

**Location and Landscape Character Context**

The area falls within the following Landscape Character Type: Sandstone Hills & Heaths.  
 The area is located south of Wolverhampton and north of Sedgley with the settlement edge marking the northern and western boundary. The eastern boundary is marked by the A459 Wolverhampton Road East, which in the southeast is within Dudley. The southern boundary runs along the Wolverhampton city boundary and then follows the settlement edge within Dudley to reach the A459.

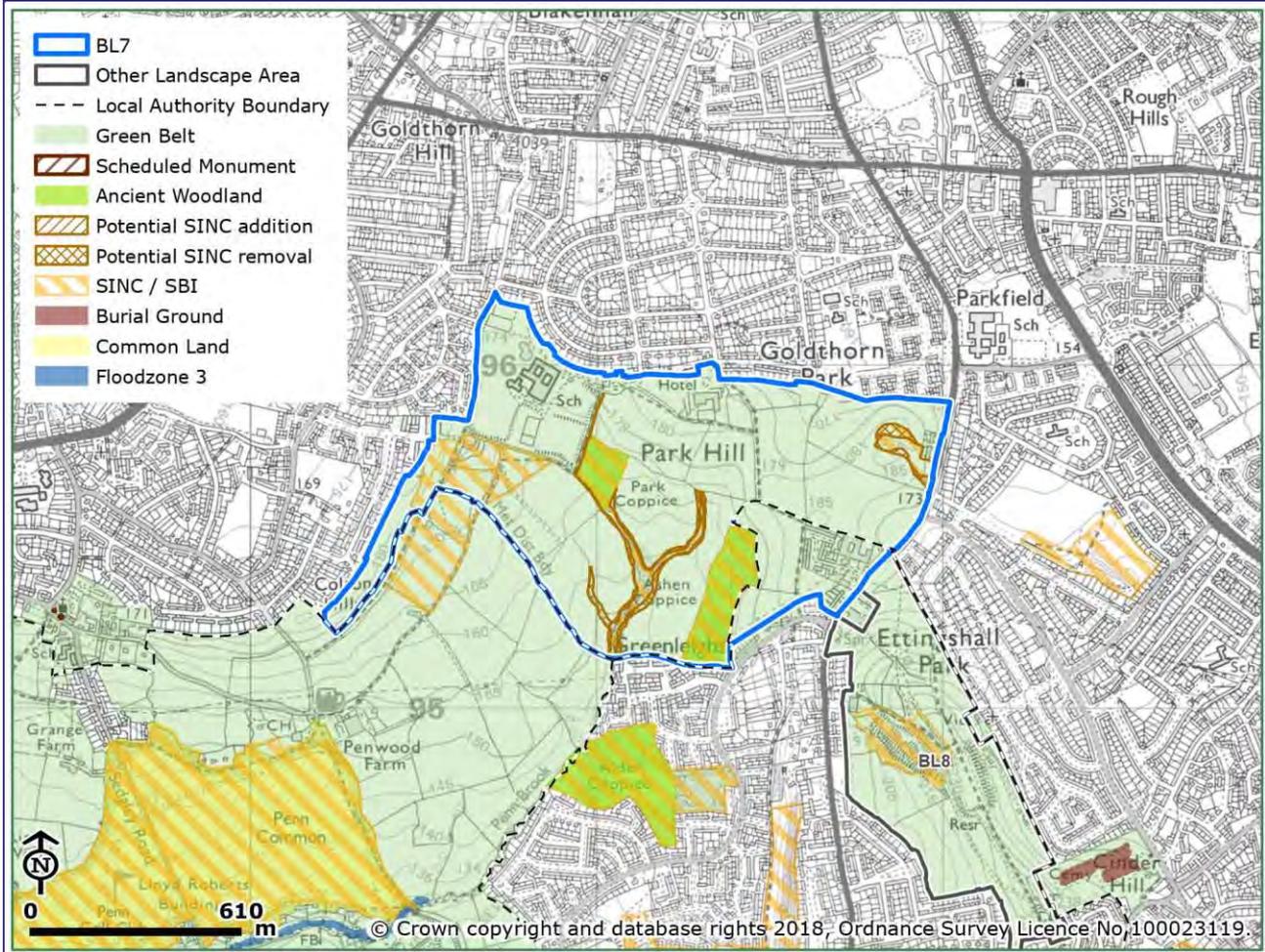
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



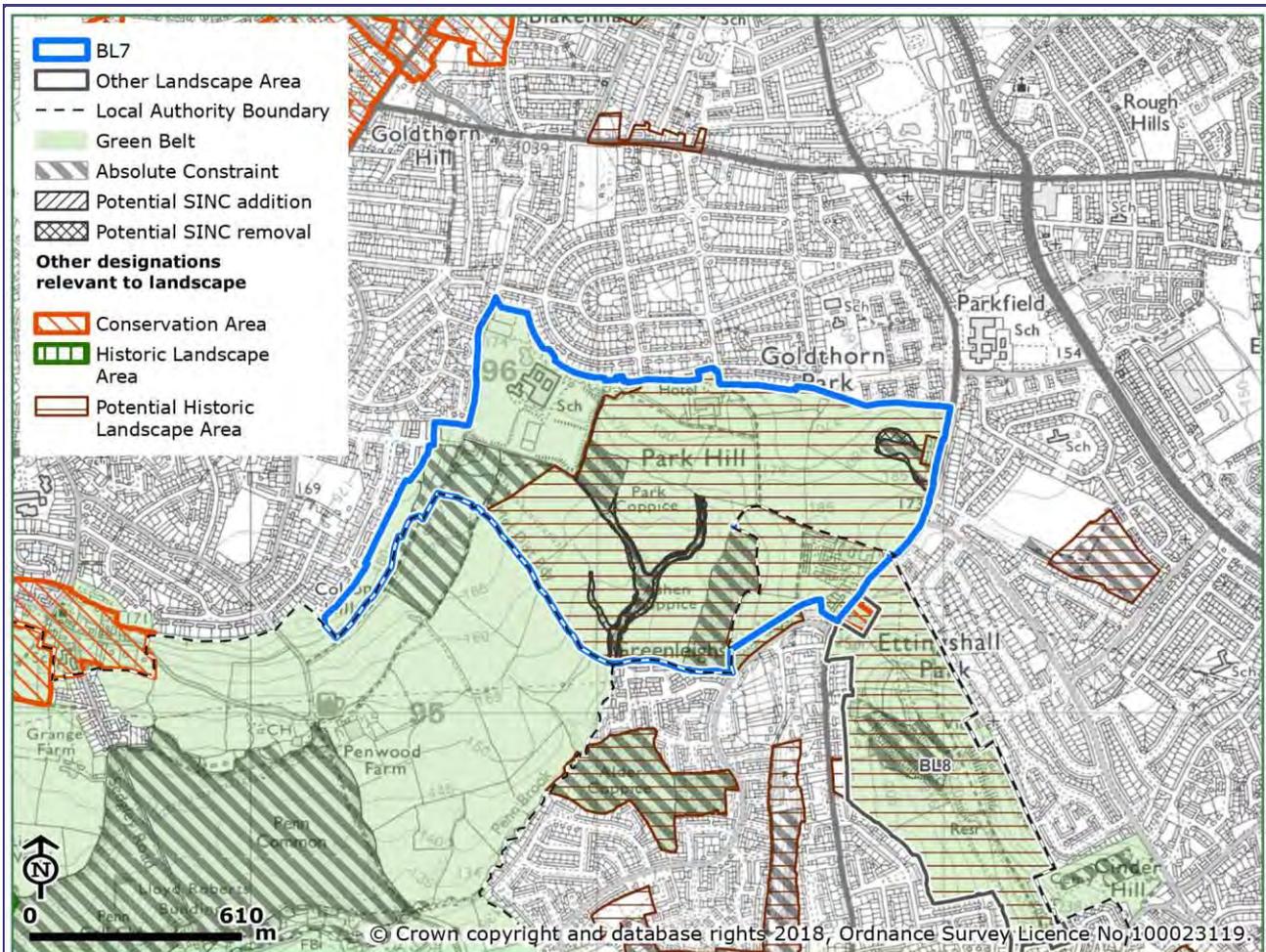
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



## Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>		Moderate scale arable fields with boundaries are marked by hedgerows, or post and wire fencing which increases the sense of scale.	
<b>Landform</b>		Sloping landform rising from the Penn Brook at 145m AOD to Park Hill at 185m AOD.	
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>			The area forms the remains of a larger 18th century park and has a surviving historic field pattern. The area may have originally formed part of an earlier medieval deer park. Three associated areas of semi-natural ancient woodland with evidence of medieval or post-medieval woodland management remain along with earthwork evidence of ridge and furrow in Ashen Coppice. The majority of the area is a potential historic landscape area AHHLV21: Park and Ashen Coppice Ancient Woodland. The southeast is part of the limestone grassland associated with Beacon Hill, and is also a potential historic landscape area AHHLV34: Sedgley Beacon.
<b>'Natural' character</b>			Areas of valued semi-natural habitat include priority habitat deciduous woodland concentrated along the Penn Brook at Park Coppice, Park Coppice Dingle and Ashen Coppice, Colton Hills in the south west and Park Hill in the north east. These are also registered as ancient woodland and designated locally as SINCS. Colton Hill contains priority habitat semi-improved grassland and is a Local Wildlife Site (Site of Biological Importance).
<b>Built character</b>	Despite the proximity of the urban edge, the area is largely undeveloped except for Colton Hills School, and the Beacon Centre for the blind in the east. The A459 forms the eastern boundary and an overhead power line runs along the south east of the area.	The early 18th century Grade II listed Park Hall Hotel is located in the north of the area.	
<b>Recreational character</b>		Some PRowS run through the area, linking the settlement edges.	

<b>Perceptual aspects</b>	An electricity pylon line runs along the south east of the area.	A scenic rural landscape where tranquility is disturbed locally by the A459 and proximity to modern residential development on three sides.
<b>Settlement setting</b>	The area is surrounded by modern residential development but the urban edge is generally well screened by woodland, tree belts or fences.	This area provides some contribution as a rural backdrop to Colton Hills School, Park Hall and residential properties along the eastern boundary of the area as well as providing part of the rural gap between Sedgley and Penn (Wolverhampton).
<b>Visual prominence</b>	Mature roadside vegetation and the prominence of woodland along the settlement edge provide visual containment in flatter areas particularly in the north east.	Open elevated areas in the north of the area are visually prominent from the wider surrounding countryside.
<b>Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points</b>		There are long distance views to the Shropshire Hills AONB.

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>BL7s1</b>	<b>76.37</b>	<b>Moderate - High</b>

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

The landscape is considered to have moderate-high overall sensitivity to residential development due to its visual prominence, natural character and time-depth.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

Ref: 180 (Housing)

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>BL7s2</b>	<b>21.81</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

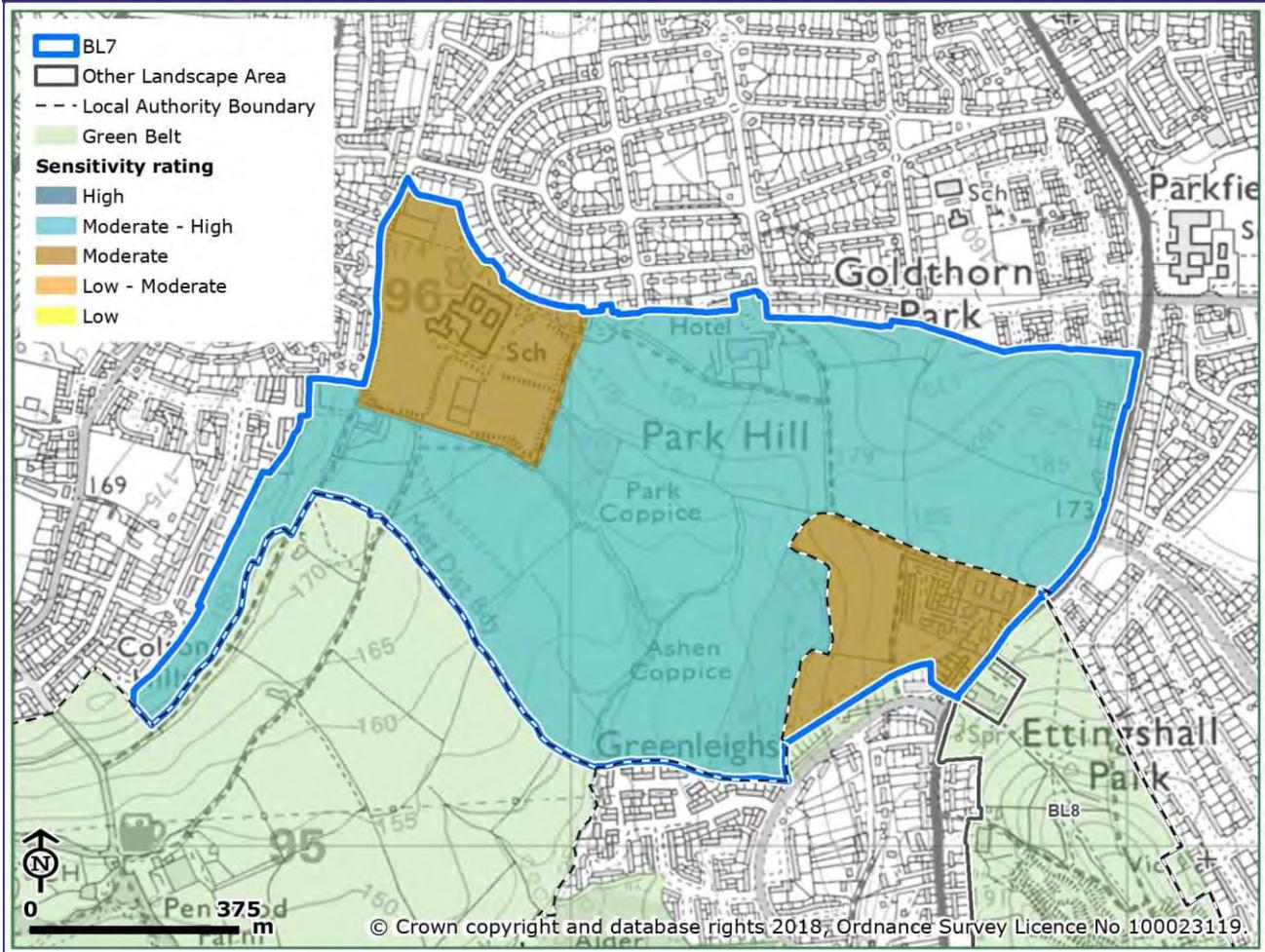
The area is considered to have moderate overall sensitivity to residential development as although it has time-depth it contains development which detracts from the landscape character (the Colton Hills Secondary School and Beacon Centre for the Blind).

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

Ref: 283 (Housing)

Landscape Sensitivity Rating



### Location and Landscape Character Context

The area is located on the boundary of Wolverhampton and Dudley and is surrounded by settlement. The A459 Wolverhampton Road forms the northern boundary. The south-east of the area is within the Wolverhampton boundary and is predominately occupied by the Beacon Hill Cemetery.

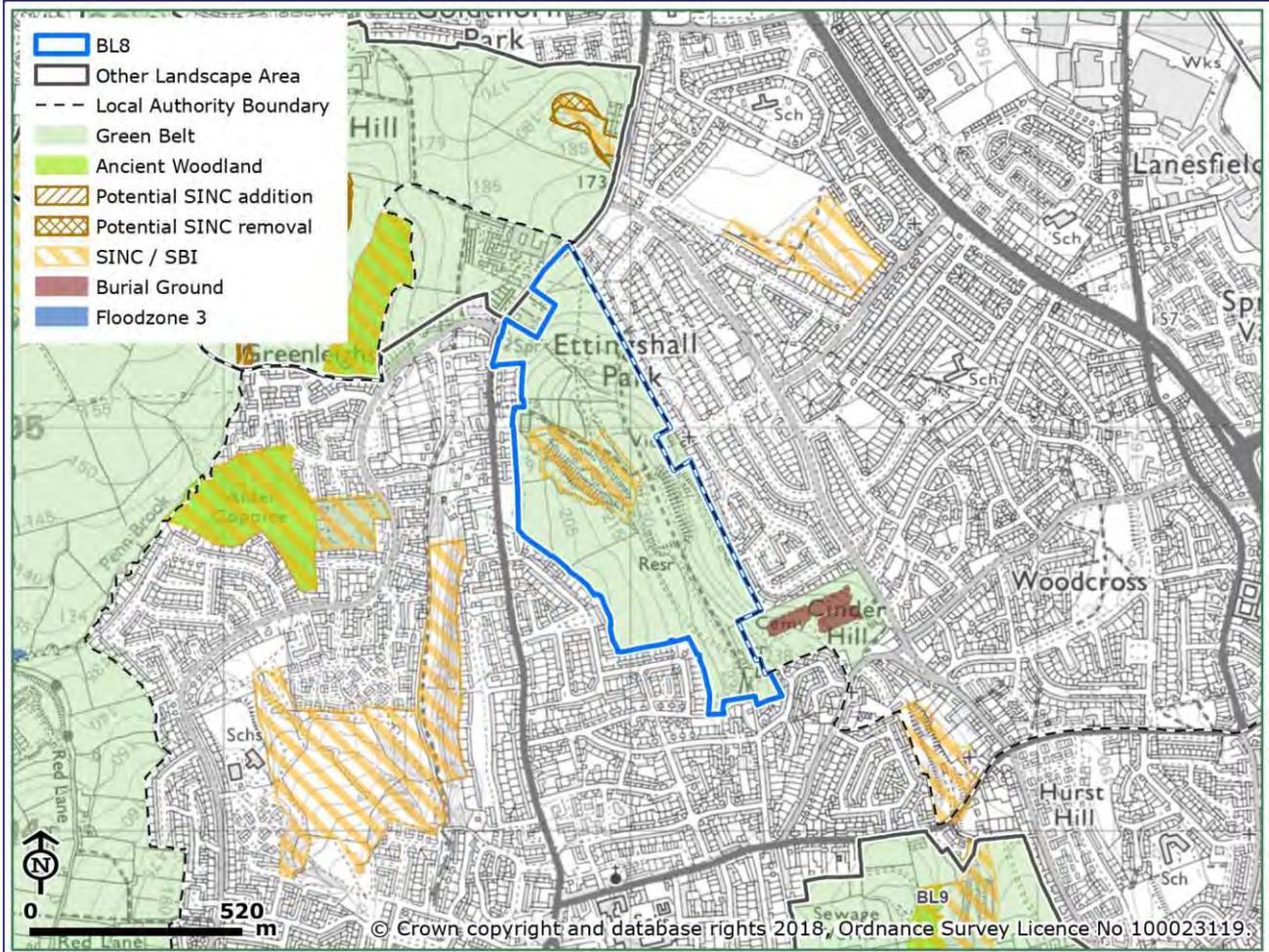
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



## Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>	Few land divisions due to woodland and the elevated topography over much of the area.	Some small scale fields in the south-west, with post and wire fence boundaries, which increase the perceived scale of the landscape.	
<b>Landform</b>			The area occupies an elevated ridge landform broadly running north to south. The northern boundary lies at approximately 190m AOD rising to 238m AOD forming Beacon Hill, in the central and southern part of the area.
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>			A rare limestone grassland area associated with quarrying since the 17th century. The area is a potential historic landscape area AHHLV34: Sedgley Beacon.
<b>'Natural' character</b>			Beacon Hill supports priority habitat semi-improved grassland (a rare example of limestone grassland), and deciduous woodland (along the eastern and western boundaries). Beacon Hill is designated as a SINC for its priority habitats and exposure of Silurian limestone.
<b>Built character</b>	Built development within the area is limited to a poultry farm on the western boundary, however landscape character is influenced by the surrounded by modern settlement. There are two communications masts in the far south of the area.	The Sedgley Beacon Tower in the south of the area is Grade II listed.	
<b>Recreational character</b>			Beacon Hill is an open access area, with opportunities for informal recreation. The locally promoted Limestone Way runs through the area. There is a cycle route on the eastern boundary.
<b>Perceptual aspects</b>		The area is within the Wolverhampton/ Dudley conurbations and is surrounded by modern development. The elevated area surrounding the Sedgley Beacon Tower has a more remote and open character.	
<b>Settlement setting</b>		Vegetation and trees within the area or in the gardens of residential properties enclose the area, however the elevated topography of the Sedgley Beacon provides a backdrop to much of the surrounding settlement.	

**Visual prominence**

Beacon Hill Cemetery is enclosed by boundary hedges and the woodland at the western edge.

Beacon Hill and the Sedgley Beacon Tower form a prominent and undeveloped skyline visible from the surrounding built area, offering panoramic views across Dudley and South Staffordshire.

**Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points**

Views across the wider landscape, including very distant views to the Shropshire Hills AONB.

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
BL8s1	34.72	Moderate - High

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

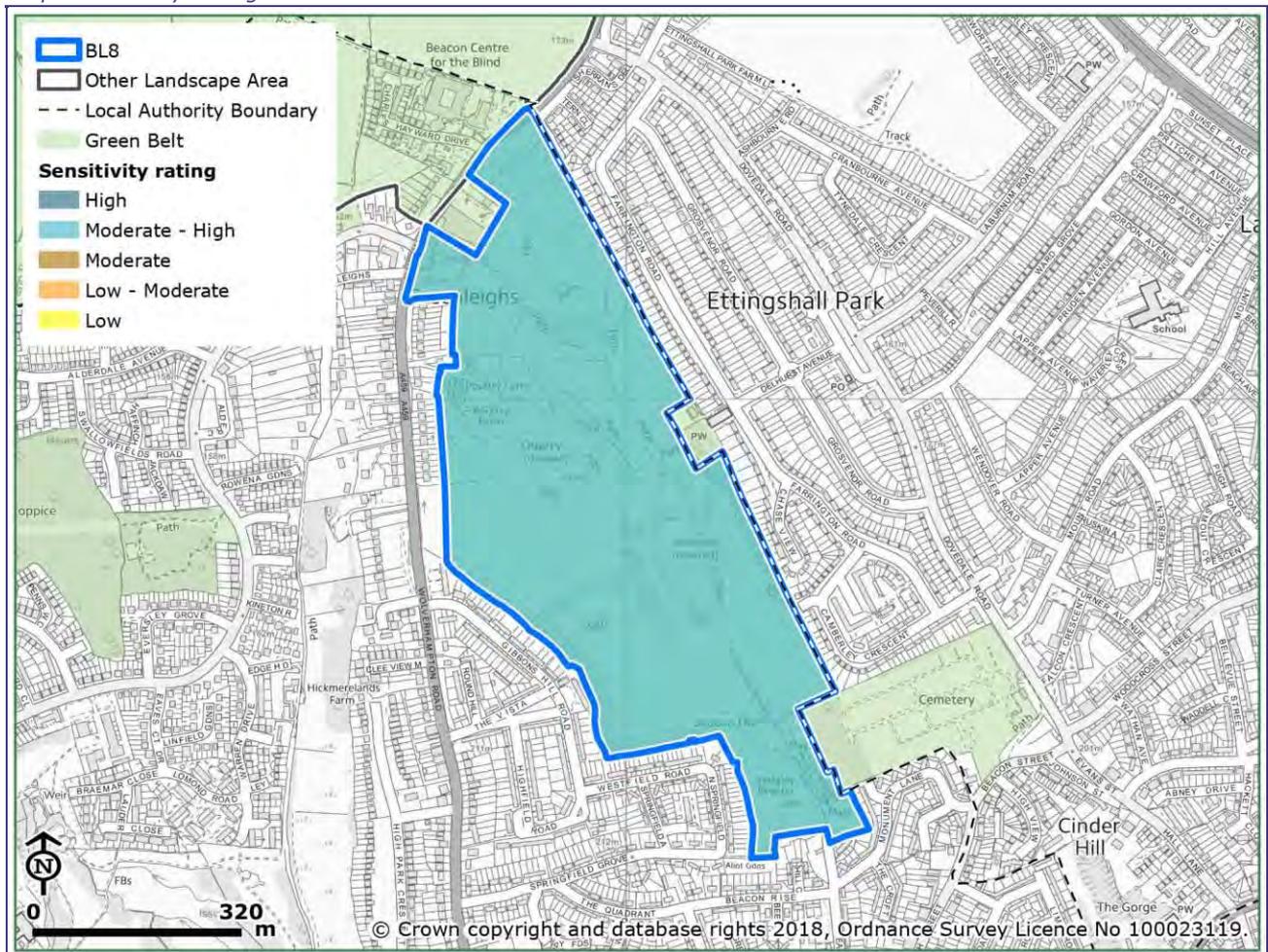
The area has a moderate-high sensitivity to residential development as a result of natural and historic character, the visual prominence of its distinctive landform and recreational value. The area has a high sensitivity to employment development due to the same reasoning, and in particular the distinctive landform, natural and historic character.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

None

*Landscape Sensitivity Rating*



**Landscape Area Reference BL9**

**Area Size (ha): 54.9ha**

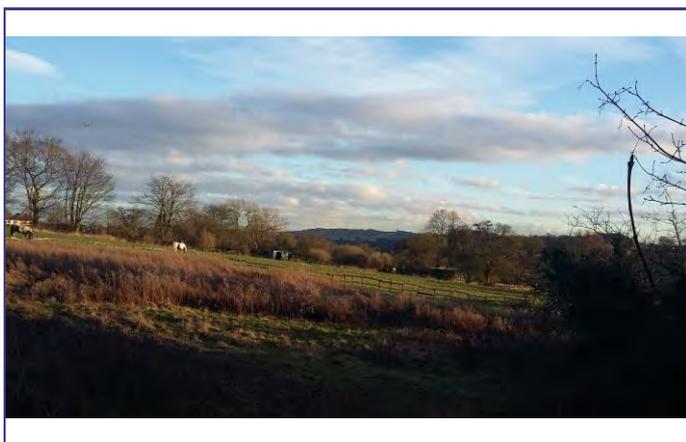
**Location and Landscape Character Context**

The area is located within the West Midlands conurbation, between the A457 Tipton Road to the south and the A463 Gorge Road to the north. Turlis Hill Road bisects the area. All the boundaries are defined by the settlement edge.

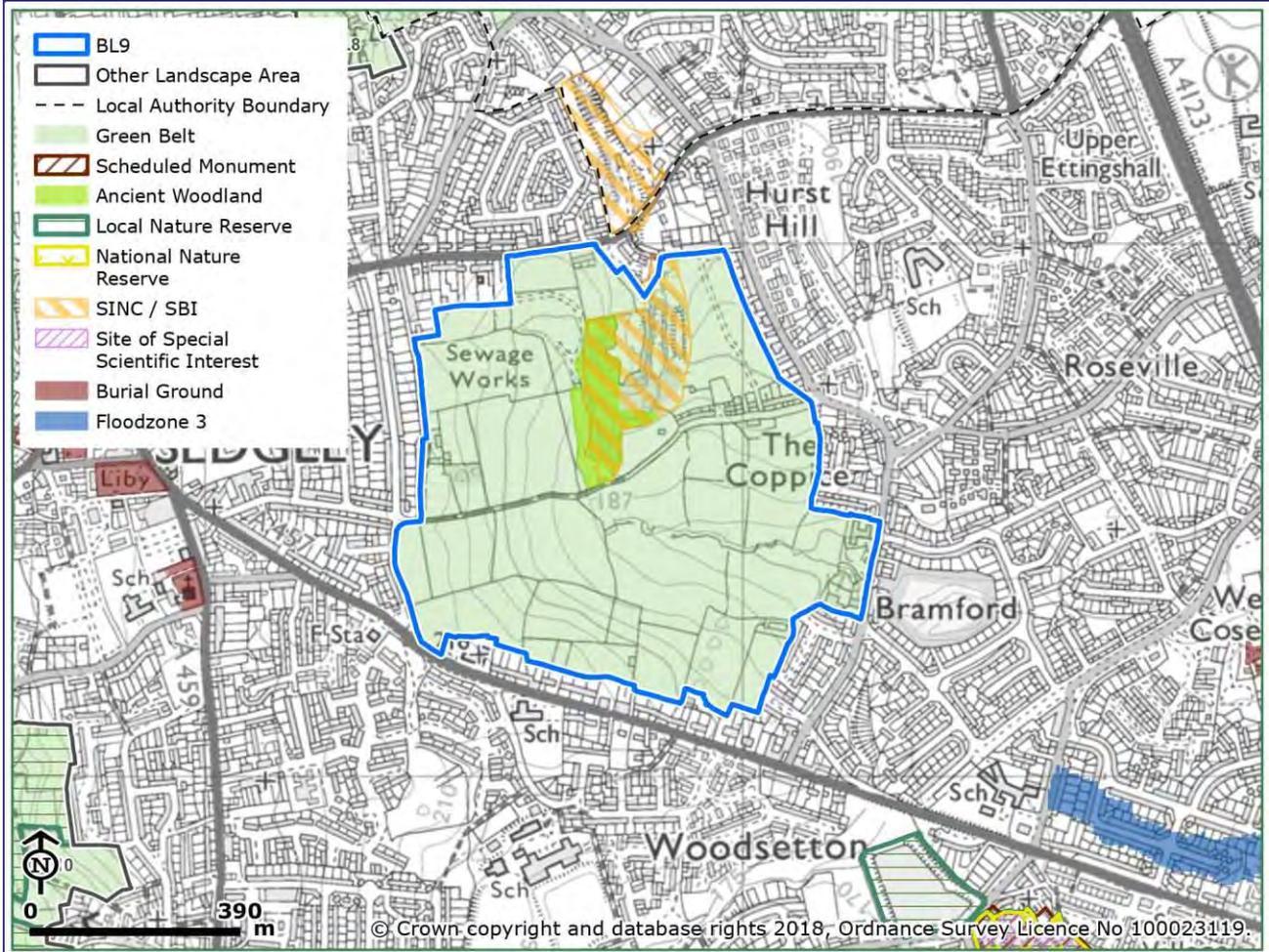
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



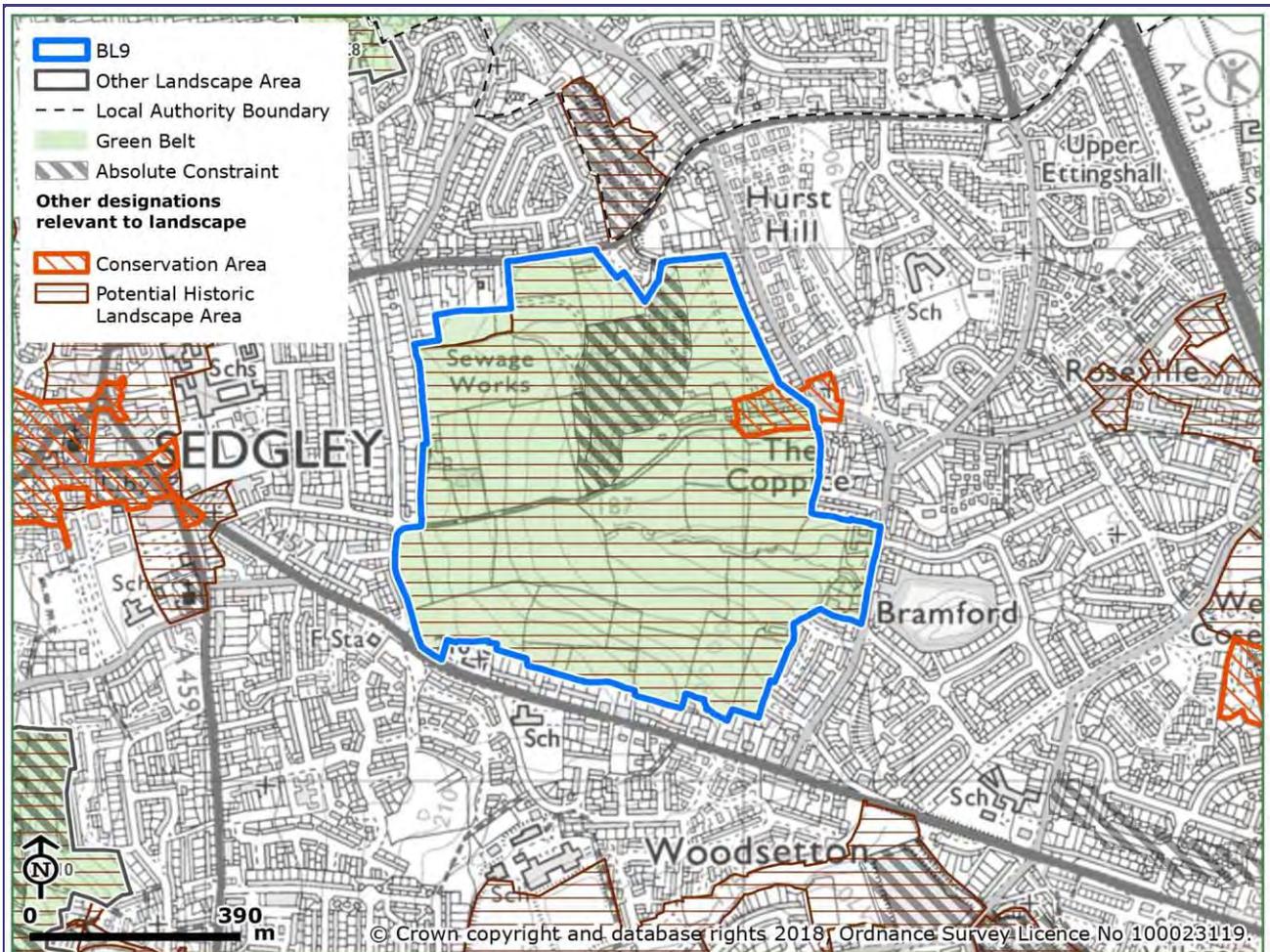
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



## Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>		There are small scale fields throughout the area, however gappy hedgerows and some boundary loss leads to the perception of medium scale.	
<b>Landform</b>		An elevated undulating landscape ranging from 215m AOD in the west to 175m AOD in the east, incised by a small stream running north-west to south east.	
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>	Sewage works and allotments have removed traces of time depth in the north.		The area contains the remains of a 19th century limestone quarry (Bumble Hole) and associated lime kilns. There is a well preserved historic field system with surviving ridge and furrow. The area is a potential historic landscape area: AHHLV36 Turl Hill.
<b>'Natural' character</b>			Hursthill Wood SINC is an area of calcareous semi-natural broadleaved, which contains much ancient woodland. The area also contains extensive areas of priority habitat good quality semi-improved grassland and deciduous woodland. Valued natural features include frequent hedgerow trees.
<b>Built character</b>	The area is located within the urban conurbation, but is relatively undeveloped except for modern low rise medical facilities on Bourne Street in the east and a small row of modern residential properties on Gorge Road.		The Coppice Conservation Area is located in the east of the area is characterised by 19th and 20th century cottages
<b>Recreational character</b>		Two PRoW along the western boundary and through the middle of the area connecting to Turl Hill Road. Allotments within the area appear well used.	
<b>Perceptual aspects</b>		The area retains its predominantly rural open character although it is impacted by its location within the urban conurbation and audibly impacted by the A457 Tipton Road in the south. Many of the fields have been subdivided for horse paddocks and hedgerows have been replaced by post and wire fencing.	

**Settlement setting**

The area provides a rural backdrop to the surrounding settlement, including the Coppice Conservation Area on Turlshill Road, and provides part of a rural gap between Sedgley and Coseley.

**Visual prominence**

The area varies between open and visually prominent to enclosed by mature boundary vegetation and hedgerows.

**Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points**

Extensive views from Setton Drive, Gorge Road and Turl Hill Road towards the promoted viewpoint at the Clent Hills. Long views from Gorge Road and Turl Hill Road to the Clent Hills promoted viewpoint and the Grade II\* Hagley obelisk within the Grade I listed Hagley Hall Registered Park and Garden.

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
BL9s1	54.91	Moderate - High

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

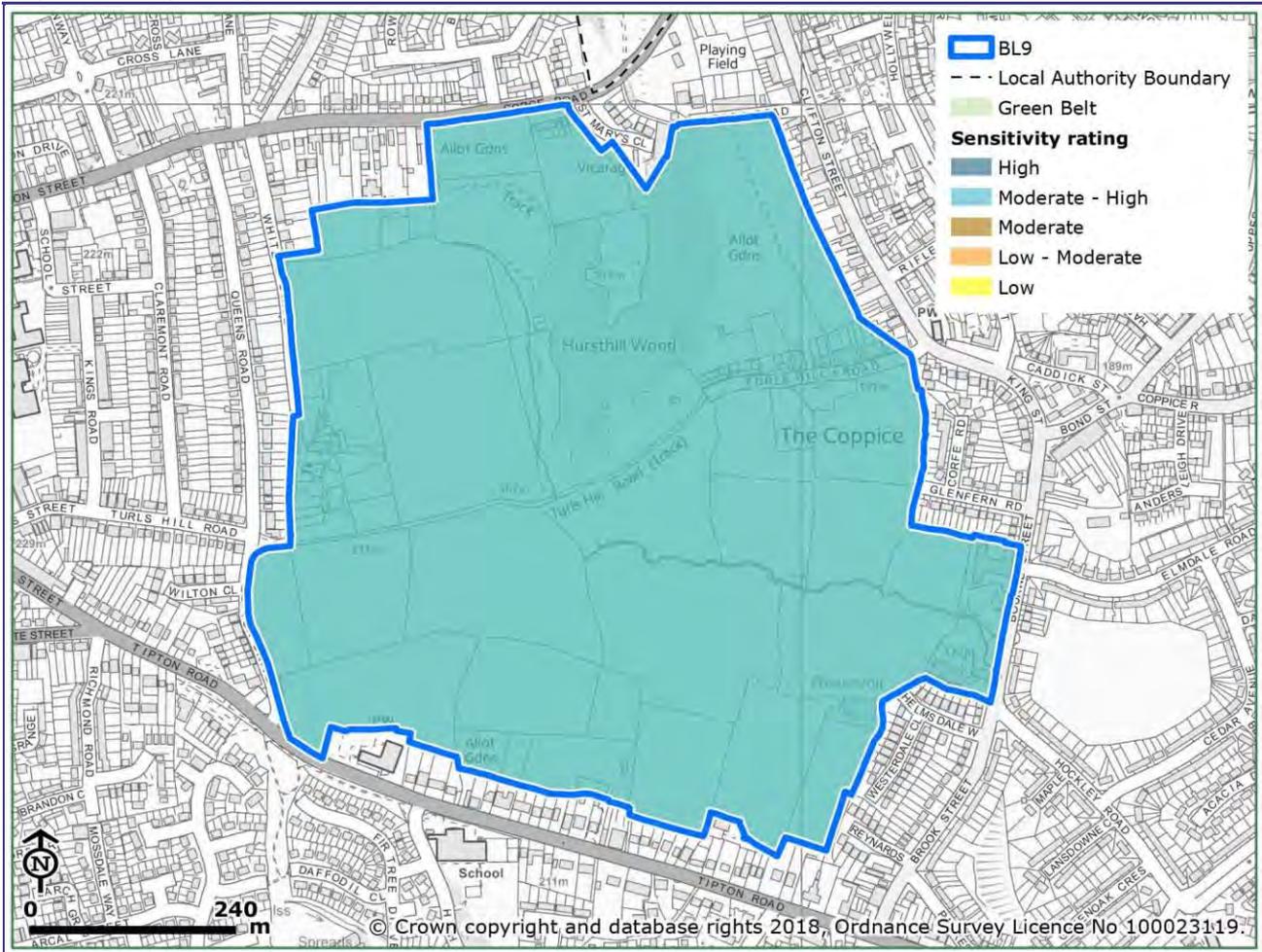
The landscape is considered to have moderate-high overall sensitivity to residential development as a result of the high sensitivity of settlement setting, visual prominence, natural heritage, landscape pattern and time-depth.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

Ref: 113 (Housing); Ref: 175 (Housing); Ref: 57 (Housing)

Landscape Sensitivity Rating



**Landscape Area Reference BL10**

**Area Size (ha): 121.7ha**

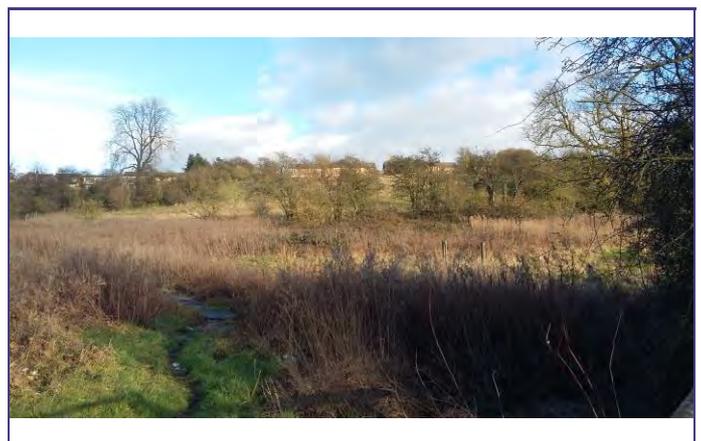
**Location and Landscape Character Context**

The area falls within the following Landscape Character Type: Settled Plateau Farmlands.  
The area is located between The Straits, Ruiton and Sedgley which form its eastern, southern and northern boundaries respectively. The borough boundary marks the north western boundary.

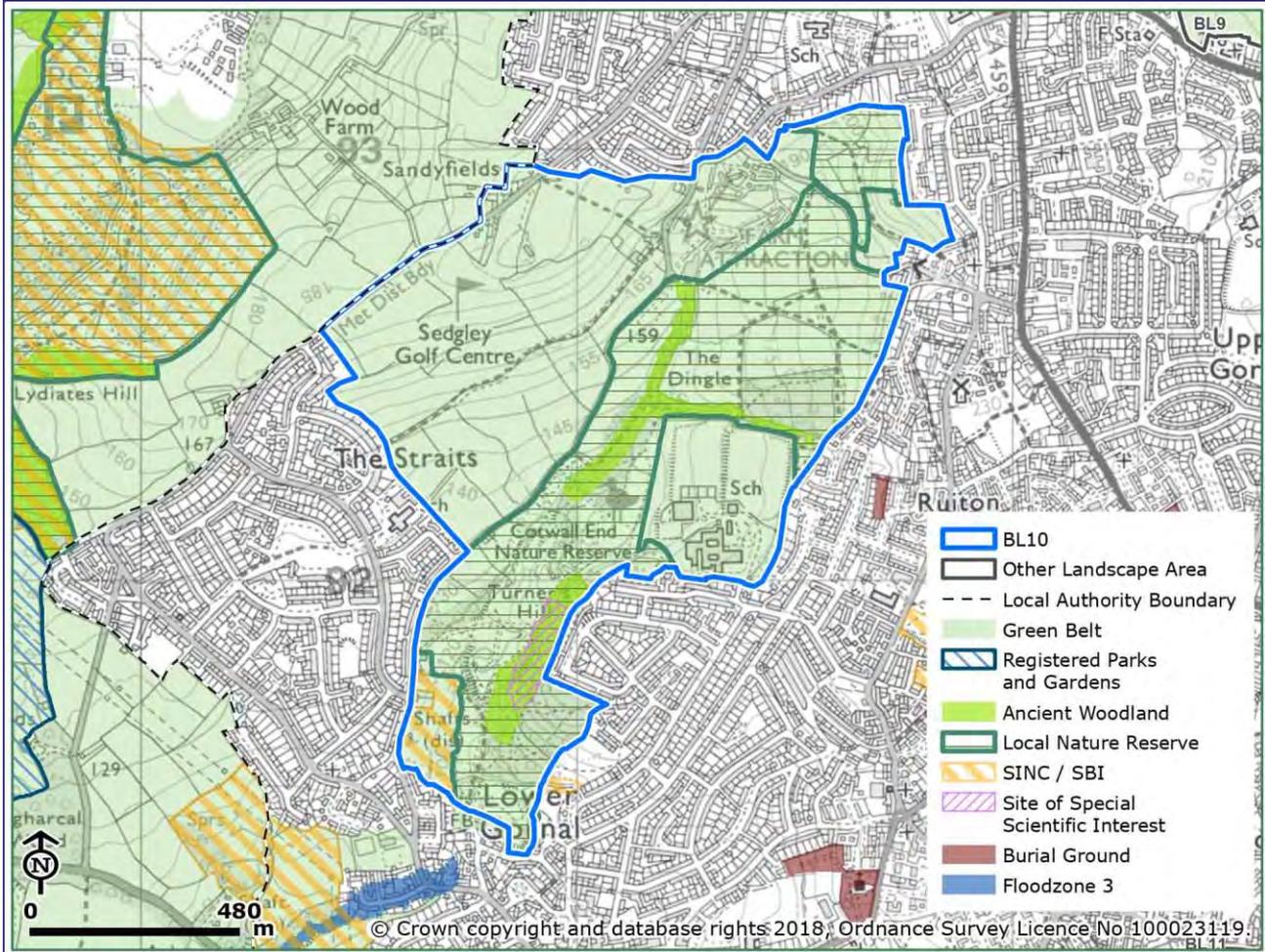
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



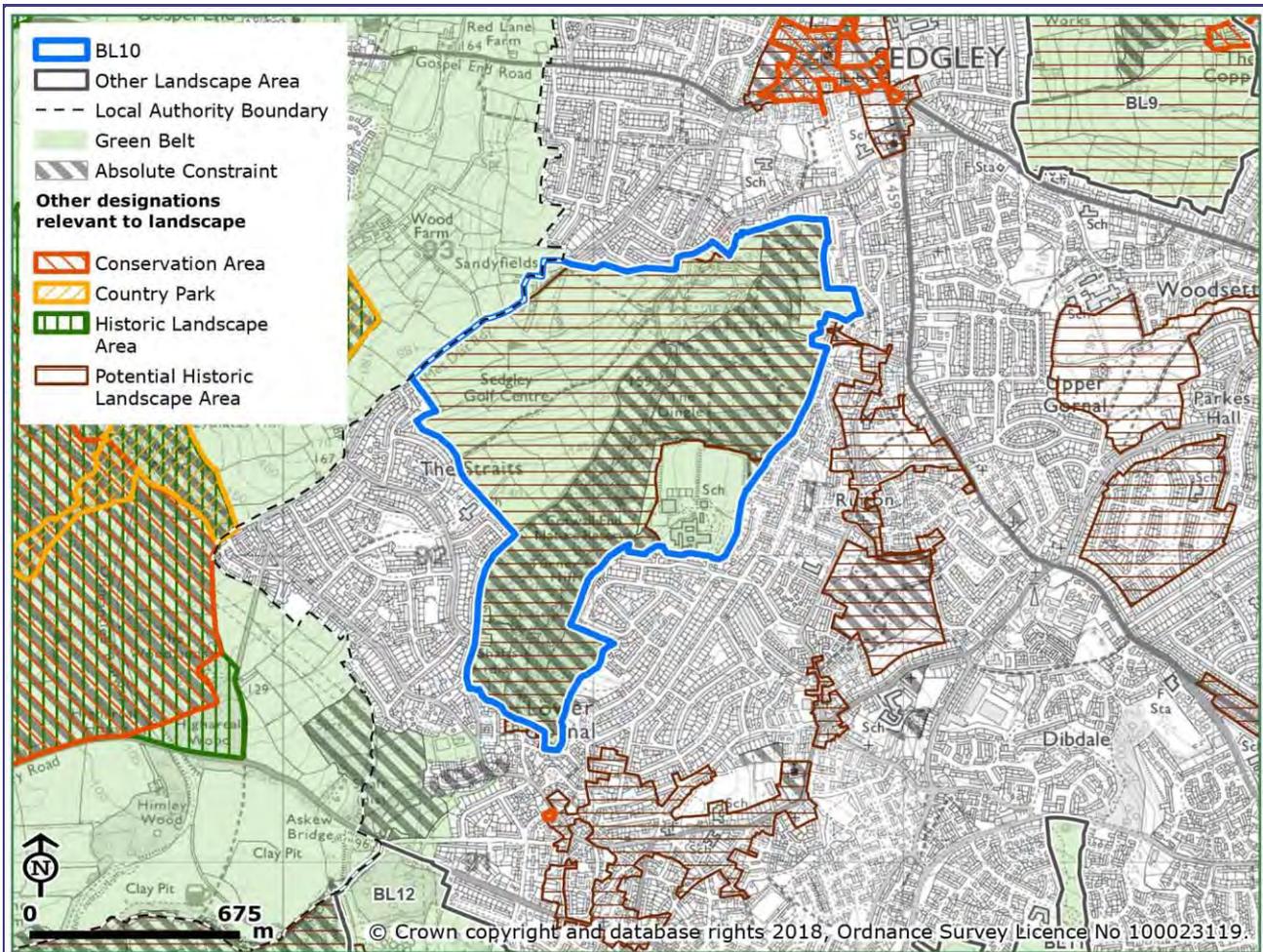
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



### Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>		Woodland within the Sedgley Golf Centre and Cotwall End Local Nature Reserve encloses the area resulting in a small scale landscape. To the east of the area moderate scale pastoral fields (mostly in use for horse grazing) are defined by overgrown hedgerows and post and rail fencing.	
<b>Landform</b>		Gently rolling landform of the Cotwall End Valley, rising both east and west of Cotwall End Road, to 200 m AOD at Moden Hill and falling to 110 m AOD in the south at Lower Gornal.	
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>	Sedgley Golf Centre has eroded the original field pattern north of Cotwall End Road.		There is an enclosed field pattern north east and south of Cotwall End Road, and the field boundaries have not changed since the first edition OS map. The southern half of the area is associated with 19th century collieries, and is a potential historic landscape area AHHLV37 Cotwall End.
<b>'Natural' character</b>	There is a lack of valued natural features west of Cotwall End Road, except for small areas of deciduous woodland within the golf course.		Constrained areas south of Cotwall End Road, include the Cotwall End LNR which contains priority habitat deciduous woodland including areas of ancient woodland and Turner's Hill SSSI which is designated for its geological importance.
<b>Built character</b>	Ellowes Hall Sports College is a low-rise post-war complex. The area is surrounded on three sides by the urban conurbation.	Little development within the area except for a few red brick cottages on Sandyfields Road and Cotwall End Road.	
<b>Recreational character</b>		Good access via PRowS throughout the area. Sedgley Golf Course used for recreation by some members of the public.	
<b>Perceptual aspects</b>	Rural landscape disturbed by proximity to modern settlement edges which enclose the area on three sides. Unmanaged fields with overgrown fragmented hedges supported by post and rail fencing used as paddocks with associated shelters and equipment.		
<b>Settlement setting</b>		The settlement of Sedgley is well integrated along much of its edge by woodland cover and the area provides a rural setting to the adjacent settlement . The golf course, although not a 'natural' landscape, also provides the	

appearance of a rural backdrop.

**Visual prominence**

The area is predominately enclosed by the woodland and overgrown hedges which limits views.

Moden Hill due to its elevation above the surrounding area is visually prominent with the wider countryside to the west.

**Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points**

Some inter-visibility with The Hill in Himley Hall Registered Park and Garden.

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>BL10s1</b>	<b>49.01</b>	<b>Low - Moderate</b>

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

The area to the west and north of Cotwall End Road (including Sedgeley Golf Centre) is considered to have a low-moderate overall sensitivity to residential development as the majority of the criteria score moderate or low and no criteria override that judgement.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

None

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>BL10s2</b>	<b>72.72</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

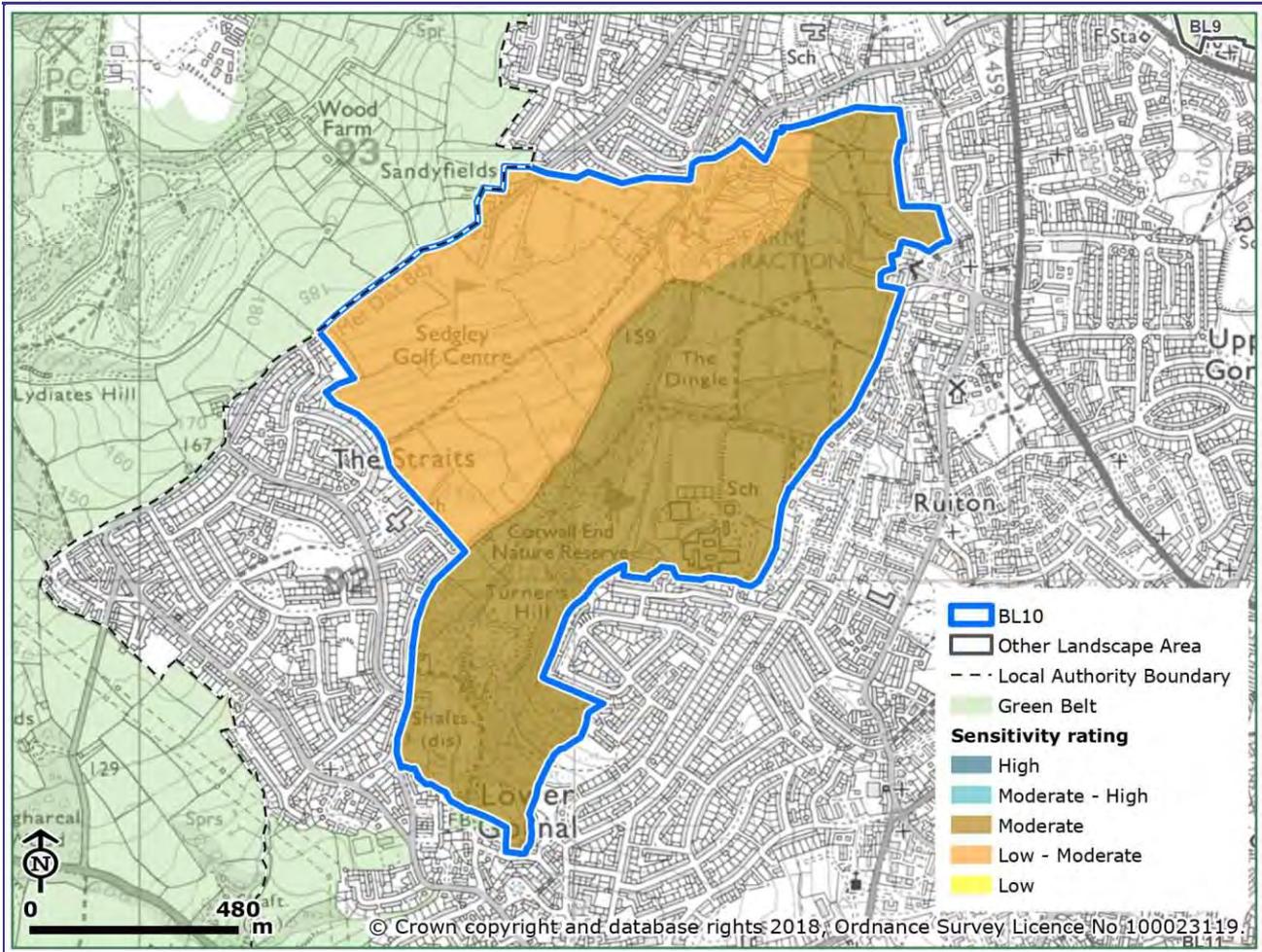
The landscape east of Cotwall End Road is heavily constrained by its designation as a Local Nature Reserve, with additional sensitivities around its historic association with local collieries and remaining ancient woodland. The area is judged to be of moderate landscape sensitivity to residential development.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

Ref: 147 (Housing)

Landscape Sensitivity Rating



**Landscape Area Reference BL11**

**Area Size (ha): 21.2ha**

**Location and Landscape Character Context**

The area is located within the urban conurbation of Dudley and forms Milking Bank Park and Recreation Ground. The boundaries are marked by the settlement edge, and in the south by the B4176 Himley Road and the edge of Barrow Hill SINC and LNR.

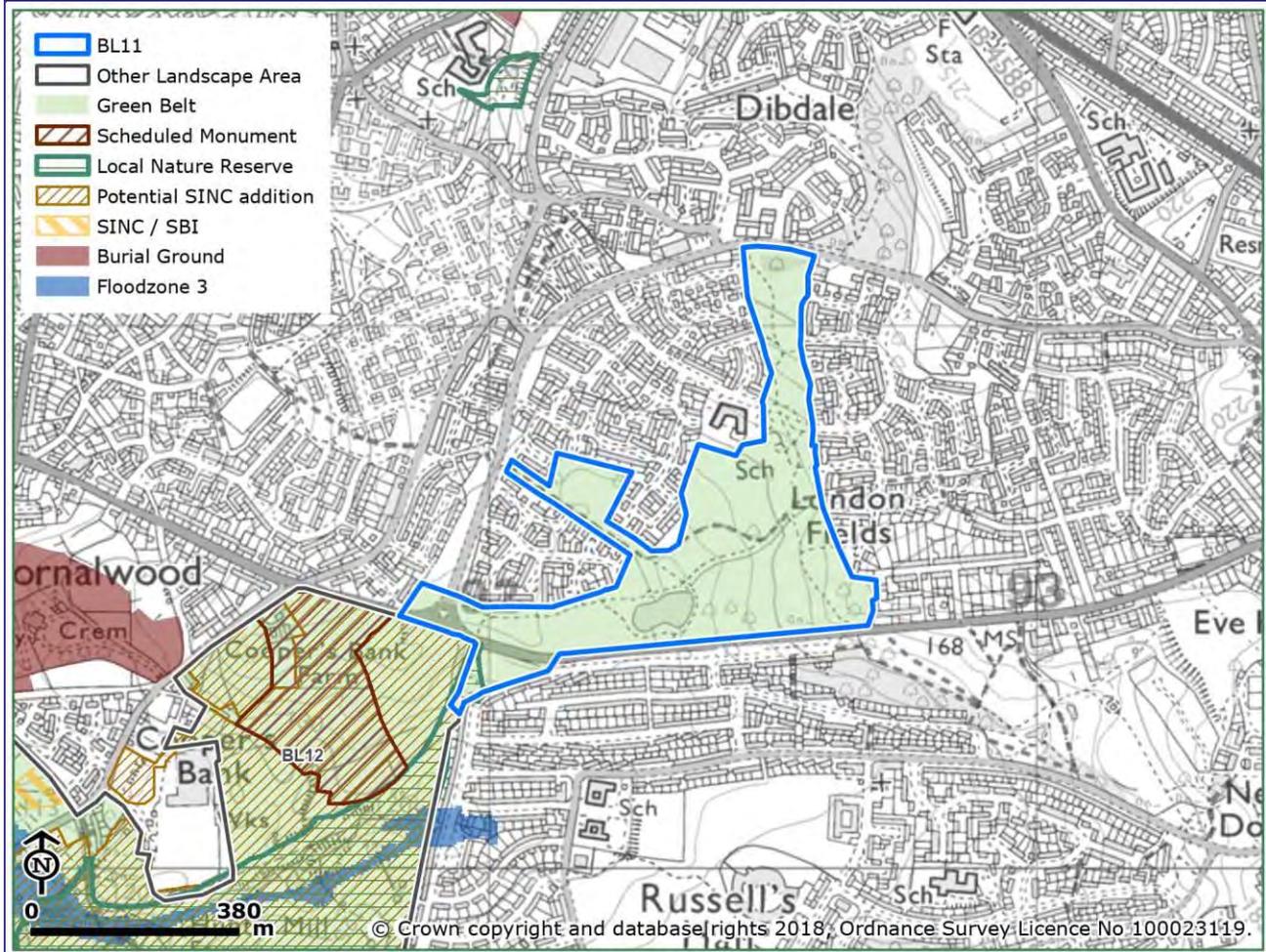
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



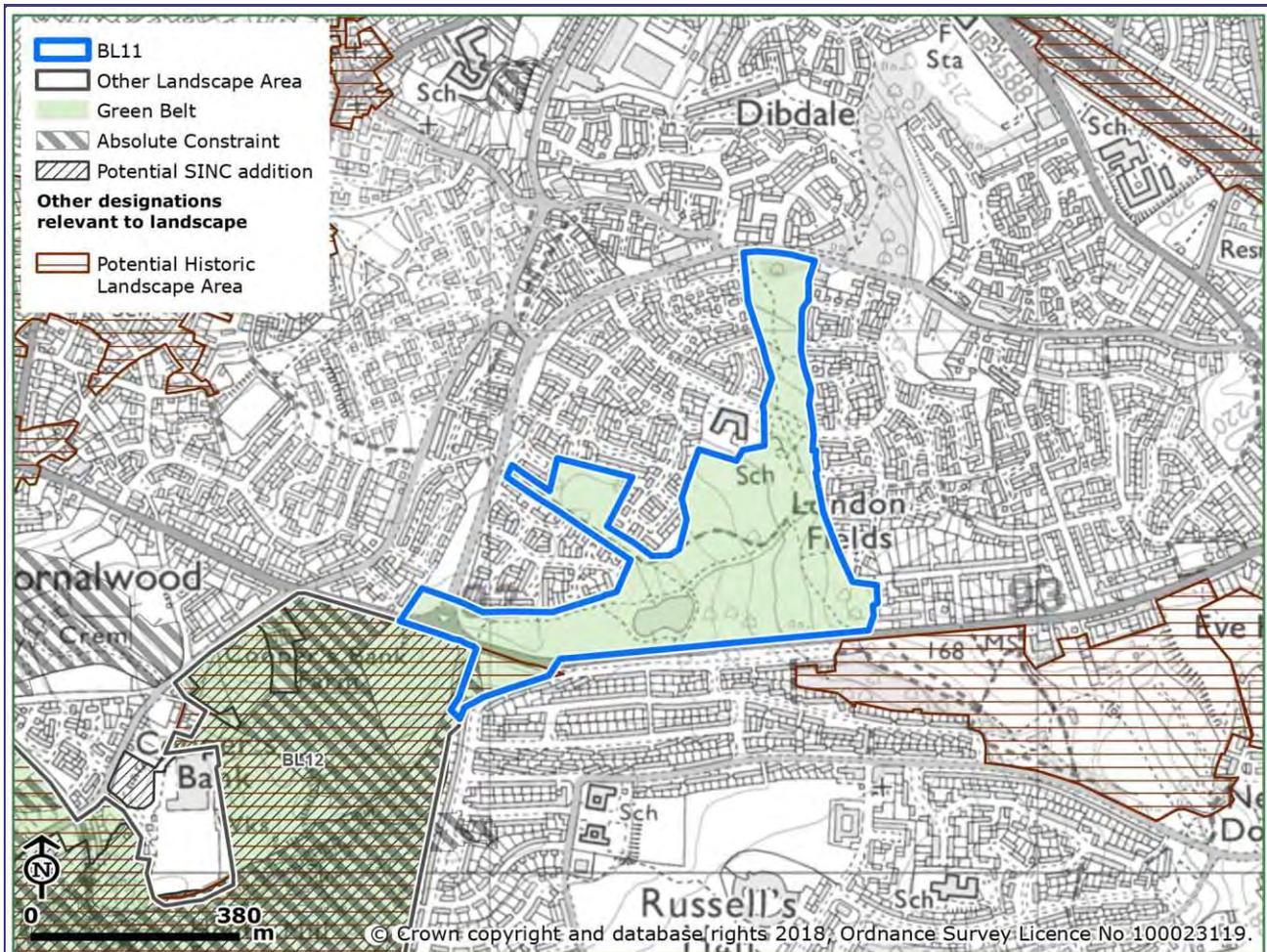
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



## Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>	No obvious land divisions.		
<b>Landform</b>	The landform slopes gently from 180m AOD in the north to 135m AOD in the south-west.		
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>	The area was the site of an open cast mine in the late 20th century, which has eroded any time depth.	The area south of Himley Road is a potential historic landscape area AHHLV39 Barrow Hill.	
<b>'Natural' character</b>	The non-wooded areas are close mown amenity grassland.	There are areas of predominantly deciduous woodland in the north of the park and along the southern and south-eastern boundaries, a small area of which is priority habitat deciduous woodland. Milking Bank Pool in the south is also important for habitats.	
<b>Built character</b>	There are no buildings within the area but it is surrounded by modern settlement, and the B4176 Himley Road runs along the southern boundary which influences landscape character.		
<b>Recreational character</b>	The area forms Milking Bank Park and Recreation Ground, an open access recreational area with pitches and equipped play areas within open parkland.		
<b>Perceptual aspects</b>	An open recreational area surrounded by residential development. Road noise is audible on the edges of the area, but it is more tranquil in the centre.		
<b>Settlement setting</b>	The area provides an open green backdrop to the surrounding settlement.		
<b>Visual prominence</b>	Views into the area from Himley Road on the southern boundary are limited by woodland within the area although wooded nature of the the site contribute to the prominence of the site. Long distance views from Dibdale Road in the north to the Clent Hills.		

**Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points**

Some inter-visibility with the promoted viewpoint at the Clent Hills, albeit at a long distance.

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
BL11s1	21.2	Moderate

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

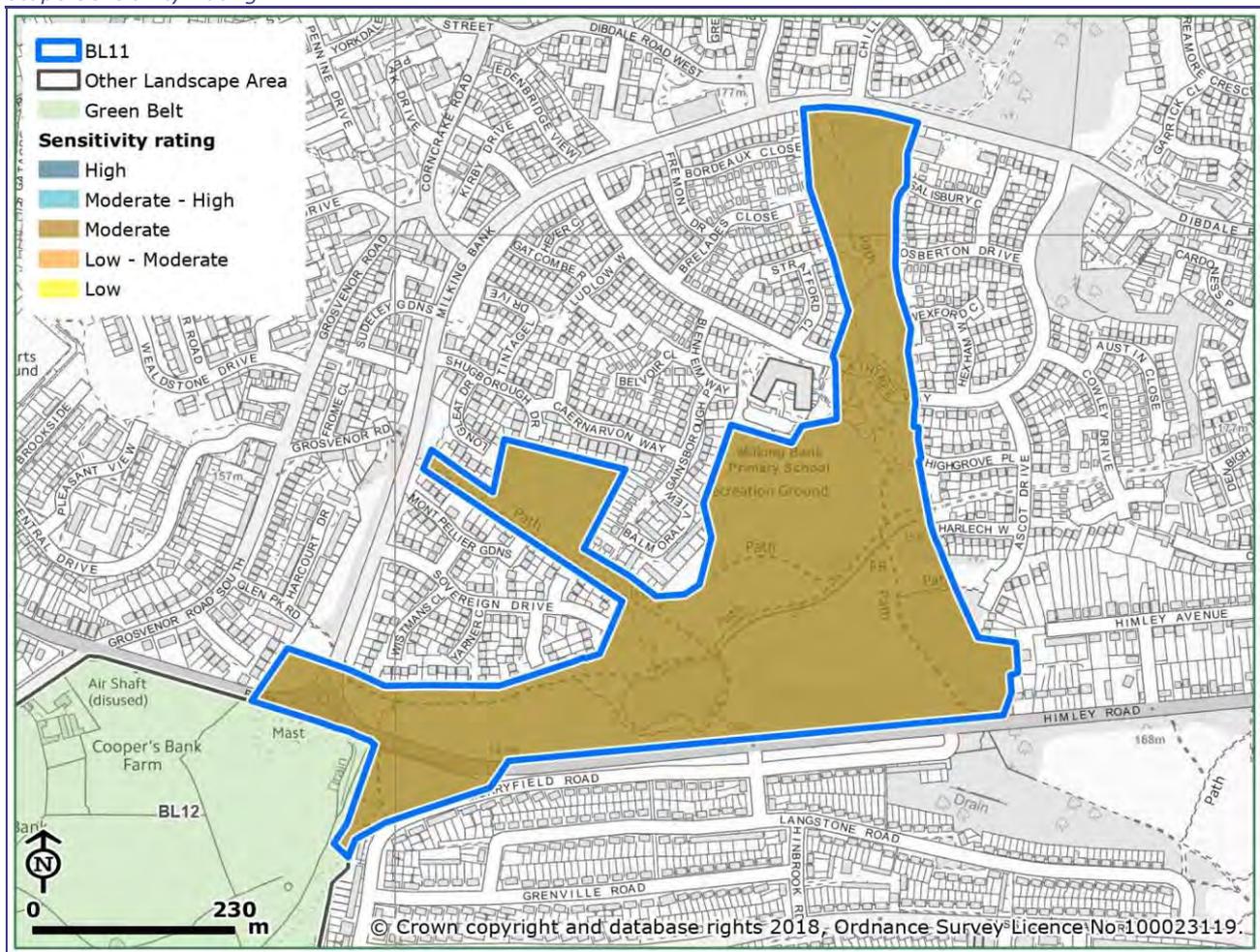
The landscape is considered to have moderate overall sensitivity to residential development due to its importance as public open space within the urban conurbation, natural character and contribution to the surrounding settlement setting, which override other lower landscape sensitivities.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

None

*Landscape Sensitivity Rating*



**Location and Landscape Character Context**

The area falls within the following Landscape Character Type: Coalfield Farmlands.

The area is located within Dudley, between Kingswinford to the south and Gornalwood to the north. The northern, southern and eastern boundaries are bounded by settlement, while the western boundary is defined by woodland and the borough boundary.

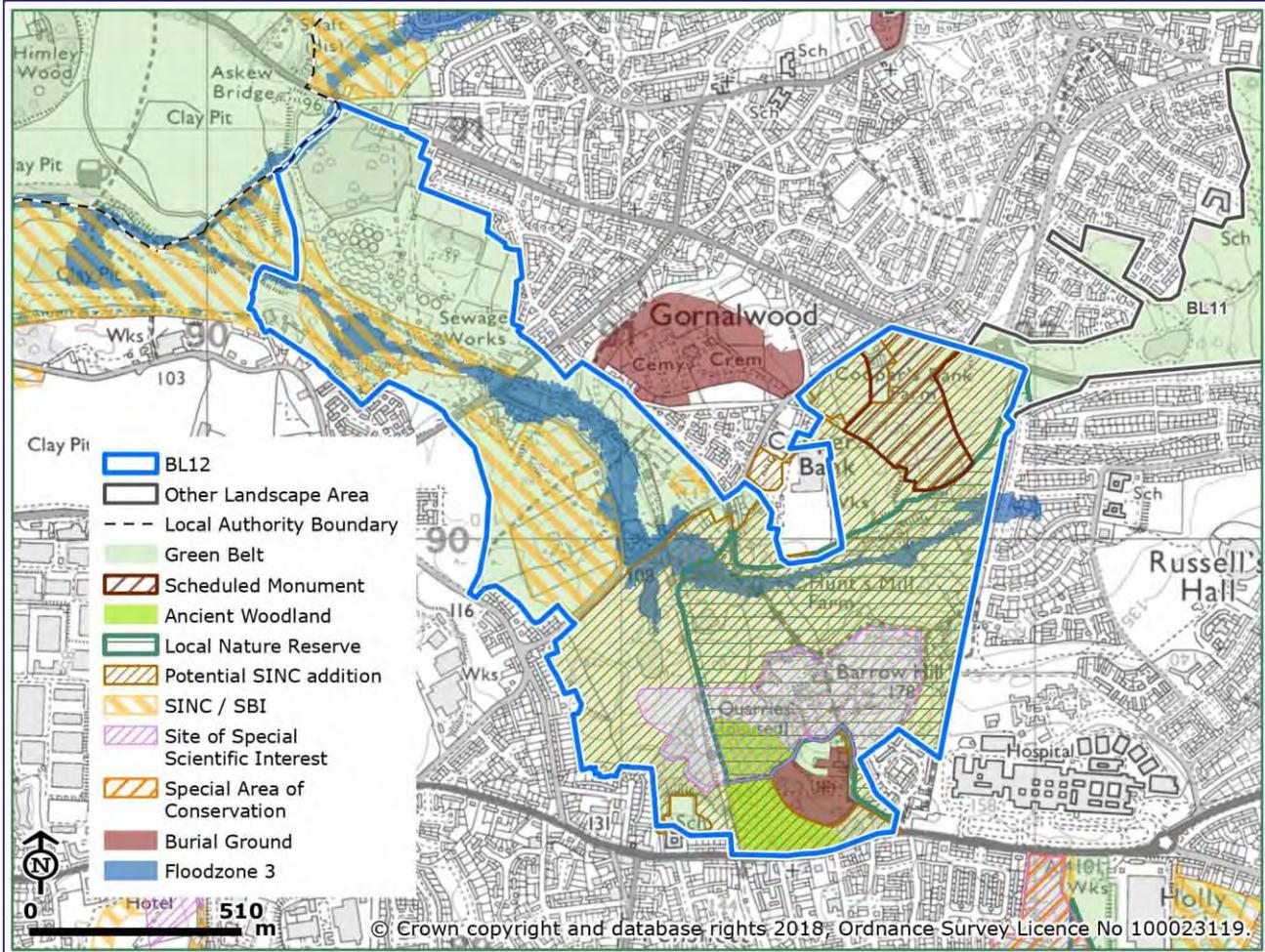
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



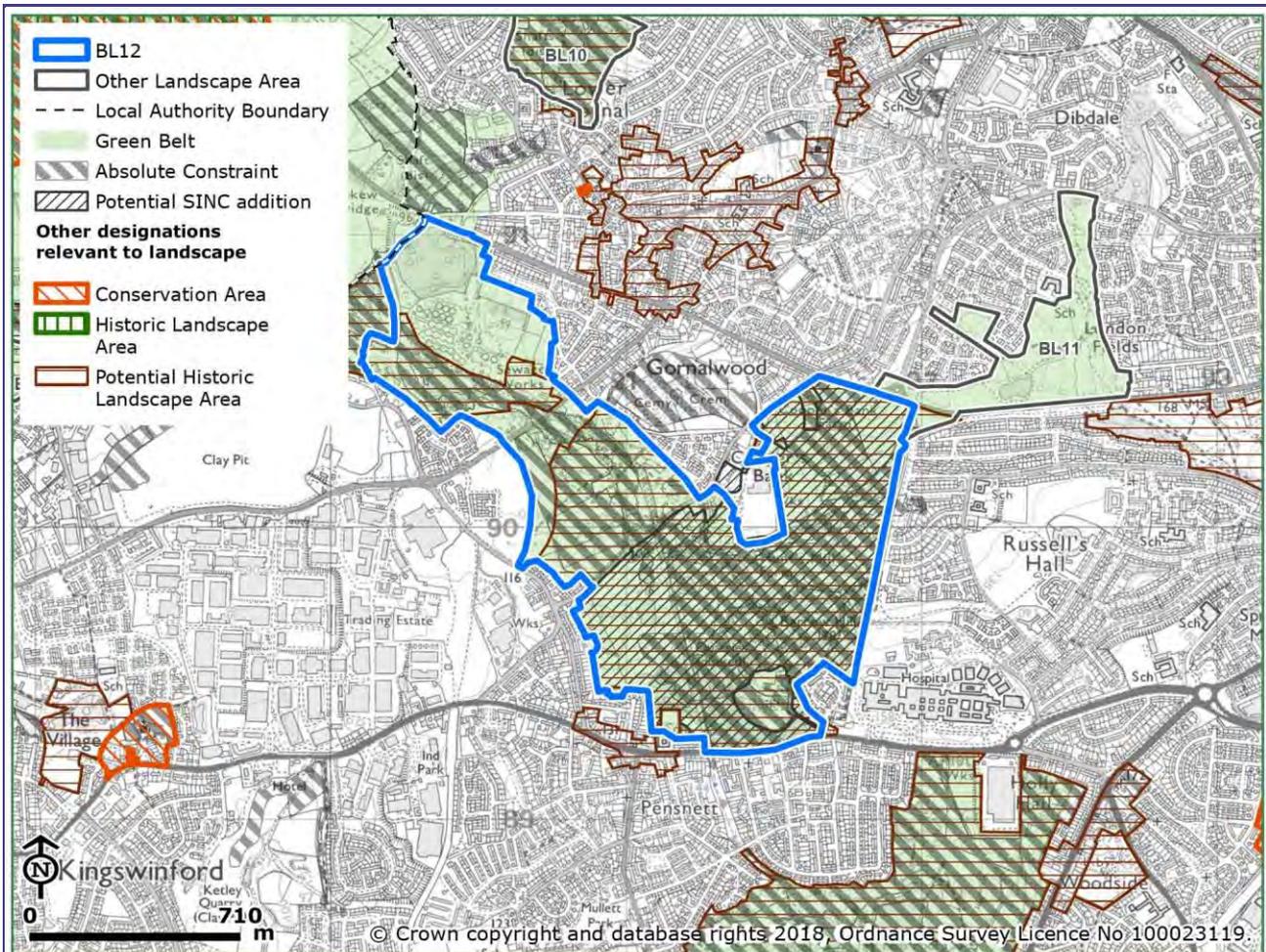
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



## Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>		There is a mixture of small and larger scale fields and land divisions within an area predominantly consisting of woodland.	
<b>Landform</b>		An undulating landform ranging from 99m along Guys Lane and then rising steeply to the prominent topographical feature of Barrow Hill in the south east at 178m AOD.	
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>	A sewage works in the north has eroded time depth within this area.		The area is important as a relict industrial landscape, as part of the Oakfield Collieries and dismantled railways. It also contains the remains of a medieval settlement and deer park and industrial remains from throughout the post-medieval period. The area contains potential historic landscape areas AHHLV38 Oak Farm Wedge and AHHLV39 Barrow Hill.
<b>'Natural' character</b>			The area is rich in natural character, which is recognised through designation (including the Barrow Hill LNR, Barrow Hill and Cooper's Bank SINC, Chase Pond Road SINC, Smithy Lane SINC, Oak Farm SINC and Barrow Hill and Cooper's Bank SINC). The area contains extensive areas of priority habitat deciduous woodland, some of ancient origin, floodplain grazing marsh and semi-improved grassland. Valued natural features include a network of streams and ponds scrub and mature hedgerows. The Barrow Hill and Tansey Green SSSI is designated for its geology including the oldest recorded preserved conifer-like stems, which are of international importance.
<b>Built character</b>	Built development within the area includes a sewage works, the Forge pub and mobile home sites along Smithy Lane and Cooper's Bank Road. The area is surrounded by modern development, including a new estate between Tansey Green Road and Stalling's Lane in the west.		Cooper's Bank Farmhouse (and associated farm buildings all Grade II listed) in the north-east of the area, lies on the site of a medieval settlement, designated as a Scheduled Monument. The church of St Mark south of Barrow Hill, is also Grade II listed.
<b>Recreational character</b>		A network of PRoW across the area particularly extensive around Barrow Hill in the south east gives access to the area along with a traffic-free cycle route which runs along the route of a dismantled railway.	

<b>Perceptual aspects</b>	The area is impacted by its proximity to modern development. Two overhead electricity lines run from the north west either side of Barrow Hill and detract from a sense of remoteness.	Barrow Hill and the woodland in the far north west are more tranquil and secluded than the rest of the area.
<b>Settlement setting</b>		The area provides an attractive wooded/ scrubby backdrop to the surrounding settlement (particularly the new estate between Tansey Green Road and Stalling's Lane) and a role in the perception of a gap between Dudley and Kingswinford.
<b>Visual prominence</b>	The flat landform and woodland screening provides visual enclosure.	Barrow Hill is a prominent landmark in the surrounding area.
<b>Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points</b>		Some inter-visibility with Grade II listed Himley Hall Registered Park and Garden to the north west of the area.

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>BL12s1</b>	<b>139.11</b>	<b>Moderate - High</b>

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

This landscape area is almost totally constrained and is considered to have an overall moderate-high sensitivity to residential or employment development due to its high historic landscape value, and the extensive semi-natural habitats. These are balanced by lower perceptual qualities.

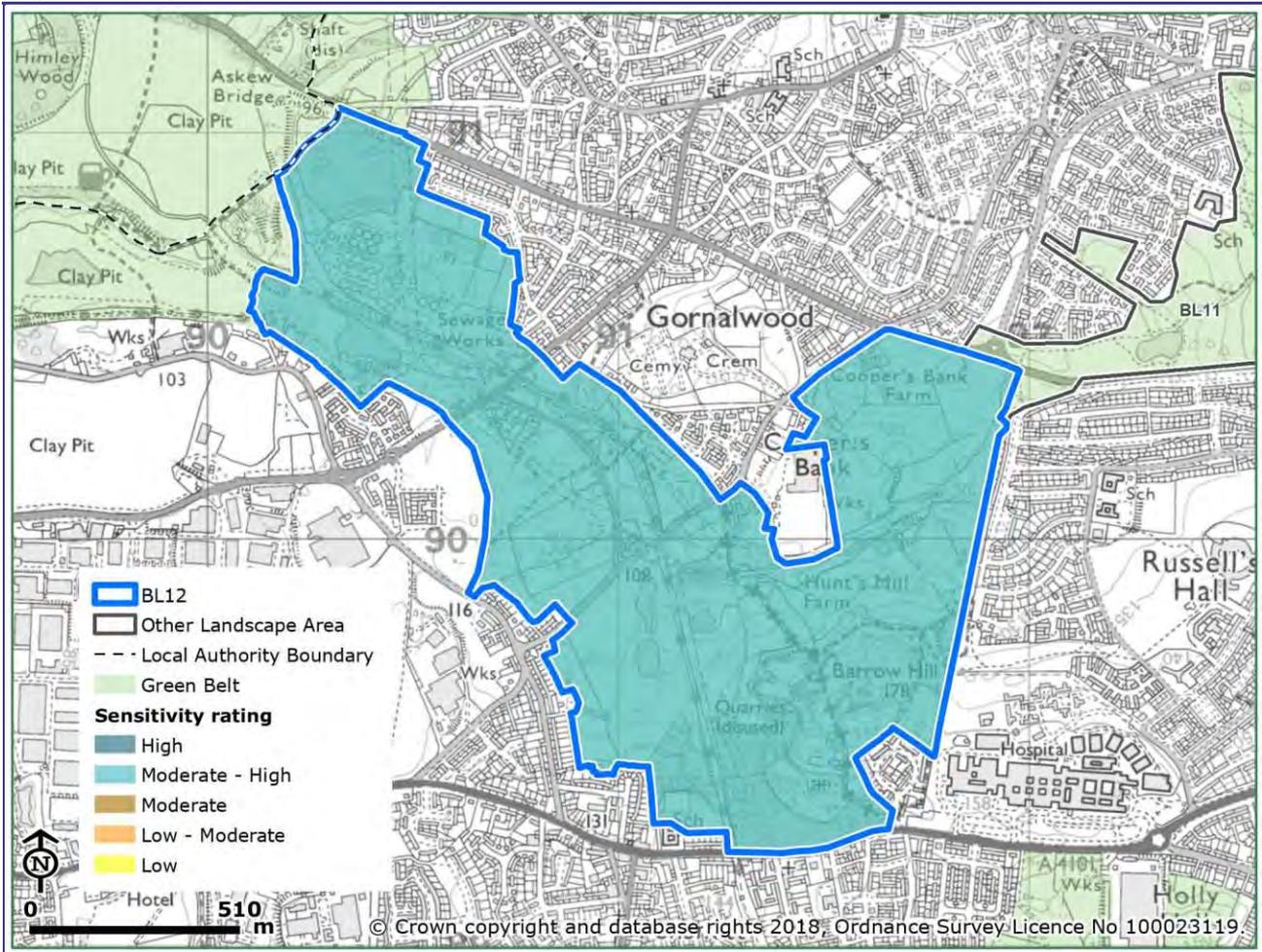
**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

Small areas in the north of the area, particularly previously developed sites such as the sewage works, are of low sensitivity to residential or employment development, because they have few characteristics in common with the wider area.

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

Ref: 246 (Employment and housing); Ref: 247 (Housing); Ref: 252 (Housing); Ref: 26 (Housing)

Landscape Sensitivity Rating



**Location and Landscape Character Context**

The area falls within the following Landscape Character Type: Coalfield Farmlands.  
 The area is located north of Kingswinford, which provides the southern boundary. The western boundary is defined by the A449 Wolverhampton Road and the northern boundary by the borough boundary.

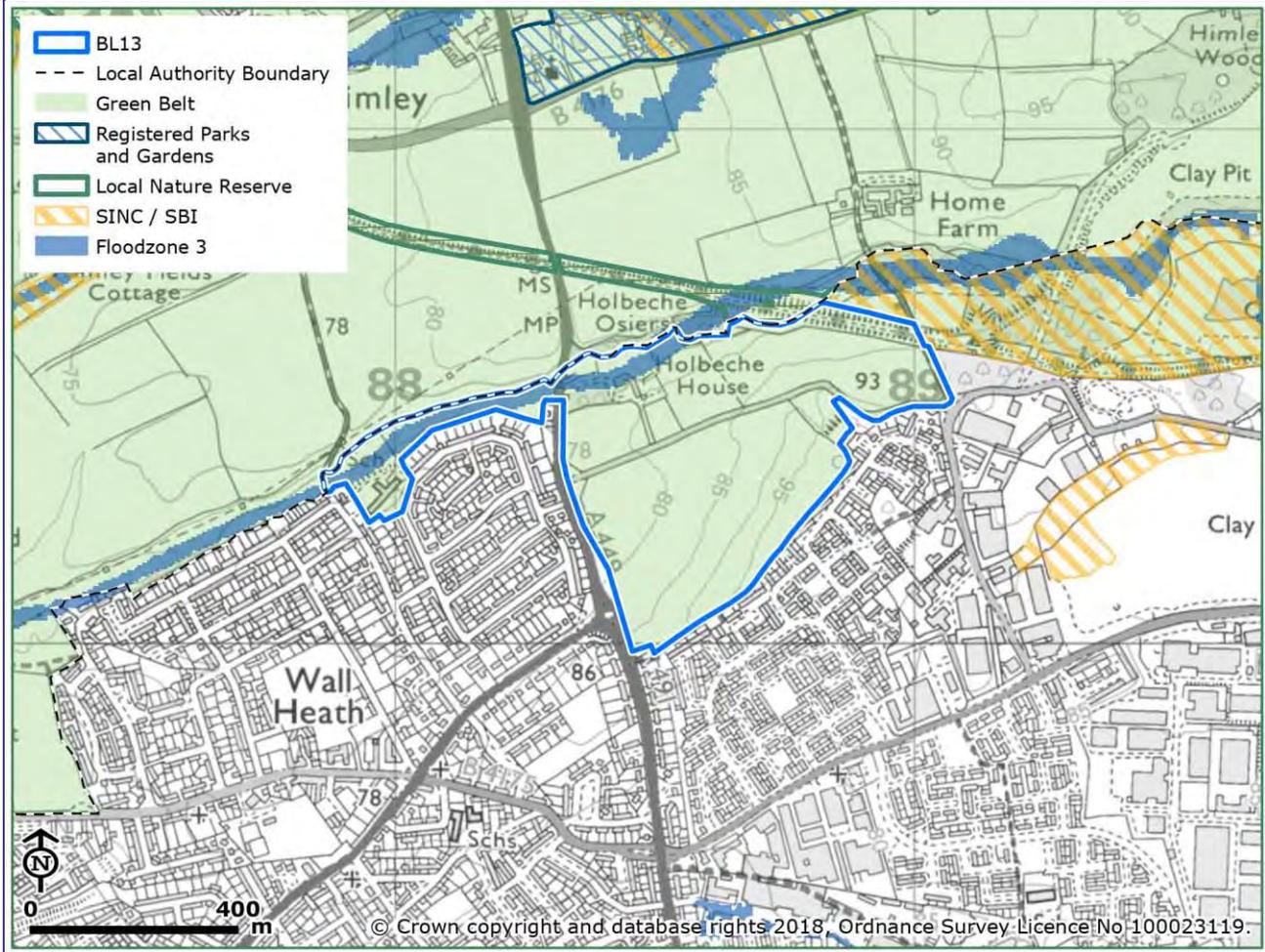
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



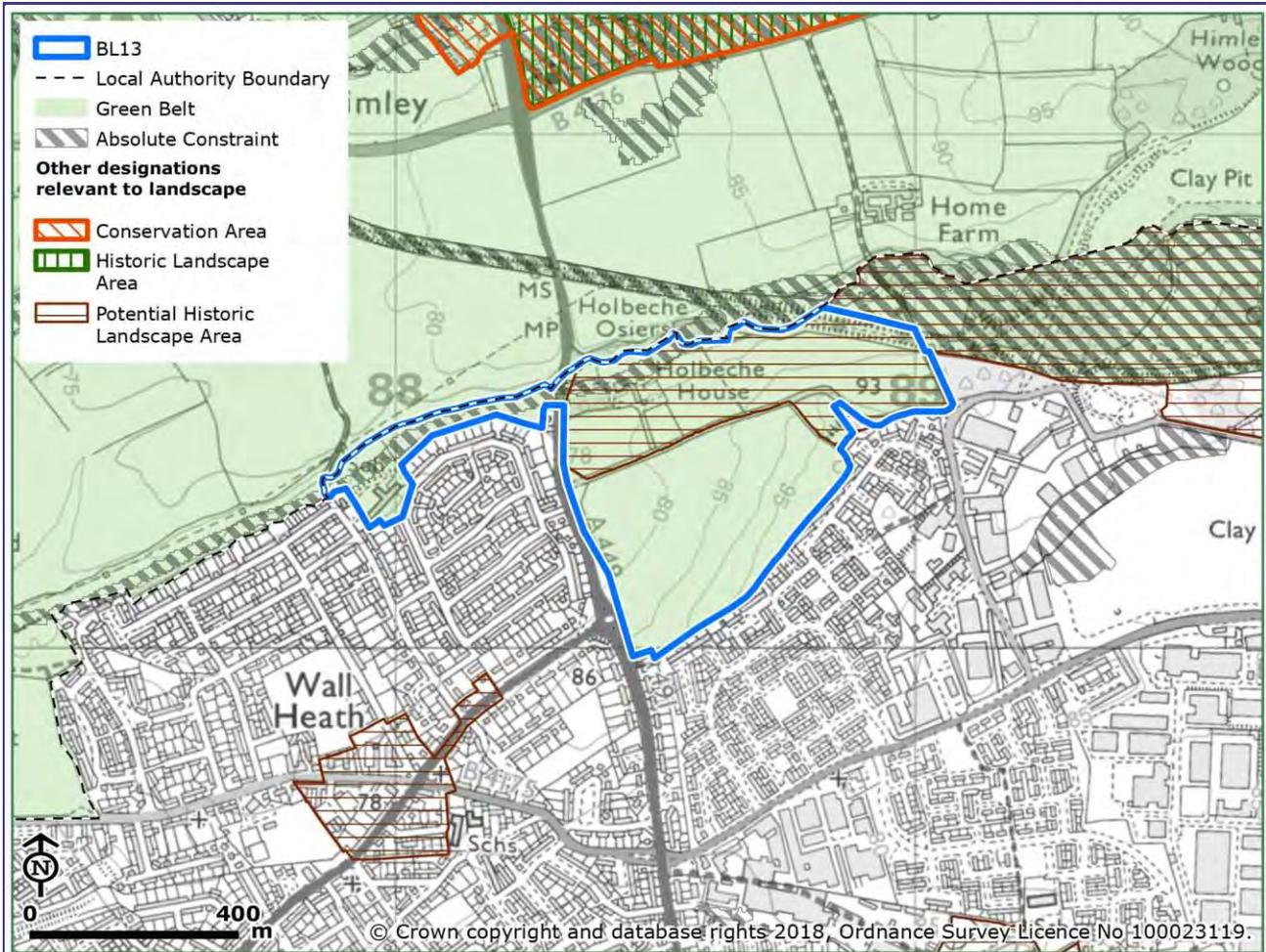
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



## Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>		One large arable field south of Holbeache Lane and smaller arable and pastoral fields to the north, defined by irregular hedgerows.	
<b>Landform</b>	Generally flat with land rising from 78m AOD in the west to 93m AOD to the east.		
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>	The large field to the south of Holbeache Lane has little time depth.		The area north of Holbeache Lane has industrial associations, particularly remains associated with Oakfield Colliery, which in this area includes the dismantled railway (Kingswinford Railway line) as well as 19th century osier beds along the Holbeche Brook. The area is a potential historic landscape area AHHLV38 Oak Farm Wedge.
<b>'Natural' character</b>	Small areas of priority habitat deciduous woodland adjacent to disused railway line and along the wooded watercourse of the Holbeache Brook.		
<b>Built character</b>	The A449 runs along the western boundary, and there is residential settlement to the south and east of the area.	Holbeche House, Grade II listed mansion, is the only property in this area, now in use as a residential care home.	
<b>Recreational character</b>		A PRoW marks the short eastern boundary, and there is a traffic-free cycle route along the disused Wolverhampton and Kingswinford Railway line in the northeast of the area.	
<b>Perceptual aspects</b>	The area has little development within it but its proximity to the settlement edge of Kingswinford, and the busy A449 Kidderminster Road detracts from its rural character. The small field in the north west is subdivided by horse tape.		
<b>Settlement setting</b>	The A449 provides a strong settlement edge to settlement to the west of the area. The residential areas along the settlement edge of Kingswinford to the south are inward looking and screened by high fencing.		

<b>Visual prominence</b>	Visually enclosed by hedgerows and mature field boundary trees in this flat landform.
--------------------------	---

<b>Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points</b>	No inter-visibility with adjacent sensitive landscapes or marked viewpoints.
---	--

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>BL13s1</b>	<b>18.69</b>	<b>Low</b>

### Landscape Sensitivity Judgement

The landscape is considered to have low sensitivity to residential development as the majority of the criteria score moderate or low and no criteria override that judgement.

### Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating

#### List of Promoted Sites within Scenario

Ref: 111 (Housing)

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>BL13s2</b>	<b>13.33</b>	<b>Low - Moderate</b>

### Landscape Sensitivity Judgement

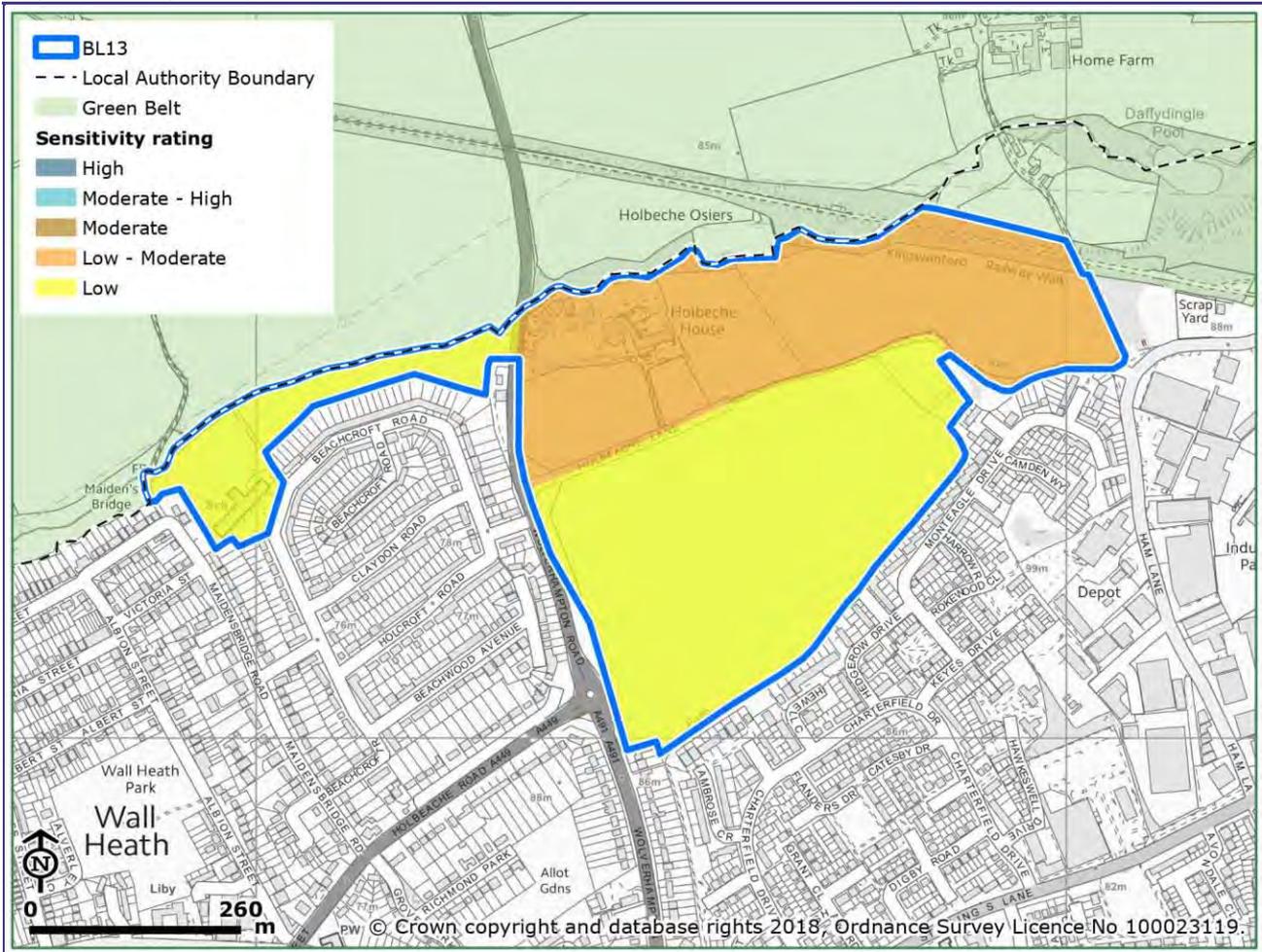
The area to the north of Holbeache Lane, particularly on the northern boundary along the Holbeache Brook and the disused railway is considered to have a low-moderate sensitivity to residential development due to additional sensitivities associated with time-depth, natural and built character.

### Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating

#### List of Promoted Sites within Scenario

Ref: 209 (Housing)

Landscape Sensitivity Rating



### Location and Landscape Character Context

This area is located within the urban conurbation of Dudley. It covers the open area between Wordsley and Buckpool, including Wordsley School and grounds and Holy Trinity church and churchyard. It follows the settlement boundary to the north, south and west, and follows a footpath running along the boundary of Wordsley School to the east.

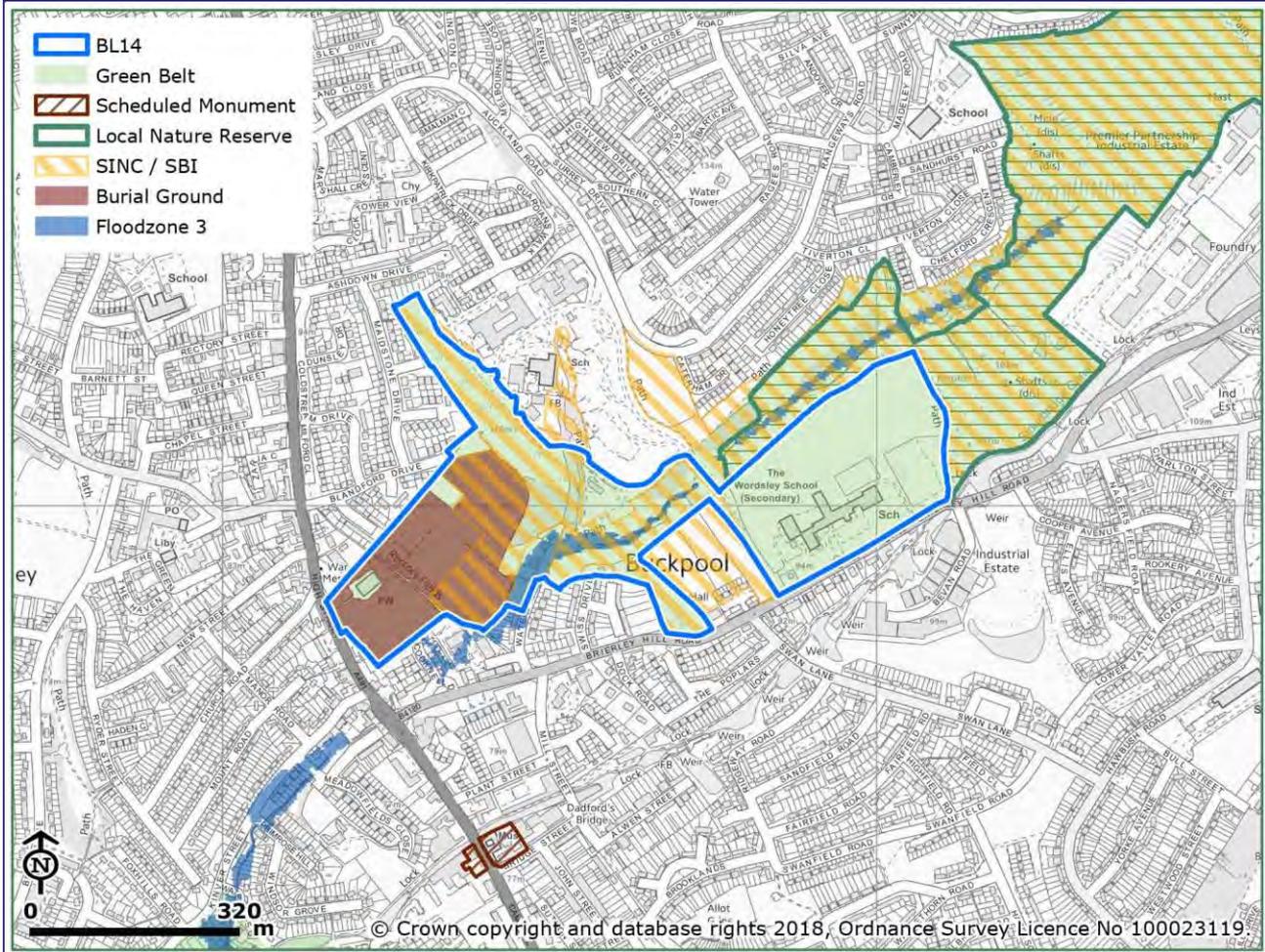
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



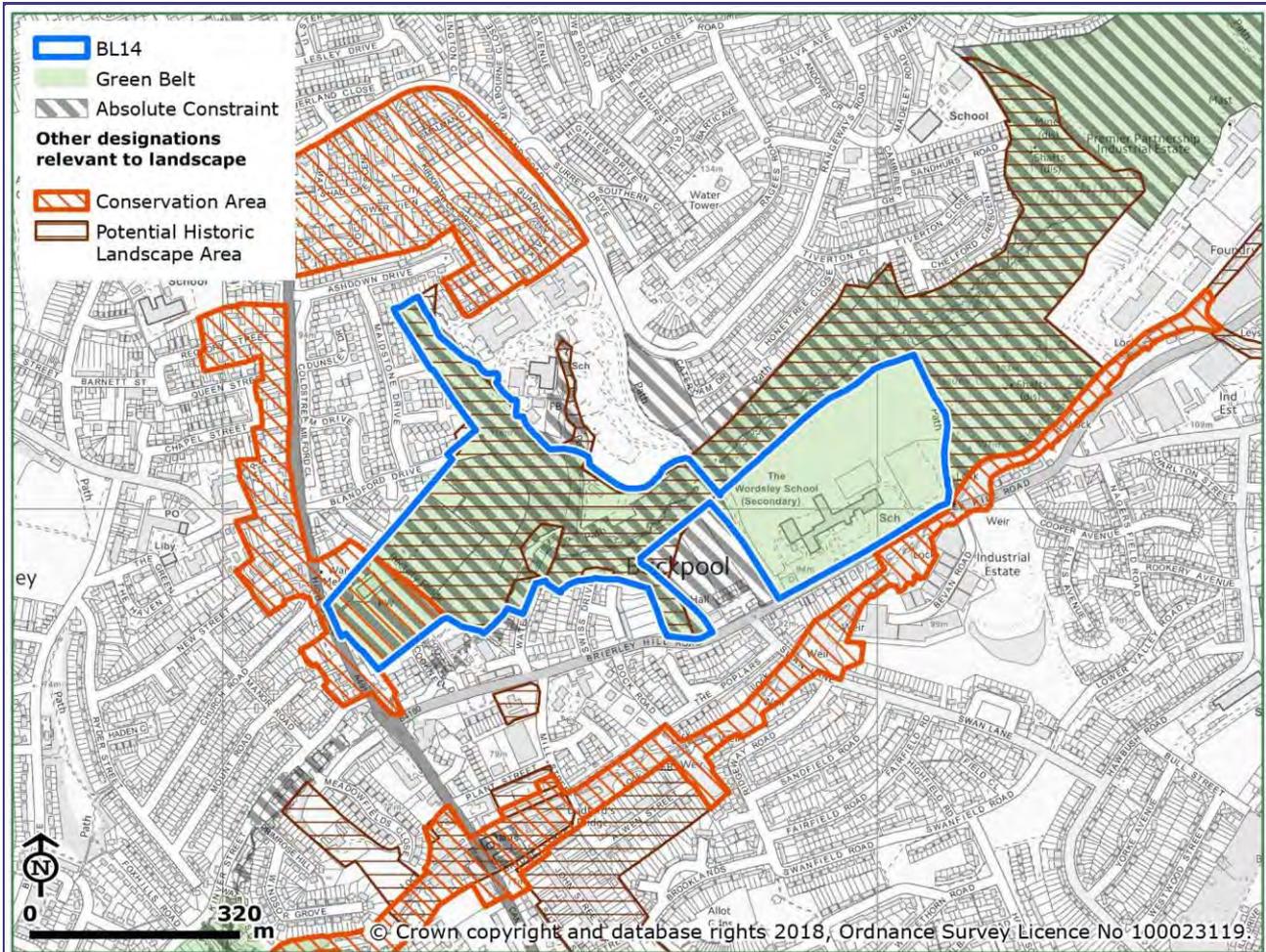
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



## Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>		Changes in land use dictate the scale of the landscape, but enclosing woodland increases the sense of intimacy.	
<b>Landform</b>	The east of the area around Wordsley School is generally flat at around 107m AOD.		A prominent sandstone ridge runs along the northern boundary, with landform rising steeply to 118m AOD.
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>	The Wordsley School site has little time-depth.		With the exception of the Wordsley school site, the area is associated with the former Old Bank and Leowes Collieries, and is a potential historic landscape area AHHLV28 Buckpool Wedge.
<b>'Natural' character</b>		The southern boundary at the school entrance is lined by mature street trees.	Much of the area is designated as the Buckpool and The Leys SINC. The area contains priority habitat deciduous woodland which extends into the Blackpool and Fens Pool Nature Reserve to the north east of the area.
<b>Built character</b>	The Wordsley School buildings are post-war low-rise buildings. Mid-late 20th century housing forms the boundaries of the area.	Holy Trinity church is a Grade II listed building and is part of the Wordsley Church Conservation Area.	
<b>Recreational character</b>		There are a few PRowS within this area, including the locally promoted Brian Jones Way providing access to the woodland and linking Wordsley, Buckpool and Fens Pool.	
<b>Perceptual aspects</b>		Despite its location within the urban conurbation of Dudley the area is relatively tranquil and undisturbed by traffic noise.	
<b>Settlement setting</b>			The area provides an attractive wooded backdrop to the surrounding settlement edges and plays an important role as part of the perceived gap which extends along the stream corridor between Brierley Hill and Kingswinford.
<b>Visual prominence</b>	The area is visually enclosed by woodland despite its higher elevation to the north.		

**Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points**

No inter-visibility with adjacent sensitive landscapes or viewpoints marked on the OS 1:25k.

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
BL14s1	20.28	Moderate - High

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

The area is characterised by extensive deciduous woodland which extends into the Buckpool and Fens Pool LNR to the east and has a strongly natural character which provides a treed backdrop to the surrounding settlement. The landscape is considered to have a moderate-high sensitivity to residential development.

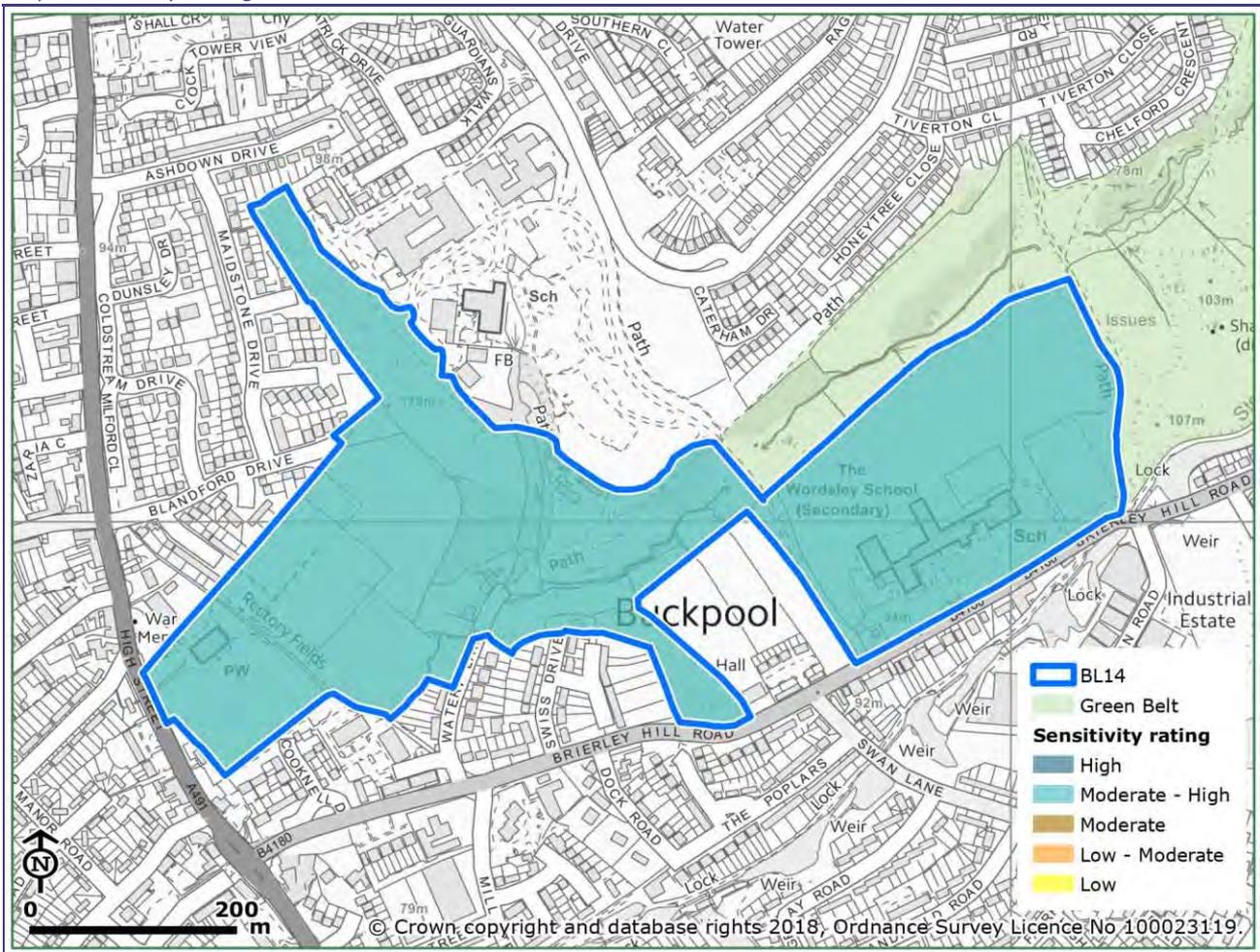
**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

The flat areas around Wordsley School do not share the characteristics of the area overall, and so are considered to have low sensitivity to residential development

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

Ref: 169 (Housing)

*Landscape Sensitivity Rating*

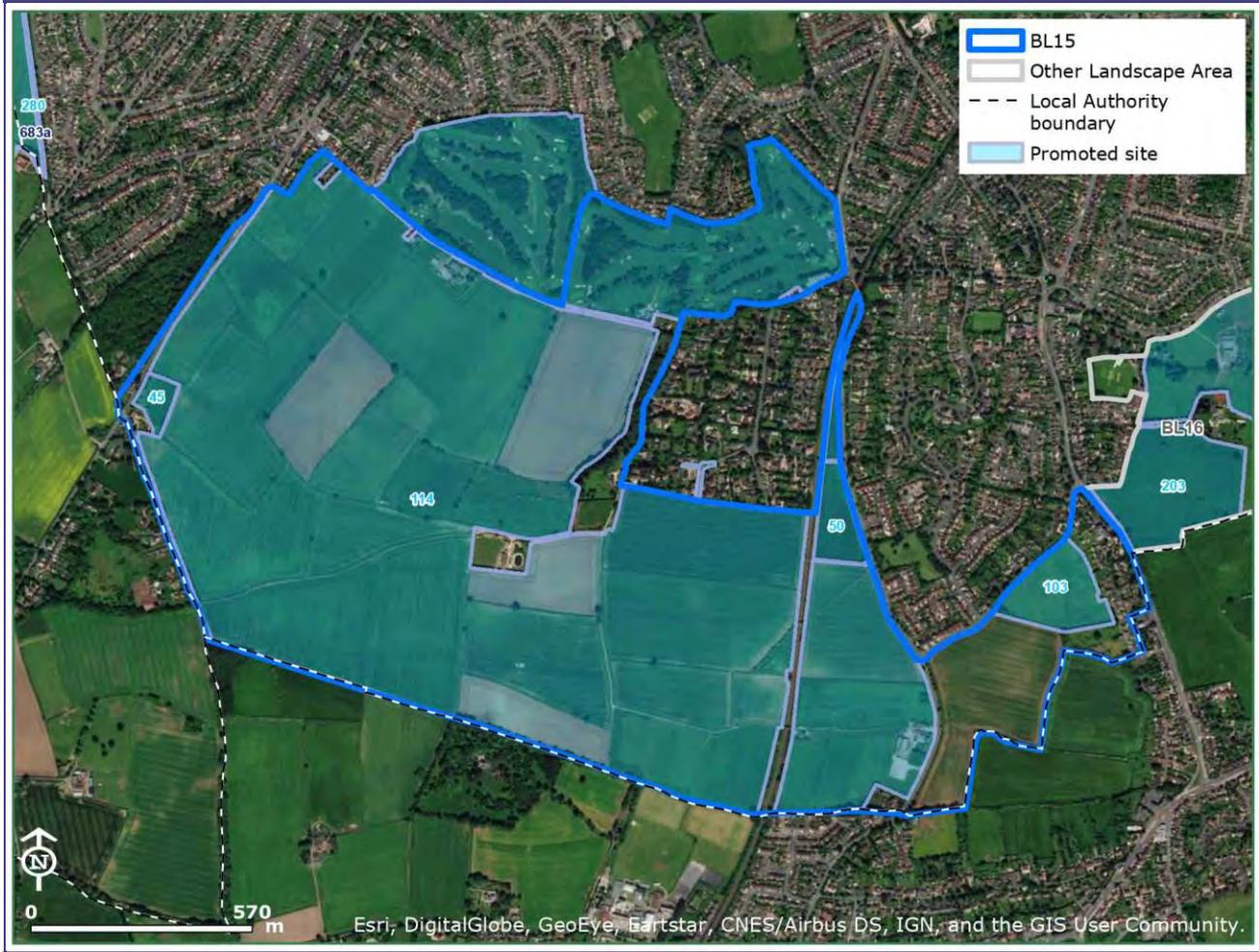


**Location and Landscape Character Context**

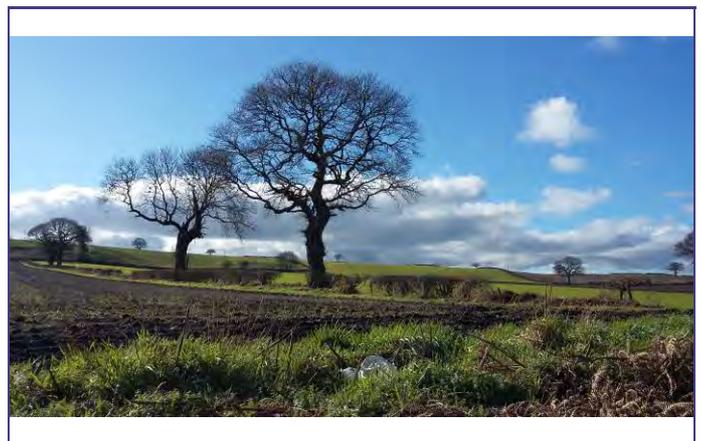
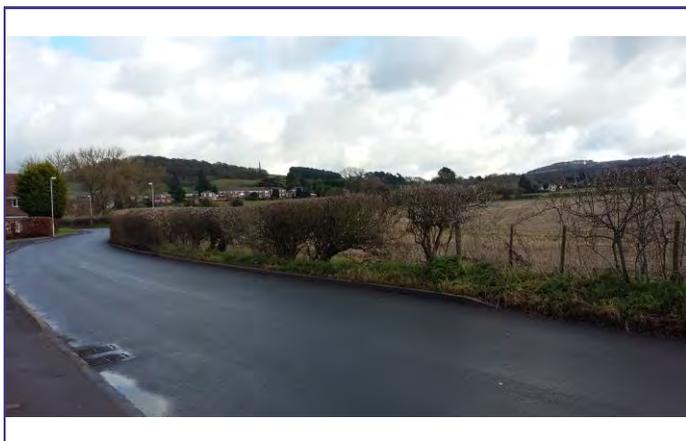
The area falls within the following Landscape Character Type: Sandstone Estatelands.

The area is located south of Stourbridge and north of West Hagley. The northern boundary is defined by the settlement boundary and Stourbridge Golf Club. The southern and western boundaries are marked by the borough boundary, while the eastern boundary is marked by the A491 and borough boundary.

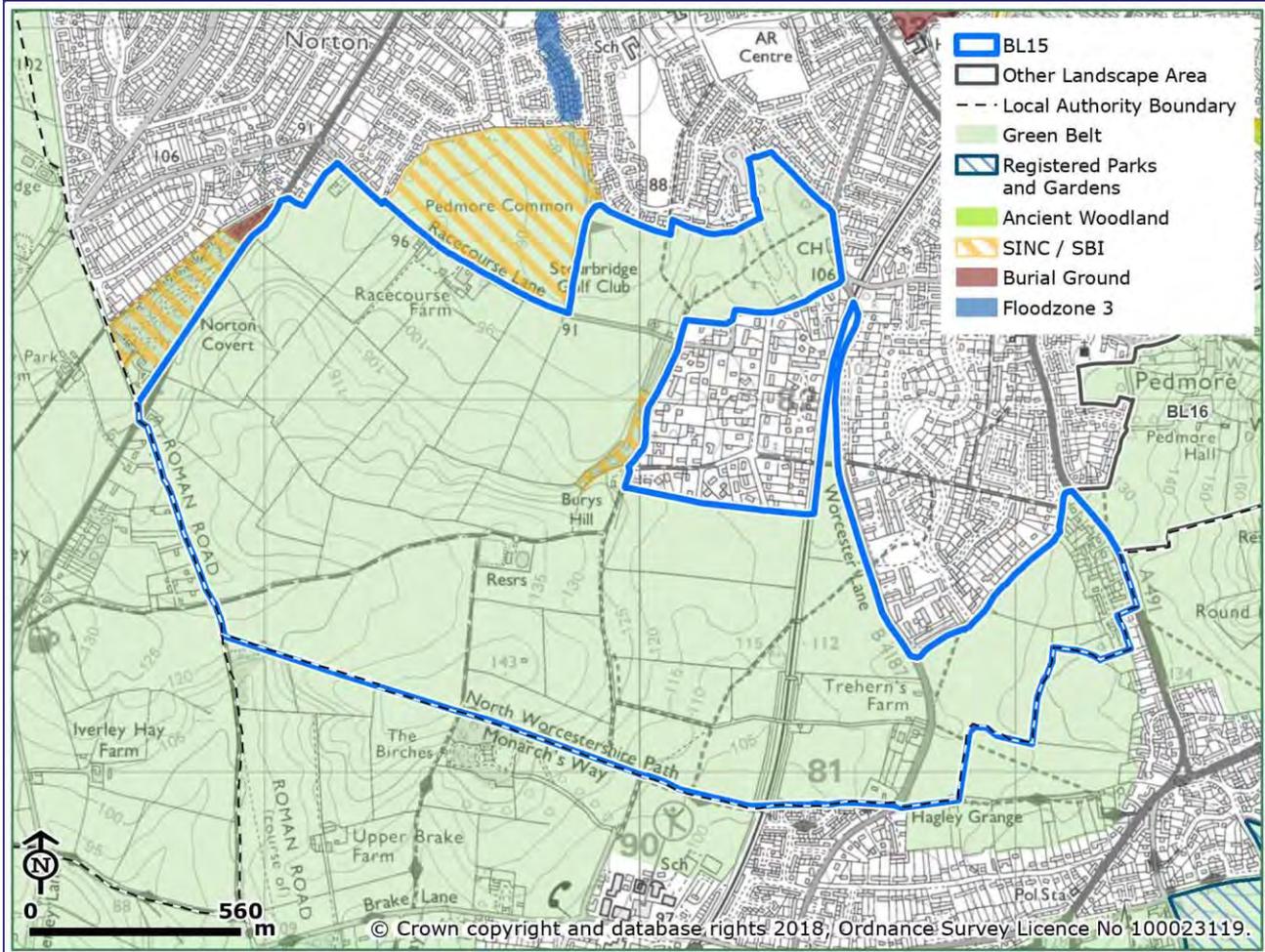
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



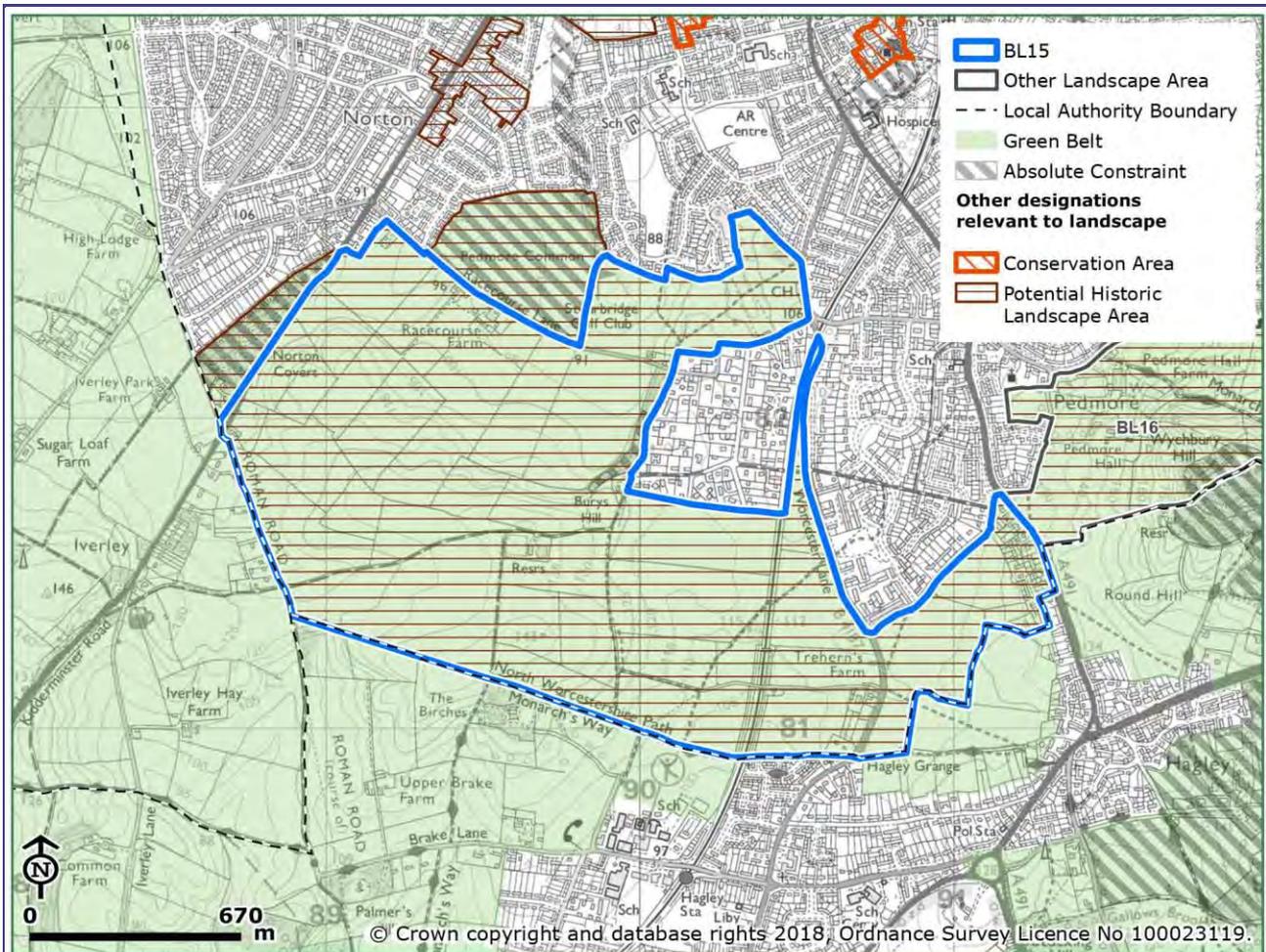
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



### Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>		Moderate scale arable fields with some smaller fields but the low hedgerows and gently rolling landform increase the perceived scale of the landscape.	
<b>Landform</b>		Smooth rolling landform rising from 90m AOD along Racecourse Lane in the north to a ridge across the area at Burys Hill and another at 143m AOD in the south of the area.	
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>			Mix of amalgamated fields and field pattern of straight edged 19th century planned and earlier piecemeal enclosures. There are earthworks and cropmarks south of Racecourse Lane, and the A451 Kidderminster Road which runs along the western boundary is a characteristically straight Roman Road. Much of the south of the area contains geological deposits of glacial sand and gravel and is a potential historic landscape area AHHLV29 Norton Covert and Glacial Sand and Gravel.
<b>'Natural' character</b>		Small areas of valued natural habitat including priority habitat deciduous woodland at Outy John Wood (also designated as a SINC), and a small area of priority habitat orchard in the northeast. Valued natural features including mature hedgerow and in-field trees, including oaks which contribute to landscape character.	
<b>Built character</b>	Railway line runs north-south through the area, west of Worcester Lane. Low rise detached brick housing lies to the north east and north west of the area and influences the adjacent rural landscape mainly due to the busier road network extending from the settlement.	Settlement is characterised by isolated farmsteads.	
<b>Recreational character</b>		Good access via PRowS particularly in the south of the area.	The southern boundary is marked by the promoted route Monarch's Way/North Worcestershire Path.
<b>Perceptual aspects</b>		Tranquility is disturbed locally by the A491, B4187 Worcester Lane and A451 Kidderminster Road in the west, and the experience of dark skies increases to the south west. The railway line is within a cutting and does not impact on the character of the landscape	A strongly rural and landscape which reads as part of the wider landscape, as the surrounding residential development is largely set back from the area.

beyond the presence of catenary.

**Settlement setting**

Provides some contribution as a rural backdrop to Stourbridge. Woodland belts along the settlement edge or woodland within the Stourbridge Golf Club provides a boundary feature along the urban edge.

Despite ribbon development along the A491, the east of the area plays an important role in the perception of a gap between Stourbridge and West Hagley

**Visual prominence**

Semi-enclosed by roadside vegetation.

An open rolling landscape with areas at higher elevation, often with ridge-top woodlands, visually prominent.

**Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points**

Some inter-visibility with Wynchbury Hill and obelisk within Hagley Hall Registered Park and Garden from Worcester Lane and with the promoted viewpoint at Clent Hills to the south east.

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>BL15s1</b>	<b>223.83</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

The landscape is considered to have moderate overall sensitivity to residential development due to its varied scale, rolling landform and mature woodland and boundary trees. The rural character is disrupted by the presence of busy trunk roads on the boundaries of the area.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

Ref: 45 (Housing); Ref: 50 (Housing); Ref: 114 (Housing)

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>BL15s2</b>	<b>20.42</b>	<b>Moderate - High</b>

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

The narrow stretch of open landscape between Stourbridge and West Hagley has a moderate-high sensitivity to residential development due to its additional role in providing a perceived gap between settlements.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

Ref: 103 (Housing)



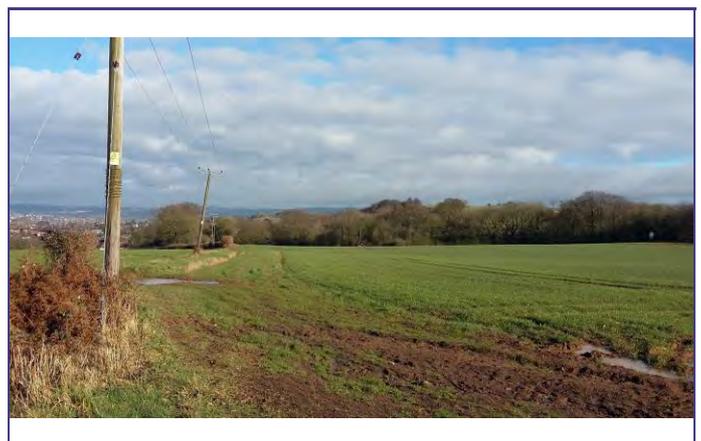
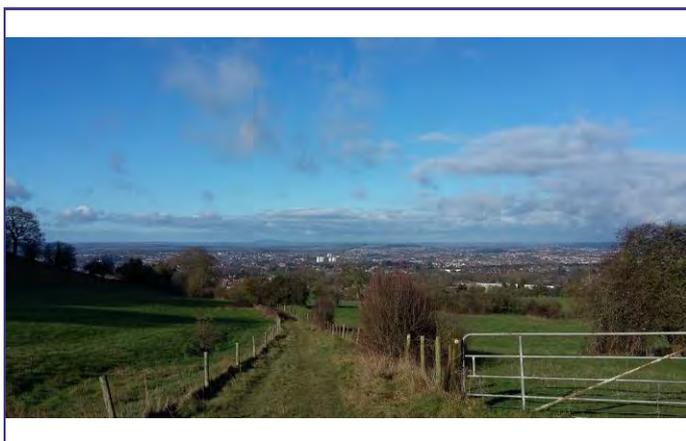
**Location and Landscape Character Context**

The area is located south and east of Wollescote with the northern boundary marked by the edge of the urban conurbation. The short western boundary is marked by the A491. The southern and eastern boundaries are marked by the district boundary. Wychbury Hill dominates the area, extending over the borough boundary in the south.

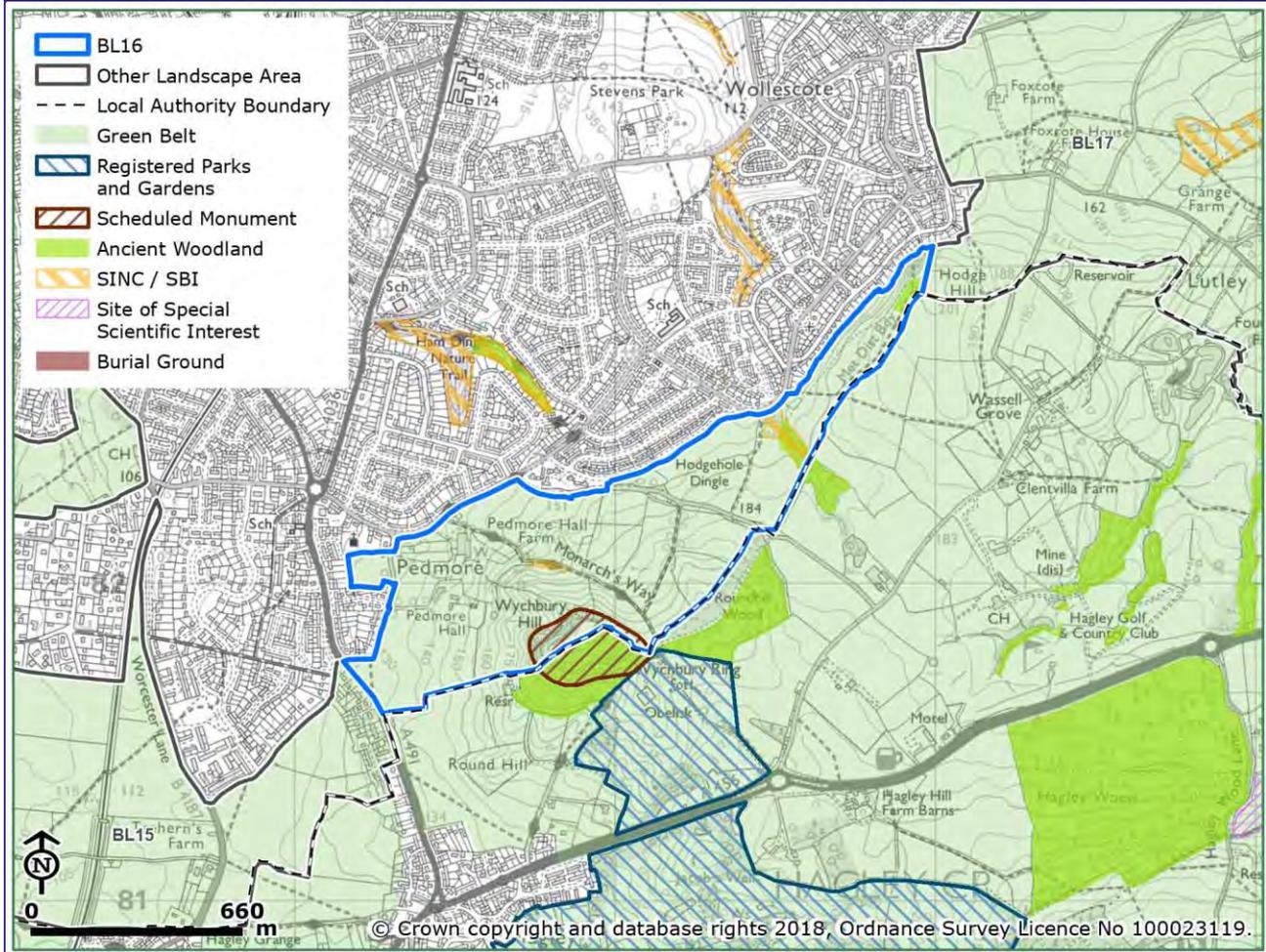
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



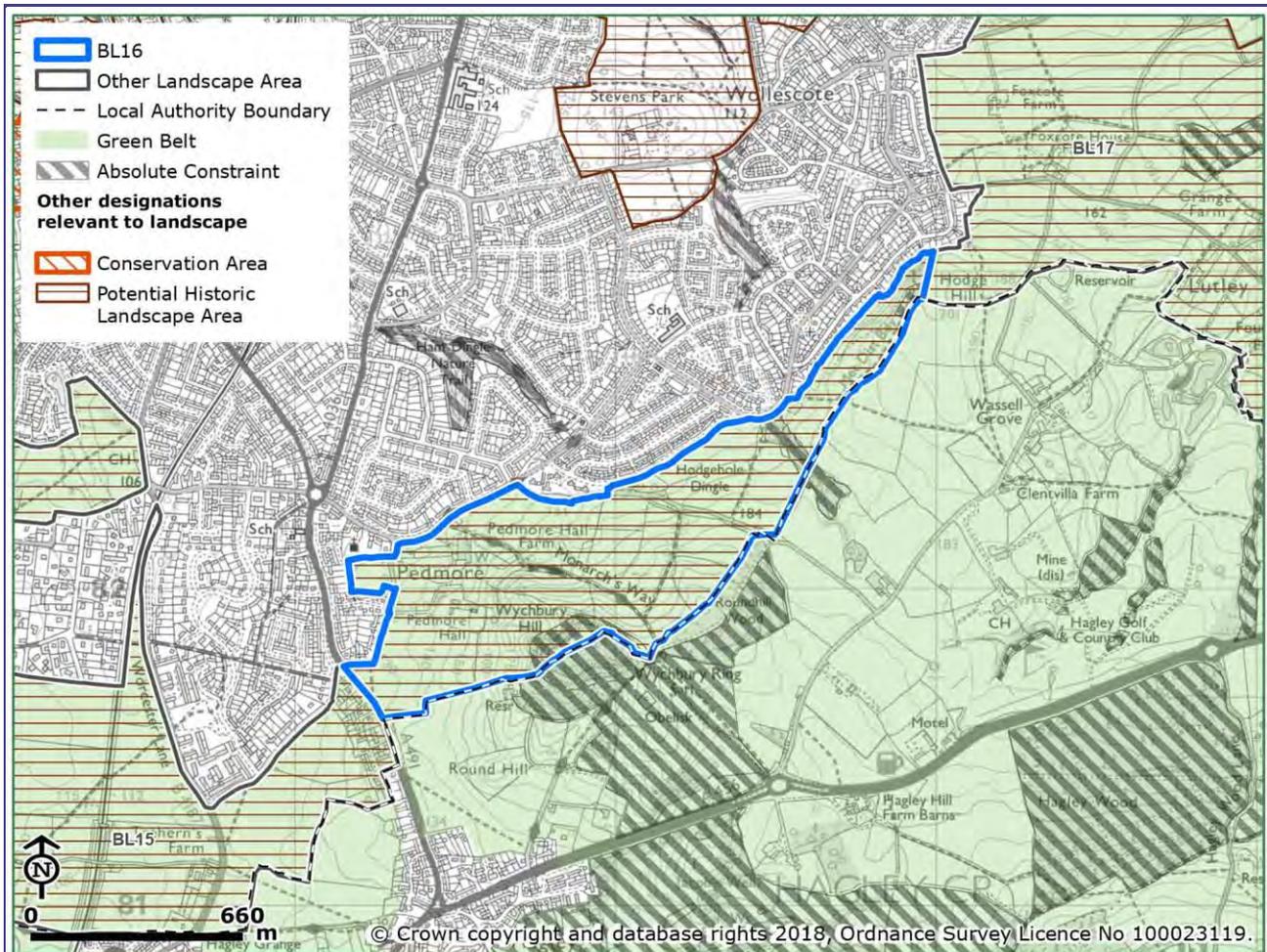
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



## Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>		Medium sized fields east and west of Pedmore Lane, with degraded hedgrows often divided by post and rail fencing. No discernable field divisions along the ridge at Hodgehill or at Wychbury Hill.	
<b>Landform</b>			Distinctive landform features including Wychbury Hill (224m AOD) which rises sharply from the settlement edge at Pedmore (130m AOD) and the steep north face of Hodge Hill (200m AOD).
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>		Varied field pattern with evidence of ridge and furrow between Wychbury Hill and Hodge Hill.	The area contains surviving ridge and furrow earthworks as well as numerous archeological features including the earthwork remains of a deserted medieval village. The landscape around Pedmore Hall probably dates from the 17th century and includes a lime avenue approach. It is a potential historic landscape area AHHLV30 Pedmore and Foxcote.
<b>'Natural' character</b>			Frequent occurrence of valued natural features including priority habitat deciduous woodland and ancient woodland around the Hodgehole Dingle, Hodge Hill and Wychbury Hill. These areas are also designated as SINCs. A mature avenue of trees line the entrance to Pedmore Hall.
<b>Built character</b>	Pedmore lies to the north and west of the area.	The area is rural, with little built development except for the modern farm buildings at Pedmore Hall Farm and Pedmore Hall.	Wychbury Hill which sits on the southern boundary is a Scheduled Monument and one of the few visible hillforts surviving within the Black Country. Pedmore Hall and associated grounds including lime avenue approach road. Hagley Hall Grade I Registered Park and Garden is immediately adjacent to the area.
<b>Recreational character</b>			Good access by PRoW including the promoted route Monarch's Way, which extend from the settlement edge into the surrounding countryside.
<b>Perceptual aspects</b>		Some sense of rural character which is disrupted along the settlement edge by non-traditional land uses, including horse paddocks. The proximity of the settlement edge at Pedmore and Wollescote reduces the sense of remoteness.	

**Settlement setting**

The area provides an attractive, topographically varied backdrop to the adjacent settlements. Development would have a poor relationship with the adjacent settlement at Pedmore and Wollescote due to the strong settlement edge provided by the sandstone ridge at Hodge Hill and the distinctive topography of Wychbury Hill.

**Visual prominence**

Woodland in the south of the area prevents long distance views from the settlement edge at Pedmore.

Hodge Hill and Wychbury Hill with its ancient hill fort are visually distinctive and prominent in views from the wider landscape and from the settlement edge.

**Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points**

There is no inter-visibility with the Hagley Hall Registered Park and Garden which lies immediately to the south of the area.

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>BL16s1</b>	<b>76.22</b>	<b>High</b>

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

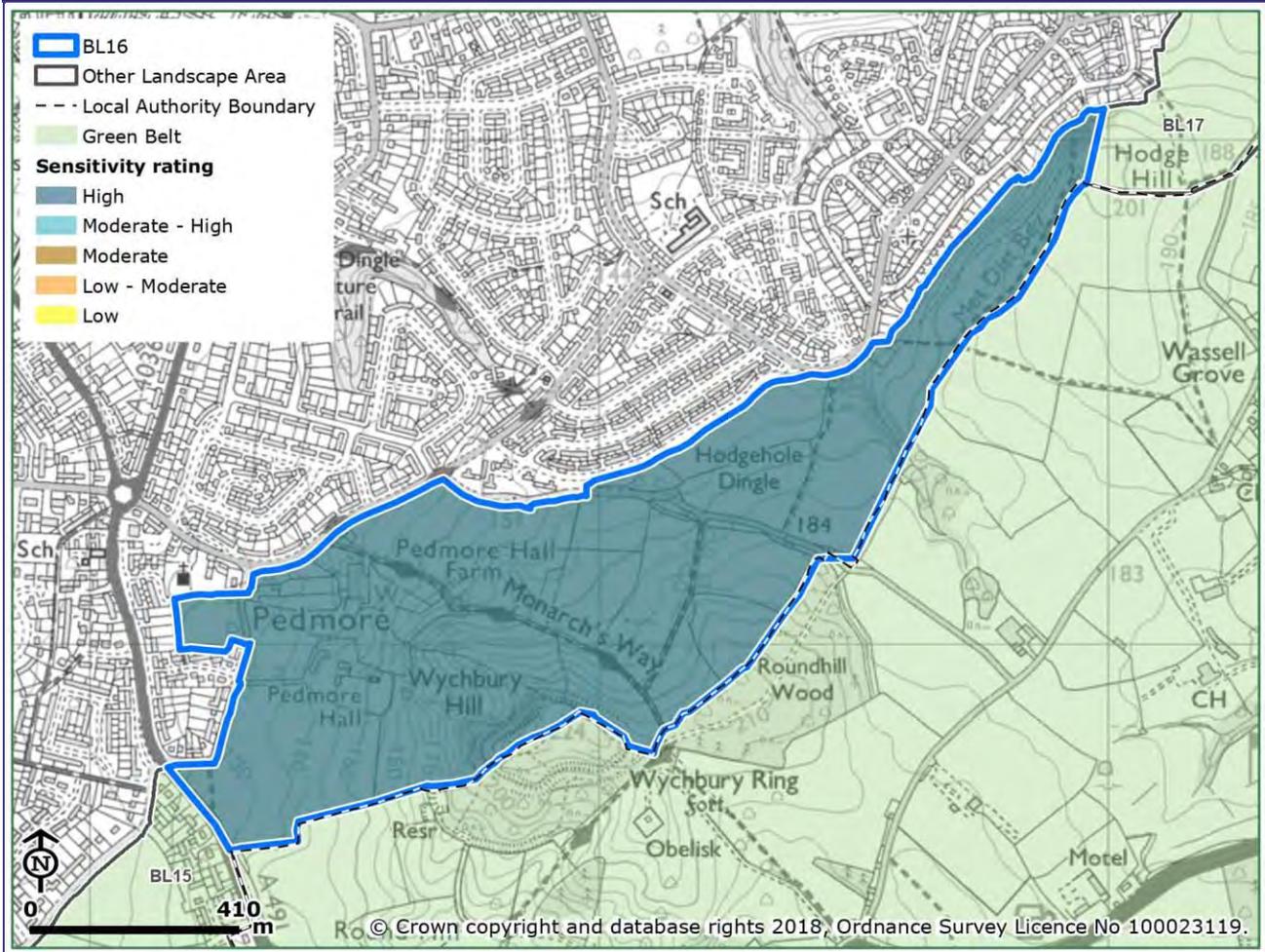
The landscape is considered to have a high overall sensitivity to residential development due to the distinctive landform, historic features, settlement setting and visual character of the area.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

Ref: 203 (Housing)

Landscape Sensitivity Rating



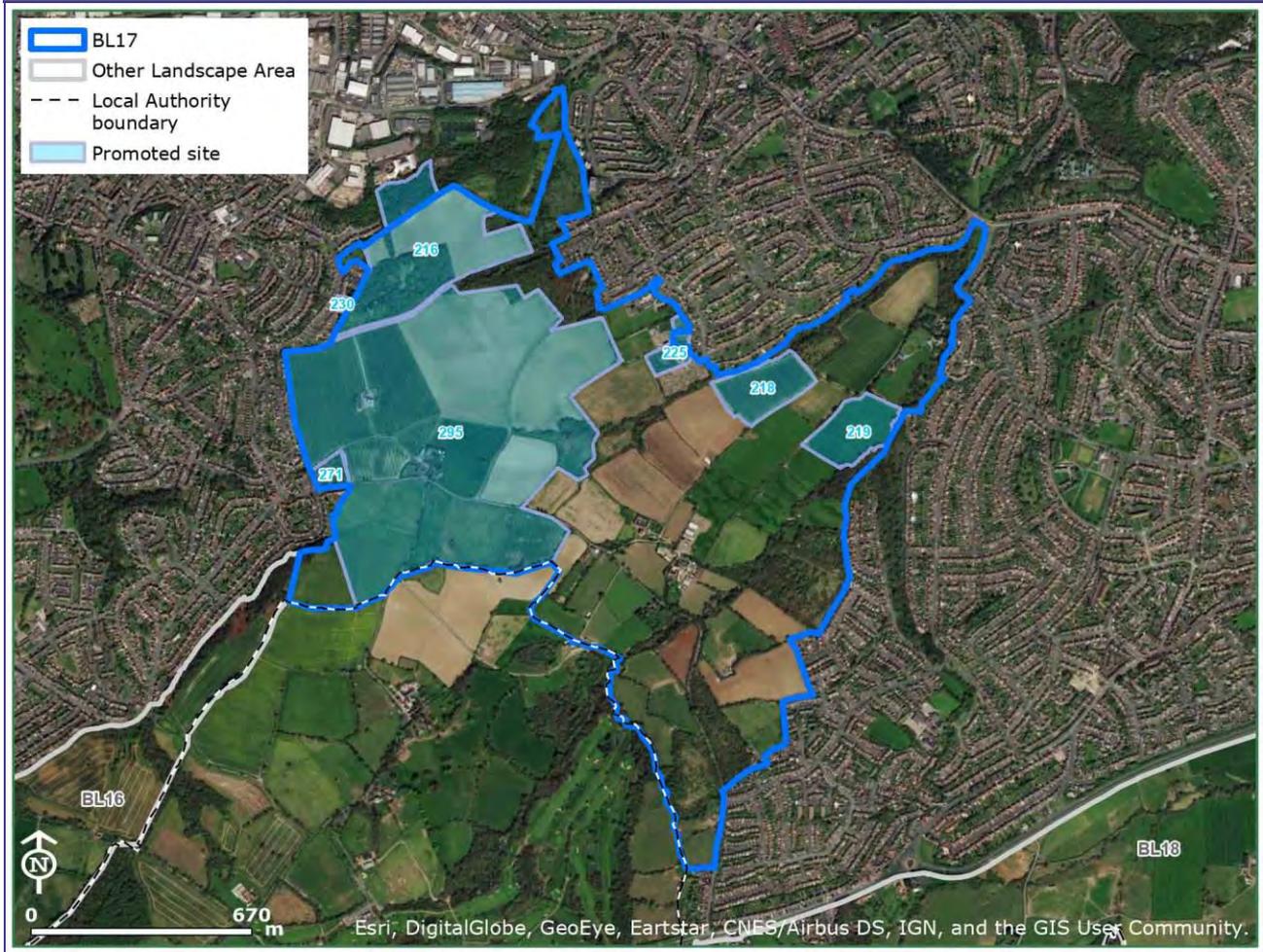
**Landscape Area Reference BL17**

**Area Size (ha): 211.6ha**

**Location and Landscape Character Context**

The area is located south of the West Midlands conurbation, and provides a rural gap between Cradley to the north, Wollescote to the west and Hasbury to the east. The southern boundary is formed by the Dudley borough boundary.

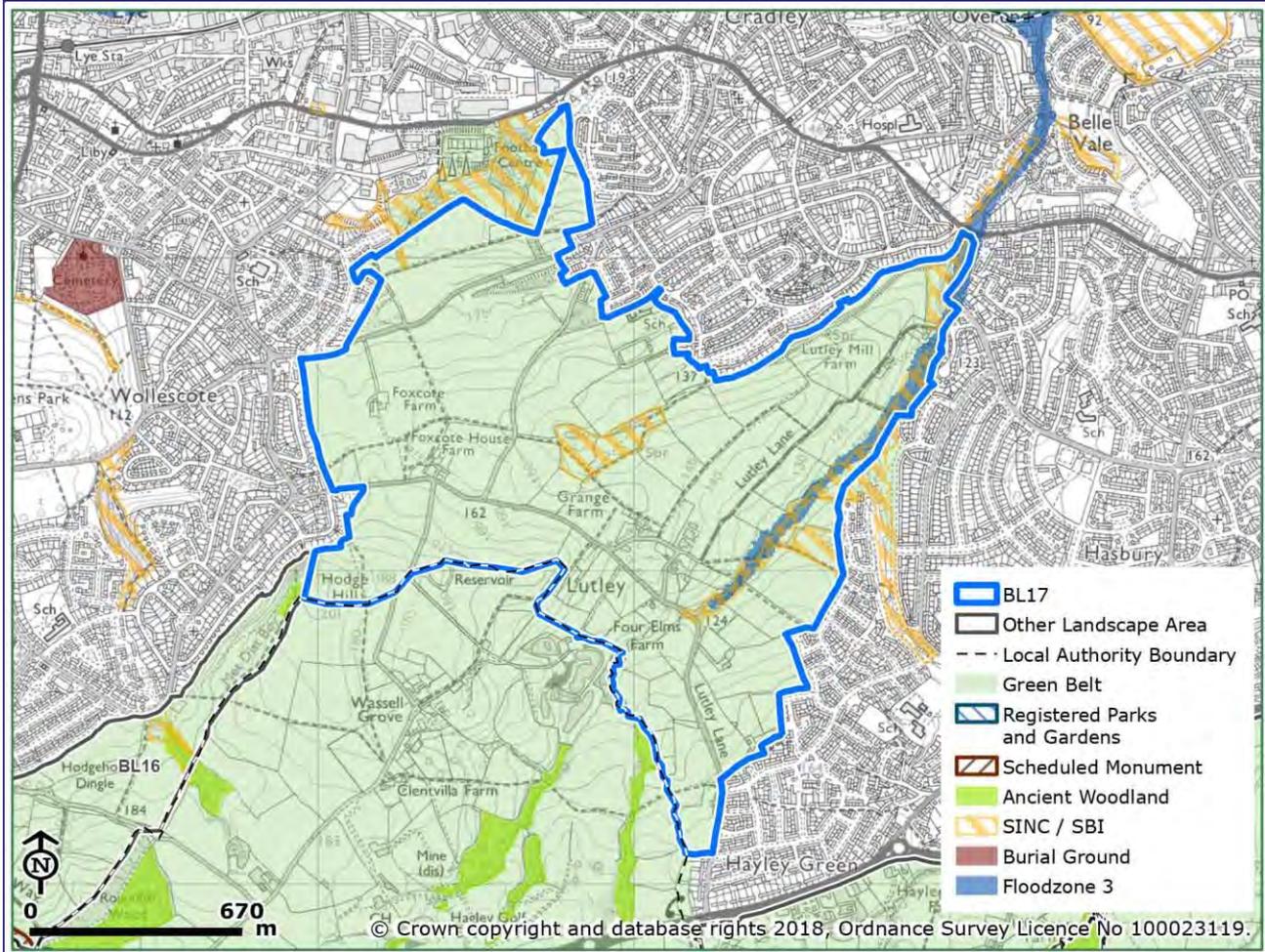
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



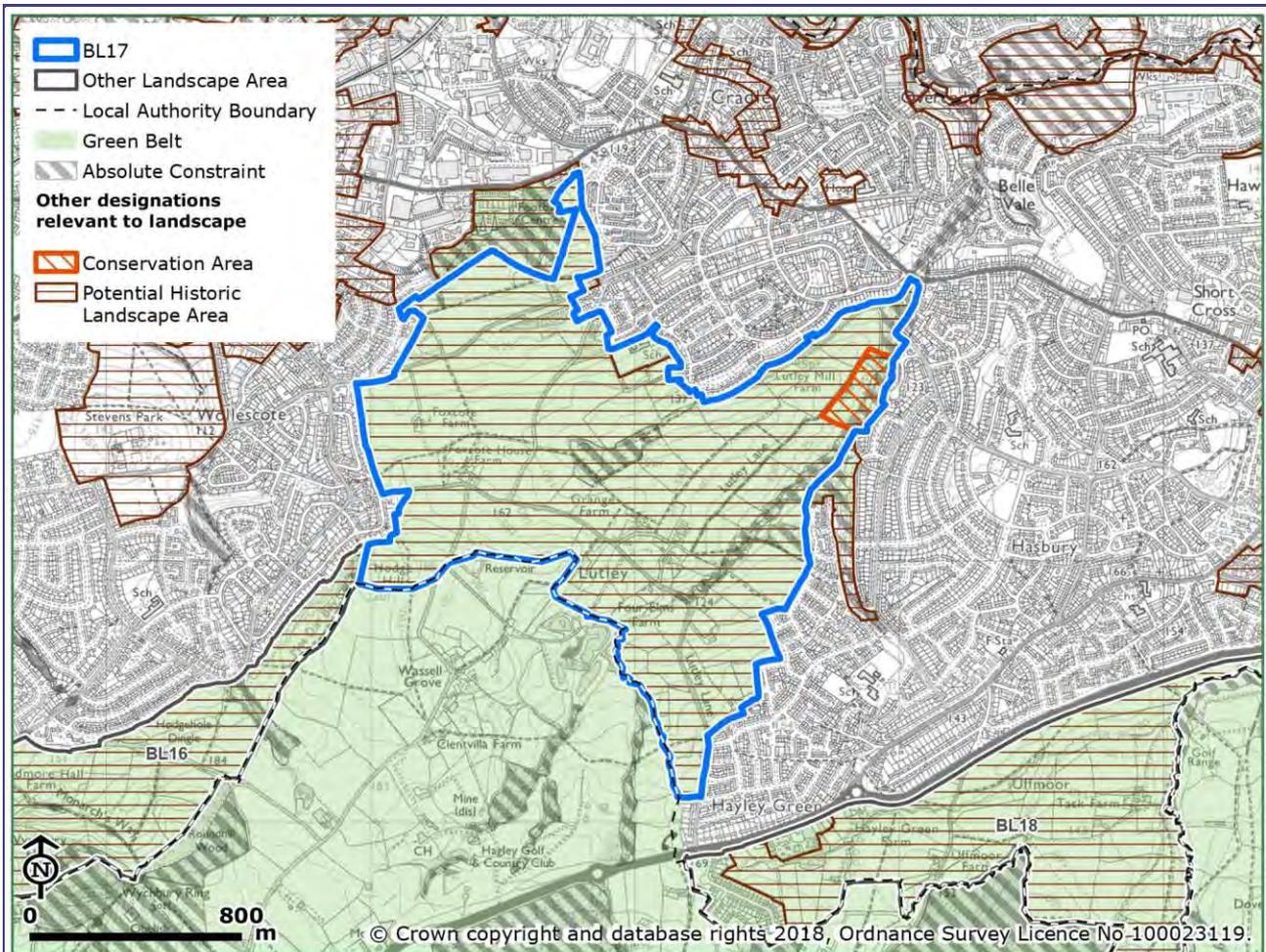
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



### Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>	Larger amalgamated arable fields around Foxcote Farm between Oldnall Road and Wynall Lane South.	Small to moderate scale arable and pastoral fields, often defined by degraded field boundaries, but intact mature hedgerow trees.	
<b>Landform</b>		A rolling landscape, incised by tributaries of the Lutley Gutter. The landscape ranges from 115m near the Lutley Gutter to the prominent Hodge Hill in the far southwest of the area at 201m AOD and the ridge at 175m along Oldnall Road to the north.	
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>			The area contains surviving ridge and furrow earthworks as well as numerous archeological features including the remains of a medieval village at Lutley. A mix of late 18th to mid 19th century enclosure, with some piecemeal enclosure west of the Lutley Lane PRoW. It is a potential historic landscape area AHHLV30 Pedmore and Foxcote.
<b>'Natural' character</b>			Frequent occurrence of areas of semi-natural habitats along the wooded stream course of the Lutley Gutter (including priority habitat floodplain grazing marsh and deciduous woodland) Foxcote Meadows (semi-improved grasslands) and deciduous woodland north and south of Oldnall Road. Mature hedgerow trees are also valued natural features.
<b>Built character</b>	Surrounded by modern built development on the settlement edge of Cradley, Hasbury and Wollescote to the north, east and west respectively.	Some large agricultural buildings within farmsteads.	Rural pattern of scattered farmhouses, most of which are Grade II listed (Grange Farm, Whitehouse Farm, Foxcote Farm and Four Elms Farmhouse). Lutley Mill Conservation Area in the northeast of the area contains the Grade II listed Lutley Mill.
<b>Recreational character</b>		Good access via PRoWs throughout the area, and particularly around Lutley Lane.	
<b>Perceptual aspects</b>		A rural agricultural area disturbed by proximity of built up areas to north, east and west.	

**Settlement setting**

The settlement edge is well wooded, but the rolling landform provides a rural backdrop to Hasbury, Cradley and Wollescote, and reads as part of the wider countryside, as a foreground to long distance views to the Clent Hills.

**Visual prominence**

Some enclosure provided by the undulating topography and areas of woodland.

Open and expansive views over the wider countryside from elevated positions along Lutley Lane/Wynall Lane South, Foxcote Lane and Oldnall Road looking south.

**Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points**

Inter-visibility with promoted viewpoints within the Clent Hills from higher ground, e.g. along Oldnall Lane. Some inter-visibility with the Wychbury Obelisk in Hagley Park Registered Park and Garden.

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>BL17s1</b>	<b>211.56</b>	<b>Moderate - High</b>

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

The landscape is considered to have a moderate-high overall sensitivity to residential development as all the majority of the criteria score both moderate and high and no criteria override that judgement. Although the amalgamated field pattern around Foxcote Farm reduces sensitivity, its visual prominence and inter-visibility with the Clent Hill and Hagley Park increases visual sensitivity.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

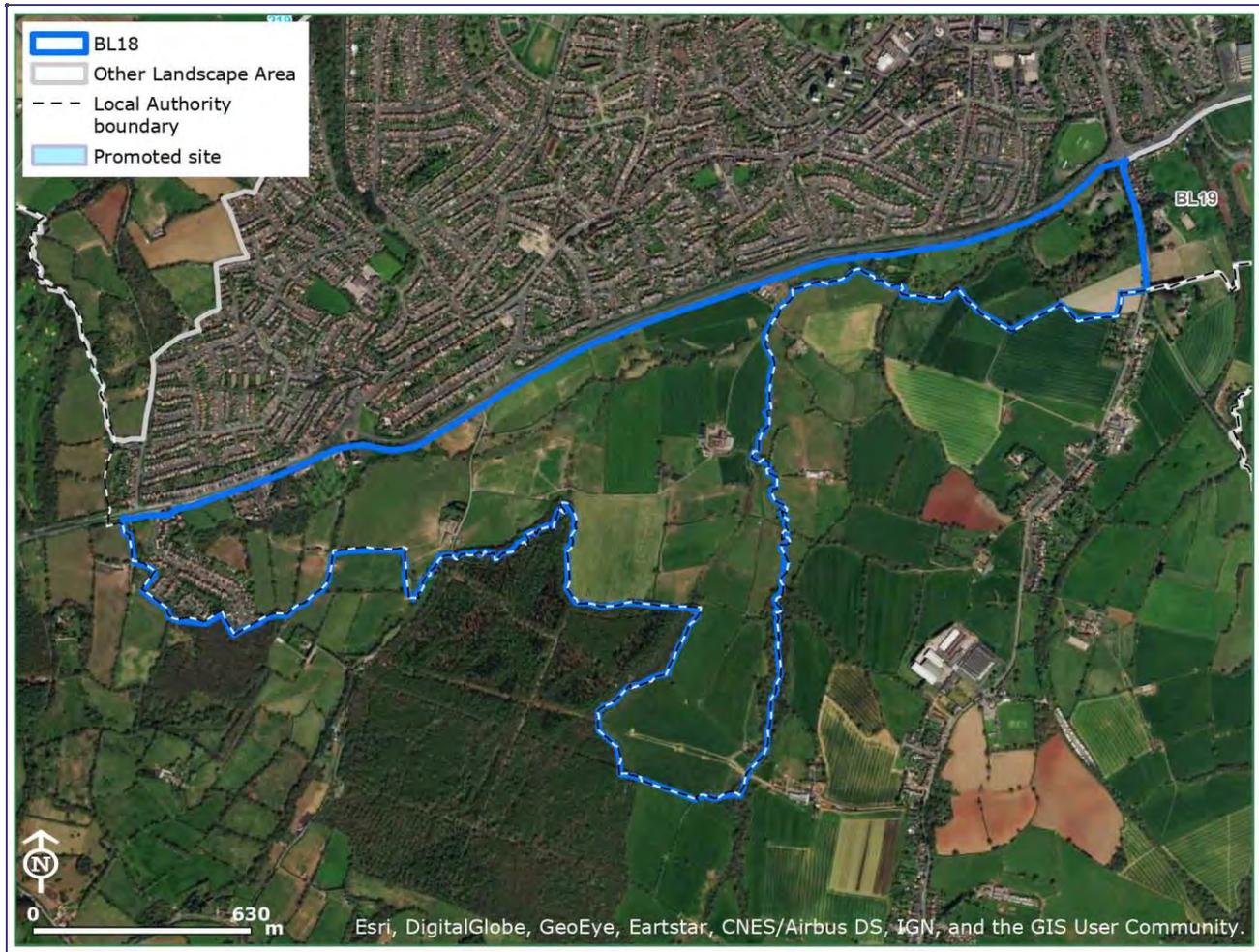
Ref: 216 (Housing); Ref: 218 (Housing); Ref: 219 (Housing); Ref: 225 (Housing); Ref: 271 (Housing); Ref: 295 (Housing)



**Location and Landscape Character Context**

The area is located south of the West Midlands conurbation at Hasbury and south east of Hayley Green, with the A456 Manor Way marking the settlement boundary. The Dudley borough boundary marks the southern extent of the area, beyond which is Uffmoor Wood. The B4591 Bromsgrove Road marks the short eastern boundary.

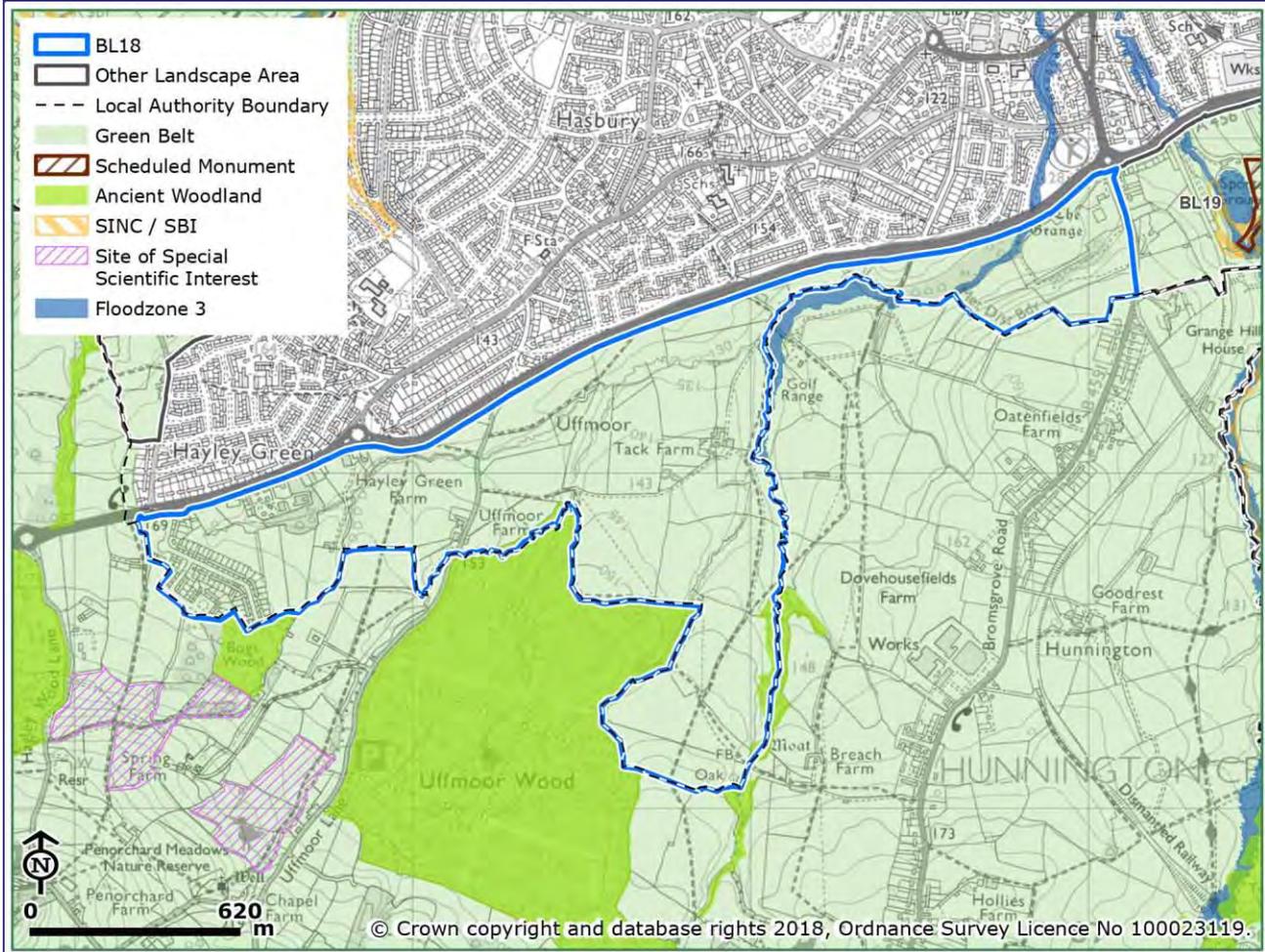
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



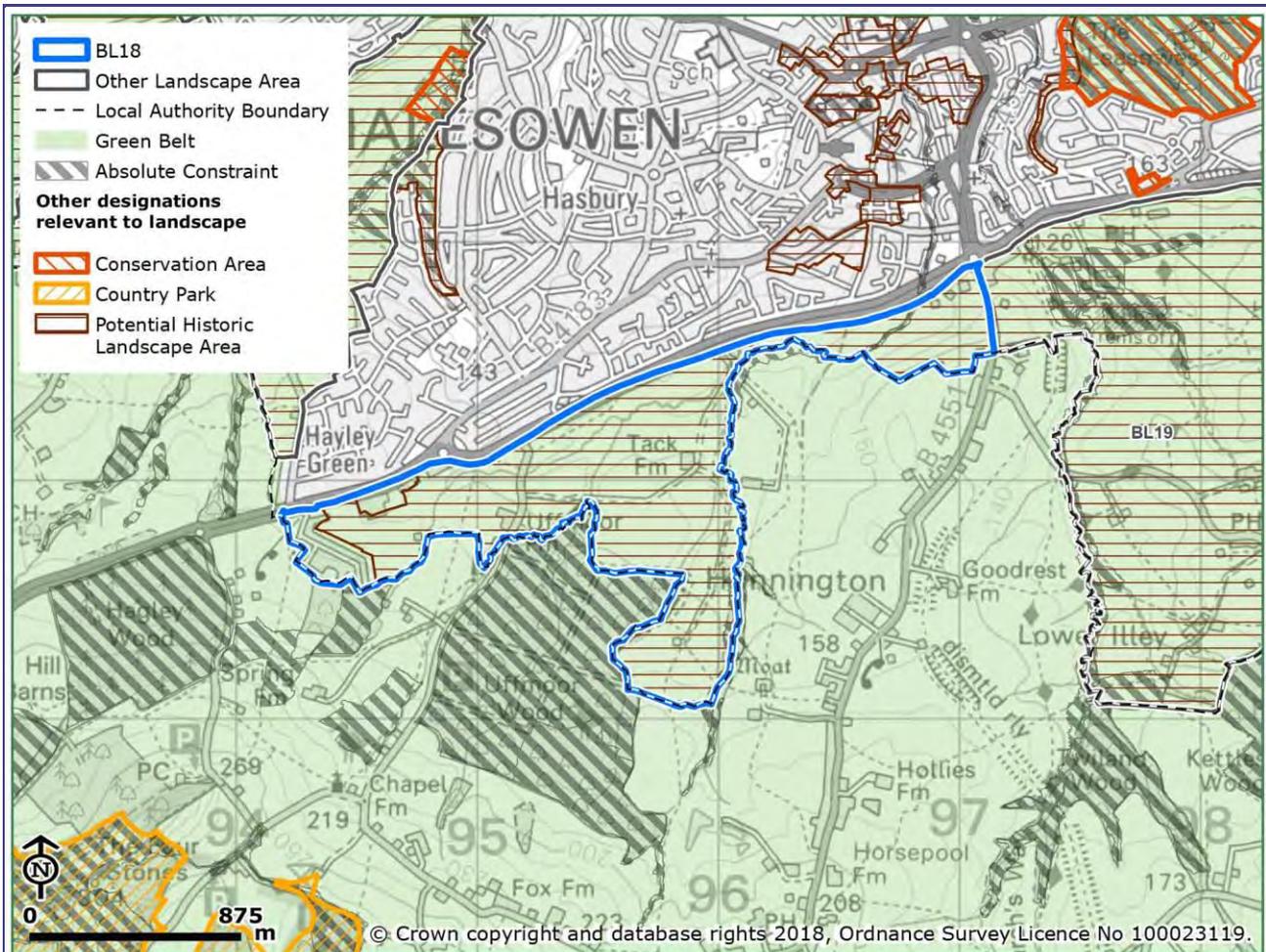
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



## Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>		Moderate scale fields with variation dictated by land use (pastoral or arable) bound by hawthorn hedges with mature hedgerow trees.	
<b>Landform</b>		Rolling landform incised by the heads of the waters of the River Stour in the north and its tributaries, rising gently to the south, ranging from 165m to 130m AOD.	
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>			The area has an irregular pattern of hedged fields of post-medieval and Parliamentary enclosure, rich in archaeological evidence from prehistoric and later eras. The fields in this area contain large areas of surviving ridge and furrow earthworks. It is a potential historic landscape area AHHLV31 Uffmoor Ridge and Furrow.
<b>'Natural' character</b>			Frequent occurrence of valued natural features including substantial hawthorn hedges with mature hedgerow trees and the wooded stream courses and associated floodplain grazing marsh associated with the River Stour and its tributaries. There is priority habitat deciduous woodland on the edge of Uffmoor Wood (outside of the area), and at the Breach Dingle on the eastern boundary, which contains ancient woodland.
<b>Built character</b>	Small modern estate in the far west of the area. The A456 Manor Way forms the northern boundary beyond which the Hasbury is visible.	Rural pattern of scattered isolated farmsteads, and Grade II* listed The Grange and associated Grade II ice house in the northeast of the area.	
<b>Recreational character</b>		Good public access by PRowS throughout the area. A portion of the Seth Somers Park is in the north east, immediately west of the B4551 Grange Hill.	
<b>Perceptual aspects</b>		A rural landscape where tranquility is disturbed in the north by the A456.	The landscape is increasingly tranquil to the south of the area and enjoys 'dark skies'.

**Settlement setting**

Provides some contribution as an attractive rural backdrop to the urban conurbation, with views across the area from residential roads north of the A456. Visually forms part of the open rural landscape of North Worcestershire which extends to the south until views are closed to the south and west by wooded Clent and Walton Hills.

Development would have a poor relationship with the settlement as it would cross the sharp settlement edge provided by the A456 Manor Way.

**Visual prominence**

Mature hedgerows along lanes and undulating landform provide visual containment in some areas, while other areas are more open.

**Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points**

Some inter-visibility with Hagley Park Registered Park and Garden and the Clent Hills which contains a promoted viewpoint.

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>BL18s1</b>	<b>137.16</b>	<b>Moderate - High</b>

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

The landscape is considered to have moderate-high overall sensitivity to residential development as the majority of the criteria have moderate sensitivity with higher ratings for landscape pattern and time depth, natural character and poor relationship with the settlement edge.

The landscape is considered to have a high overall sensitivity to employment development. Large scale development in this area would mark a step change to the scale of existing residential development to the north in Hasbury and would have a poor relationship with it due to the A456 Manor Way which forms a strong barrier feature. The irregular field pattern and frequent occurrence of natural features means that the area 'reads' as part of the wider open rural landscape.

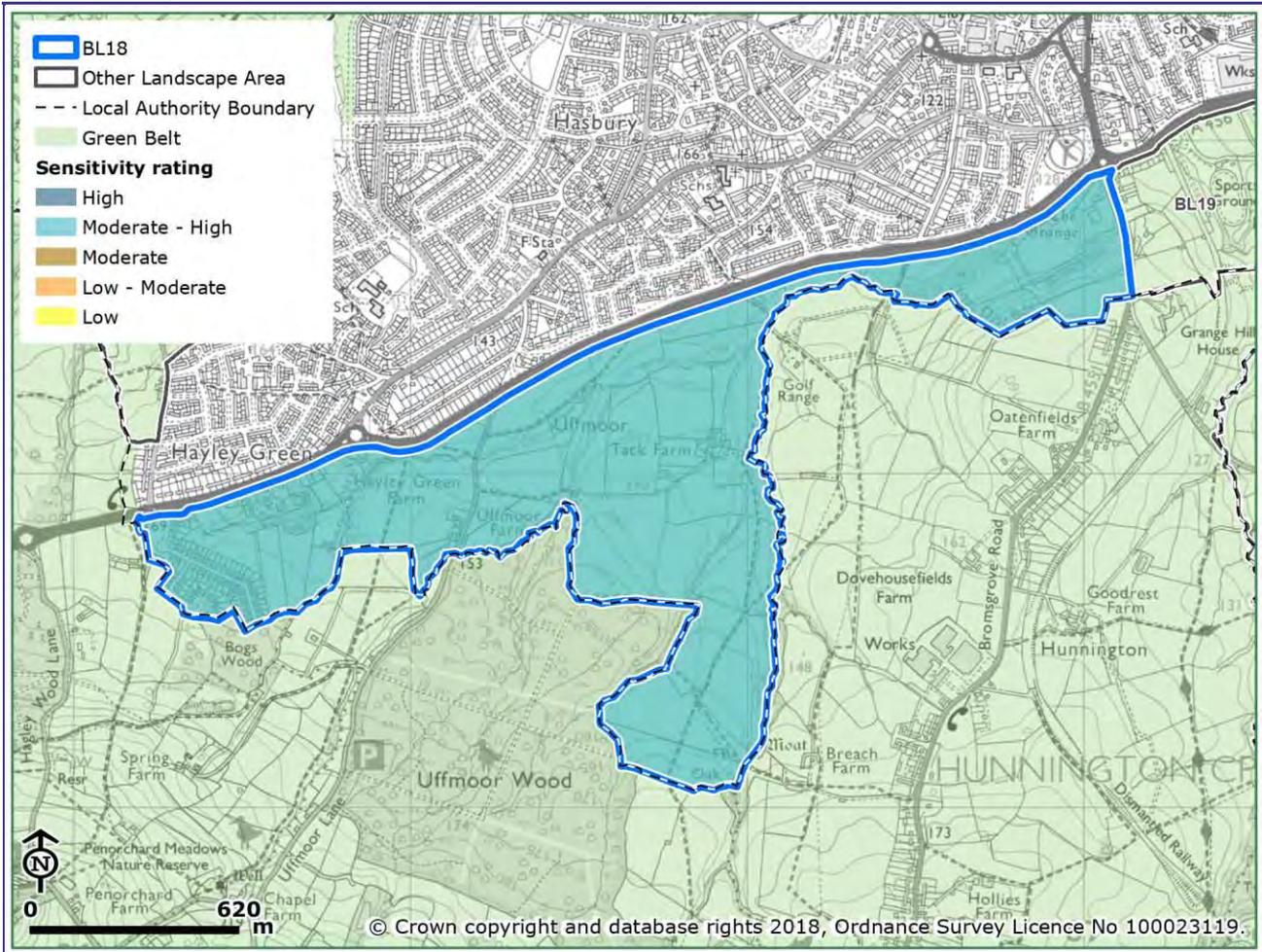
**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

Sensitivity increases with distance from the A456 and the lack of audible disturbance from this busy road, resulting in a high sensitivity to development.

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

None

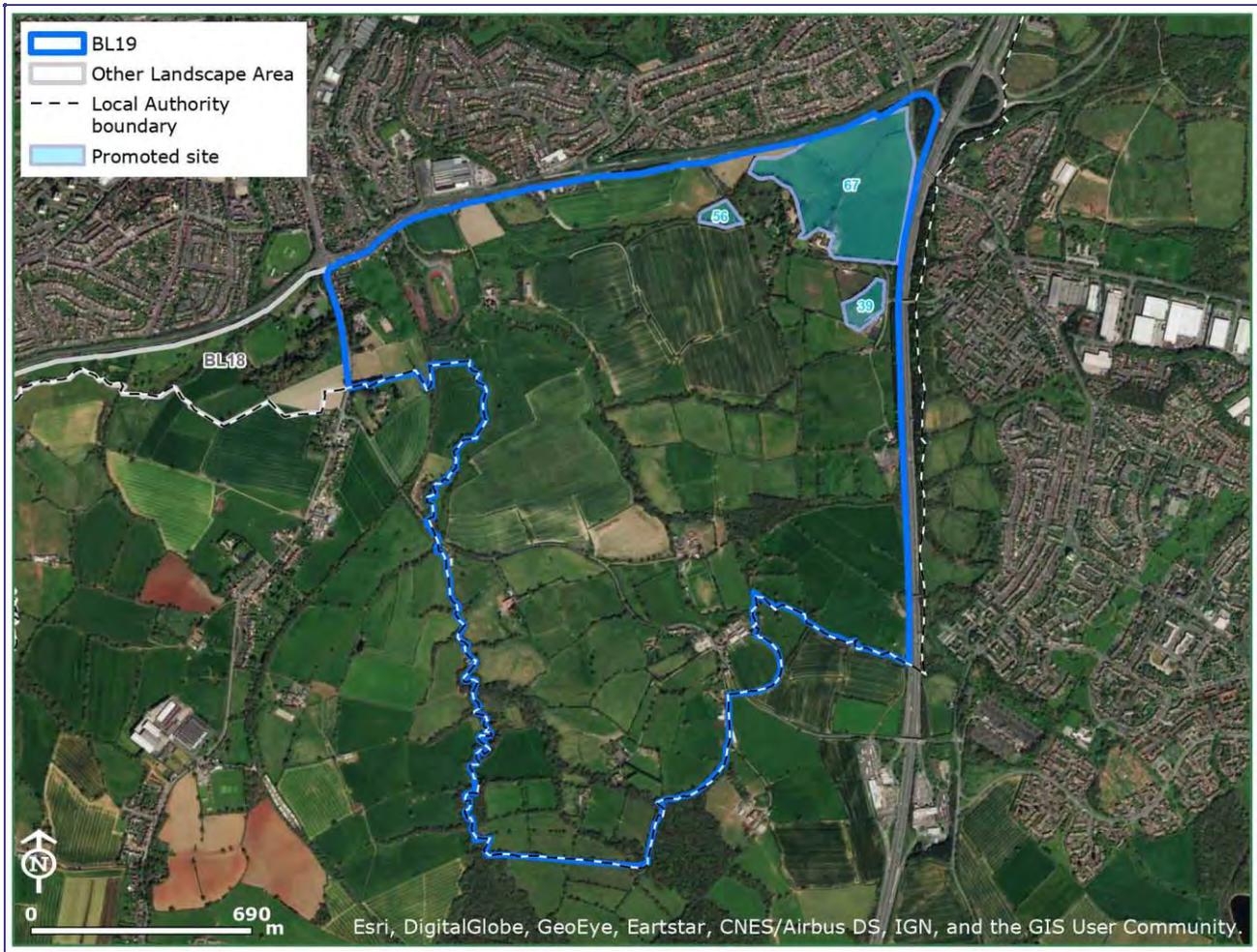
Landscape Sensitivity Rating



**Location and Landscape Character Context**

The area is located south of the West Midlands conurbation at Halesowen, with the A456 Halesowen bypass marking the settlement boundary. Illey Brook, a tributary of the River Stour runs north-south on the western boundary of the area and the M5 marks the eastern boundary. The Dudley borough boundary defines the southern boundary.

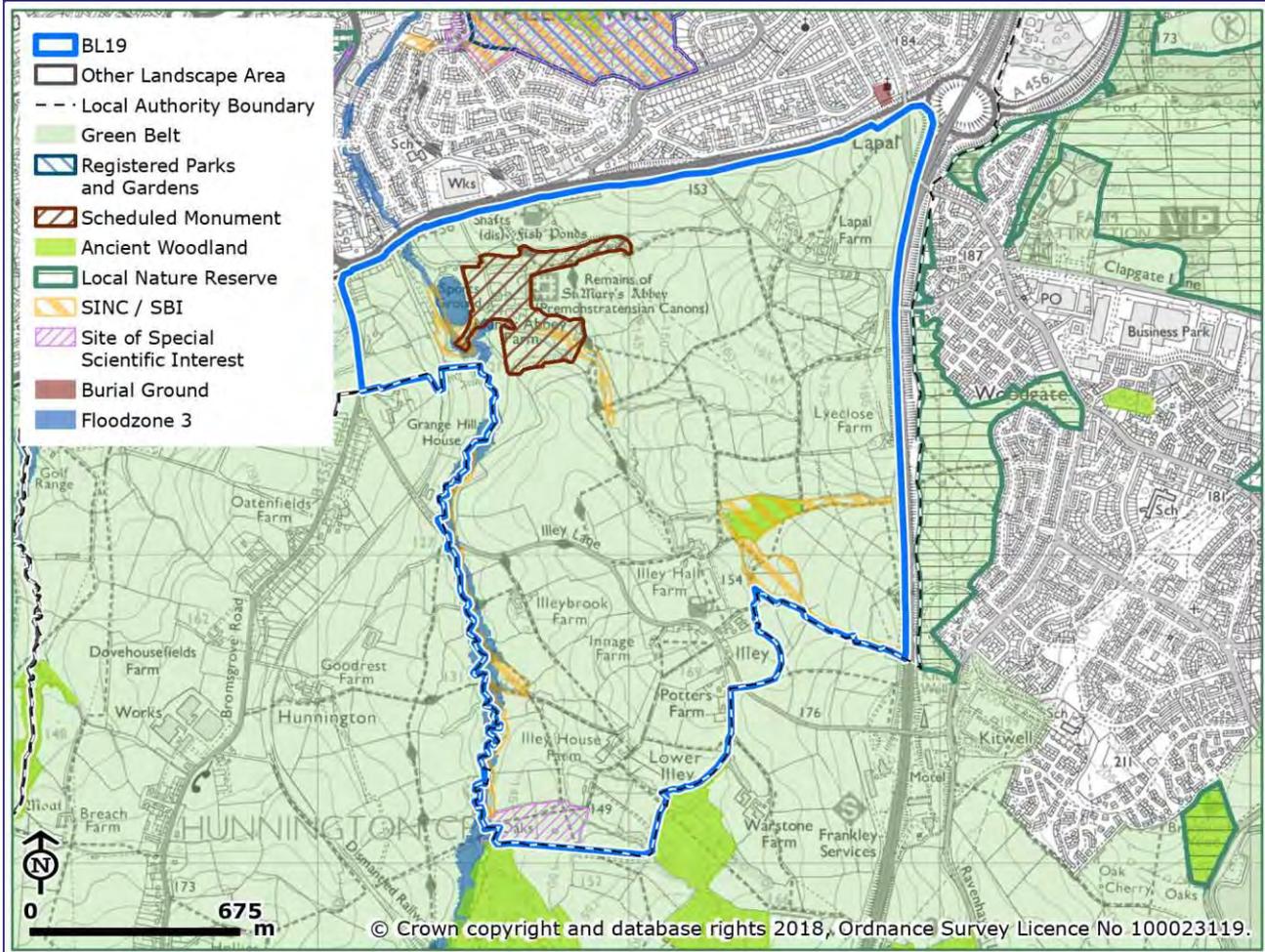
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



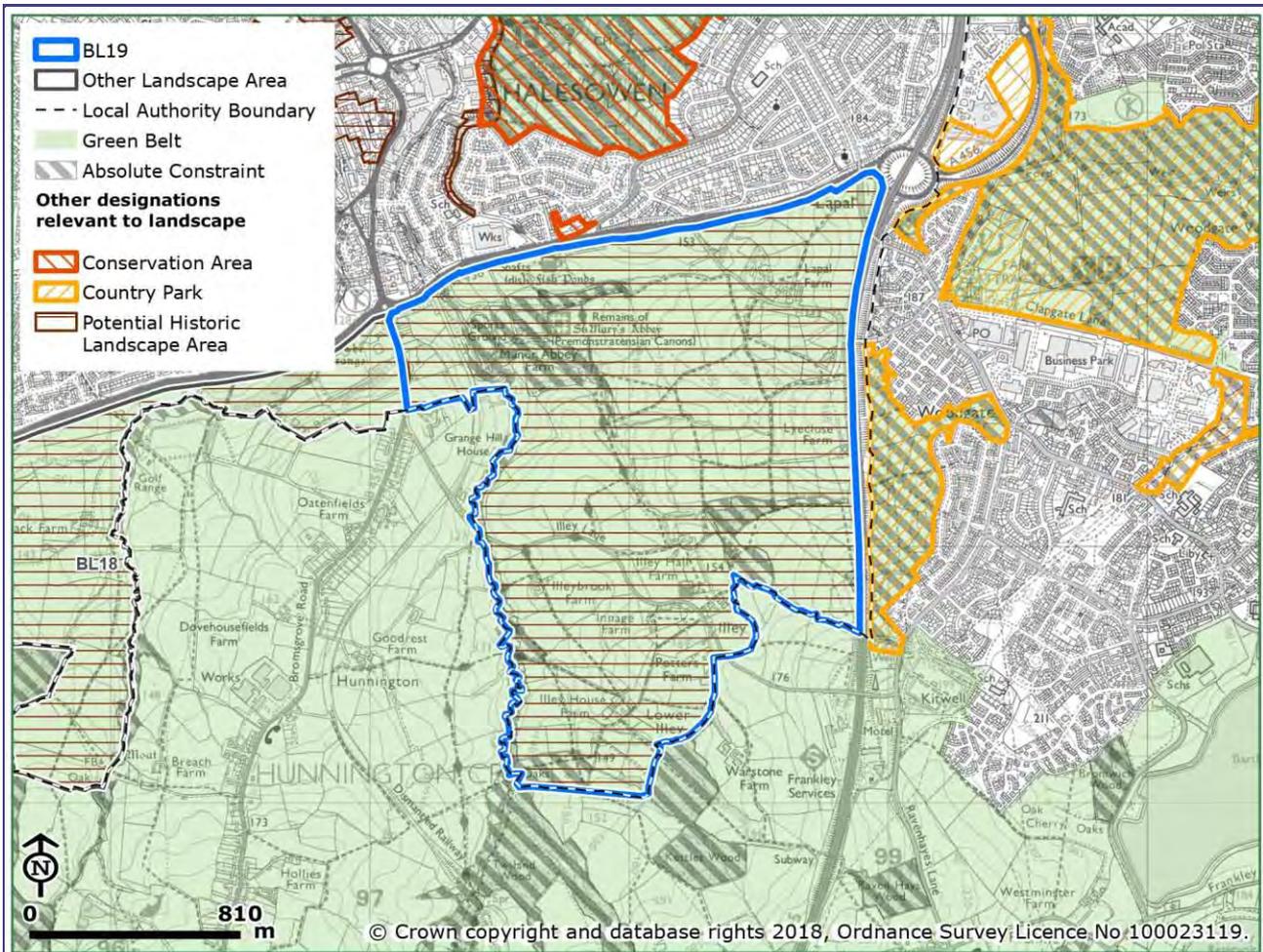
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



## Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>		Large open fields in the centre of the area, west of Lapal Lane South and north of Illey Lane,	Smaller fields east of Lapal Lane South and south of Illey Lane generally well defined by hedgerows and mature hedgerow trees.
<b>Landform</b>		Rolling landform incised by tributaries of the River Stour. North of Illey Lane land falls to the west to the Stour and rises to the south towards the north Worcestershire hills, creating a bowl around the monastic ruins of St Mary's Abbey.	
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>		Large open rolling fields between Illey Lane and Lapal Lane South, which retain some evidence of ridge and furrow.	East of Lapal Lane South fields are smaller while south of Illey Lane there are small, irregular hedged fields of both arable and pasture defined by intact hedges. Well preserved ridge and furrow earthworks are evident across the area (e.g. Illey Meadows). The area also contains the site of Manor Colliery and 18th century Lapal Canal and Tunnel, and is a potential historic landscape area, AHHLV32 Illey and Lapal.
<b>'Natural' character</b>			Frequent occurrence of valued natural features including wooded stream courses and mature trees and intact hedgerows across the area. Semi-natural priority habitats include deciduous woodland, semi-improved grassland, lowland meadow and floodplain grazing marsh. There are SINC's relating to Illey Brook, meadows and woodland, including ancient woodland at Coopers Wood east of Illey Hall Farm. Illey Pastures SSSI lies in the southwest of the area.
<b>Built character</b>	An overhead power line runs through the centre and east of the area. Halesowen and Ridgacre are visible to the north and north east.	Rural pattern of isolated farmsteads and small hamlets (ie. Illey, Lapal) with no unifying vernacular.	St Mary's Abbey Ruins and associated earthworks at Abbey Farm is Grade I listed, and the surrounding area (including sports ground) is a Scheduled Monument.
<b>Recreational character</b>			Extensive network of PRoWs including the promoted long-distance route of the Monarch's Way which extends from the urban area into the Worcestershire hills.
<b>Perceptual aspects</b>		An intact rural landscape where tranquility is locally disturbed by traffic noise and movement from the A456 in the north and the M5 which converge at Junction 3 of the motorway. The M5 particularly affects the east of the area.	The landscape south of Illey Lane is free from disturbance and enjoys 'dark skies'.

**Settlement setting**

Provides some contribution as an attractive rural backdrop to the urban conurbation, with views of the area from residential roads north of the A456. Visually forms part of the open rural landscape of North Worcestershire which extends to the south until views are closed to the south and west by the wooded Clent and Walton Hills.

Development would have a poor relationship with the settlement as it would cross the sharp settlement edge provided by the A456 Halesowen bypass and M5.

**Visual prominence**

Visually enclosed by hedgerows and the undulating topography.

More open areas, particularly within and towards the higher ground in the east.

**Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points**

No inter-visibility with adjacent sensitive landscapes or marked viewpoints.

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>BL19s1</b>	<b>214.85</b>	<b>Moderate - High</b>

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

The landscape is considered to have a moderate-high overall sensitivity to both residential and employment development as the majority of the criteria score moderate, while the natural and recreational character score high and most other criteria scoring moderate-high. Employment development in particular would have a poor relationship with the existing settlement form and would disrupt the existing small scale landscape pattern.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating****List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

Ref: 39 (Employment and housing); Ref: 56 (Housing); Ref: 67 (Employment and housing)

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>BL19s2</b>	<b>64.73</b>	<b>High</b>

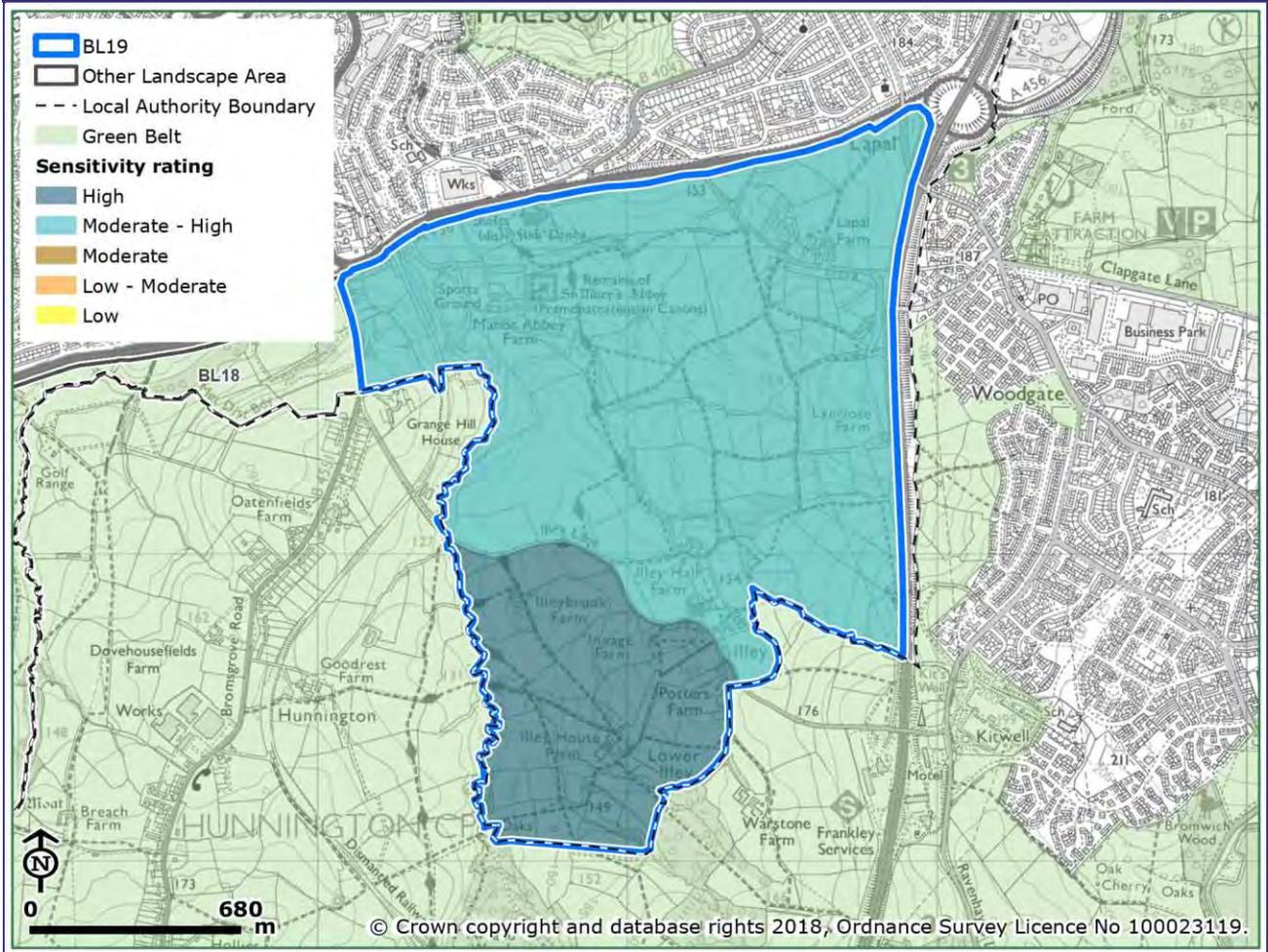
**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

The area to the south of Illey Lane has high sensitivity to residential or employment development due to the intact rural landscape with its pattern of small scale irregular hedged fields and lack of audible disturbance.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating****List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

None

Landscape Sensitivity Rating



**Location and Landscape Character Context**

This area is located within Halesowen, and is enclosed by settlement. The settlement edge forms the north and east boundaries, the A458 the south boundary and the edge of the Coombswood Industrial Estate forms the western boundary.

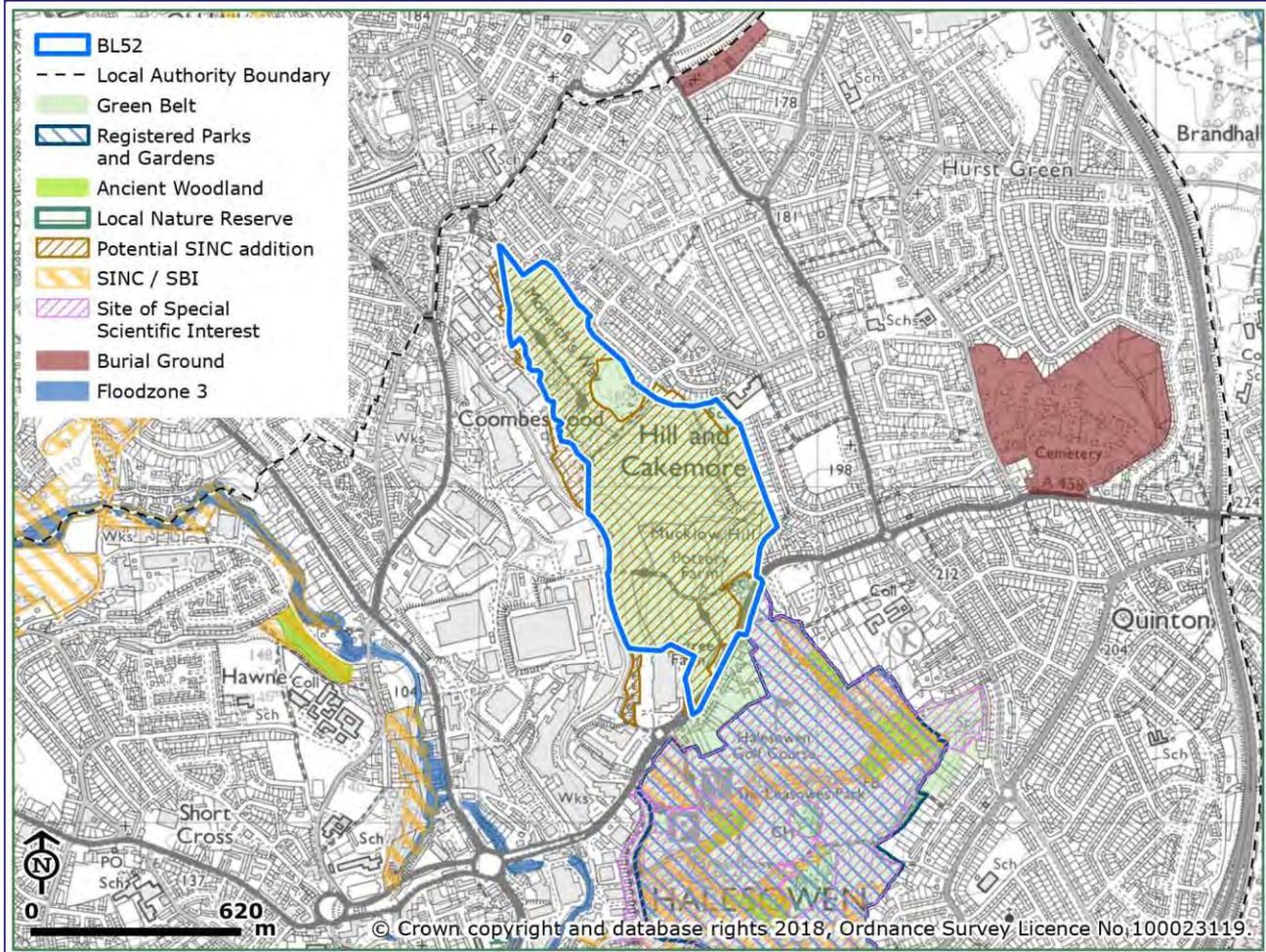
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



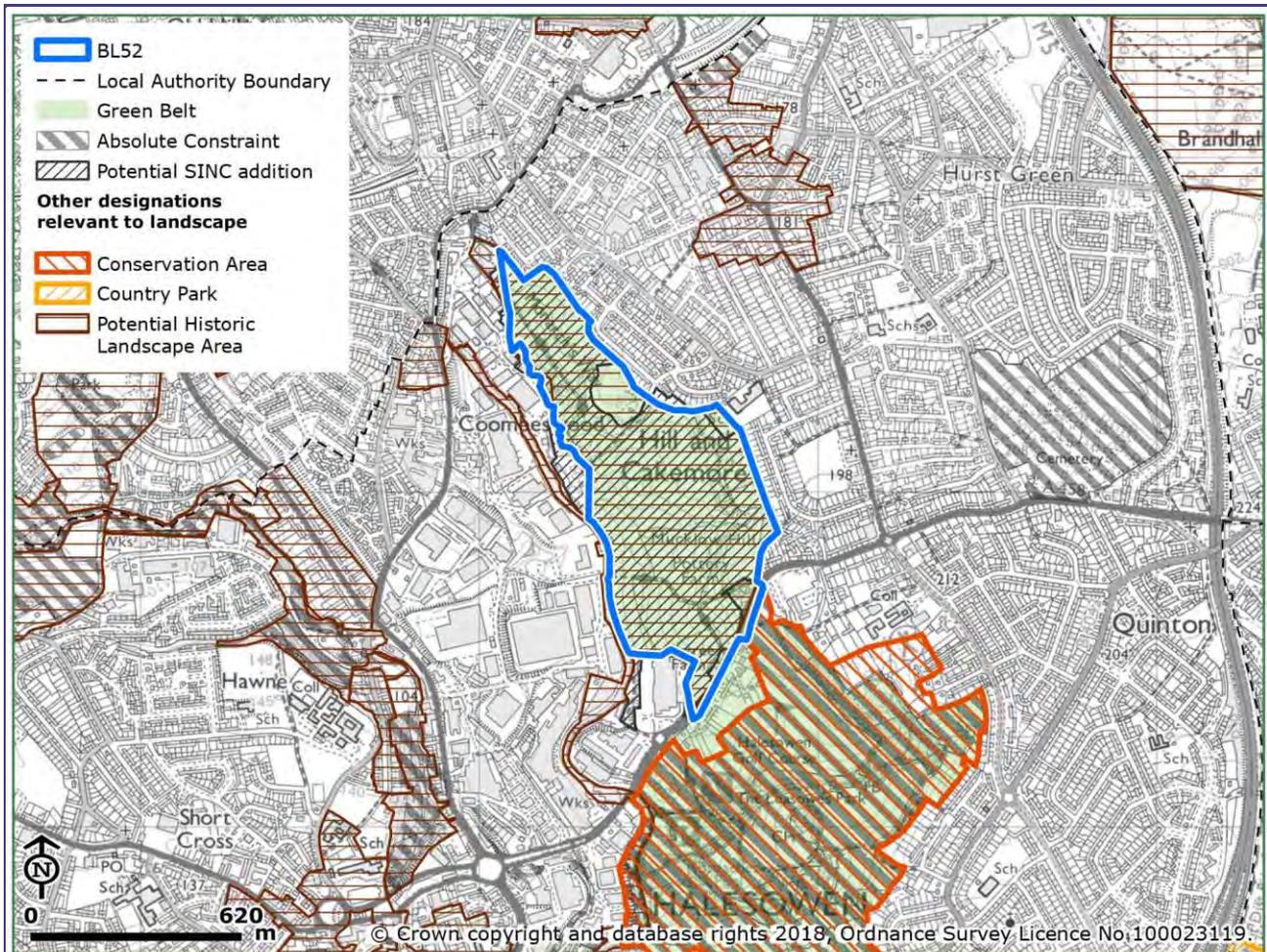
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



## Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>		Medium scale fields in the south of the area with intact hedgerows, with fewer land divisions in the north.	
<b>Landform</b>		The landform rises steeply from 150m AOD in the west to 185m AOD in the east at Mucklow Hill, providing a distinct landform feature in the immediate local area.	
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>			The area contains a field system which was enclosed by the mid-19th century, and is a potential historic landscape area AHHLV33 Coombeswood.
<b>'Natural' character</b>			A frequent occurrence of valued natural features. Outside small areas adjacent to the school and Coombs Wood Sports and Social Club, the landscape is identified as a potential SINCA due to its woodland and areas of acidic, neutral and marshy grassland, areas which are identified as priority habitat deciduous woodland and semi-improved grassland respectively.
<b>Built character</b>	The area is surrounded by modern settlement and the industrial buildings within the Mucklow Hill Trading Estate, structures that detract from landscape character. The A458 runs along the south of the area and disturbs tranquillity.	There are few built features within this area which contribute to landscape character. Old House and associated barn are both Grade II listed, and Dudley No 2 canal runs along the south west of the area.	
<b>Recreational character</b>	The Coombs Wood Sports and Social Club where enjoyment of the landscape is not integral to the activity.		The long distance promoted route Monarch's Way runs throughout this area, and there are a number of other footpaths.
<b>Perceptual aspects</b>		Close to visible signs of modern development including residential and industrial land uses. Tranquillity is disturbed by road noise but tranquillity increases with distance from these roads.	

**Settlement setting**

The sloping topography provides a sharp and distinctive settlement edge to the north and east. The area provides an open backdrop to these properties, and links to wider views particularly to the south of the Clent Hills.

**Visual prominence**

Screening vegetation within the area provides visual enclosure. More prominent and open areas in the east allow open views.

**Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points**

There is some inter-visibility with the Leasowes Registered Park and Garden to the south, although this is mostly screened by vegetation. There is distant inter-visibility with the promoted viewpoint on the Clent Hills.

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>BL52s1</b>	<b>45.83</b>	<b>Moderate - High</b>

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

The landscape is considered to have a moderate-high overall sensitivity to residential development due to its important natural and historic character, visual links to the wider landscape and contribution to the surrounding settlement setting.

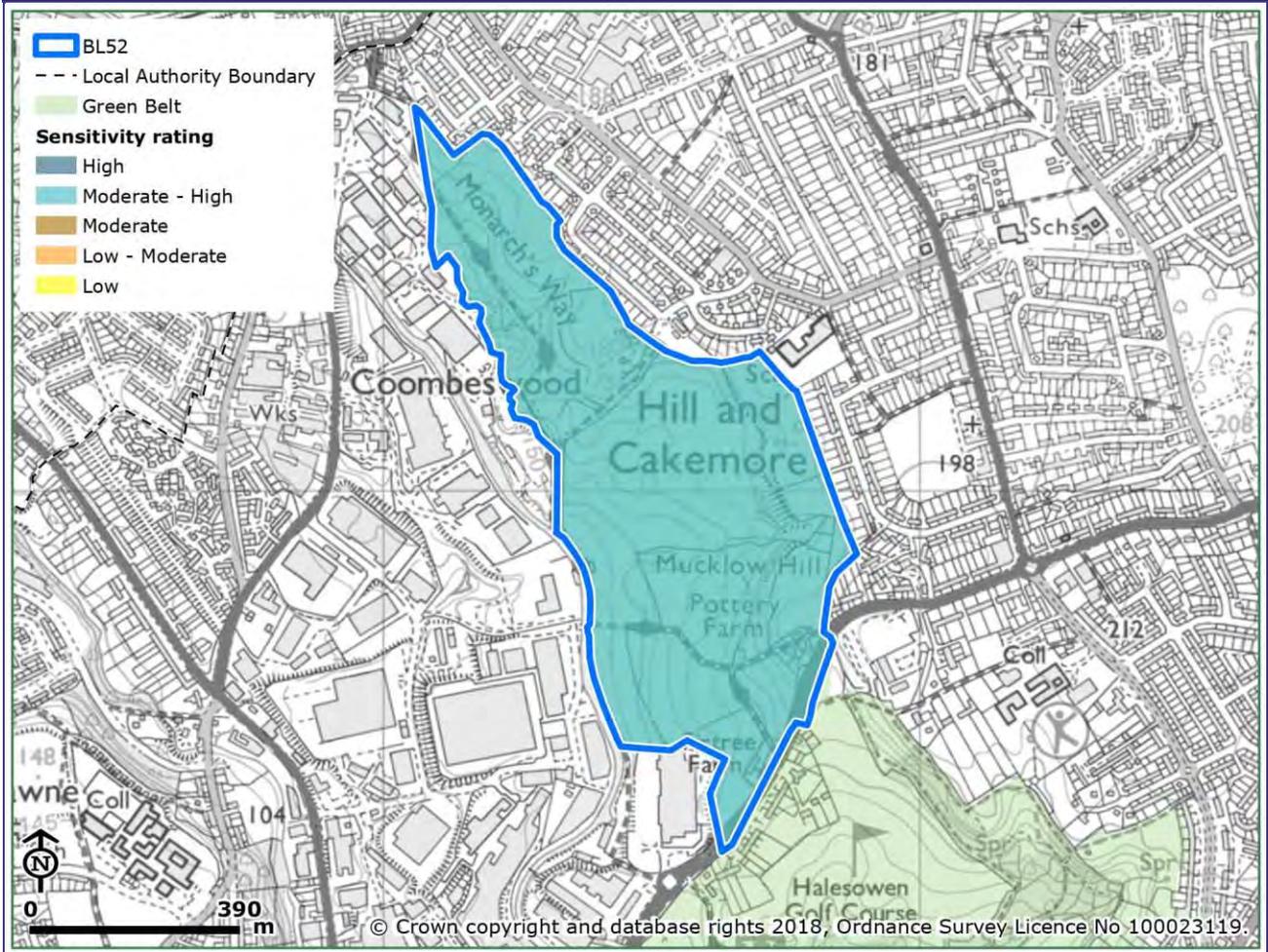
The landscape is considered to have high sensitivity to employment development also due to its important natural and historic character, visual links to the wider landscape and contribution to the surrounding settlement setting.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

Ref: 54 (Housing); Ref: 150 (Housing); Ref: 217 (Housing)

Landscape Sensitivity Rating



**Landscape Area Reference SL1**

**Area Size (ha): 200.6ha**

**Location and Landscape Character Context**

The area falls within the following Landscape Character Type: Sandstone Estatelands.

The area is located to the west of Norton (Stourbridge), with the western boundary marked by the woodlands of Iverley Heath and Bunker's Hill Wood. The eastern border is roughly marked by the route of the historic Roman Road and the settlement boundary.

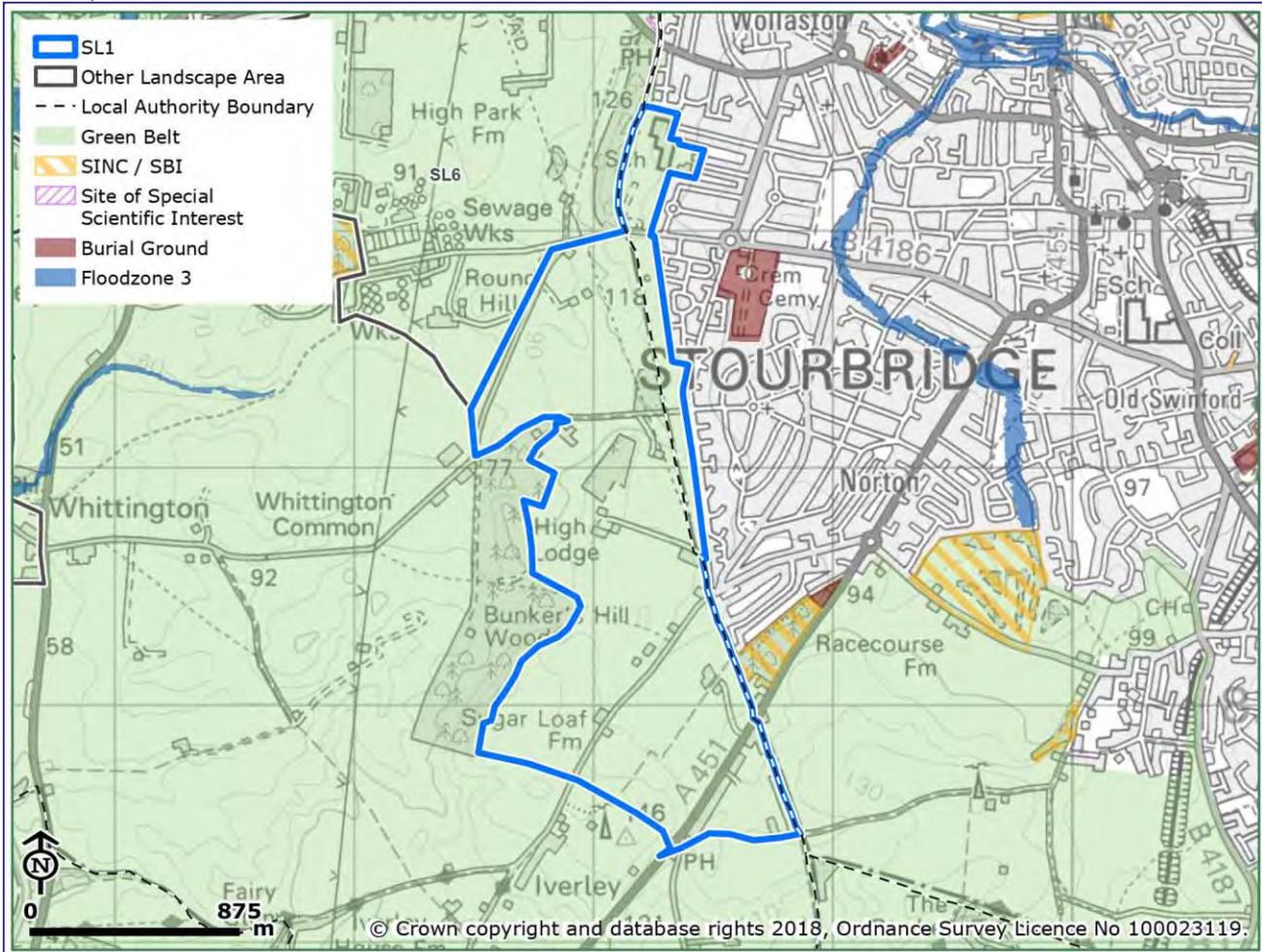
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



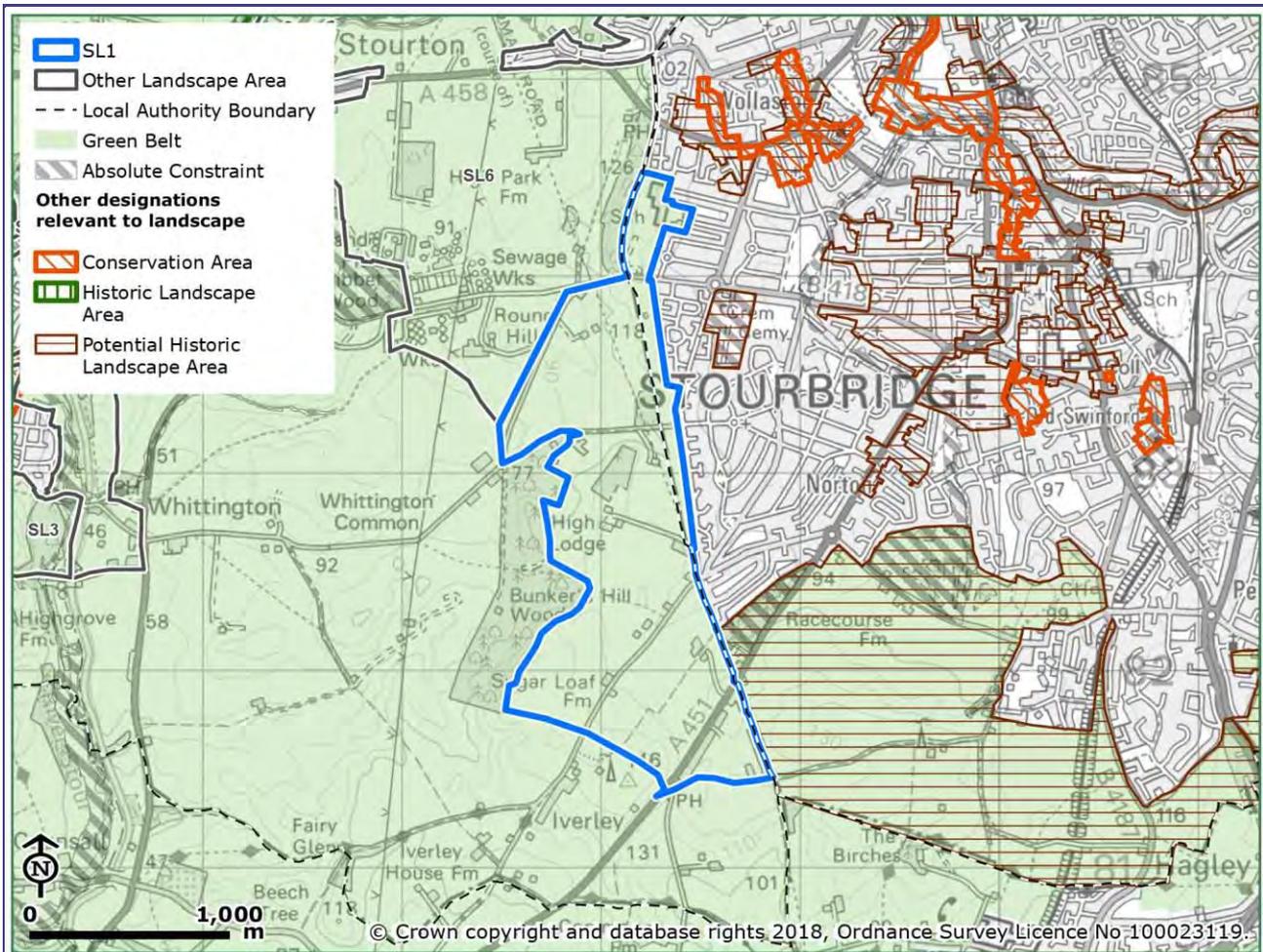
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



## Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>		Medium to small scale fields, of either arable use or divided into horse pastures.	
<b>Landform</b>		Landform here is relatively complex and undulating, with steeper slopes at Bunker's Hill and Iverley Heath.	
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>		Fields are mixed in pattern but all identified as 18th/19th century origin planned enclosure. Many fields have been enclosed further for horse pastures which are bounded by fencing.	
<b>'Natural' character</b>		The area contains three areas identified to be priority habitat deciduous woodland. There is also an area of conifer woodland. Hedgerows, where present, contain frequent mature trees.	
<b>Built character</b>	The area is adjacent to the densely settled suburbs of Norton (Stourbridge).	Modern development within the area is limited to the small settlement of Iverly in the south and the tennis and squash club grounds. There are also scattered farmsteads, many of which are grade II listed buildings. The historic route of the Pedmore Roman Road is listed as a HER site and runs along a track west of the settlement edge.	
<b>Recreational character</b>		There are some public rights of way present within the area including footpaths.	
<b>Perceptual aspects</b>	Despite being largely rural, the frequent fencing and enclosure for equine use has an urbanising effect on the landscape.	The area has a largely undeveloped rural character, although rooftops of residential housing within Norton can be seen from some more elevated areas. The area has an experience of 'dark skies' to the south and west away from the settlement edge.	
<b>Settlement setting</b>		The sloping landform provides a rural setting to the settlement edge of Norton and the residential properties at Iverley.	

**Visual prominence**

The wooded ridge to the west encloses the area from the wider landscape, except for occasional long distance views.

**Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points**

The area has little or no inter-visibility with adjacent sensitive landscapes or marked viewpoints.

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
SL1s1	200.59	Moderate

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

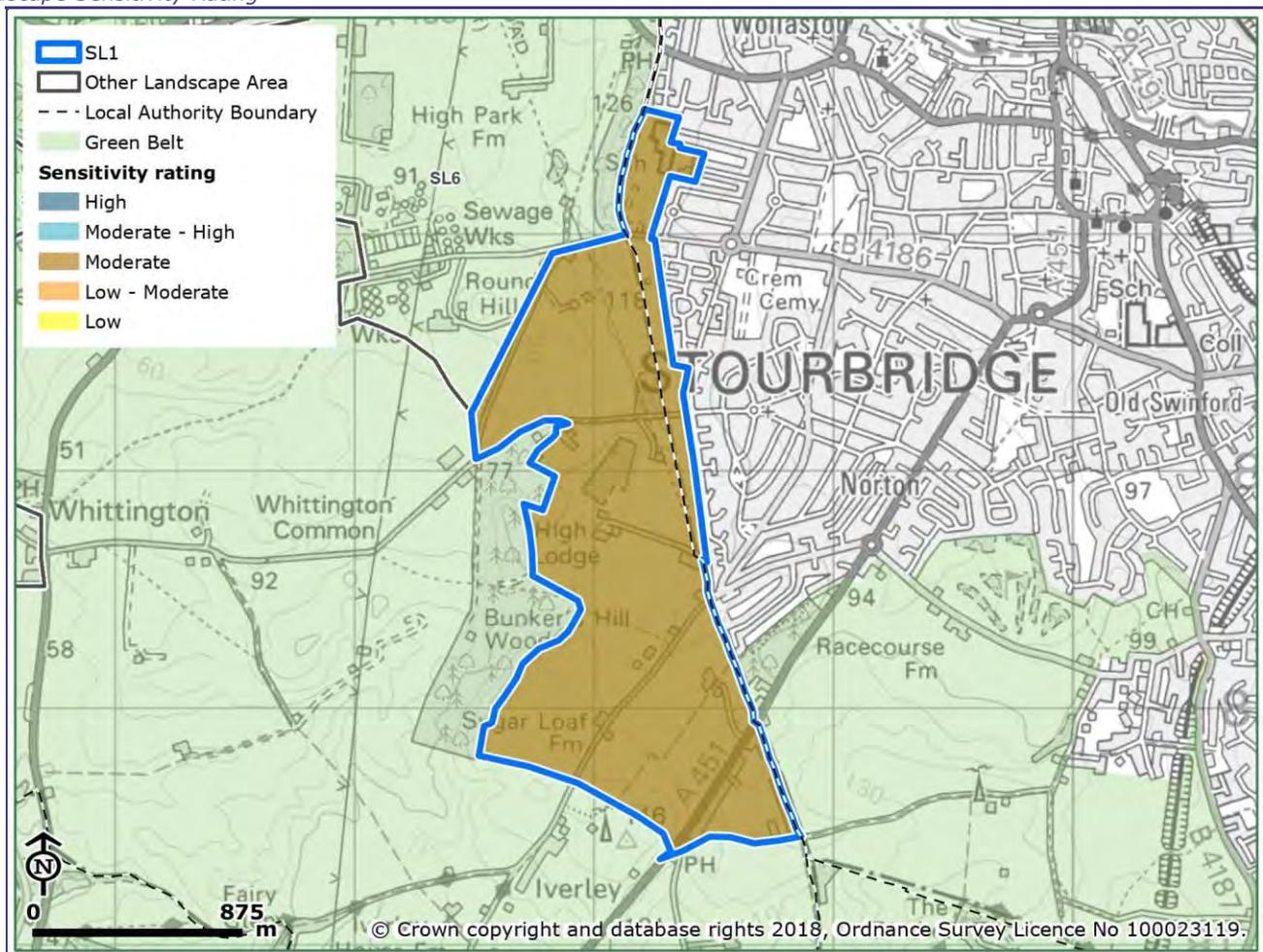
The landscape is considered to have a moderate overall sensitivity to residential development, as the majority of the criteria score moderate and no criteria overrides that judgement.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

Ref: 264 (Housing); Ref: 280 (Housing); Ref: 683a (Housing)

Landscape Sensitivity Rating



**Location and Landscape Character Context**

The area falls within the following Landscape Character Type: Sandstone Estatelands.

The area is enclosed by the A449 to the west, the River Stour to the south and the edge of Kingswinford (Dudley) to the east. A small area in the far east is within Dudley Metropolitan Borough.

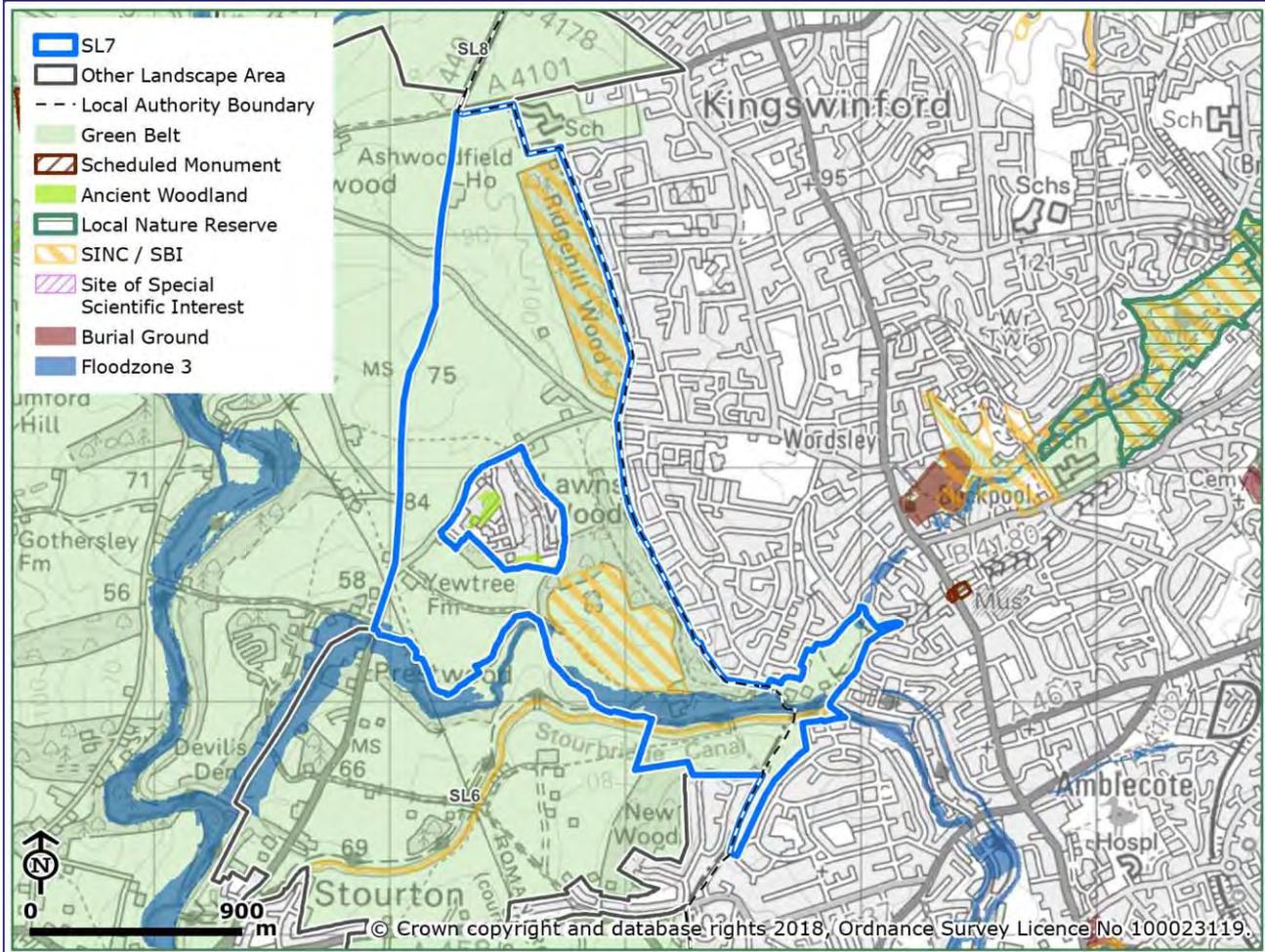
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



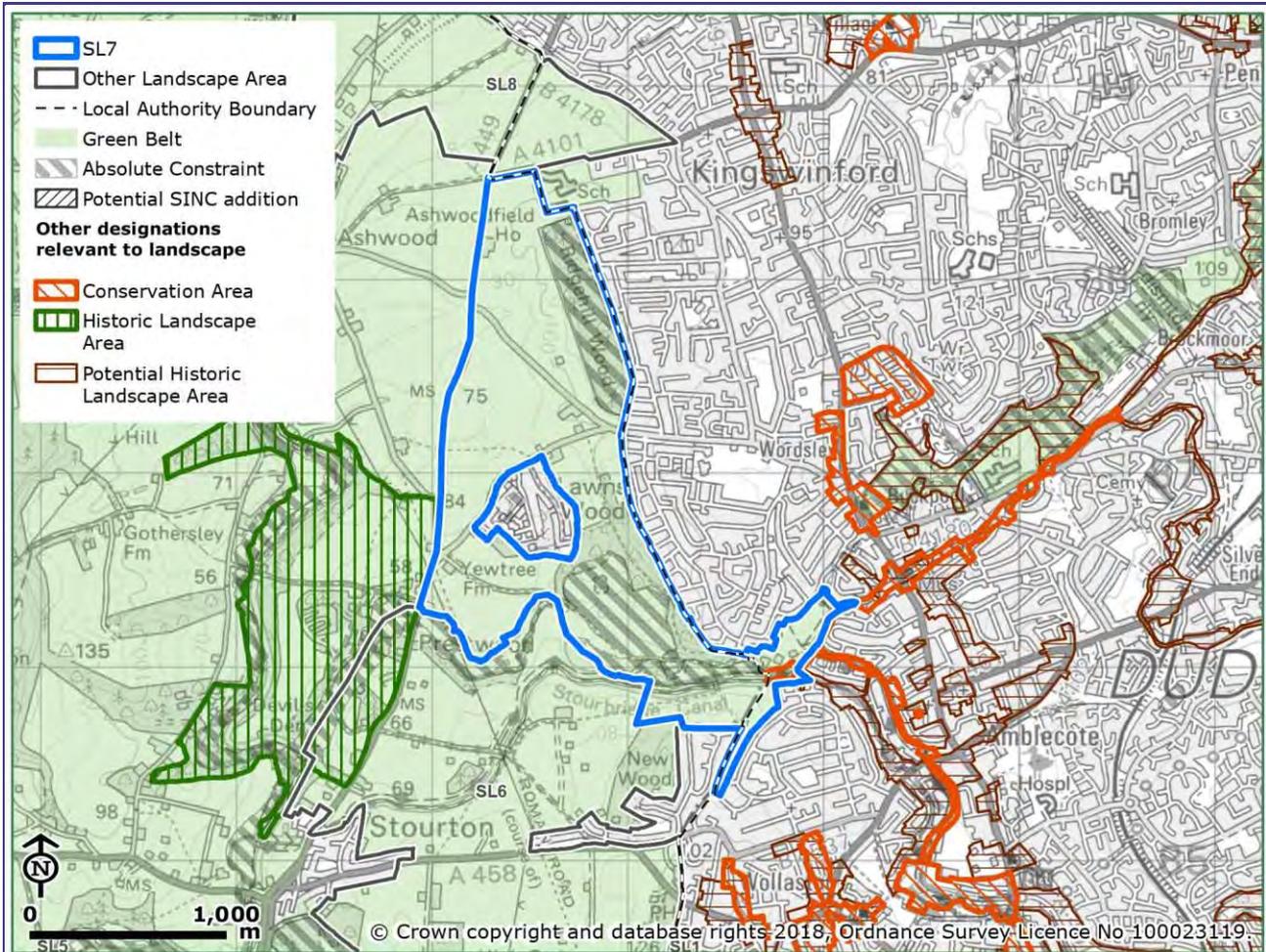
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



## Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>		<p>Fields here are generally medium in scale and are characterised by a predominance of pasture around the valley sides, and arable in the north of the area. The overall scale of the landscape is limited by the landform and frequent woodland and hedgerows.</p>	
<b>Landform</b>			<p>Landform here is undulating with wooded ridgelines enclosing the area from Kingswinford. The area contains part of the valley of the River Stour, with fairly steeply sloping sides.</p>
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>		<p>Field pattern here is predominantly 18th/19th century origin planned enclosure, together with post-medieval floodplain fields along the river corridor. There is also post-medieval broadleaved woodland with sinuous boundaries at Friar's Gorse, on the slopes to the north of the River Stour.</p>	
<b>'Natural' character</b>			<p>Ridgehill Wood and Friar's Gorse are both identified as Local Wildlife Sites (SBI). Two small areas of ancient semi-natural woodland are also located at Lawnswood. A large percentage of the landcover within this area is identified as a priority habitat for the deciduous woodlands and good quality semi-improved grassland present, plus a small area of floodplain grazing marsh in the east.</p>
<b>Built character</b>		<p>Built character within the landscape area includes the small settlement of Lawnswood, enclosed by the landform and its well-wooded character. There are also scattered farms and residential properties throughout the area.</p>	<p>Built features of historic significance include Holland House (listed Grade II) adjacent to the A449 and a section of the Stourbridge Sixteen Locks Conservation Area along the Stourbridge Canal, Settlement Cropmarks at Lawnswood, the Greensforge to Droitwich Roman Road and The Gardens and grounds associated with Lawnswood House are identified as (non-designated) historic monuments.</p>
<b>Recreational character</b>		<p>There are several public rights of way in the southern part of the area, which includes a small <b>section of the Monarch's Way</b> recreational route following the Stourbridge Canal towpath.</p>	

<b>Perceptual aspects</b>	The busy A449 running along the western boundary of the area introduces a degree of noise disturbance and modern infrastructure into this landscape. The south western part of the area is also crossed by a pylon route.	The area has a rural and remote feel, with a sense of enclosure and tranquillity and an experience of dark skies due to its highly wooded character isolating it from nearby built up areas. Far reaching views over the Staffordshire countryside further west beyond the A449 also contribute positively to the rural character of the area.
<b>Settlement setting</b>		The distinctive wooded ridgeline running north-south along most of the settlement edge of Kingswinford provides a strong edge, separating the settlement from the adjacent rural landscape and providing a rural setting to the small settlement of Lawnswood.
<b>Visual prominence</b>		The prominent wooded ridgeline in the east is visually prominent. The landscape within this area has a sloping landform and development would be visually prominent and incongruous within the wider landscape.
<b>Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points</b>	Little or no inter-visibility with adjacent sensitive landscapes or marked viewpoints.	

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>SL7s1</b>	<b>228.41</b>	<b>High</b>

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

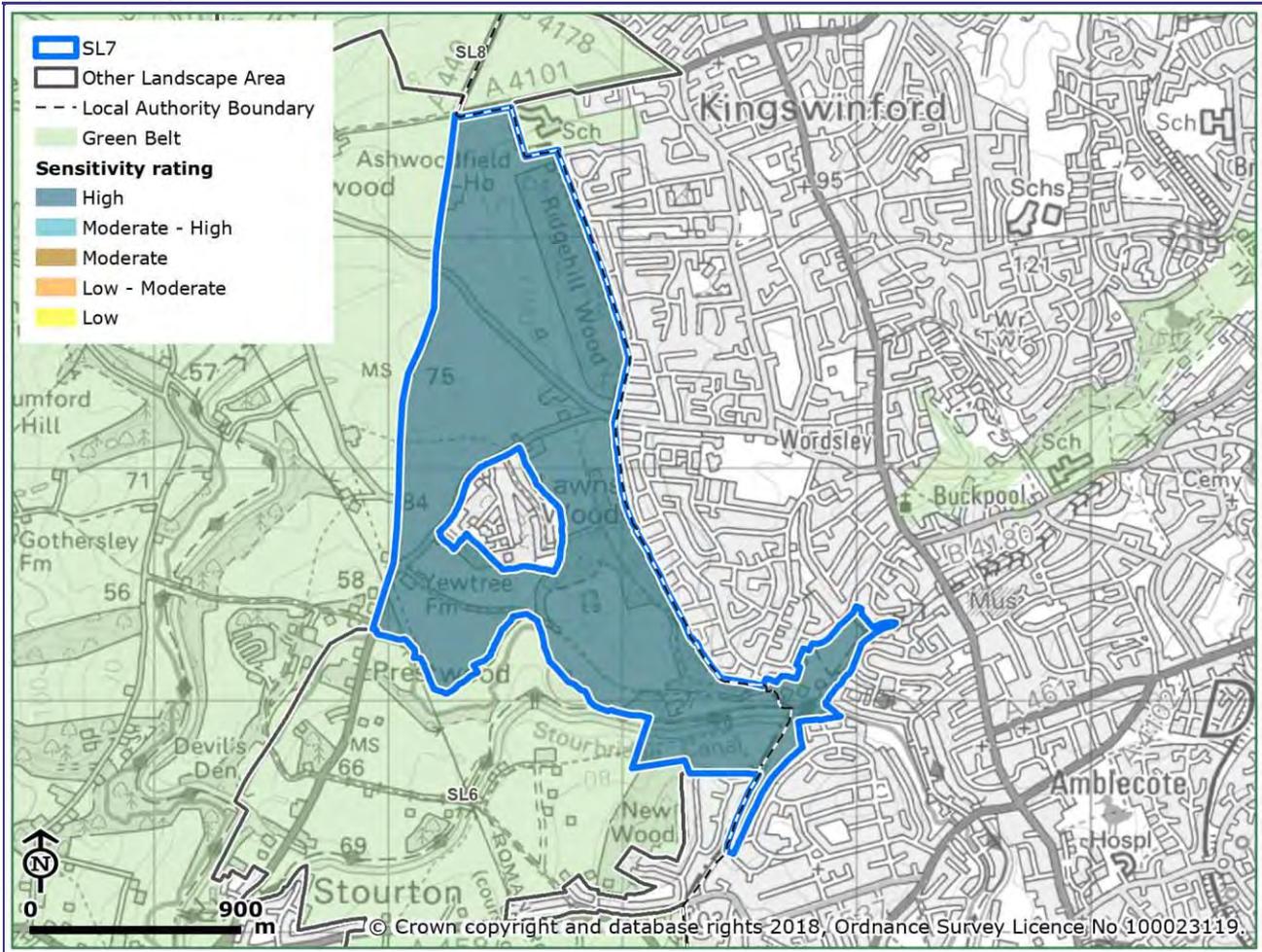
The landscape is considered to have high sensitivity to residential development, based on the combination of prominent and varied landform, strong settlement edge, sense of scenic rural character and valued natural features.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

Ref: 245 (Housing); Ref: 343 (Housing); Ref: 364 (Housing); Ref: 493 (Housing); Ref: 654 (Housing); Ref: 655 (Housing)

Landscape Sensitivity Rating



**Landscape Area Reference SL8**

**Area Size (ha): 161.2ha**

**Location and Landscape Character Context**

The area falls within the following Landscape Character Type: Sandstone Estatelands.  
The area is located between Kingswinford (Dudley) and Hinksford, with the Smestow Brook marking the western boundary of the landscape area.

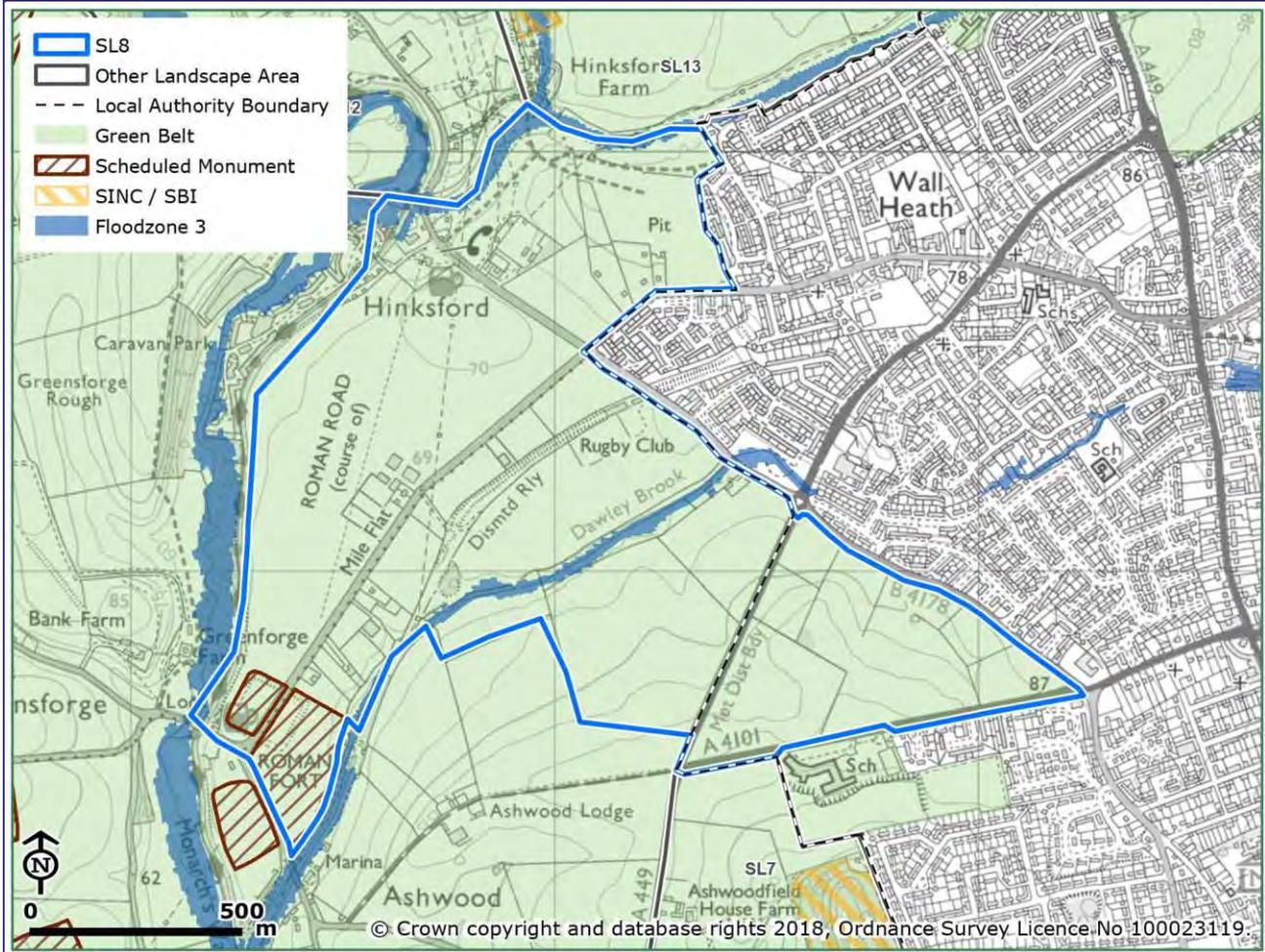
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



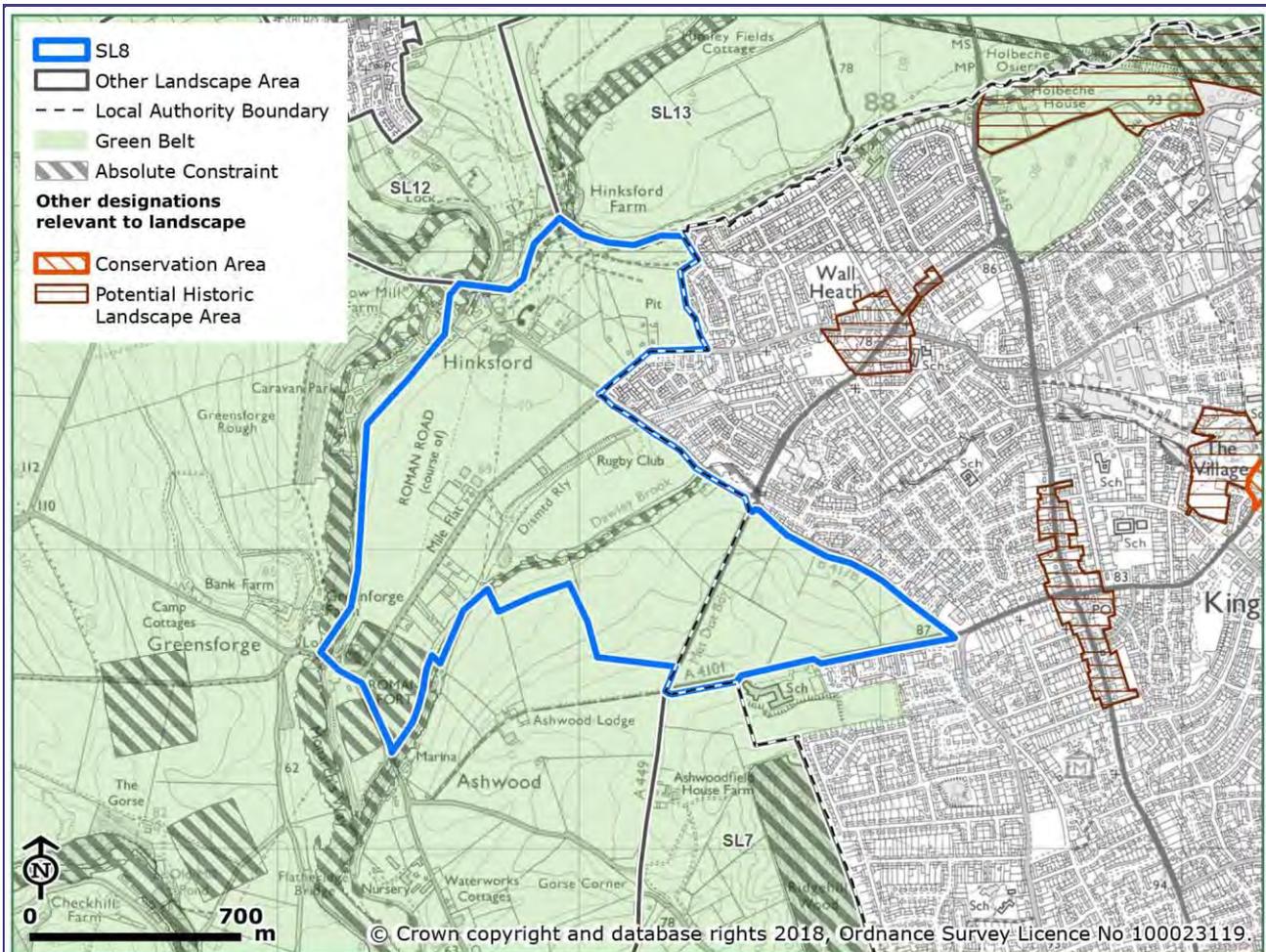
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



## Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>	The landscape is characterised by medium to large scale arable fields, although many areas have been divided into pony pastures or sports field and golf courses. Other large scale features include overhead power lines. Low cut and gappy hedges also give the perception of a larger scale area.		
<b>Landform</b>	The west of the landscape area is relatively flat at an elevation of around 65m AOD.	To the east of the area, land slopes upward to Kingswinford with the highest elevation being 90m AOD to the south east.	
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>	The field pattern here is irregular but largely geometric in shape. Staffordshire HER identifies the field pattern as large irregular fields in the east of the area and very large post-war fields in the west.		
<b>'Natural' character</b>	There are no designated areas for natural heritage within the landscape area. There are however, some small areas of priority habitat deciduous woodland and floodplain grazing marsh.		
<b>Built character</b>	Modern settlement in the area is limited to properties along Mile Flat Road. The electricity sub-station, sports fields, pony paddocks and a golf course have an urbanising effect on landscape character.	Historic built features predominantly located in the south west include the Scheduled Monument Roman camps at Greensforge and associated archeological remains, and the route of a Roman Road (Greensforge Part).	
<b>Recreational character</b>	<b>Parts of the Monarch's Way</b> recreational route following the Smestow Brook run along the western boundary of the area. There are also some local footpaths between Hinksford and Wall Heath.		
<b>Perceptual aspects</b>	Built features such as overhead power lines and sports grounds have an urbanising effect and detract from the perceptual rural qualities of the area. Traffic noise from Mile Flat Road disturbs tranquility.	Areas along the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal are more tranquil and offer an experience of 'dark skies'.	
<b>Settlement setting</b>	The flatter topography north west of Dawley Brook, which is crossed by overhead power lines, plays a less significant role in providing a backdrop for the surrounding settlement.	The elevated sloping topography of the eastern part of the area between Kingswinford and Dawley Brook, provides a rural backdrop to parts of Kingswinford.	

**Visual prominence**

The landscape is characterised by low lying flat open fields and sports pitches to the north of Dawley Brook with some areas more enclosed by mature hedgerows and other vegetation.

The elevated topography between Kingswinford and Dawley Brook are visually prominent.

**Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points**

Little or no inter-visibility with adjacent sensitive landscapes or marked viewpoints.

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>SL8s1</b>	<b>108.06</b>	<b>Low - Moderate</b>

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

The landscape is considered to have a low-moderate sensitivity to residential because of the lesser sensitivities of the landscape attributes in this area.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

Ref: 369 (Housing); Ref: 370 (Housing); Ref: 577 (Housing); Ref: 684 (Housing)

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>SL8s2</b>	<b>53.19</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

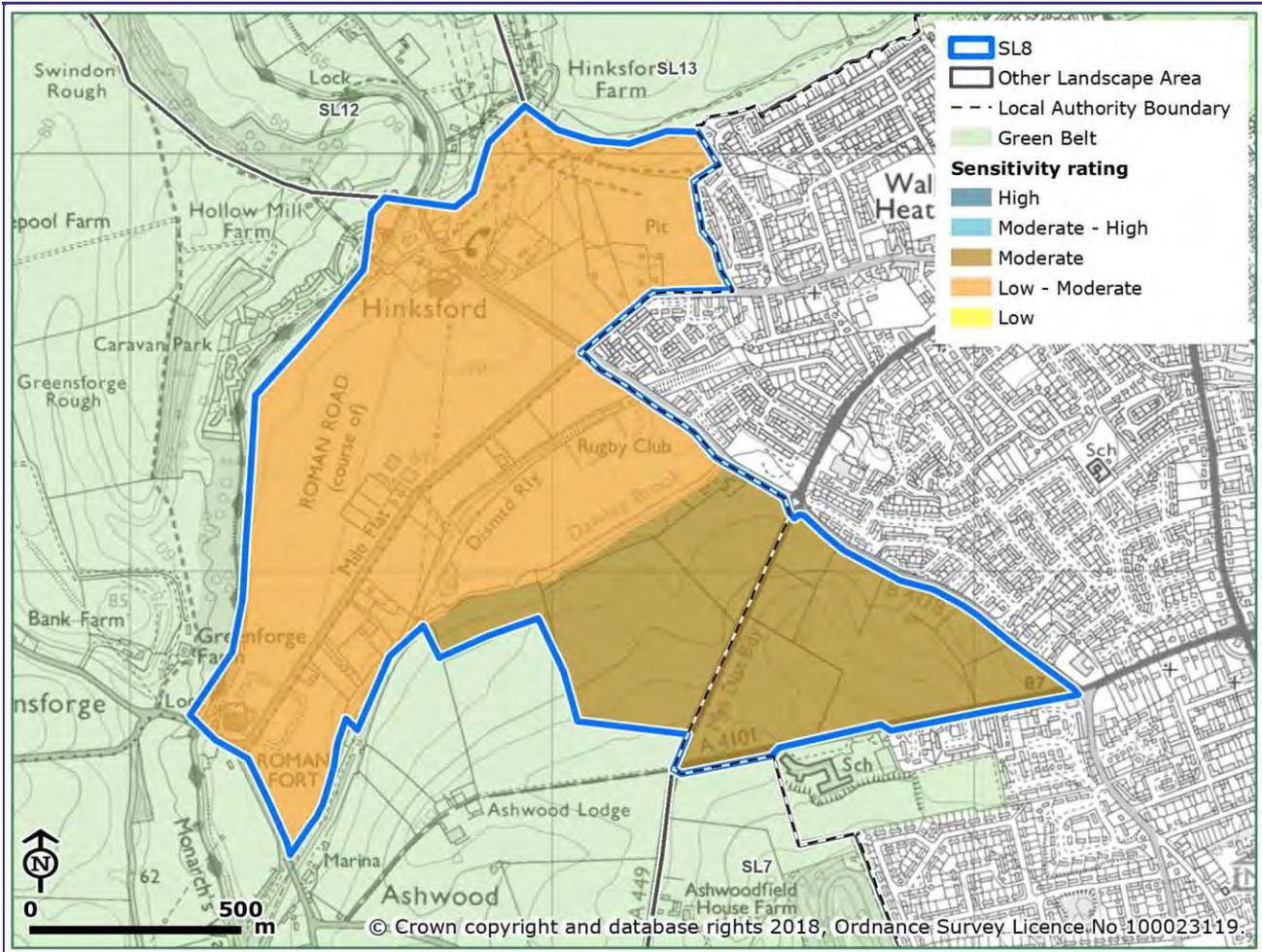
The elevated landform south east of Dawley Brook is visually prominent and as such provides a rural setting to parts of Kingswinford resulting in moderate sensitivity to residential development.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

Ref: 171 (Housing)

Landscape Sensitivity Rating



**Location and Landscape Character Context**

The area falls within the following Landscape Character Type: Coalfield Farmlands.

The area is located to the south of The Straits (Dudley) and west of Lower Gornal (Dudley), with the western edge of the area following the outer edge of Himley and Higharcal Woods. The majority of the area is within South Staffordshire; however, a small area to the east is within Dudley Metropolitan Borough.

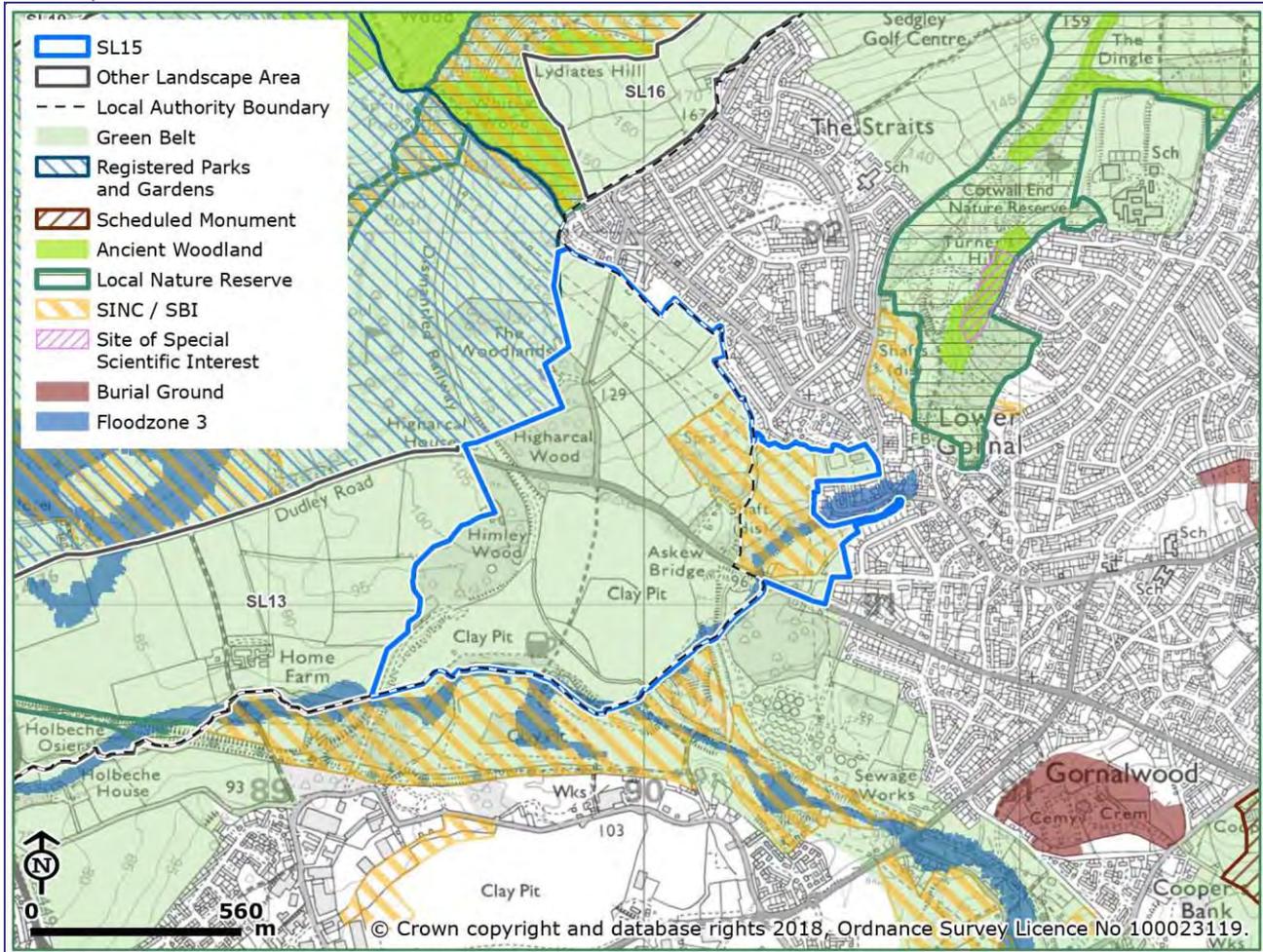
*Aerial View of Landscape Area with Promoted Sites*



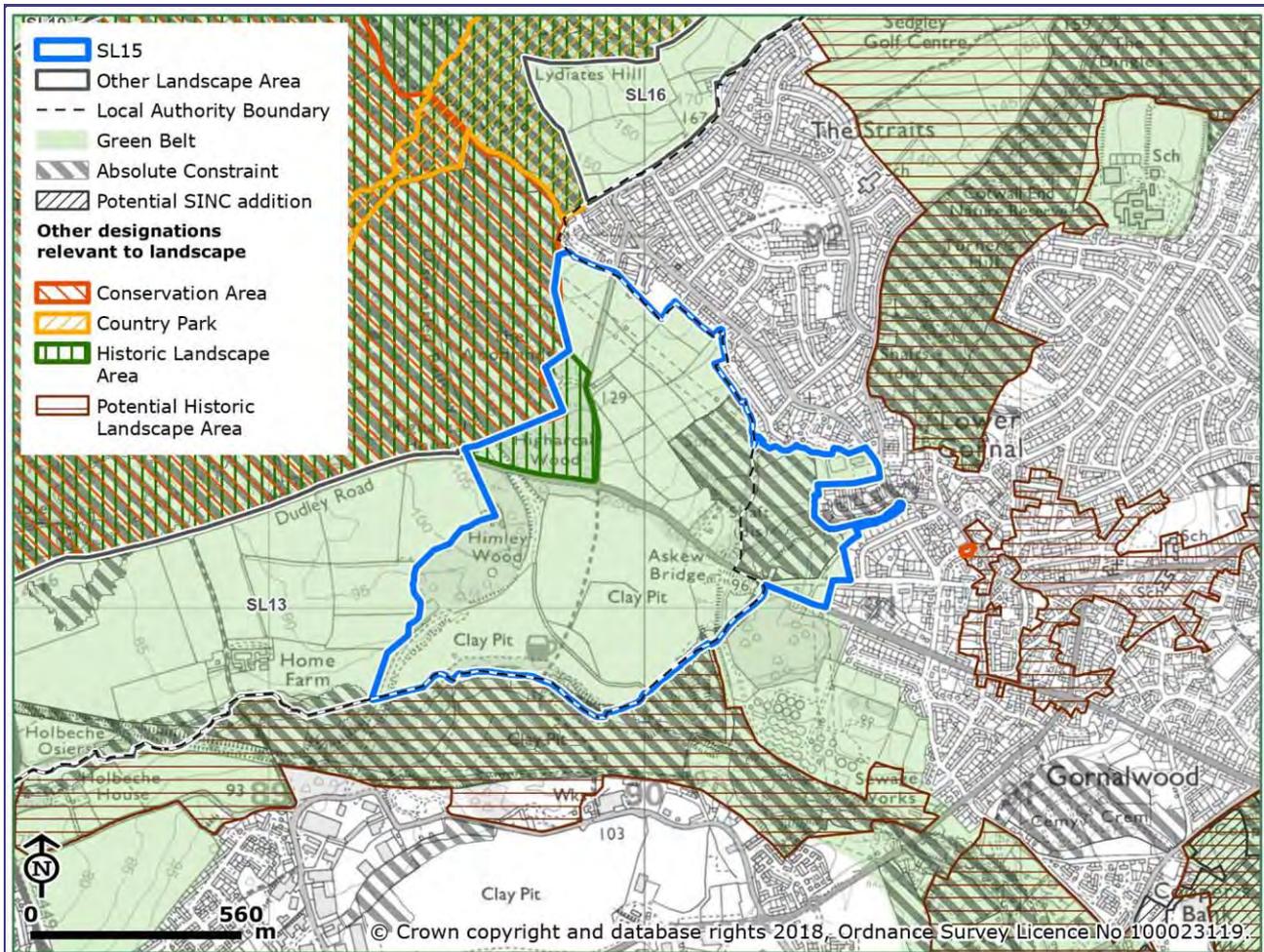
*Representative Views*



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints



Landscape Assessment Area with Absolute Constraints and Other Designations



## Appraisal of Landscape Sensitivity

Characteristic / Attribute	Lower Sensitivity to Development	Moderate Sensitivity to Development	Higher Sensitivity to Development
<b>Scale</b>	The former mineral working site south of the B4176 Himley Road is of a larger scale.		The landscape is characterised by predominantly small scale pastoral fields. Hedgerows and woodland contribute to the human scale of the landscape.
<b>Landform</b>		Gently sloping landform north of B4176 Dudley Road, ranging from 140m to 95m AOD along a stream corridor, where it flows south west beneath Askew Bridge. The man-made landform on the former clay pit workings is artificially elevated above the surrounding landscape.	
<b>Landscape pattern and time depth</b>	The area of former extractive works south of the B4176 is of modern origin.		Land use pattern in the north of the landscape area is small scale and complex post-medieval piecemeal enclosure. There are fields north east of Askew Bridge classified as containing medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow earthworks. The extensive areas of broadleaved woodland are identified to be of early, post-medieval origin. Higharcall Wood is part of the locally designated Historic Landscape Area covering the mid-18th century parkland around Himley Hall.
<b>'Natural' character</b>		The area of former extractive works south of the B4176 has been partially restored with grassland and tree planting, although it has a predominantly open character and adjoins large scale active clay workings further south (outside the landscape area).	Frequent occurrence of valued semi-natural habitats including priority habitat lowland meadows which are designated as part of the Wallowswood Pastures Local Wildlife Site (SBI) as well as extensive priority habitat deciduous woodlands, and floodplain grazing marsh and the presence of springs and streams. The landscape has a well-wooded character due to the prominent blocks of woodland as well as some mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees.
<b>Built character</b>	Few heritage assets or historic features important to landscape character. The presence of modern residential development on the northern and eastern boundaries and the former clay pit workings influences landscape character. The B4176 also runs through this area.		
<b>Recreational character</b>	The area is publicly inaccessible except for one PRoW running from the B4176 to the former clay pit.		

**Perceptual aspects**

The overhead power lines in the north of the area, which has a more open character, are visually intrusive and diminish the sense of rural character around High Arcal Road. The urban fringe of Dudley, including prominent warehouses further south at Pensnett Trading Estate, is visible in longer range views from High Arcal Road.

The north and east of the area has some sense of rural character due to the historic field patterns bounded by some mature hedgerows and the enclosing mature woodland. The sense of remoteness is limited due to the proximity to the settlement fringe of Dudley and traffic along the B4176 Dudley Road.

**Settlement setting**

The area provides a rural setting to the settlement surrounding it, albeit with a prominent pylon route running through it. There are some scenic elements including limited views of parkland trees on the edge of Himley Hall Registered Park and Garden, from High Arcal Road. However, modern housing on the edge of Dudley is open and forms a harsh edge to the settlement.

**Visual prominence**

The pylon route is a prominent feature in views from the north of the area around High Arcal Road.

The artificial hill of the former clay workings in the south is visually prominent in some views, but well screened by woodland in others. The higher ground in the north west is also more visually prominent, with less screening vegetation. The north east of the area around the stream corridor is lower and more enclosed visually by woodland and hedgerows.

**Inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or promoted view points**

Little or no inter-visibility with adjacent designated landscapes or marked viewpoints

Landscape Assessment Area	Size (ha)	Rating
<b>SL15s1</b>	<b>82.18</b>	<b>Moderate - High</b>

**Landscape Sensitivity Judgement**

The area has varied sensitivities relating to visual prominence and valued natural features and landscape pattern/time depth. Overall the area is considered to have moderate-high sensitivity to residential development as the majority of the criteria are moderate or high.

**Anomalies to the Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating**

Despite its slightly greater visual prominence than other areas and the deciduous woodland that surrounds it, the former clay working site has a moderate overall sensitivity.

**List of Promoted Sites within Scenario**

Ref: 26 (Housing); Ref: 566 (Housing)

Landscape Sensitivity Rating

