

Appendix 13-F Photomontage Methodology

13-F.1 Guidance

13-F.1.1 The following guidance was referred to in order to assist in the production of the photomontages for the Environment Statement.

13-F.1.2 The Institute of Environmental Assessment / The Landscape Institute, (2002): Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Second Edition, Spon Press.

13-F.1.3 The Landscape Institute – The Landscape Institute Technical and Environment Committee. (June 2004): Landscape institute Advice Note 01/04: Use of photography and Photomontage in Landscape & Visual Assessment.

13-F.2 Photographs

13-F.2.1 Photographs were taken using an SLR 35mm camera fitted with a 50mm lens and transposed to digital format. This is generally accepted as representing the view seen by the human eye.

13-F.2.2 Photographs were taken between September 2005 and June 2006 to cover both summer and winter periods, and during best available light conditions. The montages have been reproduced with an overlap to minimise the effects of distortion on the lens.

13-F.2.3 Photographic viewpoints were selected in consultation with the Planning Authority and Natural England.

13-F.2.4 Reference markers were also included in the photographs. These markers comprised existing features such as ground contours, buildings, signposts and existing trees. The photograph locations were checked to the nearest grid reference using a hand held GPS.

13-F.2.5 The viewpoints along with existing reference features were surveyed.

13-F.3 Computer Models

13-F.3.1 Computer models were generated using AutoCAD 2006 and 3D Studio AutoDesk 2006 Viz. Ground surfaces for the various phases were modelled using AutoCAD 2006\Key Terra Firma\Viz.

13-F.3.2 The proposals were modelled based on engineering and environmental drawings for the Scheme, including earthworks and planting.

13-F.3.3 Additional proposals including planting were added to further depict the scheme in 3D and were positioned to match local grid based on real world OS co-ordinates.

13-F.3.4 Reference markers, as described above, were also modelled to a scale and position that matches real-world OS co-ordinates.

13-F.3.5 Perspective viewpoints were determined using OS co-ordinates established when taking the photographs. The direction and viewing angle of the perspective was then matched with each photographic frame in the panoramic views.

13-F.3.6 The model was then rendered as a 'solid model' perspective and saved as a bitmap file (i.e. TIFF format) for subsequent use in the photomontage.

13-F.4 Photomontages

13-F.4.1 Photomontages were generated using Adobe PhotoShop. Digital Photographs were input directly into the computer program and each frame was combined to form a panoramic view.

13-F.4.2 Photographs were then corrected for colour, brightness or contrast or all of these to ensure that image quality was optimised.

13-F.4.3 The rendered computer images were then placed into the photographs and scales/positioned so that the reference features in the image match those in the photographs. Once these have been fitted it is deemed that the development proposals are correctly scaled and positioned in the photograph. In "fitting" the computer model, existing features such as contours, buildings and particularly the existing plant stack were to be used to further verify the scale of the development.

13-F.4.4 Additional rendering of the proposals was then applied. This included building textures, grassland areas, proposed woodland at year 0 (0.5m maximum planting heights) and year 15 (8.5m maximum height of trees) all taken from existing photographs to ensure photo-realistic quality.

13-F.4.5 Foreground features including existing ground and tree planting from the photograph were then placed in front of the development proposals to form the completed montage.

13-F.4.6 The existing views from all key viewpoints, including photomontage locations, were presented as a series of figures on A3 sheets showing the existing views. The selected photomontage views were presented as a series of figures at year 0, day of opening of the Scheme and at 15 years, when mitigation planting would have established.