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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 FPCR LLP was commissioned in November 2009 to undertake a Landscape Character Assessment of North Warwickshire Borough and a Landscape Capacity Study for the land adjacent to the main settlements and local service centres within the Borough.

1.2 The assessment has been undertaken to provide a better understanding of the District's landscapes in order to;

- provide the context for policies and proposals within the forthcoming Local Development Framework (LDF) for North Warwickshire
- inform the preparation of the Core Strategy of the Borough
- provide a robust evidence base to justify any future policy decisions

1.3 The primary objectives for the assessment were:

- To provide an impartial assessment of the landscape character within North Warwickshire;
- To undertake an assessment, focussed on the Main Settlements and Local Service Centres, identifying the distinctive landscape sub-units, together with the provision of broad descriptions and management prescriptions for each;
- To identify factors of change that have influenced landscape change in the past, and development pressures which are likely to influence change in the future;
- Identify a range of key issues that will inform the Local Development Framework preparation process, outlining principles for the siting and design of new development, including the pattern, form and scale which it might take in order to reinforce and enhance landscape character;
- To promote awareness of the landscape character and its social significance and the importance of conservation, enhancement and restoration;

- To establish a knowledge base upon which informed and justified landscape related decisions could be made.
- 1.4 The assessment work has been undertaken in two stages. Stage One involved the identification of Landscape Character Areas within the landscape around the settlements of the Borough. This stage identified key characteristics and provides broad descriptions of pressures for change / key issues and outlines potential landscape management / strategies. This stage does not provide a full Landscape Character Assessment but is sufficient to provide an appropriate level of context for Stage Two.
- 1.5 Stage Two comprised a more detailed assessment, focussed on the main settlements and local service centres (Atherstone / Mancetter, Polesworth / Dordon, Coleshill, Old and New Arley, Grendon / Baddesley Ensor, Hartshill with Ansley Common, Kingsbury and Water Orton) to identify distinct landscape sub units, together with broad descriptions and management prescriptions for each. The sensitivity and capacity for change of each of these areas was assessed. The assessment used a consistent method to evaluate the sub units against a number of criteria, to determine the relative sensitivity of the unit and its capacity for change and / or development in the context of the character of the wider landscape within which the sub unit is situated. Recommendations for assimilating development and provision of Green Infrastructure are included as part of the Landscape Capacity Assessment.
- 1.6 The assessment builds upon work undertaken at the National (Natural England) and County (Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines and the Historical Landscape Classification), which are discussed further within the report.

## **2.0 METHODOLOGY**

2.1 The Landscape Character Assessment of North Warwickshire has been prepared following the “Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland” (LCA) published by the Natural England and Scottish National Heritage 2002, which identifies principles and good practice, and the Topic Paper 6; Techniques and Criteria for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity.

2.2 The basic work stages were as follows;

### **Inception meeting and data review**

2.3 An initial briefing meeting was held with the client to refine the project requirements and outputs. This confirmed the level of detail, project plan and outputs to be produced. Relevant background data was received and reviewed and a preliminary site reconnaissance carried out.

### **Desk study and initial mapping**

2.4 All available published literature and mapping relevant to the study area was collated, reviewed and analysed including North Warwickshire Council information and plans, relevant background Landscape Character Assessment studies and aerial photographs.

2.5 The mapping received included GIS data provided by the Council (locations of the SSSI, SINC, SAM, Conservation Area, Historic Park and Garden, Ancient Woodland and RIG designations, and Green Belt and Flood Zone 2&3 data) and data from the Warwickshire County Historic Landscape Characterisation Project.

2.6 The context for the Borough wide study was defined through a desk based study of the broader landscape characterisation work undertaken by Natural England (formerly the Countryside Agency) and the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines. Surrounding authorities’ studies were also considered where they might have a bearing at the Borough boundaries; a list of all the documents referred to is included within the References section.

2.7 The information was then combined through initial mapping and layering of various elements within the landscape to provisionally identify areas of similar or common

character. Features such as land uses, field size and regularity, settlement form and scale, woodland cover, road network and topography were studied to identify corresponding patterns. The analysis established outline landscape character types to be refined through field assessment. Areas of uncertainty were highlighted as a focus for field study.

### **Field Survey**

- 2.8 A comprehensive field survey was carried out based upon the initial character area mapping from the desk study to identify consistent landscape character areas. A field survey sheet was prepared and used for the assessment to ensure a structured, consistent record of information, and supported by written descriptions and a photographic record.
- 2.9 The field survey sheet was designed to record the following as part of the landscape classification exercise;
- The character area boundaries;
  - The pattern of landscape components that define the unique character of each character area;
  - Distinctive features, local building materials, plant species etc
  - Aesthetic/visual/perception of the landscape;
  - The landscape condition and any particular qualities / sensitive features; and
  - Identify pressures for change / management issues and opportunities.
- 2.10 The survey data informed the process of drafting the descriptions of and illustrating each character area in the final report. A sample of the pro forma survey sheet is included at Appendix A.
- 2.11 The urban areas were not surveyed but the interface of the settlements with the rural areas has been considered. The field survey was carried out in December 2009 and included all land within the Borough. The survey work was undertaken by chartered Landscape Architects, who were responsible for drafting the text and defining the boundaries of each Landscape Character Area.

## **Landscape characterisation (Stage 1)**

- 2.12 Landscape Character Areas were classified using the data collated from the desk studies and field surveys and against the wider National and County characterisation framework. The combination of professional judgement and physical mapped data has enabled consistent landscape patterns to be identified.
- 2.13 In this study 13 Landscape Character Areas were identified across the whole of the North Warwickshire Borough landscape. Each of these areas has been clearly described and their characters captured through the use of photographs and written text. The text follows a clear format under the following headings;
- Key characteristics (bullet points);
  - Location and boundaries;
  - Landscape Character (key description);
  - Key landscape related designations;
  - Pressures for change / key issues; and
  - Landscape / management strategies.
- 2.14 A key map to show the location and boundaries of the identified character areas has been prepared using ArcView GIS mapping. Although the character area boundaries are clearly defined on the mapping, it is important to recognise that landscape character will not necessarily be dramatically different to either side of the boundary lines. In some places landscape character can suddenly change and be defined by a clear boundary (for instance at a settlement edge) however elsewhere the change may be more transitional. Generally boundary lines should not be regarded as indicative of a transition rather than definitive unless stated otherwise. Over time boundaries may also change with development and changes in land use.

## **Settlement Setting Assessment / Landscape capacity Study (Stage 2)**

- 2.15 The Character Areas identified in Stage 1 provide the context for Stage 2. This study focuses on the landscape around the main settlements and local service centres:
- Atherstone / Mancetter,
  - Polesworth / Dordon,
  - Coleshill,
  - Old and New Arley,

- Grendon / Baddesley Ensor,
- Hartshill with Ansley Common,
- Kingsbury and
- Water Orton

2.16 The land areas surveyed are identified at Figures 12-19. As part of the assessment the Landscape Character Areas have been further divided into landscape units to provide a consistent and comprehensive landscape sensitivity and capacity assessment.

2.17 The methodology for this stage of work is based upon guidance within Topic Paper 6 'Techniques and Criteria for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity' published by Natural England. A robust and transparent methodology has been devised to assess the sensitivity and capacity of each landscape unit.

### **Sensitivity**

2.18 In order to assess the sensitivity of each landscape unit a pro-forma has been devised (see Appendix B) which clearly and consistently sets out within a matrix the relevant factors involved in judging the sensitivity under the following headings;

- Landscape character sensitivity
- Visual sensitivity
- Landscape value

2.19 The factors are described and then judged using a three-point scoring system, the scores are then added to give an overall sensitivity score for each landscape unit and the information is summarised in GIS mapping to provide an overview of the sensitivity of each landscape unit. Use of an elaborate scoring system has been avoided in favour of a simple coding system to assess and identify the broad relative sensitivity of each landscape unit. The possible score for each landscape unit ranges from 13 to 39, the following bandings have been determined based upon the range of scores for the landscape units;

25 and below	=	Higher landscape sensitivity
26 – 31	=	Moderate landscape sensitivity
32 and above	=	Lower landscape sensitivity

## Capacity for change

2.20 Within Topic Paper 6 the following is said about Capacity:

*6.5 Reaching conclusions about capacity means making a judgement about the amount of change of a particular type that can be accommodated without having unacceptable adverse effects on the character of the landscape, or the way that it is perceived, and without compromising the values attached to it. This step must clearly recognise that a valued landscape, whether nationally designated or not, does not automatically, and by definition, have high sensitivity. Similarly...landscapes with high sensitivity do not automatically have no, or low capacity to accommodate change and landscapes of low sensitivity do not automatically have high capacity to accept change. Capacity is all a question of the interaction between the sensitivity of the landscape, the type and amount of change, and the way that the landscape is valued.*

*6.6 It is entirely possible for a valued landscape to be relatively insensitive to the particular type of development in question because of both the characteristics of the landscape itself and the nature of the development. It may also be the case that the reasons why value is attached to the landscape are not compromised by the particular form of change. Such a landscape may therefore have some capacity to accommodate change, especially if the appropriate, and hopefully standard, steps are taken in terms of siting, layout and design of the change or development in question. For example, a capacity study may show that a certain specified amount of appropriately located and well-designed housing may be quite acceptable even in a highly valued and moderately sensitive landscape. This is why capacity is such a complex issue and why most capacity studies need to be accompanied by guidelines about the ways in which certain types of change or development can best be accommodated without unacceptable adverse effects”.*

2.21 In accordance with the guidance set out in Topic Paper 6, it is important to emphasise that the numerical totals simply provide a guide to the relative landscape and visual sensitivity of each landscape unit, and this in itself only provides a broad indication of each landscape units' overall potential capacity for change. No absolute conclusion should be drawn from the totals and they must be read alongside the text for each landscape unit. The following is provided as a general guide;

Higher landscape sensitivity

Generally with good existing landscape structure and a higher proportion of sensitive

landscape features, potential for development not precluded, however there may only be very limited pockets where sensitive development with appropriate mitigation might be feasible

Moderate landscape sensitivity      Some overall capacity for change with potential for development within pockets of land with appropriate mitigation, but there may be sensitive landscape components and or visual constraints that may limit the scope of development

Lower landscape sensitivity      Visually contained and / or degraded landscapes lacking in landscape structure and /or without sensitive landscape components with the most capacity for change and / or development

2.22 These broad categorisations reflect that within each landscape unit there may be only a small proportion of the land that is assessed as potentially suitable in landscape and visual terms for certain types of development. Also the complex interaction of the landscape and visual components within each landscape unit must given due consideration. For instance one landscape may be well contained visually but have sensitive ecological features, whereas another may be visually open to the wider countryside but be lacking in inherent landscape features (for instance as a result of agricultural intensification), both potentially resulting in a similar score.

2.23 With the above considerations in mind the text that accompanies the score tables provides a broad assessment of the capacity of each landscape unit for change and its potential suitability for development. The text also identifies appropriate mitigation as well as general landscape management objectives and strategic opportunities for enhancing green infrastructure and biodiversity. Read as a whole the scores and text can be used to support and help define planning policy and provide guidelines for developers and land managers. It is important to note, however that it is not possible within the scope of this study to provide a comprehensive assessment of the capacity of each landscape unit to a specific type of development and that any development proposal would need to be considered on its individual merits.

## 3.0 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

### **Background**

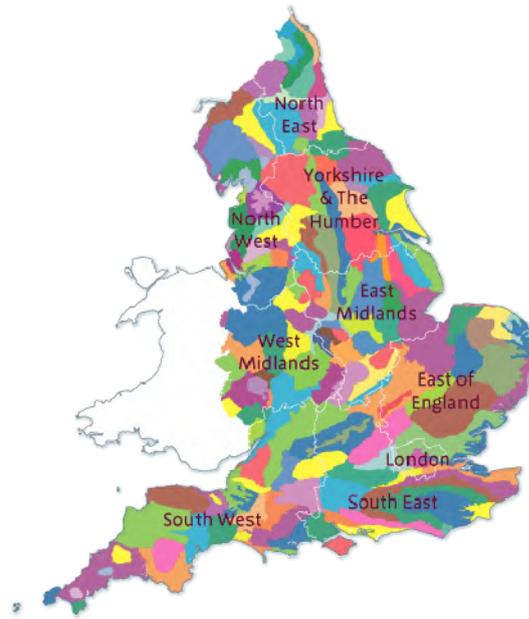
3.1 North Warwickshire Borough covers 28,418 hectares (110 square miles) and is illustrated at Figure 1. At its focus lie the market towns of Atherstone, Polesworth and Coleshill. The remainder of the Borough is predominantly rural with a number of small villages. As a consequence of its environment, and location immediately northeast of the West Midlands conurbation, and excellent transport links, the Borough has long been a focus of considerable development pressure. Approximately 50% of the Borough's rural area lies within the Green Belt (illustrated at Figure 2) and this has focused much of that pressure into the three towns. All saw considerable growth throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century and North Warwickshire Borough now has a population of 61,000 (based on the 2001 census), a growth of 9.4% since 1981.

3.2 Several existing broad landscape characterisation studies, undertaken at a national and county level, relate to the landscape character of North Warwickshire and these provide the context for this assessment. The assessments are;

- The Character of England – Natural England
- Warwickshire landscape guidelines
- Warwickshire historic landscape characterisation project

### **National Context**

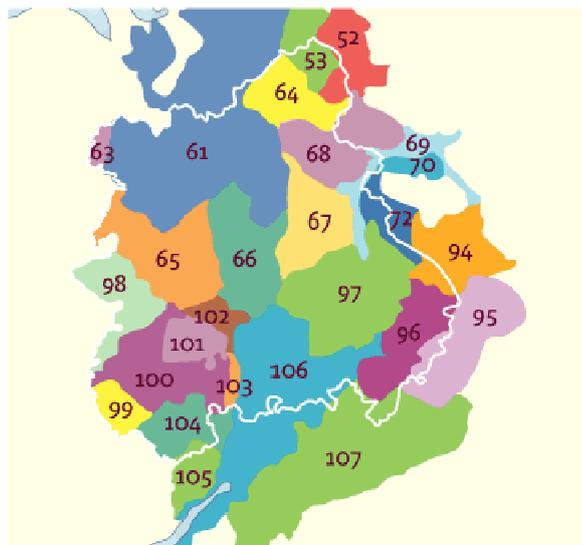
3.3 At a national scale, Natural England (formerly the Countryside Agency) has undertaken a process of landscape characterisation and assessment. This included at a broad scale, assessment of physical, historic and cultural influences, buildings and settlement, land cover and changes in the landscape to formulate 159 Character Areas. These were published as 'The Character of England: landscape, wildlife and natural features'. The detailed descriptions applicable to the North Warwickshire Borough are included within Volume 5: West Midlands.



*Extract: Natural England: Character Map Of England*

The Character Areas applicable to North Warwickshire Borough are;

- LCA 67: Cannock Chase & Cank Wood
- LCA 69: Trent Valley Washlands
- LCA 97: Arden
- LCA 72: Mease / Sence Lowlands



*Extract: Natural England: West Midlands Character Map*

3.4 A brief summary of each Character Area is outlined below;

LCA 67: Cannock Chase & Cank Wood

This area applies to a very small area close to Birmingham, within the North West corner of North Warwickshire and as such many of the characteristics are not directly applicable.

*“Cannock Chase and Cank Wood is a landscape dominated by its history as former forest and chase and by the presence at its centre of the South Staffordshire Coalfield. It forms an area of higher ground, with the towns and large villages of the Black Country rising out of the lowlands of Shropshire and Staffordshire to the west. The Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands lie to the north and the Mease/Sence Lowlands are to the east. In the south it merges with Birmingham and the Arden”.*

LCA 69: Trent Valley Washlands

This applies to the broad Tame Valley that extends south of Tamworth through the western side of North Warwickshire.

*“The Trent Washlands form a distinct, linear, landscape character where the Trent passes through its middle reaches in central England. The character area includes the valleys of two main tributaries, the Tame and the Soar, which drain in from the south”.*

LCA 97: Arden

The Arden Character Area applies centrally across the North Warwickshire Borough and covers the majority of the Borough land area.

*“Arden comprises farmland and former wood-pasture lying to the south of Cannock Chase and Cank Wood. Traditionally regarded as the land lying between the river Tame and the river Avon in Warwickshire, the Arden landscape also extends into north Worcestershire to abut the Severn and Avon Vales. To the north and north-east it presents a steep escarpment to the open landscape of the Mease/Sence Lowlands. The eastern part abuts and surrounds Coventry... Within the overall character, there is wide variation which ranges from the enclosed river valleys, through the undulating wooded landscape and small hedged fields of the main plateau, to the remains of the coal industry in the northeast. Surviving features include sprawling settlements of*

*urban fringe character with red-brick terraced housing; spoil heaps and small pockets of rather run-down pasture and arable farmland”.*

#### LCA 72: Mease / Sence Lowlands

This character area covers the north eastern part of the Borough.

*“This area comprises the land hugging the western and southern flanks of the Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield. The Trent valley forms its western boundary between Burton upon Trent and Tamworth. From there eastwards it has a boundary with the Arden. On its south eastern boundary this area merges with the Leicestershire Vales”.*

### **County Context**

- 3.5 The Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines were prepared in 1993 by Warwickshire County Council and the Countryside Commission. The work was a pioneering approach to systematically analysing the major influences which have shaped the character of the landscape. The Guidelines are still current and provide at a county level guidelines for management which build upon the detailed understanding of the countryside gained through landscape assessment. The guidelines;

*“offer guidance to landowners, farmers, planners, developers, road engineers, foresters, ecologists and landscape architects on how development and modern land management practices can best be integrated into the landscape. They define areas of strong landscape character and areas where a concerted effort is required to enhance areas of degradation. Ultimately they aim to ensure that the diversity and beauty of Warwickshire, Shakespeare’s County, is conserved for present and future generations to enjoy”.*

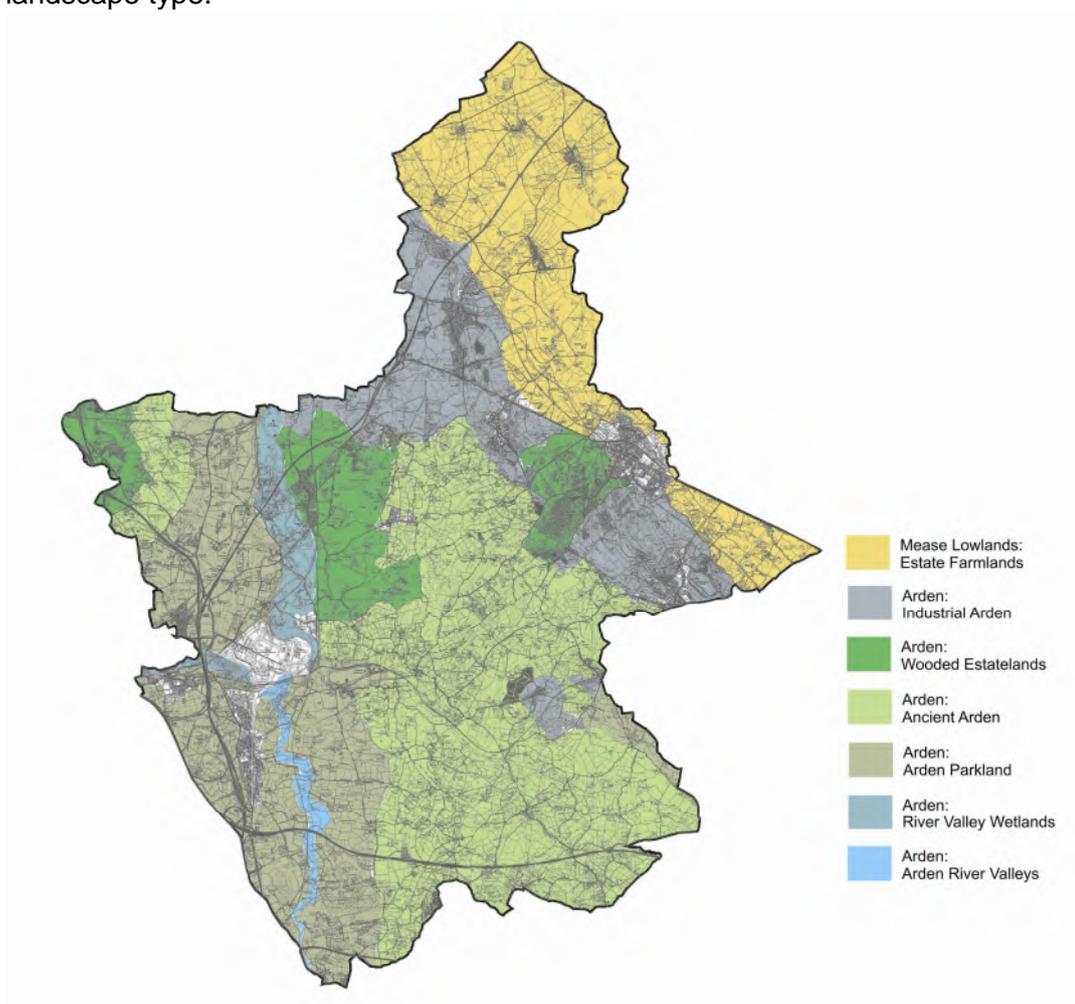
- 3.6 Within the Guidelines the majority of the Borough fits within the Arden Regional Character Areas, and the north east of the Borough within the Mease Lowlands. This broadly corresponds to the National Landscape Characterisation landscape character areas.
- 3.7 The Arden character area is described as *“an historic region of former wood pasture and heath characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern, ancient woodlands and mature hedgerow oaks”*, and the Mease Lowlands as *“a rural agricultural region of*

*large country estates and small nucleated villages characterised by tall church spires”.*

3.8 The Arden character Area is sub-divided into a number of Local Landscape Types, the following are applicable to North Warwickshire;

- Ancient Arden
- Wooded Estatelands
- Industrial Arden
- Arden Parklands
- Arden River Valleys
- River Valley Wetlands

3.9 Within North Warwickshire the Mease Lowlands are of the Estate Farmlands landscape type.



*Interpretation of Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines Local Landscape Types*

## **The Warwickshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Study**

- 3.10 This study involved collation of detailed data on present and historic land use across North Warwickshire. The data was made available in GIS format and is referred to as part of the desk top study to assist in identifying landscape patterns and more sensitive historic landscapes. Some elements of the data are presented within this report; however the Warwickshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Study should be referred to separately for further detailed reference information.

### **Surrounding Authorities**

- 3.11 The Warwickshire Borough abuts the County boundaries of Staffordshire and Leicestershire and the district boundaries of Lichfield, Tamworth, North West Leicestershire, Hinckley and Bosworth, Nuneaton and Bedworth and the Unitary Authorities of Coventry, Solihull and Birmingham.
- 3.12 A number of landscape character related studies have been undertaken for these authorities (refer to References for a complete list) and have been referred to in order to identify any potential cross boundary issues. Where these have been identified they are referred to within the descriptions of the landscape character areas defined within this assessment.

### **Other reference material**

- 3.13 Other reference material helpful to understanding landscape character may be available, such as Warwickshire County Council's Historic Farmsteads Characterisation and Worcestershire Wildlife Consultancy and Natural England's 'Opportunity Mapping' (Landscapes for Living). At the time of writing this document these studies were still underway. Please note that since publication, new or updated material may now be available. For further information contact the Warwickshire County Council or North Warwickshire District Council.

## 4.0 OVERVIEW OF THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT

- 4.1 The following overview contains extracts from the Natural England and Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines that have been identified as relevant to the North Warwickshire Borough Landscape.

### **Physical Influences**

- 4.2 This section provides a summary of the underlying physical factors which fundamentally affect the landscape under the headings; geology and soils, topography and hydrology, and biodiversity.

### **Geology and soils**

- 4.3 The western, central and southern parts of the Borough lie across the eastern part of the Birmingham plateau, this “consists of two uplifted units of older Palaeozoic strata - the South Staffordshire and East Warwickshire plateaus – separated by an area of Triassic rocks covered for the most part by glacial drift. This central plateau is lower lying than the adjoining Palaeozoic areas and in Warwickshire it is largely underlain by Mercia mudstones with a covering of glacial sands and gravels or boulder clay. This gives the plateau a flat to gently rolling character, finely cut by the River Blythe and its tributary streams which flow northwards to join the Tame at Hams Hall. The Blythe is a slow-moving meandering river with countless minor tributary streams trickling in from every side. Many of these tributary valleys are badly drained and occupied by sluggish, braided streams...The Tame valley is wider than that of the Blythe and has a much more developed floodplain with at least two associated gravel terraces.
- 4.4 The East Warwickshire plateau is a dissected upland plateau closely associated with a spindle-shaped horst of Carboniferous and older rocks, which rise to just over 150metres near Corley. The major part of the plateau is occupied by the Upper Coal Measures, consisting mainly of red marls and sandstones and characterised by red, free draining soils. These are fringed on the north and north east by the Middle (Productive) Coal Measures with which the Warwickshire Coalfield is associated. A narrow band of Cambrian and Pre-Cambrian rocks also outcrop along the north-eastern edge of the plateau, between Atherstone and Nuneaton. These older rocks, mainly consisting of hard diorite and quartzite, are faulted against the adjoining Triassic mudstones and present a steep scarp slope towards the Mease Lowlands to the north-east. The Carboniferous rocks are also cut off on the west by a major

*boundary fault which forms a pronounced edge to the plateau along the Blythe and Tame valleys. South and eastwards, where glacial drift deposits flatten the landform, the plateau slopes gradually into the valleys of the Avon and the Sowe". (page 5 Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines: Arden)*

- 4.5 Within the north and east of the Borough the landscape is closely *"associated with a large tract of Mercia mudstone lying between two uplifted areas of older coal bearing rocks. These mudstones give rise to reddish clay soils which give way locally to well drained sandy soils derived from an irregular outcrop of Triassic sandstone.*
- 4.6 *The region is drained by three relatively minor rivers; the Mease to the north and the Anker and its tributary the Sence to the south and east. The many streams and Brooks which drain into these rivers have produced a dissected gently rolling topography rising to just over 130metres at No Man's Heath. In Warwickshire the River Anker forms a rather indistinct valley separating the region from Arden to the south west. The narrow floodplain is flanked by gravel terraces but in the lower valley some of the right bank tributaries flow over very wide spreads of alluvium. The most extensive of these forms a flat, low lying vale between Warton and Austrey". (page 22 Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines: Dunsmore, High Cross Plateau, Mease Lowlands)*
- 4.7 Within the Borough there are a number of Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) designations (see Figure 3).

### **Topography and Hydrology**

- 4.8 There are distinct variations in topography across the Borough which combined with the underlying geology have a significant influence on the land use and subsequent character of the landscape. The Natural England landscape character areas reflect the topographical variations across the Borough. The topography of the Borough is illustrated at Figure 4 and Flood Zones at Figure 5.
- 4.9 Generally the south eastern part of the Borough, within the Arden LCA is more elevated (up to 190metres above ordnance datum) with a gently undulating landform, the most elevated land being around Corley and the rocky escarpment at Hartshill.
- 4.10 The landform gradually descends to around 60metres AOD at the river valleys of the Tame (where it meets the Trent Valley Washlands) and Blythe, which link south-north and create a low lying plain that dominates the western section of the Borough. To

the east of the Blythe the landform comprises a complex series of hills and valleys with minor watercourses that outfall to Shustoke Reservoir and the Rivers Blythe and Tame. To the West of the Blythe the landform rises slightly to a crest at Coleshill before descending into the Cole Valley to meet the eastern urban edge of Birmingham at the Borough boundary. To the North West, above the River Tame the landform rises more dramatically towards the Borough boundary, this more elevated land forms the south-eastern corner of the Cannock Chase & Cank Wood LCA.

- 4.11 To the east the Anker Valley is broad and low lying, however around Polesworth it narrows and steepens, this is emphasised by the artificial landform from former workings (now Pooley Country Park) just to the north of Atherstone. North of the Anker in the far north of the Borough the landform forms a wide bowl and includes a number of small watercourses which form tributaries of the Anker. These areas lie within the Mease / Sence Lowlands LCA.
- 4.12 There are a number of distinct artificial landforms within the Borough associated with the former minerals extraction workings these include hard rock quarries at Hartshill, significant spoil mounds east of Hartshill, west and north of Polesworth / Dordon and west of Packington Hall and the extensive former gravel workings alongside the River Tame.

### **Biodiversity**

- 4.13 The underlying geology and variations in topography and hydrology contribute to the complex and diverse range of habitats across the Borough. As a whole the Borough appears well wooded, particularly within the upland areas, being most pronounced around Hartshill where extensive woodland blocks and plantations exist, some of which are classified as 'Ancient Woodlands'. Ancient Woodland areas across the Borough are illustrated at Figure 6, these tend to be located upon the higher ground.
- 4.14 Within the lower lying river corridors woodland is less pronounced, however arable areas with a good spread of hedgerow oaks and pockets of wetland vegetation (at Tame) and regenerating scrub at Anker and riparian vegetation along the SSSI Blythe also provide good tree cover. The large wetland areas formed from former extraction operations concentrated around the Tame Valley and at Alvecote on the River Anker provide notable wildlife habitats. There are 13 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and 43 locally designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) within the Borough, these are illustrated at Figure 7.

4.15 The Borough comprises a predominantly farmed landscape with a mix of arable and pastoral land. There are pockets of unimproved grassland in places adjacent to the many watercourses through the Borough and pockets of remnant heath, particularly notable around the elevated Baddesley and Packington Hall to the south. The heathy upland nature within parts of the area is also still evident as understory within woodlands and as bracken within roadside hedgerows and verges in the more elevated parts of the Borough. With regard to hedgerows there remains a relatively intact hedgerow field structure with pockets of former wood heath for instance to the west of Fillongley but also areas of wide open arable landscape, where the field structure has been removed / compromised, the most notable being between Austrey and Orton-on-the-Hill. Hedgerow lined lanes, often with grass verges and some upon banks are a common feature of the Borough. Within pastoral areas and areas of former wood heath field ponds are still a fairly common feature.

4.16 The following extracts are taken from the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines;

*Within the majority of the Borough the natural vegetation "is thought to have consisted of dense broadleaved woodland, dominated by oak on the light sandy soils and lime on the heavier clays and loams. Woodland clearance, from earliest times, resulted in the development of grassland and wood pasture over much of the area with heathland on the poorer, leached soils. Marshland occurred in low lying areas along rivers and streams. All of these habitats have been greatly influenced by land-use history and no large areas have survived. The sites of greatest ecological interest today are those that retain remnants of these ancient vegetation types. They reflect the underlying geology and soils and make an important contribution to landscape character. Some, particularly woodlands, also form prominent visual features".*

#### Ancient Woodland

4.17 Bentley Park Wood is identified within the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines as a fine example of 'Ancient Woodland'. The following is said of 'Ancient Woodlands' generally; *"Although none retain the climax species composition of the original wildwood, some on the sandy soils on the North Warwickshire plateau can still be classified as oak dominated woodlands. The rest are now best described, as a result of frequent disturbance by man, as oak-birch woodlands".*

- 4.18 *“Many woods, although on the ancient woodlands register, have been substantially replanted in modern times and are reduced in their conservation value. However, their rich ground flora and fauna built up over centuries is often still present, particularly along rides and around the edge of the woodland. This makes them superior wildlife sites to more recent plantation woodlands and high priorities for conversion back to a semi-natural species mix. Ancient woodbanks, not found in recent woodland, add additional historical interest to many ancient woodlands”.* (page 8 Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines: Arden)

#### Heathland

- 4.19 *“Heathland and commons, now rare and greatly diminished in area, were historically associated with wood pasture and waste”.* The Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines refer to Baddesley Common as one of the most significant areas now remaining, Grendon Common, adjacent to Baddesley is also referred to and to Packington, where fragments of heathy grassland survive.
- 4.20 *“Although all three heather species exist, true heathland in Arden is characterised by ling heather with bilberry, purple moor grass, heath bedstraw and wavy hair grass. Where management has ceased, gorse, bracken and silver birch start to colonise. Bracken is perhaps the most obvious ‘heathy’ indicator and is a common feature of many woods and roadside verges”.* (page 8 Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines: Arden)

#### Hedgerows

- 4.21 *“Ancient, mixed hedgerows, often more than two metres wide, are a special feature of Arden, and some may represent remnants of the original wildwood as it was cleared and converted into small hedged fields by assarting. The hedges were assimilated from shrubs found along the previous woodland edge, or from the seed bank in the soil, and the species mix therefore reflects that from the woodland itself. A wide variety of woody species are typically present, often dominated by hazel, but with dogwood, field maple, hawthorn, blackthorn and holly also common...Where hedge banks complement ancient hedges, these often support a diverse flora with many woodland plant species”.*

#### Unimproved grassland

- 4.22 *“Permanent grassland is still a feature of the more pastoral Arden landscapes, and where this remains unimproved it can be rich in flowering plant species. Many sites which existed up to the Second World War have now been destroyed or damaged as*

*a result of agricultural intensification, but many areas remain, particularly on marginal land. The best remaining sites are found on steep hillsides as rough, often scrub grassland; on high canal and roadside embankments; on disused railway cuttings; or as isolated groups of hedged fields”.*

#### Field ponds

- 4.23 *“Field ponds, often fringed by scrub and trees are found throughout Arden and are associated with its history of stock rearing. Where they are managed to avoid silting up and over shading by surrounding scrub vegetation, they can be valuable wildlife habitats. Although many ponds have been lost as a result of agricultural intensification and neglect they are still an important feature of the region, and are particularly abundant in Fillongley and Meridian parishes”.* Meridian is located just to the south of the Borough boundary.

#### River wetlands

- 4.24 *“Historically river floodplains were managed as wet meadowland. These were floristically rich and of great nature conservation value”.* The Blythe River SSSI is described as remaining *“relatively unspoilt, retaining a good variety of marginal vegetation, wet grassland, riverside trees and scrub”*
- 4.25 Within the north east corner of the Borough the ecology is notably different and the following descriptions have been extracted from the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines;
- 4.26 *The Mease Lowlands are primarily an agricultural region and, as might be expected, most of the habitats of value to wildlife are associated with farmland. Unimproved grassland is the most valuable habitat types often in association with individual features such as hedgerows and field ponds. Streamlines are also important as wildlife corridors, forming a network of linked sites”* (page 22 Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines: Dunsmore, High Cross Plateau, Mease Lowlands)

#### Streams and Meadows

- 4.27 *“The streams and small rivers draining the Mease Lowlands support a wide range of aquatic plant and animal life. Associated areas of marginal marsh vegetation, unimproved meadow and alder/hawthorn scrub are of particular importance, while flowering plants such as water stitchwort, marsh marigold and yellow flag provide interest and colour. Hedges and ditches with great hairy willowherb, nettle, bittersweet and fools watercress bound the low lying fields at Austrey Meadows.*

*Marsh marigolds (locally called mollyblobs) and lady's smock can also be found in the remaining damp grassland"* (page 23 Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines: Dunsmore, High Cross Plateau, Mease Lowlands)

#### Unimproved Grassland

- 4.28 *"Unimproved pasture and hay meadows are two of the most important of Warwickshire's wildlife resources in national terms, and are probably its most threatened habitats. Most grasslands have received some level of improvement by drainage, reseeding or fertilisation. Most of the remaining fragments occur in pockets around the villages in the region and on slopes too steep for the plough. The latter group of mainly dry grasslands have a sward made up of meadow barley, sheeps sorrel, greater knapweed, harebell, devilsbit scabious, meadow cranesbill, great burnet and cowslip. Where grazing has ceased, coarse grasses, gorse, bramble and hawthorn quickly become dominant"* (page 23 Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines: Dunsmore, High Cross Plateau, Mease Lowlands)

#### Human Influences

- 4.29 This section addresses the effects man has had on the underlying landscape. It investigates the subdivision between rural and urban characteristics, the infrastructure of roads, canals and settlements, and the historic evolution of the landscape.

#### **Land cover and land use**

- 4.30 The Borough of North Warwickshire is predominantly rural in character. Settlements are small and concentrated within the coal belt to the north and east, or to the west close to the industrial areas of Birmingham, the remainder of the Borough is largely farmland and related land uses associated with rural areas. Woodland cover comprises almost 6.7% of the Borough. The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project undertaken by Warwickshire County Council has mapped the broad land uses across the Borough. These are illustrated at Figure 8.
- 4.31 A number of larger settlements and cities lie close to the boundaries of the Borough, namely Birmingham to the west, Tamworth to the north and the linked settlements of Nuneaton, Bedworth and Coventry to the southeast. At Birmingham the large scale industrial and employment land uses sprawl across the Borough boundary influencing the character of settlements of Coleshill, Water Orton and Kingsbury, which all lie within the context of large scale industry, Hams Hall Power Station dominates the land north of Coleshill and east of Water Orton and the oil distribution

depots to the east of Kingsbury dominate this area. A military training ground lies within the farmland south east of Kingsbury.

- 4.32 To the north and east former minerals extraction sites, with remnant spoil mounds at various stages of restoration and regeneration combined with large scale employment sites such as Birch Coppice Business Park lie adjacent to the settlement areas of Polesworth, Dordon, Grendon and Atherstone. Hard rock quarrying and associated industry lie within the uplands at Hartshill.
- 4.33 The most common land use is arable, although there are also significant areas of pastoral land. The farmed landscape occurs largely uninterrupted across the main, central part of the Borough. Former minerals extraction has also created significant extensive wetlands adjacent to the River Tame, most notable at Kingsbury Water Park.
- 4.34 Elsewhere there are a number of scattered country estates across the Borough, some of which (eg Packington Hall, Maxstoke Park and the Belfry) have now become golf courses but retain much of their original landscape structure. There are many golf courses across the Borough and these provide the most notable recreational facility in terms of land use. There are also a small number of Country Parks on restored land including Kingsbury Water Park, Pooley Country Park and Hartshill Country Park. The Coventry and Birmingham & Fazeley Canals and Dobbies Garden Centre and Maze World provide alternative recreational land uses.

### **Buildings and Settlement**

- 4.35 Although clusters of small towns and larger villages associated with the industries have developed close to the peripheries of the Borough, the remainder of the Borough is relatively unpopulated. A dispersed settlement pattern exists with small nucleated villages predominantly in the north east and elsewhere scattered hamlets and small linear settlements predominate. Modern 20<sup>th</sup> century development has tended to focus on the larger towns and mining villages and within the rural areas small scale ribbon development and individual properties have been constructed that tend to follow the historic settlement pattern. The settlement pattern throughout the Borough is illustrated at Figure 9. This presents the North Warwickshire Borough Council's defined settlement boundaries and is supplemented by data from the County's Historic Landscape Classification project to illustrate the dispersed settlement pattern outside of the defined settlements.

- 4.36 Traditionally buildings within the area were red brick and tile, with some white rendered and timber framed properties. Across parts of the Borough, particularly notable in the north east, around Furnace End and at Coleshill distinctive spired churches are a distinctive and common feature within the landscape. In places stone has been imported for construction of important buildings. Maxstoke Priory Scheduled Ancient Monument is a typical example.

### **Infrastructure**

- 4.37 Associated with the development of industry and growth of the towns the Borough is heavily influenced by a network of motorways and A roads that pass through its fringes; the M42 to the north, the M6 toll, M6 and M42 to the west, the M6 to the south and the A5 to the east. These corridors have a notable influence on the character and tranquillity of the areas they pass through.
- 4.38 A network of rail lines also passes through the area and penetrates further into the rural core of the Borough. The West Coast main line has the greatest impact on the landscape; this passes through the Anker Valley and is clearly discernible by the regular lines of overhead gantries.
- 4.39 Historically with the industries a network of canals were created through the area, the Coventry Canal passes through the Anker Valley and the Birmingham & Fazeley Canal through the Tame Valley.
- 4.40 The remainder of the Borough comprises a dense network of lanes and roads, these have been upgraded were busy roads connect the larger settlements, however within the core of the Borough a dense network of narrow winding hedged lanes still exist and connect the dispersed settlement pattern of hamlets and farmsteads.

### **Historical and cultural influences**

- 4.41 The following extracts from the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines provide an overview of the historical and cultural influences that have helped shape the character of most of the Borough, the area defined in the Guidelines as 'Arden';

*"...permanent pastoral settlements established at an early date. The resulting clearances were farmed as small hedged enclosures or 'closes' which created a characteristic pattern of small irregular fields. These were particularly representative of the areas...from Allesley [beyond the southern Borough boundary] to Fillongley"*  
(page 8 Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines: Arden)

- 4.42 *"In contrast open field agriculture was only represented to any degree in the Blythe Valley... Generally this was associated with nucleated villages...In the Blythe Valley full enclosure was not completed until the 19<sup>th</sup> century resulting in a more regular pattern of larger fields*
- 4.43 *Extensive woodland cover remained until the Norman Conquest, with the most heavily wooded manors recorded in the Domesday Survey...Subsequently much woodland was cleared and enclosed for arable and stock. Between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, numerous manorial deer parks were created which probably helped conserve woodland cover. Most have left little impression upon the modern landscape, though good examples survive at Packington ...Parks continued to be enclosed from the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards and it is these, for example Merevale... which are most prominent today.*
- 4.44 *As late as 1540 Leland wrote that "...the ground in Arden is much enclosyd, plentiful of gres and woode". However, by 1822 C&J Greenwoods' one inch County map showed only small remnants of woodland. Little further shrinkage occurred during the 19<sup>th</sup> century as maps show only slightly more woodland than is found today. Minor additions resulted from the Enclosure movement of this period with the planting of many small woods and coverts. These are uniform in size and shape and lack the irregular and sinuous boundaries and woodbanks of ancient woods. Often they are named as 'coverts', 'gorses' or 'spinneys'".*
- 4.45 *"Commons were a feature of areas of remnant woodland and many were wooded until relatively recent times. A typical wood pasture common was grassland or heather with thickly scattered trees and bushes. Other commons represented areas of heathland on poorer soils and the numerous 'Heath' names indicate those cleared of woodland at a relatively early date. Commons did not disappear completely until the last stages of enclosure in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century... Commons have left little impression upon the present landscape, except that they can often be identified as areas with a geometric pattern of fields and lanes within a surrounding irregular or semi-regular pattern.*
- 4.46 *Commons attracted settlement by landless labourers and poorer sections of the community. These formed the basis of many Arden hamlets, especially those known as 'End' or 'Green'. An allied settlement type is the wayside cottage established on a roadside verge and taking in a long linear garden.*

- 4.47 *The dispersed settlement pattern more generally found in Arden was closely related to agricultural development. The typical expression of woodland assarting and heathland enclosure was a pattern of scattered farmsteads and hamlets. This dispersed pattern is reflected in a maze of narrow lanes, trackways and footpaths which grew up to serve outlying farms and hamlets. A land-owning peasantry gave rise to a wealthy class of yeoman farmers by the late medieval period. As a result many substantial brick and timber farmhouses were built in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, often on earlier moated sites.*
- 4.48 *A more recent and very distinct settlement type is associated with the pit villages of the coal mining industry. Extensive coal exploitation began in North Warwickshire in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, shortly after the start of the Industrial Revolution. This has had a profound effect on the landscape of this part of Warwickshire. Mining villages contain much early 20th century terraced housing, often situated on hill tops and with a very distinctive ‘northern’ character. Some of these were new villages built to house mining families, while older villages relocated as a colliery expanded.*
- 4.49 *The presence of coal mines attracted secondary industry which relied on coal for power. Hams Hall power station was built to produce electricity directly from coal. Other industrial plants sprung up to convert coal to coke and other products. Railways and roads were also built to transport the coal to other areas of the country. The effects of the mines therefore have spread far beyond the colliery gates, and have made the north eastern part of Arden between Tamworth and Nuneaton, an industrial landscape unlike any other in the county”*
- 4.50 The development of the Mease lowlands differs from this. The Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines state;
- 4.51 *The Mease Lowlands were already cleared of woodland at an early date and there was little woodland recorded in the Domesday Book. The region has ...”small nucleated villages set amidst open arable fields, some of which survived until the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The late date of enclosure helped to preserve the strongly nucleated settlement pattern, which is particularly distinctive feature of the region. Villages tend to occupy high sites overlooking their surrounding fields while parish boundaries frequently follow the intervening streams. In Warwickshire these include Seckington, Austrey, Warton and Newton Regis. Seckington was also the site of a Norman motte and bailey castle.*

- 4.52 *The late date of enclosure in this region also resulted in the geometric pattern of large hedged fields characteristic of parliamentary enclosure which is still seen in parts of many parishes today. Although parts of these parishes were enclosed at an earlier date only Bramcote in Polesworth is known as a depopulated settlement. Today most of the enclosure hedges within this township have been removed. There were extensive meadows on the low lying area to the south west of Austrey. These were associated with alluvial deposits of a tributary stream of the Anker. Areas of heathland, Clifton Heath and No Man's Heath, persisted along the northern county boundary in Newton Regis until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The latter lay at a road junction and has become a small settlement focus but the former, part of which was once used as a rabbit warren, has now become subdivided into the regular geometric fields associated with late enclosure.*
- 4.53 *Minor manor houses and country houses abound through the region. Some of the earlier manorial sites were moated...Larger country houses, many of which are set within parkland, include...Caldecote Hall" (page 22 Dunsmore, High Cross Plateau, Mease Lowlands).*
- 4.54 The historical landscape designations (Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens and Conservation Areas) are illustrated at Figure 10.

