

5 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The EIA has recommended that EM&A for landscape and visual resources is undertaken during both the construction and operational phases of the project. The implementation and maintenance of the landscape compensatory planting measures is a key aspect of this and should be checked to ensure that the proposals are fully realised. The mitigation measures are detailed in Section 8.0 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment of the EIA.

5.1.2 Also any potential conflicts between the proposed landscape measures and any other project works and operational requirements should be resolved at the earliest possible date and without compromise to the intention of the mitigation measures. In addition, implementation of the mitigation measures recommended by the EIA will be monitored through the construction phase site audit programme.

5.2 Baseline Monitoring

5.2.1 Baseline monitoring for the landscape and visual resources will comprise a vegetation survey of the entire widening undertaken on an 'area' basis. Representative vegetation types will be identified along with typical species composition. An assessment of landscape character will be made against which future change can be monitored. The landscape resources and elements of particular concern are to be noted.

5.2.2 The landscape and visual baseline will be determined with reference to the habitat maps included in the EIA Report.

5.3 Construction and Operational Phase Audit

5.3.1 A competent Landscape Architect should be employed by the Contractor for the implementation of landscape construction works particularly during the site clearance operations when the proposed tree felling, lifting and transplantation will take place and subsequent maintenance operations during the 12 month establishment period. The establishment works will be undertaken throughout the Contractor's one year maintenance period which will be within the first operational year of the project.

5.3.2 All measures undertaken by both the Contractor and the Landscape Contractor during the construction phase and first year of the operational phase shall be audited by a Landscape Architect, as a member of the Environmental Team. This will be completed on a regular basis to ensure compliance with the intended aims of the EIA. Site inspections should be undertaken at least once every two weeks throughout the construction period and once every two months during the operational phase. Operational phase auditing will be restricted to the 12 months establishment works of the landscaping proposals, with the appropriate agents

taking over the maintenance and monitoring after this period as identified in the EIA Report Section 8.0.

- 5.3.3 In addition, audit of mitigation measures to avoid impacts on landscape and visual resources will be required during the construction period, together with supervision of the compensatory planting. The audit of the compensatory planting will also extend through the first year of the completed widening, during the Contractor's one year maintenance period, to ensure that the establishment of the planting