



**Bromsgrove District**

# **Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Assessment**

**Final Report**

for

**Bromsgrove District Council**

**February 2022**





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Tel: 029 2236 2416  
Email: [sw@whiteconsultants.co.uk](mailto:sw@whiteconsultants.co.uk)  
Web: [www.whiteconsultants.co.uk](http://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

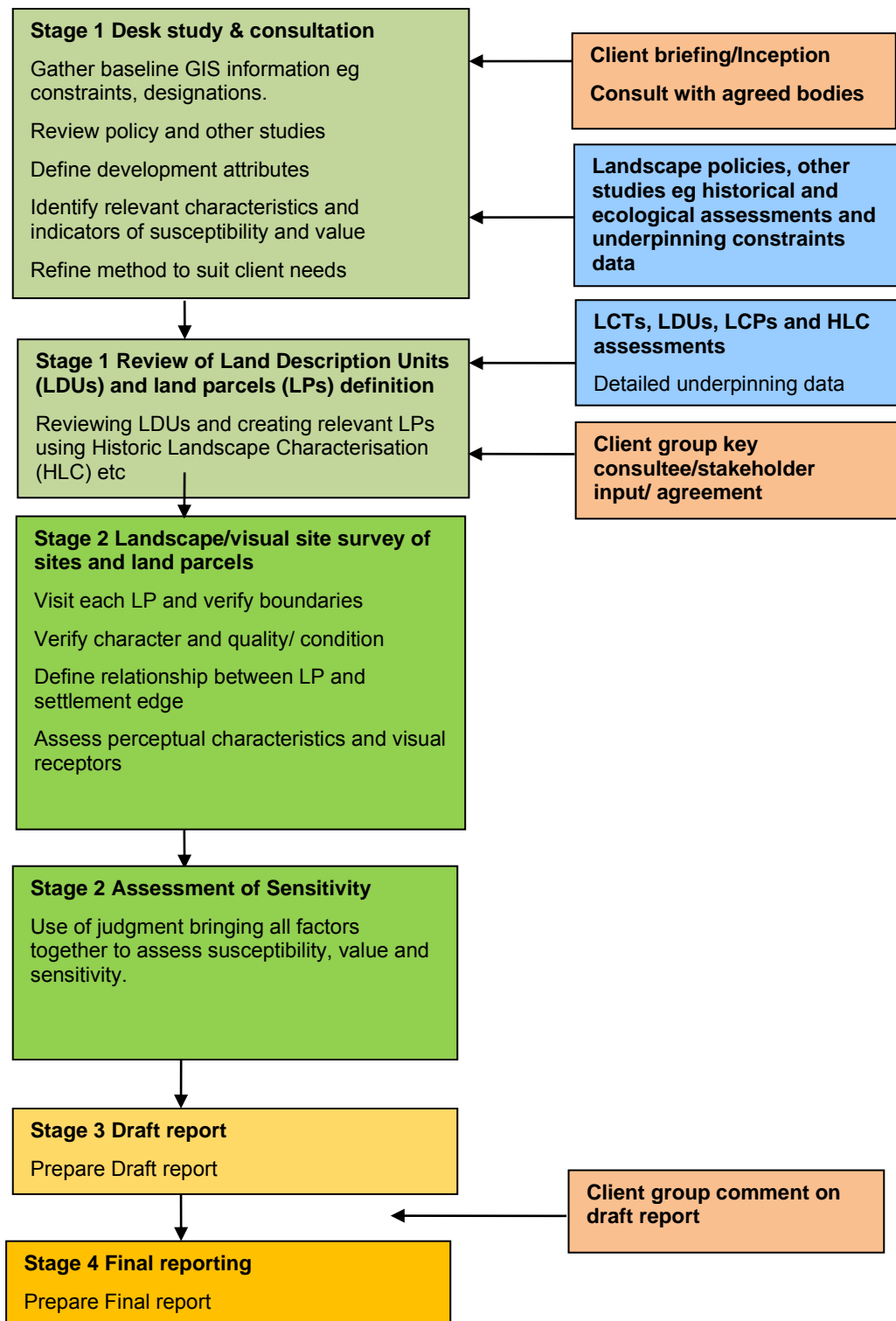
## 1. Introduction

- 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](#)<sup>1</sup>.

