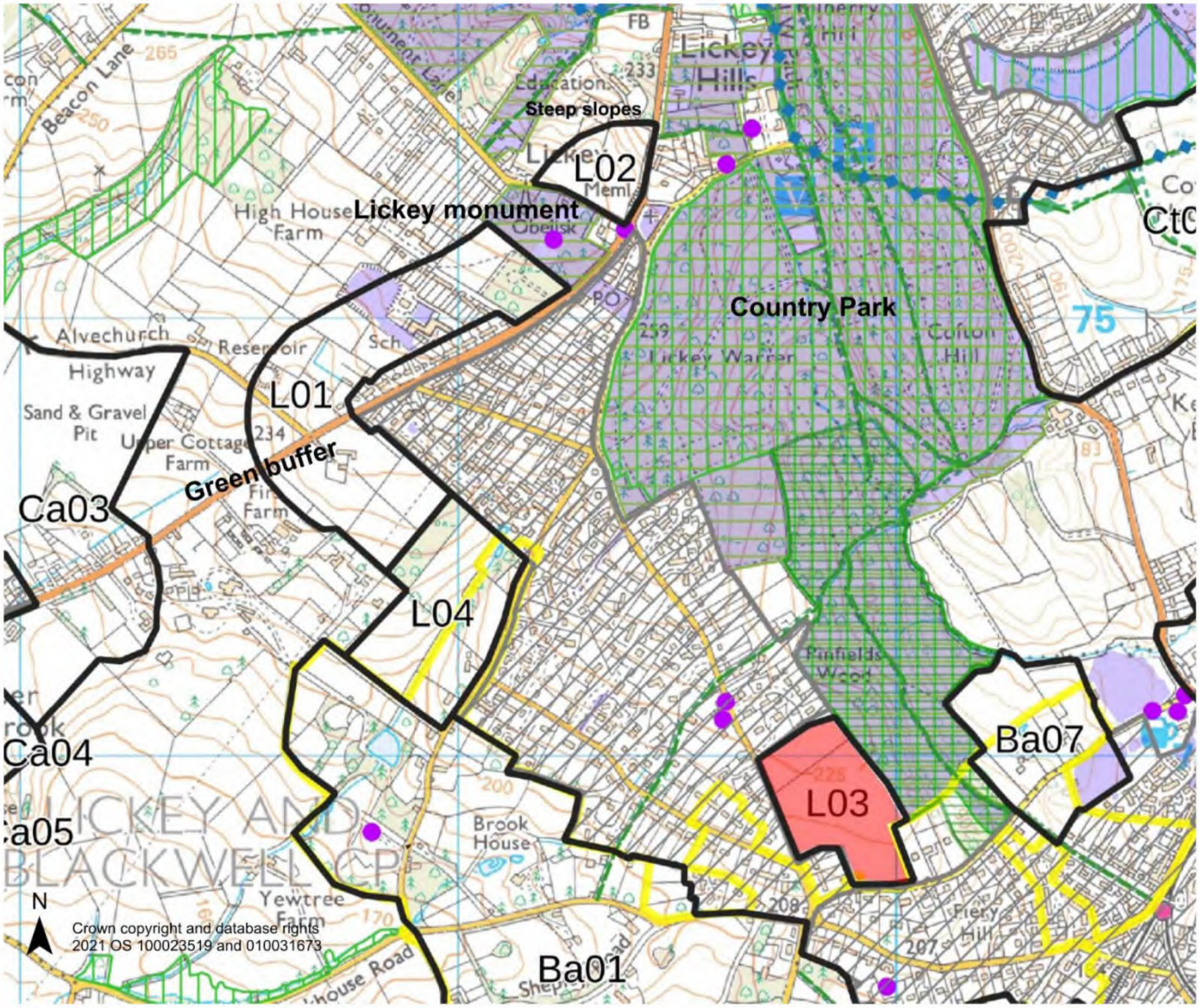
Settlement Sensitivity Summary: Lickey

Summary

The southern end of the Lickey Hills and its associated country park lie to the east and its slopes and woodland define the edge of settlement and its environs. The other edges of the settlement lie in the settled enclosed commons landscape type with relatively small scale enclosures and occasional dwellings, some in a linear pattern. The Lickey Monument, a scheduled obelisk, lies in woodland with a formal approach to the north. The Barnt Green Conservation Area lies to the south.

