas; hard and soft landscaping; new vehicular and pedestrian access from A460/Eastern Way including an underpass and formation of two pedestrian accesses to the adjoining Mill Green Nature Reserve.

A generous, attractive and step-free public realm connects the outlet village with the existing town centre and train centre. Within the village itself, legible pedestrian connections, carefully placed street seating and spill-out cafés enable visitors to walk, talk and sit in and around the blocks of brightly coloured planting.







# LEICESTER CITY FOOTBALL CLUB LVIA, LEICESTER, UK

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Gillespies was commissioned by Leicester City FC to work with KSS Architects in preparing the landscape strategy and TVIA for the proposed expansion of King Power Stadium.

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**CLIENT:** LEICESTER CITY FC  
**LOCATION:** LEICESTER, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE STRATEGY,  
TOWNSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT

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The proposed development occupies a 12ha site within a Strategic Regeneration Area, which forms part of Leicester's ambitions to restructure its economy from a declining manufacturing base, towards service and knowledge based jobs.

The exciting proposals comprise the expansion of the existing East Stand of the football stadium, external Fan Zone and memorial garden to the five victims of the 2018 helicopter crash at the stadium, public art, hotel and spa, potential energy centre, waste management area, car parking spaces, new pedestrian access route and club retail store, museum and office building.





# FLITWICK COUNTRY PARK AND CEMETERY, BEDFORDSHIRE, UK

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Gillespies was commissioned by Cemetery Development Services (CDS) to prepare a management plan and LVIA for a proposed new cemetery and country park immediately north of Flitwick, Bedfordshire. The design comprises burial areas, internal roadways and pathways around the cemetery and planting, including shelterbelt woodland, within the country park.

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**CLIENT:** CEMETERY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
**LOCATION:** BEDFORDSHIRE, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** MANAGEMENT PLAN, LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The site lies within the London Metropolitan Green Belt and close to areas of high wildlife and cultural heritage value. The agricultural landscape of the proposed development site has some local landscape value, but forms part of a wider swathe of arable farmland and is commonplace in the area. The proposed cemetery and country park would introduce a new amenity landscape and a scenery of greater visual and ecological diversity and would therefore add interest into this area and, importantly, improve public accessibility to the countryside. The woodland planting proposed is characteristic of the surrounding wooded landscapes and will over time integrate sympathetically into the surrounding landscape.

The assessment concluded that there would be a localised minor beneficial effect on the landscape character as the new scenery would be more diverse and varied than that existing arable farmland. The assessment also concluded that the change from agricultural to amenity land use would not adversely impact upon the core policy attributes of the Green Belt designation. Moreover, creation of a large country park between the settlements of Ampthill and Flitwick would improve public access and enhance the character of the Green Belt.

For most visual receptors, the change in view experienced during operation was assessed as broadly positive, as the unremarkable views across arable farmland would be replaced by a more diverse country park and cemetery landscape. The only adverse visual effects would be on viewpoints along the immediate southern edge of site where new shelterbelt planting would interrupt the existing long distance views.

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# CHESTER ZOO GRASSLANDS LVIA, CHESTER, UK

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Gillespies prepared a landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) for the proposed Grasslands and Overnight Accommodation development at Chester Zoo.



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**CLIENT** CHESTER ZOO  
**LOCATION** CHESTER, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND  
LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT

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The zoo expansion comprises new animal enclosures, buildings, and visitor accommodation including chalets and tented structures, as well as a reception area, restaurant and new water feature.

The study area for the LVIA was defined by a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and extended to circa 1km around the proposed development. Following an assessment of the baseline landscape and visual character of the study area, an assessment was undertaken using guidance presented in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition. This ensured that the output, which concluded that the development would be acceptable from a landscape and visual perspective, was robust and, if necessary, defensible at Public Inquiry.





# WEST RIVERSIDE BALLOCH, SCOTLAND

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A private developer (Flamingo Land) is proposing a £30million leisure facility on the southern shores of Loch Lomond in Scotland. Gillespies has created a diverse and high-quality new eco-landscape that will establish Balloch as a new tourist destination and gateway to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.