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 <i>may</i> have some potential to accommodate the relevant type of development in some <i>defined</i> 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 to accommodate the relevant type of development but only in limited situations without significant character change or adverse effects <i>if</i> 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

<sup>1</sup> 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   | BI01               | Medium                 | High                          |
|             | BI02               | High/medium            | High                          |
|             | BI03               | 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                          |

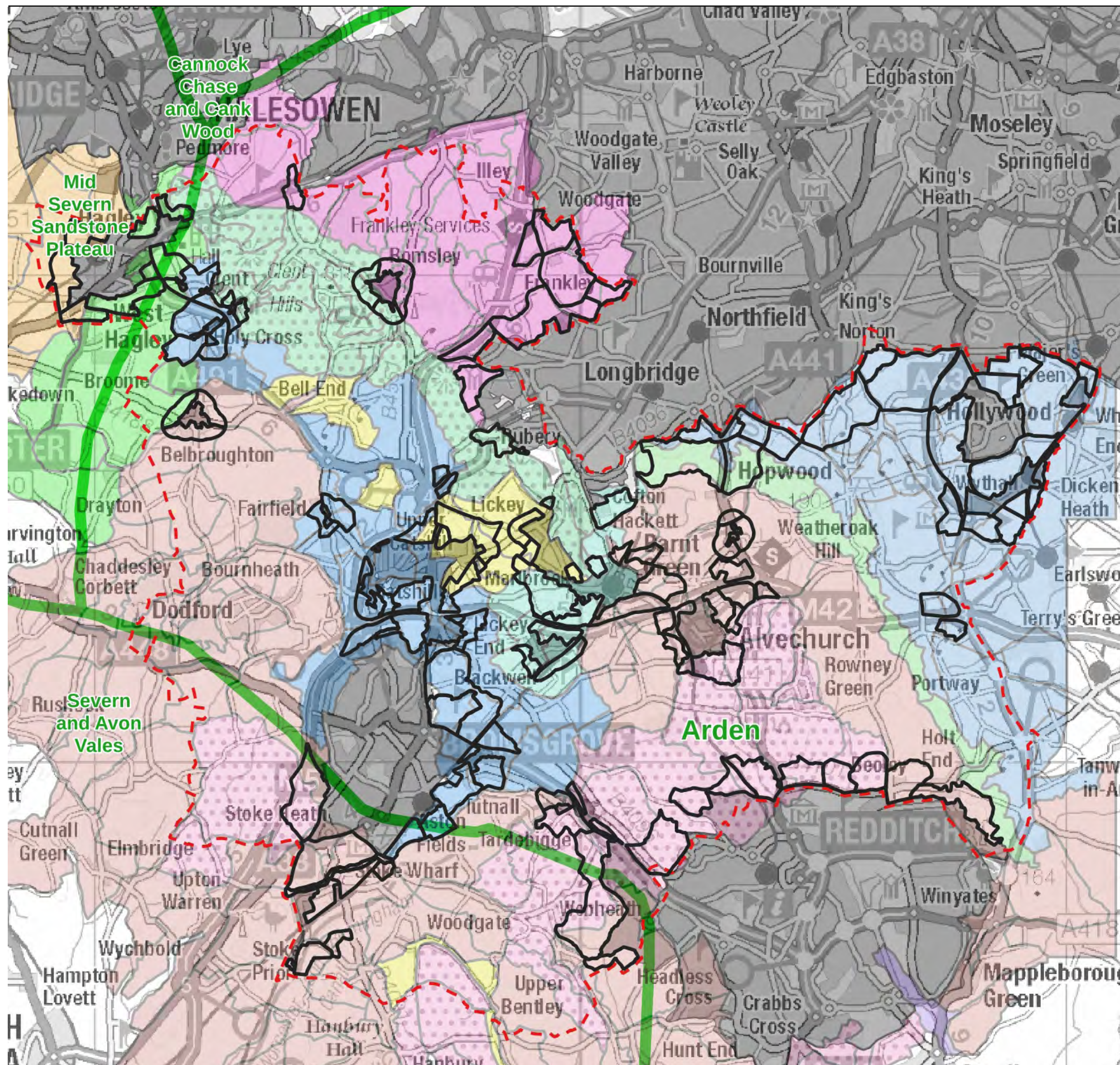
| Settlement     | Land Parcel Number | Sensitivity to Housing | Sensitivity to Employment use |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                | Ha05               | Medium                 | High                          |
|                | 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

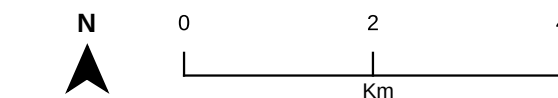
Settled Farmlands with Pastoral Land Use