## **5.0 CHARACTER OF THE NORTH WARWICKSHIRE LANDSCAPES**

- 5.1 This study has identified 13 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) across the Borough. The accompanying plan at Figure 11 defines the broad location and boundaries of the character areas. The methodology for undertaking the assessment is set out within Section 2.0.
- 5.2 The LCAs broadly correlate with the Regional and County LCAs defined by Natural England and Warwickshire County. The following Landscape Character Descriptions and Landscape management recommendations provide a more localised Borough wide scale of detail;

**Landscape Character Area 1: No Man's Heath to Warton - Lowlands**



**Corresponding National and County Landscape Character Areas**

*Countryside Agency: LCA 72 The Mease/Sence Lowlands*

*Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines: Mease Lowlands: Estate Farmlands*

<p><b>Key characteristics;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A distinctive shallow bowl landform of gently undulating low rounded hills that contain a central valley;</li> <li>• Mixed open agricultural landscape with a scattering of small red-brick, nucleated hill top villages with visually prominent church spires;</li> <li>• Dense network of minor country roads and lanes, bordered by grass verges, some towards the north containing hedges with bracken hint at former heaths;</li> <li>• M42 cuts through centrally;</li> <li>• Strong rectilinear hedge pattern of late enclosure with in parts extensive very open areas of arable cultivation on the more elevated land, particularly towards Orton-on-the-Hill;</li> <li>• Small flat pastoral fields on lower land, associated with a number of small tributaries of the Anker River particularly notable at Austrey Meadows;</li> <li>• Tree cover confined to small regularly shaped game coverts and hedgerow trees;</li> <li>• Wide open views across the character area from the elevated fringes, from lower land views across open fields to near escarpments.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Location and boundaries;</b></p>	<p>Located within the lower-lying north eastern corner of the Borough. The boundaries are clearly defined to the north, east and south by a series of distinct escarpments. The western boundary with Lichfield District is less clearly defined.</p>
<p><b>Landscape Character (key description);</b></p>	<p>Visually open, mixed farmland located within a distinctive bowl landform. A series of ditches and small watercourses pass through the lower reaches and drain into the River Anker to the west.</p> <p>This is a well ordered agricultural landscape, with scattered farmsteads and nucleated hilltop villages (Austrey, Seckington, Newton Regis and Warton) each with prominent church spires. The villages include both traditional vernacular buildings and more recent development, connected by a network of minor roads and lanes typically bordered by wide grass verges, some with hedges. In the north some hedges contain bracken as a remnant of the former heaths in this area. A distinctly rural landscape, the only notable urban influence is the M42 motorway, which cuts centrally through the character area. There is little roadside planting associated with the motorway and therefore wide open views are possible across the rural landscape both from and towards it.</p>

	<p>In the lower lying areas alongside the watercourses, small, regular, often linear fields are used for grazing and are enclosed by low hedgerows. This is particularly notable at Austrey Meadows to the south of Austrey. On higher land, towards the distinctive low escarpments that contain the character area, the field pattern is less intact with larger, intensively managed arable fields. In places, particularly towards Orton-on-the-Hill (located within Hinckley and Bosworth Borough) agricultural intensification has resulted in wide open fields with few hedgerows. Remaining lines of hedgerow trees hint at the historical hedgerow pattern.</p> <p>Scattered small, regularly shaped game coverts and hedgerow trees provide little tree cover and the landscape is visually open, with panoramic views from the elevated fringes. From elevated locations within the character area distant hilltop masts and wooded ridgelines are visible but their influence on the character of the area is insignificant.</p>
<p><b>Key landscape related designations;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAM site of a Norman motte and bailey castle lies on high land at Seckington;</li> <li>• Conservation Area at the historic core of Newton Regis;</li> <li>• RIGS designation to the west of Warton;</li> <li>• Several small 'Ancient Woodland' coverts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pressures for change / key issues;</b></p>	<p>The main pressure for change identified within this agricultural LCA is agricultural intensification, which has resulted in loss of traditional meadows, hedgerows, riparian vegetation and heathland. There may also be small scale development pressures for village expansion.</p>
<p><b>Landscape / management strategies;</b></p>	<p>Conserve and strengthen the rural character and dispersed nucleated settlement pattern of this agricultural landscape;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any new development should reinforce the existing settlement pattern of the rural villages;</li> <li>• New agricultural buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to blend with the surrounding landscape;</li> <li>• Avoid types of farm diversification that are inappropriate to the agricultural landscape;</li> <li>• Maintain the quiet, peaceful character of the area and only encourage informal recreation;</li> <li>• Encourage set-aside field margins around Clifton Heath and No-mans Heath to be managed for re-establishment of heathland;</li> <li>• Conserve the historic field pattern, with priority given to restoring and strengthening primary hedge lines including those alongside roads;</li> <li>• Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;</li> <li>• Promote management of small woods and game coverts, in places long rotation coppicing may be appropriate;</li> <li>• Enhance tree cover through small scale planting of broadleaved coverts and woods in keeping with geometric pattern of hedged fields and visually open character;</li> <li>• Encourage natural regeneration of trees and vegetation alongside watercourses and promote small areas of wetland planting in areas currently lacking in habitats;</li> <li>• Encourage ecological management of grassland areas and wetlands.</li> </ul>

**Landscape Character Area 2: Little Warton to Fields Farm - Fen Lanes**



***Corresponding National and County Landscape Character Areas***

*Countryside Agency: LCA 72 The Mease/Sence Lowlands*

*Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines: Mease Lowlands: Estate Farmlands*

**Key characteristics;**

- Flat, open arable landscape;
- Large rectilinear field pattern of late enclosure under intensive arable cultivation;
- Relatively unsettled peaceful and quiet landscape with only a few scattered farmsteads;
- Forms the western tip of the Hinckley and Bosworth 'Fen Lanes' LCA;
- Field boundaries comprise low trimmed and gappy hedgerows and/or frequent field ditches and narrow watercourses;
- Low tree cover provided by scattered copses and few hedgerow trees;
- Subtle variations in landform allow local views across the open arable fields to near skyline.

**Location and boundaries;**

Located above and to the east of the Anker Valley (LCA3) this forms the north western tip of the 'Fen Lanes' LCA defined in the adjacent Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment. Orton Road and Warton Lane broadly define the character area boundaries within the North Warwickshire Borough.

**Landscape Character (key description);**

An intensively farmed small parcel of arable farmland between the Anker Valley to the west and the Lowlands to the north, this rural landscape is differentiated by its slightly elevated and generally flat topography. A tributary to the River Anker passes centrally through the area.

The landscape is simple and sparsely settled with a few scattered farmsteads. Small modern farm sheds are evident but not dominant within the landscape. The lack of settlement or urban features creates a deeply rural sense of place.

Large, regular shaped arable fields with low trimmed hedgerows and boundary ditches are occasionally broken by small and regular shaped game coverts and copses, which break the skyline and provide some variation to this simple landscape pattern.

The landform and occasional woodland combine to create a relatively contained landscape with internal views to near skylines.

<b>Key landscape related designations;</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None noted</li> </ul>
<b>Pressures for change / key issues;</b>	The main pressure for change identified within this arable landscape is agricultural intensification, which has resulted in loss of traditional meadows, hedgerows and riparian vegetation.
<b>Landscape / management strategies;</b>	<p>Safeguard and manage the rural character of this agricultural landscape;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New agricultural buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to blend with the surrounding landscape;</li> <li>• Avoid types of farm diversification that are inappropriate to the agricultural landscape;</li> <li>• Maintain the quiet, peaceful character of the area and only encourage informal recreation;</li> <li>• Encourage development of wide and diverse field margins along watercourses and boundaries;</li> <li>• Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;</li> <li>• Promote management of small woods and game coverts, in places long rotation coppicing may be appropriate;</li> <li>• Enhance tree cover through small scale planting of broadleaved coverts and woods in keeping with geometric pattern of hedged fields and visually open character;</li> <li>• Encourage natural regeneration of trees and vegetation alongside watercourses and promote small areas of wetland planting in areas currently lacking in habitats.</li> </ul>

**Character Area 3: Anker Valley**



**Corresponding National and County Landscape Character Areas**

*Countryside Agency: LCA 72 The Mease/Sence Lowlands*

*Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines: Mease Lowlands: Estate Farmlands*

**Key characteristics;**

- Valley landform; narrow, steep and strongly undulating to the north and an indistinct, gently sloping, broad valley to the south;
- Predominantly an intensively farmed arable landscape but with pockets of pastoral land around the settlements and close to the river;
- Peripheral settlements of Shuttington, Polesworth, Dordon, Atherstone and Mancetter and busy connecting lanes have an urbanising influence;
- The Coventry Canal and River Anker wind discretely through the valley, often only evident by the many hump back bridges;
- Busy transport corridors include the A5, the M42 and the West Coast main rail line;
- Relatively tranquil parkland and rural character around Grendon Park and Caldecote Hall;
- An open landscape with few areas of woodland and pockets of riparian scrub and regenerating woodland on former colliery sites;
- Mining subsidence has resulted in the wetland flashes at Alvecote and Pooley Country Park;
- In the north Alvecote Priory and Alvecote Marina;
- Recreation at Dobbies Nursery;
- Wide open views across the valley from the upper slopes.

**Location and boundaries;**

The valley flows roughly south-east to north-west, dividing the lowlands to the east (LCA 1&2) from the steep escarpment (LCA4) to the west.

Atherstone is located centrally, dividing the LCA in two. The northern section extends to the Tamworth District at the northern boundary and is defined by steeply undulating topography with distinct escarpments to its western and eastern slopes that provide clear separation from the adjacent character areas. Towards Atherstone as the valley broadens and becomes more gently sloping the boundaries are less clearly defined at the A5 Watling Road and Warton Lane along the upper valley slopes. To the south of Atherstone, the southern edge of the broad valley is defined by the Coventry Canal at the base of the sharply rising land around Hartshill to the south, and to the north the LCA meets the district boundary and the A5 and continues to the east beyond the district boundary.

**Landscape**

A visually open and broad, indistinct valley becoming steeper and more

<p><b>Character (key description);</b></p>	<p>defined to the north close to Polesworth. The River Anker weaves discretely through the valley bottom and the Coventry Canal takes a straighter course south of the river.</p> <p>The land use across this character area is predominantly farmland; however the character varies as a result of the complex mix of peripheral settlements and associated urban land uses. Busy transport corridors include the M42; which passes through the north on a viaduct, the A5; which follows the boundary of the character area along the upper slopes and the West Coast main railway line; which follows the course of the river through the lower reaches of the valley and is clearly discernible by the overhead rail gantries. A network of busy lanes between the peripheral settlements of Polesworth, Dordon, Atherstone, Mancetter and Nuneaton to the south also has an urbanising effect, only the remoter Grendon Park and Caldecote Hall feel relatively tranquil.</p> <p>Polesworth and Dordon are located upon the ridge above the valley and have an urbanising influence on the adjacent landscape. Atherstone, although lower lying, has open edges and large scale development at its periphery, which again influences the character of this LCA. The large scale, brick built Aldi Distribution Centre, although enclosed by woodland planting, is a highly visible landscape detractor within the north of the valley. To the south of Mancetter, urbanising influences include a sewage works and Dobbies World, which includes a visitor's centre with mazes and woodland planting.</p> <p>Farmland across the valley predominantly comprises late enclosure large arable hedged fields, generally with low trimmed, and in some places gappy hedgerows. Smaller, more irregular pastoral fields to the east of Dordon and north of Grendon are occasionally enclosed by timber stock fencing. Small areas of river flood meadow exist around Polesworth (an area to south east is designated as SSSI) and between Leather Mill Farm and Caldecote. Within the north the scrub and birch wetlands at Pooley Country Park, and the east facing partially wooded slopes of mixed farmland between Grendon and Polesworth.</p> <p>Generally tree cover is limited to oak hedgerow trees and riparian vegetation. There are also some pockets of more substantial tree cover; north of Polesworth natural regeneration of birch and scrub provides young woodland around Pooley Country Park, north of Grendon woodland has colonised bare ground of former works, around Grendon Park and Caldecote Hall woodland planting, regular shaped game coverts and scattered parkland trees include evergreen species and create a parkland character.</p> <p>There are wide views across the valley from the upper slopes, with views out being generally contained. To the south distinctive cone shaped mounds from adjacent minerals extraction works and the steeply rising slopes of the Uplands LCA4 have a visual influence on the setting of the otherwise flat valley character.</p>
<p><b>Key landscape related designations;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several RIGS sites are located just north of Polesworth;</li> <li>• Conservation Area incorporating several SAMs at Polesworth straddles the River Anker;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAM north of Pooley Country Park;</li> <li>• SSSI wetlands adjacent to Pooley Country Park;</li> <li>• SSSI meadow adjacent to River Anker;</li> <li>• SAM Grendon Bridge over the River Anker;</li> <li>• Several SINC sites at the eastern edge of Dordon, and adjacent to the Canal and River at Atherstone;</li> <li>• Several SAMs at the southern edge of Mancetter include the site of a roman settlement;</li> <li>• Several small 'Ancient Woodland' blocks.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pressures for change / key issues;</b></p>	<p>Post war agricultural intensification has led to the removal and frequent cutting of hedges in intensively farmed areas and loss of hedgerow trees. Agricultural intensification has resulted in removal of riparian habitats with arable fields extending to the river edge in places. There are also development pressures from the fringe settlements and connecting busy roads and potential or ongoing pressures from extraction industries.</p>
<p><b>Landscape / management strategies;</b></p>	<p>Conserve and restore the rural character of the agricultural landscape and the natural regeneration of the former workings around the mining towns;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any new development should reinforce the existing settlement pattern of small peripheral towns, retaining the rural character of scattered properties and farmsteads within the valley;</li> <li>• Any settlement expansion should include appropriate landscape planting to integrate the settlement edge within the landscape and limit encroachment on the valley;</li> <li>• New agricultural buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to blend with the surrounding landscape;</li> <li>• Conserve and restore areas of existing Parkland at Grendon Park and Caldecote Hall;</li> <li>• Encourage only informal recreational activities appropriate to nature conservation within the valley;</li> <li>• Avoid types of farm diversification that are inappropriate to the agricultural landscape;</li> <li>• Encourage introduction and appropriate management of wide field margins along watercourses and boundaries;</li> <li>• Conserve the historic field pattern, with priority given to restoring and strengthening primary hedge lines including those alongside roads;</li> <li>• Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;</li> <li>• Promote management of small woods and game coverts, in places long rotation coppicing may be appropriate;</li> <li>• Enhance tree cover through small scale planting of broadleaved coverts and woods in keeping with the visually open character;</li> <li>• Encourage natural regeneration of trees and vegetation alongside watercourses and promote small areas of wetland planting in areas currently lacking in habitats;</li> <li>• Encourage ecological management of grassland areas and wetlands.</li> </ul>

**Character Area 4: Baddesley to Hartshill – Uplands**



**Corresponding National and County Landscape Character Areas**

*Countryside Agency: LCA 97 Arden*

*Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines: Arden*

<p><b>Key characteristics;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinct and unified upland landscape on steeply sloping, undulating rock scarp;</li> <li>• Complex land use pattern of settlement, woodland, recreation, quarrying, associated industry and farmland;</li> <li>• Heavily wooded; ancient older oak / birch woodland and younger mixed plantations;</li> <li>• Pockets of permanent pasture in small hedged fields survive on the steeper slopes around the settlement fringes, bounded by ancient, often overgrown hedgerows of hazel and holly (former wood pasture);</li> <li>• Isolated large arable fields between woodland blocks and around Hartshill;</li> <li>• Extensive areas of historic and modern rock quarrying;</li> <li>• Mining settlements include Baddesley Ensor, Hartshill, Ansley Common and Ridge Lane;</li> <li>• Heathy associations; widespread occurrence of birch, gorse and bracken;</li> <li>• Unenclosed commons, supporting remnant heathy vegetation survive adjacent to Baddesley;</li> <li>• Outdoor recreational facilities include Hartshill Hayes Country Park and several golf clubs;</li> <li>• Merevale Hall, is a prominent hilltop landmark set within Parkland;</li> <li>• Distinctive spoil heaps in the south east;</li> <li>• Scattered modern industrial buildings and communications masts within the south;</li> <li>• Long views from highpoints, most notable to the east where long views area possible across the Anker Valley to the Hinckley and Bosworth District.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Location and boundaries;</b></p>	<p>The character area boundaries are defined by the steepening, elevated and generally wooded land. The northern edge of the LCA is clearly defined by the A5 and the Coventry Canal, from here the landform within the LCA rises abruptly. To the south the transition is less abrupt but nevertheless clearly defined by an easing of the topography and general change in land cover to less steeply undulating open elevated farmlands.</p>
<p><b>Landscape Character (key description);</b></p>	<p>This distinct and unified, upland and steeply undulating landscape located upon a rocky escarpment has led to historical development of rock quarrying activities, which continue today south of Baddesley and north of</p>

	<p>Hartshill. The landform also gives rise to characteristic upland woodland, heath and marginal pastoral farmland. Although the area contains settlement and industry, this is generally absorbed by the prevailing wooded upland character.</p> <p>The historical exploitation of the area has led to the development of a complex mix of land uses including industry, settlement, recreation, agriculture and forestry, linked by a network of busy lanes.</p> <p>To the north the landscape around the hilltop mining settlement of Baddesley Ensor is bordered by heathy former common land, which in places penetrates into the settlement, and by steep poorly, drained fields of permanent pasture enclosed by hedgerows, some of which are ancient hedgerows of hazel and holly, and small copses.</p> <p>Centrally and to the south of Baddesley a relatively undisturbed heavily wooded landscape surrounds Merevale Hall. The Hall is a prominent landmark building, set within an historic Registered Park and Garden, affording long views across the Anker Valley to the north. A significant proportion of the adjacent Monk's Park / Bentley Park Wood is designated as a SSSI, reflecting its Ancient Woodland qualities. The area retains a strong sense of unity.</p> <p>South of here the landscape is heavily disturbed by quarrying activities and related modern industries particularly east of Hartshill, where visually prominent cone shaped spoil mounds have a visual influence on the setting of the adjacent Anker Valley LCA. At Ridge Lane, a small mining settlement, there are a number of large modern communications masts. A number of recreational facilities have been created in this area. There are two golf courses; one to the south of Mancetter and a second south of Ridge Lane, and Hartshill Hayes Country Park; from here there are long views to the north across the Anker Valley. The Coventry Canal follows the character area boundary at edge of the valley south of Atherstone</p>
<p><b>Key landscape related designations;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SINC woodland and heathland adjacent to Baddesley Ensor;</li> <li>• SAM at the remains of Abbey below Merevale Hall;</li> <li>• Registered Park and Garden at Merevale Hall;</li> <li>• Numerous RIG sites throughout;</li> <li>• SINC woodland south of Merevale Hall;</li> <li>• SSSI at Monks Park Wood and Bentley Park Wood;</li> <li>• A number of large 'Ancient Woodland' blocks;</li> <li>• 2 SAMs north of Hartshill; remains of a Castle and at Arbury.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pressures for change / key issues;</b></p>	<p>The area is subject to a complex range of pressures for change, historical and continuing quarrying has the largest influence on the area, attracting other related industries and settlement expansion. This also leaves disturbed landscapes which are often restored to recreational use. Farmland generally comprises marginal pastoral land; however there are pockets subject to agricultural intensification. Historic landscape elements and natural habitats are under threat from development pressures.</p>
<p><b>Landscape /</b></p>	<p>Conserve and restore the character of this distinctive upland landscape;</p>

**management strategies;**

- Any new development should reinforce the existing settlement pattern of small peripheral towns, retaining the rural character of scattered properties and farmsteads within
- Any settlement expansion should include appropriate landscape planting to integrate the settlement edge within the landscape and limit encroachment into the rural area
- Ongoing and new quarrying activities should only be permitted where they do not result in an unacceptable level of landscape or visual impact, and proposals should only be accepted where a landscape restoration strategy has been prepared that is in keeping with the unique landscape character of this area
- New agricultural and industrial buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to blend with the surrounding landscape;
- Safeguard and manage the Registered Park and Garden at Merevale Hall and protect the wider setting from encroachment by development;
- The design of any recreational facilities should seek to reflect the character of the existing landscape features
- Existing recreational facilities should be retained and enhanced where opportunities arise;
- Conserve pastoral character and identify opportunities for conversion of arable back to pasture
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas;
- Promote the regeneration and management of heathland flora on remnant heathy areas, particularly around Baddesley Common.
- Retain and manage old naturally re-vegetated spoil heaps as landscape features
- Conserve the historic field pattern, and continue to maintain hedgerow field boundaries;
- Conserve all ancient woodland sites and promote ecological management, encourage restocking with native locally occurring broadleaves (preferably through natural regeneration) and in places long rotation coppicing may be appropriate;
- Species selection along woodland edges should favour native trees and shrubs
- Felling coupes should be designed carefully to maintain the effect of wooded enclosure

**Character Area 5: Tamworth – Urban Fringe Farmlands**



**Corresponding National and County Landscape Character Areas**

*Countryside Agency: LCA 97 Arden*

*Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines: Arden*

<p><b>Key characteristics;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gently undulating indistinct landform</li> <li>• Predominantly open arable land with little tree cover</li> <li>• Fragmented landscape with a complex mix of agricultural, industrial and urban fringe land uses</li> <li>• Heavily influenced by adjacent settlement edges of Tamworth and Dordon and by large scale modern industry at Kingsbury, and in the vicinity of the M42 motorway junction</li> <li>• Unifying presence of the M42 motorway, which passes through within a planted cutting</li> <li>• Network of busy roads in and around Tamworth</li> <li>• Generally large, open arable fields between urban land uses with no or low trimmed hedges and few hedgerow trees</li> <li>• Pockets of permanent pasture in small hedged fields survive adjacent to Freasley and Whateley</li> <li>• Former mining activity has created several large spoil tips, now reclaimed but remain sparsely vegetated, the large tip south of the M42 junction 10 is a significant visual detractor</li> <li>• Open internal views contained within wider landscape by peripheral settlement, woodland and landform, although there are longer views across the Tame Valley from the western edge of the area</li> </ul>
<p><b>Location and boundaries;</b></p>	<p>The LCA abuts the Borough boundary, which is broadly defined by the urban edge of Tamworth. The western edge of the LCA abruptly changes where it meets the expansive restored wetlands of the former Tame Valley gravel workings. To the south and east the boundary is defined by a change from larger scale urban fringe dominated land uses to a more rural character, to the east this is marked by the ridgeline upon which Dordon lies and to the south areas of woodland, which provide separation and mark the boundary with the upper Tame Valley farmlands.</p>
<p><b>Landscape Character (key description);</b></p>	<p>An indistinct and variable landscape, with relatively flat open arable fields and pockets of pastoral land, fragmented by restored spoil heaps, large scale industrial buildings and busy roads, and bordered by the settlement edges of Tamworth, Dordon and Kingsbury and with wooded horizon to the south. The M42 motorway has a dominant and unifying presence, passing through the area within a planted cutting. The industry has direct links to the M42 junction 10, also within the area.</p> <p>To the north large scale modern industrial sheds at Tamworth have an urbanising influence along with the settlement of Dordon, located upon the crest of a gentle escarpment. To the south extensive employment</p>

	<p>areas, including Kingsbury Link Business Park and the large structures at the oil storage depot frame the area. Coal mining has greatly influenced the character of this area, particularly with regard to settlement character and the legacy of spoil tips, Dordon and Piccadilly at the peripheries of the area are former mining settlements, Piccadilly includes distinctive rows of red brick terraced housing. Within the area there are several large pockets of land disturbed by former mining operations with remnant recently restored spoil heaps, the spoil heap just south of the M42 motorway junction is particularly large in scale and a visual detractor within the local area. The base is now encircled by large scale modern industrial units at Birch Hill Coppice Business Park.</p> <p>Several smaller settlements are located within this area; these are Birchmoor close to Dordon located on elevated land, and surrounded by open arable fields, and Freasley and Whateley, both with red brick and white rendered vernacular buildings, narrow lanes and adjacent surviving pockets of permanent pasture in small hedged fields. The latter villages are relatively peaceful in comparison to the busy land uses generally across the area.</p> <p>Although farmland makes up a significant proportion of the landscape much of this land has a run-down character, with gappy, poorly managed hedgerows. Tree cover within this area is low, and the M42 motorway corridor provides the most notable stretch of tree planting. Woodland blocks adjacent to the southern boundary are located within the adjacent area; they contain this area and provide separation from the deeply rural landscape to the south.</p> <p>Generally the indistinct topography and combination of peripheral elements limits open views to within the area, with particularly open views across the landscape south of the M42 junction. To the west as the topography dips slightly towards the river Tame there are some longer views across the Tame Valley wetlands, these views include pylons and employment areas within Tamworth.</p>
<p><b>Key landscape related designations;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 small RIGS sites, one within Whateley and a second to the west.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pressures for change / key issues;</b></p>	<p>Subject to many ongoing urbanising pressures increased by the presence of M42 and degraded former minerals extraction land, which has attracted larger scale modern industrial uses. Expansion pressure from the adjacent settlements of Tamworth, Kingsbury and Polesworth/Dordon. Remaining agricultural land has been subject to agricultural intensification, loss of hedgerows and woodland has created a predominantly open, barren landscape. Pockets of remaining pastoral landscape around Freasley and Whateley are potentially under pressure.</p>
<p><b>Landscape / management strategies;</b></p>	<p>Although a few pockets of the historic landscape structure remain, generally this landscape would benefit from reconstruction;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguard the setting of the villages of Freasley and Whateley any development here should reinforce the existing settlement pattern;</li> <li>• Any settlement expansion should include delivery of a robust Green</li> </ul>

	<p>Infrastructure with appropriate landscape planting to integrate the settlement edge within the landscape and bring additional landscape enhancements;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should future mining activities occur they should be accompanied by a comprehensive landscape reclamation strategy to introduce a new landscape framework;</li> <li>• New agricultural and industrial buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to mitigate against further landscape impact from built development;</li> <li>• Maintain a broad landscape corridor to both sides of the M42, introduction of small to medium sized blocks of woodland planting using locally occurring native species would be appropriate within this corridor;</li> <li>• The design of any recreational facilities should seek to reintroduce landscape structure and features;</li> <li>• Conserve remaining pastoral character and identify opportunities for conversion of arable back to pasture;</li> <li>• Encourage development of wide and diverse field margins;</li> <li>• Encourage retention of hedges and management practices that reinstate historic hedge lines using native locally occurring hedgerow species;</li> <li>• Encourage planting of hedgerow oaks to increase the tree cover within the area;</li> <li>• Encourage ecological management of remaining grassland areas;</li> <li>• Maintain restoration planting / naturally re-vegetated spoil tips to integrate better as landscape features.</li> </ul>
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**Character Area 6: Wood End to Whitacre - Upper Tame Valley Farmlands**



***Corresponding National and County Landscape Character Areas***

*Countryside Agency: LCA 97 Arden*

*Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines: Arden*

<p><b>Key characteristics;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undulating, farmed, west facing slopes of the upper Tame Valley;</li> <li>• Incised by many small valleys with streams that drain towards the River Tame;</li> <li>• Mixed farmland with well wooded upper slopes;</li> <li>• Ancient landscape pattern of small irregular pastoral fields, winding lanes and dispersed, isolated hamlets in places broken by larger open arable fields with low hedges on higher land;</li> <li>• Small pastoral valleys include well vegetated watercourses, good hedgerow structure with many hedgerow and field oaks, small copses and linear tree belts;</li> <li>• The settlements of Hurley, Hurley Common and Wood End include older properties and modern expansion. Brick and timber are common building materials;</li> <li>• Historic properties such as the moated Whitacre Hall and Flanders Hall hint at the former estate landscape;</li> <li>• Military firing range discretely located on open arable land sloping towards Kingsbury;</li> <li>• Wide open views from elevated land to the west across the valley to Birmingham;</li> </ul>
<p><b>Location and boundaries;</b></p>	<p>The west facing slopes of the upper reaches of the Tame Valley rise to a distinct escarpment, which defines the eastern boundary and continues to the south, the western boundary is broadly defined by the flat valley bottom floodplain. To the north woodland areas provide separation between the LCA and the adjacent urban fringe LCA. To the south the boundary is less clearly defined with the adjacent Hamlet's landscape.</p>
<p><b>Landscape Character (key description);</b></p>	<p>This area is defined as the west facing farmed upper slopes of the Tame Valley. Undulating farmland rises dramatically to the east to meet the adjacent Uplands LCA and is incised by a series of gentle sub-valleys with streams which broaden and open out to the west to meet the Tame Valley floodplain.</p> <p>An extensive area of mixed undulating farmland, with open arable fields and woodland to upper slopes and more intimate pastoral valleys, punctuated by a dispersed and ancient settlement pattern of small hamlets, scattered rural properties and farmsteads, some local brick and timber vernacular and all connected by an intricate network of narrow hedged lanes. Centrally the settlements of Hurley and Wood End,</p>

	<p>connected by the linear settlement of Hurley Common, have a core of older vernacular buildings but have also seen more recent expansion. Modern houses are found on the edges of most hamlets and along roadsides, these do not generally markedly detract from the traditional settlement character.</p> <p>To the west of Hurley Common a slight ridge contains the open arable fields of the military training ground which fall towards the industrial areas at Kingsbury. The ridge screens these areas from view; there is subsequently very little urban influence on this LCA. To the west busier roads around Kingsbury and through the valley bottom have a small urbanising influence on this otherwise rural area. Towards the west land flattens out and some urban influence is felt where Birmingham tower blocks and rows of pylons can be seen on the horizon.</p> <p>The open, upper slopes of the valley contain large open arable fields with scattered medium sized woodland blocks. Fields are bounded by low well trimmed hedges with hedgerow trees. The many small tree lined watercourses weave through this area and adjacent fields tend to be smaller and pastoral in nature. Within these valleys, adjacent to the streams is a more intimate landscape of irregular fields of former wood heath with dense, thick hedges, and winding lanes and trackways. Historic properties such as the moated Whitacre Hall, along with scattered woodland plantations and occasional tree avenues hint at the former estate landscape character. .</p> <p>The numerous hedgerow trees and hillside woodland blocks (both within this and the adjacent LCA) combine with the tall lane-side hedgerows to create the appearance of a heavily wooded landscape. Views across the landscape vary, some lower lying areas feel quite intimate and contained, whereas from upper arable slopes, where fields are larger and more open in nature there are long views west across the LCA across the Tame Valley to the eastern edge of Birmingham and also views to the wooded scarp to the east.</p>
<p><b>Key landscape related designations;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SSSI at Kingsbury Wood;</li> <li>• Numerous small ‘Ancient Woodland’ blocks on higher ground, many of which are also SINC;</li> <li>• SINC designation within the firing range;</li> <li>• SAM just north of Drakenage Farm;</li> <li>• SAM (moat) at Hipsley Lane;</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pressures for change / key issues;</b></p>	<p>This area retains much of the classic ‘Arden’ landscape characteristics, the main pressure for change comprises agricultural intensification and conversion of broad land swathes to arable. Associated changes in land management practices lead to gradual loss or deterioration of hedgerows, field ponds, wetland habitats and hedgerow trees. Around the periphery expansion of villages and associated increase in peripheral road traffic has an urbanising influence. The area also overlooks the industries and settlements within the Tame valley as well as the more distant edge of Birmingham; expansion of these areas has an impact on the rural quality of this area.</p>
<p><b>Landscape / management</b></p>	<p>Conserve and restore the typical rural ‘Arden’ landscape character of this area;</p>

**strategies;**

- Maintain the historic dispersed settlement pattern of hamlets and scattered farmsteads;
- Conserve the built character of Arden by ensuring that new development reflects the vernacular style;
- Protect and enhance the internal open space and irregular outline of village settlements;
- New agricultural buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to blend with the surrounding landscape;
- Conserve and enhance tree cover within and around settlements;
- Conserve rural character by restricting changes in the use of rural land;
- Maintain the quiet, peaceful character of the area and only encourage informal recreation;
- Conserve areas of pastoral character and identify opportunities for conversion of arable back to permanent pasture;
- Conserve and manage any remaining old permanent pastures and grassland areas;
- Retain and manage field ponds in areas of permanent pasture;
- Encourage development of wide and diverse field margins;
- Conserve and restore the historic field pattern of ancient hedgerows and hedged lanes;
- New hedge planting should reflect the traditional field pattern and include only mixed native species;
- Conserve and enhance tree cover through natural regeneration of hedgerow oaks;
- Encourage small to medium sized blocks of new woodland planting; plant native, locally occurring species and predominantly oak. The design of new woodland planting should complement the shape and scale of the surrounding landscape pattern;
- Promote conservation management of existing woodlands, particularly ancient and semi-natural woodlands, and wood-pasture;
- Enhance the continuity and wooded character of stream corridors.

**Character Area 7: Church End to Corley – Arden Hills and Valleys**



***Corresponding National and County Landscape Character Areas***

*Countryside Agency: LCA 97 Arden*

*Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines: Arden*

**Key characteristics;**

- A broad elevated basin with numerous rolling hills and valleys;
- Mixed agricultural landscape with an ancient pattern of small fields, winding lanes and dispersed, isolated hamlets and farmsteads, particularly notable to the west of Fillongley Hall;
- Heavily wooded character due to presence of large woodland blocks on hilltops and associated with these numerous areas of former wood pasture with large, old oak trees and field ponds, often associated with heathland remnants;
- Wooded escarpments at the northern, eastern and southern boundaries;
- In places a more open network of large arable fields;
- To the east and south, towards Coventry, the area is permeated by a number of larger settlements with modern expansion with increasingly busy roads;
- The M6 motorway rows of pylons cut through the south and are highly visible locally from elevated slopes;
- Long views from western slopes across the Blythe Valley to Birmingham.

**Location and boundaries;**

This LCA covers an extensive area extending from just south of Birchley Heath in the north to Corley Moor in the south. The northern boundary is defined by the wooded Uplands close to Hartshill and to the east and south the boundary is defined by wooded ridges, south of Corley and Corley Moor the land tips to the south and the character changes towards Coventry. To the west the boundary is drawn at two distinctive escarpments where this upland LCA descends steeply into the Blythe and Tame Valleys.

**Landscape Character (key description);**

An elevated farmed landscape of low, rounded hills, steep scarps and small incised valleys. This landform combined with extensive hilltop woodlands and tree cover creates an intricate and small scale character, punctuated by numerous scattered farms, and hamlets.

Streams within the valley bottoms generally converge to the west and outfall towards the Shustoke Reservoir. A rail line winds discretely through the base of the central valley. Daw Mill Colliery is nestled within this valley adjacent to the rail line and has little influence on the wider landscape. This settled landscape includes a dense network of older hamlets and farmsteads, ancient moated sites such as at Astley Castle as well as a number of settlements that have been subject to modern expansion, including Old and New Arley, Ansley, Fillongley, Corley and

	<p>Corley Moor. The majority of these settlements are located to the south and east where they are connected by a network of busier lanes which link to the nearby urban areas of Nuneaton, Bedworth and Coventry. Collectively, and combined with the M6 motorway and lines of pylons within the south, this area has many suburban elements.</p> <p>The majority of the character area is deeply rural and the tranquil. Ancient Arden landscape is apparent in the complex pattern of woodland, former wood pasture and heath, winding, frequently sunken hedged lanes and scattered farms and hamlets, built of wood or timber. This is most notable in close proximity to the hilltop woodland blocks and particularly to the west of Fillongley, where a complex and irregular network of small well-hedged pastoral fields with field ponds and numerous field trees is apparent in the vicinity of Fillongley Hall. There are similar areas around Fillongley Lodge and towards Over Whitacre. Elsewhere fields have been enlarged for arable production, although many still retain an irregular outline. To the south of Ansley and New Arley, numerous hedgerow trees around larger semi-regular arable fields combine to provide a sense of Parkland character towards Arbury Park located just to the east within the Nuneaton and Bedworth District.</p> <p>Throughout much of the area the landscape has a well wooded character formed by a mixture of woodlands, spreading hedgerow and field oaks, small parks and strongly wooded streamlines. Some areas retain a heathy character, and this is noted at Shaw Lane, where there is oak/birch mix woodland with an understory of bracken. Large mixed broadleaved and coniferous woodland blocks are located upon the peripheral escarpment to the north, east and south, framing the LCA.</p> <p>Within the area landform relates intimately with tree cover and field pattern to provide enclosure. In the more intimate pastoral areas views tend to be restricted by thick roadside hedgerows and are often short, overlooking two or three fields to a wooded skyline. Elsewhere there are local views across small valleys, often to wooded skylines. Occasional distant views are afforded from hilltops and ridgelines revealing a varied, wooded topography. From elevated western parts of the area and from the steep scarp at the western edge of the LCA there are occasional panoramic views across the Blythe Valley to Birmingham.</p>
<p><b>Key landscape related designations;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numerous small-medium sized ‘Ancient Woodland’ blocks on higher land, some of which are designated as SINC;</li> <li>• RIG and SINC site at railway line south of Ansley;</li> <li>• 3 further small RIGS;</li> <li>• SAMs at Astley Castle, Fillongley and south of Corley;</li> <li>• Conservation Area at Fillongley;</li> <li>• SINC site south of Fillongley;</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pressures for change / key issues;</b></p>	<p>This area retains much of the classic ‘Arden’ landscape characteristics, the main pressure for change comprises agricultural intensification and conversion of broad land swathes to arable. Associated changes in land management practices lead to gradual loss or deterioration of hedgerows, field ponds, wetland and heathland habitats and hedgerow trees. Around the south and eastern peripheries settlement expansion and associated increase in peripheral road traffic along with the presence of the M6</p>

	motorway and pylons have an urbanising influence and bring associated ongoing development pressures.
<b>Landscape / management strategies;</b>	<p>Conserve and restore the typical rural 'Arden' landscape character of this area;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the predominant historic dispersed settlement pattern of hamlets and scattered farmsteads;</li> <li>• Conserve the built character of Arden by ensuring that new development reflects the vernacular style;</li> <li>• Protect and enhance the internal open space and irregular outline of village settlements;</li> <li>• New agricultural buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to blend with the surrounding landscape;</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance tree cover within and around settlements, any new development should be integrated within the landscape through implementation of landscape framework planting appropriate to the local landscape character;</li> <li>• Restoration plans for the active colliery site at Daw Mill should be in keeping with the areas' unique character;</li> <li>• Conserve rural character by restricting changes in the use of rural land;</li> <li>• Maintain the quiet, peaceful character of the area and only encourage informal recreation;</li> <li>• Conserve areas of pastoral character and identify opportunities for conversion of arable back to permanent pasture;</li> <li>• Conserve and manage any remaining old permanent pastures and grassland areas;</li> <li>• Retain and manage field ponds in areas of permanent pasture;</li> <li>• Encourage development of wide and diverse field margins;</li> <li>• Conserve and restore the historic field pattern of ancient hedgerows and hedged lanes;</li> <li>• Diversify roadside character in appropriate locations through the creation and management of heathy vegetation on highway verges;</li> <li>• New hedge planting should reflect the irregular field pattern and include only mixed native species;</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance tree cover through natural regeneration of hedgerow oaks;</li> <li>• Encourage new woodland planting; plant native, locally occurring species and predominantly oak. The design of new woodland planting should complement the shape and scale of the surrounding landscape pattern, large woodland blocks predominate on higher land;</li> <li>• Promote conservation management of existing woodlands, particularly ancient and semi-natural woodlands, wood-pasture and heath, particularly within the area west of Fillongley Hall;</li> <li>• Enhance the continuity and wooded character of stream corridors.</li> </ul>

**Character Area 8: Blythe Valley - Parkland Farmlands**



***Corresponding National and County Landscape Character Areas***

*Countryside Agency: LCA 97 Arden*

*Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines: Arden*

<p><b>Key characteristics;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat broad valley with gently sloping valley sides, becoming more steeply undulating and elevated to the south;</li> <li>• Narrow meandering natural river course with riparian vegetation occasional flood meadows;</li> <li>• Mixed agricultural landscape with small irregular pastoral fields close to the river and semi regular arable fields associated with former estates and deer parks;</li> <li>• Areas of parkland character associated with Blyth Hall, Maxstoke Castle and Packington Park;</li> <li>• Remains of stone-built Maxstoke Priory at historic Maxstoke on higher land;</li> <li>• Golf courses at Maxstoke, Packington and south of the M6;</li> <li>• Dissected by M6 and A45;</li> <li>• Few scattered hamlets and farmsteads, with local brick and wood vernacular;</li> <li>• Generally a contained landscape with few views out emphasises an intimate rural character;</li> <li>• Occasional views from elevated land to the east fringe of Birmingham.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Location and boundaries;</b></p>	<p>Defined by the valley sides to the Blythe river within the Borough boundary, residential properties at the eastern edge of Coleshill and the A mark the western boundary, to the south the LCA meets the Borough boundary, to the east a distinct wooded scarp defines the edge of the valley and to the north the character changes distinctly around Shustoke where the Blythe meets the Cole Valley south of Hams Hall power station.</p>
<p><b>Landscape Character (key description);</b></p>	<p>The river Blythe meanders slowly along a narrow course through this broad, gently sloping valley. Extensive areas of Parkland associated with Blyth Hall, Maxstoke Castle and Packington Hall, combined with the many hedgerow trees and riparian vegetation of the Blythe and its minor tributaries create an intimate and contained landscape. The character is open in few places; where the field pattern is larger and on the more steeply sloping valley sides to the south.</p> <p>Generally this is a sparsely settled landscape with only a few scattered hamlets and farmsteads, and a small network of connecting lanes; this contributes strongly to the peaceful, undisturbed character of the riverside environment. There is little urban influence other than the raised landfill tip to the west of Packington and traffic noise evident around Packington</p>

	<p>in the vicinity of the M6 and A446.</p> <p>This is predominantly a planned estate landscape, with numerous country houses and historical estates including Blyth Hall and Maxstoke Castle, both moated sites set within Parkland, and the extensive former deer parks at Packington Hall. On higher land at Maxstoke, a stone built hillside hamlet, the remains of Maxstoke Priory are designated as a SAM. The country houses are contained by woodland plantations and parkland trees. At Packington, there are also extensive lakes and heathy grassland within a contained landscape. Golf courses are a more recent feature of this landscape utilising the parkland settings of Maxstoke Castle and north of Packington Hall. At Packington the golf course is located within heathy grassland with groups of birch; scattered stag headed and pollarded oaks and estate fencing, which create a strong sense of place and link with the past.</p> <p>Between these parkland areas, small irregular hedged pastoral fields exist close to the Blythe (south of Maxstoke Castle) and at the eastern fringes of Coleshill, where some are enclosed by post and wire fencing. The Blythe River remains relatively unspoilt, retaining a good variety of marginal vegetation, wet grassland, riverside trees and scrub, and is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Importance (SSSI). Pockets of flood meadow along the Blythe retain a peaceful, undisturbed, pastoral character with a strong sense of unity. In places, this unity is uninterrupted by the encroachment of arable farmland to the river's edge. Elsewhere arable fields within a larger or more regular field pattern exist to the north and east of Maxstoke Castle and east of Packington Hall. Fields are generally contained by low trimmed hedgerows with many hedgerow trees and with scattered field trees, particularly concentrated to the east of Maxstoke Castle.</p> <p>The presence of parkland plantations and trees, riparian vegetation associated with the course of the Blythe and its tributaries and a number of hedgerow and field trees, and the formal tree lined lane adjacent to Maxstoke Castle, gives a well treed character framed by the wooded escarpment to the west. In low lying areas this results in an intimate rural character, however on the higher slopes to the south west there are extensive views across the valley to distant high rise buildings within Birmingham, the Hams Hall power station and associated lines of pylons.</p>
<p><b>Key landscape related designations;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered Historic Park and Garden at Packington Park;</li> <li>• SSSI River Blythe;</li> <li>• SAM remains of Maxstoke Priory;</li> <li>• SAM Maxstoke Castle;</li> <li>• Several small 'Ancient Woodland' blocks north of Packington Hall, some of which are designated as SINCs;</li> <li>• Conservation Area within Coleshill.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pressures for change / key issues;</b></p>	<p>The Blythe Valley maintains a rural character and historic Parkland and river valley characteristics, the main pressures for change in recent years have come from change of use of the historic Parklands to golf course and recreation facilities. In addition agricultural intensification has resulted in conversion to arable use and related loss of landscape features; meadows, wetland vegetation and hedgerows. The aging</p>

	<p>landscape settings to Packington Hall, Maxstoke Castle and Blythe Hall are potential at risk. Limited urban influence and pressures include the eastern edge of Coleshill, the Packington landfill and the M6 motorway and connecting A roads. To the north wetland plantations around Blythe Hall currently provide protection from encroachment from adjacent industries South of Hams Hall.</p>
<p><b>Landscape / management strategies;</b></p>	<p>Safeguard and manage the rural Parkland character of the Blythe Valley;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the predominant unsettled character of the valley;</li> <li>• Conserve the built character of the valley by ensuring that any new development reflects the vernacular style;</li> <li>• New agricultural buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to blend with the surrounding landscape;</li> <li>• Any development at the eastern fringe of Coleshill should not be permitted to encroach onto the open valley slopes;</li> <li>• Conserve rural character by restricting changes in the use of rural land;</li> <li>• Maintain the quiet, peaceful character of the area and only encourage informal recreation;</li> <li>• Existing golf courses should implement landscape management plans to ensure continuity of their historic parkland settings;</li> <li>• Comprehensive landscape management plans should be prepared and implemented to ensure continuity of the historic landscape setting to both Packington and Blythe Hall, including the unique heathy grassland characteristics of the former deer park at Packington;</li> <li>• Conserve areas of pastoral character and identify opportunities for conversion of arable back to permanent pasture;</li> <li>• Encourage development of wide and diverse field margins within arable areas;</li> <li>• Conserve and restore the historic field pattern of ancient hedgerows;</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance tree cover through natural regeneration of hedgerow oaks;</li> <li>• Enhance tree cover through small scale woodland planting;</li> <li>• Promote conservation management of existing woodlands;</li> <li>• Retain grassland along the river floodplain and where possible consider a return to traditional grassland management;</li> <li>• Retain and enhance river channel diversity and marginal vegetation;</li> <li>• Identify opportunities for re-creating riverside wetland habitats.</li> </ul>

**Character Area 9: Hoggrill's to Furnace End - Arden Hamlets**



***Corresponding National and County Landscape Character Areas***

*Countryside Agency: LCA 97 Arden*

*Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines: Arden*

**Key characteristics;**

- Small-scale intricate and gently rolling lowland;
- Well-wooded farmed landscape;
- Ancient landscape pattern of small fields, with a dense network of narrow, winding lanes, hamlets and farmsteads;
- Local vernacular includes substantial brick and timber farmhouses built in the 16th and 17th centuries;
- Distinctive spired churches at Church End and Furnace End;
- Shustoke reservoir is an incongruous but discrete element within an otherwise unified landscape;
- A rail line passes through discretely, following the northern edge of the reservoir;
- Long views from higher land to Hams Hall power station, associated power lines and tower blocks at the western edge of Birmingham.

**Location and boundaries;**

A small but distinct area located centrally within the Borough. Its boundaries to the north, east and south are defined by a transition to larger open, less settled farmland, and to the west by the wetland character of the Tame valley bottom.

**Landscape Character (key description);**

The gently rolling landform creates the setting for the intimate character of this area. A dense network of narrow winding lanes connect the many small hamlets, scattered properties and farmsteads, set within many small hedged fields with numerous small copses, scattered and hedgerow trees.

A key and integral element of this landscape is the dispersed settlement pattern of hamlets and farmsteads. These include Hoggrill's End, Nether Whitacre, Botts Green, Furnace End, Church End and the larger Shustoke, which has seen some modern expansion. Within this area there is a high proportion of local vernacular with many historic brick and timber farmhouses and the prominent spired churches at Furnace End and Church End. Some modern houses are found on the edges of the hamlets and along roadsides, these do not generally markedly detract from the traditional settlement character.

Shustoke Reservoir is an incongruous large water body within this area, its large scale rounded sides and open nature being out of character with the wider landscape, and however it is well contained by the trees alongside the rail line and has little influence on the wider landscape.

	<p>The farmed landscape is characterised by well defined small to medium sized fields within a network of ancient hedgerows. Most of the lanes and trackways are also tightly defined by thick hedgerows often on hedge banks. Pockets of permanent pasture in regular shaped fields are closely associated with the small scale field patterns around the hamlets and lanes. To the west some arable land exists within the small to medium irregular fields of former wood pasture.</p> <p>Tree cover is significant in this area, many scattered copses and mature trees around the hamlets combine with the numerous hedgerow and field trees. The landform relates intimately with the tree cover and field pattern to form a strong sense of enclosure. Views are restricted by thick roadside hedgerows and are often short, overlooking two or three fields to a wooded skyline. Occasional distant views are afforded from higher land towards Hams Hall power station and associated pylons and the tower blocks at the eastern fringe of Birmingham.</p>
<b>Key landscape related designations;</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None identified</li> </ul>
<b>Pressures for change / key issues;</b>	<p>This small cluster of traditional ‘Arden’ hamlets retains many original landscape features; however it is fragmented by the presence of the incongruous Shustoke Reservoir. Other urbanising elements include nearby industry around Hams Hall power station visible to the west of the area from elevated positions. Retains a strong pattern of traditional Arden small pastoral fields although there is some pressure for agricultural intensification and there are pockets of larger arable fields. Piecemeal modern development has expanded the hamlets, this has so far predominantly reflected the local settlement vernacular and character</p>
<b>Landscape / management strategies;</b>	<p>Safeguard and manage the typical ‘Arden Hamlets’ landscape character of this area;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the historic dispersed settlement pattern of hamlets and scattered farmsteads;</li> <li>• Conserve the built character of Arden by ensuring that new development reflects the vernacular style;</li> <li>• New agricultural buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to blend with the surrounding landscape;</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance tree cover within and around settlements;</li> <li>• Conserve rural character by restricting changes in the use of rural land;</li> <li>• Maintain the quiet, peaceful character of the area and only encourage informal recreation;</li> <li>• Conserve areas of pastoral character and identify opportunities for conversion of arable back to permanent pasture;</li> <li>• Conserve and manage any remaining old permanent pastures and grassland areas;</li> <li>• Retain and manage field ponds in areas of permanent pasture;</li> <li>• Conserve and restore the historic field pattern of ancient hedgerows and hedged lanes;</li> <li>• New hedge planting should reflect the traditional field pattern and</li> </ul>

	<p>include only mixed native species;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conserve and enhance tree cover through natural regeneration of hedgerow oaks;</li><li>• Encourage small blocks of new woodland planting; plant native, locally occurring species and predominantly oak. The design of new woodland planting should complement the shape and scale of the surrounding landscape pattern;</li><li>• Promote conservation management of existing woodlands, particularly ancient and semi-natural woodlands, and wood-pasture;</li><li>• Enhance the continuity and wooded character of stream corridors.</li></ul>
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**Character Area 10: Cole Valley**



**Corresponding National and County Landscape Character Areas**

*Countryside Agency: LCA 97 Arden*

*Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines: Arden*

**Key characteristics;**

- Flat broad valley;
- Dominated by busy roads including the M42, M6 and A446;
- Contained by the urban areas of Birmingham, Coleshill and Water Orton;
- Substantial industrial influences within the north include Hams Hall power station and lines of pylons;
- Remnants of historical parkland landscapes around Coleshill Manor (now converted to offices) and Gilson Hall;
- Isolated and fragmented mixed arable and pastoral landscape between the urban uses;
- Urban and industrial views across the open valley.

**Location and boundaries;**

The boundaries of this area are defined by settlement and motorway corridors. To the west the M6 follows the Borough boundary, beyond which lies the built up settlement area of Birmingham. To the north the residential edge of Water Orton and Coleshill industrial areas meet the boundary, and to the east Coleshill residential areas extend to the south, where a narrow strip of land to the west of the landfill site provides the setting to a network of major road corridors and junctions.

**Landscape Character (key description);**

This broad flat valley is characterised by a complex mix of urban, transport and industrial uses that now dominate a historic parkland landscape.

The historic presence of coal mines in this area has attracted secondary industry – today Hams Hall power station, pylons, industrial plants, railways and the motorway network prevail. A dense network of motorways, busy A roads and intersections permeate this area, creating significant traffic noise and a sense of transition and motion. The roads connect Birmingham to the west with extensive industrial areas to the north, including sewage works and the Hams Hall power station with its network of pylons and substations. To the west the many high rise residential tower blocks at the Birmingham fringe are dominant structures on the skyline.

Within this area a discordant and isolated triangle of marginal farmland and former parkland lies between the motorways. Flat, open mixed pastoral and arable fields with low trimmed and often gappy hedges and very few hedgerow trees, extend to the south. The River Cole winds discretely between the fields. Visually intrusive pylons cross this area.

	<p>The centrally located Coleshill Manor has recently been refurbished as an office development and is set within remnant parkland with evergreen trees and linear plantations. Within the north the small village of Gilson with Gilson Hall and older buildings of local red brick and rendered vernacular is enclosed by fields. A scattering of modern and vernacular brick properties exist throughout this area, some are derelict. To the south of Water Orton the field pattern is more intact, hedgerows and hedgerow trees provide some buffer to the nearby motorways and traffic noise although views are still possible beyond the motorways to the pylons and residential tower blocks on the horizon.</p>
<b>Key landscape related designations;</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None noted</li> </ul>
<b>Pressures for change / key issues;</b>	<p>This former Arden Parkland is now heavily fragmented by a busy network of motorways and major A roads, which connect the peripheral urban areas of Birmingham, Coleshill, Water Orton and large scale industry around Hams Hall power station. The remaining undeveloped land is predominantly open in nature and therefore heavily influenced by the urbanising elements. Some pockets of pastoral landscape remain around Gilson Hall and adjacent to the River Cole but predominantly the area suffers from loss of landscape features as a result of agricultural intensification and conversion to arable use. Currently the peripheral major roads provide a barrier to further expansion of the urban areas however development pressures are likely to remain significant here.</p>
<b>Landscape / management strategies;</b>	<p>The remaining landscape structure would benefit from measures to improve and reinforce its former Parkland character. Preparation and implementation of a comprehensive Green Infrastructure Strategy for the River Cole corridor would be appropriate, this could consider the following recommended measures;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The motorways and A roads currently provide a barrier to urban sprawl and coalescence, this should be reinforced through structural landscape planting to also reduce the impact of the noisy roads and soften the edges of settlements and industry;</li> <li>• Any settlement expansion should be accompanied by the implementation of robust Green Infrastructure with structural landscape planting to assimilate the settlement edge within the landscape;</li> <li>• New agricultural buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to blend with the surrounding landscape;</li> <li>• Encourage retention and restoration of historic buildings within the valley and protect the remaining setting of Gilson;</li> <li>• Conserve areas of pastoral character and identify opportunities for conversion of arable back to permanent pasture;</li> <li>• Conserve and manage any remaining old permanent pastures and grassland areas;</li> <li>• Conserve and restore the historic field pattern of ancient hedgerows;</li> <li>• New hedge planting should reflect the traditional field pattern and include only mixed native species;</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance tree cover through planting of hedgerow oaks;</li> <li>• Encourage new woodland planting in small connected blocks and/or</li> </ul>

	<p>broad tree belts; plant native, locally occurring species and predominantly oak. The design of new woodland planting should complement the shape and scale of the surrounding landscape pattern;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote conservation management of existing woodlands;</li><li>• Encourage restoration and appropriate management of wetland and riparian vegetation along the course of the River Cole.</li></ul>
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**Character Area 11: Tame Valley Wetlands**



**Corresponding National and County Landscape Character Areas**

*Countryside Agency: LCA 69 Trent Valley Washlands*

*Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines: Arden*

**Key characteristics;**

- Alluvial river terraces of the very flat broad valley bottom;
- Extensive central network of restored former gravel workings with significant areas of wetland scrub and woodland centred on Kingsbury Water Park;
- Middleton Hall and gravel workings are contained within a Parkland and wetland landscape;
- Recently restored workings at Cliff Pool Nature Reserve to the north are yet to establish a landscape structure;
- Historic flood meadows and riparian vegetation at Whitacre Heath and Ladywalk Nature Reserves in the south;
- To the far south at the confluence of the Cole and Blythe with the Tame the landscape is disturbed by historic and modern small scale works set against the open backdrop of the Hams Hall industrial estates;
- The river Tame winds unobtrusively through the wetlands;
- Birmingham and Fazeley canal passes through the north;
- Settlements of Whitacre Heath, Nether Whitacre Heath, Lea Marston and Marston include typical red brick vernacular, with peripheral pastoral fields, there are few other properties within the area;
- A low lying landscape, visually contained by wetland vegetation, and the adjacent Hams Hall power station and pylons have little visual influence.

**Location and boundaries;**

Defined by the broad flat alluvial terraces of the valley bottom and extending to the north beyond the Borough boundary. To the east, and north of Kingsbury a steeper river bluff marks a clear boundary to this area, elsewhere to the east and west the boundary is defined by a distinct change in character to the predominantly arable lower valley slopes. To the south the fringes of the National Distribution Park at Hams Hall and the Blythe Hall Parkland mark the boundary.

**Landscape Character (key)**

This flat, highly modified river corridor landscape has been extensively worked for sand and gravel, the resulting new wetland landscape

<b>description);</b>	<p>dominates the north and contrasts with the remaining flood meadows, villages and pastoral land to the south. Although largely contained by wetland vegetation, busy roads and rail lines pass through linking peripheral settlement and industry have an urbanising influence.</p> <p>The northern part of this area is dominated by a series of linked areas of open water, which vary in size from small ponds to large lakes. The straight edges around some of the lakes are visually discordant but overall the appearance of this landscape is softened by wet woodland and scrub. The River Tame winds through this area. The area around Kingsbury Water Park is most established. To the north the more recently restored Cliff Pool Nature Reserve has recently restored banks and artificial landforms, and vegetation is yet to establish. Mineral extraction also occurs screened from view within the wooded Parkland landscape south of Middleton Hall. The hall itself is fine example of wood and red brick vernacular.</p> <p>To the south and within several isolated fields to the west of Kingsbury areas of flood meadow with extensive riparian vegetation remain. This area provides the setting to the adjacent Conservation Area and Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). Whitacre Heath and Ladywalk Nature Reserves lie to the east of Hams Hall power station. Slightly elevated above the flood meadows the settlements of Whitacre Heath, Nether Whitacre Heath, Lea Marston and Marston include traditional red brick properties, with peripheral pastoral fields.</p> <p>To the far south, at the confluence of the Rivers Blythe, Cole and Tame the landscape contains historic mill and water works buildings and modern small scale works and minerals extraction set against the open backdrop of the Hams Hall industrial estates and pylons. Elsewhere, although these industrial influences are close by and a network of busy roads, including the M42 and the A4097, and rail lines pass through the area, the low lying nature of this LCA and the containment afforded by extensive areas of scrub and wetland vegetation mean that the urbanising influences only occur locally rather than throughout the landscape.</p>
<b>Key landscape related designations;</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAM and Conservation Area at adjacent edge of Kingsbury;</li> <li>• Several peripheral small 'Ancient Woodland' blocks.</li> </ul>
<b>Pressures for change / key issues;</b>	<p>The low lying wetlands adjacent to the River Tame have changed dramatically following former gravel extraction. Few areas of traditional landscape remain; the landscape is still evolving as wetland regeneration associated with former gravel workings continues. Given the location between and close proximity to Tamworth, Kingsbury and industrial areas around Tams Hall power station, these peripheral urbanising elements and the connecting busy A roads and motorways have an ongoing influence on the area. Pressure for minerals extraction continues, with areas south of Middleton Hall and west of Blyth Hall under extraction. The floodplain character largely protects this area from encroachment by built development</p>
<b>Landscape /</b>	<p>This emerging character of this predominantly new wetland landscape</p>

<p><b>management strategies;</b></p>	<p>should be strengthened and the remnant areas of traditional valley floodplain landscape improved and conserved. As a whole the area would benefit from a comprehensive Green Infrastructure Strategy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the predominantly unsettled character of this area;</li> <li>• Conserve the built character of the area by ensuring that new development reflects the vernacular style;</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance tree cover around the peripheral settlement and industrial fringes;</li> <li>• Prepare and implement a Landscape Enhancement Plan to protect the setting of the historic Conservation Area at Kingsbury and remnant historic landscape structure elsewhere;</li> <li>• The design and management of new and enhancement of existing recreational facilities should seek to reflect the character of the existing landscape features;</li> <li>• Conserve the pastoral character of the remnant farmland and identify opportunities for conversion of arable back to permanent pasture;</li> <li>• Retain grassland along the River floodplain and where possible consider a return to traditional grassland management;</li> <li>• Enhance river channel diversity and marginal vegetation;</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance remaining riverside wetland habitats and identify opportunities for re-creating elsewhere;</li> <li>• Opportunities should be sought for creating more diverse wetland habitats during restoration of any future sand and gravel workings, developers should provide comprehensive restoration proposals for approval at planning stage.</li> </ul>
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**Character Area 12: Middleton to Curdworth - Tame Valley farmland**



***Corresponding National and County Landscape Character Areas***

*Countryside Agency: LCA 69 Trent Valley Washlands*

*Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines: Arden*

<p><b>Key characteristics;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gently undulating east facing slopes cut by small watercourses that drain towards the River Tame including the Langley Brook;</li> <li>• A predominantly open arable landscape with large fields divided by low, tightly trimmed hedges with few hedgerow trees;</li> <li>• A dispersed settlement pattern of hamlets, villages and farmsteads, some with modern farm sheds;</li> <li>• The settlements are contained by peripheral small hedged pastoral fields and woodland;</li> <li>• Dispersed network of busy A roads and a few smaller quieter lanes connecting the settlements;</li> <li>• The M42 / M6 toll junction within the south and nearby visible industry has a substantial influence upon the open landscape;</li> <li>• Several golf courses in the area, the largest being the Belfry Hotel;</li> <li>• The Birmingham and Fazeley Canal passes discretely through the area;</li> <li>• Long and panoramic views to the east from elevated open slopes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Location and boundaries;</b></p>	<p>Comprises the east facing slopes of the Tame valley, its eastern boundary meets the adjacent Tame Valley wetlands character, the west is more broadly defined by elevated wooded upland, the south abruptly meets the industrial estates at Hams Hall and to the north the character continues along the upper reaches of the Tame Valley beyond the Borough boundary.</p>
<p><b>Landscape Character (key description);</b></p>	<p>Broadly defined as the gently undulating and open arable slopes of the western Tame Valley, a number of small watercourses cut through the landscape to connect to the Tame, the most notable being the Langley Brook, which flows to the south of Middleton.</p> <p>This area is sparsely settled with a scattering of small hamlets and villages, including Middleton, Over Green, Bodymoor Heath and Hunts Green and scattered farmsteads often with large modern sheds, although typical properties are red brick and white rendered local vernacular. A few quiet and winding narrow lanes link the settlements, in places these have close hedges and hedge banks, and elsewhere hedges have been removed allowing open views across fields.</p> <p>Several busier A roads pass through the area and connect to the busy and exposed A42 / M6 toll junction to the south. These busy transport corridors connect to nearby industrial areas to the south around Hams</p>

	<p>Hall and have an urbanising influence, particularly on the south part of this landscape area. The settlement of Curdworth is located just beyond the junction at the fringe of the area. Lines of pylons also cut through this landscape.</p> <p>There are also several golf courses, the largest at the Belfry includes young landscaped areas which are yet to mature and integrate the course with the wider landscape.</p> <p>The Birmingham and Fazeley Canal passes through the landscape but is not a clearly discernible landscape feature except in locations such Bodymoor Heath where the road passes over a humped back bridge and a collection of historic buildings located at the canalside.</p> <p>The landscape is predominantly agricultural with some very large arable fields are enclosed by low often gappy hedgerows with a few hedgerow trees. The arable fields are predominantly regular in shape, with irregular fields around Middleton reflecting the different periods of enclosure within the valley. Pockets of smaller fields and pastoral land remain around the settlements and are most notable around Middleton and Hunts Green. These are contained by dense hedges with hedgerow trees and small woodland blocks.</p> <p>A general lack of woodland and tree cover in combination with the sloping landform creates an open empty feel to this landscape, except within the immediate vicinity of the small villages/hamlets. As land becomes more elevated some parts are very open with long panoramic views east across the arable landscape to distant wooded scarps.</p>
<p><b>Key landscape related designations;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several small, dispersed ‘Ancient Woodland’ blocks;</li> <li>• SAM at Middleton;</li> <li>• SAM adjacent to North Wood.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pressures for change / key issues;</b></p>	<p>This is a wide open landscape that has been subject to considerable agricultural intensification, this has resulted in loss of hedgerows and landscape features. Historic Parkland areas such as the Belfry have been converted to golf course use and golf courses are dominant landscape elements within this open landscape. Busy motorways and A roads on higher land have a significant urbanising effect on this landscape combined with peripheral industrial uses to the south.</p>
<p><b>Landscape / management strategies;</b></p>	<p>This predominantly open arable landscape would benefit from improvement and reinforcement of its landscape features;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the historic dispersed settlement pattern of small villages and scattered farmsteads;</li> <li>• Conserve the built character of the area by ensuring that new development reflects the vernacular style;</li> <li>• Conserve and protect the irregular outline of the settlements and the tree cover around them;</li> <li>• The design and management of new and enhancement of existing recreational and golf course facilities should be in keeping with the landscape character of the area and seek to assimilate the facility</li> </ul>

	<p>within the wider landscape. Consider peripheral woodland planting blocks to better assimilate the Belfry golf course within the wider landscape;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conserve the historic field pattern and pastoral character around the settlement edges and identify opportunities for conversion of arable back to permanent pasture;</li><li>• Encourage development of wide and diverse field margins;</li><li>• Conserve and strengthen primary hedge lines and manage these more positively as landscape features;</li><li>• Consider new hedgerow planting and include only native locally occurring species;</li><li>• Enhance tree cover through planting of hedgerow oaks;</li><li>• Encourage woodland planting on rising ground and particularly in the vicinity of the M42/M6 toll junction; new woodland planting should complement the shape and scale of the surrounding landscape pattern and use native locally occurring broadleaved species, predominantly oak;</li><li>• Encourage natural regeneration of trees and vegetation alongside watercourses and promote small areas of wetland planting in areas currently lacking in habitats;</li><li>• Encourage ecological management of grassland areas and wetlands.</li></ul>
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**Character Area 13: Wishaw to Trickle Coppice Wooded Uplands**



***Corresponding National and County Landscape Character Areas***

*Countryside Agency: LCA 67 Cannock Chase and Cank Wood*

*Warwickshire Landscapes Guidelines: Arden*

**Key characteristics;**

- Steeply undulating upland area;
- Dispersed settlement pattern of hamlets and farmsteads;
- Modern farm buildings and small industrial units visible within the landscape;
- Busy M6 toll, A38 and A446 have an urbanising influence;
- Presence of masts on higher ground;
- Large woodland blocks of oak/birch woodland and heathy understory;
- Bracken within roadside hedgerows reflects the heathy character of the area;
- Wide open arable fields and recreational ground between the large woodland blocks;
- Between Wishaw and Stoke End a network of small hedged fields with many hedgerow oaks and some pasture;
- Parkland trees and evergreens within landscape around Moxhull Hall hotel.

**Location and boundaries;**

The far north western tip of the Borough meets the north and west Borough boundary. To the south and east the boundary of this area is loosely defined by the upper arable slopes of the adjacent Tame Valley.

**Landscape Character (key description);**

This small upland area above the slopes of the Tame Valley extends northwards, beyond the Borough boundary and forms part of the adjoining Cank Wood regional character area in south Staffordshire. It is a well wooded mixed agricultural landscape with a number of large and prominent hilltop woodlands. The underlying geology results in a strong heathland character.

The area contains a discordant mix of uses both rural and urban. Several residential streets lie just within the Borough boundary adjacent to a busy highway intersection; there are several small scale industrial areas to the south, a recreation ground at Bassetts Pole, communications masts to the south and a busy road corridor where the M6 toll, the A38 and the A446 all follow a parallel route in close proximity. There are also a number of scattered farmsteads, those at Trickle Coppice and Wood Farms include a plant nursery and extensive modern agricultural buildings. To the south scattered properties at Stoke End and Allen End lie within a more intricate and ordered landscape. Between Stoke End and Wishaw the traditional small hedged field pattern remains largely

	<p>intact, particularly around Moxhull Hall Hotel and this area includes a good number of hedgerow oaks and scattered small copses. Pastoral use remains in places. In the vicinity of Moxhull Hall Hotel mature trees and small woodland area include some evergreen species and have a parkland character</p> <p>Elsewhere elevated farmland comprises large open, arable fields with low trimmed hedges and few hedgerow trees, allowing wide open views across the valley to the east.</p> <p>The highest land is heavily wooded and pockets of heathland survive in places. Trickley Coppice in particular has areas of oak/birch woodland with a rhododendron, heath and bracken understory. Nearby roadside hedges include bracken.</p>
<p><b>Key landscape related designations;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Park Wood and Trickley Coppice are identified as 'Ancient Woodlands'</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pressures for change / key issues;</b></p>	<p>Lying at the edge of the Borough this upland area is influenced by the M6 toll road and the busy A38 and A446. Piecemeal development and farm expansion and diversification has led to the construction of large farm / small industrial buildings and urban fringe pressures such as the recreation ground at New Park Wood and presence of masts within the area. The historical upland heath character is under threat from these urbanising influences and from agricultural intensification which has resulted in a number of large arable fields.</p>
<p><b>Landscape / management strategies;</b></p>	<p>Conserve and strengthen the character of this upland landscape;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any new development should reinforce the existing settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads and hamlets;</li> <li>• Conserve the built character of the area by ensuring that new development reflects the vernacular style;</li> <li>• Conserve and protect the irregular outline of the settlements and the tree cover around them;</li> <li>• Conserve remaining rural character by restricting changes in the use of rural land;</li> <li>• New agricultural and industrial buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to blend with the surrounding landscape;</li> <li>• Existing recreational facilities should be enhanced where opportunities arise;</li> <li>• Conserve the pastoral character where it remains and identify opportunities for conversion of arable back to permanent pasture, particularly around the settlement peripheries;</li> <li>• Promote the regeneration and management of heathland flora along field margins, roadsides and woodland understory;</li> <li>• Maintain and strengthen the network of small hedged fields between Wishaw and Stoke End and encourage natural regeneration of hedgerow oaks;</li> <li>• Elsewhere conserve and strengthen primary hedge lines and manage these more positively as landscape features;</li> <li>• Conserve and strengthen the historic wooded field pattern, planting of small to medium sized woodland blocks in appropriate locations could</li> </ul>

	<p>also help mitigate the impact of the M6 toll and busy A roads. Plant locally occurring native oak/birch woodland species;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conserve the high heritage and ecological value of the upland heathy birch oak woodlands (particularly Trickle Coppice and New Park Wood) and encourage the continuity and regeneration of these through appropriate management.</li></ul>
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## 5.0 CAPACITY STUDY

The following capacity study focuses on the landscape around the main settlements and local service centres. The areas covered by the assessment, and the methodology for undertaking the assessment are set out within Section 2.0. Each settlement is considered separately and the peripheral landscape divided into a number of 'Landscape Units' for assessment purposes. An accompanying plan is provided for each settlement area to define the areas assessed and their relative sensitivity in landscape and visual terms. For the purposes of the study the boundaries of each landscape units are drawn closely around the settlement peripheries but in reality may extend for some distance within the peripheral landscape.

- Atherstone / Mancetter,
- Polesworth / Dordon,
- Coleshill,
- Old and New Arley,
- Grendon / Baddesley Ensor,
- Hartshill with Ansley Common,
- Kingsbury and
- Water Orton

## ATHERSTONE AND MANCETTER

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **A**

SURVEY LOCATION: B416, North of Atherstone

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 28.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

Open gentle slopes of Anker Valley, comprise large arable fields enclosed by low trimmed hedges and scattered hedgerow oaks. The River Anker winds its way through the valley nearby but is barely discernable, in places its course is marked by lines of trees. The well vegetated Innage Brook defines the eastern edge of this area and connects to the River Anker just to the north. The distinctive red brick Alder Mill is located at the confluence.

The River Anker marks the Borough Boundary, beyond which land rises slightly. Scattered farmsteads and properties of local red brick and white rendered vernacular are located within the slightly elevated open agricultural landscape beyond, which is also occasionally punctuated with copses and tree groups on the near horizon. Whittington and Whitley Farms include a complex of medium scale modern barns, and small grazed fields. Hedge lined lanes weave through the area and there are no defined public rights of way.

Within this area, Atherstone is screened from view by the mixed coniferous and deciduous tree belts that contain Durno's Nursery. The northern edge of the large scale red brick built Aldi distribution centre is visible on the northern edge, in views from this direction its presence is softened by extensive peripheral maturing landscape planting. The rural landscape that makes up this character area is open in nature with a simple landscape framework made up of hedgerow boundaries and the streamside vegetation. There is good inter-visibility between the rural roads and scattered farmsteads and properties. In contrast the settlement edge in this location is well contained by vegetation.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform	1			Comprises the open slopes of the Anker Valley.
	Land use	1			Historic landscape pattern of dispersed settlement, woodland, agricultural and riparian uses.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Linked waterways, and hedgerow network with tree belts and copses.
	Scale / complexity	1			Open simple, rural landscape
	Landscape features		2		Local vernacular including Alder Mill, watercourses.
	Landscape condition	1			Well managed rural landscape. Evidence of new planting adjacent to Alder Mill.
	Relationship with existing urban built form	1			Adjacent settlement edge contained by vegetation.
	Tranquillity		2		Busy roads but rural in character.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Visually open slopes within the valley.
	Key views		2		Open views across the rural landscape from rural roads and properties.
	Prevention of coalescence			3	No nearby settlements and close to Borough boundary.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	None noted.
	Recreational use of the landscape			3	None noted.

**Overall sensitivity score: 24**

(25 and below is indicative of a relatively higher landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

This open rural landscape does not relate to the settlement edge, which is well contained by vegetation. It therefore is not considered appropriate for development in landscape and visual terms unless it could be demonstrated that development can be of a scale, form and character appropriate to the wider rural Anker Valley context and be visually well contained by robust structural landscape planting in keeping with the local landscape and current settlement edge character.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Existing hedgerows and waterside vegetation should be retained as part of any Green Infrastructure proposals. These could be supplemented by connected tree belt planting and management practices to encourage further establishment of riparian vegetation. It is important that open rural views across the valley are retained. Within any new Green Infrastructure proposals consideration should also be given to enhancing local access to the countryside and opportunities to provide a recreational route around the periphery of Atherstone with connections to the canal towpath should be explored.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Encourage introduction and appropriate management of wide field margins along watercourses and boundaries
- Conserve the historic field pattern, with priority given to restoring and strengthening primary hedge lines including those alongside roads;
- Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Enhance tree cover through small scale planting of broadleaved coverts and woods in keeping with the visually open character;
- Encourage natural regeneration of trees and vegetation alongside watercourses and promote small areas of wetland planting in areas currently lacking in habitats;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas and wetlands;

## ATHERSTONE AND MANCETTER

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **B**  
SURVEY LOCATION: Whittington Lane  
DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 01.02.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

Gently sloping, large arable fields between the A5 on higher land and the West Coast Main rail line, forms part of a landscape corridor adjacent to the A5 between the settlements of Atherstone and Grendon. The A5 is partially screened by boundary hedgerows, overgrown in places and lines of trees which create a wooded corridor. The railway is in shallow cut or level with the fields, and in places tree groups provide some screening of the rail line however the overhead gantries clearly define the railway within the landscape. No rights of way exist in this area.

The fields are enclosed by low trimmed hedges with few trees. In the near distance overlapping hedgerow trees and woodland provide a wooded skyline. Atherstone is screened from view by peripheral tree belts and woodland, although the church in the town centre and Merevale Hall are both visible on elevated land. To the North West properties along the A5 at the eastern edge of Grendon are visible on the skyline amongst trees. Although rural in character the tranquillity of this area is reduced by the presence of the rail line and the A5.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		Gently sloping northwards towards the River Anker
	Land use			3	Large arable fields
	Land cover and vegetation			3	Peripheral landscape structure provided by trees and woodland at the settlement edge, along the A5 & the rail line.
	Scale / complexity		2		Simple landscape of open fields physically contained by the A5 & rail line.
	Landscape features		2		No features within, however Merevale Hall, the church within Atherstone and wooded skylines provide part of the landscape setting
	Landscape condition		2		Well managed arable farmland
	Relationship with existing urban built form	1			Isolated fields separated from Atherstone by the Canal, A5 and rail line, Atherstone is screened from view by associated vegetation.
	Tranquillity			3	Busy A5 traffic and busy, fast rail line.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Open views across the fields include properties at the edge of Grendon
	Key views	1			Overlooked from Merevale Hall.
	Prevention of coalescence		2		If developed would extend the A5 ribbon development towards Grendon.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations	1			Merevale Hall with a number of designations including Historic Park and Garden, SAM (Abbey remains), SINC.
	Recreational use of the landscape			3	No rights of way or recreation observed.

**Overall sensitivity score: 27**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The site is physically separated from the settlement and employment parts of Atherstone and within view of properties at the edge of Grendon and from Merevale Hall. It is therefore not considered appropriate for development unless it could be demonstrated that development can be of a scale, form and character appropriate to the wider rural Anker Valley context and be visually well contained by robust structural landscape planting in keeping with the local landscape. Any development proposals would need to demonstrate that development of this land would not result in negative impacts on the setting of Merevale Hall.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Existing hedgerows and peripheral trees should be retained as part of any Green Infrastructure proposals. These could be supplemented by connected tree belt and / or woodland planting. It is important that the open views from Merevale Hall across the valley are not compromised. Within any new Green Infrastructure proposals consideration should also be given to enhancing local access to the countryside and opportunities to provide links from public rights of way south of the A5 to the canal towpath should be explored.

### **Other land use / management opportunities:**

- Encourage introduction and appropriate management of wide field margins along field boundaries
- Conserve the historic field pattern, with priority given to restoring and strengthening primary hedge lines including those alongside roads;
- Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Enhance tree cover through small scale planting of broadleaved coverts and woods in keeping with the visually open character.

## ATHERSTONE AND MANCETTER

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **C**

SURVEY LOCATION: Holly Lane Roundabout

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 01.02.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

This unit comprises gently sloping, small, unmanaged fields and Durno's Nurseries, which is contained by a peripheral overgrown hedgerow and a tree belt. The fields are bounded by young unmanaged hedgerows. The unit is bisected by a relatively new road (Holly Lane Roundabout), which is located in cutting with timber post and rail field boundaries and grass banks.

The Innage Brook follows the eastern edge travelling northwards to meet the River Anker. The course of the Brook is well vegetated and separates modern residential properties on Fielding Close from this area and also isolates a field to the south which is used for horse grazing. Beyond the field the character changes to allotments, the allotments are bounded by various makeshift fences.

Modern employment areas lie adjacent to the south and west of this area; the Aldi Distribution Centre to the west and 2/3 storey offices and modern grey clad industrial buildings to the south. To the east adjacent to the allotments is an electric substation and Atherstone Town Football Club. To the north the well vegetated boundaries to the Nurseries separates this area from open countryside.

The tree belts and vegetation along the course of the Brook and around the nurseries provides landscape infrastructure and partial containment of this area. Merevale Hall is located on higher land to the south with views over this area and the industrial context.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform			3	Fairly flat
	Land use			3	Isolated unmanaged fields between industrial, residential and other urban uses
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Some landscape structure around Durno's Nursery, Innage Brook and unmanaged fields
	Scale / complexity			3	Contained site surrounded by complex mix of urban uses
	Landscape features		2		Vegetation around Durno's Nurseries and Innage Brook
	Landscape condition			3	No management evident.
	Relationship with existing urban built form			3	Contained site, surrounded by urban uses. Northern vegetated edge provides separation from the countryside
	Tranquillity			3	Urban characteristics and busy settlement road network.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility			3	Contained, no long views other than to Merevale Hall on elevated, wooded land.
	Key views			3	Potentially visible from Merevale Hall, but seen within the context of adjacent urban uses
	Prevention of coalescence			3	Contained within settlement area.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations		2		Merevale Hall
	Recreational use of the landscape			3	No rights of way but tracks within the fields suggest that they are used for informal recreation.

**Overall sensitivity score: 36**

(32 and above is indicative of a relatively lower landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

Given the context of this area and the level of containment, development of either similar medium scale employment or residential development or a mixed use development could be appropriate. Any development proposals should allow for retention and inclusion of the landscape structure around Durno's Nurseries and consider enhancement of the Innage Brook. Careful consideration would need to be made of the potential impact of any proposals on the setting of Merevale Hall.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Where mature landscape framework exists it should be retained where possible, particularly any vegetation that provides a buffer to adjacent residential areas or the countryside. Development should exploit opportunities to enhance the Green Infrastructure and recreational access / opportunities within this area. Well placed landscape planting could soften and minimise the impact on views from Merevale Hall. Any development should allow for a landscaped frontage to the adjacent roads and public access connection, perhaps providing a green link through town to the countryside utilising the Innage Brook Corridor.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Hedgerows should be laid and then cut rotation at 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Enhance tree cover through small scale planting of broadleaved copses;
- Encourage natural regeneration of trees and vegetation alongside watercourses and consider introducing small areas of wetland close to the Brook;
- Encourage ecological management of the grassland areas;
- Consider formalising public access

## ATHERSTONE AND MANCETTER

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **D**

SURVEY LOCATION: Various locations at western edge of Atherstone

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 01.02.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

This unit comprises three separate flat and low lying parcels of isolated land adjacent to the Coventry Canal. Land use comprises allotment, boat yard storage areas for the canal, unmanaged fields grazed by horses, and to the north, one small arable field. The unit is contained and fragmented by peripheral roads, the settlement edge and woodland areas. There is a general lack of cohesion and order across this landscape. In places (most notable adjacent to the A5) small plots of land are identified by a collection of makeshift boundary fences and overgrown hedgerows.

Vegetation cover varies across this area; however there is a good peripheral structure of trees along with scrub and woodland areas within the western edge of the canal storage area and overgrown hedge lines and scrub encroachment elsewhere. These areas potentially have habitat value; the SINC designation on part of the land north of the boat storage suggests this.

The two larger parcels of land are divided in two by the A5 and by a collection of local vernacular brick properties at Old Watling Street, designated as a Conservation Area. In places modern red brick two and three storey townhouses have been recently constructed and back onto these areas. There are two peripheral public rights of way. Although much of this unit is contained, there are currently views (filtered by winter vegetation) from the A5 as it enters Atherstone and in places from the Coventry Canal, both gateway views.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform			3	Landform of unit and urban context is flat
	Land use		2		Predominantly urban fringe allotment and canal side uses, some isolated fringe farmland and waste ground
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Peripheral trees, scrub & woodland and internal overgrown hedgerows & trees with encroaching scrub in places, appears unmanaged.
	Scale / complexity		2		Fragmented and isolated land
	Landscape features		2		Coventry Canal. Conservation Area at Old Watling Street.
	Landscape condition			3	Neglected, appears unmanaged.
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2		Some relationship to Canal. Isolated unit, although contained the urban area backs onto this land.
	Tranquillity			3	Urban context and A5/rail traffic.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility			3	Contained except to brief view from A5 and to users of canal.
	Key views		2		Views from users of the canal and from the A5 entering Atherstone from the north.
	Prevention of coalescence			3	Contained land
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations		2		Conservation Area at Old Watling Street. SINC designation within the north of the unit.
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Coventry Canal and towpath. Two peripheral rights of way. Allotment users.

**Overall sensitivity score: 31**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The area forms part of the gateway to Atherstone for those approaching along the A5 from the north and for users of the Coventry Canal. The unit comprises pockets of isolated land that would benefit from a cohesive landscape enhancement plan. Landscape enhancement may be achieved through preparation and delivery of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the green spaces or river / canal corridors within and around Atherstone or potentially through appropriate small scale canal side development, this may include provision / enhancement of a marina and associated recreational uses and / or appropriate residential development of a character appropriate to the canal side setting and in keeping with the character of the Conservation Area at Old Watling Street. Small plan red brick buildings up to 3 storeys may be appropriate. Any development should be designed to relate to the canal with appropriate frontage and landscaping and allow for enhanced public access.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

The existing landscape framework, where it is of some landscape and ecological value, should be retained and enhanced as part of any proposals for this land. Opportunities should be sought to enhance the setting of the Coventry Canal Corridor and improve the gateway to Atherstone through appropriate landscape management. Potential for enhancing recreational links and access to the Coventry Canal for residents of Atherstone should be explored.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Hedgerows should be laid, gaps filled with native locally occurring hedgerow species planting and then a cut rotation applied at 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Manage the natural regeneration of trees and vegetation for landscape and habitat enhancement;
- Encourage ecological management of the grassland areas;
- Seek opportunities to improve public access to the canal;
- Protect the setting of the Conservation Area at Old Watling Street;
- Remove unsightly boundary structures and fences.

## ATHERSTONE AND MANCETTER

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **E**  
SURVEY LOCATION: Car park at settlement edge  
DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 01.02.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

Flat open fields adjacent to the River Anker, close to the confluence with the River Sence. The borough boundary follows the winding River Anker and land within Hinckley and Bosworth District rises gently beyond. The fields within the local valley context comprise a mix of pasture and arable, with a large area of recreation land adjacent to the settlement edge. The recreation land includes cricket, rugby and football pitches, an equipped area of play and the Atherstone RUFC HQ Building.

The fields are enclosed by overgrown and gappy hedgerows and there is some riparian vegetation on the banks of the river. In places the gaps within the hedgerows have been filled with low timber pale or post and rail fencing. There are few trees within this area, this combined with the level topography permits open views across this part of the Anker valley, however longer views are restricted by trees to the edges of the area, and by the adjacent rising land at the skyline.

The adjacent open settlement edge comprises modern brick detached and semi-detached properties, generally with rear garden boundary fences bordering the area. Mythe Farm is located on a crest of higher land north of the River Anker. To the north the small scale Alder Mill Business Park abuts the Area. To the north east the settlement of Ratcliffe Culey with its spired church is visible amongst trees on the skyline and further east scattered rural properties on Atherstone Road and farmsteads are visible amongst trees. To the south east the adjacent employment works at the edge of Atherstone are more prominent. No rights of way pass through this area.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		Flat landform within the base of the Anker Valley
	Land use			3	Open recreation and agriculture
	Land cover and vegetation			3	Large fields with gappy and overgrown hedges, some vegetation alongside the river.
	Scale / complexity		2		Open landscape, simple character, and medium to large scale.
	Landscape features		2		River Anker. Mythe Farm on prominent landform overlooks the area. Rural landscape to the northeast.
	Landscape condition		2		Some evidence of low key management.
	Relationship with existing urban built form			3	Land relates to the settlement edge and form.
	Tranquillity			3	Adjacent settlement edge and industrial areas, some traffic noise from the roads into Atherstone.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		A visually open landscape adjacent to an open settlement edge.
	Key views		2		Views from Mythe Farm and other rural receptors. Views from the settlement edge.
	Prevention of coalescence			3	No close by settlements
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	None noted.
	Recreational use of the landscape	1			Large area utilised as recreation ground and play area. No public footpaths.

**Overall sensitivity score: 31**

(32 and above is indicative of a relatively lower landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

A large proportion of the land adjacent to the settlement edge is utilised as recreation/sports fields, the wider area comprises open countryside. The current settlement edge is open to the landscape and properties generally back onto the recreation fields. Small scale residential development may be suitable for this area subject to floodplain and public amenity constraints. Suitable development would be 2-storey red brick residential adjacent to the existing housing edge. The design of any development proposals should carefully consider the relationship between the settlement edge and the adjacent countryside and any development should be delivered with a new Green Infrastructure that would better assimilate the urban edge with the adjacent rural landscape.

Also consider restoring the derelict red brick vernacular farm buildings at Ratcliffe Bridge.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

With development a suitable landscape frontage/buffer to the settlement edge should be accommodated to integrate the settlement better with the wider countryside and mitigate any views from rural properties. The existing hedgerow framework should be retained and reinforced with wetland/copse planting to field corners where appropriate. Retained fields within the river floodplain could be ecologically managed grassland. Individual tree planting of Parkland character may be appropriate in public amenity areas. Opportunities to enhance the recreational corridor and extend alongside the river and / or around the fringe of Atherstone should be explored, possibly as part of a comprehensive Green Infrastructure Strategy for the green spaces and river / canal corridors within Atherstone.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Encourage introduction and appropriate management of wide field margins along watercourses and boundaries
- Conserve the historic field pattern, with priority given to restoring and strengthening primary hedge lines including those alongside roads;
- Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Enhance tree cover through small scale planting of broadleaved coverts and woods to soften the appearance of the urban edge and in keeping with the visually open character;

- Encourage natural regeneration of trees and vegetation alongside watercourses and promote small areas of wetland planting in areas currently lacking in habitats;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas and wetlands
- Seek opportunities to enhance public access and recreational facilities to the northern edge of Atherstone and the River Anker.

## ATHERSTONE AND MANCETTER

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **F**  
SURVEY LOCATION: Mythe Lane  
DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 01.02.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

This narrow strip of land comprises gently sloping, almost flat fields adjacent to the River Anker. The river takes a narrow meandering course along the outer edge of this unit, and defines the Borough boundary. The land comprises 3 or 4 small apparently unmanaged or grazed fields confined between the open banks of the river and the employment areas at the edge of Atherstone. In places narrow tree belts and vegetation at the industrial edge of Atherstone filter views to the employment area, which predominantly comprises low rise modern sheds.

There are open views across this unit from Mythe Lane, only limited by a few scattered trees and gappy, overgrown hedges. Mythe Lane is a busy, rural road, enclosed by low trimmed hedges located just beyond the Borough boundary within the Hinckley and Bosworth district. Gently rising land to the east of the lane provides some containment from the wider countryside beyond. From the lane there are open views across the unit to the nearby small settlement of Whitherley with its prominent church spire and collection of older vernacular buildings at the settlement edge. There is no formal public access to this area and only one right of way connects through the south of the area from Atherstone.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		Flat land, withn the base of the valley adjacent to the river Anker
	Land use		2		Riverside fields
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Some riparian vegetation and tree belts adjacent to the urban edge. Grassland.
	Scale / complexity	1			Small land parcels constrained by river and adjacent built up industrial areas
	Landscape features		2		The River Anker and nearby settlement edge of Witherley with distinctive Church spire
	Landscape condition		2		Fragmented fields and open watercourse would benefit from overall management strategy
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2		Land contained by river, urban edge currently separated by narrow tree belts
	Tranquillity			3	Rural viewpoint but influenced by the urban fringe
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Open views across the unit and to the settlement edge of Witherley
	Key views		2		From Mythe Lane and from Witherley.
	Prevention of coalescence		2		Any development would perceivably bring Witherley and Atherstone closer, but would be limited / prevented by intervening river.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations		2		SINC designation applies to 2 fields
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Land in south bisected by a public right of way, some evidence of informal use of the landscape.

**Overall sensitivity score: 26**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

Development opportunities for this land are likely to be limited as it contains a SINC and is constrained by the river floodplain and the adjacent built up industrial edge of Atherstone. It is also overlooked by the settlement edge of Witherley (Hinckley and Bosworth district), which may include sensitive listed buildings or a Conservation Area. The land is therefore unlikely to be appropriate for development other than potentially small pockets of expansion land for existing industries. Any development should be low level and small to medium in scale and include peripheral landscape planting of appropriate character in order to integrate the urban edge with the adjacent countryside.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

This area would benefit from a comprehensive Green Infrastructure strategy that could be extended along the course of the River Anker as it passes through Atherstone. Fields adjacent to the river and the river itself would benefit from ecological management, particularly to conserve and enhance the value of the SINC. This could be combined with public access enhancements to provide a formal recreational corridor. Any adjacent development proposals should include a robust peripheral planting framework of suitable species to minimise the visual and landscape effects on the river corridor and on the settlement of Witherley, consider increasing the existing level of tree belt planting.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Conserve the historic field pattern, with priority given to restoring and strengthening primary hedge lines;
- Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Enhance tree cover through small scale planting of broadleaved coverts and tree belts to soften the appearance of the urban edge and in keeping with the visually open character;
- Encourage natural regeneration of trees and vegetation alongside watercourses and promote small areas of wetland planting in areas currently lacking in habitats;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas and wetlands
- Seek opportunities to enhance / formalise public access from the northern edge of Atherstone to the River Anker.

## ATHERSTONE AND MANCETTER

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **G**

SURVEY LOCATION: Southern Edge of Atherstone

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 01.02.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

Several small, flat fields grazed by sheep and enclosed by riparian vegetation alongside the River Anker, tree groups and maturing tree belts adjacent to the A5 junction. Scattered mature trees within the hedgerow field boundaries and beyond the river at the settlement edge of Witherley create an historic parkland character. The landscape structure is mature and intact.

These fields are overlooked by and provide the setting to the adjacent village of Witherley (located with Hinckley and Bosworth district) with its distinctive spired church and collection of red brick vernacular properties. The land is otherwise visually contained with glimpse views from the busy A5 to the south and from the industrial edge of Atherstone to the west. There are no rights of way or recreational access.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		Flat flood meadow adjacent to the River Anker.
	Land use		2		Contained grazing land.
	Land cover and vegetation	1			Riverside vegetation and mature landscape.
	Scale / complexity			3	Simple parcel of land.
	Landscape features	1			Provides the setting to Witherley with its spired church.
	Landscape condition		2		Appears well managed but there are a few gappy hedgerows.
	Relationship with existing urban built form	1			Contained area of land that doesn't relate to Atherstone.
	Tranquillity			3	Busy perimeter roads including the A5.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Contained within wider landscape but visible from the adjacent A5 and Witherley.
	Key views	1			From Witherley
	Prevention of coalescence	1			Development would link Witherley with Atherstone.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations	1			None noted, although Witherley may include listed buildings / Conservation Area?
	Recreational use of the landscape			3	None noted.

**Overall sensitivity score: 23**

(25 and below is indicative of a relatively higher landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

Although this is a contained pocket of land it provides the setting to the village of Witherley, which is located within the adjacent Hinckley and Bosworth District. It is unlikely to be considered suitable for development due to floodplain, coalescence and potentially sensitive landscape constraints.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

The mature landscape framework should be maintained and managed to ensure its continuity. Specimen parkland tree planting could be undertaken to provide long term replacements for the aging tree structure. Consideration should be given to ecological management of grassland if this practice is not already undertaken. If a Green Infrastructure Strategy was to be prepared for the Borough it might be appropriate to consider extending riverside recreational access through this area.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Conserve and enhance the existing mature landscape framework
- Avoid types of farm diversification that are inappropriate to this landscape;
- Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas and wetlands;
- Only encourage informal recreational activities if appropriate as part of a wider GI Strategy

## ATHERSTONE AND MANCETTER

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: H  
SURVEY LOCATION: B4111 south of Mancetter  
DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 01.02.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

This unit comprises the gently sloping fields that border the open course of the River Anker. Fields are large and arable south and east of the river with smaller grazed field adjacent to the residential edge. Within the north, modern residential properties at The Coppice and The Spinney back directly onto the river, mature trees and vegetation within rear gardens presents a wooded course to the river in this location and views to the settlement edge are heavily filtered. Similarly properties to the south along Nuneaton Road and off Mill Lane are reasonably well contained by peripheral trees and vegetation. The grazed fields penetrate between the two residential areas to meet Nuneaton Road, from here there are wide elevated views to the east across the adjacent rural countryside. Large areas of the fields are subject to a SAM designation and the 1:25000 OS mapping identifies a roman settlement in this location. There are open views from the adjacent historic core of Mancetter, which is designated a Conservation Area.

The busy A5 passes the northern edge of the unit. Several rights of way cross the land between Mancetter and Witherley and follow the course of the Anker to the south through the valley.

Within this unit the landscape framework comprises low trimmed hedges and dispersed hedgerow trees, peripheral settlement edge trees and riparian trees, scrub and small copses along the course of the brook. This creates a more intimate character adjacent to the settlement edge, but beyond the river an open arable landscape prevails with long rural views to wooded skylines. In views to the north the edge of Witherley alongside the A5 is softened by mature trees, the spired church of Witherley is prominent in the landscape.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		Gently sloping fields meet the river Anker.
	Land use		2		Predominantly open rural agricultural
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Well vegetated settlement edge and adjacent open fields
	Scale / complexity	1			Adjacent wide open rural landscape
	Landscape features		2		River Anker, historic core of Mancetter adjacent, church spire at Witherley
	Landscape condition		2		Management evident, but would benefit from a wider River Anker management strategy.
	Relationship with existing urban built form	1			The river provides a logical boundary to further development
	Tranquillity			3	Busy A5 and B4111 adjacent
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility	1			Predominantly a wide open landscape.
	Key views		2		Elevated views across the countryside from the B4111 adjacent to the Mancetter Conservation Area. Views to Witherley Church.
	Prevention of coalescence		2		Should development breach the river it could lead to coalescence with Witherley
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations	1			Roman settlement SAM and adjacent SAMS. Conservation Area covers the historic core at Mancetter.
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Rights of Way.

**Overall sensitivity score: 23**

(25 and below is indicative of a relatively higher landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The river contains the existing settlement edge. Where development has occurred east of the A4111 it extends to the river banks. One gap remains, however part of this land is subject to a SAM designation and the gap allows wide elevated views across the adjacent countryside from the adjacent Conservation Area. The potential for development within this area without breaching the river and extending into open countryside is therefore very limited. There may be very small parcels of land around Mill Lane where infill residential development may be a possibility. Any development that may be proposed should be sensitively designed to be in keeping with the character of the local area and have regard to the adjacent historically sensitive landscape elements.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

The land west of the river forms the setting to the settlement area and provides a buffer to the open arable countryside beyond the river. The existing landscape framework of riparian vegetation trees and flood meadows should be retained and enhanced to maintain a robust green settlement edge. Ecological management of the river course, associated vegetation and grasslands would be beneficial and may form part of a wider GI strategy for the course of the Anker as it passes through the Atherstone area. Consider formalising access to the remaining fields west of the Anker and the possibility of retaining and managing in perpetuity as nature conservation land.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Conserve and enhance the existing landscape framework of the river corridor and consider managing for nature conservation benefits;
- Avoid types of farm diversification that are inappropriate to this landscape;
- Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas and wetlands;
- Encourage only informal recreational activities appropriate to nature conservation

## ATHERSTONE AND MANCETTER

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: I

SURVEY LOCATION: Quarry Lane, southern edge of Mancetter

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 01.02.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

This unit comprises open gently undulating arable farmland bisected by the West Coast Main rail line. Medium to large arable fields are enclosed by low trimmed and in places gappy hedges, a tree lined watercourse passes close to the settlement edge to link with the River Anker.

Scattered modern red brick properties at the settlement edge lie adjacent to the fields with the historic core of Mancetter and its church adjacent to the north. The rail way line is open and its overhead gantries can be clearly seen in views across the valley. The Coventry Canal forms the western boundary at the base rising land to the west, with scattered trees along its route. There are no rights of way across this area.

From the Quarry Lane rail overbridge there are open views across this area to the wooded hills and hillside settlement of Hartshill to the south and long views east across the valley to distant wooded skyline.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform	1		Open and sloping
	Land use		2	Rural arable land.
	Land cover and vegetation			3 Vegetated watercourse and scattered field and canalside trees but otherwise little vegetation cover
	Scale / complexity	1		Open countryside
	Landscape features			3 Discrete presence of the canal, vegetated watercourse
	Landscape condition			3 Intensive arable cultivation
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2	North eastern field has some relationship with the settlement edge otherwise isolated open fields
	Tranquillity			3 Busy trainline.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility	1		Upper slopes adjacent to the settlement edge elevated and exposed.
	Key views		2	Possible rural views across parts of the land from the canal. Possible elevated views from rights of way and Hartshill Green.
	Prevention of coalescence			3 No nearby settlements
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3 Nearby SAMS and Conservation Areas although not directly related.
	Recreational use of the landscape		2	Users of the Coventry Canal. Rights of way on elevated land adjacent.

**Overall sensitivity score: 30**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The high score reflects a lack of sensitive landscape features, however this unit is part of the wider open countryside character and only the north eastern field has any relation to the existing settlement edge where it is bordered by a small number of low density properties. Currently in rural views towards this area the settlement edge is well integrated and screened by vegetation along the watercourse. Development here has the potential to breach this largely contained edge. Only small scale infill residential development in the lower land adjacent to the existing properties is likely to be appropriate. With development the mature vegetation alongside the watercourse would need to be retained and development proposals should not encroach upon the open higher land or extend the settlement form.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

The wooded watercourse should be retained and managed as a landscape feature and hedgerow field boundaries should be reinforced with new native planting within gaps and new hedgerow oak planting to break up the open landscape.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Retain and enhance the open rural character of this area;
- Conserve and manage the wooded watercourse;
- Avoid types of farm diversification that are inappropriate to this landscape;
- Encourage introduction and appropriate management of wide field margins along watercourses and boundaries;
- Conserve the historic field pattern, with priority given to restoring and strengthening primary hedge lines including those alongside roads;
- Enhance tree cover through small scale planting of hedgerow oaks and / or broadleaved coverts and woods in keeping with the visually open character;
- Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;

## ATHERSTONE AND MANCETTER

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: J

SURVEY LOCATION: Pedestrian footbridge over rail line, Atherstone

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 01.02.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

Elevated view from the rail bridge across flat fields, adjacent to the Coventry Canal. Steeply rising, rolling wooded hills beyond the canal contain this area to the west. To the south east the landscape opens into the Anker Valley.

Land use comprises gently undulating small pastoral fields enclosed by fences and overgrown and in places gappy hedgerows and numerous hedgerow trees, framed by the woodland on rising land. The canal is barely discernible, its sinuous course marked by a hedgerow line on the eastern bank.

Rose Hill Farm buildings are of a traditional red brick vernacular and lie centrally within the fields accessed from a wooded track off Quarry Lane. A public right of way connects the residential edge of Atherstone to the farm along the lane to Quarry Road, via the foot bridge over the rail line.

The adjacent residential settlement edge terminates abruptly at the railway line. The railway corridor is highly visible within this local landscape marked by many overhead gantries with little vegetation along corridor. The properties that overlook the line are red brick post or inter-war semis and terraces, with small scale industry to the north.

The dense hedgerow network, trees and hillside woodland combined create an enclosed, wooded landscape character. Views across this area are limited to those from recreational users of the canal and right of way, peripheral properties, the rail line and limited views in from Quarry Lane to the south.

It was not possible to include an area of land north of the rail line and south of Manor House within the Atherstone assessment. This land is contained by trees and evergreen vegetation with no public access.

### Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform			3	Fairly flat contained by hills. Canal and minor watercourse present.
	Land use		2		Rural, pastoral characteristics – but influenced by rail line and existing settlement edge.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Small pastoral fields with numerous hedge boundaries, trees and linking blocks of woodland.
	Scale / complexity			3	Simple small-medium scale landscape
	Landscape features		2		Farm buildings, wooded pastoral landscape, canal.
	Landscape condition		2		Pastoral land, field boundaries appear to lack management.
	Relationship with existing urban built form	1			Contained land adjacent to settlement edge however the land is separated by a significant rail corridor.
	Tranquillity				3
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility			3	Contained by landform and woodland.
	Key views			3	Limited to Rose Hill Farm and small number of properties at the settlement edge
	Prevention of coalescence			3	No settlement nearby
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations		2		RIGS designation and ancient woodlands on higher land.
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Right of Way and Canal

**Overall sensitivity score: 31**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The score reflects the containment of the landscape and the visual influence of the rail line and urban edge. However, this landscape has a good landscape structure, is perceived as a rural landscape and is physically separated from the settlement edge by the wide rail corridor. In landscape and visual terms a carefully masterplanned residential development contained by the Coventry Canal and Quarry Lane might be a possibility, however access and connections from the adjacent settlement area would be problematic. Should development be viable careful consideration would need to be given to the Quarry Lane edge and additional structural planting may be required here to ensure containment from the wider landscape to the south. The landscape treatment and relationship of any development to the Canal frontage would also need to be carefully considered.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

The landscape framework of hedgerows and trees belts and wooded slopes should be maintained and enhanced, through planting up gaps in hedgerows and implementation of an appropriate hedgerow management regime. Ecological management of the grazing land should be considered if not already undertaken.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- New agricultural buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to blend with the surrounding landscape;
- Encourage only informal recreational activities appropriate to nature conservation
- Avoid types of farm diversification that are inappropriate to this landscape;
- Conserve the historic field pattern and manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, maintain large hedges through implementing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Promote management of the tree belts and woodland;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas and watercourses;

## POLESWORTH AND DORDON

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **A**  
SURVEY LOCATION: West side of Dordon  
DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 27.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

A large area of land which descends gently to the west towards the A42. The existing settlement of Dordon is on the edge on the eastern boundary of the area. The land is under arable and pasture, in very large fields, with few field boundaries. There are some hedges, and fenced field boundaries. There are very few hedgerow trees. Only a small copse to the west of Dordon provides tree cover. The village of Birchwood lies to the west, and a right of way extends south across the area. There are some farm tracks but few other rights of way or roads, apart from around the perimeter of the area.

Existing settlement character is defined by Dordon, Polesworth and Birchwood. These settlements border the area and mostly comprise circa 20th century terrace and semi detached properties, constructed of red brick and tile. The settlements provide a stark edge to the landscape. There is limited tree cover in the gardens and the boundaries are quite abrupt. Schools on the higher ground at Polesworth are notable, and the settlement is widely visible across the landscape, because of the lack of vegetation and simple topography. Views towards the area are possible from the A5, and the local lanes. There is little Green Infrastructure.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2	A simple slope easy to develop. Few physical constraints. However, the slope faces away from the existing settlement and is prominent in the landscape.
	Land use			3 Simple agricultural land, with few features of interest.
	Land cover and vegetation			3 Mostly arable land.
	Scale / complexity		2	Large scale, few constraints, but no boundaries to work either. Would need significant new Green Infrastructure.
	Landscape features			3 Few local features of interest.
	Landscape condition		2	Managed agricultural land.
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2	Development would form a more successful edge to existing urban area, but no logical limits to development so good urban form would be necessary.
	Tranquillity		2	A large area, the edges affected by existing settlements is woods, but away from these features more tranquil.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility	1		Widely open landscape. New planting could restrict views, but could change the character.
	Key views		2	Views from existing settlement, and from the A5.
	Prevention of coalescence		2	At the northern edge, potential for coalescence with Birchmoor.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3 No known designations.
	Recreational use of the landscape		2	Path but could be accommodated.

**Overall sensitivity score: 29**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

Generally lower sensitivity through lack of facilities, but widely open and visible. Some limited development could provide a more successful settlement edge. New built development may be possible, linked to the existing settlement on the higher ground. Maximum 2 storey would link with existing settlement, brick or tile appropriate. Open space and Green Infrastructure should be located on the edge of the area, to provide a softer settlement edge and to link the settlement better into the landscape. A varied urban edge and urban form could be appropriate.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

There are few features in the landscape to retain, but a new landscape structure would be appropriate. Longer views to and from the settlement on the higher ground should be retained, but a “greener” softer edge of the settlement could be established.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Encourage development of wide and diverse field margins;
- Encourage retention of hedges and management practices that reinstate historic hedge lines using native locally occurring hedgerow species;
- Encourage planting of hedgerow oaks to increase the tree cover within the area;
- Encourage planting of small native locally occurring broadleaved woodland blocks on higher land to soften the impact of peripheral urbanising elements and the settlement edge;
- The design of any recreational facilities should seek to reintroduce landscape structure and features.

## POLESWORTH AND DORDON

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **B**  
SURVEY LOCATION: West side of Dordon  
DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 27.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

An area of undulating land which slopes to the north. In places the slopes are fairly steep. The landform provides some evidence to the settlement to the north, although the properties on the higher ground towards Birchwood are more exposed. The land is mainly under arable cultivation, with medium size fields. There are some hedgerows and trees. A noticeable line of vegetation follows what appears to be an old rail line.

Existing settlement at Polesworth and Dordon comprises a mixture of properties including some early circa 20th terrace and semi detached along with more modern estate housing. There is a higher proportion of trees within the settlement than further south in Dordon, and this provide a slightly softer feel to the settlement when viewed from the west. There are no noticeable rights of way or Green Infrastructure features. There will be some views from properties in the settlements but fewer long views across the landscape than with the more open landscape to the south.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		Some of the steeper slopes would make it difficult to accommodate development although the ending effect of the landform could assist in places
	Land use		2		Mostly arable land.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Not a great deal but some vegetation, including along the old rail line that adds character and distinctiveness.
	Scale / complexity		2		A smaller scale landscape may be some potential for small side development.
	Landscape features			3	No particular features within the area itself.
	Landscape condition		2		Appears to be managed agricultural land and particular urban edge issues.
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2		A more complex landscape, where the detailed topography influences the landscape. Some limited potential, but would depend on location and design.
	Tranquillity		2		Some influence from A42 and local woods and development.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Some visual enclosure in places, but other parts more exposed. New planting could provide benefits.
	Key views		2		Some views from existing properties and local land.
	Prevention of coalescence		2		Birchwood close to the southern end of the area.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	None apparent.
	Recreational use of the landscape			3	No noticeable features observed.

**Overall sensitivity score: 29**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

**Potential for Built Development:**

Some limited capacity close to the existing settlement, but would have to work closely with topography and existing vegetation. Some potential for limited built development likely next to the existing settlement at the northern end of the area, on the lower slopes. Traditional brick or tile would be appropriate, and building up to 2 storeys. Open space could be provided as the outer edge of any development, to provide a buffer edge to the countryside.

**Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

The vegetation surrounding the area should be retained, along with the vegetation along the old rail line. Measures to link features should be encouraged. There are no significant recreational features. New planting should comprise locally native species.

**Other land use / management opportunities**

- Encourage introduction and appropriate management of wide field margins;
- Promote management of small woods and tree belts
- Enhance tree cover through small scale planting of broadleaved coverts and woods in keeping with the visually open character;
- Encourage replanting of hedgerow field boundaries with hedgerow oaks to reinforce the historic landscape pattern.

## POLESWORTH AND DORDON

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **C**

SURVEY LOCATION: Pooley Hall

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 27.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

This unit comprises the western slopes of the Anker valley, to the west of Polesworth. The land is elevated to the west. Near to the M42, and descends each with Polesworth in the valley bottom near the river. Land use is varied with pasture and arable land and Pooley Fields Country Park with woodland and grassland. There are a good proportion of hedgerows, trees and woodlands, enclosing the landscape with riverside trees alongside the River Anker. The canal also extends along the valley.

The Pillar of Remembrance for workers from Pooley Hall Colliery is a notable feature on the higher ground. The mainline railway forms the northern boundary of the area. Polesworth is notable with modern estate development to the north, and the core of the village further south. The landscape extends right into the core of the village and adds character. There is open space in the centre of the village, which links to the more rural landscape. Views across the area are possible from Polesworth and from the lane that leads to the Country Park.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		The slopes descend towards the settlement, and provide some enclosure, although there is little space next to the existing settlement.
	Land use	1			The proximity of the river, flood plain and country park, combine to provide a relatively sensitive area.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		The variety of vegetation and land cover including some sensitive areas to change.
	Scale / complexity	1			The scale of the landscape next to the settlement provides an attractive setting to the settlement. It is not an appropriate scale to add development.
	Landscape features		2		Locally distinctive features include the woodland and the war memorial.
	Landscape condition		2		The landscape appears well managed.
	Relationship with existing urban built form			3	It is difficult to see where any development would not adversely affect the relationship between the settlement and the open valley.
	Tranquillity			2	The M42 influences the area, and the rail line to the north.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		There is some enclosure by landform as vegetation.
	Key views		2		Views from the existing settlement to the north and from the historic village. There are views from the tow path.
	Prevention of coalescence			3	
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations	1			
	Recreational use of the landscape	1			Mainly park and canal tow path.

**Overall sensitivity score: 24**

(25 and below is indicative of a relatively higher landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

There is little opportunity for any development. Good Green Infrastructure with Country Park and canal through paths, also open space within Polesworth.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Retain existing vegetation, protect the river corridor and canal. Consider improving access to the river. At present the area appears well used, but access is not formalised or controlled, introduction of some surfaced paths could assist.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Encourage only informal recreational activities appropriate to nature conservation
- Avoid types of farm diversification that are inappropriate to the agricultural landscape;
- Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Promote management of woodland and riparian vegetation;
- Encourage natural regeneration of trees and vegetation alongside watercourses and promote small areas of wetland planting in areas currently lacking in habitats;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas and wetlands;

## POLESWORTH AND DORDON

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **D**

SURVEY LOCATION: Northern edge of Polesworth

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 27.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

The unit comprises the land north/east of Polesworth and the mainline railway. The land rises to the north away from the settlement, which has an abrupt boundary formed by the rail line. Land use is mostly agricultural, although there are a number of stables and pony paddocks located close to the rail line. Fields are mostly under pasture, with hedgerows and wire fences forming the field boundaries. Occasional groups of oak trees on the higher land add diversity. The topography varies at a local level with some minor valleys and raised land. There are few noticeable landscape features, apart from the groups of trees.

The existing settlement is noticeable in the valley bottom, but has an abrupt boundary formed by the rail line. The overhead electric wires draw attention to the rail line. There is little Green Infrastructure and views are possible from some of the properties and local lanes, although the effects of topography do contain some views from local roads.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform	1			Slopes away from the settlement, and any development could be visible in rising ground.
	Land use		2		Some areas such as the pony paddocks are of low sensitivity, but there are features of interest such as the tree groups that are more sensitive.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Mostly agricultural land, not particularly sensitive but some features of interest.
	Scale / complexity		2		A medium scale landscape with varied field sizes.
	Landscape features		2		Few distinctive features, but some local vernacular farm buildings, and mature trees distinctive features.
	Landscape condition		2		Landscape is managed, but paddocks provide an urban influence
	Relationship with existing urban built form			3	Land lies between the rail line which forms an abrupt boundary to the existing settlement.
	Tranquillity			3	Tranquillity affected by mainline railway.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility	1			Higher land more visually exposed.
	Key views		2		Some views from Polesworth and local roads.
	Prevention of coalescence			3	No other settlements close by.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	Non noted
	Recreational use of the landscape			3	Little evidence of recreational use

**Overall sensitivity score: 30**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The parcel generally feels like rural land beyond the settlement, with the rail line providing a firm boundary. The rising land would have a low capacity for development, but the lower ground near the rail line has more potential in landscape terms. If built development is required, it should be located in the lower slopes next to the existing settlement and rail line. Open space could be accommodated in the higher land, and any existing vegetation retained.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Opportunities would depend on where any development would occur. If required only a small parcel may be appropriate. New access to the adjacent countryside should be included, and planting reinforced.

### **Other land use / management opportunities;**

- Encourage only informal recreational activities appropriate to nature conservation
- Avoid types of farm diversification that are inappropriate to the agricultural landscape;
- Encourage introduction and appropriate management of wide field margins along watercourses and boundaries
- Conserve the historic field pattern, with priority given to restoring and strengthening primary hedge lines including those alongside roads;
- Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Promote management of trees and small woods;
- Enhance tree cover through small scale planting of broadleaved coverts and woods in keeping with the visually open character;
- Encourage natural regeneration of trees and vegetation alongside watercourses and promote small areas of wetland planting in areas currently lacking in habitats;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas and wetlands;

## POLESWORTH AND DORDON

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **E**

SURVEY LOCATION: Eastern edge of Polesworth / Dordon

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 27.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

This unit comprises the land in the floodplain of the River Anker, and the more undulating land to the south near St Helena. The land near the river is relatively flat. Land use is varied, with recreational land near the edge of the settlement, leading to pasture and some arable on the outer edge of the area. Some land is used as pony paddocks/riding stables. There is also a sewage treatment works. Fields are mostly enclosed by hedgerows, with some hedgerow oak trees, although there are also some post and wire fences. Features in the landscape include the River Anker. Coventry Canal and the obelisk on the site of St Leonards Chapel add interest. The sewage works and the riding stables and sheds distract.

There are some tracks, but few public rights of way. The towpath is accessible. Properties in Polesworth and St Helena border the area and influence the character. Properties vary from older vernacular buildings in the core of the village, to 20th century estate housing. Green Infrastructure includes Abbey Green Park, the River Anker and the Coventry Canal. A range of views are possible from around the area.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		A varied landform with flat flood plain and more undulating land.
	Land use		2		There are some sensitive areas and other parcels of land with little interest.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		The overall framework is good, with a network of hedges and a varied settlement edge. Some parcels of land may have potential.
	Scale / complexity		2		The varied scale and complexity means that small side development may be incorporated without changing the overall character.
	Landscape features			3	Sensitive features in the village centre, the river and obelisk.
	Landscape condition		2		Appears to be managed well mostly for agriculture.
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2		A varied urban edge, which suggests the potential for small scale changes.
	Tranquillity		2		The rail line is close by and affects tranquillity.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Varied visibility, some views from the village centre and adjacent housing.
	Key views		2		Views from village centre and Canal towpath.
	Prevention of coalescence			3	
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations	1			Abbey
	Recreational use of the landscape	1			Use of through path, Abbey Park.

**Overall sensitivity score: 26**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

A generally sensitive area with a range of features. Possibly some small scale opportunities in discrete parcels of land. Only potential for small scale development to tie into the existing settlement structure. Green Infrastructure should aim to provide links between different existing elements, such as the towpath and park.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

It should link existing features of interest/value such as the canal and park.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Encourage only informal recreational activities appropriate to nature conservation
- Avoid types of farm diversification that are inappropriate to the agricultural landscape;
- Encourage introduction and appropriate management of wide field margins;
- Conserve the historic field pattern, with priority given to restoring and strengthening primary hedge lines including those alongside roads;
- Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Promote management of small woods and tree belts;
- Enhance tree cover through small scale planting of broadleaved coverts and woods in keeping with the visually open character;
- Encourage natural regeneration of trees and vegetation alongside watercourses and promote small areas of wetland planting in areas currently lacking in habitats;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas and wetlands;

## POLESWORTH AND DORDON

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **F**

SURVEY LOCATION: Eastern edge of Dordon

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 27.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

This unit comprises the land east of Dordon, between Dunns Lane and Polesworth. The landform is undulating, but generally descends to the east, with Dordon on the ridge of higher ground. Land use is prominently agricultural. Both pasture and arable, old woodland, with a large block of woodland (The Hollies) in the centre of the unit. To the west near the existing settlement there are small to medium side fields, enclosed by hedgerows with some hedgerow trees. Land is mainly under pasture. Further east and north the fields become large and more regular. Fields are enclosed by fragmented hedgerows or post and wire fences. There are some tracks and paths allowing access to the landscape. Some small parcels of land near the existing settlement provide paddocks or other uses. The higher proportion of vegetation to the east of Dordon provides a softer edge to the settlement, than occurs to the west of Dordon. Properties comprise terraces, semi detached and detached properties. Dordon Hall is an interesting property to the east of the area. The Hollies is an ancient woodland and SINC. Some views over the area are possible, but are restricted by vegetation.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		Landform varied.
	Land use		2		Some sensitive features, but some extensive fields, particularly to the east with little of sensitivity.
	Land cover and vegetation	1			Some small side fields with boundary vegetation, softens the existing settlement edge.
	Scale / complexity		2		The smaller side of the landscape will allow some small side changes without affecting the overall character.
	Landscape features		2		Occasional features such as Dordon Hall.
	Landscape condition		2		Land to the west appears in good condition, but further east there are many fragmented hedgerows, in need of improvement.
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2		The area is encased by existing urban area on the sides.
	Tranquillity		2		The area is relatively tranquil with few distracting elements.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility			3	The vegetation does provide a good degree of enclosure.
	Key views		2		Some local views would be possible from the properties, and from the paths that cross the area. No particularly significant public views however.
	Prevention of coalescence			3	
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations		2		Ancient woodland
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Some rights of way but could be integrated.

**Overall sensitivity score: 27**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

Some capacity within existing landscape framework but should retain existing landscape structure. Any built development should fit with the existing urban frame, and provide linkages. Open space provision should incorporate existing landscape structure, and provide new links.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Woodland and existing hedgerows and trees of value should be retained. Rights of way should be retained and new links established where possible. This could include links to existing green spaces on the edge of town.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Encourage only informal recreational activities appropriate to nature conservation
- Avoid types of farm diversification that are inappropriate to the agricultural landscape;
- Conserve the historic field pattern, with priority given to restoring and strengthening primary hedge lines including those alongside roads;
- Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Promote management of woodlands;
- Enhance tree cover through small scale planting of broadleaved coverts and woods in keeping with the landscape character;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas.

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **G**

SURVEY LOCATION: Dunns Lane, A5

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 27.01.2010

**Description of sub unit**

This unit lies south of Dunns Lane and north of the A5. It comprises agricultural land and former minerals land, not fully restored. There is a varied topography, arising from the minerals work.

Much of the former minerals land is now regenerating and is covered in woodland and scrub with some more open grassy areas, and wetland. The agricultural land is mostly under pasture. Woodland provides a high degree of enclosure, though there are some mature hedgerows or hedgerow trees. A number of paths cross the area, and there is informal access to some of the former minerals land. The woodland tends to limit views across the area, and the influence of the existing urban area is soon lost.

There are some urban fringe problems close to the edge of the settlement. The woodland has now developed some interest for nature conservation, and part of the area is designated a SINC.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		Land closest to the settlement is former minerals workings which would need to be remodelled before any development could take place.
	Land use		2		Currently agricultural or unmanaged so not particularly sensitive.
	Land cover and vegetation	1			Most of the land is designated SINC.
	Scale / complexity	1			Only by removing the vegetation could development be accommodated.
	Landscape features	1			The woodland would be sensitive in landscape terms
	Landscape condition			3	Mostly a regenerating site, with little management.
	Relationship with existing urban built form			2	The area is enclosed by existing development, and the area would relate to the existing urban form
	Tranquillity			2	Close to the A5.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility			3	Woodland restricts visibility
	Key views			3	No notable views
	Prevention of coalescence			3	Surrounded by different parts of the same settlement.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations	1			SINC
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Is used informally – can also cause problems.

**Overall sensitivity score: 26**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

Currently of nature conservation value and landscape interest. Within the site there are problems of antisocial uses and derelict land. Development would mean losing some ecological interest, whilst assisting with some other problems – may be some capacity. Any development should safeguard as much of ecological and landscape interest as possible, with management of remaining elements. Built form should link separate areas of current built development.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Retain as much as possible and bring into improved management regime.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Encourage only informal recreational activities appropriate to nature conservation;
- Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Encourage natural regeneration of trees and promote management of woodland and scrub areas for ecological enhancement;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas.

## POLESWORTH AND DORDON

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **H**

SURVEY LOCATION: South of Dordon

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 27.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

A varied area of land south of the A5 at Dordon, extending east from Birch Coppice Business Park. The landform descends from the A5 south to a watercourse, before rising again further south. Land is under a variety of uses including arable and pasture, agricultural land but also a former sewage treatment works (now rough ground) and blocks of deciduous woodland and a large pond. Some field boundaries appear historic with a high proportion of mature hedgerows. Other field boundaries have been removed or comprise closely maintained hawthorn. The settlement at Dordon and the industrial buildings at Birch Coppice are visible across the landscape and influence its character. There are also some isolated farms/houses. Views are possible from the A5, the local lanes and paths, but there are no particularly important view points.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		Drops away quickly from Dordon, but some flatter areas relate to Birch Coppice Business Park.
	Land use		2		The agricultural land and former sewage works are not particularly sensitive to change.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		The woodlands, parks and hedgerow trees are sensitive and should be retained.
	Scale / complexity	1			Scale varies
	Landscape features		2		Local farms, and individual oak trees.
	Landscape condition		2		Agricultural land managed, some hedgerows would benefit from tree planting.
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2		Existing built form varies with influence of business park and settlement
	Tranquillity		2		The A5 is evident
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2	3	A relatively open landscape where views across it are readily available.
	Key views			3	No notable public viewpoints.
	Prevention of coalescence			3	No coalescence issues
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	None known.
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Some paths but no significant constraint.

**Overall sensitivity score: 31**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

Some features of value/intent, may be some potential to extend Birch Coppice Business Park, though Dordon seems to have reached its natural limit. Employment development may be possible on lower land adjacent to the existing business parks. Buildings should be no taller than existing. The area would benefit from extensive Green Infrastructure. New GI should link retained features of interest including woodlands and pond.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Any development would need extensive GI, including new woodland planting, which help integrate existing employment buildings at Birch Coppice. New rights of way would be included.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- The design of any recreational facilities should seek to reintroduce landscape structure and features;
- Conserve remaining pastoral character and identify opportunities for conversion of arable back to pasture;
- Encourage development of wide and diverse field margins;
- Encourage retention of hedges and management practices that reinstate historic hedge lines using native locally occurring hedgerow species;
- Encourage planting of hedgerow oaks to increase the tree cover within the area;
- Encourage ecological management of remaining grassland areas;
- Maintain restoration planting / naturally re-vegetated spoil tips to integrate better as landscape features.

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **A**

SURVEY LOCATION: B4117 Adjacent Motorway Bridge

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 28.01.2010

**Description of sub unit**

A flat area elevated above the Blythe Valley, located adjacent to the southern settlement edge of Coleshill and contained to the south by the M6 toll motorway, which is located in cutting. Beyond the motorway the incongruous grass spoil mound of the Packington landfill site dominates the landscape and screens further views. The plateau landscape continues to the east beyond the B4117 before the landform tips into the Blythe Valley.

The land use within this unit is predominantly pastoral with small to medium size grazed fields enclosed by timber post and rail fencing and overgrown gappy hedgerows with many hedgerow trees. Some trees are stagheaded. Although the land use is rural in nature and the area retains a good hedgerow and tree landscape structure, it is influenced by the peripheral urbanising elements; motorway, landfill and settlement edge land uses. The school at the southern edge of Coleshill is visible within the landscape beyond playing fields at the southern edge and Coleshill Town FC is located east of the B4117 within this area. To the east pylons cross the edge of this area.

