**Pattiswick Hall Farm Sites – Landscape and Visual Sensitivity**

**General Comments**

The sites lie in a rural area forming an integral part of attractive open countryside that promotes the feeling of space

If workings were to be permitted on any of the sites, they would inevitably be on a scale that the appearance of the countryside would be not only seriously damaged but dramatically changed.

There are a number of well used footpaths running along or across the sites. Each site is very prominent in its immediate locality and in visual terms make for an effective contribution to the existing very attractive landscape.

The footpaths afford many views, both close and distant, across sloping and open countryside to the principal landmarks of the village of Stisted and its environs. These include, the Grade I listed Church, Grade II listed buildings such as Stisted Hall also including the parkland which is now used by Braintree Golf Course, Old Flint Almshouses and the skyline of The Street with its many listed buildings and distinctive chimneys.

The sites will be visible with varying degrees of prominence from many locations both near and far thus adversely affecting the existing open and tranquil landscape with its sense of space.

**Key landscape characteristics**

Arable valley slopes gently slope to the west into the valley.

Views back to Stisted (Sarcel) and church from facing slopes – views over wooded tributary

Strong time depth: historic field patterns, mature trees, and hedgerows - Some hedgerow loss has led to larger fields.

Public footpaths lead down slope to valley bottom which also provides for a sense of space, tranquillity and strong time depth of the filed patterns.

High tranquillity. Strong landscape character.

Positive contribution to local character, strong sense of place: emphasises strong historic relationship of Stisted to its rural setting; part of open rural approach to village - arable farmland with views to church.

Landscape character is considered to be high due to the rural character of the area that provides the setting for the church and the views of it

**Key visual characteristics**

Cross valley views to Stisted (Sarcel) and historic church.

PRoW provides attractive views back to Stisted and surrounding arable farmland.

Has a visual influence on wider landscape - Provides rural setting to Stisted.

Key panoramic views to church and village edge (Sarcel).

Positive contribution to rural setting of Stisted; strong sense of place.

Views from the east of Stisted look down and across both sites and would appear to be impossible to mitigate or hide the visual impact of any workings

**Covenbroke Hall Farm (Kings Lane) - Landscape and Visual Sensitivity**

**General**

The sites lie in a rural area forming an integral part of attractive open countryside that promotes the feeling of space

If workings were to be permitted on any of the sites, they would inevitably be on a scale that the appearance of the countryside would be not only seriously damaged but dramatically changed.

There are a number of well used footpaths running along or across the sites. Each site is very prominent in its immediate locality and in visual terms make for a effective contribution to the existing very attractive landscape.

The footpaths afford many views, both close and distant, across sloping and open countryside to the principal landmarks of the village of Stisted and its environs. These include, the Grade I listed Church, Grade II listed buildings such as Stisted Mill, Stisted Hall also including the parkland which is now used by Braintree Golf Course., Jenkins Farmhouse and adjoining converted barns.

The sites will be visible with varying degrees of prominence from many locations both near and far thus adversely affecting the existing open and tranquil landscape with its sense of space.

**Key landscape characteristics**

The Covenbroke Hall Farm site lies on the southern boundary of the Upper Blackwater Special Landscape Area (SLA). There can be no doubt whatsoever that mineral workings on a large scale will have a serious visual impact on the adjoining SLA.

Although the site is not in a SLA but adjoins it, considerable weight should be given to the serious effects which the proposed site will have upon it.

Sloping arable farmland. Meadows and horse pasture around farmsteads. Native hedgerows. ditches and small ponds along field boundaries.

Gently sloping to north into valley.

Strong time depth with historic field patterns, mature trees and hedgerow, arable fields.

Grade II Listed buildings (Jenkins Farmhouse and converted barns) are located close to the northern boundary which add to the strong time depth.

The footpath that runs along the northern boundary of the site is used frequently by dog walkers mainly from outside the village. The site provides the first sense of open space and tranquillity within the village boundaries. This is a popular footpath used by walkers coming from the east side of Braintree. This was particularly so during COVID lockdowns. The sense of space, presence of open fields and tranquillity would have been a great boost to mental well being at that time and continues to be so to this day.

Positive contribution to local character, emphasises strong historic relationship of village to its rural setting; part of open rural approach to village. Contributes to the rural setting of Stisted by way of arable farmland.

**Key visual characteristics**

The present views of A89 are of a large arable field on a distant ridge line whereas in the future any visual or noise screening will create an impression of unnatural artificiality. This will be particularly apparent from the Stisted Hall area, Braintree Golf course clubhouse and from many points on the course itself. There are also well used PRoWs that run along the boundary of the course.

Footpath along northern boundary of site provides attractive views back to Stisted and surrounding arable farmland. Far stronger form late autumn to early spring

Has a visual influence on wider landscape - Provides rural setting to Stisted.

Key panoramic views to Stisted Mill, Stisted Hall, Golf Club and River Blackwater valley

Positive contribution to rural setting of Stisted; strong sense of place.

Long views of Stisted from A120.