LCT 5 Clay Plateau

- 5a Naseby Plateau
- 5b Sywell Plateau
- Daventry
Key Landscape Character Features

- Boulder Clay deposits overlie almost the entire landscape, obscuring variations in the underlying solid geology and giving a unity of character. This has influenced the development of a simple landscape pattern particularly across the more elevated plateau areas, with a land use dominated by agricultural production.

- Broad, undulating plateau dissected and drained by numerous convex valleys on the fringes of the character area. The smooth undulating landform pattern on the plateau reinforces the simplicity of the landscape. The local variations that occur, primarily on the lower slopes and valley sides, introduce diversity and local interest within an otherwise uniform pattern.

- Expansive, often long distance and panoramic views across open areas of plateau, with a sense of exposure on some prominent locations reinforcing the sense of elevation and remoteness.

- Productive arable farmland within medium and large-scale fields on elevated land although sheep and cattle pastures also prevalent, often in smaller fields adjacent to watercourses.

- The smaller scale and more intricate field pattern across the lower slopes emphasises the contrast with the intensively farmed large-scale and uniform (sometimes featureless) arable fields across the plateau.

- Limited woodland and tree cover comprising broadleaved woodlands and mature hedgerow trees. The occasional mainly geometric coverts or linear woodlands along parts of the River Avon and around reservoirs provide important landscape features.

- Where trees, woodlands and undulating landform combine, they limit or define views and create a more intimate character such as around Sulby Hall.

- Numerous water bodies including small reservoirs (Naseby Reservoir, Welland Reservoir and Sulby Reservoir) on the Naseby Plateau enrich the diversity of the landscape and provide features of local interest but often within low depressions so their prominence is only locally notable.

- Hedgerows are often low and well clipped and emphasise the undulating character of the landscape, although intermittent sections show evidence of decline.

- Sparsely settled with small and medium sized villages and isolated farms prevalent, contributing to a generally quiet and remote landscape.

- Monuments and landscape features associated with the Battle of Naseby are distinctive elements of the local landscape and provide a tangible reminder of the Civil War battle.
LCT 5 Clay Plateau

Landscape Character Area 5a Naseby Plateau

- Harborought District
- 1a Gullsborough Ironstone Uplands
- 1b Vale of Rugby
- 13a Hothorpe Hills to Great Oxendon
- 13b Cobbebrooke and Arthingworth
- 19a Welland Vale
- 19b Vale of Rugby
- 19c Welland Vale

May 2017
Description

Naseby Plateau extends across the northern part of the district. It is a broad, elevated area above lower more rolling landscapes to the east. Much of the Plateau is characterised by a smooth gently undulating landform. On the eastern perimeter of the Clay Plateau, at the transition with Cottesbrooke and Arthingworth Undulating Hills and Valleys (13d), numerous watercourses have eroded through the boulder clay to form a series of gentle convex profile valleys. There are two large waterbodies: Sulby Reservoir and Naseby Reservoir.

This is a simple agricultural landscape with a limited palette of characteristics. This derives from the over-riding land use of arable farming bordered by typically low hedgerows and relatively limited hedgerow trees. The large to medium sized field pattern, particularly on the plateau tops, imparts a productive and managed character and a record of centuries of land management.

There is evidence of field amalgamation and hedgerow loss as a result of intensive farming. The field pattern becomes smaller and more diverse in the valley bottoms close to watercourses (such as the River Avon and north of Haselbech) and around settlements. Ridge and furrow is a feature often associated with Scheduled Medieval remains.

Woodland is limited within this landscape and where it occurs, is often geometric broadleaved coverts that provide local landmark features such as Long Hold Spinney, Naseby Covert, Tallyho Covert and Scotland Wood. Other woodland occurs as linear belts along some watercourses and around the fringes of the reservoirs. Woodland is also present within parkland around Sulby Hall where there form a number of small geometric blocks extending out from Sulby Reservoir as well as other irregular shaped blocks and frequent mature trees elsewhere through the character area.

Linear woodland forms the boundaries to Market Harborough Golf Course in the northern part of the character area and helps to integrate this facility with its surrounding landscape. Mature trees are common within hedgerows and along rural roads although become less frequent on higher ground.

A limited number of small and medium villages occupy the Naseby Plateau; beyond these the area is settled with individual farmsteads, emphasising the generally isolated character. Settlements are typically well screened from the surrounding landscape or only locally visible across the adjacent fields. This helps to contribute to the rural and remote character of the landscape. The largest village in the character area is Naseby which is a clustered settlement and at one of the highest elevations in the county. The village is recognisable in the landscape by its church spire which is prominent on the skyline between woodland from the western and northern approaches from Naseby Road and Clipston Road respectively.

Other villages such as Welford also have a church tower visible on the highest ground beyond a rising roofline of properties nestled amongst trees. This is particularly notable in views from Sulby Reservoir to the north with a river valley and meadows as the foreground. Great Oxendon is a linear village on higher ground with extensive views possible over the adjacent Undulating Hills and Valleys character area (13d) to the south and from the surrounding countryside. The village appears as rooftops on rising ground nestled in trees. Oxendon Hall is a prominent feature of the village skyline in northerly views from the A508. St Helen’s Church is remote from the village but connected by a PRoW through a series of pastoral fields.
Sibbertoft is along the northern edge of the character area. It is a small clustered settlement with open areas (fields and open space) making an important contribution to its character. The presence of Sibbertoft Manor within wooded grounds provides a green edge to the settlement on the approach from the east. Views to the church along the Jurassic Way across fields to the north of the village are notable.

Haselbech is a small hamlet on the eastern edge of the character area. It is on high ground but mature woodland and Haselbech Hall (outside character area) limit its visibility in the wider landscape. The grounds of the hall and associated vernacular outbuildings and cottages in combination with St Michael’s Church and woodland are a distinctive feature of the approach into Haselbech from the south.

The A14 bisects this character area, it follows high ground but is in cutting for much of its route and in combination with pockets of tree and scrub planting is generally not visible within the landscape. However, the noise of traffic disrupts the tranquil character along roads and footpaths in close proximity. Other roads in the character area are more rural in character, typically lined with well-maintained hedgerows and most have frequent hedgerow trees which are predominantly ash.

Across much of this character area there is a sense of openness and exposure with wide panoramic views across the plateau and beyond to the adjacent character areas to the east and south. Views are of smooth flowing fields bounded by low hedgerows with hedgerow trees. Views often extend to wooded high ground to the south and east in Cottesbrooke and Arthingworth Undulating Hills and Valleys (13d). Around Naseby large woodland blocks are a feature of the view. Views are more enclosed along the watercourses and where woodland and trees are more frequent such as around Sulby Hall and around the northern edge of Welford.

Larger urban areas are generally not visible from this character area which reinforces its remote character. Market Harborough is visible from the northern part of the character area but its influence is localised.

Notable areas of ridge and furrow are evident in the character area, where the Registered Civil War battle site of 1645 is also located (north west of Naseby). The civil war battle site is notable through signpost references and a number of viewing locations (Rupert’s Viewpoint and Fairfax’s Viewpoint) as well as the prominent Naseby Monument. The viewing points north of Naseby are often marked by a small layby, fencing and interpretation.

Landscape Condition
Moderate
The majority of landscape features are well managed although around larger fields there is evidence of hedgerow fragmentation and also a loss of other landscape features such as hedgerow trees.
LCT 5 Clay Plateau

Landscape Character Area 5a Naseby Plateau

Landscape Strategy 5a

This landscape has a simple pattern of medium to large scale fields and limited woodland. New development and land management changes should conserve this simplicity as the landscape is sensitive to changes that would alter this character. This is an open landscape with panoramic views across the farmland with relatively little development visible. Development in this landscape could be highly visible and where proposed should ensure there is no intrusion onto the skyline. Where development is proposed within the lower and more secluded valleys, and on the fringes of the rural villages, reference should be made to the locality (referencing village design statements and character appraisals where available) together with particular details of local vernacular including layout, building styles and materials. Development should respect important gateways into villages, the churches as a feature of the skyline and the limited influence of buildings on the wider landscape.

Historic landscape features such as the Civil War Battle of Naseby 1645 are important to this landscape. These features should be retained and protected from decline, including the effect of agricultural practices and siting of new features such as woodland. Where appropriate, opportunities for wider interpretation should be encouraged, including the possible re-creation of earlier field patterns to aid interpretation and understanding of the Naseby Battle. As this is a rural landscape, viewing locations should be integrated into their surroundings through appropriate planting of hedgerows and hedgerow trees.

Where tree planting is present around these viewing areas this should be managed to retain views across the landscape.

This landscape character area has relatively little woodland although where present it is a local feature. There may be opportunities to introduce new smaller woodlands within the plateau to provide further visual interest whilst respecting the simple character and sense of openness, these should be carefully sited and avoid the Civil War landscape.

Ash is commonly used as hedgerow trees and the landscape may be susceptible to change as a result of Ash Die Back. New hedgerow tree planting should use alternative species such as oak or sycamore.
LCT 5 Clay Plateau

Landscape Character Area 5b: Sywell Plateau

- 1a Guilsborough Ironstone Uplands
- 1b Spratton and Creaton Ironstone Uplands
- 1c Long Buckby
- 13d Cottesbrooke and Arthingworth
- 4d Moulton Slopes
- 17c Brampton Valley Floodplain

Kettering District
Wellingborough District
LCT 5 Clay Plateau

Landscape Character Area 5b: Sywell Plateau

Description

The Sywell Plateau is along the eastern boundary of the district and is separated from Naseby Plateau by the Undulating Hills and Valleys Landscape Character Type (Character area 13d). It is an elevated area that forms the catchment for the Pitsford Water (reservoir) and the watercourses follow a radial arrangement from higher ground that leads down towards the reservoir. The watercourses have formed barely discernible valleys but have some definition by associated riparian vegetation.

Like the Naseby Plateau landscape character area, the overriding land use is arable farming bordered by low hedgerows with limited hedgerow trees. The north western part of Sywell Plateau is characterised by a plateau top, part of which formed the site of the former Harrington Air Base. The site is now occupied by a very expansive arable field but with some elements of the former air base still present including the network of runways gradually being colonised by scrub and a memorial on the side of the adjacent road. Further east the size of the fields reduce to a more moderate scale, while near the settlements in the south the field pattern becomes much finer grained.

Areas of woodland are generally limited but there are some coverts, small wooded areas (including Ancient Woodland) and wooded road corridors to the margins of the landscape character area. There are three broadleaved coverts known as Faxton Corner, Short Wood and Bullocks Penn Spinney on the plateau top near to the former air base and these combine with the mature woodland belt, including some evergreen, on the eastern side of the road next to the former air base to bring a sense of enclosure in that location.

To the south is the wooded estate to Lamport Hall, small woodland blocks near Lamport known as Scaldwell Spinney and Oak Spinney and this wooded network extends along the edge of the A508 Harborough Road towards Brixworth.

Moving east there is a broadleaved covert at Old Poor’s Gorse near to the wooded edge next to the road that follows a section of the District boundary and this wooded network screens the neighbouring Mawsley Village from view. The remaining blocks of woodland are east of Harrington at Harrington Grange Farm and north east of Brixworth. In terms of other wooded areas the watercourses tend to be defined by belts of riparian vegetation and mature trees are a common feature to field boundaries near to the settlements.

There are no settlements in the northern part although the area is populated by several isolated farmsteads and hamlets at Draughton and Lamport to the western edge. Lamport is distinguished by the large number of listed buildings that front the High Street and the High Street’s close relationship to the Grade 1 Listed Lamport Hall, ancillary buildings, gardens and estate which are designated as Historic Parks and Gardens. There are three settlements in close proximity at the south eastern corner of Sywell Plateau: Walgrave, Hannington and Holcot. All have a nucleated form and watercourses are a common feature passing through or along the edge of the settlement. On most approaches the settlements are screened from view by taller hedgerows and hedgerow trees that mark the roadside.
LCT 5 Clay Plateau

Landscape Character Area 5b: Sywell Plateau

The linear belts of riparian vegetation along the watercourses further conceal views towards any built form in the settlements.

The largest village is Walgrave and it is distinguished by its church spire. Although not as prominent as the spire at Naseby, it is visible from some approaches.

Brixworth is a larger settlement in the south west corner of Sywell Plateau. There is a road bypass along the north eastern edge of the settlement passing through a cutting with maturing screen planting on the embankments and a block of mature woodland. From the east rooftops are visible above the screen planting. East of the bypass there are several industrial units with large footprints and reaching a height of up to 10 metres. There is also a chimney reaching approximately 18 metres in height. These structures are visible from Scaldwell Road to the east and are uncharacteristic of the area.

There are only two main roads, both routed to the edges of Sywell Plateau. The A508 Harborough Road runs along the western boundary and the wooded corridor along its eastern side screens it from view from the wider area and reduces traffic noise. The A43 runs along the eastern boundary and both sides of the road are wooded also reducing its presence. Common to other landscape character areas in this type is the configuration of country lanes with their wide grass verge to one side and narrow verge to other side, both enclosed by low clipped hedgerows. Elsewhere the generally sparse population and limited network of rural lanes means that the area is quite tranquil. There are PRoW but those present cover long distances including a PRoW routed north from Lamport and connecting with a byway leading to Mawsley Village.

There are also two PRoW that cross the landscape towards Pitsford Water near Faxton and Hannington respectively.

Sywell Plateau has a more limited variation in landform compared with Naseby Plateau and this has an effect on views. In the vicinity of the plateau top around the former air base views extend across the plateau but are then contained by the wooded edges. Along the northern and eastern edge of the landscape character area the medium sized fields and low hedgerows allow middle distance views (up to 1km). However the limited differentiation in landform means there are few panoramic views towards neighbouring landscape character areas.

There are occasional panoramic views of the wider landscape including sweeping views towards Pitsford Water and its wider setting on the road from Brixworth to Scaldwell. Travelling along A508 there are panoramic westerly views towards the Undulating Hills and Valleys and Ironstone Uplands landscape character areas.

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Landscape Condition

Moderate
The majority of landscape features are well managed although there is evidence of hedgerow fragmentation and a loss of hedgerow trees around larger fields.
LCT 5 Clay Plateau

Landscape Character Area 5b: Sywell Plateau

Landscape Strategy 5b

Like Naseby Plateau, Sywell Plateau has a simple landscape pattern and land management practices should help to strengthen any local variations. The more wooded western part of the landscape character area should be enhanced through planting appropriate small woodland blocks, specifically encouraging the establishment of scrub on the runways to the former air base and restoring the adjacent roadside hedgerows.

Further east the watercourses and the network of hedgerows around arable fields are characteristic and these features should be enhanced through additional riparian planting and hedgerow trees respectively.

The nucleated pattern of the settlements in the south east of Sywell Plateau and the fine grained field pattern to the settlement fringes needs to be conserved. Any development proposals should be consistent with that pattern and the outer edges of any development should be softened with hedgerows, hedgerow trees and small copes. Development proposals should also respect approaches and gateways into villages, views towards church spires, relate to local vernacular and make reference to village design statements, character appraisals and neighbourhood plans where available.

The eastern edge of Brixworth is now defined by relatively large scale industrial development uncharacteristic of the area. The pattern of the landscape in that locality needs to be restored to better integrate that development into the landscape character area through a network of hedgerows, hedgerow trees, wooded belts, copes and coverts.

The network of PRoW tend to follow fairly direct linear routes through Sywell Plateau. They provide a representative cross section of the landscape character area and the experience for the pedestrian should be enhanced through restoring and improving hedgerow boundaries with hedgerow trees and enhancing waymarking (improvements to signage and interpretation).
### Landform, Hydrology and Views

- Conserve the simple, unified and orderly character of the productive agricultural landscape through management of farming practices and control of development.
- Conserve and enhance local variations in the character of the landscape, particularly along lower slopes and valleys where a more diverse land use pattern and areas of woodland and increased tree cover are characteristic.
- Conserve areas of wetland meadow and pasture along watercourses to enhance the diversity of these parts of the character area.
- Conserve and enhance expansive, panoramic views across elevated, open areas of plateau landscape through management of vegetation along roads and footpaths.
- Conserve occasional but distinctive views to Pitsford Water through management of hedgerows and other vegetation.
- Seek to enhance the sense of elevation and separation from surrounding urban areas by ensuring built development remains discrete in the landscape.

### Landform, Hydrology and Views

- Conserve and enhance the linear woodland around the fringes of reservoirs.
- Enhance the setting and fabric of reservoirs, by seeking opportunities for enhanced recreational and nature conservation facilities.
- Seek to ensure that the character of the landscape around reservoirs is enhanced through habitat management and creation.

### Landscape Guidelines

- Conserve the distinctive field pattern bounded by maintained low hedgerows.
- Enhance hedgerows by sensitive management that encourages diversity, whilst maintaining a neat network of boundaries that impart a sense of order and of productive agriculture.
- Discourage hedgerow removal and field amalgamation that leads to broader areas of monoculture, and a consequent reduction in the visual interest associated with the mosaic of fields and cropping patterns.
- Conserve hedgerow trees and where possible seek opportunities to plant new trees within hedgerows (oak and sycamore), particularly next to PRoW to enhance tree cover whilst maintaining the more open higher areas of plateau.

### Land Management

Image: Hedge laying, LCA5A Naseby Plateau
## LCT 5 Clay Plateau

### Landscape Guidelines

#### Woodland and Trees
- Conserve and enhance the geometric covers and woodlands, whilst maintaining the open and expansive character of the more elevated plateau landscapes.
- Conserve and enhance the linear riparian woodlands along watercourses and seek opportunities to extend woodland planting to enhance the diversity in character along river valleys.
- Conserve the enclosure and character of the land around Sulby Hall through appropriate management of trees, woodland and hedgerows.
- New woodland should be locally appropriate broad-leaved species.
- New species for hedgerow trees should include oak and sycamore and should avoid ash whilst Ash Die Back remains an issue.

#### Heritage and Settlement
- Conserve the sparsely settled character of the landscape by limiting new development on the elevated and remote plateau.
- Conserve the prominence of churches within village skylines from the network of PRoW on village fringes such as the Jurassic Way and Shakespeare's Avon Way.
- Conserve the skyline of villages where the church is the focus of views on approaches into the village and built development is generally not visible.
- Conserve the river meadow landscape on the edges of some villages which is important to their approaches.
- Conserve the wooded approaches to villages.

#### Heritage and Settlement
- Conserve open areas, trees and hedgerows within villages that contribute to their character.
- Conserve, where possible, areas of pasture which create a fine grained pattern to the village fringes along with associated mature trees and hedgerows.
- Conserve and Enhance landscape features associated with the Battle of Naseby.
- Manage woodland planting around designated viewing points to ensure that views across the landscape remain possible.
- Retain a rural character to public viewpoints for the Civil War such as Fairfax's viewpoint, Rupert Viewpoint and the viewpoint along Sibbertoft Road to ensure they integrate with their remote and rural surroundings.

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View of Sywell Plateau north of Walgrave

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Occasional prominent woodlands
Low hedges with mature trees
Simple farming pattern across landscape
LCT 6 Undulating Claylands

Daventry

6a The Tove Catchment
Key Landscape Character Features

- Wide panoramic views across elevated areas, although the undulating landform creates more contained and intimate areas particularly in the south of the area. The shallow valleys are generally not perceptible below the more open, elevated areas, resulting in expansive views and wide horizons.

- A productive rural landscape with an equal balance of arable and pastoral farming with the former predominating on more elevated land and often larger in scale. Improved and semi improved pastures are sometimes present along narrow floodplains and sloping land bordering them, and are often more intricate and smaller in scale.

- Small deciduous copses and hedgerow trees are distinctive vertical elements in this open landscape and combine to create the sense of a well-wooded character particularly to lower lying parts of the character type. Where this coalescence of woodland and trees occurs on lower ground, the sense of enclosure results in the perception of a smaller scale landscape.

- Concentrations of small woodlands apparent on steeper slopes and around designed parklands.

- Hedgerows are often low and well clipped emphasising the undulating character of the landscape with scattered hedgerow oak and ash trees. The pattern and scale of the hedgerow network is an important feature within the landscape and reinforces the relationship between land use and grain of the landform.

- Numerous villages located throughout the wider landscape character type but no villages within Daventry District. Settlement beyond the villages includes scattered farmsteads and isolated dwellings, located at the end of short access tracks and adjacent to the roadside. The settlement pattern is indicative of a quiet and deeply rural landscape focused on agricultural production.

- Recreational opportunities are diverse, including The National Trust owned Canons Ashby House and gardens and network of PRoW including Macmillan Way National trail.
LCT 6 Undulating Claylands

Landscape Character Area 6a The Tove Catchment

Description

The Undulating Claylands extend across the southeastern fringes of the county and form the broad upper catchment areas of the Tove. Only a very small proportion of LCA 6A is within Daventry District, the majority of the character area extends eastwards into South Northamptonshire District. A broad mantle of boulder clay has largely obscured the complexity of the solid geology that underlies the area. The landscape is characterised by undulating farmland falling from the edge of Preston Capes in the north towards lower ground and river valleys along the southern edge of the District. There are relatively few tributaries within this character area, but where present they are barely discernible features within the undulating landscape. Many occur as small depressions to the edges of fields with sporadic riparian planting. Small valleys are more notable in the southern part of the character area where the land is lower and the shallow valley landform more noticeable.

The land use is mostly arable farmland which occupies large scale irregular shaped fields on the higher ground in the northern part of the character area. Views across these areas can give the impression that the area is confined to arable cultivation. Smaller-scale fields pastoral fields are generally confined to the lower ground in the southern part of the character area within and around the wider parkland estate of Canons Ashby.

Woodland is present as medium geometric copes such as Cow Pasture Wood, Ouse Land Spinney, Ashby Gorse and Wards Copse, Conduit Covert and ornamental woodland around Canons Ashby. Other smaller linear woodland features are present in the northern part of the character area, south west of Preston Capes. In addition frequent hedgerow trees are often silhouetted on the skyline. This in combination with the regular pattern of low clipped hedgerows helps to emphasise the landform. There is also frequent evidence of new planting of hedgerows and hedgerow trees which as they mature will contribute positively to the perception of a well-wooded landscape.

Canons Ashby is the most memorable landscape within this character area. It is a Tudor manor house set in terraced gardens owned by the National Trust. It also includes a wider parkland estate of pasture, specimen trees, formal ponds, tree avenues and ornamental woodland. Visitor facilities including a café and visitors centre occupy outbuildings and car parking is set behind mature hedgerows making them relatively discreet. The estate extends across much of the southern part of this landscape character area (within Daventry District) and includes a number of estate properties and a priory church (St Mary’s Church) which is a feature within the wider area. Buildings and drystone boundary walls are constructed using the local ironstone and display local vernacular styles.

There are no villages or hamlets within this character area except for a few detached properties with large gardens on the southern side of Charwelton Road on the edge of Little Preston. Built form is limited to isolated farmsteads and dwellings accessed off short tracks. Properties are typically associated with farm buildings and rural tracks are lined with trees. Some properties include shelterbelt planting including an element of evergreen trees which are notable features contrasting with the mainly broadleaved character to this landscape. Southerly views extend towards the rising wooded edges of villages outside the character area although through much of the landscape the lack of built form reinforces rural and remote character.

The landscape is crossed by a network of narrow rural roads, these are typically edged by a narrow grassed verge and sometimes a small ditch and bordered by generally low hedgerows and frequent hedgerow trees.
In places roads are lined with young hedgerow trees. There is also a network of PRoW (including the Long Distance Trail: The Macmillan Way) crossing the landscape both over high ground and along watercourses on lower ground which provide opportunities for appreciating the gently undulating rural farmed landscape.

Characteristic views are across an undulating landscape towards woodland and individual trees on the skyline with a simple mosaic of arable farmland bordered by low clipped hedgerows and small areas of woodland. A sense of openness is often perceived on the higher ground where fields are larger and views extend over distance and rural roads notable by the lines of silhouetted trees on the skyline. Views are more enclosed on the lower ground around Canons Ashby where the views are characterised by the parkland with vistas towards the manor house and to St Mary’s Church.

**Landscape Condition**

**Good**

Well managed, generally intact hedgerows with evidence of replanting of hedgerows and hedgerow trees.
LCT 6 Undulating Claylands

Landscape Strategy 6a

New development or changes in land management practices should be controlled or encouraged to conserve the simplicity of the elements that define this generally quiet and settled rural landscape. Intrusion of development onto the more elevated land between watercourses within the Undulating Claylands should be resisted to retain the open and unobstructed views to the wider landscape.

Any new development that is introduced should make reference to the locality for particular details of local vernacular including building styles, materials, layout and arrangement of features to ensure it integrates into the landscape.

The distinctive character of Canons Ashby and the surrounding estate is important to the sense of place in the lower lying southern part of this character area. New development and change should respect the historic designed landscape character and vernacular building form.

Smaller scale pasture and horse paddocks on steeper valley slopes
Roadside vegetation near North West Farm

View across the landscape from an unnamed rural road south of Preston Capes
LCT 6 Undulating Claylands

### Landscape Guidelines

#### Landform and Views
- Conserve wide panoramic views across the landscape from elevated areas through management of hedgerows.
- Enhance the contrast between open elevated areas and more intimate and visually contained areas along shallow valleys by appropriate land management regimes and focusing any new planting in lower lying areas.

#### Land Management
- Conserve and enhance the characteristic patterns and distribution of agricultural land use on higher ground to further emphasise the relationship between land use and landform.
- Conserve and enhance hedgerows by sensitive management that encourages diversity, whilst maintaining a neat network of boundaries that reinforce the relationship between land use and emphasise the grain of the landscape and landform features. Replace post and wire fencing where possible and gap up hedgerows with new hedgerow planting of appropriate species.

#### Woodland and Trees
- Conserve the balance of small woodlands and farmland in the landscape by discouraging the planting of large scale woodland planting.
- Conserve the pattern of small-scale copses and hedgerow trees that contribute to the changing pattern, mosaic and perceived localised enclosure within the wider open character. Focus new woodland planting on lower ground.
- Conserve and Enhance the characteristic pattern and composition of woodlands associated with historic and designed parklands.
- Conserve the pattern of hedgerow trees and seek to encourage planting of new hedgerow trees along field boundaries and roads.
- Conserve the parkland character of Canons Ashby ensuring replacement planting of specimen trees in appropriate locations to retain vistas to buildings and surrounding countryside.

#### Heritage and Settlement
- Conserve the limited development within the landscape and ensure where any new development is considered appropriate it reflects the local building vernacular and is not prominent within the landscape.
- Conserve the character of Canons Ashby and ensure St Marys Church remains a landmark within the landscape.

#### Recreation
- Conserve the existing network of recreational opportunities but ensure they remain discreet in the landscape through appropriate management of such facilities and ensuring any changes or expansion respects local character.
LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

Key Landscape Character Features

- Extensive gently rolling and productive rural landscape stretching across the west of the county with a cohesive and recognisable unity of character despite scale and extent.
- Quintessentially agricultural landscape of the Midlands with its broad sweeping gently rolling landform, rich and productive agricultural land contained by a strong hedgerow enclosure, and a deeply rural character.
- Variations in the underlying geology influence local landform and introduce an ever changing pattern of local distinctiveness within the broader undulating landform.
- Watercourses form part of three principal river catchments of the Cherwell, Nene and Welland, and have eroded a branching drainage pattern and a complex network of interconnected valley forms. This is recognisable as the series of gentle valleys across this landscape.
- Reservoirs and designed lakes are distinctive features in the local landscape. Reservoirs include Ravensthorpe, Hollowell, and Daventry. Designed lakes are present in the frequent historic parkland such as Fawsley Hall, Althorp Park, Brockhall Park, Holdenby House and Cottesbrooke Park, These are often focal points in the landscape.
- Navigable canals are an important component in parts of this landscape providing a linear wildlife and recreational asset. This important heritage resource has adapted in response to their popularity as a recreational resource for use by local communities and the public, with wider use likely as a consequence of the growing population within the county and wider region.
- Mixed farming predominates across the landscape although local land use and field patterns are strongly influenced by changes in landform. The land use introduces local variety and diversity to the landscape and an intricate patchwork pattern of fields of contrasting colours and textures, contained by generally well managed hedgerows and frequent hedgerow trees.
- Numerous small deciduous woodlands, copses and shelterbelts punctuate the rural landscape and contribute to the impression of a well treed landscape. While evident across the whole landscape they tend to be associated with steeper land and follow watercourses, emphasising the relationship with the landform.
- Hedgerow trees within the strong hedgerow network also contribute to the perception of a well treed intimate and sometimes enclosed landscape. They are important features that add richness and a sense of maturity to this productive agricultural landscape.
- Strong historic character underlies this deeply rural landscape with evidence of a long period of settlement with wide ranging examples of heritage features and historic landscapes from many periods of occupation. The notable and rich remnants of ridge and furrow that occur within this landscape type are an iconic symbol of the Midlands agricultural landscape, and evidence of a long period of cultivation and production.
- Numerous villages linked by winding country lanes contribute to rural character. The dense network of narrow winding lanes, often bordered by tall hedgerows, and linking between villages and hamlets, contributes to the sense of a long settled area focused on agricultural production.
- Communication routes and urban influences and infrastructure have, where present, eroded local rural landscape character with the noise and movement associated with traffic and visual influences of urban activities contrasting with the sense of rural isolation and tranquillity elsewhere.
LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

Landscape Character Area 13a: Woodford Halse and Weedon Bec

South Northamptonshire District

2b Staverton Hills
LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

Description

This is the southernmost character area within this landscape type. It is close to the southern boundary of Daventry District and extends north to the A45 to the south west of Daventry. It is a rolling landscape of hills and valleys. This landscape is influenced by the adjacent distinctive ironstone hills which are often a feature of views across the river valleys. There are a number of individual hills with small woodlands and trees present that form local landmarks including Weedon Hill, Everdon Hill and Hinton Hill. The landscape is strongly influenced by its river valleys which are often characterised by woodland, trees and smaller fields which help provide enclosure and are a locally distinctive feature. The River Nene flows in an east-west direction in the northern part of the character area. The other smaller tributaries flowing through the southern part of the landscape are all interlinked and flow towards the River Nene in the adjacent Broad River Valley Floodplain Landscape type (Area 18a) to the east. Unlike other character areas within this landscape type, the Grand Union Canal is a very localised feature bordering a small part of the eastern boundary.

This rural landscape is characterised by a mix of pasture and arable fields of varying sizes. Small to medium fields bordered by hedgrows are common. A larger field pattern is present south of Preston Capes and Little Preston; north of Farthingstone and around Church Stowe and Upper Stowe. These areas are generally more open and the distinctive patchwork of fields, hedgerows, trees and woodland common across this landscape character area becomes less pronounced. Ridge and furrow is a local feature such as at Church Charwelton, Everdon and Weedon.

Woodland is an important component of this landscape. Large geometric woodlands such as Everdon Stubbs; Mantles Heath, Knightley Wood; High Wood and Church Wood form local features in the landscape occurring generally on higher ground. Other woodland is present as linear belts along watercourses and along many of the small rural lanes, within parkland and as smaller copses at field margins. Woodland cover increases slightly in the southern parts of this landscape. The former Great Central Railway forms a notable linear wooded feature in this character area. Many of the wooded rural lanes are bordered by tall hedgerows and trees providing a strong degree of enclosure or slightly sunken with hedgerows and trees on the higher ground. Roads through or adjacent to woodlands such as Everdon Stubbs and adjacent to woodland at Mantles Heath are distinctive and provide local variation from much of the rural lanes through the District. Hedgerow trees contribute to the well treed landscape and patchwork effect in views.

Parkland is a feature of this landscape although there are fewer parkland estates than others areas of the Undulating Hills and Valleys. The most notable is Fawsley Hall set within two intersecting valleys and is characterised by a series of lakes and large areas of Capability Brown designed parkland with frequent copses providing a focus or frame to vistas towards Fawsley Hall, across the lake and to the church (as well as other buildings). The valley landform provides enclosure and contributes to the remote character within this parkland. There is also the remains of a medieval deer park to the east of Preston Capes.
There are a number of villages and hamlets within this landscape character area. However there is a sense of remoteness and tranquillity. Settlements are often on lower ground close to the rivers such as Weedon Bec, Newnham, Charwelton and others on valley sides such as Badby, Everdon, Hinton and Woodfood Halse. Many of the approaches to these villages are characterised by narrow roads bordered by tall hedgerows and frequent trees and some along a river valley. A few settlements are on top of hills (Preston Capes, Upper Stowe, Church Stowe and Farthingstone) with extensive views across the surrounding countryside possible from the PROW network on the village fringes.

Views of church spires or towers are a feature of some of the smaller villages, often present close to or on the fringes and surrounded by small pastoral fields with frequent mature trees. This often creates a distinctive approach to the village such as towards Preston Capes from the north and south; Farthingstone from the west; Everdon from the south and Church Stowe from the Macmillan Way (promoted path) to the north. At other villages such as Newnham and Badby the church spire is an important component of the rising roofline of the village. At Charwelton the Holy Trinity Church is to the east of the village adjacent to Charwelton House in Church Charwelton, (medieval primary settlement). It forms a local feature of views along the Jurassic Way (promoted path). Earthworks and ridge and furrow are also notable features.

The villages display a strong and distinctive character. Buildings are frequently constructed from local Northamptonshire Ironstone and reflect the local vernacular. Variations in streetscenes, property boundaries and relationship to open space provides local distinction. Views through the village to landmark buildings or out across the surrounding landscape contribute to sense of place and connection with the landscape. Mature trees and small woodlands play an important role in defining character within villages, creating enclosure and integrating villages with their rural surroundings. The distinctive historic character is recognised with a number of villages being partly or completely designated as a Conservation Area such as Everdon; Newnham; Badby and Preston Capes.

Views are influenced by the adjacent Ironstone Hills which extends as higher ground around the southern part of this landscape character area. They form distinctive and recognisable features within some of the valleys such as around Badby and Newnham and west of Everdon.
Views within river valleys are generally enclosed by trees and hedgerows with woodland or trees visible on the skyline at the valley tops. From the higher ground there are often panoramic views from gaps in road side hedgerows or from PRoW across the rolling landscape of valleys with woodland swathes across the higher ground and along valley floors. Vantage points include the northern edge of Everdon Stubbs, Farthingstone Road (between Farthingstone and Litchborough), PRoW crossing higher ground and the B4037 on the approach into Newnham and roads and PRoW around Church Stowe and Upper Stowe. The fields bordered by hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees form a patchwork effect across the landscape. Where fields have expanded for agricultural intensification the landscape becomes notably more open and landscape features more infrequent. This more open character occurs towards the south of the character area close to the character change to the Undulating Claylands LCT (Area 6a).

This rural and remote character is disrupted slightly in the north eastern part of the character area where open views across rolling farmland and river valleys are replaced by views across the larger Weedon Bec settlement. Much of the settlement is on lower valley slopes of the River Nene along a riverine corridor including distinctive Weedon Barracks (all listed buildings), hard urban edges and development extending up the valley slopes particularly in the northern part of the settlement (including warehouse development) increases urban influence in the locality.

There are relatively few major roads in the area. The A45 is on a ridge and forms the boundary with 13b Daventry to the north. Traffic along the road as well as along the A361 provides localised disruption to the predominantly deeply rural and remote character.
LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

Landscape Character Area 13a: Woodford Halse and Weedon Bec

This landscape has a deeply rural and remote character and development is restricted to small villages and isolated farms with the exception of Weedon. Changes or future development should be small-scale, conserve the scale and pattern of the fields enclosed by a robust hedgerow network, retain woodlands and respect the discrete positioning of villages within the undulating landform. Wherever possible, the distinctive and strong hedgerow network should remain intact, particularly where historic field patterns are evident, and conserved and managed to encourage species diversity and enhanced wildlife habitats. Valued intact historic landscapes (Fawsley Hall) and features (areas of ridge and furrow) should be retained, and protected from decline. Agricultural practices should be encouraged to conserve and protect valued features from any further loss.

Any change along village fringes should respect distinctive approaches. The inter-relationship between pasture, hedgerows, trees and buildings is particularly sensitive and any new development should not become prominent in the landscape undermining the settlement’s setting. Where prominent building edges are present in the larger settlements such as Weedon, opportunities to improve these edges should be considered. This could be achieved by integrating new development into the settlement setting by reflecting local vernacular, respecting setting and prominence of the listed Barracks, careful siting of buildings and new woodland and open space. Development should avoid the highest ground at Weedon where it would be visible above the ridges and increase urban influence in the landscape.
LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

Landscape Character Area 13b: Daventry

- 12b Vale of Rugby
- 13c Long Buckby
- 18a The Nene - Long Buckby to Weedon Bec
- 14a Newbold Grounds
- 2b Staverton Hills
- 14a Newbold Grounds
- Daventry
LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

Landscape Character Area 13b: Daventry

Description

This character area is around the eastern edge of Daventry extending north from the A45 towards Kilsby and Barby and east towards the M1. The landscape comprises a series of east-west river valleys which create an undulating landform. There are a number of distinctive hills that form points of reference such as Borough Hill (Iron Age site and Scheduled Monument) on the eastern edge of Daventry; Bragborough Hill (west of Braunston) and Cleeves Hill (south of Barby). Woodland and trees around these hills helps reinforce their presence in the landscape.

As well as the numerous rivers and tributaries through the landscape; the Grand Union Canal is present along the eastern part of the character area and a spur is routed through the central part (to the north of Daventry and west to Braunston). These are a feature of the landscape but often trees along their boundaries limit their prominence. Older canal bridge infrastructure as well as small marinas and canalside businesses are also frequent particularly close to Braunston and at Norton Junction west of Long Buckby Wharf at the eastern edge of the character area. The character area contains some larger lakes associated with fisheries and estates as well as two reservoirs on the fringes of Daventry: Daventry Reservoir at Daventry Country Park and Drayton Reservoir. These reservoirs are important recreational resources although enclosure by either built development or woodland limits their visibility in the surrounding landscape.

Field size varies with smaller field patterns present close to settlement fringes with larger fields on higher ground close to the A361 and the B4036.

Fields are bounded by intact well-maintained hedgerows and frequent hedgerow trees such as south east of Norton. Where fields have been expanded to allow for agricultural intensification remnant hedgerow trees remain within fields as a reference to the former field pattern. Ridge and furrow is present within some fields around village fringes around Braunston and Barby as well as being associated with Scheduled Monuments such as at Braunston Cleves, Onley and Ashby St Ledgers. Where present it forms an important historic feature in this agricultural landscape.

Parkland features are common set within small estates, whilst many are associated with manor houses some trees are planted as specimens within pasture on approaches to farmsteads such as to the north east of Welton or as avenues along farm access' such as at Ashby Farms east of Daventry, remnant parkland of Ashby Lodge on the west side of A361 and Whilton Lodge (between the A5 and M1).

The most notable parkland is around Ashby St Ledgers which is a registered Park and Garden and Conservation Area.

Woodland is frequent in the landscape, many present as large geometric blocks or smaller copses at field margins, around field ponds and wooded areas in parkland estates. Woodland is also associated with linear features such as rivers, canals and main roads. Notable woodlands include Ashby House Wood; High Park; Briccle Wood; Braunston Cleves; Borough Hill Plantation; Bridge Spinneys; Thrupp Covert; Noborough Spinney, Dodford Holt and Underhill Spinney. This creates a well treed appearance through the combination of these larger wooded blocks and frequent hedgerow trees; copses on slopes of higher ground and woodland along linear features.
The Conservation Area at Ashby St Ledgers extends to cover the village which is linear and includes a number of local vernacular buildings along Main Street set within mature trees. The manor is a local landmark and there are vistas from the manor and adjacent road across parkland to the landscape beyond (in a westerly direction).

Daventry is on the south western edge of this character area. The town is set within a bowl with development on lower ground and farmland and open space on higher ground surrounding it. The landform provides a distinctive edge to the town and screens built form from the wider landscape. Borough Hill on the eastern edge of the town is a local landmark from within the town and from the surrounding landscape particularly from roads and footpaths around Norton and Welton but is a feature of longer views from other LCA further south. Extensive views across the landscape are possible from its summit. Holy Cross Church also forms a notable feature in views from the wider landscape particularly from higher ground around Welton. To the north of Daventry, woodland along the Grand Union Canal spur (Bridge Spinneys) and landform which rises to the immediate north of the town helps to limit the prominence of built form. Conversely it forms an attractive farmland backdrop along the northern edge of the town. In places Daventry exerts a localised influence on the landscape, this is most notable along the north western edges of the town where new warehouse and housing development has been developed on higher ground and is prominent in views in the surrounding landscape particularly the approach along the A361, from Welton Road and Braunston Road where development exerts and urban influence on the surrounding farmland.

Smaller villages around the periphery of Daventry tend to be integrated into their surroundings through the presence of smaller fields bounded by mature trees and hedgerows around fringes.

Other villages have manor houses and parkland estates on the fringes such as at Welton, Norton, Dodford and Ashby St Ledgers which helps reinforce distinctiveness and integrate the villages into their surroundings.

Villages are generally on rising ground such as Barby and Kilsby which overlook the neighbouring Broad Unwooded Vale (LCA19b). These two villages are some of the largest in the character area with a clustered form and smaller pastoral fields to their fringes. In places these fields and associated mature vegetation provide screening to the village but the edges of Barby’s eastern fringe and Kilsby’s western fringe are locally prominent in the landscape where hedgerows are typically lower and there are fewer trees.
LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

Braunston is on rising ground to the north of the Grand Union Canal and the combination of hedgerows, small fields and frequent trees along the villages southern edge provides an attractive edge in views from the canalside. All Saints Church and the manor house are features of the skyline in these views. The church is also a feature of views on the approach to the village from the west, from the north western edge of Daventry and PRoW south of the village.

The church spires are a feature of an often wooded skyline to the village fringes, this is most notable in views from Crockwell Hill towards Welton; the western approach into Norton and from PRoW to the west of Dodford.

The main roads tend to follow ridge lines and are bordered by taller hedgerows and frequent trees. This reduces the impact of infrastructure on the landscape but limits views out from the roads. From some of the smaller rural roads where hedgerows are lower, there are open views across the undulating landscape of the patchwork of fields, hedgerows and trees. These open views are characteristic of the wider landscape type, however are more locally distinctive on roads and footpaths east of Borough Hill; along Crockwell Hill and roads south of Bragborough Hill where these landform features provide a focus to views. Approach roads into many of the villages are bordered by tall hedgerows and trees creating a wooded and enclosed character.

The visible northern edges of Daventry, warehouse development around Watford Gap Motorway Services as well as principal roads such as the M1, M45, A361 and A5, introduce urban influences. Roads are often visually screened by trees and woodland but are audible features.

However despite the proximity the urban influence is quite localised and much of the landscape has a rural and tranquil character.

Landscape condition

Moderate

Much of the landscape is well managed and features intact. However in places field expansion has resulted in the loss of landscape features and urbanising features around the northern fringe of Daventry undermines the character of the landscape.
LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

Landscape Character Area 13b: Daventry

Landscape Strategy 13b

New development and land management should be controlled to conserve and enhance the balance of the rural elements that contribute to the intrinsic character of this productive agricultural landscape. The character area is adjacent to the eastern edge of Daventry. The landform provides a distinctive edge to the town and screens much of the built form. Land to the east of Daventry Country Park is identified as a sustainable urban extension and could increase the influence of built development. This edge of Daventry is defined by its wooded edges and distinctive features such as Daventry Reservoir and Borough Hill. Any change along this edge should respect these features, retain distinctive views from the surrounding rural roads and PRoW to Borough Hill. Copses, hedgerow trees and parkland elements should be used within open spaces around the fringes of any new development to help integrate any new building form with the rural surroundings.

Buildings should make reference to local vernacular, particularly those along approaches into the town and on the edges of developments where they are more visible. This will help reinforce local character and limit urban intrusion into the landscape whilst providing locally distinctive approaches into the town. In addition the individual character of villages, physical separation between them as well as their relationship to rising ground and ridges should be retained.

Opportunities should be sought to minimise the effects of warehouse development north of Daventry through managing the scale and massing of proposed new buildings and avoiding high ground and ridge tops. This should be achieved by appropriate orientation, use of varied textures, gradations to colours and profiles on building elevations and advanced landscape planting. This will help to reduce perceived effects of scale and massing in views and better integrate development into the surrounding countryside.

Change on the southern edge of Daventry should ensure that it does not rise above and detract from the prominent line of hills within the adjacent Ironstone Hills LCT which form a backdrop to the southern edge of the town.

Development on the fringes of villages should seek to retain wooded edges to help integrate the villages into their surrounding landscape ensuring visible edges appear nestled in trees. Development should respect the position of each settlement on rising ground with church towers or spires forming a distinctive and recognisable feature. Any new development in this landscape should make reference to the locality together with particular details of local vernacular including street pattern and relationship of built form to
LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

Landscape Character Area 13c: Long Buckby
LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

Landscape Character Area 13c: Long Buckby

**Description**

This character area extends east from the M1 and Grand Union Canal towards the Brampton Valley north of Northampton around Holdenby and Althorp. It extends north as a narrow finger along Hemplow Hills, to the south west of Welford. To the south it extends to include low ground around Flore up to the District boundary. The landscape comprises a series of hills dissected by small river valleys which creates the distinctive undulating landform. It includes a notable ridge of high ground extending from the edge of the District, north west of Harpole past Little Brington then extending north past Long Buckby, to the south west of West Haddon and then forming the Hemplow Hills to the north. Cracks Hill, north east of Crick, is a notable landscape feature (isolated hill) characterised by grassland and mature trees with views across the surrounding landscape from its summit. Other notable hills across this landscape include Thornburrow Hill, Glasthorpe Hill, Garburrow Hill, Waydale Hill and Hemplow Hills. Woodland and rounded copse on these hills emphasise the landform, add diversity and create a reference point within the surrounding landscape.

Ravensthorpe Reservoir is a local feature on the northern edge of the character area on higher ground on the fringe of the Ironstone Uplands LCA. Woodland around its fringes as well as views of the undulating upland landscape beyond is distinctive. The landscape also contains frequent formal lakes and large ponds associated with parklands or small fisheries.

The Grand Union Canal forms the western boundary of the character area north of Crick. It also passes through the landscape south of Crick Tunnel and north west of Watford. The canal has trees, scrub and hedgerows along its margins. Historic road bridges over the canal are a local feature and from the canal there are views to the distinctive Hemplow Hills and Honey Hill in the adjacent Ironstone Hills LCT. Other canal related infrastructure includes Crick Marina and Yelvertoft Marina.

The field pattern is generally defined by medium to large-scale fields, typically larger on the higher ground such as south east of Ravensthorpe, east of Watford and east of Holdenby. Fields are almost always bounded by hedgerows which are generally intact and well maintained.

On steeper ground and close to some watercourses a more intimate, and contained landscape is provided by hedgerows and hedgerow trees as well as the succession of small, mainly deciduous woods. This is notable south of Nobottle, around Winwick, east of Teeton, south of Elkington and north of Great Brington. Farming is the main focus but frequent small woodlands present as copse, linear and riparian woodland along watercourses combined with frequent hedgerow trees gives the perception of a well wooded landscape that adds texture and diversity into views.

Large woodlands and distinctive rounded copse are notable features in the landscape particularly around Holdenby House, Althorp Park, Nobottle Wood (Ancient Woodland), around Ravensthorpe Reservoir and at Hemplow Hills where it combines with hedgerow and parkland trees to provide a sense of enclosure and woodland character.

Parkland estates are a feature particularly in the eastern part of the character area closer to Northampton where there is a series of estates in close proximity including Holdenby Hall, Brockhall Park and the larger well-known estate at Althorp. These are characterised by ornamental specimen trees and avenues, woodlands, grassland, ornamental lakes and distinctive gated entrances and boundary walls. Walls are a particularly distinctive feature enclosing Althorp as well as long avenues linking to Little Brington and St Mary the Virgin with St John Church at Great Brington. Other smaller-scale estates are present around manor houses at Winwick and Elkington in the west. Many of these estates have a long history of enclosure with ridge and furrow a feature within parkland.
LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

**Landscape Character Area 13c: Long Buckby**

There are a number of smaller settlements associated with larger estates such as Holdenby and Brockhall. They are characterised by farmhouses and estate cottages set in parkland and accessed by gated estate roads. Many of the buildings represent the local vernacular and are constructed from local Northamptonshire Ironstone with some red brick. Smaller hamlets of Winwick and Elkington also have an estate character and strong association with the adjacent manor houses and grounds, in contrast with other villages in the LCA these are on lower ground and associated with watercourses.

There are some larger villages as well as frequent smaller villages and hamlets within the character area. Larger villages include Long Buckby, East Haddon, Ravensthorpe, Crick and Flore as well as smaller settlements of Whilton, Great Brington, Little Brington, Nobottle and Watford.

Villages are typically on higher ground with extensive views across the rolling landscape from PRoW and roads on the settlement fringes, many of which are noted as important to village character within Village Design Statements such as views from Ravensthorpe towards the reservoir and across the landscape to the south of Crick as well as to spires at Great Brington and Little Brington.

The larger settlements are often more notable in the landscape with modern residential edges visible across the nearby fields and approach roads (where fields are larger and hedges are lower) which has an urbanising influence on the landscape. Long Buckby is the largest of these villages and more prominent in the surrounding landscape although trees along the railway provide some limited filtering of development to the south. Where hedgerow trees are more frequent or undulating landform is present close to the settlement fringes, built form only has a localised influence and is integrated into the landscape.

Examples include the western edge of West Haddon; southern edges of Crick and southern edges of East Haddon.

In the larger villages of West Haddon, Long Buckby, Ravensthorpe and East Haddon, the church tower or spire is often only a feature of the village street scene although they are sometimes visible in long distance views towards the villages. Whereas smaller villages are often only visible in the landscape as a result of their prominent church spire or tower which form distinctive features in the landscape. At Whilton, Great Brington and Little Brington the churches form focal features in the surrounding countryside and village approaches. Churches at Watford and Crick are prominent in views from the M1. Village fringes are generally bordered by small pastoral fields bounded by mature hedges and trees or by a parkland landscape such as at Watford which helps integrate them with their rural surrounds.

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**View towards Waydale Hill from an unnamed rural road north of Flore**

**Streetscene at Little Brington**

**Frequent woodlands**

**Spire at Little Brington**

**Woodland to the upper summit of Waydale Hill**

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At Watford, parkland to the north of the village is a Scheduled Monument (remains of 18th century garden overlying a medieval settlement). Areas of ridge and furrow feature along the unenclosed roads through the park.

The approaches into most villages are characterised by frequent hedgerow trees which provides enclosure and limits views towards village fringes.

Building materials are mixed, particularly within the larger settlements where more recent development has used a wide range of materials that has little relationship to local character. In contrast local vernacular buildings and boundary walls are often constructed from the local Northamptonshire Ironstone which provides a strong sense of place and local character especially when a cluster of properties within a village are constructed from the stone or parkland estates are enclosed by stone walls (such as Althorp). Some other local vernacular buildings are constructed from red brick or faced with render which provides localised variation.

Views vary greatly throughout this landscape. On the higher ground views are across a rolling landscape of a patchwork of well-maintained hedgerows, frequent hedgerow trees and distinctive rounded copses emphasising landform. Built form is generally fairly discrete which helps to reinforce the rural character except closer to larger settlements.

To the west of the character area wind turbines are a notable addition and exert an urbanising influence on the landscape. Other tall structures include an overhead power line which passes through the centre of the character area to the north and east of Long Buckby.

There are a number of main roads including the M1 along the south western boundary; the A14 to the north and the A428 through the centre. The main roads follow ridges and higher ground although are bordered by hedgerows and trees which limits their presence.

The A14 and M1 are in cutting and whilst not visible are audible features. The West Coast Mainline railway passing the centre of the character area is also in cutting and only locally visible.

Some of the rural roads are relatively straight reflecting Roman heritage such as the Roman Road from Northampton to Dunston which passes through Nobottle and Little Brington. There is a network of narrow, hedged and winding back roads connecting villages such as between West Haddon and Long Buckby; Winwick and Elkington and Whilton and Great Brington as well as distinctive unenclosed roads through parkland at Watford. These contribute to sense of place and rural character.

There are frequent PRoW including a number of long distance routes which allow opportunities to experience the aspects of landscape. There is a large number of footpaths between Nobottle, Flore and Brington allowing easy accessibility to the countryside around Northampton and opportunities to appreciate the ridgeline south of Little Brington.

There are many heritage features which enrich the experience of the landscape. These include medieval manorial sites and medieval settlements, as well as the Georgian and Victorian features associated with the canal network. The area also includes well preserved areas of ridge and furrow such as north of Watford, south of Crick and within fields amongst enclosure landscape hedegrows south of Great Brington.
LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

Landscape Strategy – 13c

This rural farming landscape is characterised by a mosaic of farmland, hedgerows, trees and woodlands on a rolling landform with a concentration of historic parklands in the east. The medium to large scale field pattern enclosed by a robust hedgerow network, frequent woodlands including distinctive rounded copses and discrete villages on higher ground compared with the surrounding area (with prominent church spires) connected by narrow winding lanes are characteristic. New development or changes in land management should conserve and enhance the balance of these rural elements. Wherever possible, the distinctive and strong hedgerow network should remain intact, particularly where historic field patterns and features are evident. Valued intact historic landscapes and features should be retained and protected from decline. Development or agricultural practices should protect and conserve valued features from any further loss, notably the irreplaceable areas of ridge and furrow.

Development that increases the prominence of villages within the landscape or detracts from church spires being the main focus of the village skyline would have an adverse effect on the intrinsic rural character. Any proposed infill or localised expansion should retain the village’s existing footprint, distinctive character, small-scale field pattern and setting in the landscape. This would also include respecting distinctive approaches, views to church spires and the village’s position in the landscape (on high ground or valley slopes or valley as at Winwick and Elkington) and make reference to local vernacular (referencing village design statements, conservation appraisals or neighbourhood plans where available).

Opportunities should be sought to integrate modern urban expansion such as at Long Buckby which is often prominent and affects rural character. Sensitive development that reinforces local character and vernacular with mitigation in the form of an open space buffer to the fringes of any proposed development could help integrate prominent fringes into the surrounding landscape. This should reflect the pattern of smaller hedged fields and copses to the fringes of existing settlements to reinforce local character. Mitigation planting should include a mosaic of woodland (including distinctive rounded copses), specimen trees, hedgerows and hedgerow trees interspersed amongst grassland.

Alterations to the canal network to accommodate increased tourism including marinas should be integrated into the rural landscape through appropriate boundary treatments such as hedgerows, hedgerow trees and new buildings in keeping with canal side vernacular. Changes to road infrastructure should retain intact hedgerows, hedgerow trees and belts of trees to limit adverse effects on the landscape.
LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

Landscape Character Area 13d Cottesbrooke and Arthingworth

15a Hothorpe Hills to Great Oxendon
5a Naseby Plateau
1a Guilsborough Ironstone Uplands
13d Cottesbrooke and Arthingworth
17c Brampton Valley Floodplain
LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

Landscape Character Area 13d Cottesbrooke and Arthingworth

Description

This is the northernmost character area in this landscape type extending from Great Oxendon in the north to Hollowell Reservoir in the south. The landscape is a series of gently rolling hills bisected with broadly east-west or southeast to northwest valleys. This includes an almost continuous ridge extending from Great Oxendon, east of Arthingworth and Maidwell and along the eastern edge of Cottesbrooke Park. The landscape character area has an irregular footprint defined by the valley sides to the tributaries of the River Ise and River Brampton.

Hollowell Reservoir is in one of the steep sided valleys which begins near Thornby and extends southwards towards Northampton. The reservoir and adjacent villages on high ground (such as Guilsborough) are attractive features in views from adjacent roads and PRoW.

This is a strongly rural farming landscape characterised by a mixture of pastoral and arable fields bounded by low clipped hedgerows and frequent hedgerow trees. Field size varies across the character area with larger fields present across the hills which often gives rise to a sense of openness and views extending across a series of hills and valleys intersected by hedgerows and small copses and interlocking woodland. This is most notable in the north around Arthingworth and south of Maidwell. Woodland mostly occupies the horizon in views although where larger fields are present woodland is replaced by individual trees. This open character contrasts with the valleys where there tends to be a greater degree of enclosure, often a smaller field pattern and views contained within the valley with wooded or tree lined ridges. The valley south of Arthingworth is more open in character with larger fields, low hedgerows and fewer hedgerow trees. Woodland blocks in this area are important notable features of the valley sides as are individual trees silhouetted on the skyline. The field pattern becomes smaller around the fringes of Cottesbrooke Park in the south.

Other woodland includes frequent small copses or irregular shaped blocks that emphasise the hills. The greatest concentration of woodland occurs around Kelmarsh Hall (in the north), either side of the Midshires Way (linking Market Harborough with Northampton) east of Kelmarsh; around Cottesbrooke Park, Haselbech Hall; linear woodland south west of Maidwell and on the southern side of Hollowell Reservoir. Across the remainder of the character area, frequent hedgerow trees help to contribute to the well treed character. Hedgerows are typically maintained to a low height but there is some variation particularly along small winding lanes where hedgerows tend to be taller.

Historic parklands contribute to the strong sense of place including the most extensive, Cottesbrooke Park (Conservation Area and Registered Park and Garden). Unenclosed roads are an important feature passing through the parkland. From these roads there are glimpsed views across a lake towards the hall providing a focal point. The arrangement of individual specimen trees, copses on high ground and grassed areas provides a range of unfolding views from the rural lane. In the park there is frequent evidence of ridge and furrow. Cottesbrooke is also a distinctive village with numerous local vernacular buildings set to the edge of the parkland. Other smaller parklands which have a localised influence on character include Kelmarsh Hall and Haselbech Hall which include distinctive entrances and local vernacular buildings and gatehouses. Tree-lined avenues are a feature extending into the countryside at Maidwell and Haselbech.
LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

Landscape Character Area 13d Cottesbrooke and Arthingworth

There are five villages across this character area. Clipston and Arthingworth are the northern most villages. Both are on rising ground close to the River Ise network.

Clipston is a loosely knit dispersed village with its church on the eastern side on the lower ground. The village has a network of smaller pastoral fields crossed by numerous PRoW giving opportunities to view the village in its rural setting.

Arthingworth is on more steeply rising ground and the church forms a prominent part of the skyline with properties seen dispersed in trees on the sloping ground below it from approaches to the south. The skyline of the village is characterised by the church tower and mature woodland. The mature woodland limits visibility to the village from the north. Distinctive views to the village are possible from high ground to the east.

Maidwell is small linear village along the A508, also extending along Draughton Road. The southern and eastern boundaries are well vegetated with woodland and the parkland of Maidwell Hall School providing a distinctive approach from the south. Tree and hedgerow planting soften the eastern boundary.

Kelmarsh and Cottesbrooke are smaller villages on lower ground within the character area and their design and character is strongly related to their parkland setting. Northamptonshire Ironstone is a characteristic material used within these villages, although brick is also present (more notably in Kelmarsh) and both manors are constructed from brick. Most of the approaches into Kelmarsh are wooded although in views along the eastern approach the village appears nestled within trees and St Deny’s Church is discernible on the generally wooded skyline.

The landscape is intersected by many narrow rural roads. These are characterised by wide grass verges with hedgerows set behind and many roads are single track or relatively narrow. Gated access is a local feature at Cottesbrooke and on the approach to Arthingworth from the north east. Where roads pass through parkland areas such as Cottesbrooke, fields with occasional trees border roads with no hedgerows present. The A5199 and A508 pass along ridges but are often inconspicuous in the landscape as they are bordered by mature trees, hedgerows and linear woodland. This limits views out but where there are gaps in hedgerows or they are maintained at a lower height there are open views across this gently rolling landscape.

The many heritage features within this landscape are indicative of a long period of settlement and enrich the experience of the landscape. These include the aforementioned historic parklands, a monastic grange west of Cottesbrooke Park and medieval settlements at Clipston and Kelmarsh as well as well preserved areas of ridge and furrow.

Landscape Condition
Good
The landscape is well-maintained reinforcing its rural agricultural character. Parklands are well managed and impart a strong sense of place to the landscape. Features are intact and contribute positively to this landscape.

View towards Hollowell Reservoir from the A5199
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Landscape Strategy 13d

This is a landscape of gently rolling hills and valleys with often a more open character on the hills and an intimate wooded character within the valleys. This in combination with the distinctive parkland landscapes imparts a strong sense of place. Any new development should not be prominent as this would adversely affect this distinctive rural landscape.

Villages either occupy high ground or higher slopes and are integrated into the landscape through a combination of mature trees, smaller fields or parkland estates around their fringes. Views out from settlements to their rural surroundings are important to the sense of place and connection to the rural landscape. On approaches to villages, development is often only glimpsed or only small parts of the village are visible nestled in trees with churches a feature of views. Any infill development on the fringes or within villages should conserve these important characteristics and undertake research to ensure local distinctiveness, vernacular and character are retained.

Any future development or changes in land management will need to respect and seek to reinforce the rural character of the area and the varied character of the river valleys. Tree planting and woodland is common across the valley bottom and valley sides, whilst on the higher ground the landscape is more exposed although rounded copses often reinforce the landform in these locations. Any new woodland should be carefully positioned to help retain this sense of openness and respect local character to help to reinforce the contrast between the hills and valleys. This applies to any mitigation for development.
Landform and Views

- Conserve and enhance the cohesive and recognisable unity of character across the Undulating Hills and Valleys and ensure that the integrity of this quintessential rural agricultural landscape is not diminished through inappropriate development that results in loss of the characteristic combination of fields, hedgerows, trees and woodlands.
- Conserve distinctive views towards Borough Hill on the approach to Daventry from PRoW and rural lanes to the east of the town.
- Seek to ensure roadside vegetation is maintained at a low height close to other small hills across this landscape type including Cracks Hill, Bragborough Hill, Hemplow Hills, Thornburrow Hill, Waydale Hill, Weedon Hill, Everdon Hill, Hinton Hill and Cleeves Hill to maintain views towards them.

Hydrology and Water Features

- Create opportunities to strengthen the identity and presence of the watercourses by encouraging management practices that establish or enhance bank side planting and linear woodlands adjacent to the watercourses.
- Conserve man made waterbodies (including those within parklands) for their intrinsic visual appeal, as well as their recreational and nature conservation value. Ensure tourist facilities or associated infrastructure adjacent to them are appropriate in terms of scale and design and integrate into their surroundings.
- Enhance the setting and fabric of reservoirs, by seeking opportunities for enhanced recreational (including perimeter paths) and nature conservation facilities.
- Seek to ensure that the character of the landscape is enhanced through habitat management and creation.
- Restore and enhance structures and landscape features that form part of the historic landscape associated with reservoirs.
- Conserve the distinctive character of views towards Hollowell Reservoir through managing vegetation along the A5199 and along Nortoft and retaining the tree lined edge to Guilsborough in the adjacent Ironstone Uplands LCT.
- Retain and manage the woodland around the fringes of Ravensthorpe Reservoir and Daventry Reservoir to maintain their naturalistic and rural wooded character.

Hydrology and Water Features

- Conserve and where applicable restore neglected sections of the network of canals and encourage opportunities for their further enhancement to serve the leisure requirements of local and wider communities. Ensure that they appropriately and sensitively undertake and accord with the principles of sustainable tourism and enhance landscape character.
- Conserve and enhance the biodiversity value of habitats associated with these linear networks through appropriate management to strengthen their role as habitat links and retain the wooded rural character of the canals.
- Ensure new development associated with the canals (such as marinas and canalside businesses) retain the rural character of the surroundings. This should include appropriate boundary treatments and any new buildings should reflect the canal vernacular.
- Retain distinctive views out from the Grand Union Canal towards Hemplow Hills and Honey Hill ensuring land management changes or development does not detract from these views.
LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

Landscape Guidelines

**Land Management**

- Conserve field patterns to reflect various periods of enclosure and subsequent land management and as features of the landscape that emphasis the grain of the landform.
- Discourage hedgerow removal and field amalgamation that leads to broader areas of monoculture, and a consequent reduction in the visual interest associated with the mosaic of fields and cropping patterns.
- Conserve areas of ridge and furrow.
- Conserve hedgerow trees and seek opportunities to increase hedgerow tree planting particularly on higher ground where the landscape is often more open in character as a result of field amalgamation and loss of landscape features.
- Conserve areas of parkland particularly around village fringes to retain the important contribution they make to sense of place in the landscape.
- Conserve distinctive boundary walls and gated access to retain parkland and estate character at village fringes and across the landscape.

**Woodland and Trees**

- Conserve and enhance the existing small woodlands and copses, including shelterbelts close to farms, by appropriate management and encourage natural regeneration and replanting with broadleaved native species.
- Create new woodlands where appropriate but with a preference for locations that relate to and strengthen the local landform pattern, would not detract from important views and strengthen local landscape character.
- Encourage the use of broadleaved native species for woodland planting to enhance biodiversity.
- Conserve and continue good forestry practices in woodland to retain their prominence in the landscape.
- Conserve hedgerow patterns to reflect various periods of enclosure. Where appropriate, manage more sympathetically for their nature conservation value and encourage more hedgerow trees to develop to further contribute to the character of the landscape.
- Retain the character of enclosed rural lanes through management of hedgerows to retain their integrity especially on the approaches to villages.
## LCT 13 Undulating Hills and Valleys

### Settlement and Built Form

- Conserve the heritage features within the landscape that are an irreplaceable representation of past layers of occupation of the land, and enrich the experience and character of the landscape. Encourage farmers and landowners through guidance to limit damage to the heritage resource through sensitive land management. Limit any further loss or damage of the irreplaceable and well preserved areas of ridge and furrow by contemporary ploughing methods or development.

- Conserve the character of rural lanes in the landscape with their hedged enclosure and close relationship with the pattern of villages and hamlets that they connect. Ensure that road improvements do not adversely affect their rural character through the introduction of kerbing, roundabouts and other features such as lighting infrastructure that undermines the quality of the streetscene.

- Conserve the character of villages nestled in trees often with prominent church spires or towers through management and avoiding development that would adversely affect the character of views or interrupt prominent church spires or towers.

- Ensure any infill development respects the village’s position in the landscape and the character of approaches by road to ensure that the development contributes positively and does not increase prominence in the surrounding landscape.

- Conserve the character of approaches to villages where they are noted as distinctive either within this character assessment, within local village design statements or character appraisals.

### Settlement and Built Form

- Ensure any local infill development within villages respects local vernacular and makes a positive contribution to local village character.

- Retain distinctive views from settlements towards the surrounding rural landscape through appropriate conservation of those views identified either within this character assessment, within local village design statements or character appraisals.

- Retain distinctive views to landscape features and settlements such as Cracks Hill, Hemplow Hills, Honey Hill and Braunston from the Grand Union Canal through minimising any development.

- Seek to limit the effects of infrastructure and urban influences on the wider rural landscape through sensitive siting of any necessary developments and through mitigation that is in keeping with local landscape character.

- Any new development around the fringes of Daventry should seek to create a vibrant and visually appealing urban rural fringe that reflects local landscape and townscape character, is functional and visually appealing ensuring it does not adversely affect rural character across the landscape.

- Expansion of warehouse development on the northern edge of Daventry should aim to ensure it is accompanied with advanced landscape planting and mitigation in keeping with the pattern of surrounding vegetation to minimise the appearance of stark areas of warehouse building façade within the rural landscape.