Scattered farmsteads of local red brick vernacular lay within the unit adjacent to the B4117. The landform, combined with the landscape framework of hedgerows and trees contains this area and prevents open views except towards the eastern edge of the plateau. The hedgerow field boundaries and trees form the near skyline. New tree planting adjacent to the recently constructed M6 toll link is yet to mature. To the east higher land above the Blythe Valley is just distantly visible. No rights of way exist across this area.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform			3	Flat, elevated landform with near horizon, contained to south by elevated landfill.
	Land use		2		Simple grazing land with some farmsteads, adjacent urbanising elements include M6 toll, landfill, settlement edge & Coleshill Town FC
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Small to medium field boundary structure with hedgerows and many hedgerow trees.
	Scale / complexity		2		Small to medium scale land parcel, farmland and recreational elements
	Landscape features		2		Local vernacular farm buildings and intact hedgerow network with trees
	Landscape condition		2		Managed pastoral farmland, although field boundaries are gappy and overgrown. New landscaping associated with recent M6 toll link
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2		The sports fields & trees at the settlement fringe currently provide a buffer to the southern edge of Coleshill.
	Tranquillity			3	Busy traffic noise of M6 motorways and nearby junctions
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Flat landscape, development could be contained with planting.
	Key views		2		Views from school and farm properties
	Prevention of coalescence			3	No nearby settlements
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	None noted
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		School playing fields and football ground

**Overall sensitivity score: 31**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

There may be opportunities for development of a suitable scale and appropriate nature upon the plateau area to the west of the B4117. Appropriate development may be 2 storey residential properties or sensitive recreational facilities that can be accommodated within the existing landscape framework of hedgerows and trees. It is important that the land to the east of the B4117 remain undeveloped to ensure that the settlement of Coleshill does not breach the ridgeline into the rural Blythe Valley.

The east side of the B4117 is more sensitive with a number of vernacular farm buildings and should be protected from development.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Any development would need to retain the existing landscape framework of hedgerows and trees and ensure a robust peripheral GI to provide a buffer to the M6 and landfill and to the adjacent Blythe Valley landscape. Further landscape framework planting may be required at this interface.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Conserve and reinforce the existing field pattern; plant up gaps in hedgerows and lay existing hedgerows where appropriate
- Manage existing hedgerow trees and to ensure landscape continuity new tree planting should be implemented as future replacements for aging hedgerow tree stock
- Grazed fields could be brought into ecological management regimes.
- Encourage only informal recreational activities appropriate to this landscape

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **B**

SURVEY LOCATION: Opposite Coleshill School, east side of Coleshill

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 28.01.2010

**Description of sub unit**

Elevated land gently slopes towards the Blythe Valley to the east. Land use comprises predominantly large grazed fields although a cemetery and sports facilities exist within the north of the area. Fields are contained by low trimmed hedgerows and often gappy or post and wire fencing with scattered hedgerow trees which combined with the sloping topography create an open character. In places the hedges have been allowed to grow.

Adjacent to this area, modern residential properties at the eastern edge of Coleshill crest the ridgeline in a limited number of places and generally can't be seen from within the valley, the open valley slopes remain undeveloped. The distinctive spired church at Coleshill forms a key landscape feature within the north of the area and can be seen amongst a limited number of properties when approaching Coleshill from Maxstoke Lane within the valley. Much of the adjacent urban area is designated a Conservation Area, with a mix of red brick and white rendered vernacular. St Josephs Care Home is a derelict complex of Victorian (?) buildings.

On the valley slopes there are a small number of red brick and rendered vernacular farmsteads some with modern sheds. Several minor country lanes pass through this area from the edge of Coleshill, and a right of way network links Coleshill with the Blythe Valley. Long views eastwards are possible from these slopes to the opposite valley side. Pylons feature within this otherwise rural view.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform	1			Open slopes.
	Land use		2		Open Farmland predominates
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Generally large fields with little tree/hedgerow cover
	Scale / complexity	1			Large scale simple open farmland.
	Landscape features		2		Local farmsteads. Coleshill spired church.
	Landscape condition		2		Managed farmland but with gappy hedges and few trees.
	Relationship with existing urban built form	1			Settlement edge currently contained by ridge, peripheral trees and hedged lanes
	Tranquillity			3	Many peripheral schools and B4117 through settlement edge.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility	1			Open valley slopes.
	Key views	1			Currently wide views across valley from settlement edge. Views to Coleshill Church.
	Prevention of coalescence			3	No settlements nearby
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations		2		Conservation Areas adjacent.
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Rights of Way, cemetery and recreation ground.

**Overall sensitivity score: 23**

(25 and below is indicative of a relatively higher landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The open slopes adjacent to Coleshill are not considered appropriate for development. Coleshill is a linear settlement built on the plateau/ridge above the Blythe Valley. Development at its eastern edge would likely breach the ridge changing the currently open and unsettled wider valley character.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

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### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Conserve and reinforce the existing field pattern; manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Consider introducing hedgerow oak planting and / or planting copses in appropriate locations to enhance the landscape framework whilst maintaining open views across the valley
- Grazed fields could be brought into ecological management regimes.
- Encourage only informal recreational activities appropriate to this landscape
- Avoid types of farm diversification that are inappropriate to this landscape;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas.

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **C**

SURVEY LOCATION: Blythe Road, east of Coleshill

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 28.01.2010

**Description of sub unit**

Land contained between the industrial edge of Coleshill and wetland plantation woodland at the periphery of Blythe Hall slopes gently sloping towards the River Cole and the settlement edge beyond. A subtle ridge of land wraps around the south of this unit preventing wider views across the Blythe Valley.

Land use comprises medium sized arable fields, grassland (much of which appears to be restored former minerals workings) adjacent to the river and minerals extraction areas at Coleshill Quarry (Cemex). Fields are contained by low trimmed and in places gappy hedges, with some small hedgerow trees and willows. The arable fields are located upon the higher ground close to Blythe Road. The grassed areas adjacent to the river are used for informal recreational activities such as dog walking, although there are no formal rights of way.

The landform and peripheral vegetation appear to screen this area from the adjacent Blythe Hall and from the open rural valley landscape to the south. Although rural uses occur the area is dominated by the industrial uses on the west bank of the river, and residential properties within the rising settlement area beyond, and by the quarrying activities within. The spired church on the containing higher land at Coleshill is a prominent landscape feature.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2	Gently sloping towards settlement and River Cole, artificial landforms created by former minerals extraction within the south
	Land use		2	Arable fields, informal recreation land and extractive industries
	Land cover and vegetation			3 Little vegetation within, field boundaries poor.
	Scale / complexity			3 Medium scale and low complexity with large scale industrial surroundings.
	Landscape features			3 River Cole appears engineered and with limited riparian vegetation. Prominent church spire at Coleshill
	Landscape condition			3 Appears to lack cohesion or management
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2	Open settlement edge physically contained by watercourse
	Tranquillity			3 Peripheral busy roads and industrial uses.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2	Locally open to view from Blythe Lane and elevated settlement but appears contained within wider landscape
	Key views		2	Views from properties on upper slopes opposite, potential views from Blythe Lane (the adjacent Blyth Hall is screened by plantations)
	Prevention of coalescence			3 No settlements nearby
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3 None noted.
	Recreational use of the landscape		2	None formally but riverside informally used.

**Overall sensitivity score: 33**

(32 and above is indicative of a relatively lower landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The landscape includes urban fringe uses and extractive industries, is heavily influenced by adjacent employment uses and is largely separated by landform and vegetation from the rural landscape to the south east; however it is overlooked by properties on rising land within Coleshill. Subject to potential floodplain constraints further employment uses may be appropriate within parts of this area. Any structures would need to be carefully located and of a small enough scale to avoid impact on the adjacent Blythe Hall or rural landscape. No development should breach the subtle ridgeline within the south east of this unit. Proposals would need to consider the effect on views from residential properties to the west. This area may be most suitable for ongoing extractive industries provided that a comprehensive landscape restoration strategy is prepared and implemented to bring landscape, biodiversity and recreation enhancements to this corridor following restoration.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Any proposals would need to be accompanied by a robust GI which should incorporate strategically located tree belt and copse planting to contain development and bring river corridor landscape enhancements to minimise the landscape and visual impacts of existing and new development and bring habitat enhancement to the river corridor. Consideration should also be given to formalising and improving recreational access to the river corridor.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Conserve and reinforce the existing field pattern; manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Consider introducing hedgerow oak planting and / or planting copses in appropriate locations to enhance the landscape framework;
- Encourage establishment of riverside vegetation and consider planting adjacent to the settlement edge to soften its outline and presence;
- Encourage only informal recreational activities appropriate to this landscape;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas;
- Ensure appropriate landscape restoration schemes are implemented following mineral extraction operations.

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **D**

SURVEY LOCATION: Stonebridge Road, A446

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 22.02.2010

**Description of sub unit**

This is a narrow, undulating strip of arable farmland between the A446 and the M42 road corridors. Land use comprises arable fields enclosed by overgrown hedgerows with many trees and Wheeley Moor Farm buildings to the south. The farmhouse is an attractive red brick building of local vernacular and fronts onto the A446. The A446 is a wide dual carriageway lined by a mature tree avenue and smaller trees that separate the adjacent residential edge of Coleshill from the wider landscape. The settlement edge comprises modern red brick semi detached and terraced properties.

Between the trees there are wide views across the valley to the high rise buildings at the eastern edge of Birmingham. From within the valley looking towards this unit the open slopes of the fields are visible with the rooftops of the properties partially hidden by the tree avenue beyond. The settlement edge of Coleshill is barely discernible within the wider landscape here.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform	1			Undulating landform with slopes towards the open valley
	Land use		2		Predominantly arable fields
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Good and thick hedgerow framework with peripheral roadside planting
	Scale / complexity	1			Simple but narrow strip of small arable fields with good boundaries, may be difficult to accommodate development within
	Landscape features		2		Good hedgerows, tree avenue, Wheeley Moor farmhouse
	Landscape condition		2		Appears well maintained
	Relationship with existing urban built form	1			Isolated fields between busy roads, poor relationship to adjacent settlement area
	Tranquillity			3	Peripheral busy roads and motorways
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility	1			Open fields slope towards Cole Valley and Birmingham
	Key views	1			The adjacent Coleshill settlement edge has little influence on views from Birmingham eastern edge, high rise properties and roads within valley current, but the slopes are more open
	Prevention of coalescence		2		Would bring Coleshill closer to Birmingham and create inter-visibility in this location
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	None noted.
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Some rights of way

**Overall sensitivity score: 23**

(25 and below is indicative of a relatively higher landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

Although not an intrinsically sensitive rural landscape this landscape corridor is potentially visually open and provides part of the landscape buffer between Coleshill and Birmingham, hence its low score. Development is unlikely to be suitable here as the current settlement edge is well contained and has little influence on the valley in this location, development would increase inter-visibility and increase the perception of coalescence

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Maintain the current landscape structure or consider planting the slopes with woodland using native locally occurring species

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Continue management of hedgerows and encourage natural regeneration of hedgerow oaks;
- Consider introducing woodland planting, perhaps managed as a crop by long rotational coppicing.

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **E**  
SURVEY LOCATION: A446T  
DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 22.02.2010

**Description of sub unit**

The open slopes of the broad Cole Valley between the A446 and the M42 comprise predominantly pastoral fields with overgrown and gappy hedgerows. To the north the landform rises to a ridge before descending to the north, here hedgerows become more fragmented and in places are replaced by timber post and rail fences. Urban fringe uses include Saltleians Rugby Football Club on flatter land at the northern edge of this area and a triangle of land adjacent to the roundabout junction with Gilson Road contains allotments, a petrol station, a hotel and several properties. Several lines of pylons cross this landscape. The small village of Gilson comprises a collection of older buildings of local vernacular hidden within the landscape, these include Gilson Hall.

In addition to hedges there are scattered hedgerow trees within the south and peripheral planting on the banks of the elevated M42 motorway. There are also trees and overgrown hedgerows along the A446 at the edge of Coleshill. There is little riparian vegetation on the banks of the narrow River Cole and the river itself is not easily discernible within the landscape.

The adjacent settlement edge to the north is partially contained within the landscape screened by the landform, M42 motorway embankments, trees and vegetation between the settlement edge and the A446, to the south at Cole End the River Cole passes through a narrow gap between properties on open slopes within Coleshill. The spired church on the hilltop at Coleshill is a distinctive feature on the hilltop with a combination of modern and older red brick and white rendered properties below, all with grey tiled roofs. These settlement slopes are visible within the wider valley context along with the allotments and buildings to the west of the A446. A number of rights of way and footbridges over the river and nearby ditches cross this landscape. This is a predominantly open landscape with long views across the valley from the A446 to tower blocks and motorways at the eastern edge of Birmingham. The valley character is heavily influenced by the peripheral urban uses, highways network and pylons however it retains much of its historic landscape framework. Only a small parcel of land to the north utilised as a sports ground is relatively enclosed.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform	1			The broad valley landform creates a very open landscape
	Land use		2		Predominantly pastoral valley uses, influenced heavily by adjacent urban uses.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Aging landscape framework of hedgerow field boundaries
	Scale / complexity		2		Large scale due to open character, simple land uses although with complex range of urbanising influences
	Landscape features		2		River Cole, settlement of Gilson and Gilson Hall, Coleshill spired church
	Landscape condition			3	Poor condition, overgrown and gappy hedges and urban pressures
	Relationship with existing urban built form	1			Separated by vegetation and substantial dual carriageway from Coleshill
	Tranquillity			3	Peripheral busy roads and motorways
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility	1			Very open views between Coleshill and Birmingham
	Key views	1			Views from settlement edge and properties on hillside within Coleshill, from Birmingham and peripheral road network
	Prevention of coalescence		2		Would bring Coleshill closer to Birmingham and increase inter-visibility in this location
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	None noted.
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Some rights of way

**Overall sensitivity score: 25**

(25 and below is indicative of a relatively higher landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

Although this area is subject to many urbanising influences it is an open landscape that retains rural uses and a largely intact historic landscape framework that does not relate to the settlement edge of Coleshill, which is well defined by the A446 dual carriageway. Although some urban fringe development has spilled over into this area it retains many of its historic landscape characteristics. It would be difficult to develop any of this area without resulting in potential sprawl and coalescence issues. There may be small scale opportunities through development to enhance the areas already impacted by urban fringe uses however this should not expand into the open pastoral landscape.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Consideration should be given to preparing and implementing a GI strategy to conserve and enhance the aging historic landscape framework of this area and the ecology of the Cole Valley as a whole. Opportunities to enhance informal recreation access and uses should be sought.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Consider further woodland planting adjacent to busy roads and settlement edges to reduce the impact of noisy roads and soften the settlement edges, but maintain the open character of the undeveloped areas of the valley;
- Encourage retention and restoration of historic buildings within the valley
- Conserve areas of pastoral character and identify opportunities for conversion of arable back to permanent pasture
- Conserve and manage any remaining old permanent pastures and grassland areas
- Conserve and restore the historic field pattern, plant up gaps within hedgerows with mixed native locally occurring species;
- Conserve and enhance tree cover through planting of hedgerow oaks
- Encourage restoration and appropriate management of wetland and riparian vegetation along the course of the River Cole.

## OLD AND NEW ARLEY

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **A**

SURVEY LOCATION: Church Lane, Old Arley (adjacent to school)

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 20.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

A steep rolling valley located between Old Arley and New Arley contains the Bourne Brook. The valley extends to the north of Old Arley. Land use comprises a mix of pasture and arable with horse grazing adjacent to the settlement edge. Fields are enclosed by hedges and fences with occasional hedgerow oaks, lines of outgrown hedgerow and riparian vegetation along the course of the Brook. Trees at the Oakridge Golf Course and small blocks of woodland on higher land above New Arley provide a wooded backdrop. There are few notable landscape features, although Arley House Farm, within the valley, is of distinctive red brick local vernacular. A rail line passes discretely through the valley, and several lanes connect the local settlements. The area between Old and New Arley lacks recreation access, however a network of public footpaths lies to the north between Old and New Arley and Ansley. The villages of Old and New Arley lie on opposite valley tops, with terraced properties in Old Arley adjacent to the viewpoint. The settlement edges are softened by peripheral field boundary hedgerows. A small, modern industrial estate is located within the valley bottom; a domed landform within the valley partially screens this and the settlement of New Arley from view. Other than the Brook, there are no notable biodiversity or green infrastructure features. There are views across the valley between the settlement edges and from local roads, wider views out of the valley are contained by the landform.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform	1			Contained within wider landscape but intervisibility between settlements, which are located on ridges. Development would be on open slopes
	Land use		2		Rural, farmed landscape
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Limited to field boundaries and some riparian vegetation, some field boundaries have been degraded.
	Scale / complexity	1			Simple farmed landscape; peripheral settlements on ridgeline filtered by vegetation with little influence.
	Landscape features		2		Arley House Farm and hedgerow network (in places overgrown and with few hedgerow trees)
	Landscape condition		2		The landscape contains areas with fragmented hedges and areas that appear less managed.
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2		Existing settlements are located on the ridgeline, and haven't spilled into the valley; they are integrated by trees and hedgerows at road / settlement edges. Development would be on open slopes.
	Tranquillity		2		The railway line and roads between the settlements reduce tranquillity.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Although there is a good network of hedgerows the position of the settlements on opposite valley tops allows inter-visibility between settlement edges.
	Key views		2		Elevated local views from settlement edges and roads, but few receptors
	Prevention of coalescence	1			This area provides a landscape buffer between the settlement edges. Development on the valleys sides at the settlement edges would encroach upon this buffer.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	None identified
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Network of rights of way to the north of Church Lane.

**Overall sensitivity score: 24**

(25 and below is indicative of a relatively higher landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

Generally difficult to accommodate development but there may be very small scale opportunities on relatively level land next to the existing settlement edge of New Arley if contained by the existing hedgerow infrastructure. Appropriate development may be 2 storey residential or low rise small scale industry depending upon the location and context. Any development should use building materials and be of a scale to reflect the character of the adjacent settlement edge. Development should be avoided on open slopes as this would compromise the separation between New and Old Arley.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Should development occur this should be within a retained landscape framework and existing hedgerows and rights of way should be retained and reinforced within any new GI. The existing vegetation framework should be supplemented with tree belt and small woodland block planting of a scale appropriate to the local landscape character to maintain key elevated open views from roads and settlement edges across the valley. Consideration should be given to providing new recreational links around settlement edges. The ecology of the Bourne Brook corridor should be protected and enhanced.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Protect and enhance settlement edge and roadside hedgerows to reinforce the irregular settlement outline
- Identify opportunities to enhance settlement edge character and improve recreational opportunities through introduction of landscaped public spaces and recreational linkages to existing rights of way
- Conserve pastoral character and identify opportunities for conversion of arable land back to permanent pasture, particularly adjacent to the Brook
- Conserve and strengthen the field pattern / landscape structure by encouraging the retention of existing hedge lines, replanting old hedge lines and restocking gappy hedges. Allow hedges to grow and fill out by encouraging hedgerow cutting on a 3 yearly cycle
- Maintain and enhance the wooded character of the Brook corridor and its tributaries

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **B**

SURVEY LOCATION: Spring Hill, New Arley (South Edge)

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 20.01.2010

**Description of sub unit**

The land parcel lies south of New Arley, this settlement is located on the northern edge of a broad ridge that extends along the Gun Hill Road northwards towards Ansley. To the south of the settlement edge the landform descends into a narrow valley of an unnamed brook. The slopes are quite pronounced. Land use is a mix of arable and pasture land. The fields are enclosed by mixed hedgerows with a good proportion of hedgerow trees which provide an overall well treed appearance supplemented by a number of field ponds and associated vegetation on lower ground close to the watercourse. Within this area the hedgerow trees provide the main landscape features, along with the vegetated course of the brook in the valley bottom. There are few built structures beyond the main village and the collection of properties at Spring Hill.

Generally there is little access to the land immediately south of New Arley with only a small number of footpaths and lanes to the village from nearby settlements. The existing village is a mix of bungalows, semi – detached and terraced properties, mostly dating from the 20th Century. These are generally located back from the ridgeline, although properties at Gun Hill south of the village crest the ridge. There is little of particular local distinctiveness. The properties abut the countryside and influence the character of the immediate area. In terms of biodiversity the hedgerow trees and watercourse are likely to provide some interest, along with the woodland on the edge of the area. Views are possible across the landscape from the village and the local roads. This unit is open to the rural landscape to the south and widely visible.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform	1			Exposed open valley slopes
	Land use	1			Farmed rural landscape
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Network of hedges, some overgrown, many hedgerow trees, watercourse and ponds
	Scale / complexity	1			Large scale simple rural landscape
	Landscape features		2		Intact rural landscape framework, with watercourse and field ponds, hilltop properties at Gun Hill
	Landscape condition		2		Well managed arable landscape although hedges have been left to become overgrown.
	Relationship with existing urban built form	1			At Gun Hill properties break the ridgeline and are evident in the landscape, otherwise the settlement edge is contained by the ridge and separate from this rural landscape
	Tranquillity		2		Rural landscape but with pylons and roads between settlements.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility	1			Open upper valley slopes
	Key views		2		Open views across the landscape from the settlement edge, lanes and scattered properties within the valley
	Prevention of coalescence		2		Gun Hill and New Arley
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	None noted
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		A right of way passes through the area

### Overall sensitivity score: 22

(25 and below is indicative of a relatively higher landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The open slopes at the settlement edge would not be appropriate to accommodate development. Development here would encroach upon the adjacent open rural valley landscape.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

-

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Conserve and enhance tree cover around the settlement edge to prevent encroachment on the wider rural landscape, this may include new small to medium sized blocks of woodland planting on the ridgeline to link existing woodland
- Conserve rural character by restricting changes in the use of rural land and identify opportunities for conversion of arable land back to permanent pasture, particularly adjacent to the brook
- Encourage development of wide and diverse field margins
- Conserve and enhance field ponds, watercourses and associated riparian vegetation
- Conserve and strengthen the field pattern / landscape structure by encouraging the retention of existing hedge lines, replanting old hedge lines and restocking gappy hedges. Encourage more frequent management of hedgerows, perhaps cutting on a 3 yearly cycle
- Encourage natural regeneration of hedgerow oaks

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **C**

SURVEY LOCATION: Arley Sports Centre

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 20.01.2010

**Description of sub unit**

This area wraps around the western edges of Old and New Arley and is relatively flat, sloping gently towards the Bourne Brook. Land use varies with some arable on higher land, and pastoral and fields of unmanaged appearance closer to the Brook. Adjacent to Old Arley there is an open recreation ground. A network of hedges, some overgrown, with many hedgerow trees and hilltop woodland on the near skyline create a well wooded appearance.

Arley Wood lies adjacent to the northern edge of this area and is identified as Ancient Woodland, although it comprises evergreen plantation adjacent to Old Arley. At the edge of New Arley, Daffern's Wood is also identified as Ancient Woodland. The wooded course of the Bourne Brook provides a landscape feature within the valley bottom. Scattered farmsteads and properties include local vernacular and Arley Hall Farm in particular comprises a collection of red brick vernacular properties, some of which are derelict. The area has only two rights of way and several minor roads connecting the local settlement areas. North of the Brook the adjacent residential edge of Old Arley comprises predominantly 20th Century brick built terraces, bungalows and semi detached houses. The core of Old Arley, with several historic buildings and church, lies adjacent to the area. Adjacent to and south of the Brook several areas of ribbon settlement along Station Road and Spring Hill are located amongst trees. Combined with the presence of sewage works and the modern Spring Hill Industrial Estate these form an urban fringe character.

The wooded course of the Brook and peripheral ancient woodland blocks provide notable biodiversity / green infrastructure features, linked by the hedgerow field boundaries and mature trees to the larger property garden boundaries these provide a reasonably intact landscape structure. The landscape framework creates individual pockets of land contained by vegetation, although to the north of the Brook there are open views across the gentle slopes to the opposite valley side and the Spring Hill Industrial Estate. In places there are wider views to the west.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		Relatively gentle slopes to the Bourne Brook are contained to the south by the ridge at Spring Hill / Gun Hill. To the north containment provided by the wooded ridge, with gently undulating land to the west. The higher slopes north of Old Arley are flatter.
	Land use		2		Varied land use with arable on higher land, sports fields adjacent to Old Arley and pasture unmanaged land on the lower land and adjacent to the brook.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Land cover varied but includes a well vegetated watercourse and peripheral ancient woodland blocks. A higher proportion of hedgerow trees with oaks than in area A. The unmanaged land appears to include damp grassland / marsh.
	Scale / complexity		2		Enclosure provided by peripheral land uses and the hedgerow structure create a generally medium scale landscape, but this varies in places with some larger fields north of Old Arley
	Landscape features		2		Some distinctive local vernacular including the adjacent core of Old Arley and locally distinctive brick built farmsteads, some barns appear in a poor state of repair. The wooded course of the Bourne Brook and peripheral ancient woodland blocks on higher land.
	Landscape condition		2		Most field parcels appear managed, but some areas with little evident management.
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2		Varied relationship – some successful edges, with green space providing a transition. Many isolated groups of properties so urban influence often apparent over farmed landscape
	Tranquillity			3	
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Vegetation and landform limits some views, but there are a few open views across the valley and beyond to landscape to the west. Views across land north of Old Arley are limited by the landform and wooded enclosure.
	Key views		2		Views from a limited number of receptors include peripheral properties; the recreation ground, roads and the two rights of way. There are no particularly significant locations.
	Prevention of coalescence		2		A complexity of settled and industrial development pockets exist both within and adjacent to area, the settlements already appear linked / not clearly defined in this location. Development would potentially add to coalescence.
<b>Landscape</b>	Landscape		2		Ancient woodland on the edge of the area.

<b>Value</b>	/ecological / historical sensitivity designations				
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Two rights of way, some recreational space at Old Arley.

**Overall sensitivity score: 27**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

**Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

**Potential for Built Development:**

The varied overall character and existing urban influences provide some development opportunities. Limited built development may be possible on the relatively contained small parcels of land, depending upon the context of the land use. To the north of Old Arley, land is well contained by woodland, development here is likely to have little impact on the existing landscape framework or the character of the wider landscape. Traditional housing up to two storeys would be in keeping with the adjacent settlement character. Building materials should reflect the local vernacular. Green infrastructure should build upon the existing hedgerow network and trees and link to existing green space provision. Elsewhere development should be avoided where it might contribute to coalescence.

**Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Should development occur this should be within a retained landscape framework and existing hedgerows, trees, woodland and rights of way should be retained and reinforced within any new GI. The existing vegetation framework should be supplemented with tree belt and small woodland block planting of a scale appropriate to the local landscape character. Consideration should be given to providing new recreational links around settlement edges and linking and enhancing areas of recreational greenspace and to maintaining open views across the landscape where they exist. The ecology of the Bourne Brook corridor should be protected and enhanced as should the settings of scattered local properties and the integrity of the rural roads and lanes.

## **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Protect and enhance the roadside and settlement edge hedgerows to maintain integration with the landscape and minimise perceived coalescence
- Protect and enhance the irregular outline of the settlements and conserve the dispersed settlement pattern of the area
- Identify opportunities to enhance settlement edge character and improve recreational opportunities through enhancement to landscaped public spaces and introduction / improvement of recreational linkages to existing rights of way
- Conserve rural character by restricting changes in the use of rural land close to the settlement edges
- Encourage ecological management practices on pastoral land and retain grassland along the floodplain and consider a return to traditional grassland management where possible
- Conserve and strengthen the field pattern / landscape structure by encouraging the retention of existing hedge lines, replanting old hedge lines and restocking gappy hedges.
- Conserve ancient woodland sites and restock with local native broadleaved species
- Maintain and enhance the wooded character of the Brook corridor and its tributaries
- New agricultural buildings should be sited, designed and landscaped to blend with the surrounding farmed landscape
- Preserve and re-use old traditional brick barns and farm properties.
- Unfarmed land near settlements to be bought into positive management for conservation or other uses.

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **D**

SURVEY LOCATION: Gun Hill, northern edge of New Arley

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 20.01.2010

**Description of sub unit**

The land parcel lies at the north and eastern edge of New Arley, the settlement and adjacent land lie upon a broad ridge within this location. Land use includes a field of arable, scrub and sports and recreational land adjacent to the village. The fields are enclosed by mixed hedgerows with a good proportion of hedgerow trees and by Gorsy Spinney and Astley Gorse woodlands located to the northeast of the settlement on the ridgeline which provide containment of much of this area. To the south of the recreation ground the land slopes away into an open rural valley (see Old and New Arley B).

Much of this land is accessible via rights of way that connect the small area of terraced mining properties at Hilltop via the recreation ground and into the valley to the east and south. The adjacent New Arley village edge is a mix of bungalows, semi – detached and terraced properties, mostly dating from the 20th Century. There is little of particular local distinctiveness. The properties abut the countryside and influence the character of the immediate area. In terms of biodiversity the hedgerow trees and woodland blocks are likely to provide some interest.

This land is largely contained by the landform and woodland blocks, with some views across the valley between hedgerow trees from the recreation grounds at the edge of New Arley. Views into the northern field within the unit from Hill Top properties.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform			3	Flat contained plateau
	Land use			3	Predominantly isolated arable fields and recreational ground
	Land cover and vegetation			3	Peripheral hedges and woodland blocks, one small field with scrub
	Scale / complexity			3	Small to medium scale simple landscape
	Landscape features		2		Peripheral woodland blocks and hedges.
	Landscape condition		2		Appears managed
	Relationship with existing urban built form			3	Predominantly contained fields adjacent to the urban edge
	Tranquillity			3	Busy settlement road adjacent and influenced by urban edge
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility			3	Predominantly contained by landform and woodland
	Key views			3	Views from settlement edge and Hill Top
	Prevention of coalescence		2		The small mining settlement of Hill Top lies at northern edge of this area, separated from New Arley by flat fields, scrub and woodland. Any development should maintain this separation
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	None known
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Several rights of way and recreational space

**Overall sensitivity score: 35**

(32 and above is indicative of a relatively lower landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

These limited flatter areas adjacent to the northern settlement edge, where the ridgeline broadens, are partially contained by woodland and may be able to accommodate small pockets of development. Any development should relate to its context, two-storey red brick residential properties would be appropriate. Care would need to be taken to contain any development within a robust green infrastructure comprising of new woodland planting on the adjacent ridge to link to existing woodland blocks and to ensure that coalescence with the mining properties at Hill Top can be avoided. Any development should not breach the ridgeline.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Should development occur this should be within a retained landscape framework and existing hedgerows, trees, woodland and rights of way should be retained and reinforced within any new GI. The existing vegetation framework should be supplemented with native broadleaved woodland planting to link the existing woodland blocks and contain the settlement edge. Consideration should be given to enhancing recreational links and space around the settlement edge and to maintaining elevated rural views where they exist.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Identify opportunities to enhance settlement edge character and improve recreational opportunities through enhancement of landscaped public spaces and recreational linkages to existing rights of way
- Conserve and strengthen the field pattern / landscape structure by encouraging the retention of existing hedge lines, replanting old hedge lines and restocking gappy hedges. Encourage more frequent management of hedgerows, perhaps cutting on a 3 yearly cycle
- Encourage natural regeneration of hedgerow oaks and ecological management of woodlands and scrub.

## GRENDON AND BADDESLEY ENSOR

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **A**

SURVEY LOCATION:

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 26.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

The land north of Grendon and the A5 is largely flat, though descending slightly to the North West. The land is typically between 70m AOD and 85m AOD. The land is primarily under arable cultivation in large scale fields with few field boundaries, apart from the hedgerows to the surrounding roads. Farrowdale Wood (Ancient woodland) sits isolated within the farmland. Dairy House Farm is a large complex of buildings including the brick built farmhouse and some large metal clad barns. There are some mature trees around the farm, and a few isolated trees within the farmland. The landscape is however relatively open. The hedgerows that border the surrounding roads and rail line (which forms the northern boundary of the area) contain a few scattered trees, mainly oak and ash. The gardens of properties at Grendon form the southern boundary of the area, and the properties can be seen around the adjacent landscape. These properties have varied views across the area, depending on garden vegetation. A right of way access crosses the centre of the area, to the rail line. Grendon extends along the A5 as a line of development. There is a mix of properties including detached houses, semi detached and short terraces along the A5. These influence the adjacent landscape.

In terms of Green Infrastructure the main feature is Farrowdale Wood. This is currently isolated within an arable field. Some trees and a sizeable pond exist at Dairy Farm House. Apart from the woodland it is not expected that there are many features of biodiversity value.

Views across the landscape are possible from many properties in Grendon, along the southern boundary of the area. Some limited views are also possible from the surrounding lanes, but overall visibility is fairly limited. There are no particular viewpoint locations.

The former school site on Spon Lane provides a degraded appearance.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		Low lying gently sloping towards Anker River
	Land use		2		Arable use with vernacular farm buildings and central woodland.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Central woodland block is identified as ancient woodland, little other vegetation, peripheral tall hedges.
	Scale / complexity		2		Large scale open arable.
	Landscape features		2		Vernacular buildings at Dairy House Farm (although are adjacent to large modern sheds)
	Landscape condition		2		Intensively managed farmland, lacking in hedgerows and trees.
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2		Settlement edge on higher land softened with scattered trees and hedges to property boundaries.
	Tranquillity				3
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Flat with little vegetation. Long views could be screened by appropriately located planting.
	Key views		2		Views from rear of properties in Grendon
	Prevention of coalescence			3	None
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations		2		Sparrowdale Wood is identified as Ancient woodland
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Two rights of way – one crosses centrally through sub-unit and one at southern edge.

**Overall sensitivity score: 28**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The unit could accommodate some development if implemented with a robust green infrastructure. The former school site would be appropriate for infill housing development of two storeys in keeping with the character of the adjacent urban area. The two large arable fields could accommodate a mixed use development with predominantly two storey properties and small scale employment.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Any development would need to incorporate a substantial green infrastructure that would link to the existing ancient woodland and the wider landscape. Linked tree belts and small woodland blocks at the site peripheries would be needed to screen views along the valley and soften the development edge.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Encourage only informal recreational activities appropriate to nature conservation;
- Avoid types of farm diversification that are inappropriate to the agricultural landscape;
- Encourage introduction and appropriate management of wide field margins;
- Conserve the historic field pattern, with priority given to restoring and strengthening primary hedge lines including those alongside roads;
- Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Promote management of small woods and game coverts;
- Enhance tree cover through small scale planting of broadleaved coverts and woods in keeping with the visually open character.

## GRENDON AND BADDESLEY ENSOR

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **B**

SURVEY LOCATION:

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 26.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

An area of land north of the A5 and Spon Lane at Grendon. The land is relatively flat bordering the Permire Brook, before rising gently further north. The land is typically between 75m and 85m AOD. Land is mainly under pasture, with medium scale fields enclosed by hedgerows and fields. There are some isolated properties and farms. The sewage treatment works north of Grendon is visible.

Much of the land lies within the floodplain of the brook. There are no rights of way across the unit. The character of the land is influenced by the adjacent village, which contains a variety of properties. There are some small fields adjacent to the village. The hedgerows and vegetation along the brook provide a soft edge to the settlement. There are no identified sites of nature conservation value, or significant public open spaces. Views are possible from the local lanes, although there are relatively few viewpoints. The mainline railway is noticeable to the north.

### Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		Level landform, but in the floodplain.
	Land use		2		Much of the land is in the floodplain, agricultural land.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		The hedgerows and established vegetation along the brook would be sensitive to development.
	Scale / complexity		2		Only small scale development with the existing landscape framework would be a possibility.
	Landscape features			3	No notable features.
	Landscape condition		2		The agricultural land appears well managed.
	Relationship with existing urban built form	1			The urban area already has a well defined soft edge.
	Tranquillity		2		Whilst close to the A5 and noise from the rail line is possible, overall it is relatively peaceful.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		The existing vegetation provides some visual enclosure.
	Key views		2		Some views from Grendon
	Prevention of coalescence	1			There is a small gap to the ribbon development along the A5.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	No designations
	Recreational use of the landscape			3	No obvious use.

**Overall sensitivity score: 27**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The proximity of the floodplain, river and sewage works, means that built development is unlikely. There is little potential for new built development in this unit. It provides a reasonably attractive rural edge to the village, which should be retained.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Retain and protect the existing landscape features, particularly the brookside vegetation, and hedgerows. There are no rights of way, and little obvious potential to establish new ones.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Encourage only informal recreational activities appropriate to nature conservation
- Avoid types of farm diversification that are inappropriate to the agricultural landscape;
- Encourage introduction and appropriate management of wide field margins along watercourses and boundaries
- Conserve the historic field pattern, with priority given to restoring and strengthening primary hedge lines including those alongside roads;
- Manage hedgerows to enhance the field pattern by planting up gaps, allow hedges to grow by reducing cut rotation intervals to 3 yearly intervals for wildlife benefits;
- Promote management of peripheral woodland areas;
- Enhance tree cover through small scale planting of broadleaved coverts and woods in keeping with the landscape character;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas;

## GRENDON AND BADDESLEY ENSOR

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: C

SURVEY LOCATION:

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 26.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

This unit comprises the land north west of Baddesley Ensor. The land rises south from the A5 Watling Street, where it is typically 80m AOD, to 125m AOD to the south at St Nicholas Estate. The land also slopes away to the west. The existing settlement rises up the hill and is prominent on the top of the hill. The land use is mainly agricultural, and (pasture) although there is a block of unmanaged grassland and scrub, and a sports field to the north of Suckle Green. There are some blocks of woodland, which are mostly regular in shape and look like shelter belts. The hedgerows are fairly fragmented with few hedgerow trees. Public footpaths over the area form the St Nicholas Estate.

The existing housing at Baddesley is mostly circa 20th terrace and semi detached properties. There are some 3 storey houses at the top of the hill. The properties provide a stark edge to the settlement, but benefit from extensive views north and west, across the fairly open landscape. There are no recognised sites of conservation value.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform	1			The rising land is exposed.
	Land use			3	Most of the land appears lower grade pasture not particularly sensitive. Some unmanaged land.
	Land cover and vegetation			3	There are some woodlands, and hedges but overall little of intrinsic sensitivity.
	Scale / complexity	1			The open nature of the landscape would make it difficult to accommodate development without it being quite obtrusive.
	Landscape features			3	No valuable features.
	Landscape condition			3	Most the land appears lower grade agricultural, and the hedgerows are gappy.
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2		There is a stark urban edge but it is difficult to see how additional development would readily fit with the existing urban form.
	Tranquillity			2	Adjacent urban area and A5.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility	1			Very open landscape, widely visible.
	Key views	1			Views out from the existing settlement
	Prevention of coalescence		2		Not an issue. Over most of the unit, but ribbon development at Dordon could link.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	None noted.
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Sports fields in floodplain.

**Overall sensitivity score: 27**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

A lower quality landscape, but widely visible location on rising ground, any small scale development would be widely visible, and could appear incongruous with the existing urban form. Opportunities for Green Infrastructure improvements through better landscape management, more planting in some locations close to the settlement edge mainly distant views from settlement, but some planting and variations in land use may be appropriate.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Footpaths cross the area, opportunities for further linkages, and diversity of land use, as current agricultural land appears low value.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- The design of any recreational facilities should seek to reflect the character of the existing landscape features;
- Existing recreational facilities should be retained and enhanced where opportunities arise;
- Conserve pastoral character and identify opportunities for conversion of arable back to pasture;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas;
- Promote the regeneration and management of heathland flora on remnant heathy areas;
- Retain and manage old naturally re-vegetated workings as landscape features;
- Conserve the historic field pattern, and continue to maintain hedgerow field boundaries;
- Promote ecological management of tree belts and watercourses;

## GRENDON AND BADDESLEY ENSOR

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **D**

SURVEY LOCATION:

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 26.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

This unit comprises the land south of Hill Top, and to the west of Baddesley Ensor. The land descends from typically 125m AOD at Hill Top to 100m AOD near the former rail line to the south, but also descends to the west. Land use is mainly agricultural, with most of the land under arable but with some smaller pasture fields. There are also allotments and sports fields on the lower land near the settlement. The fields are mostly enclosed by well grown mature hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees. Trees and woodland on the highest ground provide a soft edge to the settlement, and enclose the green around the church. The church tower/spire is noticeable on the higher ground.

A number of lanes and paths provide access to the countryside. More distinct views are possible to the spoil heap at Birch Coppice, and the employment buildings. The overall landscape appears relatively intact and rural.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform	1			The slopes are relatively exposed making it difficult to accommodate development.
	Land use		2		Agricultural land with some characteristic hedgerows and attractive settings for church yard.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Some valuable hedgerows and there are small blocks of woodland.
	Scale / complexity		2		Small to medium size landscape providing pockets of land.
	Landscape features		2		The church is an attractive local building.
	Landscape condition		2		A good proportion of hedgerows and trees, and all appear well managed for agriculture.
	Relationship with existing urban built form	1			A varied urban edge through some established boundaries including strips of woodland that would not be good to breach.
	Tranquillity		2		Some existing urban activity.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Some visual enclosure through the relative proportion of hedgerows and trees and woodland.
	Key views	1			There are views across the area from the existing settlement.
	Prevention of coalescence		2		No
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	SINC site on former rail line.
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Footpaths and tracks provide access.

**Overall sensitivity score: 24**

(25 and below is indicative of a relatively higher landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The higher quality landscape and visual exposure of the higher land mean that it is unlikely to offer much scope for built development. Some unused/derelict land within the edge of the settlement has potential. Little opportunity in the agricultural land, as this would change the rural character and potential loss of features, and setting to the settlement. A good level of footpath access, and the existing landscape structure should be retained.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Maintain and manage existing paths and agricultural land. It would be good to plant more hedgerow trees to replace the mature specimen.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Conserve pastoral character;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas;
- Promote the regeneration and management of heathland flora on remnant heathy areas;
- Conserve the historic field pattern, and continue to maintain hedgerow field boundaries;
- Conserve all woodland and promote ecological management, encourage restocking with native locally occurring broadleaves (preferably through natural regeneration);

## GRENDON AND BADDESLEY ENSOR

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: E

SURVEY LOCATION:

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 26.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

The land to the east of Baddesley Ensor makes up this unit. The land generally slopes from the south to north, with land at Baddesley Common typically 150m AOD, and descends towards the A5 Watling Street, which is typically at 100m AOD. This side of the settlement the land use is mainly woodland and common/heath. Apart from a few small fields near the settlement, there is very little agriculture. The woodlands vary, with some mature ancient woodland, including Grendon Wood and Black Ridding to younger woodland, now establishing well on a former waste tip. Baddesley Common is a distinctive area, with heath, scrub and woodland, extending right into the settlement.

This is open access land and there are many informal routes through the area. Whilst the existing settlement extends right up to the common and woodlands its influence is soon lost by the established vegetation.

Much of the area is recognised for its value to biodiversity, and much of the area is a significant Green Infrastructure asset. Some distant views are possible from the more open areas, although the woodland restricts views from across much of the area.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		Slopes away from the settlement
	Land use	1			Common land and ancient woodland
	Land cover and vegetation	1			Much of the area is designated SINC and ancient woodland.
	Scale / complexity	1			A complex mosaic of woodland common and small areas of open land.
	Landscape features		2		Some more locally distinctive older buildings on the edge of the area.
	Landscape condition	1			Not appears well managed.
	Relationship with existing urban built form	1			The common and distinctive landscape close to the settlement provides a special relationship. Little space for new development.
	Tranquillity	1			Within the area, there is a sense of tranquillity, despite the proximity of the settlement.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		The rising land means the area is visible in the higher landscape.
	Key views		2		Most views are restricted by the adjacent woodland and scrub.
	Prevention of coalescence			3	No
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations	1			SINC's and Ancient Woodland
	Recreational use of the landscape	1			A well used recreational resource.

**Overall sensitivity score: 18**

(25 and below is indicative of a relatively higher landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The high landscape, ecological and recreational value of the area, means there is little opportunity for built development (apart from a small brownfield site adjacent to the settlement). The area is generally not suitable for built development because of the high proportion of designated sites, landscape and ecological value. There is an excellent provision of Green Infrastructure, which appears to be functioning well.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Continue to protect and maintain the resource that exists.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Consider formalising access and managing for biodiversity and informal recreation uses appropriate to nature conservation;
- Conserve pastoral character and encourage ecological management of grassland areas;
- Promote the regeneration and management of heathland flora on remnant heathy areas;
- Retain and manage old naturally re-vegetated brownfield land;
- Conserve the historic field pattern, and continue to maintain hedgerow field boundaries;
- Conserve all Ancient Woodland sites and promote ecological management, encourage restocking with native locally occurring broadleaves (preferably through natural regeneration);

## GRENDON AND BADDESLEY ENSOR

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: F

SURVEY LOCATION:

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 22.02.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

This is a tract of land south of the dismantled rail line that forms the southern edge of Baddesley. The area comprises the former Baddesley Colliery (now cleared and levelled), and an area of farmland. The former Colliery is typically at 140m AOD and the land descends with some steep slopes toward Baddesley, typically at 100m AOD. The landform of the former rail line provides separation to the village itself. The former colliery appears unused at present, and land to the west is under pasture and arable.

There is a good proportion of vegetation, with hedgerows and hedgerow trees, and belts of linear woodland around the former colliery. The settlement of Baxterley, with some locally interesting buildings lies to the south of the former colliery. Baddesley is visible to the north. A right of way crosses the area between Baddesley and Baxterley Hall Farm. There is little public access generally over the area with no roads across the unit. Visibility is limited by the lack of public viewpoints, the screening effect of topography, and the vegetation that surrounds most of the area. An area of woodland and scrub to the north of the area, is designated a SINC.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform			3	The level landform of the former colliery could accommodate development, with the rising land away from Baddesley providing enclosure.
	Land use			3	Agricultural land is typical of the character of the wider countryside. Former colliery of little landscape value.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Hedgerows and trees
	Scale / complexity			3	The scale of part of the area (former colliery) would accommodate development.
	Landscape features			3	No features within the area itself, but buildings close by add interest.
	Landscape condition			3	Agricultural land well managed but former colliery lacks management.
	Relationship with existing urban built form	1			Area is separated by former rail line.
	Tranquillity		2		Relatively tranquil
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility			3	Generally well enclosed by topography and vegetation.
	Key views		2		Some views from Baxterley
	Prevention of coalescence	1			Would link Baddesley and Baxterley.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations	1			Part of area SINC
	Recreational use of the landscape			3	No apparent use apart from the right of way across the area.

**Overall sensitivity score: 32**

(32 and above is indicative of a relatively lower landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

Could accommodate some development on the former colliery. The area varies in ability to accommodate development. The agricultural land adjacent to Baddesley feels separated from the village, and rural in character. Development would be more difficult to accommodate here. The former colliery provides a large open area, with little of interest apart from the surrounding vegetation. The area has some potential, though coalescence with Baxterley should be avoided. A strong new green infrastructure, providing links between the existing vegetation, and public rights of way could be established.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

There is opportunity for new public greenspace areas and landscape enhancement on the former colliery. Retain the existing vegetation on the slopes around the colliery. Maintain existing character to agricultural land.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Manage the urban edge areas to ensure that fly tipping does not become a problem;
- The design of any recreational facilities should seek to reflect the character of the existing landscape features;
- Conserve pastoral character and identify opportunities for conversion of arable back to pasture;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas;
- Promote the regeneration and management of heathland flora on remnant heathy areas;
- Retain and manage old naturally re-vegetated former workings;
- Conserve the historic field pattern, and continue to maintain hedgerow field boundaries;
- Conserve all woodland and developing woodland to promote ecological management, encourage restocking with native locally occurring broadleaves (preferably through natural regeneration);

## HARTSHILL AND ANSLEY COMMON

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **A**

SURVEY LOCATION: Hartshill – Ansley Common

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 02.02.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

This narrow area of land lies south of Ansley Common and extends to the Borough boundary. The land generally rises to the south and the west, so the landscape unit is relatively well enclosed and faces the settlement. Land use is mostly agricultural, under pasture and arable on the higher land, although close to Ansley Common, land is used as allotments, amenity green space and there is some unused previously developed land.

The fields are mostly enclosed by hedgerows, and there are some mature hedgerow trees. Bretts Hall Wood is a notable feature to the west, and encloses the valley. A series of footpaths which appear well used extend from the urban area across the land. Most of the adjacent settlement comprises 20th Century terraces, semi detached and bungalows, with little local distinctiveness. Brett Hall Farm lies to the south. Bretts Hall Wood is an Ancient Woodland. Views over the area are possible from the adjacent housing but otherwise the area is visually fairly contained.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform			3	The landform encloses the area, so any development would have a limited effect on the wider area.
	Land use		2		Bretts Hall Wood is a notable feature.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Bretts Hall Wood and hedgerow trees.
	Scale / complexity		2		The medium scale landscape can accommodate some development
	Landscape features		2		The pattern of agricultural land and woodland.
	Landscape condition		2		Appears subject to sound agricultural management.
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2		Depending on form and design, part could link to existing urban area.
	Tranquillity		2		Adjacent urban area always readily apparent.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility			3	Natural containment by landform.
	Key views		2		Views from paths and adjacent urban area.
	Prevention of coalescence			3	Not an issue
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations		2		Ancient woodland
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Existing rights of ways but could be accommodated.

**Overall sensitivity score: 29**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The unit appears to have some potential in landscape terms for development. This should be limited to the lower slopes adjacent to the existing settlement, and buffering the ancient woodland. Any development should link with the existing urban area to the south and east and generally follow the lower slopes. The paths should be incorporated along with any existing green spaces linked through new green infrastructure. The woodland should be buffered and protected.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Retain Bretts Hall Wood, hedgerows and hedgerows trees. Any rights of way should be retained. There are opportunities to enhance the existing landscape structure and buffer / extend the woodland.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Conserve rural character by restricting changes in the use of rural land;
- Only encourage informal recreation;
- Encourage development of wide and diverse field margins;
- Encourage conservation and replanting of historical field boundaries and hedgerow trees using native locally occurring species;
- Conserve and manage existing woodland and field trees;
- Encourage new woodland planting; plant native, locally occurring species and predominantly oak. The design of new woodland planting should complement the shape and scale of the surrounding landscape pattern.

## HARTSHILL AND ANSLEY COMMON

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **B**  
SURVEY LOCATION: Hartshill  
DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 02.02.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

This unit comprises the valley that extends East between Coleshill Road and Oldbury Road, Hartshill. The land reaches 160m AOD to the north and west, and descends to 120m AOD in the valley bottom to the east. Land use is varied, but mostly under arable and pasture, with a good mix of woodland, scrub and grassland to the northern edge of the valley. This varied land cover is apparent in an aerial photograph, but appears mostly as woodland in the landscape. Common Farm contains some traditional buildings.

Most of the fields are enclosed by hedgerows with some hedgerow oaks, although there are some wire fences. A network of paths cross the area. The existing urban edge is readily visible, and there are some long views from the west from Oldbury Road, looking across Hartshill to Nuneaton. The adjacent settlement contains some older and more recently constructed properties. There are no SINCS designated within the unit, however the woodland and grassland suggests the area would have some ecological value.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		A generally enclosing landform. Higher ground sensitive but lower slopes offer some potential.
	Land use		2		Varied. Some land uses are more sensitive, others more potential.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Woodland and trees of value.
	Scale / complexity		2		A varied scale, some parcels of land may be appropriate scale for some development.
	Landscape features		2		Traditional farm buildings.
	Landscape condition			3	Some areas appear to have urban fringe influences
	Relationship with existing urban built form			3	A varied urban edge where there could be some potential for extension.
	Tranquillity		2		Surrounding uses mean tranquillity affected.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Some long views from Oldbury Road should be protected.
	Key views		2		Views from surrounding properties and paths.
	Prevention of coalescence			3	Surrounded by the same settlement.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	No designations
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Paths used.

**Overall sensitivity score: 30**

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

A varied parcel of land, but some potential on parts of it close to the existing settlement. Built form should link with existing settlement. Recent development of Coleshill Road is a good example of what is possible. Traditional materials to merge with existing in longer views. Green infrastructure should incorporate paths and link different features such as the woodland blocks.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Maintain long views, along and across the valley. Retain hedges, trees and woodlands. Public footpaths should be retained, and new linkages established where possible. Potential to extend routes that link with Hartshill Country Park.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- The design of any recreational facilities should seek to reflect the character of the existing landscape features;
- Conserve pastoral character and identify opportunities for conversion of arable back to pasture;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas;
- Promote the regeneration and management of heathland flora on remnant heathy areas;
- Retain and manage old naturally re-vegetated former workings as landscape features;
- Conserve the historic field pattern, and continue to maintain hedgerow field boundaries;
- Conserve all woodland sites and promote ecological management, encourage restocking with native locally occurring broadleaves (preferably through natural regeneration);

## HARTSHILL AND ANSLEY COMMON

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **C**

SURVEY LOCATION: Hartshill – Heys

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 02.02.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

An area of land between the Hartshill area and Oldbury Road, which generally descends to the north and lies between 110 and 160m AOD. Topography is varied with some areas having steep slopes, and other flatter areas of land. Most of the land is taken up with woodland at Hartshill Heys, which is a Country Park and an Ancient Woodland. Part of the wood is an SSSI. The land east of the wood is more open including grassland and a cemetery and the remains of Hartshill Castle (a Scheduled Ancient Monument). The castle is a distinctive local feature. There are rights of way through the Country Park and beyond it. Surrounding development includes modern housing estates and schools. The Country Park provides a valuable green infrastructure resource. There are few views across the area, because of the high proportion of woodland.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform	1			Steep slopes near to existing residential edge.
	Land use	1			Ancient woodland and castle take up most of the unit.
	Land cover and vegetation	1			Ancient woodland and SSSI
	Scale / complexity	1			Little space for built development
	Landscape features	1			Hartshill Castle
	Landscape condition	1			Country Park and woodland well managed.
	Relationship with existing urban built form			2	Existing urban area is close up to the woodland and open space.
	Tranquillity	1			Within the woodland a sense of tranquillity.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility			3	High level of woodland provides visual enclosure.
	Key views			2	Views to castle with woodland beyond, but woodland restricts many views.
	Prevention of coalescence			3	Not an issue.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations	1			SAM, SSSI, ancient woodland.
	Recreational use of the landscape	1			Country Park.

**Overall sensitivity score: 19**

(25 and below is indicative of a relatively higher landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

Built development unlikely to be appropriate. The area provides good existing open space provision within Country Park and should be protected.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Maintain existing Country Park and habitats. Maintain public rights of way. Little scope for additional work.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Existing recreational facilities should be retained and enhanced where opportunities arise;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas;
- Promote the regeneration and management of heathland flora on remnant heathy areas;
- Retain and manage old naturally re-vegetated former workings as landscape features
- Conserve the historic field pattern, and continue to maintain hedgerow field boundaries;
- Conserve all ancient woodland sites and promote ecological management, encourage restocking with native locally occurring broadleaves (preferably through natural regeneration);

## HARTSHILL AND ANSLEY COMMON

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **D**

SURVEY LOCATION: Hartshill – Chapel End

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 02.02.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

A relatively flat area of land north and west of Hartshill, where the land is typically around 130m AOD. The unit is enclosed by the existing settlement to the west and south and by the former quarry to the north and east. Land cover is varied, with some allotments, school playing fields, amenity space, agricultural land and woodland. The fields are mostly small to medium in scale, and enclosed by hedgerows with a good proportion of hedgerow trees. There are some parkland trees which are attractive features.

A right of way extends along the edge of the quarry, but otherwise there is little public access. Properties backing onto the area have some views over it, but otherwise it is mostly well contained by the quarry, and the overlapping vegetation within the area. The existing settlement includes terraced and semi detached houses and some detached mostly 20th Century. There are no identified sites of nature conservation interest, but there is one small woodland and many trees.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform			3	Area enclosed by former quarry.
	Land use		2		Allotments and amenity space / school grounds.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Parkland trees and woodland. An attractive edge to the settlement.
	Scale / complexity			3	The varied land parcels mean some of them may be appropriate for development.
	Landscape features		2		Apart from the woodland and trees, no notable features.
	Landscape condition		2		Appears to be in reasonable condition.
	Relationship with existing urban built form			3	A varied existing edge, but well contained and urban in character.
	Tranquillity		2		No major intrusions (quarry appears not to be active) but close to existing urban edge.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility			3	Visually quite well enclosed by quarry and vegetation.
	Key views		2		Some views from surrounding dwellings.
	Prevention of coalescence			3	Contained by Quarry.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	None
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Path near the edge.

**Overall sensitivity score: 32**

(32 and above is indicative of a relatively lower landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

An attractive edge to the settlement but with capacity for some development. Any development should fit in with the existing settlement pattern. Green infrastructure to link to the quarry and paths with new planting.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Retain existing woodland, parkland trees and hedgerow trees. Provide new linkages to public uses.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- The design of any recreational facilities should seek to reflect the character of the existing landscape features
- Existing recreational facilities should be retained and enhanced where opportunities arise;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas;
- Promote the regeneration and management of heathland flora on remnant heathy areas;
- Retain and manage old naturally re-vegetated former workings as landscape features;
- Maintain hedgerow field boundaries and replant where appropriate;
- Conserve all woodland sites and promote ecological management, encourage restocking with native locally occurring broadleaves (preferably through natural regeneration);

## HARTSHILL AND ANSLEY COMMON

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **E**  
SURVEY LOCATION: Hartshill Green  
DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 02.02.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

This unit lies to the north of Hartshill Green, bordered to the north by Coventry Canal. The land slopes north towards the canal from the existing settlement, from typically 120m AOD to 90m AOD. The woodland and scrub at the former Hartshill Quarry borders the area to the south east. The land is mainly agricultural, with arable and pasture and fields enclosed by hedgerows with hedgerow trees. Public access is possible from footpaths, and along the canal towpaths.

The existing settlement is quite well contained by surrounding vegetation and despite being located on the higher ground, has little visual influence. Buildings associated with the canal provide local distinctiveness. Part of the quarry to the south is designated a SSSI. The unit is visually relatively open, and can be seen from the Coventry Canal, and part of the wider Anker Valley.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform	1			Slopes away from the settlement, would be exposed to the Anker Valley.
	Land use		2		Mainly agricultural land.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Some attractive hedgerows, trees and woodland.
	Scale / complexity		2		Relatively simple, small to medium scale landscape.
	Landscape features	1			Coventry Canal and associated buildings in agricultural setting.
	Landscape condition		2		Appears well managed.
	Relationship with existing urban built form	1			Existing urban area well contained with strong boundaries. New development would be difficult to accommodate.
	Tranquillity		2		Influenced by the roads.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility	1			Visually open to the north
	Key views		2		Few views from properties, but visible from the towpath
	Prevention of coalescence			3	No.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	No designation, but Canal an attractive historic feature.
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Canal, towpaths and footpaths.

**Overall sensitivity score: 24**

(25 and below is indicative of a relatively higher landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The exposed nature of the area, and lack of connection to the urban area, means that it is unlikely to be appropriate for built development. Little opportunity for built development.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Any green infrastructure should link with the connecting land, and habitats on the former quarry tip.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- The design of any recreational facilities should seek to reflect the character of the existing landscape features;
- Conserve pastoral character and identify opportunities for conversion of arable back to pasture;
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas;
- Promote the regeneration and management of heathland flora on remnant heathy areas;
- Retain and manage old naturally re-vegetated former workings as landscape features;
- Conserve the historic field pattern, maintain hedgerow field boundaries and replant historic field boundaries using native locally occurring species;
- Conserve all woodland sites and promote ecological management, encourage restocking with native locally occurring broadleaves (preferably through natural regeneration);

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **A**

SURVEY LOCATION: Coventry Road, South Kingsbury

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 28.01.2010

**Description of sub unit**

Land to the west of Kingsbury includes land between the River Tame to the west and the settlement edge to the east and comprises a flat open area of floodplain character to the south and a narrow strip of steeply sloping land to the north. The adjacent old settlement core of Kingsbury is located upon an outcrop of higher land between these two areas.

The southern area comprises unmanaged grassland with scattered willow pollards, to the north a wider grassed area and the narrower steeper slopes are encroached upon by scrub and trees. To the west, young riparian vegetation associated with the river course and lakes at the restored former gravel workings, now Kingsbury Water Park provide containment.

This area provides the landscape setting of the historic settlement core and church, located upon the bluff overlooking the river. This area is designated as a Conservation Area and the most prominent structure, currently under restoration is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM).

The area is not accessed by roads, although the A51 Coventry Road passes adjacent to the southern section. Several rights of way cross the area, including the Heart of England Way, which links the settlement with Kingsbury Water Park via an historic footbridge over the Tame. The adjacent settlement area comprises the collection of vernacular red brick, stone and rendered properties within the Conservation Area and modern detached and semi detached properties fronting Coventry Road.

The area is relatively contained and low lying, key views are local and from the adjacent Conservation Area to which this landscape provides the setting but also towards the conservation area across the lower land from Coventry Road.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform	1			The southern part is of a flat floodplain character and much of the northern part comprises narrow steep banks, although there is a broader flatter area just to the north of the SAM
	Land use	1			No defined land uses other than informal recreation, although the area provides the landscape setting for the SAM & Conservation Area.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Land cover comprises encroaching scrub and unmanaged grassland adjacent to the River; this may be of some ecological sensitivity although in the absence of an ecological survey this hasn't been determined.
	Scale / complexity			2	Area comprises small isolated pockets of land
	Landscape features	1			Collection of historic buildings comprising the old village core on the adjacent bluff are designated a Conservation Area and a building with SAM status, with associated historic footbridge over the river.
	Landscape condition			3	The landscape appears unmanaged
	Relationship with existing urban built form			3	The settlement area backs onto the northern part and encloses the southern part on three sides
	Tranquillity			3	Busy A51 and distant traffic noise from many busy peripheral roads.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Contained other than to adjacent settlement edge, however part of settlement edge comprises sensitive landscape designations
	Key views	1			Views to and from the Conservation Area and SAM from Coventry Road and adjacent residential properties. Views are limited but sensitive
	Prevention of coalescence			3	No nearby settlements
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations	1			Conservation Area, SAM and likely listed buildings. The footbridge may also be listed.
	Recreational use of the landscape	1			Public rights of way including, Heart of England Way, informal recreational use of the area.

**Overall sensitivity score: 24**

(25 and below is indicative of a relatively higher landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

There is little opportunity for development of this land. It forms the setting of the Conservation Area & SAM and would benefit from landscape enhancements for green infrastructure, biodiversity and recreational benefits. The steep isolated slopes to the north preclude development, however small scale sensitive residential development just to north of SAM may be a possibility if delivered with landscape enhancements for the setting of the SAM. Development of the southern area would result in loss of open views across the floodplain to the church and Conservation Area.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Any Green Infrastructure proposals should seek to enhance the setting of the Conservation Area and SAM, reinforce riverside character and enhance recreational access.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Prepare and implement a Landscape Enhancement Plan to protect the setting of the historic Conservation Area at Kingsbury
- The design and management of new and enhancement of existing recreational facilities should seek to reflect the character of the existing landscape features
- Retain grassland along the River floodplain and where possible consider a return to traditional grassland management
- Enhance river channel diversity and marginal vegetation
- Conserve and enhance remaining riverside wetland habitats and identify opportunities for re-creating elsewhere

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **B**

SURVEY LOCATION: North of Kingsbury, A51 Tamworth Road, M42 overbridge.

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 28.01.2010

**Description of sub unit**

This undulating small valley drains towards the River Tame. In the north, the south facing slopes rise to Slatly Hall and in the south modern residential properties at the northern edge of Kingsbury form the skyline above the north facing slopes, land steeply descends from here to the River Tame.

The landscape comprises predominantly large open arable fields but is heavily influenced by the M42 corridor, the large scale oil storage structures to the east of the settlement edge and by the settlement edge itself. Kingsbury Nursery and Garden Centre occupies part of the area and is largely contained by trees. Elsewhere peripheral vegetation exists alongside the busy roads and the M42 embankment (M42 in steep cutting) but the fields are generally devoid of landscape features, leaving the settlement edge exposed. The fields are crossed with pylons. There are no rights of way across this area. The watercourse in the valley bottom is not defined by vegetation and is not easily discernable. Long views from the elevated slopes may be possible to the north and south across the Tame Valley.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		Due to the valley land form some parts are exposed and some contained.
	Land use			3	Large scale arable with many urbanising elements present.
	Land cover and vegetation			3	Lacks vegetation, requires new landscape framework
	Scale / complexity			3	Medium to large scale fields contained between settlement edge and M42.
	Landscape features		2		Slateley Hall on elevated land at northern edge.
	Landscape condition			3	Poor, intensively farmed or unmanaged fields with little vegetation.
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2		Exposed settlement edge would benefit from creation of GI
	Tranquillity			3	Busy M42 & A51 traffic noise.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Potential long views from / to elevated areas, difficult to assess due to restricted access.
	Key views		2		Open views from Slateley Hall.
	Prevention of coalescence			3	No settlements nearby
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	None noted.
	Recreational use of the landscape			3	None observed

### Overall sensitivity and capacity: 34

(32 and above is indicative of a relatively lower landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

Urban fringe, intensively farmed or unmanaged land, crossed by pylons with peripheral urbanising detractors, this area could be suitable for some residential development in appropriate locations at the residential settlement edge; however development may be hindered by the presence of the pylons. Any residential development would need to relate well to the existing settlement and be accompanied by robust GI provision.

The more elevated land south of Slateley Hall is exposed, forms the setting of the Hall and isolated from adjacent settlement and employment areas by rail lines so is not considered suitable for development in landscape and visual terms.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Lack of current landscape features, any development would need to include a robust structural landscape planting to integrate the northern edge of Kingsbury with the landscape and bring landscape and biodiversity enhancements. Perimeter woodland buffer and open space between development and the M42 would be appropriate and could form part of a comprehensive GI Strategy to enhance landscape, recreation and biodiversity at the northern edge of Kingsbury.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Encourage landscape management practices that seek to reintroduce landscape structure and features
- Encourage development of wide and diverse field margins
- Encourage retention of hedges and management practices that reinstate historic hedge lines using native locally occurring hedgerow species
- Encourage planting of native hedgerows, hedgerow oaks and native tree belts to increase the tree cover and introduce wildlife corridors;
- Encourage ecological management of watercourses to allow establishment of riparian vegetation.

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **C**

SURVEY LOCATION: Railway Overbridge

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 28.01.2010

**Description of sub unit**

This gently undulating small valley includes isolated fields between Kingsbury residential edge, which is sharply defined by a vegetated rail corridor, and the Kingsbury oil storage depots. The landscape comprises predominantly medium sized arable fields, which fall gently to a narrow tree lined watercourse before rising again to the southern edge of this area.

Field boundaries comprise overgrown hedges with trees. The eastern edge is contained by a tree lined road that serves the oil storage areas; the trees are reaching maturity and provide some screening to the open countryside to the east, although winter views are possible. Areas of scrub and unmanaged ground exist around the perimeter of the refinery, but generally the edges of the refinery complex are open to the adjacent fields. As land rises to the south the residential edge of Kingsbury becomes more exposed beyond the rail-side vegetation. The area appears generally contained by the landform, built edge and trees.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform			3	Gentle valley, although potential flood issues, wet areas adjacent watercourse. Rising land to south provides some containment from adjacent countryside.
	Land use			3	Isolated arable fields.
	Land cover and vegetation			3	Vegetation alongside rail line and roadside crucial in limiting wider visual impact of large scale oil storage areas.
	Scale / complexity			3	Simple arable fields medium scale
	Landscape features		2		Watercourse
	Landscape condition		2		Managed arable fields and established tree planting.
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2		Contained parcel of land relates to oil storage areas but separated from residential areas by rail line.
	Tranquillity			3	Busy roads and industry present.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Some local enclosure provided by landscaping to oil storage depot, however further development likely to require further landscape mitigation.
	Key views			3	None noted. Although note adjacent to open countryside.
	Prevention of coalescence		2		Development could connect oil storage areas with Kingsbury settlement edge
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations		2		SINC located at eastern boundary.
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Heart of England Way passes through southern part.

### Overall sensitivity and capacity: 32

(32 and above is indicative of a relatively lower landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The rail line contains the settlement edge; it would be therefore difficult to construct any residential development with links to the settlement area. Small scale extension of the industrial areas may be a possibility but care would have to be taken to maintain and reinforce an appropriate buffer, to the nearby settlement edge and to the open countryside, with further structure landscape planting. The amenity of the Heart of England Way should also be protected.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

The current edge of the refinery is exposed and would benefit from planting of a more robust landscape framework subject to safety requirements. Ground modelling may be appropriate to increase the level of screening in views from nearby properties.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Encourage development of wide and diverse field margins
- Encourage retention and good management practices of the landscape framework of hedgerows and trees, particularly adjacent to the rail line and alongside the road
- Encourage planting of tree belts to screen and soften the rail line and oil storage depot boundaries;
- Encourage ecological management of the watercourse.

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **A**

SURVEY LOCATION: Water Orton (adjacent to F/P at eastern edge)

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 26.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

This unit gently slopes from the residential edge of Water Orton towards the River Tame and an adjacent water body. The River Tame is contained by grass engineered flood banks. To the east the elevated M42 is visible and to the north a high wooded embankment with pylons contains this area. Two railway lines cut through the area in places on vegetated embankment.

The landscape comprises predominantly unmanaged grassland and waste ground with, in places encroaching scrub and trees. An industrial area (Lakeside Industrial Park) is located close to motorway. Marsh Lane (B4118) passes through the area connecting Water Orton with the M42 junction. Two rights of way pass through this area from the adjacent settlement edges (one via a foot bridge over the rail line). Properties at the settlement edge are located on slightly elevated land with intervening hedges and trees at the settlement edge. The properties are predominantly post war red brick and tile semi detached.

Some structure within the landscape is provided by roadside and settlement boundary hedgerows which connect to the areas of scrub and tree belts alongside the railway line and around the waterbody. The area is well contained by the peripheral land uses, and only short views are possible from the elevated settlement edge to the M42, from lower land within this unit the landscape feels well contained with only glimpses of peripheral properties filtered by the vegetation.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform			3	Gently rising slopes to settlement edge but generally flat (parts within floodplain).
	Land use			3	Much of the landscape appears unmanaged and central industrial area. Adjacent fishing lake.
	Land cover and vegetation		2		Connected scrub/tree/wetland habitats (Watercourse not noted of value – engineered main grass banks).
	Scale / complexity			3	Medium scale fields relates to adjacent settlement edge and industrial area.
	Landscape features		2		Waterbody, unmanaged fields and adjacent scrub and tree belts associated with the rail lines.
	Landscape condition			3	Little managed evident, occasionally cut roadside hedges. Engineered river banks.
	Relationship with existing urban built form			3	Settlement edge currently softened by hedgerows/trees. Industrial edge open.
	Tranquillity			3	Busy and visible M42 and presence of industrial area, train line and B4118.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Area is open to filtered views from settlement edges and M42. Otherwise contained by settlement and landform.
	Key views		2		Views from the M42 and settlement edge (limited scope) and users of the rail lines
	Prevention of coalescence			3	Contained by M42 to the east and Severn Trent substantial engineering banks to north.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	None noted.
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Two rights of way, through this area and a fishing lake.

### Overall sensitivity and capacity: 34

(32 and above is indicative of a relatively lower landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

Due to presence of River Tame and flood plain, any development would need to be accommodated on the higher land at the eastern settlement edge (the remaining settlement edge being constrained by the rail line). Residential development of up to 2 storeys could be accommodated on these gentle slopes. Careful consideration would need to be given to flood alleviation and drainage.

Small scale expansion of the industrial area may be possible if it could be demonstrated that expansion could bring landscape enhancements (subject to flood plain restrictions) and improve its relationship with the adjacent landscape through boundary treatment enhancements and perimeter planting.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Landscape planting should relate to the wetland character of this area and provide new tree and shrub belts to link existing areas of vegetation. A suitable buffer should be maintained around the pond and rights of way integrated within any development proposal.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Encourage the fields to be brought into ecological management;
- Encourage retention and management of hedgerows, trees and scrub;
- Consider introduction and implementation of a landscape/biodiversity enhancement scheme for the river corridor if not restricted by flood prevention requirements;
- Encourage well designed and appropriate structural landscaping and boundary treatment to the periphery of the industrial area;

## WATER ORTON

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **B**

SURVEY LOCATION: Water Orton (northern edge just north of borough boundary)

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 26.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

A very small, flat area of floodplain character located adjacent to the River Tame. The area is well contained by riverside and peripheral rail line vegetation. Land use comprises grass and wasteland and appears unmanaged. The area is dominated by steel palisade fencing and low industrial buildings, with large scale Severn Trent sewage works hidden by trees to the north. Peripheral properties at the edge of Water Orton and south of the rail line are just discernible through trees.

An old bridge cross over the Tame has been narrowed to allow only smaller vehicles into Water Orton. The River Tame at this point has engineered concrete and managed grass banks. Adjacent to the bridge the settlement edge of Water Orton here comprises many red brick and white rendered buildings of local vernacular and is designated a conservation area.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2	Flat land adjacent to river
	Land use			3 Vegetated river corridor with adjacent industrial works.
	Land cover and vegetation		2	Tree lined river/rail corridor and grass / scrubland areas
	Scale / complexity		2	Simple landscape, difficult to discern if any space available for development.
	Landscape features		2	River corridor and trees associated with the rail line.
	Landscape condition			3 Little management evident, roadside trees cut and engineered river course clear of vegetation.
	Relationship with existing urban built form			3 Relates to adjacent industrial area but separated from settlement edge by vegetation and rail line.
	Tranquillity			3 Busy industrial road, rail line, and industrial influences
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility			3 Low lying and contained by vegetation. Screened sewage works to north.
	Key views			3 None observed although views to river from Conservation Area should be considered.
	Prevention of coalescence			3 Existing settlement edge well contained
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations		2	Conservation Area adjacent.
	Recreational use of the landscape			3 No rights of way noted.

### Overall sensitivity and capacity: 34

(32 and above is indicative of a relatively lower landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

A small contained area with existing low level small-medium scale industry; probably scope only to extend the existing industrial area in this manner. The settlement edge is contained by the river and rail line and associated significant vegetation so settlement expansion not likely to be feasible.

Any expansion would be subject to flood plain and existing vegetation/habitat constraints.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

If development is deemed feasible it should be contained by scrub and tree planting that reflects the existing riverside character, and connects and enhances the existing landscape framework.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Encourage the fields to be brought into ecological management;
- Encourage retention and management of hedgerows, trees and scrub;
- Consider introduction and implementation of a landscape/biodiversity enhancement scheme for the river corridor if not restricted by flood prevention requirements;
- Encourage well designed and appropriate structural landscaping and boundary treatment to the periphery of the industrial area;

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **C**

SURVEY LOCATION: Gypsey Lane, Water Orton

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 26.01.2010

### **Description of sub unit**

This is an open landscape of predominantly flat, medium to large fields that rise gradually to the south west to meet the M42. The M42 is elevated above the south eastern part of this area. The land use is predominantly arable although there are some pockets of grazed land adjacent to the housing edges.

This is a simple landscape of fields and peripheral lanes with low trimmed hedges (and parkland hurdle fencing adjacent to Gypsey Lane), scattered mature hedgerow oaks, which combined with a tree lined and small sinuous watercourse and the flat topography create a well-treed character.

One right of way passes through the western part of the area. The area appears contained by the M42, although there are views of tower blocks within Birmingham to the west just beyond the motorway. From Attleboro Farm at the south western corner, there are also long views to the east. The area meets the built settlement edge abruptly; little vegetation here means the settlement edge is visually open. The settlement edge comprises predominantly post war red brick semi detached properties. Vicarage Lane as it passes the recreation ground is a narrow lane enclosed by old hedges containing holly and ivy on small hedge banks.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		Flat landform suitable for development, however no defining/containing features.
	Land use			3	Arable land (predominantly)
	Land cover and vegetation			3	Simple structure of med-large fields with hedgerow boundaries – some with field ditches and ponds.
	Scale / complexity		2		Med-large scale, simple landscape, difficult to determine where to fit/limit development.
	Landscape features		2		A good network of field boundaries and associated ditches, ponds and trees.
	Landscape condition		2		Well maintained and managed arable landscape but with an aging tree population.
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2		Far north eastern corner adjacent to open settlement edge, otherwise does not relate to settlement, settlement well contained.
	Tranquillity				3
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2		Open landscape, however few potential public viewpoints.
	Key views		2		Users of M42 and properties at settlement edge, elevated from Attleboro Farm and adjacent footpath.
	Prevention of coalescence		2		Rising land to south west if developed could be perceived to connect with Birmingham.
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	None noted.
	Recreational use of the landscape			3	Two rights of way in western part.

### Overall sensitivity and capacity: 31

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The open nature of this area means that a logical development boundary would be difficult to define. Small-medium scale development of several fields in the north east adjacent to the housing edge could be justified if implemented with new landscaping and open space as a buffer to the urban edge. Residential development of up to 2 storeys would be in keeping with the character of the area. The open arable fields, particularly those on rising land should be protected from development. These fields currently provide a buffer to the M42.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

All existing field boundaries should be maintained and could be supplemented with small copse plantation in field corners and tree belt planting. Should development occur a peripheral linear recreational corridor (with links to the existing settlement edge recreation ground) would provide a robust, defensible buffer between the settlement edge and the open agricultural land and assist in screening views of the M42 from the settlement edge.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Conserve the historic field pattern of hedgerows and hedgerow trees, including roadside hedgerows;
- Conserve and enhance tree cover through planting and/or encouraging natural regeneration of hedgerow oaks
- Encourage development of wide and diverse field margins
- Encourage new woodland planting in small connected blocks and/or broad tree belts; plant native, locally occurring species and predominantly oak to soften the urban edge, enhance containment and increase the landscape buffer to the motorway. The design of new woodland planting should complement the shape and scale of the surrounding landscape pattern
- Encourage ecological management of wetland and riparian vegetation along the watercourse and any associated ponds.

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **D**

SURVEY LOCATION: Plank Lane & public right of way (2 viewpoints)

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 26.01.2010

**Description of sub unit**

This comprises two similar compartments of flat, small to very small pastoral or unmanaged grassed fields that lie within or relate well to the settlement edge. The fields are enclosed by substantial overgrown hedgerows with a high proportion of mature hedgerow trees. In places fields are encroached by brambles and scrub. Small water courses pass through both areas, with poorly drained ground identified adjacent to the watercourse within the southern area. A number of field ponds also exist; one observed with old willow pollards.

The adjacent residential edge is well contained by this landscape and there are filtered views to some properties at the settlement edge, these tend to be post war red brick semi and detached properties, however a number of scattered older red brick vernacular properties and numerous mature parkland trees, including many evergreen specimens, with the housing edge hint at the remains of a much older parkland landscape. One right of way passes through each space.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2		Flat contained landform, but with watercourses, ponds and poorly drained areas.
	Land use		2		Predominantly pastoral but some urban fringe encroachment eg plant nursery in south.
	Land cover and vegetation	1			Significant small scale dense network of overgrown hedges and trees with watercourses and ponds
	Scale / complexity	1			Difficult to accommodate development in small fields without loss of significant vegetation.
	Landscape features		2		Locally distinct properties in places to fringes and some mature landscape structure.
	Landscape condition		2		Some evidence of management but generally overgrown field boundaries, and no grazing apparent, although this may be due to time of year survey undertaken.
	Relationship with existing urban built form	1			Provides a landscape buffer to the settlement edge, separating it from the open fields beyond
	Tranquillity			3	Perimeter roads/settlement and constant but distant M42 traffic noise.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility			3	Well contained by vegetation and flat.
	Key views			3	1 elevated view from Attleboro Farm. Some views in from peripheral properties/roads and rights of way.
	Prevention of coalescence			3	Development within this landscape wouldn't lead to coalescence
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3	No designations noted.
	Recreational use of the landscape		2		Two rights of way. No other uses observed.

## Overall sensitivity and capacity: 28

(26-31 is indicative of a relatively moderate landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

The relatively high score reflects the containment of this landscape, however this small scale landscape is contained by a dense historic landscape framework of overgrown hedges and hedgerow trees and it would be difficult to accommodate development of any scale without effects on the existing landscape structure. There may be locations where small scale residential development is feasible in individually accessible field parcels.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

The existing landscape framework should be retained and enhanced as part of any proposals. Consider management of retained landscape for biodiversity and enhance informal public access.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Conserve the historic field pattern of hedgerows and hedgerow trees, bring hedgerows into a 3 yearly cut rotation;
- Encourage natural regeneration of hedgerow oaks as future replacements for aging hedgerow tree structure
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas
- Encourage ecological management of wetland and riparian vegetation along the watercourses and any associated ponds.
- Enhance public access and informal recreation opportunities

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **E**

SURVEY LOCATION: Plank Lane

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 26.01.2010

**Description of sub unit**

This is a flat, open landscape with large scale fields, enclosed by gappy hedges with very few hedgerow trees. The land is used for horse grazing.

The lack of vegetation combined with the level landform allows open views between the settlement edge and the M42 motorway located upon a vegetated embankment. Tower blocks within Birmingham are visible beyond the M42 on the skyline. At the edge of Water Orton there are a variety of 20th red brick and rendered semi detached properties. A small number of older properties form part of a group that front a large formal village green, which is edged with mature trees. From here views to the west include the M42 on vegetated embankment and a large industrial building beyond within Birmingham. There are no rights of way through this area.

## Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform		2	Flat and wide open landscape, no discernible change in levels to provide containment other than M42 embankment.
	Land use			3 Mono culture – horse grazing/unmanaged.
	Land cover and vegetation			3 Only a few hedgerows and trees.
	Scale / complexity		2	Large scale simple open landscape would be difficult to absorb development.
	Landscape features			3 Non other than poor hedgerows
	Landscape condition			3 Poor
	Relationship with existing urban built form		2	Broken settlement edge with properties often beyond field boundaries.
	Tranquillity			3 Busy M42 noise and urban roads.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility		2	Very open flat landscape (although few public receptors)
	Key views			3 Views from M42 and taller buildings in Birmingham. Limited views from settlement edge
	Prevention of coalescence		2	May be perception of coalescence to south where the area abuts M42/Birmingham
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations			3 None observed
	Recreational use of the landscape			3 None observed

## Overall sensitivity and capacity: 34

(32 and above is indicative of a relatively lower landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

This is a visually open landscape lacking in landscape framework or features of landscape value. It would be difficult to incorporate development and define boundaries without significant new Green Infrastructure. There are also potential coalescence issues with Birmingham beyond M42. The area may be suited to a medium scale residential development if implemented with a robust framework of structural landscaping to provide containment and separation from the M42 and Birmingham.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

A new GI of linked woodland belts and copses that reinforces the hedgerow structure would likely be most appropriate. Should amenity space be provided this should also be contained within the landscape framework.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Conserve the field pattern of hedgerows, consider further hedgerow planting to reduce field size and bring hedgerows into a 3 yearly cut rotation;
- New hedge planting should reflect the traditional field pattern and include only mixed native species;
- Introduce tree cover through planting of hedgerow oaks
- Encourage new woodland planting in small connected blocks and/or broad tree belts; plant native, locally occurring species and predominantly oak. The design of new woodland planting should complement the shape and scale of the surrounding landscape pattern and assist in reducing settlement inter-visibility
- Encourage ecological management of grassland areas

CAPACITY STUDY FORM REFERENCE: **F**

SURVEY LOCATION: B4118 Birmingham Road

DATE SURVEY UNDERTAKEN: 26.01.2010

**Description of sub unit**

An isolated flat parcel of land contained by properties along Mytton Road and the settlement edge with no public access, this area was difficult to view.

From glimpse views between properties on Birmingham Road it is assumed that land use comprises marginal urban fringe fields under a variety of grazing uses. Many boundaries appear fenced and conifer trees to property boundaries restrict views. Woodland and a line of trees along the Borough boundary contain the area from the north and west respectively. There are no rights of way through the area. One pocket of “ancient woodland” is identified at the north western corner.

### Sensitivity of sub unit to change

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3
<b>Landscape character sensitivity</b>	Landform			3 Flat
	Land use			3 Urban fringe uses
	Land cover and vegetation			3 Peripheral woodland
	Scale / complexity			3 Simple
	Landscape features			3 None observed
	Landscape condition			3 Appears marginal, urban fringe
	Relationship with existing urban built form			3 Existing settlement edge backs on to.
	Tranquillity			3 Busy traffic noise
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	Openness / visibility			3 Contained by vegetation and urban edge
	Key views			3 None observed
	Prevention of coalescence			3
<b>Landscape Value</b>	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations		2	Ancient woodlands
	Recreational use of the landscape			3 None observed

### Overall sensitivity and capacity: 38

(32 and above is indicative of a relatively lower landscape sensitivity, refer to Methodology)

## **Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

### **Potential for Built Development:**

A contained parcel of urban fringe land, this may be suitable for residential development although further survey work would need to confirm this.

### **Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations:**

Should the land be developed a buffer to peripheral woodland at the northern boundary is recommended and landscape planting to reinforce the western hedgerow boundary.

### **Other land use / management opportunities**

- Consider ecological management of small fields and introduction of native planting and ponds.

## FIGURES

## APPENDIX A

# LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

## FIELD SURVEY SHEET (stage 1)

Date:

Sheet No:

Location:

Direction of View:

Circle the features below that are applicable to the character area and annotate as appropriate with;  
D=dominant P=prominent A=apparent I=insignificant

### Landscape components

#### **Landform & hydrology**

Upland	Strongly undulating	Flat	Plateau
Lowland	Ridge	Broad valley	Floodplain
Gently undulating	Escarpment	Narrow valley	Rounded Hills
Sloping	River	Stream	Ponds
Lakes	Reservoir	Wetlands	Other

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#### **Land Cover & Vegetation**

Built development	Woodland	Ridge & Furrow	Fen
Arable	Copse	Parkland	Allotments / nursery
Pasture	Scattered Trees	Outcrop	Other
Military	Heathland	Quarry	

Species/age/structure.....  
.....  
.....

#### **Field Pattern**

Large	Small	Irregular
Medium	Regular	Other

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.....  
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#### **Field Enclosure**

Hedgerow	Hedgerow Trees	Wet ditch
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Walls	Fence	Other
Hedge bank	Tree rows	
.....		
.....		
.....		

