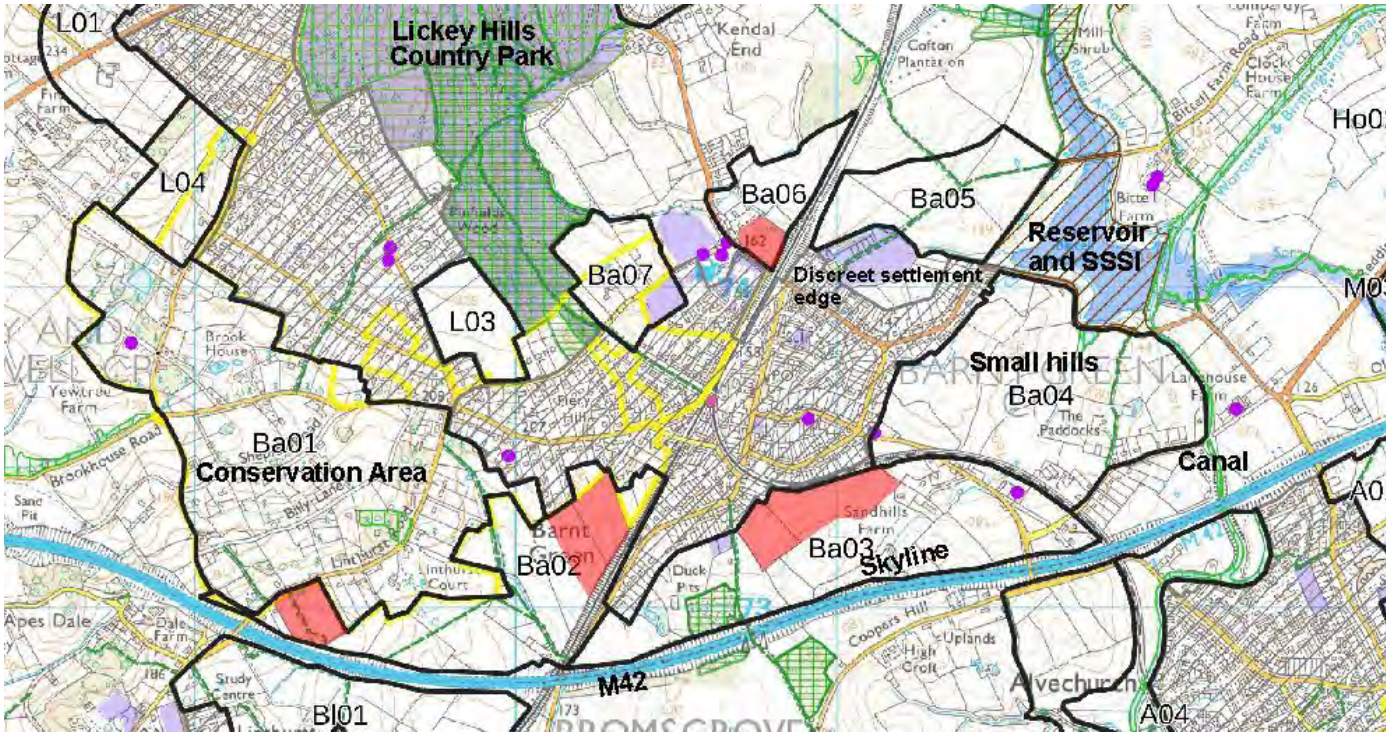
Settlement Sensitivity Summary: Barnt Green

Summary

Barnt Green lies at the southern end of the Lickey Hills with its associated country park to the north of the settlement and its slopes and woodland defining the edge. To the south west and south east there are a series of small scale hills and valleys creating an intimate landscape. Lower Bittell Reservoir is a low lying water body alongside the River Arrow and Worcester and Birmingham Canal to the east, and is designated as an SSSI. To the south, the land rises towards the M42, forming a buffer between the settlement and the road which is on an embankment and in a cutting. To the north, the estate farmlands rise gently towards Cofton Hall. A Conservation Area covers a significant portion of the settlement centrally and to the west and runs into the landscape to the north and the distinctive settled wooded landscape to the west, on the southern slopes of the Lickey Hills.

Sensitivity to housing is considered high to the south west and north, associated with the Conservation Area and environs. Sensitivity is considered high/medium to the east and north east. Sensitivity is considered to be medium to the south and there may be opportunities on the lower slopes adjacent to the settlement in Ba03 and at a very low density to reflect adjoining housing plots in the western part of Ba02.

