LCT 14 Rolling Agricultural Lowlands

Daventry

14a Newbold Grounds
LCT 14 Rolling Agricultural Lowlands

Key Landscape Character Features

- Rolling agricultural landscape drained by the north flowing River Leam and its tributaries. The diverse system of watercourses has dissected the area to create a series of small interconnected valleys. The gently rolling landform, above which rise occasional low rounded hills, and succession of valleys provide a changing pattern and subtle variations in the topography.

- Open views into the surrounding countryside including the neighbouring county of Warwickshire are possible from more elevated areas and provide visual continuity with the wider landscape.

- Productive arable farmland in medium and large scale fields predominate although sheep and cattle pastures also evident to the south, often associated with watercourses and around Lower Catesby. The mosaic of agricultural land use contributes to a well-managed and productive character. Occasional areas of calcareous grassland are also evident adjacent to the River Leam.

- Fields enclosed mainly by hedgerows of varying condition, frequently reinforced with post and wire fencing, and often following the grain and reinforcing the effect of the rolling landform.

- Woodland cover is very limited, confined to occasional broadleaved geometric copses, resulting in a generally open character. The tree cover associated with boundary lines and watercourses emphasises the rolling landform by defining the wooded stream courses that follow the base of the undulations creating a more enclosed and secluded character in these lower areas.

- Settlement is very limited across the landscape and confined to the single hamlet of Lower Catesby and occasional isolated farmsteads and individual dwellings. The absence of development emphasises the quiet and generally uninhabited character, despite the proximity of urban areas and associated influences to the east, at Daventry, Staverton and Braunston.

- Apart from being well served by the PRoW network, a generally inaccessible landscape with limited minor country lanes and small stretches of ‘A’ roads and limited infrastructure elements present further emphasises the overriding sense of a quiet, simple rural landscape.
LCT 14 Rolling Agricultural Lowlands

Landscape Character Area 14a: Newbold Grounds

Stratford-upon-Avon District

Daventry

2b Staverton Hills
LCT 14 Rolling Agricultural Lowlands

Landscape Character Area 14a: Newbold Grounds

Description

The Newbold Grounds landscape character area is on the western edge of Northamptonshire, to the immediate west of Daventry. This is the only landscape character area within this landscape character type and occupies a very limited area of the District with the landscape type extending primarily further west into Warwickshire.

The rolling form of the agricultural landscape is emphasised by the pattern of fields, hedgerows and tree lined and wooded stream courses that follow the base of the undulations. The northern part is characterised by west facing slopes down to the River Leam (forming the County boundary), with a broader scale field pattern and less vegetation cover. The southern part around Lower Catesby has a greater degree of enclosure as a result of the more complex topography, finer grain field pattern and the greater influence of woodland on higher ground.

This is a peaceful productive agricultural landscape, principally focused on arable cultivation to the north with pastoral fields more common in the south and some limited areas of calcareous grassland occur in the valley bottoms. The landscape is characterised by very limited settlement or roads which restricts access and reinforces the generally quiet, simple and sparsely settled character despite the proximity of Daventry’s urban footprint and the small settlements of Braunston to the north, Staverton to the east and Hellidon to the south which are on the higher slopes but well screened by vegetation and small scale pastoral fields along the settlement margins. Near the edge of Daventry there are views towards the large scale warehouses on higher ground.

There are two golf courses, the first to the north east of Staverton and the second west of Hellidon. Planting to the
Landscape Condition

**Good**

This a generally well managed landscape with intact features such as hedgerows and woodlands which help to reinforce character. There is little evidence of decline of these features.

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golf course boundaries is varied with a mix of hedgerows with hedgerow trees, small woodland blocks and specimen trees. This varied approach helps to integrate the golf courses into the landscape.

Wider views west towards Warwickshire are experienced from the network of PRoW that generally follow the western slopes of the LCA. The Jurassic Way long distance footpath follows higher ground and enables the same views towards Warwickshire. Wider views are also available from the westbound A425 heading towards the neighbouring county.

Lower Catesby is approached by gated country lanes from Hellidon and Upper Catesby and its setting is characterised by parkland and some tree lined routes to buildings. There are two listed buildings: the Cistercian Priory and Post-Dissolution house and part of the hamlet is designated as a Ancient Monument. North of Lower Catesby is the Catesby Viaduct an undesignated structure from the disused Great Central Railway and is visible from the nearby PRoW network including the Jurassic Way.

Views towards parkland character of Lower Catesby
LCT 14 Rolling Agricultural Lowlands

Landscape Strategy

New development and land management practices should be managed to retain the quiet and sparsely settled character of Newbold Grounds. While areas of extensive development would be inappropriate in this agricultural landscape, potential new built development may arise in association with farming practices. It is therefore important that should such development be considered, the subtle variations in the landform are responded to and incorporated in a creative and positive way, and any built development avoids the higher and more prominent crests of the rolling landform. Position any new development on lower ground where backgrounding can be provided by landform and vegetation reducing the effect of scale and massing. Reference should also be made to the locality to integrate with particular details of local vernacular building styles, materials, and layout that are common in traditional farm premises and to reduce any adverse effects from the scale, massing and elevational treatments of any larger buildings and structures.

Any further golf course development should be designed to integrate with the pattern of the landscape. Care should be taken particularly with the design of the edges and this should follow the approach of the existing golf courses and the guidelines below.

Although woodland cover across the landscape type is low, the pattern of tree lines and linear woodlands along the watercourses are important local characteristics, which emphasise the rolling landform and sequence of crests and valleys. This pattern of tree cover should be conserved, and where possible enhanced. Areas of species rich calcareous grassland should also be conserved, and management regimes encouraged that will extend this valuable resource.
LCT 14 Rolling Agricultural Lowlands

**Landform and Views**
- Conserve the profile of Rolling Agricultural Lowland. Consider how the low hills are viewed from the surrounding landscapes and seek to ensure that woodland or development is not sited in locations that intrude onto the crests of the rolling landform or affect perceptions of scale.
- Create opportunities to strengthen the presence of watercourses by encouraging management practices that establish or enhance bank side planting and riparian tree species adjacent to the watercourses.
- Conserve the wide vistas from the PRoW network on elevated areas of land by retaining a generally open character, and limiting woodland cover or overgrown hedgerows on the crest of the low hills.

**Land Management**
- Conserve the distinctive pattern of medium and large scale arable fields on elevated land in the north of the character area and smaller grazed fields on the land to the south.
- Conserve existing areas of calcareous grassland and seek to enhance the resource by arable reversion and expansion of non-improved pasture. Create new areas of calcareous grassland by appropriate intervention and management.
- Conserve and enhance hedgerow boundaries. Farming practice has a significant impact on landscape character and ensuring good practice continues will assist in retaining the generally well managed field boundaries.

**Woodland and Trees**
- Conserve the generally open character of the area and reinforce the rolling form of the landform by limiting woodland cover to the lower slopes and adjacent to watercourses. But some appropriate planting near top of landform can help emphasise landform.
- Conserve and enhance the existing small woodlands and copses by appropriate management and support the continued use of broadleaved native species.
- Create new woodlands within valley bottoms and lower slopes to strengthen the local landform pattern. Encourage the use of broadleaved native species for woodland planting to enhance biodiversity.
- Manage the parkland character around Lower Catesby to retain its distinctive character.

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View from Catesby Estate towards rolling agricultural lowlands
Settlement, Infrastructure and Built Form

- Conserve the quiet and sparsely settled character of the rural landscape and absence of settlement. Where new development is considered, this should be confined to small-scale change and in close proximity to existing hamlets and farmsteads. Any proposed development would also need to be subject to any other constraints such as distinctive views and landscape characteristics.
- Conserve the distinctive parkland setting of Lower Catesby.
- Conserve the field pattern and vegetation to the setting of the neighbouring settlements of Hellidon, Staverton and Braunston.
- Reinforce pattern of vegetation to the field boundaries adjacent to the western edge of Daventry to reduce prominence of large warehouses in views.
- Conserve the generally inaccessible character of the area by minimising changes to settlements and infrastructure.
- Conserve and retain the rural character of the few minor roads and country lanes through the area. Ensure that road improvements do not adversely affect their character through the introduction of kerbing, roundabouts and other features such as lighting.
- Promote PRoWs as a means of enjoying the character of the landscape and sense of remoteness.
LCT 15 Farmed Scarp Slope

15a Hothorpe Hills to Great Oxendon

Devantey
LCT 15 Farmed Scarp Slopes

Character Areas 15a Hothorpe Hills to Great Oxendon

Key Landscape Character Features

- Relatively steep elevated northwest facing scarp slope with a sense of elevation and dramatic panoramic views over the Welland to neighbouring Leicestershire. The steep slopes present a distinctive and immediately recognisable feature, with a strong character contrasting with the pastoral riverine landscapes of the Welland Valley to the north. Relief often makes the scarp slopes poorly suited to arable farming although gentler slopes are often cultivated.

- Limited areas of calcareous and neutral grassland and linear belts of woodland mark particularly steep slopes and contribute to the mosaic of land uses and range of biodiversity interest. Woodland is a particularly important component of the landscape and provides a strong textural backdrop when viewed from the vale to the north.

- Distinct break of slope and steep landform often marks a clear transition with neighbouring upland landscapes; gentler landform on lower slopes. More open fields often roll over the crest of the scarp as well as into adjacent riverine landscapes to the north, blurring the transition with these neighbouring landscape types.

- Limited settlement, generally found on the fringes of the landscape spilling over from neighbouring ‘upland’ landscapes. The sparse settlement is indicative of the limiting effect of the landform on development and the need for careful control of potential new development on this prominent location. Where present settlements have a close relationship with locally sourced ironstone with buildings constructed in distinctive local vernacular.

- Where present, neat and sometimes more mature hedgerows emphasise landform features and create a patchwork effect across the slopes. Some hedgerows also show evidence of neglect indicating variations in hedgerow management.

- Widespread ridge and furrow evident in areas of permanent pasture and on steeper land and are important heritage features, indicative of a long history of farming across the slopes where the gradient has precluded ploughing and intensive agricultural practices.

- The motte and bailey earthworks northeast of Sibbertoft is a valued heritage feature and local landmark.

View from Dick’s Hill looking south west across the scarp slope
LCT 15 Farmed Scarp Slopes

Landscape Character Area 15a Hothorpe Hills to Great Oxendon

The Farmed Scarp Slopes landscape character area extends from Hothorpe Hills to Great Oxendon and comprises a narrow, linear belt of steeply sloping land that rises above the Welland Floodplain close to the northwestern boundary of the county between and in the vicinity of the Leicestershire settlements of Husband’s Bosworth and Market Harborough.

The landscape character area is a distinctive and instantly recognisable landscape, contrasting with the more subtle and gently sloping landforms that are evident in other parts of the district. The slope presents a dramatic and prominent landscape feature with the clearly defined steep slopes rising above the pastoral landscapes of the adjacent Welland Valley to the north, and providing a wooded backdrop to these lowland areas. Wide views across the Welland Valley are possible from more open and elevated sections. The mosaic of woodlands that extend across the scarp slopes are a particularly important feature. Generally confined to the steeper slopes, the woodlands form a dark textural background in views from the vale and where they extend over the crest of the escarpment and accentuate the perceived height of the scarp, and hence its visual prominence. Individual trees are also a feature of the skyline along unwooded sections of the scarp.

Land use varies across the Scarp Slopes, and in addition to the woodlands, supports a mixed farming regime of permanent pasture mainly on the steeper slopes or more marginal land, and arable cultivation where the slopes are gentler. These more open fields often roll over the crest of the scarp as well as into adjacent riverine landscapes, blurring the transition with these neighbouring landscape types. A network of hedgerows of varying heights and management regimes create a patchwork effect across the slopes, and emphasise the more subtle variations in the landform.

Settlement is generally sparse within this landscape character area and confined to East Farndon. This is a linear village on the higher ground at the top of the scarp with St John the Baptist Church a prominent landmark on the highest ground. Built form is primarily a mix of red brick and local ironstone with some vernacular buildings (Grade I and II listed) adding to the streetscene character. The mix of materials marks the village’s location on the edges of Leicestershire which is characterised by red brick and the use of ironstone which give rise to the distinctive vernacular across Northamptonshire. When approaching East Farndon built form in the village is often screened from view by the network of smaller pastoral fields bounded by mature sometimes wooded boundaries which extend into the village.
LCT 15 Farmed Scarp Slopes

Landscape Character Area 15a Hothorpe Hills to Great Oxendon

Heritage features enrich the character of the area. The motte and bailey earthworks near Sibbertoft (Scheduled Monument) (surrounded by trees with no public access), together with areas of well-preserved ridge and furrow, are evidence of the long period of settlement.

Views are experienced from the relatively few PRoW that generally follow the slope of the scarp linking the higher ground to the south and east with the Welland Valley landscape to the north. The Jurassic Way descends from East Farndon following the base of the scarp slope and then follows the scarp to link to Sibbertoft on high ground. Wide views are possible from the PRoW across the Welland valley. Wider views are also available from a number of rural roads that travel down the scarp slopes. To the north of the character area views from roads and footpaths are of the Welland valley and beyond to the rooftops of Market Harborough which occupies lower ground.

