Bromsgrove District

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Assessment

Final Report

for

Bromsgrove District Council

February 2022

white CONSULTANTS

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Tel: 029 2236 2416

Email: sw@whiteconsultants.co.uk
Web: www.whiteconsultants.co.uk

CONTENTS

PART 1 2

1. Introduction 3

2. Method for deriving landscape sensitivity 3

3. Summary of landscape sensitivity findings 9

Summary figures 13

PART 2 14

Settlement and land parcel assessments 14

APPENDICES 15

Appendix A: Indicators of sensitivity 16

Appendix B: Glossary of terms 20

Cover: View looking south over Breakback Hill towards Grafton Manor from the southern edge of Bromsgrove.

PART 1

1. Introduction

1.1. White Consultants were appointed by Bromsgrove District Council (BDC) in July 2021 to undertake an assessment of landscape and visual sensitivity of the district, focusing on the environs of key settlements, the West Midlands conurbation and Redditch. The purpose of the assessment is to inform the selection of sites for allocation through the Bromsgrove District Plan (BDP) Review process. The project offers an important opportunity to protect the most sensitive landscapes while identifying where there may be opportunities for housing and employment development. Steven Warnock assisted the White Consultants team.

1.2. A Stage 1 scoping report was prepared in August 2021 setting out the method to define land parcels (LPs) for assessment and the process to determine landscape and visual sensitivity. It also included a desk study of landscape constraints, the boundaries of proposed LPs. The method and LPs were agreed by the client on 30 August 2021. This confirmed an approach to look at landscape sensitivity only (not capacity) and amending some LPs extents.

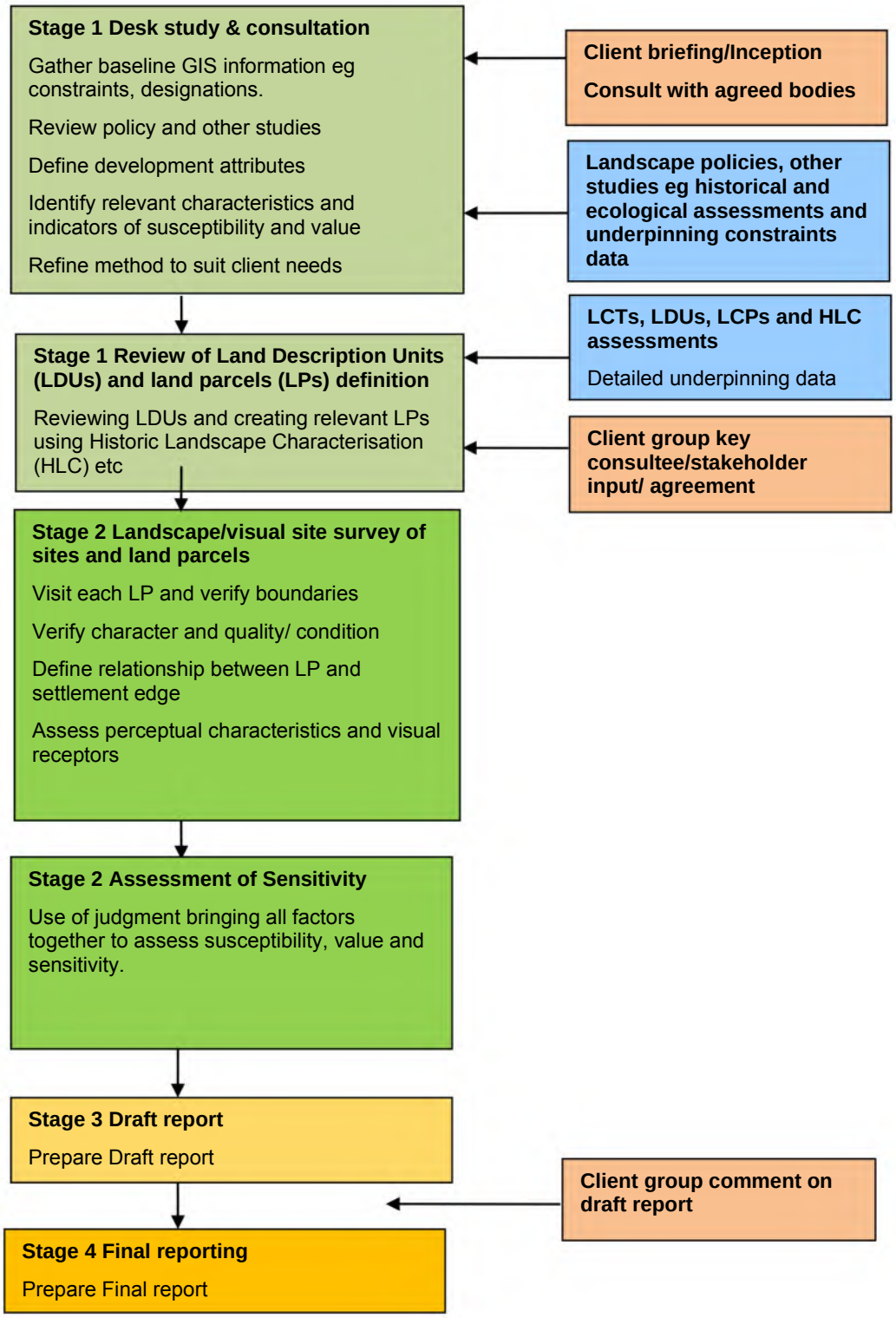
1.3. This report is the final main report setting out the findings of the sensitivity assessment. In Part 1 we set out the method (2.0) and a summary of sensitivity findings for each development type (3.0). This is followed by summary district-wide figures showing the LPs, landscape character context and sensitivities to housing and employment. In Part 2 we set out the detailed sensitivity assessments for each land parcel in alphabetical settlement and numerical order. For the web and digital versions these are separate documents for each settlement/group location.

1.4. The criteria and indicators for judging sensitivity are set out in Appendix A. The study is a technical exercise and the report uses a number of technical terms for precision and as a means for reaching conclusions. These terms are defined in the Glossary in Appendix B.