Sensitivity to housing is considered high to the north, associated with the obelisk and steep slopes bordering the country park. Sensitivity is considered high/medium to the west and south-west with the Conservation Area to the south. Sensitivity is considered to be medium to the south east with opportunities in L03.

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



Key

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

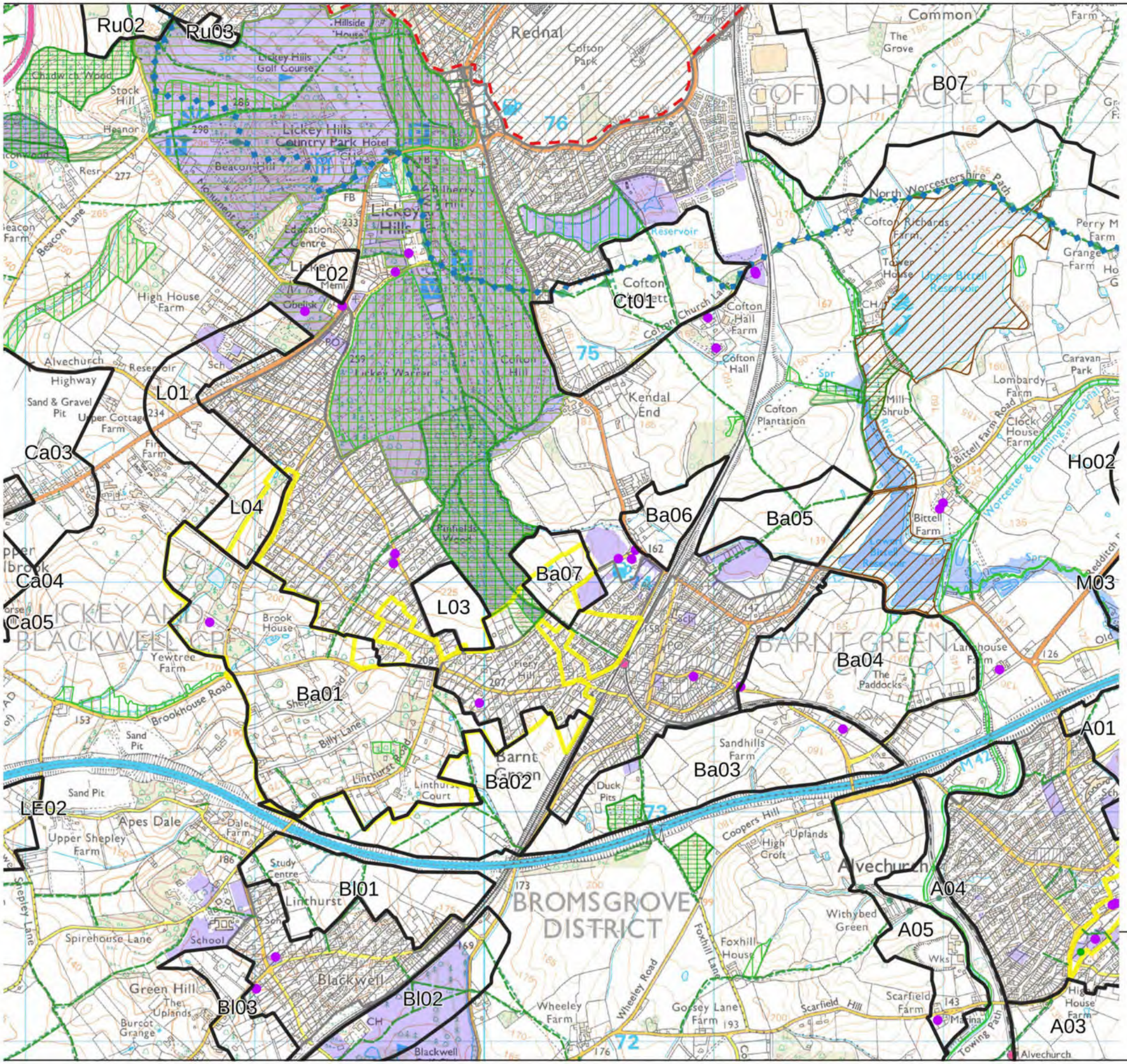
Opportunity for Housing

South western edge of settlement- green gap towards Catshill (L01).

View north within Lickey Hills from near Lickey Monument access (L02).

Edge of Barnt Green Conservation Area west of the settlement (L04).

Enclosed paddock to the south east of the settlement (L03).


Ru02
Ru03
Rednal
Cofton Park
Lickey Hills Golf Course
Chadwich Wood
Stock Hill
Heanor
Lickey Hills Country Park Hotel
Beacon Hill
Beacon Lane
Beacon Farm
Lickey Hills
Education Centre
Obelisk
L02
High House Farm
Alvechurch Highway
Sand & Gravel Pit
Upper Cottage Farm
L01
Ca03
Ca04
Ca05
L04
L03
LICKEY AND BLACKWELL CP
Brook House
Yewtree Farm
Brookhouse Road
Sand Pit
Ba01
Billy Lane
Linthurst
Linthurst Court
Barnt Green
Ba02
Ba07
Ba06
Ba05
Ba04
Ba03
Cofton Hill
Cofton Hall
Cofton Hall Farm
Cofton Church Lane
Ct01
Kendal End
Cofton Plantation
Fiery Hill
Sandhills Farm
Duck Pits
Coopers Hill
Uplands
High Croft
Alvechurch
A01
A04
A05
A03
Withybed Green
Foxhill House
Foxhill Lane
Wheeley Road
Wheeley Farm
Gorsey Lane Farm
Scarfield Hill
Scarfield Farm
Towing Path
Apes Dale
Upper Shepley Farm
Dale Farm
Shepley Lane
LE02
Spirehouse Lane
School
Study Centre
Linthurst
Bl01
Bl02
Bl03
Green Hill
The Uplands
Burcot Grange
Blackwell
BROMSGROVE DISTRICT
COFTON HACKETT CP
B07
Common
The Grove
North Worcestershire Path
Cofton Richards Farm
Tower House
Upper Bittell Reservoir
Lower Bittell Reservoir
Bittell Farm
Perry M Farm
Grange Farm
Caravan Park
Lombardy Farm
Mill Shrub
River Arrow
Bittell Farm Road
Clock House Farm
Worcester & Birmingham Canal
Ho02
M03
BARNT GREEN
The Paddocks
Lanehouse Farm
Old
Fiery Hill
Pinfields Wood
Brook House
Reservoir
Cofton Park
Cofton Hackett
Lickey Warren
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Ridgeway
Nourishment Layby
Rilberry Grnd
Lickey Hills
Lickey Warren
Cofton Hackett
Cofton Hill
Cofton Hall
Cofton Church Lane
Cofton Plantation
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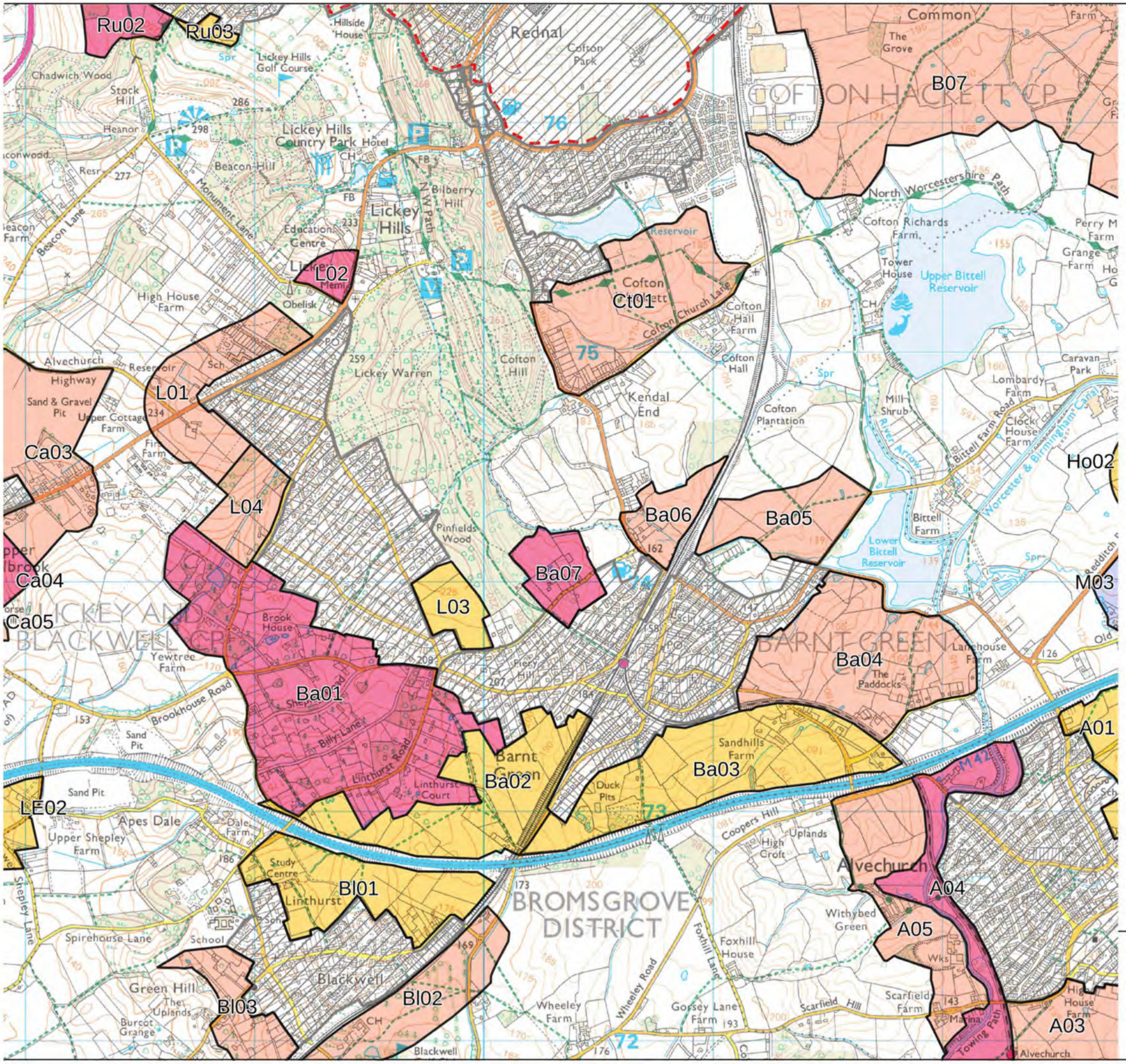
Old
Fiery Hill



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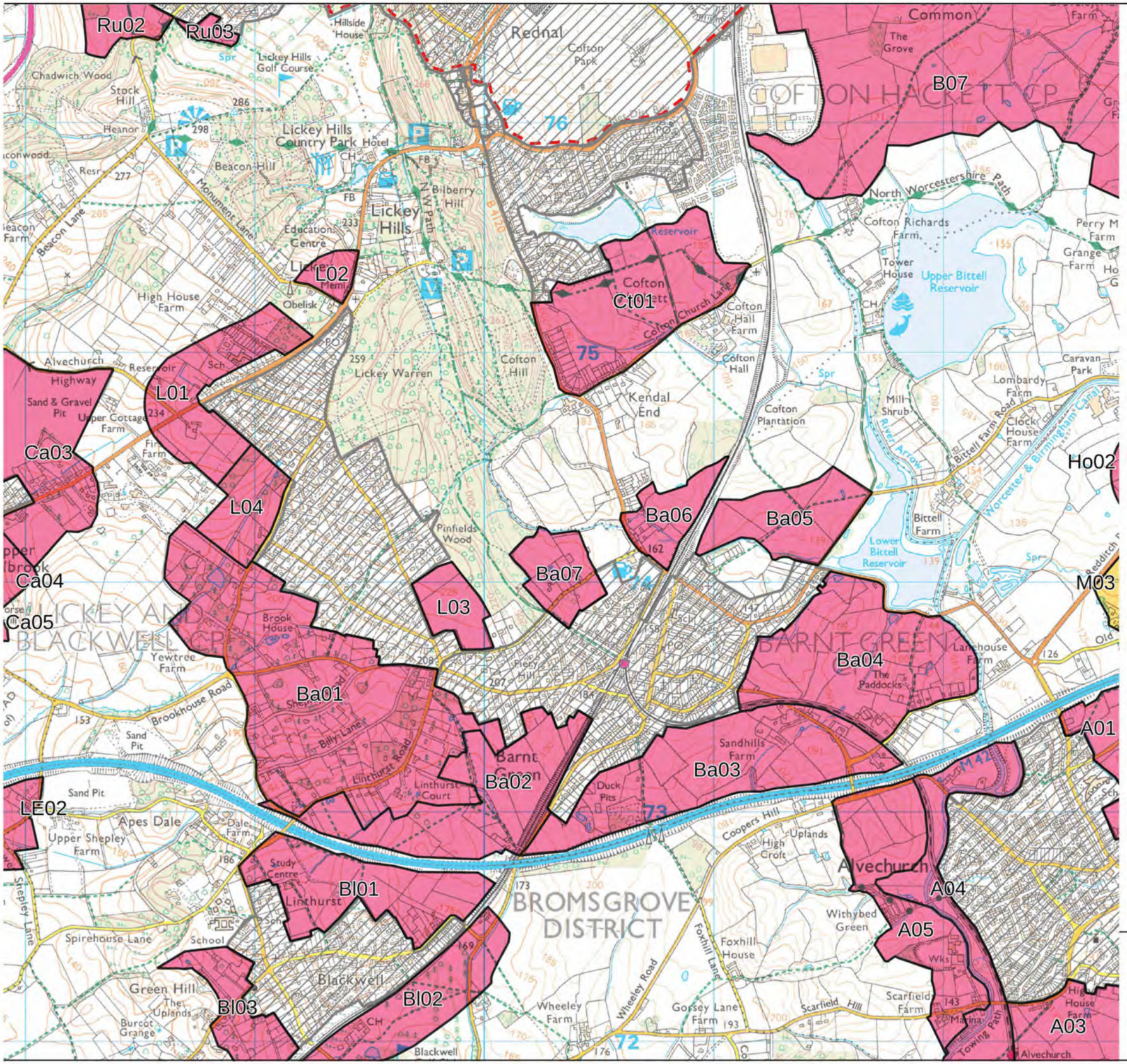
Project: Bromsgrove District Landscape and Visual Sensitivity Study
Client: Bromsgrove District Council