This is primarily a rural landscape with a sense of isolation and the limited settlement helps to reinforce this character. At the northern edge of the character area the proximity to Market Harborough (on lower ground) with expansive views across the rooftops of the town provide a localised urbanising influence although overall the character area has an overriding rural and remote character.

Landscape Strategy

The balance of woodland and farmland on the distinctive sloping scarp slope are important characteristics of this landscape character area. Woodland is a particularly important component of the mosaic of land uses across the Farmed Scarp Slopes. The conservation and enhancement of the woodland should be encouraged, together with opportunities for the establishment of further areas of broadleaved woodland to enhance the landform and extend the habitat resource. Similarly, the retention and enhancement of hedgerows to strengthen their visual contribution to the landscape as well as their biodiversity value should be encouraged.

New development, change and land management practices should be controlled to conserve and enhance the bold and distinctive character of the Farmed Scarp Slopes. This is a highly visible escarpment particularly in views from the adjacent lowland areas to the north. Development that could adversely affect the mosaic of land uses across the slopes should be avoided. The profile of the skyline along the escarpment as a mix of woodland and individual trees is particularly sensitive to changes. Prominent buildings or structures would alter this character, dominate views and may distort the perceived scale and outline of the escarpment. Towards the base of the scarp slopes, where more contained landscapes occur, there may be opportunities for accommodating sensitively designed small-scale development that is foregrounded by the scarp slopes and is integrated into the landscape, in association with existing isolated farmsteads. Where new development is introduced, reference should be made to the locality for particular details of local vernacular, materials, layout and arrangement of features in the landscape.

Good – Landscape features are well maintained with little evidence of decline in individual features or field pattern. This is consistent across the character area.

Landscape Condition

View showing grassland and woodland along the prominent scarp slope from an unnamed road linking to Theddingworth north of the LCA
### Landform and Views

**Landscape Guidelines**
- Conserve the strength of character of the Farmed Scarp Slopes and ensure that the close relationship between land use and landform is not diminished, retaining the balance of the mosaic of pastoral land and woodland on the steeper slopes and arable land on the gentler slope profiles.
- Conserve opportunities for enjoying the wide and dramatic vistas across the Welland Valley and neighbouring Leicestershire from the elevated areas of the scarp through careful management of hedgerow boundaries to retain vistas and maintaining an open character to the PRoW.
- Conserve the clarity of the distinctive profile of the scarp slopes, particularly at the breaks of slope, encouraging land uses that strengthen the visual separation between the steeper scarp slopes and the plateau and valley bottom areas.

### Land Management

**Landscape Guidelines**
- Conserve areas of calcareous and neutral grasslands. Where appropriate introduce management regimes to restore and create further areas of calcareous and neutral grassland. Seek opportunities to coordinate restoration and creation in order to maximize connectivity between habitats.
- Conserve hedgerows and hedgerow trees through appropriate long-term management that encourages diversity. Where declining, seek opportunities to gap up hedgerows and replant hedgerow trees where previous management has removed them or prevented natural regeneration.
- Enhance hedgerow biodiversity by encouraging natural regeneration and appropriate long term management.

### Woodland and Trees

**Landscape Guidelines**
- Conserve and enhance existing woodlands on scarp slopes by appropriate management and encouragement of natural regeneration. Where possible initiate replanting of native species in favour of coniferous species.
- Create new woodlands where appropriate with a preference for locations that relate to and strengthen the local landform. Encourage the use of broadleaved native species for woodland planting to enhance biodiversity.
- Conserve the presence along some of the highest scarp slopes of individual trees which form a distinctive element of the skyline within the scarp slopes.
## Settlement and Built Form

**Landscape Guidelines**

- Conserve the sparse settlement cover on the Farmed Scarp Slopes through limiting settlement expansion where it would extend beyond wooded boundaries and be prominent within the landscape.
- Conserve the predominantly undeveloped summit profile and avoid new development that punctuates the skyline and forms prominent negative landmark features.
- Conserve the appearance, linear character and pastoral setting of East Farndon with appropriate siting and design of new development.
- Seek to ensure that new development is sensitive to localised variations in scale, massing, use of materials, and makes reference to the local ironstone and limestones as well as local red brick, and local vernacular detailing.
- Conserve the irreplaceable areas of ridge and furrow that represent historic records of earlier cultivation methods, and enrich the experience and character of the landscape.
- Encourage farmers and landowners (through guidance) to limit damage to and loss of ridge and furrow through sensitive land management and control of contemporary ploughing methods.

## Heritage Features

**Landscape Guidelines**

- Conserve and enhance Sibbertoft motte and bailey castle through appropriate management of vegetation and woodland.
- Enhance the understanding of the heritage value of Sibbertoft motte and bailey castle and its link with the wider historic landscape through managed access, interpretation facilities and guidance.

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*View looking towards the north western edge of the LCA from the Jurassic Way on the western edge of East Farndon*

*Prominent woodland along the scarp slope*
Key Landscape Character Features

- Flat floodplain landscape that varies in width, surrounded by gently rising valley sides that contain and clearly define the low lying linear landscape, and strengthen its separate identity.
- Wide views over the predominantly open floodplain, contained by rising landform of surrounding landscape types creates a sense of continuity along the floodplain and valley bottom.
- A productive agricultural landscape with varying cover of both arable and pastoral land.
- The changing pattern of fields and cropping regimes, and intermittent areas of species rich grassland and occasional wet meadows, creates a varied texture and colour across the valley bottom.
- Woodland cover is generally quite sparse, although there is a wooded edge to the Brampton Valley Way and Midshires Way and some small wooded areas next to the Brampton Valley Way. This intermittent and varying mosaic of small-scale woodlands and trees provide visual diversity and interest.
- Hedgerows often gappy and grown out, with reinforcing post and wire fences frequent, in particular around pastoral fields, resulting in a neglected character in some areas to the south.
- Limited river edge trees and scrub provide important vertical elements and local interest within the otherwise open character of the floodplain.
- Significant urban influences on the floodplain landscape from Northampton in the south and associated infrastructure elements introducing a busier and developed character, and detracting from the otherwise rural and more remote character of the floodplain found further north.
- Roads across the floodplains vary from minor country lanes crossing the floodplain to busier ‘A’ roads. Traffic on the network of roads, particularly the principal roads, introduces movement and noise to an otherwise generally quiet rural landscape.
- Recreational opportunities is provided by Brampton Valley Way and also Northampton and Lamport Railway at the southern end near Northampton.
Character Area 17c Brampton Valley Floodplain (southern section)
LCT17 River Valley Floodplain

Character Area 17c Brampton Valley Floodplain (northern section)
LCT17 River Valley Floodplain
Character Area 17 Brampton Valley Floodplain

Description

The Brampton Valley Floodplain Character Area extends northwards from the northern edge of Northampton and is drained by a number of tributaries, including a tributary that drains Pitsford Water. The Brampton watercourse flows from the northern edge of the character area around Draughton, towards the centre of Northampton, before finally joining the River Nene in the town. To the east and west of the southern section of the LCA is the Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes landscape character type (LCA 4A and 4B) and to the western edge is Undulating Hills and Valleys (LCA 13C and 13D). Both of these have an undulating landform.

The meandering course of the main tributary that flows through the central part of the valley is frequently marked by willow and ash. In other areas, however, the watercourse is largely open, marked only by occasional trees and broadleaved copses punctuating the landscape. By contrast, the edges of the Brampton Valley Way and Midshires Way (referred to in more detail below) are wooded. Land use in the area is a combination of both arable and pastoral fields, although the latter predominates in the southern section of the character area. Settlement within the valley is extremely sparse with only occasional isolated farmsteads, dwellings located adjacent to roads crossing over the valley landscape and buildings associated with the former railway (now the Brampton Valley Way. Boughton Mill is a key landmark to the southern part of the valley.

All the roads associated with the valley cross it in an east to west direction and although the majority are minor, the A5199 and A508 are both busy roads that cross the character area in the south and north respectively. The A508 also crosses the tributary valley near to Pitsford Water. The proposed Northampton Northern Orbital Road (NNOR) would be routed across the valley, just north of the A5199. Apart from the road crossings, the limited infrastructure in the valley contributes to a sense of remoteness.

The Brampton Valley Way and Midshires Way now forms an off road cycle track that was formerly the Northampton to Market Harborough branch railway extending along the entire character area. The Northampton and Lamport Steam and Heritage diesel railway operates a short section of railway, next to the Brampton Valley Way and Midshires Way as a tourist attraction from Brampton Lane to Merry Tom crossing. The main station facilities are at Brampton Halt.

There are three types of view associated with the Brampton Valley Floodplain. The first type of views is where roads cross the valley there are some lateral views of the valley bottom and the characteristic linear vegetation, with direct views up the valley slopes. The second type of views is for pedestrians and cyclists using the Brampton Valley Way and Midshires Way have views contained by the wooded edges, although occasionally...
views open out to the wider valley bottom and rising ground to the neighbouring character areas. Outside the landscape character area there are views towards the valley floodplain from the neighbouring road and PRoW network giving a sense of the flat bottomed linear valley with vegetation partly defining the route of the watercourse and Brampton Valley Way and Midshires Way. These form the third type of view.

LCT17 River Valley Floodplain

Character Area 17 Brampton Valley Floodplain

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.
LCT17 River Valley Floodplain

Character Area 17 Brampton Valley Floodplain

Landscape Strategy

New development and changes to land management practices should be controlled or encouraged to conserve and enhance the simplicity of the quiet and open mixed farming and pastoral landscapes that characterise the floodplain. In view of flooding constraints and regulations, there is likely to be a presumption against development in the floodplain. However, potential limited built development may arise in association with farming practices or for new infrastructure requirements, such as roads. Here, particular care is needed to integrate any change into the valley that is overlooked from the road and PRoW network on more elevated land. This includes the proposed Northampton Northern Orbital Route (NNOR). This should be routed to minimise adverse effects on landscape character and views. Any mitigation should be in keeping with landscape character and should include hedgerows, copses and riparian planting to help integrate the road into the landscape.

Woodland cover within the floodplain is generally low, with the local pattern of tree lines along watercourses, Brampton Valley Way and Midshires Way and roads forming important local features. The introduction of extensive woodlands would be inappropriate, but the more intricate pattern of tree cover along the above linear features should be conserved, and where possible enhanced. The enhancement of hedgerows to strengthen their visual contribution to the landscape as well as their biodiversity value should also be encouraged.

Reference should be made to the locality for appropriate building styles and local vernacular, materials, layout and arrangement of features in the landscape. Opportunities for further recreation and leisure sites to serve local communities and visitors should be sensitively sited and designed to take account of the need to retain the open and simple character of this rural floodplain landscape.

Views contribute to the perception of the character area and priority should be given to better distinguish the lateral views available from the roads that cross the valley bottom. Occasional gaps to the wooded edge to the Brampton Valley Way and Midshires Way should be provided to give users wider views of the Brampton Valley.
LCT17 River Valley Floodplain

Landscape Guidelines

Landform, Hydrology and Views

- Conserve and enhance the identity of the floodplain as a separate morphological unit by strengthening its distinctive character in comparison with the changing character of the rising valley sides.
- Conserve the wide views across the floodplain and the sense of containment within a distinctive linear low lying riverine landscape contained within gently rising valley sides.
- Enable lateral views from roads crossing the valley and promote wider views of the valley from the Brampton Valley Way.

Land Management

- Discourage hedgerow removal and field amalgamation that lead to broader areas of monoculture, and a consequent reduction in the visual interest associated with the mosaic of fields and cropping patterns.
- Conserve hedgerows through appropriate long-term management that encourages diversity. Where declining, seek opportunities to gap up hedgerows where previous management has removed them or prevented natural regeneration.
- Enhance hedgerow biodiversity by encouraging natural regeneration and appropriate long-term management.

Woodland and Trees

- Conserve and restore hedgerow and river edge trees to provide local features and enrich the riparian landscape.
- Conserve mature hedgerow trees and encourage their replacement and continuity as features in the landscape through natural regeneration within hedgerows, or by new planting.
- Conserve and enhance the existing small linear woodlands and copses and river edge trees by appropriate management and support the continued use of broadleaved native species.
- Create new small-scale woodlands in appropriate locations to continue the pattern of an intermittent intricate mosaic of small, mainly linear woodlands. Encourage the use of broadleaved native species for woodland planting to enhance biodiversity.

Heritage, Settlement and Infrastructure

- Conserve the sparsely settled character by resisting significant new development, and also taking account of the limitations imposed by the floodplain constraints. Where new development is considered, this should be located in close proximity to existing development along the southern section of the character area and where flood risk is minimised and within acceptable levels.
- 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.

Recreation

- Conserve the existing network of roads and where possible retain its largely rural character where it links rural settlements. Ensure that the alignment and detailing of any new road construction is responsive to the local area and rural context, avoiding the introduction of urbanising features such as kerbing, roundabouts and other features such as lighting.
- Seek to minimise the noise and urbanising effect of any new principal roads through the otherwise quiet rural areas by minimising the extent of engineered embankments and removal of vegetation. Any planting mitigation should follow the pattern of vegetation already a feature of the valley to help integrate any such infrastructure into the landscape character and views.

- Conserve and enhance the existing network of recreational opportunities that have developed with better links to the neighbouring character areas through signs to the Northamptonshire Round and Macmillan Way.
- Encourage the creation of further developments to serve the recreation and leisure requirements of local and wider communities along the Brampton Valley Way, but ensuring that they are appropriately and sensitively sited in relation to landscape character, and accord with the principles of sustainable tourism.
LCT 18 Broad River Valley Floodplain

Daventry

18a The Nene - Long Buckby to Weedon Bec
Key Landscape Character Features

- Upper river catchment floodplain with a generally open character surrounded by rising landform of adjacent landscape character area. The character can vary from rural in more secluded locations and busy in the vicinity of the surrounding settlements and transport infrastructure.

- River channel with the impression of a slow flowing watercourse, with limited bank side vegetation in areas. Where river edge vegetation and trees are absent the course of the river is difficult to perceive.

- Some unimproved pasture, although arable land becomes more common within the northern section of the Nene Valley catchment. The mosaic of pastoral land, with valuable areas of biodiverse rich grasslands riparian vegetation, and arable land contributes to the changing patterns along the valley.

- Woodland characterised by broadleaved copses and wooded corridors in the central area. Elsewhere sparse woodland cover contributes to the generally open character of the river valley floodplain.

- Hedgerow trees, although infrequent, are an important feature where they do occur, creating localised and more intimate and enclosed areas in contrast to the generally more open character elsewhere. Where hedgerows are mature, these can combine with the hedgerow trees to create local enclosure.

- Settlements are to the edge of the floodplain as a consequence of the flooding constraints. However, the settlements on the rising land immediately adjacent to the floodplain are indicative of the close relationship between settlement location and river accessibility, including bridging points.

- Urban influences arising from the proximity of settlements and road infrastructure on the perimeter of some sections of the river valley floodplain, introduce a busier and developed character, and detract from the otherwise rural character.

- Minor roads generally cross the floodplain landscape at right angles to the main watercourse, with major roads parallel to the main watercourse and marking the boundary of the landscape character area. Traffic on the network of principal roads, and trains on the railway introduce movement and noise to an otherwise generally rural landscape.
LCT 18 Broad River Valley Floodplain

Character Area 18a The Nene – Long Buckby to Weedon Bec
LCT 18 Broad River Valley Floodplain

Character Area 18a The Nene – Long Buckby to Weedon Bec

Description

The landscape character area is broadly linear with the hamlet of Long Buckby Wharf in the north and the settlement of Lower Weedon and the A45 in the south. It forms a corridor separating the much larger landscape character areas of 13c Long Buckby to the east and 13b Daventry to the west. It is defined by the valley formed by the uppermost section of the River Nene and a tributary watercourse. The Nene and the tributary watercourse, follow a meandering course across the river valley floodplain.

The overriding land use is arable farming with medium sized fields bordered by low hedgerows and limited hedgerow trees. This is most common to the north but partly interrupted south of Long Buckby Wharf by the three linear infrastructure corridors; West Coast Mainline railway, Grand Union Canal and M1. Near to these corridors other land uses have overtaken agriculture such as sewage works, canal marinas, garden centres and a ‘go kart’ facility. The middle section of the landscape character area returns to arable but south of the A45 there is the extensive parkland landscape of Flore Park with pastoral fields next to the River Nene.

Woodland is concentrated along the Grand Union Canal and M1 where this linear infrastructure passes through wooded corridors. In places those corridors extend into larger wooded blocks particularly next to the Canal. Belts of woodland help to screen the M1 from the wider landscape, and this is supplemented by copses on the embankments to road bridges over the motorway. Woodland is generally limited in the arable areas and watercourses are often unnoticeable as bankside vegetation is sparse. However, in the south, copses and individual specimen trees are present around Flore Park and bankside vegetation is common next to the River Nene.

Settlements are limited to the hamlet at Long Buckby Wharf and the eastern edge of Weedon Bec. This part of Weedon Bec has developed around the intersection of the A45 and A5. Pre-20th Century buildings provide a defined edge to the settlement but the road junction infrastructure dominates. Flore is in the neighbouring landscape character area but rooftops to residential properties are very present in views from the pastoral land next to the River Nene.

The A5, A45 and West Coast Mainline railway pass along the valley, skirting the floodplain, taking advantage of the gentle gradients along the river valley profile. These intrude into the landscape, which is rural and secluded in places, as a result of noise from vehicular traffic and trains. Despite this the main road infrastructure tends to be screened from view by hedgerows or belts of woodland. However, at the time of writing the construction works to the A45 northern bypass to Weedon Bec severs the river valley floodplain and interrupt the integrity of the landscape. The other main linear infrastructure corridor is the Grand Union Canal, it provides a tranquil presence in the landscape and can be enjoyed by pedestrians on the Grand Union Canal walk on the towpath. The network of local roads cross over the Canal via distinctive

View from Brockhall Road bridge looking north along the Grand Union Canal
LCT 18 Broad River Valley Floodplain

Character Area 18a The Nene – Long Buckby to Weedon Bec

By definition the river valley floodplain has very limited variation in landform with the exception of the edges where the land begins to rise up into the neighbouring landscape character areas. In general, views are contained within the valley corridor. The wooded corridors associated with Canal and M1 increase the sense of enclosure and tend to shorten views in those localities.

Landscape Condition

Moderate

Much of the landscape is well managed and features intact, including hedgerows, copses and wooded corridors. However in places field expansion, road infrastructure and other uses has resulted in the loss of landscape features which undermines the character of the landscape.
LCT 18 Broad River Valley Floodplain

Character Area 18a The Nene – Long Buckby to Weedon Bec

**Landscape Strategy**

New development and land management practices should be controlled or encouraged to conserve and enhance the arable landscape to the north and central areas and the parkland and pastures to the south.

In view of flooding constraints and regulations, there would be a presumption against development within the floodplain. However, potential limited built development may arise in association with farming practices or for new infrastructure requirements, such as roads. Here, particular care is needed to integrate change into this simple landscape and is particularly relevant to the A45 northern bypass to Weedon Bec. Consistent long term management of the landscape planting to the road corridor is required to help integrate the infrastructure into the landscape. Particular attention will be required where the road is exposed on embankments at a higher level than the surrounding landscape.

For any proposed development, reference should be made to the locality for appropriate building styles including local vernacular, materials and layout.

Boundary treatments should follow the existing pattern of walls, hedgerows, hedgerow trees and copses.

Tree cover within the floodplain is generally low but is present around the wooded corridors along the Grand Union Canal and road infrastructure in the central part of the character area. This pattern of landscape should be extended elsewhere, where there are fewer trees next to linear infrastructure corridors. The introduction of extensive woodlands would be inappropriate, but the more intricate pattern of tree cover should be conserved, and where possible enhanced. However, the enhancement of hedgerows to the arable field boundaries, to include some hedgerow trees, should be encouraged to strengthen their visual contribution to the landscape as well as their biodiversity value. In the floodplain, bankside vegetation to watercourses should be encouraged to enhance their presence in the landscape.

Pastoral land and riparian vegetation to field boundaries

Local vernacular buildings forming bridge over River Nene
### LCT 18 Broad River Valley Floodplain

**Landscape Guidelines**

#### Landform, Hydrology and Views
- Conserve and enhance the identity of the river valley floodplain by strengthening its distinctive character through management of farming and control of development.
- Strengthen the identity of the River Nene and watercourse tributaries in the floodplain through the creation of further areas of river edge trees and small scale linear woodlands.

#### Land Management
- Enhance hedgerows by sensitive management that encourages diversity, whilst maintaining a neat network of boundaries that impart a sense of order and a productive agriculture.
- Discourage hedgerow removal and field amalgamation that leads to broader areas of monoculture.

#### Woodland and Trees
- Conserve and restore small linear woodlands, copses and river edge trees by appropriate management and support the continued use of broadleaved native species. River edge trees will provide local features, enrich the riparian landscape and enhance the sense of place.
- Small scale woodlands should be planted as part of any infrastructure development to continue the pattern of linear woodlands. Encourage the use of broadleaved native species for woodland planting to enhance biodiversity.
- Conserve mature hedgerow trees and encourage their replacement and continuity as features in the landscape through natural regeneration within hedgerows, or by new planting.
- Conserve hedgerows through appropriate long-term management that encourages diversity. Where declining, seek opportunities to gap up hedgerows where previous management has removed them.

#### Heritage, Settlement and Infrastructure
- Conserve the sparsely settled character by resisting large scale development, and also taking account of the limitations imposed by the floodplain constraints. Where development is required, this should be located where the existing mature wooded corridors can integrate development into the landscape.
- Conserve the existing network of rural lanes and where possible retain their rural character.
- Ensure that the alignment and detailing of any upgrade to rural lanes is responsive to the local area and rural context, avoiding the introduction of urbanising features such as kerbing, roundabouts and other features such as lighting.
- Seek to reduce the noise and urbanising effect of the principal roads, including the A45 northern bypass of Weeden Bec through long-term management of roadside landscape planting.
- Conserve the undeveloped character of the floodplain and meadows either side of the River Nene, near to Flore.
**LCT 19 Broad Unwooded Vale**

**Key Landscape Character Features**

- Extensive landscape defining the western boundary of the county merging seamlessly with the wider vale areas in neighbouring counties to the west and northwest of Northamptonshire. Expansive long distance, panoramic views across the open vale landscape.
- Landscape drained by numerous small watercourses that flow within shallow undulations into the rivers and streams on the county boundary. The subtle valley forms and other minor undulations gain prominence in an otherwise broad, flat landscape, and provide diversity and interest at a local scale within the otherwise simple, open and unified vale.
- Limited woodland cover, with tree cover confined mainly to hedgerow trees and overgrown hedgerows.
- The general absence of woodland contributes to the open and sometimes exposed character across much of the vale. However linear woodland along transport corridors and woodlands within adjacent character areas contribute to the perception of woodland presence in this landscape type.
- Productive arable and pastoral farmland in generally equal proportions in fields of varying size contributes to a changing mosaic of patterns and textures and a generally well managed and productive agrarian character.
- Hedgerows generally low and well clipped, although limited sections show evidence of decline with reinforcing post and wire fences. These more neglected sections detract from an otherwise generally well managed hedgerow network and character.
- Sparsely settled with small villages and isolated farms and dwellings prevalent contributing to the quiet and in places (particularly to the north of the landscape type) remote character of this simple agrarian landscape.
- Large urban areas are evident in distant views, notably Rugby and Market Harborough and warehouse development on the edge of Rugby (DIRFT), which distract from the otherwise generally rural character.
- Small parkland estates contribute to distinct character within the northern part of the landscape type.
- Significant communication routes evident, including motorways and major ‘A’ roads. These generate noise, traffic movement and light sources at night and distract from the otherwise quiet rural landscape.
LCT 19 Broad Unwooded Vale

Landscape Character Area 19b Vale of Rugby

- Harborough District
- Rugby District
- 5a Naseby Plateau
- 13a Clifton Alvechurch Ironstone Uplands
- 13b Long Buckby
- 13b Daventry

May 2017
LCT 19 Broad Unwooded Vale

Landscape Character Area 19b Vale of Rugby

Description

The Vale is distinguished by its generally flat and open character, with wide panoramas across an expansive landscape. In the southern part of this character area the vale is formed by the shallow valley of Rains Brook between higher ground at Barby and Kilsby to the south and Rugby to the north. Minor undulations occur, particularly at the transition with the adjacent Undulating Hills and Valleys Landscape Type (13c) to the east and also in association with the series of watercourses that drain the vale and which have eroded shallow valleys. The main rivers in the Vale of Rugby, the River Avon and Rains Brook, form the county boundary. In addition to these watercourses, the Grand Union Canal forms the eastern boundary to the character area and the Oxford Canal is through the south western part of the character area; both are designated as Conservation Areas and form an important visual component of the landscape particularly east of Yelvertoft and where crossed by roads.

Stanford Reservoir in the north east is a large formal waterbody that spans across the character area and into Leicestershire.

The vale is generally intensively managed with a mix of arable and pasture that create a patchwork effect across the landscape. The size of fields and heights of hedgerows plays an important role in determining the openness of the landscape, with localised enclosure generally where fields are smaller.

Woodland cover is very limited with the exception of hedgerows and hedgerow trees to field boundaries and tree-lined watercourses, canals, railway lines and major roads. Where present these trees provide localised enclosure. The general lack of woodland allows open views towards the higher often wooded ground in the adjacent character areas (13c and 15a). Rural lanes are typically lined by hedgerows and hedgerow trees, in places the trees are set a few metres behind the hedgerows.

Settlement within this vale is generally sparse, limited to the small villages of Yelvertoft and Libourne and the hamlets of Stanford on Avon and Clay Coton in the northern part of the character area as well as the former prison housing in the south; west of Barby.

There is no overriding character to built form but the centre of villages include properties from a range of periods creating a varied streetscape. Yelvertoft is the largest of the villages and is a clustered settlement centred along High Street. Views of All Saints Church and a large manor house in a mature tree and garden setting form a distinctive approach to the village from the south east. Libourne is also a small clustered settlement centred around The Green. Local vernacular buildings fronting areas of grass provide a distinctive village centre.

Smaller scale pastoral fields are often present around the fringes of the settlements and often contain more mature hedgerows and trees which provides enclosure and helps to limit the prominence of the villages in the wider and more open landscape beyond. Ridge and furrow is a feature around villages such as the northern fringes of Kilsby (village in neighbouring Landscape Character Type) and on higher ground forming a backdrop to Yelvertoft.

The hamlets of Clay Coton and Stanford on Avon are small with few properties set in large gardens. The former Church of St Andrew church is a landmark on the approach into Clay Coton. Stanford on Avon is set within the wider parkland of Stanford Park (Stanford Hall is in the neighbouring County) and the roads and buildings contribute positively to this parkland character with numerous mature trees, hedgerow boundaries and local vernacular buildings.
LCT 19 Broad Unwooded Vale

Landscape Character Area 19b Vale of Rugby

Description

The remainder of the character area includes intermittent and often isolated farms with many areas accessed via long tracks. In the vicinity of Rugby, the DIRFT development including prominent large warehouses has an urbanising effect on the local landscape which will increase as the area of the former radio masts are developed as a sustainable urban extension extending east of the A5 towards Lilbourne. These buildings are typically large and on high ground so form large structures on the skyline which are difficult to screen. However the combination of undulating landform and linear woodlands along the West Coast Mainline railway and major roads means their influence is relatively localised. The southern urban edge of Rugby (outside the character area forming the northern valley side of Rains Brook) is relatively well screened by a combination of small pastoral and recreational fields and mature trees creating a skyline of of mature trees with intermittent views of properties.

In addition to the areas of built development, a number of roads leading into these large settlements also affect the peaceful quality, notably the M45, M1 and A14 in the vicinity of Rugby, where a busier character and diverse land uses contrasts with more remote areas. Their influence is localised, the M1 and A14 are in cutting which limits their visual prominence but they are audible features of the landscape. Other features of the landscape include a wind farm east of the M1 and two high voltage overhead lines which cross the character area in a roughly north to south direction. Another wind farm (between Swinford and South Kilworth in Leicestershire) is a visible feature of the skyline in the northern part of the character area.

The generally flat landform and lack of woodland means these structures are prominent features in views.

Views are typically open across the vale, although local variations occur where fields are smaller in size and hedgerows are taller.

The overriding character is that of a broad, expansive flat or very gently sloping agrarian landscape with limited settlement and a generally quiet rural character except in close vicinity to warehouse development (DIRFT) and the main road network.

Landscape Condition

Moderate

There is some fragmentation and loss of landscape features as well as enlargement of fields as a result of intensification of farmland and expansion of DIRFT east of the A5. The management of most hedgerows at a very low height often gives rise to an expansive landscape.
LCT 19 Broad Unwooded Vale

Landscape Character Area 19b Vale of Rugby

Landscape Strategy 19b

New development and land management practices should be controlled or encouraged to retain the simple, open and mostly rural character of the Vale of Rugby. Areas of extensive development outside A5 and M1 corridors would be inappropriate and undermine the rural character.

Although woodland cover across the landscape type is low, the pattern of tree lines along the watercourses, canals and roads are important local features. This pattern of tree cover should be conserved, and where possible enhanced, particularly south of DIRFT and east of the M1. The hedgerow network is also an important characteristic and the retention and enhancement of hedgerows and hedgerow trees to strengthen their visual contribution to the landscape and biodiversity value should be encouraged.

Change in land management or development around the fringes of settlements needs to respect the enclosure created by small-scale pastoral fields and mature trees to ensure they do not become more prominent within this open sparsely settled landscape. Any development should respect the urban form and local vernacular of individual villages, respect the skyline where churches or other features make an important contribution and respect distinctive gateways, approaches and central spaces. This character area is part of the Rains Brook Valley south of Rugby and although outside the character area and the district, change along the fringes of Rugby that increased the prominence of development across this landscape would adversely affect its character.

East of Rugby, the landscape is already influenced by large-scale warehouses at DIRFT (east of Rugby) which will increase as this is expanded east of the A5. The siting of new development in this area and design of mitigation to boundaries will be important to help limit their influence. Development should avoid higher ground, utilise opportunities for backgrounding, choose suitable colour gradations to building facades avoiding highly contrasting colours; put smaller scale buildings towards the edges of the development and include suitable landscape buffers to the rural fringes. Landscape mitigation should avoid large-scale woodland blocks as a means of screening development but should utilise smaller scale copses, hedgerows and trees to filter and break up the scale and massing of buildings.
LCT 19 Broad Unwooded Vale

Landscape Character Area 19c Welland Vale

Description

This landscape character area is a broad flat vale on the southern side of the River Welland. The land slopes down from the A4304 within neighbouring Leicestershire towards the River Welland (which forms the county boundary) and then forms a broad vale extending to the distinctive scarp slopes to the south that form a prominent wooded backdrop to views. Localised undulations occur primarily in the northern part of this character area at Mill Hill (near Mill Hill Farm). The character area is dissected by numerous small tributaries which flow down from the scarp slopes to meet the River Welland to the north east of Marston Trussell.

The landscape is a mix of intensively managed arable and pastoral fields which like other areas in this landscape type contribute to a patchwork effect. Localised areas of ridge and furrow are important landscape features such as close to Marston Trussell. Woodland occurs as irregular spinneys and plantations along the tributaries to the River Welland as well and within the three parkland estates: Hothorpe Hall; Marston Trussell Hall and Thorpe Lubenham Hall. The combination of woodland on the farmed scarp slopes and frequent roadside and hedgerow trees contributes to the wooded farmland character.

The parkland estates are characterised by prominent manor houses overlooking parkland with frequent small groups of trees including conifers. Entrances to the halls are characterised by gated entrances or gatehouses. Formal lakes are a feature around Marston Trussell Hall. Hothorpe Hall is set amongst arable fields and the parkland character is limited to ornamental woodland close to the house.

Thorpe Lubenham Hall is enclosed by woodland planting and has areas of ridge and furrow within parkland and distinctive lines of Lime trees around some fields.

Enclosure is most notable around pastoral fields and parkland becoming slightly more open around the larger arable fields in the south and east. In these locations the enclosure and perception of a wooded landscape is created by woodland on the prominent scarp slopes in the adjacent character area (15a).

Settlement within the vale is generally sparse, limited to the linear village of Marston Trussell which is on low ground close to the River Welland.
LCT 19 Broad Unwooded Vale

Landscape Character Area 19c Welland Vale

Buildings in the village are generally red brick with some limited rendering to elevations, typical of the character of the adjacent Leicestershire villages. Marston Trussell Hall with its ornate brick wall and entrance gateway as well as ornamental gardens provides a distinct entrance into the village from the west. From roads and footpaths to the south, the village appears as linear development along the main street dispersed along the road and nestled within the trees with St Nicholas’ Church forming a prominent feature of the skyline.

Isolated farms are present but dispersed across the area, often accessed via long driveways off the main rural roads. Other farmhouses are less prominent in the landscape and typically include a number of timber clad barns around a courtyard and farmhouse however many are of a low height or the presence of woodland and hedgerow trees generally limits their prominence in the landscape.

View showing grassland and pasture on steep slopes

Landscape Condition

Good
This is a generally well managed landscape with intact features such as woodlands, hedgerows, frequent hedgerow trees and areas of well-managed parkland which helps to reinforce character. There is little evidence of decline of these features.
LCT 19 Broad Unwooded Vale

Landscape Character Area 19c Welland Vale

**Landscape Strategy 19c**

This is a landscape that is influenced by parkland as well as the wooded River Welland and other irregularly shaped and linear woodlands. The prominent adjacent Farmed Scarp Slopes (LCA 15a) provide a degree of enclosure and wooded character compared with the other landscape character areas within this type.

The areas of parkland (and associated ridge and furrow) should be conserved and managed to retain their distinctive contribution to character.

This rural landscape has relatively little development and where present is generally related to a country house or a farm and is often not prominent within the landscape. New development which would increase the prominence of built form in the landscape would have an adverse urbanising effect.

Larger-scale development would be inappropriate and out of scale with the surrounding small-scale farms and Marston Trussell village.

The edges of Market Harborough have a localised influence on the adjacent fields. Change and expansion along the southern and western boundaries of the town should seek to ensure that any built development is contained to lower ground and does not extend to the higher ground to the west or south.

Marston Trussell is sensitive to any changes that would alter its linear form with rooflines nestled amongst mature trees and the distinctive approach from the east created by Marston Trussell Hall. Where development is proposed, reference should be made to the local vernacular including layout, scale and massing and materials and the disposition of building form in the landscape.
LCT 19 Broad Unwooded Vale

**Landscape Guidelines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landform and Views</th>
<th>Land Management</th>
<th>Woodland and Trees</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Conserve the broad scale and simple palette of landscape characteristics across the Broad Unwooded Vale landscape types&lt;br&gt;• Conserve opportunities to experience the open vistas across the adjacent vale landscapes by sensitive management of tree belts and hedges.&lt;br&gt;• Conserve and enhance the appearance and quality of the watercourses that flow within vale area and the associated riparian vegetation..&lt;br&gt;• Conserve and enhance local variations in the prevailing simple and unified character of the vale, particularly associated with minor undulations and valley forms. Here, a more diverse land use pattern and landscape patterning can occur, with pastoral fields more prevalent within the valleys.&lt;br&gt;• Retain the peaceful rural character along the Grand Unions Canal and Oxford Canal within the Vale of Rugby.</td>
<td>• Conserve field patterns to retain various periods of enclosure and subsequent land management.&lt;br&gt;• Discourage hedgerow removal and field amalgamation that lead to broader areas of monoculture, and a consequent reduction in the visual interest associated with the mosaic of fields and cropping patterns.&lt;br&gt;• Conserve hedgerows through appropriate long-term management that encourages diversity. Where declining, seek opportunities to gap up hedgerows where previous management has removed them or prevented natural regeneration.&lt;br&gt;• Enhance hedgerow biodiversity by encouraging natural regeneration and appropriate long-term management.</td>
<td>• Conserve the predominantly open and unwooded character of the Vale by limiting extensive woodland planting.&lt;br&gt;• Conserve and enhance the woodlands that are present by appropriate management, encouraging natural regeneration and replanting with broadleaved native species.&lt;br&gt;• Conserve mature hedgerow trees and encourage their replacement and continuity as features in the landscape through natural regeneration within hedgerows, or by new planting.&lt;br&gt;• Conserve and where possible ensure management seeks to replace parkland and road side trees with vistas to lakes to retain the parkland character across the Welland Vale landscape.</td>
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**Settlement and Built Form**

- Conserve the quiet and sparsely settled character of the rural landscape and perceived absence of settlement. Where new development is considered, this should be confined to small-scale change associated with existing areas of development and relate to the individual characteristics of each settlement.

- Around the fringes of settlements any expansion or new development should retain the characteristics of the settlement whilst helping to contribute to the generally rural character of the Broad Unwooded Vale restricting development on prominent higher ground and appropriate localised areas of woodland planting to minimise effects on landscape character.

- Where expansion is proposed along the fringes of larger settlements (Market Harborough and Rugby) use duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities to ensure development does not become prominent in the wider landscape.

- Seek to minimise the influence of larger warehouse development at DIRFT on the wider landscape through appropriate siting, scale and massing, choice of colour cladding and appropriate mitigation planting.

- Retain the character of the shallow Rains Brook Valley with woodland at its base and settlements (including Rugby, Kilsby and Barby) nestled and barely discernible along the higher fringes

- Retain the distinctive approaches into villages

- Conserve the prominence of church spires within village rooflines

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**Settlement and Built Form**

- Retain areas of pastoral fields and mature trees and hedgerows around the fringes of settlements to help retain the perceived impression of discreet development within the landscape

- Any new infrastructure developments should be sensitively sited and include appropriate mitigation that is in keeping with local landscape character including placement and management of hedgerows and trees to minimise effects on the wider rural landscape

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**Settlement and Built Form**

- Conserve the rural character of the road network by resisting schemes that urbanise stretches of rural roads through the introduction of kerbing, roundabouts and other features such as lighting.

- Wind turbines are a prominent feature in this flat and open landscape. Seek to minimise the effects on landscape character through careful siting and placement to avoid cumulative effects with surrounding wind farms.