2. Method for deriving landscape sensitivity

2.1. The study process is summarised overleaf:

Diagram 1: Study process



STAGE 1 INCEPTION AND DESK STUDY- SCOPING AND METHOD REPORT

Inception, gathering data, consultation, desk study and method refinement

2.2. We have met with the client to fully understand their requirements, set out communication procedures and receive relevant data. We have carried out a desk study of the relevant policies and documents and consulted with relevant officers and stakeholders and partners identified by the client at the inception meeting. Based on this we have refined our proposed method for undertaking the detailed assessment.

2.3. The method takes into consideration:

- Approach to landscape sensitivity assessment, Natural England, 2019.
- An approach to landscape character assessment, Natural England, 2014.
- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Edition 3, Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013.
- Assessing landscape value outside national designations, Technical Guidance Note 02/21, Landscape Institute, 2021.

Definitions

2.4. Landscape sensitivity is the term applied to landscape character and the associated visual resource, combining judgements of their susceptibility to a specific development type and considered together with the (intrinsic) value related to the landscape and visual resource. Landscape sensitivity may be regarded as a measure of the resilience, or robustness, of a landscape to withstand specified change arising from development without undue negative effect on the landscape and visual baseline and associated value.

2.5. Landscape susceptibility is the degree to which a defined landscape and its associated visual qualities, attributes and receptors might respond to a specific development type without undue negative consequences on landscape character and visual resource. The factors and indicators which guide the assessment are set out in Appendix A.

2.6. Landscape value is the relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society. Landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a whole variety of reasons. The factors and indicators which guide the assessment are set out in Appendix A.

Review of LDUs, LCTs, LCPs and constraints mapping and definition of land parcels (LPs)

2.7. We have reviewed the contextual Worcestershire (2012) assessment of Landscape Character Types (LCTs), Land Description Units (LDUs) and Land Cover Parcel (LCPs) in relation to the County Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC).

2.8. We have identified finer grain land parcels for assessment around each settlement in buffers which are generally 500m from Tier 1 settlements (Bromsgrove town, Redditch and the West Midlands conurbation) and 250m around selected Tier 2-3 settlements (such as the larger settlements of Alvechurch and Hagley, medium-sized settlements such as Belbroughton and Lickey End). Land parcels have also been identified around selected motorway junctions where there is interest from developers. In some places the extent of the land parcel has been increased away from the settlement edge to

accommodate larger sites with developer interest. The land parcels are discrete areas of land bounded by roads, railways, water courses, field and parish boundaries, where similar patterns of land use, field pattern and tree cover are evident. They are derived primarily on differences in landform, land cover and historic pattern, with reference to:

- LDU and LCP boundaries refined by historic landscape character (HLC)
- 1:25,000 OS mapping
- Aerial photography
- Various constraints

2.9. The study is focussed on those areas within the buffer zones around settlements and motorway junctions which may come forward for development and which could accommodate a site suitable for allocation. As such, those areas which have a strong constraint on them already have not been included within the assessment. These are considered to have high level of sensitivity. Areas which have generally been excluded from land parcels (unless they are a small element within a larger land parcel) include:

- Ancient woodlands
- Nature conservation constraints and designations- SSSIs, local nature reserves, local wildlife sites
- Registered historic parks and gardens
- Scheduled monuments
- Country parks
- Commons
- Open spaces as defined by BDC

2.10. This approach avoids both abortive work and potential inflation of sensitivity if large areas of constraint are included in land parcels. Having said that, though areas have been excluded, they may have a relationship with an adjacent or nearby land parcel which would be considered as part of the assessment.

2.11. We have digitised the land parcels and prepared the study area mapping with the sites overlaying constraints and 1:25,000 OS mapping.

Defining development types

2.12. The study requires residential and employment uses to be assessed. We have defined a typical scale, footprint and maximum height of development to give a firm measure against which to judge sensitivity.

2.13. Housing is taken as 2/2.5 storeys/ 8-9m high with keynote buildings upto 3 storeys high at around 10m high at low or medium densities upto 32 dwellings/Ha ranging from small through to larger estate developments. This forms the key baseline type against which sensitivity is assessed.

2.14. Employment/commercial uses generally are taken to mean medium scale business, commercial or hotel development. The depth of office buildings would typically be expected to be around 15-20m and industrial uses a maximum of around 35m. Heights may exceed 10m with office blocks upto 3 storeys high and industrial units upto 12m to ridge. A typical example of the scale of building and associated infrastructure expected is at Bromsgrove Enterprise Park eg Basepoint.

2.15. On M5 junction 4 and M42 motorway junctions 2 and 3 land parcels only, a larger scale of employment use to accommodate warehouses will be considered. The range of sizes will be several units of around 100m x 150m-230m (15,000-23,000sqm) or alternatively, at least 4-5 units at 75m x 125m (9,375sqm). Building heights to apex of 12-18m high and associated infrastructure will be considered. Housing will not be assessed in these locations.

2.16. We assume that all development will be designed to a high standard in line with current guidelines including mitigation. This includes the Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Framework. If the land parcel has potential for development we define a range of measures which may reduce impact if applicable. Mitigation may include the type, extent and location of screen planting; buffers to sensitive features such as watercourses, common land or along public rights of way; green corridors or patches to link adjacent habitats; key frontages or settlement edges to address; and possibly the need for advance planting in more sensitive sites. These measures are expected to be accommodated within the defined opportunity site areas.

Thresholds

2.17. The thresholds for landscape and visual sensitivity are defined below. The five point scale reflects the subtlety of different landscapes' character, especially outside designated areas, and is in line with Natural England's guidance[1].

Definitions for levels of landscape and visual sensitivity

Level	*Definition*
Low	Landscape and/or visual characteristics of the land parcel are robust or degraded and/or its values are low and it can accommodate the relevant type of development without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are very high.
Medium/ low	Landscape and/or visual characteristics of the land parcel are resilient to change and/or its values are medium/low or low and it can accommodate the relevant type of development in many situations without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are high.
Medium	Landscape and/or visual characteristics of the land parcel are susceptible to change and/or its values are medium/low through to high/medium and/or it *may* have some potential to accommodate the relevant type of development in some *defined* situations without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are intermediate.
High/ medium	Landscape and/or visual characteristics of the land parcel are vulnerable to change and/or its values are medium through to high (although this is not essential where landscape or visual susceptibility is a key issue). It may be able accommodate the relevant type of development but only in limited situations without significant character change or adverse effects if defined in the relevant land parcel summary. Thresholds for significant change are low.
High	Landscape and/or visual characteristics of the land parcel are very vulnerable to change and/or its values are high or high/medium and it is unable to accommodate the relevant type of development without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are very low.