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



Key

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

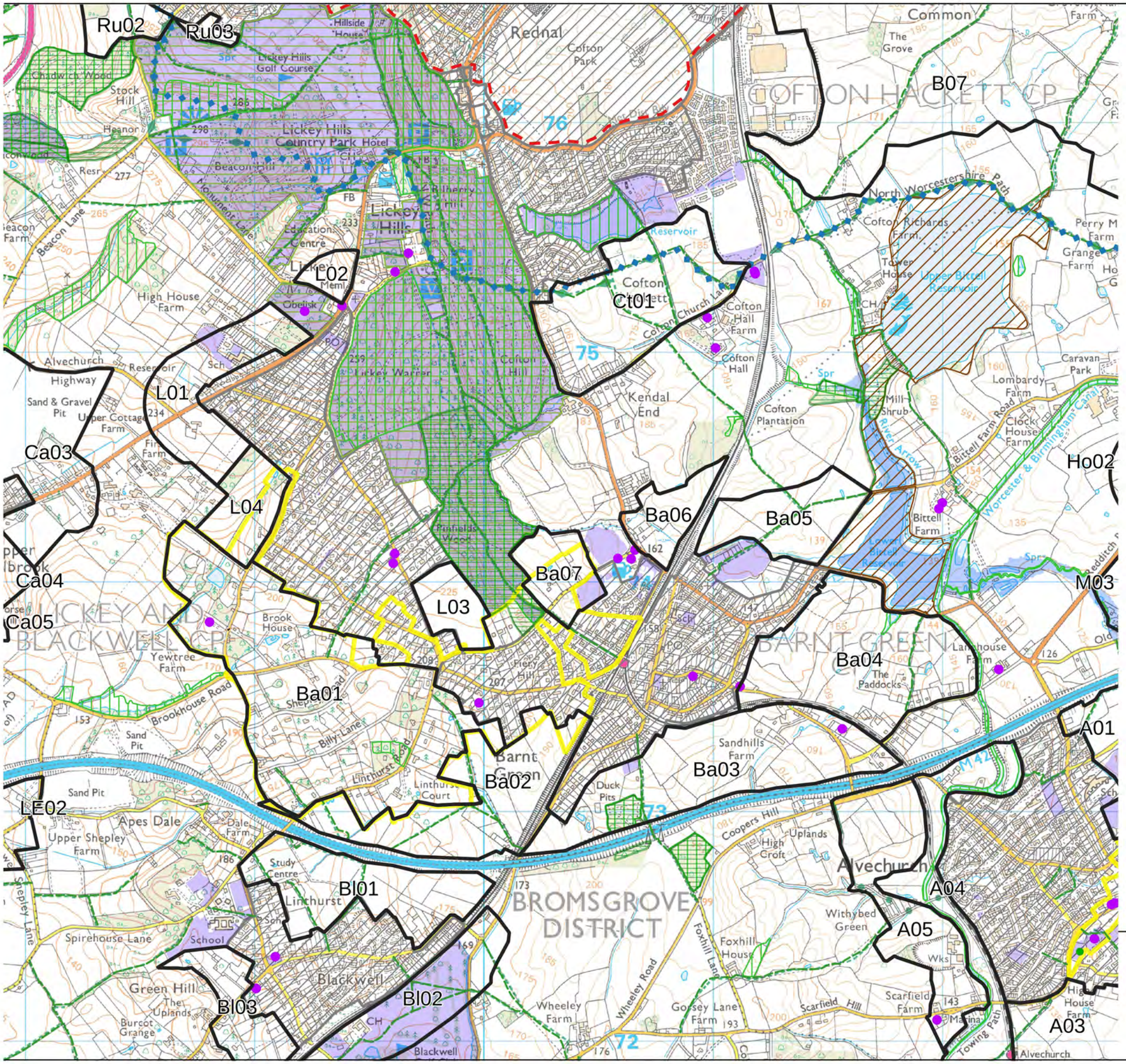
Opportunity for Housing

Enclosed paddock contributing to character of Conservation Area (Ba01).

Skyline to the south of settlement and distinctive oak copse (Ba03).

Small-scale hilly and intimate landscape southeast of settlement (Ba04).

Edge of settlement is screened by trees to the east (Ba05).



