

Appendices

Appendix B:

LVA Methodology





LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITES

1. AGGREGATE SCORE (/100)

The aggregate score is the sum total of each of the scores for the categories of Landscape Value, Landscape Susceptibility, Visual Value, and Visual Susceptibility. More details about scoring these are provided below in sections 8.1, 9.1, 10.1, 12.1, 13.1, and 14.1.

Scoring is applied on a description system of High / Medium / Low. Each of these descriptions is assigned a number for the categories of Landscape Value, Landscape Susceptibility, Visual Value, and Visual Susceptibility. This number enables each category to be weighted equally when feeding through into the aggregate score for the site. The aggregate site score is used for ranking the sites only and therefore can only provide the relative sensitivity of each site when gauged against the others in this assessment.

2. SITE REFERENCE

Reference number and site name.

3. DATE

Date of initial site visit.

4. SURVEYED BY

Initials of main assessor.

5. CHECKED BY

Initials of Chartered Landscape Architect checking the assessment and verifying the conclusions.

6. EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Section indicating existing recorded key characteristics derived from the local landscape character assessment and comparing them to conditions both on Site and within the Study area. The Site is classed as the area that is the subject of the assessment. The Study Area lies outside of the Site and is defined by analysis of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility and visibility of the site on the ground. All assessment within this report is of the landscape and visual effects on the study area arising from the development of the site.

6.1. Landscape Character within the site

Reference numbers of all of the Landscape Character Areas defined within an existing study that fall wholly or partly within the site boundary, in addition to their condition if this is identified within the assessment.

6.2. Landscape Character within the study area

Reference numbers of all of the Landscape Character Areas defined within an existing study that fall wholly or partly within the identified study area, in addition to their condition if this is identified within the assessment.

LIVING LANDSCAPES METHODOLOGY

Methodology adapted from the 'Living Landscapes Project' (English Nature, 2004), with respect to 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment' (Natural England, 2014). The list of attributes have been taken from Appendix 1 of the Living Landscapes report and are used within landscape character assessment to derive Level 2 character areas (such as Landscape Description Units) which are assessed and applied at County or Regional level.

Each attribute is to be assessed and the category chosen in relation to the most common occurrence within the Policy Zone description, Site or Study Area. The assessment is carried out through a combination of desktop survey and field work; any categories that are identified as likely to apply within the desktop survey are checked and verified in the field.

Some of the Level 2 attributes have been scoped out for the purposes of the assessment as they are assessed as carrying less weight in determining landscape and visual sensitivities. These are: Geology, Rock type, and Soils. Whilst it is recognised that these factors form an important part of landscape character, they are unlikely to undergo any significant changes as a result of development on the site. Any areas with geological designations are addressed within the 'Conservation Interests' section of the Landscape Value Assessment.

The 'Living Landscapes Project' methodology does not provide definitions of landscape category attributes. Therefore, definitions of landscape categories within attributes used for the purposes of this assessment are provided below.

6.3. Landform

This attribute is listed as it appears in the 'Living Landscapes' methodology.

6.3.1. Vales & valley bottoms

The area assessed is a distinct valley or floodplain, often with a river or stream running through the bottom.



6.3.2. Rolling / undulating

Landform in the area has gentle undulations with localised high points in parts.

6.3.3. Low plateau

The area is predominantly flat although is higher than its surroundings (under 300m) – distinguishing it from the valley bottom category.

6.3.4. Sloping (low hills)

Low hills (under 600m) and their slopes form the majority of landform in the area. The area tends to have a distinct summit and steeper slopes than those categorised as rolling / undulating landform.

6.3.5. Coastal dunes / shingle

Gently rolling areas of sand or shingle formed by wind or wave action in a coastal environment.

6.3.6. Marine levels

Large areas of flat land which are formed by the wave action depositing sand, mud and silt on the shore. Marine levels are typically at or below sea level and may include intertidal flats which are underwater at high tide.

6.3.7. High plateau (>300m)

The area is predominantly flat but also higher than its surroundings (over 300m).