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.	L01

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High/medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in the location of the northern part in the Candidate Valued Landscape Area, the strong woodland block and its use for recreation, the location of the Lickey Monument to the north, the distinctive rectilinear field pattern with strong tree cover and hedges in parts. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the skyline location of the southern edge and its contribution to the gap between Lickey and development around Catshill,and its role as a positive semi-rural edge to the settlement with good tree cover and woodland. Visual susceptibility to housing lies in its intervisibility to the south west especially on the approraches to Lickey from this direction. Housing could erode the gap between Lickey and Catshill and be prominent on the skyline. The woodland in the north eastern part is a very positive feature and asset and should be retained. Elsewhere the intimate scale of the landscape and sloping and form do not lend themselves to development. The parcel is therefore sensitive to housing. Employment use would be highly inappropriate due to the proximity of dwellings, the location on the skyline to the south, the Lickey monument to the north and size of fields.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Enclosed Commons
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	Low

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	H/M	Northern part in Candidate Valued Landscape Area.
Natural heritage	H/M	Mix of rectilinear enclosed common fields with mainly outgrown hedges, and trimmed hedges to the south, with strong woodland block including regeneration to the north which links into woodland to the north east.
Cultural heritage	M	Lickey Monument lies in woodland to the north east and there is a planned rectilinear enclosed common fields pattern.
Distinctiveness	M	The field pattern and woodland/tree cover have strong character but the area is fragmented by development.
Perceptual	M	
Scenic factors		The woodland and some fields to the south have an attractive character with limited vistas.
Tranquillity		The B4096 is busy and is a source of noise and movement. Settlement is evident throughout. There are no PROWs although the woodland to the north is accessed.
Recreational and functional	M	
Recreational		There are no PROWs although the woodland to the north is accessed with paths.
Functional		The woodland and tree/hedge cover may act as biodiversity patches and corridors.
Condition	M/L	Generally poor condition with discontinuous hedges to the west though complete and well managed to the south east.
Associations	M	Possible relationship with the Plymouth Estate.

Summary evaluation of overall value		**M**

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Moderately undulating, sloping to the south west
Presence of water		-
Cultural factors	M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Mix of rectilinear enclosed common fields and regenerating woodland.
Settlement pattern		Ribbon development housing plots with large gardens with straight roads and rural cluster to the south west.
Land use factors	M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		Outgrown hedges, and trimmed hedges to the south, with strong woodland block including regeneration to the north act as potential biodiversity corridors and patches.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		There are no PROWs although the woodland to the north is accessed with paths.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		Use of woodland by adjacent residents.
Perceptual factors	H/M	
Scale		Small
Enclosure		Enclosed
Skyline		Southern edge from the local skyline in views from the south west.
Landmarks/features		-
Detractors		Biodigester- although discreetly located.
Settlement edge character		Essentially linear but Indented to the north west.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		Area forms positive semi-rural edge to the settlement with good tree cover. Also contributes to the gap between Lickey and development around Catshill.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility		**H/M**

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors		
Intervisibility	M	Limited generally although intervisibility locally to south west.
Key views		-
Key receptors		
Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	Dwelling to south.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	Settlement edge.

Promoted trails		-
Public rights of way		-
Access/common land		-
Cycleways		-
Roads	M	Two roads adjacent.
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.	L02

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in its attractive open rural valley character within the wooded Lickey Hills Country Park area, its proximity to the LIckey Monument and on the axis of its vista, location in Candidate Valued Landscape Area, the permanent pasture, mature trees and hedgerows. Landscape susceptibility to housing lies in its steeply sloping topography, the pattern of interrupted linear development to the east, and its importance as a green gap in wooded and settled frontages. Visual susceptibility to housing lies in its location at the entrance to the Lickey Monument, in views from the nearby church and from limited residents and the adjoining roads. The parcel is very sensitive to housing. Sensitivity to employment is greater due to greater prominence of structures on the steep slopes, location within the Country Park area and visibility from the adjacent residents and church.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

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

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations		In the Candidate Valued Landscape Area.
Natural heritage	H/M	Permanent pasture bounded by outgrown well treed hedgerows with field tree. Surroundings are strongly wooded.
Cultural heritage	H/M	Lickey Monument lies in woodland to the south west and there is a planned enclosure of common pattern.
Distinctiveness	H/M	Open enclosure within wooded hills and valleys of Lickey Hills and next to entrance to Lickey Monument which is a highly distinctve feature.
Perceptual	H/M	
Scenic factors		Attractive framed views across parcel from adjacent roads across wooded landscape.
Tranquillity		The B4096 Rose Hill is moderately busy and is a source of noise and movement and there is a lane to the south. Settlement is generally well screened well integrated in trees. There are no PROWs.
Recreational and functional	M	
Recreational		No PROWs
Functional		Permanent pasture bounded by outgrown well treed hedgerows with field tree contribute to GI linking into adjoining species rich habitats.
Condition	M	Hedgerows outgrown.
Associations		-
Summary evaluation of overall value		**H/M**

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Crowned to the south with steeply sloping topography to the north.
Presence of water		-
Cultural factors	M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Planned pattern of small hedged fields with older permanent pasture
Settlement pattern		Absent within parcel
Land use factors	M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		Permanent pasture bounded by outgrown well treed hedgerows with field tree contribute to GI linking into adjoining species rich habitats.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		Parcel has no PROWs
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		Functionally separated from adjoining settlement
Perceptual factors	H/M	
Scale		Small
Enclosure		Tightly framed views
Skyline		Adjoining woodland edges
Landmarks/features		Lickey Obelisk to the south, with main vista orientation towards the parcel although not directly visible from the road or the parcel due to tree cover.
Detractors		-
Settlement edge character		Adjoining roadside dwellings
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		Important tree and open land edge to linear interrupted adjoining settlement to the east.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility		**H/M**

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors		
Intervisibility	M	Moderate intervisibility with surrounding wooded landscape.
Key views	H/M	Visible from access to Lickey Monument and from church opposite.
Key receptors		
Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	Two adjoining roadside dwellings
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	From across B4096.
Promoted trails		-
Public rights of way		-

Access/common land	M	Though surrounded by country park it is well wooded.
Cycleways		-
Roads	M	Views from Monument Lane and B4096.
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.	L03

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	Medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value of the area lies in the location adjacent to the Barnt Green Conservation Area and Lickey Hills Local Wildlife site/ancient woodland, with value in the hedgerows and trees especially on the road boundaries. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the tree cover and hedgerows and the developing trees/scrub to the south. The visual susceptibility to housing lies in the views from surrounding roads and dwellings. Housing could be appropriate in this area but would need to retain the tree lined character of the adjacent roads by careful treatment of the boundaries and accommodate some of the trees in the abandoned field to the south, possibly as part of open space. Employment use would be highly inappropriate due to the proximity of dwellings and the Conservation Area and Country Park on an elevated site.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Enclosed Commons
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	Low

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	M	South eastern edge adjacent to the Barnt Green Conservation Area.
Natural heritage	M	Ancient woodland and Lickey Hills Local Wildlife site to the east. Trees and scrub in rough grassland to the south and outgrown hedges with trees, especially along Twatling Road. Permanent pasture on the northern field.
Cultural heritage	M	Houses and plots to the south east in the Barnt Green Conservation Area. Enclosed common with rectilinear field pattern.
Distinctiveness	M/L	Distinctiveness lies in the enclosure of the woodland outside the site and the roadside hedgerows and trees.
Perceptual	M	
Scenic factors		Pleasant open pasture in otherwise enclosed leafy suburb.
Tranquillity		Noise from adajcent roads traffic. Settlement apparent amongst trees on three sides. No public access.
Recreational and functional	M/L	
Recreational		No public access.
Functional		Abandoned field to south provides a habitat patch and hedgerows contribute to GI linkage.
Condition	M/L	Medium/poor condition.
Associations		-
Summary evaluation of overall value		**M**

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M/L

Landform eg steep slopes		Gently sloping to the west into the settlement
Presence of water		-
Cultural factors	M/L	
Historic field/land use pattern		Enclosed common rectilinear field boundaries
Settlement pattern		None in area but on three sides.
Land use factors	M/L	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		Abandoned field to the south with developing scrub and trees has some value as a patch and hedgerows hace potetial as biodiversity corridors.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		No PROWs.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		Possiby horse pasture use relates to nearby residents.
Perceptual factors	M	
Scale		Medium
Enclosure		Enclosed
Skyline		-
Landmarks/features		-
Detractors		-
Settlement edge character		Houses in large plots with mature gardens.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		Gap in settlement frontage.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility		**M/L**

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors		
Intervisibility	M/L	Enclosed area not widely visible.
Key views	M/L	None
Key receptors		
Residents- rural/semi-rural		-
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	Three sides
Promoted trails		-
Public rights of way		-
Access/common land		-
Cycleways		-

Roads	M	On two sides
Summary evaluation of visual susceptibility		**M/L**

OPPORTUNITIES, DESIGN AND MITIGATION

Development location, layout and design recommendations where appropriate:

The area could be developed for housing providing the trees on the boundaries and within the site and the hedgerows are retained and enhanced. The density should be similar to surrounding housing.