KEY

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

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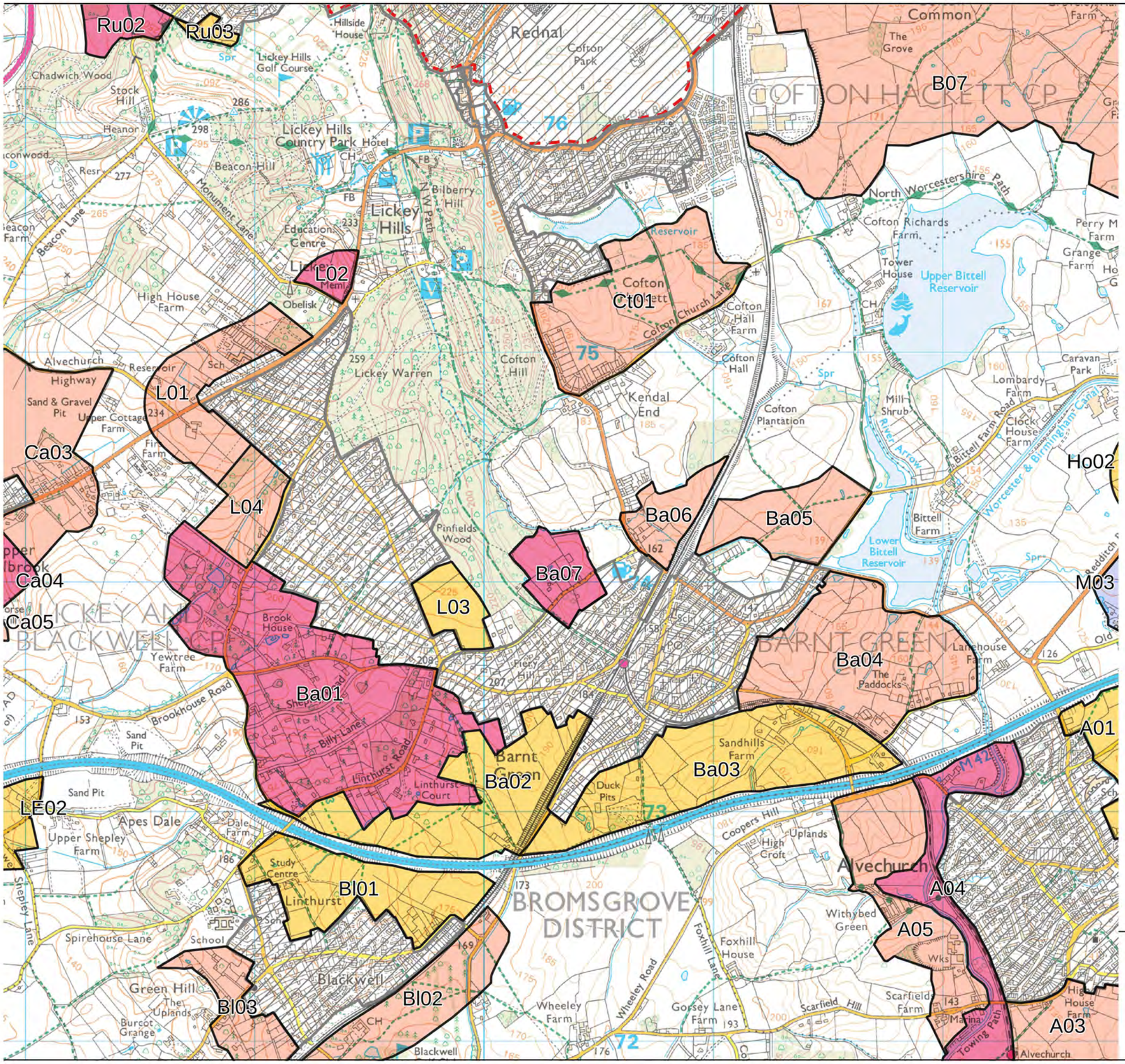
Project: Bromsgrove District Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study
Client: Bromsgrove District Council

Barnt Green and Lickey
Land parcels, Constraints and Designations



KEY

- District Boundary
- Settlement development limits

Sensitivity to housing development

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

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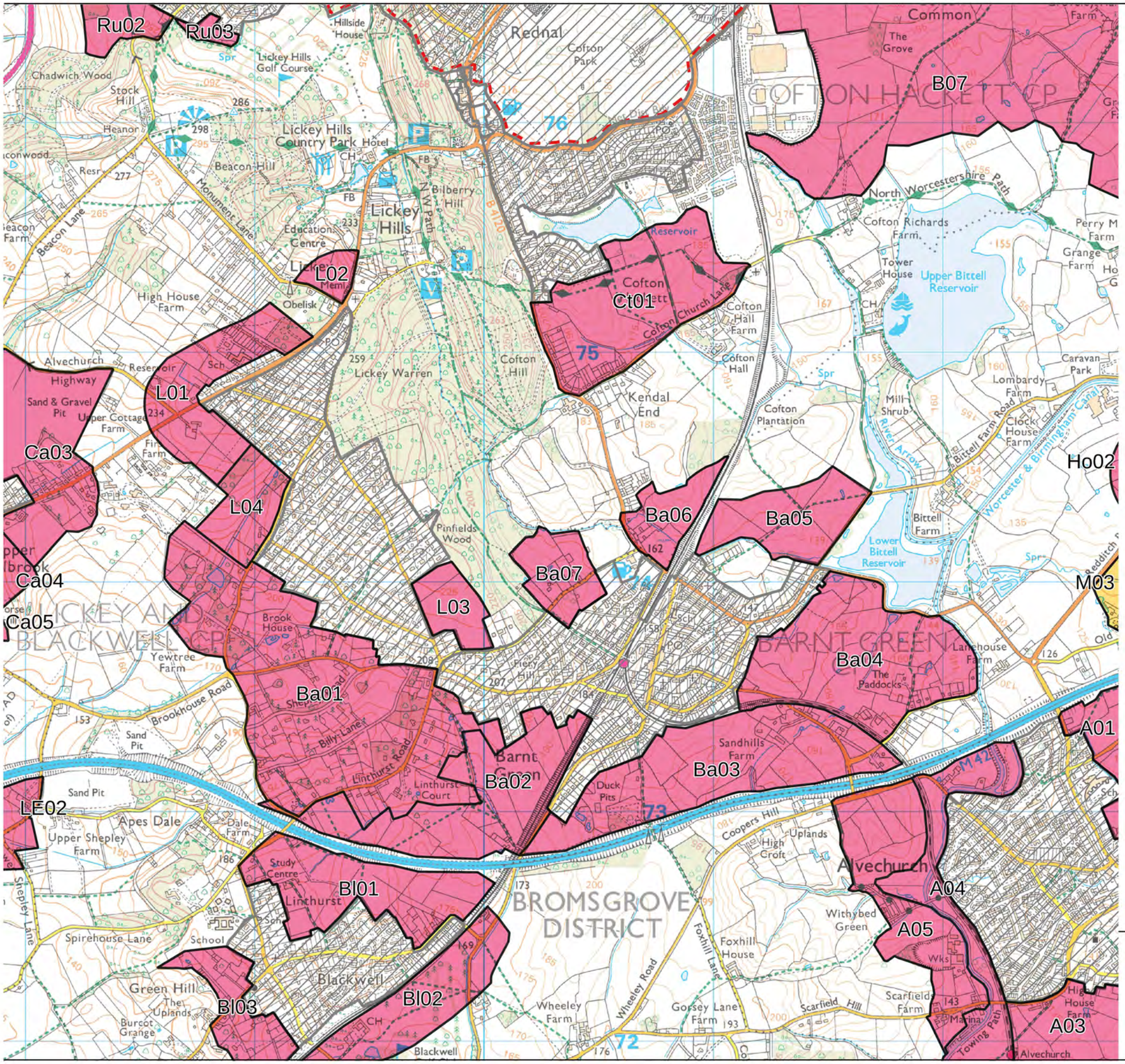
Project: Bromsgrove District Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study
Client: Bromsgrove District Council

Barnt Green and Lickey Settlements: Sensitivity to Housing



KEY

- District Boundary
- Settlement development limits

Sensitivity to employment use

- High
- Medium

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

Barnt Green and Lickey
Landscape sensitivity to employment use

Land Cover Parcel No.	Ba01

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The value lies in the Barnt Green Conservation Area, the listed building, the PROWs linking the lanes, the distinctive pattern of very large plots with architect-designed houses and the extensive tree and hedgerow cover. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the relationship between the enclosed pastures and the housing plots which give vistas and space and a semi-rural character, and the mature tree cover which encloses the area and largely screens housing. The visual susceptibility to housing is from users of PROWs. There may be potential for a very small number of houses in limited locations built to a very high architect-designed standard within large plots of at least an acre in line with the character of existing villas but these should avoid the pastures especially along Brookhouse Road. The landscape susceptibility to employment use is greater than above as it would be totally out of character with the area and the scale of potential plots. Visual susceptibility would also be higher meaning that it would be inappropriate within the parcel.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Settled Farmlands with Pastoral
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	Medium

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	H/M	Barnt Green Conservation Area
Natural heritage	H/M	Linthurst Wood Local Wildlife site lies centrally. The area is a matrix of large dwellings in large, mainly mature gardens interspersed with pasture, some for horses, and rough grassland enclosed by strong trimmed treed hedgerows and mixed woodland blocks and copses.
Cultural heritage	H	Barnt Green Conservation Area covers the entire area. The area is characterised by large individual architect-designed houses in plots at least 1 acre in size which were first sold by the Plymouth Estate in the 1890s after the establishment of the railway and station nearby. There is one listed building is Dale Cross Grange with the Red House (a remodelled farmhouse to the east.
Distinctiveness	H/M	The combination of large mature plots, woodland and enclosed pastures give the area a highly distinctive character.
Perceptual	H/M	
Scenic factors		The tree cover and vistas opened up into the pastures such as along Brookhouse Road are attractive.
Tranquillity		There is some noise from the M42 in the south and the movement of cars and people through the very low density housing area. Houses are apparent from all roads.
Recreational and functional	M	
Recreational		The area is predominantly privately owned with only two PROWs linking the network of lanes.
Functional		The tree and hedgecover along with the low intensity pasture and mature gardens

		act as strong linking green infrastructure.
Condition	H/M	The condition is generally good
Associations	M	Associations with the Plymouth Estate.
Summary evaluation of overall value		**H/M**

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Undulating topography
Presence of water		Occasional ponds
Cultural factors	H/M	
Historic field/land use pattern		The area is a matrix of large dwellings in large, mainly mature gardens carved out of semi-regular and geometric pasture enclosed by strong trimmed treed hedgerows and mixed woodland blocks and copses.
Settlement pattern		Very low density architect designed villas in large plots.
Land use factors	H/M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		The tree and hedgecover along with the low intensity pasture and mature gardens act as strong linking green infrastructure.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		Only two PROWs linking the network of lanes.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		Limited connection other than small lanes.
Perceptual factors	M	
Scale		Small
Enclosure		Highly enclosed
Skyline		-
Landmarks/features		Some well designed villas in places framed by trees.
Detractors		M5 to the south (but not visible) and some poor quality suburban fencing along housing boundaries.
Settlement edge character		Large houses in mature gardens hidden by trees for the most part.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		The settlement edge is harder than the character of the housing in the area but is still softened by trees and garden vegetation.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility		**H/M**

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors

Intervisibility	M/L	Very low intervisibility due to tree cover.
Key views	M	A few pleasant views into pastures from roads.
Key receptors		
Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	Numerous houses could be considered semi-rural.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	
Promoted trails		-
Public rights of way	H/M	Two PROWs
Access/common land		-
Cycleways		-
Roads	M	Small linking lanes
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility		**M**

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

There may be potential for a very limited number of houses in limited locations built to a very high architect-designed standard within large plots of at least an acre in line with the character of existing villas but these should avoid the pastures especially along Brookhouse Road.

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

Retain and enhance existing boundary vegetation, hedges and trees avoiding hard suburban boundary treatment.

Land Cover Parcel No.	Ba02

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	Medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value of the area lies in Barnt Green Conservation Area to the north, semi-regular hedged field pattern with avenue trees radiating from Linthurst Court, the various patches of trees and scrub and two PROWs. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the field pattern and the very well treed nature of the settlement edge which makes it discreet. The visual susceptibility to housing is in the openness of the area to the east and views from the PROWs. The only potential for housing is in the rough grass and scrub field to the west but at a very low-density to reflect the houses on either side and to the north east where a similar density to the houses to the north may be appropriate provided a substantial tree belt was implemented to the south west to screen it from wider view.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Settled Farmlands with Pastoral
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	Medium

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations		-
Natural heritage	M	Copses, trimmed hedges and trees in semi-regular field pattern of improved pasture and rough grassland/scrub in patches.
Cultural heritage	H/M	Barnt Green Conservation Area to the north. Semi-regular field pattern with avenue trees radiating from Linthurst Court.
Distinctiveness	M	Sense of place relates mainly to adjacent large villas and treed edge.
Perceptual	M	
Scenic factors		Pleasant undulating and enclosed fields to the west with views towards higher ground.
Tranquillity		Noise from M42 and related movement in paces. Some houses adjacent are visible through trees but this is limited. PROWs run through the area with associated users.
Recreational and functional	M	
Recreational		Several PROWs run through the area linking into the settlement.
Functional		Hedgerows and tree copses provide some potential GI linkage.
Condition	M/L	Hedgerows are in relatively poor condition.
Associations		-
Summary evaluation of overall value		**M**

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Undulating to the west and gently sloping to the east.

Presence of water		-
Cultural factors	M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Semi-regular field pattern of improved pasture to the west and more regular fields to the east with the avenue trees framing a vista from Linthurst Court.
Settlement pattern		Semi-rural smallholding to the south east.
Land use factors	M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		GI corridors potentially along hedgerows with copses and rough grassland/scrub patches.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		Several PROWs run through the area linking into the settlement.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		PROWs link the area with the settlement in two places potentially giving a circular walk.
Perceptual factors	M	
Scale		Medium
Enclosure		Enclosed to the west and moderately open to the east.
Skyline		-
Landmarks/features		Potential vista to Linthurst Court.
Detractors		M42 and railway line adjacent.
Settlement edge character		Large houses in mature gardens hidden by trees for the most part.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		The settlement edge is softened by trees and garden vegetation.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility		**M**

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors		
Intervisibility	M	The area is open to view from the east and partly from the M42 and parts of the settlement edge but is otherwise enclosed.
Key views	M	Linthurst Court is a private house but a local landmark available as a limited framed view.
Key receptors		
Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	Settlement edge houses to the west could be considered semi-rural.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	Settlement edge houses to the north are more suburban.
Promoted trails		-
Public rights of way	H/M	Two PROWs.
Access/common land		-

Cycleways		-
Roads	M	Some very limited views from M42 but it is substantially in cutting and also from Blackwell Road to the east but glimpsed only.
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility		**M**

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

Housing would only be appropriate to the far west in the rough grass paddock and to the north east in the two fields directly between two parts of Barnt Green. Any housing would need to reflect the densities and character of housing in the settlement to the north if considered. This means that housing would fall well below the densities put forward in the method.

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

Existing tree belts in the north east area should be retained and linked with further substantial tree/scrub planting to achieve a soft edge to the development in character with the existing pattern.

Land Cover Parcel No.	Ba03

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	Medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in Cock's Croft Wood Ancient woodland and Local Wildlife site, various copses and treed hedgerows, some overgrown, with unimproved pastures in places, its understated scenic quality as an attractive rural backcloth to the settlement to the south, the PROW and allotments. Its landscape susceptibility to housing lies in its undulating slopes, its small-medium scale semi-regular field pattern with mature hedges and trees and its woodland and copses, its skyline to the south and its role contributing to the separation of Barnt Green and Alvechurch. Its visual susceptibility to housing lies in its intervisibility with the settlement and the presence of the PROW. The area has some potential for housing especially on the more open areas and at lower level avoiding the skyline and appearing to close the gap between Barnt Green and Alvechurch. It wold be important to retain and enhance the woodland and hedgerow pattern and trees. The susceptibility to employment use would be the same as above but in addition the slopes and the hedgerow pattern would not be able to accommodate employment, and residential properties may be adversely affected to the east and west. Employment use would therefore not be appropriate.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