2.18. It is important to note that, even within smaller land parcels, there may be variations in sensitivity. For instance, a land parcel which is stated as medium

[1] An approach to landscape sensitivity assessment – to inform spatial planning and land management, Natural England, 2019.

sensitivity is likely to have some opportunity for development within it but not necessarily all. Therefore the sensitivity evaluation does not necessarily apply to the whole area. We define the extent and location in the evaluation and associated summary text. It should be noted that other land within a parcel may be considered to be inappropriate to develop in terms of landscape and visual sensitivity. For high/medium sensitivity areas there may be some land which has high sensitivity whilst other parts may have some very minor potential but this does not amount to potential for a large allocation. The exception to this is where secondary opportunities have been identified in the least sensitive parts of high/medium sensitivity areas around settlements where there is development pressure. Overall, the high/medium level of sensitivity is considered to be a substantive constraint in assessing potential site allocations in terms of landscape and visual factors.

Proformas for detailed landscape assessment

2.19. The study proformas for each land parcel record information collected by data analysis of the landscape context and constraints, site visit findings and subsequent judgement/assessment. This is in an Access database.

2.20. Each summary factor is scored but it is important to note that the judgement on sensitivity is not based on a mathematical addition of these scores. Some factors may be more important than others and may be given more weight. In some cases one criterion alone may be sufficient to result in a high/er sensitivity judgement.

2.21. Where there are identified opportunities, design and mitigation measures are set out. This section is therefore not completed for most areas of high or high/medium sensitivity to development.

STAGE 2 DETAILED ASSESSMENT

Landscape fieldwork and sensitivity assessment

2.22. The site assessment verifies desk study information and land parcel boundaries, assess quality/condition and fully explores the visual issues and relationship between the sites, settlements and their surrounding landscapes. The team uses two senior assessors to evaluate each land parcel together. This is in line with best practice Natural England landscape character assessment guidance.

2.23. The team assess the field data alongside the desk study data to derive an overall sensitivity for each land parcel to the different land uses. The sensitivity is summarised.

REPORTING

Final reports and outputs

2.24. The overview and method report provides the underpinning for the individual settlement/location assessments. For each of these there are summaries setting out potential opportunities. These are followed by constraints mapping, maps showing sensitivity for each development type and the individual land parcel assessments. GIS layers indicating sensitivity and opportunities complement the reports.

3. Summary of landscape sensitivity findings

3.1. The landscape sensitivity findings indicate the main opportunities for development with a tabular summary of sensitivities for each land parcel on the following pages. A detailed assessment for each land cover parcel is set out in Part 2. All these conclusions clearly only relate to landscape and visual matters and not other factors which have to be taken into consideration in the Local Plan process.

3.2. The settlement summaries are based entirely on the land parcel evaluations and if there is any perceived conflict or difference in emphasis between the two, the detailed evaluations should be taken as the definitive position.

SUMMARY OF LAND PARCEL SENSITIVITIES

3.3. The landscape sensitivity of each land parcel to each development type is set out in the table below.

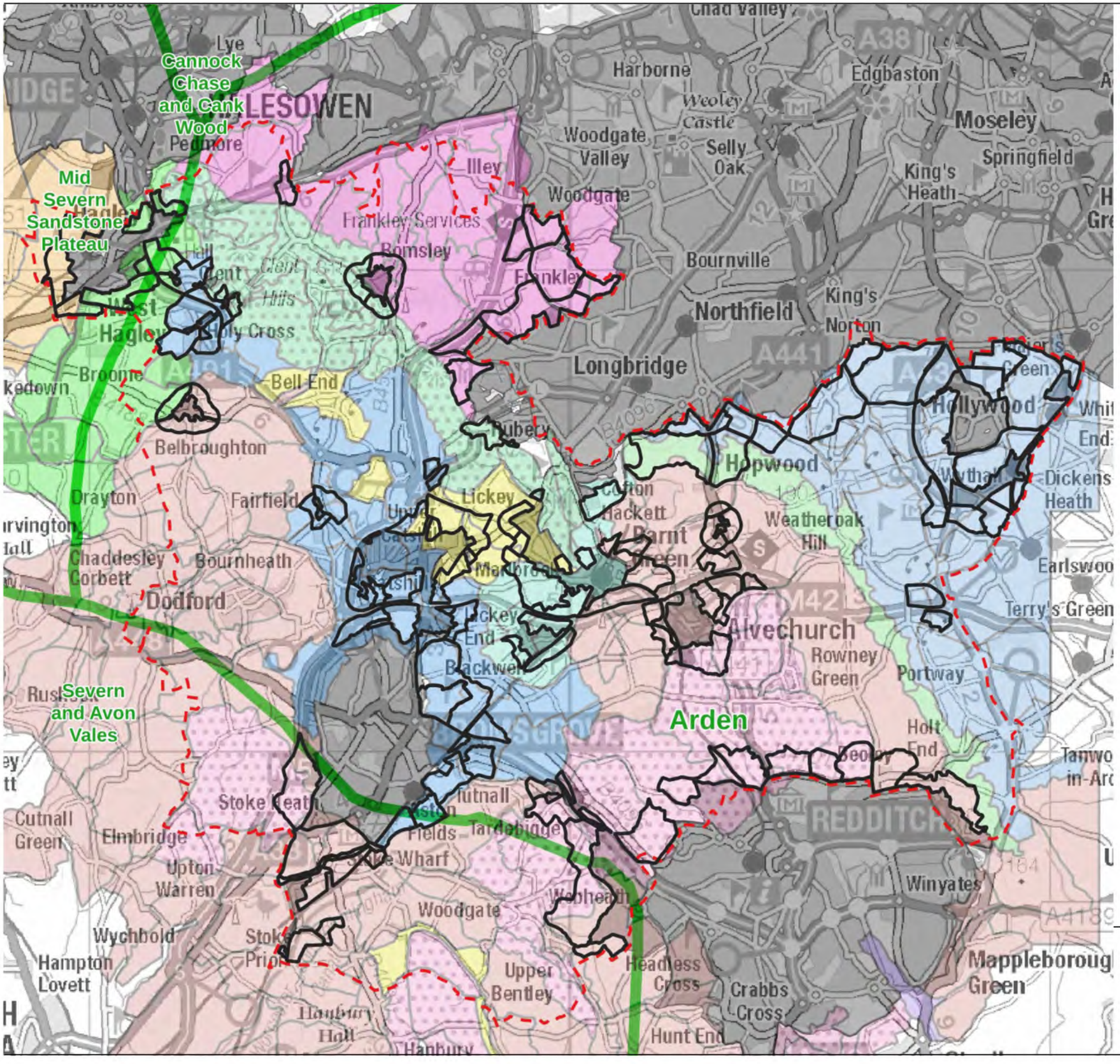
Settlement	Land Parcel Number	Sensitivity to Housing	Sensitivity to Employment use
Alvechurch	A01	Medium	High
	A02	High/medium	High
	A03	High/medium	High
	A04	High	High
	A05	High/medium	High
Birmingham	B01	High/medium	High
	B02	Medium	High/medium
	B03	High/medium	High/medium
	B04	Medium	High/medium
	B05	High/medium	High
	B06	High/medium	High
	B07	High/medium	High
	B08	High	High
	B09	Medium/low	High/medium
	B10	High/medium	High
	B11	Medium	High
	B12	Medium	High
	B13	Medium	High/medium
	B14	High/medium	High
	B15	Medium	High
Barnt Green	Ba01	High	High
	Ba02	Medium	High
	Ba03	Medium	High
	Ba04	High/medium	High
	Ba05	High/medium	High
	Ba06	High/medium	High
	Ba07	High	High
Belbroughton	Be01	High/medium	High
	Be02	Medium	High
	Be03	High/medium	High

Settlement	Land Parcel Number	Sensitivity to Housing	Sensitivity to Employment use
Blackwell	Bl01	Medium	High
	Bl02	High/medium	High
	Bl03	High/medium	High
Bromsgrove	Br01	High/medium	High/medium
	Br02	High/medium	High
	Br03	High/medium	High
	Br04	Medium	High
	Br05	High	High
	Br06	High/medium	High
	Br07	High/medium	High
	Br08	High/medium	High
	Br09	Medium	High/medium
	Br10	High/medium	High
	Br11	High/medium	High
	Br12	High	High
	Br13	Medium	High/medium
	Br14	High/medium	High
Clent	C01	High	High
	C02	High	High
	C03	High	High
Catshill	Ca01	Medium	High
	Ca02	High/medium	High
	Ca03	High/medium	High
	Ca04	High	High
	Ca05	High/medium	High
	Ca06	Medium	High/medium
	Ca07	High	High
	Ca08	Medium	High/medium
	Ca09	Medium	High
Holy Cross	CHC01	High/medium	High
	CHC02	High/medium	High
	CHC03	Medium	High
Lower Clent	CLC01	High/medium	High
	CLC02	High	High
Cofton	Ct01	High/medium	High
Dudley	D01	High/medium	High
Fairfield	Fa01	High/medium	High
	Fa02	Medium	High
Finstall	Fi01	High/medium	High
Hagley	Ha01	High/medium	High
	Ha02	High/medium	High
	Ha03	Medium/low	High/medium
	Ha04	High/medium	High

Settlement	Land Parcel Number	Sensitivity to Housing	Sensitivity to Employment use
	Ha05	Medium	High
	Ha06	High/medium	High
	Ha07	High/medium	High
Hopwood	Ho01	Medium	High
	Ho02	Medium	High
	Ho03	High/medium	High
Lickey	L01	High/medium	High
	L02	High	High
	L03	Medium	High
	L04	High/medium	High
Lickey End	LE01	Medium	High
	LE02	Medium	High
	LE03	High/medium	High
M42 Junction 3	M01	N/A	Medium
	M02	N/A	Medium
M42 Junction 2	M03	N/A	Medium
	M04	N/A	High/medium
	M05	N/A	High/medium
M5 Junction 4	M06	N/A	High/medium
	M07	N/A	High
Redditch	Re01	Medium	High
	Re02	High/medium	High
	Re03	High	High
	Re04	High	High
	Re05	Medium	Medium
	Re06	High/medium	High
	Re07	High/medium	High
	Re08	High/medium	High
	Re09	High/medium	High
	Re10	High	High
	Re11	High/medium	Medium
Romsley	Ro01	High/medium	High
	Ro02	High/medium	High
	Ro03	High	High
Rubery	Ru01	High/medium	High
	Ru02	High	High
	Ru03	Medium	High
Solihull	S01	High/medium	High
	S02	High/medium	High
	S03	Medium	High
	S04	Medium	High
Stoke Prior	SP01	Medium	High
	SP02	Medium/low	High

Settlement	Land Parcel Number	Sensitivity to Housing	Sensitivity to Employment use
Stoke Works	SW01	Medium	High
	SW02	High/medium	High/medium
	SW03	High/medium	Medium
Tardebigge	T01	High/Medium	High
	T02	High	High
	T03	High	High
	T04	High	High
Wythall	W01	Medium	High
	W02	High/medium	High/medium
	W03	Medium	High
	W04	High/medium	High
	W05	High/medium	High
	W06	Medium	High
	W07	High/medium	High/medium

Summary figures



KEY

- District boundary
- Land Parcel
- National Character Areas
- Settlement development limits

Worcestershire Landscape Character Types

- Enclosed Commons
- Estate Farmlands
- Principal Settled Farmlands
- Principal Timbered Farmlands
- Principal Wooded Hills
- Riverside Meadows
- Sandstone Estatelands
- Settled Farmlands with Pastoral Land Use
- Timbered Pastures
- Timbered Plateau Farmlands
- Wooded Estatelands
- Wooded Hills and Farmlands

