



Bewdley Local Green Space Assessment

Prepared by Pleydell Smithyman Limited on behalf
of Bewdley Town Council

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Introduction

Bewdley Town Council commissioned Pleydell Smithyman Limited to carry out an assessment of land surrounding Bewdley outside the Green Belt that may potentially meet the criteria for protection as Local Green Space (as defined by The National Planning Policy Framework).

The National Planning Policy Framework (revised February 2019)

Paragraphs 99 to 101 are relevant to the consideration of Local Green Space are reproduced below:

99. The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

100. The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is: a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves; b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

101. Policies for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts.

Desktop Sources

The key documents referred to are:

- The Worcestershire County Council Landscape Character Assessment and supporting technical documents;
- Worcestershire Historic Landscape Characterisation;
- Aerial photography and Ordnance survey mapping; and
- Designations mapping from Natural England sources and Local Authority Development Plans.

The approach to the study was informed by the following best practice guidance:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment – 3rd Edition (2013);
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment – Christine Tudor for Natural England (2014)

Parcel Definition

Potential parcels were initially selected in liaison with Bewdley Town Council and Wyre Forest District Council to cover all land around Bewdley outside the Green Belt that was in reasonably close proximity to the town and could therefore potentially be considered a Local Green Space.

Desktop sources were used to define draft parcel boundaries which were then refined through field survey (see **Figure 1**).

Individual parcels did not have a minimum or maximum size but were determined by changes in landcover and/or land-use and defensible boundaries were selected e.g. main roads, woodlands and settlement edges. The Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment (see **Figures 2 and 3**) and Historical Landscape Character Assessment (as illustrated on each Parcel sheet) informed parcel definition, noting that some parcels contain several historical land types. Nature conservation designations are illustrated on Figure 4.

The Worcestershire County Landscape Character Assessment Technical handbook identifies both the Landscape Condition and Landscape Sensitivity of the parcels. Whilst this information was not determinative in the assessment of contributing factors, it formed useful background context (see **Figures 5 and 6**).

The following documents, as part of the Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment are included at the back of this report as follows:

Appendix 1: Landscape Type Information Sheets

Appendix 2: Landscape Type Advice Sheets – Land Management

Appendix 3: Landscape Type Advice sheets for planning and development

Field Survey

The field assessment of all the parcels was carried out on foot from publicly accessible locations in the summer of 2019 by a Chartered Landscape Architect. All photography was taken with a Canon 5D mark 2 camera with a fixed 50mm lens and photography in this study is presented at 300mm viewing distance to comply with Landscape Institute Guidance Note 09/11.

Assessment Categories

With reference to paragraph 100 of the NPPF each parcel has been defined to ensure that it fulfilled the criteria of being in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves and was local in character and not an extensive tract of land. Each parcel was then assessed against the third NPPF criteria to determine if the land was demonstrably special to the local community and held a particular local significance because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife.

It was determined that a parcel needed to fulfil more than a single category and that it would need to score a High level in at least two categories. This conservative assessment approach is not a requirement of the NPPF but ensures that any designation of Local Green Space is robust and defensible.

Value Level	Natural Beauty Criteria
High	Very limited or no detracting characteristics. Presence of diversity and balance of form, colour, texture and contrast with interesting or captivating scenery in an aesthetically pleasing way.
Medium	Some detracting characteristics balancing some aesthetically pleasing aspects, but fairly commonplace.
Low	A number of detracting characteristics, with little variation or colour, texture, form or contrast generally outweighing aesthetically pleasing positive contributing characteristics to the scene.
Very Low	No positive characteristics present within the scene with no balance or diversity, little interest and very low aesthetic appeal.

Value Level	Historical Criteria
High	Frequent features or elements of archaeological, historical or cultural interest e.g. rare field boundary systems and/or archaeological features that have value beyond a local level.
Medium	Occasional locally important features or elements of archaeological, historical or cultural interest.
Low	Very few locally important features or elements of archaeological, historical or cultural interest.
Very Low	No locally important features or elements of archaeological, historical or cultural interest.

Value Level	Tranquillity Criteria
High	Secluded parts of the landscape where there is a sense of remoteness or isolation. Human influences are not dominant, with settlement being sparsely distributed. Occasional very minor detractors to an experience of tranquillity.
Medium	Human influences are evident, with scattered development present, detracting from an experience of tranquillity, which would be confined to localised places.
Low	Human presence is more dominant with a corresponding lack of tranquility evident, despite some rural influences. Experience of tranquillity would be rare in this landscape.
Very Low	Human presence in terms of significant numbers of people, noise, movement and development such that there is an absence of tranquillity.

Value Level	Recreational Value
High	Good network of public rights of way which may also include National Trails and/or locally promoted routes. Clear evidence that the area is well-used for recreation e.g. worn paths.
Medium	Some limited access e.g. via permissive or public rights of way. Access may be partly restricted by commercial use e.g. golf courses
Low	Very limited permissive or informal access with signs of limited use e.g. collapsed stiles, blocked access and overgrown routes. Some value from indirect views from adjacent public locations.
Very Low	No public access and limited visibility from adjacent public routes

Value Level	Wildlife Value
High	Good range of habitats and designations e.g. SSSI, Local Wildlife Site, National Nature Reserve and/or Ancient Woodland
Medium	Some range of habitats and proximity to designations e.g. SSSI, Local Wildlife Site, National Nature Reserve and/or Ancient Woodland
Low	Limited range of habitats and limited connectivity to designations e.g. SSSI, Local Wildlife Site, National Nature Reserve and/or Ancient Woodland
Very Low	Low value habitats e.g. Sports Field and Urban Areas and no connectivity to designations e.g. SSSI, Local Wildlife Site, National Nature Reserve and/or Ancient Woodland

Published Development Guidelines (Worcestershire Landscape Character Assessment).

Seven of the parcels of land assessed, met the criteria for Local Green Space. All of the parcels are covered by published Landscape Advice Sheets setting out the Planning and Development strategy and these have been adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

In relation to the Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings, this advice covers Parcels 2 to 11. The Planning and Development sheet states:

‘New development must respect the historical ad-hoc development of the settlement pattern of these landscapes and avoiding standardisation of design and layout. Additional individual dwellings may be accommodated in some circumstances where the scale of the original settlement would not be compromised. Clustered groups of new housing however would not be appropriate. The retention of small pastures/orchards between houses is important.’

In relation to the Timbered Plateau Farmlands covering Parcels 12 to 16, the key characteristics state:

‘Dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads and hamlets’ and the enclosure pattern states ‘Opportunities to reflect the organic field pattern may materialise through the shape of newly planted hedgerows, the outline of new woodland planting, the definition of roadside boundaries and verges, the spatial distribution and orientation of new buildings, avoiding uniformity of pattern in all cases.’

This topographic map of Bewdley, Worcestershire, displays 17 numbered areas outlined in red, representing parcel boundaries. The map includes various geographical features such as the River Sever, several farms (e.g., Grove Farm, Hitterhill Coppice, Bowcastle Farm), and buildings. A legend in the top right corner indicates that the red outline represents 'Parcel Boundaries'. A scale bar at the bottom left shows distances from 0m to 500m.

Figure 3 - Landscape Description Units - Parcels Plan (Worcestershire County Council Landscape Character Assessment)

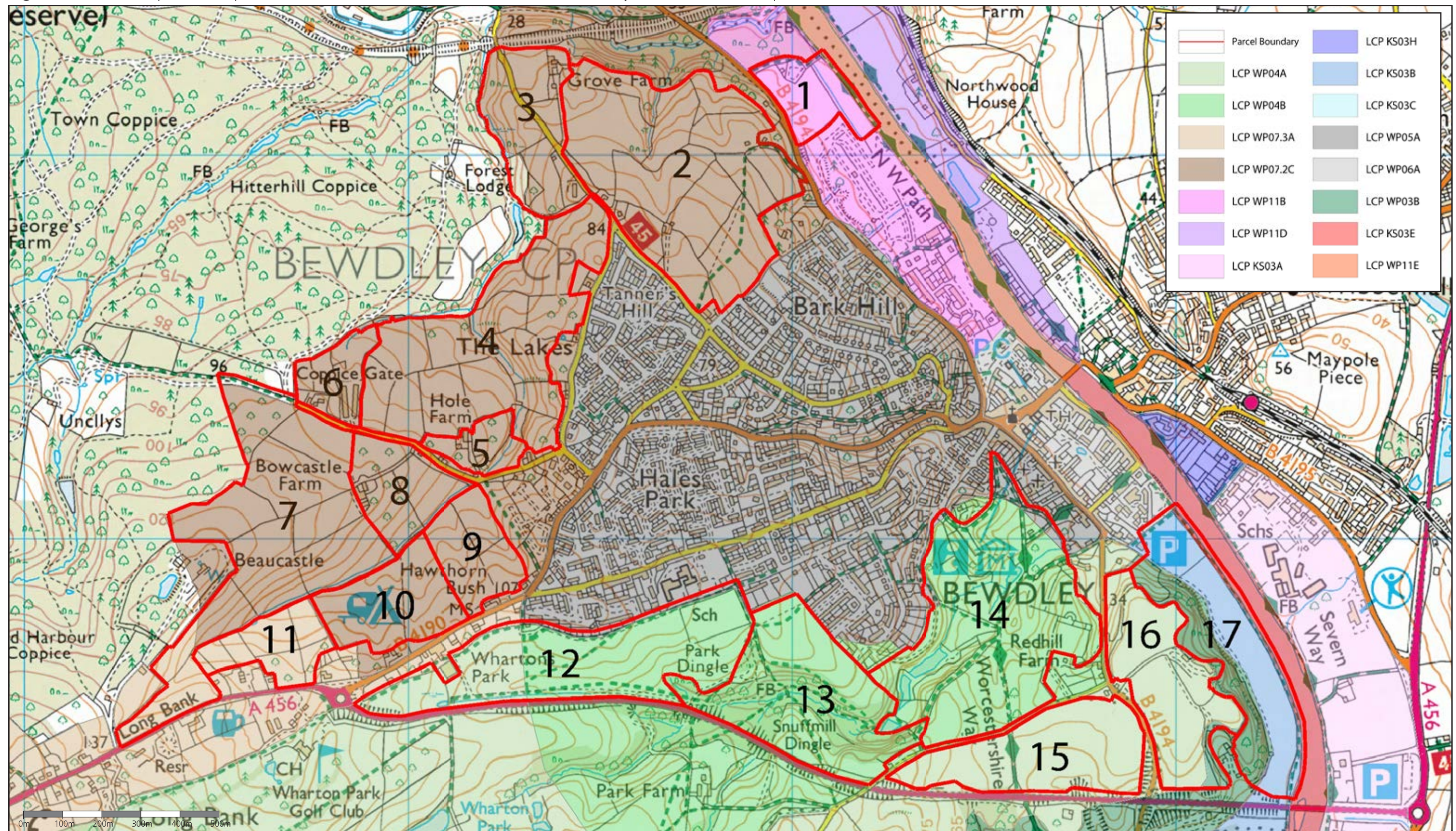


Figure 1. Comparison of the two data sets.

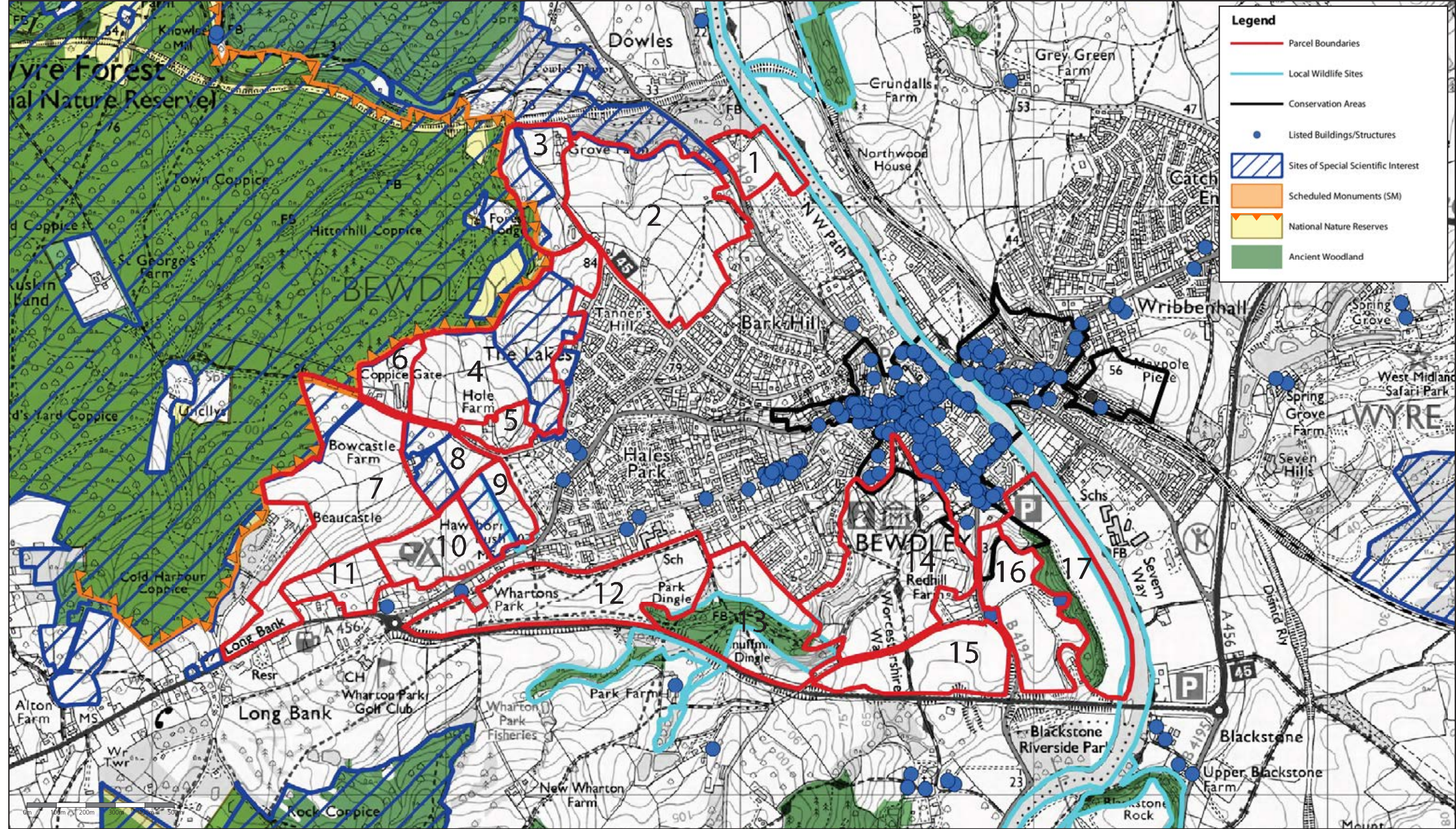
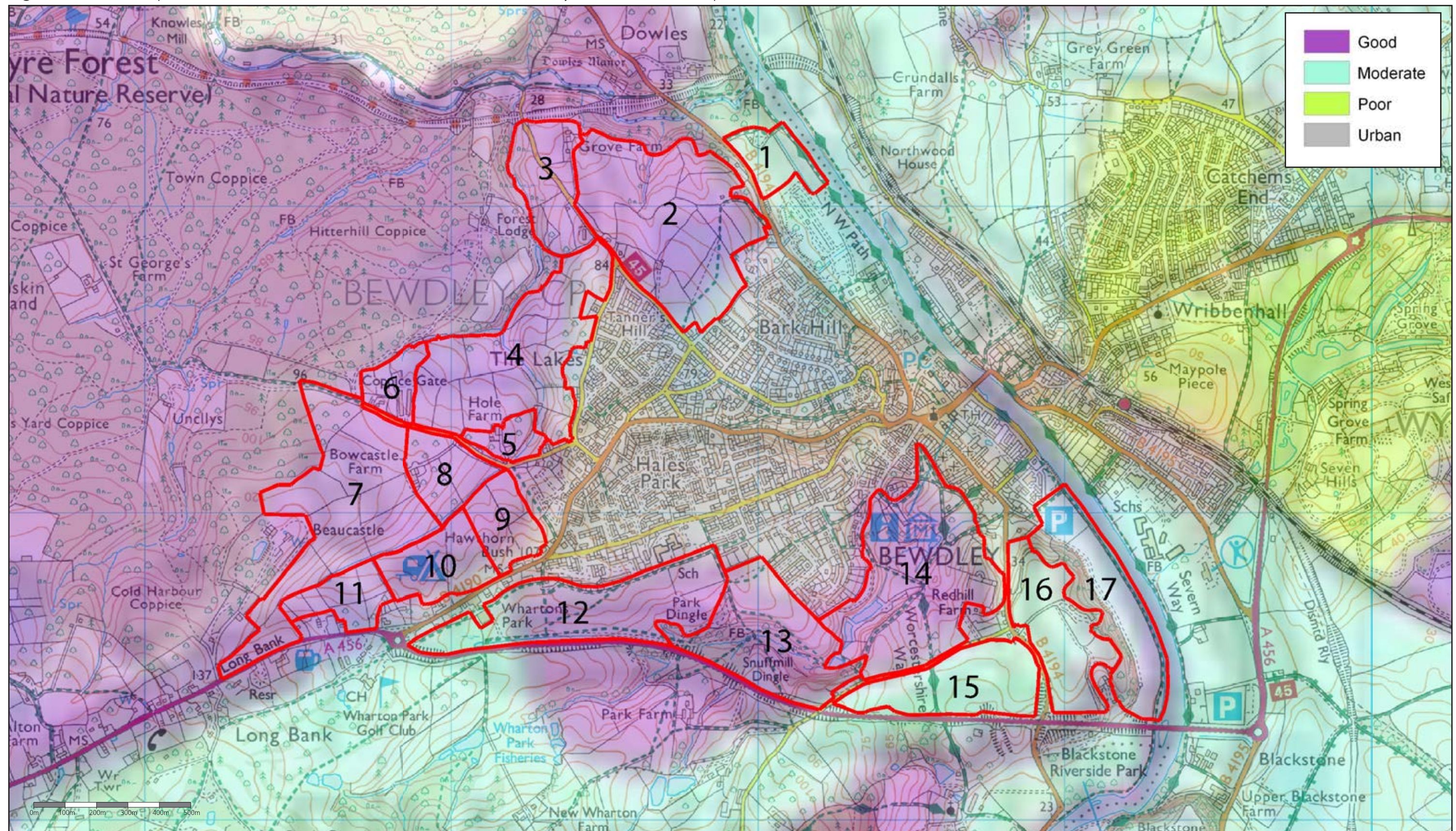
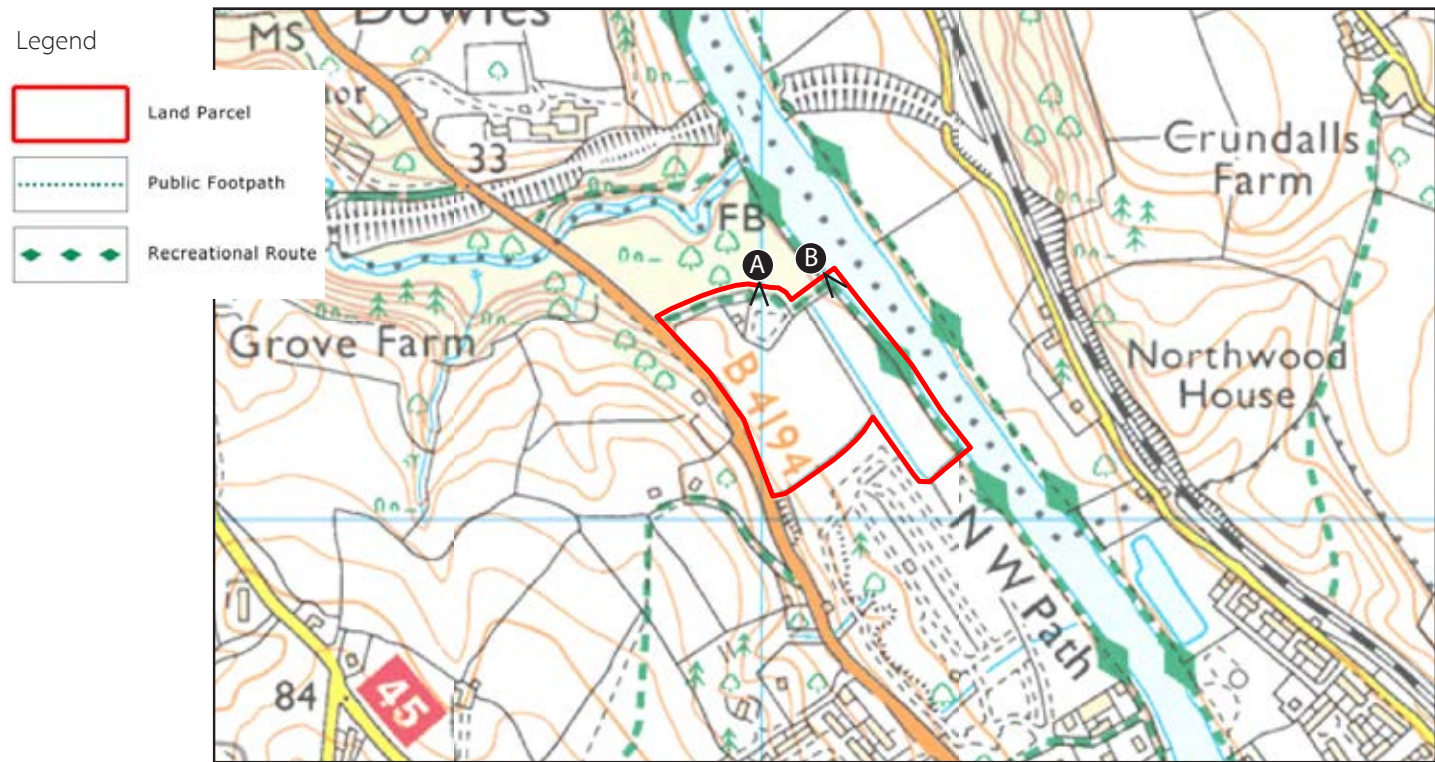


Figure 5 - Landscape Condition - Parcels Plan (Worcestershire County Council Landscape Character Assessment Technical Handbook)

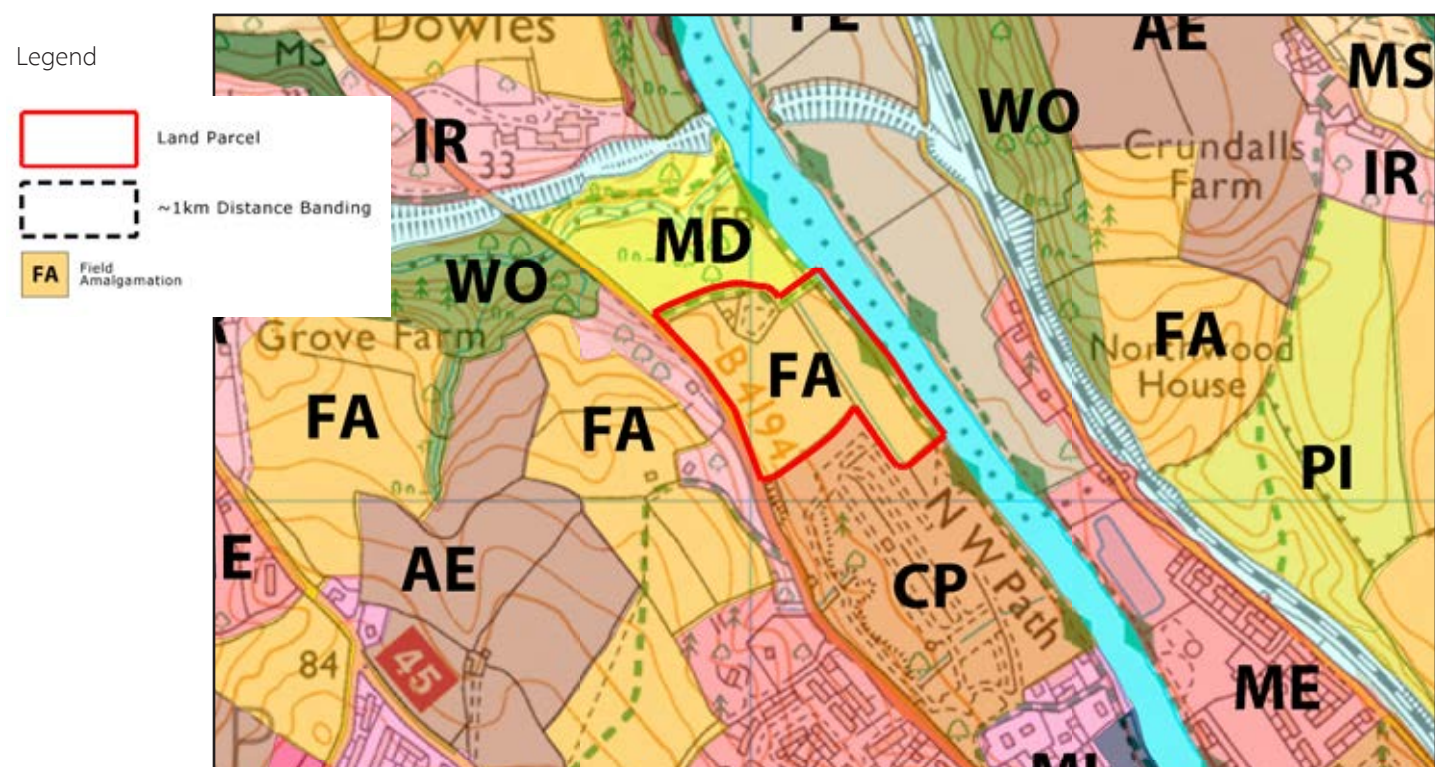


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Public Access Plan



Historical Landscape Character



Worcestershire County Council – Landscape Character Assessment

The Parcel lies within the Riverside Meadows Landscape Type and the LDU WP11 Bewdley to Upper Arley Riverside Meadows Landscape Description Unit.

The following documents are included at the back of this report as follows:

Appendix 1: Landscape Type Information Sheet
Appendix 2: Landscape Type Advice Sheet – Land Management
Appendix 3: Landscape Type Advice sheet for planning and development

With respect to the settlement pattern of new development there is no information or planning advice for the Riverside Meadows Landscape Type.

The Worcestershire County Landscape Character Assessment Technical handbook identifies the Landscape Condition as Good and Landscape Sensitivity of the parcel as High i.e. the highest of a 4 point scale. See mapping at Figures 5 and 6.

Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The northern edge of the parcel is easily accessible from Bewdley by a footway along the eastern edge of the B4194 Dowles Road that connects to the public footpath along the northern edge of the parcel.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The parcel forms a discrete pocket of land contained to the north by woodland, the south by the caravan park, the west by the B4194 and the east by the River Severn.
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a 'High' level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	Views along the long distance footpath by the river are largely unaffected by major built development and the public footpath that weaves along the northern boundary of the parcel passes through the remnants of the Dowles churchyard, resulting in an overall High rating
History	The historic landscape character is field amalgamation of limited value, however the historic remains of Dowles churchyard and historic footpath connecting to the churchyard and also along the river result in an overall Medium to High rating.
Tranquillity	Intervisibility with the town is restricted by landform and vegetation with some localised disturbance from the caravan park and B4194, resulting in an overall Medium rating.
Recreational Value	Public rights of way including a long distance footpath route run along the northern and eastern boundaries of the parcel and public access along the B4194 corridor to the west resulting in an overall High rating.
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	The parcel contains mature hedgerows and trees and lies adjacent to mature woodland and the River Severn. The western boundary lies adjacent to the Wyre Forest SSSI. Overall Medium to High rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel meets the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space

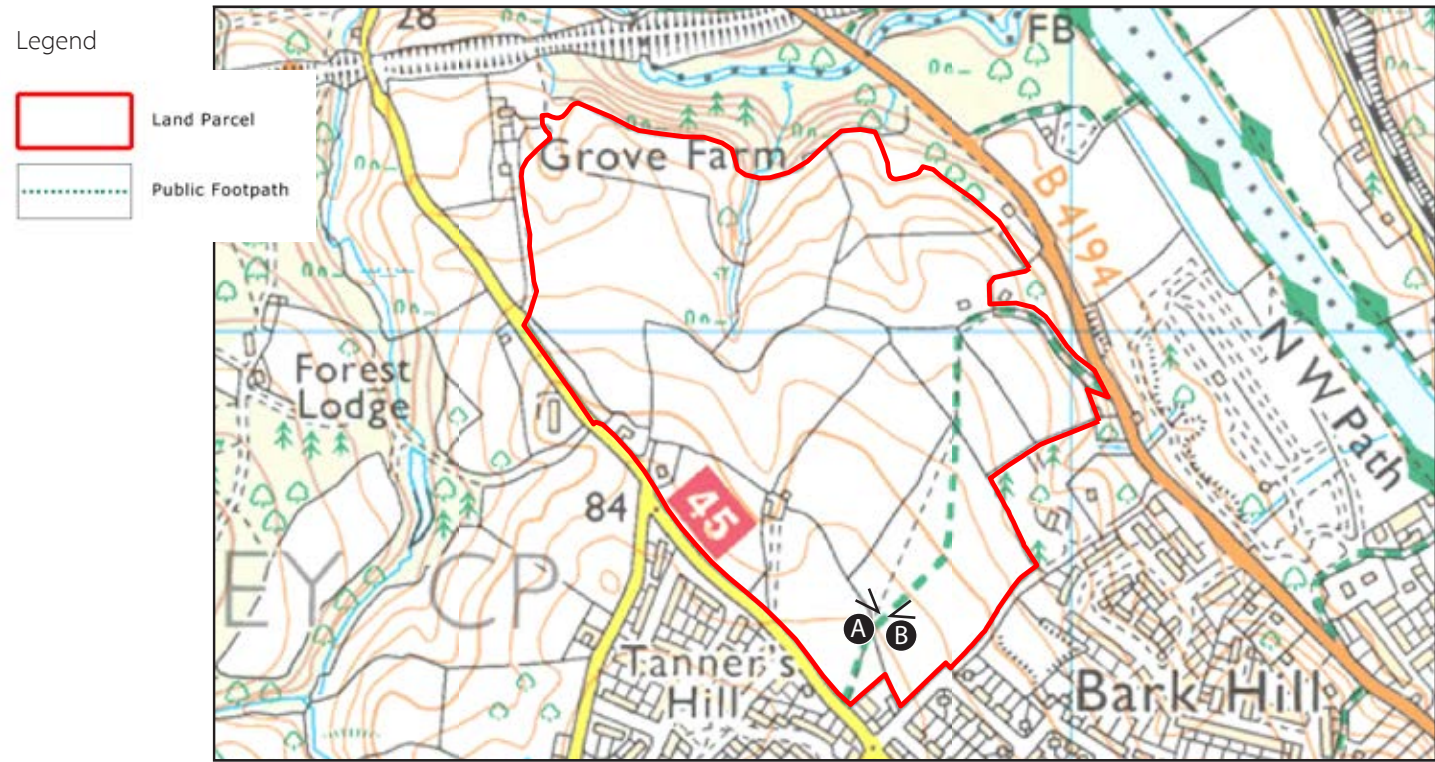
Photo A



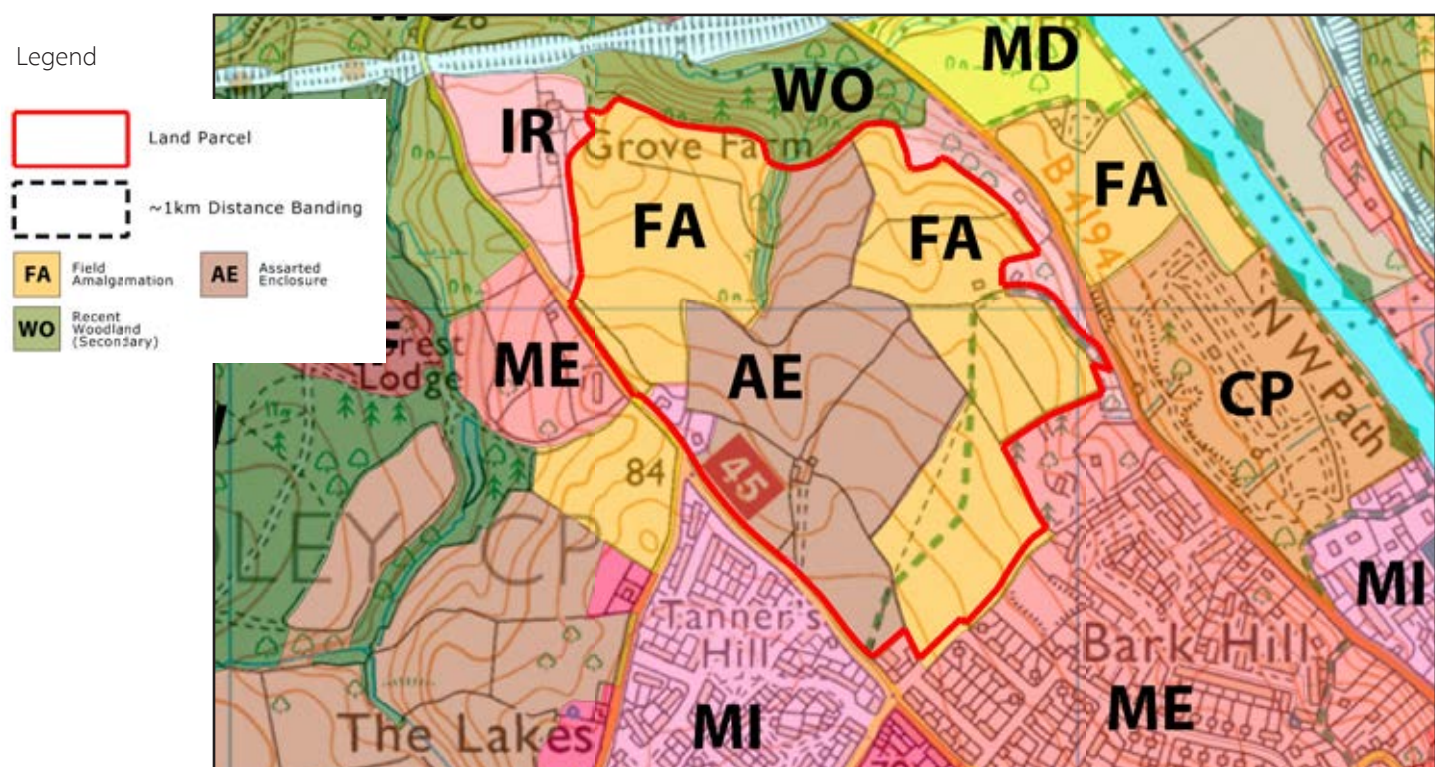
Photo B



Public Access Plan



Historical Landscape Character



Worcestershire County Council – Landscape Character Assessment

The Parcel lies within the Forest Smallholdings Landscape Type and the LDU WP07.3 Dowles Brook Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings Landscape Description Unit.

The following documents are included at the back of this report as follows:

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Appendix 2: Landscape Type Advice Sheet – Land Management
Appendix 3: Landscape Type Advice sheet for planning and development

With respect to the settlement pattern of new development it is stated:

'New development must respect the historical ad-hoc development of the settlement pattern of these landscapes and avoiding standardisation of design and layout. Additional individual dwellings may be accommodated in some circumstances where the scale of the original settlement would not be compromised. Clustered groups of new housing however would not be appropriate. The retention of small pastures/orchards between houses is important.'

The Worcestershire County Landscape Character Assessment Technical handbook identifies the Landscape Condition as Good and the Landscape Sensitivity of the parcel as High. i.e. the highest of a 4 point scale. See mapping at Figures 5 and 6.

Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The land is crossed by a public footpath and a national cycle route follow Dry Mill Lane. In addition to being highly accessible to nearby local residents the land is also visible to many people in the community from their dwellings. The parcel of land fulfils this criteria.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The site is part of the Dowles Brook Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings LDU (Worcestershire LCA) and forms a discrete pocket of land contained to the north by woodland, the west by woodland and Dry Mill Lane, the south and east by the built up edge of Bedwley and the northeast by Dowles Road
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a 'High' level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	Views across the valley from both Dry Mill Lane and the public footpath incorporate the land parcel in the foreground and wider views, recognised in historic published literature for their high quality, resulting in an overall High rating
History	Ancient field boundary hedgerows, a rare historic assarted enclosure landscape type and historic references to the footpath through the site result in an overall High rating
Tranquillity	Intervisibility with the town is restricted by hedgerows and landform. Limited light pollution and noise sources, resulting in an overall Medium to High rating
Recreational Value	The public footpath through the site and the national cycle route along Dry Mill Lane links to the recreational network in the wider countryside resulting in an overall High rating
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	The Site contains mature hedgerows and trees and lies adjacent to mature woodland. The parcel is close to the Wyre Forest National Nature Reserve and lies adjacent to a SSSI. Overall Medium to High rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel meets the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space

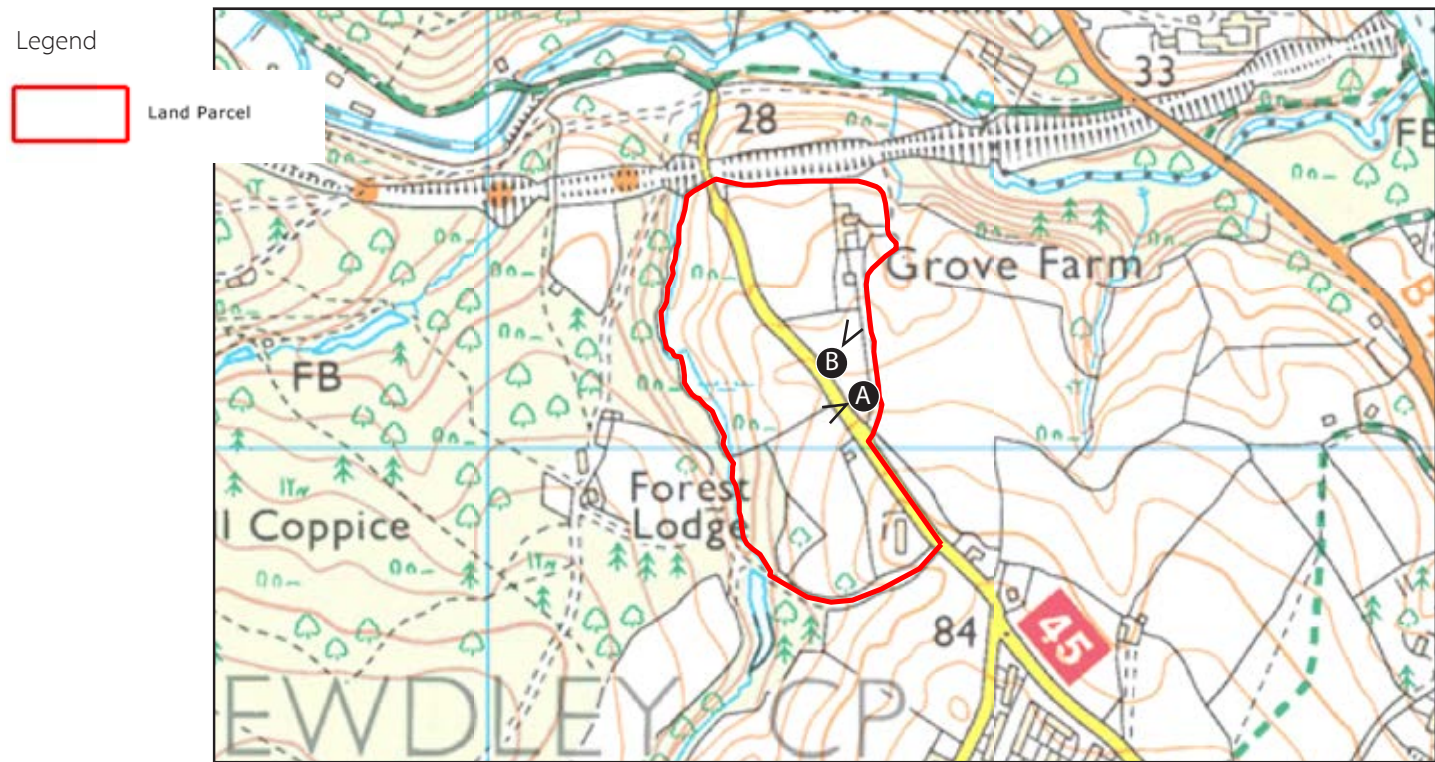
Photo A



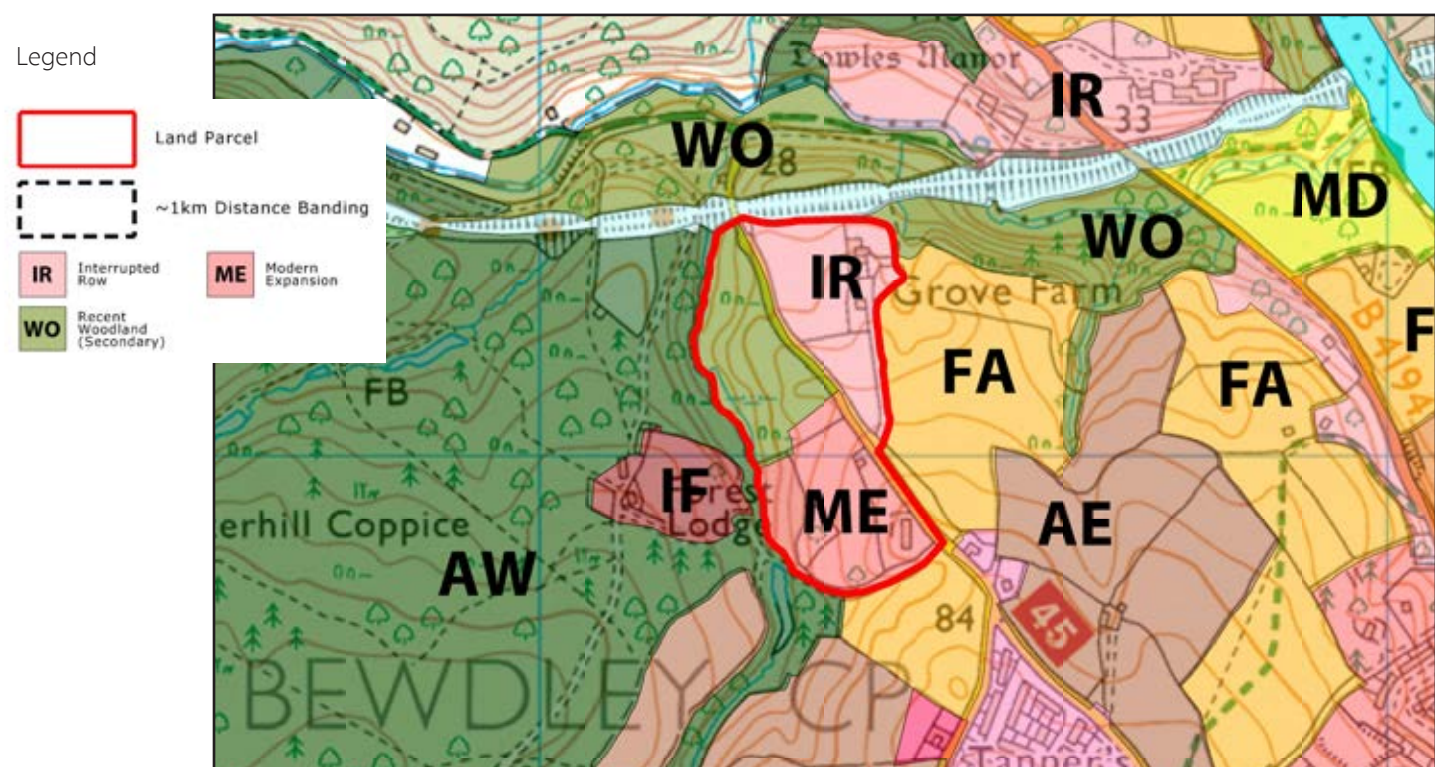
Photo B



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The Worcestershire County Landscape Character Assessment Technical handbook identifies the Landscape Condition as Good and the Landscape Sensitivity of the parcel as High. i.e. the highest of a 4 point scale. See mapping at Figures 5 & 6.

Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The parcel is bisected by Dry Mill Lane and National Cycleway 45 that connects to the northern edge of Bewdley at Tanner's Hill.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The parcel forms a pocket of land contained by the disused railway to the north, Wyre Forest to the west and different historical landscape areas to the south and east.
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a 'High' level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	Rural views along Dry Mill Lane include orchards and the Wyre Forest, resulting in an overall High rating
History	The historic landscape character is a patchwork of recent woodland (orchards), Interrupted Row and Modern expansion, resulting in an overall Medium rating.
Tranquillity	Intervisibility within the town is restricted by landform and vegetation and limited other disturbance apart from occasional vehicular traffic along Dry Mill Lane to the Wyre Forest visitors car park and scattered farmstead clusters, resulting in an overall Medium to High rating.
Recreational Value	Dry Mill Lane that runs through the parcel is also a National Cycle Route and the public car park at the northern boundary of the parcel, within the Wyre Forest provides accessibility to the wider countryside and Forest, resulting in an overall High rating.
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	The parcel contains mature hedgerows and trees and west of Dry Mill Lane the parcel lies within the Wyre Forest SSSI. Overall High rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel meets the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space

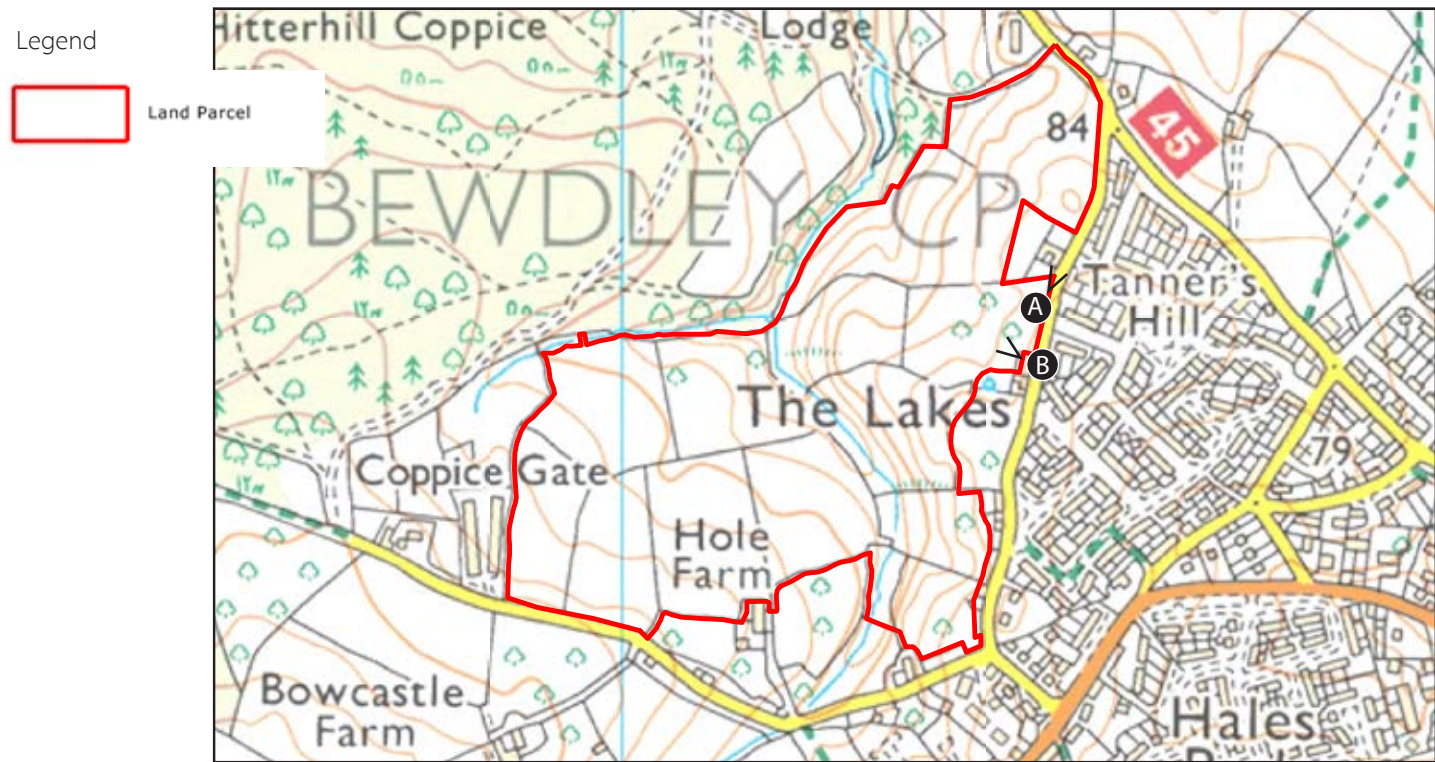
Photo A



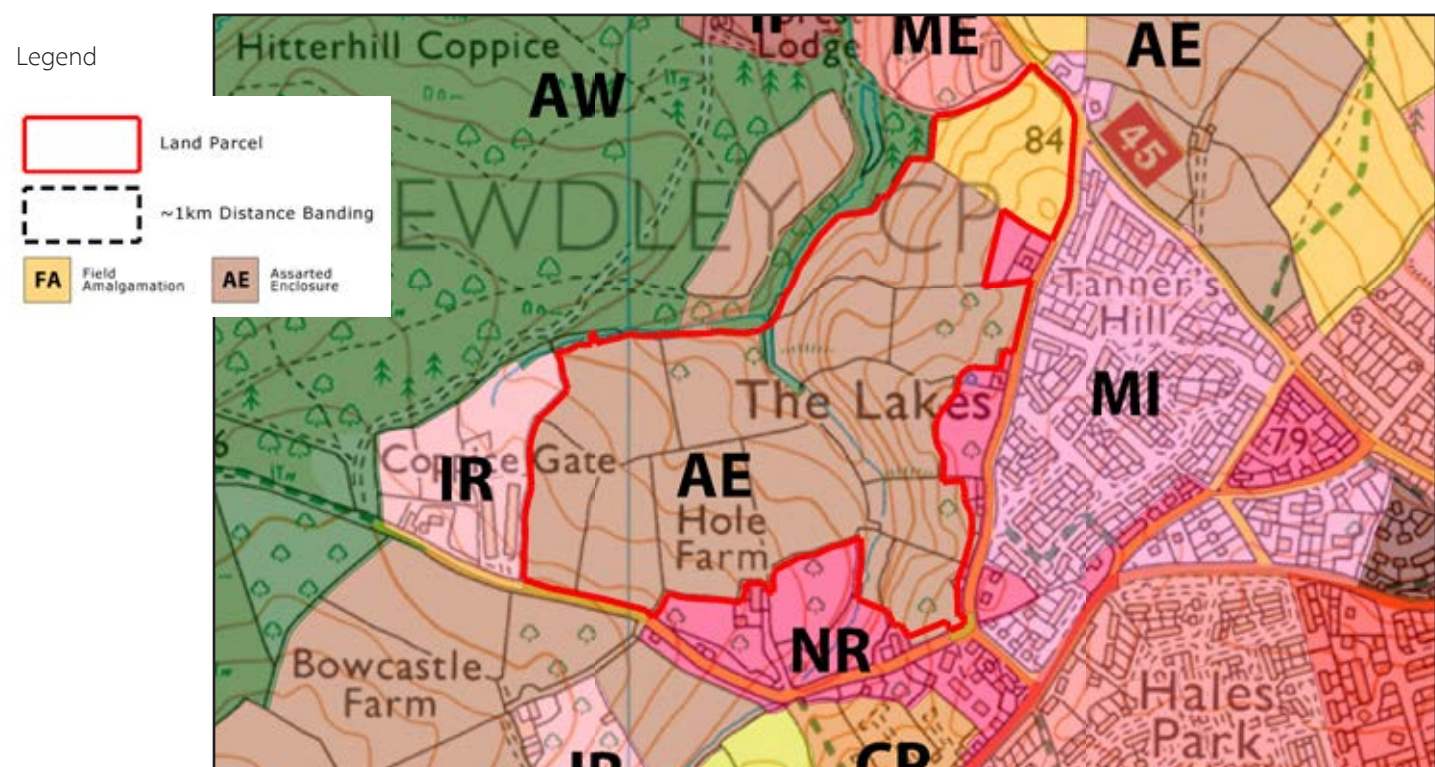
Photo B



Public Access Plan



Historical Landscape Character



Worcestershire County Council – Landscape Character Assessment

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The Worcestershire County Landscape Character Assessment Technical handbook identifies the Landscape Condition as Good and the Landscape Sensitivity of the parcel as High. i.e. the highest of a 4 point scale. See mapping at Figures 5 & 6.

Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The parcel lies west of Hop Pole Lane (public highway) on the western edge of Bewdley adjacent to the suburb of Tanner's Hill.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The parcel lies within the Forest Smallholdings Landscape Type and comprises a number of fields that are contained by the Wyre Forest to the north, development at Coppice Gate and Hole Farm to the west and south and the built development of Bewdley to the east.
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a 'High' level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	No public access to the parcel where the character can be appreciated. Predominantly rural views along Hop Pole Lane which is largely contained by tall mature hedges with occasional glimpses of isolated dwellings to the west of the lane and orchards/farmland and the built up edge of Bewdley to the east, resulting in an overall High rating
History	The historic landscape character of the fields is predominantly Assarted Enclosure and lies adjacent to the Wyre Forest, resulting in an overall Medium to High rating.
Tranquillity	Intervisibility with the town is restricted by landform and planting along both sides of Hop Pole Lane which is a narrow single lane with passing places, resulting in an overall Medium to High rating.
Recreational Value	Hop Pole Lane and Tanner's Hill facilitate occasional views of the parcel although largely screened by hedgerows. There is no public access to the parcel, resulting in an overall Low rating.
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	The parcel contains mature hedgerows and trees and the eastern part of the parcel lies within the Wyre Forest SSSI and northern boundary is adjacent to the National Nature Reserve. Overall High rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel meets the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.

Photo A



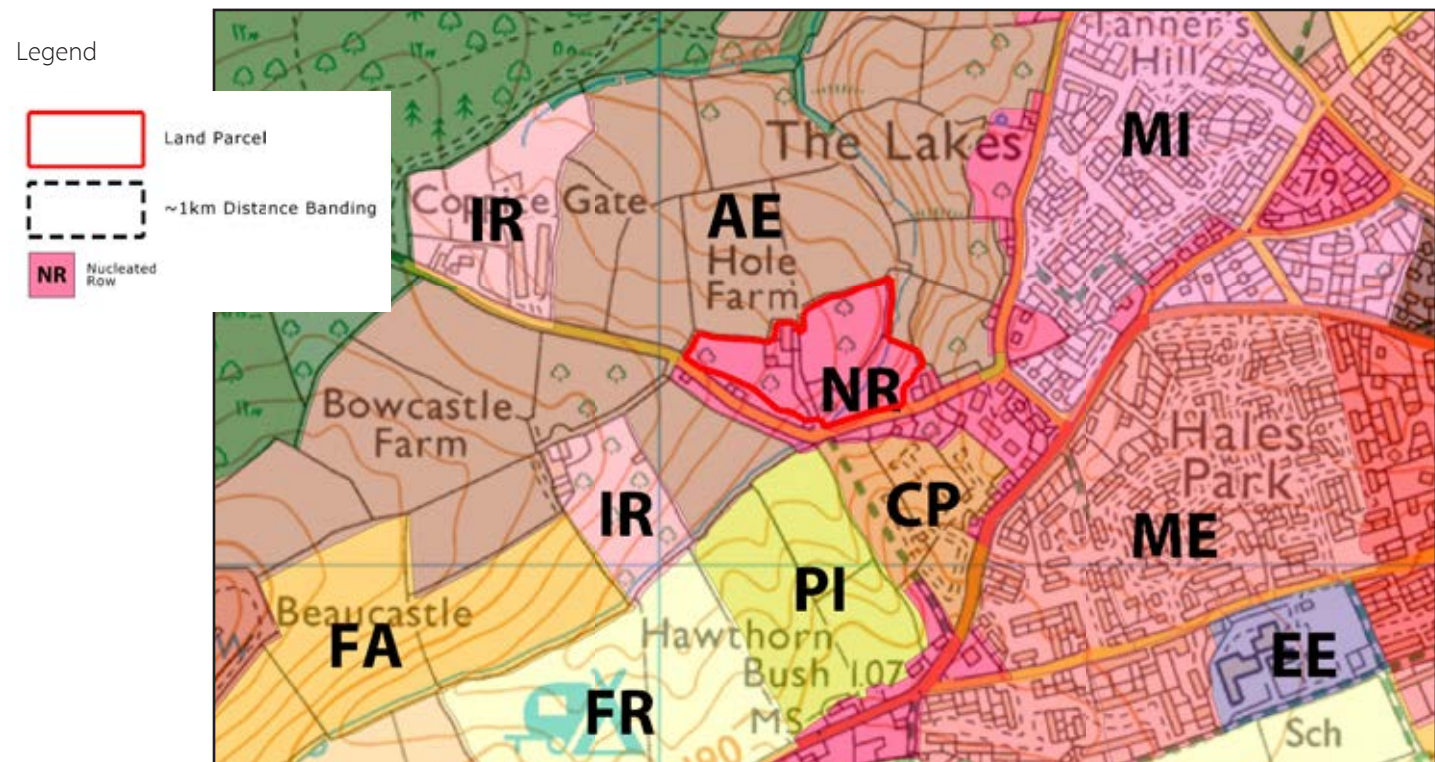
Photo B



Public Access Plan



Historical Landscape Character



Worcestershire County Council – Landscape Character Assessment

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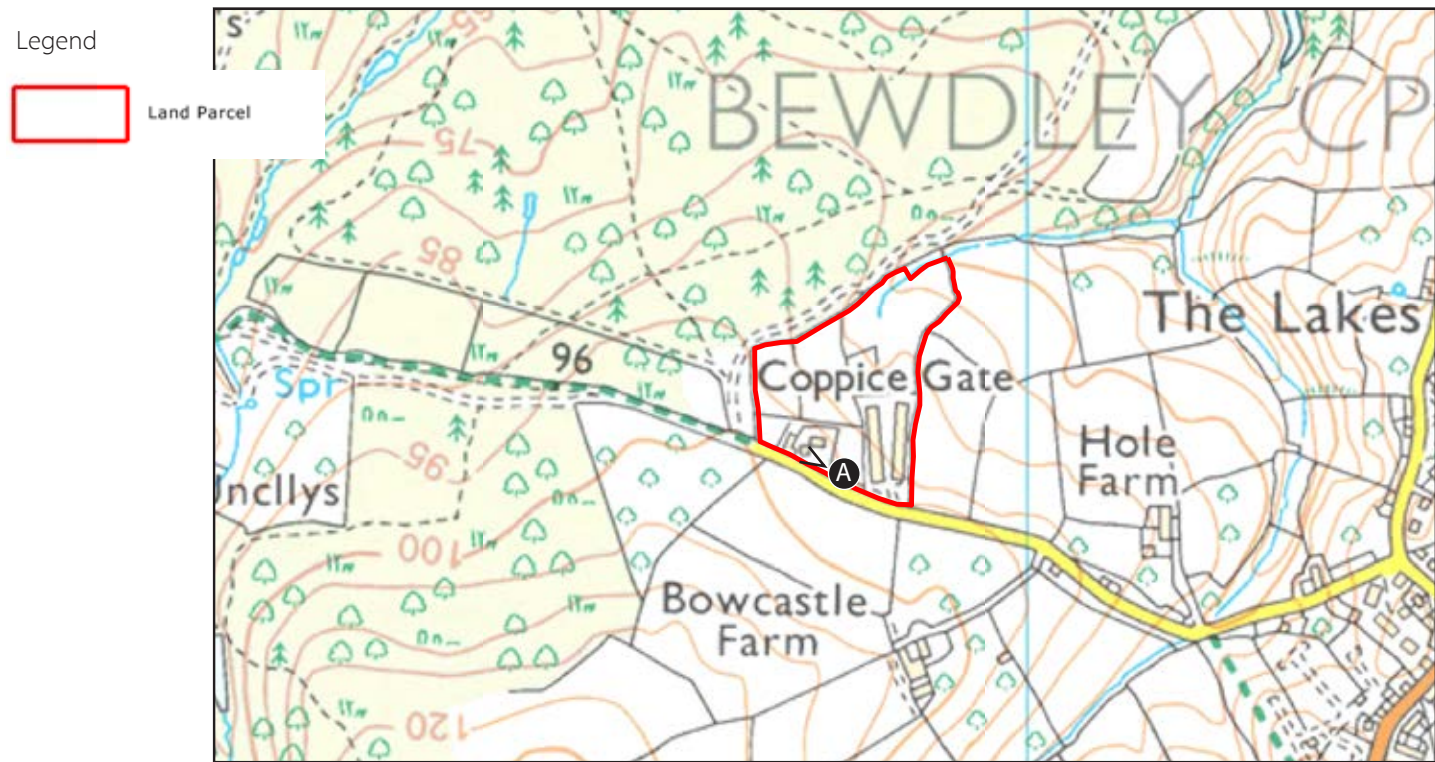
Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The parcel lies north of Tanner's Hill (public highway) on the western edge of Bewdley adjacent to a caravan park and close to the suburb of Bewdley at Hales Park.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The parcel lies within the Forest Smallholdings Landscape Type and comprises two fields adjacent to Hole Farm and bounded by Tanner's Hill to the south.
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a 'High' level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	No public access to the parcel where the character can be easily appreciated. Predominantly rural views along Tanner's Hill which is typically contained by mature hedges and trees with occasional glimpses of the land from Tanner's Lane. Overhead lines are a local detractor. Overall Medium to High rating.
History	The historic landscape character of the fields is Nucleated Row reflecting farmstead context and resulting in an overall Medium rating.
Tranquillity	Intervisibility with the caravan park and the town is restricted by landform and planting along Tanner's Hill which is a narrow single lane with passing places, resulting in an overall Medium to High rating.
Recreational Value	Tanner's Hill facilitates occasional views of the parcel although largely screened by hedgerows. There is no public access to the parcel, resulting in an overall Low rating.
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	The parcel contains mature hedgerows and trees and the western edge of the parcel lies adjacent to the Wyre Forest SSSI. Overall Medium to High rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel does not meet the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.

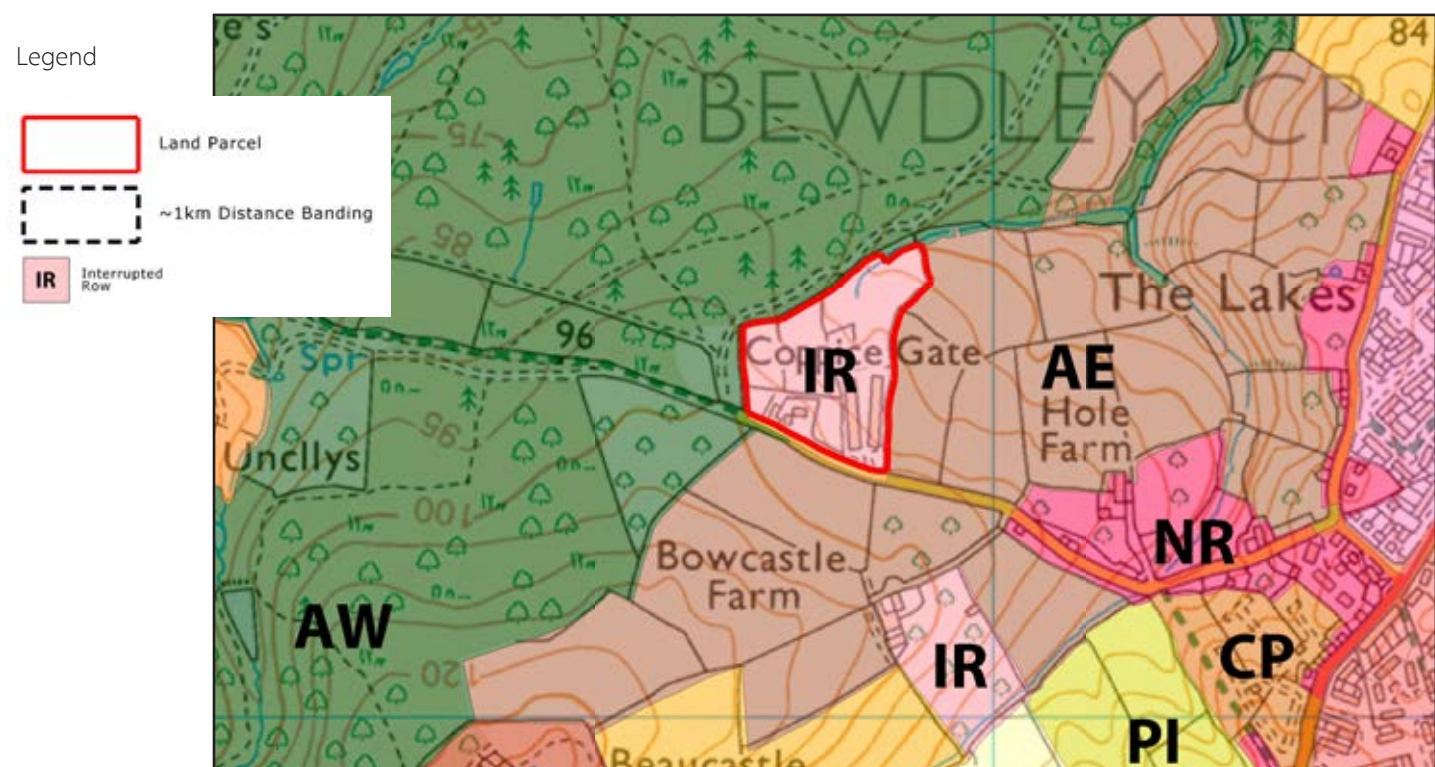
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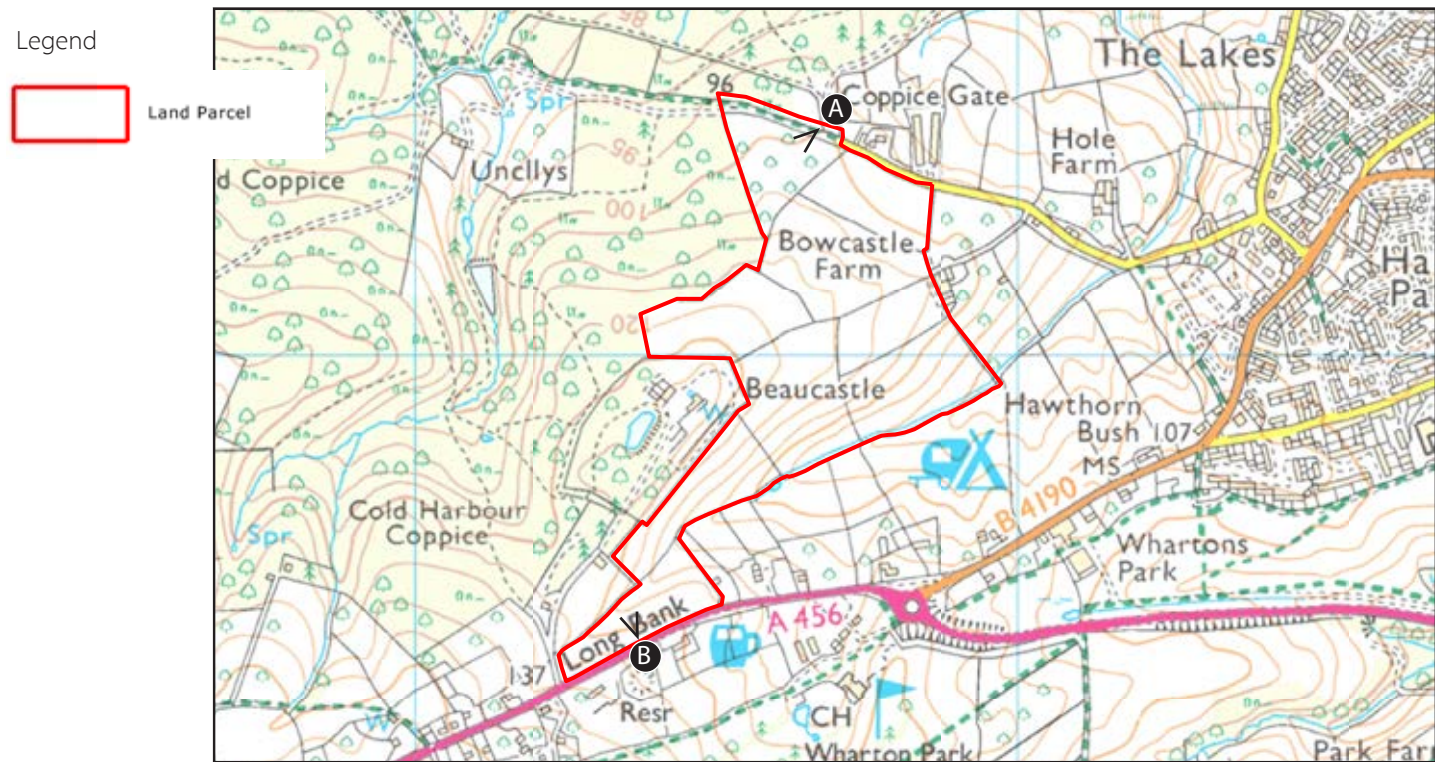
Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The parcel lies west of Bewdley and whilst over 500m from the edge of the town is relatively accessible via Tanner's Hill, noting a public car park adjacent to the southwest corner of the parcel within the Wyre Forest.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The parcel lies within the Forest Smallholdings Landscape Type and comprises a number of paddocks as well as a poultry farm and farmstead.
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a 'High' level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	No public access to the parcel where the character can be easily appreciated. Predominantly rural views along Tanner's Hill which is typically contained by mature hedges and trees with occasional glimpses of the land from Tanner's Lane. Modern poultry farm buildings are a local detractor but backdrop of forest dominates. Overall Medium rating.
History	The historic landscape character of the fields is Interrupted Row reflecting farmstead context on edge of forest and resulting in an overall Medium rating.
Tranquillity	Context dominated by the forest and predominantly rural setting but significant built development, resulting in an overall Medium rating.
Recreational Value	Tanner's Hill facilitates occasional views of the parcel although largely screened by planting. There is no public access to the parcel itself, resulting in an overall Low rating.
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	The parcel contains some mature hedgerows and trees and lies adjacent to the Wyre Forest SSSI and National Nature Reserve. Parcel includes a Local wildlife Site. Overall Medium to High rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel does not meet the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.

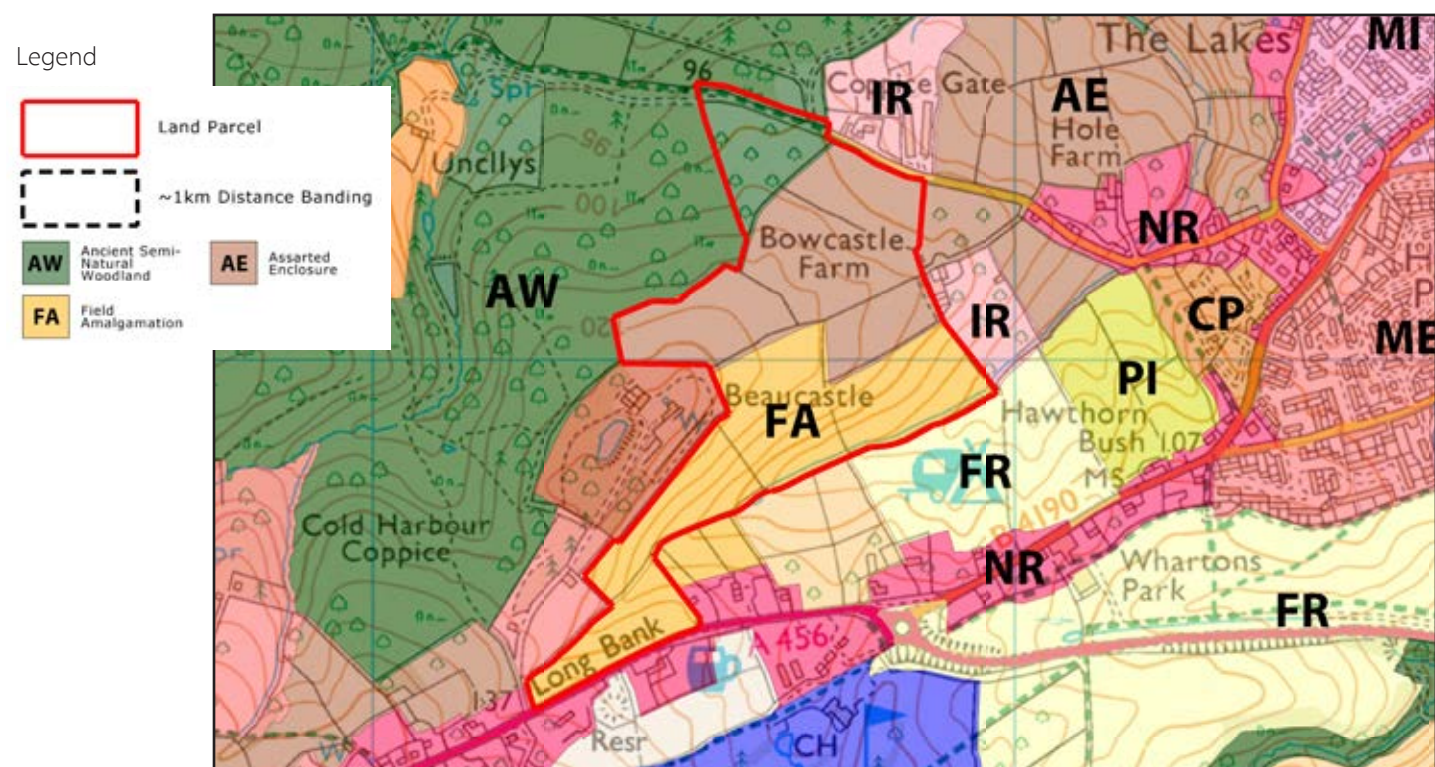
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The Worcestershire County Landscape Character Assessment Technical handbook identifies the Landscape Condition as Good and the Landscape Sensitivity of the parcel as High. With both being the highest of a 4 point scale. See mapping at Figures 5 and 6. This parcel of land also intersects with the WP07.2 Pound Bank Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings Landscape Description Unit.

Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The parcel lies west of Bewdley and whilst over 500m from the edge of the town is relatively accessible via Tanner's Hill, noting a public car park adjacent to the northern end of the parcel within the Wyre Forest.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The parcel lies within the Forest Smallholdings Landscape Type and comprises a number of pastoral fields.
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a 'High' level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	No public access to the parcel where the character can be easily appreciated apart from a public footpath along the northern edge. Strongly rural views. A456 corridor at southern boundary is a local detractor but backdrop of forest dominates. Overall High rating.
History	The historic landscape character of the land from north to south is semi-natural ancient woodland, assarted enclosure and field amalgamation reflecting context on edge of forest and subsequent agricultural development resulting in an overall Medium to High rating.
Tranquillity	Context dominated by the forest and predominantly rural setting with no built development, resulting in an overall Medium to High rating (locally reduced near A456 at southern boundary)
Recreational Value	Tanner's Hill and public footpath along northern boundary facilitates occasional views of the parcel although largely screened by planting. There is no public access to the parcel itself apart from the public footpath to the north, resulting in an overall Low to Medium rating.
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	The northern tip of the parcel covers the Wyre Forest SSSI, with the southwest boundary adjacent to a SSSI and the northwest boundary adjacent to the National Nature reserve. The parcel contains some mature hedgerows and trees and lies adjacent to the National Nature Reserve. Overall Medium to High rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel does not meet the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.

Photo A



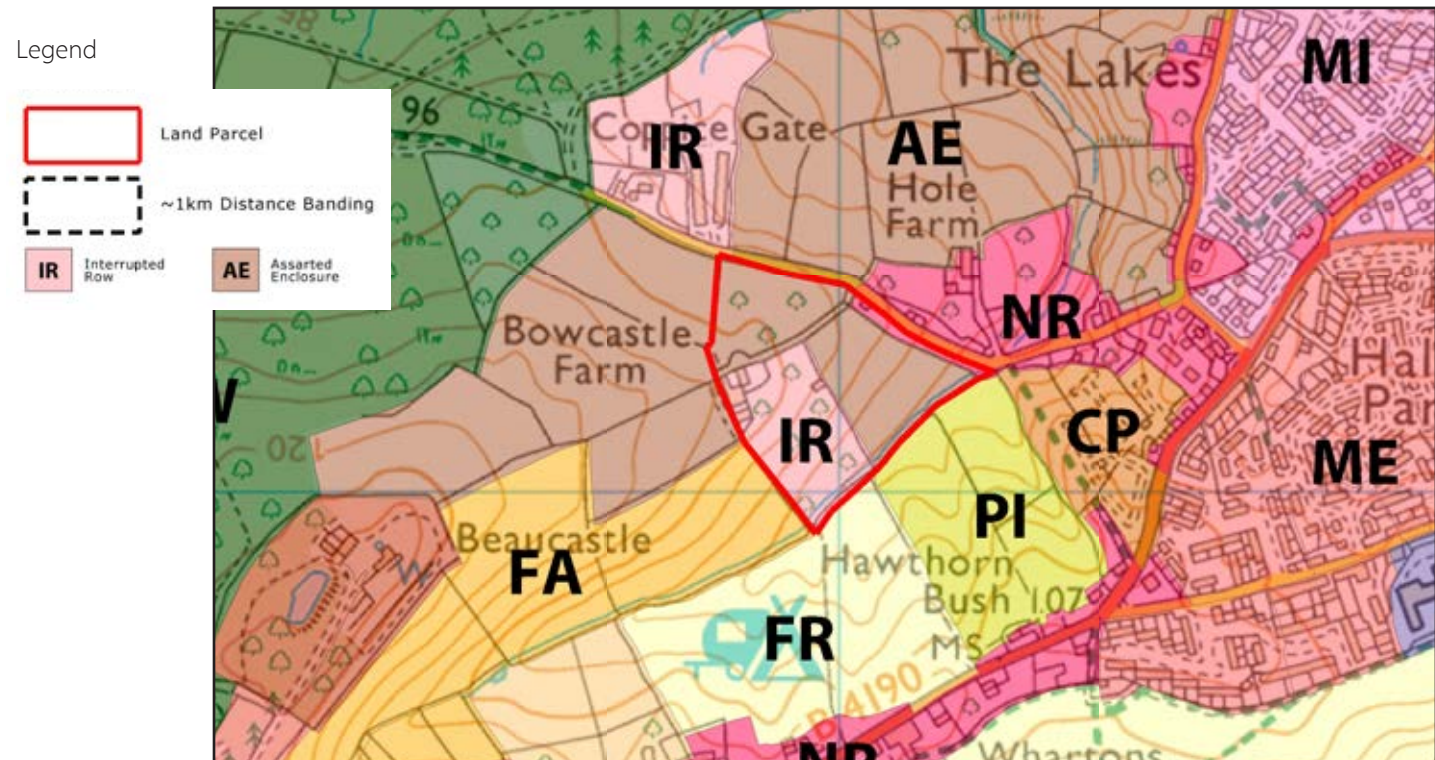
Photo B



Public Access Plan



Historical Landscape Character



Worcestershire County Council – Landscape Character Assessment

The Parcel lies within the Forest Smallholdings Landscape Type and the LDU WP07.3 Dowles Brook Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings Landscape Description Unit.

The following documents are included at the back of this report as follows:

Appendix 1: Landscape Type Information Sheet
Appendix 2: Landscape Type Advice Sheet – Land Management
Appendix 3: Landscape Type Advice sheet for planning and development

With respect to the settlement pattern of new development it is stated:

'New development must respect the historical ad-hoc development of the settlement pattern of these landscapes and avoiding standardisation of design and layout. Additional individual dwellings may be accommodated in some circumstances where the scale of the original settlement would not be compromised. Clustered groups of new housing however would not be appropriate. The retention of small pastures/orchards between houses is important.'

The Worcestershire County Landscape Character Assessment Technical handbook identifies the Landscape Condition as Good and the Landscape Sensitivity of the parcel as High. With both being the highest of a 4 point scale. See mapping at Figures 5 & 6.

Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The parcel lies west of Bewdley and is relatively accessible via Tanner's Hill. The eastern part closest to the river lies in the floodplain.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The parcel lies within the Forest Smallholdings Landscape Type and comprises several pastoral fields with remnant forest.
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a 'High' level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	No public access to the parcel where the character can be easily appreciated apart from glimpses from Tanners Hill – predominantly at field access points. Strongly rural views with slight detractors of modern barns at Bowcastle Farmstead. Backdrop of forest important. Overall Medium to High rating.
History	The historic landscape character of the land is Assarted Enclosure and Interrupted Row around Bowcastle Farm reflecting context on edge of forest and subsequent agricultural development resulting in an overall Medium to High rating.
Tranquillity	Rural setting with built development limited to Bowcastle Farmstead, resulting in an overall Medium to High rating
Recreational Value	There is no public access to the parcel itself apart from Tanner's Hill public highway to the north, resulting in an overall Low rating.
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	The western part of the parcel is designated as the Beaucastle SSSI. The parcel contains a number of mature trees set in pasture. Overall High rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel does not meet the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.

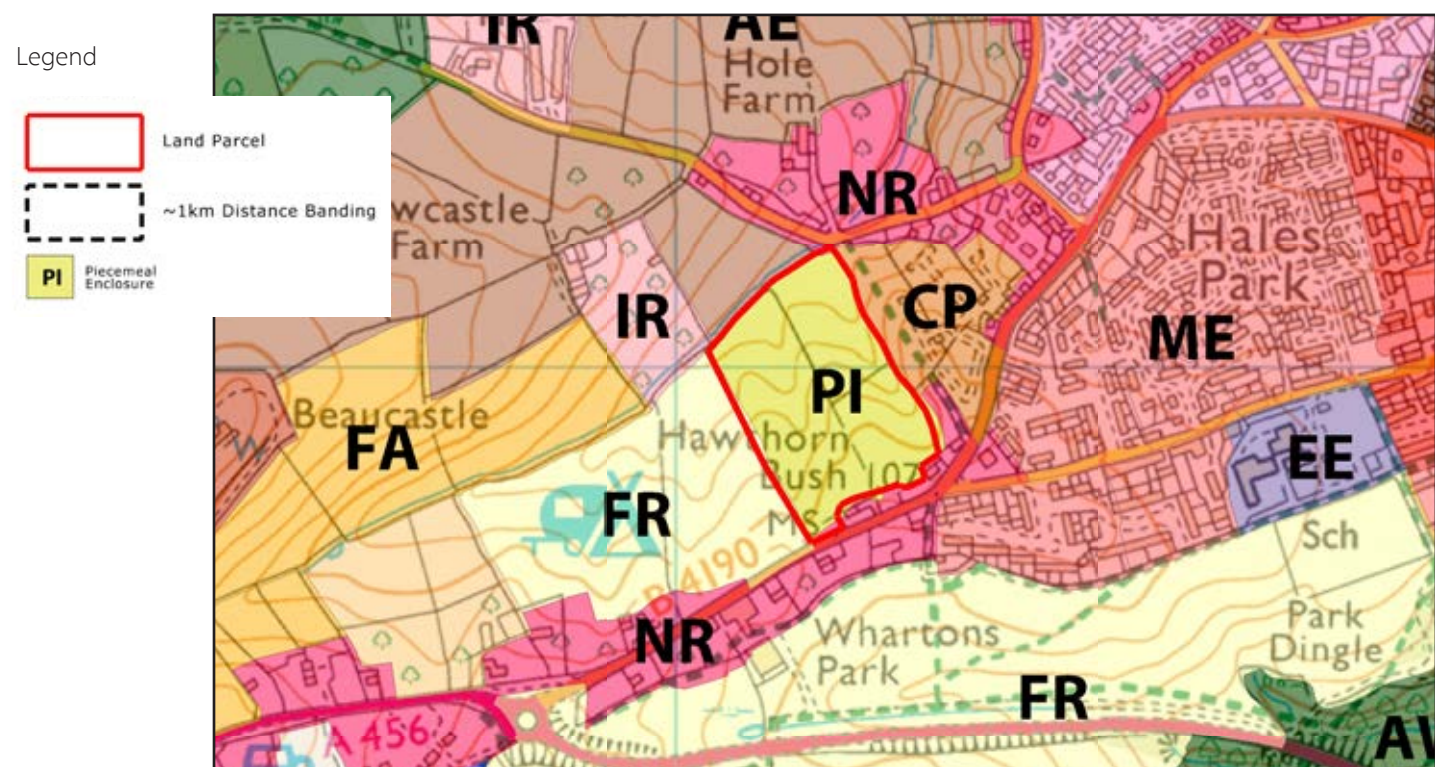
Photo A



Public Access Plan



Historical Landscape Character



Worcestershire County Council – Landscape Character Assessment

The Parcel lies within the Forest Smallholdings Landscape Type and the LDU WP07.3 Dowles Brook Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings Landscape Description Unit.

The following documents are included at the back of this report as follows:

Appendix 1: Landscape Type Information Sheet
Appendix 2: Landscape Type Advice Sheet – Land Management
Appendix 3: Landscape Type Advice sheet for planning and development

With respect to the settlement pattern of new development it is stated:

'New development must respect the historical ad-hoc development of the settlement pattern of these landscapes and avoiding standardisation of design and layout. Additional individual dwellings may be accommodated in some circumstances where the scale of the original settlement would not be compromised. Clustered groups of new housing however would not be appropriate. The retention of small pastures/orchards between houses is important.'

The Worcestershire County Landscape Character Assessment Technical handbook identifies the Landscape Condition as Good and the Landscape Sensitivity of the parcel as High. With both being the highest of a 4 point scale. See mapping at Figures 5 and 6.

Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The parcel lies west of Bewdley and is relatively accessible via Tanner's Hill to north and B4190 to the south.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The parcel lies within the Forest Smallholdings Landscape Type and comprises several pastoral fields with remnant forest.
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a 'High' level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	No public access to the parcel where the character can be easily appreciated. Strongly rural character with adjacent leisure uses and associated built development and the road corridor to the south detracting. Overall Medium rating.
History	The historic landscape character of the land is Piecemeal Enclosure reflecting historic agricultural development and resulting in an overall Medium rating.
Tranquillity	Rural setting with influence of caravan park to the east and camp site to the west and B4190 to the south, resulting in an overall Low to Medium rating
Recreational Value	There is no public access to the parcel itself although the B4190 passes to the south, resulting in an overall Low rating.
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	The eastern part of the parcel is designated as the Browns Close Meadow SSSI. The parcel contains a number of mature hedgerows and trees. Overall High rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel does not meet the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.

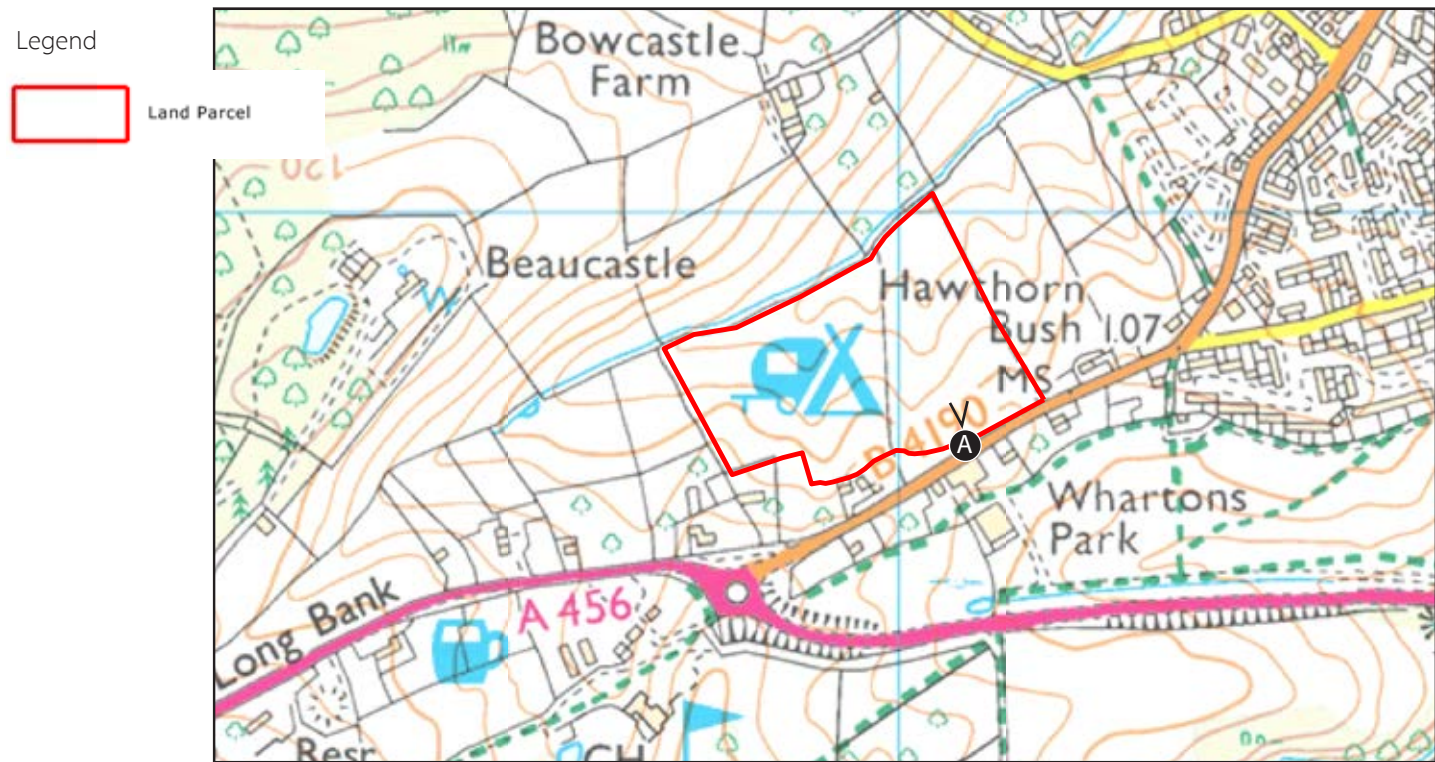
Photo A (1)



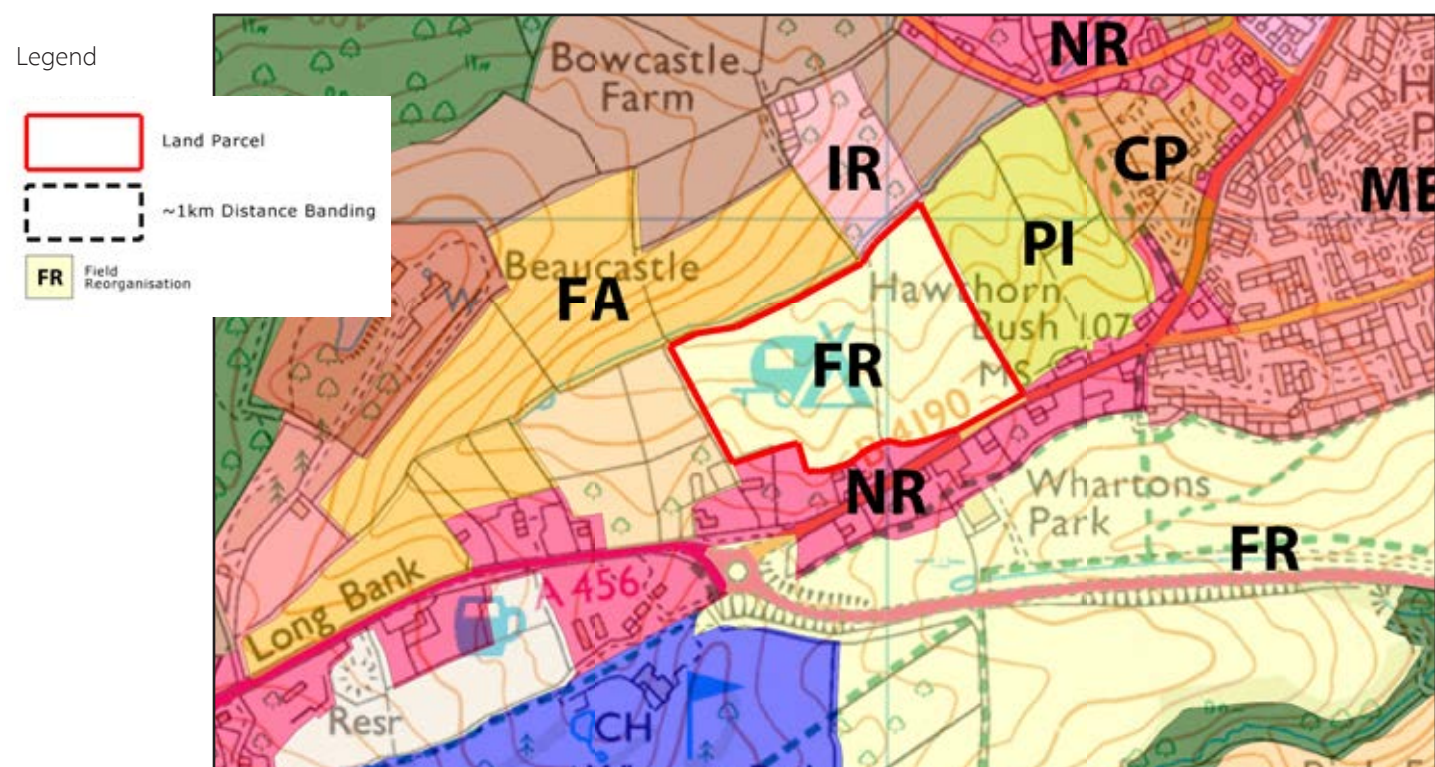
Photo A (2)



Public Access Plan



Historical Landscape Character



Worcestershire County Council – Landscape Character Assessment

The Parcel lies within the Forest Smallholdings Landscape Type and the LDU WP07.3 Dowles Brook Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings Landscape Description Unit.

The following documents are included at the back of this report as follows:

Appendix 1: Landscape Type Information Sheet
Appendix 2: Landscape Type Advice Sheet – Land Management
Appendix 3: Landscape Type Advice sheet for planning and development

With respect to the settlement pattern of new development it is stated:

'New development must respect the historical ad-hoc development of the settlement pattern of these landscapes and avoiding standardisation of design and layout. Additional individual dwellings may be accommodated in some circumstances where the scale of the original settlement would not be compromised. Clustered groups of new housing however would not be appropriate. The retention of small pastures/orchards between houses is important.'

The Worcestershire County Landscape Character Assessment Technical handbook identifies the Landscape Condition as Good and the Landscape Sensitivity of the parcel as High. With both being the highest of a 4 point scale. See mapping at Figures 5 & 6.

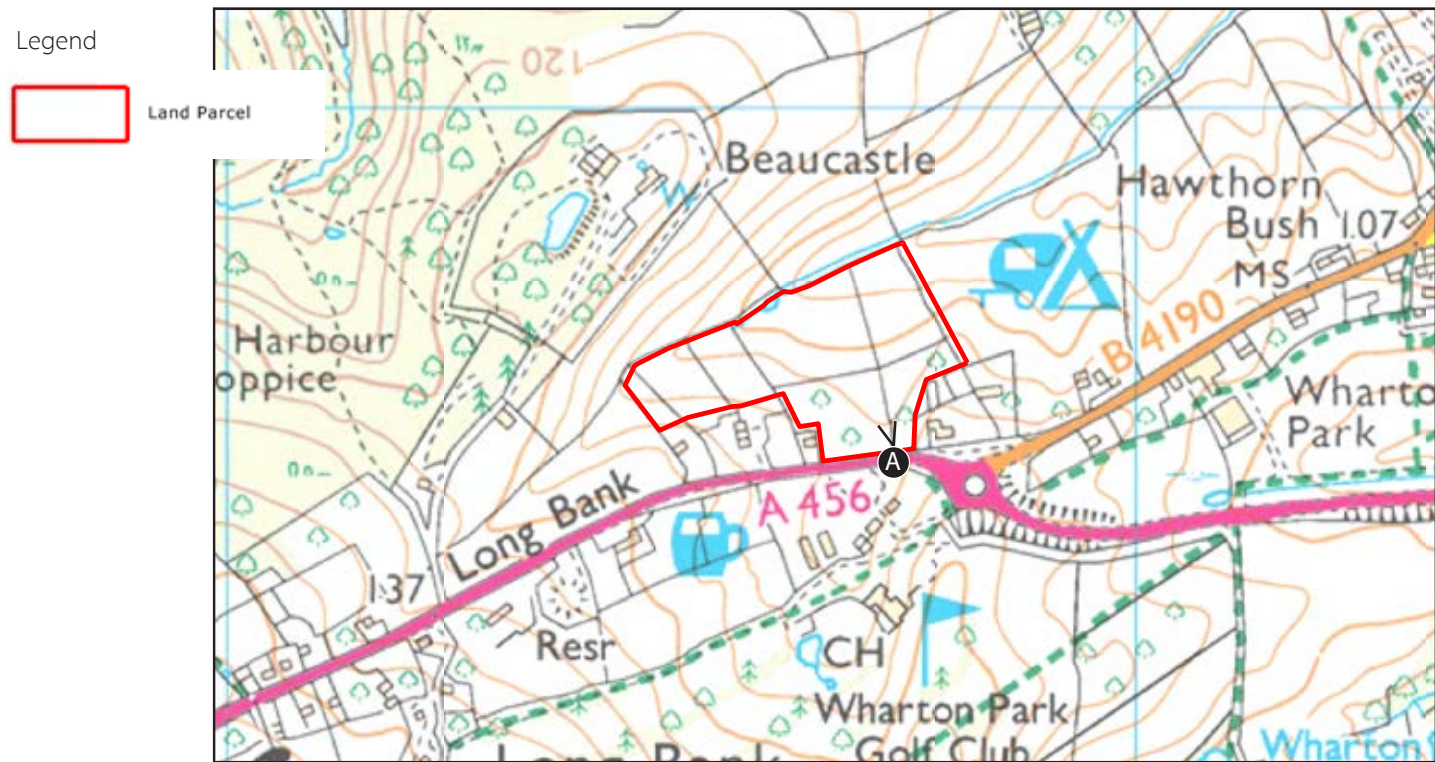
(Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria)	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The parcel lies west of Bewdley and is relatively accessible via Tanner's Hill to north and B4190 to the south.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The parcel lies within the Forest Smallholdings Landscape Type and comprises several mown fields with caravan pitches
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a 'High' level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	No public access to the parcel where the character can be easily appreciated. Rural character at perimeter of parcel with mature hedgerows containing transient leisure use and associated built development and the road corridor to the south detracting. Overall Low to Medium rating.
History	The historic landscape character of the land is Field reorganisation and resulting in an overall Low to Medium rating.
Tranquillity	Influence of caravan and tents on the site and retail development to the south and the B4190 corridor, resulting in an overall Low rating
Recreational Value	The private recreation value is evidently high but there is no public access to the parcel itself, resulting in an overall Low rating.
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	Mown amenity grassland has limited wildlife value. The parcel however is enclosed by a number of mature hedgerows and trees. Overall Medium rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel does not meet the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.

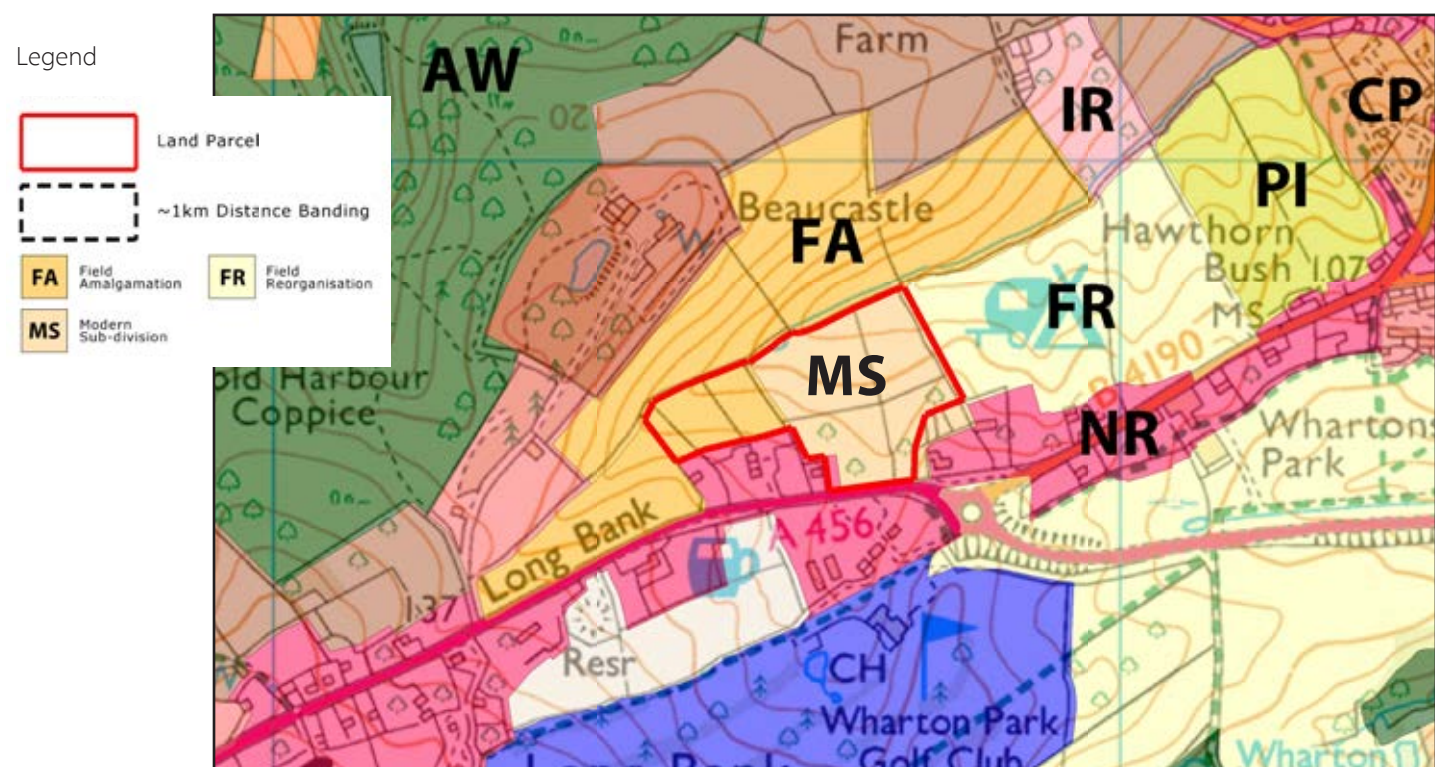
Photo A



Public Access Plan



Historical Landscape Character



Worcestershire County Council – Landscape Character Assessment

The Parcel lies within the Forest Smallholdings Landscape Type and the LDU WP07.2 Pound Bank Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings Landscape Description Unit.

The following documents are included at the back of this report as follows:

- Appendix 1: Landscape Type Information Sheet
- Appendix 2: Landscape Type Advice Sheet – Land Management
- Appendix 3: Landscape Type Advice sheet for planning and development

With respect to the settlement pattern of new development it is stated:

'New development must respect the historical ad-hoc development of the settlement pattern of these landscapes and avoiding standardisation of design and layout. Additional individual dwellings may be accommodated in some circumstances where the scale of the original settlement would not be compromised. Clustered groups of new housing however would not be appropriate. The retention of small pastures/orchards between houses is important.'

The Worcestershire County Landscape Character Assessment Technical handbook identifies the Landscape Condition as Good and the Landscape Sensitivity of the parcel as High. With both being the highest of a 4 point scale. See mapping at Figures 5 and 6.. This parcel of land also intersects with the WP07.3 Dowles Brook Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings Landscape Description Unit.

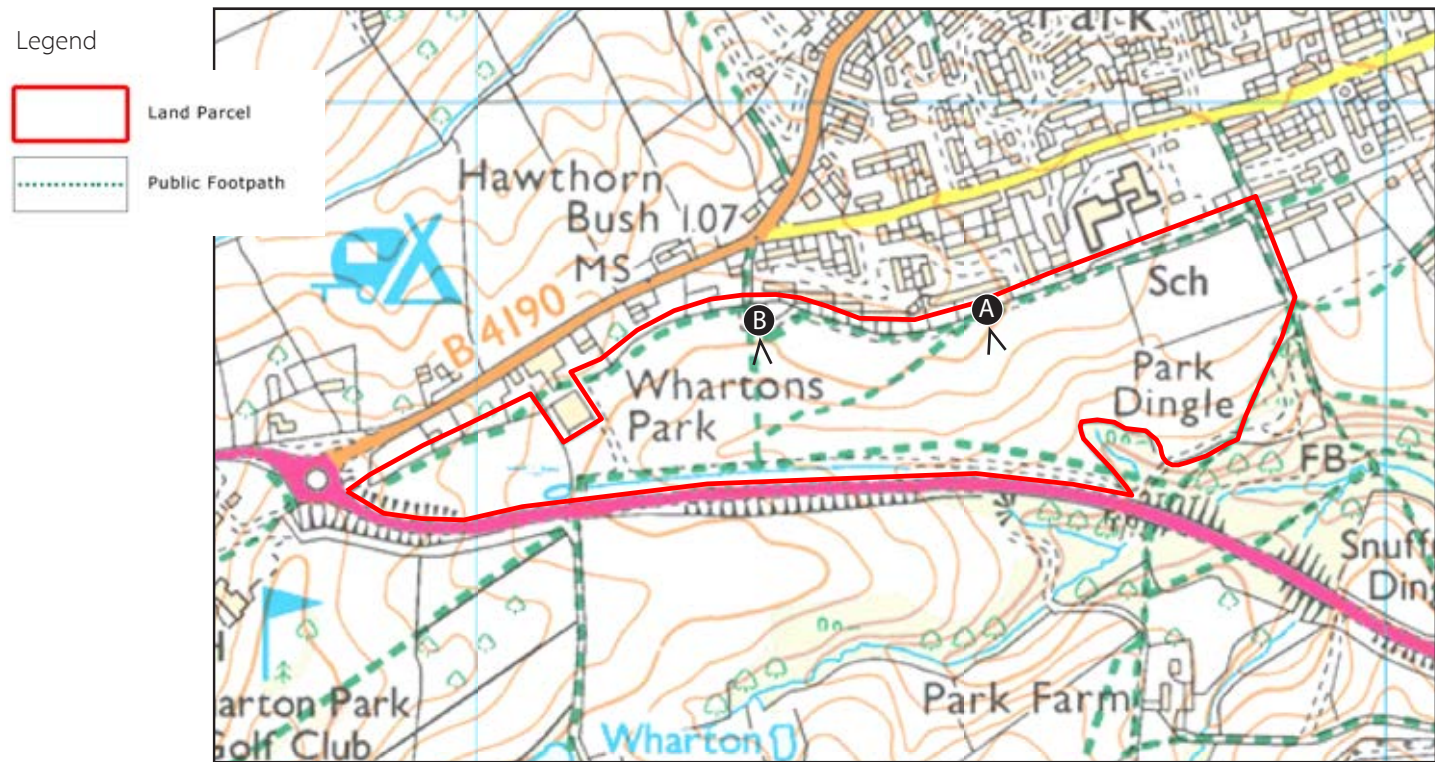
Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The parcel lies south west of Bewdley and is relatively accessible via the B4190/A456.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The parcel lies within the Forest Smallholdings Landscape Type and comprises of several pastoral fields.
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a 'High' level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	No public access to the parcel where the character can be easily appreciated. Rural character with mature hedgerows with an isolated cluster of residential properties along the A456 to the south. Overall Medium to High rating.
History	The historic landscape character of the land is modern sub-division and Field Amalgamation resulting in an overall Low to Medium rating.
Tranquillity	Influence of the busy A456 corridor separated by mature hedgerows, resulting in an overall Medium rating.
Recreational Value	No public access to the parcel itself, resulting in an overall Low rating.
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	The parcel is enclosed by a number of mature hedgerows and trees with some scrub. Overall Low to Medium rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel does not meet the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.

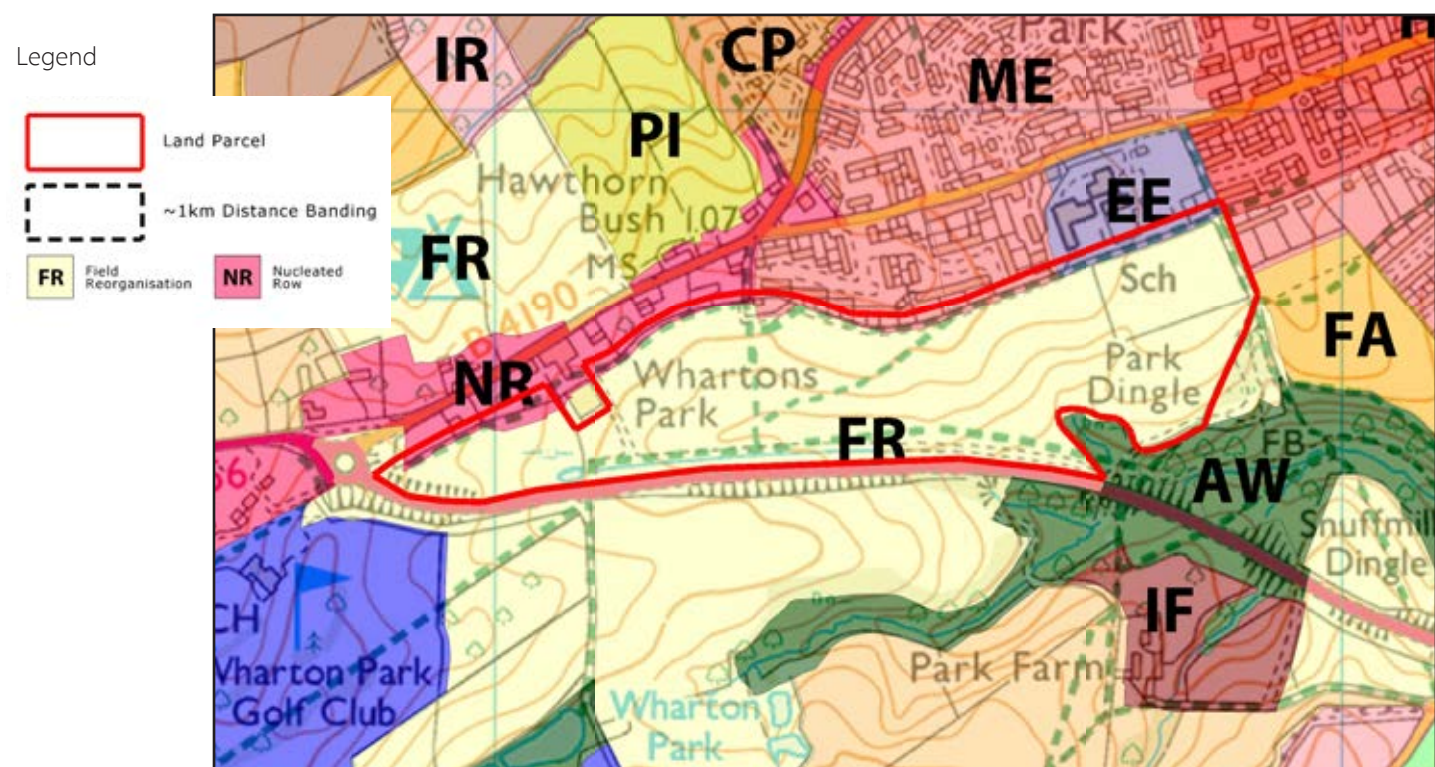
Photo A



Public Access Plan



Historical Landscape Character



Worcestershire County Council – Landscape Character Assessment

The Parcel lies within the Timbered Plateau Farmlands Landscape Type and the LDU WP04 Ribbesford Timbered Plateau Farmlands Landscape Description Unit.

The following documents are included at the back of this report as follows:

- Appendix 1: Landscape Type Information Sheet
- Appendix 2: Landscape Type Advice Sheet – Land Management
- Appendix 3: Landscape Type Advice sheet for planning and development

With respect to the settlement pattern of new development it is stated in Key Characteristics:

The parcel has a 'Dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads and hamlets' and the enclosure pattern states 'Opportunities to reflect the organic field pattern may materialise through the shape of newly planted hedgerows, the outline of new woodland planting, the definition of roadside boundaries and verges, the spatial distribution and orientation of new buildings, avoiding uniformity of pattern in all cases.'

The Worcestershire County Landscape Character Assessment Technical handbook identifies the majority of the parcel as having a Landscape Condition of Good and a Landscape Sensitivity of High. With both being the highest of a 4 point scale. See mapping at Figures 5 and 6

This parcel of land also intersects with the WP07.3 Dowles Brook Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings Landscape Description Unit.

Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The parcel lies south and adjacent to the suburb of Highclere in Bewdley and is very accessible via a network of public rights of way that pass through the parcel.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The parcel lies within the Timbered Plateau Farmlands Landscape Type and comprises open grassland with scrub and bounded by mature hedgerows with trees and is contained between the A456 corridor and built-up edge of Bewdley.
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a 'High' level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	Rural character with some influence from adjacent residential estate, school and road corridor. Overall Medium to High rating.
History	The historic landscape character of the land is field re-organisation resulting in an overall Low to Medium rating.
Tranquillity	Influence of the adjacent housing estate and busy A456 corridor separated by mature hedgerows, resulting in an overall Medium rating.
Recreational Value	Extensive public access with public rights of way and permissive paths, resulting in an overall High rating.
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	The parcel is enclosed by a number of mature hedgerows and trees with some scrub and adjacent to a Local Wildlife Site. Overall Medium to High rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel does not meet the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.

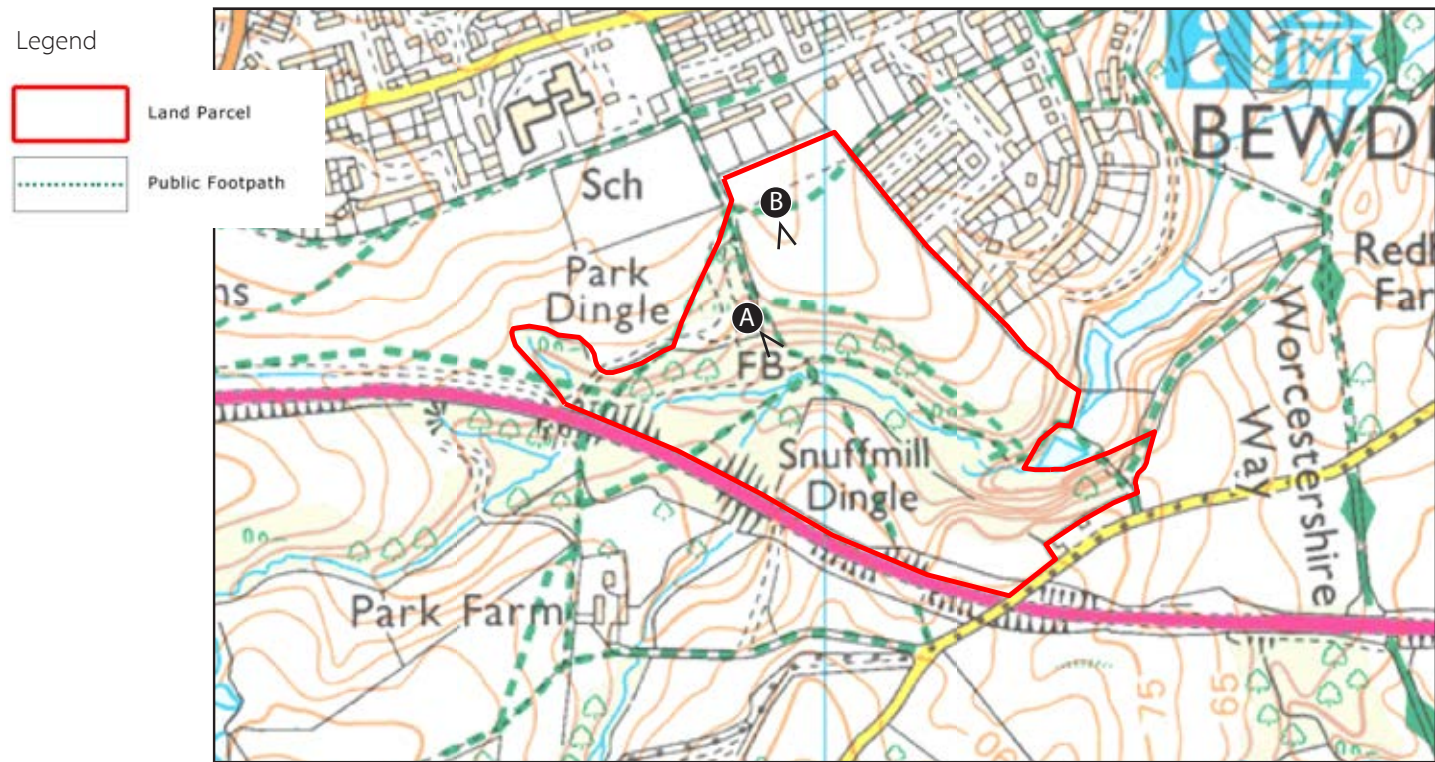
Photo A



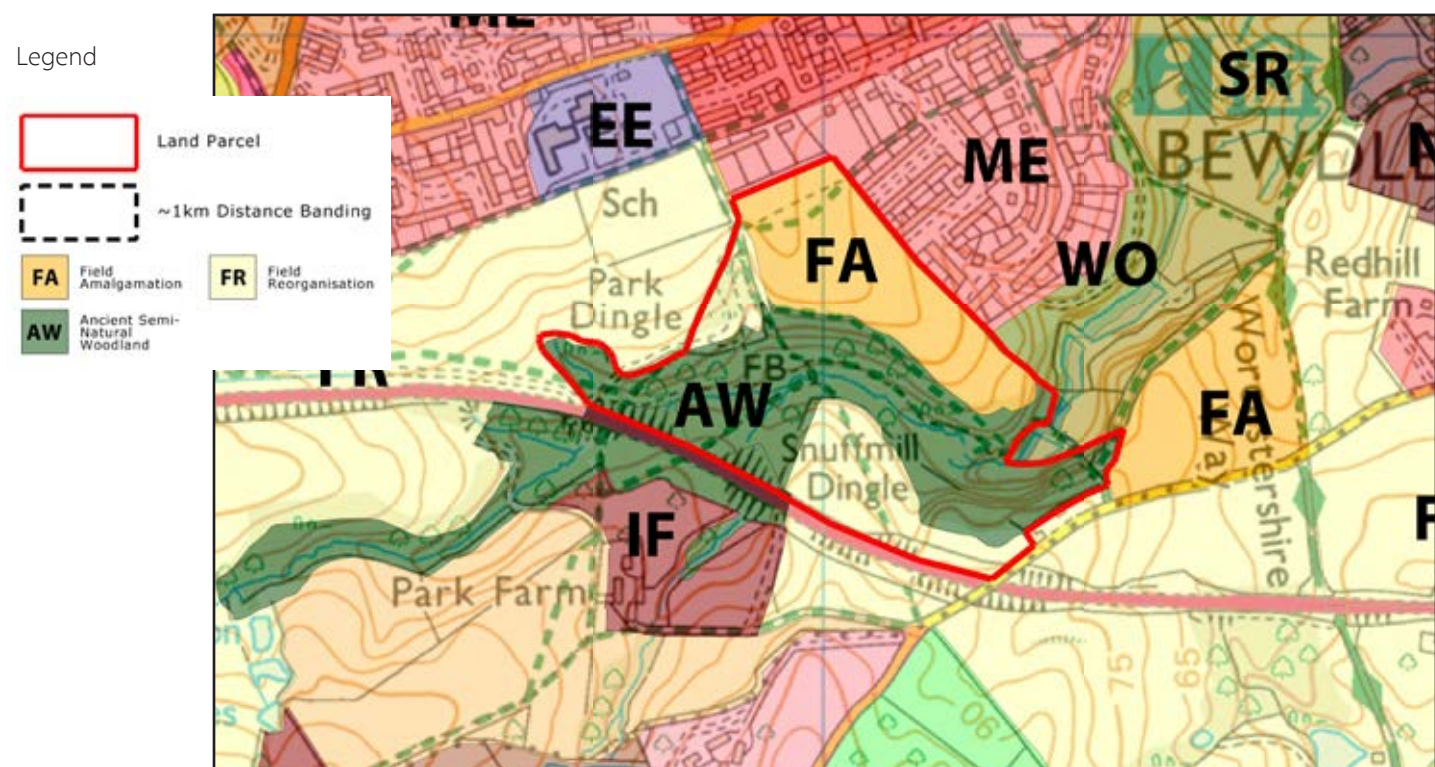
Photo B



Public Access Plan



Historical Landscape Character



Worcestershire County Council – Landscape Character Assessment

The Parcel lies within the Timbered Plateau Farmlands Landscape Type and the LDU WP04 Ribbesford Timbered Plateau Farmlands Landscape Description Unit.

The following documents are included at the back of this report as follows:

Appendix 1: Landscape Type Information Sheet
Appendix 2: Landscape Type Advice Sheet – Land Management
Appendix 3: Landscape Type Advice sheet for planning and development

With respect to the settlement pattern of new development it is stated in Key Characteristics:

The parcel has a ‘Dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads and hamlets’ and the enclosure pattern states ‘Opportunities to reflect the organic field pattern may materialise through the shape of newly planted hedgerows, the outline of new woodland planting, the definition of roadside boundaries and verges, the spatial distribution and orientation of new buildings, avoiding uniformity of pattern in all cases.’

The Worcestershire County Landscape Character Assessment Technical handbook identifies the Landscape Condition as Good and the Landscape Sensitivity of the parcel as High. With both being the highest of a 4 point scale. See mapping at Figures 5 and 6.

This parcel of land also intersects with the WP07.3 Dowles Brook Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings Landscape Description Unit.

Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The parcel lies south and adjacent to the suburb of Hales Park in Bewdley and is very accessible via a network of public rights of way that pass through the parcel.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The parcel lies within the Timbered Plateau Farmlands Landscape Type and comprises open grassland with scrub and contains an area of ancient woodland around Snuffmill Dingle.
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a ‘High’ level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	Rural character with some minor influences from adjacent residential estate and road corridor. Long range views of scenic value from higher land with overall High rating
History	The historic landscape character of the land is predominantly ancient woodland with some peripheral Field Amalgamation resulting in an overall High rating.
Tranquillity	Influence of the adjacent housing estate and busy A456 corridor limited by topographical change , resulting in an overall Medium rating at perimeter of parcel and High in centre.
Recreational Value	Extensive public access with public rights of way and permissive paths, resulting in an overall High rating.
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	No formal ecology designations however the parcel contains a significant area of ancient semi-natural woodland and a Local Wildlife Site. Overall High rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel meets the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space

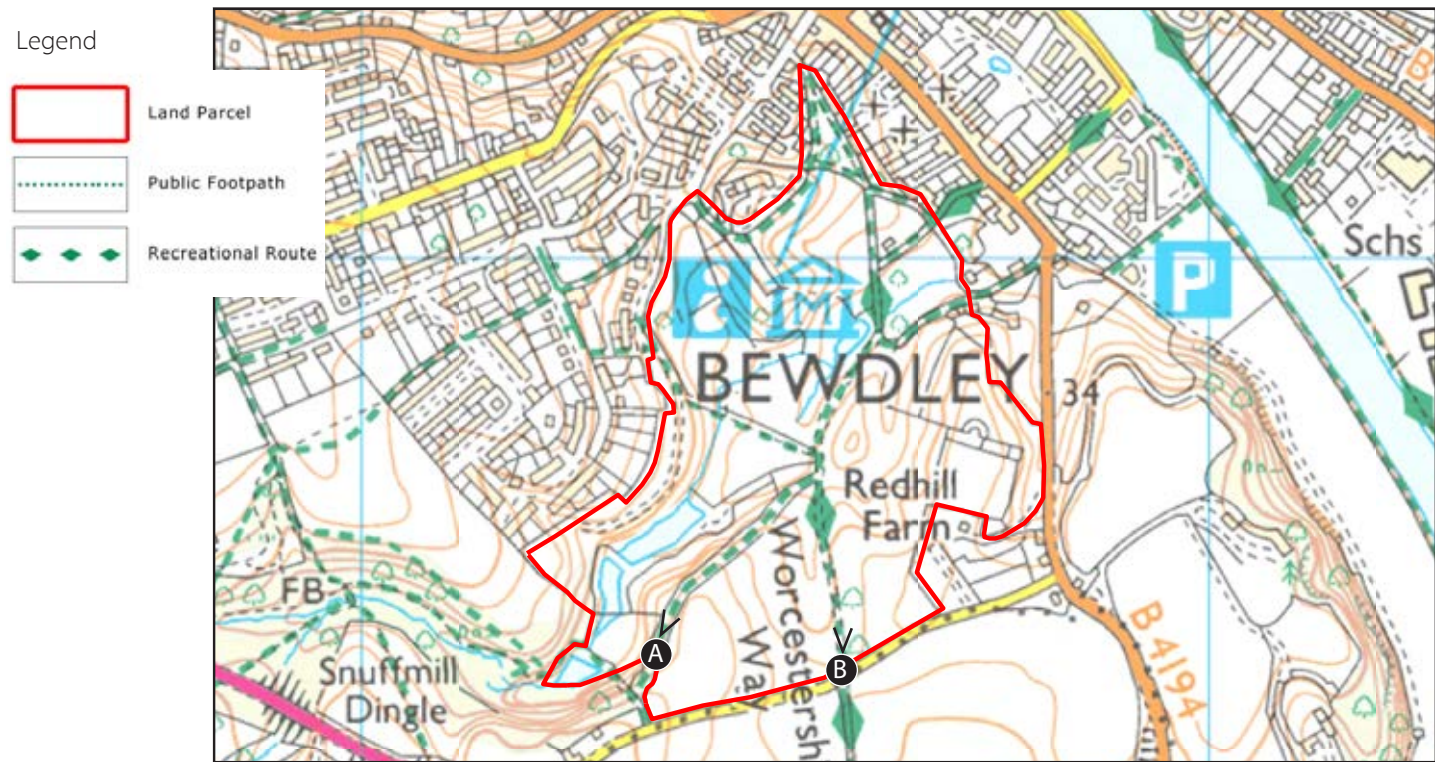
Photo A



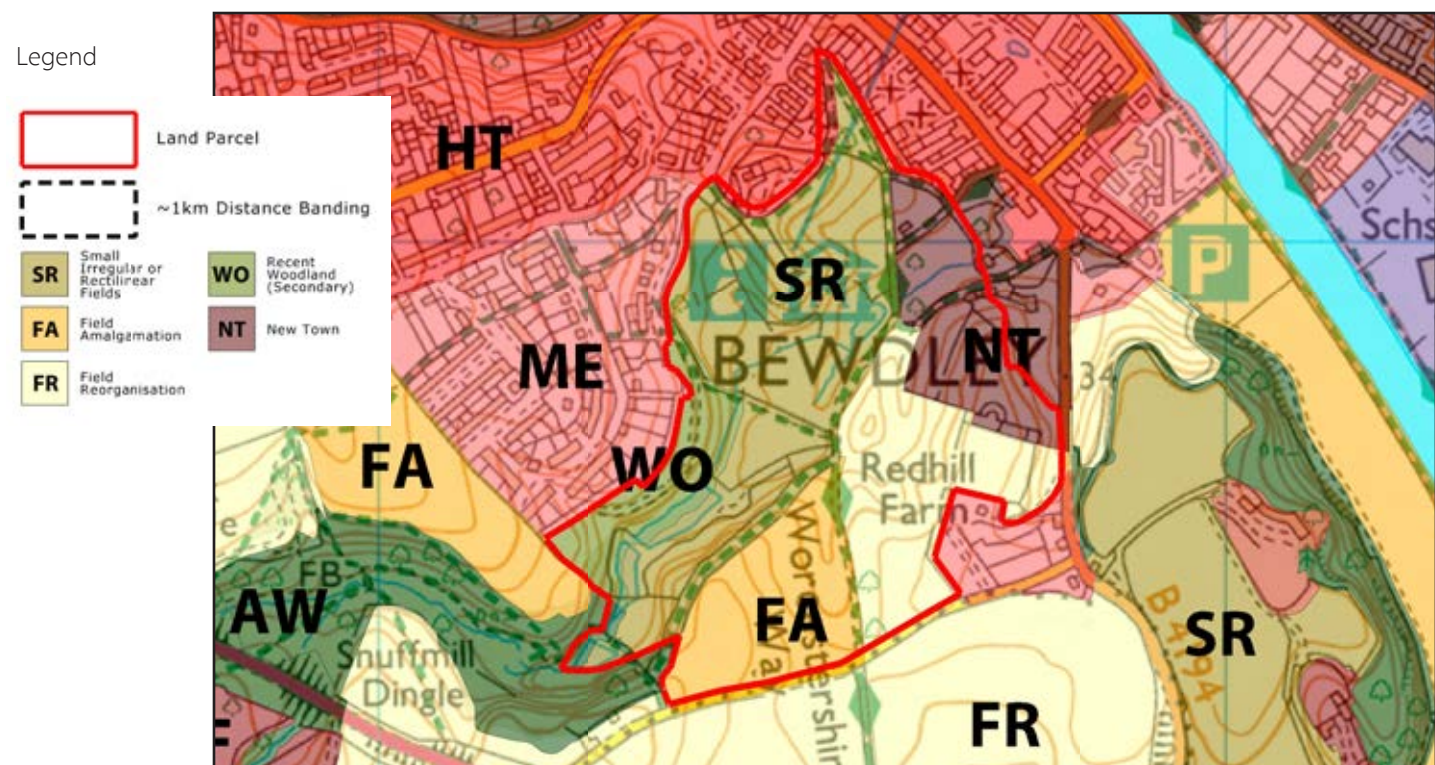
Photo B



Public Access Plan



Historical Landscape Character



Worcestershire County Council – Landscape Character Assessment

The Parcel lies within the Timbered Plateau Farmlands Landscape Type and the LDU WP04 Ribbesford Timbered Plateau Farmlands Landscape Description Unit.

The following documents are included at the back of this report as follows:

Appendix 1: Landscape Type Information Sheet
Appendix 2: Landscape Type Advice Sheet – Land Management
Appendix 3: Landscape Type Advice sheet for planning and development

With respect to the settlement pattern of new development it is stated in Key Characteristics:

The parcel has a 'Dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads and hamlets' and the enclosure pattern states 'Opportunities to reflect the organic field pattern may materialise through the shape of newly planted hedgerows, the outline of new woodland planting, the definition of roadside boundaries and verges, the spatial distribution and orientation of new buildings, avoiding uniformity of pattern in all cases.'

The Worcestershire County Landscape Character Assessment Technical handbook identifies the Landscape Condition as Good and the Landscape Sensitivity of the parcel as High. With both being the highest of a 4 point scale. See mapping at Figures 5 and 6.

This parcel of land also intersects with the WP07.3 Dowles Brook Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings Landscape Description Unit.

Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The parcel adjoins and lies south of Bewdley and is very accessible via a network of public rights of way that pass through the parcel.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The parcel lies within the Timbered Plateau Farmlands Landscape Type and comprises small to medium sized pastoral fields currently grazed by rare breeds cattle and areas of woodland. Contained by built development to north and east, ancient woodland to the west and Heightington Road to the south.
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a 'High' level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	Rural character with only limited and localised influences from adjacent residential estate and road corridor. Long range views of scenic value from higher land. Overall High rating.
History	The Northern tip lies within a Conservation Area. The historic landscape character of the land is a diverse patchwork of recent woodland, small irregular or rectilinear fields, field reorganisation and field amalgamation. There is also some post-war residential development at the northeastern corner of the parcel, included where extensive grounds and public rights of way contribute to the character of the parcel. Overall the rating is Medium to High.
Tranquillity	Influence of the adjacent housing estates and B4194 corridor are very localised and limited by topographical change, resulting in an overall High rating for the majority of the parcel.
Recreational Value	Extensive public access with public rights of way including the Worcestershire Way long distance footpath, resulting in an overall High rating.
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	No formal ecology designations however the parcel contains a mosaic of habitats including woodland, pastoral fields and water bodies and lies adjacent to a Local Wildlife Site. Overall Medium to High rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel meets the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space

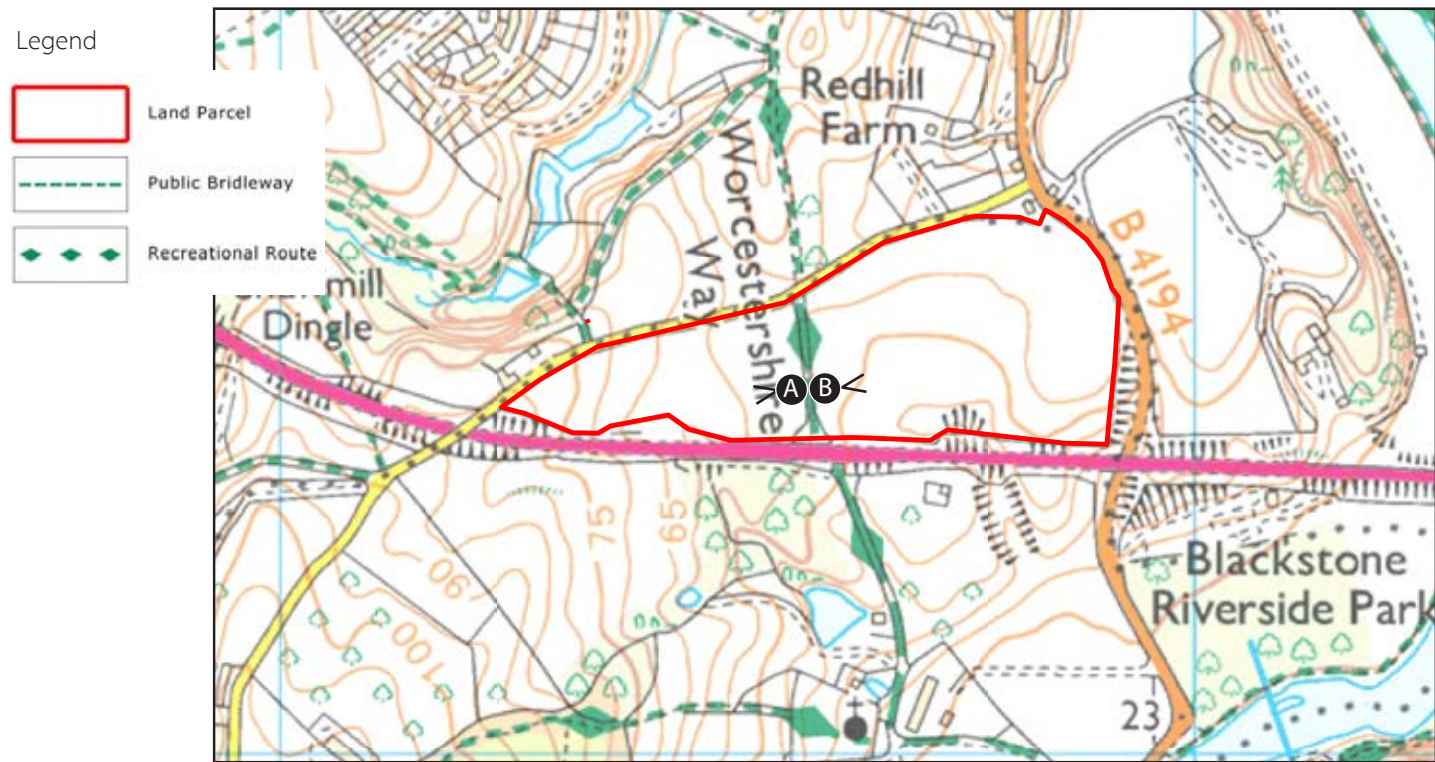
Photo A



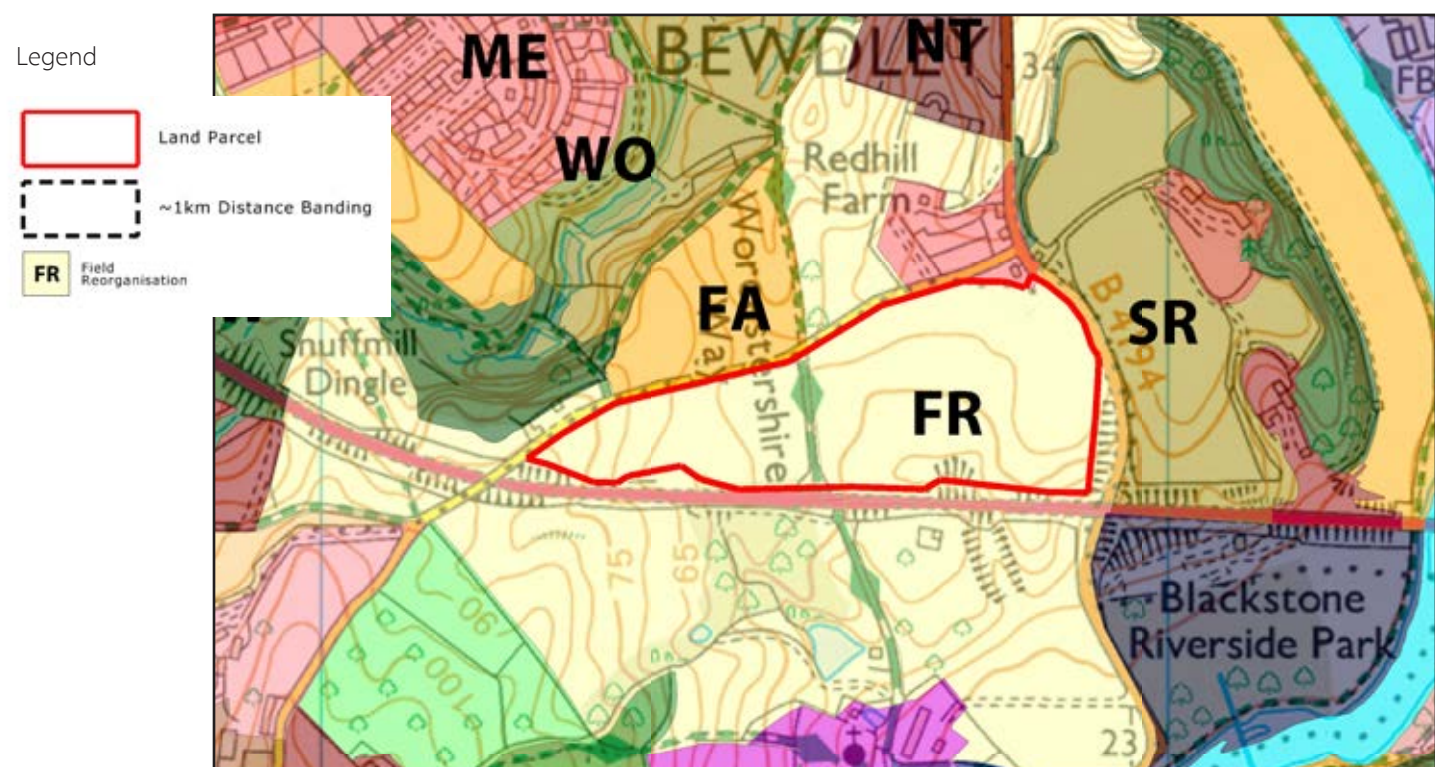
Photo B



Public Access Plan



Historical Landscape Character



Worcestershire County Council – Landscape Character Assessment

The Parcel lies within the Timbered Plateau Farmlands Landscape Type and the LDU WP04 Ribbesford Timbered Plateau Farmlands Landscape Description Unit.

The following documents are included at the back of this report as follows:

Appendix 1: Landscape Type Information Sheet
Appendix 2: Landscape Type Advice Sheet – Land Management
Appendix 3: Landscape Type Advice sheet for planning and development

With respect to the settlement pattern of new development it is stated in Key Characteristics:

The parcel has a 'Dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads and hamlets' and the enclosure pattern states 'Opportunities to reflect the organic field pattern may materialise through the shape of newly planted hedgerows, the outline of new woodland planting, the definition of roadside boundaries and verges, the spatial distribution and orientation of new buildings, avoiding uniformity of pattern in all cases.'

The Worcestershire County Landscape Character Assessment Technical handbook identifies the Landscape Condition as Moderate and the Landscape Sensitivity of the parcel as Medium. With both being the second highest of a 4 point scale. See mapping at Figures 5 and 6.

This parcel of land also intersects with the WP07.3 Dowles Brook Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings Landscape Description Unit.

Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The parcel lies south of Bewdley but is accessible via the local road network and the Worcestershire Way long distance footpath.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The parcel lies within the Timbered Plateau Farmlands Landscape Type and comprises medium sized arable fields contained by the A456 corridor to the south, Heightington Road to the north and west and B4194 to the west.
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a 'High' level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	Rural character with urbanising influences from road corridors. Public views restricted from Worcestershire Way by tree cover. Overall Medium rating.
History	The historic landscape character is field reorganisation. Overall the rating is Medium.
Tranquillity	Whilst rural in character, being surrounded by road corridors on all sides reduces tranquillity, resulting in an overall Medium rating.
Recreational Value	Worcestershire Way long distance footpath passes through the centre of the parcel but otherwise public access limited to the periphery, resulting in an overall Medium to High rating.
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	No formal ecology designations however the arable farmland is flanked by mature hedgerows, trees and small woodland copses and adjacent to a Local Wildlife Site. Overall Medium rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel does not meet the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.

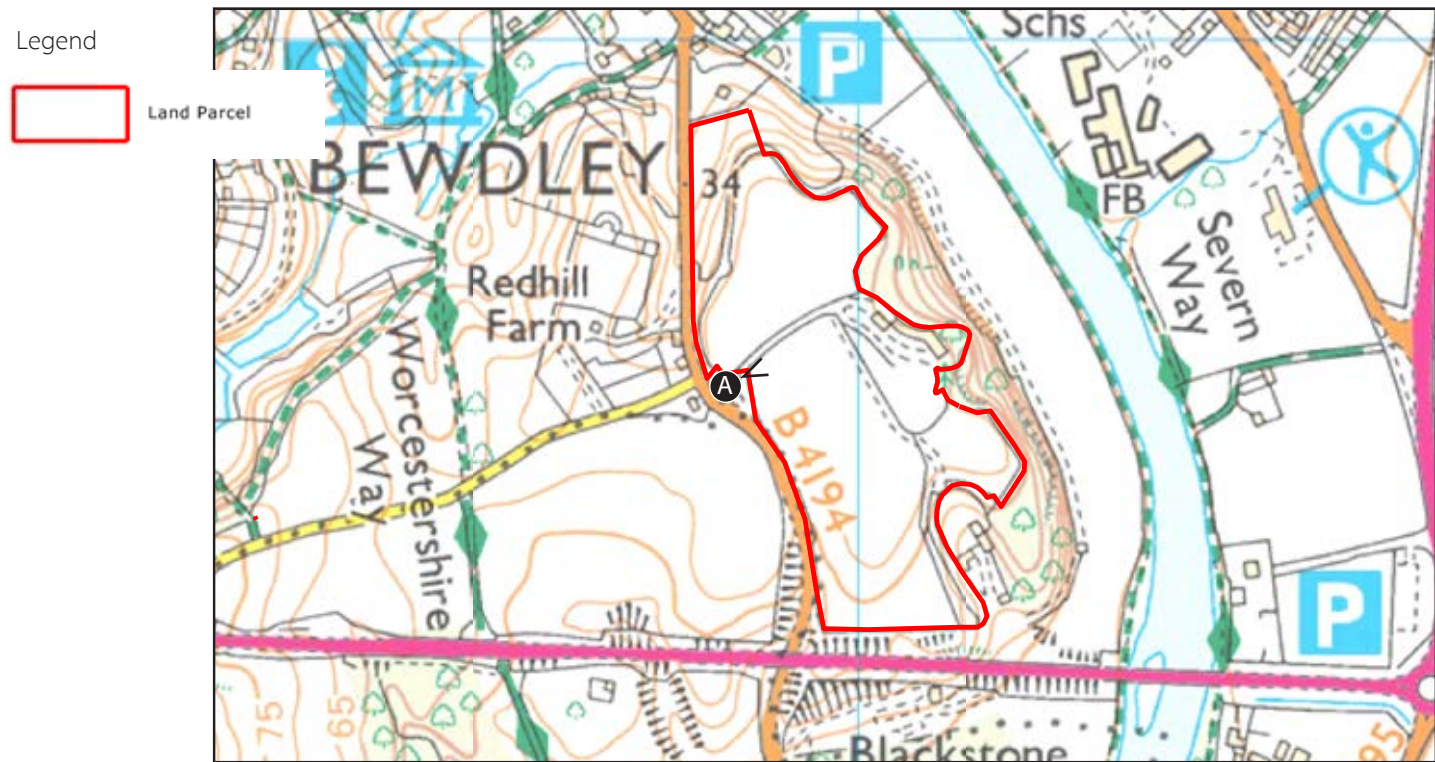
Photo A



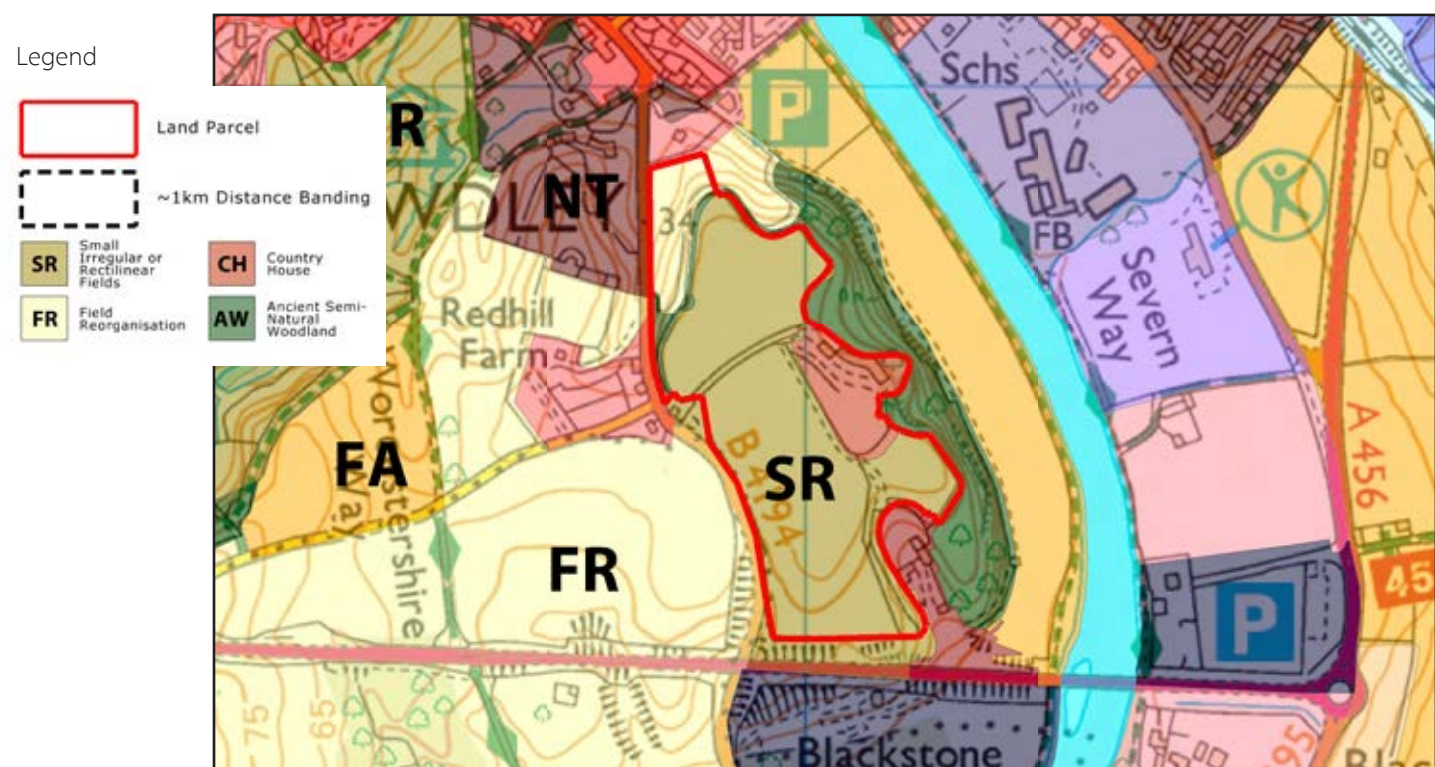
Photo B



Public Access Plan



Historical Landscape Character



Worcestershire County Council – Landscape Character Assessment

The Parcel lies within the Timbered Plateau Farmlands Landscape Type and the LDU WP04 Ribbesford Timbered Plateau Farmlands Landscape Description Unit.

The following documents are included at the back of this report as follows:

- Appendix 1: Landscape Type Information Sheet
- Appendix 2: Landscape Type Advice Sheet – Land Management
- Appendix 3: Landscape Type Advice sheet for planning and development

With respect to the settlement pattern of new development it is stated in Key Characteristics:

The parcel has a 'Dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads and hamlets' and the enclosure pattern states 'Opportunities to reflect the organic field pattern may materialise through the shape of newly planted hedgerows, the outline of new woodland planting, the definition of roadside boundaries and verges, the spatial distribution and orientation of new buildings, avoiding uniformity of pattern in all cases.'

The Worcestershire County Landscape Character Assessment Technical handbook identifies the Landscape Condition as Moderate and the Landscape Sensitivity of the parcel as Medium. With both being the second highest of a 4 point scale. See mapping at Figures 5 and 6.

This parcel of land also intersects with the WP07.3 Dowles Brook Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings Landscape Description Unit.

Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The parcel is a plateau of arable farmland, lying south of Bewdley and is accessible via the B4194 with footway.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The parcel lies within the Timbered Plateau Farmlands Landscape Type and comprises medium sized arable fields contained by the A456 corridor to the south, B4194 to the west, ancient woodland on the river cliff to the east and low density built development to the north.
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a 'High' level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	Rural character of farmed fields enclosed by hedgerows and woodland with some localised urbanising influences including the B4194 and low density scattered dwellings. Public views restricted from B4194 by roadside hedgerows but some longer distance views to surrounding landscape. Overall Medium rating.
History	The northwestern edge lies within the Bewdley Conservation Area, the historic landscape character is small irregular or rectangular fields and settlement north of the parcel. The Grade 2* listed Winterdyne building lies at the eastern edge of the parcel. Overall the rating is High.
Tranquillity	Whilst rural in character, being flanked by road corridors on to the south and east reduces tranquillity locally, resulting in an overall Medium to High rating.
Recreational Value	No public access to the parcel and public access limited to the periphery along the B4194, although it is understood historic permissive access may be reinstated in the future. An overall Low to Medium rating.
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	No formal ecology designations however the arable farmland is flanked by mature hedgerows and ancient woodland. Overall Medium rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel does not meet the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.

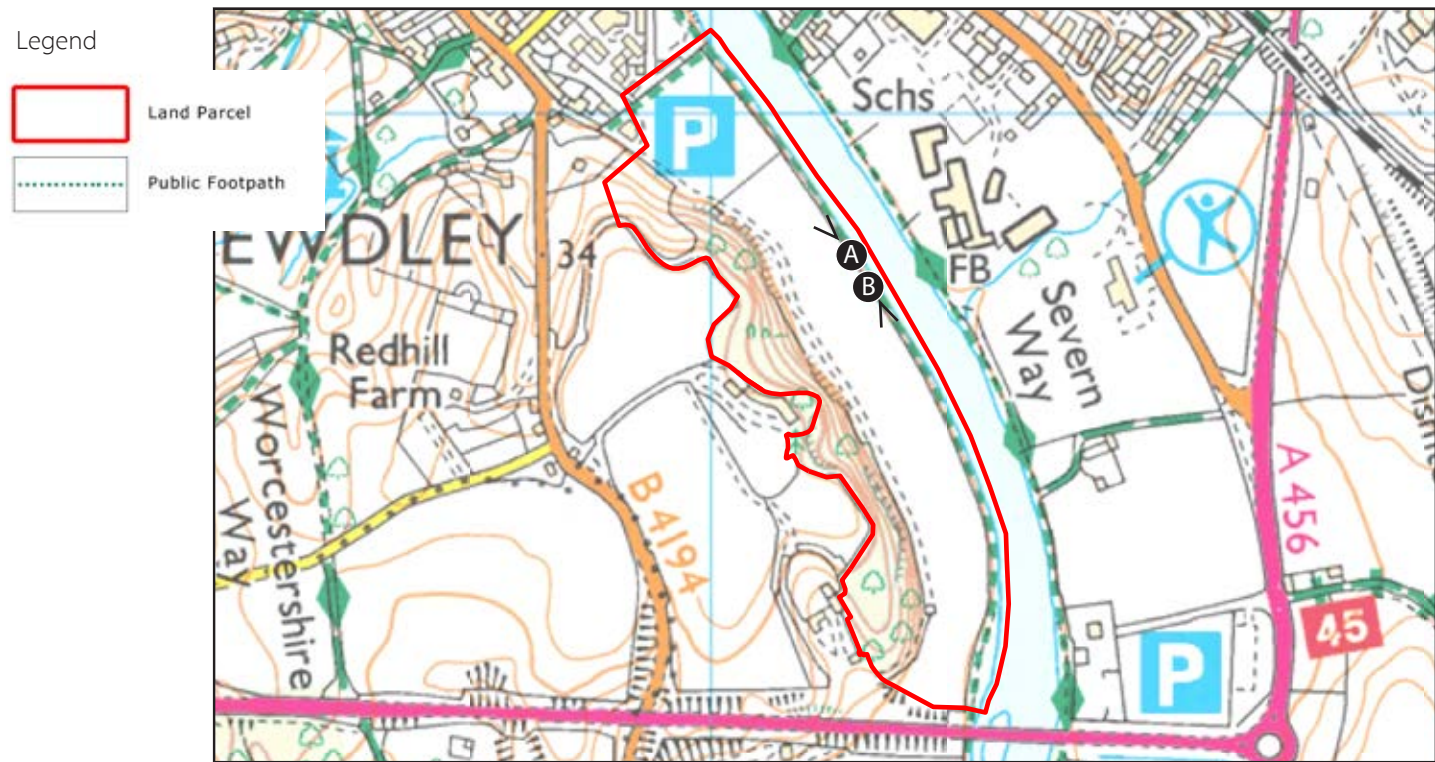
Photo A (1)



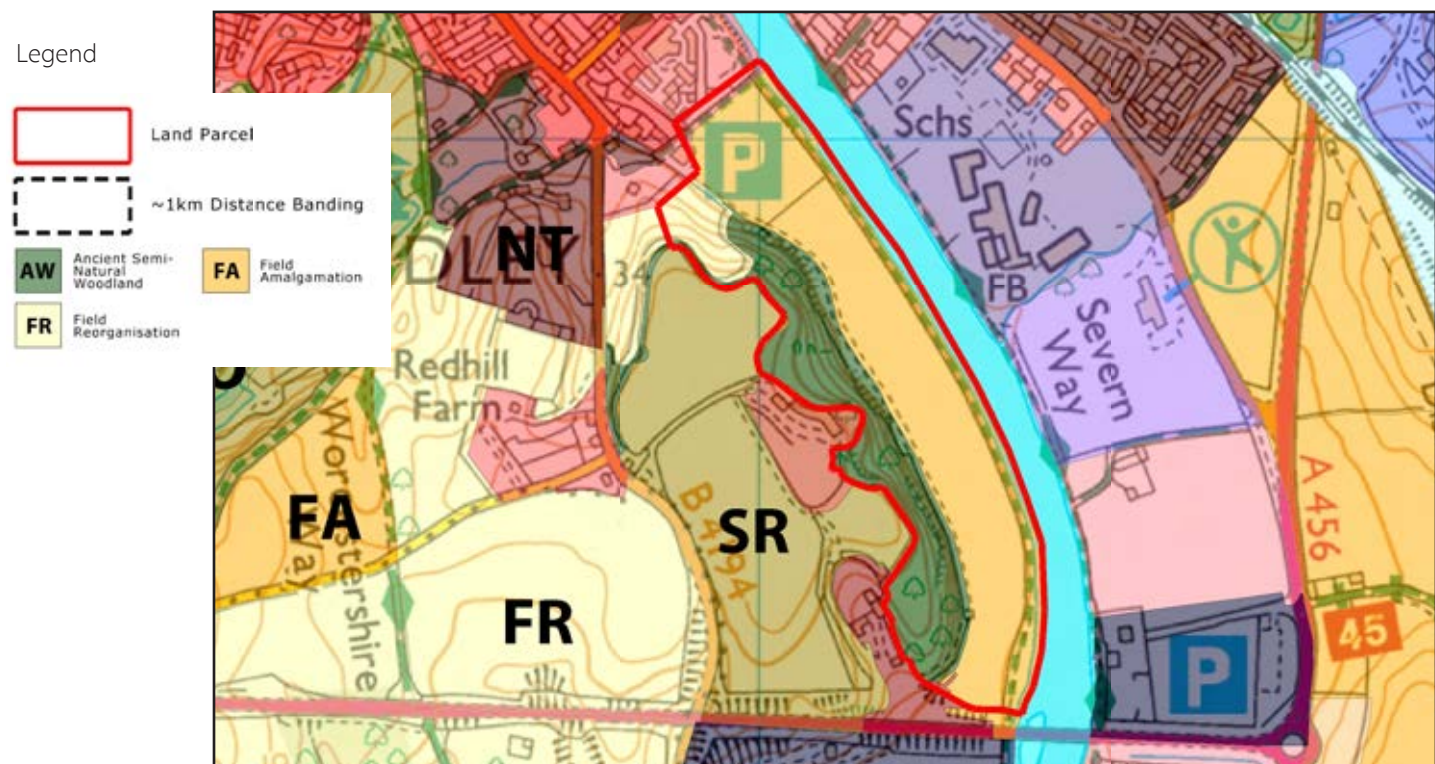
Photo 2 (2)



Public Access Plan



Historical Landscape Character



Worcestershire County Council – Landscape Character Assessment

The Parcel lies within the Riverside Meadows Landscape Type and the Principal Wooded Hills Landscape Type.

The following documents are included at the back of this report as follows:

- Appendix 1: Landscape Type Information Sheet
- Appendix 2: Landscape Type Advice Sheet – Land Management
- Appendix 3: Landscape Type Advice sheet for planning and development

With respect to the settlement pattern of new development it is stated in Key Characteristics:

The parcel has a 'Dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads and hamlets' and the enclosure pattern states 'Opportunities to reflect the organic field pattern may materialise through the shape of newly planted hedgerows, the outline of new woodland planting, the definition of road-side boundaries and verges, the spatial distribution and orientation of new buildings, avoiding uniformity of pattern in all cases.'

The Worcestershire County Landscape Character Assessment Technical handbook identifies the Landscape Condition as Moderate and the Landscape Sensitivity of the parcel as Medium. With both being the second highest of a 4 point scale. See mapping at Figures 5 and 6.

This parcel of land also intersects with the LDU KS03 River Severn – Bewdley to Winnall Riverside Meadows Landscape Description Unit

This parcel of land also intersects with the WP07.3 Dowles Brook Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings Landscape Description Unit.

Criteria based on NPPF paragraph 100 criteria	Parcel Analysis
1) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	The parcel is low lying land south of Bewdley contained to the west by the river cliff and is accessible via the public footpath alongside the river that connects to the town and public car park.
2) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	The majority of the parcel lies within the flood plain of the River Severn and comprises open grassland flanked by woodland on the river cliff, noting the cricket ground at the northern end of the parcel. The built up area of the town defines the northern limit and the A456 the southern limit of the parcel.
3) Demonstrably special and holds a particular local significance due to:	In order to achieve a demonstrably special status the methodology states that the parcel needs to score at least a 'High' level in at least two of the five assessed categories.
Natural beauty	Rural character with views from public footpath across majority of parcel of high scenic value of the river corridor and local points of interest including Blackstone Rock. Overall High rating.
History	The northwest part of the parcel lies within the Bewdley Conservation Area. The historic landscape character is ancient woodland and field amalgamation. The Grade 2* listed Winterdyne building lies west of the parcel. Overall the rating is High.
Tranquillity	Whilst tranquillity is reduced locally to the north and south by the settlement and road corridor respectively overall due to the proximity to the river and lack of significant detractors, the overall rating is assessed as Medium to High.
Recreational Value	Public access via a definitive public footpath along the river, Cricket ground to north and potential permissive access through the meadow/base of cliffs resulting in an overall High rating.
Wildlife Value (See Figure 4)	Ancient woodland adjacent to the meadow and river corridor designated as local wildlife site provide diverse habitats. Overall High rating.

Conclusion: The Parcel meets the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space

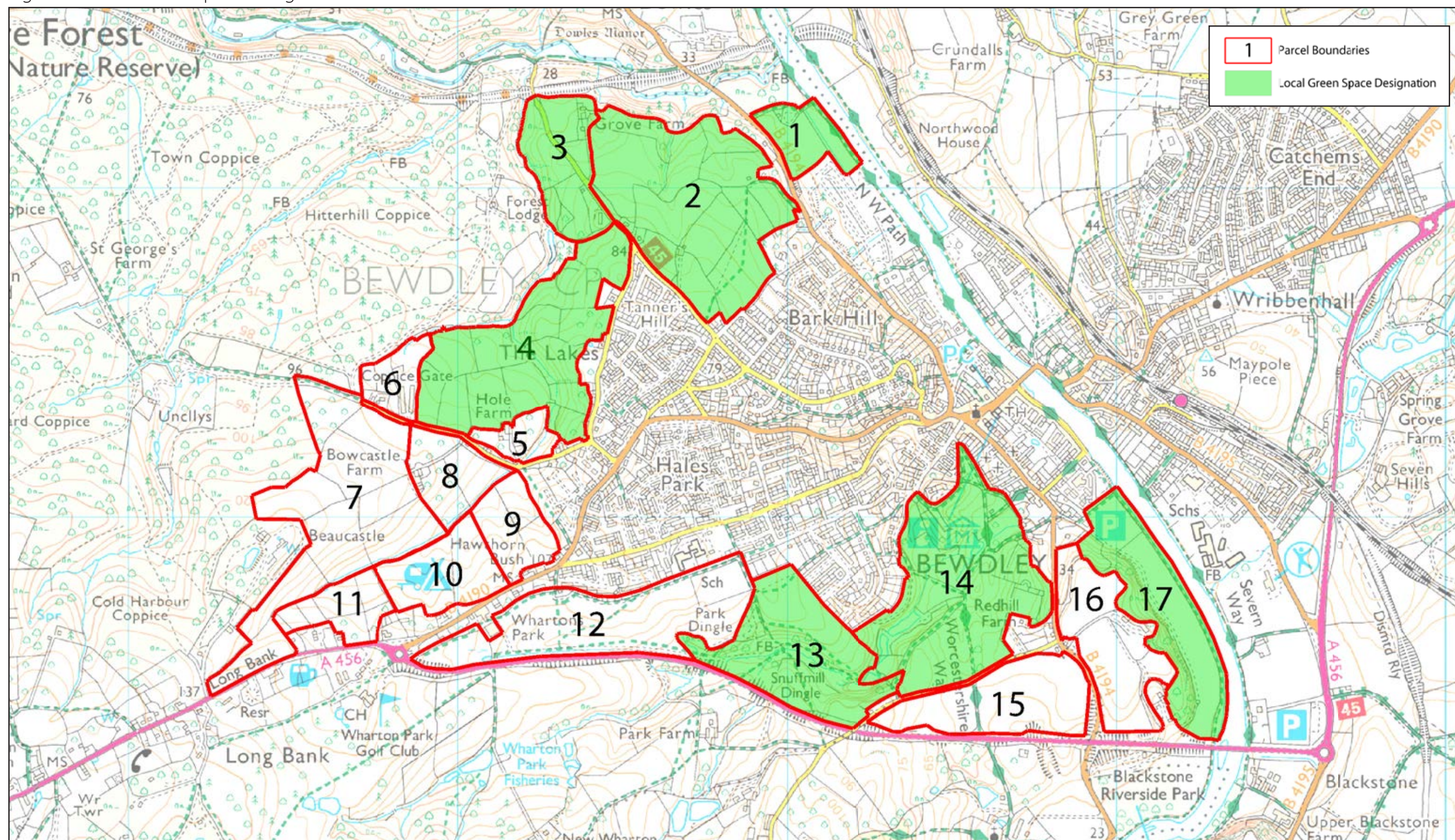
Photo A



Photo B



Figure 6 - Local Green Space Designation



Landscapes of Worcestershire Landscape Type Information Sheet Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings

Landscape Type Description

An intimate, densely settled landscape characterised by strings of wayside cottages and associated smallholdings. These nestle within a small-scale matrix of pastoral fields and narrow lanes, often defined by overgrown hedges. This is a landscape of human scale, with a strong sense of unity and purpose.



Key Characteristics

Primary

- Hedgerow boundaries to fields
- Scattered hedgerow and garden trees
- Intimate spatial character
- Intricate network of narrow, winding lanes
- Densely settled pattern of wayside dwellings
- Distinctive building style—small cottages of brick or stone

Secondary

- Pastoral land use
- Variable enclosure pattern of small fields
- Heathy/acid grassland ground vegetation—widespread bracken and gorse



These distinctive landscapes owe their character to the enclosure and subsequent settlement of areas of former commonland. The settlement pattern has developed in a random, opportunistic manner, the corresponding density, scale and ad hoc pattern of both dwellings and lanes being key elements today. The associated, usually small, parcels of pasture and pockets of rough ground are also important, reinforcing the scale and functional background of these landscapes.

The hedgerows often have significant associated tree cover and provide an important structural element to the landscape.

Landscape Type Information Sheet Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings

The pattern and character of the individual dwellings are vulnerable to expansion, amalgamation and modification to an urban character. The potential of the small scale plots and pastures provide considerable scope for infilling, adding further pressures to these landscapes, the pastures possessing further attraction as suitable paddocks for ponies and horses, a change of use that can be accompanied by degradation and loss of hedgerows.

The pastures themselves can often be of considerable nature conservation interest yet this can be easily lost through inappropriate management. These landscapes possess a unique element of rustic charm which is destroyed by excessive "tidiness".



The conservation of the character, particularly the scale and detailing, of the cottages and smallholdings, and their pattern and setting should be a priority, through the enforcement of appropriate planning controls and design guidance. The retention and appropriate management of open spaces within the settlement matrix should be encouraged, paying particular attention to the areas of permanent pasture and hedgerow structure.

The overall management strategy should be based on the conservation of the distinctive, small scale, settled, rural character of the landscape.

Landscape Guidelines

- conserve the pattern, scale and detailing of settlements, including the open spaces within them
- conserve the small scale enclosure pattern of hedged fields through appropriate management
- encourage the retention and appropriate management of permanent pasture
- conserve the pattern of narrow winding lanes
- conserve and enhance the tree cover within the landscape, giving particular attention to hedgerow trees

For more information visit our website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/la or contact the Worcestershire County Council Environmental Policy Team on 01905 766038

Landscapes of Worcestershire Landscape Type Information Sheet Principal Wooded Hills		Landscape Type Information Sheet Principal Wooded Hills		
Landscape Type Description	<p>An upstanding, wooded landscape with a sloping, in places steeply undulating topography, often on the edge of higher ground. This is a landscape of large, irregularly shaped ancient woodlands and wooded streamlines, typically forming an interlocking pattern with surrounding hedged fields. The woodlands are a key visual element within the landscape.</p>			
	<p>Primary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Varied, often steeply sloping, topography• Large, often interconnecting, blocks of ancient woodland <p>Secondary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organic pattern of hedged fields, derived from assarting• Frequent, narrow wooded valleys or dingles• Medium-framed views• Patches of rough grassland and scrub• Sparsely settled pattern of farmsteads and wayside dwellings			
	<p>This is a landscape in which the intrinsic character is derived from the pronounced relief and the dominant, flowing woodland cover, resulting in a strong sense of unity and visual integration. These are landscapes where the nature of the physiography, particularly the steepness of slope, has inhibited clearance for agricultural use in the past. These areas have, therefore, retained significant cover of ancient semi-natural woodland into which only slight clearances, usually of an assarted nature, have taken place. Sparse settlement is usually associated with these areas. Woodland cover remains very much the dominant land cover, typically occurring in extensive, interlocking belts. Where clearance has taken place in the past, the presence of strong hedgelines with good representation of hedgerow tree cover contributes to the visual integration of the landscape. The ancient semi-natural status of these woodlands renders them to be a very important nature conservation asset.</p>			
Key Characteristics		<p>The visual cohesion of these landscapes is all important, particularly between the open spaces and the woodland cover. These are very visible landscapes, and tend to frame long distance views, and as such their composition and unity is particularly important. The development of woodland shapes that are unsympathetic to the topography, together with the modification of the mixed broad leaf composition of these woodlands, most notably through the introduction of conifer blocks, can severely interrupt the unity of the landscape. The presence of conifer dominated skylines is particularly damaging.</p> <p>The nature conservation value of these woodlands is also significantly reduced by deviations away from their inherent species composition. Hedgerow trees and wooded streamsid es are a vital component in achieving visual integration between the areas of historic clearance and the overall wooded character. In these areas, the hedgerow tree stock tends to be dominated by mature and veteran trees, and the visual integration will become diluted if tree populations are not perpetuated. The woodland component has become fragmented in places by more recent clearances, which again tend to damage the unity of the landscape.</p> <p>It is important to retain the dominance of the woodland in this landscape together with the integrated pattern of open spaces. As a rough guide, woodland cover of up to 60-70% could be aimed for, although this could well vary in areas of differing geology. A lower proportion of woodland cover might be more appropriate in the Cotswold Wooded Hills where a greater amount of piecemeal clearance took place historically, many of the grassland areas being of significant nature conservation interest.</p> <p>Emphasis should be placed upon both restoring the ancient semi-natural character of the woodland cover and to maintaining an overall interlocking pattern of woodland throughout the area, seeking to unite fragmented sections of woodland. Although opportunities for new woodland planting exist, the historical significance of the old patterns of woodland clearance need to be recognised and protected along with boundary hedges of assart origin. The perpetuation of hedgerow and streamside tree cover should be encouraged, aiming to secure tree populations of even age distribution.</p> <p>The overall management strategy for the wooded hills should be primarily one of conservation together with an element of restoration, seeking to conserve and restore the pattern of woodland cover of the landscape together with the ancient broadleaved character of the woodlands themselves.</p>		
		<p>Landscape Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• conserve and restore the ancient broadleaved character of all woodlands• seek to restore the wooded character of the area through large scale woodland planting in areas where the interlocking pattern has become diluted• conserve and restore the irregular pattern of assarted fields• strengthen the wooded character of hedgelines and streamlines through re-planting or natural regeneration• new woodland planting and felling coupes should be carefully designed to take particular account of their visual impact		
		<p>For more information visit our website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lca or contact the Worces- tershire County Council Environmental Policy Team on 01905 766038</p>		

Landscapes of Worcestershire

Landscape Type Information Sheet

Timbered Plateau Farmlands

Landscape Type Description

A varied, mixed farming landscape of hedged fields, scattered farms, woods and wooded valleys associated with upstanding areas of undulating relief. The landform conveys a sense of strength and dominance which tends to override the pattern of tree cover and fields. Variations in landform within this landscape create a changing sequence of visual perspectives, ranging from open vistas on plateau summits to more secluded scenes along valley bottoms.



Primary

- Uprstanding plateau of rolling topography dissected by broad valleys
- Filtered medium/long distance views
- Ancient wooded character
- Mixed hedges with scattered hedgerows oaks

Secondary

- Organic enclosure pattern of medium-to-large fields
- Linear tree cover pattern of wooded valleys often associated with streamside habitats
- Mixed farming land use

Tertiary

- Dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads and hamlets

The key elements of the Timbered Plateau Farmlands are topography and woodland. These are landscapes that have developed from a mosaic of piecemeal clearance from woodland and relatively localised areas of open field, and retain a strong association with their woodland origins. The tree cover, consequently, is essentially of ancient semi-natural character, with oak as the dominant species. Unlike the Principal Timbered Farmlands, the lowland equivalent of this Landscape Type, the role of hedgerow trees and their influence in creating filtered views is less significant in the Timbered Plateau Farmlands. The more pronounced topography tends to bring the pattern of woodland and hedgerows into greater visual prominence. The woodland cover provides the major structure to the landscape, the hedgerow pattern defining the scale.



Landscape Type Information Sheet

Timbered Plateau Farmlands

These are landscapes containing woodlands of varying size, the dingles associated with the valley streams being a particular characteristic. A significant additional element of tree cover is provided by the specimen trees, often conifers, associated with the ornamental grounds and parkland of the frequent large country houses in these landscapes. The dispersed pattern of farms and hamlets conveys a human element to the landscape without indicating anything other than a sparse population.

The deterioration of the overall structure of tree cover tends to be the major issue in these landscapes with corresponding loss of landscape unity. Woodland cover is not always a prominent component of the landscape today, the streamside tree cover can often be fragmented and the hedgerow tree cover composed of primarily mature or veteran trees. The network of hedgerows can often be fragmented, severely so in places, resulting in the remaining woodlands becoming isolated from other areas of tree cover. The perception of this landscape changing from one of mixed agricultural land, to one becoming dominated by arable farming, suggests that the function of hedgerows will become increasingly reduced, rendering the whole linking structure of hedgerows and tree cover, upon which the landscape character depends, increasingly vulnerable.

It is important to conserve the existing elements of tree cover, placing particular emphasis upon the presence and pattern of woodland cover and streamside trees. It is also important to conserve the hedgerow pattern, identifying those of historical significance associated with woodland assarts, and giving priority to these, together with the primary hedgerow structure of parish, roadside and ownership boundaries. The distinctive tree cover associated with ornamental grounds and parks should also be perpetuated. The Timbered Plateau Farmlands are landscapes that could accommodate a considerable amount of new woodland planting. In some places a doubling of the woodland cover could be considered in order to retain and emphasise the woodland associations and origins of these areas, and to give greater structure to the landscape. New planting should aim to perpetuate the wide range of woodland size that is characteristic structure of hedged fields and tree cover, and seeking opportunities to enhance the landscape through a significant increase in woodland planting.

Landscape Guidelines

- conserve and manage all ancient woodland sites, restocking with locally occurring native stock
- promote the coalescence of fragmented remnants of ancient woodland
- promote new woodland planting. New planting to favour native broadleaves with oak as the major species
- promote infilling of gaps in tree cover along watercourses and dingles
- conserve hedgerow oaks and promote the importance of veteran trees
- conserve and restore the pattern of hedgerows throughout the area, giving priority to primary boundaries and boundaries of assart origin
- conserve and restore existing parkland areas
- encourage new populations of hedgerow oaks, particularly through natural regeneration
- maintain the characteristic dispersed settlement pattern, avoiding the formation of pronounced settlement nuclei

For more information visit our website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lca or contact the Worcestershire County Council Environmental Policy Team on 01905 766038

Landscapes of Worcestershire

Landscape Type Information Sheet

Riverside Meadows

Landscape Type Description

A linear riverline landscape associated with a flat, generally well-defined alluvial floodplain, in places framed by steeply rising ground. This is a secluded pastoral landscape, characterised by meandering, tree-lined rivers, flanked by alluvial meadows and grazing animals.



Key Characteristics

Primary

- Flat low-lying topography
- Pastoral land use, including seasonal grazing meadows
- Tree cover character of individual trees rather than woodland
- Tree cover pattern of linear tree belts along ditches, water-courses and in hedgerows

Secondary

- Unsettled with few roads
- Seasonally flooded alluvial floodplain
- Meandering river channel
- Medium-to-large fields with hedge and ditch boundaries
- Rushes, reeds and other wetland vegetation



Throughout these landscapes, the presence of extensive areas of waterside meadows, used for seasonal grazing has in the past, provided a strong sense of visual and ecological unity. These are landscapes that accommodated a degree of flooding annually, a factor which was reflected in the patterns of land use, the lack of settlement and development, and the representation of species and habitats tolerant of such waterlogged conditions. Tree cover is a notable element of these landscapes, typically of alder and willow, the latter often in pollard form, forming the pattern of tree cover relating to the hedge and ditch lines and to the banks of watercourses.

Landscape Type Information Sheet

Riverside Meadows

The strong unity derived from the presence of watermeadows and pasture is becoming fragmented by the encroachment of arable land uses. The decline in the traditional practices of seasonal grazing and haymaking have diminished the nature conservation interest of the remaining areas to pasture. Similarly modification of the natural shape and profile of water courses and drainage channels has reduced the wildlife value of such features and produced a functional, somewhat urban appearance. These are essentially linear landscapes, which convey their sense of unity as a result of extensive views along the length of river corridors. New roads have been constructed on embankments directly across the flood plain, notably in the vicinity of Worcester, fragmenting the visual unity of these riverside meadow corridors as a result.

These are landscapes where the remaining areas of pasture should be conserved and opportunities sought to convert areas of arable land use back to pasture. Wetland habitats are nationally scarce today and opportunities to restore or recreate them should be encouraged and in areas where property would not be at risk, a return to annual flooding cycles could be considered in order to achieve this. There is little to indicate that woodlands have been a characteristic feature of these landscapes since their use as grazing meadows evolved, therefore opportunities to introduce new tree planting should respect the patterns of existing tree cover as outlined above.

The management strategy for the riverside meadow landscapes is therefore primarily one of restoration and conservation - to conserve and restore the visual unity and distinctive pastoral character of the landscape.

Landscape Guidelines

- seek to retain the unity of the linear form of these landscapes
- conserve all existing areas of permanent pasture
- seek opportunities to encourage the conversion of arable land back to arable
- conserve and enhance continuous tree cover along hedgelines, ditches and watercourses
- conserve existing wetland habitats and seek opportunities for further wetland habitat creation
- avoid building or road construction works
- avoid further drainage of waterside meadows
- explore opportunities to return to patterns and processes of natural flooding cycles where feasible

For more information visit our website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lca or contact the Worcestershire County Council Environmental Policy Team on 01905 766038

Landscapes of Worcestershire Landscape Type Advice Sheet - *Land Management* Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings

Landscape Type Description

An intimate, densely settled landscape characterised by strings of wayside cottages and associated smallholdings. These nestle within a small-scale matrix of pastoral fields and narrow interlocking lanes, usually defined by prominent dense hedges with hedgerow trees. The consistency of human activity in these distinctive, small scale landscapes has resulted in a unified, palpably domestic character.



Key Characteristics

Primary

- Hedgerow boundaries to fields
- Scattered hedgerow and garden trees
- Intimate spatial character
- Intricate network of narrow, interlocking lanes
- Densely settled pattern of wayside dwellings
- Distinctive building style—small cottages of brick or stone

Secondary

- Pastoral land use
- Variable enclosure pattern of small fields
- Heathy/acid grassland ground vegetation—widespread bracken and gorse



Current Concerns

The pattern and character of the individual dwellings are vulnerable to expansion, amalgamation and modification to an urban character. The potential of the small scale plots and pastures provide considerable scope for infilling, adding further pressures to these landscapes. The pastures possess further attraction as suitable paddocks for ponies and horses, a change of use that can be accompanied by degradation and loss of hedgerows. The pastures themselves can often be of considerable nature conservation interest yet this can be easily lost through inappropriate management. These landscapes possess a **unique element of rustic charm which is destroyed by excessive 'tidiness'**.

The conservation of the character, particularly the scale and detailing, of the cottages and smallholdings, and their pattern and setting should be a priority, through the enforcement of appropriate planning controls and design guidance. The retention and appropriate management of open spaces within the settlement matrix should be encouraged, paying particular attention to the areas of permanent pasture and hedgerow structure.

Landscape Type Advice Sheet - *Land Management* Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings Guidelines for Land Management

How to use this sheet

The aim of this information sheet is to provide **general guidelines** about the priorities for land management activities - focusing on relevant landscape features - within this Landscape Type. However, Landscape Types are generic descriptions of landscape character and any advice **must** be interpreted within the context of the site in question. Please also visit the Landscapes of Worcestershire mapping pages <http://gis.worcestershire.gov.uk/home/wcc-lca-maps> to click on your area and read the more specific ecological and landscape descriptions.

In the case of any habitat work, specialist advice should be sought from the County Ecologists and/or the appropriate agency (Natural England, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, Defra) to ensure that the work is appropriate, is carried out at the right time of year, in the correct manner and in the best possible location. Surveys may need to be carried out to assess the sites for presence of protected species or existing habitat. With this in mind, please read on for opportunities for land/habitat management activities appropriate to this Landscape Type...

Hedgerows

The general guideline for hedgerows in Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings is to:

- **conserve** the small-scale enclosure pattern of hedged fields through appropriate management

There may be opportunities to plant new hedgerows, restore, strengthen or protect existing hedgerows and their patterns, and promote appropriate management – in terms of maintenance regimes and protection from stock. The species composition of existing long established hedgerows should be used to guide the composition of new hedgerow planting. Fencing and other uncharacteristic boundary treatments could be removed and replaced by hedgerows. Hedgerow pattern is also an important contributor to the intimate spatial character of these landscapes.

Trees

The general guideline for trees in Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings is to:

- **conserve** and **enhance** the tree cover within the landscape, giving particular attention to hedgerow and field trees

There may be opportunities to plant new hedgerow and field trees (native trees and/or fruit trees where the latter is appropriate), retain and extend the life of existing hedgerow and field trees through such means as tree surgery, protective measures, or protection of the setting (i.e. the hedgerow). The use of protective designations such as TPOs might be relevant. Retain existing garden trees and encourage the new planting of appropriate garden trees. The removal of inappropriate trees – such as belts of poplar may on occasion be appropriate, combined with new planting of a more appropriate nature in terms of species and location.

Grassland

The general guideline for grassland in Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings is to:

- seek opportunities to **conserve** and manage all remaining areas of permanent pasture

The small-scale fields of permanent pasture found within these landscapes can often be of significant nature conservation interest, the increasing change in land use in favour of arable farming can threaten such sites and initiatives to safeguard remaining areas of permanent pasture should be strongly promoted in these areas.

For more information visit our website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lca or contact the Worcestershire County Council Environmental Policy Team on 01905 766038

Landscapes of Worcestershire

Landscape Type Advice Sheet - Land Management

Principal Wooded Hills

Landscape Type Description

An upstanding, wooded landscape with a sloping, in places steeply undulating topography, often on the edge of higher ground. This is a landscape of large, irregularly shaped ancient woodlands and wooded streamlines, typically forming an interlocking pattern with surrounding hedged fields. The woodlands are a key visual element within the landscape.

Key Characteristics

Primary

- Varied, often steeply sloping, topography
- Large, often interconnecting, blocks of ancient woodland


Secondary


- Organic pattern of hedged fields, derived from assarting
- Frequent, narrow wooded valleys or dingles
- Medium-framed views
- Patches of rough grassland and scrub
- Sparsely settled pattern of farmsteads and wayside dwellings

Current Concerns

These are very visible landscapes which frame long distance views: as such their composition and unity is particularly important. Woodland shapes that are unsympathetic to the topography, together with the modification of the mixed broadleaf composition of these woodlands can severely interrupt that unity. The presence of conifer dominated skylines is particularly damaging. The nature conservation value of these woodlands is also reduced by deviation away from native species. Hedgerow trees and wooded streamlines give visual integration between the areas of historic clearance and the overall wooded character but are now dominated by mature and veteran trees. Recent clearances have fragmented the woodland component, which again tends to damage landscape unity.

Emphasis should be placed upon both restoring the ancient semi-natural character of the woodland cover and upon maintaining an overall interlocking pattern of woodland, uniting fragmented sections of woodland. The historical significance of the old patterns of woodland clearance need to be recognised and protected when considering new planting. The perpetuation of hedgerow and streamside tree cover should be encouraged, aiming to secure tree populations of even age distribution.





Landscape Type Advice Sheet - Land Management

Principal Wooded Hills

Guidelines for Land Management

How to use this sheet

The aim of this information sheet is to provide *general guidelines* about the priorities for land management activities - focusing on relevant landscape features - within this Landscape Type. However, Landscape Types are generic descriptions of landscape character and any advice **must** be interpreted within the context of the site in question. Please also visit the Landscapes of Worcestershire mapping pages <http://gis.worcestershire.gov.uk/home/wcc-lca-maps> to click on your area and read the more specific ecological and landscape descriptions.

In the case of any habitat work, specialist advice should be sought from the County Ecologists and/or the appropriate agency (Natural England, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, Defra) to ensure that the work is appropriate, is carried out at the right time of year, in the correct manner and in the best possible location. Surveys may need to be carried out to assess the sites for presence of protected species or existing habitat. With this in mind, please read on for opportunities for land/habitat management activities appropriate to this Landscape Type...

Woodland and Trees

The general guidelines for woodland in Principal Wooded Hills are to:

- **conserve** and **restore** the ancient broadleaved character of all woodlands
- **restore** the wooded character of the area through large-scale woodland planting in areas where the interlocking pattern has become diluted
- **conserve** and **restore** tree cover along water courses and streamlines through re-planting or natural regeneration
- **create** new areas of linking woodland

Whilst it is recognised from an ecological perspective, that 'new' ancient woodland can't simply be created, new woodland can - from the landscape perspective - reflect ancient characteristics in terms of shape/outline and species composition and so integrate into the landscape and strengthen its character. There may also be opportunities to restore areas of ancient woodland through the introduction of appropriate management, or the removal of alien species and appropriate replanting. The characteristic linking of woodland blocks may have been lost in this landscape, often due to felling or hedgerow removal. Opportunities should be sought to redress this through the creation of new areas of linking woodland (by planting or natural regeneration) and interconnecting hedgerows. There may also be opportunities to reinforce the woodland structure to frame views through new planting. New woodland planting and felling coupes should be carefully designed to take particular account of their visual impact.

Hedgerows & Enclosure Pattern

The general guideline for hedgerows (field boundaries) in Principal Wooded Hills is to:

- **conserve** and **restore** the irregular pattern of assarted fields

Opportunities to reflect the organic field pattern may materialise through the shape of newly planted hedgerows, the outline of new woodland planting, the definition of roadside boundaries and verges, the spatial distribution and orientation of new buildings, avoiding uniformity of pattern in all cases.

There may also be opportunities to restore, strengthen or protect existing hedgerows and their patterns, and promote appropriate management – in terms of maintenance regimes and protection from stock. The species composition of existing long-established hedgerows should be used to guide the composition of new hedgerow planting. There may also be opportunities to plant new hedgerow trees, extend the life of existing hedgerow trees through such means as tree surgery, protective measures, or protection of the setting (i.e. the hedgerow).

For more information visit our website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lca or contact the Worcestershire County Council Environmental Policy Team on 01905 766038

Landscape Type Description

unsettled, flat, low-lying landscape

pastoral land use with seasonal flooding

large fields with hedge and ditch boundaries

lines of trees along ditches and watercourses

Key Characteristics

Current Concerns

The strong unity derived from the presence of water meadows and pasture is becoming fragmented by the encroachment of arable land uses. The decline in the traditional practices of seasonal grazing and haymaking have diminished the nature conservation interest of the remaining areas of pasture. Similarly, modification of the natural shape and profile of water courses and drainage channels has reduced the wildlife value of such features and produced a functional, somewhat urban appearance. These are essentially linear landscapes, which convey their sense of unity as a result of extensive views along the length of river corridors. New roads have been constructed on embankments directly across the flood plain, notably in the vicinity of Worcester, fragmenting the visual unity of these riverside meadow corridors as a result.

How to use this sheet

In the case of any habitat work, specialist advice should be sought from the County Ecologists and/or the appropriate agency (Natural England, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, Defra) to ensure that the work is appropriate, is carried out at the right time of year, in the correct manner and in the best possible location. Surveys may need to be carried out to assess the sites for presence of protected species or existing habitat. With this in mind, please read on for opportunities for land/habitat management activities appropriate to this Landscape Type...

- **conserve** and **restore** continuous linear tree cover along watercourses, ditches and hedge lines

Trees

The population of individual trees (watercourse, hedgerow and field trees) should be safeguarded and augmented as required with additional planting. In many locations, the populations of such trees exhibit the reverse of the age structure that is required to ensure their perpetuation as a characteristic of these landscapes – new populations of watercourse trees need to be established as a matter of priority. Where woodland is present, the existing population of individual trees may require a particular boost to prevent the woodland becoming the dominant tree cover characteristic. New tree planting can strengthen and reinforce the characteristically strong linear tree cover pattern associated with ditches, streams and hedgerows. Appropriate management such as coppicing of alder, pollarding of willow, can be reintroduced where trees have become neglected, in order to help perpetuate such patterns. Many old pollards are eligible for classification as veteran trees – such trees require particular attention and should be safeguarded as a matter of priority.

Wetland Habitats

- **conserve** and **restore** existing wetland habitats through appropriate management
- encourage the **creation** of new wetland habitats
- avoid further drainage of waterside meadows
- explore opportunities to return to patterns and processes of natural flooding cycles where feasible

Seek appropriate advice to establish the status and exact nature, composition, and future potential of any wetland communities. Avoid any damage or disturbance to existing wetland vegetation communities during regular management activity. Encourage appropriate management of existing areas of wetland plant communities. Seek to unite fragmented areas of wetland habitat, aiming to develop continuous linking patterns and to expand areas of wetland communities through habitat creation, particularly where these can be linked to existing habitat. Wherever feasible, work to develop and support landscape scale management of the Riverside Meadows which will accept and encourage the natural processes of seasonal flooding. Also, encourage the retention and restoration of the natural form of the river channel, and other watercourses, in terms of pattern and profile. Avoid the introduction of physical features, such as embankments and levees, which cross and dissect the flat linear landform. Similarly avoid the introduction of blocks of trees and woodland planting which will impair the visual perception of the characteristic linear units of form.

Grassland &

- **conserve** all remaining areas of permanent pasture
- consider opportunities for converting arable land back to pasture
- **conserve** and **restore** the hedgerow and ditch network



worcestershire
 county council

Landscape Type Description

long distance river over an upstanding plateau of rolling topography and pronounced valleys

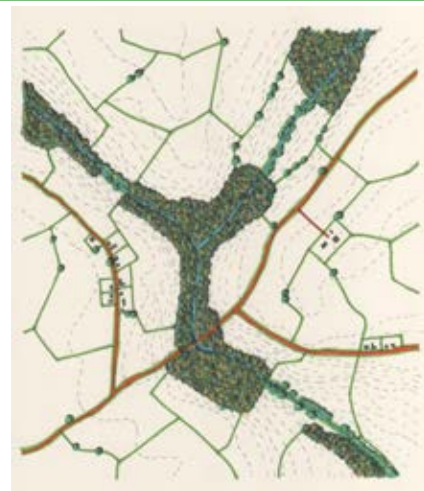
scattered hedgerow rails

mixed farming in an organic pattern of medium to large fields

linear, broadleaved woodland in dingles

Key Characteristics

- Dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads and hamlets



Current Concerns

It is important to conserve existing elements of tree cover - particularly woodland cover and streamside trees - and the hedgerow pattern. The gradual change from a landscape of mixed agriculture to one dominated by arable farming, suggests that the function of hedgerows will become increasingly reduced, rendering the whole linking structure of hedgerows and tree cover, upon which the landscape character depends, increasingly vulnerable.

How to use this sheet

In the case of any habitat work, specialist advice should be sought from the County Ecologists and/or the appropriate agency (Natural England, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency, Defra) to ensure that the work is appropriate, is carried out at the right time of year, in the correct manner and in the best possible location. Surveys may need to be carried out to assess the sites for presence of protected species or existing habitat. With this in mind, please read on for opportunities for land/habitat management activities appropriate to this Landscape Type...

Woodland and Trees

- In some places a doubling of the woodland cover could be considered in order to retain and emphasise the woodland associations and origins of these areas, and to give greater structure to the landscape. New planting should aim to perpetuate the wide range of woodland size that is characteristic of this landscape's structure. Whilst it is recognised from an ecological perspective, that 'new' ancient woodland can't simply be created, new woodland can - from the landscape perspective - reflect ancient characteristics in terms of shape/outline and species composition and so integrate into the landscape and strengthen its character. There may also be opportunities to restore areas of ancient woodland through the introduction of appropriate management, or the removal of alien species and appropriate replanting. In this landscape, there should be particular emphasis upon the presence and *pattern* of woodland cover and streamside trees.

Hedgerows

- There may be opportunities to plant new hedgerows, restore, strengthen or protect existing hedgerows and their patterns, and promote appropriate management – in terms of maintenance regimes and protection from stock. The species composition of existing long established hedgerows should guide the composition of new hedgerow planting.

Parkland

The distinctive tree cover associated with ornamental grounds and parks should be conserved and restored through appropriate management and replanting if necessary.



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Landscapes of Worcestershire Landscape Type Advice Sheet - Planning and Development Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings

Landscape Type Description

An intimate, densely settled landscape characterised by strings of wayside cottages and associated smallholdings. These nestle within a small-scale matrix of pastoral fields and narrow interlocking lanes, usually defined by prominent dense hedges with hedgerow trees. The consistency of human activity in these distinctive, small scale landscapes has resulted in a unified, palpably domestic character



Key Characteristics

Primary

- Hedgerow boundaries to fields
- Scattered hedgerow and garden trees
- Intimate spatial character
- Intricate network of narrow, winding lanes
- Densely settled pattern of way-side dwellings
- Distinctive building style—small cottages of brick or stone

Secondary

- Pastoral land use
- Variable enclosure pattern of small fields
- Heathy/acid grassland ground vegetation—widespread bracken and gorse



Current Concerns

The pattern and character of the individual dwellings are vulnerable to expansion, amalgamation and modification to an urban character. The potential of the small scale plots and pastures provide considerable scope for infilling, adding further pressures to these landscapes. The pastures possess further attraction as suitable paddocks for ponies and horses, a change of use that can be accompanied by degradation and loss of hedgerows. The pastures themselves can often be of considerable nature conservation interest yet this can be easily lost through inappropriate management. These landscapes possess a **unique element of rustic charm which is destroyed by excessive 'tidiness'.**

The conservation of the character, particularly the scale and detailing, of the cottages and smallholdings, and their pattern and setting should be a priority, through the enforcement of appropriate planning controls and design guidance. The retention and appropriate management of open spaces within the settlement matrix should be encouraged, paying particular attention to the areas of permanent pasture and hedgerow structure.

Landscape Type Advice Sheet - Planning and Development Forest Smallholdings and Dwellings Opportunities for Landscape Gain

Hedgerows

There may be opportunities to plant new hedgerows, restore, strengthen or protect existing hedgerows and their patterns, and promote appropriate management – in terms of maintenance regimes and protection from stock. The species composition of existing primary (long established) hedgerows should be noted and used to guide the composition of new hedgerow planting. Fencing and other uncharacteristic boundary treatments could be removed and replaced by hedgerows.

Hedgerow/Garden Trees

There may be opportunities to plant new hedgerow and field trees (native trees and/or fruit trees where the latter is appropriate), retain and extend the life of existing hedgerow and field trees through such means as tree surgery, protective measures, or protection of the setting (i.e. the hedgerow). The use of protective designations such as TPOs might be relevant. Retain existing garden trees and encourage the new planting of appropriate garden trees.

The removal of inappropriate trees – such as belts of poplar may on occasion be appropriate, combined with new planting of a more appropriate nature in terms of species and location.

Intimate Spatial Character

Opportunities may arise to restore the pattern of small fields. Retain hedgerows and hedgerow trees, and orchards. Retain the relationship between cottages and associated parcels of land. The location and orientation of new buildings can create intimate areas, particularly if regular patterns are avoided. The planting of trees of appropriate scale, and hedgerows can increase the intimacy of scale.

Building Style - Small Brick or Stone Cottages

Whilst not necessarily slavishly copying the design of existing buildings, development should respect traditional materials, scale and design details of the area – for example the proportions and design of windows, use of roofing materials and external wall treatments, overall size of dwellings, and height of roof-line; detailing of associated buildings and size of associated grounds/land holding.

Settlement Pattern - Wayside (Dense)

New development must respect the historical ad-hoc development of the settlement pattern of these landscapes and avoiding standardisation of design and layout. Additional individual dwellings **may** be accommodated in some circumstances where the scale of the original settlement would not be compromised. Clustered groups of new housing however would not be appropriate. The retention of small pastures/orchards between houses is important.

Intricate Linking Lane Network

Verges and roadside hedges should be protected and where possible strengthened. Where feasible retain and restore irregular pattern of lanes. Avoid regularity in new designs or improvements to lane networks. Visibility requirements for access points **to new or 'improved' dwellings will require particular attention to ensure that, whilst ensuring road safety, the scale and character of existing lane networks and associated roadside hedgerows are not unnecessarily damaged.**

Heathy/acid Grassland Ground Vegetation

There may be opportunities to influence the management of grassland through e.g. Section 106 Agreements. Grassland intended to be conserved should be protected from disturbance during construction. Attempt to emulate the characteristic vegetation communities in any landscaping associated with development. Consider birch as a dominant trees species together with hawthorn and, where appropriate, pine. Banks of gorse and broom could also be used where shrub planting is require. Consider using the existing seedbank in the soil.

Land Use - Pastoral

Opportunities may arise to promote Stewardship and other agri-environment funding incentives, in order to encourage pastoral land uses in the wider landscape, although such areas of land are likely to be outside those to which the development proposals relate.

For more information visit our website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lca or contact the Worcestershire County Council Environmental Policy Team on 01905 766038

Landscapes of Worcestershire

Landscape Type Advice Sheet - Planning and Development

Principal Wooded Hills

Landscape Type Description

An upstanding, wooded landscape with a sloping, in places steeply undulating topography, often on the edge of higher ground. This is a landscape of large, irregularly shaped ancient woodlands and wooded streamlines, typically forming an interlocking pattern with surrounding hedged fields. The woodlands are a key visual element within the landscape.

Key Characteristics

Primary

- Varied, often steeply sloping, topography
- Large, often interconnecting, blocks of ancient woodland

Secondary

- Organic pattern of hedged fields, derived from assarting
- Frequent, narrow wooded valleys or dingles
- Medium-framed views
- Patches of rough grassland and scrub
- Sparsely settled pattern of farmsteads and wayside dwellings

Current Concerns

These are very visible landscapes which frame long distance views; as such their composition and unity is particularly important. Woodland shapes that are unsympathetic to the topography, together with the modification of the mixed broadleaf composition of these woodlands can severely interrupt that unity. The presence of conifer dominated skylines is particularly damaging. The nature conservation value of these woodlands is also reduced by deviation away from native species. Hedgerow trees and wooded streambanks give visual integration between the areas of historic clearance and the overall wooded character but are now dominated by mature and veteran trees. Recent clearances have fragmented the woodland component, which again tends to damage landscape unity.

Emphasis should be placed upon both restoring the ancient semi-natural character of the woodland cover and to maintaining an overall interlocking pattern of woodland, uniting fragmented sections of woodland. The historical significance of the old patterns of woodland clearance need to be recognised and protected when considering new planting. The perpetuation of hedgerow and streamside tree cover should be encouraged, aiming to secure tree populations of even age distribution.

Landscape Type Advice Sheet - Planning and Development

Principal Wooded Hills

Opportunities for Landscape Gain

Woodland Character - Ancient

There may be opportunities to create new woodlands. Whilst ancient woodland itself cannot simply be created, from the landscape perspective new woodland can at least reflect ancient characteristics in terms of shape/outline and species composition. There may be opportunities to restore areas of ancient woodland through the introduction of appropriate management, or the removal of alien species and appropriate replanting.

Development sites themselves may not always offer the best location to accommodate new woodland planting and to achieve its full potential. These opportunities cited above may be best realised on land elsewhere in the vicinity, by private agreement between the developer and landowner.

Woodland Pattern - Large Interconnecting Blocks

This landscape is characterised by frequent woodland blocks and/or wooded corridors forming physically and visually linking patterns, creating the impression of a heavily wooded landscape. Woodlands are typically irregular or semi-regular in outline. The linking of woodland blocks may have been lost in this landscape, often due to felling or hedgerow removal. Opportunities should be sought to redress this through the creation of new areas of linking woodland (by planting or natural regeneration) and interconnecting hedgerows.

Hedgerows

There may be opportunities to plant new hedgerows, restore, strengthen or protect existing hedgerows and their patterns, and promote appropriate management – in terms of maintenance regimes and protection from stock. The species composition of existing primary (long established) hedgerows should be noted and used to guide the composition of new hedgerow planting. Fencing and other uncharacteristic boundary treatments could be removed and replaced by hedgerows.

Enclosure Pattern

Opportunities to reflect the organic field pattern may materialise through the shape of newly planted hedgerows, the outline of new woodland planting, the definition of road-side boundaries and verges, the spatial distribution and orientation of new buildings, avoiding uniformity of pattern in all cases.

Medium-scale, Framed Views

The scale of this Landscape Type could be damaged by the introduction of small scale features, particularly new woodlands and the reduction in size of existing woodlands. The characteristic framing of views would be diluted by loss of woodlands cover. There may be opportunities to create new woodland (by planting or natural regeneration) and this, and any landscaping associated with new development, should reflect the particular scale of these landscapes. Opportunities may arise to restore woodland and hedgerows in poor condition. There may be opportunities to reinforce the woodland structure to frame views through new planting.

Settlement Pattern - Dispersed

By creating settlement clusters or nuclei as a result of new development, the dispersed pattern of dwellings throughout the landscape would be lost. Current planning guidance encourages modern housing development relating to a clustered pattern, which is not appropriate in these landscapes. Therefore, significant amounts of new development will generally be discouraged from these landscapes, being better sited in those landscapes where settlement clusters and nuclei **are** appropriate.

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Landscapes of Worcestershire
Landscape Type Advice Sheet - *Planning and Development*
Timbered Plateau Farmlands

Landscape Type Description

A varied, mixed farming landscape of hedged fields, scattered farms, woods and wooded valleys associated with upstanding areas of undulating relief. The landform conveys a sense of strength and dominance which tends to override the pattern of tree cover and fields. Variations in landform within this landscape create a changing sequence of visual perspectives, ranging from open vistas on plateau summits to more secluded scenes along valley bottoms.



Key Characteristics

Primary

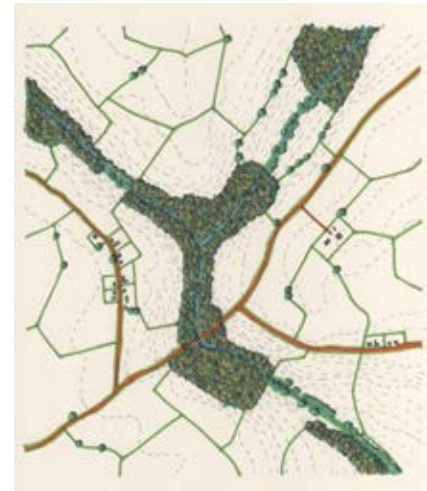
- Uprising plateau of rolling topography dissected by broad valleys
- Filtered medium/long distance views
- Ancient wooded character
- Mixed hedges with scattered hedgerow oaks

Secondary

- Organic enclosure pattern of medium-to-large fields
- Linear tree cover pattern of wooded valleys often associated with streamside habitats
- Mixed farming land use

Tertiary

- Dispersed settlement pattern of farmsteads and hamlets



Current Concerns

The deterioration of the overall structure of tree cover tends to be the major issue in these landscapes. Woodland cover is not always a prominent component of the landscape today; the streamside tree cover can often be fragmented and the hedgerow tree cover composed of primarily mature or veteran trees. The network of hedgerows can often be fragmented, severely so in places, resulting in the remaining woodlands becoming isolated from other areas of tree cover.

It is important to conserve existing elements of tree cover - particularly woodland cover and streamside trees - and the hedgerow pattern. The gradual change from a landscape of mixed agriculture to one dominated by arable farming, suggests that the function of hedgerows will become increasingly reduced, rendering the whole linking structure of hedgerows and tree cover, upon which the landscape character depends, increasingly vulnerable.

Landscape Type Advice Sheet - *Planning and Development*

Timbered Plateau Farmlands

Opportunities for Landscape Gain

Ancient Woodland

There may be opportunities to create new woodlands. Whilst ancient woodland itself cannot simply be created, from the landscape perspective new woodland can at least reflect ancient characteristics in terms of shape/outline and species composition.

There may be opportunities to restore areas of ancient woodland through the introduction of appropriate management, or the removal of alien species and appropriate replanting.

Development sites themselves may not always offer the best location to accommodate new woodland planting and to achieve its full potential. These opportunities cited above may be best realised on land elsewhere in the vicinity, by private agreement between the developer and landowner.

Hedgerows

There may be opportunities to plant new hedgerows, restore, strengthen or protect existing hedgerows and their patterns, and promote appropriate management – in terms of maintenance regimes and protection from stock.

The species composition of existing long established hedgerows should guide the composition of new hedgerow planting. Fencing and other uncharacteristic boundary treatments could be removed and replaced by hedgerows.

Linear Tree Cover

The prime opportunities will relate to the perpetuation of the dingle woodlands - encouraging the appropriate management of existing woodlands and seeking to increase their extent where appropriate, or restoring the pattern where woodland has been lost. Although the dominant woodland pattern is of linear woodland along streams, other discrete woods of varying size are also associated with this Landscape Type. The same principles of securing appropriate management together with new woodland planting will be relevant, but away from the dingles, will be less of a priority. There may also be opportunities to plant new hedgerow trees, extend the life of existing hedgerow trees through such means as tree surgery, protective measures, or protection of the hedgerow. The use of protective designations such as TPOs might be relevant to both woodlands and to individual trees. The removal of inappropriate trees - such as belts of poplar may on occasion be appropriate, combined with new planting of a more appropriate nature in terms of species and location.

Enclosure Pattern

Opportunities to reflect the organic field pattern may materialise through the shape of newly planted hedgerows, the outline of new woodland planting, the definition of roadside boundaries and verges, the spatial distribution and orientation of new buildings, avoiding uniformity of pattern in all cases.

Medium-scale, Open Views

Opportunities may arise to restore former field patterns, which in turn define the scale of the landscape. The contrast between the open, long distance views of the plateau area, and the more intimate scale of the valleys should be encouraged where possible – the juxtaposition of new woodland planting and buildings may contribute towards this.

**Land Use -
Mixed
Farming**

Whilst there is little potential to influence land use at the landscape scale, with current trends suggesting a move towards increased arabilisation, it may be possible to encourage the incorporation of pastoral land uses on land associated with, or adjacent to, new development. This may be particularly appropriate if an element of public access is to be accommodated.

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