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

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations		-
Natural heritage	H/M	Cock's Croft Wood Ancient woodland and Local Wildlife site, various copses and treed hedgerows, some overgrown, with unimproved pastures in places.
Cultural heritage	M	Mix of regular and semi-regular field pattern with some small scale enclosures and Ancient woodland.
Distinctiveness	M	Moderately distinctive undulating pastoral slopes with strong tree cover including oaks in places, especially centrally.
Perceptual	M	
Scenic factors		Attractive pastoral/rural backcloth to the settlement.
Tranquillity		M42 is in cutting to the south and not visible but is audible. Settlement is visible to the north at a lower level. PROW allows access and the Scout and Guide Centre is located centrally.
Recreational and functional	M	
Recreational		PROW linking the settlement with the wider countryside.
Functional		Hewell Road allotments. Woodland, hedgerows and tree copses provide some potential GI linkage.
Condition	H/M	Variable condition- good in the central area and far east with lower quality west of Sandhills Farm and to the west.
Associations		-

Summary evaluation of overall value		**M**

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Distinct undulating slopes rising from the settlement.
Presence of water		Minor watercourse to the east and ponds to the west.
Cultural factors	M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Mix of small scale to medium scale regular and semi-regular field pattern and Ancient woodland.
Settlement pattern		Farmstead and limited rural dwellings to the east.
Land use factors	H/M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		Hewell Road allotments. Woodland, hedgerows and tree copses provide some potential GI linkage.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		PROW linking the settlement with the wider countryside.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		PROW linking into the settlement. Ancient woodland patch corresponds to ancient woodland south of the M42. The area has a role contributing to the separation of Barnt Green and Alvechurch.
Perceptual factors	H/M	
Scale		Medium to small to the west
Enclosure		Moderately enclosed to the east and west
Skyline		Skyline on the southern edge.
Landmarks/features		-
Detractors		-
Settlement edge character		The settlement is discreet at a low level and linear but in mature gardens to the west and behind the railway line centrally.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		The area acts as a positive rural backcloth to the settlement.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility		**H/M**

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors		
Intervisibility	M	Intervisible with the settlement
Key views	M/L	-
Key receptors		
Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	To the west.

Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	From the north.
Promoted trails		-
Public rights of way	H/M	One PROW.
Access/common land		-
Cycleways		-
Roads	M	Minor lane to the west and M42 in cutting to the south.
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility		**M**

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

There is some potential in the area although the slopes and established field patterns and associated trees should be incorporated into any layout. The development should be kept at a lower level preferably and should not breach the skyline to the south. The feeling of separation between Barnt Green and Alvechurch should not be eroded.

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

Planting along the southern boundary could reinforce integration of any scheme and retain a green corridor to the south.

Land Cover Parcel No.	Ba04

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High/medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value of this land parcel lies in its distinctive and attractive historic, enclosed, unified, pastoral character, with patches of wet, species rich permanent pasture, often associated with small field ponds in damp hollows, along with the well defined irregular pattern of small irregular fields, frequently defined by older mixed species hedgerows and many scattered hedgerow trees, many of which are mature oaks, the watercourses and related Local Wildlife site pond near Lower Bittell Reservoir, the adjacent Worcester and Birmingham Canal and PROW running over higher ground. Landscape susceptibility to housing is reflected in the small scale topography of hill and valley, the small scale irregular fields and associated hedges, permanent pasture, ponds and damp hollows and the visual separation of much of the area from the very discreet settlement edge. Visual susceptibility to housing lies in views from the PROW, the adjacent roads, from the canal in winter potentially and some adjacent residents. The parcel is sensitive to housing.with its distinct sense of place. Sensitivity to employment is greater due to the small size of fields and scale of topography, dense landcover and adjacent residential uses.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

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

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations		-
Natural heritage	H/M	Minor stream with wetland vegetation in centre of parcel, part of which is a Local Wildlife site with Lower Bittell Reservoir SSSI across the road to the north. Worcester and Birmingham Canal Local Wildlife site to east. Patches of wet, species rich permanent pasture, often associated with small field ponds in damp hollows, along with the well defined irregular pattern of small fields, frequently defined by older mixed species hedgerows and many scattered hedgerow trees, many of which are mature oaks.
Cultural heritage	H/M	Unified small scale irregular field pattern derived from piecemeal enclosure throughout the area. Worcester and Birmingham Canal to east.
Distinctiveness	H/M	Distinctive, unified small scale hill and valley pastoral landscape with canal to east.
Perceptual	H/M	
Scenic factors		Attractive framed pastoral views and vistas in small scale hilly topography and canal to east.
Tranquillity		B4120 to the north, minor roads and railway to south. Canal to the east. Built form well screened to west. One PROW.
Recreational and functional	M	
Recreational		One PROW within parcel and canal to east.
Functional		Minor stream with wetland vegetation, patches of wet, species rich permanent pasture, small field ponds, older mixed species hedgerows and many scattered hedgerow trees all contribute to GI linking into designated reservoir and canal

		adjacent.
Condition	M	Hedgerows generally poorly managed/overgrown
Associations		-
Summary evaluation of overall value		**H/M**