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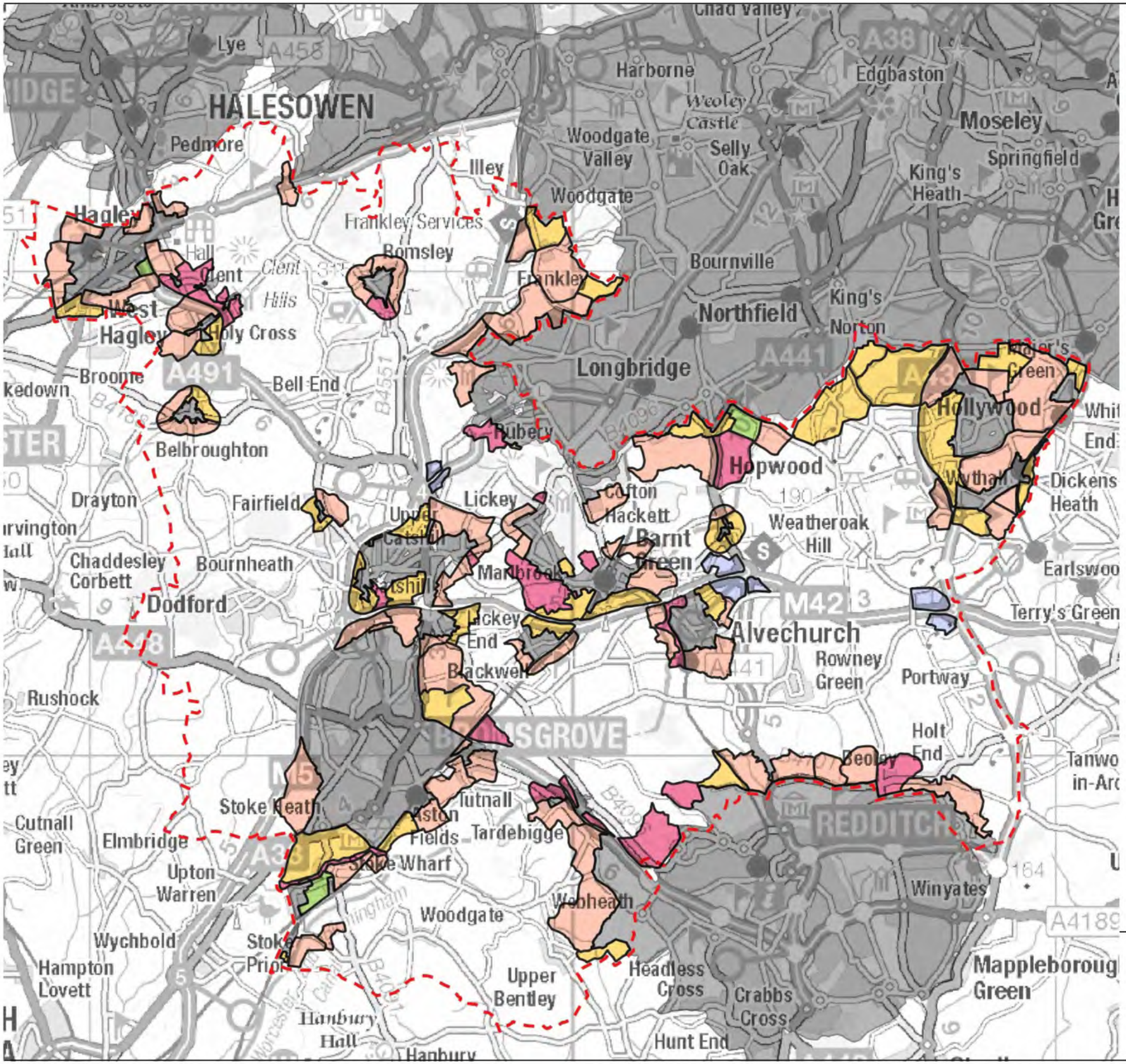
Client: Bromsgrove District Council

Figure 1
Overview landscape character and land parcels



KEY

- District boundary
- Settlement development limits

Land parcel sensitivity to housing development

- High
- High/medium
- Medium
- Medium/low
- N/A

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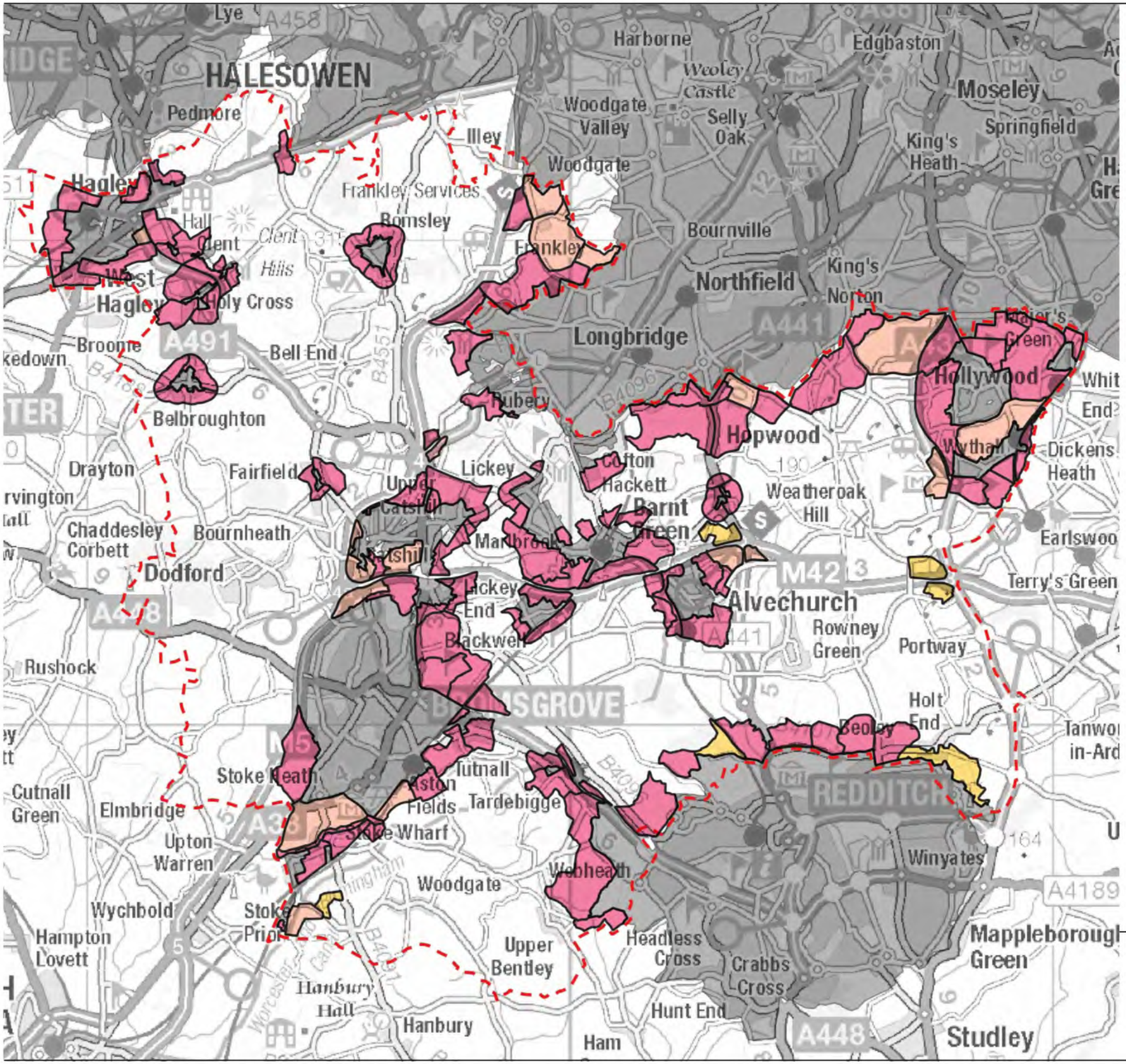
Figure 2
Landscape sensitivity to housing summary



KEY

- District boundary
- Settlement development limits

Land parcel sensitivity to employment development

- High
- High/medium
- Medium

N

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Figure 3
Landscape sensitivity to employment use summary

PART 2

Settlement and land parcel assessments

(separate documents in digital version)

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Indicators of sensitivity

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS			
Main criteria	Specific criteria/ factors	Indicators of value: lower value	Indicators of value: higher value
Landscape			
	Landscape designations	Lack of designations.	Presence of landscape designations- national, regional or local.
	Natural heritage	Lack of designations or natural assets.	Presence of nature designations, presence of wildlife and habitat, distinctive geological features, natural capital assets such as ecological corridors.
	Cultural heritage	Lack of designations or features and not contributing to setting all views from heritage assets.	Presence of historic designations, historic landmarks, features and elements, contribution to the landscape setting or views from assets, time depth.
	Distinctiveness	Very limited sense of place and no distinctive features.	A sense of place, presence of distinctive or rare features, important contribution to the identity or character of a settlement.
Perceptual			
	Scenic qualities	Lack of scenic and aesthetic qualities and no views or landmarks.	Distinctive or harmonious landform or landcover, strong aesthetic qualities, presence of natural lines in the landscape, visual diversity or contrasts, memorable views or landmarks.
	Tranquillity	No or very limited tranquillity due to the presence of substantial noise and built form and presence of people.	High levels of tranquillity or perceived tranquillity, links to nature, dark skies, presence of wildlife in relative peace and quiet, lack of modern artefacts or development. Area of higher tranquillity away from busy roads, with limited views of development and limited number of people.
Recreational and functional			
	Recreational	No or very limited open access land, common land, public rights of way, village greens.	Presence of open access land, common land, public rights of way, village greens.
	Functional	No or very limited functions contributing to green infrastructure.	Landscapes that contribute to the healthy functioning of the earth e.g. hydrological systems, floodplains, carbon sinks, pollinator rich habitats, contribution to green infrastructure network, linkage to designated landscape.
Condition		Poor physical condition and presence of detractive features.	Good physical condition and intactness of elements, absence of detractive or incongruous features.
Associations		No cultural associations.	Well-known literature, poetry arts TV/film or music related to the perception of the landscape, or with notable historic events or people.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS			
Main criteria	Specific criteria/ factors	Indicators of susceptibility: lower susceptibility	Indicators of susceptibility: higher susceptibility
Natural factors			
Landform	Topographic form	Plateaux or flat landscapes may be more suitable for larger developments and may be less visible (dependent on landcover)	Landforms with well-defined changes in level including undulating landscapes, rounded landform, narrow ridges, steep sloping valley sides and hillsides and narrow valley floors as development could be visible unless small scale and dependent on landcover.
	Presence of water	Lack of water bodies in or adjacent to the area.	Presence of watercourses or other water bodies.
Cultural factors			
	Historic field/land use pattern	Forestry plantations, large scale simple agriculture with rectilinear field patterns. Areas of poorer condition where these cannot be improved by management. More recent landscapes such as reclaimed land, late enclosure land where developments may cause less disruption.	Irregular or complex pattern, often pastoral farmland with hedgerows and trees or semi-natural land where the scale and rectilinear character of larger developments may dominate or conflict with the pattern. Areas of better condition. Older landscapes with significant time depth and associated features where developments may be seen as additional intrusive elements eg ancient woodland, historic parkland, scheduled monuments and their setting.
	Settlement pattern	Large scale modern urban areas where larger developments may be seen in scale and character	Undeveloped areas or rural villages and other clustered settlements especially with historic cores where development may compete with the traditional character and pattern.
Land use factors			
	Function	Brownfield land or land with limited actual or potential productivity, no or very limited contribution to GI corridors or patches	Productive agricultural land or land with an important function for flood management/flood plain, biodiversity corridor/patch or other purpose (GI).
	Amenity	Very limited or no amenity or recreational corridors.	Land with an important function for recreation, recreational movement.
	Functional relationship	Where there is limited functional connection between the area with the surrounding area or settlement.	Where there is a strong functional connection between the area and its surroundings such as a recreational or biodiversity corridor.
Perceptual factors			
	Scale of landform	Larger scale landforms which may be more able to accommodate larger developments	Smaller scale well defined landforms which may be disrupted by larger development which may need cut and fill on slopes. Smaller developments may be able to be accommodated better.
	Scale of landcover	Larger scale landcover /field pattern which is more able to accommodate larger developments	Smaller scale landcover/field pattern which is less able to accommodate developments if spread over several fields

Main criteria	Specific criteria/ factors	Indicators of susceptibility: lower susceptibility	Indicators of susceptibility: higher susceptibility
	Sense of enclosure	Where tree or hedge enclosure limits views of developments in winter as well as summer.	Open, unenclosed landscapes where developments may be highly visible.
	Relationship with surrounding landscapes	Self-contained landscape with low intervisibility of area with its surroundings.	High intervisibility and strong backdrop provided by this or adjacent area where the effects of development would be noticeable from or emphasised by adjacent landform eg scarp slopes, steep valley sides, hills adjacent to lowlands or water.
	Skyline	Areas/sites without skyline.	Skylines which are an important and noticeable component in the landscape.
	Landmark features/foci	Landscapes with no sensitive features where developments might detract from landscape settings	Landscapes with landmarks and features such as church spires and towers, castles, follies, parks and gardens, prominent listed buildings and ancient monuments where developments might compete as landscape foci and detract from landscape settings.
	Detractors	Presence of large-scale detractors.	Absence of detractors or presence of only very small scale or screened detractors.
	Settlement edge character	Modern, straight and noticeable settlement edge with limited mitigation.	Traditional settlement edge, often associated with the core of the settlement, with indented form and/or vernacular buildings with functional relationship with the landscape e.g. farms, and/or integrated by trees and other mature vegetation.
	Visual relationship of the area with settlement	Limited relationship of the area with the settlement, or forming a detractive presence.	Strong positive relationship of the area with the settlement, potentially providing a setting to it, potentially providing a connection, backcloth or view corridor.
VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS			
Intervisibility		Self-contained landscape with low intervisibility.	High intervisibility of area with its surroundings.
Key views		Presence of detractive views with no attractive views.	Presence of attractive views with no detractive views where developments may detract from, or interrupt, key views from viewpoints or recreational routes.
Visual receptors		There are a few sensitive visual receptors would be affected by development within the area.	There are numerous sensitive visual receptors would be affected by development within the area.

Appendix B: Glossary of terms

Glossary of landscape and visual terms

Term	*Definition*
Amenity Planting	planting to provide environmental benefit such as decorative or screen planting.
Analysis	the process of dividing up the landscape into its component parts to gain a better understanding of it.
Ancient Woodland	land continuously wooded since AD 1600. It is an extremely valuable ecological resource, usually with a high diversity of flora and fauna.
Apparent	object visible in the landscape.
Approach	the step-by-step process by which landscape assessment is undertaken.
Arable	land used for growing crops other than grass or woody species.
Assessment	term to describe all the various ways of looking at, analysing, evaluating and describing the landscape or assessing impacts on landscape and visual receptors.
Biodiversity	the variety of life including all the different habitats and species in the world.
Character	see landscape character.
Characteristics	elements, features and qualities which make a particular contribution to distinctive character. *
Characterisation	the process of identifying areas of similar character, classifying and mapping them and describing their character. *
Classification	concerned with dividing the landscape into areas of distinct, recognisable and consistent common character in grouping areas of similar character together. It requires the identification of patterns in the landscape, created by the way the natural and human influences interact and are perceived and experienced to create character in the landscape.*
Compensation	the measures taken to offset or compensate for adverse effects that cannot be mitigated, or for which mitigation cannot entirely eliminate adverse effects.
Combined visibility and effects	the observer is able to see two or more developments from one viewpoint. This divided into '*in combination*'- several wind turbine developments are within the observer's arc of vision at the same time OR '*in succession*', where the observer has to turn to see various wind turbine developments.
Complexity	(in the context of describing a skyline) how varied or complicated the skyline is from dead flat with even vegetation at one end of the scale to mountainous with varied vegetation at the other.
Conservation	the protection and careful management of natural and built resources and the environment.
Consistent	relatively unchanging element or pattern across a given area of landscape.
Cumulative Impacts	the changes caused by a proposed development in *addition* to other similar developments or as the *combined* effect of a set of developments, taken together. This may be an on-going process as new applications are made. The assessment of these impacts (a CLVIA) is normally carried out as part of an environmental impact assessment.
Cumulative landscape effects	cumulative effects as defined above on landscape can impact on either the physical fabric, or character of the landscape.

Term	*Definition*
Cumulative visual effects	cumulative effects as defined above on people who have differing sensitivity depending on what they are doing and where they are located.
Description	capturing the overall essence of the character of the landscape with reference to geology, landform, landscape pattern, vegetation, settlement, historical and cultural associations etc, drawing out the ways in which these factors interact together and are perceived and experienced and are associated with events and people.
Distinctiveness	see sense of place
Diversity	(in terms of the function of an area) the variety of different functions of an area.
Dominant	main defining feature or pattern.
Effects, direct	where development lies within a landscape and physically removes or affects an element or feature e.g. rocks, cliff, coastal vegetation, watercourses, drainage
Effects, indirect	non-physical effects such as perceived change of character or from associated development such as transport infrastructure
Elements	individual component parts of the landscape such as hedges, walls, trees, fields.
Environmental Impact Assessment	the process used for describing, analysing and evaluating the range of environmental effects that are caused by a wind energy proposal.
Environmental Statement	the document supporting a planning application that sets out the findings of the environmental impact assessment
Features	particularly prominent or eye-catching elements such as churches, castles, rock outcrops.
Field Boundary	the defined edge of a field eg fence, hedge, bank, ditch or wall.
Field Size	Large 2 Ha Above, Medium Around 1.5 Ha, Small Less Than 1 Ha.
Geology	the study of the origin, structure, composition and history of the Earth together with the processes that have led to its present state.
Impact	used as part of overall term, as in EIA or LVIA, to help describe the process of assessing potentially significant effects. See effects.
Improved (in relation to soils or pasture)	addition of fertiliser and, in the case of pasture, reseeding with more productive grass species.
Inherent	dictionary definition- 'existing as an inseparable part'. In the context of sensitivity means the sensitivity of the landscape zone itself with all its component elements and features rather than its relationship with adjacent zones.
Integrity	unspoilt by large-scale, visually intrusive or other inharmonious development
Key characteristics	those combination of elements which are particularly important to the current character of the landscape and help give an area its distinct sense of place.
Landcover	combinations of natural and man-made elements including vegetation that cover the land surface.
Landform	combinations of slope and elevation which combine to give shape and form to the land.
Perception	perception combines the sensory (that which we receive through our senses) with the cognitive (knowledge and understanding gained from

Term	*Definition*
	many sources and experiences).
Landscape	an area of land, as perceived by people, whose character results from the actions and interactions of land with natural and/or human factors.
Landscape/Visual Capacity	how much development a particular area is able to accommodate without significant effect on the wider character of the area.
Landscape Capacity Assessment/study	The process of evaluating the landscape capacity of an area for a specific type and scale of development. This is normally carried out as a strategic baseline study for a local authority area.
Landscape character	landscape character is a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.
Landscape character assessment (LCA)	LCA is the process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make seascape distinctive. *
Landscape character areas	these are single unique areas which are discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape character. Each has its own individual character and identity.
Landscape character types	these are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different locations but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography and landcover characteristics.
Landscape guidelines	actions required to ensure that distinctive landscape character is maintained, enhanced or if appropriate, changed through the creation of new character.
Landscape quality	the physical state of the landscape. It includes the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, sometimes referred to as strength of character, the intactness of the landscape from visual, functional and ecological perspectives and the condition or state of repair of individual elements of the landscape.
Landscape Resource	the overall stock of the landscape and its component parts. (the landscape considered as a measurable finite resource like any other e.g. minerals, land, water).
Landscape and visual sensitivity	the term applied to landscape character and the associated visual resource, combining judgements of their susceptibility to a specific development type and considered together with the (intrinsic) value related to the landscape and visual resource. Landscape sensitivity may be regarded as a measure of the resilience, or robustness, of a landscape to withstand specified change arising from development without undue negative effect on the landscape and visual baseline and associated value.
Landscape sensitivity assessment/study	the process of describing, analysing and evaluating the landscape sensitivity of an area. This is normally carried out as a strategic baseline study for a local authority area.
Landscape/visual susceptibility	the degree to which a defined landscape and its associated visual qualities, attributes and receptors might respond to a specific development type without undue negative consequences on landscape character and visual resource.
Landscape value	the relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society. Landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a whole variety

Term	*Definition*
	of reasons. These include the factors set out in Appendix A.
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)	is an established methodology which is used to assess the impact of the development or other use change on seascape, landscape and visual amenity. It includes analysis of the effects during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the development, including any restoration or after uses.
Magnitude of effect	degree of change
Mitigation	measures including any process, activity or design to avoid, reduce or remedy adverse effects of a development proposal. It does not include compensation.
Mixed Farmland	a combination of arable and pastoral farmland
Mosaic	mix of different landcovers at a fine grain such as woodland, pasture and heath.
Objective	method of assessment in which personal feelings and opinions do not influence characterisation or judgements.
Perceived effects	The perceptions of the impact on the landscape by people who *know* of other developments even when they cannot *see* them.
Physiography	expression of the shape and structure of the land surface as influenced both by the nature of the underlying geology and the effect of geomorphological processes.
Polygon	discrete digitised area in a geographic information system (GIS).
Prominent	noticeable feature or pattern in the landscape.
Protect	to keep from harm.
Qualities	aesthetic (objective visible patterns) or perceptual (subjective responses by the landscape assessor) attributes of the landscape such as those relating to scale or tranquillity respectively.
Receptor, visual	people in different situations who can experience views within an area and who may be affected by change or development. Receptors can include users of public rights of way, open access land, people in and around their own homes and tourists.
Receptor, landscape	landscape character areas, parcels, designations, elements or features which may be affected by development.
Remoteness	physical isolation, removal from the presence of people, infrastructure (roads and railways, ferry and shipping routes) and settlement and noise.
Resource	see landscape resource.
Sensory	that which is received through the senses i.e. sight, hearing, smell, touch.
Scenic quality	landscape with scenes of a picturesque quality with aesthetically pleasing elements in composition (*derived from LANDMAP visual and sensory aspect*).
Semi-natural vegetation	theoretically any type of vegetation that has been influenced by human activities, either directly or indirectly. The term is usually applied to uncultivated areas managed at a low intensity such as heathland, herb and fern, rough grassland, wetland/mire, scrub and woodland.
Sense of Place	the character of a place that makes it locally identifiable or distinctive i.e. different from other places. Some features or elements can evoke

Term	*Definition*
	a strong sense of place eg islands, forts, vernacular architecture
Sequential cumulative visual effects	where the observer has to move to a series of viewpoints to see different developments. This can be *frequently sequential* where features appear with short time lapses in between to *occasionally sequential* where there are long time lapses between locations where wind turbines are visible.
Setting, of a heritage asset	the surroundings in which the asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or a negative contribution to an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.
Significance/ significant effect	in environmental impact assessment- the importance of an effect. A significant effect needs to be taken into account in decision-making.
Subjective	method of assessment in which personal views and reaction are used in the characterisation process.
Topography	term used to describe the shape of geological features of the Earth's surface e.g. mountains, hills, valleys, plains.
Unity	consistency of pattern over a wide area i.e. the repetition of similar elements, balance and proportion, scale and enclosure.
Value	see landscape value
Viewing distance	The distance between the eye and an image/visualisation of a development.
Visibility in succession	Where the observer at a static viewpoint has to turn to see various wind turbine developments.
Visual Effects	the likely visual effects undergone by people that would result from a development proposal or change in land management.
ZTV	ZTV or ZVI (Zone of Visual Influence) analysis is the process of determining the visibility of an object in the surrounding landscape. The process is objective in which areas of visibility or non-visibility are determined by computer software using a digital elevation dataset. The output from the analysis is used to create a map of visibility.

* An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England, (2014).

Abbreviations used in the text

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CLVIA	Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
CPRE	Council for the Protection of Rural England
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
GLVIA	Guidelines for landscape and visual impact assessment
GIS	Geographic information system
Km	Kilometres
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LCA	Landscape character assessment *or* landscape character area
LCP	Land Cover Parcel
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LDU	Land Description Unit
LP	Land parcel
LVIA	Landscape and visual impact assessment
m	Metres
NE	Natural England
sqm	Square metres
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SM	Scheduled Monument
SMR	Scheduled Monument Record
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPG	Supplementary planning guidance
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
VLA	Valued Landscape Area