Opportunities and potential for landscape mitigation where appropriate:

As above.

Land Cover Parcel No.	L04

ASSESSED SENSITIVITY EVALUATION

Sensitivity to Housing	High/medium
Sensitivity to Employment	High

Sensitivity Summary

The landscape value lies in the Barnt Green Conservation Areacovering the eastern valley side with the western valley side within its setting, the attractive secluded qualities of the valley with stream and streamside woodland along the valley floor, broadleaf woodland belt to the west and acid/unimproved grassland. The landscape susceptibility to housing lies in the steep valley sides, the small scale of the fields with strong treed boundaries which contribute to the character of the area, the role in separating Lickey from Catshill and associated scattered settlement to the west. Visual susceptibility lies in views from the adjacent road and residents. The parcel in this distinctive valley is sensitive to housing. Sensitivity to employment is greater due to the relationship with the Conservation Area, small scale and steep slopes.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER CONTEXT

National character area	Arden
WCC landscape character type (LCT)	Enclosed Commons
WCC land cover parcel (LCP) sensitivity	Low

LANDSCAPE VALUE FACTORS

Landscape designations	H	South eastern valley side is in Barnt Green Conservation Area.
Natural heritage	H/M	Steep sided valley with stream and streamside woodland along the valley floor, broadleaf woodland belt to the west, acid/unimproved grassland and large properties in large treed gardens.
Cultural heritage	M	Planned enclosure of former common with small regular fields and tree belts.
Distinctiveness	H/M	Hidden wooded valley
Perceptual	H/M	
Scenic factors		Secluded small valley potentially with attractive intimate views but there is strong screening and no access.
Tranquillity		Minor lane to east. Settlement integrated by vegetation and large gardens. No public access.
Recreational and functional	M	
Recreational		No PROWs.
Functional		Stream and streamside woodland, broadleaf woodland belt, acid/unimproved grassland contribute to strong GI.
Condition	M	Hedgerows poor and gappy.
Associations		-
Summary evaluation of overall value		**H/M**

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

Natural factors	M	
Landform eg steep slopes		Steep valley sides.

Presence of water		Minor stream in valley bottom.
Cultural factors	M	
Historic field/land use pattern		Enclosed common regular field boundaries.
Settlement pattern		Three large detached properties in large gardens.
Land use factors	H/M	
Function of area e.g. floodplain, GI corridor, biodiversity corridor or patch, productive land.		Stream and streamside woodland, broadleaf woodland belt, acid/unimproved grassland contribute to strong GI.
Amenity- presence of footpaths/recreation corridors		No PROWs.
Functional relationship between the area and the settlement/key features		Functionally separated from adjoining settlement.
Perceptual factors	H/M	
Scale		Small.
Enclosure		Tightly framed views.
Skyline		Valley sides.
Landmarks/features		-
Detractors		-
Settlement edge character		Road with housing beyond along eastern edge with rear gardens abutting northern edge.
Visual relationship between the area and the settlement/key features (eg cumulative impact issues)		Role in visually and physically separating Lickey from Catshill and associated scattered settlement to the west.
Summary evaluation of landscape susceptibility		**H/M**

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY FACTORS

General factors		
Intervisibility	M/L	Self contained landscape with limited intervisibility
Key views		-
Key receptors		
Residents- rural/semi-rural	H/M	Limited number of dwellings located within valley.
Residents-urban/suburban edge	H/M	Limited views from within adjoining urban areas
Promoted trails		-
Public rights of way		-
Access/common land		-
Cycleways		-

Roads	M	Views of boundary from Mearse Lane adjoining eastern edge of parcel
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: