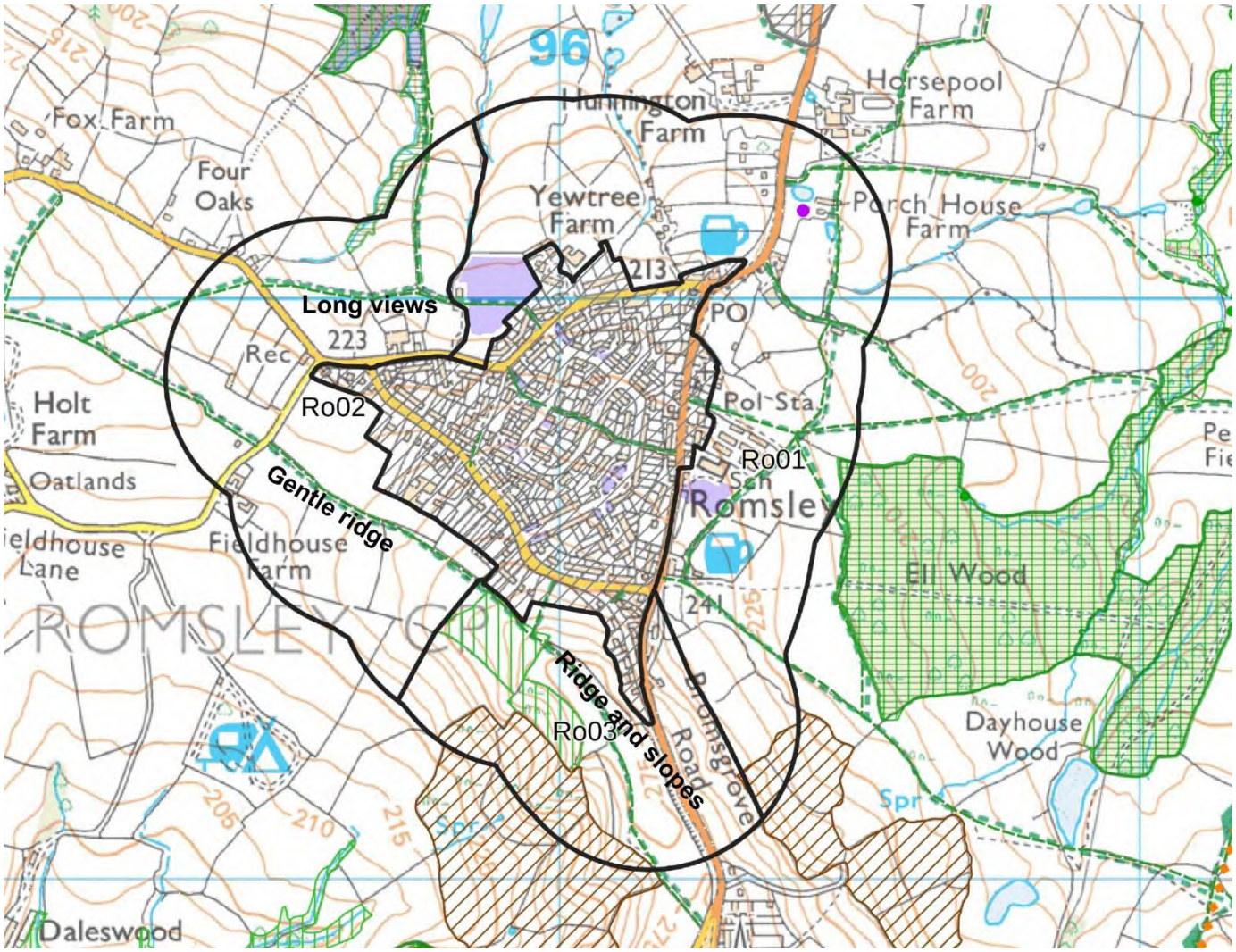
Settlement Sensitivity Summary: Romsley

Summary

Romsley is a small settlement on the eastern edge of the hill landscape associated with the Clent Hills. Steep ridge slopes rise up from the southern edge of the settlement and then fall dramatically to the south west. This area is associated with SSSIs and a Local Wildlife site. A more gentle ridge runs north west enclosing the settlement to the east and the land falls distinctly northwards towards Birmingham with associated distant glimpse views. The settlement is mainly 20c and fairly well defined by three roads with pastoral landscape around it. Its apparent centre is on the eastern edge with shops and pubs in a rural setting.