Timbered Pastures

Timbered Plateau Farmlands

Wooded Estatelands

Wooded Hills and Farmlands



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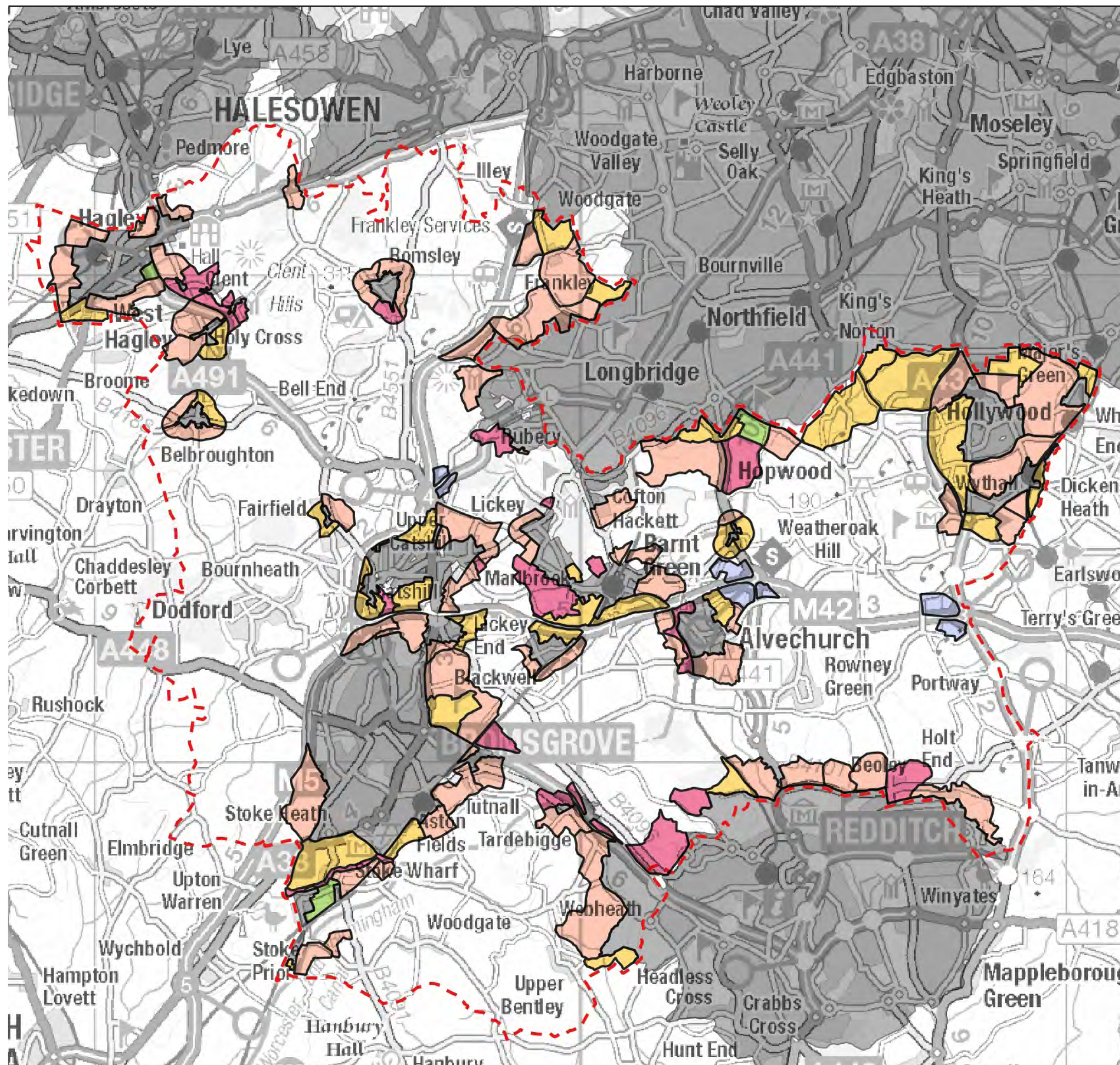
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Project: Bromsgrove District Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study  
Client: Bromsgrove District Council



**Figure 1**  
**Overview landscape character and land parcels**





# KEY

District boundary

Settlement development limits

Land parcel sensitivity to housing development

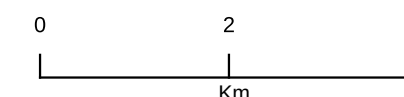
High

High/medium

Medium

Medium/low

N/A



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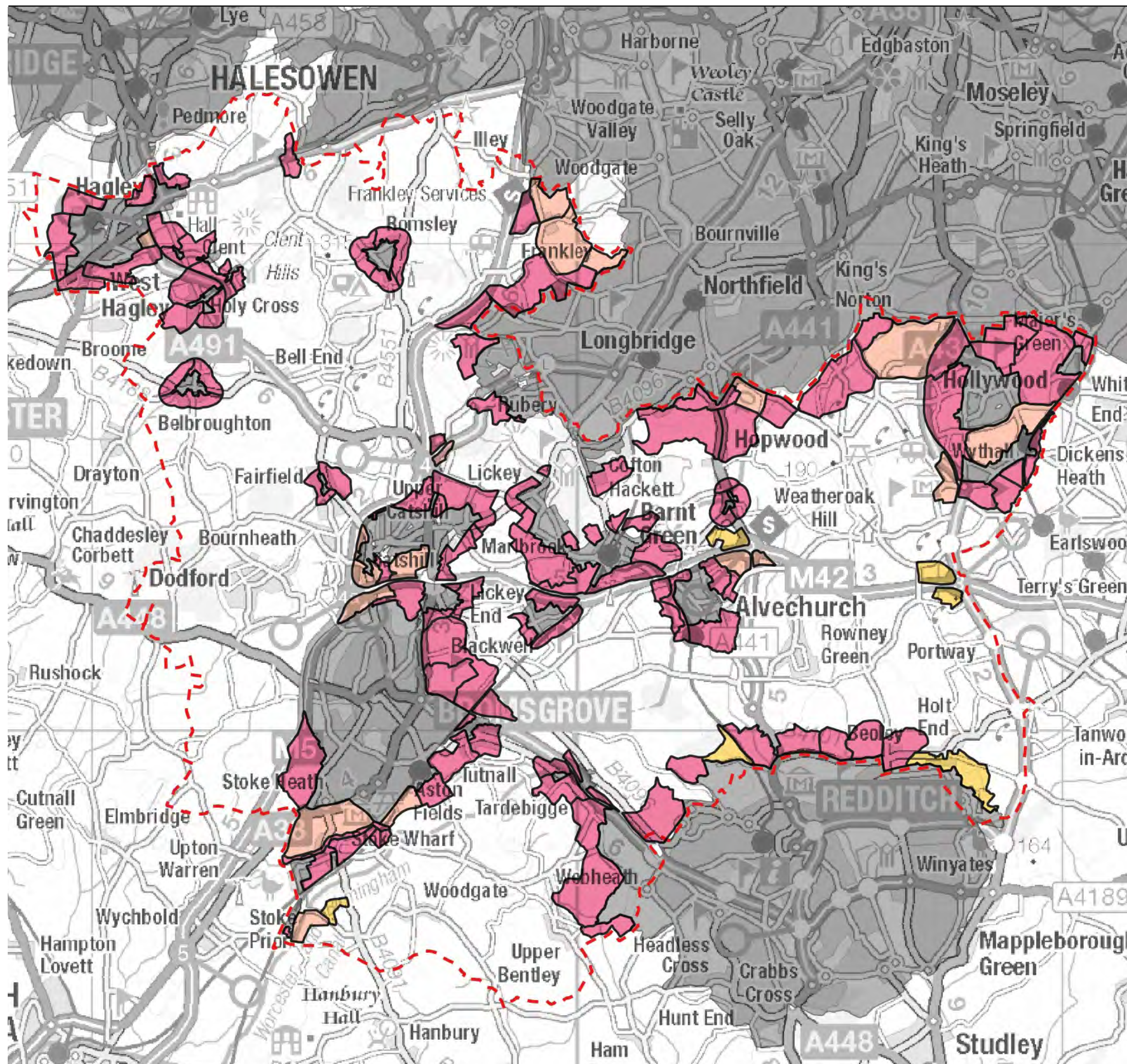
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Client: Bromsgrove District Council



**Figure 2**  
**Landscape sensitivity to housing summary**





# KEY

  District boundary

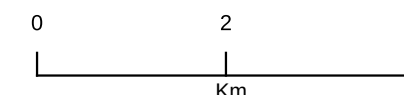
Settlement development limits

Land parcel sensitivity to employment development

High

High/medium

Medium



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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.<br><br>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  |
| <b>Natural factors</b>           |                                 |  |  |
| 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.  |
| <b>Cultural factors</b>          |                                 |  |  |
|                                  | 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.   |
| <b>Land use factors</b>          |                                 |  |  |
|                                  | 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.   |
| <b>Perceptual factors</b>        |                                 |  |  |
|                                  | 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.   |
| <b>VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS</b> |   |  |  |
| 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 <b>viewpoint. This divided into ‘in combination’</b> - several wind turbine developments are within the observer’s arc of vision at the same time OR <b>‘in succession’</b> , 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 <i>addition</i> to other similar developments or as the <i>combined</i> 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.  |

| <i>Term</i>                                | <i>Definition</i>  |
|--|--|
| 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- <b>‘existing as an inseparable part’</b> . 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        | <b>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.</b>  |
| Landscape value                        | <b>the relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society. Landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a whole variety</b>   |



| Term  | Definition  |
|---|---|
|   | <b>of reasons. These</b> 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 <i>know</i> 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 ( <i>derived from LANDMAP visual and sensory aspect</i> ).   |
| 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 <i>frequently sequential</i> where features appear with short time lapses in between to <i>occasionally sequential</i> 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 <i>or</i> 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   |