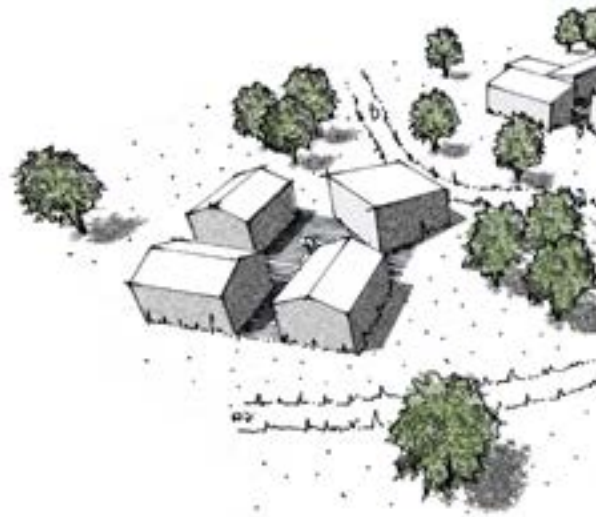
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**CLIENT:** FLAMINGO LAND  
**LOCATION:** LOCH LOMOND, SCOTLAND  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES |  
ANDERSON BELL + CHRISTIE  
ARCHITECTS  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE DESIGN  
AND LANDSCAPE VISUAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT

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Gillespies was commissioned to undertake the masterplanning for the site, establish a series of landscape design principles and provide an assessment of the likely effects of the proposed development on landscape, views and visual amenity. The site is within the southern end of the National Park and close to Loch Lomond National Scenic Area. It also includes Drumkinnon Woods - a semi-natural woodland which is informally used by the residents of Balloch. Part of the woodland is designated as Ancient Woodland. The proposals include a hotel, brewery, self-catering units, water park and other recreational facilities that extend around the wooded southern shore of the loch close to the small settlement of Balloch. The scheme will bring important inward investment into the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

Preparation of the landscape and visual assessment involved liaison with the National Park Authority to ensure that consideration was given to the assessment of the effects of the proposed development on the special qualities of the National Park and National Scenic Area.







# RETALLACK, CORNWALL, UK

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Gillespies was appointed by ARIA Resort Group to produce the landscape masterplan and LVIA in support of a Section 73 planning application for the redevelopment of a rural resort in Cornwall.



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**CLIENT:** ARIA RESORT GROUP  
**LOCATION:** CORNWALL, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES | BEN ADAMS ARCHITECTS  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN AND LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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The proposals concerned the redevelopment of the Retallack Resort and Spa to provide new and upgraded accommodation and visitor facilities. Located close to Newquay beaches, the design ethos developed around the distinctiveness of Cornwall's landscape and the desire to protect and enhance the natural environment.

The sensitivities identified in the LVIA were its contiguous boundary with an SSSI, local areas of woodland, an extensive rural network of Public Rights of Way and farmsteads within the immediate landscape. Due to the rural setting of the resort, it was necessary to ensure that the proposals conserved and enhanced the amenity and value of the site, its setting and its wider contribution to the landscape.



# SALISBURY GATEWAY MASTERPLAN, UK



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Gillespies delivered a masterplan and provided landscape and visual assessment advice for the Salisbury Gateway site.



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**CLIENT:** SALISBURY SITE LLP  
**LOCATION:** SALISBURY, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN  
AND LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL  
IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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The aim of the masterplan was to juxtapose high quality retail proposals to the north of the site with new green space to the south of the site and create an ecological nature park that enhances the biodiversity value of the site and responds to the River Avon floodplain.

The retail proposals are arranged as a series of landmark architectural pavilions linked by a linear 'green carpet' treatment with proposed tree avenue planting and architectural light columns, with associated parking and pedestrian walkways more discretely located to the rear of the development.

The nature park was designed to respond to the adjacent sensitive riparian landscape and improve the ecology value of the site by creating enhanced wetland habitats to address the decline in local biodiversity and foraging habitat. The nature park can be viewed from within the development to visually illustrate the green credentials and also can be accessed at key points to allow potential recreation and education opportunities.