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Small scale undulating hills and valleys.
Presence of water		Two small watercourses and several ponds in parcel and canal directly adjacent.
Cultural factors	H/M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Unified pastoral landscape with a well defined pattern of small hedged fields.
Settlement pattern		Roadside dwellings along western and southern boundaries of parcel.
Land use factors	H/M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		Minor stream with wetland vegetation, patches of wet, species rich permanent pasture, small field ponds, older mixed species hedgerows and many scattered hedgerow trees all contribute to GI linking into designated reservoir and canal adjacent.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		One PROW within parcel and canal to east.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		Low functional relationship between this area and adjoining settlement of Barnt Green.
Perceptual factors	H/M	
Scale		Small scale landscape
Enclosure		Views restricted by landform, tall hedges and hedgerow trees.
Skyline		Wooded skylines dominant in this area.
Landmarks/features		Tree cover and small, steep sided hills.
Detractors		-
Settlement edge character		Much of existing urban edge integrated by trees.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		Limited visual relationship with settlement.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility		**H/M**

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

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

Key receptors

Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	Rural dwellings along minor road on southern edge of area.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	M	Urban dwellings along western edge of area.
Promoted trails		-
Public rights of way	H	From footpath running through centre of area.
Access/common land		-
Cycleways		-
Roads	M	
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility		**M**

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

Land Cover Parcel No.	Ba05

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High/medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in its unified, regular planned enclosure pattern of medium sized hedged fields with occasional oaks which form a pleasant rural landscape visually separated from Barnt Green by a strong belt of trees associated with a stream on the southern edge, two well used PROWs linking into the comprehensive open space and recreational facilities to the south west. Lower Bittell Reservoir SSSI lies to the south east across the lane. Landscape susceptibility to housing lies in its openness, its strong visual and physical separation from the settlement and its oak trees. Visual susceptibility to housing lies in its into visibility with rising land to the north west, views from the two PROWs and from the lane to the south east adjoining the reservoir. The parcel is sensitive to housing as a distinct rural landscape well separated and screened from the settlement. Sensitivity to employment uses is greater due to its highly rural character with no associated commercial uses in the vicinity.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

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

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations		-
Natural heritage	M	Trimmed hedges with occasional hedgerow and field trees, oaks, around improved grassland/pasture (or arable) fields. Lower Bittell Reservoir SSSI adjacent to south east across lane.
Cultural heritage	M	Unified, regular planned enclosure pattern of medium sized hedged fields.
Distinctiveness	H/M	Distinct coherent pattern of fields- estate farmland.
Perceptual	M	
Scenic factors		Pleasant views across area and to rising land to north.
Tranquillity		Quiet lane to south east, railway to north west. Settlement edge hidden by trees. Two PROWs.
Recreational and functional	M	
Recreational		Access via two PROWs passing through the parcel.
Functional		Trimmed hedges with occasional hedgerow and field trees contribute to GI.
Condition	M	Hedgerows continuous but leggy.
Associations		-
Summary evaluation of overall value		**M**

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Gently rolling landform rising to the north.

Presence of water		Minor stream along southern boundary and field pond.
Cultural factors	H/M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Planned pattern of medium sized hedged fields.
Settlement pattern		Well contained settlement edge on southern boundary of parcel.
Land use factors	M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		Trimmed hedges with occasional hedgerow and field trees contribute to GI with SSSI adjacent to south east.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		Two PROWs cross area and linked into open space on the edge of settlement.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		Moderate functional relationship along well used PROW from adjoining settlement.
Perceptual factors	H/M	
Scale		Medium scale landscape.
Enclosure		Relatively open landscape with views to distant wooded skylines.
Skyline		None.
Landmarks/features		-
Detractors		-
Settlement edge character		Settlement edge completely screened by trees associated with open space and sports facilities.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		Very limited visual relationship with settlement.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility		**H/M**

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors		
Intervisibility	H/M	Intervisibility with rising ground to the north west.
Key views	H/M	Views from PROW, particularly emerging from open space tree belt to the south.
Key receptors		
Residents- rural/semi-rural		-
Residents-urban/suburban edge	M	Very limited to possibly two dwellings in far southern corner.
Promoted trails		-
Public rights of way	H/M	From footpaths running through centre of area.
Access/common land		-
Cycleways		-

Roads	M	Views from road along eastern edge of area.
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility		**H/M**

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

Land Cover Parcel No.	Ba06

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High/medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in its unified estate character of low cut hedges and occasional oak trees with small streamline providing a pleasant gap view to the wider countryside from the B4120. Landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the openness of the rising land to the north and the role of the parcel as a green gap in the built B4120 frontage. Visual susceptibility to housing lies in views from the B4120 and adjacent dwellings. The parcel is sensitive to housing but if needed around Barnt Green it may be acceptable at low density in the southern field only. Sensitivity to employment use is significantly greater due to the close relationship with existing housing.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

