

# Review of Landscape Character Assessment for Cannock Chase District



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on behalf of Cannock Chase Council

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Aim of study

Cannock Chase Local Plan (Part 1) was adopted on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014. It sets out strategic and development management policies for the District and includes the Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan covering the period up to 2028. Work is now commencing on Local Plan (Part 2) which will identify site-specific allocations as well as various standards to be applied in order to help deliver the strategic policy. It will help address Birmingham's housing needs, should this be necessary, either by identifying further capacity within the plan period or safeguarding land for development beyond the plan period. It will also safeguard land for development beyond the plan period to help meet future District needs. Local Plan (Part 2) will be informed by a Green Belt Review, prepared in 2016.

A Landscape Character Assessment of the District was produced in 2009 to inform production of Local Plan (Part 1). This review is a complete revision of that report and it updates the original Assessment in order to ensure the evidence can continue to provide a robust baseline to inform Local Plan (Part 2) and enable further scrutiny of particular areas in conjunction with the Green Belt Review. The study and supporting analysis will also assist the Council in identifying areas for landscape conservation, improvement or regeneration and in setting a baseline for the Council's future monitoring purposes.

Staffordshire County Council has recently produced a draft update of their Landscape Character Assessment which was originally used as supporting documentation for the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Structure Plan 1996. Cannock Chase Council wish to make use of this County Level update to inform their own LCA carried out in 2009. The aims of this second phase of work are:

- i. Updating information on the Landscape Character Types within Cannock Chase District.
- ii. Obtaining a more detailed breakdown of Landcover Parcels (subdivisions of Land Description units) at a District Level.
- iii. Integrating with the District Level Historic Landscape Characterisation as part of the Assessment.
- iv. Identifying landscape sensitivities to development in terms of conservation, enhancement and regeneration.

## 1.2 The Study Area

The following description of the Study Area (shown in Figure 1) is abridged from the Core Strategy Development Plan Document Issues and Options report. The continuous urban area of Cannock, Hednesford and Heath Hayes has a total population of 63,000 and the area contains, or is adjoined by, large areas of open space including Hednesford Hills, Mill Green, Hazelslade and Fair Lady Coppice. Rugeley and Brereton have a population of over 23,000 and they contain most of the historic built heritage in the District, having six conservation areas including the Trent and Mersey Canal. Norton Canes has a population of over 6,000 and there is good pedestrian and cycle access to Chasewater Country Park to the east.

The rural areas include Cannock Chase AONB which separates the urban area of Cannock, Hednesford and Heath Hayes from Rugeley and Brereton. The fringes of the AONB have a number of influences on the landscape relating to the area's mining history, agriculture and horse grazing. The AONB is also within the green belt, with the exception

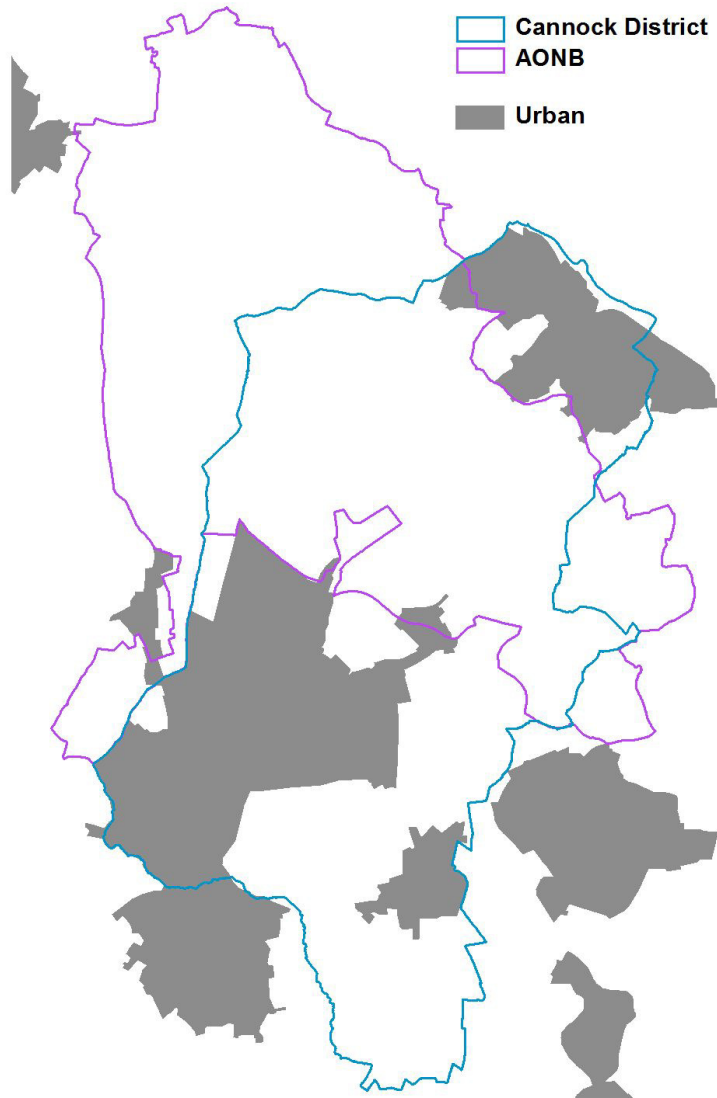
of the two villages of Slitting Mill and Cannock Wood and the suburb of Etching Hill. It contains the Cannock Chase SAC.

The Green Belt also extends east of Heath Hayes and north of Norton Canes, excluding Prospect Village. This area has been largely restored from former opencast mines, and it contains heathland, grassland and a designated SSSI.

The area east of Cannock, south of Heath Hayes and west of Norton Canes has been largely restored from opencast mining in the 1970's and 1980's and is all in the green belt. It contains several Sites of Biological Interest including Fair Lady Coppice Country Park. The Green Belt separates Cannock, Heath Hayes and Norton Canes.

The countryside south of the M6 Toll contains the hamlet of Little Wyrley and a few isolated dwellings and farms. All the land is in the Green Belt and is part of a larger area of green belt extending into South Staffordshire District to the west and Walsall MBC to the south and east. It contains the Cannock extension canal SAC.

Figure 1 Study Area



## 2. Landscape Character Assessment

### 2.1 Linking to the wider Landscape framework

The process of landscape characterisation involves a combination of desk study and field survey to systematically divide the countryside into discrete and relatively homogenous units of land, within which the constituent physical, biological and historical elements occur in repeating patterns and share certain aesthetic characteristics. These units of land, termed **Land description units (LDUs)**, are the building blocks of the landscape and they form the framework on which all subsequent evaluation and decision making is based. A countywide LDU framework was originally created for Staffordshire in 1999/2000, as part of a wider framework, which covered all of the West Midlands, the Peak District and adjoining parts of the East Midlands. This work was undertaken several years after completion of the original Staffordshire landscape typology, but was not used at the time to check the consistency of the existing landscape types, nor to update their boundaries.

More recent work in Shropshire demonstrated that the quality of LDU mapping can be considerably enhanced by using Historic Landscape Character (HLC) maps to confirm cultural boundaries. Cultural patterns do not always have clearly defined boundaries, but because there is usually a strong correlation with the underlying natural dimension of the landscape, these patterns can often be effectively mapped using the physiographic/ ground type units that emerge from the first phase of the LDU analysis. Where there is no obvious correlation, new divisions can be added to reflect variations in farm type, tree cover, or settlement pattern.

The original work in Cannock Chase District, carried out in 2009 used the existing Staffordshire landscape typology, supplemented by the county LDU framework. LDU boundaries were adjusted to follow map based features, such as roads and field boundaries. The codes defining each LDU were also checked and if necessary, amended. This resulted in the definition of a new landscape type (Planned Coalfield Farmlands) in the coalfield area during the LCA review of the District.

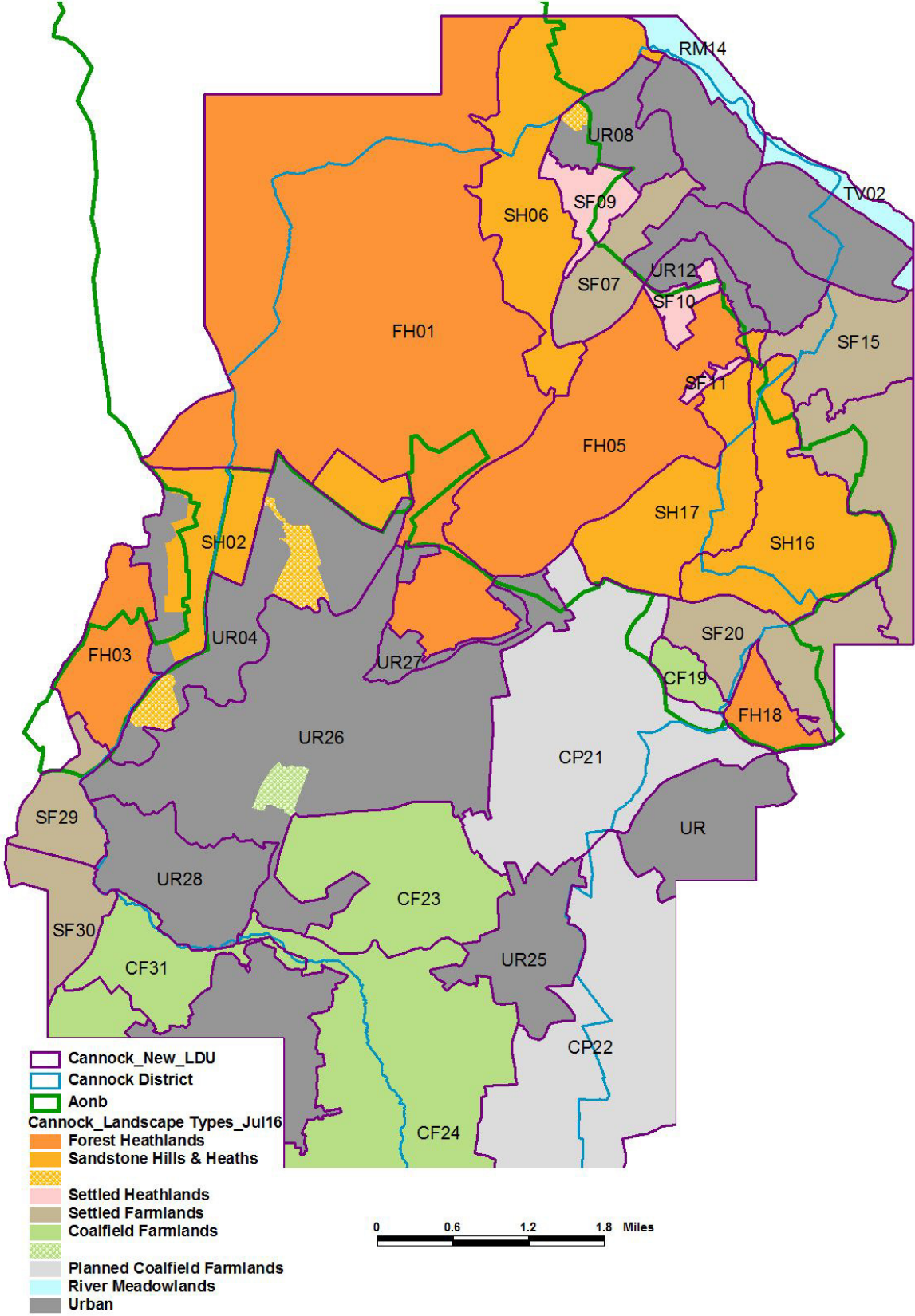
In 2013, a decision was made by the County Council to review the original Staffordshire landscape typology, This decision was partly related to the production an updated version of the LDU framework, that took account of the recently completed Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) of the county. This allowed the historic dimension of the landscape to be more fully integrated within the existing landscape typology. Once the LDU framework had been updated it was then used to review and refine the existing Landscape Character Type (LCT) boundaries. This was done by looking at the LCT boundaries laid on top of Natural and Cultural character overlays generated from the LDU framework. Many of the LCTs related to the pattern shown by the two overlays, while others required some analysis and change.

Fieldwork was then carried out to check, refine and develop (if necessary) the initial modifications to the LCTs that were identified during the desk study. The survey focused on aspects of the landscape that are difficult to achieve through desk based studies. The findings of the desk study and field survey were then brought together to produce a series of clear, attractive, well written and useful profiles for both the existing and new Landscape Character Types. Within the Cannock area this included a new core Forest Heathlands landscape, which encompassed all the remaining areas of unenclosed heath and a Settled Heathlands landscape to distinguish the smaller scale patches of farmland that were created by ongoing squatter enclosure of the former heathland area.

Figure 2 shows the revised pattern of Landscape Character Types within the study area. These act a context for the underlying Landcover Parcels (shown as fine purple lines), which provide a more detailed decision making unit for this study at the site level.



Figure 2 Landscape Types key plan – Oct 2016



## 2.2 Review of the 2009 LCP study

Land description units can be sub-divided into smaller Land Cover Parcels (LCPs), based on differences in land cover and historic pattern. The land cover analysis identifies features within each LDU, such as areas of parkland, larger woodlands, patches of disturbed land, smaller urban areas and other non-agricultural land. Such differences in land use were derived with reference to farm census information, parish boundaries, 1:25,000 OS base maps and satellite imagery to ensure that broad patterns of ownership, field pattern and landscape development were defined. The county based historic (HLC) analysis was also used to help identify historic parish boundaries and areas of farmland with different sizes/patterns of fields. Being sub-units of LDUs, Land Cover Parcels make it possible to assess the condition of the landscape at a more detailed site level. The LCP map covers the whole District, excluding the AONB / larger built up areas and extends into adjacent Local Authority areas where an overlap occurs.

Land Cover Parcels make it possible to assess the condition of the landscape at a more detailed site level. Being sub-units of LDUs, however, has made it necessary to edit the original Cannock LCP map in order to reflect the changes that have been made to the countywide LDU framework. These are shown in Figure 3, which not only indicates where changes have been made, but also the reason why such changes were necessary. The parcels highlighted in pale yellow show LDUs where there has simply been a change to the wider landscape typology, but no change to the boundaries of the LCPs themselves, nor the information that was used to define them. Parcels shown as orange reflect where it was necessary to alter the boundary of the LCP, while those coloured pink are completely new LCPs. Some of the latter represent new parcels on the other side of the District/AONB boundary, such as those to the north of the Cannock urban area, while others reflect changed LDU boundaries, as in the case of the area between Heath Hayes and Burntwood. The large area of change on either side of the A5 between Norton Canes and Cheslyn Hay largely reflects the impact of the new M6 toll road.

The new Landcover Parcel map (Figure 4) shows the current distribution of the 97 LCPs that have been mapped within the study area and this now replaces Figure 3 in the original report.

## 2.3 Defining a Vision for the future

The key to effective decision making is to have a **clear vision** from the outset of where you want to go. The character assessment and decision making process thus needs to be capable of making reasoned judgements, not only about the nature and pattern of key elements that contribute to the **character** of a particular landscape, but also about their **condition** and vulnerability to change.

The distinction between character and condition helps to focus the decision making process by providing a rational basis on which to assess the need and/or opportunities for enhancement. The aim should be to distinguish between those areas where the character of the countryside is particularly strong and where **conservation**, or **restoration** of the existing pattern should be a priority and other areas where the landscape is less distinct, or in poor condition and where there are opportunities for creating new landscapes and/or accommodating change. In practice, most landscapes will fall somewhere between these two extremes and the strategy will need to strike a balance between conservation and innovative design.



Figure 3 Overview of changes to Landcover Parcels – Oct 2016

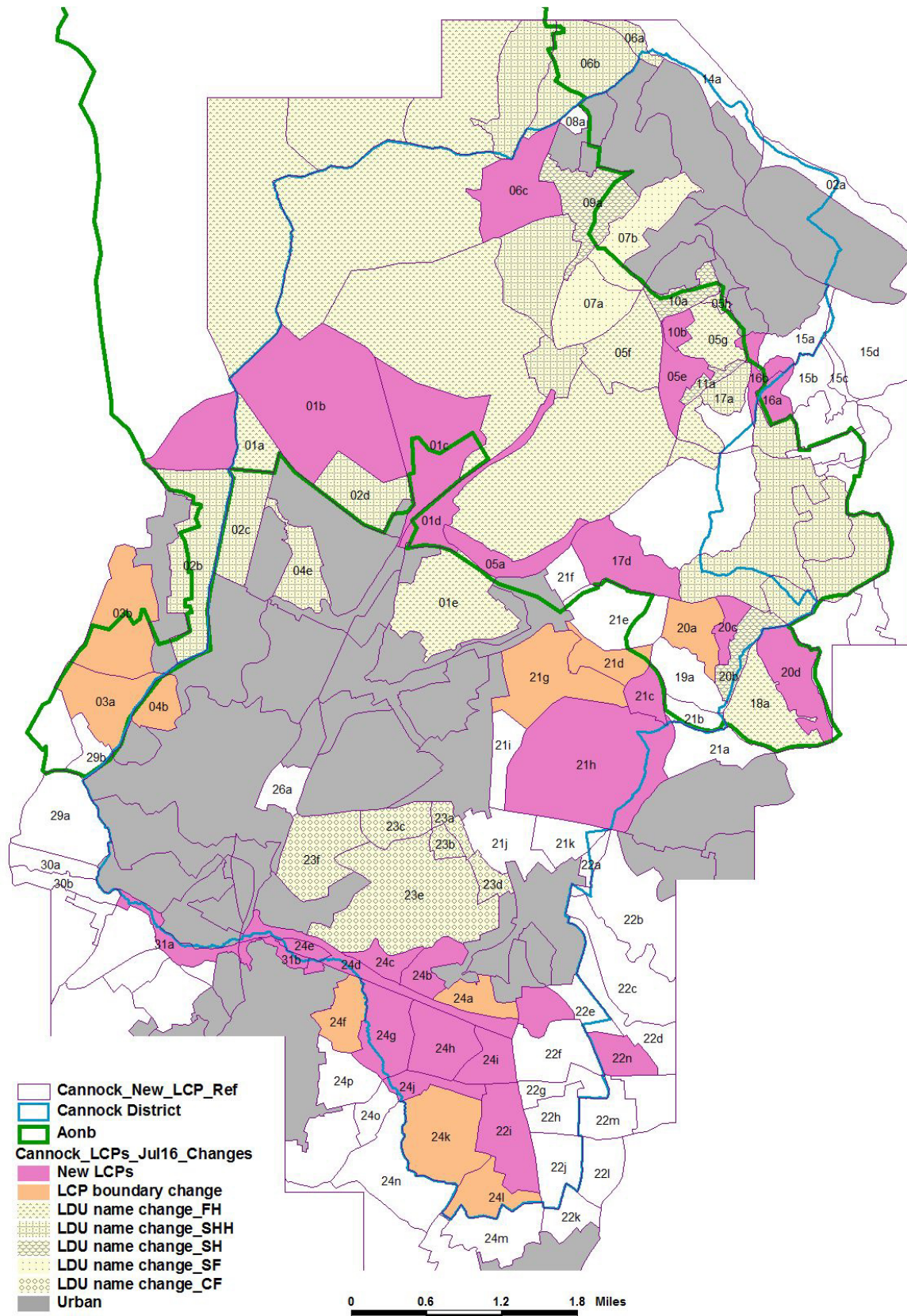
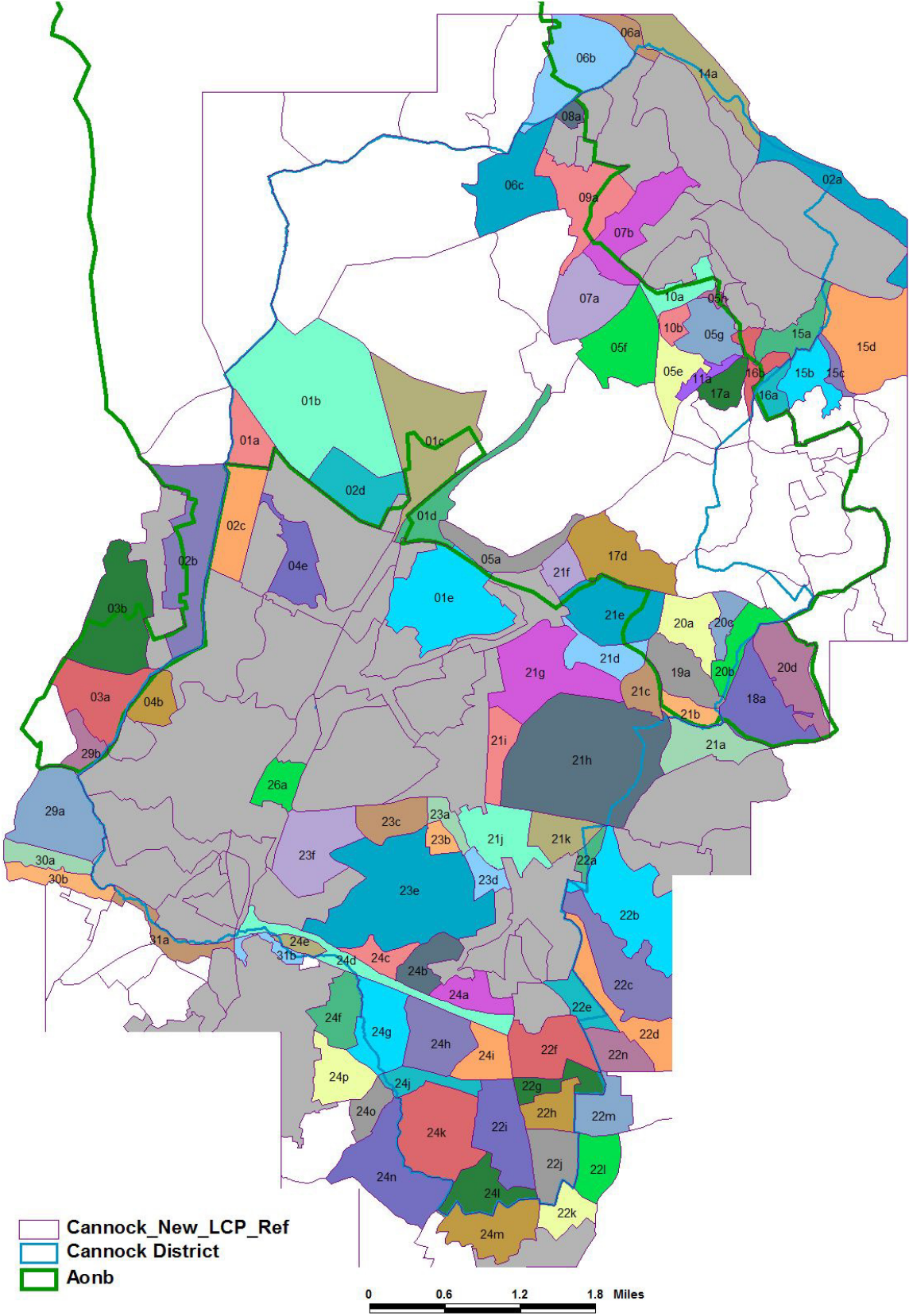


Figure 4 New Landcover Parcels – Oct 2016



**Strength of character** is closely related to both the natural and cultural dimensions of a particular landscape. Thus, upland/steeply sloping landscapes, or those that still retain significant areas of semi-natural vegetation (including ancient woodlands) usually have a stronger character than more gently rolling agricultural areas. Similarly, landscapes with **'time depth'** (ie. with a long a continuous history of evolution), together with those that are characterised by a **clear and consistent pattern** of key elements (tree cover, land use, settlement and field enclosure), also tend to have a stronger character than landscapes of more recent origin, or those that have fewer distinguishing features. The categories for scoring strength of character (both natural and cultural) are Strong, Moderate and Weak.

**Condition**, which should be clearly distinguished from character, is a measure of how far removed a landscape is from an 'optimal' state, where all the key characteristics are present and functioning. Condition, therefore, has a **functional** as well as a **visual** dimension. The latter reflects the degree to which the existing landscape pattern is visually fragmented, due to the loss of existing features, or the imposition of new features which appear 'out of place'. The functional dimension embraces a range of issues related to the ecological health of the countryside and the extent to which present day land use respects the inherent ecological/cultural character of the land. The categories for scoring functional integrity are Strong, Moderate & Weak and for visual impact, Low, Moderate & High.

A period of **Field Survey** followed the original mapping exercise to gather additional information on a standard field sheet for each LCP. Field survey built on the map analysis by providing essential information about the visual dimension of the landscape that could not be gained from the desk study. The primary function of the field survey was to identify the key characteristics that contribute to local distinctiveness and to gather information about the condition of the landscape, in particular the impact of recent change. The field survey was carried out by driving and walking along public roads, bridleways and footpaths and was originally undertaken in February 2009, using a referenced / numbered LCP desk study map. The field sheets were filled in at the time and photographs taken to record 'typical' conditions. Issues were assessed under the headings of field boundaries and trees; land use or land cover, ecological integrity and the impact of built development. Data from the field note sheets was subsequently recorded in a digital format. A summary analysis of the condition of the landscape within the study area is shown in **Figure 6**.

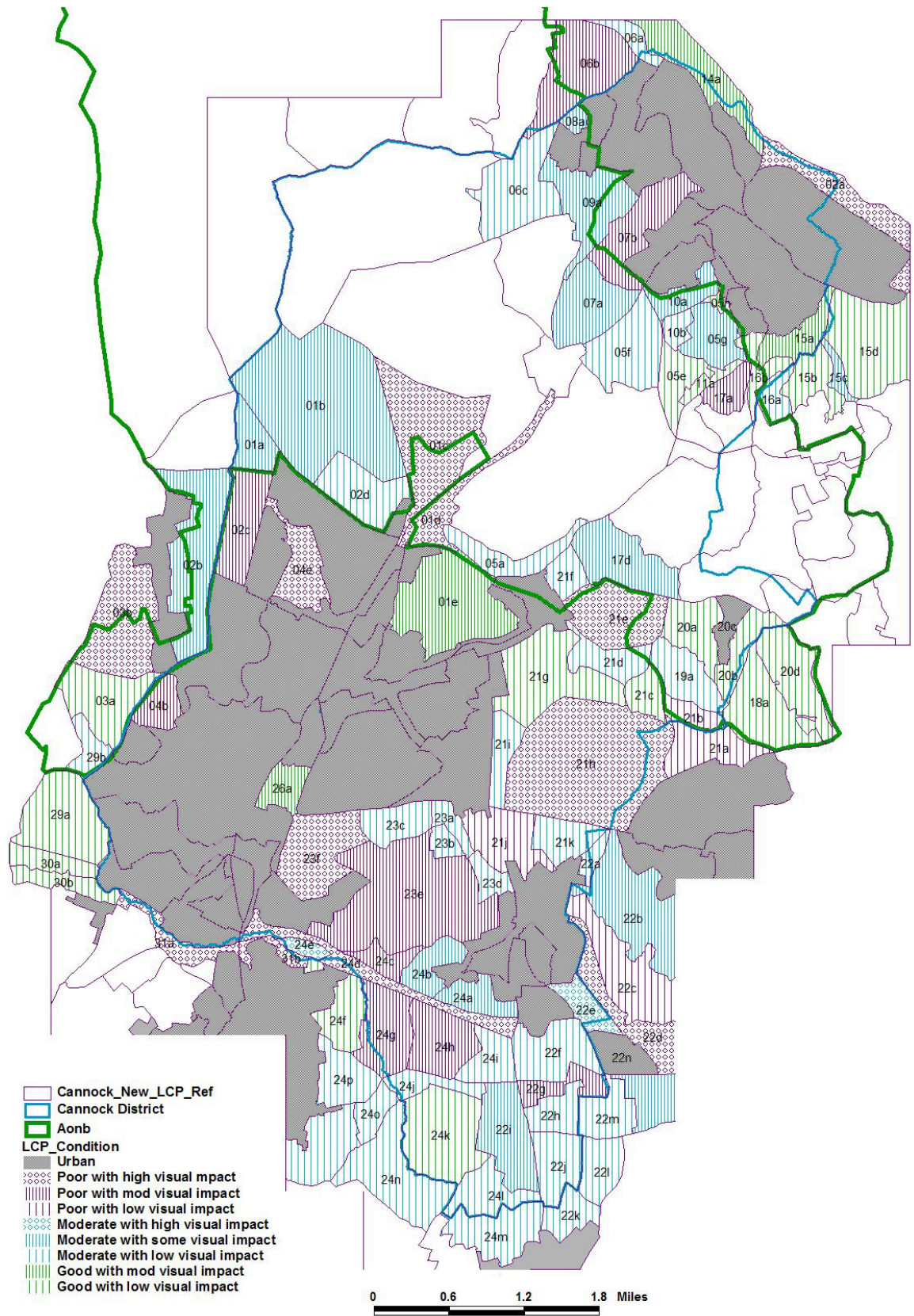
On completion of the field survey an analysis (Figure 5) of the strength of character and condition of each landscape was carried out to determine the direction in which management should proceed. The next step was then to translate the conclusions of this analysis into a **vision for the future**. The vision is made up of a **short statement** encapsulating the essence of what the strategy is trying to achieve. This is supported by a firm set of **proposals** that clearly set out how the vision could be achieved in practice.

Figure 5 Defining a Vision

<b>Condition</b>	Good	Strengthen	Conserve & Strengthen	Conserve
	Moderate	Strengthen & Enhance	Conserve & Enhance	Conserve & Restore
	Poor	Creation	Restore & Enhance	Restore
		Weak	Moderate	Strong
		<b>Character</b>		



Figure 6 Condition of the Landscape – Oct 2016



## 2.4 Sensitivity analysis

**Sensitivity mapping** was also undertaken as part of the desk study, using the cultural and physical attributes within the GIS database to map differences in the inherent ecological, cultural and visual sensitivity of the landscape. The evaluation of sensitivity was at LDU, not LCP level and therefore the grain of mapping reflected this. Our analysis of sensitivity is based upon the assumption that a landscape with a clearly defined and strongly unified character will be more sensitive to change by virtue of the fact that such landscapes are less able to accommodate 'alien' features that do not conform to the existing pattern. Thus, any analysis of sensitivity needs to look separately at the inherent character of the landscape, both ecological and cultural, and the visual experiential aspect. The categories for scoring both inherent and visual sensitivity are Very High, High, Moderate, Low & Very Low.

Ecological Sensitivity - most landscapes in the lowlands have been settled and improved for agricultural production and, as a result, any surviving semi-natural habitat is almost invariably associated with the cultural pattern (woodlands, field boundaries and other manmade features). The oldest - and by implication most sensitive - landscapes are those that still survive in a semi-natural state (i.e. heathland, moorland, etc.). Where such patches still survive they will increase overall sensitivity. The analysis is based on a set of critical assumptions:

- agriculturally marginal land (poor soil and steep slopes) is more likely to be of ecological interest than fertile agricultural land
- pastoral land is more likely to support ecological interest as a result of less intensive use than arable
- ancient wooded landscapes are more ecologically sensitive than those with more recent plantation woodlands

Cultural sensitivity - the inherent cultural sensitivity of a landscape is closely related to the nature and pattern of key elements that define the character of a particular landscape. Landscapes with 'time depth' (i.e. those that display a long and continuous history of evolution), together with those that are characterised by a clear and consistent pattern of key elements, tend to be more sensitive to change than landscapes of more recent origin, or those that have fewer distinguishing features. The measure of landscape continuity is derived by examining the scale and age of the landscape, the assumption being that small scale agricultural landscapes tend to be more sensitive to change than their larger scale counterparts.

Visual sensitivity - at a broad scale, visual landscape sensitivity relates to the openness of a landscape – a sloping, treeless landscape may be more sensitive to the visual impact of new development compared to a flat, more wooded landscape. The extent and pattern of woodland cover and characteristic landform (valley, rolling, steeply sloping, upstanding etc) are both attributes contained within the LDU database and these have been used to map visual sensitivity as part of the desk-study context.

### 3. A new decision making framework

Each Landscape Character Type is now described in turn to include a character description and summary of key characteristics, illustrated with a colour photograph; an evaluation of strength of character and a review of condition based upon an analysis of the Land Cover Parcels surveyed within each LDU; a vision statement offering guidelines for the future management of each landscape within the District; and finally an assessment of sensitivity, based on an analysis of the desk study data for each LDU.

A summary description of each Land Cover Parcel, set out in tabular format, is provided in Appendix 1. This includes information describing the ecological integrity, cultural integrity, impact of built development, condition, and key issues notes from site observations.

Seven landscape character types, derived from an analysis of the underlying Land Description Units, were defined within the District. These are based on the revised landscape types that were derived from the County Council's recent review of the countywide Landscape framework and they include:

***Forest Heathlands*** (New LCT)

***Sandstone Hills and Heaths*** (Formerly called Wooded Estatelands)

***Settled Heathlands*** (New LCT)

***Settled farmlands*** (Includes a small area of Settled Plateau Farmlands)

***Coalfield Farmlands***

***Planned Coalfield Farmlands*** (New LCT defined in original District LCA)

***River Meadowlands***

This report is organised by landscape character type, so that the District can relate the work to existing documentation such as the Supplementary Planning Guidance (Planning for Landscape Change) and the AONB Management Plan.



### 3.1 FOREST HEATHLANDS

An unenclosed, heavily wooded landscape with a varied, dissected topography. This landscape is characterised by semi-natural oak and birch woodlands, conifer plantations, and areas of open heathland. The association with heathland is a recurring visual and ecological theme, even in the most heavily wooded parts of the Chase. In places tracts of open heath create a strong impression of spaciousness and a sense of wildness.



#### Key Characteristics

- Convex slopes with small incised valleys
- Commons and unenclosed land with patches of heathy vegetation
- Oak and secondary birch woodland and scrub over heathland
- Conifer plantations and shelter belts
- Straight roads and a regular pattern of medium to large sized fields
- Horse pastures with wire fences and associated timber stables
- Former coal mining tips
- Urban development with abrupt edges facing countryside
- Sand and gravel mineral workings

#### Overall character

The Forest Heathlands is very much associated with the high plateau of Cannock Chase, where the underlying Pebble beds have weathered to produce a deeply dissected topography characterised by domed summits with convex slopes and small incised valleys. The areas that have been surveyed, which occur around the periphery of the AONB, have historically been derived from the heathland and still retain a strong heathy character.

One of the distinguishing features of this landscape are the sandy, free draining soils derived from the underlying Pebble beds, which historically posed a major constraint to land use and even today this landscape continues to be dominated by woodland and

heath. Commercial forestry plantations are a dominant feature within the Forest Heathlands, typically comprising large blocks of Scots and Corsican pines, forming an ordered pattern within the more natural and diverse heathland setting. Semi-natural oak and birch woodlands occur in places, but it is the association with heathland that provides the recurring visual and ecological theme throughout this landscape. Patches of a diverse, often unexpectedly rich mix of heathy vegetation survive in a number of places, for example at Shoal Hill, Chetwynd Coppice and in the Hednesford Hills. These areas are well used and locally valued by the urban population of the District.

Although this is largely an unsettled landscape, historic industrial activity is evident with furnaces, slitting mills and forges associated with post-medieval iron working. Evidence of coal mining activity is abundant throughout the area, with rows of terraced housing backing onto remnant heathland in a number of places. There are many informal and designated accessible footpaths, bridleways and former mineral line routes leading from housing areas towards the open hills and heaths. This network of green spaces and informal routes is typical of this locally distinctive landscape.

### **Strength of Character**

Natural: strong      Cultural: moderate

**Overall: strong**

The undulating topography and remnant heathy character both contribute to a relatively strong natural dimension of the Forest Heathlands landscape. The cultural pattern is more variable and includes remnants of an ancient, unsettled wildland within a more recent heavily forested, but strongly unified landscape.

### **Condition**

**Overall: moderate**

This is a landscape that has undergone widespread change over the last century, changing from an open heathland to a wooded heathland character. It has also been subject to localised mineral extraction and urban expansion, mostly around the edges of the Chase. As a result, the margins of this landscape often comprise a collection of fragments, with little overall unity. Evidence of historic coal mining activity can be seen in many places, in particular where this has modified the shape of the land at Huntington and adjacent to the Cannock Chase Enterprise Centre.

**FH01/05:** Overall this landscape comprises areas of surviving heath within a setting of forestry plantations on former heathland areas. Other areas are also used for recreation land, horse grazing and former mineral extraction sites around the periphery of the AONB. Overall this is a landscape in moderate condition, where recent developments have had a mainly insignificant, localised visual impact. Areas affected by mineral workings have experienced the most significant change in condition. This area retains a mainly moderate to strong functional integrity, despite a decline in the habitat network due to afforestation and the impact of built development adjacent to many parcels.

**FH03:** This is a landscape unit that contains two contrasting parcels of land, one that comprises an historic area of wooded heath and an adjoining degraded area of gravel pits and a large spoil heap from the former coal mine at Huntington. The latter has partially regenerated into secondary woodland and scrub.

**FH18:** Gentleshaw Common is an area of managed heathland in Lichfield District, immediately east of Cannock Wood. It is a landscape in good condition with a strong habitat network and surviving cultural pattern.

## Landscape Condition Table

LDU Ref	Extent of change	Magnitude of change	Visual impact	Habitat network	Cultural pattern	Functional integrity	Overall Condition
FH01a (was SH01f)	Widespread	Moderate	Moderate	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Moderate
FH01b	Widespread	Moderate	Moderate	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Moderate
FH01c (was SH01h)	Widespread	High	High	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Poor
FH01d (was SH01h)	Widespread	High	High	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Poor
FH01e (was SH01i)	Localised	High	Moderate	Intact	Intact	Strong	Good
FH03a (was SH05a)	Insignificant	Moderate	Low	Intact	Intact	Strong	Good
FH03b (was SH05b)	Widespread	High	High	Declining	Relic	Moderate	Poor
FH05a (was SH01m)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Moderate
FH05e	Insignificant	Low	Low	Intact	Intact	Strong	Good
FH05f	Insignificant	Low	Low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Good
FH05g (was SH01)	Insignificant	Low	Low	Intact	Intact	Strong	Good
FH05h (was SH01)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Moderate
FH18a	Insignificant	Low	Low	Intact	Intact	Strong	Good

### Vision Statement

### ***Overall strategy: conserve & restore***

**FH01/05:** Conserve and restore the former heathland character of the landscape, and in particular monitor the impact of horse grazing on pastoral land. Encourage positive management of remaining broadleaved woodlands/trees and promote regeneration of birch and oak woodland on land affected by mineral workings. Buffer the edges of conifer plantations using broadleaved species where practical. Take opportunities for improving linkages and access to the AONB from urban areas without creating undue pressures on the protected landscape.

**FH03:** Conserve the locally valued heathland on Shoal Hill in consultation with the public and volunteer bodies. Carry out management plan actions where needed. In conjunction with managing the existing heath, seek to initiate a landscape enhancement scheme on the adjoining degraded area to create a major new area of heathland as an extension to the existing site on Shoal Hill.

**FH18:** Conserve this locally valued heathland feature in consultation with the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, public and volunteer bodies.

Future vulnerabilities include pressures to develop fringe agricultural land for housing as at Huntington. In these sites, the visual impact of developing on open convex slopes should be fully assessed and any development should be closely integrated with the topography in order to keep housing to the lower, less prominent slopes. Opportunities should also be sought to create new areas of heathland on open spaces adjacent to housing to strengthen the heathland character, rather than create a close mown urban park.

## Sensitivity

The Forest Heathlands has a high inherent sensitivity relating to the strong heathland character that defines the natural dimension of the landscape. Although fragments of the ancient, open heathland still survive, these form only part of the wider forest landscape, which despite being strongly unified, has a much shorter time depth and this reduces the overall sensitivity of the cultural dimension of the landscape. Despite the undulating landform, visual sensitivity is also low due to the prominence and containment of the woodlands.

### Landscape Sensitivity Table

LDU Ref	Ground type	Land cover	Continuity	Consist - ency	Inherent sensitivity	Landform	Tree cover	Visibility
FH01 (was SH01)	Marginal	Wooded /rough	Ancient	Variable	High(Nat)	Apparent	Framed	Low
FH03 (was SH05)	Marginal	Wooded /rough	Ancient	Variable	High(Nat)	Prominent	Framed	Moderate
FH05 (was SH01)	Marginal	Wooded /rough	Ancient	Variable	High(Nat)	Prominent	Framed	Moderate
FH18	Restricted	Wooded /rough	Ancient	Unified	Very high	Prominent	Filtered	High

### 3.2 SANDSTONE HILLS & HEATHS (WOODED ESTATELANDS)

A well wooded landscape with an upstanding, in places steep sided, undulating topography, closely associated with outcrops of Triassic rocks, where impoverished sandy soils predominate. Patches of heathland vegetation still remain in places, but more often they have been planted with coniferous woodland, or converted to intensive arable cultivation / stock rearing. Most of the farmland is enclosed by a regular pattern of medium to large sized, hedged fields, often framed by conifer plantations and occasional ancient woodlands. This is a landscape of large estates, including parts of Wolseley and Hagley Park, where settlement is generally dispersed, comprising estate farms and scattered roadside dwellings. The woodland framework creates a strong sense of enclosure and helps to screen views of encroaching urban development in many places.



#### Key characteristics

- Upstanding/undulating topography, with occasional steep sided valleys
- Impoverished sandy soils with patches of bracken and gorse
- Medium to large scale open, cultivated landscape
- Well wooded landscape with a strong sense of visual enclosure
- Estate farms with a regular pattern of large hedged fields
- Well defined urban edges adjacent to the countryside
- Sparsely settled, in places remote landscape with limited public access

#### Overall character

Like the Forest Heathlands, the Sandstone Hills and Heaths is very much associated with the underlying Permo-Triassic Pebble beds. These form the heavily dissected high plateau of Cannock Chase. The sandstones have weathered to produce a deeply dissected topography characterised by flat summits, convex slopes and small incised valleys. Most of these summits lie above 150 metres and provide many fine views over the adjoining rolling

lowland countryside. One of the distinguishing features of this landscape are the sandy, free draining soils, which range in character from shallow podzols to deeper loams developed on some of the sandstones. Leaching is a problem on all of these soils, which historically posed a major constraint to land use and until relatively recently this landscape continued to be dominated by woodland and heath. Heathland only survives as fragmented patches of heathy vegetation, while commercial forestry plantations, typically comprising large blocks of Scots and Corsican pines, together with areas of cultivated land, are now the dominant land use. Patches of semi-natural oak and birch woodland also occur in places providing ecological diversity. It is the associated heathland indicators, however, including bracken and patches of heather that are an ever present reminder of the underlying free draining, acidic soils, and which provide a recurring visual and ecological theme throughout this landscape.

The Sandstone Hills & Heaths has undergone several stages of development and today supports an estate landscape of mixed arable and pastoral farming, that is largely contained within the heavily wooded landscape framework. Large estate farms, set within a planned enclosure pattern of medium sized and larger hedged fields, are a feature of this landscape. Some of these estates were associated with earlier deer parks, such as that at Beaudesert, the former palace of the Bishop of Lichfield.

The settlement pattern is generally dispersed, with a scatter of expanded hamlets linked by occasional minor roads that give access via private trackways to outlying farmsteads. There is a mixture of farmstead types reflecting the different stages of land enclosure. These include regular courtyard farmsteads associated with settlements. Vernacular buildings are generally of red brick and plain clay tiles.

### **Strength of Character**

Natural: moderate

Cultural: weak

**Overall: moderate**

In the Sandstone Hills & Heaths both the natural and cultural dimensions of the landscape contribute to an overall moderate strength of character. The former reflects a relatively prominent landform with patches of semi-natural vegetation, whilst the cultural dimension, although fairly coherent, is relatively recent in origin and thus contributes less to the overall character of the landscape.

### **Condition**

**Overall: moderate**

Arable intensification has been a recent trend, resulting in the enlargement and in some places a loss of the field pattern. Where hedgerows remain they tend to be gappy, or redundant and in places they have been replaced by wire fences. There are increasing urban pressures from residential development and in a number of places there is a hard edge to the urban development, with little or no buffer between the housing and the countryside.

**SH02:** This area comprises relic patches of farmland within and around the urban fringe on the south western edge of Cannock Chase. Apart from on the rising ground to the east of Huntington, little remains of the original regular pattern of fields, whilst the habitat network, for the most part, is also in decline. The hard urban edge is also fairly prominent throughout much of this area, except where it is screened by woodlands.

**SH06** (was WE07): An area of mainly arable farmland lying around the western fringe of Rugeley. Part of the land is in Green Belt, and part is outside of the District. Overall the landscape is in moderate to poor condition as a result of arable intensification, leading to a decline in the field pattern. The urban edge also has a moderate visual impact in places.



**SH16:** An area that includes part of the former deer park associated with Beaudesert Old Park. The two parcels, which lie beyond the northern boundary of the Park, include a zone of wooded farmland extending up to the southern edge of Rugeley. Only one parcel lies entirely within Cannock District and here the landscape is in generally good condition with only a localised low impact of urban/industrial activities on the fringe of Rugeley. The other parcel, which lies mainly in Lichfield District, comprises a very large field surrounded by woodland on three sides. This parcel is in poor condition due to its weak functional integrity.

**SH17** (was SH05): Another area that includes part of the former deer park associated with Beaudesert Old Park. The two parcels, which lie outside the Park at either end of the LDU, include a former colliery spoil tip and an area of horse grazing land at Hazelslade. In the latter there is a localised moderate visual impact associated with the horse grazing and some adjoining urban development. Field boundaries are in decline and dense secondary woodland is developing in the valley. At Brereton, because the colliery spoil tip, which originally would have had a high visual impact, is now partially covered in secondary scrub and to a large extent enclosed by surrounding woodland, it cannot readily be viewed from outside the area. The condition of the landscape at Hazelslade is moderately good, whilst Brereton Tip is poor.

### Landscape Condition Table

LDU Ref	Extent of change	Magnitude of change	Visual impact	Habitat network	Cultural pattern	Functional integrity	Overall Condition
SH02b (was SH01d)	Localised	High	Moderate	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Moderate
SH02c (was SH01e)	Localised	High	Moderate	Relic	Relic	Weak	Poor
SH02d (was SH01g)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Good
SH06a (was WE07e)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Relic	Declining	Weak	Moderate
SH06b (was WE07d)	Localised	High	Moderate	Relic	Declining	Weak	Moderate
SH06c (was WE07)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Good
SF16a (was SF16a)	Insignificant	Low	Very low	Relic	Intact	Weak	Moderate
SF16b (was SF16b/15a)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Intact	Intact	Strong	Very good
SH17a (was SH05b)	Widespread	Moderate	Moderate	Declining	Relic	Weak	Poor
SH17d	Widespread	Moderate	Moderate	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Moderate

## Vision Statement

### **Overall strategy: conserve and enhance**

**SH02:** Conserve and enhance the former heathland character of the landscape and encourage positive management of remaining woodlands/trees to promote regeneration of birch and oak woodland. Avoid inappropriate development of housing in highly visible arable landscapes. Take opportunities for improving linkages and access to the AONB from urban areas without creating undue pressures on the protected landscape.

**SH06** (was WE07): Conserve and enhance the wooded estate character of the landscape by encouraging the planting of woodland belts to create a buffer to hard urban edges. Encourage the maintenance and conservation of field boundaries where they survive. Take opportunities for improving linkages and access to the AONB from urban areas.

**SH16:** Conserve the historic Beaudesert Old Park character and seek to enhance the wooded farmlands character in the zone to the north of the Park. Monitor change and avoid inappropriate development.

**SH17** (was SH05): Resist inappropriate development within this area and conserve the old Beaudesert deer park character where possible, by encouraging a more diverse woodland structure with selected old trees. At Breerton tip, restore this former industrial landscape feature by encouraging secondary woodland regeneration.

Future vulnerabilities include pressure to develop fringe agricultural land for housing as at Huntington and to expand the urban area of Rugeley into the Green Belt. In these sites, the visual impact of developing on open farmland should be fully assessed and any development should be closely integrated with the topography in order to keep housing to lower, less prominent slopes. Opportunities should also be sought to create new areas of heathland on open spaces adjacent to housing to strengthen the heathland character, rather than create a close mown urban park.

## Sensitivity

The Sandstone Hills & Heaths has a moderate inherent sensitivity relating to the relatively strong heathland character that defines the natural dimension of this landscape. Despite being reasonably well unified, however, the cultural sensitivity of this relatively recent landscape is low.

Despite the undulating landform, visual sensitivity is generally moderate to low due to the prominence and containment of the tree cover. Where tree cover is less prominent, however, such as in the parcels to the northwest of Rugeley and on the slopes to the east of Huntington, visual sensitivity is higher and any change within the adjoining farmland would be more visible.

## Landscape Sensitivity Table

LDU Ref	Ground type	Land cover	Continuity	Consist - ency	Inherent sensitivity	Landform	Tree cover	Visibility
<b>SH02</b> (was SH01)	Marginal	Cultivated	Planned	Unified	Moderate	Prominent	Framed	Moderate
<b>SH06</b> (was WE07)	Restricted	Cultivated	Planned	Unified	Moderate	Apparent	Framed	Low
<b>SH16</b>	Restricted	Pastoral /woods	Historic	Unified	High(Cult)	Prominent	Framed	Moderate
<b>SH17</b> (was SH05)	Restricted	Wooded /rough	Historic	Coherent	High(Nat)	Apparent	Framed	Low

### 3.3 SETTLED HEATHLANDS

A planned, mixed farming landscape associated with impoverished, sandy soils, where numerous heath names reflect the former extent of commons and heath. This is a gently rolling, low-lying landscape with a regular pattern of small and larger hedged fields. Roads are straight with uniform verges and a high density of roadside dwellings. Parts of this landscape are fairly well wooded and there are some hedgerow trees.



#### Key characteristics

- Gently rolling lowland topography.
- Glacial till with sands and gravels creating poor soils with a relic heathy character.
- Mixed farmland with extensive areas of grazing land and pony paddocks.
- Regular pattern of small to medium sized, hedged fields.
- Dispersed settlement pattern with many roadside dwellings.
- Planned highway network with uniform verges and relic heathy vegetation.
- Numerous heath names reflecting the presence of former heathland.

#### Overall character

This landscape is mainly associated with areas of former heathland around the fringe of higher ground in the Chase. Here the underlying Permo-Triassic rocks are masked by deposits of glacial drift forming a gently rolling lowland topography. This drift mainly comprises reddish sandy till, producing impoverished fine and coarse loamy soils that reflect its former heathland origins. The latter is characterised by the recurring presence of bracken and birch in the woodlands and hedgerows, although here is little remaining heathland and much of the land is now used for stock rearing and cropping.

This landscape has been shaped by the planned enclosure of heathland in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and the many place names referring to 'heaths' reflect areas of former heathland, for example, 'Calf Heath', and 'Slade Heath'. Field enclosure resulted in the creation of a regular pattern of small and large hedged fields and realignment of the existing network of generally straight lanes with uniform verges. There are some areas of assarting, associated with a pattern of medieval moats that occur to the west of the Chase.

The settlement pattern is dispersed, with a high density of roadside dwellings that may well have originated as common-edge settlements. The pattern typically comprises clusters of farmsteads and roadside cottages, often with associated horse paddocks. Where hedgerows remain intact, the landscape remains small scale and relatively well treed.

The proximity of the urban edge influences the general character of this landscape and whereas some areas retain a peaceful rural character of clustered farmsteads and roadside cottages, in other parts this is an active landscape with much development and many busy roads, all of which reduce the overall tranquillity in many places.

### **Strength of Character**

Natural: weak

Cultural: moderate

***Overall: moderate***

Since the landform is not particularly prominent and there is only relic habitat survival, the natural dimension of the Settled Heathlands is rather weak. The historic character is fairly unified, however and contributes strongly to an overall moderate strength of character for this landscape.

### **Condition**

***Overall: good***

The proximity and general pattern of the settlement edge influences the overall character of this landscape and although some areas retain a peaceful rural character of clustered farmsteads and roadside cottages, other parts are disturbed by busy roads and industrial influences. Where this is associated with a decline in the maintenance of the landscape, in particular where hedgerows have deteriorated, becoming gappy or overgrown, or where they have been replaced by wire fencing, this often results in a disjointed neglected appearance.

SF09: An area of enclosed hedged fields and remnant farmsteads, visually influenced by the suburban housing along Chaseley Road and remnant farmsteads (Heathfields Farm). Institutional land uses occupy part of the parcel, and the Stone House is a distinctive period property standing in large grounds. The Penkrige Road is a heavily used road for recreational and commuting traffic, and there is a recent trend for developing large residential gated properties standing in their own grounds on the edges of the Chase.

SF10: Two parcels of enclosed land comprising small fields bounded in part by a network of hedged trackways. The irregular outline of Chetwynd's Coppice provides a strong sense of visual enclosure to the south. The whole area is visually influenced by suburban housing along the southern edge of Rugeley, while a school and a cemetery occupy a part of both parcels. Stile Cop Road is heavily used for both recreational and commuting traffic.

SF11: A small valley, known as The Slade, originally containing piecemeal farmed enclosures, but now becoming developed as wayside houses standing in their own grounds. The enlargement and gentrification of these properties has modified the Settled Heathlands character, although the visual impact is contained by the valley landform.

## Landscape Condition Table

LDU Ref	Extent of change	Magnitude of change	Visual impact	Habitat network	Cultural pattern	Functional integrity	Overall Condition
SF09a (was WE07c)	Widespread	Low	Moderate	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Moderate
SF10a (was SH01i)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Intact	Intact	Strong	Good
SF10b (was SH01j)	Localised	Low	Low	Declining	Intact	Moderate	Good
SF11a	Localised	High	Moderate	Intact	Intact	Strong	Moderate

### Vision Statement

### **Overall strategy: conserve and strengthen**

SF09: Conserve and strengthen the surviving hedgerow boundaries and encourage traditional hedge laying, particularly in visually prominent locations along Chaseley Road and Penkridge Road. Conserve hedgerow trees and strengthen the rural farmed character of this landscape.

SF10: Conserve and strengthen the surviving hedgerow boundaries and encourage traditional hedge laying, particularly in visually prominent locations along Coppice Lane and the other trackways. Conserve hedgerow trees and strengthen the rural farmed character of this landscape.

SF11: Conserve this narrow strip of remnant pastoral farmland alongside Colliery Road and discourage further development and gentrification of roadside properties.

### Sensitivity

The Settled heathlands is a unified pastoral landscape of small fields with a recent/historic time depth giving it a moderate to high inherent sensitivity relating primarily to the cultural character of the landscape. Visual sensitivity is generally moderate to low due to the gently rolling nature of the landform and general lack of woodlands.

## Landscape Sensitivity Table

LDU Ref	Ground type	Land cover	Continuity	Consist - ency	Inherent sensitivity	Landform	Tree cover	Visibility
SF09 (was WE07)	Restricted	Pastoral /woods	Planned	Unified	Moderate	Apparent	Filtered	Moderate
SF10 (was WE07)	Restricted	Pastoral /woods	Planned	Unified	Moderate	Apparent	Filtered	Moderate
SF11	Restricted	Pastoral /woods	Historic	Unified	High(Cult)	Prominent	Filtered	High



### 3.4 ANCIENT SETTLED FARMLANDS

The Ancient Settled Farmlands is a well-defined cultural landscape with a varied pattern of small to medium sized hedged fields, many of which are of medieval origin. These are set within an irregular pattern of ancient winding lanes that link a clustered settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads, groups of roadside dwellings and occasional small villages. This is a well treed landscape with large numbers of hedgerow oaks and a scatter of small ancient woods and secondary plantations. The underlying Triassic mudstones have produced fertile Brown soils where dairying/mixed farming is the dominant land use. The rounded and rolling landform is characterised in places by a more undulating topography with occasional steeper slopes.



#### Key characteristics

- A varied rolling/undulating topography
- Many small streams in shallow valleys
- Arable and pastoral farmland with a well defined irregular field pattern.
- A well treed landscape with large numbers of hedgerow oak and ash
- Small, irregular patches of ancient woodland
- Network of narrow lanes, often with hedge banks
- Clustered pattern of scattered farmsteads, roadside dwellings and small rural villages.
- Traditional red brick farmsteads and dwellings with clay tile roofs
- Strong sense of time-depth



## Overall character

This landscape lies around the edge of the Cannock plateau where the underlying Permo-Triassic rocks, comprising Mercia mudstones, give rise to a well-rounded, rolling/undulating, lowland topography dissected by numerous small valleys. In places, especially around the fringe of the adjoining higher land, the ground is often more undulating, with occasional steep sided stream valleys.

The mudstones produce fertile, easily cultivated reddish Brown soils, which give rise to a productive agricultural landscape of dairying and mixed farming. Although not heavily wooded, the Ancient Settled Farmlands does appear relatively treed due to the large number of hedgerow trees (predominantly oak with some ash) and the small patches of ancient woodland scattered throughout this landscape. The heavily wooded edge of the Chase also forms a backdrop in a number of places. Stream side willow and alder are locally prominent. Areas of semi-natural grassland and small wetlands can be found in a number of places, especially in stream valleys and on more steeply sloping ground. These provide habitat and ecological diversity within the landscape.

The Ancient Settled Farmlands is a settled landscape with a predominantly clustered pattern of medieval villages and hamlets, roadside dwellings, scattered small farmsteads and larger red brick estate farms. These are connected by a network of narrow, sunken lanes, often enclosed by hedge banks with large numbers of hedgerow trees. The intimate settled landscape around Brereton, Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw has a particularly strong rural character, despite its proximity to the adjacent urban areas. Here the hedgerows remain intact and the landscape retains its small scale, well treed character. Being ideal for conversion to horse pasture, this has become the dominant land use close to the urban edge.

The well-defined, irregular pattern of field hedgerows is a key feature defining the character of this landscape. Ridge and furrow earthworks and piecemeal enclosure survive associated with scattered villages and are testimony to their medieval, or earlier origins. Here the scale of the landscape is often reduced as the field pattern is smaller. Further out from the villages there are areas of later, planned enclosure where field patterns are larger.

## Strength of Character

Natural: weak

Cultural: moderate

***Overall: strong***

Although the landform is relatively prominent, the natural dimension of the Settled Farmlands is rather weak as there is only relic habitat survival. The historic character is coherent and in places unified, however and contributes strongly to the strength of character for this landscape.

## Condition

***Overall: moderate/good***

The scale and survival of the historic enclosure pattern influences the general character of this landscape and although some areas retain a peaceful rural character of clustered farmsteads and roadside cottages, other parts are disrupted by agricultural intensification, or the proximity to urban centres/busy roads. Where land use change has been associated with a decline in the maintenance of the landscape, in particular where hedgerows have deteriorated, or where they have been replaced by wire fencing, this often results in a fragmented/neglected appearance.

**SF 07:** An intensively farmed arable landscape extending from the centre of Rugeley along the Rising Brook Valley and into the Chase. The trend towards arable intensification has led to a decline in both the field pattern and habitat network, while the urban edge also creates a moderate impact in a number of places.

**SF15:** A mainly pastoral landscape on the edge of Brereton and extending into Lichfield District at Hawkesyard Priory. Overall this landscape is in good condition with a very low visual impact of change, except at Batesway where new and enlarged dwellings have had a high visual impact in the landscape. Although the habitat network is in decline due to lack of hedgerow maintenance, the cultural pattern is largely intact, giving a moderate functional integrity in the landscape.

**SF20:** A pastoral landscape surrounding the settlement of Cannock Wood. Although comprising much modern development, which in places has a moderate visual impact, this sits within a wider historic pattern of clustered settlement. The overall structure of this small scale landscape is generally intact, but many of the field boundaries are poorly managed and in decline, often due to the fact that much of the land is now used for horse grazing.

**SF29:** A mixed arable and pastoral farmed landscape immediately west of the District boundary at Hatherton and Four Crosses. A landscape in good overall condition despite declining habitat networks and cultural patterns. The visual impact of change is low.

**SF30:** A mainly pastoral valley bottom landscape west of the District boundary in South Staffordshire, close to the A5 corridor. A landscape in good overall condition, with localised low visual impact from horse grazing and arable intensification.

### Landscape Condition Table

LDU Ref	Extent of change	Magnitude of change	Visual impact	Habitat network	Cultural pattern	Functional integrity	Overall Condition
SF07a (was WE07a)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Moderate
SF07b (was WE07b)	Widespread	Moderate	Moderate	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Moderate
SF15a	Insignificant	Low	Low	Declining	Intact	Moderate	Good
SF15b	Insignificant	Low	Very low	Declining	Intact	Moderate	Good
SF15c	Localised	High	Moderate	Intact	Declining	Moderate	Moderate
SF15d	Localised	Low	Very low	Declining	Intact	Moderate	Good
SF20a (was SF17b)	Localised	Low	Very low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Good
SF20b (was SF17a)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Good
SF20c							Urban
SF20d	Localised	Low	Very low	Declining	Intact	Moderate	Good
SF29a (was SF28a)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Good
SF29b (was SF28b)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Declining	Intact	Moderate	Good
SF30a (was SF29c)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Declining	Intact	Moderate	Good
SF30b (was SF29b)	Insignificant	Low	Very low	Intact	Declining	Moderate	Good

## Vision Statement

## Overall strategy: *conserve and strengthen*

**SF 07:** Conserve and strengthen the structure and overall historic integrity of this landscape. In particular, encourage the maintenance and conservation of field boundaries where they still survive and look for opportunities to enhance tree cover in order to soften hard urban edges. Avoid inappropriate development of housing in highly visible arable landscapes, especially where this can be viewed from the Chase Heritage Trail.

**SF15:** Conserve and restore the existing landscape character and monitor carefully the impact of new and extended dwellings in a rural setting. Pressures for change include further intensification of grazing for horses, which has a suburbanising impact on the countryside. The former tramway is a valued recreational asset and should be protected for the urban population of Brereton. The landscape is sensitive to development pressures and the Green Belt should be conserved intact.

**SF20:** Conserve and restore the existing character of the landscape and monitor carefully the impact of new and extended dwellings in a rural setting. Forces for change include further housing development in and adjacent to Cannock Wood and the 'sub-urbanisation' of former farm buildings/other rural dwellings in the countryside. This is often associated with the creation of fenced horse pastures, stabling and ménages, but this landscape has limited capacity to accommodate this type of development. Also need to maintain hedged boundaries rather than replacing these with wire fences.

**SF29:** Conserve and restore the existing landscape and monitor closely the visual impact of future landscape change on the eastern slopes facing the District.

**SF30:** Conserve and restore the existing landscape and monitor the impact of horse grazing on the pastoral land adjacent to the A5 corridor.

## Sensitivity

The Settled farmlands is a pastoral landscape with an historic time depth giving it a moderate inherent sensitivity relating to both the natural and cultural character of the landscape. Visual sensitivity is relatively high due to the undulating nature of the landform/general lack of woodlands and any new development would be highly visible from surrounding higher land in the Chase.

## Landscape Sensitivity Table

LDU Ref	Ground type	Land cover	Continuity	Consist - ency	Inherent sensitivity	Landform	Tree cover	Visibility
SF07 (was WE07)	Productive	Pastoral /woods	Historic	Coherent	ModCult)	Apparent	Framed	Low
SF15	Restricted	Pastoral /woods	Historic	Coherent	Moderate	Apparent	Filtered	Moderate
SF20 (was SF17)	Productive	Pastoral /woods	Ancient	Coherent	High(Cult)	Prominent	Open	Very high
SF29 (was SF26)	Restricted	Cultivated	Historic	Unified	High(Cult)	Prominent	Filtered	High
SF30 (was SF29)	Productive	Pastoral /woods	Planned	Unified	ModCult)	Insignificant	Filtered	Low

### 3.5 COALFIELD FARMLANDS

A varied settled/industrial landscape of former mining villages, pockets of ancient settled farmland and areas of disturbed ground. The remaining farmland, used mainly for stock rearing, comprises small to medium sized hedged fields defined by irregular, mixed species hedgerows. This is often surrounded by urban settlement and/or land disturbed by extensive coal mining and clay winning. The mixed rocks of the coal measures give rise to a rolling topography with heavy, in places impoverished soils, where the heathy origins of this landscape are still evident.



#### Key characteristics

- Rolling low plateau
- Pockets of ancient settled farmland with thick mixed species hedgerows
- Scattered hedgerow oaks and patches of secondary woodland
- Former mineral sites restored for stock rearing and/or amenity uses
- Mining settlements with brick built terrace houses
- Network of narrow winding lanes
- Historic farmsteads and brick built estate cottages
- Heathy origins strongly evident

#### Overall character

The main areas in the District which fall into the Coalfield Farmlands lie on either side of the A5 between, Great Wyrley Norton Canes and the Walsall Urban edge. In these areas the shales, sandstones and clays of the coal measures, overlain by a covering of glacial

drift, give rise to base poor stagnogley soils which would have originally supported acid grassland and wet heath. Landform is not a feature of the area to the south of the A5, where the topography is a low plateau summit with a gently rolling 'upland' character. To the north of the A5, however, the landform becomes more undulating as it rises up to Heath Hayes and Hednesford on the edge of the Forest Heathlands. In this area, which has been widely disturbed by open cast coal mining, there are often wide views over the adjoining lower lying land.

Opencast coal mining, deep mining and clay winning are a feature throughout the Coalfield Farmlands and within the relatively flat topography to the south of the A5, spoil tips, including the former historic mine workings at Grove Colliery and Little Wyrley No 3 tip, provide the only real variation in topography. The spoil heaps have typically revegetated with secondary woodland, disguising their landforms and adding to the well treed character of the landscape. Areas of open water, subsidence flashes, and wet grassland are also a characteristic feature of this area.

Although the underlying heathy character often appears in road verges, in neglected pastures and on the few remaining Commons, the Coalfield Farmlands was historically a landscape of mixed arable and pasture farming, made up of an irregular pattern of medium sized hedged fields with hedgerow oaks. Where this agricultural landscape remains, it often includes old estates and farm buildings from the pre-industrial era. The area to the south of the A5 contains the historic and well wooded Little Wyrley Estate, where the estate woodlands still provide a strong sense of enclosure. The estate is also characterised by a number of brick built 19<sup>th</sup> century estate cottages. A network of narrow winding lanes serves the farms throughout this landscape and contributes strongly to the surprisingly remote rural character that often survives, despite the close proximity of urban edges.

### **Strength of Character**

Natural: weak/moderate

Cultural: moderate

***Overall: moderate***

The landform in the Coalfield Farmlands varies from being gently rolling and not particularly prominent in the Little Wyrley area, to becoming more undulating and prominent in the area to the north of Norton Canes and at Red Moor. There are also patches of semi natural vegetation associated with the old tip sites and areas of subsidence, which together contribute to a moderate strength of character for the natural dimension of the landscape. The cultural dimension has an historic time depth which is coherent throughout this landscape type, except where it has been removed by opencasting. Overall therefore, this landscape has a moderate strength of character related largely to the cultural dimension of the landscape.

### **Condition**

***Overall: good***

Overall, this is an industrial/farming landscape in decline, but it still retains a strong rural character with many patches of semi-natural habitats that are worthy of conserving and restoring. Opencast coal mining and arable intensification have become a recent force for change and where they have occurred the scale of the landscape has enlarged, creating a more open, less enclosed character, often with wide views to the surrounding urban edges. Other pressures for change include the development of the M6 toll which has severed the network of narrow lanes to the north of the A5. These lanes are often used as commuter rat runs and some routes, for example Lime Lane, are busy throughout the day.

**CF19** - a relatively small fragment of Coalfield Farmlands to the south of Cannock Wood. This is a landscape in relatively good condition, but the habitat network and cultural pattern



are in decline. Much of the area is now managed as a Country Park, with a consequent impact on the functional integrity of the landscape.

### Landscape Condition Table

LDU Ref	Extent of change	Magnitude of change	Visual impact	Habitat network	Cultural pattern	Functional integrity	Overall Condition
CF19a	Localised	Moderate	Low	Intact	Declining	Moderate	Good
CF23a (was CF21j)	Insignificant	Low	Very low	Declining	Intact	Moderate	Good
CF23b (was CF21k)	Localised	Low	Low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Good
CF23c (was CF21l)	Widespread	Low	Low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Good
CF23d (was CF21o)	Insignificant	Low	Very low	Declining	Intact	Moderate	Good
CF23e (was CF21n)	Widespread	Moderate	Moderate	Declining	Relic	Weak	Poor
CF23f (was CF21m)	Widespread	High	High	Relic	Relic	Weak	Very poor
CF24a (was CF24b)	Localised	High	Moderate	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Moderate
CF24b (was CF24b)	Localised	High	Moderate	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Moderate
CF24c (was CF21n)	Widespread	Moderate	Moderate	Declining	Relic	Weak	Poor
CF24d (was CF21n)	Widespread	High	High	Relic	Relic	Weak	Very poor
CF24e (was CF21n)	Widespread	High	High	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Poor
CF24f (was CF24c)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Intact	Intact	Strong	Good
CF24g (part CF24a)	Widespread	Moderate	Moderate	Declining	Relic	Weak	Poor
CF24h (part CF24a)	Widespread	Moderate	Moderate	Declining	Relic	Weak	Poor
CF24i (part CF24a)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Good
CF24j (part CF24f)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Good
CF24k (part CF24f)	Insignificant	Low	Very low	Intact	Intact	Strong	Very good
CF24l (part CF24h)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Relic	Declining	Weak	Moderate
CF24m (was CF24i)	Widespread	Low	Low	Intact	Declining	Moderate	Good
CF24n (was CF24g)	Localised	Low	Very low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Good
CF24o (was CF24e)	Localised	Low	Very low	Declining	Intact	Moderate	Good
CF24p (was CF24d)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Declining	Intact	Moderate	Moderate
CF31a	Widespread	High	High	Declining	Relic	Weak	Poor
CF31b (part CF21n)	Widespread	High	High	Declining	Relic	Weak	Poor

**CF23** - a heavily modified Coalfield Farmlands landscape, almost surrounded by urban development in the zone between Great Wyrley, Heath Hayes and Norton Canes. Much of this area has been worked over by opencast coal mining and although it has since been restored to farmland, little survives of the original historic landscape apart from a few relics in the north east corner of the area. The functional integrity of this zone is therefore weak.

**CF24** - a variable, in places degraded historic Coalfield Farmlands landscape in the Green Belt and centred on the Little Wyrley estate to south of Norton Canes. A special feature is the surviving area of relic heathland at Wood common. Overall this is a landscape in fairly good condition, where the historic field pattern is generally intact, although often in decline due to arable intensification and neglect. The latter has had an impact on the traditional pastoral character, with a resulting decline in functional integrity. In places, especially in the area around Gains Lane, the condition of the landscape is poor and reflects the long term impact of coal mining.

**CF31** - A highly modified remnant river valley of the Wyrley and Wash Brook, greatly influenced by the presence of new roads, industrial land uses and former mineral workings. The valley is typically inaccessible despite the plethora of transport routes and the land cover consists mostly of naturally regenerated scrub and open water bodies. High fences and road cuttings further restrict both the views and any access into this disturbed landscape.

### **Vision Statement**

**Overall: conserve and enhance**

**CF19** - Conserve and strengthen the historic character of the landscape and encourage positive management of field boundaries, trees and woodlands to provide a strong buffer to surrounding urban development/industrial activities.

**CF23** – Strengthen and enhance the character and overall structure of the landscape by encouraging the creation and management of characteristic features. This should include the development and maintenance of heathy vegetation along roadsides. Consideration should also be given to the expansion and management of historic lanes and trackways as re-creational routes around/through this landscape.

**CF24** - Conserve and enhance the character and overall structure of the landscape by encouraging more positive management of characteristic features. This should include maintenance of roadside hedgerows and the heathy vegetation that occurs along roadside verges. Where arable intensification has enlarged fields and created more open views, promote tree and woodland planting to enhance the structure of the landscape. Reverse the cycle of neglect by clearing rubbish and debris and discourage commuter rat runs to create quiet lanes with a priority for cyclists and local access.

**CF31** - Conserve and enhance the semi-natural character of the Wyrley and Wash Brook valley landscape. Consider opportunities for green infrastructure development and sustainable urban drainage.

### **Sensitivity**

This landscape has a moderate inherent sensitivity relating to the historic time depth of the cultural pattern. Where the historic pattern has been removed/damaged due to opencasting, then the sensitivity is lower. Visual sensitivity is also low to moderate reflecting the prominence of tree cover and gently rolling/undulating nature of the topography.

## Landscape Sensitivity Table

LDU Ref	Ground type	Land cover	Continuity	Consist - ency	Inherent sensitivity	Landform	Tree cover	Visibility
CF19	Restricted	Pastoral /woods	Ancient	Unified	High(Cult)	Apparent	Filtered	Moderate
CF23 (was CF21)	Restricted	Pastoral /woods	Historic	Variable	Moderate)	Apparent	Filtered	Moderate
CF24	Restricted	Pastoral /woods	Historic	Coherent	Moderate)	Apparent	Filtered	Moderate
CF31	Restricted	Pastoral /woods	Historic	Variable	Mod(Nat)	Apparent	Filtered	Moderate

### 3.6 PLANNED COALFIELD FARMLANDS

A varied industrial/urbanised landscape of former mining villages and disturbed/restored land, set within a matrix of planned farmland originally reclaimed from woodland and heath. The remaining farmland, which is used mainly for stock rearing with some cropping, comprises small to medium sized fields defined by a regular pattern of thorn hedges/fences. Pockets of agricultural land are often surrounded by urban settlement and/or land disturbed by extensive coal mining and clay winning. The mixed rocks of the coal measures and the overlying sandy drift give rise to a rolling topography with heavy, in places impoverished soils, which are very much reflected in the heathy origins of this landscape.



#### Key characteristics

- Low rolling plateau
- Restored opencast sites with immature landscape features
- Pockets of planned farmland enclosed by thorn hedges/fences
- Patches of secondary woodland on older restored sites
- Wet heathland character in less disturbed areas
- A vacant landscape lacking in settlement, often adjoining a well defined urban edge
- Large scale urban elements including pylons major roads and distribution warehouses.
- Heathy origins strongly evident throughout

#### Overall character

This landscape occurs along the south eastern edge of the District, extending almost as far as Cannock Chase in the area between Heath Hayes and Burntwood. Although underlain

by a mix of interbedded mudstones, siltstones and sandstones, with deposits of coal and ironstone, the landform is strongly influenced by a covering of glacial drift. This forms a low plateau summit with a gently rolling 'upland' character, often allowing wide views over the adjoining lower lying land. Much of the land surface has been disturbed by long term coal mining and, more recently, by the impact of open cast coal extraction.

This landscape, although related to the Coalfield Farmlands, is one in which the advent of recent and extensive landuse change has resulted in the creation of a new locally distinctive character. The area north of the A5 and M6 Toll Road, as far as Prospect village and Wimblebury, has undergone complete transformation due to recent opencast coal mining activities. The original landscape has largely been destroyed and a new restored/planned landscape has now taken its place. The presence of pylons, large distribution warehouses, landfill sites and the open exposed landform in this area emphasises the large scale industrial character of the landscape, in contrast to the area to the south of the A5, where important relics of heathland still remain. In some places new patches of heath have been re-created as a reminder of the extensive areas of unenclosed land that once dominated this landscape prior to enclosure and the development of the Cannock coalfield.

The land around Chasewater is more typically characterised by the presence of deep mine workings with re-shaped colliery spoil tips. Many of these sites, where the land has had time to re-vegetate, are now characterised by secondary birch and willow woodland/scrub. In other places, the land has been restored to intensive agriculture with a planned field pattern defined by hawthorn hedges and wire fences. These areas now reflect the planned character of the former agricultural landscape, which was originally reclaimed and enclosed from open heathland. The presence of commons at Brownhills and the highly disturbed Wyrley Common continue to reinforce this heathy character. Small fragments/ remnants of a more traditional farming pattern can still be seen at Common Side, where brick built cottages and smallholdings survive close to the encroaching urban edges.

### **Strength of Character**

Natural: moderate    Cultural: weak

**Overall: moderate**

Apart from the LDU at Heath Hayes, the rolling plateau landform in the Planned Coalfield Farmlands is not particularly prominent and although there are patches of surviving heathland and other relic semi-natural vegetation, these only contribute to a moderate strength of character for the natural dimension of the landscape. The cultural dimension of this recent, planned landscape is weak, giving an overall moderate strength of character.

### **Summary of Condition**

**Overall: moderate**

Overall, this is a landscape in decline, but it still contains a wealth of diverse habitats that are worthy of conserving and restoring. Opencast coal mining and arable intensification have been a recent trend and where they have occurred, the scale of the landscape has enlarged, creating a more open, less enclosed character, often with wide views to the surrounding urban edges. Other pressures for change include the development of the M6 toll road.

**CP21;** A landscape in a generally poor condition as a result of long term mining activity and the more recent impact of large scale open casting in the central part of the area. Although the visual impact of the latter has been mitigated following restoration, the functional integrity of this area is weak due to the impact on both the historic character of this planned landscape and the loss of its original heathland character. A small remnant of the original character still survives around Prospect Village and Cannock wood Farm, although this area has been modified by the presence of an Industrial Estate and former colliery tip.



**CP22:** The landscape in the area around Chasewater and Wyrley Common is in better condition than that to the north and still retains a significant area of former heathland/common, much of which is connected in a functioning habitat network. Significant areas of heathland are managed for amenity purposes, especially around Chasewater. Pockets of farmland with a planned enclosure pattern have also survived, although many of these are declining due to arable intensification.

### Landscape Condition Table

LDU Ref	Extent of change	Magnitude of change	Visual impact	Habitat network	Cultural pattern	Functional integrity	Overall Condition
CP21a	Localised	Moderate	Low	Weak	Declining	Weak	Moderate
CP21b	Localised	Moderate	Low	Weak	Declining	Weak	Moderate
CP21c	Insignificant	Low	Very low	Intact	Intact	Strong	Very good
CP21d (was CF21c)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Intact	Declining	Moderate	Good
CP21e (was CF19b)	Widespread	High	High	Weak	Declining	Weak	Very poor
CP21f (was SH05a)	Localised	Low	Low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Moderate
CP21g (was CF21d)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Relic	Intact	Weak	Moderate
CP21h (was CF21ef)	Widespread	Moderate	Moderate	Declining	Relic	Weak	Poor
CP21i	Localised	Low	Very low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Good
CP21j	Localised	High	Moderate	Intact	Relic	Weak	Poor
CP21k (was CF21h)	Localised	Low	Very low	Intact	Declining	Moderate	Good
CP22a	Insignificant	Low	Low	Declining	Intact	Moderate	Good
CP22b	Widespread	Moderate	Moderate	Intact	Declining	Moderate	Moderate
CP22c	Insignificant	Low	Low	Intact	Relic	Weak	Moderate
CP22d	Widespread	High	High	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Poor
CP22e (was CF22e)	Widespread	High	High	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Poor
CP22f (was CF22e)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Intact	Declining	Moderate	Good
CP22g (was CF22f)	Widespread	Moderate	Moderate	Relic	Relic	Weak	Poor
CP22h (was CF22g)	Localised	High	Moderate	Intact	Declining	Moderate	Moderate
CP22i (was CF24a)	Localised	High	Moderate	Intact	Declining	Moderate	Moderate
CP22j (was CF22j)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Declining	Declining	Moderate	Good
CP22k	Localised	Moderate	Low	Relic	Declining	Weak	Moderate
CP22l (was CF22j)	Insignificant	Moderate	Low	Relic	Declining	Weak	Moderate
CP22m (was CF22h)	Localised	Moderate	Low	Relic	Declining	Weak	Moderate
CP22n							Urban

## Vision Statement

### **Overall strategy: Restore/conserv and enhance**

**CP21:** Restore and enhance the Planned Coalfield Farmlands landscape and in particular seek opportunities for the creation of more heathland linked to the wider landscape, especially southwards to Brownhills Common and beyond to Sutton Coldfield. A precedent has already been set for this on land adjacent to Cuckoo Bank and where practical this could be extended northwards to link with the Hednesford Hills and Cannock Chase.

Restore and enhance the Planned Coalfield Farmlands landscape and in particular seek opportunities for the creation of more heathland linked to the wider landscape, including links towards Sutton Coldfield.

Plantation style shelter belt woodlands are also a feature of this otherwise open landscape and woodland planting could be used to provide a buffer to future housing development around the edge of Heath Hayes. Along with woodland and heathland creation, there are also opportunities for the creation of new recreational routes to provide safe, off road access between the existing settlements in this area and to link these settlements with the open land in Cannock Chase to the north.

**CP22:** Conserve and enhance the underlying heathy character of the landscape and seek opportunities for appropriate habitat restoration, especially on land required for mineral extraction. Much of the farmland in this area is now intensively managed, often for arable cropping and where fragments of more traditional pastoral farming still survive, such as at Common side, these should be retained and managed appropriately.

Any expansion of the industrial land to the south of the A5 should be accompanied by appropriate woodland planting to contain the development and to strengthen the wooded heathy character of the area. A matrix of mixed woodlands, wet grassland, secondary woodland and heathland would be most appropriate and would contribute to the Biological Enhancement Area initiative.

In addition to the need for landscape enhancement, opportunities for improved short to medium distance recreational links should be explored to connect the urban communities of Norton Canes, Burntwood, Brownhills and Pelsall. Beacon Way could provide a starting point for such linkages, but other links should be established from the recreational hub on the south shore of Chasewater. The development of local recreational opportunities such as this would take pressure off the more protected landscapes of Cannock Chase.

## Sensitivity

The Planned Coalfield Farmlands is a relatively recent landscape with a variable character and thus has a low inherent cultural sensitivity. It is associated with an area of more marginal farmland, however, characterised by remnant patches of heathland, which still impart a strong heathy character and a moderate natural sensitivity to change. Visual sensitivity is also moderate due to the generally more open nature of this rolling landscape.

## Landscape Sensitivity Table

LDU Ref	Ground type	Land cover	Continuity	Consist - ency	Inherent sensitivity	Landform	Tree cover	Visibility
CP21	Restricted	Pastoral /woods	Planned	Coherent	Mod(Nat)	Apparent	Filtered	Moderate
CP22	Restricted	Pastoral /woods	Planned	Coherent	Mod(Nat)	Apparent	Filtered	Moderate

### 3.7 RIVER MEADOWLANDS

A narrow, meandering river corridor landscape associated with a flat, generally well-defined alluvial floodplain. The river corridor is normally defined by strong hedgelines along the edge of the floodplain but in places it is framed by steeply rising river banks. Overall, this is a secluded pastoral landscape, characterised by meandering, tree-lined watercourses, flanked by alluvial meadows with grazing animals.



#### Key characteristics

- Flat, low-lying corridor adjacent to the river Trent
- Seasonally flooded alluvial floodplain
- Meandering river channel
- Pastoral farming with grazing livestock
- Lines of poplar, willow and alder along watercourses
- Unsettled with few roads

#### Overall character

The low-lying alluvial floodplain of the River Trent forms a distinctive River Meadowlands landscape that cuts through the Permo-Triassic rocks in the northern part of the region. Two of the key features are the meandering river channel, especially where it has a varied bank profile and the flat alluvial floodplain which flanks the river channel. The latter provides a sharp contrast to the steep wooded slopes of the adjoining Sandstone Hills.

The flat alluvial floodplain is subject to periodic flooding and for the most part is unploughed and characterised by grazing animals in undisturbed pastoral scenes. There is also much marginal vegetation and fringing alders/willow scrub along the river channel itself, especially where this has a varied bank profile. Such habitats provide valuable nesting and feeding areas for wildlife and where associated with unimproved meadowland, they create

a strong sense of place and feeling of naturalness. The sound and movement of water add to this feeling of tranquillity.

This is an unsettled landscape due to its wet nature, although settlements often lie on higher ground adjacent to the River Meadowlands. Where roads cross this landscape they are generally either small rural lanes, or major through routes along the edge of the river floodplain. Many of the river crossings are via 18th and 19th century bridges, many on the site of earlier crossing points. The District boundary follows the River Trent adjacent to Rugeley and much of the land within the District is strongly influenced by the adjoining urban edge, which includes the Power Station, large distribution warehouses and a business park.

### Strength of Character

Natural: strong

Cultural: moderate

***Overall: strong***

The flat landform, meandering river channel and patches of wet grassland contribute strongly to the overall character of the River Meadowlands landscape, while the historic time depth of the cultural pattern contributes to a moderate strength of character. Overall this is a distinctive landscape with a strong natural character.

### Condition

***Overall: moderate***

**RM14:** Generally intact river meadowlands landscape on the edge of Rugeley. The habitat network and cultural pattern are in decline, however, due to proximity of Rugeley and the impact of the recently constructed by pass.

**TV02:** A fragmented riverside landscape in the shadow of Rugeley Power Station where the Power Station and other operational land have had a high visual impact. The functional integrity of the relic grazing land is weak and the overall condition is poor.

### Landscape Condition Table

LDU Ref	Extent of change	Magnitude of change	Visual impact	Habitat network	Cultural pattern	Functional integrity	Overall Condition
RM14a	Localised	Moderate	Low	Declining	Intact	Moderate	Good
TV02a	Widespread	High	High	Declining	Relic	Weak	Very poor

### Vision Statement

***Overall: conserve and restore***

**RM14:** Conserve and restore the character of the river meadowlands landscape by protecting the flood plain from further development and encouraging traditional grazing management of the land. Promote the restoration of traditional water meadow features on land adjacent to the Rugeley by pass.

**TV02:** Restore the character of this River Meadowlands landscape by removal of inappropriate development from and adjacent to the river flood plain. Conserve valuable habitats where they still occur and restore the continuity of habitat networks along the river course. Promote opportunities for such a restoration strategy through linked green infrastructure initiatives along the river corridor as part of the long term future for the old Power Station site. Consider links to landscape scale habitat enhancement projects such as 'On Trent'.

## Sensitivity

The River Meadowlands have a relatively high inherent sensitivity related in particular to the natural character of the riverside environment. The historic time depth of the cultural pattern is also of moderate sensitivity. Visual sensitivity is low due to the prominence of tree cover and the flat, low-lying nature of the topography.

### Landscape Sensitivity Table

LDU Ref	Ground type	Land cover	Continuity	Consist - ency	Inherent sensitivity	Landform	Tree cover	Visibility
RM14	Restricted	Pastoral /woods	Planned	Coherent	Moderate	Insignificant	Filtered	Low
TV02	Restricted	Pastoral /woods	Planned	Coherent	Moderate	Insignificant	Filtered	Low

### **3.8 URBAN AREAS**

As part of the study, four land cover parcels were defined within the urban areas as sufficiently un-developed to merit inclusion on the field survey. The parcels are too small to be analysed in terms of their landscape character and we have therefore included a description of them in table format in the Appendix.

The four parcels are as follows:

UR04b (was SH01c) Oldfallow



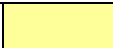
UR04e (was UR02) Pye Green Valley

UR8a (was UR10) Etching Hill common

UR26a (wasUR27) Mill Green Cannock



## Summary descriptions of Landcover parcels

<b>Key</b>		New LCP		Modified LCP boundary		New LCT context
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### FOREST HEATHLANDS

LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall Condition	Notes
<b>FH01a</b> <b>Broadhurst Green</b> (was SH01f)	Heathy verges and margins survive	Horse grazing and woodland	Small regular wire fenced paddocks and plantations	Visual impact of Telecom Tower	Moderate	Mixed management practices on horse paddocks
<b>FH01b</b> <b>Brindley Heath</b>	Heathy verges and margins survive	Woodland management			Moderate	
<b>FH01c</b> <b>Enterprise Park</b> (was SH01h)	Developing woodland and grassland habitats	Amenity grassland and woodland belts	No field pattern. Secondary woodland defines sense of enclosure	Former colliery buildings and modern industrial units are prominent	Poor	Potential for further heathland development and important recreation corridor for Chase
<b>FH01d</b> <b>Sandy Slade</b> (was SH01h)	Developing woodland, grassland and wetland habitats	Amenity grassland and woodland belts	No field pattern. Secondary woodland defines sense of enclosure	Former colliery buildings are prominent	Poor	Potential for further heathland development and important recreation corridor for Chase
<b>FH01e</b> <b>Hednesford Hills</b> (was SH01i)	Vegetated heathy common	Common; heathland with secondary woodland developing in parts	Mainly wire field boundaries in small paddocks around part of perimeter	Modern housing encroaching around edges adjacent former mineral line and paddocks	Good	Locally valued heathland with extensive public access managed as countryside. High impact of new housing in adjacent horse paddocks
<b>FH03a</b> <b>Shoal Hill</b> (was SH01a)	Vegetated heathy common	Common	No field pattern. Mixed age dense tree cover	Localised impact of housing and adjacent roads	Good	Locally valued wooded common with public access. Recreation pressures managed

LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall Condition	Notes
<b>FH03b</b> <b>Former Quarry</b> (was SH01b)	Development of secondary woodland and heathy vegetation	Former quarry	No field pattern. Secondary woodland patches	Industrial sites and settlement edge along eastern boundary	Poor	Restoration proposals and future management unknown. Close to Huntington edges
<b>FH05a</b> <b>Rawnsley Hills</b>	Woodland with some pasture on steep hillside	Woodland and amenity grazing	Pockets of small fenced enclosures around dwellings	Modern and traditional terraced housing visible	Moderate	Wooded sloping ground provides a good buffer between Hazelslade and Cannock Chase.
<b>FH05e</b> <b>The Glen</b>	Heathy grassland with patches of secondary woodland	Grazing	No field pattern	No development within parcel	Good	Visually prominent and open heathy grassland with wooded margins.
<b>FH05f</b> <b>Stilecop field</b>	Patches of heathy vegetation	Grazing / gallops	No field pattern	Views to edge of Rugeley from high ground	Good	Visually prominent and open heathy grassland with wooded margins.
<b>FH05g</b> <b>Chetwynd Coppice</b> (was SH01j)	Birch, oak and former heathland	Ancient Woodland	No field boundaries	Industrial estate is close to boundary.	Good	Edges of the woodland are vulnerable to development pressure
<b>FH05h</b> <b>Chetwynd Coppice fringe</b> (was SH10a)	Former heathland; plantation woodland	Woodland/rough ground	No field boundaries	Localised low impact of modern industrial estate	Good	A transition area between Chetwynds Coppice woodland and the Industrial Estate. Vulnerable to fly tipping and unauthorised access in places. Steep topography protects the woodland edges.
<b>FH18a</b> <b>Gentleshaw Common</b>	Vegetated heathy common	Heathland common	No field pattern. Scrub patches	Localised impact of housing on southern tip	Good	Locally valued and managed countryside with well used footpath network

## SANDSTONE HILLS & HEATHS (WOODED ESTATELANDS)

LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use/ landcover	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall Condition	Notes
<b>SH02b</b> <b>Huntington</b> (was SH01d)	Redundant field boundaries valuable linear features. Mature shelterbelts	Arable with plantation/ shelterbelt conifer woodland belts	Medium sized, regular fields with redundant hedges and scattered hedgerow trees.	Prominent new housing on lower slopes; busy roads define the edges.	Moderate	Under pressure for development but visually prominent. Upper slopes should remain open.
<b>SH02c</b> <b>Pye Green</b> (was SH01e)	None evident	Arable and Grazing	No field pattern except small regular paddocks around Common Farm	Established modern housing to south and east.	Poor	Common Farm is a feature. Shelterbelt and ridge separates the land from Huntington. Visually enclosed by development
<b>SH02d</b> <b>West Cannock Farm</b> (was SH01g)	Heathy margins and wet margins.	Horse grazing and gallops	Enlarged, regular, wire fenced enclosures. Some stream side trees	Brindley valley/ Pye Green housing adjacent to southern and eastern edges	Good	Visually enclosed but valued and with potential for heathland enhancement
<b>SH06a</b> <b>A51 Rugeley</b> (was WE07e)	Wet pasture and scrub	Pasture	Medium to large regular fields with gappy hedges and wire fences in places	Localised moderate impact of Wolseley development and Rugeley by pass. Brindley Pumping station is a feature	Moderate	An important valley bottom farmed landscape viewed from the A51 and Rugeley by pass. Urban edge should be protected.
<b>SH06b</b> <b>Etching Hill</b> (was WE07d)	Narrow heathy verges. Woodland clumps and coverts	Arable	Enlarged fields with redundant hedges and wire fences. Thinly scattered hedgerow trees	Localised high impact of the urban edges of Etchinghill. Water Treatment works is a feature	Moderate	A locally valued, open arable landscape with well used footpath routes and long views over the Trent Valley. Hard, well defined urban edge.
<b>SH06c</b> <b>Shooting Butts</b> (was WE07)	Narrow heathy verges. Woodland clumps and coverts	Mixed arable and pasture	Regular pattern of small/medium sized fields with scattered hedgerow trees.	Localised moderate visual impact of farm/other buildings.	Good	An enclosed landscape with patches of secondary woodland and scattered hedgerow trees.

LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use/landcover	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall Condition	Notes
<b>SH16a</b> <b>Upper Longdon</b> (was part SF16a)	Steep patch of permanent pasture	Pasture	Enlarged modified field pattern with no internal hedges.	No development evident	Moderate	Strong rural character.
<b>SH16b</b> <b>The Springs</b> (part SF15a/16b)	Woodland and patches of permanent pasture on steep slopes.	Pasture and woodland	Small sized regular field pattern with mixed species hedgerows	Localised works and urban edge with low impact	Very good	Former mineral line is used as a linear recreation route.
<b>SH17a</b> <b>Brereton Tip</b> (was SH05b)	Secondary scrub developing in places. Some planted trees	Revegetated colliery tip	No field pattern	No built development evident	Poor	A hidden feature continuing to be used as a tip and for extracting materials. Monitor change.
<b>SH17d</b> <b>Beaudesert Old Park</b>	Woodland with relics of former deerpark	Woodland management			Moderate	An historic wooded landscape, part of Beaudesert Old Park, but now managed for commercial forestry.

## SETTLED HEATHLANDS

LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall Condition	Notes
<b>SH09a</b> <b>Slitting Mill</b> (was WE07c)	Heathy margins, patches of rough grassland, hedgerows and scattered parkland/hedgerow trees	Mixed arable and pasture	Regular pattern of small to medium sized fields with mixed species hedges. Hedgerow trees in decline	Localised moderate visual impact of Fair Oak School and roadside housing.	Moderate	A landscape in decline with neglected features and urban influences. Sports fields are a detracting feature in this landscape.
<b>SH10a</b> <b>Coppice Lane north</b>	Some rough ground on sloping land in eastern part. Lines of hedgerow trees and heathy verges in western part	Grazing	Regular medium sized hedged fields with thorn hedges and wire fences	Edges of Rugeley visible on skyline. School a feature	Moderate	Locally valued and visible countryside with well used footpath network; important buffer to Rugeley.
<b>SH10b</b> <b>Coppice Lane south</b>	Lines of hedgerow trees, heathy verges and margins	Grazing	Regular medium sized hedged fields with thorn hedges and wire fences	Cemetery in northwest corner	Good	
<b>SH11a</b> <b>The Slade</b>	Scattered patches of acid grassland and secondary woodland/scrub	Pasture	Small scale, regular field pattern	Enlargement and gentrification of former farmsteads.	Moderate	

## SETTLED FARMLANDS

LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall Condition	Notes
<b>SF07a</b> <b>Flaxley Green/ Rising Brook</b> (was WE07a)	Heathy margins, railway embankments and verges. Rising Brook stream course wet grassland and streamside trees	Arable	Enlarged regular pattern; few internal hedgerows. Thinly scattered hedgerow trees	New housing adjacent to Upper Birches farm and at Burnt Hill is visually prominent from the valley. Pumping station and Fair Oak school are visible	Moderate	Long views to wooded edges are a feature of this open landscape. The presence of housing visible from the valley is visually intrusive. Chase Heritage Trail provides a linear recreational route through the valley from Rugeley.
<b>SF07b</b> <b>Hagley Park</b> (was WE07b)	Heathy margins, streamside trees, lines of trees	Arable	Enlarged regular pattern; few internal hedgerows. Lines of hedgerow trees around perimeter	Flat valley floor already has significant urban influences including playing fields	Moderate	Valuable green corridor linkage to Cannock Chase. Horne Pool is a feature. Chase Heritage Trail linear recreational route.
<b>SF15a</b> <b>Springs Farm Brereton</b>	Hedgerow trees	Pasture	Medium sized irregular fields with mixed species hedgerows.	Localised low impact of the edge of Brereton.	Good	Strong rural character with a well defined edge to Brereton.
<b>SF15b</b> <b>Breretonhill</b>	Bracken & clumps of secondary woodland, hedgerow trees	Pasture	Medium sized irregular fields with mixed hedgerows and hedgerow trees	Minimal visual impact of development	Good	Strong rural character and away from urban influences.
<b>SF15c</b> <b>Batesway</b>	Secondary woods on steep banks. Bracken present.	Pasture	Small scale piecemeal field pattern evident	Recent enlargement of rural wayside dwellings.	Moderate	Enlargement and gentrification of cottages has modified this landscape.
<b>SF15d</b> <b>Hawkesyard Priory</b>	Hedgerows and hedgerow trees	Pasture and Golf course	Medium sized irregular fields with mixed spp. hedges	Localised low impact of golf clubhouse	Good	A well managed former historic parkland landscape overlooking the Trent valley
<b>SF20a</b> <b>Cannock Wood</b> (was SF17b)	Roadside hedges and scattered trees. Bracken on verges	Pasture; horse grazing	Small to medium sized irregular fields with mixed species hedges/wire fences	Localised moderate impact of suburban development.	Good	New development is visually intrusive in this settled landscape. Little capacity for new development



LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall Condition	Notes
<b>SF20b</b> <b>Hayfield Hill</b> (was SF17a)	Roadside hedges and scattered trees. Bracken on verges	Pasture; horse grazing	Small/medium sized fields with mixed species hedgerows and wire fences	Localised moderate impact of suburban development along Hayfield Hill	Good	Horse paddocks often enclosed by wire fences. Timber shelters and feed stores visible from adjacent Gentleshaw Common.
<b>SF20c</b> <b>Cannock wood</b>		Urban			Urban	
<b>SF20d</b> <b>Gentleshaw</b>	Roadside hedges and scattered trees. Bracken on verges	Stock rearing and horse grazing	Small/medium sized irregular fields with mixed species hedges/wire fences	Localised low impact of new development.	Good	New development is visually intrusive in this settled landscape. Little capacity for new development
<b>SF29a</b> <b>Hatherton/ Four Crosses</b> (was SF28a)	Green lanes and hedgerows, good corridors	Arable and pasture	Enlarged medium scale sub-regular field pattern with mixed species hedges	Travellers sites and horse riding schools have localised moderate impact	Good	Locally distinctive domed landform gives this area a strong rural character with views out to the west. Surprisingly low impact of urban and District boundary edge to the east.
<b>SF29b</b> <b>Hatherton/ Shoal Hill</b> (was SF28b)	Heathy vegetation on verges	Horse grazing	Small scale, sub-regular field pattern with mixed species hedges. Woodland edge on adjacent common.	Localised moderate impact of settlement edge. Road verges damaged by local traffic using narrow lanes	Good	Increasing subdivision of pastures using wire fencing for horses. A scruffy appearance with poor quality shelters and feed stores.
<b>SF30a</b> <b>Catsbridge Lane</b> (was SF29c)	Intact hedgerows and some hedgerow trees	Pasture	Small scale sub-regular field pattern with mixed species hedges	A5 corridor mixed ribbon development localised moderate impact	Good	A well managed landscape of hedged fields in the valley bottom. The A5 is a significant influence
<b>SF30b</b> <b>Saredon Brook</b> (was SF29a,b)	Wet woodland and grassland along stream corridor	Mixed pasture and derelict canal	Medium sized sub-regular field pattern with thorn hedges.	No impact of development. Evidence of tipped land	Good	Valley bottom pasture land intensified for arable in places. Former canal is a feature of the adjacent landscape

## COALFIELD FARMLANDS

LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall condition	Notes
<b>CF19a</b> <b>Nuns Well</b>	Hedges, stream corridors, Nuns Well, Court Hayes Wood woodland	Pasture	Varied irregular field pattern with small/medium sized fields. Gappy mixed species hedgerows. Prominent mixed age trees in hedges and along stream corridors	Localised high impact of skyline development. Visual impact of horse grazing along road corridors	Good	A locally distinctive landscape including public access. Sensitive to change
<b>CF23a</b> <b>Newlands Lane</b> (was CP21j)	Hedgerows and trees. Wet pasture	Pasture	Regular pattern of small fields bounded by mixed species hedges. Scattered trees	Localised moderate impact of development along the skyline to the north	Good	A poorly managed, but intact landscape with a well treed appearance. Access to the old Newlands lane is valued. Development would be inappropriate.
<b>CF23b</b> <b>Newlands Brook</b> (was CP21k)	Hedgerows and trees. Wet pasture adjacent to the brook	Pasture and some arable fields	Regular pattern of small fields bounded by mixed species hedges. Scattered trees	Localised moderate impact of development along the skyline to the north. Pylons visible	Good	A poorly managed, but intact landscape with a well treed appearance. Access to the old Newlands lane is valued. Development would be inappropriate.
<b>CF23c</b> <b>Newlands lane north</b> (was CP21l)	Plantation woodland. Newlands lane corridor	Arable	Regular pattern of medium to large fields bounded by thorn hedges	Localised moderate impact of development along the skyline to the north. Pylons visible	Good	Arable intensification has removed hedges to give an open featureless landscape. Some development could be accommodated within existing wooded framework.
<b>CF23d</b> <b>Long Lane</b> (was CP21o)	Hedgerows and trees	Pasture	Regular small to medium sized fields bounded by mixed species hedges typically on low banks. Scattered trees in hedgerows	Localised moderate impact of development on the eastern edge of the area	Good	An area of intact landscape with mature trees and mixed species hedgerows. The green lane of Long Lane is a valuable landscape feature. Development would be inappropriate.

LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall condition	Notes
<b>CF23e</b> <b>Norton Canes</b> (was CP21n)	Recent planting and open water balancing ponds	Grazing and development land	Planned arrangement of large enclosures, new roads and shelterbelts	Large distribution sheds have high widespread impact. M6 toll road	Poor	A large scale restored opencast landscape with modern distribution sheds and other infrastructure. A vacant landscape with no settlement
<b>CF23f</b> <b>Poplars site</b> (was CP21m)	None evident	Landfill tip and associated land	No field pattern	Widespread high impact of the development of the landfill site	Very poor	A prominent site close to the edge of Cannock and Hawkes Green. Restoration proposals and new mineral prospects require careful monitoring
<b>CF24a</b> <b>Norton Green</b> (was part CF24b)	Fragments of hedgerows	Mixed arable and pasture	Pattern of enlarged fields bounded by redundant mixed species hedgerows and scattered hedgerow trees	Widespread moderate impact of urban edge around Norton Canes. M6 toll road on southern edge	Moderate	A landscape where the pattern has become degraded due to arable intensification. Could absorb development if relic features were retained within a new tree cover framework.
<b>CF24b</b> <b>Washbrook Lane</b> (was part CF24b)	Fragments of lanes, verges and hedgerows	Mixed arable and pasture	Pattern of enlarged fields bounded by redundant mixed species hedgerows and scattered hedgerow trees	Widespread moderate impact of urban edge around Norton Canes. M6 toll road to South	Moderate	A landscape where the pattern has become degraded due to arable intensification and removal of hedges.
<b>CF23c</b> <b>Kingswood Lakeside</b> (was CP21n)	Recent planting and open water balancing ponds	Grazing land	Planned arrangement of large enclosures, new roads and shelterbelts	M6 toll road has high widespread impact.	Poor	A large scale restored opencast landscape This is a vacant landscape with no settlement
<b>CF24d</b> (was part CP21n)	Limited	Road corridor containing both A5 and M6 Toll	None	High impact of traffic movement and noise.	Very poor	M6 toll road mostly sunken, but very visible in other places
<b>CF24e</b> <b>Churchbridge</b> (was part CF21n)	Canalised stream corridor	Arable and pastures	Small / medium sized regular fields. Thinly scattered trees.	High impact of A5 and M6 toll	Poor	A landscape in decline on an island of land bounded by busy roads

LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall condition	Notes
<b>CF24f</b> <b>Great Wyrley</b> (was CF24c)	Hedged trackway. Recent planting	Arable and small pastures	Varied pattern of small sub-regular and enlarged fields. Thinly scattered trees.	Localised moderate impact of urban edge to west	Good	A landscape in decline on the edge of Great Wyrley. Opportunity to enhance the landscape through Forest of Mercia.
<b>CF24g</b> <b>Gains Brook</b> (was part CF24a)	Wet grassland, marsh, areas of open water, hedgerows, stream lines and ditches	Mixed pastoral	Reworked field pattern, probably due to mineral extraction. Patches of Secondary woodland	Moderate impact of. mine workings, spoil heaps and canal wharf. A5 corridor is evident.	Poor	A degraded, pastoral landscape with traditional red brick farms. Rural character despite extensive historic industrial scars..
<b>CF24h</b> <b>Gains Brook</b> (was part CF24a)	Wet grassland, marsh, areas of open water, hedgerows, stream lines and ditches	Mixed pastoral	Reworked field pattern, probably due to mineral extraction. Patches of Secondary woodland	Insignificant impact of urban development. A5 corridor is evident..	Poor	A degraded, pastoral landscape with traditional red brick farms. Rural character despite extensive historic industrial scars..
<b>CF24i</b> <b>Gains Brook</b> (was part CF24a)	Wet grassland, marsh, open water, hedgerows, stream lines and ditches	Mixed pastoral	Varied pattern of medium sized sub-regular fields bounded by mixed species hedgerows and hedgerow trees	Insignificant impact of urban development. A5 corridor is evident.	Good	An historic landscape with traditional red brick farms. Rural character despite localised industrial scars..
<b>CF24j</b> <b>Gorse Lane</b> (was part CF24f)	Hedgerows with trees, coverts, ditches and verges	Mixed arable and pasture	Regular fields defined by roads and woodland edges. Small tree coverts.	Insignificant impact of recent development. Pylons visible	Good	Planned pattern, possibly former mineral extraction.
<b>CF24k</b> <b>Little Wyrley</b> (was part CF24f)	Hedgerows, hedgerow trees, coverts, ditches and verges	Mixed arable and pasture	Varied pattern of irregular fields and some enlargement for cultivation. Small tree coverts.	Insignificant impact of recent development. Pylons visible	Very good	Estate character with red brick cottages and network of winding lanes. Impact caused by gradual shift from pasture to arable
<b>CF24l</b> <b>Wyrley Grove</b> (was part CF24h)	Isolated hedgerow trees, secondary birch. Road verges.	Arable	A fragmented pattern of enlarged fields bounded by thorn hedges in poor condition. Scattered hedgerow oak and birch	Tower blocks at Bloxwich visible in distance with localised moderate impact	Moderate	A degraded landscape recently intensified for arable production.

LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall condition	Notes
<b>CF24m</b> <b>Pelsall Wood Common</b> (was part CF24i)	Heathy vegetation and scrub. Wetland vegetation adjacent to canal and open water	Common and open space amenity grassland	No field pattern. Patches of secondary woodland and gorse scrub	Localised moderate impact of tower blocks to south.	Good	A common managed as a nature reserve but in a declining condition. Amenity grass could be converted to heathland
<b>CF24n</b> <b>Fishley Lane</b> (was CF24g)	Hedgerows, hedgerow trees, coverts, ditches and verges	Mixed arable and pasture	Varied pattern of medium to large irregular fields bounded by mixed species hedgerows and hedgerow trees	Pylons visible. Tall flats at Bloxwich visible with moderate impact. Golf driving range.	Good	An historic landscape with pockets of restored land. Urban edge visible in distance Part of an important urban buffer.
<b>CF24o</b> <b>Jacobs Hall</b> (was CF24e)	Hedgerows and hedgerow trees	Mixed arable and pasture	Irregular medium sized field pattern bounded by mixed species hedges and hedgerow trees	Insignificant impact of recent development. Pylons visible	Good	An historic landscape with traditional red brick farmhouses and a settled character
<b>CF24p</b> <b>Gorse Lane west</b> (was CF24d)	Recent planting	Pasture on former opencast land	Regular planned field pattern defined by wire fences and new hedgerows	Localised moderate impact of urban edge to west	Moderate	A recently restored landscape with attempts at creating a landscape framework.
<b>CF31a</b> <b>Cheslyn Hay</b>	Remnants of wet grassland	Reservoirs and flooded gravel pits	No field pattern. Some Secondary woodland /scrub	Widespread high impact of M6 toll and surrounding urban edge.	Poor	A degraded, former wet meadow landscape. The M6 toll is a significant influence
<b>CF31b</b> <b>Great Wyrley</b> (was part CF21n)	Wet grassland and patches of scrub	Pasture and small lake/ flooded gravel pit	Small fields bounded by roads and urban edge	Widespread high impact of A5/M6 toll corridors and adjoining urban edge	Poor	A managed area of wet meadow landscape. The area is wedged between the A5/M6 toll and urban area of Cheslyn Hay

## PLANNED COALFIELD FARMLANDS

LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall Condition	Notes
<b>CP21a Ironstone Road</b>	Patches of heathy vegetation on steep slopes and verges	Grazing; intensive	Planned pattern of large fields bounded by gappy thorn hedges.	Hard urban edge on southern boundary of site. Pylons visible. Realigned roads following opencast operations	Moderate	An intensively farmed planned landscape with evidence of restoration from opencast operations. Opportunity to soften the urban edge with appropriate tree planting.
<b>CP21b Old Lodge Hill</b>	Patches of heathy vegetation on steep slopes and verges	Pasture	Planned pattern of large fields bounded by gappy thorn hedges.	Insignificant impact of urban development	Moderate	A planned landscape with evidence of restoration from opencast operations.
<b>CP21c Hawthorn Farm</b>	Secondary woodland. Patches of gorse and scrub regeneration. Older permanent pasture	Pasture	Plantation woodland belts defining small regular fields.	Low impact of the urban edge of Prospect Village	Very good	The old mineral line defines the eastern edge of this area
<b>CP21d Prospect village</b>	Patches of gorse and scrub regeneration. Older permanent pasture	Pasture	Fragmented pattern of regular fields. Plantation woodland on northern edge.	Low impact of the urban edge of Prospect Village	Good	A modified coalfield landscape with the self contained settlement of Prospect Village at its centre. The old mineral line is a feature.
<b>CF21e</b> (was CF19b)	Secondary woodland on colliery tip, patches of permanent pasture.	Pasture , re-colonised colliery spoil tip, industrial estate	Partial survival of small and medium size fields with mixed hedges around Cannock Wood Farm	Localised low impact of industrial estate, hidden from view.	Very poor	A disturbed landscape showing evidence of an older coalfield landscape in centre of parcel
<b>SH21f Hazelslade</b> (was SH05a)	Stream corridor woodland and wet pasture. Wetland	Pasture and wetland	Wire fences. Streamside trees	Localised impact of housing.	Moderate	An important open area of small horse grazed paddocks within a strong wooded/wildland context.
<b>CP21g Wimblebury</b>	Recent planting	Arable	Planned pattern of regular large fields,	Localised moderate impact of Rawnsley	Moderate	A planned farming landscape where any new



LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall Condition	Notes
<b>Farm</b> (was CF21d)			narrow shelterbelts and fences	and Wimblebury in long views		development would be highly visible. Heathland restoration would be appropriate on this site
<b>CP21h Cuckoo Bank</b> (was CP21e,f)	Heathland and open water. Secondary woodland	Restored heathland and plantation woodland. Birch woodland over colliery tip	No field pattern	No impact of built development. Pylons visible	Poor	Established vegetation on the former tip is in contrast to the open recently restored adjacent landscape. Heathland restoration could be extended to other areas
<b>CP21i Wimblebury Road</b>	Plantation woodlands and secondary woodland	Mixed arable land, pasture and woodland. Amenity land and allotments	Regular large scale fields bounded by thorn hedges and woodland edges	Localised low impact of development west of Wimblebury Road. Pylons	Good	Woodland belts already screen the edge of Heath Hayes in this area, providing the opportunity for well sited development with links to surrounding open space and access network.
<b>CP21j Coppice Colliery</b>	Developing woodland on former mining sites	Rough land and secondary woodland	No field pattern. Birch secondary woodland	Localised low impact of built development. Pylons	Poor	A disturbed former industrial landscape, with regenerated secondary birch woodland. Provides a valuable buffer to development between Heath Hayes and Norton Canes.
<b>CP21k No Man's Bank</b> (was CP21h)	Heathy vegetation character in rough grassland	Rough pasture and secondary woodland	A regular pattern of large fields bounded by thorn hedges. Secondary birch woodland	Localised low impact of the built edge to Norton Canes. View of pylons	Good	A neglected landscape with a degraded appearance exacerbated by the presence of pylons. A valuable buffer to the edge of Norton Canes
<b>CP22a Southacres Farm</b>	Trees along stream corridor	Pasture (horse grazing)	Mainly wire fences. Scattered mixed age trees along stream corridor	Localised impact of development. Views of pylons, horse paddock sheds and sheds	Good	A degraded urban fringe landscape that could accommodate some development provided a new landscape framework is established along the stream corridor.

LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall Condition	Notes
<b>CP22b</b> <b>Chasewater</b> <b>Country</b> <b>Park</b>	Heathy vegetation, secondary woodland, waterside vegetation	Country park open space and heathland	No field pattern. Secondary and planted woodland, mainly birch and willow	Burntwood by pass and recreation/ sports facilities have a localised moderate impact.	Moderate	A locally valued country park landscape with diverse recreation facilities. Habitat management and heathland creation should be a priority
<b>CP22c</b> <b>Chasewater</b>	Open water and margins	Reservoir	Open water	Localised moderate impact of M6 toll & Burntwood bypass	Moderate	A locally valued recreation resource close to large urban population
<b>CP22d</b> <b>Chasewater</b> <b>south &amp;</b> <b>west</b>	Secondary birch woodland	Amenity land and remnants of grazing land	No field pattern. Wire fences	South shore development and innovation centre. Pylons and M6 toll structures	Poor	A highly modified landscape severed by the M6 Toll road. Opportunities for innovative development relating to recreation area
<b>CP22e</b> <b>Common</b> <b>side</b>	Permanent pasture, wet flashes, overgrown hedges	Pasture and trackway	A fragmented pattern of small to medium sized regular fields bounded by thorn hedges. Scattered oak and overgrown thorn trees	Localised moderate impact of industrial estate, power lines	Poor	A relic of traditional small holding land with grazing animals and brick built cottage. Elsewhere, a modified landscape with extensive urban influences and pressure for additional new development.
<b>CP22f</b> <b>Common</b> <b>side</b> (was CP22e)	Permanent pasture, wet flashes, overgrown hedges	Pasture and industrial estate	A declining pattern of small to medium sized regular fields bounded by thorn hedges. Scattered oak and overgrown thorn trees	Localised moderate impact of industrial estate, A5 corridor, M6 toll, power lines	Good	A relic of traditional small holding land with grazing animals and brick built cottage. Elsewhere, a modified landscape with extensive urban influences and pressure for additional new development.
<b>CP22g</b> <b>East of</b> <b>Yorks</b> <b>Bridge</b> (was CP22f)	Hedgerows, secondary woodland, heathy verges	Arable	Large regular field pattern bounded by thorn hedges	Localised insignificant impact of industrial estate off A5	Poor	Monitor impact of expansion to industrial area and mitigate with woodland planting.

LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall Condition	Notes
<b>CP22h</b> <b>Wyrley Common</b> (was CP22g)	Secondary woodland and relic heath	Former colliery tip on part of site	No field pattern. Secondary birch and oak woodland	No impact of built development evident	Moderate	Site provides a valuable buffer to the adjacent proposed mineral prospect. Positive management would be beneficial.
<b>CP22i</b> <b>Wyrley Bridge Common</b> (was CF24a)	Wet grassland and canal with patches of secondary woodland on old spoil tips.	Mixed pastoral	Medium to large scale regular field pattern with thorn hedgerows.	Insignificant impact of urban development, but mine workings, spoil heaps and canal wharf prominent.	Moderate	A degraded, pastoral landscape with extensive historic industrial scars. Opportunities for creation of new habitats to link with adjoining sites.
<b>CP22j</b> <b>Lime Lane</b> (was CP22i)	Secondary birch woodlands, hedgerow trees. Heathy vegetation on verges	Mixed pastoral	Large regular field pattern bounded by thorn hedges. Some secondary birch woodland and oak hedgerow trees	No impact of built development	Good	A planned landscape of former heathland. Some arable intensification.
<b>CP22k</b> <b>High Bridge</b>	Hedgerows	Arable	Large regular field pattern bounded by thorn hedges	Localised moderate impact of urban edge and busy road to south	Moderate	Sharp contrast between this arable landscape and urban edge to the south. Consider woodland planting as a buffer to development.
<b>CP22l</b> <b>The Slough</b> (was CP22j)	Hedgerows and woodland	Mixed arable	Large regular field pattern bounded by thorn hedges. Field corner spinneys.	Localised moderate impact of industrial development at Clayhanger	Moderate	A mainly arable landscape with urban influences adjacent to the canal.
<b>CP22m</b> <b>Engine Lane</b> (was CP22h)	Hedgerows and woodland	Mixed arable	Large regular field pattern bounded by thorn hedges. Field corner spinneys.	Localised moderate impact of industrial development at Clayhanger	Moderate	A disturbed open landscape in transition from pasture to arable. Evidence of informal recreation along Engine lane
<b>CP22n</b> <b>Brownhills West</b>		Urban			Urban	

## RIVER MEADOWLANDS

LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall Condition	Notes
<b>RM14a</b> <b>Rugeley By-Pass</b> (was RM13a)	Meandering river channel and associated canal. Hedgerow and thinly scattered riverside trees	Pasture	Medium/large regular fields, modified by by-pass route. Some wire fences.	Urban edge at Trent Farm is locally high impact. Industrial estate is visible from by pass	Good	The by pass is a new feature in this River Meadowlands landscape causing significant recent change. Protect remaining pasture.
<b>TV02a</b> <b>Rugeley Power Station</b> (was RM14a)	River channel with fringing willows and screen plantations	Pasture	Relic field pattern, modified by industrial development	Pylons, power station, railway viaducts and plant storage area have high visual impact	Very poor	A disturbed river meadowlands landscape dominated by industrial land uses

## URBAN AREAS

LDU Ref.	Ecological integrity	Land use	Field pattern	Impact of built development	Overall Condition	Notes
<b>UR04b</b> <b>Oldfallow</b> (was SH01c)	Linear field boundaries and hedgerow oaks intact	Golf course/ amenity grassland	Remnant boundary hedge banks, with hedgerows and groups of trees	Housing and School visible to boundaries	Poor	Informal recreation pressures; locally valued open space
<b>UR04e</b> <b>Pye Green Valley Cannock</b> (was UR02)	Willow scrub patches around edges	Rough grassland/ open space	No field boundaries remain	Widespread, high visual impact of perimeter development and new school	Moderate	Locally valued green wedge with potential links to AONB. Monitor pressures for change and retain linear continuity of green infrastructure. Consider opportunities for naturalistic management.
<b>UR08a</b> <b>Etching Hill common</b> (was UR08)	Former heathland. Well treed with oak, pine, birch secondary woodland	Common	No field boundaries	Localised low impact of suburban estate development at edges	Good	Locally valued common with interpretation board and network of informal paths/ tracks. Conserve site and consider tree removal to help heathland regeneration.
<b>SH01i</b> <b>Cheywynd Coppice fringe</b>	See Forest Heathlands table					
<b>UR26a</b> <b>Mill Green Cannock</b> (was UR27)	Secondary woodland patches, wetland and stream corridor	Rough grassland, wetland, open space	Relic pattern of overgrown thorn hedges	Localised high impact of built development around edges	Moderate	A valued open space centred around Mill Green Park. Much of the site has been allocated for mixed use development and is therefore subject to change. Protect wetland features and secondary woodland where possible and develop green infrastructure links through surrounding urban areas.