# SANKEY VALLEY PARK WARRINGTON, UK

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Gillespies was appointed as part of a small team to prepare a design, development and delivery strategy for Sankey Valley Park, with the aim of it becoming a regional visitor destination.



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**CLIENT:** WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL  
**LOCATION:** WARRINGTON, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** STRATEGIC PLANNING  
**IMAGE:** GILLESPIES & SHUTTERSTOCK

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Identified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, the seven-mile linear park extends from the River Mersey in the south to the M62 in the north and follows the course of the disused Sankey Canal and Sankey Brook through Warrington. It displays a mix of woodlands scrub and open grassland and, despite being surrounded by residential development on all sides, it has a sense of tranquillity and isolation due to the lack of vehicular access and high woodland cover. The regeneration proposals and masterplan developed was based on a thorough analysis of the site and its surrounding context, including its historical development from the 13th century when it formed part of the grounds of a monastic grange. A number of landscape character areas were identified along the valley and informed the development of a series of concept masterplan and complementary projects, which combine to provide an integrated landscape setting and quality public realm.

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# EDUCATION & HEALTH



# ROYAL PAPWORTH









# CAMBRIDGE BIOMEDICAL CAMPUS, PHASE 1, CAMBRIDGE, UK

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Cambridge Biomedical campus is on track to become one of the leading biomedical centres in the world. Gillespies provided public realm proposals and landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) to create a strong identity to the campus and encourage chance encounters in the public domain.



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**CLIENT:** CAMBRIDGE MEDIPARK LTD  
**LOCATION:** CAMBRIDGE, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND  
LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT

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The Cambridge Biomedical Campus (CBC) is situated on the southern fringe of the city centred around Addenbrooke's Hospital. The campus is on track to become one of the leading biomedical centres in the world by 2020.

Having successfully worked on public realm proposals for a large scale public open space at the heart of the Biomedical Campus, Gillespies was commissioned to work on this landscape-led development. Early design response focussed on developing a series of garden spaces of differing character which provides a strong identity to the campus.

Gillespies was appointed to undertake an appraisal of the landscape and visual impacts of the outline development. Development on the CBC site will represent the southern elevation of the city. The scheme was evaluated for the potential to impact on landscape character and visual amenity particularly due to its position adjacent to the Green Belt and its visibility from the chalk hills to the south east.





# BRUNEL UNIVERSITY LONDON, HEALTH & SPORTS CENTRE, UK

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Brunel University proposed a new health and sports Centre located on an existing rugby pitch to replace the existing sports centre within the main area of the campus. Gillespies was commissioned to undertake the landscape design and an LVIA for the proposals. The new campus will provide an attractive and accessible setting for this flagship sports and educational facility.



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**CLIENT:** BRUNEL UNIVERSITY LONDON/  
PASCALL + WATSON

**LOCATION:** UXBRIDGE, UK

**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES | PASCALL +  
WATSON

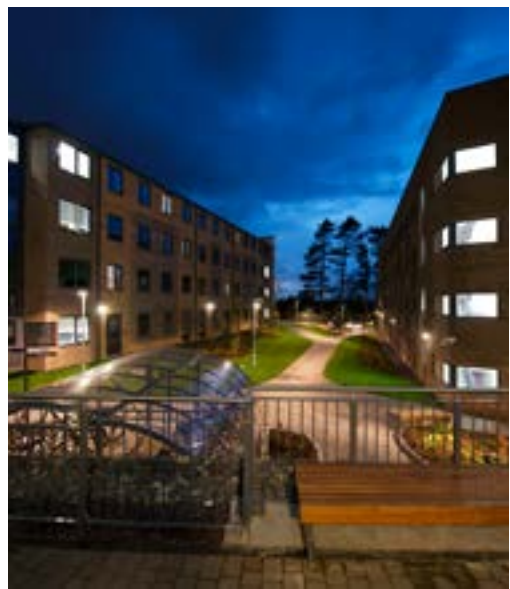
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND  
LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT

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The project involved the construction of a new health and sports centre including an eight court multi-purpose activity hall, with retractable seating for 1500 spectators, changing facilities, an eight lane swimming pool, climbing wall and boulder room, fitness gym, squash courts, reception, café, and a and welfare provision and administrative offices.

Gillespies has designed the landscape setting for the new Health and Sports Centre to Stage 3 developed design. The landscape design provides an accessible site for staff and users on a challenging sloping site. A key part of the project was to link the site with the wider campus by creating an open and permeable landscape, whilst providing substantial screen planting around the back of the building to preserve the tranquil and sensitive character of the adjacent cemetery.

Gillespies undertook an LVIA to inform the project design development, and to support the planning application. Biodiversity is enhanced through a wide palette of native and ornamental planting, including green roofs and wildflower meadows, to complement the surrounding leafy campus.





# ST MARY'S, BANGOR UNIVERSITY STUDENT RESIDENCES, WALES, UK

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Gillespies was commissioned to undertake an outline landscape and visual appraisal of the proposed redevelopment of the St Mary's site in Bangor on behalf of Bangor University and Cityheart. Bangor University wishes to redevelop the site to house new student accommodation with a mix of halls, townhouses and the retention and refurbishment of two historical buildings.

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**CLIENT:** BANGOR UNIVERSITY  
**LOCATION:** NORTH WALES, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND  
LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL APPRAISAL

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Bangor is located on undulating land on the southern side of the Menai Straits, the city centre sitting between two ridgelines with residential properties on the slopes to either side. The surrounding areas have a mix of landscape character with the rolling hills towards Bethel to the south and Anglesey to the north.

The student halls development is on the former St Mary's site and includes a variety of accommodation including bedrooms, studio flats and townhouse style lodgings. In addition to the new build areas, the original Quadrangle and 1906 buildings were also retained and restored.

As well as undertaking a landscape and visual appraisal to support the planning application, Gillespies designed the outdoor spaces to provide a contemporary and sustainable setting for the new facilities. At the heart of the design was a commitment to provide a real sense of community with an enhanced social and living space environment and central 'village square'. The project achieved a BREEAM excellent rating.







# BEDALES SCHOOL LVA, STEEP, UK

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A landscape and visual appraisal in support of a new arts and design facility for Bedales School, located within the South Downs National Park.



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**CLIENT:** BEDALES SCHOOL ESTATE  
**LOCATION:** STEEP, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL APPRAISAL

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Gillespies was appointed by Bedales School to carry out a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) to support the planning application for full planning permission for a new art and design facility at Bedales School. The proposals concerned a two-storey art and design building and an estates reception building designed to create a new courtyard centred on a mature oak tree.

The school is located within the South Downs National Park and comprises an eclectic mix of buildings including historic listed buildings and contemporary award winning architecture. Due to the National Park location it was necessary to ensure that the proposals conserved and enhanced the natural beauty of the site and wider context through a detailed understanding of the landscape.

# TRANSPORT











# HIGH SPEED 2 – PHASE 2A AND 2B, UK

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High Speed Two (HS2) is the new high-speed railway linking London and Birmingham to Manchester, the East Midlands and Leeds. In addition to reducing the travel time, it will also increase the capacity of the rail network and serve as an economic catalyst to boost the economy of the northern cities.

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**CLIENT:** HS2  
**LOCATION:** VARIOUS, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES | ARUP+  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE DESIGN &  
LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT  
**IMAGE:** © ARUP

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HS2 will be a Y-shaped rail network that will be built in three phases. The first will see the construction of a new 225km line between London and Birmingham by 2026. It will include a connection to Europe via High Speed 1 and the Channel Tunnel. Phase 2a will extend the line some 58km between Birmingham and Crewe. Phase 2b comprises the remainder of Phase Two, between Crewe and Manchester and between the West Midlands and Leeds, with connections to the West Coast Main Line and East Coast Main Line. Due to the size and complexity of the scheme, consent to build it has to be obtained through an Act of Parliament.

Gillespies has supported Arup's landscape and engineering teams in several roles on Phase 2A, Phase 2A AP and Phase 2B). Our work has included detailed design of landscape and visual mitigation proposals, landscape and visual assessment, authorship of hybrid bill documents, review of landscape architects outputs and preparation of GIS and graphic material. This required liaison with HS2 representatives and supporting the public consultation process.





# MANCHESTER SECOND CITY CROSSING, MANCHESTER, UK

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Gillespies was appointed by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to support the planning and design for the Manchester 2nd City Crossing (M2CC) a new Metrolink line through the heart of the city centre.



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**CLIENT:** TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER

**LOCATION:** MANCHESTER, UK

**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES | MOTT MACDONALD | URS | DYSON BELL | AECOM | MPT

**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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As project landscape and urban designer Gillespies was responsible for driving forward the aesthetics of the alignment and structures to help ensure the sympathetic and complementary integration of the new tram into the city. In a city centre affecting many people this required complex public and stakeholder consultation and close collaborative working with Transport for Greater Manchester's Integrated Project Team.

Providing integrated landscape architectural, town planning and visual impact advice, Gillespies assisted the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), supported the preparation of the Transport Works Order (TWO), prepared a Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy and led the production of the Design and Access Statement that supported the planning application. Additionally we were expert witness in the TWO Inquiry and then acting for TfGM and Manchester City Council (MCC) inspected works during the 2 year construction period.





# MERSEY GATEWAY PROJECT, LIVERPOOL, UK

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The Mersey Gateway Project is a major scheme to build a new six lane toll bridge over the Mersey.



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**CLIENT:** SHMBC, RAVENHEAD RENAISSANCE, GROUNDWORK  
**LOCATION:** LIVERPOOL, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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Due to the size of the development and its potential impact on the environment, an environmental impact assessment is being carried out to support the planning application being put forward.

Gillespies was involved in the production of the landscape and visual impact assessment chapter of the environmental statement, providing a detailed analysis of the visual impact of the bridge on the surrounding area and offering remedy to reduce and enhance its visual impact on the surrounding area.

In order to provide the potential bidders with a structured approach to the development of their detailed proposals, Gillespies compiled a Design & Access statement that will accompany the outline engineering proposals for the scheme, establishing good design and proper landscape treatment to ensure a high quality environment will be created when the bridge and associated roads are constructed.







# CENTRO MIDLAND METRO TRAM, BIRMINGHAM, UK

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Centro Metro, the first street tramway to run in the West Midlands area for over 40 years, aims to provide the people of the West Midlands with a world-class public transport system.



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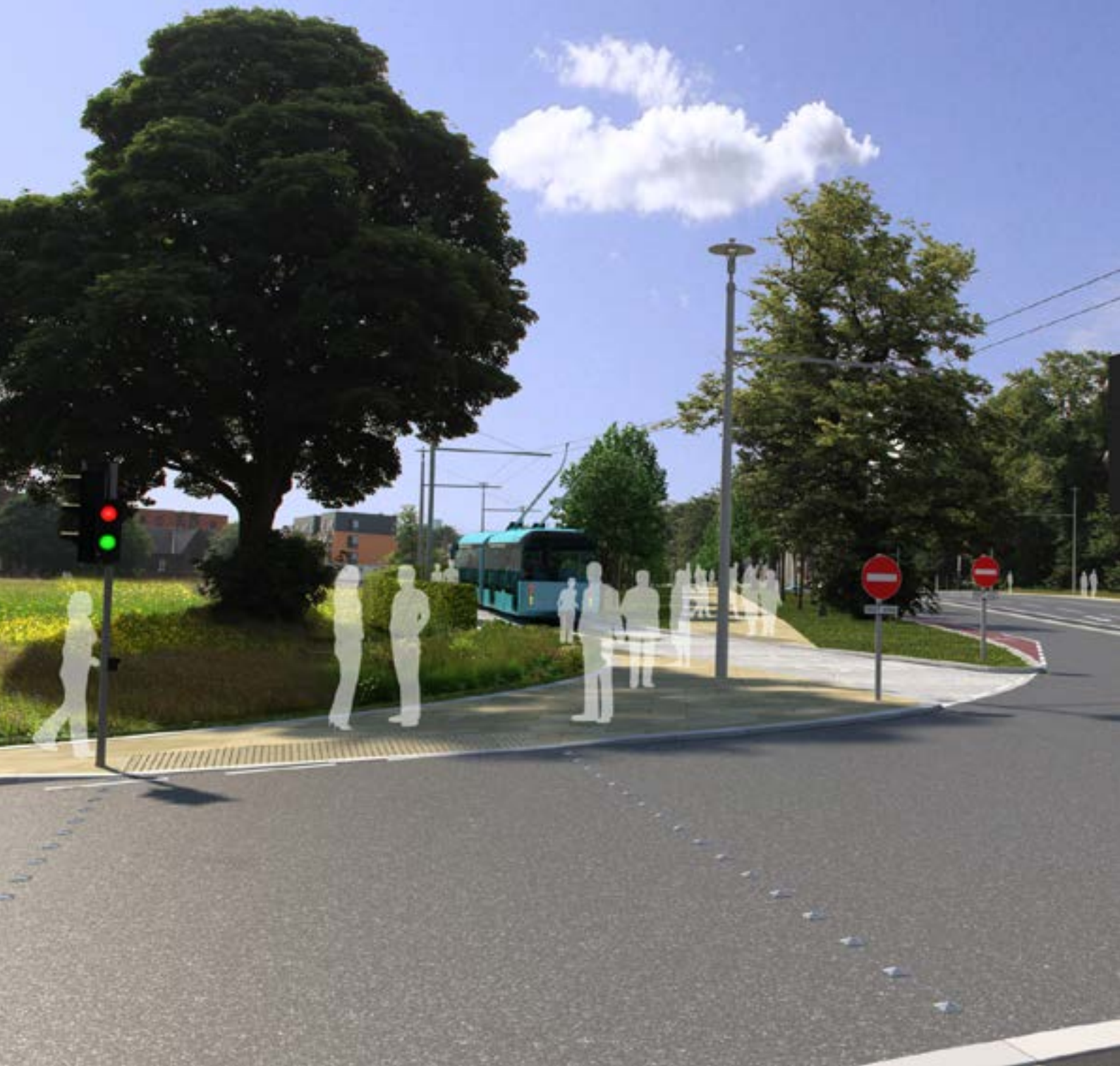
**CLIENT:** CENTRO  
**LOCATION:** BIRMINGHAM, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES | WESTON  
WILLIAMSON | MOTT MACDONALD |  
ALLIANCE PLANNING  
**SERVICE:** TOWNSCAPE AND VISUAL  
IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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Centro Metro has extended its routes in several stages over the past 10 years, and the next stage will be its extension into Birmingham's city centre, linking to the city's cultural and retail heart. Gillespies has been part of the team in achieving this next planning milestone, paving the way for construction to start.

Initially, Gillespies' task was to appraise the visual and public realm issues for new suburban line extensions. Detailed design proposals were produced to ensure the new tram routes were a sensitive fit with the suburban corridors through which the lines would pass. This involved the appraisal of context and locality, the sense of place associated with key places and spaces.

Subsequently a design vocabulary for the tram stops was produced resulting in a cohesive architectural vision for the entire route, with a strong emphasis on creating a clean uncluttered transition between tram infrastructure, pedestrian walkways and existing architecture.





# LEEDS NEW GENERATION TRANSPORT, UK

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Leeds is investing in a new rapid trolley bus system, Leeds New Generation Transport (NGT), to support the local economy and improve the environment by combating congestion. NGT will represent the UK's first modern electric trolley bus system for over 70 years. Gillespies has played a key design and assessment role in the project.