**Settlement Pattern**

Towns	Village / hamlet	Industrial
Urban Fringe	Scattered Farm Buildings	Mansions
Vernacular buildings	Non vernacular buildings	
Age /materials.....		
.....		

**Landscape Elements / distinctive features**

Church	Village Settlement	Canal / river	Lane
.....	.....	.....	.....
Farm Buildings	Country Houses	Water Body	Road
.....	.....	.....	.....
Industrial	Masts/Poles	Footpath	Motorway
.....	.....	.....	.....
Residential	Pylons	Bridleway	Special Attributes
.....	.....	.....	.....

**Perception**

**Scale**.....

**Openness**.....

**Diversity**.....

**Pattern**.....

**Texture**.....

**Accessibility**.....

**Movement**.....

**Biodiversity**.....

**Tranquillity**.....

**Visibility**.....

**Condition**.....

**Landscape Description**

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**Pressures for Change / Management Issues and Opportunities**

**Agriculture**

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**Trees & Woodland**

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**Buildings/Settlements**

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**Archaeological / Historic Components**

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**Other Land Use**

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## APPENDIX B



**Sensitivity of sub unit to change**

Criteria group	Criteria	1	2	3	Justification for score
Landscape character sensitivity	Landform				Does the landform assist in accommodating development : 1= Landform would assist, 2 = Landform neutral in assisting 3 = Landform would make it difficult to accommodate development.
	Land use				Is the current land use sensitive in landscape, ecological and / or historical terms? 1=sensitive 2=some sensitive characteristics 3=not particularly sensitive
	Land cover and vegetation				Is the current land cover / vegetation framework sensitive in ecological and / or landscape terms? 1=sensitive 2=some sensitive characteristics 3=not particularly sensitive
	Scale / complexity				Is the landscape character sub unit of an appropriate scale to absorb built development? 1=no 2= potentially Implementing 3= yes
	Landscape features				Are there any sensitive landscape features (including local vernacular)? 1= yes (dominant/prominent) 2=yes (apparent) 3=no (insignificant)
	Landscape condition				Current management and condition of the landscape? 1=predominantly well managed / good condition 2=management evident 3=no/little management evident / poor condition.
	Relationship with existing urban built form				1 = Location where built development will form a natural extension of an adjacent part of urban fabric. 2= Location where built development will form some associations with existing urban fabric. 3= Location where development will be isolated from and not form a good relationship with existing urban fabric.
	Tranquillity				Will development significantly change the perceived level of tranquillity? 1=yes 2=some impact 3=no (tranquillity already compromised)
Visual sensitivity	Openness / visibility				Does the existing landscape scheme provide visual enclosure? 1=No 2=No but opportunities to create enclosure through structural planting 3=Predominantly yes
	Key views				Sensitivity of views? 1=significant key public / private views 2=some open views 3=no notable views observed.
	Prevention of coalescence				Are there any nearby settlement areas that would be affected by development of this land? 1=yes (small gap/visually open) 2=yes (large gap/visually enclosed) 3=no
Landscape Value	Landscape /ecological / historical sensitivity designations				Any designations? 1=statutory designation requiring buffer to development 2=non statutory / less significant designation where development may be possible with sensitive master planning 3=no designations
	Recreational use of the landscape				Are there sensitive rights of way, recreational activities? 1= recreational activities / rights of way have a significant bearing on the current use of the sub unit 2=some recreational use and/or rights of way that could be integrated within development with careful master planning 3=no notable rights of way / recreational facilities.

**Overall sensitivity and capacity:** (high score is indicative of a generally lower sensitivity and greater capacity for change)

.....

**Comments on suitability for development and Green Infrastructure measures:**

**Potential for Built Development** (form, layout, building heights, building materials, open space provision and green infrastructure) if applicable:

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**Green Infrastructure, Opportunities and Recommendations** (retention of existing landscape features and vegetation, key views and important routes / recreational facilities, mitigation ground modelling and planting):

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**Other land use / management opportunities**

**Landscape Management Objectives** (agriculture, trees and woodland, buildings/settlements, ecological and historical components)

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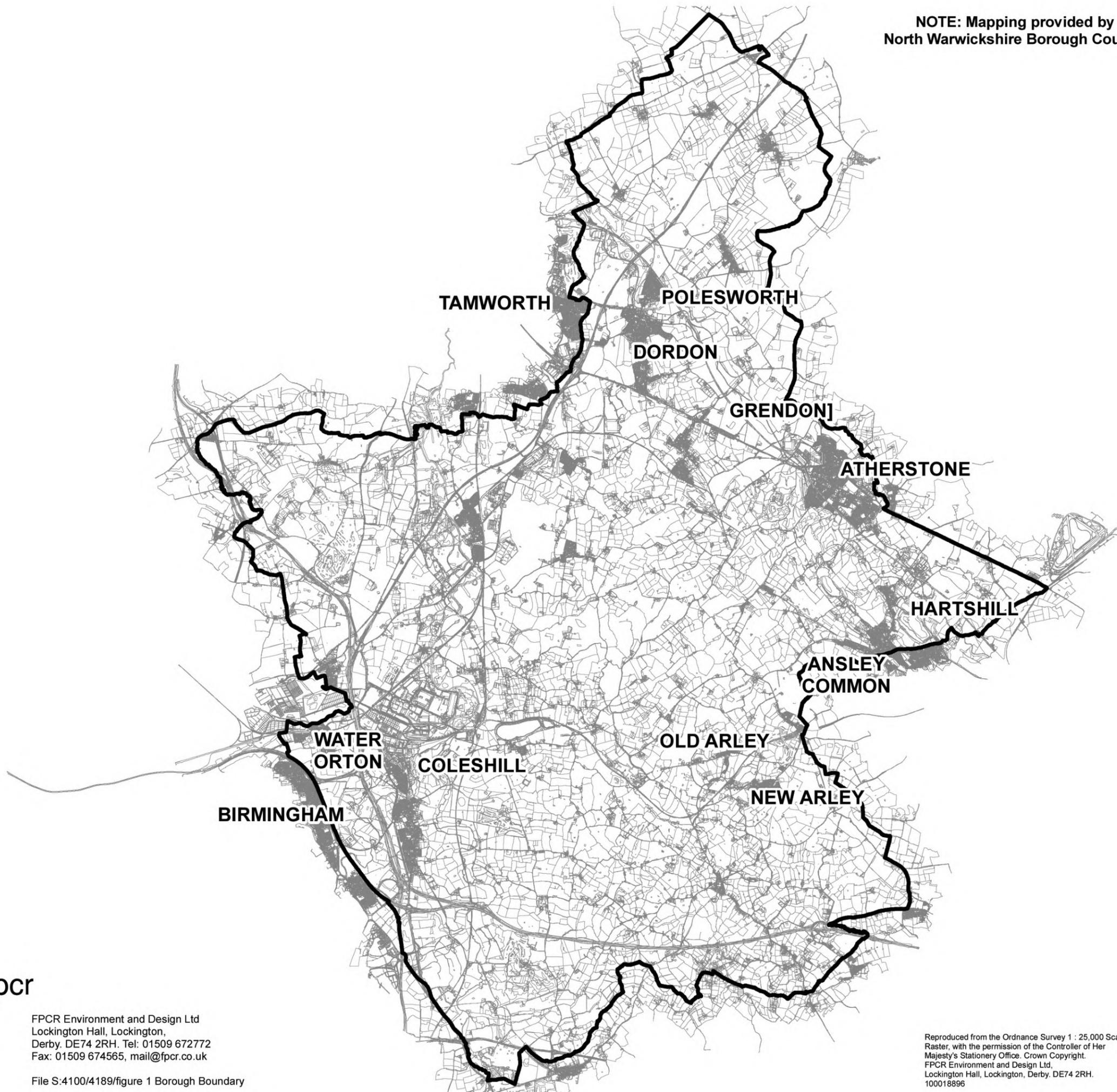
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## REFERENCES

- Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland, Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002
- Topic Paper 6; Techniques and Criteria for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity
- GIS data provided by North Warwickshire Council
- Warwickshire Historic Landscape Characterisation GIS data provided by North Warwickshire Council
- Aerial mapping (Google maps and Google Earth)
- The Character of England, Natural England
- Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines, Warwickshire County Council
  - Other Local Authority Studies;
  - Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment
  - Staffordshire Landscape Character Assessment, May 2001
  - Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Landscape and Woodland Strategy, 2001
  - Biodiversity and Landscape, draft SPD, Staffordshire County February 2006
  - Design Guidelines for Development in Arden, Coventry Council

NOTE: Mapping provided by  
North Warwickshire Borough Council



 North Warwickshire Borough boundary

North Warwickshire Borough Council

**North Warwickshire Landscape  
Character Assessment**

**Borough boundary**

**Figure 1**

Scale 1:100,000 @ A3. August 2010

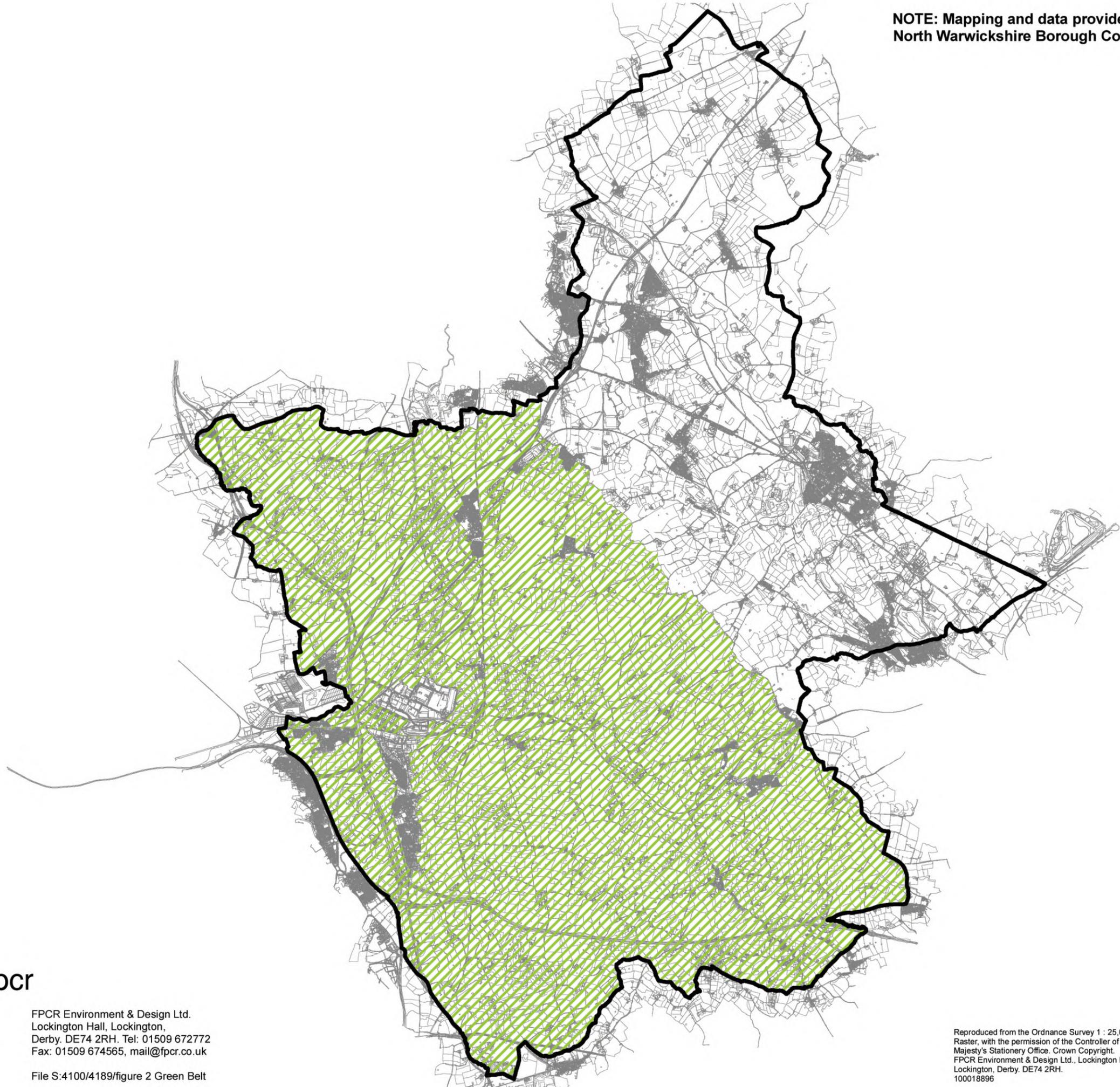
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File S:4100/4189/figure 1 Borough Boundary

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 North Warwickshire Borough boundary  
 Green Belt

North Warwickshire Borough Council

**North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment**

**Green Belt**

**Figure 2**

Scale 1:100,000 @ A3. August 2010

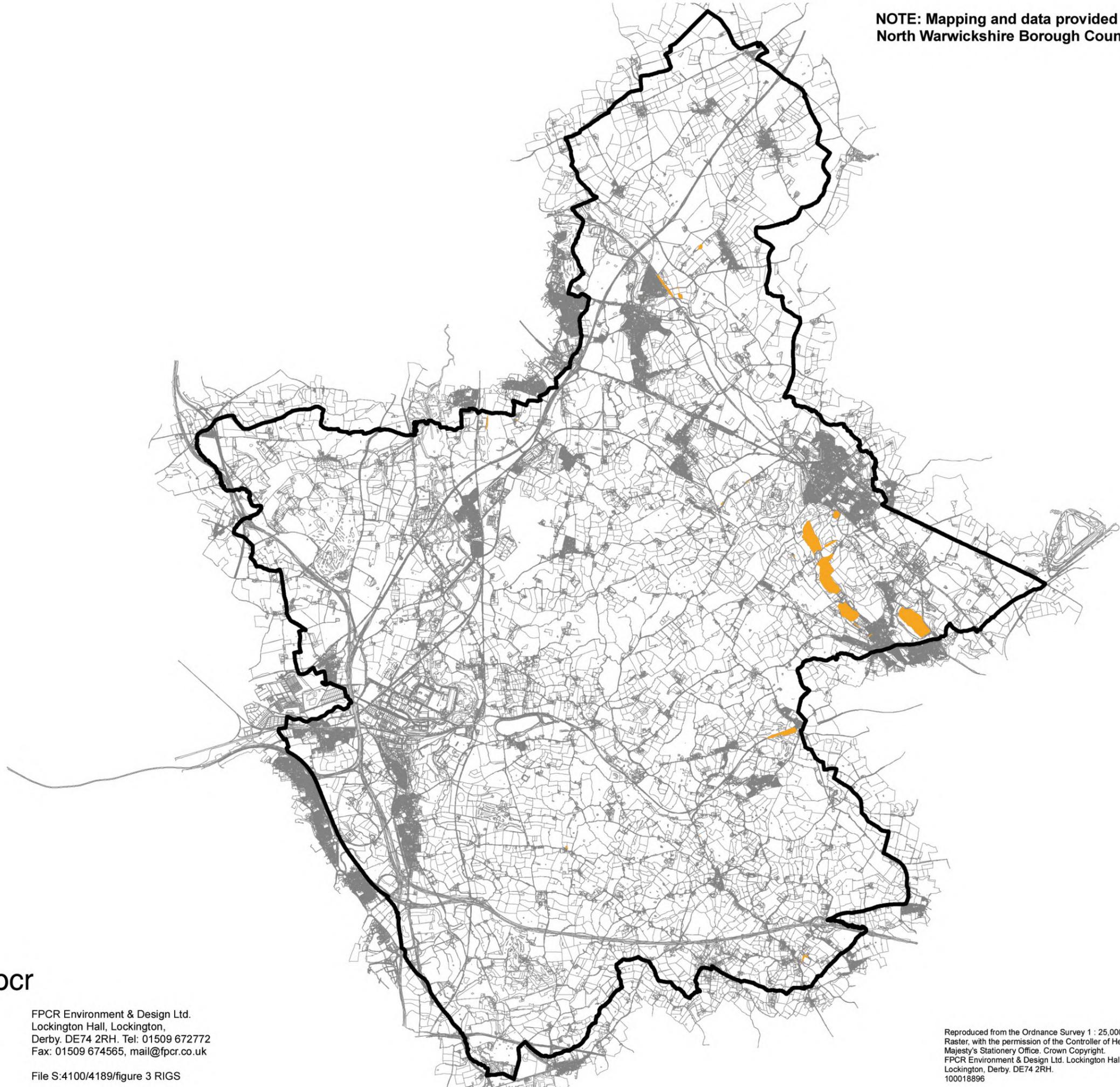
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File S:4100/4189/figure 2 Green Belt

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North Warwickshire Borough boundary  
 Regionally Important Geological & Geomorphological Sites

North Warwickshire Borough Council

**North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment**

**Regionally Important Geological & Geomorphological Sites**

**Figure 3**

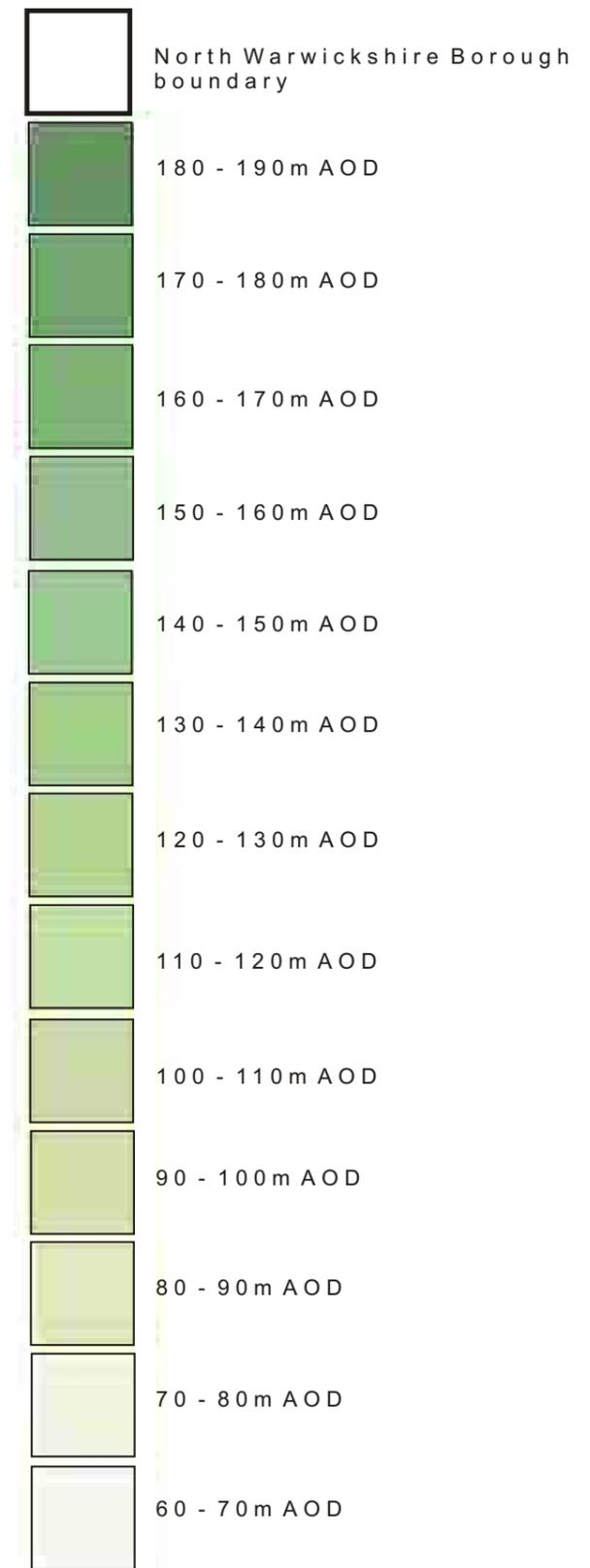
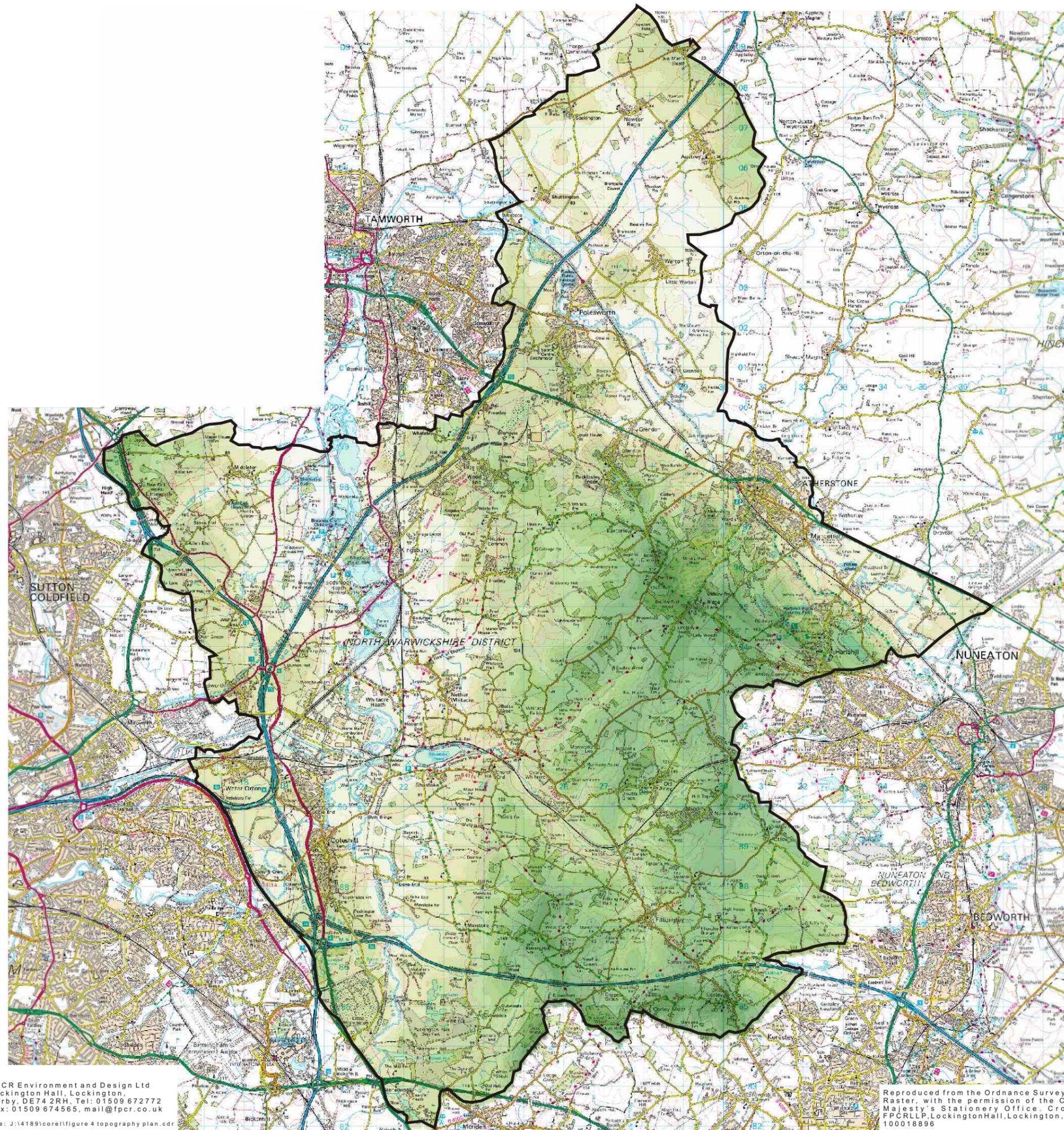
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File S:4100/4189/figure 3 RIGS

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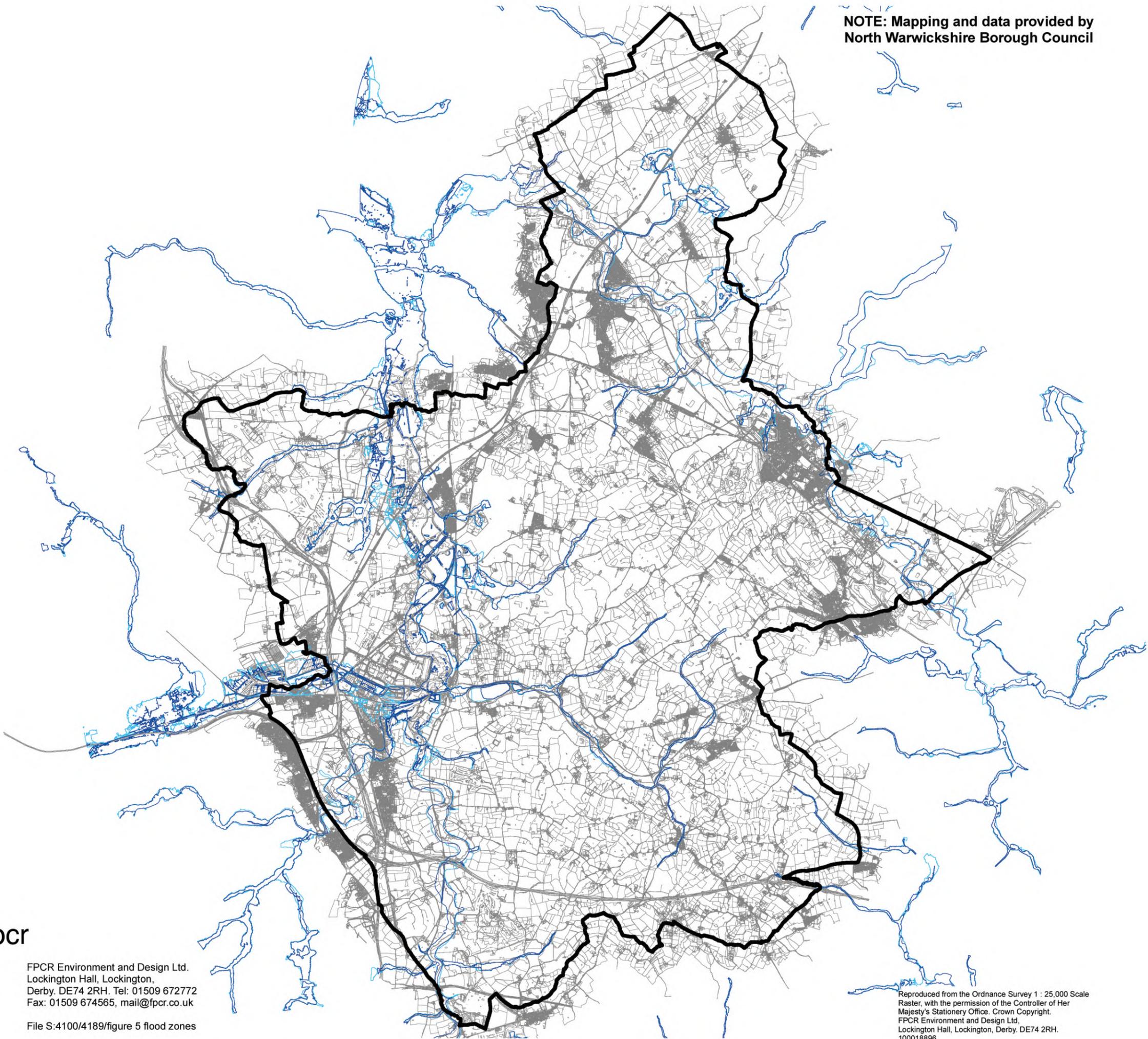
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**North Warwickshire Landscape  
 Character Assessment**

**TOPOGRAPHY PLAN**

**Figure 4**

Scale 1:100,000 @ A3. August 2010

NOTE: Mapping and data provided by North Warwickshire Borough Council



-  North Warwickshire Borough boundary
-  Flood Zone 3 June 2009
-  Flood Zone 2 June 2009

North Warwickshire Borough Council

**North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment**

**Flood Zones**

**Figure 5**

Scale 1:100,000 @ A3. August 2010

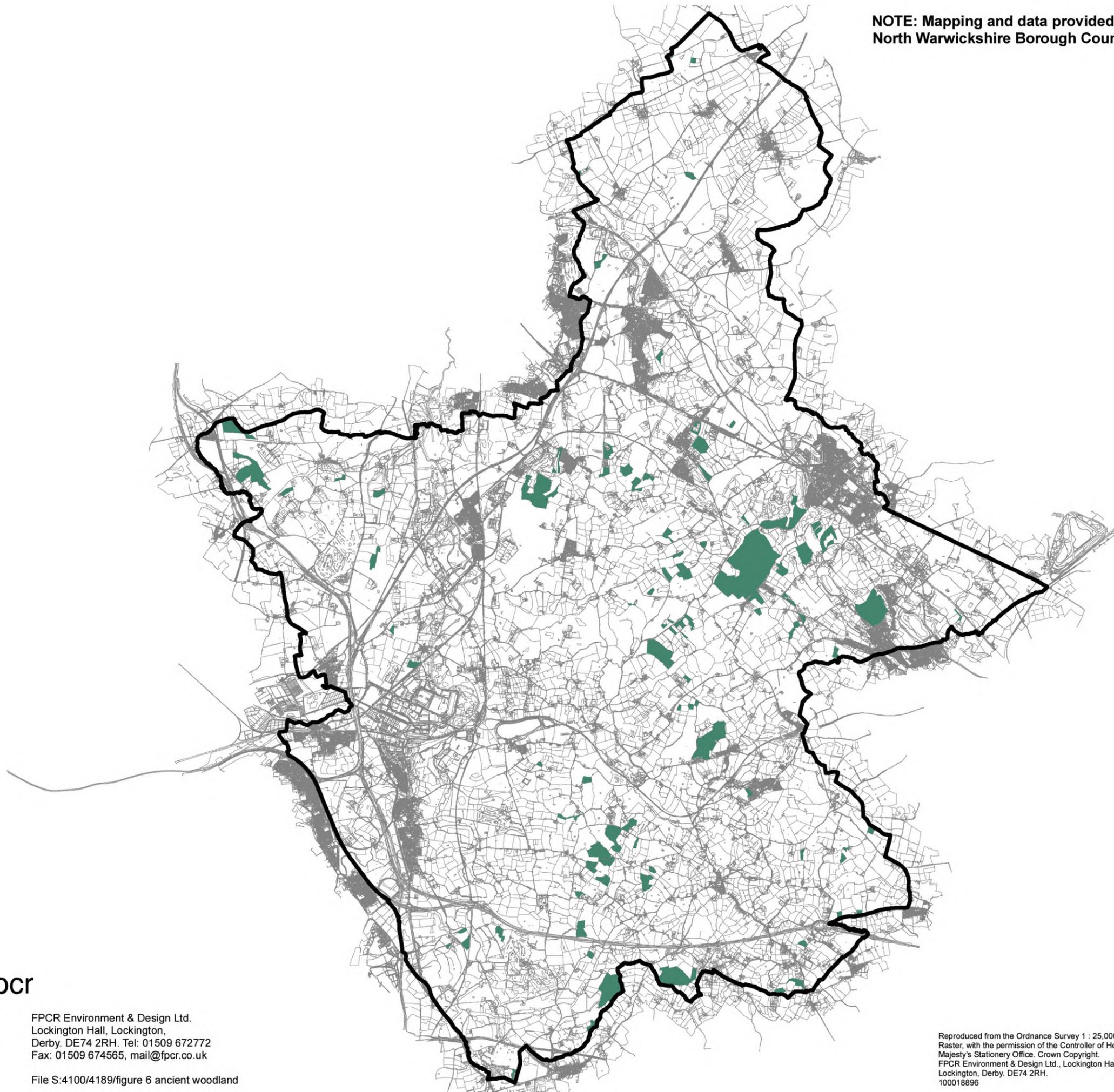
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File S:4100/4189/figure 5 flood zones

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North Warwickshire Borough boundary  
Ancient Woodlands

North Warwickshire Borough Council

North Warwickshire Landscape  
Character Assessment

Ancient Woodland

Figure 6

Scale 1:100,000 @ A3. August 2010

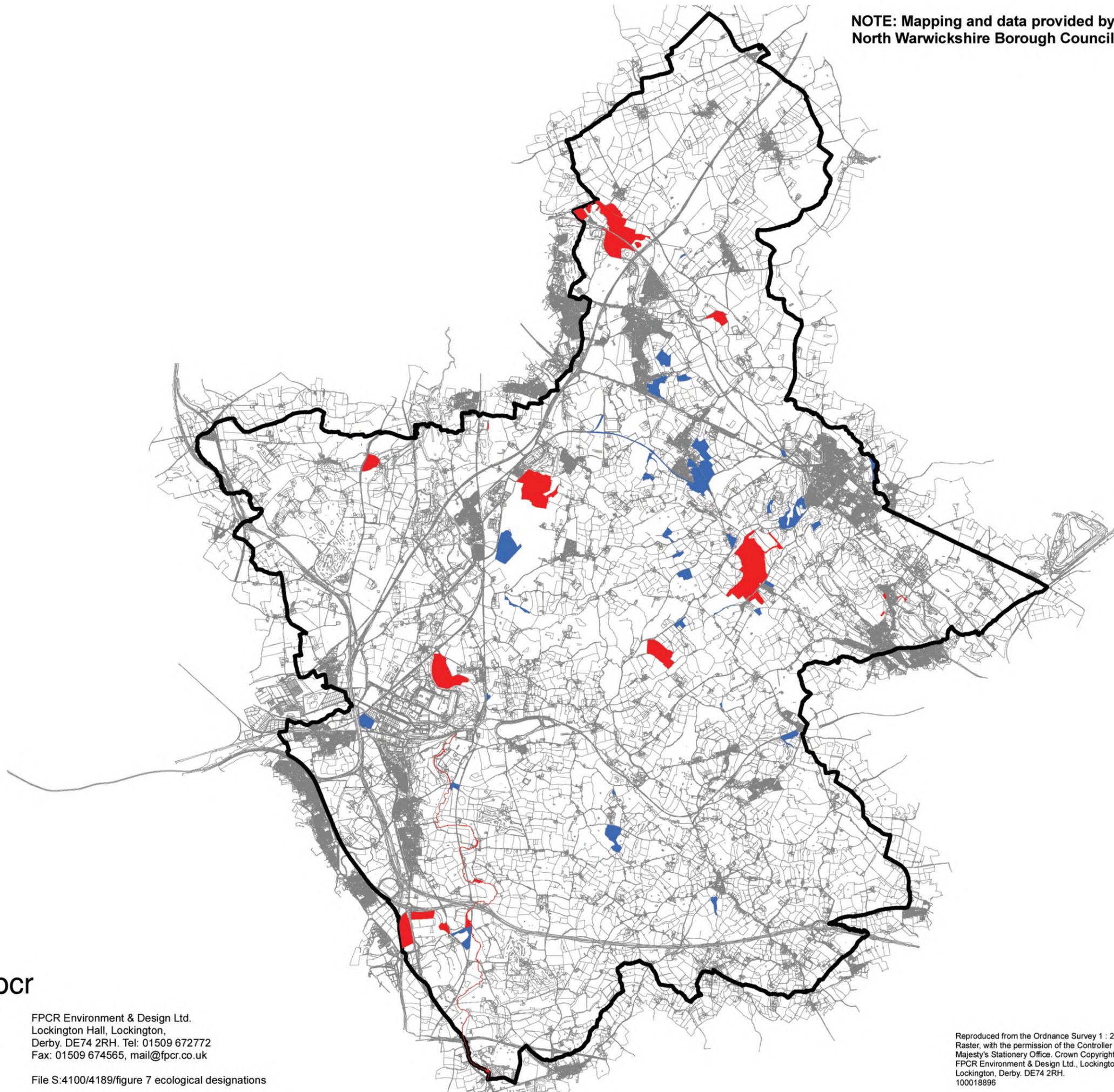
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File S:4100/4189/figure 6 ancient woodland

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- North Warwickshire Borough boundary
- SSSI
- SINC

North Warwickshire Borough Council

### North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment

### Ecological Designations

Figure 7

Scale 1:100,000 @ A3. August 2010

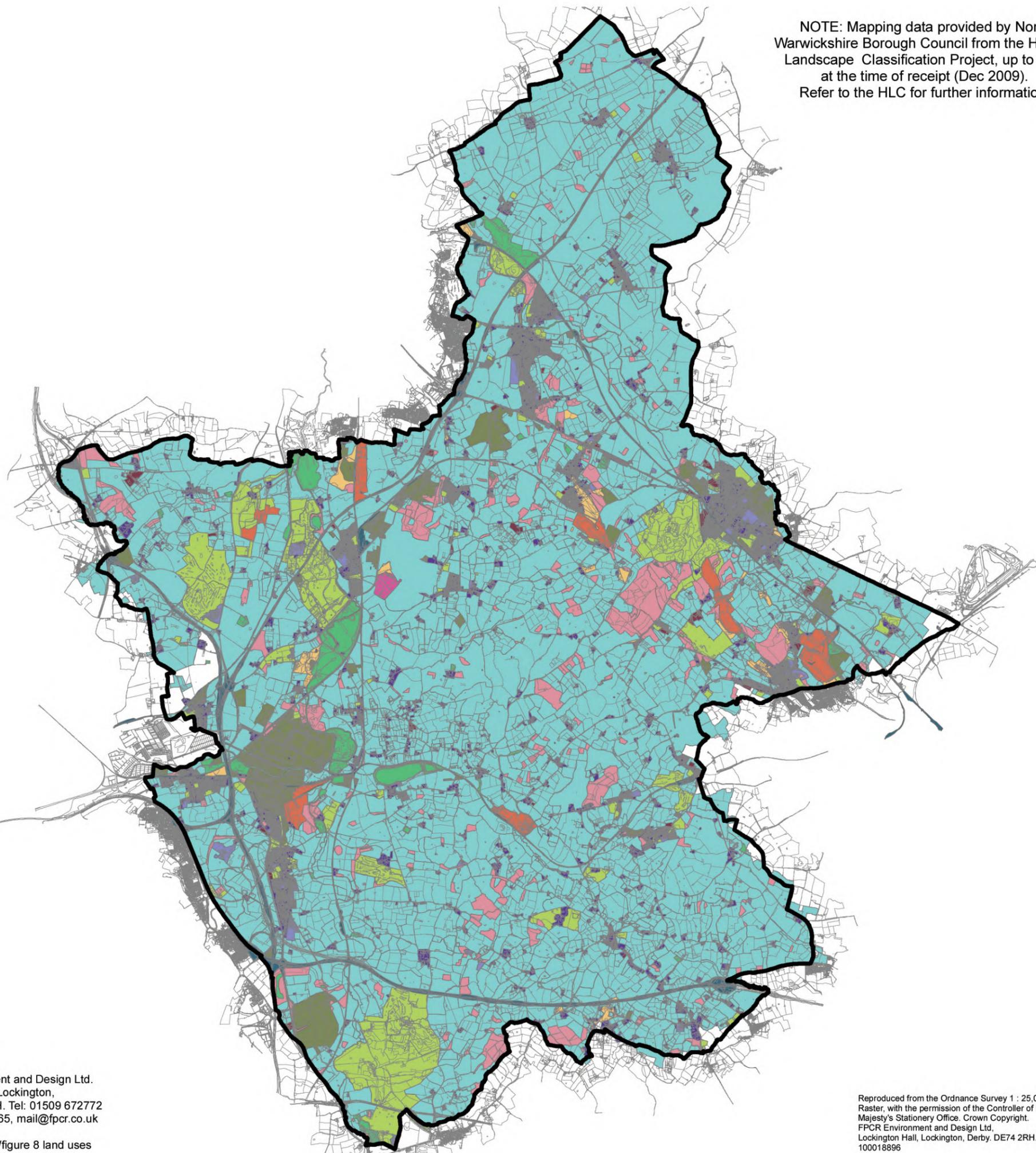
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File S:4100/4189/figure 7 ecological designations

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NOTE: Mapping data provided by North Warwickshire Borough Council from the Historic Landscape Classification Project, up to date at the time of receipt (Dec 2009). Refer to the HLC for further information.



