

Settlement Sensitivity Summary:

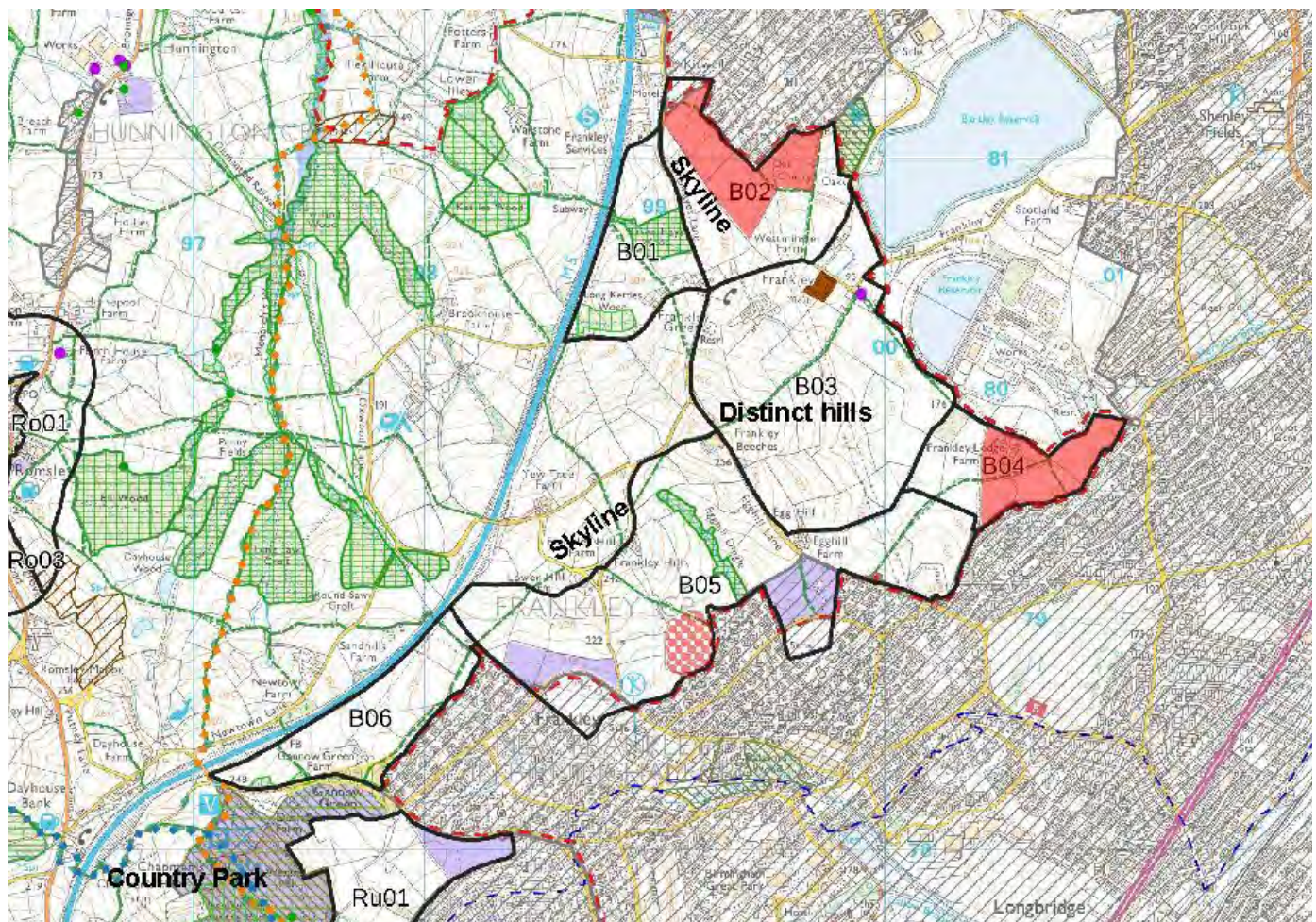
Birmingham (western fringes)

Summary

The land between the M5 and the fringes of Birmingham rises to a series of small hills and ridges which on one side face west and the other south and east. The highest of these is topped by the distinctive copse of Frankley Beeches whilst Frankley Hill Farm forms a vernacular cluster to the south west. These effectively separate the built form from intervisibility with the wider countryside to the west and also provide a backcloth of rising rural farmland in views from places such as Bartley Reservoir which continues the open green corridor into settlement. Ancient woodland lies in Egghill Dingle to the south and on slopes to the north. The main historic interest is focused on Frankley Hall moated site scheduled monument and the listed St Leonards Church on lower land to the north east. To the south west, the settlement lies closer to the M5 but is screened and shielded by a strong woodland buffer and bund. The area is also overlooked by the Waseley Hills Country Park which forms part of the continuum of the Clent and Lickey Hills.

Sensitivity to housing is considered high/medium around the majority of the area. Two areas are considered to be medium sensitivity. Opportunities have been identified in B02 adjacent to the settlement and avoiding topping the skyline to the west. In B04, opportunities have been identified primarily south and east of Frankley Lodge Farm. In B05, further housing is undesirable but there may be a limited opportunity on the lower slopes of Frankley Hill.

Sensitivity to employment use is considered high or high/medium in all areas around the settlement.



Key As for Land parcels, Constraints and Designations figure plus below.

Opportunity for Housing
Secondary opportunity for Housing



View west towards Clent Hills over M5 south of Frankley Services (B01).



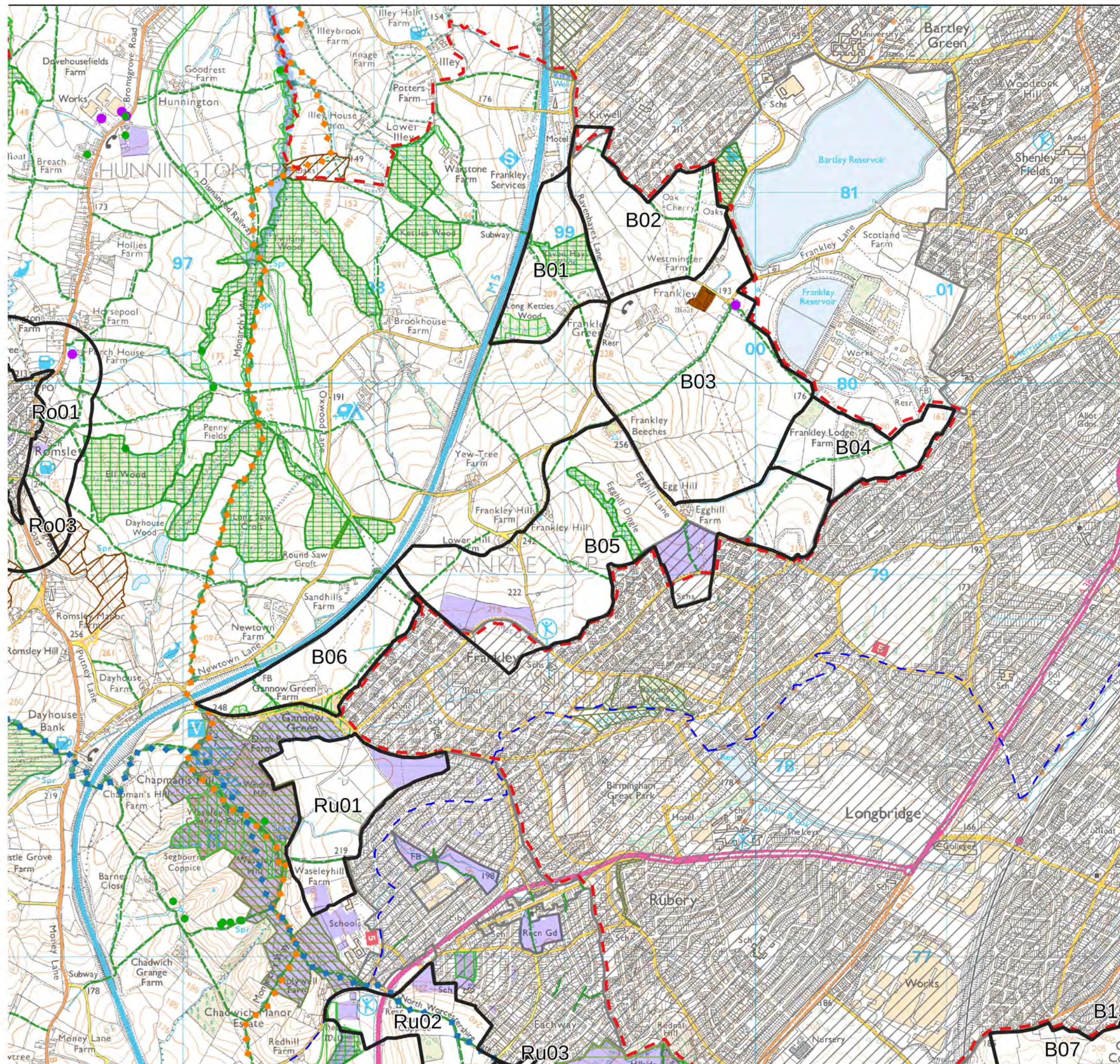
View east from near Frankley Beeches towards urban edge (B03).





















View north east towards Lower Hill Farm showing oak cover (B05).



View north east from Waseley Hills Country Park to M5 and over B06 towards Frankley Beeches on horizon (B05).



KEY

-  District Boundary
-  Land Parcels
-  Settlement development limits
-  Ancient Woodland
-  Ancient Veteran and Notable Trees
-  Listed Buildings
-  Scheduled Monuments
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest
-  Local Wildlife sites
-  Local Nature Reserves
-  Open Spaces
-  Country Parks
-  Common Land
-  North Worcestershire Way
-  Monarchs Way
-  Public rights of way
-  National Cycle Route
-  Flood Zone 3



0 250 500 m

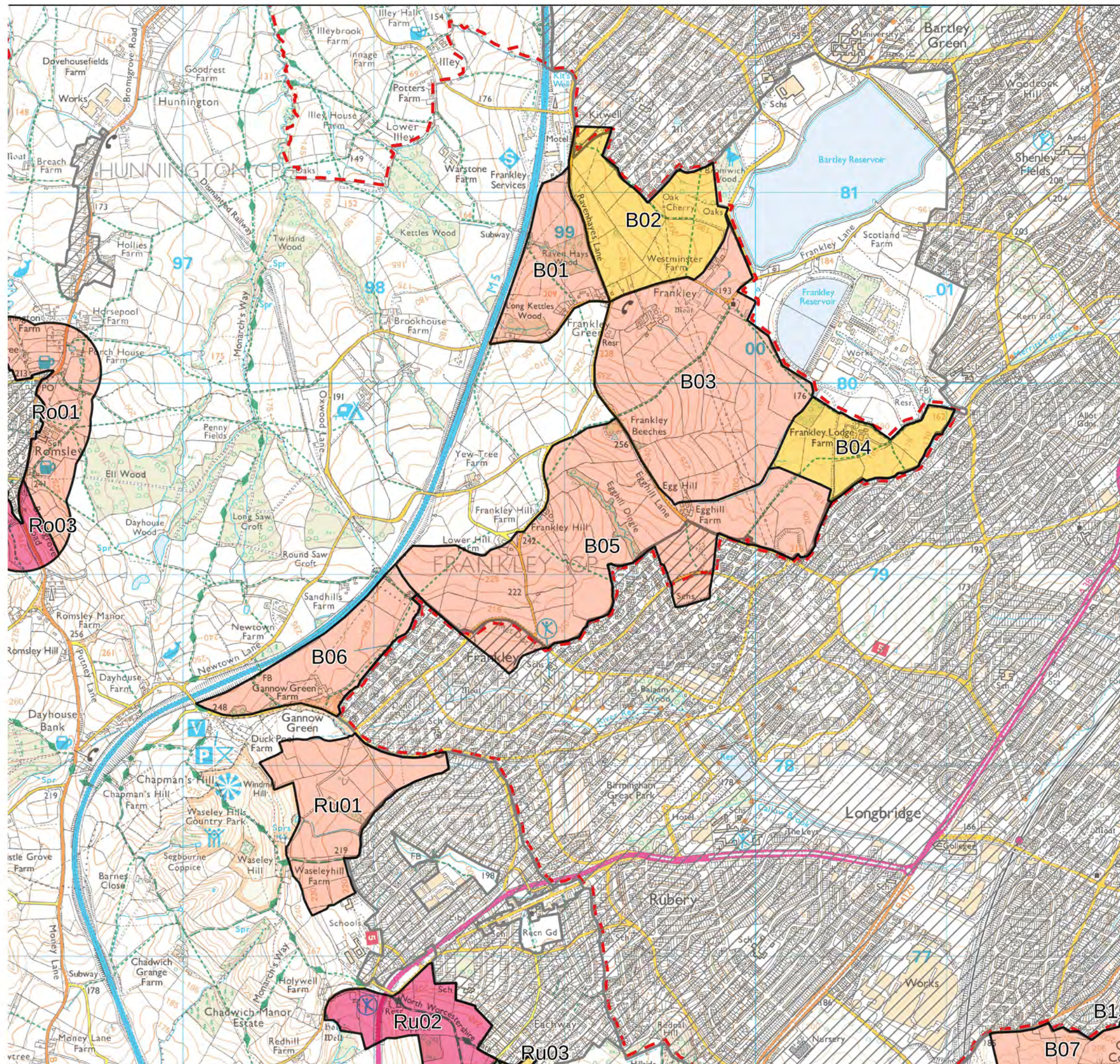
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Project: Bromsgrove District Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study
Client: Bromsgrove District Council

Birmingham Western Fringes Land parcels, Constraints and Designations



KEY

District Boundary

Settlement development limits

Sensitivity to housing development

High

High/medium

Medium

N
0 250 500 m

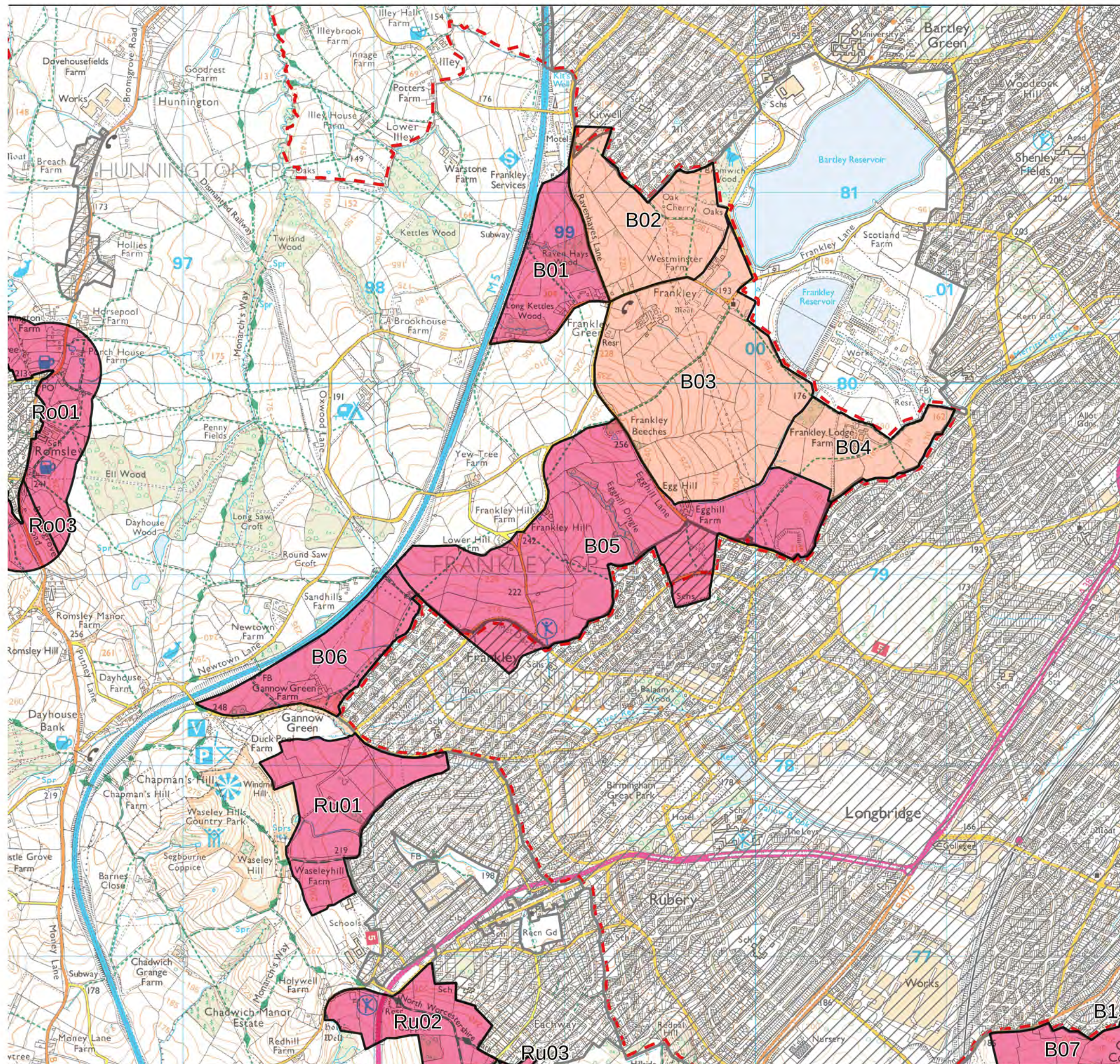
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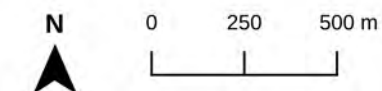
Project: Bromsgrove District Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study
Client: Bromsgrove District Council

**Birmingham Western Fringes
Settlements: Sensitivity to Housing**



KEY

- District Boundary
- Settlement development limits
- Sensitivity to employment use
 - High
 - High/medium



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Birmingham Western Fringes
Landscape sensitivity to employment use

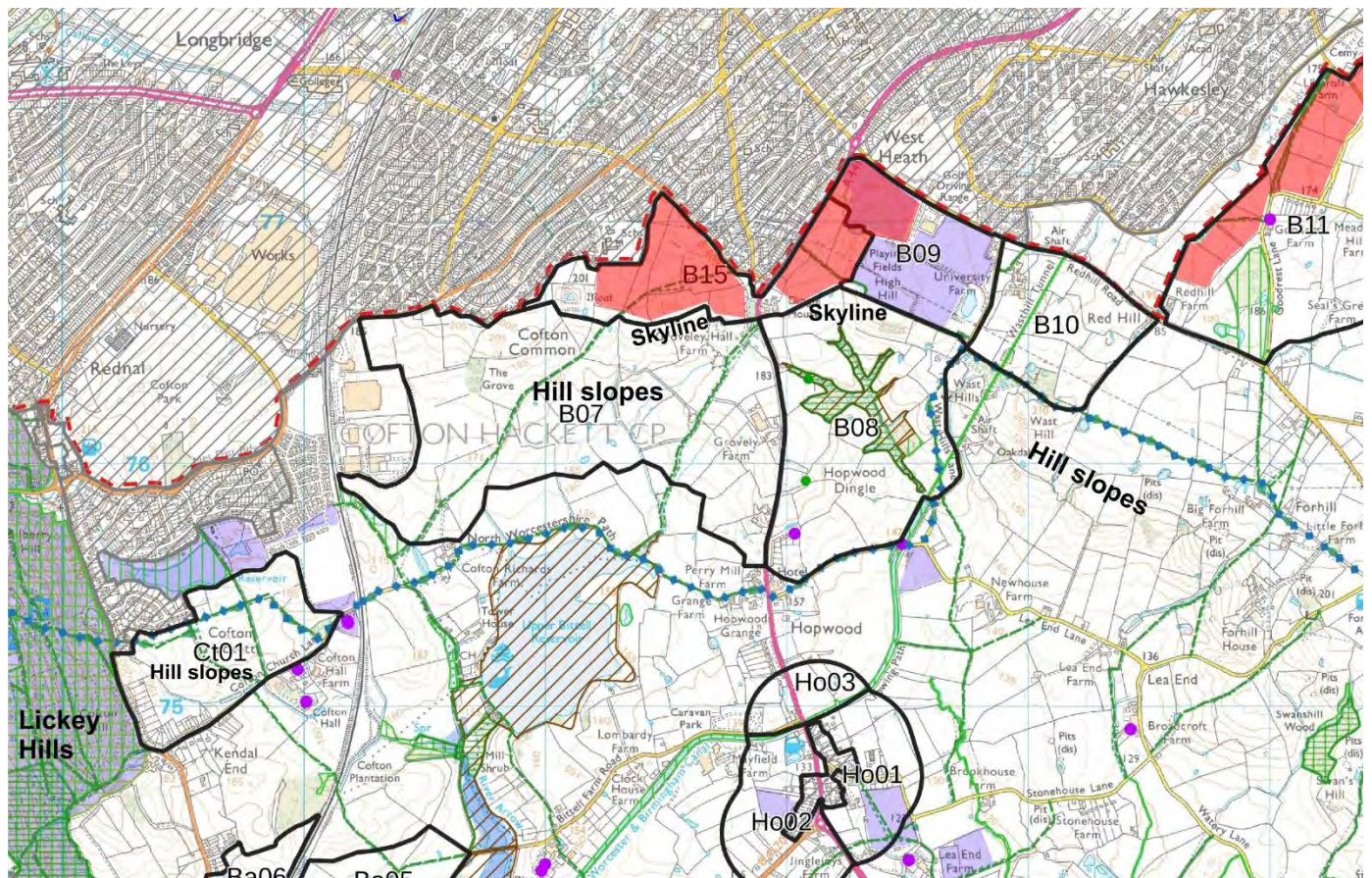
Settlement Sensitivity Summary: Birmingham (southern fringes 1)

Summary

The land south of Birmingham between Longbridge, West Heath and Hopwood rises from the lower lying land around Upper Bittell Reservoir to the Birmingham plateau to the north and north east. Ct01, B07 and B08 form part of these distinct farmed slopes intervisible with the countryside and the North Worcestershire Path to the south, some forming part of the Principal Wooded Hills landscape character type. The areas to the north and north-east lie on the plateau with gentle slopes falling north towards the settlement edge which is relatively discreet, although more visible to the west. Hopwood Dingle is an ancient woodland and SSSI lying just to the north of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal. While the majority of the landscape is pastoral (Ct01 is arable), there are extensive terraced sports fields on B09 used by Birmingham Football Club and University.

Sensitivity to housing is considered high around Hopwood Dingle and high/medium on the south facing slopes and the rural landscape parcel separated from the urban form to the east. B15 is considered medium sensitivity with opportunities on the north facing slopes provided the skyline to the south is not breached. The playing fields (B09) are considered medium/low sensitivity and offer opportunities although they appear to be in beneficial use which would need to be relocated elsewhere if allocated.

Sensitivity to employment use is considered high or high/medium in all areas around the settlement.



Key
As for Land parcels, Constraints and Designations figure plus below.
Opportunity for Housing



View south from higher ground towards Upper Bittell Reservoir (B07).



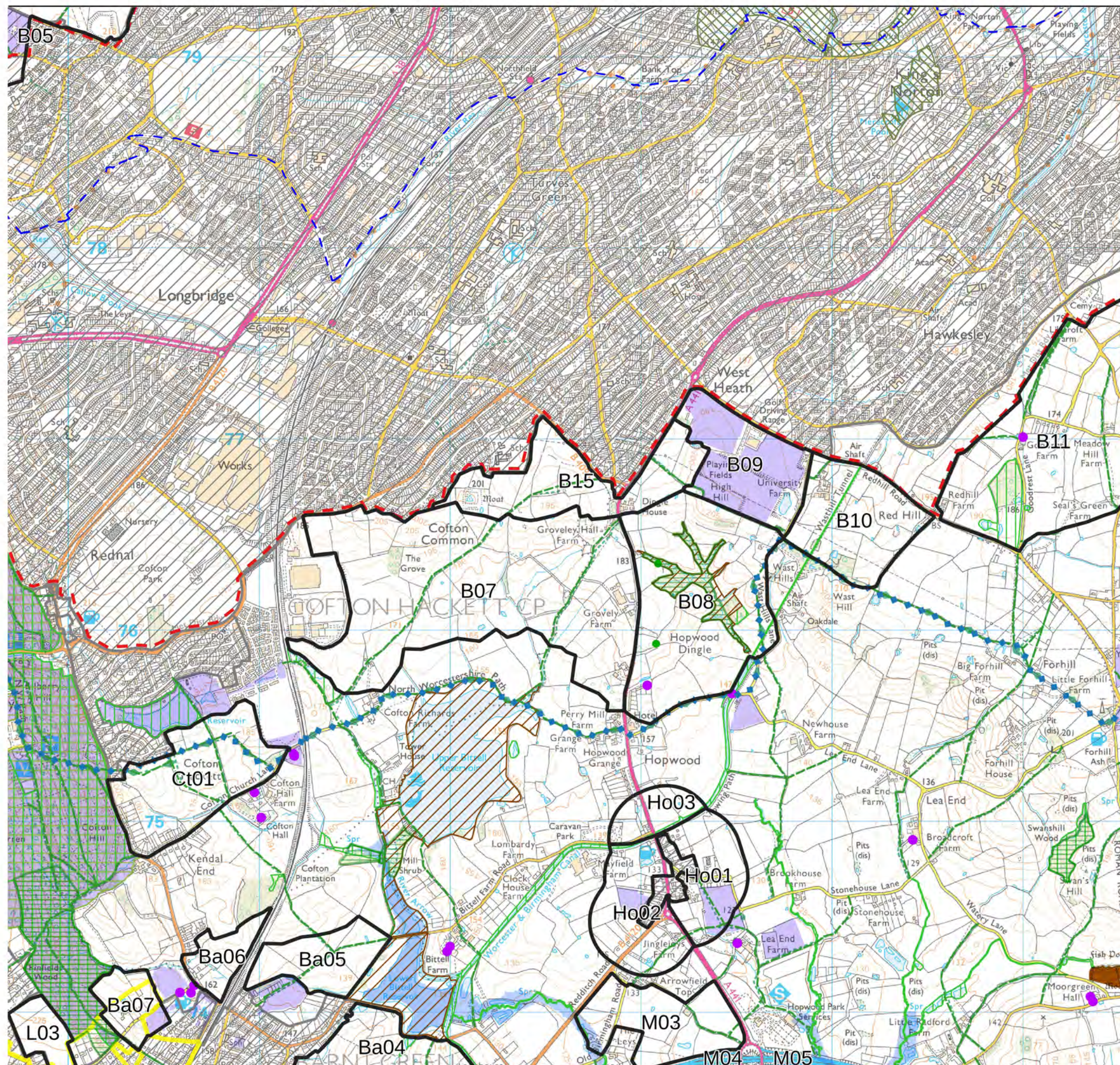
View north towards urban edge on plateau (B15).



View north towards Hopwood Dingle from near canal (B08).



View south east on plateau landscape north of Wast Hill (B10).