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**CLIENT:** LEEDS CITY COUNCIL | METRO/WYPTÉ

**LOCATION:** LEEDS, UK

**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES

**SERVICE:** TOWNSCAPE LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL APPRAISAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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NGT comprises two routes, which will link heavily populated suburbs in the north, to employment and residential heartlands in the south, via the city centre. The proposed routes are 8.7 miles long and incorporate two major new Park and Ride facilities. The urban corridors through which NGT pass are highly sensitive with numerous Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and existing mature trees to consider.

The work undertaken included: urban and landscape design for the corridors and stops as well as design of new public spaces and streetscapes along the routes, captured in three Design Statement Volumes. A New Approach to Appraisal (NATA) for the townscape and landscape has been carried out for route options to establish the optimum routing and a detailed Townscape Landscape and Visual Appraisal (TLVIA) has been undertaken as part of a full Environmental Assessment process. Following successful delivery of the TWAO application documentation, Gillespies has supported the scheme by addressing objections and providing expert witness at the Public Inquiry.





# DLR ENVIRONMENTAL FEASIBILITY REPORT, LONDON, UK

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A townscape and visual impact assessment (TVIA) for an options evaluation and environmental feasibility report for the proposed double tracking of the DLR between Stratford and Bow Church stations.



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**CLIENT:** TEMPLE GROUP | DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAILWAY LTD  
**LOCATION:** LONDON, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** TOWNSCAPE & LANDSCAPE VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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The DLR is currently single track between Bow Church and Stratford, with a passing loop at Pudding Mill Lane Station. This regularly has a negative impact on the frequency and reliability of DLR services. As part of Crossrail's works in the Pudding Mill Lane area, there was an opportunity to provide another track alongside the existing single-track section.

Gillespies were commissioned to undertake an appraisal of both the temporary and permanent townscape and visual impacts of the new infrastructure associated with the proposed development in support of the identification and feasibility of a number of possible design options. A number of options were evaluated for the potential to impact on townscape character and visual amenity, particularly of line-side residents along the proposed alignment.





# DINGWALL ROAD TRAMLINK EXTENSION, LONDON, UK

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Public realm design and townscape  
and visual impact assessment (TVIA)  
for a proposed extension to the London  
Tramlink in central Croydon.



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**CLIENT:** TEMPLE GROUP | TRANSPORT  
FOR LONDON  
**LOCATION:** LONDON, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** TOWNSCAPE & LANDSCAPE  
VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND  
LANDSCAPE DESIGN

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The redevelopment of a significant area of Croydon town centre through a major retail-led mixed-use development has the potential to significantly increase the number of passengers using the Tramlink network in Croydon. The proposed construction of a new tram loop to the east of the retail area will enable the tram network to handle this increase in passenger demand.

Gillespies were commissioned to undertake an appraisal of both the townscape and visual impacts of the new infrastructure associated with the proposed alignment. The scheme was evaluated for the potential to impact on townscape character and visual amenity in conjunction with the future consented development along the proposed alignment. The results of this environmental appraisal will support the application for planning permission for the project through the Transport and Works Act order application process.







# MANCHESTER AIRPORT CONSULTANCY, MANCHESTER, UK

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The Manchester Airport Second Runway project was one of the most controversial large-scale developments proposed by Manchester City Council. Macclesfield Borough Council was one of the local authorities opposed to the new runway and commissioned Gillespies to provide evidence in support of their objection.



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**CLIENT:** MACCLESFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
**LOCATION:** GREATER MANCHESTER, UK  
**DESIGN TEAM:** GILLESPIES  
**SERVICE:** LANDSCAPE DESIGN COMPLIANCE

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The Council's main concern was the airports proximity to settlement and the sensitive habitats of the River Bollin valley.

Gillespies role was to verify the detailed design outputs of the landscape consultants responsible for developing Manchester's second runway as part of the public inquiry compliance. This included reviewing detailed plans and environmental works method statements for restoration and creation of 100 ponds, management, translocation and creation of new woodlands and hedgerows, treatment of trees due to CAA obstacle limitation requirements, hedgerow management, translocation and establishment of new grassland and protection methods for landscape and ecological features. The inquiry sat for 101 days, and concluded by approving the planned new runway.

# GILLESPIES