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

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations		-
Natural heritage	M	Low cut hedges and occasional oak trees enclosing rough grassland and arable fields with small streamline.
Cultural heritage	M	Unified and well maintained planned pattern of medium sized hedged fields.
Distinctiveness	H/M	Part of distinct estate farmland pattern.
Perceptual	M	
Scenic factors		Pleasant views across area and to rising land to north east.
Tranquillity		Fairly busy B4120 to south west, railway to south east. Settlement edge to the south west. No public access.
Recreational and functional	M	
Recreational		No access to parcel
Functional		Low cut hedges, occasional oak trees, rough grassland and small streamline contribute to GI. Productive arable land.
Condition	M	Hedgerows in moderate condition.
Associations		-
Summary evaluation of overall value		**M**

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Rolling landform rising to the north.
Presence of water		Small watercourse on south west edge.
Cultural factors	H/M	

Historic field/land use pattern		Planned pattern of medium sized hedged fields.
Settlement pattern		Adjacent to settlement with ribbon development to the west and new development to the south west.
Land use factors	M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		Low cut hedges, occasional oak trees, rough grassland and small streamline contribute to GI. Productive arable land.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		No public access.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		Limited.
Perceptual factors	H/M	
Scale		Medium scale landscape
Enclosure		Relatively open landscape with views to skyline.
Skyline		Open skyline along northern edge of parcel.
Landmarks/features		-
Detractors		-
Settlement edge character		Ribbon development with large gardens to the west and large scale development across the road to the south west.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		Southern part of parcel provides gap in development whilst area to north is part of wider countryside.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility		**H/M**

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors		
Intervisibility	H/M	Limited intervisiblity to the south increasing to the north.
Key views	M	Parcel allows view to wider countryside from road.
Key receptors		
Residents- rural/semi-rural		-
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	Dwellings along western edge of area.
Promoted trails		-
Public rights of way		-
Access/common land		-
Cycleways		-
Roads	M	Views from road along western edge of area.

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

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

Large scale new development inappropriate, but there may be an opportunity for a limited number of new roadside dwellings in gap between railway line and existing roadside development. Housing should face the road behind the retained hedge.

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

Regularly spaced native trees should be introduced along the road edge and a small tree belt should be located on the northern boundary of the site.

Land Cover Parcel No.	Ba07

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in its location within the Candidate Valued Landscape Area in CPRE study related to Lickey Hills Country Park, its secondary woodland and tree cover contributing to the character of the adjacent Ancient woodland and the proximity of the Lickey Hills Local Wildlife site. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the landcover of woodland and small scale pasture and paddocks on a sloping hillside associated with a wider wooded landscape. The visual susceptibility to housing lies in the visibility from the Country Park in parts and from the PROW and rural lane linking into it. Overall the parcel is very sensitive to housing as a highly wooded hillside landscape. Employment use would be unable to be accommodated within the wooded hillside landscape pattern in close proximity to housing and would be highly inappropriate in the Lickey Hills setting.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Settled Farmlands with Pastoral
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	Medium

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	H/M	Part of Candidate Valued Landscape Area in CPRE study related to Lickey Hills Country Park on the hills to the west, and to the north.
Natural heritage	M	Secondary woodland, unimproved semi-regular pasture, paddocks, cricket pitch and dwellings in very large mature gardens provide a range of habitats which link into the adjacent Ancient woodland and Local Wildlife site.
Cultural heritage	M	Contributes to the landscape character of the ancient woodland.
Distinctiveness	M	The area contributes to the distinctive enclosed wooded edge of the Lickey Hills Country Park.
Perceptual	M	
Scenic factors		The wooded and well treed character allows pleasant but restricted vistas.
Tranquillity		The lane is quiet. The trees hide and filter views of buildings. PROW runs along the southern edge of the area.
Recreational and functional	M	
Recreational		PROW runs along the southern edge of the area.
Functional		The trees and woodland contribute to, and directly connect into, the GI network of the area. The woodland acts as a carbon sink.
Condition	M/L	The woodland appears to be in relatively poor condition and hedgerows are discontiuous.
Associations		-
Summary evaluation of overall value		**M**

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Distinct hillside slopes rising to the north west.
Presence of water		-
Cultural factors	M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Secondary woodland, unimproved semi-regular pasture, paddocks and cricket pitch.
Settlement pattern		Dwellings in very large mature gardens along the lane.
Land use factors	H/M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		The trees and woodland contribute to, and directly connect into, the GI network of the area.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		PROW runs along the southern edge of the area and there is a cricket pitch.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		There is a strong PROW and biodiversity link between the area and the adjacent country park.
Perceptual factors	H/M	
Scale		Small
Enclosure		Highly enclosed
Skyline		Wooded
Landmarks/features		-
Detractors		-
Settlement edge character		Highly exposed to the east (new development) but screened to the south and within the parcel.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		Strong relationship of area with the wooded hills and as a backcloth to the settlement.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility		**H/M**

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors		
Intervisibility	M/L	Intervisible on the edge of the area to the east but screened within and to the west.
Key views		-
Key receptors		
Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	Within the area.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	To the east.
Promoted trails		-

Public rights of way	H/M	One PROW
Access/common land	H/M	Country Park adjacent.
Cycleways		-
Roads	M	Minor lane.
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility		**H/M**

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate: