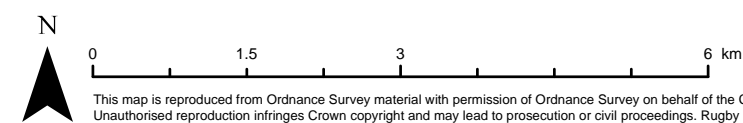
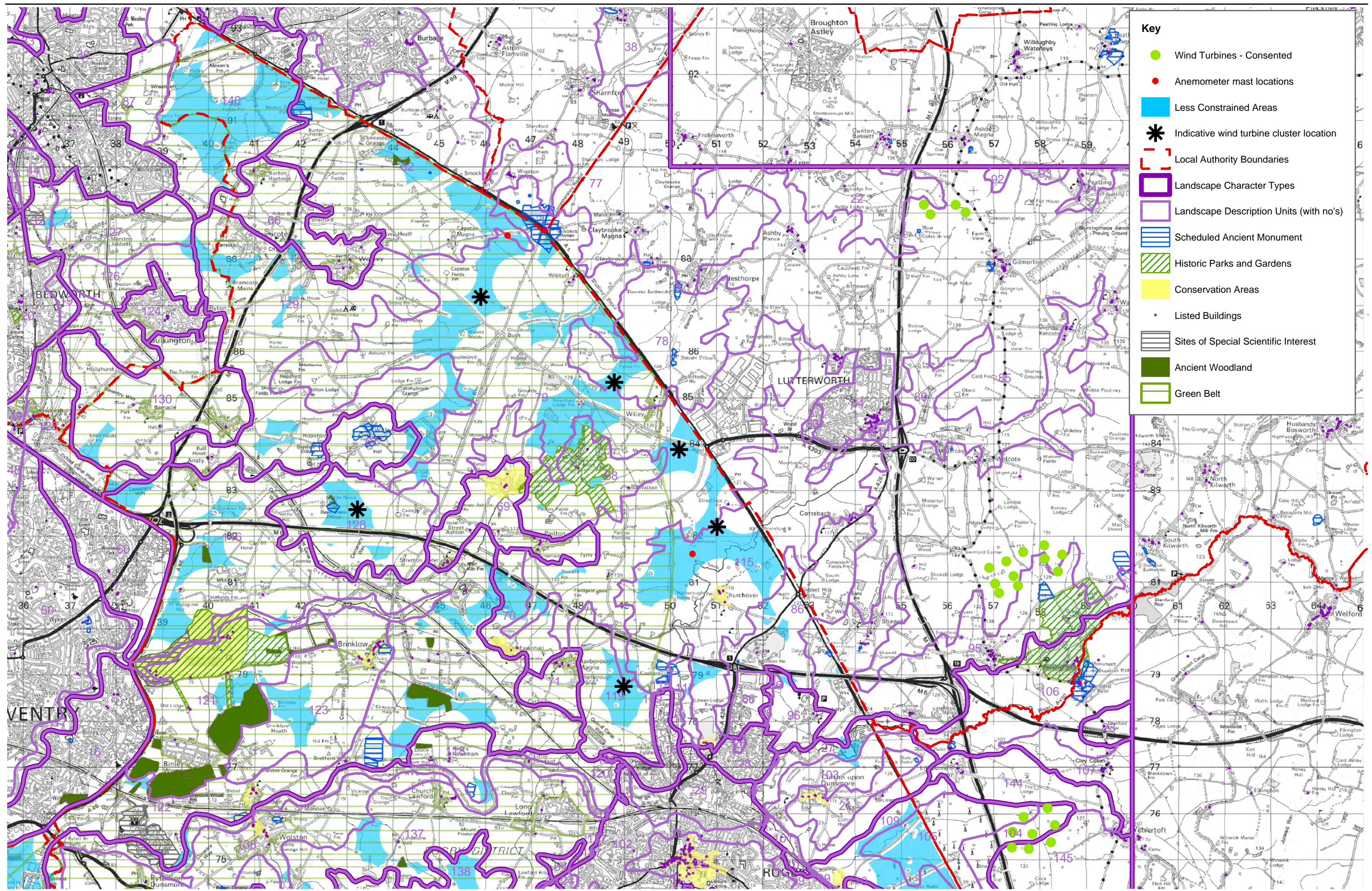


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**Figure 9**  
**High Cross Plateau - Landscape capacity scenario C**  
**[3 clusters]**

Rugby Borough Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Developments

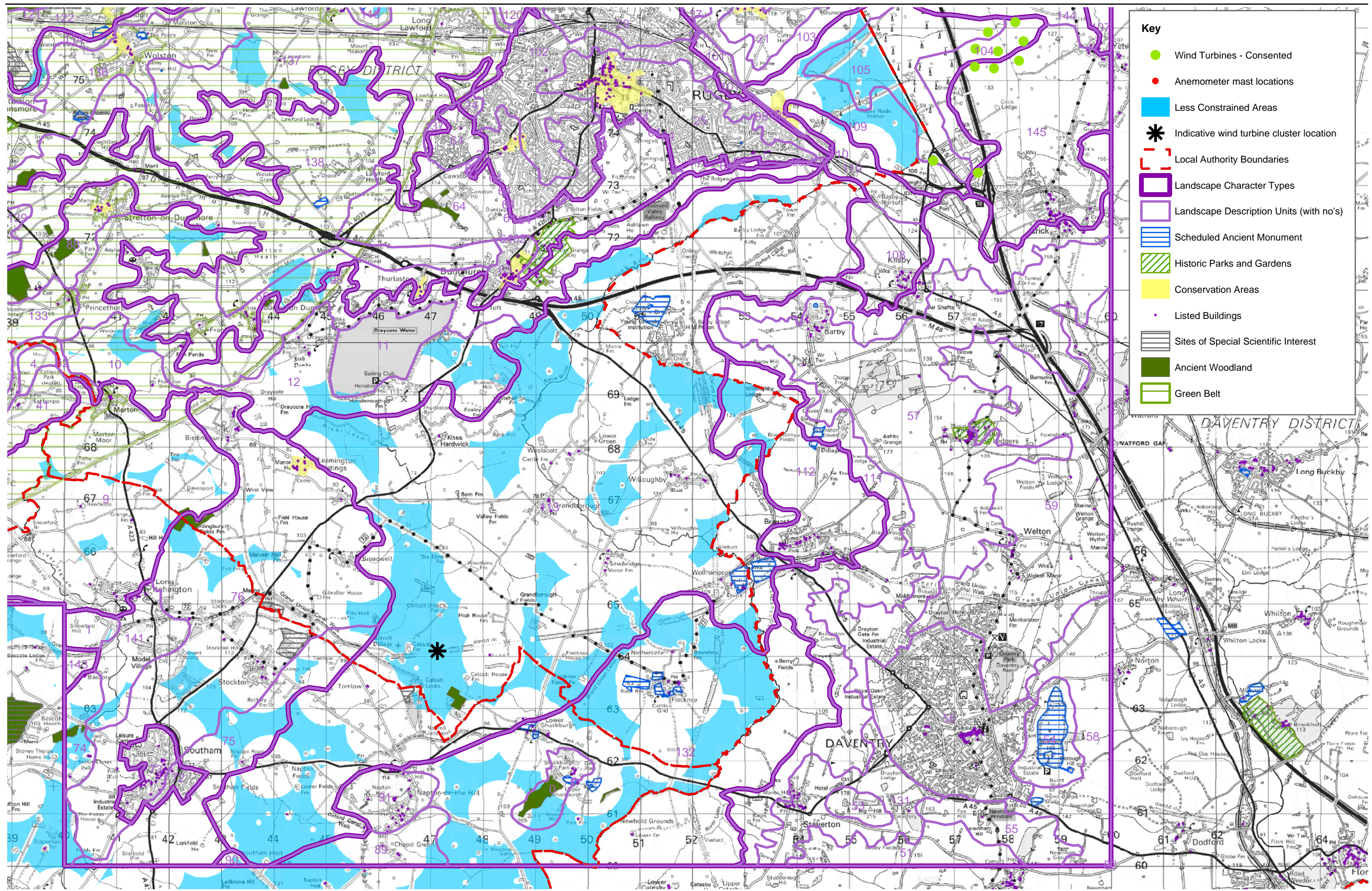


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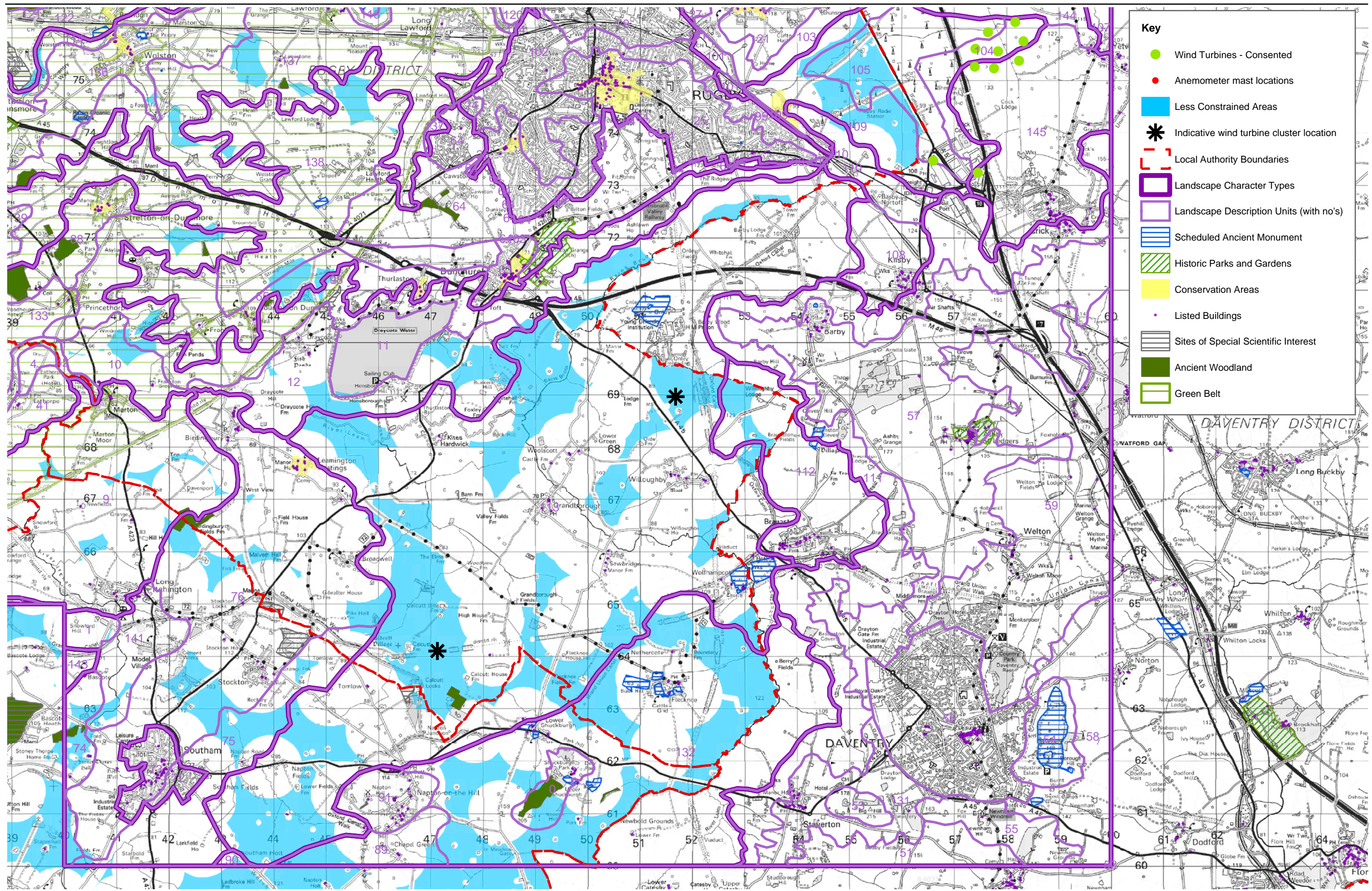
**Figure 10**  
**High Cross Plateau - Landscape capacity scenario D**  
**[6 clusters]**

Rugby Borough Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Developments



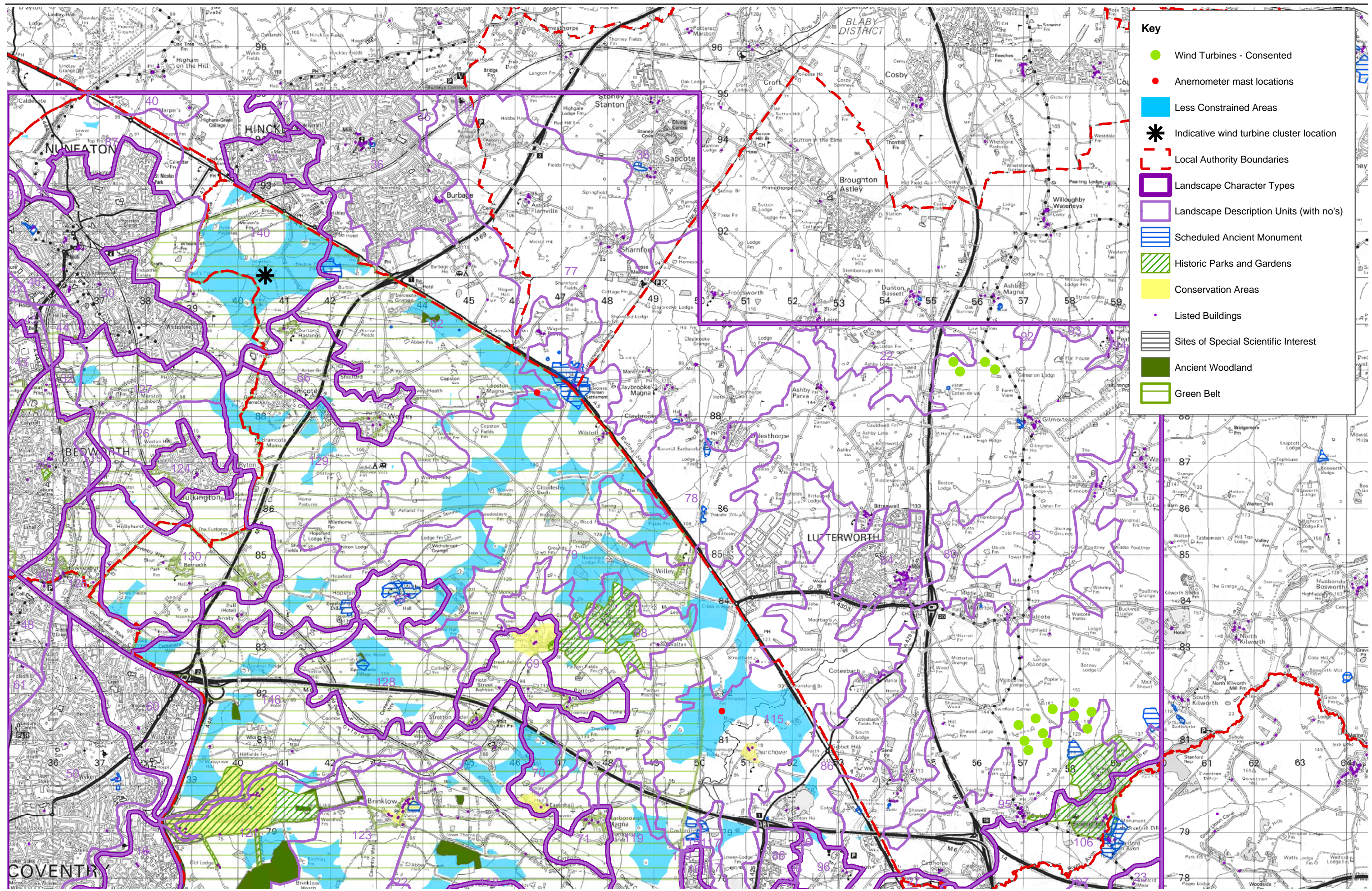
**Figure 11**  
Feldon Vale farmland - Landscape capacity scenario A

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**Figure 12**  
Feldon Vale farmland - Landscape capacity scenario B

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- Key**
- Wind Turbines - Consented
  - Anemometer mast locations
  - Less Constrained Areas
  - ✱ Indicative wind turbine cluster location
  - Local Authority Boundaries
  - Landscape Character Types
  - Landscape Description Units (with no's)
  - Scheduled Ancient Monument
  - Historic Parks and Gardens
  - Conservation Areas
  - Listed Buildings
  - Sites of Special Scientific Interest
  - Ancient Woodland
  - Green Belt



0 1.5 3 6 km

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**Figure 13**  
**Mease lowlands - Landscape capacity scenario**

## 8. Summary

- 8.1. The sensitivity analysis considered that of the 10 landscape character types identified in the Borough three have potential to accommodate commercial wind energy. These are the High Cross plateau open plateau, Feldon vale farmlands and Mease lowlands estate farmlands. The Dunsmore plateau farmlands may have some potential for smaller scale wind energy around Lawford Heath if carefully designed and located.
- 8.2. The capacity analysis of High Cross plateau open plateau considered that there is capacity for one cluster of upto 7 turbines on the higher, less settled northern part of the plateau near the A5 and at a significant distance from Swinford wind farm. Another cluster of upto 4 turbines may possibly be located further east but which minimises effects on Churchover, the character of the Swift valley and cumulative effects in conjunction with Swinford in particular.
- 8.3. Feldon Vale farmlands are considered to be able to accommodate one cluster of upto 5 turbines, probably in the southern part of the area, but taking into consideration the village church spires and the ironstone hill fringe to the south and east in particular.
- 8.4. Mease lowlands estate farmlands ability to accommodate commercial turbines is considered limited because though the area may have intrinsic qualities that could accommodate wind energy its size and the large number of receptors close by that may be affected in the surrounding settlements means that wind energy is unlikely to be acceptable.
- 8.5. It is recommended that this study is used to inform policy, guidance and development control on wind energy development in the Borough.

## APPENDIX A

### LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT SHEETS



**Landscape Type No:** 1 **Landscape Type Name:** Dunsmore plateau farmlands  
 Baseline LCA sensitivity Cultural: moderate, Ryton- high Ecological: low Visibility: moderate Overall: moderate, Ryton- high Condition: strong to weak [Lawton Heath]

MAIN CRITERIA	FACTORS	COMMENTS	SENSITIVITY				
PHYSICAL			Lower	→			Higher
<b>Landform scale and enclosure</b>	Topographic form, scale, shape, enclosure and skyline	A gently undulating, low glacial plateau extending as a low ridge east west from Rugby towards Coventry. The area forms the skyline for adjacent lower areas and enclosure is limited on its fringes especially to the north. Landfill/activity at Lawford Heath is screened by a bund on the plateau top. Commercial wind turbine development would tend to dominate the adjacent slopes but smaller scale development may not be inappropriate associated with the landfill.					
<b>Landcover pattern, scale and enclosure</b>	Landcover type, scale, pattern, enclosure, condition	Primarily arable farmland mainly with generally regular medium sized fields with low cut hedges with gaps in places. Broadleaf trees are found in many hedgerows and along roads and there are small blocks of woodland and scattered across the area, consolidating into larger blocks to the west [Ryton Woods]. The latter area is highly enclosed with moderate enclosure elsewhere. Urban fringe uses such as the landfill modify the apparent condition of the area in places. Wind turbine development would be in scale with the arable fields to an extent but tend to be out of scale with the broadleaf tree cover and smaller field patterns.					
<b>Settlement type and pattern</b>	Settlement pattern, other man made vertical elements, movement	Settlement is a mix of dispersed, sparse rural settlement with suburban clusters around Dunchurch and Cawston, rural settlements such as Frankton and there is a linear development along the B4429 and commercial development along the busy A45 dual carriageway. Various commercial uses operate around Lawford Heath. Man-made vertical elements are limited. Movement is focussed on the A45 but the several B roads, such as the B4429 along Rugby's fringes, are busy, and the tip generates traffic. Wind turbine development would be out of scale and character with the settled character of the eastern part of the area and Frankton although not out of character with general movement in the area.					
<b>Landscape features/foci/ landmarks</b>	Sensitive features/foci eg on skyline	The scarp slope south of Rugby includes features such as Bilton Grange School- an historic parkland. To the west the plateau forms a well defined, partly wooded, skyline overlooking the vales to the north and west. Wind turbine development would tend to dominate landform and land cover.					
PERCEPTUAL							
<b>How the landscape is experienced</b>	Views, tranquillity	Views are possible to and from the edge of the plateau but are limited within it. The southern and western edges of Rugby overlook the area. Tranquillity increases towards the west but is reduced elsewhere by the proximity of Rugby, the A45, B roads and the tip. Wind turbine development would be prominent in views from the lower areas to the north, south and west and if located to the east would be prominent from the edge of Rugby.					
<b>Context</b>	Relationship with and intervisibility with adjacent landscapes	The area forms the skyline for the lower areas to the north and south with short steep slopes on the adjoining plateau fringes although has gentler slopes in places. Wind turbine development would be prominent on the skyline and out of scale with the steep slopes although may be more appropriate seen in juxtaposition with gentler slopes.					
<b>SUMMARY SENSITIVITY</b>	Derived from above	This gently undulating plateau runs east west and is settled to the west with linear development on the A45. The area is mainly arable farmland within tree cover and woodland, especially to the west and a tip lies at Lawford Heath. The area forms the skyline when viewed from the north, south and west. It has limited tranquillity due to the A45 road, settlement and the tip. Commercial wind turbine development is likely to be out of scale with the landscape and settlement pattern and would be highly prominent in views from the lower land either side.	Low	Medium/ low	Medium	High/ medium	High
<b>Scale of wind energy development potentially acceptable</b>	Number of turbines	No commercial wind turbines are considered appropriate in this area. However, smaller scale turbines may not be inappropriate around Lawford Heath associated with the tip as this area has a modified landscape character lying centrally on the ridge.	None	1-5 turbines	6-12 turbines	13-24 turbines	25 and above turbines

**Landscape Type No:** 2      **Landscape Type Name:** Dunsmore plateau fringe

Baseline LCA sensitivity Cultural: moderate Ecological: low Visibility: moderate but southern escarpment high. Overall: moderate except scarp Condition: strong in parts, decline

MAIN CRITERIA	FACTORS	COMMENTS	SENSITIVITY		
			Lower	→	Higher
<b>PHYSICAL</b>					
<b>Landform scale and enclosure</b>	Topographic form, scale, shape, enclosure and skyline	A varied landscape of rolling hills and valleys, the broad valley slopes and floor of the Avon, the expanse of Draycote Water and short steep slopes on the northern and southern edge of the Dunsmore plateau. The slopes are generally small scale. The area is open in the wider valleys and outward facing slopes although the smaller valleys are enclosed. Commercial wind turbine development would be out of scale with the steep slopes and valleys to the north and south although smaller scale turbines may be in scale with Draycote Water.			
<b>Landcover pattern, scale and enclosure</b>	Landcover type, scale, pattern, enclosure, condition	Land cover is as varied as landform with arable farmland with large-scale fields dominating the well-drained broader slopes and smaller scale pasture in patches often on steeper slopes. Hedges are low cut generally. Trees are more sparse in arable areas in occasional copses, hedgerows and associated with settlement. In pastoral areas they form a denser cover along hedgerows, woodland and in riparian corridors. Wind turbine development would be more in scale with the large-scale arable farmland but would dominate the smaller scale pattern of the pastoral areas and where there is significant tree cover.			
<b>Settlement type and pattern</b>	Settlement pattern, other man made vertical elements, movement	This area is relatively well settled with rural farms and dwellings and a few clustered settlements. The latter along the Avon valley include Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Wolston, Church Lawford and Long Lawford some of which have a suburban character, while to the south there are only the rural settlements of Stretton-on-Dunsmore and Draycote. There is movement to the north along the valley including the A428 and the A45 to the west. There are few man made vertical elements apart from sailing boats' masts on Draycote Water and local power lines etc. Wind turbine development would be out of character with the settlements and tranquil areas but it could be argued it would echo the vertical elements of the boats at Draycote Water. However, commercial wind turbines would be at a significantly larger scale, potentially dominating the area.			
<b>Landscape features/foci/landmarks</b>	Sensitive features/foci eg on skyline	Churches such as at Stretton-on-Dunsmore and Church Lawford, the college at Princethorpe and occasional country houses form focal points in this settled rural landscape. Wind turbine development could compete with the landmarks, dominating them.			
<b>PERCEPTUAL</b>					
<b>How the landscape is experienced</b>	Views, tranquillity	There is potential for views across and along the relatively open Avon valley to the north including from the Coventry Way which traverses the area. Views to the south are more limited by landform and land cover but longer views are possible towards the south east and across Draycote Water. The area to the west of Draycote Water is relatively tranquil. Elsewhere, roads and settlement reduce tranquillity. Wind turbine development would be highly visible along the Avon Valley, on the scarp slopes and across Draycote Water which is visited partly for enjoyment of the landscape.			
<b>Context</b>	Relationship with and intervisibility with adjacent landscapes	The slopes are visible to landscapes to the north, south eg the Feldon vale and west, towards Coventry. Views to the Rugby cement works chimney are widespread in the northern part of the area. Wind turbine development would tend to dominate views from lower areas to the south and west and slopes to the north.			

<b>SUMMARY SENSITIVITY</b>	Derived from above	A varied landscape which is a gently sloping, well settled, open, arable river valley to the north although there are some steep slopes. To the south, it is a more varied landscape of hills and valleys, with stronger tree cover with the expanse of Draycote Water and the scarp slope to the east. There are a variety of small scale landmarks such as churches and houses. Wind turbine development would tend to dwarf the steep slopes and valleys, compete with and dominate the local landmarks such as churches, be out of scale with the pastoral and well treed areas and with the settlements to the north. Commercial wind turbine development would be out of scale with Draycote Water and its fine grained settled landscape environs.	Low	Medium/low	Medium	High/medium	High
<b>Scale of wind energy development potentially acceptable</b>	Number of turbines	No commercial wind turbines are considered appropriate in this area.	None	1-5 turbines	6-12 turbines	13-24 turbines	25 and above turbines

Landscape Type No: 3 Landscape Type Name: Dunsmore parklands

Baseline LCA sensitivity Cultural: moderate Ecological: moderate Visibility: low- moderate Overall: moderate Condition: decline but some strong

MAIN CRITERIA	FACTORS	COMMENTS	SENSITIVITY		
			Lower	→	Higher
<b>PHYSICAL</b>					
<b>Landform scale and enclosure</b>	Topographic form, scale, shape, enclosure and skyline	Gently undulating lowland landscape gradually sloping up from the floodplain of the River Avon in the south [including former gravel workings] and valley to the west towards the High Cross plateau and village farmlands to the north. Wind turbine development could be accommodated within the gentle landform but may compete with, and detract from, water bodies on the valley floor.			
<b>Landcover pattern, scale and enclosure</b>	Landcover type, scale, pattern, enclosure, condition	The area is intensively farmed with predominantly arable but some pastoral use. Fields range from small to large scale in both irregular and more rectilinear patterns. Hedgerows tend to be low cut with some trees. Combe Abbey Country Park is a large parkland landscape to the west which is generally enclosed around a lake and a formal lime avenue to the south. This has large scale woodlands associated with it and there are a number of other woodlands and tree belts/plantations which give a strong structure to the landscape to the west although the landscape is more open to the north and east. There are also other parklands, some with houses modified by new uses. There is a form of extraction/landfill at Brinklow Heath. Wind turbine development would be incompatible with the parkland landscape and smaller scale field patterns but may be compatible with large scale simpler patterns including adjacency to large blocks of woodland and more degraded landscapes.			
<b>Settlement type and pattern</b>	Settlement pattern, other man made vertical elements, movement	There are a number of villages with a traditional character, some designated conservation areas, and some fine houses which have a strong relationship with their settings and surrounding landscape eg Combe Abbey. There are also the occasional commercial/industrial complexes and suburban developments such as Binley Woods which indicate proximity to the conurbation to the west. The M6 crosses the north western corner of the area and with the M69 and A46 to the west modify the intrinsically rural character. A power line with pylons runs along the northern edge and railway lines run east west. Wind turbine development would be incompatible with the traditional villages and the settings of country houses but may be in character with the major roads and power lines.			
<b>Landscape features/foci/ landmarks</b>	Sensitive features/foci eg on skyline	There are occasional large houses on rising ground overlooking the valley to the south. Combe Abbey provides a strong focus locally but is generally hidden by tree belts and woodland. Wind turbine development would be incompatible with the settings/vistas of country houses.			
<b>PERCEPTUAL</b>					
<b>How the landscape is experienced</b>	Views, tranquillity	There are middle distance views to the rising ground to the north, along the Avon valley and to the southern valley sides. There is the designed formal vista at Combe Abbey. The Oxford Canal and Coventry Way traverse the area and roads allow wide views. The area has some tranquillity mainly in enclosed areas away from settlement, such as to the west, but elsewhere it is limited due to the presence of settlement and the network of roads including major roads to the north and west. Wind turbine development would affect formal vistas, views from long distance footpaths and would slightly reduce tranquillity.			
<b>Context</b>	Relationship with and intervisibility with adjacent landscapes	Much of the area slopes south towards the River Avon and is intervisible with the north facing slopes of the valley- the Dunsmore plateau fringe. High Cross plateau forms part of the skyline to the north interspersed with the village farmlands. Wind turbine development on the southern fringes of the High Cross plateau would be prominent as would development in this area along and across the wide, gently sloping Avon valley.			

<b>SUMMARY SENSITIVITY</b>	Derived from above	This area has a simple landform with a complex landcover. It is a gently undulating lowland landscape intensively farmed with low cut hedgerows and strong woodland blocks and belts, sometimes enclosing parklands such as Combe Abbey. The area is well settled with a mix of traditional settlement clusters, scattered farms, rural houses, suburban and commercial development especially close to the conurbation of Coventry. Roads and rail cross the area although tranquillity increases to the east. Commercial wind turbine development would be difficult to accommodate satisfactorily in this well settled and complex landscape with parkland without appearing out of scale and character.	Low	Medium/low	Medium	High/medium	High
<b>Scale of wind energy development potentially acceptable</b>	Number of turbines	No commercial wind turbines are considered appropriate in this area.	None	1-5 turbines	6-12 turbines	13-24 turbines	25 and above turbines

Landscape Type No: **4** Landscape Type Name: **Feldon ironstone fringe**

Baseline LCA sensitivity

Cultural: low

Ecological: low

Visibility: high, some moderate

Overall: high, some moderate

Condition: declining

MAIN CRITERIA	FACTORS	COMMENTS	SENSITIVITY				
PHYSICAL			Lower	→			Higher
<b>Landform scale and enclosure</b>	Topographic form, scale, shape, enclosure and skyline	Rounded ironstone hills of medium scale with irregular profiles/skyline interspersed with gently rolling topography sitting above the lowland vale to the west. The hills form the focus and distinct skylines, especially Bush Hill to the south. Wind turbine development would dwarf the apparent scale of these hills.					
<b>Landcover pattern, scale and enclosure</b>	Landcover type, scale, pattern, enclosure, condition	Primarily intensively arable with some pasture [especially in the northern outlier]. The fields are generally large scale with a few low cut hedges with gaps. Broadleaf trees occur in occasional coppices such as on Bush Hill, associated with settlement and occasionally in hedgerows but the area is generally open. Wind turbine development would be in scale with the field pattern but would displace the small scale foci of the broadleaf trees and dwarf them.					
<b>Settlement type and pattern</b>	Settlement pattern, other man made vertical elements, movement	Rural mix of clustered village of Flecknoe and scattered farmhouses and dwellings elsewhere. The area is generally free of manmade vertical elements and is relatively tranquil, away from main roads to the south. The northern outlier has masts and is close to transport corridors and the urban edge. Wind turbine development would be out of scale and character with the settlement pattern in the hills to the south although would reflect [but dwarf] the masts to the north.					
<b>Landscape features/foci/landmarks</b>	Sensitive features/foci eg on skyline	Bush Hill is a local focus and with its profile and broadleaf copse is particularly sensitive. Wind turbine development would dominate the hills and become the main focus.					
PERCEPTUAL							
<b>How the landscape is experienced</b>	Views, tranquillity	There are views from the hills over the vale to the west enjoyed by rights of way and properties. The area is tranquil to the south, though less so to the north due to traffic and masts. Wind turbine development would dominate views and disturb the tranquillity to the south.					
<b>Context</b>	Relationship with and intervisibility with adjacent landscapes	The hills act as an important and distinctive backcloth to the vale to the west, allowing views to and from them. Wind turbine development would dominate and diminish the backcloth.					
<b>SUMMARY SENSITIVITY</b>	Derived from above	The hills form a distinctive irregular skyline and backcloth to the vale to the west. They are settled and have small scale foci of trees and dwellings. Though the size of the fields with limited hedgerows in places might be compatible with wind energy, as indeed are the masts [though soon to be removed], the other factors weigh heavily against development being appropriate due to it being out of scale and character especially the skyline.	Low	Medium/low	Medium	High/medium	High
<b>Scale of wind energy development potentially acceptable</b>	Number of turbines	No commercial wind turbines are considered appropriate in this area.	None	1-5 turbines	6-12 turbines	13-24 turbines	25 and above turbines

Landscape Type No: 5 Landscape Type Name: Feldon vale farmlands\*

Baseline LCA sensitivity

Cultural: moderate

Ecological: low

Visibility: moderate

Overall: moderate Condition: decline

MAIN CRITERIA	FACTORS	COMMENTS	SENSITIVITY		
			Lower	→	Higher
<b>PHYSICAL</b>					
<b>Landform scale and enclosure</b>	Topographic form, scale, shape, enclosure and skyline	East- Almost flat, very gently rolling low lying clay vale of the River Leam and its tributaries with little enclosure. Wind turbine development would not compete with any distinct changes in level although there is rising land on three sides. West- low lying vale of River Itchen with gentle rises. Development would not compete with any distinct changes in level although there is rising land on three sides.			
<b>Landcover pattern, scale and enclosure</b>	Landcover type, scale, pattern, enclosure, condition	East- Mainly arable farmland with some pasture with medium-large sized fields with low cut, often gappy, hedges and fences. There are occasional trees associated with settlement, riparian corridors, dismantled railways, along some hedgerows and in occasional copses. There are a number of small functional steel barns, some in poor condition, scattered across the southern part of the area. The area overall feels open. Wind turbine development would dwarf broadleaf trees and be out of scale with areas of smaller field pattern but would complement the larger rectilinear fields and more open areas and blocks of woodland/plantation. West- Mainly arable farmland with some pasture with medium-large sized fields with low cut hedges. There are trees associated with settlement, riparian corridors, dismantled railways, along some hedgerows and in occasional copses. The area overall feels more enclosed by trees than the area to the east. Wind turbine development would dwarf broadleaf trees and be out of scale with areas of smaller field pattern but would complement the larger rectilinear fields and more open areas and blocks of woodland/plantation.			
<b>Settlement type and pattern</b>	Settlement pattern, other man made vertical elements, movement	East- Sparse settlement of widely spaced farms with small clustered settlements at Grandborough, Willoughby and Sawbridge. There are no masts or pylons. The area feels tranquil with very little movement except on the A426 to the west. The Oxford canal skirts the area to the east and meets the Grand Union to the south. A major series of canal marinas are located in and around Napton and Calcutt Locks. Wind turbine development would be out of scale with the settlement clusters but may be more appropriate in the less settled parts of the area. West- Clustered settlement of Marton with scattered rural settlement elsewhere. The A423 cuts through the area although the area to the east towards Birdlingbury is quiet. Wind turbine development would be out of scale with the settlement pattern.			
<b>Landscape features/foci/ landmarks</b>	Sensitive features/foci eg on skyline	East- The church spire at Grandborough is the main landmark within the area and there is a spire at Lower Shuckburgh to the south outside the Borough which is a consideration. There is no skyline within the area itself. Wind turbine development could interfere with views to the spires and diminish their scale if located close to but in other parts there are no/very few landmarks. West- The church tower at Marton is a low key landmark within trees and visible from the north west. Woodland lies on the small scale steep slopes to the east. Wind turbine development would diminish the scale of both features.			
<b>PERCEPTUAL</b>					
<b>How the landscape is experienced</b>	Views, tranquillity	East- The area has wide views to the surrounding hills and rising ground and feels very tranquil and empty, especially away from the settlement clusters. Wind turbine development could affect views to Grandborough spire and the attractive Ironstone fringe hills. It could also reduce the tranquillity of the less settled areas away from roads. West- The area has intermediate views to surrounding gentle hills in places. The A423 and Marton settlement reduce tranquillity. Wind turbine development would not impinge on views to the south.			
<b>Context</b>	Relationship	East- The ironstone fringe hills to the south and east are the most distinctive enclosing hills and add interest			

	with and intervisibility with adjacent landscapes	to views. The low scarp to the north and gentle hills to the west also enclose the low lying vale. Wind turbine development could affect the apparent scale of the ironstone hills and significantly affect views from them across the vale if located adjacent to them. West- There is a distinct change in level where woodland lies on the small scale steep slopes to the east. Turbine development here would adversely affect the scale of the landscape.					
<b>SUMMARY SENSITIVITY</b>	Derived from above	East- This broad, flat, clay vale is dominated by arable farmland with low hedges or fences and has an open character with only a few blocks of trees. Settlement is sparse and mainly focussed on three small rural settlements including the church spire at Grandborough which is a landmark. The area feels tranquil and is rural with no modern manmade vertical elements. Wind turbine development would be a prominent and highly visible new element in this horizontal landscape affecting tranquillity and could diminish the scale and importance of Grandborough spire. However, the area to the south away from the main settlements and ironstone fringe hills may form a neutral setting for turbines providing the relationship with Lower Shuckburgh church spire is taken into account. West- This vale with slopes to the east is predominantly arable with rectilinear fields but is well settled with a moderately strong tree cover. It is generally less tranquil than the area to the east with the A423 and the larger village of Marton to the north. Wind turbine development would appear to be out of scale with this settled landscape to the west and may dominate settlement if on higher ground to the east.	Low	Medium/low	Medium	High/medium	High
<b>Scale of wind energy development potentially acceptable</b>	Number of turbines	East- The presence of settlements and Grandborough church spire plus the Iron stone fringe hills to the south and east along with the grain of field pattern mean that only limited scale of turbine development may be acceptable - 1-5 turbines. West- Wind turbines are considered inappropriate in this area due to presence of settlement and likely domination of it.	None	1-5 turbines	6-12 turbines	13-24 turbines	25 and above turbines

\*Note: The area is divided into two areas which have distinct characteristics- east and west. The Vale farmlands area to the east of Rugby occupied by the wireless station is excluded from this assessment due to a planned urban extension.

**Landscape Type No:** 6 **Landscape Type Name:** Feldon lias village farmlands  
 Baseline LCA sensitivity Cultural: moderate Ecological: low Visibility: moderate Overall: moderate Condition: not given

MAIN CRITERIA	FACTORS	COMMENTS	SENSITIVITY				
PHYSICAL			Lower	→			Higher
<b>Landform scale and enclosure</b>	Topographic form, scale, shape, enclosure and skyline	Gentle undulating lias landscape of medium scale with hills and river valleys with small scale steep slopes in places [such as to the west] and gentler slopes which enclose the Leam valley to the north and the vale to the east. Wind turbine development would dwarf the apparent scale of the steeper slopes and should be avoided in juxtaposition with them although the undulating nature of other landform would be compatible.					
<b>Landcover pattern, scale and enclosure</b>	Landcover type, scale, pattern, enclosure, condition	Primarily intensively arable with some pasture. The fields are generally small to medium scale with low cut hedges. Broadleaf trees form woodland on steeper slopes, in hedgerows and associated with settlement. Moderately enclosed by tree cover. Wind turbine development would be incompatible with the smaller scale irregular field patterns and displace the small scale foci of the broadleaf trees and dwarf them.					
<b>Settlement type and pattern</b>	Settlement pattern, other man made vertical elements, movement	Rural mix of clustered villages of Leamington Hastings [a conservation area], Birdingbury and Broadwell and scattered farmhouses and dwellings elsewhere. The area is generally free of manmade vertical elements although the A426 runs through the area. Wind turbine development would be out of scale and character with the settlement pattern and would introduce new vertical elements although there is existing movement along the A426.					
<b>Landscape features/foci/ landmarks</b>	Sensitive features/foci eg on skyline	The settlements are subtle foci within well treed settings and the woodland on the steep slope to the west is a distinct feature. Otherwise there are few foci. Wind turbine development would become the dominant feature and the main focus.					
PERCEPTUAL							
<b>How the landscape is experienced</b>	Views, tranquillity	There are views over the valley to the north in particular and the vale to the east. The area is tranquil generally although the A426 runs through to the east reducing tranquillity along its corridor. Wind turbine development could dominate views and would disturb the tranquillity.					
<b>Context</b>	Relationship with and intervisibility with adjacent landscapes	The hills act as a subtle and gentle backcloth to the vale to the east and west and valley to the north, allowing views to and from them. Wind turbine development would dominate these subtle hills.					
<b>SUMMARY SENSITIVITY</b>	Derived from above	This gentle hill and valley landscape is of medium scale although there is a small scale steep slope to the west. It is well settled with a series of villages and intervening scattered dwellings. Trees often restrict views within and to settlements and in hedgerows and clothe the steeper slopes as small scale woodland. The hills form a subtle backcloth to the vale to the east and Leam valley to the north. The settlement pattern and wooded slope to the west are the main constraints on wind turbine development and tree cover would be dwarfed by development.	Low	Medium/low	Medium	High/medium	High
<b>Scale of wind energy development potentially acceptable</b>	Number of turbines	No commercial wind turbines are considered appropriate in this area.	None	1-5 turbines	6-12 turbines	13-24 turbines	25 and above turbines

**Landscape Type No:** 7 **Landscape Type Name:** High Cross plateau- open plateau  
 Baseline LCA sensitivity Cultural: not given Ecological: low Visibility: moderate, high to south west Overall: moderate, high to south west Condition: weak, strong to south west

MAIN CRITERIA	FACTORS	COMMENTS	SENSITIVITY		
			Lower	————→	Higher
<b>PHYSICAL</b>					
<b>Landform scale and enclosure</b>	Topographic form, scale, shape, enclosure and skyline	Large scale gently rolling plateau dissected by generally shallow valleys with limited enclosure on the higher ground to the north east and a simple skyline. The Swift valley to the east accommodates a more mature, sinuous river course and has a well defined change in level in the steeper slopes below Churchover. Wind energy development would be compatible with the broader plateau areas although less so in the valleys especially where juxtaposed with defined changes in level.			
<b>Landcover pattern, scale and enclosure</b>	Landcover type, scale, pattern, enclosure, condition	The landcover is arable in large and medium scale fields in a predominantly rectilinear and sub regular pattern. Hedges are low cut with gaps in places. Trees tend to be located in shelterbelts, some of which are very long, with only a few hedgerow trees. Overall the area feels open away from the tree belts. There is parkland with significant tree cover at Newnham. The area is intensively managed and hedgerows are in decline in the higher areas. There are some pockets of pasture and fields with ridge and furrow which are sensitive. Overall there is a progression of more enclosure and finer grain pattern in lower areas such as to the south and south west and parts to the east to a simpler, more open and larger scale pattern in the higher core areas such as to the north. Wind energy development would be compatible with the larger scale, simpler pattern higher areas and less compatible with the more complex lower areas and elements such as ridge and furrow.			
<b>Settlement type and pattern</b>	Settlement pattern, other man made vertical elements, movement	The traditional settlement is sparse and clusters are generally concentrated on or near the A5 Watling Street corridor- Churchover, Wibtoft, Willey, Copston Magna and High Cross. Elsewhere, there are occasional developments associated with the A5 and farmhouses scattered thinly in a relatively empty landscape. Settlement density increases in lower areas, especially to the west. The main roads are straight and either of Roman origin- Watling Street and the Fosse Way- B4455 or are modern- the M6. This encourages fast movement through the landscape and the M6 and A5 corridors are particularly busy. The warehouses at Magna Park outside the area to the north are large scale prominent features in the landscape with a horizontal emphasis, but widely visible. A power line runs approximately parallel to the A5 and there are NATs radio masts on the ridge at Pailton. Wind energy development is most appropriate away from the main settlement clusters and associated with traffic movement and modern development such as Magna Park along the A5 corridor and near the M6.			
<b>Landscape features/foci/ landmarks</b>	Sensitive features/foci eg on skyline	There are a few small scale foci of which the diminutive church spire at Churchover is the most notable. Wind energy development could diminish this and replace this as a focal point in the landscape. There are vistas from the parkland at Newnham Paddox which would be sensitive to wind turbine development. Wellingtonia within the park are noticeable features within the wider landscape which may be diminished by turbines. The potentially sensitive Roman settlement of Venonis at the junction of Watling Street and Fosse Way is dominated by road infrastructure with a few houses, a hotel and barn and is not apparent as an historic feature on the skyline.			
<b>PERCEPTUAL</b>					
<b>How the landscape is experienced</b>	Views, tranquillity	There are wide views across this relatively open landscape across to simple ridges in the middle distance to the east and west. There is limited tranquillity along the major road corridors and power lines but elsewhere there is tranquillity due to the sparse settlement pattern. Wind energy would be visible across this landscape although locally screened by tree belts. It would be compatible with the less tranquil areas.			
<b>Context</b>	Relationship with and intervisibility	Within the Borough, the area forms the skyline for lower landscapes to the south, especially the village farmlands, Rugby urban area and the Dunsmore plateau farmlands and plateau fringe. The village farmlands are smaller scale and settled with sensitive foci like the church tower at Monks Kirby or the			

	with adjacent landscapes	distinct valley landscape around Withybrook which rely on the plateau farmlands as part of their settling. Wind energy would adversely affect the setting of some of the village farmland areas and may be intrusive close to the urban area of Rugby. The area also acts as the skyline from the valleys to the north.					
<b>SUMMARY SENSITIVITY</b>	Derived from above	The upper plateau areas are generally large scale, simple, intensively farmed mainly arable landscapes with some large scale tree belts and development along the A5. Pastoral land is associated with settlements. The lower areas on the plateau fringes slope towards the lower surrounding lowlands with potential for dominance, have a slightly higher proportion of pastoral land with stronger tree cover in hedgerows in places although still on relatively simple undulating landform. Settlement clusters are few and overall settlement is sparse although there is higher settlement density on lower areas especially to the west. Wind turbine development is more compatible with the large scale, less settled parts of the area, possibly associated with Magna Park although proximity to Newnham Paddox could be an issue.	Low	Medium/low	Medium	High/medium	High
<b>Scale of wind energy development potentially acceptable</b>	Number of turbines	The area can potentially accommodate development in the category of 6-12 turbines but it would be highly desirable for clusters to be in the lower end of the range so as not to overdominate their environs eg upto 7 turbines dependent on local constraints and technically feasible areas. Larger developments would tend to dominate the landscape, exceed the grain of landscape pattern eg maintaining an acceptable separation from settlements and start to intrude towards the edges of the plateau which tend to be more sensitive.	None	1-5 turbines	6-12 turbines	13-24 turbines	25 and above turbines

**Landscape Type No:** 8 **Landscape Type Name:** High Cross plateau- village farmlands  
 Baseline LCA sensitivity Cultural: moderate Ecological: low Visibility: high, Monks Kirby moderate Overall: high, Monks Kirby moderate Condition: not given

MAIN CRITERIA	FACTORS	COMMENTS	SENSITIVITY				
PHYSICAL			Lower	→			Higher
<b>Landform scale and enclosure</b>	Topographic form, scale, shape, enclosure and skyline	Undulating topography often associated with small-medium scale river valleys with small watercourses. The valley bottoms feel relatively enclosed by the simple skylines of the plateau surrounding some areas. Wind turbine development would appear large scale in contrast with the changes in level.					
<b>Landcover pattern, scale and enclosure</b>	Landcover type, scale, pattern, enclosure, condition	Mainly pastoral landscape with some arable small-medium scale fields of irregular shape usually with low cut hedgerows. Broadleaf trees are associated with settlement and lie on some field boundaries with occasional copses. The area is moderately enclosed by tree cover although intermediate views are possible in places. The areas are generally in good condition. Wind turbine development would tend to be out of scale and character with the finer grain and irregular pattern of the area respectively.					
<b>Settlement type and pattern</b>	Settlement pattern, other man made vertical elements, movement	Rural settlement clusters, many being conservation areas, tend to be the focal points of these areas with some scattered rural dwellings along the network of minor lanes that cross each area. Vertical elements tend to be limited to small scale electrical and telephone wire poles along roads. Some areas are crossed by busy roads such as the M69 to the west which significantly reduces tranquillity along its corridor, but elsewhere B roads are the busiest roads. Wind turbine development would be out of character and scale with the traditional settled character of the area.					
<b>Landscape features/foci/ landmarks</b>	Sensitive features/foci eg on skyline	The main foci are churches [eg Monks Kirby], traditional dwellings or buildings in villages or farmhouse clusters. These tend to be in valley bottoms/sides. Wind turbines would be out of scale with these features and would replace these as dominant features.					
PERCEPTUAL							
<b>How the landscape is experienced</b>	Views, tranquillity	The landscape has a series of attractive views down into, from and along the valleys, constricted in parts by vegetation cover and though settled has a moderately tranquil rural character generally away from the M69. Wind turbines would become dominant elements in views and detract from views to churches or historic buildings due to scale and character. From settlements near valley floors, turbines on adjacent upper valley sides or higher ground could dominate views.					
<b>Context</b>	Relationship with and intervisibility with adjacent landscapes	These areas have a strong relationship with the High Cross open plateau which often forms the skyline surrounding them. The settings of some of these areas are sensitive to wind turbine development especially where views to churches are available eg Monks Kirby.					
<b>SUMMARY SENSITIVITY</b>	Derived from above	These small-medium scale river valley landscapes are well settled with a pastoral and arable sub regular fields and strong tree cover in places. There are some landmarks such as churches and many of the villages are conservation areas. These settlements are often located close to valley floors. The open plateau forms a simple skyline in places. Overall wind turbine development would be out of scale and character with these areas.	Low	Medium/ low	Medium	High/ medium	High
<b>Scale of wind energy development potentially acceptable</b>	Number of turbines	No commercial wind turbines are considered appropriate in this area.	None	1-5 turbines	6-12 turbines	13-24 turbines	25 and above turbines

Landscape Type No: 9 Landscape Type Name: Mease lowlands estate farmlands

Baseline LCA sensitivity Cultural: low Ecological: low Visibility: low Overall: low Condition: not given

MAIN CRITERIA	FACTORS	COMMENTS	SENSITIVITY				
PHYSICAL			Lower	→			Higher
Landform scale and enclosure	Topographic form, scale, shape, enclosure and skyline	A low lying, very gently rolling landform focussed on the Sketchley Brook and other small watercourses with little enclosure and skyline provided by adjacent higher character areas. Wind turbine development would be compatible with lack of sharply defined landform.					
Landcover pattern, scale and enclosure	Landcover type, scale, pattern, enclosure, condition	Varied pastoral and arable farmland with irregular fields ranging from small through to large rationalised enclosures. Many hedges are low cut and gappy in declining condition with a slightly urban fringe feel. There are occasional trees in hedgerows and associated with the railway line and canal. The area feels moderately open, especially in winter. Wind turbine development would be compatible with larger scale enclosures.					
Settlement type and pattern	Settlement pattern, other man made vertical elements, movement	Settlement is limited to scattered farmsteads with limited access although the small settlement of Burton Hastings lies just to the south east. There are a number of power lines with pylons [to the south] and timber poles [to the north] crossing the area. Movement is focussed on traffic on the adjacent A5 to the north. Wind turbine development would be out of scale with farmsteads and Burton Hastings but would be compatible with, though larger than, the power lines.					
Landscape features/foci/landmarks	Sensitive features/foci eg on skyline	Sensitive landmarks appear to be limited within the area although the canal is a positive feature running through the landscape. Wind turbine development would not compete with any sensitive features within the area. However, care would be needed regarding the relationship with Burton Hastings and its church tower.					
PERCEPTUAL							
How the landscape is experienced	Views, tranquillity	The openness of the landscape generally allows views to the urban edge with commercial buildings to the north and residential buildings to the south west. Though the area may feel tranquil in parts, such as adjacent to the canal, overall its tranquillity is reduced, especially to the north close to the A5 and by the power lines and presence of urban development to the north and south. Wind turbine development is theoretically compatible with the less tranquil areas although the number of receptors in this area is likely to be greater than in more rural countryside and the area is likely to be valued locally.					
Context	Relationship with and intervisibility with adjacent landscapes	Settlement on rising ground is intervisible with this area to the north [Hinckley] and south west [Nuneaton]. This reinforces its urban edge character which is potentially incompatible with windfarm development due to the number of receptors. Wind turbine development would be incompatible with proximity to well settled areas although the degraded character may suggest development is not unreasonable.					
SUMMARY SENSITIVITY	Derived from above	This relatively small area of low lying subtle gently rolling landscape is slightly degraded and sparsely settled with power lines to the south and unsightly commercial development to the north all of which are compatible with windfarm development. However, the area is overlooked by settlement to the north and south west as well as being in proximity to Burton Hastings in the south, all of which suggest that wind turbine development may be difficult to accommodate.	Low	Medium/low	Medium	High/medium	High
Scale of wind energy development potentially acceptable	Number of turbines	The constricted size of this area and presence of settlement on most sides suggests that only a very small wind farm cluster may be accommodated within it if at all.	None	1-5 turbines	6-12 turbines	13-24 turbines	25 and above turbines

**Landscape Type No: 10****Landscape Type Name: Arden- industrial Arden**

Baseline LCA sensitivity

Cultural:

not given

Ecological: not given

Visibility: not given

Overall:

not given

Condition: not given

MAIN CRITERIA	FACTORS	COMMENTS	SENSITIVITY				
			Lower	————→			Higher
<b>PHYSICAL</b>							
<b>Landform scale and enclosure</b>	Topographic form, scale, shape, enclosure and skyline	See High Cross Plateau village farmlands for all comments.					
<b>Landcover pattern, scale and enclosure</b>	Landcover type, scale, pattern, enclosure, condition						
<b>Settlement type and pattern</b>	Settlement pattern, other man made vertical elements, movement						
<b>Landscape features/foci/ landmarks</b>	Sensitive features/foci eg on skyline						
<b>PERCEPTUAL</b>							
<b>How the landscape is experienced</b>	Views, tranquillity						
<b>Context</b>	Relationship with and intervisibility with adjacent landscapes						
<b>SUMMARY SENSITIVITY</b>	Derived from above	This series of very small areas is considered to be the same sensitivity as the High Cross Plateau village farmlands with which it is closely associated to the north, south and west of Bulkington although this area has closer proximity to the urban edge of Coventry.	Low	Medium/ low	Medium	High/ medium	High
<b>Scale of wind energy development potentially acceptable</b>	Number of turbines	No commercial wind turbines are considered appropriate in this area.	None	1-5 turbines	6-12 turbines	13-24 turbines	25 and above turbines

## **APPENDIX B**

### **LANDSCAPE CAPACITY ASSESSMENT SHEETS**



**Landscape Type No:** 5      **Landscape Type Name:** Feldon vale farmlands- eastern area

Landscape Type No: 9			
<b>CAPACITY SUMMARY</b>		This area may have capacity for one small cluster, probably to the south of the area. However, effects should be minimised on the views to, and settings of, Grandborough and Lower Shuckburgh church spires, on the apparent scale of the surrounding hills and local field pattern, and views from the Grand Union canal. The effect on the tranquillity of the area should also be taken into account and minimised.	
<b>Recommendations for landscape enhancement</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hedge reinstatement where fencing</li><li>• Stronger blocks of tree plantations</li><li>• Encourage trees in hedgerows especially along roads</li><li>• Encourage riparian vegetation</li></ul>	
<b>SUPPORTING CAPACITY ASSESSMENT</b>			
<b>MAIN CRITERIA</b>		<b>COMMENTS</b>	
<b>Landscape Character</b>	Summary landscape type key characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flat/very gently rolling open low lying clay vale.</li><li>• Arable farmland with pasture in large and medium sized fields with mainly low cut hedges and fences.</li><li>• Limited tree cover.</li><li>• Sparse settlement and tranquil to the south and rural village clusters to the north</li><li>• Grandborough spire is the main landmark.</li><li>• Area overlooked by ironstone fringe hills which act as a backcloth along with rising ground to the north and west.</li></ul>	
	Landscape Description Unit summary description	ID	There is one Landscape Description Unit [LDU] in the landscape character type. This is shown in Figures 11-12. The underlying main LDU classification is found in Appendix C.
		104	Very gentle rolling low lying vale of the River Leam and tributaries. The area is a mix of arable and pastoral land use with field sizes ranging from large to medium with small in places- sometimes used for horse grazing. The hedges tend to be low cut and gappy with fences in places but there are some outgrown hedges. Trees are limited to an extent and are primarily associated with riparian and dismantled railway corridors and settlements with a few located in hedgerows and in some small blocks/coverts mainly to the south. Settlement is generally rural and sparse with villages only at Grandborough/Woolscott and Willoughby and a hamlet at Sawbridge. The A45 lies to the north east and the A426 to the west but between these roads the area is quiet with very few minor roads and some public footpaths. The Grand Union canal lies to the south. The area is predominantly open with views of the ironstone fringe hills to the south and east and the plateau scarp slope to the north.
<b>Value/designations</b>	None.		
<b>Visual sensitivity/ key receptors</b> Settlements, historic features, viewpoints	Scheduled ancient monuments- Flecknoe medieval settlement remains on Bush Hill adjacent, deserted village at Onley Grounds [in Daventry borough] Conservation areas- Leamington Hastings [adjacent] Listed buildings eg in above and Grandborough, Willoughby, Woolscott, Sawbridge, Kites Hardwick, Broadwell, Shuckburgh and Napton-on-the-Hill [adjacent] Settlements- above and Rugby and Dunchurch to the north. Trails- Grand Union Canal walk, Oxford canal walk, Sustrans cycle route		
<b>Other relevant nearby existing/ approved windfarms</b>	Yelvertoft- 8 turbines Tesco at DIRFT- 2 turbines	<b>Windfarms in for scoping/ as planning applications</b>	Lilbourne- in planning, 8 turbines Watford Lodge- in planning, 5 turbines Winwick- in planning- 7 turbines

LANDSCAPE TYPE CONTEXT	[see relevant Landscape type sensitivity sheet for detail]							
	Sensitivity			Low	Medium/low	Medium	High/medium	High
Scale of wind energy dev't potentially acceptable	Number of turbines			None	1-5 turbines	6-12 turbines	13-24 turbines	25 and above turbines
Distance from consented wind farms and between clusters								
Nearest consented windfarms		Tesco at DIRFT at around 12km		Tesco at DIRFT at around 6.5km				
Distance between clusters		N/A		5km				
SCENARIO TESTING								
Aim	Guideline	Scenario A		Scenario B				
Visual criteria		One cluster		Two clusters				
Prevent experience in a settlement of being in a windfarm landscape	Limit potential for settlements to be in close proximity eg upto 2km or feel surrounded by windfarms to prevent dominance/ surrounding.	Cluster around/just over 2km from nearest settlements- Grandborough, Broadwell, Lower Shuckburgh. Dominance may be limited by typology size.		Northern cluster just over 1km from Willoughby and 500m from Onley fields housing associated with prison. Proximity may lead to feeling of dominance particularly in relation to prison housing. Significantly over 2km from other settlements. Southern cluster around/just over 2km from nearest settlements- Grandborough, Broadwell, Lower Shuckburgh with typology limiting dominance. Despite distance, residents in Willoughby, Grandborough and Sawbridge may feel surrounded by windfarms as they lie roughly between the two clusters.				
Avoid detrimental effects upon the experience of visitors, sensitive viewpoints and those engaging in recreation for the enjoyment of the landscape	Limit field of view occupied by wind turbines and proximity of wind turbines from well used viewpoints/ trails	Grand Union canal- close views Sustrans cycle route- nearby views Visitors to Ironstone Hills eg Napton Hill or Shuckburgh Hill- overlook cluster at similar level.		Grand Union canal- close views Oxford canal- close views Sustrans cycle route- nearby views Visitors to Ironstone Hills eg Napton Hill or Shuckburgh Hill- overlook cluster at similar level.				
Landscape criteria								
Minimise adverse effects upon sensitive local landscape character and avoid distortion of the sense of scale	Site large wind farms In larger-scale landscapes. Avoid juxtaposition between windfarms and well defined landform, and areas of complex land cover.	Cluster in open, relatively flat landscape with mixed arable/pastoral land cover with slightly degraded field boundaries just over 2km from nearest ironstone hills to the south. There would be effects on the generally large but sub regular field pattern but this would not be apparent due to the flat landform. It would have an adverse effect on the area's tranquillity.		Northern cluster on edge of flat landscape 500m from nearest hill reducing its apparent scale. There would be effects on the medium irregular field pattern possibly visible from the hill and canal to the east but less apparent elsewhere due to the flat landform. It would have an adverse effect on the area's tranquillity.  Southern cluster in open, relatively flat landscape with mixed arable/pastoral land cover with slightly degraded field boundaries just over 2km from nearest ironstone hills to the south. There would be effects on the generally large but sub regular field pattern but this would not be apparent due to the flat landform. It would have an adverse effect on the area's tranquillity.				

<b>Aim</b>	<b>Guideline</b>	<b>Scenario A</b>	<b>Scenario B</b>
Avoid overdominant effects on the skyline, and minimise breaking skylines when viewed from sensitive landscapes	Where views are possible towards wind farms site them back from the edge of plateaux, valley sides and hill fringes. Try and have some backcloth to some of the turbines. Limit the field of view of wind turbines on the skyline.	The turbines would break the skyline when viewed from the surrounding flat landscape but would not have over dominant effects as they are not on top of hills which instead act as a backcloth.	The turbines would break the skyline when viewed from the surrounding flat landscape but would not have over dominant effects as they are not on top of hills which instead act as a backcloth.
Minimise adverse effects upon sensitive landscape features/ landmarks	Site wind farms away from sensitive features or their settings and away from key views to these features.	The cluster is sited over 2km away from Grandborough and Lower Shuckburgh church spires and surrounding hills reducing, although not eliminating, effects.	The northern cluster is close to Willoughby and listed buildings therein although these may be screened. The southern cluster is sited over 2km away from Grandborough and Lower Shuckburgh church spires and surrounding hills reducing, although not eliminating, effects.
<b>Policy criteria</b>			
Avoid detracting from Green Belt	Avoid reducing openness of the Green Belt.	The cluster lies outside the Green Belt.	The clusters lie outside the Green Belt.
<b>SCENARIOS</b>	<b>SUMMARIES [based on aims and guidelines in scenario testing]</b>		
<b>A</b>	One cluster may be able to be located and designed to minimise effects. Consideration would need to be given to avoiding the settings and key views to Grandborough and Lower Shuckburgh church spires, avoiding reduction in the apparent scale of the surrounding hills and local field pattern, minimising the effects on views from the Grand Union canal and minimising the effect on the tranquillity of the area.		
<b>B</b>	Two clusters may make the residents in the villages of Grandborough, Willoughby and Sawbridge feel surrounded by windfarms as they lie between them and in relatively close proximity. The apparent scale and qualities of the church spire at Grandborough would be diminished significantly by higher turbines to the north and south and views to Lower Shuckburgh spire would be interrupted . The northern turbine cluster would significantly reduce the apparent scale of the hill adjacent and the southern cluster would affect the tranquillity of the southern part of the area. Users of the Oxford and Grand Union canals would have close views of turbines. Overall two clusters in this landscape would have significantly detrimental effects on the area's character and its users/residents and overall would exceed the capacity of the area.		

**Landscape Type No: 7 Landscape Type Name: High Cross Plateau- open plateau**

<b>CAPACITY SUMMARY</b>	This landscape character type has some capacity for windfarm development- preferably one but one other may be possible. One cluster of 1-7 turbines may be able to be accommodated subject to appropriate design and location which minimises environmental effects on sensitive receptors especially settlements and historic parkland. This may be best located in the core of the upper plateau to the north ie LDU 73 and at a distance to minimise cumulative effects with turbines at Swinford and Low Spinney. It is accepted that LDU 73 is predominantly in Green Belt which is a significant constraint on development and the location and design should reflect this status. One further small cluster [preferably 1-4 turbines] may be able to be accommodated further east but its siting and design needs to ensure that effects are minimised on Churchover and its spire and other settlement as well as on Newnham Paddox and the landscape character of the Swift valley. Three wind farm clusters would be likely to make a significant part of the landscape type feel like a windfarm landscape and become a dominant characteristic as well as having unacceptable cumulative significant effects on sensitive receptors.
<b>Recommendations for landscape enhancement</b>	Plant blocks and belts of deciduous woodland to improve the structure of the landscape. Repair gaps in hedgerows. Encourage trees in hedgerows. Reinstate hedgerows where removed. Create wildflower headlands around large arable fields.

**SUPPORTING CAPACITY ASSESSMENT**

<b>Landscape Character</b>	Summary landscape type key characteristics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Predominantly large scale open rolling plateau with broad valleys and sloping fringes</li> <li>Arable farmland predominantly but with pockets of pastoral land such as on steeper slopes, valley floors and associated with settlement</li> <li>Predominantly large with some medium rectilinear and sub regular fields and low cut hedges</li> <li>Large blocks and long belts of trees in places but elsewhere occasional trees in hedgerows</li> <li>Sparse rural settlement but with some isolated settlement clusters</li> <li>Modern features include A5, dualled in places, Magna Park, M6 and one power line.</li> </ul>
	Landscape Description Units summary descriptions	ID	There are 12 Landscape Description Units [LDU's] in the landscape character type. These are shown in Figures 7-10 and in Appendix C Figure C1. The underlying main LDU classification is found in Appendix C. Each is described below.
		57	Gently sloping plateau fringes on the north western edge of the High Cross plateau dissected by the tributary valleys of the Soar Brook running north and the heads of tributary valleys of the River Anker which runs to the south and west. Within the valleys are impounded lakes/ponds in places. The ridges are broad with views across the plateau to the east and lower land to the west. The Mease Lowlands estate farmlands landscape type lies to the west, along the Anker valley. The area is predominantly arable land with large and medium size rectilinear and sub regular fields with some pasture such as around Shelford and Stretton Baskerville- the latter especially with irregular and smaller field sizes. Hedges are generally low cut and there are occasional hedgerow trees. There are also occasional blocks of trees/spinneys sometimes associated with lower valley sides. Settlement is generally rural including the hamlet of Copston Magna, farmsteads and dwellings to the east and increasing in density towards the south west where there is some suburban style ribbon development around Shelford and Wolvey Heath. The urban area of Hinckley lies to the north west abutting the area. There are uses such as the small commercial units, restaurants and other semi-rural uses along the busy roads such as the A5 and the straight B roads that criss-cross the area. The M69 crosses the area to the west.
		62	Sloping valley sides forming a gently rolling landscape falling towards the High Cross Plateau village farmlands landscape type to the south. The area is predominantly arable land with large and medium sized rectilinear and sub regular fields. Hedges are generally low cut with some occasional trees. Sitting within this landscape is Newnham Paddox Park with its associated registered open parkland, ponds, specimen trees, lime avenue to the south and large blocks of woodland. These form a distinctive skyline when viewed from the south. There are a few other spinneys/coverts. Settlement of farmsteads and dwellings is sparse but the area borders the villages of Monks Kirby [a conservation area] and Pailton to the south. Access is limited to minor roads and footpaths which form a denser network to the south.
		64	Sloping land and tributary valley sides falling towards the Avon valley and Dunsmore Parklands landscape type to the south. The area is

			predominantly arable land with large and medium sized rectilinear and sub regular fields with some pasture. Smaller fields are associated with the settlement. Hedges are generally low cut with some occasional trees. There are occasional blocks of trees such as those associated with Newbold Reve College to the west. Settlement is focussed solely on the village of Easenhall [a conservation area]. The M6 crosses the area to the north, mainly in cutting, but elsewhere access is limited to a minor road.
		72	Gently sloping shallow valley head and sides running to the east and then north. The area is predominantly arable land but with some pastoral land to the east and west such as around Willey. Fields are a combination of rectilinear and sub regular field types varying from mainly large with some medium and some smaller enclosures associated with settlement. Hedges are generally low cut and gappy in places. The area is relatively open with occasional hedge trees or trees associated with settlement. Settlement is sparse and rural, limited to the hamlet at Willey and isolated farmsteads and dwellings. The straight A5 [Watling Street] runs along the northern edge with a minor road to the east linking into Willey and a number of footpaths cross the valley. Intermediate views are possible generally constrained by the surrounding higher ground.
		73	A large area of open gently rolling plateau of predominantly arable land forming the core of the High Cross plateau landscape type. The field pattern is a mix of rectilinear and sub regular fields ranging in sizes from mainly large through to small with the latter usually associated with settlement. There are isolated pastures and ridge and furrow such as south of Wibtoft. Hedges are generally low cut and gappy in places. There are some blocks of woodland, some of which are long and highly linear such as Withybrook and Long Spinneys, but generally the area is relatively open with very occasional hedge trees or trees associated with settlement. Settlement is sparse and rural, limited to hamlets at Wibtoft and High Cross and isolated farmsteads and dwellings. A power line crosses the area, running south east to north west. The straight A5 [Watling Street] runs along the northern edge joined by the B4455 [Fosse Way] at High Cross, while the M6 crosses the southern fingers of the area. Overall the area is fairly open with medium long views possible in places.
		80	A small area of open gently rolling plateau of predominantly arable land with a field pattern a mix of rectilinear and sub regular fields ranging in sizes from large to medium with the latter usually associated with settlement. There are isolated pastures and ridge and furrow such as to the south. Hedges are generally low cut and gappy in places. Sitting within this landscape is Coton House [now a college], with its associated parkland, fish pond, specimen trees and blocks of woodland. There are some other small blocks of woodland but generally the area is relatively open with very occasional hedge trees. Settlement is sparse and limited to the busy roads that pass through the area including the A5 [Watling Street] and A426. The M6 crosses the southern fingers of the area. Overall the area is fairly open with medium long views possible in places such as across the Swift valley to the west.
		89	Valley of tributary of the River Avon with multiple watercourses and ponds. The land use is predominantly pastoral but with strong evidence of extractive industries, possibly gravel, and of restored land including a nature reserve. There is moderately strong tree cover on disturbed areas and on field boundaries which tend to be overgrown. There are a number of commercial buildings associated with the A5 [Watling Street] and the area is also crossed by the M6.
		106	Broad valley focussing on the sinuous course of the River Swift on the flat valley floor with gentle slopes to the west and steeper slopes to the east especially around the settlement of Churchover [a conservation area] which lies on the upper slopes. Other settlement is sparse with occasional rural farmsteads and dwellings although there are two small gas transmission complexes and a power line crosses the area to the west. The A5 lies to the north and M6 to the south although access to the area is generally limited to a few minor roads and footpaths. The land use is predominantly arable farmland associated with large scale rectilinear and sub regular field pattern especially to the west and pastoral on the steeper slopes, valley floor and ridge and furrow to the east. The field pattern has been rationalised to the west and is rectilinear to the east with small fields in places such as associated with Churchover. Hedgerows are low cut and gappy in places. There is limited tree cover with a few copses of deciduous trees and occasional hedge trees. The small church spire at Churchover is the main landmark in the area. Overall the area is fairly open with views to the north towards the Magna Park and Lutterworth and to the south there are views of Rugby.
		107	Swift valley floor sloping gradually to the south with rough grassland, degraded field boundaries, ponds and riparian vegetation. Parts of the area appear to be used as a nature reserve. Valley sides rise to the east and west and there is a large industrial estate to the west. The settlement of Cosford lies to the north west.
		109	Finger of higher ground running south from the plateau forming a gentle ridge defined by the Swift valley to the east and the Avon valley to the south and west. The area is predominantly arable land with large and medium size rectilinear and sub regular fields with some pasture. Hedges are generally low cut with some occasional trees. There are very occasional blocks of trees. There is virtually no settlement within

			the area but Harborough Magna lies directly to the west and Newbold on Avon lies to the south, both on lower ground. A large commercial estate linking into Rugby lies to the east. Power lines cross the area to the south. The M6 crosses the area to the north, mainly in cutting, but elsewhere access is limited to a minor road.					
		118	Area of high ground with a gently rounded crown and sloping sides with small valleys bounded by the Withybrook valley to the north west and the Smite Brook valley to the south. The Dunsmore Parklands landscape type lies to the south and west and the High Cross Open plateau village farmlands lie to the north. The area is predominantly arable land with large and medium size rectilinear and sub regular fields with some pasture on valley sides to the south and east. Hedges are generally low cut with some occasional trees. There are occasional blocks of trees such as those associated with Upper Smite medieval village. Settlement is fairly sparse consisting of farmsteads and dwellings but the villages of Withybrook and Stretton under Fosse lie close by to the north and east respectively. The M6 crosses the area, mainly in cutting, but elsewhere access is limited to minor roads a few footpaths although these include the Centenary Way.					
		119	Extensive plateau fringes on the south western edge of the High Cross plateau consisting of gently rolling land and parts of the Withybrook and Anker valleys, the latter with filled gravel pits. The area wraps around the High Cross plateau Village farmlands including Wolvey, Withybrook and Shilton and the Smite Brook valley and Dunsmore Parklands landscape type lie to the south. The area is predominantly arable land with large and medium size rectilinear and sub regular fields with some pasture such as on valley bottoms and for horses, often with irregular and smaller field sizes. Hedges are generally low cut but some are overgrown and there are hedgerow trees. There are occasional blocks of trees/coverts. Settlement is generally rural including farmsteads and dwellings and increases in density towards the west. There are other uses such as the Bramcote Gamecock barracks, Wolvey caravan park, fishing ponds and other semi-rural uses. The M69 crosses the area to the west, mainly in cutting, and a number of B roads as well as minor roads criss cross the area.					
Value/ designations	Green Belt except the majority of the Swift valley and to the east							
Visual sensitivity/ key receptors Settlements, historic features, viewpoints	Historic parkland- Newnham Paddox Scheduled ancient monuments- Venonis Roman settlement, Withybrook medieval settlement [adjacent], Upper Smite Village Conservation areas- Churchover, Monks Kirby and Easenhall [adjacent] Listed buildings eg in above and at Copston Magna church, Coton House, Wibtoft, Wolvey, Willey Settlements- above and settlements in adjacent areas Rugby, Shilton, Pailton, Harborough Magna, Wigston Parva, Cotesbach, Bulkington Trails- Leicestershire Round to the north							
Other relevant nearby existing/ approved windfarms	Swinford- 11 turbines Yelvertoft- 8 turbines Low Spinney- 4 turbines		Windfarms in for scoping/ as planning applications	Bransford Bridge- - planning application imminent, 9 turbines High Cross- scoping, anemometer mast consent and erection Lilbourne- in planning, 8 turbines Desford- scoping 2 turbines [at a distance],				
LANDSCAPE TYPE CONTEXT	[see relevant landscape type sensitivity sheet for detail]							
	Sensitivity			Low	Medium/ low	Medium	High/ medium	High
Scale of wind energy dev't potentially acceptable	Number of turbines: The recommended maximum number of turbines in a cluster is 7 turbines [see relevant landscape type sensitivity sheet for justification].			None	1-5 turbines	6-12 turbines	13-24 turbines	25 and above turbines
Distance from consented wind farms and between clusters								
Nearest consented windfarms		Low Spinney at 8.5km Swinford at	Swinford at 5km Low Spinney at 8km	Swinford at 5km Low Spinney at 8km			Swinford at 5km Low Spinney at 8km	

		12km			
Distance between clusters		N/A	6km	4.7-6km	1.3-6km
<b>SCENARIO TESTING</b>					
<b>Aim</b>	<b>Guideline</b>	<b>Scenario A 1 cluster</b>	<b>Scenario B 2 clusters</b>	<b>Scenario C 3 clusters</b>	<b>Scenario D 6 clusters</b>
<b>Visual criteria</b>					
Prevent experience in a settlement of being in a windfarm landscape	Limit potential for settlements to experience dominance/ surrounding ie clusters in close proximity eg upto 2km with broad angle of view or windfarms on two or more sides	Cluster within 2km of Copston Magna so potential for dominance. Also within 2km of Wibtoft with some potential for dominance.	Eastern cluster within 2km of Churchover so potential for a cluster of a typology of 7 turbines to dominate the settlement. In addition Swinford wind farm is around 5km to the east with possible cumulative effects. Western cluster within 2km of Copston Magna so potential for dominance. Also within 2km of Wibtoft with some potential for dominance.	Southern cluster within 2km of Withybrook so potential for dominance. Eastern cluster within 2km of Churchover so potential for dominance. In addition Swinford wind farm is around 5km to the east with possible cumulative effects. Western cluster within 2km of Copston Magna so potential for dominance. Also within 2km of Wibtoft with some potential for dominance.	Willey would have clusters on either side within 2km so surrounding and very strong potential for dominance. Wibtoft may also be dominated by clusters on two sides, one within 2km. Southern cluster within 2km of Withybrook so potential for dominance. Eastern cluster within 2km of Churchover so potential for dominance. In addition Swinford wind farm is around 5km to the east with possible cumulative effects. Western cluster within 2km of Copston Magna so potential for dominance.
Avoid detrimental effects upon the experience of visitors, sensitive viewpoints and those engaging in recreation for the enjoyment of the landscape	Limit field of view occupied by wind turbines and proximity of wind turbines from well used viewpoints/ trails	Effects on users of Leicester Round and local public footpaths.	Effects on users of Leicester Round and local public footpaths.	Effects on users of Leicester Round, Oxford Canal Walk and Coventry Way at a distance and local public footpaths.	Effects on users of Leicester Round, Oxford Canal Walk and Coventry Way at a distance and local public footpaths.
<b>Landscape criteria</b>					
Minimise adverse effects upon sensitive local landscape character and avoid distortion of the sense of scale	Site large wind farms In larger-scale landscapes. Avoid juxtaposition between windfarms and well defined landform, and areas of complex land cover.	Cluster is in scale with LDU 73 plateau landform and larger fields but would need to be sited to avoid significant changes in level and fine	The eastern cluster is in Swift valley LDU 106 in large fields on more gradual slopes of the north western side of the valley avoiding the steeper slopes on the eastern side and the valley floor. However, there is potential for a cluster of a typology of	The southern cluster is in LDU 118 is on a broad ridge outlier of the plateau in large fields and is close to village farmlands valley to the north around Withybrook and slopes to the lower ground of the Smite Brook valley to the south. The location is therefore on the edge of the plateau and risks juxtaposition with slopes and lower landscapes, especially if at	Three additional clusters lie in LDUs 72 and 73 to the north along the A5 corridor and LDU 109 to the south. The former two clusters lie in moderately simple plateau or valley head landscapes, one close to Magna Park, while the third lies on the plateau edge as a ridge. The latter may distort the sense of scale of the landform with lower lying valleys adjacent.

		grain field patterns.	7 turbines to dominate the valley and distort its scale. Western cluster is in scale with LDU 73 plateau landform and larger fields but would need to be sited to avoid significant changes in level and finer grain field patterns.	typology size of 7 turbines. The eastern cluster is in Swift valley LDU 106 in large fields on more gradual slopes of the north western side of the valley avoiding the steeper slopes on the eastern side and valley floor. However, there is potential for a cluster of a typology of 7 turbines to dominate the valley and distort its scale. Western cluster is in scale with LDU 73 plateau landform and larger fields but would need to be sited to avoid significant changes in level and finer grain field patterns.  Together the clusters may become the dominant scale reference across the area distorting its sense of scale and making significant parts feel like a windfarm landscape.	Cumulatively with the other three cluster locations, the clusters would become the dominant scale reference across the area, especially to the north, distorting its sense of scale.
<b>Aim</b>	<b>Guideline</b>	<b>Scenario A 1 cluster</b>	<b>Scenario B 2 clusters</b>	<b>Scenario C 3 clusters</b>	<b>Scenario D 6 clusters</b>
Avoid overdominant effects on the skyline, and minimise breaking skylines when viewed from sensitive landscapes	Where views are possible towards wind farms site them back from the edge of plateaux, valley sides and hill fringes. Try to have some backcloth to some of the turbines. Limit the field of view of wind turbines on the skyline.	One cluster can be set away from sensitive landscapes on the main part of the plateau if sited carefully.	Two clusters may be able to be set away from sensitive landscapes and avoid overdominant effects on the skyline although the number of turbines in the eastern cluster may need to be reduced to minimise effects.	Three clusters cannot all be set away from sensitive landscapes although their effects on any one skyline is unlikely to be dominant unless they are all along the A5 corridor.	Six clusters would dominate the A5 skyline and some windfarms would be close to sensitive landscapes on the fringes of the plateau.
Minimise adverse effects upon sensitive landscape features/ landmarks	Site wind farms away from sensitive features or their settings and away from key views to these features.	Cluster located near to Venonis Roman settlement SAM but this is not readily apparent and does not act as a landmark.	Eastern cluster close to the Churchover would affect views to the listed church and spire diminishing its scale and affecting its context including the conservation area. It may also affect vistas in Newnham Paddox	Upper Smite medieval village SAM may be affected by a third cluster although it is already affected by the M6.  Eastern cluster close to the Churchover would affect views to the listed church and spire diminishing its scale and affecting its context including the	Newnham Paddox may be adversely affected by two-three clusters visible from parkland/listed structures.  Upper Smite medieval village may be affected by a third cluster although it is already affected by the M6.  Eastern cluster close to the Churchover would affect views to the listed church

		Listed church at Copston Magna and listed buildings at High Cross nearby need consideration.	parkland.  Western cluster located near to Venonis Roman settlement SAM but this is not readily apparent and does not act as a landmark. Listed church at Copston Magna and listed buildings at High Cross nearby need consideration.	conservation area. It may also affect vistas in Newnham Paddox parkland.  Western cluster located near to Venonis Roman settlement SAM but this is not readily apparent and does not act as a landmark. Listed church at Copston Magna and listed buildings at High Cross nearby need consideration.	and spire diminishing its scale and affecting its context including the conservation area.  Western cluster located near to Venonis Roman settlement SAM but this is not readily apparent and does not act as a landmark. Listed church at Copston Magna and listed buildings at High Cross nearby need consideration.  Overall, the effects on sensitive landmarks and features would be likely to be cumulatively unacceptable.
<b>Aim</b>	<b>Guideline</b>	<b>Scenario A 1 cluster</b>	<b>Scenario B 2 clusters</b>	<b>Scenario C 3 clusters</b>	<b>Scenario D 6 clusters</b>
<b>Policy criteria</b>					
Avoid detracting from Green Belt	Avoid reducing openness of the Green Belt.	Cluster would lie fully within the Green Belt although on its edge. The design, scale and location of the cluster should minimise the effects on openness.	Western cluster would lie fully within the Green Belt and eastern cluster would be close to the edge and may impinge. The design, scale and location of the clusters should be designed to minimise the effects on openness.	Two clusters would lie fully within the Green Belt and one cluster nearby. The two clusters begin to cumulatively significantly affect the open character of the landscape with the southern cluster more centrally located in the Green Belt.	Four clusters would lie fully within the Green Belt and two clusters would be nearby. Openness would be significantly compromised by the clusters especially along the A5 corridor due to density but also by the location of the two southern clusters centrally located in the Green Belt or close to Rugby.  This scenario unacceptably affects the Green Belt's openness.
<b>SCENARIOS</b>	<b>SUMMARIES [based on aims and guidelines in scenario testing]</b>				
<b>A</b>	One wind turbine cluster of 1-7 turbines can be accommodated in this landscape in the middle of the higher plateau and significantly separated from Swinford and Low Spinney. Care would need to be taken to minimise effects on the settlement in the locality.				
<b>B</b>	One wind turbine cluster of 1-7 turbines can be accommodated in this landscape in the middle of the higher plateau [LDU 73] with an additional smaller cluster being potentially acceptable to the east if appropriately sited. This should not be 7 turbines in size because of potential effects on landscape scale of the Swift valley and potential effects on Churchover and its spire. Possibly between 1-4 turbines may be appropriate. There are also potential effects on Newnham Paddox as well as potential cumulative effects with Swinford which may limit acceptability. Siting and design would require very careful consideration.				
<b>C</b>	Three clusters would be difficult to accommodate without significant effects on sensitive landscapes and settlements adjacent and sensitive features taking all the above factors into consideration in Scenarios A and B. Three wind farm clusters would be likely to make a significant part of the landscape type feel like a windfarm landscape and become a dominant characteristic as well as having unacceptable cumulative significant effects on sensitive receptors. The effects on the Green Belt could be significant.				
<b>D</b>	Six clusters would be significantly over capacity as the settlement of Willey and possibly Wibtoft would feel as if they were in a windfarm landscape and numerous sensitive receptors would be affected including Newnham Paddox, Churchover, adjacent valley farmland settlements and Rugby's northern edges. The effects on the Green Belt could be very significant.				

**Landscape Type No:** 9      **Landscape Type Name:** Mease Lowlands Estate Farmlands

<b>CAPACITY SUMMARY</b>	This area has theoretical intrinsic capacity for a small cluster of wind turbines due to its landform, character and sparsity of settlement. The commercial area at Hinckley to the north gives the area an urban fringe character. Factors that need to be taken into consideration are the limited extent of the area and its location between two urban areas, only 3km apart and virtually joined to the west. Effects should be minimised on the potentially large number of sensitive receptors in residential areas which overlook this landscape. In addition, effects should be minimised on Burton Hastings to the south east in terms of receptors and the church and on the Stretton Baskerville Scheduled Ancient Monument to the east. It is accepted that the area is predominantly in Green Belt which is a significant constraint. Overall, the capacity of the area is considered to be limited by the above factors.				
<b>Recommendations for landscape enhancement</b>	Hedge reinstatement where fencing Stronger blocks of tree plantations Encourage trees in hedgerows and especially along canal Encourage riparian vegetation				
<b>SUPPORTING CAPACITY ASSESSMENT</b>					
<b>MAIN CRITERIA</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>				
<b>Landscape Character</b>	Summary landscape type key characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Gently rolling open lowland with some minor watercourses.</li><li>Arable farmland with some pasture associated with settlement in mostly large and a few medium and small sized fields with mainly low cut and sometimes gappy hedges and fences.</li><li>Limited tree cover mainly confined to settlements</li><li>Sparse settlement limited to farmsteads within area</li><li>Area overlooked by urban areas on rising ground to north and south and village to south east.</li></ul>			
	Landscape Description Unit summary description	ID	There is one Landscape Description Unit [LDU] in the landscape character type. This is shown in Figure 13 and in Appendix C Figure C1. The underlying main LDU classification is found in Appendix C.		
		130	Gently rolling low lying area focussed on Sketchley Brook with a canal running through. The land is mainly arable with some areas of pasture around settlements and some farm complexes. The fields range from large rationalised enclosures to medium with some small fields around settlements with a sub regular and irregular pattern. Hedges are low cut and gappy in places with occasional trees. Settlement is sparse within the area limited to a few farms accessed by tracks. However, there are the urban settlements on rising land of Hinckley to the north and Nuneaton to the south west with the rural village of Burton Hastings to the south east. All are visible across this open landscape and contribute to its character. Power lines pass across the south southern edges.		
<b>Value/designations</b>	None.				
<b>Visual sensitivity/ key receptors</b> Settlements, historic features, viewpoints	Scheduled ancient monument- Stretton Baskerville medieval village to the east. Listed buildings- three bridges over the Ashby-de-la-Zouch canal to the south within area and St Botolph's church in Burton Hastings to the south outside the area. Settlements- all outside the area- Burton Hastings to the south, Hinckley to the north and Nuneaton to the south/west. Trails- local public footpaths and canal towpath				
<b>Other relevant nearby existing/ approved windfarms</b>	None nearby		<b>Windfarms in for scoping/ as planning applications</b>	None nearby	

LANDSCAPE TYPE CONTEXT	[see relevant Landscape type sensitivity sheet for detail]					
	Sensitivity		Low	Medium/low	Medium	High/medium
Scale of wind energy dev't potentially acceptable	Number of turbines		None	1-5 turbines	6-12 turbines	13-24 turbines
Distance from consented wind farms and between clusters						
Nearest consented windfarms			Low Spinney at around 15km			
Distance between clusters			N/A			
SCENARIO TESTING						
Aim		Guideline	Scenario A			
Visual criteria			One cluster			
Prevent experience in a settlement of being in a windfarm landscape		Limit potential for settlements to be in close proximity eg upto 2km or feel surrounded by windfarms to prevent dominance/ surrounding.	Cluster under 2km from Burton Hastings and may potentially dominate this settlement and around/just under 2km from the residential parts of urban settlements- Whitestone [part of Nuneaton] and Hinckley.			
Avoid detrimental effects upon the experience of visitors, sensitive viewpoints and those engaging in recreation for the enjoyment of the landscape		Limit field of view occupied by wind turbines and proximity of wind turbines from well used viewpoints/ trails	Ashby-de-la-Zouch canal and local public footpaths- views in very close proximity			
Landscape criteria						
Minimise adverse effects upon sensitive local landscape character and avoid distortion of the sense of scale		Site large wind farms In larger-scale landscapes. Avoid juxtaposition between windfarms and well defined landform, and areas of complex land cover.	Cluster in open gentle landscape with simple, mainly large scale arable fields land cover. The power lines are a similar development type but would be likely to be dwarfed by turbines. The commercial development in Hinckley to the north is detractive and already affects the perceived rural character of the area.			
Avoid overdominant effects on the skyline, and minimise breaking skylines when viewed from sensitive landscapes		Where views are possible towards wind farms site them back from the edge of plateaux, valley sides and hill fringes. Try and have some backcloth to some of the turbines. Limit the field of view of wind turbines on the skyline.	The turbines would break the skyline when viewed from the surrounding low lying landscape but would not have over dominant effects as they are not on top of gentle hills which instead act as a backcloth.			
Minimise adverse effects upon sensitive landscape features/ landmarks		Site wind farms away from sensitive features or their settings and away from key views to these features.	The cluster is sited 1km away from Burton Hastings church tower. There may be views from the curtilage although this is generally hidden/set in trees with main views to the tower from the west rather than the north. The Stretton Baskerville SAM does not appear to be visited but if so the cluster would be likely to be only 1km away and would be likely to have a significant effect.			
Policy criteria						
Avoid detracting from Green Belt		Avoid reducing openness of the Green Belt.	The cluster lies within the Green Belt as it narrows between the urban areas.			
SCENARIOS	SUMMARY [based on aims and guidelines in scenario testing]					
A	This area has theoretical intrinsic capacity for a small cluster of wind turbines due to its landform, character and sparsity of settlement. The commercial area at Hinckley to the north gives the area an urban fringe character. Factors that need to be taken into consideration are the limited extent of the area and its location between two urban areas, only 3km apart and virtually joined to the west. Effects should be minimised on the potentially large number of sensitive receptors in					

	residential areas which overlook this landscape. In addition, effects should be minimised on Burton Hastings to the south east in terms of receptors and the church and on the Stretton Baskerville Scheduled Ancient Monument to the east. It is accepted that the area is predominantly in Green Belt which is a significant constraint. Overall, the capacity of the area is considered to be limited by the above factors.
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## APPENDIX C

### LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION UNITS: BASELINE INFORMATION



APPENDIX C: LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION UNITS: BASELINE INFORMATION [EXTRACTS FROM WARWICKSHIRE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT GIS]

LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION UNITS CLASSIFICATION GENERIC DESCRIPTIONS: HIGH CROSS PLATEAU OPEN PLATEAU

LDU Identification no [FID]	57	62	64	72	73	80	89
Landscape type [RCA]	High Cross Plateau Open Plateau	High Cross Plateau Open Plateau	High Cross Plateau Open Plateau	High Cross Plateau Open Plateau	High Cross Plateau Open Plateau	High Cross Plateau Open Plateau	High Cross Plateau Open Plateau
Physio-graphy [PHYS]	<b>Glacial lowlands</b> - areas of intermediate relief, generally below 90 metres (300 feet), with an apparent rolling, in places undulating topography - associated with drift laid down by ice sheets.	<b>Glacial lowlands</b> - areas of intermediate relief, generally below 90 metres (300 feet), with an apparent rolling, in places undulating topography - associated with drift laid down by ice sheets.	<b>Glacial lowlands</b> - areas of intermediate relief, generally below 90 metres (300 feet), with an apparent rolling, in places undulating topography - associated with drift laid down by ice sheets.	<b>Glacial lowlands</b> - areas of intermediate relief, generally below 90 metres (300 feet), with an apparent rolling, in places undulating topography - associated with drift laid down by ice sheets.	<b>Periglacial plateau</b> - uniformly elevated tracts of gently rolling relief, usually bounded on one or more sides by steeper ground which drops to lower land - often dissected by narrow, steep sided valleys at a greater level of detail.	<b>Periglacial plateau</b> - uniformly elevated tracts of gently rolling relief, usually bounded on one or more sides by steeper ground which drops to lower land - often dissected by narrow, steep sided valleys at a greater level of detail.	<b>Glacial lowlands</b> - areas of intermediate relief, generally below 90 metres (300 feet), with an apparent rolling, in places undulating topography - associated with drift laid down by ice sheets.
Ground Type [ECOL]	<b>Heavy Brown soils</b> - slowly permeable, often base poor fine loamy and clayey soils developed on plateau drift and clay-with-flints, typically overlying chalk bedrock. Often includes localised patches of impoverished soils (denoted by Bd).	<b>Claylands</b> - slowly permeable soils, typically developed on soft clays and glacial tills. Often includes localised patches of damper soils (denoted by Bg) and although at risk in wetter areas to seasonal waterlogging, this ground type is utilised extensively for cereal growing in Eastern England.	<b>Claylands</b> - slowly permeable soils, typically developed on soft clays and glacial tills. Often includes localised patches of damper soils (denoted by Bg) and although at risk in wetter areas to seasonal waterlogging, this ground type is utilised extensively for cereal growing in Eastern England.	<b>Wet claylands</b> - slowly permeable soils, typically developed on soft clays and glacial tills. Seasonal waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production and in central and western areas this ground type is mainly under permanent grassland.	<b>Wet claylands</b> - slowly permeable soils, typically developed on soft clays and glacial tills. Seasonal waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production and in central and western areas this ground type is mainly under permanent grassland.	<b>Wet claylands</b> - slowly permeable soils, typically developed on soft clays and glacial tills. Seasonal waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production and in central and western areas this ground type is mainly under permanent grassland.	<b>Wet claylands</b> - slowly permeable soils, typically developed on soft clays and glacial tills. Seasonal waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production and in central and western areas this ground type is mainly under permanent grassland.

LDU Identification no [FID]	57	62	64	72	73	80	89
<b>Landcover [LAND]</b>	<b>Arable farmlands</b> - arable landscapes characterised by small coverts and/or small groups of trees, often associated with farmsteads, in an otherwise 'open' setting, typically created by Parliamentary type enclosure of arable field, or former 'waste'.	<b>Arable farmlands</b> - arable landscapes characterised by small coverts and/or small groups of trees, often associated with farmsteads, in an otherwise 'open' setting, typically created by Parliamentary type enclosure of arable field, or former 'waste'.	<b>Arable farmlands</b> - arable landscapes characterised by small coverts and/or small groups of trees, often associated with farmsteads, in an otherwise 'open' setting, typically created by Parliamentary type enclosure of arable field, or former 'waste'.	<b>Arable farmlands</b> - arable landscapes characterised by small coverts and/or small groups of trees, often associated with farmsteads, in an otherwise 'open' setting, typically created by Parliamentary type enclosure of arable field, or former 'waste'.	<b>Arable farmlands</b> - arable landscapes characterised by small coverts and/or small groups of trees, often associated with farmsteads, in an otherwise 'open' setting, typically created by Parliamentary type enclosure of arable field, or former 'waste'.	<b>Arable farmlands</b> - arable landscapes characterised by small coverts and/or small groups of trees, often associated with farmsteads, in an otherwise 'open' setting, typically created by Parliamentary type enclosure of arable field, or former 'waste'.	<b>Arable farmlands</b> - arable landscapes characterised by small coverts and/or small groups of trees, often associated with farmsteads, in an otherwise 'open' setting, typically created by Parliamentary type enclosure of arable field, or former 'waste'.
<b>Settlement pattern [SETT]</b>	<b>Villages and estate farms</b> - rural landscapes characterised by discrete, usually large villages and large (>65 ha) estate farms (defined as those areas where >50% of the land is managed by tenant farmers).	<b>Villages and estate farms</b> - rural landscapes characterised by discrete, usually large villages and large (>65 ha) estate farms (defined as those areas where >50% of the land is managed by tenant farmers).	<b>Villages and estate farms</b> - rural landscapes characterised by discrete, usually large villages and large (>65 ha) estate farms (defined as those areas where >50% of the land is managed by tenant farmers).	<b>Villages and estate farms</b> - rural landscapes characterised by discrete, usually large villages and large (>65 ha) estate farms (defined as those areas where >50% of the land is managed by tenant farmers).	<b>Planned enclosed waste</b> - a sparsely settled rural landscape of large (>65 ha) estate farms, characterised by a surveyor enclosed pattern of large rectilinear fields and isolated farmsteads.	<b>Planned enclosed waste</b> - a sparsely settled rural landscape of large (>65 ha) estate farms, characterised by a surveyor enclosed pattern of large rectilinear fields and isolated farmsteads.	<b>Villages and estate farms</b> - rural landscapes characterised by discrete, usually large villages and large (>65 ha) estate farms (defined as those areas where >50% of the land is managed by tenant farmers).

LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION UNITS CLASSIFICATION GENERIC DESCRIPTIONS: HIGH CROSS PLATEAU OPEN PLATEAU [CONT'D]

LDU Identification no [FID]	106	107	109	118	119
Landscape type [RCA]	High Cross Plateau Open Plateau	High Cross Plateau Open Plateau	High Cross Plateau Open Plateau	High Cross Plateau Open Plateau	High Cross Plateau Open Plateau
Physio-graphy [PHYS]	<b>Glacial lowlands</b> - areas of intermediate relief, generally below 90 metres (300 feet), with an apparent rolling, in places undulating topography - associated with drift laid down by ice sheets.	<b>Soft rock vales &amp; valleys</b> - low-lying land, generally below 90 metres (300 feet) - associated with clay vales and broad valley bottoms.	<b>Glacial lowlands</b> - areas of intermediate relief, generally below 90 metres (300 feet), with an apparent rolling, in places undulating topography - associated with drift laid down by ice sheets.	<b>Glacial lowlands</b> - areas of intermediate relief, generally below 90 metres (300 feet), with an apparent rolling, in places undulating topography - associated with drift laid down by ice sheets.	<b>Glacial lowlands</b> - areas of intermediate relief, generally below 90 metres (300 feet), with an apparent rolling, in places undulating topography - associated with drift laid down by ice sheets.
Ground Type [ECOL]	<b>Wet claylands</b> - slowly permeable soils, typically developed on soft clays and glacial tills. Seasonal waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production and in central and western areas this ground type is mainly under permanent grassland.	<b>Wet claylands</b> - slowly permeable soils, typically developed on soft clays and glacial tills. Seasonal waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production and in central and western areas this ground type is mainly under permanent grassland.	<b>Claylands</b> - slowly permeable soils, typically developed on soft clays and glacial tills. Often includes localised patches of damper soils (denoted by Bg) and although at risk in wetter areas to seasonal waterlogging, this ground type is utilised extensively for cereal growing in Eastern England.	<b>Wet claylands</b> - slowly permeable soils, typically developed on soft clays and glacial tills. Seasonal waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production and in central and western areas this ground type is mainly under permanent grassland.	<b>Wet claylands</b> - slowly permeable soils, typically developed on soft clays and glacial tills. Seasonal waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production and in central and western areas this ground type is mainly under permanent grassland.
Landcover [LAND]	<b>Arable farmlands</b> - arable landscapes characterised by small coverts and/or small groups of trees, often associated with farmsteads, in an otherwise 'open' setting, typically created by Parliamentary type enclosure of arable field, or former 'waste'.	<b>Arable farmlands</b> - arable landscapes characterised by small coverts and/or small groups of trees, often associated with farmsteads, in an otherwise 'open' setting, typically created by Parliamentary type enclosure of arable field, or former 'waste'.	<b>Arable farmlands</b> - arable landscapes characterised by small coverts and/or small groups of trees, often associated with farmsteads, in an otherwise 'open' setting, typically created by Parliamentary type enclosure of arable field, or former 'waste'.	<b>Ancient wooded farmlands</b> - arable landscapes characterised by individual blocks, or clusters of ancient woods which are often significantly larger than the surrounding enclosure pattern.	<b>Arable farmlands</b> - arable landscapes characterised by small coverts and/or small groups of trees, often associated with farmsteads, in an otherwise 'open' setting, typically created by Parliamentary type enclosure of arable field, or former 'waste'.
Settlement pattern [SETT]	<b>Villages and estate farms</b> - rural landscapes characterised by discrete, usually large villages and large (>65 ha) estate farms (defined as those areas where >50% of the land is managed by tenant farmers).	<b>Villages and estate farms</b> - rural landscapes characterised by discrete, usually large villages and large (>65 ha) estate farms (defined as those areas where >50% of the land is managed by tenant farmers).	<b>Villages and estate farms</b> - rural landscapes characterised by discrete, usually large villages and large (>65 ha) estate farms (defined as those areas where >50% of the land is managed by tenant farmers).	<b>Villages and estate farms</b> - rural landscapes characterised by discrete, usually large villages and large (>65 ha) estate farms (defined as those areas where >50% of the land is managed by tenant farmers).	<b>Villages and large farms</b> - rural landscapes characterised by discrete, usually large villages and medium sized (<95 ha), often tenanted farms.

LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION UNITS CLASSIFICATION GENERIC DESCRIPTIONS: FELDON VALE FARMLANDS AND MEASE LOWLANDS

<b>LDU Identification no [FID]</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Landscape type [RCA]</b>	Feldon Vale Farmlands	Mease Lowlands
<b>Physio-graphy [PHYS]</b>	<b>Soft rock vales &amp; valleys</b> - low-lying land, generally below 90 metres (300 feet) - associated with clay vales and broad valley bottoms.	<b>Soft rock vales &amp; valleys</b> - low-lying land, generally below 90 metres (300 feet) - associated with clay vales and broad valley bottoms.
<b>Ground Type [ECOL]</b>	<b>Wet claylands</b> - slowly permeable soils, typically developed on soft clays and glacial tills. Seasonal waterlogging is the main constraint to agricultural production and in central and western areas this ground type is mainly under permanent grassland.	<b>Loamy gleys</b> - heavy land with slowly permeable base poor loamy and clayey soils. The land is mainly under permanent grassland due to seasonal waterlogging, with patches of wet heath (denoted by Gd), grading into wet moorland (denoted by Gt) at higher elevations in the north and west.
<b>Landcover [LAND]</b>	<b>Pastoral farmlands</b> - pastoral landscapes characterised by scattered trees (usually in hedgerows, or along watercourses) and small patches of scrub.	<b>Arable farmlands</b> - arable landscapes characterised by small coverts and/or small groups of trees, often associated with farmsteads, in an otherwise 'open' setting, typically created by Parliamentary type enclosure of arable field, or former 'waste'.
<b>Settlement pattern [SETT]</b>	<b>Villages and small farms</b> - rural landscapes characterised by discrete villages and small to medium sized (<65 ha), mainly owner occupied farms.	<b>Villages and estate farms</b> - rural landscapes characterised by discrete, usually large villages and large (>65 ha) estate farms (defined as those areas where >50% of the land is managed by tenant farmers).

## APPENDIX D

### GLOSSARY



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Note: This glossary is not a complete coverage of all words or terms used in the study. For instance it does not cover technical geological, ecological or historical landscape terms. Rather, it addresses those terms used as part of this method or in the descriptions, where meanings diverge from common parlance or are not explained in the method statement.

<b>Amenity (Planting)</b>	planting to provide environmental benefit such as decorative or screen planting.
<b>Analysis</b>	the process of dividing up the landscape into its component parts to gain a better understanding of it.
<b>Ancient Woodland</b>	land continuously wooded since AD 1600. It is an extremely valuable ecological resource, usually with a high diversity of flora and fauna.
<b>Apparent</b>	object visible in the landscape.
<b>Approach</b>	the step-by-step process by which landscape assessment is undertaken.
<b>Arable</b>	land used for growing crops other than grass or woody species.
<b>Assessment</b>	term to describe all the various ways of looking at, analysing, evaluating and describing the landscape.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	the variety of life including all the different habitats and species in the world.
<b>Conservation</b>	the protection and careful management of natural and built resources and the environment.
<b>Carr</b>	woodland in waterlogged terrain. Characteristic species include alder, willow and sallow.
<b>Character</b>	see Landscape Character.
<b>Characteristics</b>	elements, features and qualities which make a particular contribution to distinctive character.
<b>Characterisation</b>	the process of identifying areas of similar character, classifying

and mapping them and describing their character.

<b>Complexity</b>	(in the context of describing a skyline) how varied or complicated the skyline is from dead flat with even vegetation at one end of the scale to mountainous with varied vegetation at the other.
<b>Condition</b>	the degree to which a landscape is soundly managed, is fit for purpose or achieves optimum biodiversity.
<b>Coppicing</b>	the traditional method of woodland management in which trees are cut down near to the ground to encourage the production of long, straight shoots that can be harvested.
<b>Consistent</b>	relatively unchanging element or pattern across a given area of landscape.
<b>Cultural pattern</b>	expression of the historic pattern of enclosure and rural settlement.
<b>Cultural sensitivity</b>	reflects the relative time depth (or continuity) of a landscape through history, and the degree to which its characteristics (such as hedgerows and settlements) are exhibited in the landscape (consistency).
<b>Diversity</b>	(in terms of the function of an area) the variety of different functions of an area.
<b>Dominant</b>	main defining feature or pattern.
<b>Ecological sensitivity</b>	reflects the extent of survival and intactness of semi-natural habitats or patches (areas).
<b>Element</b>	individual component parts of the landscape such as field boundaries, woodlands, patches of similar vegetation, outbuildings, structures and rock outcrops.
<b>Feature</b>	prominent eye catching elements e.g. wooded hill top or chapel.
<b>Field Boundary</b>	the defined edge of a field whether fence, hedge, bank, ditch or wall.
<b>Field Size</b>	Large 2 Ha Above, Medium Around 1.5 Ha, Small Less Than 1 Ha.

<b>Geology</b>	the study of the origin, structure, composition and history of the Earth together with the processes that have led to its present state.
<b>Ground Type</b>	expression of the soil forming environment and its influence in determining the surface pattern of vegetation and land use.
<b>Hedge</b>	fence of shrubs or low trees, living or dead, or of turf or stone. Though strictly a row of bushes forming a hedge, hedgerow has been taken to mean the same as a hedge.
<b>Hedge bank</b>	earth bank or mound relating to a hedge.
<b>Horticulture</b>	intensive form of cropping, such as vegetables or fruit.
<b>Improved (in relation to soils or pasture)</b>	addition of fertiliser and, in the case of pasture, reseeding with more productive grass species.
<b>Inherent</b>	dictionary definition- 'existing as an inseparable part'. In the context of sensitivity means the sensitivity of the landscape zone itself with all its component elements and features rather than its relationship with adjacent zones.
<b>Joint Character Area</b>	now renamed 'National Character Area' (see this definition)
<b>Landcover</b>	combinations of natural and man-made elements including vegetation that cover the land surface.
<b>Landscape</b>	<i>'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'- as defined by the European Landscape Convention. The landscape includes the visual appearance of the land including its shape, form and colours, geology, landform, soils, ecology, archaeology, landscape history, land use, settlement character and pattern and cultural associations.</i>
<b>Landscape Capacity</b>	the ability of a landscape to accommodate different amounts of change (ie wind energy development) without a fundamental change in character. It considers receptors and perceived landscape value. It derives from an assessment of potential cumulative impact of several wind energy developments and takes into account the potential scale of development.
<b>Land cover parcel (LCP)</b>	Land Cover Parcels are discrete areas of land nested within a larger LDU reflecting variations in the physical character of the

	land. Bounded by roads, railways, water courses and parish boundaries, these units define areas with similar patterns of land use, field pattern and tree cover.
<b>Landscape Character</b>	a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements, features and qualities in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.
<b>Landscape Character Area (LCA)</b>	area with common characteristics- in this study it is made up of a number of adjacent landscape description units with common perceptual and other characteristics.
<b>Landscape Character Type (LCT)</b>	areas with common characteristics which are not necessarily joined- in this study these are made up of a number of landscape description units with common perceptual and other characteristics.
<b>Landscape Description Unit (LDU)</b>	distinct and relatively homogenous unit of land, each defined by four attributes- physiography and ground type, landcover and cultural pattern.
<b>Landscape Resource</b>	The overall stock of the landscape and its component parts. (The landscape considered as a measurable finite resource like any other eg minerals, land, water).
<b>Landscape Sensitivity</b>	the sensitivity of the landscape to a particular type of change ie wind energy development. It is a combination of the sensitivity of the physical landscape resource (including its historical and ecological features and elements) and perceptual qualities (such as views). Sensitivity is considered independent of landscape value i.e. whether an area has a landscape designation or not.
<b>Landscape value</b>	the relative value that is attached to different landscapes. A landscape may be valued by different communities of interest for many different reasons. These can include scenic beauty, tranquillity, wildness, special cultural associations, the presence of conservation interests, rarity or the existence of a consensus about importance, either nationally or locally. Some areas will be designated to express their value.
<b>Mixed Farmland</b>	a combination of arable and pastoral farmland.
<b>Mosaic</b>	mix of different landcovers at a fine grain such as woodland, pasture and heath.
<b>National Character</b>	area of land (one of 159) based on broad landscape character

<b>Area</b>	defined by a national landscape character assessment in 1990s for the Countryside Agency corresponding with nationally derived Natural Areas defined by English Nature eg Bodmin Moor.
<b>Objective</b>	method of assessment in which personal feelings and opinions do not influence characterisation.
<b>Outcrop</b>	the area where a particular rock appears at the surface.
<b>Pastoral-</b>	land down to grass either grazed by animals or for cutting.
<b>Physiography</b>	expression of the shape and structure of the land surface as influenced both by the nature of the underlying geology and the effect of geomorphological processes.
<b>Polygon</b>	discrete digitised area in a geographic information system(GIS).
<b>Prominent</b>	noticeable feature or pattern in the landscape.
<b>Protect</b>	to keep from harm.
<b>Qualities</b>	aesthetic (objective visible patterns)or perceptual ( subjective responses by the landscape assessor) attributes of the landscape such as those relating to scale or tranquillity respectively.
<b>Rectilinear</b>	field shape with generally straight field boundaries and a regular shape- often due to late enclosure.
<b>Receptor</b>	receptors (in this report) are defined as people in a variety of different situations who can experience views within an area and who may be affected by change or development. Receptors can include urban or rural residents, users of public footpaths, roads, rail or cycleways.
<b>Resource</b>	see landscape resource.
<b>Restore</b>	repair or renew.
<b>Riparian</b>	vegetation associated with the water body, usually a river or stream.
<b>Semi-natural</b>	any type of vegetation that has been influenced by human activities, either directly or indirectly. The term is usually applied

<b>vegetation</b>	to areas which are reverting to nature due to lack of management.
<b>Sense Of Place</b>	the character of a place that makes it locally distinctive ie different from other places.
<b>Sensory</b>	that which is received through the senses ie sight, hearing, smell, touch.
<b>Settlement</b>	all dwellings/habitations, whether single or clustered in cities, towns and villages.
<b>Settlement Pattern</b>	the predominant pattern of settlement in an area.
<b>Subjective</b>	method of assessment in which personal views and reaction are used in the characterisation process.
<b>Sub regular</b>	Variety of field shapes with mix of boundaries, some straight, some curved.
<b>Topography</b>	term used to describe the features of the Earth's surface.
<b>Value</b>	see landscape value
<b>Vernacular</b>	built in the local style, from local materials.
<b>Visual Impacts</b>	the likely visual effects that would result from a development proposal or change in land management.
<b>Visual sensitivity</b>	visual sensitivity or 'visibility' is the third component of landscape sensitivity, and is a measure of the degree to which change is likely to cause a visual impact within a particular landscape.

### Abbreviations

<b>AOD</b>	Above Ordnance Datum
<b>AONB</b>	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
<b>BAP</b>	Biodiversity Action Plan
<b>CCA</b>	Combined Character area
<b>20c</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> century
<b>SAC</b>	Special Area of Conservation
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic information system

LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LCA	Landscape character area
LCT	Landscape character type
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
PSAC	Provisional Special Area of Conservation
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SINC	Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
SMR	Scheduled Monument Record
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest