URS

Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal

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Stroud District Council

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND







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1. INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

1.1 Introduction

This report examines landscape sensitivity for a number of Potential Locations (PLs) for growth (housing, mixed-use and employment) that have been considered as part of the Stroud Local Plan-making / Sustainability Appraisal process. It presents a summary sensitivity 'score' for each PL as well as a summary and justification of key findings relevant to each.

The appraisal is based on both a desktop study and a site-based verification exercise and it is acknowledged that the appraisal is at a high level.

The thirty five PLs ranged in size from approximately 3ha to 150ha and due to the distribution of PLs and limitations imposed by time constraints, available desktop and fieldwork resources were evenly distributed across the PLs. As such, the sensitivity score and justification intends to provide a contextual overview and there are likely to be variations in both characteristics and sensitivity within them.

Professional judgement has been used to inform the sensitivity scores and it is acknowledged that some elements of the appraisal are by their nature subjective.

PLs described within this report are based on those provided by Mark Fessey and are illustrated in Figure 1. More detailed maps are presented within the Local plan Sustainability Appraisal Report.

1.2 Desktop Study

As part of the desktop study the following tasks were undertaken:

- Existing Landscape Character assessments were consulted to gain an understanding of the key components of the landscape character in which the PLs are situated:
- GIS information (provided by Stroud District Council) was consulted to review relevant landscape/townscape designations; and
- A review of aerial imagery and OS mapping data was completed to gain an understanding of landform, land use, woodland cover and settlement pattern.

1.3 Site based Appraisal

Fieldwork was undertaken so as to verify the findings of the initial desktop study and gain an appreciation of scale, sense of enclosure, key views, screening and visual sensitivity.

Relevant factors recorded through the site visit include:

- Topographical features and context;
- Key landscape characteristics / features;
- Landscape condition;
- Functional and visual relationship with its surroundings;
- Intervisibility and key views in and out;
- Visual characteristics;



- Visual detractors:
- Tranquillity;
- Amenity value including the presence of Public Rights of Way (PRoW); and
- Potential receptors within and outside each PL.

1.4 Sensitivity assessment:

The sensitivity of each PL was made following the baseline analysis of all information and field survey verification.

Sensitivity is taken to mean the sensitivity of the landscape itself and its ability to absorb change without significant detriment to positive landscape characteristics. It is a combination of the sensitivity of the landscape resource, including landscape as a physical resource, its historical features and elements and the visual sensitivity of the landscape, such as views and visibility. It also incorporates landscape value denoted by landscape related designations.

It is acknowledged that some factors will be more important than others in different PLs i.e. the function of an area of land in separating settlements may increase sensitivity even if it has limited landscape value.

The following definitions are provided as a guide to the assessment scores of landscape sensitivity:

- Low Key characteristics of landscape are robust and/or are of relatively low intrinsic value as a landscape resource and as such are potentially tolerant of change.
- Medium-low Key characteristics of landscape are resilient to change and/or are of limited intrinsic value as a landscape resource.
- Medium Key characteristics of landscape are susceptible to change and have value as a landscape resource.
- **High-Medium** Key characteristics of landscape are vulnerable to change and/or have high value as a landscape resource.
- **High** Key characteristics of landscape are very vulnerable to change and/or have significant value as a landscape resource.

None of the PLs were assessed as having low landscape sensitivity as each had some intrinsic landscape value. PLs that comprised predominantly of Brownfield land were excluded from the appraisal at the outset.

The appraisal considers wider PLs as opposed to individual sites and the landscape sensitivity score feeds into the overall sustainability appraisal.

Sensitivity is assessed at a broad scale to provide a contextual overview of the sensitivity of the landscape to changes and a detailed capacity study has not been carried out which would be reliant on specific details of development.

1.5 Sources of information

Stroud District Local Plan (November 2005);



- NE336: NCA 106 Severn and Avon Vales;
- NE420: NCA 107 Cotswolds;
- Stroud District Landscape Assessment (November 2000);
- Gloucester Landscape Character Assessment (January 2006);
- Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis LDF (January 2010) as advised by Meyrick Brentnall / Barbara Maxymiw at Gloucester City Council on the basis that this assessment informed the methodology for a comparable study within Gloucester City; and
- Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for the Cotswolds AONB (2003).

1.6 Limitations

- No computer aided analysis of visibility has been carried out to assess visibility;
- The assessment considers PLs as opposed to individual sites and as such the assessment intends to provide a contextual overview of the landscape sensitivity within the PLs;
- The fieldwork element was constrained by seasonality;
- Details of the specific nature/scale/form of the proposed development are not included; and
- The issue of light pollution is not considered in detail.



2. POTENTIAL LOCATIONS SENSITIVITY SUMMARY TABLE

Potential Location		Landscape Sensitivity	Potential Location		Landscape Sensitivity
1	Hardwicke	Medium - Low	<u>18</u>	West of Cam 1	High - Medium
<u>2</u>	Hunts Grove Extension	Medium - Low	<u>19</u>	West of Cam 2	Medium
<u>3</u>	Quedgeley East employment site	Medium - Low	<u>20</u>	East of Dursley	Medium
<u>4</u>	Whaddon	Medium - Low	<u>21</u>	South of Sharpness	Medium
<u>5</u>	Upton St. Leonards South	High - Medium	<u>22</u>	South and east of Newtown	Medium
<u>6</u>	Land adjacent to Brockworth Airfield	Medium	<u>23</u>	North of Sharpness Docks	Medium
<u>7</u>	Whitminster	Medium	<u>24</u>	Proposed employment site south of Severn Distribution Park	Medium - Low
<u>8</u>	Eastington North	Medium - Low	<u>25</u>	Land east of Rodborough	High - Medium
9	Employment north of Eastington	Medium	<u>26</u>	2011 SHLAA Site 54, London Road, Thrupp	Medium
<u>10</u>	Eastington South	Medium	<u>27</u>	2011 SHLAA Sites 13, 57 and 63, Brimscombe	Medium - Low
<u>11</u>	West Stonehouse	Medium - Low	<u>28</u>	West of Stroud	Medium
<u>12a</u>	South west of Stonehouse	Medium - Low	<u>29</u>	Land at Nortonwood, Nailsworth	High
<u>12b</u>	South west of Stonehouse	Medium	<u>30</u>	Land at Whitecroft, Nailsworth	Medium
<u>13a</u>	South east of Stonehouse	High	<u>31</u>	North of Stroud 1	High - Medium
<u>13b</u>	South east of Stonehouse	Medium	<u>32</u>	North of Stroud 2	High - Medium
<u>14</u>	North of Kings Stanley	Medium - Low	<u>33</u>	North of Stroud 3	High - Medium
<u>15</u>	North East of Cam	Medium	<u>34</u>	North of Stroud 4	Medium
<u>16</u>	East of Cam	Medium	<u>35</u>	North of Stroud 5	Medium
<u>17</u>	North West of Cam	Medium - Low			



3. POTENTIAL LOCATION DESCRIPTIONS

3.1 PL 1 – Hardwicke

Medium - Low Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Perceivably flat urban edge landscape consisting predominantly of an arable land cover;
- Bordered to the west by the Gloucestershire and Sharpness Canal and to the east by the A38:
- The landscape includes established rural village characteristics with interspersed housing located adjacent to narrow country lanes bounded by hedgerows. This contrasts with new residential development to the north, construction activities associated with new housing developments and presence of industrial buildings associated with Quedgeley Trading Estate West;
- The landscape provides a buffer between the landscape west of the canal and the urban edge and provides a recreational amenity for existing residents with links to The Gloucestershire and Sharpness Canal;
- Visually well contained by dense residential development in the north, industrial units to the east and by tall hedge/tree cover. Generally, fields are well screened and intervisibility is low;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of local roads / PROWs and residents;
- Some views to elevated uplands to the east are present but are distant in nature;
- The landscape contains landscape features such as mature boundary trees with associated hedgerows, ditches and streams. The condition of these varies but still remain important to the rural village character;
- Tranquillity interrupted by large industrial units, new housing, and the A38 road corridor which is very audible within most locations.

- AONB 3km to the east
- TPOs Group TPO within the northern extent of the PL
- Listed Buildings several located along Church Lane / Pound Lane
- PRoW Numerous Public footpaths crossing fields



3.2 PL 2 – Hunts Grove Extension

Medium - Low Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Flat open agricultural landscape consisting of large, arable fields;
- Bordered to the west by the A38 and to the south by the M5 road corridor;
- The landscape demonstrates a rural, agricultural character which is heavily eroded by adjacent large scale industrial buildings / business units, the M5 and the elevated Junction 12 roundabout;
- Relatively visually well contained from surrounding roads due to boundary hedgerows with field openings providing the main visual opportunities. . Generally, fields are well screened and intervisibility is low;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of local roads and residents located within properties to the west of the PL along the A38;
- Some views available to the elevated Cotswolds uplands to the east and upland Forest of Dean AONB to the west, but these are distant in nature;
- Contains landscape features including mature boundary trees and hedgerows, however these are less common in comparison to surrounding areas;
- Tranquillity heavily degraded by traffic noise and construction activities.
- An absence PRoW suggests a limited amenity value;

Relevant designations:

AONB – 2.2km to the east



3.3 PL 3 – Quedgeley East employment site

Medium - Low Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Flat open agricultural landscape consisting of large arable fields;
- Bordered to the west by the M5 road corridor;
- The landscape demonstrates a rural agricultural character, however this is contradicted by large scale industrial buildings / business units, the M5 and the elevated Junction 12 roundabout adjacent to the PL;
- Relatively visually well contained from surrounding roads due to boundary hedgerows with field openings providing the main visual opportunities. Generally, fields are well screened and intervisibility is low;
- Views are generally dominated by highway infrastructure associated with the M5 such as lighting columns and signage;
- Some views are available to the elevated Cotswolds uplands to the east and upland Forest of Dean AONB to the west, but these are distant in nature;
- Landscape features such as mature boundary trees within hedgerows are less frequent in comparison to surrounding areas;
- Vegetated highways embankments acts to soften views of the M5 but its character is at odds with the context of hedgerows with intermittent trees;
- · Receptors primarily consist of users of local roads;
- Tranquillity heavily degraded by traffic noise and large industrial buildings within some views;

- AONB 1km to the east;
- Protected hedgerows adjacent to western boundary along M5 Junction 12.



3.4 PL 4 – Whaddon

Medium - Low Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Large scale pastoral landscape with a notably sparse tree cover in comparison with adjacent landscapes;
- Fields are bounded by low and often degraded hedgerows;
- Bordered to the west by a linear railway embankment and to the east by the A4173 and the M5 road corridor;
- Railway embankment acts to visually dissect the landscape from the western portion and the dramatic line of poplars lining the railway embankment is out of character with the surrounding landscape;
- The loss/absence of landscape features contributes to a bland pattern and structure with the complex mix of urban and rural influences then leading to a disconnected character;
- Views of the industrial area to the west are available from some locations;
- Open character leads to a high degree of intervisibility;
- Strong visual connection with upland landscape to the AONB to the east and the vegetated Robin Wood Hill to the north. Landscape would be conspicuous from upland areas;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of PRoWs, local roads, residents and recreational users of upland areas;
- Good network of public footpaths linking Whaddon, south Tuffley and Waterwells suggests a landscape with high amenity value;
- Location provides a green buffer between the AONB and the urban edge of Gloucester to the west;
- Tranquillity degraded by urban/industrial influences and traffic noise.

- AONB 1km to the east;
- Country Park Robins Wood Hill 0.6km to the north east;
- Listed Buildings a small number located in Whaddon;
- PRoW Numerous Public footpaths and bridleways crossing fields / Wysis and Glevum way.



3.5 PL 5 – Upton St. Leonards South

High - Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- High quality AONB landscape associated with the southern edge of the village of Upton St. Leonards;
- Elevated rolling landscape consisting of predominantly irregular pastoral fields, bound by treed hedgerows;
- Retains a quaint village character despite a strong variety of building materials and styles;
- Landscape features such as mature boundary trees and hedgerows are generally in good condition and are important to the rural village character;
- Visually well contained with mature hedgerows and trees along field boundaries contributing to a visual detachment from the wider Gloucester conurbation;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of local roads / PROWs and residents;
- Strong visual connection with upland landscapes within the AONB to the south and east;
- Tranquillity degraded by modern residential developments within the village and traffic noise associated with the M5 to the west:
- Agricultural landscape acts to define the edge of the residential area and retain the integrity and character of the village;
- Numerous PRoW crossing the PL between the village and areas within the AONB, suggesting a high amenity value.

- AONB Partially designated;
- TPOs Approximately 17 (concentrated near to St. Leonards Court and along field boundaries) and a Group TPO along Birchall Lane;
- Listed Buildings several associated with Upton St. Leonards;
- PRoW Numerous public footpaths converging at centre of proposed location.



3.6 PL 6 – Land adjacent to Brockworth Airfield

Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Flat pocket of pastoral land to the north of Upton St. Leonards bounded by narrow heavily vegetated bridleways to the south and west and by pastoral fields associated with the Cotswolds AONB to the east;
- Feeling of relative isolation from adjacent built up areas given vegetation screening to the west and south;
- Visually well contained to the south and west with mature hedgerows and trees along field boundaries contributing to a visual detachment from the wider Gloucester conurbation;
- Sloping topography and a more open character to the north creates a strong visual relationship with the Gloucester Business Park and the new housing development as well as the wider agricultural context and the AONB;
- Landscape features such as mature boundary trees, hedgerows and isolated field trees are generally in good condition although hedgerows in some locations appear degraded;
- · Receptors primarily consist of users of users of the PRoWs;
- Strong visual connection with the northern plain and the upland landscapes within the AONB to the east;
- Landscape features such as mature boundary trees and hedgerows are generally in good condition and are important to the rural village character;
- Tranquillity degraded by urban influence to the north and traffic noise associated with the M5 to the west;
- The bridleways crossing and bordering the PL suggest the area has some amenity value for outdoor recreation, although the well vegetated nature of the bridleways suggests the appreciation of the landscape is not primary focus.

- AONB Adjacent to eastern edge;
- PRoW Public Bridleway crossing fields and running adjacent to western and southern boundaries.



3.7 PL 7 – Whitminster

Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Predominantly arable undulating landscape forming the western boundary to the village of Whitminster;
- Bounded to the east by the A38 with the remaining context being agricultural;
- Topography falls to the north and more steeply towards the canal and river corridor to the south;
- Relatively low tree cover within agricultural areas, predominantly hedgerow trees which are generally in good condition. Hedgerows in some locations appear degraded;
- The influence of topography and vegetation restrict views although views to the north are locally extensive;
- Some views are available to the elevated Cotswolds uplands to the east but these are distant in nature;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of users of the PRoWs, residents of Whitminster and users of local roads;
- Tranquillity degraded by urban development, National Grid overhead lines and pylons and traffic noise associated with the A38 and M5 to the west:
- Numerous PRoW crossing the PL between the village and the wider canal/river and agricultural landscape suggest a high amenity value.

- AONB 2.8km to the east;
- TPOs Numerous located within Whitminster outside of PLs;
- Listed Buildings several located within Whitminster;
- Conservation Area –Within Industrial Heritage Conservation Area;
- PRoW Numerous Footpaths crossing fields. National Cycle Route 45 passes through centre of site along School Lane.



3.8 PL 8 – Eastington North

Medium - Low Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Predominantly arable agricultural landscape forming the northern boundary to the village of Eastington;
- Bound to the north by the River Frome, to the west by the M5 road corridor and by the village of Eastington to the south;
- Topography falls towards the river to the north with a notable scarp occurring within the northern fields;
- Generally, tree cover along the river and within field boundaries provide a degree of visual containment which preclude distant views from areas within the lower part of the PL and help to retain a rural agricultural character;
- Hedgerows in some locations appear degraded with landscape elements otherwise in moderate condition;
- Some distant views are available to the elevated Cotswolds uplands to the east from elevated locations:
- Views of residential edge and traffic along the M5 are possible from several locations within the PL:
- Receptors primarily consist of users of users of the PRoWs, residents of Eastington and users of local roads:
- Tranquillity heavily degraded by, National Grid overhead lines and pylons and traffic noise associated with the M5 immediately to the west;
- A small number of PRoWs along the River Frome and surrounding the village suggest a moderate amenity value.

- AONB 2.5km to the east;
- Registered Parks and Gardens: Within 2.5km of Frampton Court;
- Listed Buildings Small number within Eastington;
- Conservation Area -Adjacent to Industrial Heritage Conservation Area;
- PRoW 2 footpaths running within site. Footpaths run along site boundary.



3.9 PL 9 – Employment north of Eastington

Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Predominantly flat pastoral agricultural landscape dissected by the A419 to the east of Junction 13 of the M5:
- Bound to the north by the Grove Lane, to the west by the M5 road corridor (and Junction 13) and by the River From to the south;
- Agricultural character is eroded by the presence of road corridors;
- Hedgerows in some locations appear degraded with landscape elements otherwise in moderate condition;
- Generally, tree cover and vegetation along field boundaries act to provide visual containment although degraded hedgerows act to increase intervisibility in some locations where tree cover is sparse;
- Some distant views are available to the elevated Cotswolds uplands to the east from elevated locations;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of the PRoWs, residents of adjacent farmsteads and users of local roads/M5:
- Tranquillity heavily degraded by the influence of context of road infrastructure with traffic noise associated with the A419 and M5 immediately to the west notable from most locations;
- A small number of PRoW along the River Frome and surrounding the village suggest a moderate amenity value.

- AONB 1.8km to the east;
- Ancient Woodland Within 500m of Mole Grove;
- Registered Parks and Gardens: Within 2.5km of Frampton Court;
- Listed Buildings Small number within the northern extent of the PL;
- Conservation Area Partly within Industrial Heritage Conservation Area;
- PRoW 4 footpaths running within site boundary.



3.10 PL 10 – Eastington South

Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Urban edge elevated pastoral fields within a gently undulating agricultural landscape;
- Bound to the south by Bath Road and to the west by the residential edge of the village of Eastington;
- The PL is centred on a localised high point within the landscape that falls towards Bath Road to the south and Millend Lane to the north;
- Agricultural character predominantly associates with the wider agricultural context to the south west but has urban edge characteristics owing to the immediacy of the residential edge;
- Generally, tree cover and vegetation along field boundaries act to provide limited screening and the relative elevation affords long distance views of the upland AONB landscape to the south and east;
- Despite some good quality mature tree specimens, field boundary hedgerows are generally in a poor condition and have been replaced / reinforced by stock proof fencing in some locations;
- There is a strong visual relationship with the residential context and the space acts as a green buffer between Eastington and the residential context surrounding Middle Street to the south of the PL;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of the PRoWs, residents of adjacent properties and users of local roads;
- Numerous PRoW converging within the centre of the PL suggests a high amenity value.

- AONB 3km to the east;
- Conservation Area Partly within Industrial Heritage Conservation Area;
- PRoW 7 footpaths converging at the centre of the site.



3.11 PL 11 – West of Stonehouse

Medium - Low Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Gently undulating agricultural landscape consisting predominantly of larger pastoral fields which appear to have been consolidated within the north western extent of the PL with agricultural intensification;
- Bound to the south by the A419 and Stroudwater Business Park and to the East by the Bristol-Birmingham Railway Line;
- Agricultural context is eroded by the presence of road and rail corridors and large industrial scale buildings associated with the Business park within the southern and eastern extents of the site;
- Generally, tree cover and tall hedgerows provide a degree of visual containment although there remains a strong visual connection with adjacent Business Park and residential edge of Stonehouse. Within most locations there is also a strong visual association with the elevated Cotswolds uplands to the east, particularly Doverow Hill;
- Hedgerows in some locations appear degraded and generally landscape elements are in moderate condition;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of the PRoWs, residents of adjacent farmsteads and users of local roads/M5 and rail corridor:
- Tranquillity heavily degraded by large industrial units, housing and the influence of road and railway infrastructure which is audible within most locations;
- Numerous PRoW suggest the agricultural landscape has amenity value.

- AONB 0.5km to the east;
- TPOs Numerous individual TPOs and a Group TPO within the eastern extent of the PL:
- Ancient Woodland Within 500m of Mole Grove;
- Listed Buildings several within the PL and within close proximity;
- Conservation Area Adjacent to Industrial Heritage Conservation Area;
- PRoW Numerous footpaths and 2 bridleways within site boundary.



3.12 PL 12a and 12b – South west of Stonehouse

12a - Medium - Low Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- A singular pastoral field located to the south of Bristol Road
- Bound to the north by Bristol Road, to the south by the Stroudwater Canal, to the east by the Bristol-Birmingham Railway Line and to the west by Stonehouse Business Park:
- The site is bound by dense vegetation along the railway embankment and along the
 eastern and southern boundaries. The condition of this vegetation is generally good
 consisting of a mature beech hedge line and a mixed woodland character to the south
 and east. The vegetation has good screening properties and act to preclude views
 and visually contain the site in these directions;
- Direct visual association with the residential Terrace to the north of Bristol Road;
- Receptors primarily consist of residents of properties opposite and users of Bristol Road;
- Tranquillity of the site is likely to be influenced by views of the adjacent industrial/residential and road to the north and by the influence of noise associated with road and railway infrastructure.

- AONB 1.5km to the north
- Conservation Area Within Industrial Heritage Conservation Area



12b - Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Small pockets of undeveloped land within a PL containing church grounds, the Stroudwater Canal and residential development within Bridgend;
- Historical features along the canal such as the Church of St. Cyr and Nutshell Bridge crossing the Canal act to create a rich heritage character which contrasts with the mix of new build developments to the south;
- The canal has a high amenity value with waterfowl and natural areas of aquatic vegetation providing a break from the urban context further north;
- Despite the visual association with the residential development within Bridgend in the south western extent of the PL, there is also a strong visual association with the elevated AONB upland landscapes to the south and east with extensive views over the River Frome valley where built development and vegetation do not restrict views;
- Numerous PRoW denote the importance of the canal as an important recreation/amenity resource.

- AONB 1.5km to the north;
- Ancient Woodland Within 2km to S of site Listed Buildings several located on the Northern side of the Stroudwater Canal;
- Conservation Area Within Industrial Heritage Conservation Area;
- PRoW Public footpath along the canal towpath and joining to northern context.



3.13 PL 13a and 13b – South east of Stonehouse

13a - High Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Upland AONB landscape associated with the eastern slopes of Doverow Hill that forms the eastern boundary of Stonehouse;
- Bound to the west by the residential edge of Stonehouse, to the south by the Swindon-Gloucester "Golden Valley" Railway Line and station, and to the north and east by the AONB uplands associated with Doverow Hill;
- · Contains open grassland with mature trees and woodland;
- The condition and quality of landscape features is generally high despite some degraded remnant hedgerow features and there are a number of high quality mature tree specimens present;
- Despite the proximity of the urban edge of Stonehouse, the high vegetation cover affords a degree of screening of the built up context;
- From elevated locations there is a strong visual association with the agricultural plain and upland AONB landscapes to the south;
- The hill is locally conspicuous from a number of locations and is important as a topographical feature associated with the edge of the upland Cotswolds landscapes;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of users of the PRoWs, as well as residents of Stonehouse and those viewing Doverow Hill within views from the south and west;
- Numerous PRoW denote the importance of the hill as a recreation/amenity resource;
- Despite the presence of the railway line and developed context, the elevated and well vegetated character of the PL coupled with the expansive views contributes to a degree of tranquillity.

- AONB Within Cotswolds AONB;
- TPOs Numerous;
- Conservation Area Adjacent to Industrial Heritage Conservation Area;
- PRoW Footpaths connecting Doverow Hill with Stonehouse. Borders Cotswold Way National Trail.



13b - Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- The PL has a mixed urban edge character and context, including Playing fields, areas
 of public open space pockets of undeveloped land to the west of Stonehouse;
- Bound to the north by the Swindon-Gloucester "Golden Valley" Railway Line and to the south by the Stroudwater Canal, the site is also bisected by the A419 and Ebley Road including a number of residential properties and educational facilities;
- The topography falls gently towards the canal and River Frome to the south but the
 well vegetated nature of the canal corridor including vegetation associated with canal
 side properties which has a more ornamental character, precludes views to the south,
 therefore largely retaining the integrity of the canal corridor;
- There is a strong visual association with the AONB upland landscape of Doverow Hill to the north;
- Numerous PRoW and the presence of pleasure boats on the canal denote the importance of the canal as a recreation/amenity resource;
- Tranquillity degraded by views of the adjacent residential areas and road to the north and by the influence of noise associated with road and railway infrastructure.

- AONB Adjacent to the north;
- TPOs Numerous:
- Listed Buildings number within close proximity;
- Conservation Area –Within Industrial Heritage Conservation Area;
- PRoW Footpaths along Canal towpath, local cycle route and borders Cotswold Way National Trail.



3.14 PL 14 – North of Kings Stanley

Medium - Low Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Direct access was not available to the PL and it was otherwise well screened by vegetation along the River Frome;
- Bound to the north and east by the River Frome, to the south by the residential area within Selwyn Close and to the west by a small vegetated tributary;
- The topography falls gently towards the canal and River Frome to the north but the well vegetated nature of the canal and river corridor precludes views;
- The landscape contains a high concentration of mature trees along the north, eastern and western boundaries which contribute to the intimate and natural character:
- The site appears to contain areas of scrub and ruderal vegetation contrasting with the adjacent arable agricultural context to the west;
- It is anticipated that the presence of boundary vegetation will generally create a
 visually contained character and intervisibility is confined to glimpsed views to
 adjacent areas and elevated features such as the brick stack associated with Stanley
 Mills and the church spire of the Church of St. George;
- The site is within close proximity to sensitive designations, however vegetation acts to visually disconnected from these;
- Receptors primarily relate to adjacent residents;
- Tranquillity interrupted by large National Grid overhead electricity lines and pylons.

- AONB 0.25km to the east;
- TPOs Large Group TPO within King's Stanley;
- Listed Buildings several located within close proximity;
- PRoW Within 250m of Cotswold Way National Trail.



3.15 PL 15 – North East of Cam

Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Rolling rural agricultural landscape comprising a mix of arable and pastoral land uses;
- Bound to the north by the Cam and Dursley Railway Station and the M5 road corridor, to the west by the River Cam, to the east by Halmore Lane track and bridleway and to the south by Upthorpe (local road);
- Topography falls from Upthorpe in the south eastern extent of the study area towards the River Cam, creating a broadly north west orientated slope;
- The landscape includes mature boundary trees, hedgerows, ditches and streams. The condition of these is generally good and they are important to the rural agricultural character;
- The presence of trees and hedgerows as well as vegetation along the river corridor reduce intervisibility with adjacent areas and create a degree of visual containment which helps to reinforce the rural and agricultural character;
- Rural character is however eroded by urban development towards the western extent of the PL including the presence of business parks and development along the River Cam:
- Receptors primarily consist of users of local roads / PRoWs and residents and those viewing the landscape from upland areas;
- Some views to elevated AONB uplands to the south available, but generally the topography orientates to the north west resulting in some locally extended views over the lowland plains and a stronger visual association with the urban area of Cam;
- The network of PRoWs including footpaths and bridleways, denote its importance as a recreation/amenity resource;
- Tranquillity and rural character eroded by the presence of large industrial units, National Grid overhead lines and pylons and traffic noise associated with the M5 Road corridor.

- AONB 1km to the south east;
- Listed Buildings a small number within the PL;
- PRoW Numerous footpaths within site boundary. Borders bridleway to the East. On Road cycleway within boundary.



3.16 PL 16 – East of Cam

Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Rolling rural agricultural landscape consisting predominantly of an pastoral land cover;
- Bound to the north by the Cam Green and Upthorpe (local roads), to the east by arable fields and to the south west by the urban edge of Cam;
- The topography falls from north to south and the gradient affords some elevated views down to the valley floor from some locations;
- Landscape features include mature boundary trees and hedgerows of varying condition, with some hedgerows having been consolidated leading to more open character;
- The landscape is dissected by the vegetated Dulkin Brook which feeds into the River Cam and this creates a rolling character generally orientated towards Cam;
- Peaked Down and Cam Long Down are prominent topographical features to the south east, and generally there is a strong visual relationship with the wooded AONB upland landscapes to the south and east due to the aspect;
- The site is sandwiched between the linear pattern of development along Cam Green and Upthorpe and the wider urban context of Cam to the south east;
- The predominant visual relationship is with the wider urban context with landmarks such as church spires being dominant;
- The network of PRoWs including footpaths and bridleways, denote its importance as a recreation/amenity resource;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of local roads / PRoWs residents and those viewing the landscape from adjacent upland areas from which the PL would be conspicuous.

- AONB 1km to the east and west;
- Listed Buildings concentration located within close proximity to the south of the PL along Church Road;
- PRoW Numerous public footpaths running within site.



3.17 PL 17 – North West of Cam

Medium - Low Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Rolling rural agricultural landscape comprising a mix of arable and pastoral land uses;
- Topography falls away from the adjacent upland plateau towards the River Cam;
- Bound to the south by the residential edge of Cam, to the west by Woodend Lane and to the north by the M5 corridor;
- The natural topography precluding views east into the valley from many locations and there is a stronger urban influence with agricultural character being eroded by adjacent recreational facilities, residential properties and industrial buildings within Draycott along the A4135;
- Limited visual relationship with the AONB landscapes to the south due to the northern slope aspect;
- Landscape features include mature boundary trees and hedgerows and these vary in condition with many hedgerows being in a poor, degraded state;
- The network of PRoWs including footpaths and bridleways, denote its importance as a recreation/amenity resource;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of local roads / PRoWs and residents;
- Tranquillity predominantly interrupted by National Grid overhead lines and pylons and traffic noise associated with the M5 Road corridor and the Bristol-Birmingham Railway Line to the north.

- AONB 1km to the south;
- PRoW Numerous public footpaths and 1 bridleway running through centre of site.



3.18 PL 18 – West of Cam 1

High - Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Rural agricultural on locally elevated plateau landscape comprising a mix of arable and pastoral land uses;
- Bound to the south and east by the residential edge of Cam, to the west by Field Lane and to the north by Woodend lane;
- The elevated location affords an open character and extensive wide panoramic views from a number of locations, although in some locations, hedge lined, narrow lanes create a more intimate character;
- Strong visual association with the wider landscape context with prominent intermediate to long distance views of the Severn Estuary, western lowland plain and Forest of Dean AONB to the west and the Cotswolds AONB, Peaked Down and Cam Long Down to the east;
- Despite being located to the north western edge of Cam the PL displays a largely rural character with the natural topography precluding views east into the valley from many locations;
- Landscape features include mature boundary trees and hedgerows of varying condition, with some degraded hedgerows apparent;
- The network of PRoWs including footpaths and bridleways, denote its importance as a recreation/amenity resource;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of local roads / PRoWs and residents those viewing the landscape at distanced from upland areas from which the PL would be conspicuous due to the topography;
- The PL is valuable in limiting the coalescence of built development and retaining the identity of Cam;
- Tranquillity interrupted by traffic noise associated with the M5 Road corridor to the west.

- AONB 0.5km to the south;
- Ancient Woodland Within 1km of Whitley Wood;
- Listed Buildings Small number of isolated dwellings within close proximity;
- PRoW 5 footpaths running with site boundary.



3.19 PL 19 – West of Cam 2

Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Plateau edge landscape consisting predominantly of an pastoral land cover although a proportion of the PL appears relatively unmanaged;
- Located on a steep north west facing slope associated with a plateau area within the AONB, the PL is bounded by residential dwellings within The Quarry and a small water course to the east, by Taits Hill Road to the west and by residential dwellings to the south:
- Sloping topography and boundary hedgerows to the south of the PL provides screening from the southern aspect and a stronger visual relationship is instead formed with the adjacent residential area as opposed to the adjacent AONB;
- The PL provides an open natural setting to views from the residential properties in The Quarry;
- New housing development within The Quarry lends a more developed character;
- Landscape features such as mature boundary trees, hedgerows and isolated field trees are generally in fair condition although hedgerows in some locations appear degraded and some areas appear unmanaged contrasting with those of the adjacent pastoral characteristics;
- Some distant visual connections present with the upland AONB landscapes of Stinchcombe Hill to the south;
- Receptors primarily consist of residents within adjacent residential areas and those viewing from elevated locations within the adjacent AONB;
- Tranquillity reduced adjacent residential development, Tait Road, and the M5 corridor to the west which is audible within most locations.

- AONB Borders to the south and west;
- Ancient Woodland Within 1km of Whitley Wood.



3.20 PL 20 – East of Dursley

Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Relatively flat pocket of predominantly pastoral land to the south eastern corner of Dursley;
- Bound on three sides by land covered by the Cotswold AONB, the PL acts as a buffer between the residential edge of Dursley and the rural context to the east;
- Despite displaying rural characteristics, the mix of modern residential building styles and new housing developments adjacent to the northern boundary of the PL create a strong urban edge character with rear garden areas similarly forming the western edge of the PL;
- Landscape features include small woodland blocks, boundary trees and hedgerows are generally in reasonable condition although hedgerows in some locations appear degraded;
- Strong visual connections with the upland landscapes within the AONB to the east such as Downham Hill, Peaked Down and Cam Long Down;
- The upland landscape is immediately visible within views to the south, the scale of which creates an intimate character;
- PRoW crossing the PL between the village and areas within the AONB, suggests a high amenity value;
- Tranquillity degraded by views of traffic and noise associated with the A4135 to the south:
- Receptors primarily consist of users of local roads / PRoWs and residents and those viewing from elevated locations within the adjacent AONB.

- AONB Borders to the north, east and south;
- Ancient Woodland Within 500m of Whitley Wood;
- PRoW 2 footpaths within site. Borders bridleway.



3.21 PL 21 – South of Sharpness

Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Undulating rural agricultural landscape comprising a mix of arable and pastoral land uses;
- Bordered to the east by the B4066 and to the north, west and south by the wider agricultural context;
- The landscape comprises a rural, agricultural character with narrow country lanes bounded by hedgerows and isolated farmsteads with a limited visual influence of urban areas;
- The landscape contains features including hedgerows containing mature hedgerow trees, isolated trees within fields and woodland block of Westfield Brake;
- Generally, fields are well screened and intervisibility is low;
- Some localised views are available towards the Severn Estuary and the Upland Forest of Dean Landscape to the west, but these are restricted by the generally undulating topography and vegetation;
- The small number of PRoW crossing the PL, suggests a moderate amenity value;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of local roads / PRoWs and local residents;
- Tranquillity interrupted by large electricity pylons and distant views of industrial development associated with Severn Distribution Park.

- TPOs Five individual trees within the southern extent of the PL;
- · Ancient Woodland Within 1km of Tintock Wood;
- Listed Buildings a small number located along the western boundary;
- PRoW 2 Footpaths and 2 bridleways within site. Within 500m of National Trail. Road Cycle Route on boundary.



3.22 PL 22 – South and east of Newtown

Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Residential edge agricultural landscape comprising pastoral fields that forms the immediate eastern agricultural context to the village of Newtown;
- Overriding agricultural character is eroded by the residential edge of Newtown with gardens at the rear of properties facing onto the PL;
- The topography generally falls from east to west and has a gently undulating character;
- The landscape includes hedgerows containing mature hedgerow trees, isolated trees within fields and vegetated brooks to the North and south of the PL and these are generally in good condition;
- Generally the combination of the undulating topography and mature vegetation act to restrict longer distance views and reduce intervisibility although some longer distance views are available from elevated locations towards the industrial context within Sharpness docks to the north;
- The strongest visual relationship is with the residential edge of Stonehouse due to the combination of the visibility of the residential edge and the western sloping topography;
- The landscape is of strategic value as a green buffer between the residential edge of Newtown and the rural context to the west and south which helps to retain this agricultural character;
- A number of PRoW cross the PL between the village and the wider agricultural context suggesting the landscape has moderate amenity value;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of PRoWs and local residents.

- Ancient Woodland Within 1km of Tintock Wood. Within 1km of Brooks Grove;
- PRoW 3 footpaths within site boundary. Within 500m of National Trail.



3.23 PL 23 – North of Sharpness Docks

Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- The landscape within the PL comprises a mix of pastoral fields, presently unmanaged fields and areas of derelict naturally regenerating hard standing that form the immediate northern edge to the Sharpness Docks;
- The northern boundary is marked by the Sharpness canal and locks associated with the old entrance to the docks, the eastern boundary by the wider agricultural context, the western boundary by the River Severn and Sharpness point and the southern boundary by a small terrace of residential properties along Dock Road and the docks;
- The character is dominated by tall industrial buildings and infrastructure associated with the docks, the Sharpness Canal and the River Severn and there is a rich cultural and industrial heritage value to the landscape;
- The PL includes large scale buildings and areas of hard standing that have a derelict under-maintained condition and these features lead to a general character of neglect that contrasts with the adjacent, managed pastoral land and woodland;
- Woodland blocks act to soften the industrial character and are generally in good condition, however hedgerows, have a degraded character in many places;
- Despite the agricultural context and the presence of woodland blocks, the predominant visual relationship is with the riverside and dockland areas;
- The topography rises within the eastern part of the PL which act to restrain views to the east;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of the local roads, local residents, boat users of the Sharpness Canal, users of the Severn Way and workers within the dock area;
- Tranquillity influenced by the dockside activities;
- The two parts of the PL are split by the canal and this is connected via a high level bridge that crosses the Sharpness Docks and this also forms the route of the Severn Way National Trail.

- Listed Buildings Lifeboat Station on the north western tip of the PL;
- Conservation Areas Partly covered by the Sharpness Old Dock Conservation Area;
- PRoW Severn Way National Trail runs through the centre of the site.



3.24 PL 24 – Proposed employment site south of Severn Distribution Park

Medium - Low Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Relatively flat large regular arable field immediately adjacent to the Severn estuary;
- Bordered to the east by the B4066, to the north by the Severn distribution Park, to the south by an undulating agricultural context and to the west by a sewage pumping works, coastal footpath (Severn Way National Trail) and the River Severn;
- Residential development is visible beyond the vegetated railway line along Sanigar Lane to the east and within farmsteads to the south;
- Boundary hedgerows are low and largely degraded which coupled with the flat nature of the topography creates an open character and a high degree of visibility;
- Vegetation to the north of the site consists of boundary screening vegetation
 associated with the Distribution Park. Species present as well as the dense screening
 nature contrasts the vegetation character of the wider agricultural landscape to the
 south which is predominantly hedgerows with intermittent hedgerow trees;
- Views are expansive over the River Severn and the upland AONB landscape of the Forest of Dean to the west, however vegetation along the railway line combined with relatively flat topography acts to restrict views west;
- Despite the agricultural land use, the PL has a stronger visual relationship with the Distribution Park and the River Severn landscape;
- The rectilinear field pattern is at odds with the wider agricultural character which comprises more irregular medium to small scale fields;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of local roads / PRoWs, local residents and potentially distant receptors within upland AONB landscapes;
- Tranquillity interrupted by large electricity pylons and industrial development associated with Severn Distribution Park as well as the influence of traffic noise.

Relevant designations:

• PRoW - Adjacent to Severn Way National Trail.



3.25 PL 25 – Land east of Rodborough

High - Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- An AONB pastoral landscape located on the southern edge of Stroud on the foot slopes of Rodborough Hill;
- Bound to the north by the wooded Frome River valley, to the west by residential development within Rodborough, to the south by Rodborough Lane and to the east by adjacent pastoral landscape and farmsteads;
- The landscape contains several mature boundary trees, hedgerows and isolated field trees which are generally in good condition although hedgerows in some locations appear degraded;
- The land slopes steeply towards the River Frome to the north west and affords a high degree of intervisibility of the urban context of Stroud and the distant upland settlements and landscapes to the north east and west;
- Despite the agricultural character and the views of the AONB upland areas, the strongest visual relationship is with the town of Stroud due to the nature of the western sloping topography, development within Stroud occupying valley sides immediately opposite the site and due to visual landmarks present such as Stroud Parish Church and Stroud Hill Cemetery;
- A number of Public rights of way crossing the PL, suggesting a high amenity value, potentially due to the elevated views;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of PRoWs, residents within Stroud and those who view the PL from within Stroud and from upland AONB areas surrounding it;
- Landscape is important to the setting of Stroud within the valley landscape and maintaining the open character of the wooded AONB upland landscape;
- Visually, the PL is important in maintaining open elevated views of Stroud from the south and in retaining the integrity of the setting up the upland AONB landscape in views from the north;
- Tranquillity interrupted by large electricity pylons, modern commercial developments on the edge of Stroud, and traffic noise.

- AONB Majority of landscape within AONB;
- Listed Buildings a number located within adjacent areas;
- Conservation Area Adjacent to Industrial Heritage Conservation Area;
- PRoW A small number of footpaths within the PL.



3.26 PL 26 – 2011 SHLAA Site 54, London Road, Thrupp

Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- A parcel of agricultural landscape comprising pastoral fields on the west facing lower valley slopes of the Stroud Valley to the south of Thrupp;
- Northern boundary of the PL is contained by Thrupp Lane and Bourne Lane and the southern boundary is contained by the A419 along the valley floor;
- To the north, east and south, the PL is bound by residential properties of contrasting styles and the PL is bound to the west by a belt of dense vegetation along the A419 that act to restrict views from this direction;
- A number of high quality mature specimen trees are conspicuous to the north of the PL due to their ornamental character and height above adjacent native vegetation (presumed associated with The Thrupp estate);
- The site is visually contained by development and dense vegetation along the A419 and there are limited locations from where the site is publically visible. Receptors will therefore primarily relate to residents within adjacent properties. Localised, distant views of the upper portions may be available from elevated locations on the opposite side of the valley where vegetation does not preclude views;
- The landscape holds value in terms of its open undeveloped character and characteristic pastoral land use to adjacent residents and to those who view it from elevated locations to the west. The influence of specimen trees and former estate characteristics provides historical interest;
- An absence of PRoWs, the relative inaccessibility and the currently unmanaged nature of the PL suggest little public amenity value;
- Tranquillity interrupted by traffic noise associated with the A419 to the west.

- AONB Borders AONB to east:
- TPOs Group TPO and a number of individual TPOs adjacent to the northern edge of the PL;
- Ancient Woodland Within 250m of Claypits Wood;
- Listed Buildings Adjacent to The Thrupp (to the north) and two within the adjacent industrial area to the west:
- Conservation Area Adjacent to Industrial Heritage Conservation Area.



3.27 PL 27 – 2011 SHLAA Sites 13, 57 and 63, Brimscombe

Medium - Low Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- A parcel of land containing a mix of managed and unmanaged pastoral fields on the south facing lower valley slopes of the Stroud Valley to the north west of Brimscombe;
- The northern boundary of the PL is contained by Thrupp Lane and Bourne Lane and the southern boundary is contained by the A419 along the valley floor;
- To the east and west, the PL is bound by residential properties as well as a number within the central part of the PL and along the northern boundary. The immediate landscape character is influenced by this developed context including the large scale buildings associated with business park and industrial estate present within the valley floor to the south west;
- Despite some mature trees which appear to be in good condition and which contribute
 to the general wooded character of the valley, the site predominantly comprises areas
 of dense scrub and unmanaged grassland. Although providing a natural character it
 contrasts with the adjacent managed agricultural character within the AONB;
- The steep south east sloping topography leads to strong visual connections with upland AONB landscapes on the opposite side of the valley from elevated locations;
- Views towards the site from locations within the valley floor to the south are precluded by dense vegetation along London Road and therefore views are predominantly from elevated areas;
- The PL has value in retaining the intervisibility across the valley to the south and east and the vegetation contributes to the wooded character of the valley landscape;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of local elevated roads such as Thrupp and Bourne Lanes, residents within adjacent properties and potentially receptors within AONB on the opposite side of the valley, although the wooded nature is likely to restrict intervisibility from many locations;
- An absence of PRoWs and the relative inaccessibility and overgrown nature of the PL suggest little amenity value;
- Tranquillity interrupted by National Grid overhead lines and pylons and traffic noise associated with the A419 to the west.

- Cotswolds AONB adjacent to the northern edge of PL;
- Conservation Area Adjacent to Industrial Heritage Conservation Area.



3.28 PL 28 – West of Stroud

Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Parcels of land within the northern section relate to pastoral fields and unmanaged land containing areas of dense scrub and stands of Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed;
- The southern portion is marked by a large naturalised area relating to the River Frome floodplain containing stands of scrub, isolated trees and linear belts of mature woodland;
- Topography slopes from the B4008 which marks the northern boundary towards the canal and river which bound the PL to the south;
- Dominated by the Stroudwater canal and the River Frome with canal features such as the double canal lock and traditional brick built bridge adding to the character of the canal corridor;
- The existing residential development surrounding the PL impacts the otherwise undeveloped character of the PL and contrasts the AONB agricultural landscape to the south;
- The PL has a disjointed character influenced by the mix of land uses within the surrounding landscape. The natural canal context is contrasted by residential development on the northern side of the canal along the B4008, new development at the Quay to the east and by the Ebley Bypass and Industrial estates that are located on the floodplain;
- Intervisibility varies throughout the PL due to the localised influence of vegetation and elevation. In some elevated locations where vegetation does not preclude views, there is a more open character with a visual association with the AONB landscape to the south;
- PRoW (including a National Trail) and the presence of pleasure boats on the canal denote the importance of the canal as a recreation/amenity resource;
- Tranquillity and the otherwise positive canal character are degraded by views of adjacent scrub areas and by the influence of noise associated with B4008 and the Ryeford Industrial Estate.

- AONB Within 250m to North and South of AONB;
- Listed Buildings small number located along canal corridor;
- Conservation Area Within Industrial Heritage Conservation Area;
- PRoW 1 Footpath and Cotswold National Trail run through the site.



3.29 PL 29 – Land at Nortonwood, Nailsworth

High Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- High quality AONB pastoral landscape to the north of Nailsworth and Forest Green on the edge of Woodchester Park Registered Park and Garden;
- The steeply incised wooded valley has a hidden quality owing to large tracts of woodland vegetation and vegetation along the southern and western boundary of the site;
- Despite the proximity of the urban edge, mature trees along the southern boundary of the site along Nortonwood generally preclude views from residential areas within Forest Green although filtered views are available from the narrow PRoW adjacent to the southern boundary of the site;
- The valley floor contains a number of residential properties along Windsor edge lane and these have a characteristic Cotswolds vernacular that are nestled within the vegetation;
- Vegetation acts to screen views from a number of publically accessible locations and creates a strong degree of visual containment;
- The site has a strong visual connection with the wider wooded AONB landscape to the north and west, particularly with coniferous plantations at the head of the valley associated with Woodchester Park;
- The wooded nature of the valley, lack of development influence coupled with the steeply incised nature of the topography creates a high degree of tranquillity;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of the PRoWs within adjacent AONB areas to the north as well as residents along Windsoredge Lane and the potential landscape holds a high visual amenity value as an undeveloped backdrop to views from locations to the north.

- AONB Within Cotswolds AONB;
- Registered Park and Garden Woodchester Mansion 0.5km to the west;
- PRoW Adjacent to southern boundary.



3.30 PL 30 – Land at Whitecroft, Nailsworth

Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- The PL comprises a currently unmanaged field on the lower valley slopes of the Nailsworth Valley;
- Bound to the north east by the A46 and the valley floor, to the south east and south
 west by residential properties associated with Nailsworth and to the north west by a
 small brook that feeds into the Nailsworth Stream beyond which lie pastoral fields;
- Mature trees appear to be in good condition with developing scrub forming in the unmanaged grassland interior which contrasts with that of the adjacent, managed pastoral and residential context;
- The steep north east sloping topography leads to strong visual connections with the wooded upland AONB landscapes on the opposite side of the valley from elevated locations;
- Intervisibility towards the site from locations within the valley floor to the north are precluded by dense vegetation along the A46 and acute angle of view. The primary views are therefore from elevated residential areas on both sides of the valley;
- The PL has value in allowing intervisibility across the valley to the wooded AONB landscapes to the north and east;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of local roads, residents within Nailsworth and
 potentially receptors within AONB on the opposite side of the valley, although the
 heavily wooded character is likely to provide screening from many locations.

Relevant designations:

AONB – Within 200m to East.



3.31 PL 31 – North of Stroud 1

High - Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Elevated AONB landscape consisting of a number of pastoral fields on the west facing side of the Ruscombe Valley;
- Bound to the east by the rear gardens of properties along The Plain (local Road), to the west by Ruscombe Brook, to the south by an educational establishment and sports pitch (which is contained within the PL) and to the north by a continuation of the agricultural context;
- The PL contains a number of unmanaged field boundaries (degraded hedgerows) with a relatively low number of trees which are otherwise in good condition;
- The west sloping topography provides strong visual connections with the wooded upland AONB landscapes on the opposite side of the valley, particularly Standish Wood to the north west:
- Some locally extended views towards the elevated uplands to the south are also present;
- Although the scale and pattern of fields is quite compartmentalised, the PL has an
 open character owing to the steep topography and relative lack of tree and hedgerow
 cover which creates a relatively high degree of intervisibility between valley sides and
 from locations looking at the valley from the south;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of local roads / PRoW and local residents and those viewing the PL from other upland AONB locations;
- Despite the presence of residential development, the PL has a rural character owing to the natural separation afforded between settlements (which adopt a linear pattern along upland roads) by the agricultural valley context. The PL is therefore important in preventing the coalescence of upland settlements;
- Settlements also visually sit comfortably within the landscape without breaking the skyline, therefore preserving the integrity of the upland character;
- The PL is therefore important in retaining the openness and intervisibility across the valley to the west and contributes to the tranquil upland agricultural character;
- Public rights of way denote the PLs importance as an amenity resource.

- AONB Within Cotswolds AONB;
- TPOs Five individual TPOs within the southern extent of site 56;
- PRoW 3 footpaths within site boundary.



3.32 PL 32 – North of Stroud 2

High - Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Elevated AONB landscape consisting of a number of pastoral fields split across the two valley sides of the Painswick Valley;
- The PL is bisected by the A46 and Painswick Old Road and is bound to the east by of properties within Badbrook, to the west by rear gardens of properties along Barrowfield Road, to the south by Stratford Park and the A4171 and to the north by a continuation of the upland agricultural context;
- The PL contains a number of unmanaged/degraded hedgerow field boundaries containing mature hedgerow trees which are generally in good condition. This includes a number of protected high quality individual trees are located within the south eastern extent of the PL;
- In the relatively well wooded valley floor, trees associated with Stafford park and watercourses leads to an intimate character and a higher degree of screening;
- In elevated locations, the PL has an open character owing to the steep topography
 and reduced level of tree and hedgerow cover which creates a relatively high degree
 of intervisibility between valley sides and from locations looking at the valley from the
 south;
- The steep sloping topography leads to strong visual connections with settlements on opposite valley sides and the wider upland AONB landscape to the south (although these are more distant in nature);
- The PL has value in retaining the intervisibility across the valley to the west and contributes to the wider upland agricultural character;
- The PL is Important in retaining the openness and characteristic agricultural context of the valley and contributes to the tranquil upland agricultural character;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of local roads / PRoW and local residents and those viewing the PL from other upland AONB locations;
- Numerous PRoW denote the PLs importance as an amenity resource.

- AONB Approximately 50% within Cotswolds AONB;
- TPOs Numerous individual TPOs within the southern extent of site 56 as well as a Group TPO at Salmon Springs Depot;
- Listed Buildings Several located within and adjacent to the site;
- Conservation Area Adjacent to Stratford Park Conservation Area;
- PRoW PRoW Numerous footpaths within PL.



3.33 PL 33 – North of Stroud 3

High - Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- Elevated AONB landscape consisting of a number of pastoral fields located on the eastern slopes of Wickridge Hill;
- The PL is bisected by Folly Lane and is bound to the south west by properties within Uplands, to the north by a continuation of the upland agricultural context and to the south by the B4070 which runs parallel with Slad Brook;
- A high density of tree cover along field boundaries and a number of woodland copses lead to a well wooded character, trees and field boundaries being in a good condition generally;
- The character of dense modern housing developments immediately to the west of the PL is contrasts with the otherwise rural character of the upland areas:
- Tall well vegetated and tree lined hedge banks act to restrict the majority of views from the immediate locality which combined with the steeply incised topography leads to a compartmentalised character;
- The steep sloping topography leads to strong visual connections with settlements on opposite valley side below Slade Wood where vegetation do not preclude views;
- The PL is conspicuous from the opposite side of the valley where it holds a degree of amenity value for its undeveloped agricultural character representative of the upland AONB landscape;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of local roads / PRoW and local residents and those viewing the PL from other upland AONB locations to the south east;

- AONB Within Cotswolds AONB:
- PRoW One PRoW (Footpath).



3.34 PL 34 – North of Stroud 4

Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- PL consists of a number of pastoral fields located on the northern slopes of the Slad Valley;
- The PL is bound to the south by the rear gardens of properties along Slad Lane, to the
 west by allotments and rear gardens of properties within Stroud Hill and to the north
 and east by a continuation of the upland agricultural context;
- The PL contains a number of unmanaged/degraded hedgerow field boundaries and fields generally have a less managed character with large areas of scrub encroachment evident;
- Relative to the well wooded nature of the valley floor, the PL contains little mature vegetation which contributes to a more open character;
- Steep sloping topography and open character leads to strong visual connections with residential development in Uplands (suburban settlement) to the north and the open nature of the PL has value in retaining the intervisibility across the valley;
- Has value as an open area of undeveloped land to those viewing the PL from Uplands to the north;
- The neglected character contrasts with the managed and otherwise high quality AONB agricultural landscapes to the north east;
- The PL is important in preventing the coalescence of upland settlements;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of local roads / PRoW and local residents and those viewing the PL from other upland AONB locations;

- AONB Within 100m of AONB to EAST
- Listed Buildings a small number adjacent to the eastern and northern boundaries
- PRoW One PRoW (Footpath) within the PL



3.35 PL 35 – North of Stroud 5

Medium Sensitivity

Key characteristics & Justification:

- PL comprises a relatively small single pastoral field, an area of natural meadow and an area of scrub/wasteland located on the upper west facing slopes of the Slad Valley;
- The PL is bound to the south by the Bisley Old Road, to the west by residential
 properties and an educational facility associated with Langtoft Road, to the north by
 Slade Wood and to the north/east by a continuation of the upland agricultural context;
- The PL occupies an elevated location over Slade Wood which is a characteristic Beech Hanger of the Cotswold upland landscapes;
- Hedgerows adjacent to residential properties appear generally degraded and unmanaged which together with the area of natural regeneration creates a generally neglected character which contrasts with the managed, high quality AONB agricultural landscapes to the north east;
- The elevated location affords extensive wide panoramic views from internal locations over the Severn Plain / estuary and the wider upland AONB landscape to the north and west, although vegetation adjacent to the southern boundary acts to preclude views south:
- The elevated nature of the PL and the containment provided by vegetation contributes to a sense of remoteness more closely associated with the wider AONB landscape to the north and East;
- The PL would be visually conspicuous from other upland areas where it would be seen above Slade Wood and therefore potentially distracts from the otherwise undeveloped rural upland character;
- Receptors primarily consist of users of adjacent residents and those viewing the PL from other upland AONB locations.

- AONB Borders AONB to North and East;
- TPOs Large Group TPO adjacent to the north (Slade Wood);
- Ancient Woodland Borders Proud Wood/Abbey Wood.



4. BASELINE RESEARCH

4.1 Landscape Character

As part of the desktop study, existing Landscape Character assessments were consulted to gain an understanding of the key components of the landscape character in which the PLs are situated. The following table illustrates the Character Areas that each PL falls into.

Potential Location		National Character Area	Cotswold AONB LCA	Gloucester LCA	Stroud District Landscape Assessment
1	Hardwicke	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Settled Unwooded Vale SV6A – Vale of Berkeley	5 – Rolling Agricultural Plain (5B Lowland Plain)
2	Hunts Grove Extension	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Settled Unwooded Vale SV6A – Vale of Berkeley	5 – Rolling Agricultural Plain (5B Lowland Plain)
<u>3</u>	Quedgeley East employment site	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Settled Unwooded Vale SV6A – Vale of Berkeley	5 – Rolling Agricultural Plain (5B Lowland Plain)
<u>4</u>	Whaddon	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Settled Unwooded Vale SV6A – Vale of Berkeley	5 – Rolling Agricultural Plain (5B Lowland Plain)
<u>5</u>	Upton St. Leonards South	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106	Cotswold AONB - Settled Unwooded Vale (18A Vale of Gloucester Fringe)	Settled Unwooded Vale SV6A – Vale of Berkeley	4 Escarpment
<u>6</u>	Land adjacent to Brockworth Airfield	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106	Cotswold AONB - Settled Unwooded Vale (18A Vale of Gloucester Fringe)	Settled Unwooded Vale SV6A – Vale of Berkeley	5 – Rolling Agricultural Plain (5B Lowland Plain)
7	Whitminster	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Settled Unwooded Vale SV6A – Vale of Berkeley	5 – Rolling Agricultural Plain (5A Escarpment Toot Slopes & 5B Lowland Plain)
8	Eastington North	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Settled Unwooded Vale SV6A – Vale of Berkeley	5 – Rolling Agricultural Plain (5B Lowland Plain & 5C Frome River Valley)
9	Employment north of Eastington	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Settled Unwooded Vale SV6A – Vale of Berkeley	5 – Rolling Agricultural Plain (5A Escarpment Toot Slopes, 5B Lowland Plain, 5C Frome River Valley)
<u>10</u>	Eastington South	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Settled Unwooded Vale SV6A – Vale of Berkeley	5 – Rolling Agricultural Plain (5B Lowland Plain)
<u>11</u>	West Stonehouse	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Settled Unwooded Vale SV6A – Vale of Berkeley	5 – Rolling Agricultural Plain (5A Escarpment Toot Slopes & 5B Lowland Plain)



Potential Location		National Character Area	Cotswold AONB LCA	Gloucester LCA	Stroud District Landscape Assessment
<u>12</u>	South west of Stonehouse	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Settled Unwooded Vale SV6A – Vale of Berkeley	5 – Rolling Agricultural Plain (5C Frome River Valley)
<u>13</u>	South east of Stonehouse	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106	Cotswold AONB - Escarpment (2C Ulley to Coopers Hill)	Urban / Settled Unwooded Vale SV6A – Vale of Berkeley	5 - Rolling Agricultural Plain (5A Escarpment Toot Slopes)
<u>14</u>	North of Kings Stanley	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Urban / Settled Unwooded Vale SV6A – Vale of Berkeley	5 – Rolling Agricultural Plain (5B Lowland Plain)
<u>15</u>	North East of Cam	Cotswolds Code:107 & Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Rolling Hills and Valleys SV13A Dursley, Cam and Uley Valley	5 - Rolling Agricultural Plain (5A Escarpment Toot Slopes)
<u>16</u>	East of Cam	Cotswolds Code:107 & Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Rolling Hills and Valleys SV13A Dursley, Cam and Uley Valley	3 Secluded Valleys & 5A Escarpment Toot Slopes
<u>17</u>	North West of Cam	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Rolling Hills and Valleys SV13A Dursley, Cam and Uley Valley	5 - Rolling Agricultural Plain (5A Escarpment Toot Slopes)
<u>18</u>	West of Cam 1	Cotswolds Code:107 & Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Rolling Hills and Valleys SV13A Dursley, Cam and Uley Valley	5 - Rolling Agricultural Plain (5A Escarpment Toot Slopes)
<u>19</u>	West of Cam 2	Cotswolds Code:107 & Severn and Avon Vales Code:106	Adjacent to Cotswold AONB - Rolling Hills and Valleys (3B Stinchcombe and North Nibley)	Rolling Hills and Valleys SV13A Dursley, Cam and Uley Valley	4 Escarpment & 5A Escarpment Toot Slopes
<u>20</u>	East of Dursley	Cotswolds Code:107 & Severn and Avon Vales Code:106	Adjacent to Cotswold AONB - Rolling Hills and Valleys (3B Stinchcombe and North Nibley)	Rolling Hills and Valleys SV13A Dursley, Cam and Uley Valley	3 Secluded Valleys
<u>21</u>	South of Sharpness	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Low Sandstone Hills SV8A Berkeley and Newtown Hills	9 Sandstone Ridge
<u>22</u>	South and east of Newtown	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Low Sandstone Hills SV8A Berkeley and Newtown Hills	9 Sandstone Ridge
<u>23</u>	North of Sharpness Docks	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Low Sandstone Hills SV8A Berkeley and Newtown Hills	9 Sandstone Ridge
<u>24</u>	Proposed employment site south of Severn Distribution Park	Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Low Sandstone Hills SV8A Berkeley and Newtown Hills	9 Sandstone Ridge
<u>25</u>	Land east of Rodborough	Cotswolds Code:107	Cotswold AONB - Settled Valley (5B Frome Garden Valley and Stroud)		3 Secluded Valleys



Potential Location		National Character Area	Cotswold AONB LCA	Gloucester LCA	Stroud District Landscape Assessment
<u>26</u>	2011 SHLAA Site 54, London Road, Thrupp	Cotswolds Code:107		Urban	3 Secluded Valleys
<u>27</u>	2011 SHLAA Sites 13, 57 and 63, Brimscombe	Cotswolds Code:107		Settled Valley Landscape Character Type Nailsworth Landscape Character Area: 5A	3 Secluded Valleys
<u>28</u>	West of Stroud	Cotswolds Code:107 & Severn and Avon Vales Code:106		Settled Unwooded Vale SV6A – Vale of Berkeley	3 Secluded Valleys & 5C Frome River Valley
<u>29</u>	Land at Nortonwood, Nailsworth	Cotswolds Code:107	Cotswold AONB - Settled Valley (5A Nailsworth)		3 Secluded Valleys
<u>30</u>	Land at Whitecroft, Nailsworth	Cotswolds Code:107		Settled Valley Landscape Character Type Nailsworth Landscape Character Area: 5A	3 Secluded Valleys
<u>31</u>	North of Stroud 1	Cotswolds Code:107	Cotswold AONB - High Wold Valley (8B Painswick & Stad Valleys)		3 Secluded Valleys
<u>32</u>	North of Stroud 2	Cotswolds Code:107	Cotswold AONB - High Wold Valley (8B Painswick & Stad Valleys)	High Wold Valley Landscape Character Type Painswick and Slad Valley Landscape Character Area: 8B	3 Secluded Valleys
<u>33</u>	North of Stroud	Cotswolds Code:107	Cotswold AONB - High Wold Valley (8B Painswick & Stad Valleys)		3 Secluded Valleys
<u>34</u>	North of Stroud 4	Cotswolds Code:107		High Wold Valley Landscape Character Type Painswick and Slad Valley Landscape Character Area: 8B	3 Secluded Valleys
<u>35</u>	North of Stroud 5	Cotswolds Code:107		High Wold Valley Landscape Character Type Painswick and Slad Valley Landscape Character Area: 8B	3 Secluded Valleys