Sensitivity to housing is considered high on the southern edge and high/medium to the north, east and west. There are opportunities, but very limited to the north.

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



Key

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

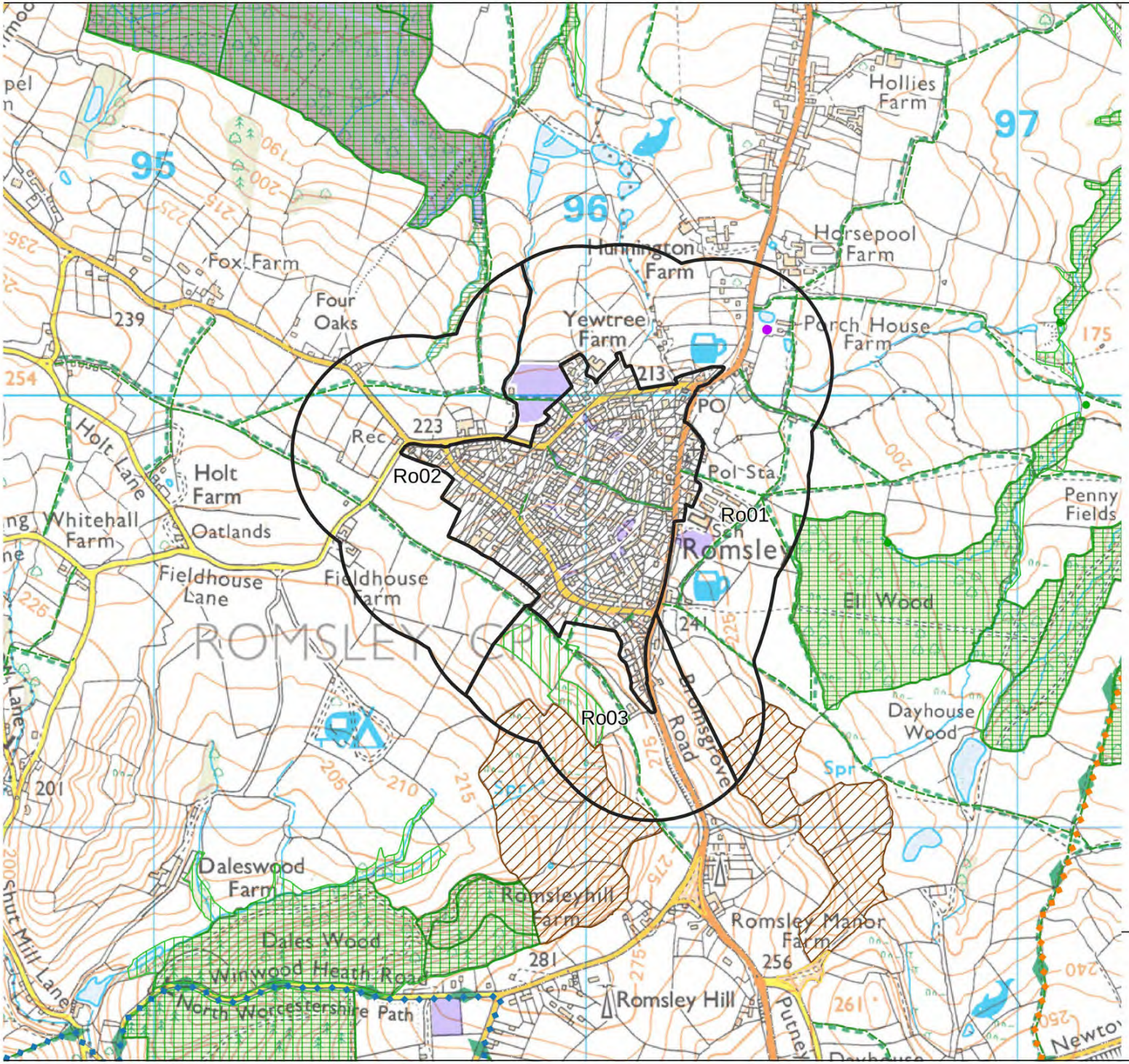
Opportunity for Housing

View east from near village core to rural setting (Ro01).

View south east towards Ell Wood (Ro01).

View up steep ridge slope defining south western edge of settlement (Ro03).

View up steep ridge slope on south eastern edge of settlement (Ro01).



KEY

- District Boundary
- Land Parcels
- Settlement development limits
- Ancient Woodland
- Ancient Veteran and Notable Trees
- Listed Buildings
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Local Wildlife sites
- Open Spaces
- Common Land
- North Worcestershire Way
- Monarchs Way
- Public rights of way

N

0 250 500 m

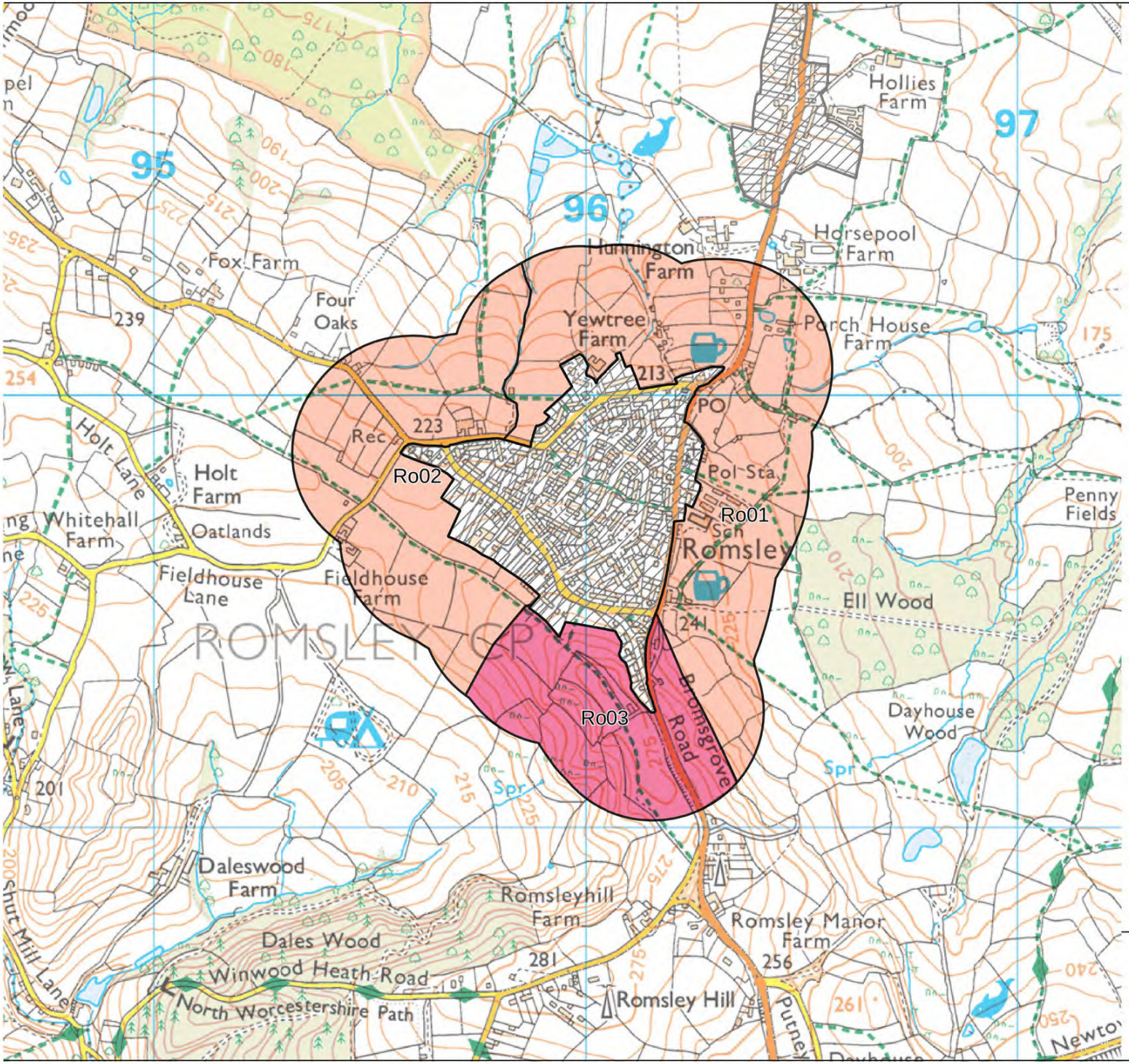
© Crown copyright and database rights
2022 OS 100023519 and 0100031673

white CONSULTANTS

10/02/22 | v0 | Drawn: JW |Checked: SW

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

Romsley
Land parcels, Constraints and Designations



KEY

- District Boundary
- Settlement development limits

Sensitivity to housing development

- High
- High/medium

N

0 250 500 m

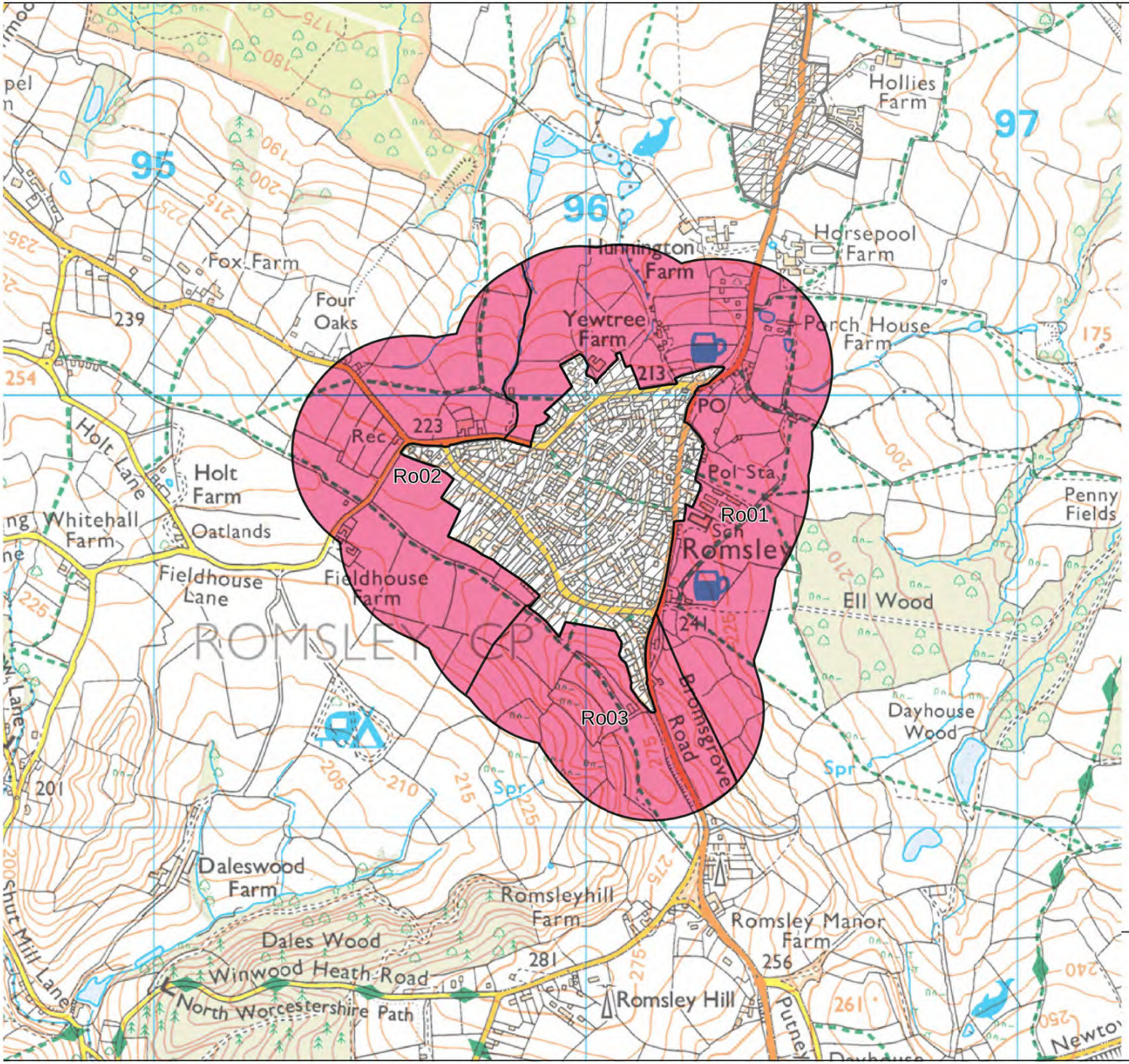
© Crown copyright and database rights
2022 OS 100023519 and 0100031673

white CONSULTANTS

10/02/22 | v0 | Drawn: JW |Checked: SW

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

Romsley
Settlements: Sensitivity to Housing



KEY

- District Boundary
- Settlement development limits

Sensitivity to employment use

- High

N

0 250 500 m

© Crown copyright and database rights
2022 OS 100023519 and 0100031673

white CONSULTANTS

10/02/22 | v0 | Drawn: JW |Checked: SW

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

Romsley
Landscape sensitivity to employment use

Land Cover Parcel No.	Ro01

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High/medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in the location in the Candidate Valued Landscape Area to the south east and buffer zone elsewhere, the Porch House Farm listed building, irregular field boundaries derived from distinctive assarted enclosure to the north west and piecemeal enclosure elsewhere, the unimproved grassland, attractive framed views over the slopes to the wider landscape, and the many PROWs especially to the east. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the distinct rural character which acts as the setting to the settlement with relatively small irregular fields with strong hedge and tree cover sloping down away from the settlement which is mostly contained within three roads. The visual susceptibility to housing lies in the views from the network of PROWs, the view from the village hub and its linear green and views from the wider countryside especially to the east. The area is sensitive to additional housing development especially to the east of the B4551 where there is currently only limited linear development. Housing is undesirable in this parcel but there may be an opportunity for a very limited number of houses in the paddocks to the west of the road. The sensitivity to employment uses is substantially greater as this is a rural location without any similar employment uses, the small field pattern and the elevated sloping ground.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

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

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	H/M	In the Candidate Valued Landscape Area to the south east and buffer zone elsewhere.
Natural heritage	H/M	Strong, mostly outgrown irregular field boundary hedges with trees with some unimproved grassland amongst mainly improved pasture.
Cultural heritage	H/M	Porch House Farm listed building, irregular field boundaries derived from assarted enclosure to the north west and piecemeal enclosure elsewhere, with interrupted linear settlement pattern to the north along B4551.
Distinctiveness	H/M	Distinctive irregular field pattern and hub of village (by Sun) with open linear green and trimmed hedge with attractive view to pastoral landscape. Distinct slopes to the south.
Perceptual	H/M	
Scenic factors		Attractive framed views over slopes to wider landscape from parts of area, especially the south.
Tranquillity		B4551 and minor road are moderately busy. Built form apparent although modified by surrounding hedges and mature garden vegetation. PROWs criss-cross area to the east.
Recreational and functional	H/M	
Recreational		PROWs criss-cross area to the east.
Functional		Strong, mostly outgrown irregular field boundary hedges with trees with some

		unimproved grassland could contribute to GI.
Condition	M	Poor outgrown hedges in places.
Associations		N/A
Summary evaluation of overall value		**H/M**

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	H/M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Distinct slopes down from the settlement, becoming steeper to the north and to the south.
Presence of water		Watercourses and two ponds to the north and north-east .
Cultural factors	H/M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Irregular field boundaries derived from assarted enclosure to the north west and piecemeal enclosure elsewhere.
Settlement pattern		Rural settlement contained mainly within triangle of three roads with an interrupted linear settlement pattern along B4551 and St Kenelm's Road.
Land use factors	H/M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		Strong, mostly outgrown irregular field boundary hedges with trees with some unimproved grassland could contribute to GI.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		PROWs criss-cross area to the east and a PROW runs from the recreation ground west.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		PROWs are main links linking the settlement with the wider countryside.
Perceptual factors	H/M	
Scale		Medium to small.
Enclosure		Moderately enclosed but with potential for wider views.
Skyline		Settlement modified by trees and vegetation acts as the local skyline in views from the east.
Landmarks/features		Porch House is notable building on the approaches from the north.
Detractors		N/A
Settlement edge character		Though predominantly 20c settlement edge has a semi-rural character relatively well integrated by vegetation.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		The parcel provides a strong rural context and setting for the settlement.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility		**H/M**

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility	M	Moderate intervisibility with the wider countryside particularly to the south.
Key views	M	A series of low-key views from village hub and PROWs.
Key receptors		
Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	From interrupted linear semi-rural settlement to the north.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	From village edge.
Promoted trails		N/A
Public rights of way	H/M	Many PROWs to the east and one to the north west.
Access/common land		N/A
Cycleways		N/A
Roads	M	B4551 and St Kenelm's Road.
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility		**H/M**

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

Housing is undesirable in this parcel. However, there may be an opportunity for a very limited number of houses in the paddocks to the west of the road and south of the caravan storage field retaining the strong hedged boundaries and trees.

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

As above.

Land Cover Parcel No.	Ro02

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High/medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in the location in the Candidate Valued Landscape Area (CPRE Study) to the north west and buffer zone elsewhere, its distinct ridge top settlement feel with associated attractive views from PROWs and approach roads, irregular field boundaries derived from assarted enclosure to the north east and a mix of regular and irregular piecemeal enclosure with trees. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the semi-rural character of the settlement, relatively open skyline and slopes to the south and slopes to the north, the very small-scale fields to the west of the settlement and watercourse to the north. The visual susceptibility to housing lies in the PROWs, the open views from approach roads and from residents in the settlement and to the south. These sensitivities make the pastoral and open fields sensitive to housing development although there may be opportunity in the enclosure east of the commercial development (Romsley Country Stores). The sensitivity to employment uses is substantially greater as this is a rural location without any similar substantial employment uses, the small field pattern and the elevated sloping ground.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Wooded Hills and Farmlands
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	Medium

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	H/M	In the Candidate Valued Landscape Area to the north west and buffer zone elsewhere
Natural heritage	M	Mix of trimmed and outgrown regular and irregular field boundary hedges with trees with improved grassland/ pasture.
Cultural heritage	M	Irregular field boundaries derived from assarted enclosure to the north east and a mix of regular and irregular piecemeal enclosure elsewhere.
Distinctiveness	M	Ridgetop settlement feel with views to the north although contained to the south.
Perceptual	H/M	
Scenic factors		Views to the north to lower land and to the south to higher wooded ridge land.
Tranquillity		Minor roads. Semi-rural settlement built form apparent. PROWs to the north and south.
Recreational and functional	M	
Recreational		PROWs to the north and south provide circular routes around the settlement.
Functional		Trimmed and outgrown regular and irregular field boundary hedges with trees could contribute to GI.
Condition	M	Poor condition hedges, mix of outgrown and trimmed.
Associations		N/A
Summary evaluation of overall value		**H/M**

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Part of ridge and ridge top landform sloping from the south east to the north.
Presence of water		Small watercourse and pond to the north.
Cultural factors	M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Irregular field boundaries around pasture derived from assarted enclosure to the north east and a mix of regular and irregular piecemeal enclosure elsewhere.
Settlement pattern		Semi-rural settlement built form largely contained and related to boundary roads.
Land use factors	M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		Watercourse, trimmed and outgrown regular and irregular field boundary hedges with trees could contribute to GI.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		PROWs to the north and south used as circular routes around settlement.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		Confined to PROWs.
Perceptual factors	H/M	
Scale		Medium.
Enclosure		Moderate enclosure but more open to the south and to the north away from the settlement
Skyline		Hedgerow to the south of the settlement acts as skyline.
Landmarks/features		None.
Detractors		None.
Settlement edge character		Though predominantly 20c, settlement edge has a semi-rural character relatively well integrated by vegetation.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		The parcel provides a pleasant rural context and setting for the settlement.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility		**H/M**

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors		
Intervisibility	H/M	Intervisibility with the wider landscape to the south of the ridge and to the north.
Key views	M	Views from PROWs.
Key receptors		
Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	Fieldhouse Farm.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	From village edge.
Promoted trails		N/A

Public rights of way	H/M	PROWs to the north and south.
Access/common land		N/A
Cycleways		N/A
Roads	M	Minor roads approaching settlement from the west.
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility		**H/M**

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

Housing is undesirable in this parcel. However, there may be an opportunity in the enclosure east of the commercial development (Romsley Country Stores) for a very limited number of units. Dwelling should not exceed two storeys in height and should reflect the local vernacular at least on the road frontage.

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

The majority of existing trees and hedges on the site should be retained outside curtilages of houses.

Land Cover Parcel No.	Ro03

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in its location in the Candidate Valued Landscape Area (CPRE Study), location on a ridgetop and its upper steep slopes which include Romsley Hill SSSI and a Romsley Hill Farm Meadows Local Wildlife site with wide scenic views to the west and also to the north east from the two PROWs that run through the parcel, linking into the village, with views framed by trees and strong outgrown hedges. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the steep slopes and their prominence, the unspoilt skyline character of the ridgetop areas and the irregular pattern and small scale of the fields. Although there are only patches of secondary woodland within the parcel itself, it is part of a wider Wooded Hills landscape, where the overall wooded/semi-natural character, ancient irregular field pattern and sloping nature of the land is very strong. Visual susceptibility to housing lies in views from the PROWs within the parcel and around it, from Bromsgrove Road and from a limited number of local residents. The parcel is very sensitive to housing. Sensitivity to employment use is even greater due to the prominence of the ridge top and slopes and the rural character of the surrounding area and settlement.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

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

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	H/M	In the Candidate Valued Landscape Area (CPRE Study).
Natural heritage	H	Romsley Hill SSSI on steep ridge sides along western edge and Romsley Hill Farm Meadows local wildlife site on ridge top and sides improved pasture and arable land enclosed by strong outgrown hedgerows with trees.
Cultural heritage	H/M	An ancient landscape with an irregular pattern of hedged fields derived from piecemeal enclosure.
Distinctiveness	H	Highly distinctive narrow ridge top and steep sides.
Perceptual	H	
Scenic factors		Attractive views from the ridge top and sides to the west and north east.
Tranquillity		Bromsgrove Road is moderately busy. The settlement edge is set down the ridge slopes with well vegetated gardens for the most part. One PROW runs along the ridge top with another linking down into the settlement.
Recreational and functional	H/M	
Recreational		One PROW runs along the ridge top with another linking down into the settlement.
Functional		Romsley Hill SSSI, Romsley Hill Farm Meadows local wildlife site and strong outgrown hedgerows with trees contribute to a very strong GI linking into the wider landscape.
Condition	M	Most hedgerows are outgrown but relatively intact.
Associations		-

Summary evaluation of overall value		**H**

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	H/M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Ridge top with very steep sides.
Presence of water		None.
Cultural factors	H/M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Irregular pattern of hedged fields derived from piecemeal enclosure.
Settlement pattern		Single dwelling on the edge of the settlement.
Land use factors	H/M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		Romsley Hill SSSI, Romsley Hill Farm Meadows local wildlife site and strong outgrown hedgerows with trees contribute to a very strong GI linking into the wider landscape.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		Two PROWs.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		PROW links into settlement and other is part of well used circular route.
Perceptual factors	H	
Scale		Small to medium scale.
Enclosure		Topography means the area is open although enclosed in places by vegetation.
Skyline		Ridge top forms a strong unspoilt skyline.
Landmarks/features		-
Detractors		-
Settlement edge character		Built edge softened by garden trees.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		Limited views from settlement into this area.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility		**H**

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors		
Intervisibility	H	Very high intervisibility.
Key views	H/M	Wide views from the ridgetop and other footpath .
Key receptors		
Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	Limited dwellings to the south east.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	Limited views from settlement into this area.
Promoted trails		-

Public rights of way	H/M	From two PROWs.
Access/common land		-
Cycleways		-
Roads	M	Restricted 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: