

Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis: Hereford and the Market Towns

Local Development Framework

January 2010



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Herefordshire Council

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1.0 METHODOLOGY

1.1 SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE URBAN FRINGE SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

- 1.1.1 The Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis is a technical paper which supports the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. The aim of the Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis is to classify the level of sensitivity of the urban fringe landscape of Hereford and the five market towns: Bromyard, Kington, Ledbury, Leominster and Ross-on-Wye.
- 1.1.2 This study considers land which is mainly outside the settlement boundaries of Hereford and the market towns. In planning terms, land outside the settlement boundaries is defined as 'open countryside'.
- 1.1.3 Sensitivity is taken to mean the sensitivity of the landscape itself. 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 includes landscape value, including designations.
- 1.1.4 It should be noted that the Urban Sensitivity Analysis does not consider the ecological sensitivity of the landscape because this is assessed in a separate ecological technical study: '*Building Biodiversity into Herefordshire.*'
- 1.1.5 The purpose of the Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis is to inform the process of identifying potential housing sites and likely constraints to development. However, given that it is an assessment of the sensitivity of the landscape, it could be used to inform other elements of the Core Strategy.
- 1.1.6 The Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis was produced by the Landscape & Biodiversity Team of Herefordshire Council in the period 2008/2009.

1.2. OVERVIEW OF THE URBAN FRINGE LANDSCAPE OF HEREFORD AND THE MARKET TOWNS

- 1.2.1 Herefordshire is considered to be the Midlands' most rural County.¹ This is reflected in the high quality and integrity of much of the rural landscape setting of Hereford and the market towns. Part of the landscape setting of Ledbury and Ross-on-Wye falls within the Malvern Hills and Wye Valley Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, respectively. The landscape on the fringe of Hereford and the market towns is particularly rich in terms of its historic interest. Within the landscape setting of the towns there are historic parks and gardens and Conservation Area designations which extend out from the historic core of the towns, to encompass open spaces such as river floodplains. Features such as woodlands, trees, orchards and hedgerow field patterns also contribute to the historic character of the urban fringe landscape and to local distinctiveness. Hereford and the market towns are all associated with major watercourses. River valleys are a dominant feature in Hereford, Ross-on-Wye, Bromyard and Kington. The topographical position of these towns within river valleys means that there are extensive, sometimes

¹ State of Herefordshire Report, May 2009; *Herefordshire Council Research Team*. Herefordshire has the fourth lowest overall population density in England (0.8 persons per hectare).

dramatic views in and out of these towns from the surrounding hills and also long views along the river valleys. The landscape setting of Leominster and Ledbury are not influenced to the same degree by the rivers associated with them, but more by the topography, both being hillside towns.

- 1.2.2 There is a more detailed overview of the urban fringe landscape of the towns within the scope of this study, in the Visual Analysis document for each town.

1.3 SUMMARY OF THE METHODOLOGY

- 1.3.1 The Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis comprises an assessment of the existing landscape – a landscape baseline study, followed by an analysis of the sensitivity of the landscape. This information is presented in a set of documents and maps for each of the towns, as set out below:

1.3.2 Landscape baseline study

- Visual analysis document
- Map of the photographic viewpoints
- Map of the Landscape Types
- Map of landscape related designations
- Map of the landscape zones under analysis

1.3.3 Landscape sensitivity analysis

- Landscape sensitivity analysis document
- Map of the landscape sensitivity of the urban fringe

1.3.4 Limitations

This study only considers the sensitivity of the urban fringe landscape, at a broad scale; it is not a capacity study. Once the direction of growth of Hereford and the market towns has been established, through the Core Strategy, it will be necessary to take this Urban Fringe Sensitivity Study one stage further, and produce capacity studies for specific areas. These capacity studies would consider the capacity of a particular landscape to accommodate specific types of development, taking into account, for example, building heights. In addition, any capacity study would need to take into account guidelines for development for particular areas, such as the recommended ratio of development in relation to open space, which are being developed in the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

1.4 LANDSCAPE BASELINE STUDY

- 1.4.1 The purpose of this study is to collate existing landscape information, undertake research to supplement existing information and to analyse the existing landscape features and characteristics on the fringe of each town. This includes the way in which this landscape is experienced, including views in and out of different areas and the level of tranquillity. In this study, the definition of 'tranquillity' is taken to be: "a composite feature related to low

*levels of built development, traffic, noise and artificial lighting*². Both field studies and desk studies were undertaken to gather the landscape baseline information.

1.4.2 The final stage of the baseline study was to classify the landscape into zones which have a distinct and recognisable type and character. It is these zones which are used in the second part of the study – the landscape sensitivity analysis.

1.4.3 Field Survey

Each town was circumnavigated, mainly on foot, in order to record the following information:

- Topographical features, e.g. hills, river valleys
- Aspect
- Inter-relationship between topography, aspect and the evolution of the settlement pattern
- Views in and out of each area
- Visual relationship of the urban fringe areas with the existing settlement
- Land use
- Landscape character: key characteristics, which contribute to local distinctiveness
- Landmark features, both natural & manmade, e.g. hills, trees, church spires
- Visual detractors
- Landscape condition: maintenance and condition of elements, e.g. hedgerows, woodlands, pastoral land
- Integrity of the rural landscape: the degree to which key landscape characteristics have endured
- Amenity value, including the presence of public rights of way and areas of open land accessible to the public
- Level of tranquillity

This study did not consider the issue of light pollution.

1.4.4 Identification of viewpoints

For each town, a set of representative viewpoints was identified, which included viewpoints within the towns and from the wider landscape, as well as within the urban fringe landscape. Photographs taken from these viewpoints illustrate key landscape issues identified in the Visual Analysis document for each town. These viewpoints are recorded on Maps of Photographic Viewpoints as follows: Map 2.1a - Hereford, Map 2.2a - Bromyard, Map 2.3a - Kington, Map 2.4a – Ledbury, Map 2.5a – Leominster, Map 2.6a – Ross-on-Wye.

² Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland, 2002; p.57. *Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage*

1.4.5 Desk study

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA)

The Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis draws on information contained in the Herefordshire Landscape Character Assessment, 2004. This is an assessment of the whole of the Herefordshire landscape.

1.4.6 Landscape Character is defined as '*the distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs consistently in a particular type of landscape, and how this is perceived by people. It reflects particular combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use and human settlement. It creates the particular sense of place of different areas of the landscape*'.³

1.4.7 In the Landscape Character Assessment, the process of characterisation identifies two types of unit:

- Landscape character areas: Sub-regional Character Areas (regional scale), Landscape Description Units (local scale) and Land Cover Parcels (local scale – these are a subdivision of the Landscape Description Units). All of these landscape units are individual, unique areas with their own identity and character.
- Landscape character types: Landscape Types. These have been identified through assessing the characteristics that make up landscape character. Different combinations of these characteristics result in different Landscape Types.

1.4.8 All of these landscape units have been mapped for the whole of the county of Herefordshire.

1.4.9 The Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis draws on information relating to Landscape Types and Landscape Description Units, because the scale of these landscape units is appropriate to the level of detail of the Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis.

1.4.10 Included in the Landscape baseline study, for reference, is a map of the Landscape Types which make up the landscape surrounding each town. The maps of the Landscape Types are Map 2.1b – Hereford, Map 2.2b – Bromyard, Map 2.3b – Kington, Map 2.4b – Ledbury, Map 2.5b – Leominster, Map 2.6b – Ross-on-Wye. In the Visual Analysis document for each town, descriptions of each area are cross-referenced to the Landscape Type of the area being assessed and the photographs were selected to illustrate key characteristics of the different Landscape Types, where possible.

1.4.11 Planning designations:

The following planning designations are relevant to the urban fringe of some or all of the towns within the scope of this study. Relevant designations are shown on Maps of National and Local Landscape related Designations for each town: Map 2.1c – Hereford, Map 2.2c – Bromyard, Map 2.3c – Kington,

³*Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, Second Edition; The Landscape Institute & Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2002

Map 2.4c – Ledbury, Map 2.5c – Leominster, Map 2.6c – Ross-on-Wye. The designations are also listed in the Visual Analysis documents for each town and there are cross-references to these designations in the commentary on landscape contained in the Visual Analysis documents and the Sensitivity Analysis documents for each town.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Herefordshire contains part of two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: the Malvern Hills AONB, which applies to land to the east of Ledbury and the Wye Valley AONB, which applies to much of the town of Ross-on-Wye, together with land to the north, west and south-west of the town.

Historic landscape

There are historic parks and gardens within the urban fringe of all of the towns within the scope of this study. All of these parks and gardens are of local interest, and identified as Unregistered Parks & Gardens with the exception of Hergest Croft, which is a Registered Park, on the edge of Kington. Both Registered and Unregistered Parks and Gardens are considered historic assets and a material consideration in the planning process.

Conservation Areas

All of the towns contain one or more Conservation Areas. Some of the Conservation Areas which encompass areas within the towns contribute significantly to the quality of views into and out of the towns, because of open spaces and trees within them and the historic grain and scale of the townscape. In addition, some of the Conservation Areas extend beyond the settlement boundaries of the towns to encompass open spaces and areas of river floodplain. Conservation Areas are shown on the maps of the National and Landscape related designations and are referenced in the Visual Analysis and Sensitivity Analysis documents for each town.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

There are Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the landscape on the fringes of Hereford, Ross-on-Wye and Kington.

1.4.12 Classification process

Having gathered the necessary information through the field survey and desk study, classification of the urban fringe was undertaken. The aim of this process is to sort the landscape into units of distinct and recognisable type and character. As stated previously, the Landscape Types and Landscape Description Units mapped in the Landscape Character Assessment were the starting point for this exercise. Many of the zones of land identified in the Landscape Baseline Study are contiguous with either Landscape Type or Landscape Description Unit boundaries. For some areas, the zones of land identified in this study comprise two or more Landscape Types.

- 1.4.13 For some areas, the boundaries of the zones of land identified in the Landscape Baseline Study do not match the boundaries of Landscape Types or Landscape Description Units. This is because the zoning of landscape

undertaken in the Landscape Baseline Study, while being rooted in the Landscape Character Assessment, has a different aim: to zone land into units which are perceived visually and experienced as separate areas. Topography, view sheds (the field of vision seen from a viewpoint), the proximity or isolation of an area from built development, the presence of main roads, which may form a visual and physical barrier, differences in levels of tranquillity are all elements which were taken into account when zoning land into units in the Landscape Baseline Study.

- 1.4.14 The landscape zones for the urban fringe of each town are shown on Maps entitled '*Landscape zones under analysis*'. These comprise Map 3.1 – Hereford, Map 3.2 – Bromyard, Map 3.3 – Kington, Map 3.4 – Ledbury, Map 3.5 – Leominster and Map 3.6 – Ross-on-Wye.

1.5 LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

1.5.1 This study considers the sensitivity of the landscape to built development. However, the baseline information could equally be used to inform landscape sensitivity to other forms of development or proposed change in the landscape.

1.5.2 The sensitivity classification used to evaluate the relative value and significance of the various aspects of the landscape is as follows:

- 1: Low: key characteristics of landscape are robust and/or of relatively low intrinsic value as a landscape resource
- 2: Medium–low: key characteristics of landscape are resilient to change and/or are of limited intrinsic value as a landscape resource
- 3: Medium: key characteristics of landscape are susceptible to change and/or have value as a landscape resource
- 4: High–medium: key characteristics of landscape are vulnerable to change and/or have high value as a landscape resource
- 5: High: key characteristics of landscape are very vulnerable to change and/or have considerable value as a landscape resource.

1.5.3 There is no standard methodology for the classification of landscape sensitivity. The above calibration of sensitivity is in line with current guidance on sensitivity analysis.⁴ Having five categories for sensitivity rather than three was considered to be appropriate for this study because it enables gradation in landscape sensitivity to be recorded in more detail.

1.5.4 The process of evaluating the sensitivity of the landscape

The aim of this process is to make a judgement about what is important in a landscape and why. The criteria used to determine the category of landscape sensitivity of each zone of land on the urban fringe of the towns, identified in the Landscape Baseline Study include the following:

- Visibility and prominence of the area – this relates to topography and the density of public roads and public rights of way, which afford viewpoints
- The degree of harmony between existing built development and other elements of the landscape, including topography, woods, hedgerows and water courses (AONB and Conservation Area designations are relevant)
- Landscape character – whether key characteristics, which include spatial character, land use, settlement pattern, enclosure pattern, tree cover pattern are still present and contributing to local distinctiveness (AONB and Conservation Area designations are relevant)
- Historic landscape – the richness of the historic landscape created by historic parks & gardens, historic buildings, archaeological sites, historic patterns of land use, for example, field hedgerows (Historic Parks & Gardens, Conservation Area, archaeological & AONB designations are relevant)

⁴ ⁴*Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, Second Edition; The Landscape Institute & Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2002, *Topic Paper 6: Techniques and Criteria for judging capacity and sensitivity*, The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, 2004

- The presence of landmark features, both natural and manmade, e.g. hills, individual trees, notable buildings, church spires and the degree of intervisibility between landmark features
- Scenic quality
- The presence or absence of visual detractors
- Landscape condition: whether elements, e.g. hedgerows, woodlands, pastoral land are appropriately maintained
- Amenity value, which relates, in part, to the accessibility of the landscape – the number of public rights of way and the amount of land accessible to the public, in a given area
- Level of tranquillity

1.5.5 This study has only considered the daytime sensitivity of landscape. Development may result in significant change to the experience of the environment at night. Issues surrounding light pollution, changes in the silhouette of settlements and prominence in the landscape when perceived at night would require additional assessment using different criteria. However, it is reasonable to conclude that extensions of settlements into open countryside are likely to have a negative impact on the landscape when experienced at night.

1.6. PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

1.6.1 Landscape Sensitivity Maps

Maps of the landscape sensitivity of the urban fringe of each town have been produced: Map 3.1 - Hereford, Map 3.2 – Bromyard, Map 3.3 – Kington, Map 3.4 – Ledbury, Map 3.5 – Leominster and Map 3.6 – Ross-on-Wye. On these maps the five levels of sensitivity: Low, Medium–low, Medium, High–medium and High, are represented by different colours as shown on the legend. For the purposes of clear graphic presentation there is no gradation in the level of sensitivity passing from one zone of sensitivity to another. However, it is recognised that on the ground, in some areas, the landscape is experienced more subtly, with a gradation in sensitivity between one zone of land and another.

1.6.2 Landscape Sensitivity Analysis documents

To accompany the Landscape Sensitivity Maps (Maps 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6) a Landscape Sensitivity Analysis document has been produced for each town. This document explains why particular zones of land have been classified into one of the five levels of sensitivity. For each zone of land, there are cross references to the photographs which illustrate the zone, which are contained in the Visual Analysis document. There are also cross references to the Landscape Type of the zone under analysis and to landscape related planning designations.

1.7 THE USE OF THE URBAN FRINGE SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS TO INFORM THE SHLAA

1.7.1 The key documents are the Landscape Sensitivity maps (Maps 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6) because they present the findings of the Urban Fringe

Sensitivity Analysis: the evaluation of the landscape sensitivity of the urban fringe landscape surrounding Hereford and the market towns. As stated previously, zones of land are classified as being one of five levels of landscape sensitivity: 1: Low, 2: Medium-low, 3: Medium, 4: High-medium or 5: High.

- 1.7.2 The landscape sensitivity classification for each zone of land, as shown on the Landscape Sensitivity maps for each town, has been used to inform the Summary Assessments for potential housing sites contained in the SHLAA, as set out below.
- 1.7.3 In the SHLAA, potential housing sites which fall within landscape sensitivity zones classified as 1: Low, 2: Medium-low or 3: Medium landscape sensitivity, in the Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis, are marked as having '*low*' constraints, in terms of landscape issues. Potential housing sites falling within landscape sensitivity zones classified as 4: Medium-high are marked as being potential sites but with '*significant constraints*' and are placed in the timescale category of '16 – 20 years' – the end of the plan period. Sites put forward for housing which fall within landscape sensitivity zones classified as 5: High are ruled out as having '*no potential*'.
- 1.7.4 The aim of classifying potential housing sites in this way is to ensure the preservation of the most highly valued and sensitive landscape. Only when there is no other alternative and other opportunities have been exhausted should landscapes of lesser sensitivity be encroached on. All landscapes surrounding the Herefordshire towns are constrained by sensitive landscapes. Any development will need to respond to the sensitivity of the landscape and to present acceptable mitigation to resultant change.
- 1.7.5 Summary table of landscape input into the SHLAA

Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis: Landscape sensitivity classification	Inputs to:	Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment: Summary Assessments for potential housing sites
Sites proposed for housing falling within landscape sensitivity zones classified as: 1: Low 2: Medium– low 3: Medium	→	Potential housing sites with ' <i>low constraints</i> '
Sites proposed for housing falling within landscape sensitivity zones classified as 4: High–medium	→	Potential housing sites with ' <i>significant constraints</i> ' Placed in the timescale category of '16 – 20 years'
Sites proposed for housing falling within landscape sensitivity zones classified as: 5: High	→	Sites with ' <i>no potential</i> ' for housing

1.8 CONCLUSION

- 1.8.1 The Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis demonstrates that much of the landscape on the fringes of Hereford and the market towns is of high value. It is notable that none of the landscape zones around any of the towns were assessed as being in the lowest category of landscape sensitivity. This is reflective of the fact that for all of the towns, land which is less visually sensitive has already been developed and/or that development has already encroached into sensitive and irreplaceable landscapes. It will not be possible to meet the Regional Spatial Strategy panel report targets for new housing without building on some areas of the urban fringe landscape which are of high landscape sensitivity.
- 1.8.2 It is evident that there needs to be a debate, through the planning process, as to whether the need for new housing which has been identified in the Regional Spatial Strategy should override the need to conserve the rural setting of Hereford and the market towns.

2.0 LANDSCAPE BASELINE STUDY

2.1 HEREFORD: VISUAL ANALYSIS



Breinton, Wye Valley

2.1.1 Overview of topography, views, landmarks and landscape character

Hereford is situated in a low-lying position, on either side of the River Wye, to the west of the confluence of the Wye with the River Lugg. The topography of the urban fringe is varied: to the north, low ridges - Munstone and Lyde Hill, to the east the broad, flat Lugg Meadows, to the south-east, steep sided hills - Dinedor Hill and Ridge Hill and to the south-west and north-west, rolling ground. To the west of the city, the Yazor Brook floodplain, in the Huntington area, forms an extensive area of flat ground.

2.1.2 The topography of the River Wye valley itself is also varied – it is in the form of a gorge in the Breinton area, opening out into a shallow valley to the east, through Bartonsham and Rotherwas.

2.1.3 Whilst the River Wye and River Lugg and their associated floodplains are dominant landscape features, conversely the tributaries of the Wye: Yazor Brook, Widemarsh Brook, Ayles Brook, Withy Brook, Red Brook and Newton Brook, do not have a strong visual presence. This is because these watercourses are relatively small in scale and some sections are culverted.

2.1.4 Due to its topographical position, set within a shallow bowl, Hereford is visually well-contained. When approaching Hereford from the north, the landform restricts views in to the city to within a kilometre of the city. There are longer distance views in to the city from the east, because there are expansive views across the Lugg Meadows to the eastern edge of the city - Aylestone Hill, which is one of the highest points within the city. There are longer distance views down onto the city from the south, from Dinedor Hill, Ridge Hill and Callow. Approaching Hereford from the south and south-west, the city is concealed within the shallow bowl of land, restricting views in to close to the city boundary. Approaching Hereford from the west, the city only comes into view at the crest of the low hill at Swainshill.

- 2.1.5 The key views out of the city relate to the river corridors – they are the views east and west along the River Wye corridor and across the Lugg Meadows. Key viewpoints are shown on Map 2.1a: Hereford – Photographic Viewpoints.
- 2.1.6 The absence of high-rise buildings in Hereford and the consistency of building height mean that the cathedral tower, the spire of All Saints Church and the water tower at Broomy Hill, have retained their predominance as landmark features on the city skyline.
- 2.1.7 The landscape character of the urban fringe is varied and is strongly influenced by the Rivers Wye and Lugg. To the east and south-east of the city, are the flat riverside meadows associated with the Lugg and Wye. To the south, there is a large-scale industrial area – the Rotherwas Industrial estate, which is bounded to the south by farmland. Belmont House forms an extensive area of parkland, to the south-west of the city. Breinton has retained a deeply rural, tranquil character, with a patchwork of small-scale fields and orchards. The Yazor Brook floodplain, close to the city, and the land to the north of Hereford, is predominantly intensively farmed arable land. The landscape types for the Hereford urban fringe are shown on Map 2.1b: Hereford – Landscape Types.
- 2.1.8 Designations relevant to the urban fringe
- **Conservation Areas:** Aylestone, Broomy Hill, Central Area, Hampton Park, Huntington, Widemarsh Common
 - **Historic parks & gardens (Unregistered):** Wyecliffe, Warham House, Burghill Hospital, Belmont House, Rotherwas Park, Hampton Dene, Huntington Court, Sugwas Court
 - **Scheduled Ancient Monuments:** Dinedor: Dinedor Camp, Rotherwas House, Rotherwas Chapel

This above data is shown on Map 2.1c: Hereford - National and Local landscape related designations.

Viewpoint 1: Pipe and Lyde, footpath PL2, view towards Hereford



From this elevation, on a low ridge at Pipe and Lyde, the topographical position of Hereford, lying within a bowl, with higher land to the south, is evident. This area, despite being less than 1 km to the north of Hereford, is very rural in character.

Viewpoint 2: Pipe and Lyde, footpath PL2, view towards Hereford



From this vantage point, trees on Aylestone Hill, the Cathedral tower and the spire of All Saints church are landmark features.

Viewpoint 3. Pipe and Lyde, Patch Hill, footpath PL1, view towards Hereford



From this elevated viewpoint, the rural character of the landscape, immediately to the east of Hereford, can be seen.

Viewpoint 4: Holmer, by Highfield House, view over Holmer



The small scale pastoral fields within a stream valley create an intricate, intimate landscape character at Holmer.

Viewpoint 5: Holmer, footpath HOI, Ayles Brook footbridge, view towards St. Bartholomew's Church



This intensively farmed land does not contribute positively to the setting of St. Bartholomew's Church or to the amenity of the footpath which crosses it.

Viewpoint 6: Holmer, footpath HOI, Ayles Brook footbridge, view to the west



This view shows that land to the north of the Roman Road (A4103), in the vicinity of Cot Barn House, is quite elevated and exposed.

Viewpoint 7: Homer, footpath HO1, view towards Roman Road/Hereford



This shows the open, exposed nature of the land to the north of the Roman road. The character of Principal Settled Farmlands, the landscape type of this area, has been degraded by intensive agriculture, reflected in the low height of the field boundary hedgerows and absence of hedgerow trees.

Viewpoint 8: Holmer, C1127, view towards Shelwick



The character of this area, which is described as the landscape type Principal Settled Farmlands, has been severely degraded by intensive agriculture, reflected by the loss of field boundary hedgerows and trees and also by the lines of pylons.

Viewpoint 9: Roman Road, between C1127 & railway bridge, view to the north



The land rises gently to the north, to the low hills of Pipe & Lyde.

Viewpoint 10: Shelwick, The Burcott



At present, The Burcott is an isolated development, set within a parkland type setting. The mature trees are prominent landscape features.

Viewpoint 11: Shelwick, C1125, view towards Aylestone Hill



This approach to Hereford is very rural in character, along a narrow lane which is thickly hedged on either side. The only part of the Hereford townscape which is visible is the trees on the Aylestone ridge.

Viewpoint 12: A465, near Lugg Bridge, view towards Aylestone Hill



This view shows the very flat, open character of the Lugg Meadows, with Aylestone Hill in the background. The mature trees on Aylestone Hill are landmark features on the skyline.

Viewpoint 13: Aylestone Hill, footpath HER12, view to the north



The steep, north-east facing slopes of Aylestone Hill have remained undeveloped and rural in character.

Viewpoint 14: Tupsley, Broadlands, footpath HER12, view towards Munstone & Lyde



The steep, north-east facing slopes of Aylestone Hill have remained undeveloped and rural in character.

Viewpoint 15: A438, view north over Lugg Meadows



This shows the very flat, open, pastoral character of the Lugg Meadows.

Viewpoint 16: A438, view north over Lugg Meadows



Key landscape characteristics of the river floodplain are evident: pastoral land use, linear patterns of willow and alder and an absence of built development.

Viewpoint 17: A438, view to the west, towards Tupsley



This approach to Hereford, across the Lugg Meadows, is rural in character, with only a few buildings in the Tupsley area being visible on the skyline.

Viewpoint 18: A438, view to the west, towards Tupsley



Key landscape characteristics of the river floodplain are evident: pastoral land use, linear patterns of willow and alder and an absence of built development.

Viewpoint 19: Tupsley, open space adjacent to Copsewood Drive, view towards Lugg Meadows



The rural character of this area has been maintained. The presence of hedgerow trees helps to maintain the landscape scale of the area.

Viewpoint 20: Holywell Gutter Lane, footpath HER47, view towards Longworth



This is a view across the Lugg Meadows, to the low hills in the Lugwardine area. The rural character of this area has been maintained.

Viewpoint 21: B4224, view north to orchards



This area of orchards, on rising ground, provides a locally distinctive landscape feature on the eastern edge of Hereford.

Viewpoint 22: B4224, view to the south, towards Dinedor



The flat topography and open character of the River Wye floodplain is evident, with the wooded slopes of Dinedor Hill rising on the southern side of the river.

Viewpoint 23: Sink Green, B4399, view over River Wye



At Sink Green, the River Wye corridor is entirely rural in character.

Viewpoint 24: Sink Green, B4399, view over River Wye towards Hampton Bishop



Key characteristics of the river floodplain can be seen: pastoral land use and well defined linear patterns of willow and alder.

Viewpoint 25: Rotherwas, B4399, view towards Rotherwas Park Wood



This is a view across pastoral land to parkland on the hill beyond - Rotherwas Park, which has the status of Unregistered Parkland. Pastoral land use has been maintained, due to the steepness of slope. The wholly rural character of this area contrasts with the adjacent Rotherwas industrial estate.

Viewpoint 26: Rotherwas, track to Rotherwas Chapel, view to the north-west, towards sewage works



From the flat River Wye floodplain, mature trees in the Hampton Park area, on the northern side of the river, are prominent landscape features on the skyline.

Viewpoint 27: Rotherwas, north of Rotherwas Chapel, view to the north-west towards Upper Dormington



This is a view across the flat River Wye floodplain to the wooded hills to the south-east of Hereford. The absence of built development on the river floodplain is notable.

Viewpoint 28: Rotherwas, north of Rotherwas Chapel, view to the north of Rotherwas Park



This is a view towards Rotherwas Park, which is an Unregistered Parkland.

Viewpoint 29: Rotherwas, Fir Tree Lane, view to the east towards Church Farm



The River Wye floodplain is degraded by the presence of dilapidated structures.

Viewpoint 30: Rotherwas industrial estate, view towards Hampton Park



In this area, the Wye floodplain is intensively farmed. The escarpment, on which housing at Hampton Park is situated, can be seen. The dilapidated, industrial style fencing in the foreground is a detractor.

Viewpoint 31: Lower Bullingham, Watery Lane, view towards railway bridge



The ditch, willows and alders are characteristic features of this low-lying area. Only fragments of the rural landscape, such as the small paddock, remain. Industrial buildings at the Rotherwas industrial estate are visible in the background.

Viewpoint 32: Lower Bullingham, Watery Lane, view to the south-west



The line of trees parallel to the railway line forms the most distinctive landscape feature. The land rises gently towards the south-east, towards Dinedor and the Rotherwas access road.

Viewpoint 33: Lower Bullingham, Watery lane, view towards Hereford



Housing development has been contained on the north side of the railway line. There are filtered views of industrial buildings at Rotherwas.

Viewpoint 34: Lower Bullingham, Watery Lane, view to the south, towards Dinedor



The land rises from Lower Bullingham, towards the south.

Viewpoint 35: Lower Bullingham, Watery Lane, view towards bridge over Red Brook



The scale and character of the industrial unit in the foreground, detracts from the small-scale rural character of Watery Lane. The White House, in the middle distance, is a historic building, built adjacent to the bridge over Red Brook.

Viewpoint 36: Lower Bullingham, view to the north-west towards Hereford



The field boundary hedgerows in this view are in poor condition, being low and gappy. This contributes to the degraded appearance of the countryside in this area.

Viewpoint 37: Lower Bullingham, adjacent to scrap yard, view to the west towards railway line/Hereford



The poor condition of the field boundary hedgerows contributes to the degraded character of the rural landscape in this area.

Viewpoint 38: Hoarwithy Road, C1261, Green Crize, view of oak avenue



The avenue of oak trees, at Green Crize, provides a striking landscape feature on the Hoarwithy road.

Viewpoint 39: Ridge Hill, view to the west over the A49 corridor/Portway



From Ridge Hill, the large scale garages at Portway are incongruous elements in the rural landscape. The intensive arable use of land within the A49 corridor is also evident.

Viewpoint 40: Hoarwithy Road, C1261, view towards Rotherwas



From this vantage point, buildings on the Rotherwas industrial estate extend southwards, towards the base of Dinedor Hill.

Viewpoint 41: Bullinghope, footpath GF1, view towards Hereford



This shows the steep, west facing valley side of the Norton Brook, which is lined by trees. From this vantage point, the trees filter views of Hereford. The cathedral tower and spire of All Saints Church can be seen on the skyline.

Viewpoint 42: Bullinghope, footpath GF1, view towards Hereford



From this elevated viewpoint, by Bullinghope Court, the low-lying position of Hereford is evident.

Viewpoint 43: Bullingham Lane, view to the east towards railway line/Lower Bullingham



Housing development is contained behind the railway line. The field boundary hedgerows are in poor condition, being low and gappy and this contributes to the degraded landscape character of this area.

Viewpoint 44: Bullingham Lane, St. Peter's Church, view to the north towards Lower Bullinghope



This view looks across the valley of Withy Brook, towards Hereford. The city is largely contained behind the ridge of land in the middle distance, but some new housing has been built in an elevated position and appears on the sky line. This is undesirable because it is not in keeping with the characteristic settlement pattern.

Viewpoint 45: A49, Redhill Bridge, view to the west towards Grafton



The agricultural land in the Grafton area is relatively flat, with low field hedgerows and few hedgerow trees. The ornamental tree planting in the grounds of the Graftonbury Garden Hotel is a distinctive landscape feature, which is highly visible from the A49 corridor.

Viewpoint 46: Grafton Lane, view to the west, towards railway line



Housing development is contained to the north of the railway line. Grafton, to the south of the railway line, has a relatively low density of settlement and has maintained a rural character.

Viewpoint 47: Grafton Lane, view to the east towards Bullinghope & Dinedor



St. Peters Church, at Bullinghope, is a landmark feature on the southern edge of Hereford.

Viewpoint 48: Merryhill Farm, C1236, view to the north-west towards Hereford



From this elevated viewpoint, there is a view across the city. Trees in the area of Belmont Pool soften the urban edge.

Viewpoint 49: Merryhill, footpath HER50, view to the east towards Newton Farm



From this vantage point, field hedgerows and trees soften the urban edge.

Viewpoint 50: Belmont, C1199, view to the north-east towards Hereford



From this vantage point, the Belmont House parkland provides an attractive landscape setting for the city.

Viewpoint 51: Belmont House parkland, footpath CH7A, view to the north-west over parkland



In this area, the character of the Belmont House parkland has been maintained.

Viewpoint 52: Belmont, footpath CH7, view to the north-east, over Hunderton Rough, towards Hereford



These slightly elevated, open grass areas mediate between the open countryside to the south-west of Belmont and the city. The cathedral tower can be seen on the skyline.

Viewpoint 53: Belmont, Hunderton Rough, footpath CH7, view towards Hereford



Trees along the River Wye corridor create a strong linear feature. Modern housing development at Belmont can be seen in the middle ground. The absence of high rise buildings in the city is evident – the cathedral tower, the spire of All Saint's Church and the water tower at Broomy Hill are the tallest structures on the city skyline.

Viewpoint 54: Belmont House drive, view to the east towards Hereford



The modern housing development at Belmont impinges on views eastwards across the Belmont House parkland.

55. Ruckhall Lane, near Vallets Farm, view towards Vallets Coppice



To the west of Belmont House, there is a wooded, agricultural landscape which is very tranquil.

Viewpoint 56: Breinton, C1190, view to the south-west, towards the Wye corridor & Ruckhall



In this part of the Wye valley there is pastoral land on the south-facing valley side and woodland on the north-facing valley side. This area is very tranquil due to the low density of settlement and absence of main roads.

Viewpoint 57: Lower Breinton, view to the east towards the Wye corridor & Hunderton



This view illustrates the contrast in landscape character between Lower Breinton and land on the southern side of the River Wye. At Lower Breinton, there is a very low density of settlement and the rural character of the landscape has been maintained. At Hunderton, there is a high density of built development.

Viewpoint 58: Breinton, view to the north-east towards White Cross



This area is described as the landscape type Principal Timbered Farmlands. Key characteristics of this landscape type can be seen: field boundary hedgerows, densely scattered hedgerow trees and small areas of woodland. The new crematorium can be seen on the southern edge of the White Cross district.

Viewpoint 59: Breinton, view to the south towards Belmont



This is a view across the River Wye to the Belmont House parkland.

Viewpoint 60: Breinton, view to the north towards King's Acre



As the land falls to the north, to King's Acre Road, the landscape becomes more open, with large field sizes and more intensive arable use. This area is described as the landscape type Principal Settled Farmlands.

Viewpoint 61: Breinton, bridleway BT4, view to the north-west, towards Green Lane Wood



In this area, the land use is predominantly arable. There are small woodland compartments and some infield trees.

Viewpoint 62: Breinton, bridleway BT4, view to the north-east, towards Green Lane Wood



Hedgerow oak trees are a characteristic feature of this area, filtering views across the landscape.

Viewpoint 63: Breinton, bridleway BT4, view to the north



This small area of pastoral land between the Green Lane Park home site and Wyevale Wood is uncharacteristic of the land use of this area. Most of the land between Green Lane and the Kings Acre road is used for arable crops and for raising trees.

Viewpoint: 64: Swainshill, C1189, view to the south-east, towards Green Lane



This shows the ribbon housing development along Green Lane. This form of settlement is not characteristic of Breinton, where a dispersed pattern of settlement is prevalent.

Viewpoint 65: Swainshill, C1189, view to the east



Wind break planting is a characteristic feature of this area.

Viewpoint 66: Stretton Sugwas, C1190, view to the north-west



This area is described as the landscape type Principal Timbered Farmlands. This landscape is made up of a mosaic of small to medium sized fields, irregularly shaped woodlands and winding lanes.

Viewpoint 67: Stretton Sugwas, Roman Road, view to the south-east, towards Sugwas Pool



In this low-lying area, the loss of field boundary hedgerows has led to an increase in the size of the fields. Wind break planting is a characteristic feature.

Viewpoint 68: Credenhill, C1099, view to the south-east, towards Sugwas Pool



This low-lying area is described as the Landscape Type Wet Pasture Meadows. Key characteristics include pastoral land use, linear tree cover pattern, including watercourse trees and an absence of built development.

Viewpoint 69: Stretton Sugwas, C1197, view to the east



Intensive arable use, in particular the loss of field boundary hedgerows, has degraded the landscape character of this area, which is described as the landscape type Principal Timbered Farmlands.

Viewpoint 70: Stretton Sugwas, C1197, view to the west, towards Brockhall Coppice & former quarry site



Brockhall Coppice runs along the fringe of this former quarry site.

Viewpoint 71: Swainshill, A438, view east towards Hereford



This is the most elevated vantage point on the western approach to Hereford, along the A438. Mature trees heavily filter views of the townscape.

Viewpoint 72: Huntington, minor road, view north-west, towards Roman Road



This area, to the south of the Yazor Brook, is very flat and under intensive arable use. The loss of field boundary hedgerows and trees has degraded the landscape character of this area, which is described as the Landscape Type Principal Settled Farmlands. Credenhill Park Wood can be seen in the distance.

Viewpoint 73: Huntington, minor road, view east towards Hereford



This is a view across fields under intensive arable use, towards modern housing estates on the northern side of King's Acre Road. The hedgerow oak trees are characteristic of this area, which is described as Principal Settled Farmlands.

Viewpoint 74: Huntington, minor road, view east towards Whitecross High School



From this viewpoint, the very flat topography of this area is evident. The Yazor Brook crosses this area, passing close to Whitecross High School, on the right of this photograph, but it does not register as a strong landscape feature.

Viewpoint 75: Burghill, C1095, view south-east towards the St. Mary's Hospital site



The mature trees on the St. Mary's Hospital site, which has been redeveloped as housing, are notable features on the skyline.

Viewpoint 76: Burghill, minor road, view south towards the St. Mary's Hospital site



The mature trees on the on the St. Mary's Hospital site, which has been redeveloped as housing, are notable features on the skyline.

Viewpoint 77: Elton's Marsh, A4110, view south-east towards the Roman Road, (A4103)



The loss of field boundary hedgerows and trees has degraded the character of this area, which is described as the landscape type Principal Settled Farmlands.

Viewpoint 78: Pipe & Lyde, footpath PL8, view north-east towards St. Peter's Church



The area between the Canon Pyon Road (A4110) and the A49 is relatively tranquil. The pools to the north of the footpath enrich the character of the agricultural landscape.

Viewpoint 79: A4110, view south-east towards Bobblestock



From this vantage point, the city is visually contained within a low lying area.

Viewpoint 80: Bobblestock, view south over Hereford



From this elevated viewpoint, there is a view across Hereford, to the wooded hills on the southern side of the city. The absence of high rise development is notable.

Viewpoint 81: Bobblestock, view east towards Holmer



This photograph shows that Bobblestock housing area, at the north-western corner of Hereford, is quite elevated in comparison with the city centre.

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Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Analysis

MAP 2.1a HEREFORD

Photographic Viewpoints
KEY

33 → Viewpoints

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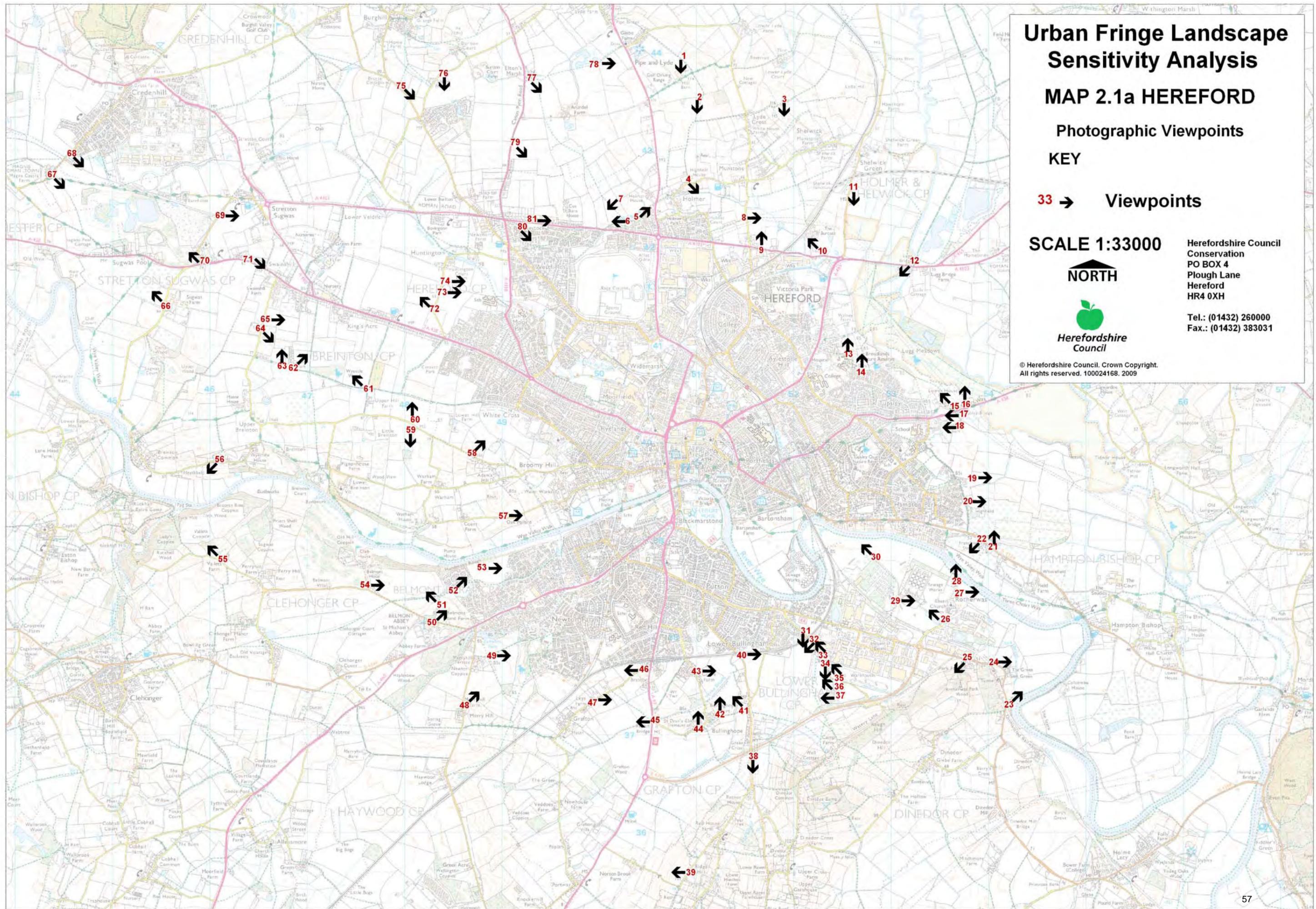


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Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Analysis

MAP 2.1b HEREFORD

Landscape Character Types

KEY

-  Principal Settled Farmlands
-  Principal Wooded Hills
-  Principal Timbered Farmlands
-  Riverside Meadows
-  Wet Pasture Meadows
-  Wooded Estatelands
-  Estate Farmlands
-  Enclosed Settled Commons
-  Forest Smallholdings & Dwellings

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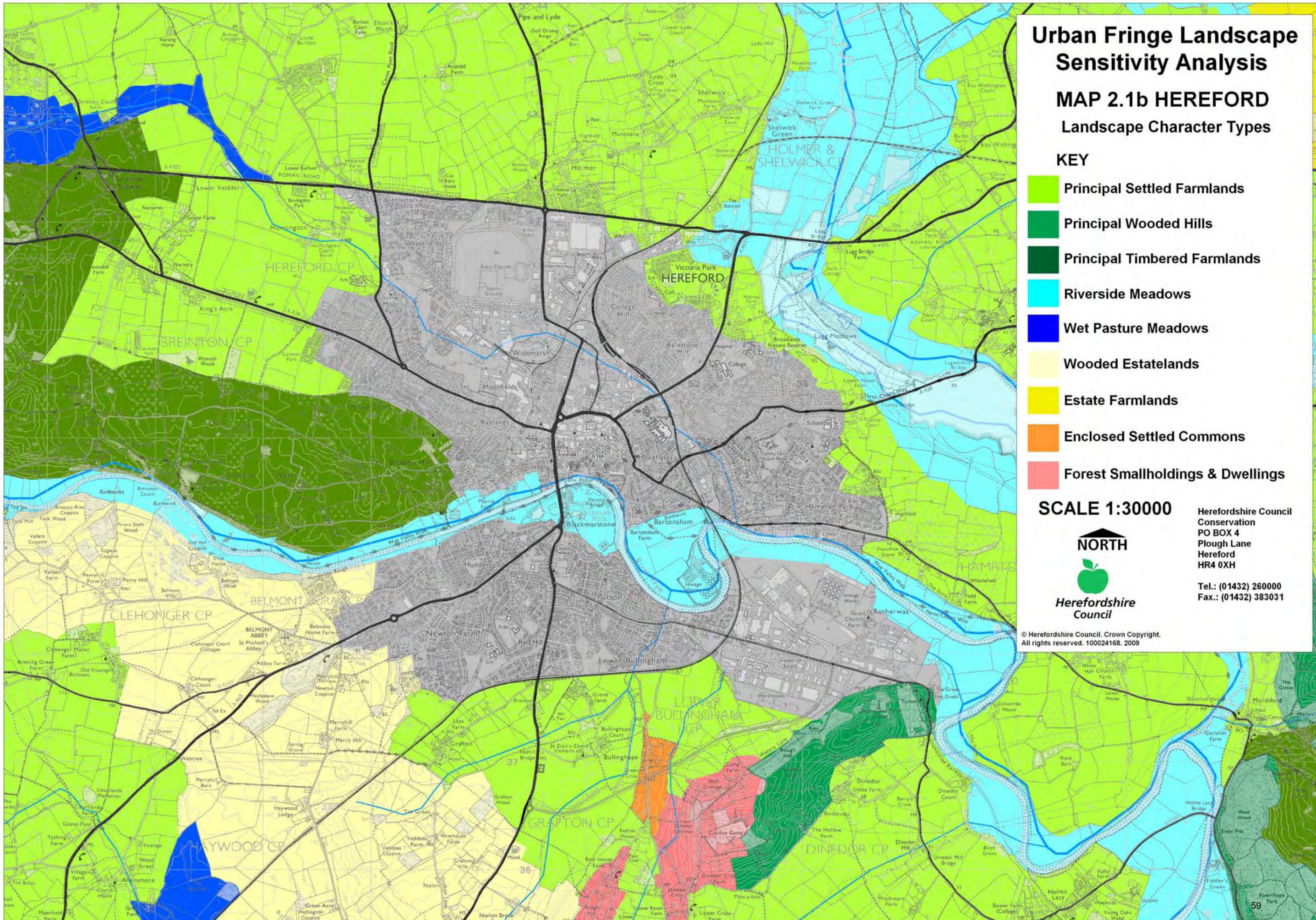


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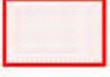


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Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Analysis

MAP 2.1c HEREFORD

National & Local Landscape-related Designations

-  AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)
-  Conservation Areas
-  Scheduled Ancient Monuments
-  Registered Historic Parks & Gardens
-  Unregistered Historic Parks & Gardens

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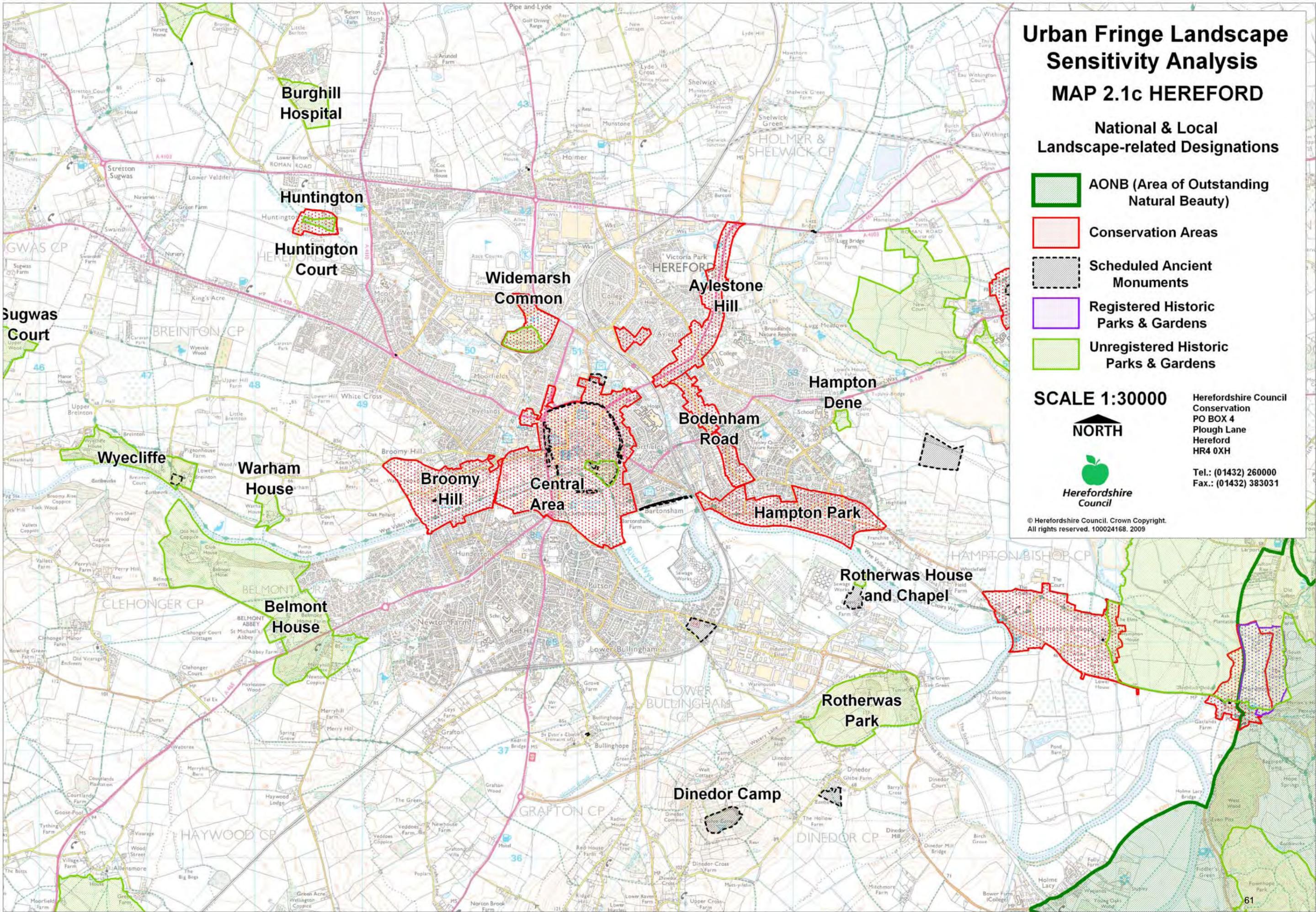


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Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Analysis

MAP 2.1d HEREFORD

Landscape zones under analysis

KEY

 Landscape zones

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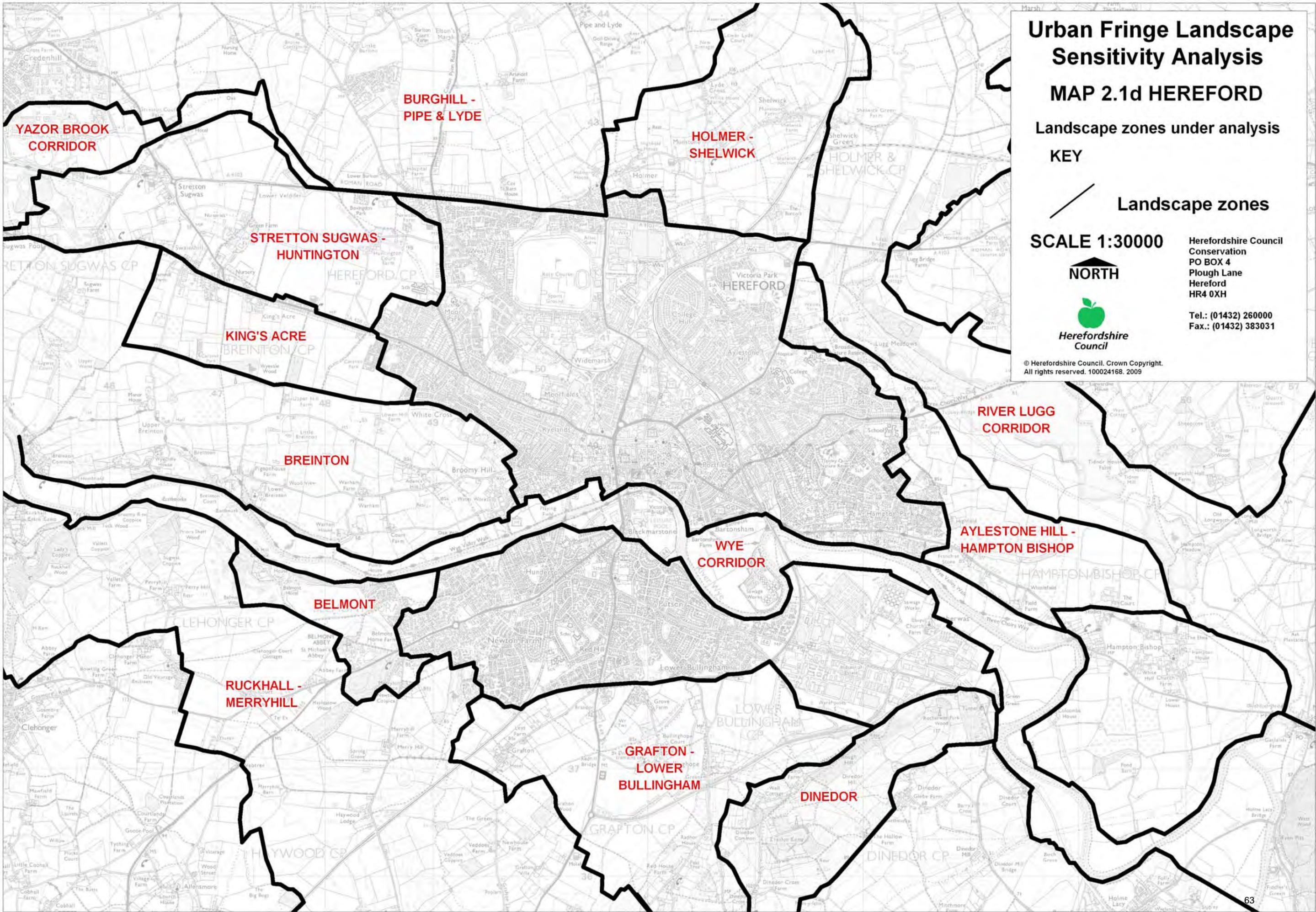
 NORTH



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2.2 BROMYARD: VISUAL ANALYSIS



Land between Drythistle Farm & Winslow Road

2.2.1 Overview of topography, views, landmarks and landscape character

Bromyard is situated on the steep, east facing slopes of the valley of the River Frome. The topography of the town is dramatic, due to the variation in the form of the Frome valley. The Frome valley is deeply incised to the north of Bromyard, opening out into a broad floodplain around the western edge of the town, returning to a steeper sided, more enclosed valley form to the south of the town.

2.2.2 Bromyard's location within a valley and the elevated nature of much of the settlement – it reaches a high point of 175m AOD at West Hill means that there are far reaching views out from the town, to the wider countryside, particularly to the east and south. The principal views into the settlement are from Bromyard Downs, which rise on the eastern side of the River Frome and from the south, along the Frome valley.

2.2.3 When approaching Bromyard from the east, along the B4203, St. Peter's Church is prominent, being situated in an elevated position on the east-facing slope above the River Frome. In relation to the wider landscape context, it is the dramatic topography: the River Frome valley and Bromyard Downs and the integrity of the pastoral land surrounding Bromyard which give the town its distinctive character.

2.2.4 Key viewpoints are shown on Map 2.2a: Bromyard: Photographic Viewpoints. The landscape types for the Bromyard area are shown on Map 2.2b: Bromyard: Landscape Types.

2.2.5 Designations relevant to the urban fringe

- Bromyard Conservation Area
- Historic parks & gardens (Unregistered): Buckenhill Manor, Birchyfield

The above data is shown Map 2.2c: Bromyard - National and Local landscape related designations.

Viewpoint 1: B4214, view of northern approach to Bromyard



The rural character of this approach into Bromyard has been maintained. The brick piers from a former railway bridge act as a gateway into the town.

Viewpoint 2: Sports Ground, view of industrial estate



From the sports ground, there are glimpsed views of the Porthouse industrial estate. While the industrial units detract from the appearance of the River Frome valley, the prominence of the units is reduced by their location on the flat, low-lying valley floor.

Viewpoint 3: B4214, view of orchard above River Frome



Well-maintained hedgerows, pastoral land, small-scale orchards and associated grassland create a high quality rural landscape. The steepness of slope is evident.

Viewpoint 4: B4214, view of housing on northern edge of Bromyard



Most of the housing on the northern fringe of Bromyard is visually contained by the landform. However, some roofs visible. At this edge of Bromyard, the capacity of the landscape to absorb housing has already been used up.

Viewpoint 5: B4214, view of industrial estate



There are views out of Bromyard to the Bromyard Downs. Industrial units are relatively unobtrusive on the valley floor.

Viewpoint 6: Footpath WN14, stone footbridge, view towards industrial estate



This illustrates the landscape type Riverside Meadows: lush pastoral land, the trees along the River Frome form a strong linear feature, there is an absence of built development and a sense of tranquillity. The stone packhorse bridge in the foreground is an attractive historic landscape feature.

Viewpoint 7: Footpath WN14, stone footbridge, view over riverside meadows



From the river Frome floodplain, there are filtered views through to Bromyard Downs.

Viewpoint 8: Footpath NT6A, view towards Walk Mill



In this view, the transition between landscape types, within the River Frome valley can be seen: lush riverside meadows of the floodplain, pastoral land beyond and common land on the hills - Bromyard Downs. Walk Mill occupies the edge of the floodplain and is an interesting historic building feature.

Viewpoint 9: Footpath NT6A, view towards B4203



Caravans are just visible on the recreation ground. This view illustrates the very broad, flat floor of the valley of the River Frome, to the east of Bromyard,

Viewpoint 10: B4203, view of north-eastern approach to Bromyard



On this approach to Bromyard, the winding, narrow road is characteristic of a small-scale, rural settlement. Trees at St. Peter's Church are prominent features on the skyline.

Viewpoint 11: A44, view of land between Sherford Street & the River Frome



Built development occupies higher ground, leaving the Frome floodplain unsettled.

Viewpoint 38: Bromyard Downs, unclassified road, view over Bromyard



From this elevated viewpoint, there are far reaching views over Bromyard, and across northern Herefordshire. Hay Bluff can be seen on the skyline. In this view, the siting of Bromyard, on a spur of land, within the Frome valley and the compact nature of the town is evident. The high density of built development within the town contrasts with the open, rolling countryside around it.

Viewpoint 12: A44, view of eastern approach to Bromyard



This gateway to Bromyard lacks distinctiveness – due to the insignificance of the road bridge over the River Frome, the scale of the road and the lack of defined building frontages.

Viewpoint 13: Minor road to Avenbury, view of Linton Park caravan site



Development has already exceeded the capacity of the landscape to absorb it. Housing extends into the Frome Valley, detracting from the valley landscape.

Viewpoint 14: Minor road to Avenbury, view of hospital



This view illustrates the steepness of the Frome valley sides, to the south of Bromyard and also high quality rural landscape adjoining the town.

Viewpoint 15: A465, view of paddock on West Hill



West Hill is the highest point in Bromyard. It is visually incoherent, comprising of this small field, the Queen Elizabeth High School, a depot, houses and a phone mast.

Viewpoint 16: A465, view of garage & land to south of Ashfield Way



This illustrates characteristics of Timbered Plateau Farmlands: steepness of slope, rolling topography and mixed farming land use.

Viewpoint 17: A465, view of south-western approach to Bromyard



This approach to Bromyard is lacking in local distinctiveness due to the scale of the trunk road and lack of distinctive features. However, the field boundary hedgerows give the road a rural character.

Viewpoint 18: Footpath AV8, view towards Flaggoners Green



At Flaggoners Green, there is a gently rolling plateau, with an expansive area of pastoral land. Field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees are visually prominent.

Viewpoint 19: Panniers lane, view towards Birchyfield



To the south-west of Bromyard, there is a high, rolling plateau. Field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees are visually prominent.

Viewpoint 20: West Hill, view of cricket ground



The cricket ground occupies the highest point in Bromyard, at 175 AOD.

Viewpoint 21: A44, view of western approach to Bromyard



On this approach, Bromyard is visually contained by the landform and the rural setting of the town has been preserved to date. Only an isolated house can be seen on the southern side of the A44.

Viewpoint 22: A44, view across Flaggoners Green



This illustrates the extensive area of pastoral land on the high, rolling plateau on the western edge of Bromyard.

Viewpoint 23: A44, view across Flaggoners Green to Queen Elizabeth High School



This illustrates the extensive area of pastoral land on the high, rolling plateau on the western edge of Bromyard.

24. A44, view of paddock to south of Stonehouse Farm



Small-scale grass fields on the northern side of the A44 have been retained and the rural setting of the town, on its north-western edge, has been preserved to date.

25. Upper Hardwick Lane, view of Stonehouse Farm



From this viewpoint on the upper slopes of the Frome Valley, the town is hidden by the landform.

26. Upper Hardwick Lane, view towards Embages



From the Frome valley, there are views out over the hills to the west of Bromyard.

27. Footpath WN1, view up Hardwick Hill



From this viewpoint on the upper slopes of the Frome Valley, the town is hidden by the landform. Only one house is visible.

28. Footpath WN2, view towards Hardwick Close



This view illustrates that existing modern housing is right on the edge of the River Frome valley landscape. Preventing the spread of housing down onto the valley sides, in this location, has preserved the high quality of the Frome valley landscape, to date.

29. Footpath WN2, view towards St. Peter's Primary School



From this viewpoint, St. Peter's Primary School is concealed by the landform, which helps to conserve the quality of the upper slopes of the Frome valley.

30. Footpath WN2, view over Frome valley



From this elevated viewpoint, there are long distance views over north Herefordshire.

31. Footpath WN3, view up Hardwick Hill



This illustrates the lush pastoral land, field hedgerows and hedgerow trees which are characteristic of this landscape type – Timbered Plateau Farmlands.

32. Footpath WN3, view towards Drythistle Farm



This area has a remote, tranquil character, despite its proximity to a housing estate.

33. Footpath WN3, view towards Winslow Road



This shows how housing adjacent to Winslow Road has crested the hill, intruding into the plateau landscape above the Frome valley.

34. Winslow Road, view over Drythistle Farm land



This illustrates the high quality pastoral landscape adjacent to the town.

35. Footpath WN1, view along River Frome valley



In the Frome valley on the northern side of Bromyard, settlement is absent from the steep, lower sides of the valley, which has a remote, tranquil character, despite its proximity to Bromyard. The pattern of woodland and tree cover within the valley is characteristic of the landscape type: Timbered Plateau Farmlands

36. Drythistle Farm drive, view towards Winslow Road



Housing on Winslow Road is just visible on the skyline. Restricting housing from spreading further into the Frome Valley has preserved the high quality and integrity of the rural landscape on the northern edge of Bromyard. The pattern of field hedgerows, enclosing small to medium scale pastoral fields, is still intact.

37. Lower Hardwick Lane, view to the south-west



This shows the very steep topography of this area - the north-east facing upper slopes of the Frome Valley, above Lower Hardwick Lane.

39. C116, Upper Munderfield, view towards Hardwick Hill



From this elevated viewpoint, approximately 3km to the west of Bromyard, it can be seen that on the northern edge of Bromyard, restricting the spread of housing into the Frome Valley has been instrumental in preserving the high quality rural landscape setting of Bromyard.

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Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Analysis

MAP 2.2b BROMYARD

Landscape Character Types

KEY

-  Timbered Plateau Farmlands
-  Principal Timbered Farmlands
-  Riverside Meadows
-  Plateau Estate Farmlands
-  Wooded Estatelands
-  Unenclosed Commons

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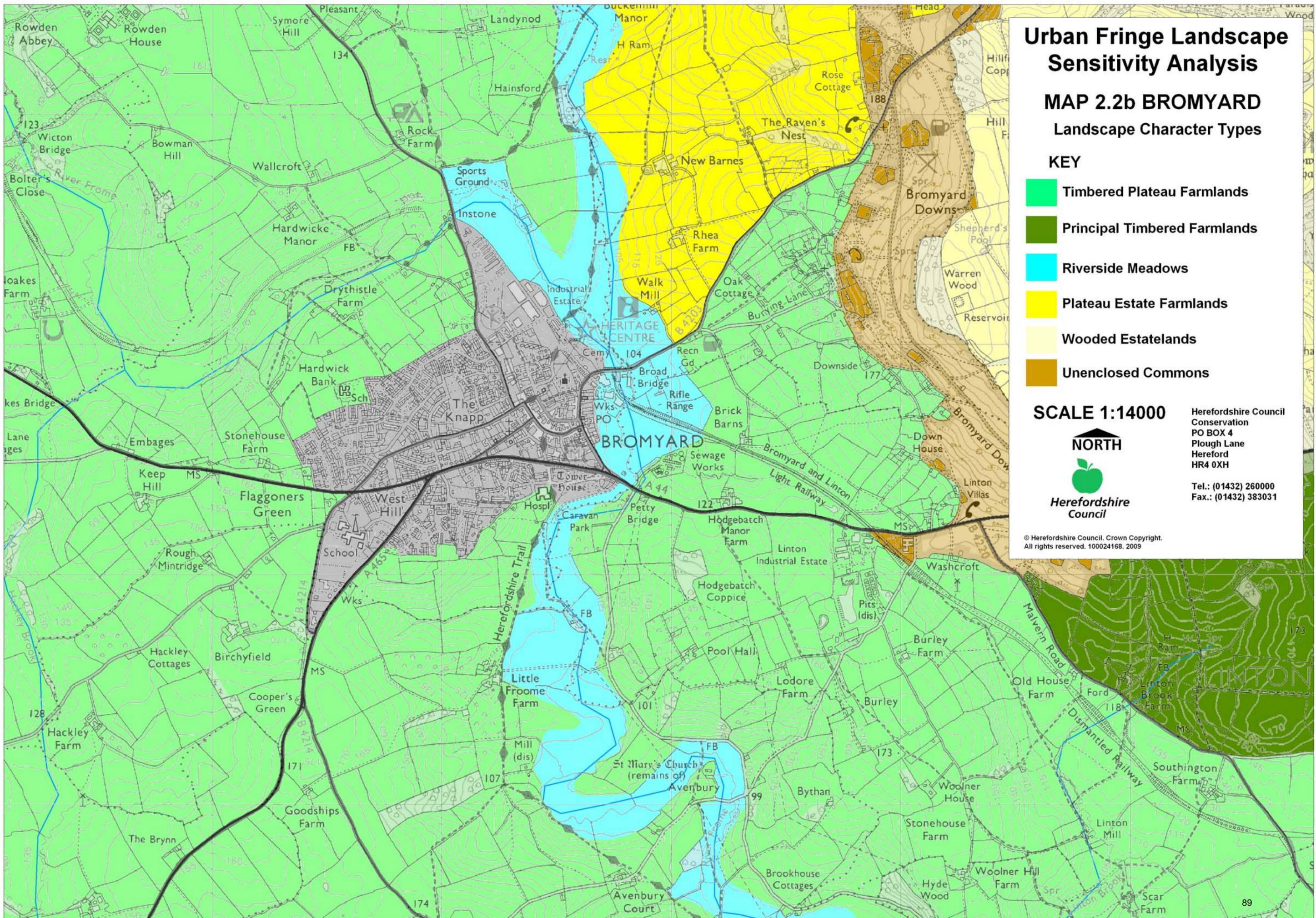


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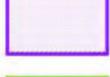


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Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Analysis

MAP 2.2c BROMYARD

National & Local
Landscape-related Designations

-  AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)
-  Conservation Areas
-  Scheduled Ancient Monuments
-  Registered Historic Parks & Gardens
-  Unregistered Historic Parks & Gardens

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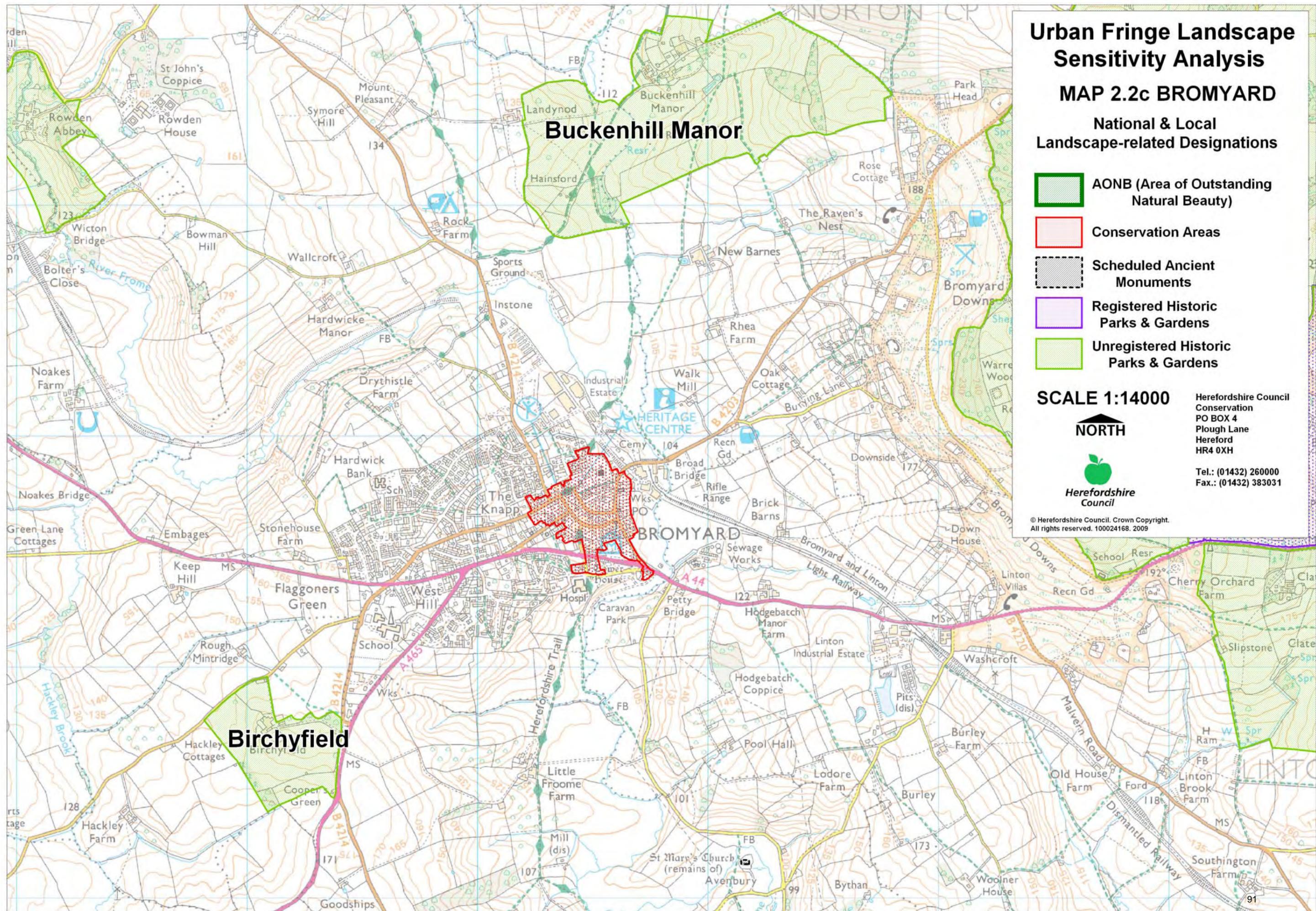


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Urban Fringe Landscape Sensitivity Analysis

MAP 2.2d BROMYARD

Landscape zones under analysis

KEY

— Landscape zones

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NORTH

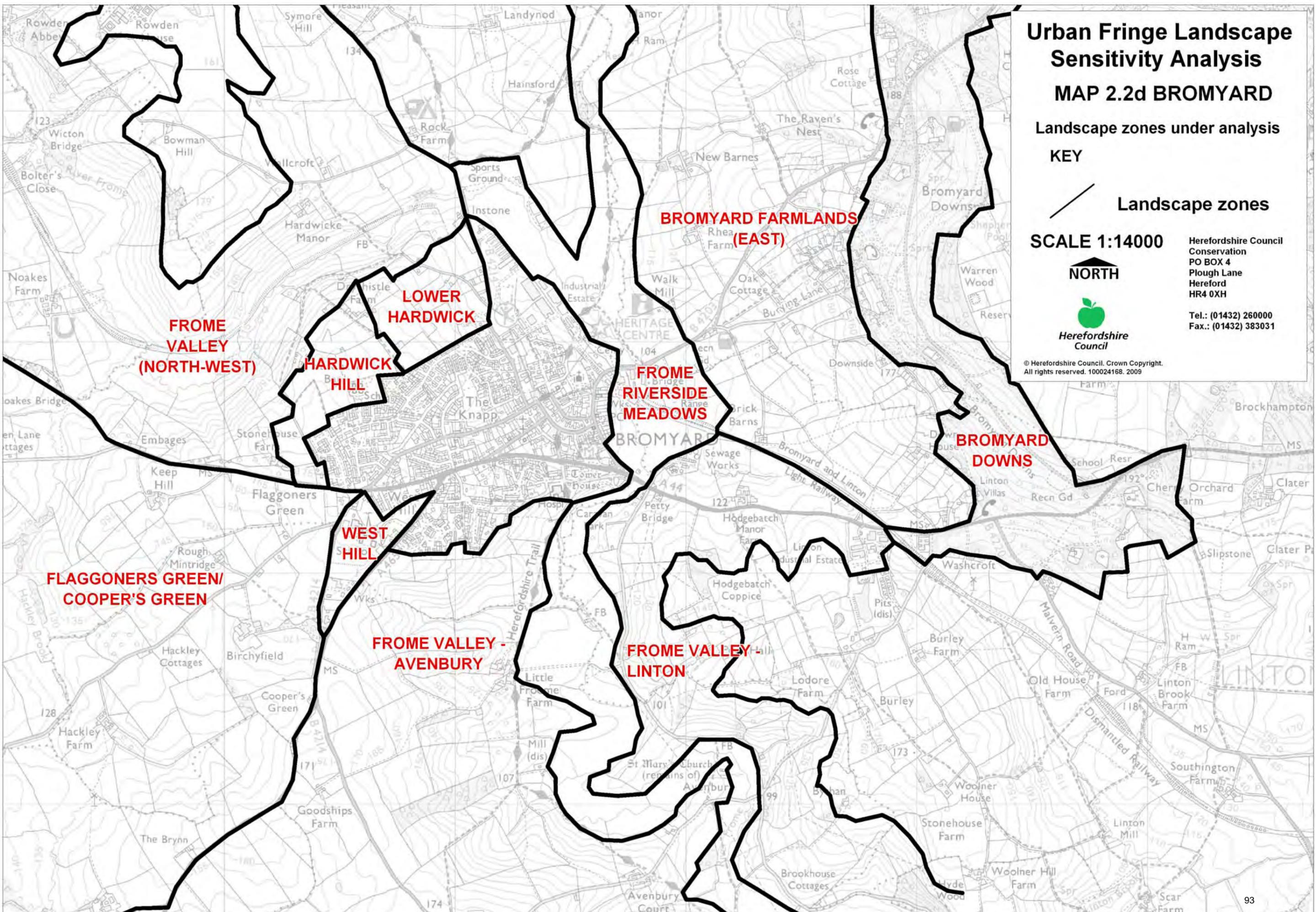


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2.3 KINGTON: VISUAL ANALYSIS



Broken Bank

2.31 Overview of topography, views, landmarks and landscape character

2.32 Kington lies in the valley of the River Arrow, to the west of the confluence of the River Arrow with Back Brook. It is surrounded by hills, which give a strong sense of enclosure to the town. The steeper, higher hills, Bradnor Hill, which rises to the north of Back Brook and Hergest Ridge which rises to the west of the town, comprise pastoral land, while the lower hills which rise to the south-east of the River Arrow comprise a mixture of pastoral and arable land.

2.33 The historic core of the town extends from the bridge over the River Arrow at Headbrook, north-west to the crossing of Back Brook. More modern development has extended out along the River Arrow valley, to the north-east (Sunset) and south-west of the town (Hergest Road) and infilling has taken place between the historic core of the town and the bypass (A44) and between Eardisley Road and Kingswood Road. The church, St. Mary's, is dominant in the townscape, being situated on a knoll to the north-west of the town centre. The River Arrow floodplain, which is quite broad, is a prominent landscape feature threading through the town. Hergest Croft, and Ridgebourne, which both lie on the lower slopes of Hergest Ridge, form an extensive area of historic parkland on the western edge of the town.

2.34 Due to its topographical position, surrounded by hills, Kington is visually well-contained. When approaching Kington from the north-west (Tittley Road) and from the east (A44), the landform restricts views. The town only comes into view within half a kilometre of the town. There are views down onto the town from Offa's Dyke long distance footpath, which runs over Hergest Ridge and Bradnor Hill and from other elevated viewpoints on these hills. There are also views down onto the town from the lower hills to the south of the River Arrow – the Kingswood area. The key views out of the town are to St. Mary's Church, Hergest Ridge, Bradnor Hill and to the Hergest Croft and Ridgebourne parkland. The intervisibility between St. Mary's Church and Ridgebourne is also important.

- 2.35 Within the town, St. Mary's Church has retained its predominance on the skyline and is a landmark feature. Key viewpoints are shown on Map 2.3a: Kington – Photographic Viewpoints.
- 2.36 The pastoral landscape setting of Kington – Bradnor Hill and Hergest Ridge, and the parkland, particularly the parkland trees at Hergest Croft and Ridgebourne are key characteristics which contribute to local distinctiveness. The landscape types for the Kington area are shown on Map 2.3c: Kington – Landscape Types.
- 2.37 Part of the Hatton Gardens Industrial estate, at Sunset, is dilapidated and detracts from the River Arrow valley landscape. The extension of modern housing across elevated land between Eardisley Road and Kingswood Road has detracted from the wider rural setting of Kington.
- 2.38 Designations relevant to the urban fringe
- **Conservation Area:** the Conservation Area designation on the historic core of the town extends southwards westwards to encompass part of the River Arrow floodplain
 - **Historic parks & gardens:** Hergest Croft (Registered), Ridgebourne (Unregistered)
 - **Scheduled Ancient Monument:** Castle Hill

The above data is shown on Map 2.3c: Kington - National and Local landscape related designations.