6.3.8. High hills (>600m)

High hills (over 600m) and their slopes form the majority of landform in the area. The area has a distinct summit and steeper slopes than those categorised as rolling / undulating landform.

6.4. Settlement Pattern

The 'Planned (waste)' category from the Living Landscapes methodology has been renamed as 'Waste ground / Derelict' as it is felt that this description better fits the type of landscape meant in this category.

In addition, the 'Unsettled – meadow' and 'Unsettled – wildland' categories from the methodology have been combined into a single 'Unsettled' category. This is because it was felt that the meadow / wildland descriptor was better placed within the Land Cover attribute.

6.4.1. Nucleated

Distinct settlement generally focussed on a central feature, such as a main road, crossroads, village green or church; typically a village, or occasionally a small town. Please note that the definition of nucleated settlement in this case also includes what are normally defined as linear settlements, as there is not a separate category for this within the Living Landscapes Methodology.

6.4.2. Clustered

The area has settlements that form small distinct clusters, typically in hamlets or small villages.

6.4.3. Settled

Settlement in the area is not separated into distinct groups, instead tending to coalesce between different named towns and villages. The area has a mix of urban and rural land uses.

6.4.4. Dispersed

The settlement pattern in the area is mostly made up of dispersed individual properties and farmsteads, with the occasional small hamlet.

6.4.5. Waste ground / Derelict

Settlement in the area has mostly fallen into dereliction and / or demolished and left as waste ground.

6.4.6. Unsettled

Area without settlement – the main use being instead either meadows or wild land. Any areas with a small amount of scattered settlement will generally be within the 'dispersed' category rather than this one.

6.4.7. Coalfields

Settlement in the area is characterised by the coal-mining history, with colliery villages being the main form of settlement.

6.4.8. Urban

A built-up area in large blocks of settlement, often without a single coherent structure; tends to be a large town or city.



6.5. Land Cover

This attribute is mostly listed as it appears in the 'Living Landscapes' methodology, however the Urban category from Living Landscapes has been modified to include commercial, industrial or brownfield land (now named Urban / Brownfield).

Where percentages are given for the arable farms / mixed farms / pastoral farms categories, these indicate the approximate split of arable and pastoral farming on agricultural land not the overall percentage of land covered by that particular agricultural use.

6.5.1. Arable farms

Land cover in the area is primarily arable farming ($\geq 75\%$ of agricultural land is arable).

6.5.2. Mixed farms

A mix of arable and pastoral farming (between 25-75% of each) is apparent on agricultural land in the area (where agricultural land is the most common land cover type).

6.5.3. Pastoral farms

The majority of the area has a pastoral farming land cover ($\geq 75\%$ of agricultural land is pastoral).

6.5.4. Woodland

Area primarily covered with woodland, either planted or semi-natural.

6.5.5. Rough / wild / equestrian

The majority of the area is either covered with semi-natural habitat (not including woodland) such as moorland, wetland or unimproved grassland or is grazed for equestrian purposes.

6.5.6. Disturbed

The area is generally typified by spoil heaps which are a remnant of previous industrial activity, such as coal mining.

6.5.7. Urban / Brownfield

Land cover is a built-up area (usually both residential and industrial) with little to no agricultural land.

6.5.8. Parkland / Leisure

An area which is either traditional parkland, or contributes a leisure function –for example golf courses, football pitches, allotments etc.

6.6. Tree Cover

This attribute is listed as it appears in the 'Living Landscapes' methodology.

6.6.1. Wooded – ancient

Trees in the area occur mostly in stands of ancient woodland, as recorded by Natural England.

6.6.2. Wooded – recent

The trees in the area tend to be in woodlands; however these are generally modern in origin. These are generally recognised within the National Forest Inventory.

6.6.3. Trees & woods

Area has a mixture of individual trees (including hedgerow trees), tree groups and woodlands (recognised within the National Forest Inventory).

6.6.4. Coverts & tree groups

Most trees in the area grow in small groups and are not generally recognised within the National Forest Inventory.

6.6.5. Other trees

The majority of trees in the area are scattered individual specimens, hedgerow trees, street trees, or another category not covered above.

6.6.6. Open / unwooded

Area without trees; any area with scattered individual trees is more likely to belong to the 'other trees' category.

OTHER

These attributes are adapted from work done by Herefordshire Council (2004) and Worcestershire Council (2013), which set out descriptive attributes that can be used to greater refine an assessment of landscape character to a more local level. Not all of these descriptors will be applicable to each site – for



example the field boundaries attribute will not be applicable to an urban area.

6.7. Spatial Character

Relates to the sense of enclosure and framing of views within the Site and Study Area.

6.7.1. Exposed

A landscape that is very open and exposed with little to no human-scale features (trees and houses).

6.7.2. Large

An open landscape with long views, which is likely to be a flat landscape with few human-scale features.

6.7.3. Medium – open

A medium-scale open landscape. It tends to have long views, also likely to have some human-scale features.

6.7.4. Medium – framed

Landscapes where views are framed and also partly restricted by human-scale landscape features such as hedges and trees.

6.7.5. Small

A landscape with restricted views and a human scale due to the prevalence of human-scale features such as houses and trees.

6.7.6. Intimate

An area with few external views and a diminished sense of scale. Would feel crowded if there were several people within it.

6.7.7. Variable

Landscapes which exhibit characteristics from several of the above categories.

6.8. Indicative Ground Vegetation

Main type of vegetation on the ground in the Site / Study Area.

- Grassland / grazing - (includes equestrian)
- Moorland
- Wetland
- Farmland (arable)
- Woodland
- Scrubland
- Garden
- Urban streetscape
- Variable

6.9. Field Boundaries

Primary method of enclosure within fields.

- Walls
- Fences
- Hedges
- Ditches
- Variable
- n/a

6.10. Enclosure Pattern

Shape of enclosure within the landscape.

6.10.1. Unenclosed



An area with no physical boundaries, also tends towards a large / exposed scale.

6.10.2. Organic

Boundaries are predominantly curved and irregular; often the result of historic (medieval) enclosure or in response to challenging landform or constraints.

6.10.3. Sub-regular

Boundaries are generally straight (although possibly some curved boundaries) and form uneven or complex shapes.

6.10.4. Planned

Boundaries are straight and form rectangles or squares, creating a regular pattern across the landscape. Includes fields defined following the Enclosure Acts (1604-1914).

6.10.5. Variable

Fields in the area fall into mixture of two or more of the above categories.

6.11. Tree Pattern

Shape and interaction of trees, tree groups, and woodlands within the Site / Study Area.

6.11.1. Continuous

Coverage is uninterrupted and forms a distinct linear feature.

6.11.2. Linked

Groups of trees are visually linked by virtue of their close proximity or intermediate individual trees.

6.11.3. Discrete

Groups of trees which are distinct and visually separate from all other trees in the area. Tends to be used to describe large groups and woodlands.

6.11.4. Groups

Trees form clear groups, but these are not necessarily visually separated from all other trees in the area.

6.11.5. Scattered

Trees are dotted throughout the landscape, with no apparent regularity or pattern. Generally used to describe individual specimens.

6.11.6. Linear

Trees or groups of trees that form a linear feature, but coverage is not continuous. Useful for describing series of hedgerow or street trees.

6.11.7. Variable

Tree pattern in the area falls into mixture of two or more of the above categories.

6.11.8. N / A

There are no trees within the Site / Study Area.

6.12. Other Characteristics / Features

Any other characteristics or features that make the area of landscape distinctive. These could include: building styles, water features, parkland, or associations with events or literature amongst other things.

7. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT

Using methodology contained within the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013) – hereafter referred to as GLVIA3 – the sensitivity of the landscape and visual amenity within the study area is assessed by systematically considering Landscape Value, Landscape Susceptibility, Visual Value and Visual Susceptibility.

8. LANDSCAPE VALUE

Using methodology contained within GLVIA3 – the landscape value is assessed under several different criteria. These feed in to give an indication of the relative value attached to the site and its surroundings by society.

8.1. Total Score (/25)

Scoring is applied on a description system of High Value / Medium Value / Low Value. Each site starts with an arbitrary score of 1 and has 3 points added to this for a criterion assessed as High Value, 2 points added for a criterion assessed as Medium Value and 1 point added for a criterion assessed as Low Value. This gives



a maximum total of 25 points, which is factored into the assessment of sensitivity of the landscape to development. A high score indicates a high value attached to the landscape. On the pro-forma this appears as: High (3), Medium (2) or Low (1).

8.2. Landscape Value

The descriptions of the following landscape value criteria are also found on Page 84 of GLVIA3.

8.2.1. Landscape Quality (condition)

'A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual elements.'

(Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013)

- High – Landscape in good condition with intact elements that are well managed.
- Medium – Landscape in fair condition with some intact elements and signs of good management practices.
- Low – Landscape in poor condition with few intact elements and no signs of management / bad management practices.

8.2.2. Scenic Quality

'The term used to describe landscape that appeal primarily to the senses (primarily, but not wholly the visual senses).'

(Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013)

- High – Landscape is of high scenic quality and appeals to all of the senses – usually recognised in some form of landscape designation (local or national).
- Medium – Landscape is of moderate scenic quality and appeals to some of the senses.
- Low – Landscape is of low scenic quality and does not appeal to the senses.

8.2.3. Rarity

'The presence of rare elements or features in the landscape or the presence of a rare character type.'

(Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013)

- High – Landscape has several rare elements or is of a rare character type.
- Medium – Landscape has a few rare elements or characteristics.
- Low – Landscape has no rare elements or characteristics.

8.2.4. Representativeness

'Whether the landscape contains a particular character and/or features or elements which are considered particularly important examples.'

(Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013)

- High – Landscape which displays most of the characteristics of its corresponding character area and / or has features that are considered to be important examples.
- Medium – Landscape which displays some of the characteristics of its corresponding character area.
- Low – Landscape which displays few or none of the characteristics of its corresponding character area.

8.2.5. Conservation Interests

'The presence of features of wildlife, earth science or archaeological or historical and cultural interest can add to the value of the landscape as well as having value in their own right.'

(Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013)

- High – Landscape has several different conservation interests, often of national or international importance.
- Medium – Landscape has some conservation interests, often of regional or local importance.
- Low – Landscape has few or no conservation interests.

8.2.6. Recreation value

'Evidence that the landscape is valued for recreational activity where experience of the landscape is important.'

(Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013)



- High – Landscape is highly valued for recreation, likely to have many public rights of way potentially including some national trails or national cycle routes and / or a well-used destination public open space.
- Medium – Landscape is locally valued for recreation, likely to have public rights of way, local or neighbourhood public open spaces and features such as benches.
- Low – Landscape is not valued for recreation, likely to be lacking in public rights of way or public open space.

8.2.7. Perceptual Aspects

‘A landscape may be valued for its perceptual qualities, notably wildness and / or tranquillity.’

(Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013)

- High – Landscape is aesthetically pleasing, devoid of human influence, tranquil and / or remote and has a strong sense of place.
- Medium – Landscape has a sense of being aesthetically pleasing, devoid of human influence, tranquil and / or remote and has a sense of place.
- Low – Landscape has very few positive perceptual qualities and lacks a sense of place.

8.2.8. Associations

‘Some landscapes are associated with particular people, such as artists or writers, or events in history that contribute to perceptions of the natural beauty of the area’

(Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013)

- High – Landscape has strong associations with people, literature or historic events that link directly with the characteristics and landscape elements of the area (e.g. The Bronte sisters with the Yorkshire Moors).
- Medium – Landscape has associations with people, literature or historic events that link with the characteristics and landscape elements of the area but do not necessarily rely solely on them (e.g. Lord Byron with Newstead Abbey).
- Low – Landscape has no associations that link with the characteristics and landscape elements of the area.

9. LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

The landscape susceptibility is assessed under several different criteria, showing the effects on the study area of the development of housing or mixed use on the site. These feed in to give an indication of the ability of the landscape to accommodate the specific type of development without undue negative consequences. The criteria for this assessment have been extrapolated from previous experience of the potential landscape effects of development on similar sites.

9.1. Total Score (/25)

Scoring is applied on a description system of High Susceptibility / Medium Susceptibility / Low Susceptibility. Each site starts with an arbitrary score of 1 and has 8 points added to this for a criterion assessed as High Susceptibility, 6 points added for a criterion assessed as Medium Susceptibility and 3 points added for a criterion assessed as Low Susceptibility. This gives a maximum total of 25 points, which is factored into the assessment of sensitivity of the landscape to development. A high score indicates a high landscape susceptibility to development. On the pro-forma this appears as: High (8), Medium (6) or Low (3).

9.2. Landscape Susceptibility

9.2.1. Subtraction

- High – Several key characteristics or landscape elements which add value will be removed as a result of development on the site.
- Medium – A few key characteristics or landscape elements which add value will be removed as a result of development on the site.
- Low – No key characteristics or landscape elements which add value will be removed as a result of development on the site.

9.2.2. Addition

- High – The development on site will represent an incongruous element within the landscape and devalue several of its key characteristics.
- Medium – The development on site will be incompatible with the surrounding landscape and devalue some of its key characteristics.
- Low – The development on site will be assimilated into the landscape, is compatible with several key characteristics and / or adds elements of value.

9.2.3. Perception

- High – The development on site will result in a distinct change in the perception of the landscape.
- Medium – The development on site will result in a minor change in the perception of the landscape.
- Low – The development on site will not result in a change in the perception of the landscape.

9.2.4. Policy



- High – Development on the site directly conflicts with the policy set out in the landscape policy zones and / or contributes significantly to the forces for change within the policy zone.
- Medium – Development on the site somewhat conflicts with the policy set out in the landscape policy zones and / or contributes to the forces for change within the policy zone.
- Low – Development on the site does not conflict with the policy set out in the landscape policy zones or works with them.

10. OVERALL LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY (Value + Susceptibility)

Judgements on landscape value and landscape susceptibility are combined to give an indication of the sensitivity of the landscape receptor to the specific development, given its intrinsic value.

10.1. Total Score (/50)

The scores for landscape value and landscape sensitivity are combined and comments made about its sensitivity to change. A high score indicates high landscape sensitivity.

11. NOTES

Space for any notes on the landscape assessment or its process, including observations and limitations.

12. VISUAL VALUE

A measure of the value attached to views and the general visual amenity of the area. This feeds in with Visual Susceptibility in order to establish the Visual Sensitivity of the site.

12.1. Total Score (/25)

Scoring is applied on a description system of High Value / Medium Value / Low Value. Each site starts with an arbitrary score of 1 and has 8 points added to this for a criterion assessed as High Value, 6 points added for a criterion assessed as Medium Value and 3 points added for a criterion assessed as Low Value. This gives a maximum total of 25 points, which is factored into the assessment of sensitivity of the visual amenity of the study area to development. A high score indicates a high value of the visual amenity. On the pro-forma this appears as: High (8), Medium (6) or Low (3).

12.2. Visual Value

12.2.1. Recognition of value

'Recognition of the value attached to particular views, for example in relations to heritage assets, or through planning designations'

(Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013)

- High – Views occur from areas where designations add considerable value to the visual amenity.
- Medium – Views occur from areas where designations add value to the visual amenity.
- Low – Views occur from areas where designations do not add value to the visual amenity.

12.2.2. Indicators of value

'Indicators of the value attached to views by visitors, for example through appearances in guidebooks or on tourist maps, provisions of facilities for their enjoyment ... and references to them in literature or art ...'

(Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013)

- High – Views occur from areas where there are many indicators of value.
- Medium – Views occur from areas where there are some indicators of value.
- Low – Views do not occur from areas where there are indicators of value.

12.2.3. Other value

- High – Views occur from areas where there are many factors such as rights of way that increase the value of the visual amenity.
- Medium – Views occur from areas where there are factors such as rights of way that increase the value of the visual amenity.
- Low – Views occur from areas where there are no factors such as rights of way that increase the value of the visual amenity.

13. VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

A measure of the susceptibility of different receptors in the landscape to changes in views and the general visual amenity of the area. This feeds in with Visual Value in order to establish the Visual Sensitivity of the site.



Primary Receptors

The receptors who will be most affected by the development on the site (usually have the greatest numbers).

- High – Areas where views significantly contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by receptors.
- Medium – Areas where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by receptors.
- Low – Areas where views do not contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by receptors / where there are no receptors.

13.2.2. Secondary Receptors

Receptors who will also be affected by the development on the site (usually have the second greatest numbers).

- High – Areas where views significantly contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by receptors.
- Medium – Areas where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by receptors.
- Low – Areas where views do not contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by receptors / where there are no receptors.

13.2.3. Number of receptors

- High – Areas with a large population and / or high number of potential receptors.
- Medium – Areas with a moderate size of population and / or moderate number of potential receptors.
- Low – Areas with a small population and / or low number of potential receptors.

13.3. Visibility Analysis

13.3.1. Visibility of site

- High – Site is highly visible from most angles / an extensive area will be visually affected by development of the site.
- Medium – Site is visible from several angles / a moderate area will be visually affected by development of the site.
- Low – Site is visually contained / a small area will be visually affected by development of the site.

14. OVERALL VISUAL SENSITIVITY (Value + Susceptibility)

Judgements on visual value and visual susceptibility are combined to give an indication of the sensitivity of the visual amenity to the specific development, given its intrinsic value.

14.1. Total Score (/50)

The scores for visual value and visual susceptibility are combined and comments made about its sensitivity to change. A high score indicates a high sensitivity.

15. Notes

Space for any notes on the visual assessment or its process, including observations and limitations.

16. MITIGATION OPPORTUNITIES / RECOMMENDATIONS

Opportunities and recommendations for mitigation or design features that can be applied to minimise the impact of future development on the landscape or visual amenity are made here. These can be used to inform planning applications and contribute to decisions on the likelihood that landscape and visual effects of future development can be sufficiently reduced in order for the development to become acceptable in these terms.

16.1. Landscape planting

Notes on the type, composition and location of any recommended strategic landscape planting.

16.2. Strategic open space

Notes on the location, size and benefits of any recommended strategic open space.

16.3. Site features

Notes on specific mitigation for important site features identified within the existing landscape character (either Nottinghamshire Landscape Character Assessment or specific features mentioned above).

16.4. Form of development

Notes on the recommended form of development, including scale, layout and density.

16.5. Local vernacular



Notes on the local vernacular elements and features that would enable future development to be compatible with its surroundings.

16.6. Other

Any other mitigation recommendations.

17. CONSTRAINTS

Indications may be given of identified landscape and visual constraints to development.

17.1. On-site

e.g. Ridgeline location, TPO, important site feature

17.2. Off-site

e.g. Setting of historic asset, public right of way causing access issues

18. CONCLUSION

A summary of the sheet, demonstrating the existing landscape character, likely landscape and visual sensitivities, mitigations recommendations and relevant constraints.

19. 'TRAFFIC LIGHT' SUMMARIES

The sites will be given a 'traffic light' colour which is assigned based on their scores for landscape value, landscape susceptibility, landscape sensitivity, visual value, visual susceptibility and visual sensitivity. The thresholds are given below.

19.1. Landscape Value

Score of 0-14 is green, score of 15-19 is amber and score of 20-25 is red.

19.2. Landscape Susceptibility

Score of 0-14 is green, score of 15-19 is amber and score of 20-25 is red.

19.3. Landscape Sensitivity

Score of 0-29 is green, score of 30-39 is amber and score of 40-50 is red.

19.4. Visual Value

Score of 0-14 is green, score of 15-19 is amber and score of 20-25 is red.

19.5. Visual Susceptibility

Score of 0-14 is green, score of 15-19 is amber and score of 20-25 is red.

19.6. Visual Sensitivity

Score of 0-29 is green, score of 30-39 is amber and score of 40-50 is red.

Appendices

Appendix C:
References





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Royal Court, Basil Close

Chesterfield, S41 7SL

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