- North Warwickshire Borough Boundary
- Civic and Commercial
- Designed Landscape
- Extractive
- Fieldscapes
- Industrial
- Military
- Orchards and Allotments
- Settlement
- Transportation
- Unimproved Land
- Water and Valley Floor
- Woodland

North Warwickshire Borough Council

**North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment**

**Land Uses**

**Figure 8**

Scale 1:100,000 @ A3. August 2010

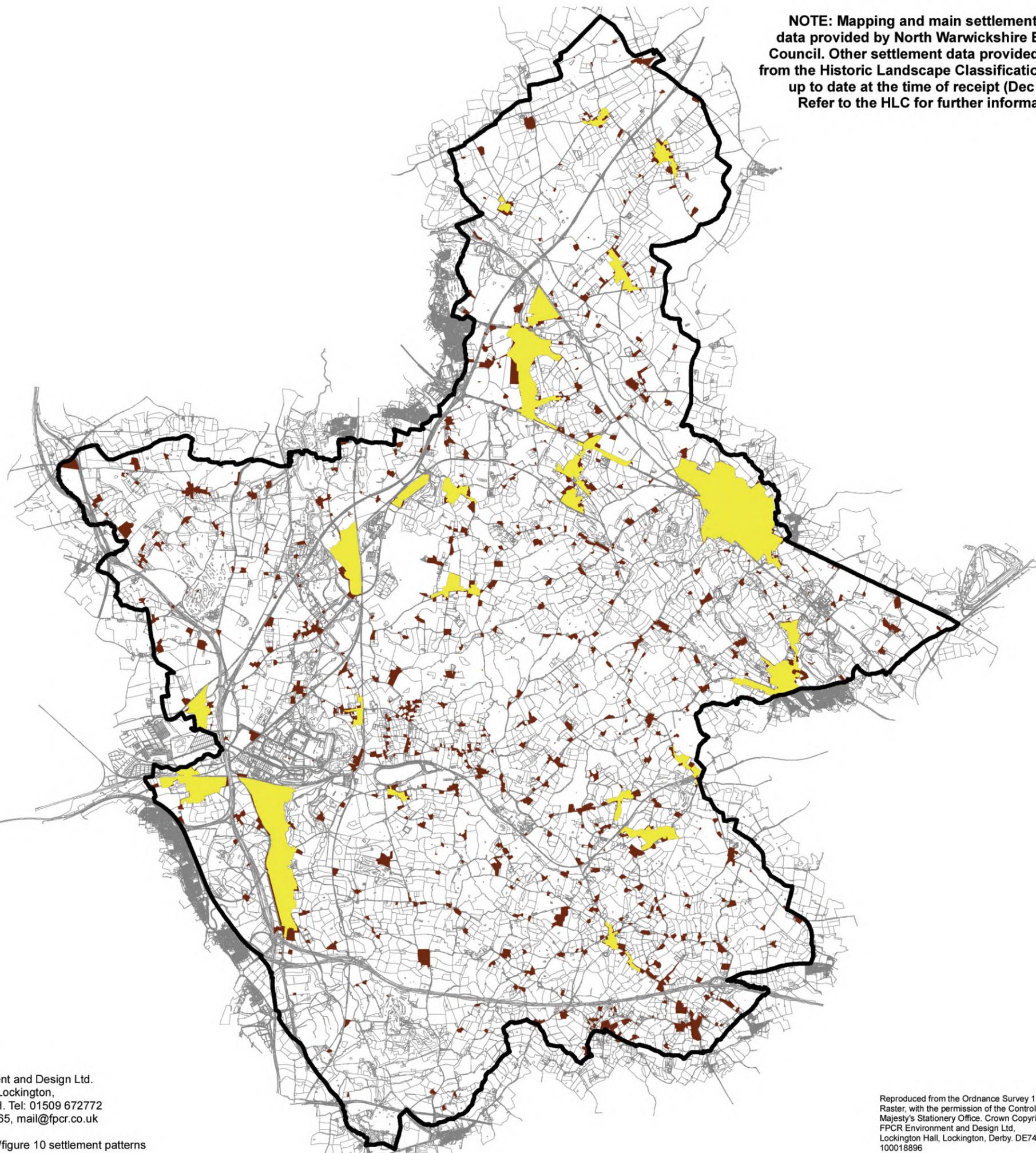
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File S:4100/4189/figure 8 land uses

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**NOTE: Mapping and main settlement areas data provided by North Warwickshire Borough Council. Other settlement data provided by WCC from the Historic Landscape Classification Project, up to date at the time of receipt (Dec 2009). Refer to the HLC for further information.**



-  North Warwickshire Borough Boundary
-  Main Settlement Areas
-  Other Settlement Areas

North Warwickshire Borough Council

**North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment**

**Settlement Patterns**

**Figure 9**

Scale 1:100,000 @ A3. August 2010

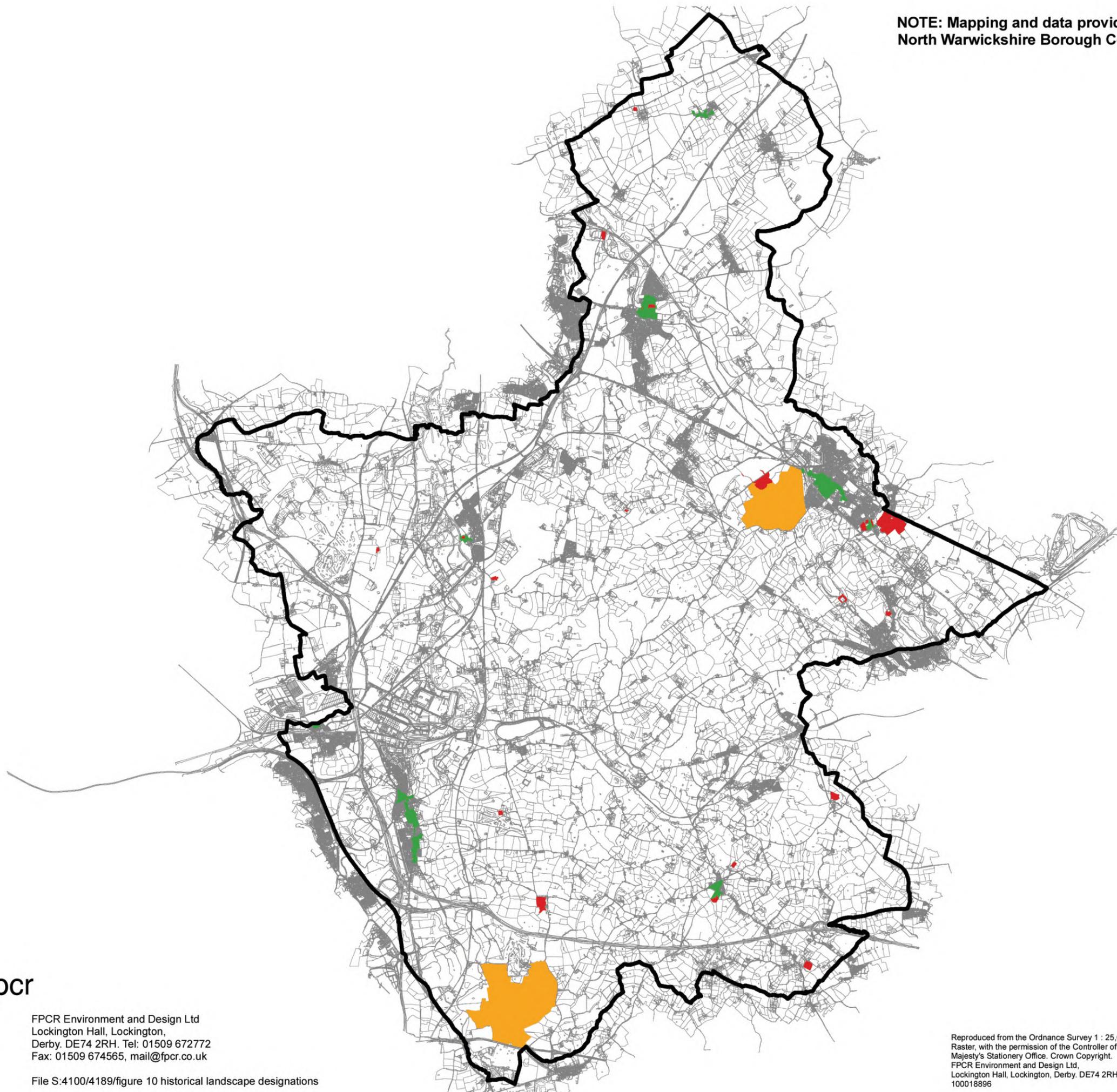
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File S:4100/4189/figure 10 settlement patterns

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NOTE: Mapping and data provided by North Warwickshire Borough Council



- North Warwickshire Borough boundary
- Historic Park and Garden
- Conservation Areas
- Ancient Monuments

North Warwickshire Borough Council

**North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment**

**Historical Landscape Designations**

**Figure 10**

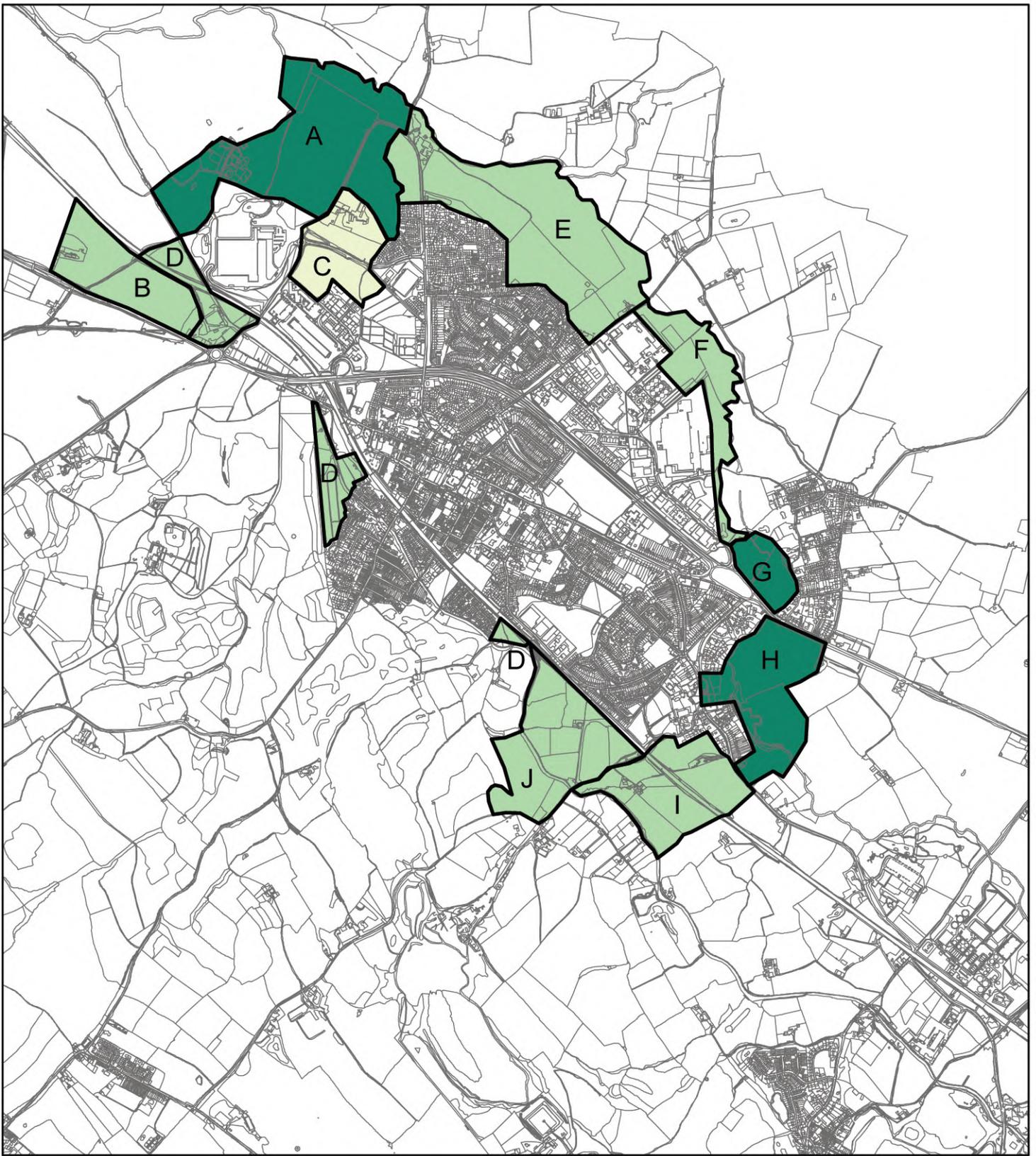
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File S:4100/4189/figure 10 historical landscape designations

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- Higher sensitivity
- Moderate sensitivity
- Lower sensitivity

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 Character Assessment**

**Landscape Sensitivity  
 Atherstone/Mancetter**

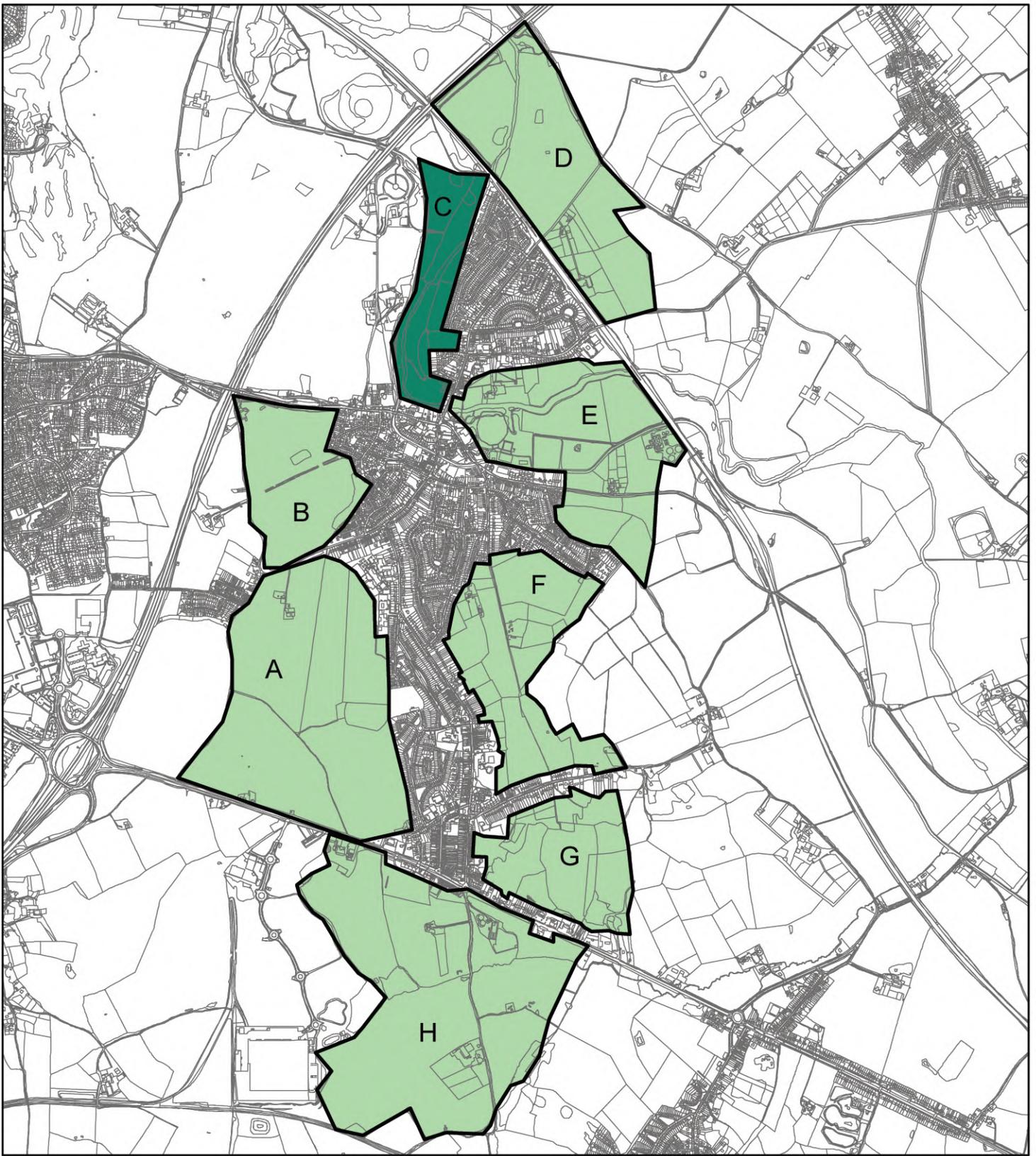
**Figure 12**

Scale 1:25000@A4. August 2010

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File: J:/4100/4189/GIS/fig 12- Atherstone and Mancetter



- Higher sensitivity
- Moderate sensitivity
- Lower sensitivity

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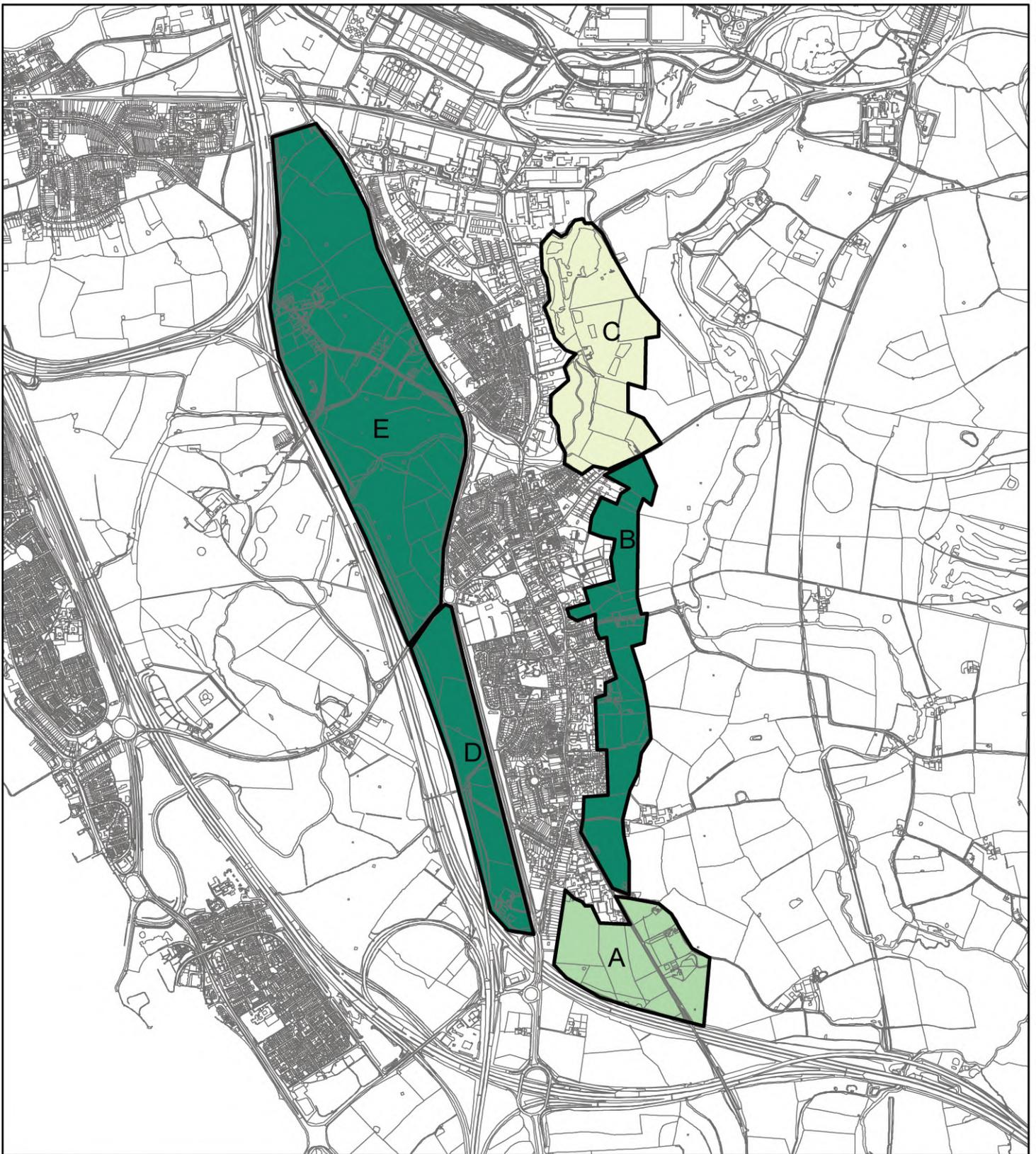


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**North Warwickshire Landscape  
 Character Assessment**

**Landscape Sensitivity  
 Polesworth/Dordon**

**Figure 13**

Scale 1:25000@A4. August 2010



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- Moderate sensitivity
- Lower sensitivity

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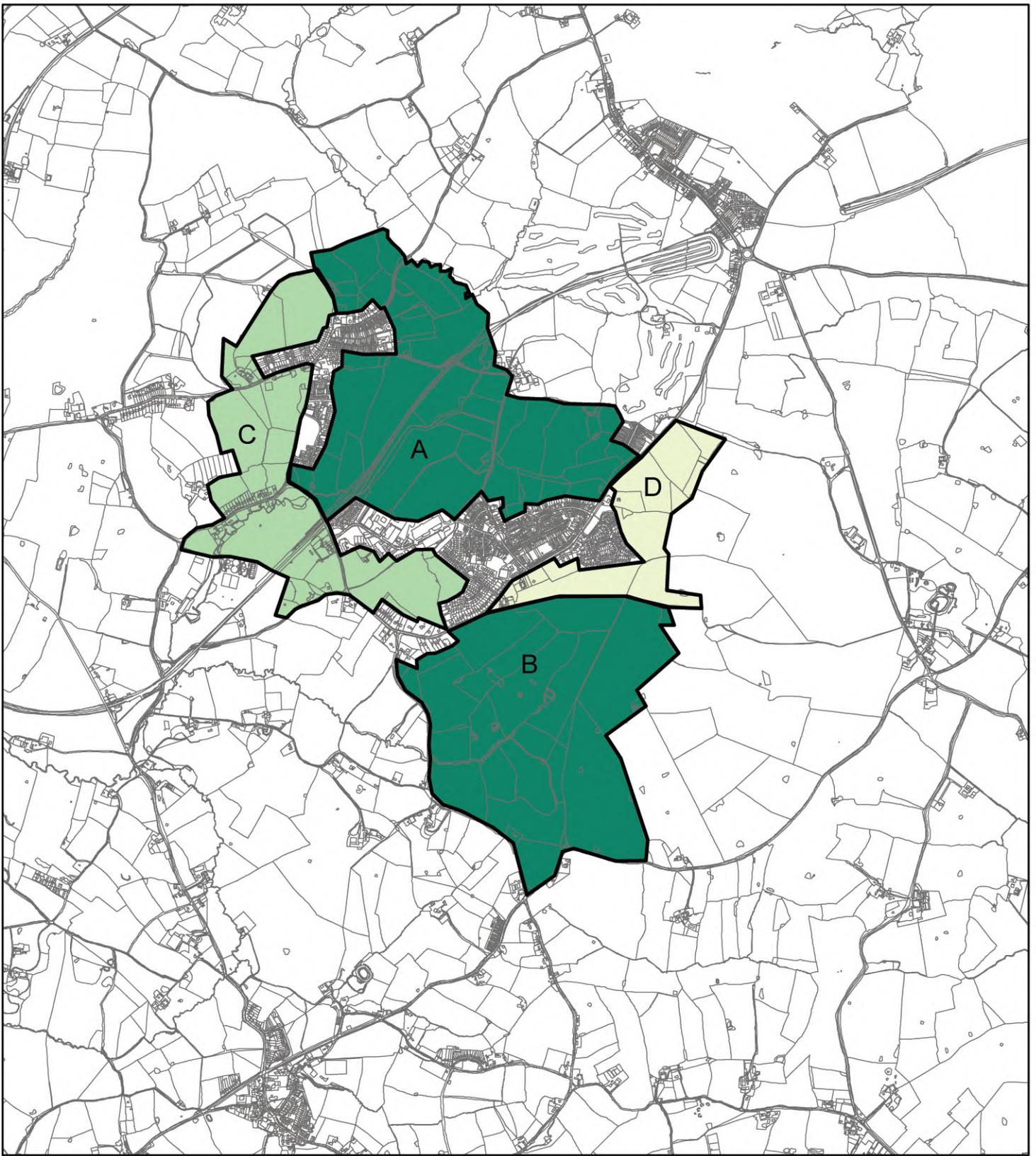


North Warwickshire Borough Council  
**North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment**

**Landscape Sensitivity Coleshill**

**Figure 14**

Scale 1:25000@A4. August 2010



- Higher sensitivity
- Moderate sensitivity
- Lower sensitivity

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North Warwickshire Borough Council  
**North Warwickshire Landscape  
 Character Assessment**

**Landscape Sensitivity  
 Old/New Arley**

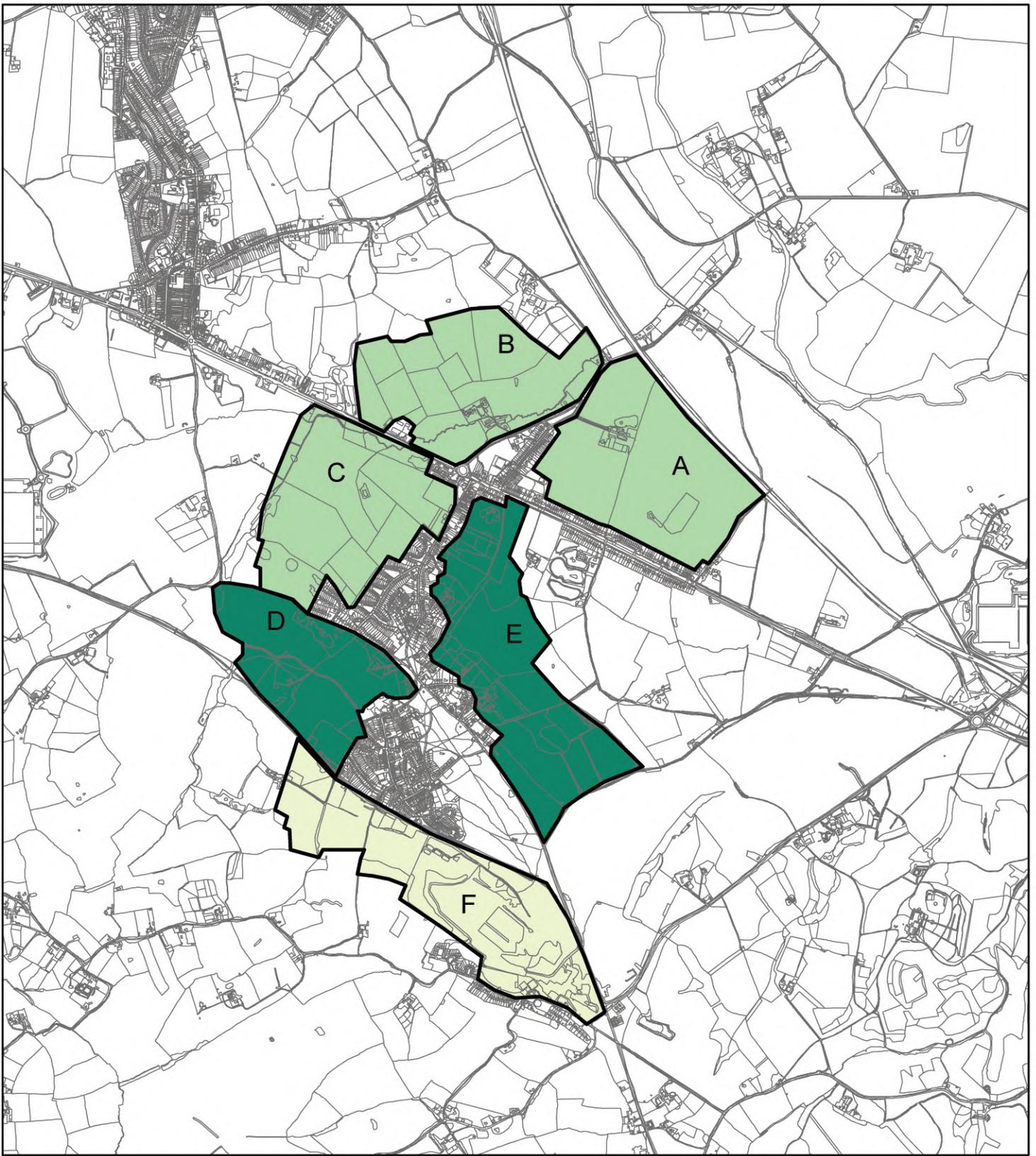
**Figure 15**

Scale 1:25000@A4. August 2010

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File: J:/4100/4189/GIS/Fig 15- Old and New Arley



- Higher sensitivity
- Moderate sensitivity
- Lower sensitivity

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North Warwickshire Borough Council

**North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment**

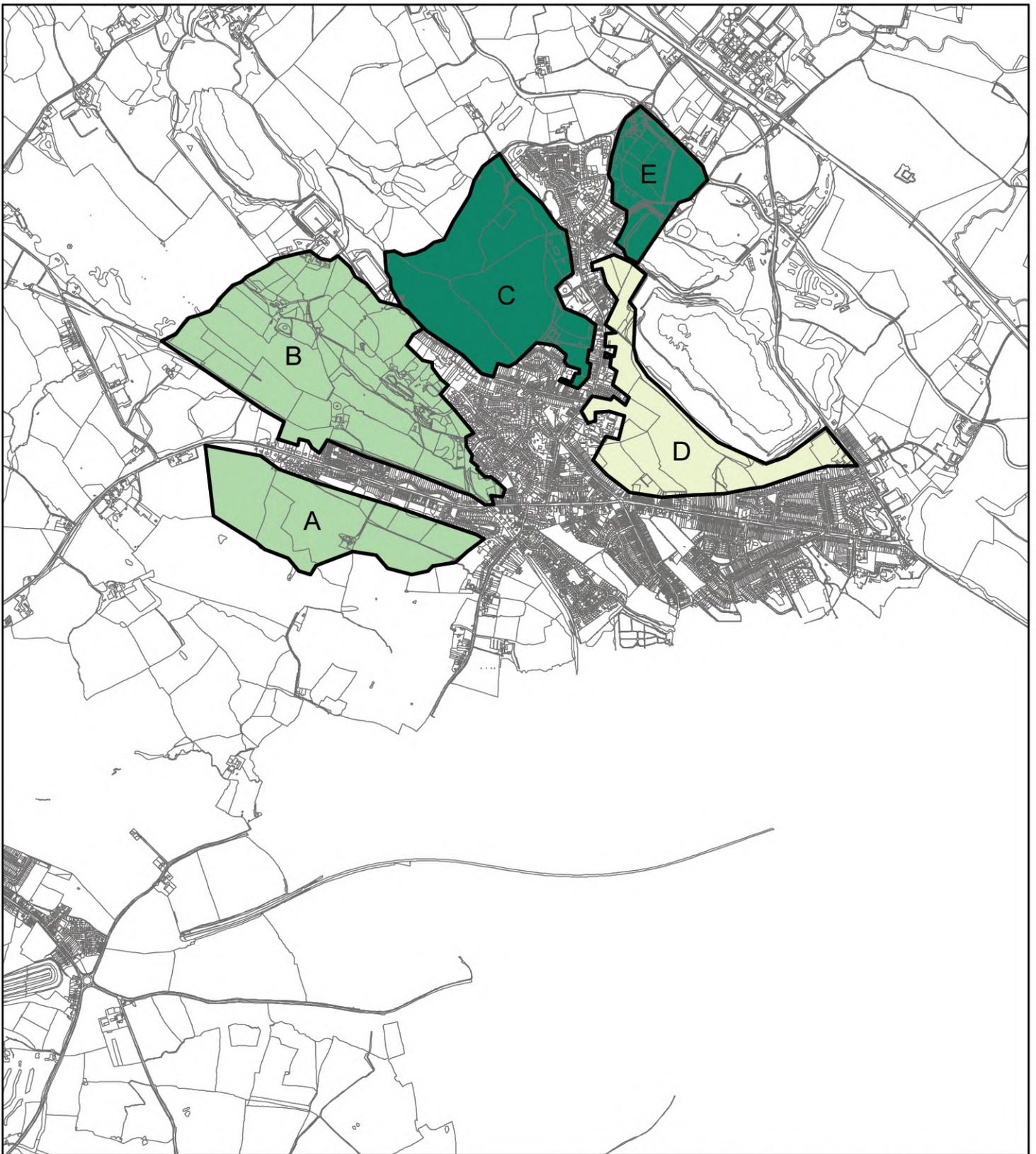
**Landscape Sensitivity Grendon/Baddesley Ensor Figure 16**

Scale 1:25000@A4. August 2010

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File: J:\4100\4189\GIS\Fig 16- Grendon and Baddesley Ensor



- Higher sensitivity
- Moderate sensitivity
- Lower sensitivity

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North Warwickshire Borough Council  
**North Warwickshire Landscape  
 Character Assessment**

**Landscape Sensitivity  
 Hartshill/Ansley Common**

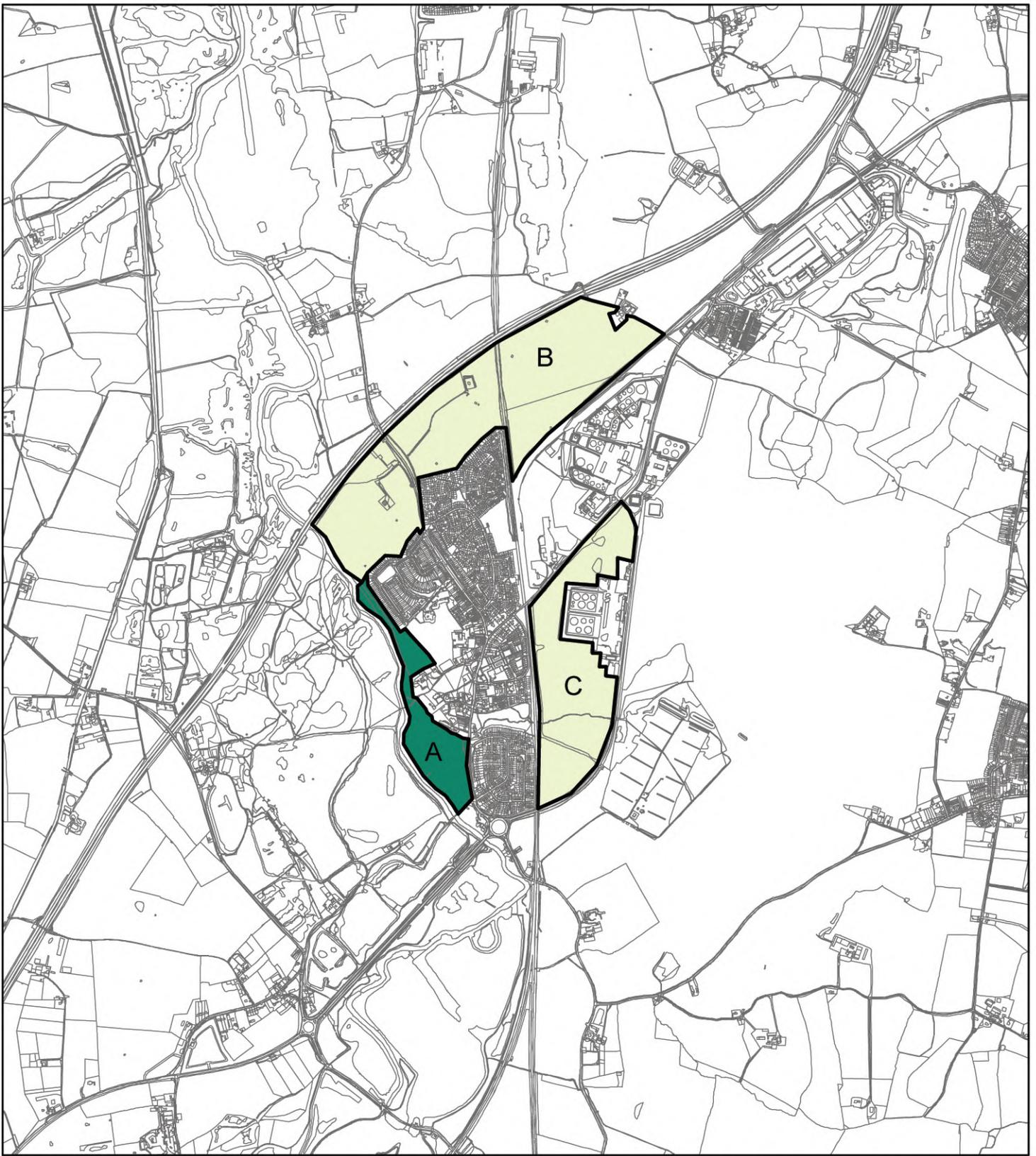
**Figure 17**

Scale 1:25000@A4. August 2010

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File: J:/4100/4189/GIS/Fig 17- Hartshill and Ansley Common



- Higher sensitivity
- Moderate sensitivity
- Lower sensitivity

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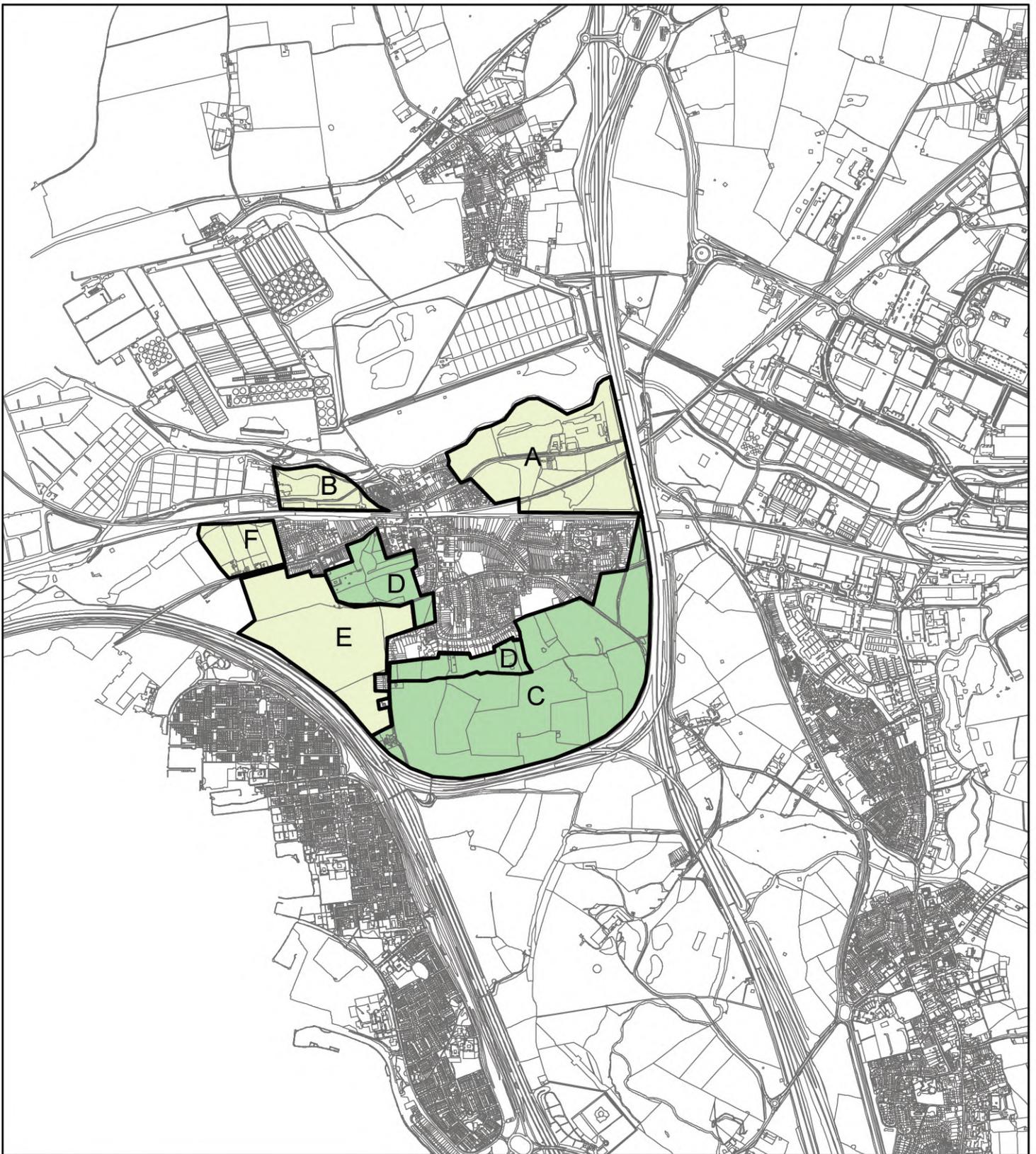


North Warwickshire Borough Council  
**North Warwickshire Landscape  
 Character Assessment**

**Landscape Sensitivity  
 Kingsbury**

**Figure 18**

Scale 1:25000@A4. August 2010



- Higher sensitivity
- Moderate sensitivity
- Lower sensitivity

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North Warwickshire Borough Council  
**North Warwickshire Landscape  
 Character Assessment**

**Landscape Sensitivity  
 Water Orton**

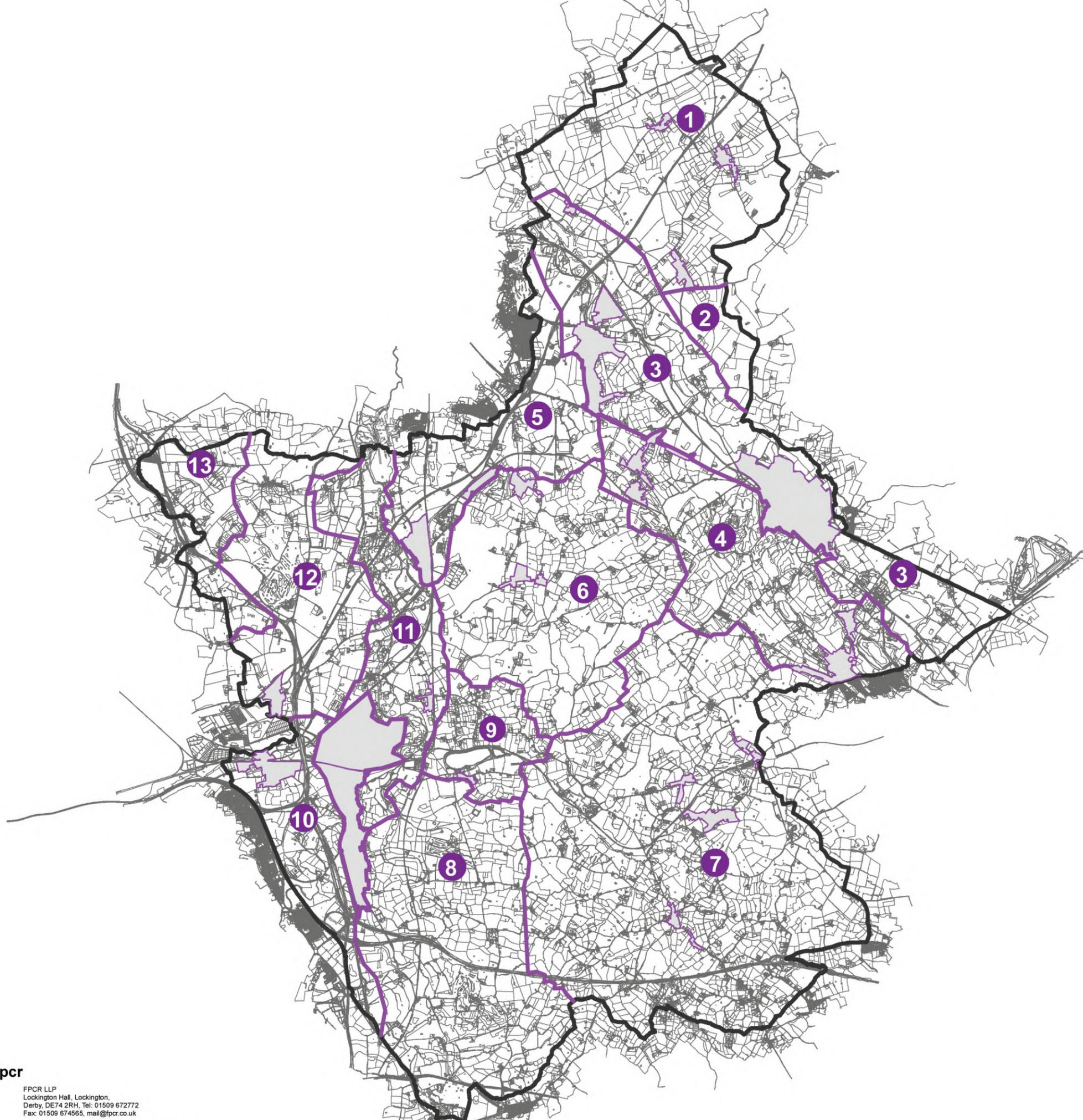
**Figure 19**

Scale 1:25000@A4. August 2010

**fpcr**

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File: J:/4100/4189/GIS/Fig 19- Water Orton



-  North Warwickshire Borough boundary
-  Proposed Landscape Character Area boundary
-  Current settlement area boundary

Landscape Character Areas

-  1 No Man's Heath to Warton Lowlands
-  2 Little Warton to Fields Farm-Fen Lanes
-  3 Anker Valley
-  4 Baddesley to Hartshill Uplands
-  5 Tamworth Fringe Uplands
-  6 Wood End to Whitacre Upper Tame Valley Farmlands
-  7 Church End to Corley Hills and Valleys
-  8 Blythe Valley Parkland Farmland
-  9 Hoggrill's to Furnace End Hamlets
-  10 Cole Valley
-  11 Tame Valley Wetlands
-  12 Middleton to Curdworth Tame Valley Farmlands
-  13 Wishaw to Trickley Coppice Wooded Uplands



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**North Warwickshire Landscape Character Assessment**

**Landscape Character Areas**

**Figure 11**

Scale 1:100000@A3. August 2010