KEY

- District Boundary
- Land Parcels
- Settlement development limits
- Ancient Woodland
- Ancient Veteran and Notable Trees
- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Scheduled Monuments
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Local Wildlife sites
- Local Nature Reserves
- Open Spaces
- Country Parks
- North Worcestershire Way
- Public rights of way
- National Cycle Route
- Flood Zone 3



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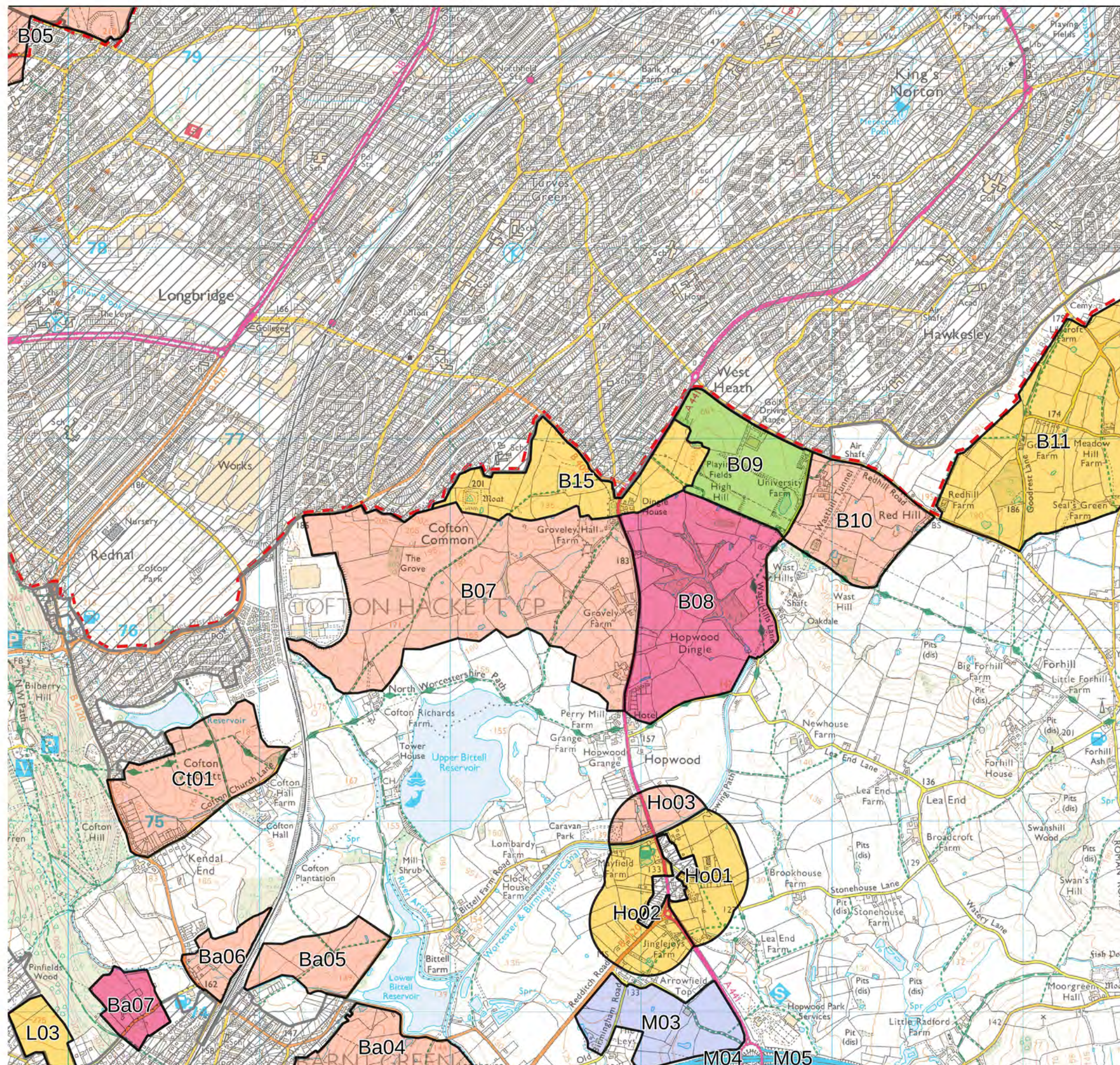
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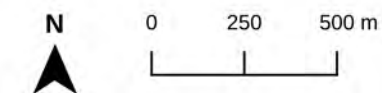
Project: Bromsgrove District Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study
Client: Bromsgrove District Council

Birmingham Southern Fringes 1
Land parcels, Constraints and Designations



KEY

- District Boundary
- Settlement development limits
- Sensitivity to housing development
 - High
 - High/medium
 - Medium
 - Medium/low
 - N/A



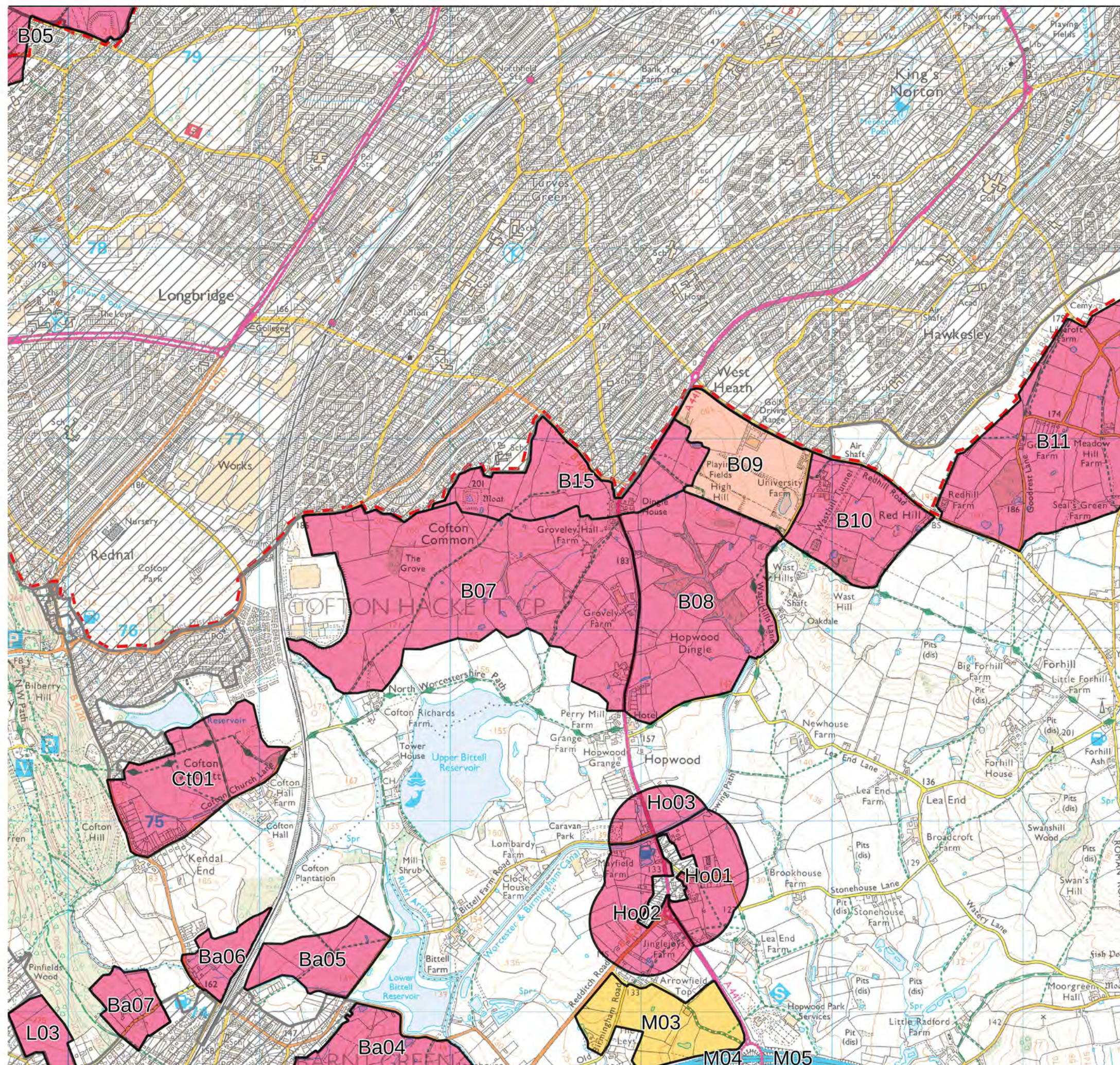
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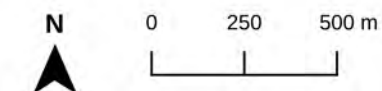
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Client: Bromsgrove District Council

**Birmingham Southern Fringes 1
Settlements: Sensitivity to Housing**



KEY

- District Boundary
- Settlement development limits
- Sensitivity to employment use
 - High
 - High/medium
 - Medium



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Birmingham Southern Fringes 1
Landscape sensitivity to employment use

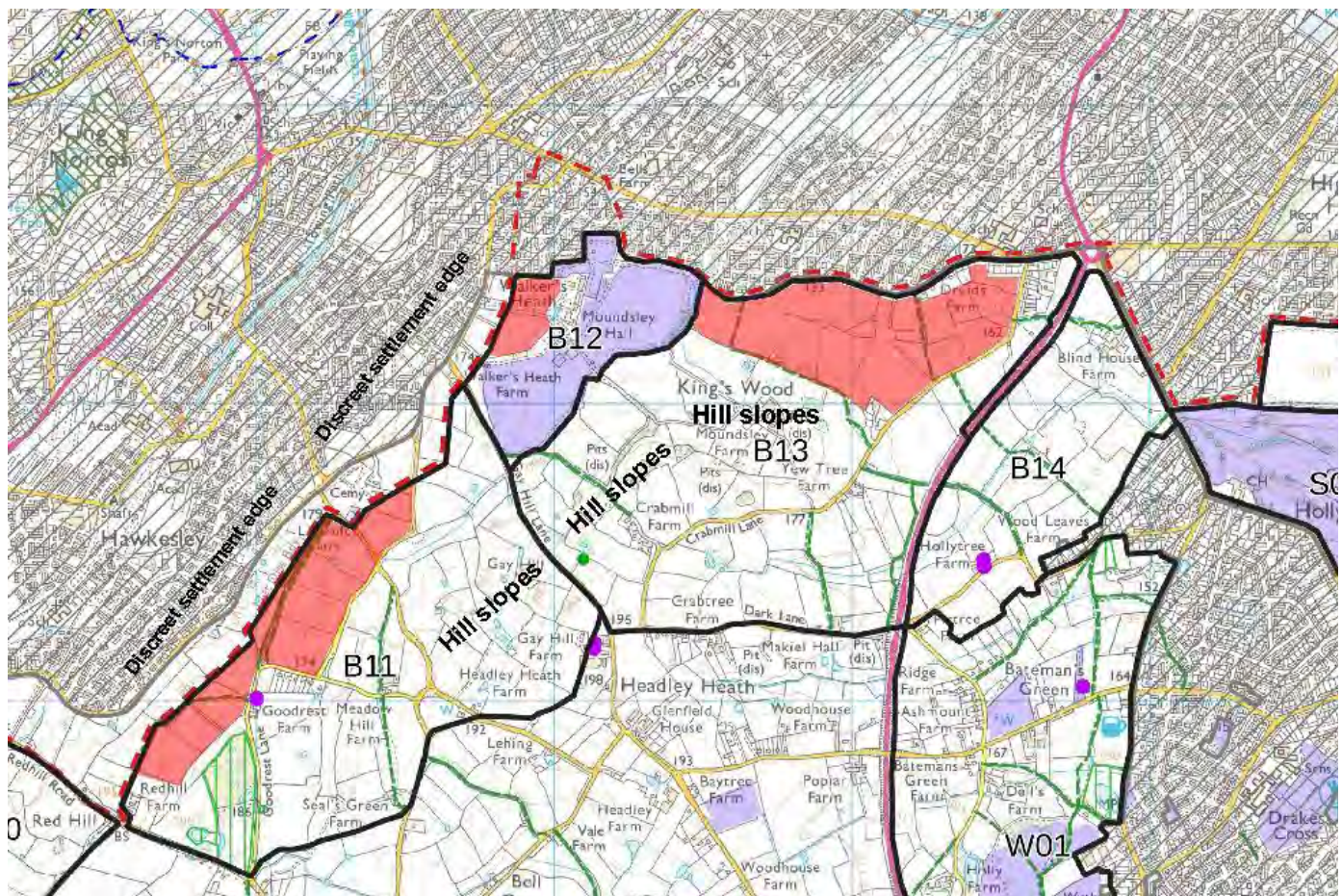
Settlement Sensitivity Summary: Birmingham (southern fringes 2)

Summary

The land south of Birmingham bounded by Hawkesley to the north west, Druids Heath to the north and Highter's Heath to the north east comprises of rising hills and small valleys with many scattered field ponds. In many areas, such as to the south and east, the character is typically Arden with mature hedgerow oaks. To the west, the urban edge is discreetly set down and bounded by a buffer of pastoral land outside the district. There is a Local Wildlife Site of lowland meadow grassland near Redhill. Grounds associated with Moundsley Hall are used as open space (Walker's Heath Park) and the rising hill slopes towards King's Wood provide a positive rural setting to this and the urban edge to the east. There is a veteran tree on Gay Hill and there are a listed buildings associated with farmsteads to the south, east and west.

Sensitivity to housing is considered high/medium in the area to the east and medium elsewhere. There are opportunities in discreet enclosures adjacent to Moundsley Hall adjacent to Walker's Heath Park and on lower lying land north of King's Wood and Crabmill Lane. There may also be opportunities to the south west although this relies on connection and development outside the district around the urban edge at Hawkesley.

Sensitivity to employment use is considered high or high/medium in all areas around the settlement.



Key

As for Land parcels, Constraints and Designations figure plus below.
Opportunity for Housing



View north from Headley Heath Farm towards urban edge (B11).



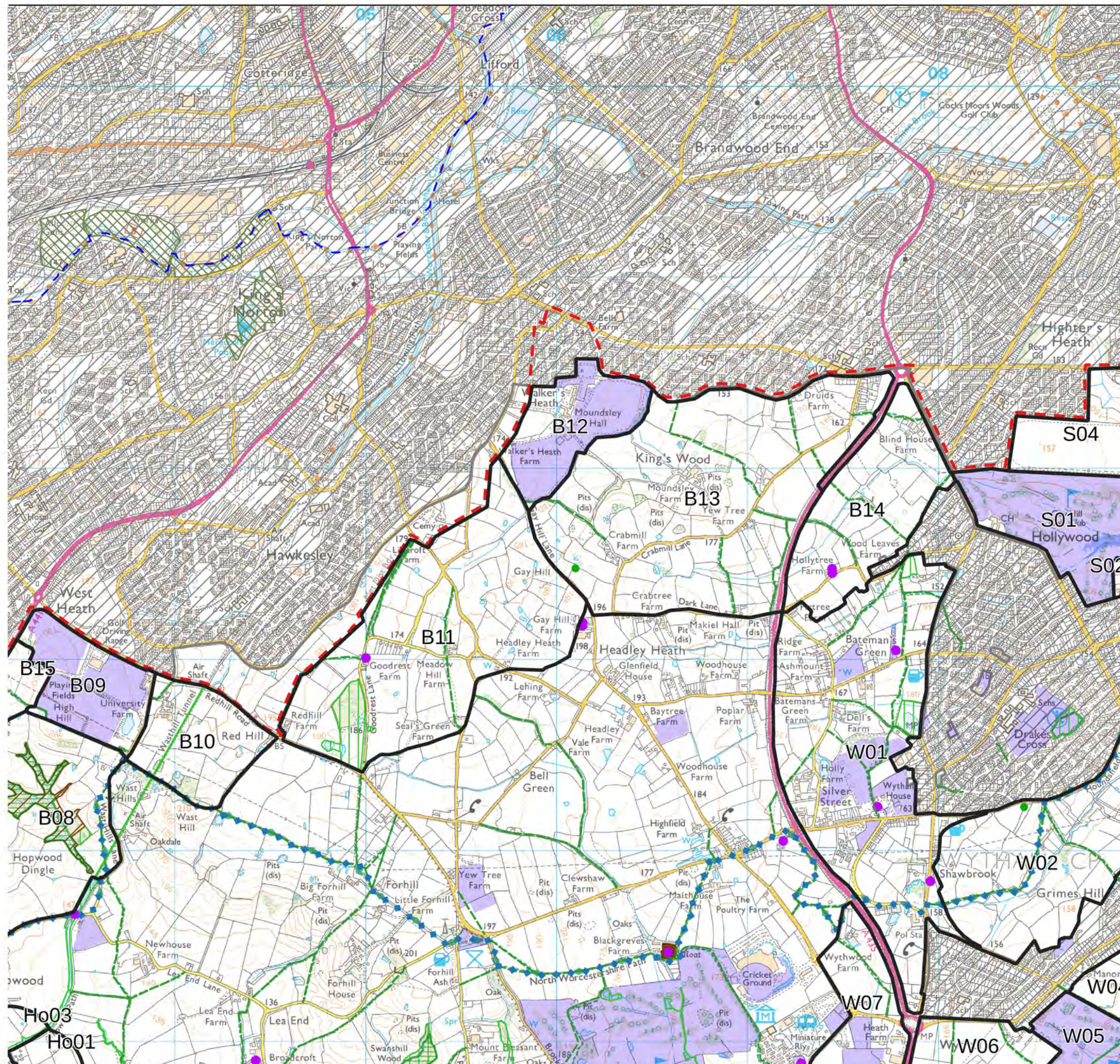
View from south from **Walker's Heath Park** (B12) to rising countryside (B13).



View west across Kings Wood with Moundsley Farm (B13).

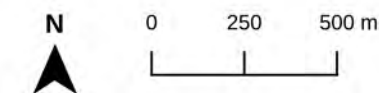


View north across Arden character farmland east of Hollytree Farm (B14).



KEY

- District Boundary
- Land Parcels
- Settlement development limits
- Ancient Woodland
- Ancient Veteran and Notable Trees
- Listed Buildings
- Scheduled Monuments
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Local Wildlife sites
- Local Nature Reserves
- Open Spaces
- North Worcestershire Way
- Public rights of way
- National Cycle Route
- Flood Zone 3



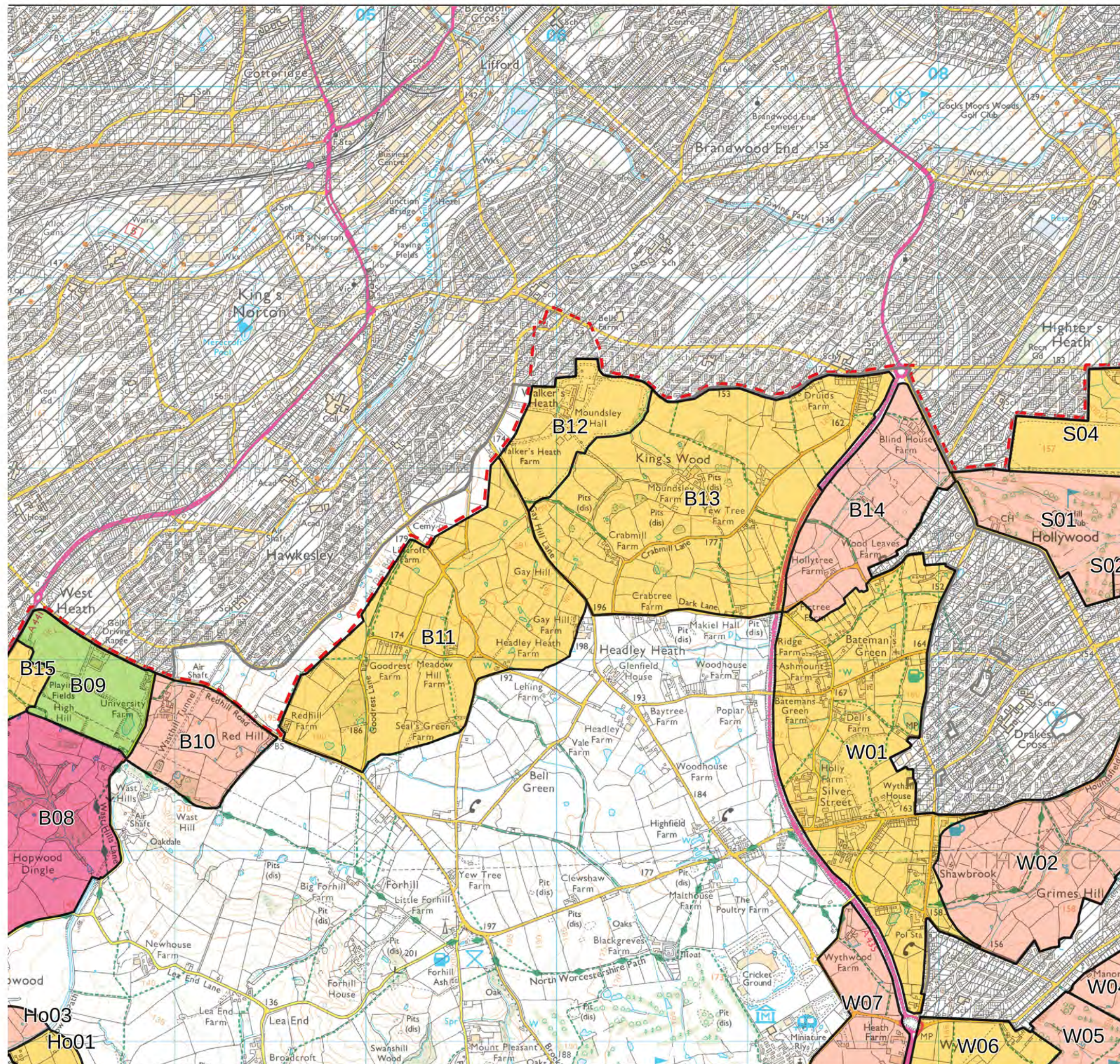
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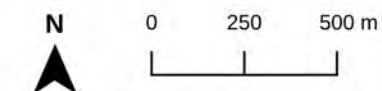
Project: Bromsgrove District Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study
Client: Bromsgrove District Council

Birmingham Southern Fringes 2
Land parcels, Constraints and Designations



KEY

- District Boundary
- Settlement development limits
- Sensitivity to housing development
 - High
 - High/medium
 - Medium
 - Medium/low



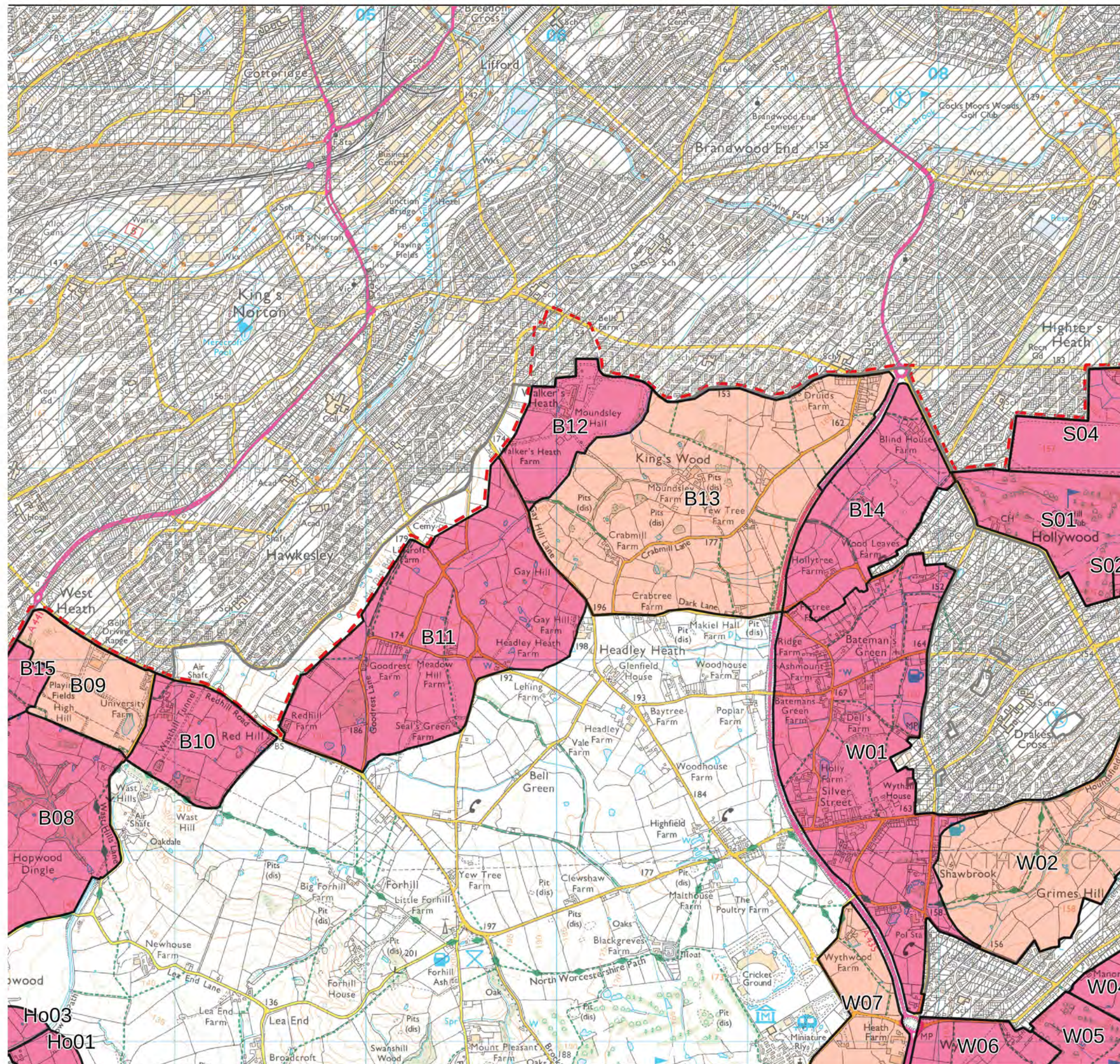
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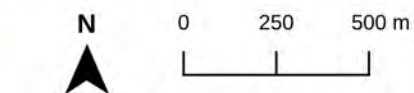
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**Birmingham Southern Fringes 2
Settlements: Sensitivity to Housing**



KEY

- District Boundary
- Settlement development limits
- Sensitivity to employment use
 - High
 - High/medium



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Client: Bromsgrove District Council

Birmingham Southern Fringes 2
Landscape sensitivity to employment use

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High/medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in the woodland Local Wildlife sites including ancient woodland and other wildlife rich habitats within the two valleys that dissect the landscape and the attractive character of the wooded landscape. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in its location on higher ground with prominent slopes facing west to the wider countryside, the presence of ancient woodlands and the irregular pattern of fields and separation from the current suburban edge. The visual susceptibility to housing lies in the views from the west to the area, views from PROWs and local residents. The ridge of which the parcel is a part screens the urban settlement to the east from wider views from the west. The parcel is sensitive to housing. The sensitivity to employment use is greater as larger structures would be more prominent and would require terracing of the slopes as well as being constrained by size of fields and woodland.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Timbered Plateau Farmlands
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	High

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	-
Natural heritage	H Ancient semi-natural and secondary woodlands which are also a Local Wildlife sites.
Cultural heritage	M Irregular pattern of woodlands and medium to large size hedged fields derived from piecemeal enclosure.
Distinctiveness	M Well managed/unified wooded estate character.
Perceptual	M
Scenic factors	Wide views over adjoining wooded landscape.
Tranquillity	Noisy M5 to west and roads to south and east. Only rural settlement apparent as services screened on northern corner. One PROW.
Recreational and functional	M
Recreational	PROW runs through site.
Functional	Woodlands, watercourses and tall, wide hedgerows contribute to GI.
Condition	M Landscape features such as hedgerows generally well maintained.
Associations	-
Summary evaluation of overall value	M

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M
Landform eg steep slopes	Upstanding/sloping landform.

Presence of water		Minor streamlines draining site.
Cultural factors	H/M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Arable farmland with irregular pattern of woodlands and large hedged fields.
Settlement pattern		Roadside dwellings within large garden plots.
Land use factors	M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		Productive arable farmland.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		Network of PROWs.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		Limited as set in wider countryside.
Perceptual factors	H/M	
Scale		Large
Enclosure		Relatively open with framed views to surrounding areas.
Skyline		Ridgeline to the east forms a skyline when viewed from lower lying ground to the west.
Landmarks/features		Ancient woodland on hillside.
Detractors		M5 and pylons and power lines.
Settlement edge character		Parcel does not abut urban edge.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		Limited visual relationship to settlement, other than providing a strong rural setting.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility	H/M	

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility	H	High intervisibility of area with its surroundings.
Key views	H/M	Distant views over rural landscapes to the west.

Key receptors

Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	Restricted views from roadside dwellings along southern boundary and from adjoining farmsteads to west.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	-	
Promoted trails	-	
Public rights of way	H/M	Prow passing through parcel.
Access/common land	-	

Cycleways		-
Roads	M	Partial views from adjoining roads.
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility		H/M

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	Medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High/medium

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in its semi-regular field pattern, its upstanding landform rising to the west, its role part of green corridor into west of Birmingham linking through to adjacent ancient woodlands and to Bartley Reservoir and Sennelys Park, its PROWs linking the settlement with surrounding countryside. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the skyline/ridge top to the west which if breached by development would result in impacts on the wider countryside and associated receptors, the hedgerows and associated trees and copse, and the adjacent ancient woodland. The setting of the moat site and church to the south also need to be considered. The visual susceptibility lies in the intervisibility of the western edge, especially the ridge top and upper slopes, the relative openness to views from the south and east, and visibility to the users of the PROWs within and to the south of the land parcel and users of the Bartley Reservoir. The area is therefore sensitive to housing development away from the urban edge, especially in the western fields and those to the south east close to the reservoir. There are opportunities for housing in the fields directly adjoining the existing built edge of Kitwell providing the existing vegetation and green corridors are largely retained and buffers to the ancient woodland are put in place. The area has the same sensitivities to employment use but, in addition, the additional height and scale of the structures on upstanding ground would have a greater effect on landscape character, removing hedgerows and trees, and there would be substantial incompatibility with the adjacent housing. As such there are considered no opportunities for employment use.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Timbered Plateau Farmlands
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	High

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	-
Natural heritage	M Trimmed hedgerows with occasional trees around improved pasture and arable land are ecological corridors to adjacent ancient woodland.
Cultural heritage	M Regular field pattern derived from a mix of planned and piecemeal enclosure.
Distinctiveness	M Rising land east of settlement to skyline to the west.
Perceptual	M
Scenic factors	Pleasant rising land to skyline with moderately strong hedgerows and tree cover.
Tranquillity	Moderately quiet especially to the east. Evidence of low settlement to the east and pylons through the area. A few people using PROWs and roads to the south and west.
Recreational and functional	M
Recreational	Two PROWs run through area linking settlement with wider countryside.
Functional	Part of green corridor into west of Birmingham linking through to Bartley Reservoir and Sennelys Park.
Condition	M/L Hedgerows present but now defunct and gradually deteriorating. Presence of pylons and overhead lines.

Associations M/L -

Summary evaluation of overall value M

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors M

Landform eg steep slopes Skyline and ridge top on western edge

Presence of water -

Cultural factors M

Historic field/land use pattern Semi-regular field pattern with a mix of pasture and arable land.

Settlement pattern Linear rural development to the south east and suburban edge to the north east.

Land use factors M

Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land. Hedges may be biodiversity corridors to ancient woodland adjacent.

Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors Two PROWs run through area.

Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features PROWs link into settlement and area part of green corridor into west of Birmingham linking through to Bartley Reservoir and Sennelys Park.

Perceptual factors M

Scale Medium

Enclosure Moderate enclosure by hedges and sloping land.

Skyline To the west of area.

Landmarks/features -

Detractors Pylons/powerlines.

Settlement edge character 20c low rise housing edge with some open space and gardens which make it moderately discreet.

Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues) Understated setting to modern settlement edge helping it to integrate.

Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility M

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility H/M Visible to the south and skyline/ridge top very widely visible to the west.

Key views M Key views to area from high point on PROW near Framley Beeches to the south.

Key receptors

Residents- rural/semi-rural H/M From south east.

Residents-urban/suburban edge	M	From north east.
Promoted trails	-	
Public rights of way	H/M	From several PROWs.
Access/common land	-	
Cycleways	-	
Roads	M	Minor roads adjacent.

Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility **H/M**

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

Opportunities are in the fields only adjacent to the settlement edge and avoiding breaching the skyline/ridge top to the west which currently contains the settlement edge from wider view. Hedgerows and trees should be retained. Green corridors also retained for PROWs to connect to wider countryside.

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

Reinforce hedgerows with tree planting and plant woodland in the western areas to help contain and integrate the development edge.

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing High/medium

Sensitivity to Employment High/medium

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in St Leonard's Church listed building, Frankley Hall moated site, a scheduled monument, the irregular piecemeal enclosure derived from a former deer park, the hedgerow trees, the older permanent pasture and network of PROWs that link the historic features. Landscape susceptibility to housing lies in its prominent slopes as the eastern flank of Egg Hill rising to the landmark Frankley Beeches, its role as part of the green wedge including Bartley Reservoir separating the urban areas to the north and south, the irregular pattern of fields, many containing older permanent pasture with patches of semi-improved grassland. Visual susceptibility to housing lies in the intervisibility of the area with Bartley Reservoir including picnic area and dam, the informal open viewpoint from the PROW near Frankley Beeches over the city, from PROWs, and from rural settlement including the church. The middle and upper slopes and the lower slopes around the historic features are most sensitive forming part of the green wedge. The treatment works are already expanding to the south east of the area. The parcel is therefore sensitive to housing. Sensitivity to further employment use is significantly higher due to the increased effects on the prominent slopes and their rural character as well as the setting to the historic features.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area Arden

WCC landscape character type (LCT) Timbered Plateau Farmlands

WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity High

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations -

Natural heritage M Irregular pattern of fields, many containing older permanent pasture with patched of semi-improved grassland and enclosed by mixed and trimmed hedges.

Cultural heritage H/M Frankley Hall moated site, a scheduled ancient monument next to the listed church of St Leonards and the piecemeal and planned private irregular enclosure of hedged fields from former deer park.

Distinctiveness H/M Highly distinctive hill crowned by Frankley Beeches to the west.

Perceptual M

Scenic factors Fine views from hilltop of city with strong green/blue wedge and important component and focus of view from Bartley reservoir.

Tranquillity Minor roads adjacent. Views of Birmingham at a distance. Two PROWs.

Recreational and functional M

Recreational Two PROWs and lanes linking into green space to the north east and wider countryside to the west.

Functional Older permanent pasture with patches of semi-improved grassland and enclosed by mixed and trimmed hedges contribute to GI.

Condition M Landscape features such as hedgerows generally well maintained.

Associations -

Summary evaluation of overall value	M
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LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M
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Landform eg steep slopes	Distinct hill with flattened conical profile sloping to east.
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Presence of water	Minor watercourses/ditches.
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Cultural factors	H/M
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Historic field/land use pattern	Mixed farmland with irregular pattern of medium to large hedged fields derived from piecemeal enclosure of former deer park.
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Settlement pattern	Dispersed farmsteads away from the settlement edge.
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Land use factors	H/M
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Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.	Older permanent pasture with patches of semi-improved grassland and enclosed by mixed and trimmed hedges contribute to GI.
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Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors	Two PROWs and adjacent layby on Egghill Lane with access to view.
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Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features	PROWs eventually link to settlement.
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Perceptual factors	H/M
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Scale	Medium to large.
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Enclosure	Relatively open.
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Skyline	Western edge forms a distinct hilltop skyline when viewed from the east.
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Landmarks/features	Frankley Beeches on hilltop adjacent and church.
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Detractors	Pylons and power lines, views to water treatment works and wider urban area.
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Settlement edge character	No adjacent settlement edge- just water treatment works.
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Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)	Settlement edge visible but at a distance.
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Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility	H/M
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VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility	H/M	Highly intervisible with green space and reservoir to the north east.
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Key views	H/M	Fine views from hilltop and important component and focus of view from Bartley reservoir.
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Key receptors

Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	Open views from farmsteads and roadside dwellings within and around parcel.
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Residents-urban/suburban edge	M	Restricted views from surrounding urban edge.
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Promoted trails	-	
Public rights of way	H/M	Network of linked PROWs within and around parcel.
Access/common land	-	
Cycleways	-	
Roads	M	Partial views from adjoining roads.
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility	H/M	

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	Medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High/medium

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in the secondary woodland in the north west corner, semi-regular fields derived from a former deer park with hedgerows with trees, occasional field trees and PROWs. Landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the small scale of the fields especially to the west with the trees acting as the local skyline when viewed from the east. The visual susceptibility to housing lies in views from the PROWs running through the area and from higher land to the west into the area. There is opportunity for housing development within the area to the east including the fields directly adjoining the existing urban edge and the farm complex. The secondary woodland and fields around the solar farm should be retained as undeveloped land. The scale of the field pattern and the proximity to the housing edge mean that employment use is inappropriate adjacent to the settlement.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Timbered Plateau Farmlands
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	High

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	-
Natural heritage	M Secondary woodland in the north west corner, semi-regular fields with hedgerows with trees, occasional field trees, horse pasture and rough grassland. Frankley Lodge in mature garden.
Cultural heritage	M Semi-regular field pattern derived from former deer park with old farmstead.
Distinctiveness	M Small scale field pattern centred on Frankley Lodge.
Perceptual	M/L
Scenic factors	The tree cover and hedges provide a soft edge and local skyline to the adjacent housing.
Tranquillity	No roads. The settlement is apparent the south east, the water treatment works are visible to the north and solar panels lie within the area. The area is well used by local people including the PROWs and car boot sale field.
Recreational and functional	M
Recreational	The area is well used by local people including the two PROWs and car boot sale field.
Functional	The hedgerows and trees combined with the PROWs provide the basis for GI corridors.
Condition	M/L Hedgerows and tree cover are in poor condition and declining.
Associations	L -
Summary evaluation of overall value	M/L

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Low lying gentle slopes
Presence of water	-	
Cultural factors	M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Secondary woodland, relatively small-scale semi-regular fields with hedgerows with trees and occasional field trees.
Settlement pattern		Frankley Lodge in mature garden and adjacent farm complex, all in poor condition.
Land use factors	M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		The woodland and hedgerows along with the PROWs are the basis for GI corridors.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		Two PROWs.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		The PROWs link the settlement with the area and one of the fields is used as a car boot sale area and informally for recreation such as dog walking.
Perceptual factors	M	
Scale		Small – medium
Enclosure		Moderately enclosed.
Skyline		Trees around Frankley Lodge act as the local skyline.
Landmarks/features	-	
Detractors		Frankley Lodge farm complex, solar panels, water treatment works to the north.
Settlement edge character		Low rise homogenous inter-war housing with some mature garden vegetation breaking up the edges.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		The area acts as a gentle backcloth to the settlement generally screening the edge from wider view.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility	M	

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility	M/L	The low lying character of the area combined with enclosure/tree cover means that it is relatively discreet.
Key views	M	There are views down into the area from the west.

Key receptors

Residents- rural/semi-rural	M	There are very limited rural dwellings.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	Eastern part of the area is overlooked by adjacent housing.
Promoted trails	-	

Public rights of way	H/M	Two PROWs
Access/common land		-
Cycleways		-
Roads		-
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility		M

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

There is an opportunity for housing development within the area to the east including the fields directly adjoining the existing urban edge and the farm complex. The secondary woodland and fields around the solar farm should be retained as undeveloped land.

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

The strong hedgerow should be retained as a suitable boundary as part of an open space network. The PROWs should also be retained to form part of a wider GI network connecting the settlement with the surrounding countryside.

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High/medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in the Egghill Dingle Local Wildlife site, the irregular pattern of hedged fields, some of which contain older permanent pasture with patches of semi-improved grassland all of which contribute to GI, productive arable land, the distinctive hills and ridges with fine rural views and the network of PROWs. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in its distinct slopes rising to the skyline on Egghill Lane, Frankley Hill, the irregular pattern of hedged fields with strong tree cover in places, the use of urban edge fields for informal recreation and the relatively discreet urban edge that is well integrated into the lower levels with strong tree cover. Visual susceptibility to housing lies in the internal intervisibility of the area, key views from Frankley Hill and from the various hillside PROWs, from the rural settlement and country lanes. Opportunities for housing are limited to urban edge fields such as adjacent to Prospero Close which act as well used recreation buffers to the more productive farmland on the more exposed slopes but these are not desirable as they perform a recreation and biodiversity function. Sensitivity to employment use is greater due to the prominence of the rural slopes, the hedgerow pattern, lack of similar development and possible effects on residents.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Timbered Plateau Farmlands
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	High

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	-
Natural heritage	H/M Egghill Dingle ancient semi-natural woodland which is also a Local Wildlife site, unimproved and semi-improved grassland and strong tree lined hedgerows in parts.
Cultural heritage	M Irregular pattern of woodlands and small to large size hedged fields derived from piecemeal enclosure with distinctive copse at Frankley Beeches.
Distinctiveness	H/M Distinctive hilltops including copse at Frankley Beeches, Lower Hill Farm and well defined strong character of arable farmland with oaks to the west.
Perceptual	M
Scenic factors	Fine views across hills and valleys to and from Frankley Beeches and Frankley Hill.
Tranquillity	M5 to the west and various lanes and roads through parcel. Built edge to the south. Five PROWs through area and informal open space.
Recreational and functional	H/M
Recreational	Five PROWs through area and informal open space such as Holly Hill Road and Boleyn Road.
Functional	Egghill Dingle ancient semi-natural woodland, minor watercourses, unimproved and semi-improved grassland and strong tree lined hedgerows contribute to GI. Productive arable land in parts.
Condition	M Landscape features such as hedgerows generally well maintained.

Associations -

Summary evaluation of overall value **M**

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors H/M

Landform eg steep slopes Distinct hillsides rising to Egg Hill summit and Frankley Hill summit, along with slopes to reservoir to the east.

Presence of water Watercourses in Egghill Dingle and to the east.

Cultural factors M

Historic field/land use pattern Irregular pattern of woodlands and small to large size hedged fields derived from piecemeal enclosure with distinctive copse at Frankley Beeches.

Settlement pattern Dispersed farmsteads.

Land use factors M

Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land. Egghill Dingle ancient semi-natural woodland, minor watercourses, unimproved and semi-improved grassland and strong tree lined hedgerows contribute to GI.

Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors Network of PROWs.

Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features PROWs provide access from urban areas into wider countryside.

Perceptual factors H/M

Scale Medium to large.

Enclosure Relatively open with framed views to surrounding areas.

Skyline Edges of parcel from the skylines to the north and east.

Landmarks/features Frankley Beeches, Lower Hill Farm.

Detractors M5 to far west.

Settlement edge character Urban edge almost completely hidden by mature tree cover.

Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues) Limited visual relationship to settlement, other than providing a strong rural setting.

Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility **H/M**

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility H/M High intervisibility on upper slopes and ridge tops and lower intervisibility on the lower slopes adjacent to the urban edge.

Key views H/M Fine rural views from Frankley Beeches across parcel and views from PROWs running up the hills.

Key receptors

Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	Frequent views from farmsteads within and around parcel
Residents-urban/suburban edge	M	Urban edge almost completely screened by mature tree cover.
Promoted trails	-	
Public rights of way	H/M	Network of PROWs within and around parcel.
Access/common land	-	
Cycleways	-	
Roads	M	Partial views from adjoining roads.

Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility **H/M**

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

If development in the field adjacent to Prospero Close is considered then this should retain the northern and western boundary hedges as part of the public open space network and the PROW should also be part of a green corridor.

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

The northern and western boundary hedges should be enhanced with tree planting. Existing trees on the site should be retained as far as possible and protected.

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High/medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value of the area lies in its location in the candidate Valued Landscape Area buffer zone, the Gannow Green Local Wildlife site, Gannow Green Common to the south, the established scrub woodland to the north east and south, and the visual relationship between the land parcel and viewpoints in the Waseley Hills Country Park, with the area acting as part of its visual setting. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the scrub woodlands and Common which form valuable GI corridors, assisted by the remaining hedgerows, and the strong separation between the area and the existing settlement. The visual susceptibility to housing lies in the intervisibility with the hills to the south, with views from the viewpoint and access land at Waseley Hills Country Park, and from the North Worcestershire Path, and from PROWs within the area. Housing development in the land parcel would very noticeably extend the currently well-integrated built form to the north west which would be highly visible from the hills to the south. It would also suffer from significant noise from the M5 without substantial bunding. This would be likely to require a noise fence on top and would also need to extend along the north eastern boundary and may be compromised by the location of the power lines. Vehicle access across the Common would be highly undesirable. Overall, these are strong factors mitigating against housing development on site. The proximity to the housing edge and the overlooking from the Waseley Hills mean that employment use is highly inappropriate in this location.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Timbered Plateau Farmlands
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	High

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	H/M	Candidate Valued Landscape Area put forward by CPRE to the north and south with parcel itself as a candidate buffer zone. It is overlooked by the viewpoint and access land at Waseley Hills Country Park.
Natural heritage	H/M	Gannow Green Local Wildlife site partly on Common to the south. Strong secondary woodland and scrub on the bund on the boundary with housing to the south east. Scrub woodland along the line of the dismantled railway to the north. Hedgerows with trees in a semi-regular partly rationalised field pattern.
Cultural heritage	H/M	Gannow Green Common on southern edge comprising unenclosed scrub, woodland and understorey. Semi-regular field pattern derived from piecemeal enclosure and dismantled railway line.
Distinctiveness	M	The common and the dismantled railway line corridor to the north are the most distinctive parts of the area.
Perceptual	M/L	
Scenic factors		The area increases in scenic quality to the south west as it rises up the slope towards the Waseley Hills Country Park and the M5 is in cutting.
Tranquillity		There is substantial noise and movement from the adjacent M5. Settlement adjacent is screened by planting, but the area is crossed by power lines on pylons. There is some access along public footpaths within the area.
Recreational and functional	M	

Recreational		The PROWs provide access linking the settlement with the countryside and the Common would be accessible if managed correctly.
Functional		The scrub woodlands, Common and PROWs form valuable GI corridors.
Condition	M/L	The condition of the hedgerows and common is generally poor.
Associations	L	-
Summary evaluation of overall value	M/L	

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M	
Landform eg steep slopes		The land rises gently to the south west.
Presence of water		-
Cultural factors	M	
Historic field/land use pattern		The semi-regular field pattern has been reorganised post war creating a mix of large and smaller fields. The dismantled railway line is a well-defined vegetated corridor.
Settlement pattern		Semi-rural dwellings off Gannow Green Lane.
Land use factors	M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		The scrub woodlands and Common form valuable GI corridors, assisted by the remaining hedgerows.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		The PROWs in the common, scrub woodland, dismantled railway and hedgerow to the south west, all contribute to linkage between the settlement and the wider countryside as well as the Country Park to the south west.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		PROW connection.
Perceptual factors	M	
Scale		Medium scale landform and landcover.
Enclosure		Enclosure to the south but open to motorway to the north and along the area.
Skyline		-
Landmarks/features		-
Detractors		M5 adjacent and powerlines/pylons.
Settlement edge character		Very well screened and integrated by landform and mature planting from ground level views.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		The open fields in the land parcel are strongly visually separated from the settlement edge by the bunding and planting.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility	M	

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility	H/M	The area is intervisible with the hills to the south, including the viewpoint and access land at Waseley Hills Country Park.
Key views	H/M	The area is overlooked by the viewpoint and access land at Waseley Hills Country Park.

Key receptors

Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	Limited rural settlement within the land parcel.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	M	Limited views from adjacent housing due to intervening screening.
Promoted trails	H	North Worcestershire Path overlooks the parcel from the south.
Public rights of way	H/M	PROWs crossing the area and within Country Park.
Access/common land	H/M	Country Park and Common land (although the latter does not appear to be used).
Cycleways	L	-
Roads	M	M5 and road to the south.

Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility **H/M**

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

-

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High/medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in its area of older permanent pasture in eastern part of parcel, ponds and watercourses with associated vegetation, strong hedgerow tree cover in parts (oak), other semi-improved grassland and copse, its tranquillity and time depth, the fine views over the slopes towards the countryside to the south and west and PROWs connecting with the North Worcestershire Path to the south, provide a series of longer walks through the area from Birmingham. Landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the sloping hillside character open to view to the south, the waterbodies through the area, its containment of the urban edge of Birmingham to the north east, the pastoral irregular pattern of fields and hedgerow trees. The visual susceptibility to housing lies in the inter-visibility with the rural landscape to the south, key views from the North Worcestershire Path to the south and from PROWs within the parcel, views from a few rural residents and from the suburban edge to the north west. The parcel is sensitive to housing as the currently fairly well contained edge of Birmingham would be breached and development could spill over the skyline and down highly visible slopes with associated impact on the landscape. Sensitivity to employment use would be even greater due to the scale of structures, the intervisibility with the rural landscape to the south and impact on the sloping landform and irregular well treed field pattern.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Principal Wooded Hills
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	High

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	-
Natural heritage	M Significant area of older permanent pasture in eastern part of parcel, ponds and watercourses with associated vegetation, strong hedgerow tree cover in parts (oak), other semi-improved grassland and copse.
Cultural heritage	M Irregular pattern of fields and hedgerow trees derived from piecemeal enclosure to the east and planned enclosure to the west.
Distinctiveness	H/M Distinctive rural slopes rising up to Birmingham plateau.
Perceptual	H/M
Scenic factors	Sloping hillside with fine views over countryside including Upper Bittell Reservoir and towards Lickey Hills.
Tranquillity	Only A441 along eastern boundary and road to north east. Residential edge to the north west and commercial development to west. Two PROWs.
Recreational and functional	M
Recreational	Two PROWs.
Functional	Older permanent pasture in eastern part of parcel, ponds and watercourses with associated vegetation, strong hedgerow tree cover in parts (oak), other semi-improved grassland and copse contribute to GI.
Condition	M Field boundaries often closely trimmed, but also overgrown and gappy in places.

Associations -

Summary evaluation of overall value H/M

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors M

Landform eg steep slopes Distinct undulating hillside falling south to open countryside.

Presence of water Series of minor streamlines and many field ponds.

Cultural factors H/M

Historic field/land use pattern Irregular pattern of fields and hedgerow trees derived from piecemeal enclosure to the east and planned enclosure to the west.

Settlement pattern Dispersed farmsteads and rural dwellings.

Land use factors M

Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land. Older permanent pasture in eastern part of parcel, ponds and watercourses with associated vegetation, strong hedgerow tree cover in parts (oak), other semi-improved grassland and copse contribute to GI.

Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors Two PROWs.

Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features Two PROWs link the wider countryside into the urban area to the north.

Perceptual factors H/M

Scale Small to medium.

Enclosure Relatively open due to slopes with some enclosure from hedgerow trees.

Skyline Northern, upper edge forms skyline- entirely rural to the east and with some houses and trees to the west.

Landmarks/features -

Detractors Busy road (A441) along eastern boundary.

Settlement edge character Linear 20c housing and industrial site fringed by woodland on northwestern corner of parcel.

Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues) Residential urban edge to north west, in part softened by garden vegetation, but separated from and enclosing urban edge to the north east.

Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility H/M

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility H/M High intervisibility of area with its surroundings.

Key views H/M Many long views over lower lying ground to south from PROWs.

Key receptors

Residents- rural/semi-rural	H	Dispersed rural settlement/famsteads.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	Limited views from residential settlement on urban edge.
Promoted trails	H	Many views into area from North Worcestershire Path.
Public rights of way	H/M	Many views from PROWs within area.
Access/common land	-	
Cycleways	-	
Roads	M	Views from A441 along eastern boundary of parcel.

Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility **H/M**

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing High

Sensitivity to Employment High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies the presence of an irregular patch of ancient woodland, designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, in Hopwood Dingle, the North Worcestershire Path, the irregular hedgerows and trees derived from assarting or piecemeal enclosure, its related time depth, its attractive rolling hillside character with scenic views within and from the area to the south and its relative tranquillity away from the A441. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in its distinctly sloping character exposing itself to views to the south and its irregular field pattern focussed on the wooded valley. Visual susceptibility to housing lies in intervisibility to the south, views from the North Worcestershire Path, the Worcester and Birmingham Canal and the adjacent PROW to the north. Overall the parcel is very sensitive to housing. Sensitivity to employment use is greater due to conflict with rural character, prominence on the distinct slopes and impact in terms of potential terracing.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area Arden

WCC landscape character type (LCT) Principal Wooded Hills

WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity Medium

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations -

Natural heritage H Ancient woodland, designated as an SSSI and Local Wildlife site, linked to an irregular pattern of thick hedged fields and two veteran trees.

Cultural heritage H/M Hopwood Dingle Ancient woodland linked to an irregular pattern of thick hedged fields derived from either piecemeal enclosure or assarting, two veteran trees, listed bridge over adjacent Birmingham and Worcester Canal, listed building and pergolas at Granelli.

Distinctiveness H/M Highly distinctive rounded slopes and wooded valley rising up to the Birmingham plateau.

Perceptual H/M

Scenic factors Rolling hillsides and wooded valley with fine views over countryside internally and to the south.

Tranquillity Busy A441 along western boundary and lane to south and east. Separated from settlement edge. One PROW through the area.

Recreational and functional H/M

Recreational North Worcestershire Path around southern and eastern boundary of parcel and canal adjacent.

Functional Ancient woodland linked to an irregular pattern of thick hedged fields and two veteran trees contribute strongly to GI.

Condition M/L Farmland intensively managed and field boundaries closely trimmed, with many in decline.

Associations -

Summary evaluation of overall value H/M

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors H/M

Landform eg steep slopes Undulating hillside with deep valley.

Presence of water Streamline in valley bottom and several field ponds.

Cultural factors H/M

Historic field/land use pattern Ancient woodland linked to an irregular pattern of thick hedged fields derived from either piecemeal enclosure or assarting,

Settlement pattern Dispersed

Land use factors H/M

Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land. Ancient woodland linked to an irregular pattern of thick hedged fields and two veteran trees contribute strongly to GI. Productive arable land.

Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors Well used North Worcestershire Path around southern/eastern boundary of area.

Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features Limited functional relationship.

Perceptual factors H

Scale Small to medium.

Enclosure Strongly enclosed with more distant views in places, particularly in southern part of parcel.

Skyline Forms strong unspoilt skyline when viewed from the south.

Landmarks/features Ancient woodland in deeply cut valley.

Detractors Busy road (A441) along western boundary.

Settlement edge character No adjoining settlement edge.

Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues) None

Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility H

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility H/M As part of strong rising slopes intervisibility with lower land to the south.

Key views H/M Key views from North Worcestershire Path.

Key receptors

Residents- rural/semi-rural M Restricted by landform and tree cover.

Residents-urban/suburban edge		N/A
Promoted trails	H	North Worcestershire Path
Public rights of way		-
Access/common land		-
Cycleways		-
Roads	M	Restricted views from traffic on adjoining roads.
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility		H/M

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	Medium/low
Sensitivity to Employment	High/medium

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value of the area lies in the importance of the role as Birmingham City FC training ground as well as public playing fields, and the tree belts to the north and within the site and hedgerows to the south east and south west. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the skyline to the south east, although the terraced site set down as well as the vegetated boundaries. The visual susceptibility to housing lies in the North Worcestershire Path which runs adjacent to the southern corner of the site with views from the south east and from the PROW runs along south west boundary with some views in. The area could accommodate housing but if substitute playing facilities were required on a greenfield situation this would need to be factored in as part of the impact of the development. Care would be needed to screen any housing especially from the south east, the north east where it would lie on terraces and be visible above the boundary vegetation and if necessary, the south west. This may be able to be achieved by recontouring the terraces to reduce levels close to boundaries. Landscape and visual susceptibility to employment would be greater due to the scale and height of structures which may mean visibility to the south east above hedges possibly to the south west, and on top of raised terraces above hedge to the north east.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Timbered Pastures
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	High

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	-
Natural heritage	M/L Tree belts to the north and within the site and hedgerows to the south east and south west.
Cultural heritage	L Recontoured/terraced playing pitches have largely removed the field pattern.
Distinctiveness	L Few remaining features. Apparently disused observatory is a feature.
Perceptual	M/L
Scenic factors	Lack of scenic features.
Tranquillity	A441 to the north west and busy Redhill Road to the north. Presence of the Birmingham City FC training ground with associated buildings and structures. Use of the playing fields.
Recreational and functional	
Recreational	Birmingham City FC training ground and Hayes Playing Fields (Birmingham City Council).
Functional	Tree belts and hedges potentially contribute to biodiversity corridors.
Condition	M/L Tree belts and hedges appear to have little management.
Associations	M with Birmingham City FC
Summary evaluation of overall value	M/L

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors

Landform eg steep slopes

Terraced pitches

Presence of water

Balancing pond to south east.

Cultural factors

L

Historic field/land use pattern

Historic field pattern removed except on boundary to the south east and south west.

Settlement pattern

-

Land use factors

M/L

Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.

Tree belts and hedges potentially contribute to biodiversity corridors.

Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors

Public playing fields with apparently restricted use. Birmingham FC private.

Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features

Limited as above.

Perceptual factors

M/L

Scale

Large- medium

Enclosure

Enclosed

Skyline

Skyline to the south east, terraced site set down.

Landmarks/features

-

Detractors

Birmingham FC complex but generally screened from view by boundary vegetation.

Settlement edge character

Linear 20c housing to the north-east and north-west.

Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)

Limited.

Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility

M/L

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility

M/L

Screened from view by boundary vegetation.

Key views

M/L

-

Key receptors

Residents- rural/semi-rural

H/M

Limited properties adjacent.

Residents-urban/suburban edge

H/M

Linear 20c housing to the north-east and north-west beyond boundaries.

Promoted trails

H

North Worcestershire Path which runs close to the southern corner of the site with views towards the land parcel from the south east.

Public rights of way	H/M	PROW runs along south west boundary with some views in.
Access/common land		-
Cycleways		-
Roads	M	Roads adjacent on three sides.
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility		M

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

The area could accommodate housing but care would be needed to screen any housing especially from the south east, south west and the north east where it would lie on terraces and be visible above the boundary vegetation. This may be able to be partly achieved by recontouring the terraces to reduce levels close to boundaries.

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

Boundary vegetation and internal tree belts should be retained and enhanced with additional planting as set out above.

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High/medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in its historic, relatively enclosed pastoral character, reflected in the densely scattered hedgerow trees, many of which are mature oaks and woodland and presence of North Worcestershire Path and other PROWs. Landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the unified pastoral character, with patches of wet, species rich permanent pasture, often associated with small field ponds in damp hollows, along with the well defined irregular pattern of small hedged fields, frequently defined by older mixed species hedgerows and the separation from the settlement edge. The visual susceptibility to housing lies in views from rural residents and the network of PROWs running through the area, only one of which is the North Worcestershire Path. The parcel is sensitive to housing. Sensitivity to employment use is greater due to the lack of similar development and the irregular pattern of fields along with its rural character.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Timbered Pastures
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	High

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	-
Natural heritage	M Trimmed hedgerows, hedgerow trees, woodland and some fields of older, more species rich permanent pasture.
Cultural heritage	H/M Irregular piecemeal pattern of small to medium sized, hedged fields and hedgerow trees.
Distinctiveness	M Gently undulating rural plateau landscape with time depth.
Perceptual	M
Scenic factors	Pleasing rural landscape enclosed by trees and woodland.
Tranquillity	Redhill Road to the north and lane to the west. Limited ribbon development to the north west but otherwise separate from settlement and rural. PROWs on south and east boundaries.
Recreational and functional	H/M
Recreational	North Worcestershire Path runs along the southern boundary and PROW along eastern boundary and north western corner.
Functional	Trimmed hedgerows, hedgerow trees, woodland and some fields of older, more species rich permanent pasture contribute to GI.
Condition	M Field boundaries complete and generally well maintained with a scattering of mixed age hedgerow trees.
Associations	-
Summary evaluation of overall value	M

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	H/M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Gently rolling plateau.
Presence of water		Many field ponds.
Cultural factors	H/M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Unified pastoral landscape with a well defined irregular pattern of small hedged fields with hedgerow trees.
Settlement pattern		Dispersed farmstead and scattered roadside dwellings.
Land use factors	M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		Trimmed hedgerows, hedgerow trees, woodland and some fields of older, more species rich permanent pasture contribute to GI.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		North Worcestershire Path along southern edge of parcel, but otherwise no public access.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		Parcel just adjoins urban edge to north of farmstead, but otherwise no functional relationship with settlement.
Perceptual factors	H/M	
Scale		Small scale landscape.
Enclosure		Moderately strong sense of enclosure with views filtered by hedgerow trees.
Skyline		Local skylines to south and east, with glimpsed views of urban edge to north.
Landmarks/features		Farmsteads are a local landmark amongst hedgerow trees.
Detractors		-
Settlement edge character		The adjoining urban edge is effectively contained by garden vegetation and lines of trees around open areas of greenspace.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		Limited visual relationship with settlement.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility	H/M	

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility	M/L	Limited intervisibility of area with its surroundings.
Key views	M/L	Views limited by tree cover.

Key receptors

Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	Restricted views from dwellings within and around parcel.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	M	Limited views from urban edge.
Promoted trails	H	North Worcestershire Path.
Public rights of way	H/M	PROWs to east and north west.

Access/common land	-
Cycleways	-
Roads	M Busy road to northeast, with quieter lane to west.
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility	H/M

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	Medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value of the area lies in the Redhill Complex lowland meadow Local Wildlife site, listed farmhouses, Icknield Street Roman road, irregular fields, strong hedgerows with oaks, copses, unimproved pastures, watercourse and field ponds. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the current visual separation of the area from the urban edge which is very well contained by landform and vegetation, the irregular fields and associated strong hedgerow oaks, the pattern of ponds and scrub woodland. The visual susceptibility to housing lies in the PROWs running through the area and views from rural residents. The parcel is therefore sensitive as housing here would be an outlier unless development was proposed or implemented in the adjacent authority to bridge the gap with the existing settlement. If development was considered appropriate it should be contained by landform on the western side of the area such as west of Lillycroft Lane and Goodrest Farm, avoiding the distinctive linear field and Local Wildlife site adjacent. The susceptibility to employment use is greater as the area has a coherent rural character with relatively small scale fields and dispersed settlement separated from the urban edge and no other employment uses.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Timbered Pastures
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	High

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	-
Natural heritage	H/M Redhill Complex lowland meadow Local Wildlife site. Strong hedgerows with oaks, copses, pastures, some unimproved and field ponds. Small watercourse to the north east.
Cultural heritage	M Mix of irregular piecemeal enclosure of hedgerows, some post-medieval in origin, to the north east, and planned enclosure with regular and irregular fields to the west and south, both amalgamated in parts. There are strong hedgerows with oaks and field ponds especially around Gay Hill. Former Roman Road, Icknield Street, is expressed in the lines of PROWs and lanes. Lillycroft Farm, Goodrest Farm and Gay Hill Farm just outside the parcel are listed which indicates a consistency of historical interest.
Distinctiveness	M Typical wooded pastures.
Perceptual	M
Scenic factors	Pleasant rural landscape with views from gentle hilltops.
Tranquillity	Noise limited to busy Redhill Road to the south and lanes. Hawkesley settlement edge is not visible although rural settlement is in places. Network of lanes and PROWs.
Recreational and functional	M
Recreational	Network of lanes and PROWs including Icknield Street.
Functional	Lowland meadow Local Wildlife site, strong hedgerows with oaks, copses,

		pastures, some unimproved and field ponds and small watercourse contribute to potential GI corridors and patches.
Condition	M/L	Condition of field boundaries generally poor and outgrown but mostly intact.
Associations	-	
Summary evaluation of overall value	M	
LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS		
Natural factors	M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Gently rolling plateau and shallow valley with steeper slopes to the north west down to the urban edge (within Birmingham).
Presence of water		Small watercourse to north east and many field ponds.
Cultural factors	M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Mix of irregular piecemeal enclosure, some post-medieval in origin, and planned enclosure with regular and irregular fields.
Settlement pattern		Dispersed farmsteads and linear rural settlement.
Land use factors	M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		Strong hedgerows with oaks, copses, pastures, some unimproved, meadows and field ponds and small watercourse contribute to potential GI corridors and patches.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		Network of lanes and PROWs including Icknield Street and distinctive parallel PROWs west of Lillycroft Lane.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		The parcel is separated from the urban edge to the south but more connected by lanes to the north.
Perceptual factors	H/M	
Scale		Medium to small in parts
Enclosure		Moderately enclosed
Skyline		Local skylines to the south east and north west- the urban edge is contained below the skyline of the latter.
Landmarks/features		Farmsteads- local landmarks amongst trees
Detractors	-	
Settlement edge character		The adjacent urban edge is contained very effectively by sloping landform and a buffer of fields and hedgerows to the north west.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		Long views of the urban edge tower blocks only possible to the north from higher ground near Headley Heath Farm.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility	H/M	

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility	M	Limited in an enclosed landscape
Key views	M/L	-

Key receptors

Residents- rural/semi-rural	H	Dispersed rural settlement/farmsteads mainly with one linear row.
Residents-urban/suburban edge		-
Promoted trails		-
Public rights of way	H/M	Five PROWs.
Access/common land		-
Cycleways		-
Roads	M	Mainly quiet lanes with busier road to the south.

Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility **M**

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

If development was considered appropriate it should be contained by landform on the western side of the area such as west of Lillycroft Lane and Goodrest Farm, avoiding the distinctive linear field and Local Wildlife site adjacent. PROWS should be retained and enhanced as part of an open space GI network.

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

Existing boundary hedges should be retained and enhanced as part of public GI to minimise the impact of development on the landscape further east.

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	Medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in the use as a public park, the semi-natural habitats within the park in particular including rough grass, trees, scrub, hedges and watercourse, the association with the former Moundsley Hall indicated partly by the listed entrance lodge outside the district boundary and the attractive scenic qualities of the park with tranquillity in places. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the semi-natural character of the park and its use as a positive resource. The visual susceptibility to housing lies in the views from users of the public park, adjacent residents and users of PROWs to the east. Walkers Heath Park is very sensitive to any development but there is potential in the enclosures directly adjoining the Moundsley Hall care home access, providing boundary buffer vegetation is retained and reinforced especially to the park and road edge.

The susceptibility to employment use is higher in terms of effect on park use and semi-natural habitats and the relationship with the former historic features and adjacent residential areas.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Timbered Pastures
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	High

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	-
Natural heritage	H/M Public park/open space- Walkers Heath Park- with rough grass, woodland, scrub and remnant field boundary oaks bounded by an outgrown hedge and watercourse with riparian vegetation to the east. Overgrown scrubby enclosures with some trees and boundary hedges either side of the Moundsley Hall Care Village drive.
Cultural heritage	M Former park, much of which was associated with Moundsley Hall but now divided into care home and access, redundant enclosures and public park. The original 1531 house was demolished and replaced with the existing house in 1939. The 19c entrance lodge (in Birmingham area) is listed.
Distinctiveness	H/M Distinctive public park with semi-natural character with strong visual links out to the rising countryside beyond.
Perceptual	H/M
Scenic factors	Attractive framed vistas and spaces in public open space.
Tranquillity	Quiet area away from roads with built form largely hidden by trees and other vegetation. Use as a park.
Recreational and functional	H/M
Recreational	Use as a park with some play and minor sports facilities.
Functional	Rough grassland, woodland, regenerating scrub and trees and watercourse form a range of positive habitats/GI patch.
Condition	M Low key management of park and abandoned enclosures by Moundsley Hall

approach.

Associations

M Former early house and park but with very limited extant features.

Summary evaluation of overall value

H/M

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors

H/M

Landform eg steep slopes

Gentle slopes.

Presence of water

Watercourse on the eastern boundary.

Cultural factors

M

Historic field/land use pattern

Former park, much of which was associated with Moundsley Hall but now divided into care home and access, redundant enclosures and public park.

Settlement pattern

Care home and caretaker house within area and urban edge to north and west.

Land use factors

H/M

Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.

Semi-natural habitats of rough grass, woodland, scrub and remnant field boundary oaks, outgrown hedge and watercourse are GI patch.

Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors

Use as a park with some play and minor sports facilities. Open space surrounds Moundsley Hall complex allowing access between different parts of the settlement and to the wider countryside.

Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features

Park used by local residents.

Perceptual factors

M

Scale

Small-medium

Enclosure

Moderately enclosed public park and highly enclosed enclosures

Skyline

-

Landmarks/features

-

Detractors

-

Settlement edge character

Housing estates to north and west are integrated by mature trees and vegetation.

Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)

Park and enclosures are enclosed by trees and vegetation.

Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility

H/M

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility

M

Park intervisible from hill to west but otherwise limited.

Key views

M

PROW to west may have views in.

Key receptors

Residents- rural/semi-rural	-	
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	Adjacent residents would have limited views in.
Promoted trails	-	
Public rights of way		PROW to west may have views in.
Access/common land	H/M	Public park in part.
Cycleways	-	
Roads	M	Limited views from roads to south and west due to boundary vegetation.
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility	M	

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

There is potential in the enclosures directly adjoining the Moundsley Hall care home access providing boundary buffer vegetation is retained and reinforced especially to the park and road edge.

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

As above and retaining best trees in former internal field boundaries and maintaining setting to hall access and listed lodge.

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	Medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High/medium

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in the irregular and regular piecemeal enclosure of hedgerows, some post-medieval in origin with substantial time depth, the veteran oak, strong tree cover dominated by oaks, attractive vistas to the hill around Crabmill Lane, and the various waterbodies. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the small scale of the pastoral field pattern in most parts, the slopes and wooded skylines, the generally strong rural character and role as an area of informal recreation south of the urban edge, connecting to the wider landscape. The visual susceptibility to housing lies in the views from the PROWs and Walkers Heath Park. The majority of the area is sensitive to housing. The only opportunity for housing is to the north of footpath WY-500 and Crabmill Lane provided that wide corridors for recreation and access were maintained into the existing urban edge and the southern edge was reinforced with further tree planting. The susceptibility to employment use would be more pronounced due to field pattern, tree cover, slopes and presence of settlement within the area and to the north.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Timbered Pastures
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	High

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	-
Natural heritage	M Strong hedgerows with oaks especially to the south and west, copses, pastures and field ponds. Watercourses in shallow valleys to the south and west.
Cultural heritage	M Mix of irregular and regular piecemeal enclosure of hedgerows, some post-medieval in origin, amalgamated to the east of Crabmill Lane, with strong hedgerow oaks, including a veteran oak, and field ponds.
Distinctiveness	H/M Classic Arden character of strong hedges with oaks and slopes with woods.
Perceptual	H/M
Scenic factors	Attractive vistas to the hill west of Crabmill Lane and associated valley around Moundsley Farm , as well as more restricted framed vistas in area between Dark Lane and Crabmill Lane.
Tranquillity	Noise from A435 to the east but otherwise quiet lanes and countryside. Views to tower blocks in Druids Heath estate to the north.
Recreational and functional	M
Recreational	Seven PROWs through the parcel linking to the lane network.
Functional	Hedgerows with oaks, copses, watercourses and field ponds are potential GI corridors.
Condition	M Mix of good condition hedgerow pattern to the south and west and poorer to the north east.
Associations	-

Summary evaluation of overall value	H/M
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LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M
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Landform eg steep slopes	Distinct slopes up to Crabmill Farm and valley slopes to the south east and around Moundsley Farm.
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Presence of water	Small watercourses to the east and north west with series of field ponds.
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Cultural factors	H/M
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Historic field/land use pattern	Mix of irregular and regular piecemeal enclosure of well treed hedgerows with fields which are relatively small scale to the south and west.
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Settlement pattern	Dispersed farmsteads and rural dwellings within area and urban edge beyond Druids Heath Lane to the north.
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Land use factors	H/M
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Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.	Strong hedgerows with oaks, copses, watercourses and field ponds contribute to GI corridors.
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Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors	Seven PROWs run through the parcel, some connecting the settlement with the wider landscape. Use of fields close to the urban edge for informal recreation.
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Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features	PROWs linking into settlement.
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Perceptual factors	M
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Scale	Range from small to medium, with isolated larger fields.
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Enclosure	Generally enclosed with more openness to north east.
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Skyline	Forms wooded hill skyline when viewed from the north and north west
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Landmarks/features	-
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Detractors	Tower blocks
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Settlement edge character	Druids Heath Lane with associated hedged banks and trees forms a very strong edge but tower blocks are visible above this.
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Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)	As above.
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Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility	H/M
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VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors	
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Intervisibility	M	Generally enclosed with more openness to north east.
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Key views	M	Pleasant views from PROWs.
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Key receptors	
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Residents- rural/semi-rural	H	Various farmsteads and rural dwellings.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	From tower blocks.
Promoted trails	-	
Public rights of way	H/M	Seven PROWs.
Access/common land	H/M	Views to the wooded pastoral hill from Moundsley Park (not common land).
Cycleways	-	
Roads		Mainly local lanes with A435 to the east.
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility	M	

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

The only opportunity for housing is to the north of footpath WY-500 and Crabmill Lane provided that wide green corridors for recreation and access are maintained into the existing urban edge.

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

Existing hedgerows to the southern and northern edges should be fully retained and reinforced with further tree planting (dominated by oaks) as part of publicly accessible open space.

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High/medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in its pleasing historic, unified, enclosed Arden character, reflected in the densely scattered hedgerow trees, many of which are mature oaks, Holytree Farm listed buildings and the three PROWs. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the patches of wet, species rich permanent pasture, often associated with small field ponds in damp hollows, the watercourses, the well defined irregular pattern of small hedged fields, frequently defined by older mixed species hedgerows. Visual susceptibility to housing lies in views from rural residents, from some settlement edge residents to the east and from the PROWs running through the area. Housing in this distinctive Arden landscape would be undesirable. Sensitivity to employment uses would be greater due to the relatively small scale irregular field pattern and relationship with housing to the east.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Timbered Pastures
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	High

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	-
Natural heritage	M Patches of older, more species rich permanent pasture enclosed by strong hedgerows with hedgerow oaks, and minor watercourse with riparian vegetation.
Cultural heritage	M Two listed buildings at Holly Tree Farm, irregular field pattern derived from piecemeal enclosure.
Distinctiveness	H/M Classic Arden character of pasture with time depth including strong hedgerow oaks, small scale in places.
Perceptual	M
Scenic factors	Pleasing filtered views of rural landscapes.
Tranquillity	Noise from A435 to west and Alcester Road to the north east. Settlement edge to east but generally well screened. Three PROWs cross area.
Recreational and functional	M
Recreational	Three PROWs cross area.
Functional	Patches of older, more species rich permanent pasture enclosed by strong hedgerows with hedgerow oaks, and minor watercourse with riparian vegetation and damp hollows with ponds contribute to GI.
Condition	M The cultural pattern is in decline as reflected in the overgrown/mature condition of many hedgerows/hedgerow trees.
Associations	-
Summary evaluation of overall value	M

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Gently rolling plateau.
Presence of water		Many streams and damp hollows with ponds.
Cultural factors	H/M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Relatively unified pastoral landscape with a well defined irregular pattern of small hedged fields with many hedgerow trees.
Settlement pattern		Settlement more or less limited to a scatter of farm houses.
Land use factors	M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		Patches of older, more species rich permanent pasture enclosed by strong hedgerows with hedgerow oaks, and minor watercourse with riparian vegetation and damp hollows with ponds contribute to GI.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		Three PROWs linking settlement with wider landscape.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		PROWs link settlement to area and wider countryside.
Perceptual factors	H/M	
Scale		Small scale landscape.
Enclosure		Views restricted by tall hedges and hedgerow trees.
Skyline		-
Landmarks/features		Frequent mature hedgerow oaks.
Detractors		Pylons and power lines and views to tower blocks on the northern edge.
Settlement edge character		Much of urban edge set behind roads, or gardens fringed by hedgerow trees.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		Limited visual relationship with settlement.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility	H/M	

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility	M/L	Limited intervisibility of area with its surroundings.
Key views	M	Views limited by tree cover.

Key receptors

Residents- rural/semi-rural	H	A few rural dwellings within area.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	Urban edge along eastern boundary of area.
Promoted trails		-
Public rights of way	H/M	Three PROWs crossing area.
Access/common land		-

Cycleways		-
Roads	M	Roads around edges of parcel.
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility		H/M

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	Medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in the presence of fine oak trees which define the character of the western area, the presence of the moat to the west and fine farmhouse and house either side of the A441, the strong tree belt boundaries to the north and the PROWs linking the settlement with the wider countryside. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the skyline on the southern edge of the area which if breached would expose housing to wide view to the south especially in the western area, the oaks, tree belts and hedgerows in a small scale semi-regular pattern in parts. The visual susceptibility to housing lies in views from the PROWs within the parcel and the potential for views of the southern edge of housing from the North Worcestershire Path and other receptors such as Upper Bittell Reservoir and PROWs to the south. Housing may be able to be accommodated in the area providing a large publicly accessible planted buffer is placed on the southern edge to ensure that housing/structures would not be visible from the south. In addition any layout should retain the vast majority of existing oak trees, tree belts, hedgerows and both PROWs and incorporate these into green infrastructure linking the existing settlement, as well as any proposals, with the wider countryside. Employment would be inappropriate to the east due to the relatively small size of fields and the presence of strong hedgerows and trees and a sloping site, as well as direct views from housing to the north east. Employment would also be inappropriate to the west due to views from housing and school to the north and the presence of oaks and hedges which would be difficult to accommodate in any rational employment layout.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Timbered Pastures
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	High

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	-
Natural heritage	M Strong remnant oak tree cover with most hedgerows removed to the west of the area but extant to the east. Strong tree belt boundaries to the roads to the north. Improved pasture to the west and fields cut for hay to the east.
Cultural heritage	M Presence of moat to the west in thick scrub woodland, fine farmhouse and barn east of the A441 (Dingle House) and Groveley Hall Farm in gardens to the west of A441. None designated or listed. Semi-regular field boundaries, where extant.
Distinctiveness	M Distinctive oak trees, especially to the west, define character.
Perceptual	M
Scenic factors	Attractive gently sloping topography with oak trees and other vegetation but with presence of urban edge to the north.
Tranquillity	Noise from A441 and B4096 and movement where visible beyond relatively strong boundary trees. Settlement apparent in views to the north in places. PROWs through the area to the east and west.
Recreational and functional	M
Recreational	PROWs through the area to the east and also to the west. Fields to the east are used informally for dog walking.

Functional		Boundary vegetation links to hedgerows in the wider landscape as do the PROWs.
Condition	M/L	Generally poor condition with hedgerows no longer functional.
Associations	-	
Summary evaluation of overall value	M	

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Gently sloping to the north towards the built edge of the settlement.
Presence of water	-	
Cultural factors	M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Semi-regular field patterns to east and remnant oaks in pastures, some hedged, to the west.
Settlement pattern		Semi-rural farm complex and houses in large gardens adjacent to the A441 and urban settlement to the north.
Land use factors	M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		Pasture to the west appears to be productive and the tree belts and hedgerows combined with the oaks provide habitats.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		PROWs link the settlement with the wider countryside to the east and west.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		The PROWs connect the settlement to the wider countryside.
Perceptual factors	M	
Scale		Ranging from small to large fields.
Enclosure		Enclosed to east and moderately enclosed to the west.
Skyline		Skyline lies on the southern edge of the area beyond which the land slopes away to the south.
Landmarks/features		Moat in woodland/scrub and oaks to the west.
Detractors		Settlement edge and tower blocks. A441 and B4096 although generally screened from area.
Settlement edge character		20c linear estate edge to settlement, apparent in western area but partly screened by tree belts here and to the east.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		Area provides pleasant green outlook for settlement.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility	M	

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility	M/L	The western area and part of the east is intervisible with housing to north.
Key views	M	There are attractive vistas in both areas to the skyline and within enclosed fields. Upper Bittell Reservoir has views of the skyline from the south.
Key receptors		
Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	Limited from farmstead and semi-rural housing
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	Housing to the north.
Promoted trails		The North Worcestershire Path passes through the landscape to the south and has views to the skyline which currently screens the bulk of the urban edge and this area.
Public rights of way	H/M	PROWs to the east and west
Access/common land		-
Cycleways		-
Roads	M	A441 and B4096
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility	M	

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

Housing may be able to be accommodated in the area providing a large publicly accessible planted buffer is placed on the southern edge to ensure that housing/structures would not be visible from the south. In addition any layout should retain the vast majority of existing oak trees, tree belts, hedgerows and both PROWs and incorporate these into green infrastructure linking the existing settlement, as well as any proposals, with the wider countryside.

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

See above and in addition, the moat should be incorporated into managed GI with appropriate interpretation.

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing High/medium

Sensitivity to Employment High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in the attractive and distinctive open undulating character of the ridge and slopes with views to the Lickey Hills, its thick mixed species trimmed and outgrown hedgerows with some trees and copses to the east, the Local Wildlife Site reservoir to the north and stream course with riparian vegetation to the south, the relationship with the listed Cofton Hall and Cofton Hall Farm barns and cowsheds to the south and Church of St Michael to the east and their landscape setting and approaches, the network of PROWs, including the North Worcestershire Path, linking the area to the Lickey Hills and adjoining rural landscapes to the south and east. Landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the open sloping and undulating landform, the role as open skyline and the areas recreational value. Visual susceptibility to housing lies in the intervisibility of the parcel with the landscape especially to the south, the fine views from the North Worcestershire Path and network of PROWs, from rural properties to the south and from the settlement edge. The parcel is sensitive to housing. Sensitivity to employment would be greater due to increased prominence and incongruity with adjoining housing.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area Arden

WCC landscape character type (LCT) Settled Farmlands with Pastoral

WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity Medium

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations -

Natural heritage M Mix of thick mixed species trimmed and outgrown hedgerows with some trees and copses to the east, Local Wildlife site reservoir to the north and stream course with riparian vegetation skirting the southern edge.

Cultural heritage H/M Semi-regular medium to large fields derived from piecemeal enclosure with copses. Rural complex of listed Cofton Hall and Cofton Hall Farm barns and cowsheds to the south and Church of St Michael to the east.

Distinctiveness H/M Distinctive rolling ridge slopes with varied character visually connecting to the wooded Lickey Hills to the west.

Perceptual H/M

Scenic factors Attractive rural views within the parcel and to the Lickey Hills to the east, the lower rural landscapes to the south and Cofton Park to the north.

Tranquillity Quiet lane to the south. Settlement edge to the north west and east. Network of PROWs through the area.

Recreational and functional H/M

Recreational North Worcestershire Path crosses the area east to west linking into north to south PROWs.

Functional Mix of trimmed and outgrown hedgerows with some trees and copses, reservoir to the north and stream course with riparian vegetation skirting the southern edge all contribute to GI.

Condition M Landscape features such as hedgerows generally well maintained.

Associations -

Summary evaluation of overall value H/M

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors H/M

Landform eg steep slopes Upstanding/undulating landform.

Presence of water Minor streamline draining site.

Cultural factors M

Historic field/land use pattern Semi-regular medium to large fields derived from piecemeal enclosure with copses.

Settlement pattern Linear residential development within large garden plots within parcel to the south west.

Land use factors H/M

Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land. Mix of trimmed and outgrown hedgerows with some trees and copses, reservoir to the north and stream course with riparian vegetation skirting the southern edge all contribute to GI.

Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors North Worcestershire Path crosses the area east to west linking into Lickey Hills Country Park and also into north to south PROWs in the parcel and open space to north.

Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features North Worcestershire Path and other PROWs provide strong functional connection between the area and its surroundings.

Perceptual factors H/M

Scale Large to the south and small to the north.

Enclosure Open with distant views to surrounding landscapes.

Skyline Area forms a low skyline when viewed from lower lying ground to south.

Landmarks/features -

Detractors -

Settlement edge character Relatively hard urban edge along part of northern boundary. Elsewhere ribbon development largely screened by tree cover.

Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues) Limited visual relationship to settlement, other than providing a strong rural setting.

Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility H/M

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility H/M High intervisibility of area with its surroundings.

Key views H/M Distant views over rural landscapes to the south, with more contained views

over urban landscape to north.

Key receptors

Residents- rural/semi-rural	H	Restricted views from adjoining farm/roadside dwellings to south.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	Restricted views from adjoining urban area to north.
Promoted trails	H	North Worcestershire Path.
Public rights of way	H/M	Other connecting PROWs.
Access/common land	-	
Cycleways	-	
Roads	M	Cofton Church Lane to the south.

Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility **H/M**

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate: