SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREA STUDY

DAVENTRY DISTRICT

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**APPENDIX 1** - Recommendations for Removal of Areas from SLA designation

**FIGURES**

- Figure 1: Welland Valley Special Landscape Area
- Figure 2: Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington Special Landscape Area
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1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd was appointed in October 2016 to undertake a review of Special Landscape Areas in Daventry District.

1.2 The study forms part of a wider commission which includes updating the Daventry District part of the existing Landscape Character Assessment for Northamptonshire (2005) and providing a policy approach to manage the fringe areas to Daventry and Northampton which are under significant development pressure. In addition there are significant pressures on the District to accommodate residential and employment development at all scales, on the edge of smaller settlements as well as in the countryside according to need. The District needs to accommodate sustainable development but also have regard to protecting its distinctive landscapes. Therefore, to ensure sustainable development there is a need to protect the District’s landscapes as far as possible, alongside the need to meet needs.

1.3 The concept of Special Landscape Areas in Daventry District was introduced in the first Northamptonshire County Structure Plan (1980). This recognised that although there are no national designations in Northamptonshire, the county contains distinctive landscapes that are of particular local importance. The designation has protected areas of sensitive landscape from the adverse effects of inappropriate development and is still in use by Daventry District Council under saved Policy EN1. The Areas were amended prior to the approval of the Structure Plan in 1989.

1.4 The existing four Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) designated under the saved Policy EN1 of the Daventry Local Plan (1997) are:
   - Welland Valley;
   - Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington;
   - Catesby and Fawsley; and
   - Eydon and Culworth.

1.5 The brief asks that the potential is explored for continuing to use an SLA designation or alternative high quality landscape designation that recognises the highest quality landscape in the District. Daventry District Council reports that it has found SLA designations to be useful in development management, where they are used alongside other policies relating to the rural areas and open countryside to guide development to areas of lower environmental value and ensure that development respects the qualities of the landscape character within the designated areas.

1.6 The justification for the SLA and recommendation for the definition of the boundaries derived from work undertaken during the review of the Landscape Character Assessment for the District during autumn and winter 2016/2017.
1.7 The Study reviews the existing SLA designations to establish whether the landscape is distinctive and has clearly apparent special qualities that set them apart from other landscape in the District. It will consider where an SLA designation could support protection of landscapes through criteria-based policies. The study will also review boundaries to confirm they are sensible, identifiable and robust.

1.8 The report is structured as follows:

- Section 2.0 summarises the policy context and reviews the use of SLAs in neighbouring local authority areas;
- Section 3.0 defines the criteria used to review the existing SLA designations; and
- Section 4.0 provides the review of the existing SLA designations and recommendations.
2.0 Planning Policy Context

2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied at a local level in development plans. The NPPF places great emphasis on protecting and enhancing the natural environment and recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. The following sections of the NPPF are applicable to landscape character assessment and valued landscapes.

**Achieving sustainable development**

2.2 The NPPF states that the purpose of the planning system is to achieve sustainable development. The three dimensions of sustainable development are economic, social and environmental. At paragraph 7 the environmental role is defined as 'contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment...'

**Core planning principles**

2.3 The NPPF directs local authorities to make every effort to allocate land for development where it is of low environmental value. It also requires efforts to conserve and enhance the natural and historic environment through the planning process. The following NPPF policies influence the objectives and outcomes of this study.

2.4 At paragraph 17, the NPPF introduces the set of core land-use planning principles that should underpin both plan-making and decision making. This includes:

- 'taking account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it;'

- 'contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. Allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework;'

**Section 11: Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment**

2.5 Paragraph 109 in Section 11 specifies that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by, amongst other objectives, protecting and enhancing valued landscapes.
At paragraph 113, the guidance continues ‘local authorities should set criteria-based policies against which proposals for any development on or affecting protected wildlife or geodiversity sites or landscape areas will be judged. Distinction should be made between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites, so that protection is commensurate with their status and gives appropriate weight to their importance and the contribution they make to wider ecological networks’.

A footnote to the second sentence references Circular 06/2005 which is concerned with statutory obligations for biodiversity and geological conservation but does not address landscape.

To guide local authorities in Local Plan making, paragraph 114 states that:

‘Local planning authorities should: set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure;

Paragraph 115 stresses that ‘great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty.’

The superseded PPS7 expressly stated that local designations should not be applied except where it was clear that criteria-based policies could not achieve protection1. NPPF superseded PPS7 and whilst it retained the emphasis on criteria-based policies it does not expressly indicate that local landscape designations are not preferred.

The environmental objectives of the NPPF could be supported by encouraging positive management of the characteristics, elements and features of the relevant SLAs, integrating with green infrastructure and other objectives. This should not be seen as excluding development but to ensure that, where development is necessary and otherwise appropriate, it responds to, conserves and enhances the areas’ defined qualities.

Planning Practice Guidance

National guidance in the form of Planning Practice Guidance, published in March 2014 further reinforces the NPPF’s commitment to recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside stating:

‘Local plans should include strategic policies for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including landscape. This includes designated landscapes but also the wider countryside.’

1 Paragraphs 24 and 25 Page 14 PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas
'Where appropriate, landscape character assessments should be prepared to complement Natural England’s National Character Area profiles. Landscape Character Assessment is a tool to help understand the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and identify the features that give it a sense of place. It can help to inform, plan and manage change and may be undertaken at a scale appropriate to local and neighbourhood plan-making.'

2.14 Local landscape designations can be part of strategic policies to conserve and enhance landscape.

**Local Planning Policy**

*Daventry District Local Plan (1997)*

2.15 Saved Daventry District Local Plan (1997) policies EN1, EN10 and EN11 refer to the local designations of Special Landscape Area (SLA), Green Wedge and Rural Access Area respectively. These policies have been used to protect the local rural landscape and settlements from development that would harm their character and setting and result in the coalescence of built up areas.

2.16 Policy EN1, SLAs recognises the special environmental qualities of areas designated on the proposals map. In these areas planning permission normally would be granted for development provided that it comprises agricultural, forestry, recreation or tourism development. The policy also relates to development in settlements within these areas. In assessing development proposals, detailed design, materials, siting and landscaping are material considerations. The policy relates to the re-use or adaptation of rural buildings and the need for their finished form, bulk and general design to be in keeping with the surroundings. Development should not adversely affect the character of the local landscape.

*West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan - Part 1 (2014)*

2.17 This document forms Part 1 of the suite of Local Plans in West Northamptonshire that will guide the evolution of Northampton, Daventry and South Northamptonshire. It provides a long-term vision for the area with an overall framework in which more detailed plans will be drawn up and decision made.

2.18 Section 10 covers policies in respect of the built and natural environment covering matters such as green infrastructure connections, woodland enhancement and creation, and the historic environment and landscape (Policy BN5). There is no specific policy relating to landscape character and there is no reference made to SLAs.

**Use of SLAs in adjacent authorities**

2.19 The use of SLAs has been explored and adopted or in the process of adoption by two adjacent local authorities as detailed below.
South Northamptonshire District Local Plan

2.20 South Northamptonshire District is one of the local authority areas covered in the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan - Part 1 (2014) which does not refer to SLAs or have a specific policy regarding landscape character (see above). However, SLAs are covered in saved Policy EV7 in the Local Plan (1997) and are derived from those identified in the first County Structure Plan (1980) and its replacement in 1989.

2.21 South Northamptonshire District (SND) is currently reviewing its SLAs and expects to finalise them in mid-2017. The current South Northamptonshire SLAs area abuts three of Daventry’s SLAs:

- Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrook and Brington;
- Catesby and Fawsley; and
- Eydon and Culworth.

Stratford-on-Avon District Core Strategy (2016)

2.22 Stratford-on-Avon District Core Strategy adopted in 2016 makes provision for Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) under policy CS.12.

2.23 Policy CS.12 of the Core Strategy designates areas of high landscape quality as Special Landscape Areas, and the policy resists development proposals that would have a harmful effect on the distinctive character and appearance of the landscape. The descriptions of the SLAs includes their landscape characteristics and qualities and refers to historic and cultural features.

2.24 Four Special Landscape Areas are identified and their extent shown on the Policies map. One of the Special Landscape Areas is named as Ironstone Hills Fringe and has a boundary with Daventry District near to Staverton and Hellidon.

2.25 Policy CS.12 acknowledges that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is silent about the use of local landscape designations, however it notes that one of the core principles is that the character of different areas should be acknowledged and such a designation is a response to an area’s defined qualities.

2.26 The Council commissioned a specific study in 2012 into whether a local landscape designation in Stratford District is appropriate and, if so, what areas should be covered by such a designation. The approach taken in the study to justifying the use of a local landscape designation, and to the identification of appropriate areas, is based on Natural England’s guidance on criteria for defining ‘value’ in protecting nationally designated landscapes.
2.27 The Special Landscape Area Study (2012) identified the distinctive landscape qualities of various parts of the District which justified being protected through a formal local landscape designation. SLAs have to be, by definition, 'special' at a district level to merit inclusion. Designation has to be driven by the key qualities of a particular area of landscape. On that basis, the SLAs identified represent particularly high quality countryside in the context of Stratford District, based on their landscape and scenic quality, as well as natural and historic features.

2.28 With regard to the definition of SLA boundaries around settlements, the study considered that smaller villages and the landscape features within them contribute to the quality of the landscape and, for that reason, the designation should wash over such settlements. The Primary and Secondary Service Villages which lie within an SLA have been excluded from the designation with its boundary coinciding with the built-up area boundaries defined for these larger settlements.
3.0 Defining criteria for reviewing the SLA designation

3.1 NPPF is clear that the focus of policy should be on the protecting and enhancing valued landscapes. For this study we have used the term ‘valued landscape’ as described in Landscape Character Assessment guidance and Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. These guidance documents are discussed below.

3.2 The current Landscape Character Assessment guidance\(^2\) for England defines landscape value as:

‘The relative value or importance attached to landscape (often as a basis for designation or recognition), which expresses national or local consensus, because of its quality, special qualities including perceptual aspects such as scenic beauty, tranquillity or wildness, cultural associations or other conservation issues.’

3.3 The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment\(^3\) (GLVIA) introduce the range of factors that can help in the identification of valued landscape (referred to below):

- **Landscape quality (condition):** A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual elements.
- **Scenic quality:** The term used to describe landscapes that appeal primarily to the senses (primarily but not wholly the visual senses).
- **Rarity:** The presence of rare elements or features in the landscape or the presence of a rare Landscape Character Type.
- **Representativeness:** Whether the landscape contains a particular character and/or features or elements which are considered particularly important examples.
- **Conservation interests:** The presence of features of wildlife, earth science or archaeological or historical and cultural interest can add to the value of the landscape as well as having value in their own right.
- **Recreation value:** Evidence that the landscape is valued for recreational activity where experience of the landscape is important.
- **Perceptual aspects:** A landscape may be valued for its perceptual qualities, notably wildness and/or tranquillity.
- **Associations:** Some landscapes are associated with particular people, such as artists or writers, or events in history that contribute to perceptions of the natural beauty of the area.

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The approach to reviewing SLAs in Daventry District

3.4 The review for each SLA is set out as follows:

- Name and location
- Summary of distinctive characteristics
- Description
- Identification of landscape value using the factors set out in paragraph 3.3, terms of criteria (Distinctive in the context of the district and in need of protection)
- Explanation and justification of boundary including recommended changes
- Consideration of Setting
- Map
- Sample photographs

3.5 The descriptions and key characteristics have been based on a combination of desk study using the Daventry District Landscape Character Assessment and the findings of the site assessment. The site assessment involved a drive-around the landscape to the SLAs. It involved walking relevant sections of the PRoW network and the taking of photographs to illustrate distinctive features.

3.6 In the review of boundaries to SLAs, the need to ensure that boundaries follow key features that can be defended will be considered (eg. Linear features such as roads, canals and field boundaries). This may require that boundaries extend marginally into an adjacent landscape character type in certain locations.
4.0 Review of Existing SLA Designations and Recommendations

4.1 Section 4.0 provides a review of the four existing SLAs in the District by:

- considering their distinctive and unique landscape characteristics in the context of the Daventry District Landscape Character Assessment;
- identifying factors that contribute to a valued landscape;
- justifying the extension or contraction of their boundaries; and
- providing management recommendations.

4.2 Within the characterisation process of the Daventry District Landscape Character Assessment the landscape is divided into a series of Landscape Character Types. These are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different parts of the district and county, and indeed the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, landform, drainage patterns, vegetation, and historical land use and settlement pattern. Each landscape character type is then sub-divided into Landscape Character Areas. These are unique and geographically discrete areas of the landscape that share characteristics of the broader landscape type to which they belong.

Welland Valley SLA

4.3 The Welland Valley SLA is located along the northern edge of the district next to the River Welland and then follows the southern edge of Market Harborough. (It excludes a small area of land near to the south western edge of Market Harborough east of Luberham Road which has less intact character.) The southern boundary extends south of Arthingworth and follows a section of the River Ise and one of its tributaries. It continues in a westerly direction along a section of the Brampton Valley Way near to Great Oxendon and then broadly follows the southern edge of 15a Hothorpe Hills to Great Oxendon Landscape Character Area (Farmed Scarp Slopes Landscape Character Type) as far as the boundary with Leicestershire, near to Husbands Bosworth.

4.4 The SLA includes the following landscape character areas (with the relevant landscape character types in brackets): 19c Welland Vale (Broad Unwooded Vale), 15a Hothorpe Hills to Great Oxendon (Farmed Scarp Slopes), part of 5a Naseby Plateau (Clay Plateau) and part of 13d Cottesbrooke and Arthingworth (Undulating Hills and Valleys).
Summary of Key Characteristics

4.5 The Welland Valley SLA comprises a lowland vale on the southern side of the River Welland, enclosed by prominent scarp slope to the south. This scarp and mosaic of woodland, grassland and farmland form a dramatic and particularly distinctive feature and strongly influences the character of the lowland vale. This slope continues to the east although has a slightly less pronounced profile as it extends around the north side of Great Oxendon and continues to encompass Arthingworth and then extends towards Kelmarsh. Part of the sloping land forms a backdrop and setting to Market Harborough.

4.6 The landscape marks the transition from the lower lying areas of Leicestershire and Kettering District and the rolling upland landscape of the Northamptonshire Ironstone Hills to the south which cover much of Daventry District. The distinctive characteristics of the SLA are:

- Broad flat vale on southern side of River Welland enclosed by distinctive wooded scarp slopes to the south;
- Scarp slopes comprising a distinctive and an instantly recognisable and unique feature within the district. The distinct break of slope from the vale landscape contrasts with the more subtle and gently sloping landforms that are evident in other parts of the district. The slope extends around the vale and then as a less pronounced slope around the northern edge of the district allowing extensive views across the lower lying vales of Leicestershire to the north;
- Small tributaries within the lowland vale characterised by riparian trees; the River Ise and its tributary Sidom's Ford are characterised by groups of riparian trees and pasture extending to the river banks. Woodlands on high ground form prominent landscape features within these valleys;
- A mix of arable and pastoral land bound by generally intact and well maintained hedgerows with frequent hedgerow oaks and ash;
- Small parkland estates close to each other within the lowland vale characterised by areas of ridge and furrow; pasture and in places, arable farming, as well as ornamental specimen trees, formal lakes, gate houses and distinctive boundary walls which contribute to the sense of place within the landscape;
- A combination of frequent woodland blocks within parkland estates near to the mosaic of mature woodlands along the scarp slopes;
- The mosaic of woodland, grasslands and pasture along the scarp slopes combines to create attractive focal points within the landscape as linear fingers extending down the slopes and along incised valleys or as a series of interlocking wooded hills. Where they extend onto the crest of the escarpment they help to emphasise height compared with the surrounding lowlands and add a rich texture to views.
- The steeper slopes on the southern side of a river valley around Arthingworth. This part of the landscape is characterised by fields, low hedgerows and occasional hedgerow trees. Woodland blocks are notable features on the valley sides and emphasise the undulations along the escarpment.
• A remote landscape containing relatively little development but where present comprising the lowland village of Marston Trussell and the hilltop villages on the top of the escarpment of East Farndon, eastern edge of Sibbertoft and the northern edge of Great Oxendon as well as Arthingworth on the slopes close to Sidom's Brook. These villages often have prominent church spires or towers visible in the surrounding landscape and in the case of Great Oxendon St Helen's Church is remote from the village but linked by pastoral fields (some containing ridge and furrow).
• A primarily rural landscape with a sense of isolation. The limited number of settlements connected by narrow lanes helps to reinforce this character.
• Distinctive villages with many listed buildings displaying local vernacular. The mixture of red brick and Northamptonshire Ironstone marks the transition of the villages from the vernacular of Leicestershire to the vernacular of Northamptonshire and marks a distinction between these villages and other villages within the District.
• Village fringes characterised by small pastoral fields with tall unclipped stockproof hedgerows and mature tees which helps integrate the built form into their rural surrounds. Ridge and furrow is present in some of these fields as well as former medieval settlements now designated Scheduled Monuments
• Manor houses such as Sibbertoft Manor and Marston Trussell Manor providing distinctive approaches to villages and contribute to sense of place.

4.7 Table 1 below highlights the range of criteria that help in the identification of the Welland SLA as a valued landscape. It provides a summary of the distinctive characteristics (above) and demonstrates why the Welland Valley SLA is special and relates the characteristics to the criteria.

Table 1: Landscape Value

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<tr>
<td>Landscape quality</td>
<td>The LCA assesses the condition to be generally good because features are generally well managed with intact features and limited evidence of decline. Features combine to reinforce character and distinctiveness.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scenic quality</td>
<td>Panoramic views towards the scarp slopes with simple outline of wooded hills add texture, variety and interest to the landscape. The scarp slopes are recognisable and distinctive features in views. Panoramic views from the scarp across the lower lying vale often are framed by woodland.</td>
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### Criteria

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<th>Criteria</th>
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<td>Rarity</td>
<td>LCT15 Farmed Scarp Slope is the only landscape character area of the type in the district. Welland Vale 19c is one of two landscape character areas of the type in the district. It is the more intact and distinctive of the two.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Representativeness</td>
<td>The few settlements present are villages which display a distinctive vernacular of red brick Leicestershire villages and Northamptonshire Ironstone.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Conservation interests</td>
<td>Nature conservation designations comprise local wildlife site (LWS) along the Brampton Valley Way. Some wooded sites to Farmed Scarp Slopes are also LWS. Woodland on the southern edge of Coombe Hill Spinney is identified as Ancient Woodland. The woodlands are features important to the character of the SLA.</td>
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<td>Heritage designations comprise listed buildings in villages, a number of scheduled monuments on land next to villages including Sibbertoft Motte and Bailey Castle; and a number of deserted medieval settlements on village fringes. Widespread ridge and furrow on steeper slopes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation value</td>
<td>The Jurassic Way long distance footpath broadly follows the scarp slopes and connects the villages in the SLA. The Brampton Valley Way passes through the eastern part of the SLA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual aspects</td>
<td>Sense of tranquillity as a result of limited settlement or urban influence across the landscape and connectivity through the landscape via narrow rural tracks and lanes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associations</td>
<td>Although the heritage conservation interest of ridge and furrow and the motte and bailey castle overlooking the Welland Vale provide evidence of a long period of settlement, there is no specific association with famous personalities or characters.</td>
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**Justification of Need**

4.8 The SLA designation will support criteria-based policies through safeguarding, managing and promoting the following special attributes:
• The area's particularly distinctive character through the interplay of the partly wooded steep scarp slopes that enclose the Welland Vale.
• The generally good condition of the landscape that is generally well managed which needs conserving.
• The limited development reinforcing rural character and the sense of remoteness.

Explanation of Boundary

4.9 The Welland SLA is shown at Figure 1. It is recommended that the existing SLA boundary is amended to include those areas that reflect distinctive and unique characteristics in the context of the district and remove those that do not or have been influenced by urbanising features and agricultural intensification. (Further justification is provided in Appendix 1). The proposed boundaries are described below:

• The northern boundary remains the same where it follows the course of the River Welland and Lubenham Road. It continues along the Harborough Road (north of East Farndon) and then the district boundary with Harborough until it reaches the A508. The proposed SLA boundary is then contracted away from the district boundary to exclude a large caravan site and a small area of gently sloping land east of the Brampton Valley Way. These areas are not consistent with the special characteristics of the Welland Valley SLA described in Table 1 above. The boundary does include land to the scarp slope to the south of the district boundary and then follows the eastern edge of the Brampton Valley Way for a short distance. The boundary then follows the district boundary (including Braybrooke Road).
• The eastern boundary follows the district boundary (including Arthingworth) and then continues south to a minor road leading to Kelmarsh.
• The southern boundary largely remains the same, south of Great Oxendon and towards East Farndon but there is some proposed extension and contraction to the existing SLA. South of Arthingworth the boundary extends to the edge of the A14 and the eastern edge of Kelmarsh to include the wooded steep scarp slope. This scarp slope forms part of the same landform extending west and it conforms to the criteria in the landscape value table and is characteristic of the wider SLA. East of Arthingworth the boundary extends to the Brampton Valley Way to include the vale formed by the River Ise and one of its tributaries. Including the vale associates this lower ground with the scarp slope to the north of Arthingworth. Associating these features are characteristic of the wider SLA and conforms to the criteria in the landscape value table. The proposed boundary contracts to follow the boundary of the Farmed Scarp Slope LCT west from the southern edge of East Farndon towards Sibbertoft and beyond to the district boundary and excludes several fields on the clay plateau. These fields are excluded as they are not consistent
with the special characteristics of the Welland Valley SLA described in Table 1 above.

**Setting**

4.10 The northern boundary of the SLA extends up to the county boundary with Leicestershire. The ridgeline is a prominent feature of views out from Market Harborough and the PRoW network to the town's southern fringes. The ridge forms an important backdrop to the town and is sensitive to changes that would disrupt views to the ridge and therefore dilute the understanding of the scarp landform that wraps around the town and forms the backdrop to the unwooded vales (Welland Valley). Welland valley is a rural landscape with little influence from surrounding built development, this is important to the north western edge and the setting to this lowland part of the SLA is formed by the countryside on the northern side of the River Welland and nearby villages within Leicestershire (Harborough District). The southern edge of the SLA is formed by farmland on the high ground adjacent to the scarp slope. The importance to setting here are the distinctive views to the top of the scarp slope where individual trees or interlocking woodland are a consistent feature of the skyline and thus vulnerable to change which would introduce other structures or disrupt this skyline.

**Key Management Recommendations**

4.11 The following guidelines provide recommendations to maintain and enhance the special qualities of this SLA in terms of the local planning authority, neighbourhood plan groups and local policy makers:

- Conserve the sparse settlement cover and strong characteristic of linear vale villages and hilltop villages with no development on the scarp slopes; and
- Retain areas of pastoral fields, mature trees and hedgerows around the fringes of settlements to help maintain the character and integration of village with their rural surrounds.

4.12 The following guidelines provide recommendations to maintain and enhance the special qualities of this SLA in terms of land landowners, the highway authority and highways and parish councils:

- Conserve the clarity of the distinctive profile of the scarp slope, particularly at the breaks of slope encouraging land uses such as woodland that strengthen the visual separation between the steeper scarp slopes; the plateau and vale;
- Conserve hedgerows and hedgerow trees to continue the well-treed character of the vale and the sometimes silhouetted profile on the scarp top as well as the enclosed rural character of the lanes;
- Conserve existing woodlands through appropriate management and encouragement of natural regeneration;
Any new areas of woodland planting should seek to relate to and strengthen the local landform;

- Conserve the undeveloped summit profile avoiding development or structures that punctuate the skyline;
- Conserve areas of ridge and furrow that contribute to the historic field patterns around the fringes of settlements;
- Enhance the understanding of the heritage value of Sibbertoft motte and bailey castle through appropriate access, interpretation and guidance;
- Conserve opportunities to experience the open vistas from the prominent scarp slope through management of trees and hedgerows; and
- Maintain the character of the parkland landscapes within the vale through appropriate replacement planting of parkland trees, retention of distinctive boundary features and vistas to landscape features such as formal lakes.

4.13 The Daventry District Landscape Character Assessment provides descriptions and management recommendations that would be followed in addition to the above.

Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA

4.14 The Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA extends across the northern part of the District starting at the edge of the plateau south of Naseby and the small village of Haselbech and encompassing a series of rolling hills and valleys up to the edge of this higher ground to the immediate south of Little Brington in the south. The SLA extends east from sloping ground along the A428 towards higher ground to the western side of Brampton Valley Way. The SLA extends north west as a narrow finger towards the District boundary encompassing Honey Hill and Hemplow Hills with the north western boundary formed by the Grand Union Canal.

4.15 This SLA includes the following landscape character areas (with the relevant landscape character types in brackets): parts of 13c Long Buckby and 13d Cottesbrooke and Arthingworth (Undulating Hills and Valleys) and the majority of 1a Guilsborough and all of 1b Spratton and Creaton (Ironstone Uplands).

Summary of Key Characteristics

4.16 The Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA is the largest SLA in the District. It comprises a series of upland ironstone hills dissected by valleys which often forms a distinctive backdrop to views from the surrounding undulating farmland and lowland vales. Long views are characteristic features from the higher ground across the SLA with spires and towers of churches within the rural villages forming focal points. Views are also possible across the adjacent lower lying vales and river valley landscapes beyond the SLA. The SLA contains a concentration of large historic parklands with distinctive small copses capping and emphasising the higher ground and including vistas to large manor houses. The SLA also is characterised by narrow rural winding lanes and local villages of local Northamptonshire Ironstone that connect to the underlying geology and contribute strongly to sense of place.
4.17 The landscape represents a typical upland Northamptonshire Ironstone Hills landscape extending south from the A14 to the edge of the hills just north of Flore. The characteristics of the SLA are:

- Rolling upland landscape comprising a series of hills and valleys (some of the highest in the District) offering expansive views from high ground where the repeating pattern of hills and valleys is legible;
- The SLA boundary is formed by a ridge of interlocking hills which often form a distinctive backdrop to the lower lying vales;
- The wooded rising ground of Hemplow Hills and Honey Hill forms a distinctive backdrop to views along the Grand Union Canal where it forms the north western boundary of the SLA;
- Interlocking woodlands on high ground and distinctive copses capping small hills emphasise the land form, this is particularly notable along the edges of the SLA such as at Hemplow Hills, around the northern and western parts of Cottesbrooke Park, around Althop Park, at Gawburrow Hill and Thurnburrow Hill and Waydale Hill;
- Along some sections of the peripheral ridge around the SLA the undulating profile is emphasised by hedgerows and trees in addition to copses that help to emphasise landform and create a patchwork effect that adds texture and interest to the landscape. This is particularly notable around Creaton, Guilsborough, Holdenby, Great Brington, Little Brington;
- A mix of arable and pastoral land bound by generally intact and well maintained hedgerows and frequent hedgerow trees. Hedgerows are an important feature of the landscape contributing to enclosure within valleys and lower slopes and adding interest and diversity to views from higher ground;
- Frequent distinctive large historic parks (Grade I, II* and II listed parks and gardens) with many also being designated conservation areas. Parklands are characterised by unenclosed gated roads, frequent large areas of ridge and furrow within pasture and distinctive often evergreen copses and specimen trees emphasise vistas towards the manor houses. The prominent copses within the parkland are features of the wider landscape. Historic routes extend from parks to connect to adjacent villages and surrounding landscape. This is most notable around Althorp as tree-lined rides and tracks extend from the estate to Great Brington;
- Reservoirs form a local feature in the centre of the SLA occupying river valleys with wooded edges integrating them into the landscape. They contribute to distinctive views of water, farmland and parkland within river valleys and as attractive approaches towards villages of Guilsborough, Creaton and Ravensthorpe on higher ground;
- Vernacular Ironstone villages on the higher ground and hill tops with a few hamlets following watercourses in the valleys have active street frontages, consistent use of Northamptonshire Ironstone with frequent trees and historic drystone walls contributing to the sense of place. Cob buildings are characteristic of these upland villages and reinforce local distinctiveness;
• Prominent church towers and spires form reference points within the rural landscape and are often the first element of a village to enter a view followed by village fringes characterised by hedged pasture, trees and small copses as well as small areas of parkland that integrate the villages with their rural surroundings;
• Pasture common with frequent areas of ridge and furrow particularly around village fringes and within parkland estates;
• Rural character to the landscape reinforced by the narrow winding rural lanes connecting villages. These are often bordered by intact tall hedgerows and frequent hedgerow trees.

4.18 Table 2 below highlights the range of factors that help in the identification of a valued landscape and demonstrates why the Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA is special.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape quality (condition)</td>
<td>The LCA assesses the condition generally to be good because features are intact, well managed with frequent parklands, prominent woodlands and distinctive historic villages contributing positively to sense of place. The LCA notes an area of moderate condition due to use of post and wire fencing. Localised areas of agricultural intensification such as the edge of the SLA at Maidwell. The landform is the distinctive undulating ridge although lack of hedgerows and copses reduces distinctiveness that is consistent across the rest of the SLA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria</td>
<td>Summary description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic quality</td>
<td>Distinctive upland landscape with prominent individual copses that emphasise the rounded undulating ridge profile as well as some interlocking wooded hills forming a distinctive backdrop to the lower lying vales.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large historic parkland estates that connect into the landscape and surrounding villages via historic rides, avenues and lanes. Sense of enclosure; increase of woodland cover; vistas to buildings and other focal features add to sense of place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vistas to churches and manor houses are frequent and provide focal points throughout the landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Typical rolling upland Northamptonshire landscape with extensive views from high ground to hill top villages with prominent spires or towers, frequent woodlands and intact rural farmed landscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Large historic reservoirs framed by undulating ridgelines, trees and hill top villages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Distinctive rounded copses capping small hills provide landmarks and reference points throughout the landscape aiding orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Attractive vernacular to local villages with street frontages, small gardens and historic walls and mature trees. Concentrations of local vernacular in the villages with Northamptonshire Ironstone connect with the underlying geology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria</td>
<td>Summary description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>Large parkland estates close to each other. These are the largest in the District and provide a distinct character to this part of the District.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The pattern of frequent rounded copses that emphasises the ridge profile, particularly to the fringes of the SLA and within parkland comprises a unique feature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local vernacular to the small villages including tree-lined linkages with larger estates as well as pavement fronting streetscene of vernacular buildings are notable and consistent within the SLA compared with the rest of the District.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ravensthorpe Reservoir is the oldest in the county dating back to 1890. The backdrop of rising farmland, hill top villages and wooded fringes integrates with the surrounding area creating memorable and distinctive landscapes not present elsewhere in the District.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representativeness</td>
<td>Large-scale parklands, distinctive repetition of rounded copses on hills, undulating ridge line profile to fringes of SLA adjacent lower-lying areas and series of undulating hills through the central part of the SLA represent particularly good examples that are characteristic of the wider LCA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Conservation interests

Nature conservation designations include Ancient Woodland at Scotland Wood and Nobottle Wood as well as a number of local wildlife sites covering woodland, hedgerows, reservoirs and rivers.

Heritage designations comprise clusters of listed buildings in villages, a number of scheduled monuments on land next to villages visible sometimes as undulations within fields. These include monastic granges and designated medieval villages on fringes of estates and villages.

Concentration of Registered Parks and Gardens including Brockhall Park (Grade II); Althorp (Grade II); Holdenby House (Grade I) and Cottesbrooke Hall (Grade II). Wide spread ridge and furrow around village fringes and within parkland estates.

### Recreation value

Macmillan Way long distance footpath extends through the eastern part of the SLA from Maidwell through the eastern edges of Cottesbrooke Park, through the Ironstone Uplands and Holdenby Hall and continues through Great and Little Brington. The Jurassic Way takes in the Hemplow Hills, Grand Union Canal, Honey Hill and Winwick along the western fringes of the SLA. Also numerous PRoW connect villages across the landscape, notably around Althorp, Great and Little Brington and Nobottle.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual aspects</td>
<td>Parklands and remote rural lanes provide an opportunity to connect with the past with a sense of 'stepping back in time', with few urbanising influences and strong sense of tranquility. Outline and profile of ridgeline on the skyline with the patchwork effects created by the combination of frequent trees, hedgerows, copses, and woodlands contribute to the distinctive character and is a feature in views. Strong rural character with relatively little urban intrusion (with the exception of wind turbines in the northern part of the SLA).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associations</td>
<td>Althorp Park is the childhood home of Diana Princess of Wales and her final resting place.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Justification of Need**

4.19 The SLA designation will support criteria-based policies through safeguarding, managing and promoting the following special attributes:

- Characteristic upland landscape forming a backdrop to views from the surrounding lower lying farmland and vales;
- Distinctive rounded copses of woodland on high ground that emphasise landform and provide reference points through the landscape;
- Frequent vistas towards village churches often prominent on high ground with farmland or parkland providing a setting to the views;
- Limited development reinforcing rural character particularly through the intact parkland estates and the smaller hamlets and villages; and

**Explanation of Boundary**

4.20 The Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA is shown at Figure 2. It is recommended that the existing SLA boundary is amended to include those areas that best demonstrate the distinctive character of this upland landscape and by removing areas that are not so representative or have been influenced by urbanising features or agricultural intensification. (Further justification for the more major amendments to the boundary is provided in Appendix 1). The proposed boundaries are described below:

- The northern boundary remains similar to the existing boundary but contracts slightly in places (by a depth of one or two fields) to follow the
Undulating Hills and Valleys LCT boundary closely following the more steeply sloping landform. The fields to be excluded are in the Clay Plateau LCT and they are not consistent with the special characteristics of the Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA described in Table 2 above;

- The eastern boundary is contracted away from the Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes LCT and the River Valley Floodplain LCT to follow the rising hills on the eastern edge of the Undulating Hills and Valleys LCT. These areas are not representative of the SLA explained at Table 2. In addition, although mostly rural the character of the river valley landscape is relatively commonplace. The Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes LCT is influenced by agricultural intensification but there are some distinctive features (refer to Appendix 1);
- The south east boundary contracts away from the fringes of Northampton to follow Undulating Hills and Valleys LCT boundary which best represents the distinctive upland characteristics of the SLA. The southern boundary remains the same although contracts north to follow the edge of Brockhall estate by Flore Fields Spinney and Greenway Spinney (refer to Appendix 1);
- The western boundary is contracted to follow the Undulating Hills and Valleys LCT around Brockhall Estate to remove the Broad River Valley Floodplain LCT which includes the railway line and M1 motorway (refer to Appendix 1);
- The boundary then follows the sloping ridgeline north. North of the junction with the B5385 the boundary extends to cover a few steeply sloping fields west of the edge of the A428 that follows the ridgeline in a northerly direction. This land is consistent with the distinctive characteristics of the SLA;
- Around West Haddon the boundary SLA contracts to exclude land west of the ring road. This land, whilst important to the setting of the village, is no longer connected with the wider SLA landscape. The boundary has been redrawn along the ring road
- Further north the western boundary is amended to follow the western edge of the Grand Union Canal but to exclude land west of the canal. Land to the west provides a farmland setting to the canal but has less of the distinctive upland hills and valleys qualities common across the SLA (refer to Appendix 1).

4.21 Wind turbines north of West Haddon are a prominent feature of that part of the landscape. They occupy part of the high ground within the Ironstone Uplands LCT to the south of Honey Hill within the SLA. These were granted permission after the designation of the SLA. The structures introduce man-made, moving features into the skyline that detract from the appreciation of the ridgeline and Honey Hill which is part of the distinctive upland landscape in the SLA. This is particularly noticeable in views towards the ridgeline from roads, footpaths and Grand Union Canal to the west and south of the wind farm.
4.22 In views out from the ridgeline on PRoW around Honey Hill the wind turbines are a prominent feature and are inter-visible with other nearby wind farms close to the M1 corridor around Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (DIRFT), six turbines north of Watford and turbines in neighbouring Leicestershire near Stanford on Avon. The cumulative effect of the wind farms compounds the adverse effects particularly from PRoW along the ridge looking out over the surrounding landscape. The positioning and intervisibility of the turbines adds a pattern of tall moving structures across the landscape which confuse the appreciation of the character. The undulating nature of the landform helps to limit the influence of the wind farm from within the SLA, particularly to the south around Ravensthorpe and east beyond Guilsborough.

4.23 The turbines introduce man-made elements that distract from the quality and appreciation of the landscape and distort the perception of scale of the ridge in views within this part of the SLA. Removing the land on which the wind farm sits from the SLA would result in an anomaly within this part of the SLA and, whilst the turbines have had an adverse effect on the SLA, special qualities including the ridgeline, woodlands and patchwork of hedgerows and trees that add distinction and interest remain legible.

Setting

4.24 This SLA forms an almost continuous ridgeline that defines the upland area from the surrounding lower lying farmland and river valleys. The lowland close to the SLA (including land alongside the Grand Union Canal) is important to the appreciation of this ridgeline. Change or development on this lower lying land that would affect the understanding of the ridgeline, introduce new urbanising features onto the high ground of the ridgeline or increase urban influences that would alter the perception and prominence of villages spires in the landscape would have an adverse effect on the appreciation of the SLA.

Key Management Recommendations

4.25 The following guidelines provide recommendations to maintain and enhance the special qualities of this SLA in terms of the local planning authority, neighbourhood plan groups and local policy makers:

- Ensure development on village fringes respects the village's position in the landscape, character of approaches and contributes positively to village character and does not increase the prominence of built form in the landscape which would adversely affect rural tranquil character;
- Conserve and enhance the distinctive character of villages ensuring it respects local vernacular and use of Northamptonshire Ironstone and contributes to the active streetscene frontage and use of drystone walls and prominent trees to contribute positively to sense of place;
- Seek to limit the effects of infrastructure and urban influences on the rural landscape through sensitive siting of any necessary development; preservation of distinctive views or prominence of features such as churches in such views and ensuring mitigation is in keeping with local character.
4.26 The following guidelines provide recommendations to maintain and enhance the special qualities of this SLA in terms of land landowners, the highway authority and highways and parish councils:

- Conserve the distinctive ridgeline around the periphery of the SLA and the rounded copses that emphasise the profile of the ridge and provide reference points within the surrounding landscape;
- Ensure roadside vegetation is maintained at a low height close to hills within the SLA including Hemplow Hills, Honey Hill, Thornburrow Hill Waydale Hill, Glassthorpe Hill, Gawburrow Hill;
- Conserve the distinctive character of views towards Hollowell and Ravensthorpe reservoirs and retain their rural naturalistic character with a backdrop of undulating farmland, parkland and villages on high ground;
- Retain the rural character along the Grand Union Canal with the distinctive backdrop of Hemplow Hills and Honey Hill and ensuring any change along the canal is appropriate to its rural surrounds and canal vernacular;
- Conserve areas of parkland to ensure they continue to contribute to sense of place including management of vistas, distinctive copses, boundary stone walls and avenues linking into the surrounding countryside;
- Conserve small parkland estates on the fringes of villages that integrate with small pasture fields and mature trees to provide distinction to views and integrate villages with their surroundings;
- Retain the character of narrow enclosed rural lanes that contributes to the rural tranquil character across the SLA and contributes to the distinctive approaches to villages;
- Conserve areas of ridge and furrow from loss or degradation as a result of contemporary ploughing methods or development;
- Conserve the character of villages nestled in trees with prominent church spires or towers often the first element visible;
- Retain distinctive views to settlements as described within character assessments; local village design statements or character appraisals;

4.27 The Daventry District Landscape Character Assessment provides descriptions and management recommendations that would be followed in addition to the above.

**Catesby and Fawsley SLA**

*Name and Location*
4.28 The Catesby and Fawsley SLA extends across the southern part of the District starting from the south eastern edge of Daventry and eastern edge of Weedon Bec including the hills and valleys south of those settlements. The SLA extends south towards the villages of Farthingstone and Preston Capes on higher ground on the edge of the Undulating Hills and Valleys LCT. To the east the SLA extends as far as the A5 near Church Stowe (the District boundary). To the west the designation reaches the district boundary with Warwickshire and includes the Rolling Agricultural Lowlands and Ironstone Hills LCTs.

**Summary of Key Characteristics**

4.29 The SLA is characterised by a number of individual hills with small woodlands and trees present on their slopes that form local landmarks including Arbury Hill, Newnham Hill, Fox Hill, Sharman's Hill, Weedon Hill, Everdon Hill, Hinton Hill and Big Hill. These landmarks feature in views across the river valleys which form one of the main characteristics of the SLA. The central part of the SLA includes some large areas of woodland on higher ground such as Badby Wood, Church Wood and Everdon Stubbs. The profile of the valleys together with the woodland, trees and smaller fields create a sense of enclosure and bring a more intimate scale to the landscape. Despite the presence of some villages and hamlets, the very limited road infrastructure means the area has a sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

4.30 The characteristics of the SLA are:

- Distinctive individual ironstone hills which are often a feature of views across the smaller scale river valleys;
- Range of ironstone hills that provide distinctive edge to the south of Daventry and screen the settlement from views;
- Large geometric woodlands, Badby Wood, Church Wood and Everdon Stubbs form local features in the landscape occurring generally on higher ground;
- Wooded rural lanes are bordered by tall hedgerows and trees providing a strong degree of enclosure or are slightly sunken with hedgerows and trees on the higher ground creating a tunnelled effect and reinforcing remote rural character;
- Parkland estate at Fawsley Hall extending across two intersecting valleys characterised by a three lakes and large areas of parkland with frequent copses;
- Rural, remote and tranquil character with very limited major road infrastructure and in some parts quite inaccessible;
- Villages and hamlets to the north, Newnham, Everdon and Badby are on lower ground close to the watercourse network;
- Villages and hamlets to the south, Farthingstone, Preston Capes and Church Stowe are on the top of hills with extensive views across the surrounding countryside possible from the PRoW network on the village fringes;
- Distinctive views towards from neighbouring landscape towards church spires at Preston Capes, Farthingstone, Everdon, Church Stowe;
• Views across a rolling landscape towards a skyline of distinctive hills and knolls;
• Open views from the western part of the SLA towards neighbouring Warwickshire.

4.31 Table 3 below highlights the range of factors that help in the identification of a valued landscape and demonstrates why the Catesby and Fawsley SLA is special.

Table 3: Landscape Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape quality (condition)</td>
<td>This is a deeply rural landscape with intact, well-maintained hedgerows, trees and woodlands. Landscape features are in a consistently good condition and contribute positively to sense of place and the agricultural character of the landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic quality</td>
<td>Views from undulating valley landscape and southern part of Rolling Agricultural Lowlands LCT towards hills and knolls including Big Hill, Arbury Hill and Sharman's Hill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Range of hills (Big Hill and Nenham Hill) forming profile to the southern edge of Daventry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Where wide open views are possible, villages, or more often church towers and spires, offer focal points on the horizon and therefore reduce the perceived scale of the landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extensive parkland landscape at Fawsley and more intimate parkland at Catesby House.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>Distinctive hills and knolls (near to lower areas of land) with wooded areas or hedgerows on the slopes that help articulate the shape of the landform that are not present elsewhere in the District.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria</td>
<td>Summary description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representativeness</td>
<td>Repetition of wooded hills and undulating ridge lines profile adjacent to lower lying areas represent examples that are characteristic of the SLA (Undulating Hills, Valleys and Ironstone Hills LCT and southern part of Rolling Agricultural Lowlands LCT).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation interests</td>
<td>Nature conservation designations include SSSIs at Badby Wood, Everdon Stubbs and High Wood and Meadow. Ancient Woodland at Badby Wood, Everdon Stubbs, Church Wood and smaller woods of the same designation around Farthingstone. In addition there are a number of local wildlife sites covering woodland, the disused railway corridor east of Hellidon and the water bodies at Fawsley Hall. Heritage designations comprise the Registered Park and Garden covering Fawsley Hall and Badby Wood. There is a Grade 2 Listed building at Catesby House set in a parkland landscape. Grade I Listed Buildings are at Fawsley Hall and the nearby St. Mary’s Church. Grade I Listed churches at Staverton, Newnham, Everdon, Church Stowe Presence of ridge and furrow, particularly in the vicinity of Badby and Everdon.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recreation value

MacMillan Way long distance footpath extends through the south eastern part of the SLA from Farthingstone to Weedon Bec and traverses the undulating hills and valleys landscape. The Nene Way begins near the source of the River Nene at Badby and traverses the slopes of the valley heading towards Weedon Bec. Knightley Way links Farthingstone with Badby and passes through Fawsley Park. The Jurassic Way takes in the western part of the SLA passing near to Sharman's Hill and through the settlements of Hellidon and Staveton. There is a network of PRoW linking the settlements with higher number of routes around Badby Woods and National Cycle Route 50 follows a rural lane network from the southern edge of Daventry heading southwards through Newnham and Preston Capes.

Perceptual aspects

Deeply rural, remote and tranquil landscape, particularly to the southern and western edge of the SLA. Silhouette of the distinctive isolated hills a repeating pattern through the landscape

Associations

The designed landscape at Fawsley Hall is known to be inspired by Capability Brown

**Justification of Need**

4.32 The SLA designation will support criteria-based policies through safeguarding, managing and promoting the following special attributes:

- Vistas towards distinctive hills and knolls across the river valleys and from higher ground to the south of the SLA;
- Distinctive copses and woodland on high ground reinforcing the individual character to each hill and aiding orientation through the landscape;
- Limited development reinforcing rural and remote character particularly through the limited main road infrastructure and the occasional hamlets and villages; and
- Tunnelled effect of the very narrow rural lanes reinforced by tall hedgerows and trees.
Explanation of Boundary

4.33 The Catesby and Fawsley SLA is shown at Figure 3. It is recommended that the existing SLA boundary is amended to include those areas that best demonstrate the distinctive character of this hills and valleys landscape, removing areas that are not so representative or have been influenced by urbanising features or agricultural intensification. The proposed boundaries are described below:

- The eastern boundary remains the same following the edge of the A5;
- The southern boundary largely remains the same but includes several fields to the south of Farthingstone (and next to the District boundary) which are not currently in the SLA. The rationale to include these fields is for a consistent approach as the SLA designation extends south of the District boundary into South Northamptonshire;
- The western boundary remains the same although it extends as far as a watercourse tributary to the River Leam north of Staverton (see below);
- The northern boundary contracts to follow the small watercourse north of Staverton until it meets the A425. Land north of the watercourse is excluded due to the urbanising effects of the large warehouses developed on high ground along the western edge of Daventry. Despite the steep slope down westwards from that edge, there are few distinctive features in the landscape due to field amalgamation, limited woodland and hedgerow trees.
- From the intersection with the A425, the remainder of the northern boundary remains the same.

Setting

4.34 This landscape extends up to the southern edge of Daventry. The lower lying ground of the hills within the SLA and immediately adjacent is important to the appreciation of these hills. The hills form a backdrop to views development on lower ground within this part of Daventry reinforcing its pattern of being developed within a bowl. Big Hill is one of the largest of the hills and is also a reference point from in the surrounding landscape including from high ground north of Daventry. Daventry's settlement edge is mostly defined by the ring road and London Road occupying low ground north of the road (with the exception of some development on the lowest ground south of London Road) which has had a localised adverse influence on the appreciation of this landscape.

4.35 The southern fringes of the SLA forms relatively small areas of flat farmland influenced by the built edges of Byfield and Hinton. This land forms the edge and part lowland setting from where both this SLA and Eydon and Culworth SLA to the south can be appreciated. The landscape would be sensitive to any development that would detract from the appreciation of the individual hills within both SLAs.
4.36 The landscape to the south east of the SLA includes land where the field pattern is larger as a result of field amalgamation. This open landscape allows long views towards the individual hills on the edge of the SLA. This landscape is important to the setting of the SLA and is sensitive to development that screens or interrupts views to the isolated hills (in particular Hinton Hill).

**Key Management Recommendations**

4.37 The following guidelines provide recommendations to maintain and enhance the special qualities of this SLA in terms of the local planning authority, neighbourhood plan groups and local policy makers:

- 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; and
- Ensure any new agricultural development respects the vernacular of traditional farm premises including scale, massing, layout and materials.

4.38 The following guidelines provide recommendations to maintain and enhance the special qualities of this SLA in terms of landowners, the highway authority and highways and parish councils:

- Discourage hedgerow removal and field amalgamation that leads to broader areas of monoculture,
- Conserve the enclosed character or tunnel effect of some of the rural lanes through ensuring management of roadside hedgerows;
- For the Ironstone Hills and Undulating Hills and Valleys LCTs consider how hilltop woodlands appear from lower areas when determining woodland expansion or new plantings to ensure new planting does not mask important views or diminish the prominence of the individual hill profiles;
- For the Rolling Agricultural Lowlands LCT, 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;
- Conserve views towards distinctive knolls and hills;
- Conserve the scale and balance of the landscape in terms of the arrangement of woodland, fields and hedgerow boundaries;
- Retain the mosaic of small-scale pastoral fields, woodlands, mature trees and manor gardens around the fringes of settlements; and
- Conserve the simple pattern of a sparsely settled landscape of small villages and isolated farms off long access tracks. Conserve the setting of villages and church spires nestled within trees in views from the surrounding roads and PRoW.
Eydon and Culworth SLA

Name and Location

4.39 The Eydon and Culworth SLA is along the south western edge of the district next to the boundary with South Northamptonshire district. The extent of the SLA in Daventry district is small, whereas a large proportion of it extends into the neighbouring district. (At the time of writing South Northamptonshire District Council is reviewing the same designation.) The northern boundary passes to the south of Byfield following the edge of a partly wooded disused railway. The eastern, southern and western boundaries follow the district boundary.

4.40 The SLA is mostly covered by 2a Eydon Hills (Ironstone Hills LCT), although most of this landscape character area extends into South Northamptonshire District. It also includes a very small area of 13a Woodford Halse and Weedon Bec (Undulating Hills and Valleys LCT).

Summary of Key Characteristics

4.41 The SLA includes an isolated range of small hills reaching to a height of 192m AOD. The distinctive form of these isolated hills notable to this landscape character type can be viewed from Church Street linking Byfield with West Farndon. Passing to the east at the base of the small hills is the upper reaches of the River Cherwell.

4.42 The characteristics of the SLA are:

- Woodland is relatively sparse, however there are frequent hedgerow trees and copses on the range of small hills giving the perception of wooded character;
- Pasture on lower ground, with arable prevalent on higher ground occupying medium to large scale fields;
- Frequent riparian trees and small areas of woodland next to watercourses;
- Development is limited to a number of isolated properties and farms and the small hamlet of West Farndon on low ground close to the River Cherwell;
- Boddington Reservoir and the adjacent smaller Byfield Reservoir is a notable feature in the landscape. The eastern edge of the larger reservoir is wooded and this character extends east next to Byfield Reservoir and then Parsons Spinney that follows a watercourse reaching up to higher ground;
- With the exception of the A361 passing through the SLA, there is a sense of tranquillity and remoteness;
- Panoramic views from the ridgeline of the isolated small hills south towards the wooded undulating hills and valleys in the neighbouring district. Views north towards the settlements of Byfield, Hinton and Woodford Halse and beyond to the isolated hills, Sharman's Hill and Arbury Hill; and
- Views are more enclosed in the River Cherwell valley near to West Farndon.

4.43 Table 4 below highlights the range of factors that help in the identification of a valued landscape and demonstrates why the Eydon and Culworth SLA is special.

**Table 4: Landscape Value**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape quality (condition)</td>
<td>The LCA assesses the condition to be generally good because features are generally well managed with intact features. There is evidence of planting of new hedgerow trees and woodlands which will contribute positively to the area as they mature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic quality</td>
<td>The distinctive form of isolated hills notable to this landscape character type can be viewed from Church Street along the northern boundary of the character area. Panoramic views north and south from ridge line of small isolated hills. Enclosed views in the River Cherwell valley near to West Farndon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>This is similar in characteristics to the adjacent Ironstone Hills SLA although separated by the lower-lying and more urbanised areas of Byfield, Hinton and Woodford Halse, also a continuation of this landscape with the Ironstone Hills of the adjacent South Northamptonshire District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representativeness</td>
<td>Distinctive form of isolated hills, with hedgerows, hedgerow trees and copses giving a perception of wooded character is representative of the Ironstone Hills LCT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation interests</td>
<td>Nature conservation designations comprise local wildlife site (LWS), Boddington Reservoir, Byfield Reservoir and Parson’s Spinney; small wooded area adjacent River Cherwell; wooded area forming part of disused railway to northern edge of SLA. Heritage designations comprise listed buildings associated with the hamlet of West Farndon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation value</td>
<td>The Jurassic Way long distance footpath follows the River Cherwell valley linking South Northamptonshire district in the south with Hinton and Woodford Halse and the wider Daventry district in the north.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Criteria Summary description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual aspects</td>
<td>Perception of wooded character with frequent hedgerow trees and copses on higher ground.       Sense of tranquillity as a result of limited settlement and urban influence across the landscape. Connectivity through the landscape via narrow rural tracks and lanes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associations</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Justification of Need

4.44 The SLA designation will support criteria-based policies through safeguarding, managing and promoting the following special attributes:

- The distinctive form of isolated hills;
- The generally good condition of the landscape which is well managed and needs conserving;
- Limited development reinforcing rural character and the sense of remoteness and tranquillity; and
- Development pressure owing to proximity to Byfield, Hinton and Woodford Halse.

4.45 Paragraph 4.19 advised that only a small part of the SLA is located in Daventry district. At the time of writing South Northamptonshire District Council is reviewing the same SLA within its administrative boundary. It is due to report on the outcome during summer 2017. The effectiveness of this SLA in Daventry District will be dependent on the retention of the same wider SLA in South Northamptonshire District.

### Explanation of Boundary

4.46 The Eydon and Culworth SLA is shown at Figure 4. It is recommended that the existing SLA boundary is retained as the area demonstrates the character of the Ironstone Hills LCT including the distinctive form of isolated hills, with hedgerows, hedgerow trees and copses, with views of this same distinctive landscape continuing to the south in the neighbouring District of South Northamptonshire.

### Setting

4.47 This is a small area of land on the southern edge of the District that extends into South Northamptonshire District where the landscape displays similar characteristics. The northern edge is formed by the northern slopes of Farndon Hill and wooded/tree lined edge to Byfield which minimises the prominence of development in this rural landscape and is also the best location for appreciating the isolated hill character of Farndon Hill.
4.48 The land forms the edge and part lowland setting from where both this SLA and Catesby and Fawsley SLA to the north can be appreciated. The landscape is sensitive to any change or development on this land that detracts from the appreciation of the individual hills within both SLA.

*Key Management Recommendations*

4.49 The following guidelines provide recommendations to maintain and enhance the special qualities of this SLA in terms of the local planning authority, neighbourhood plan groups and local policy makers:

- Conserve and enhance the contribution farm buildings make to rural character and consider the direct impact of barn and farm building conversions and introduction of domestic/suburban features in rural locations; and
- Ensure any new agricultural development respects the vernacular of traditional farm premises including scale, massing, layout and materials.

4.50 The following guidelines provide recommendations to maintain and enhance the special qualities of this SLA in terms of landowners, the highway authority and highways and parish councils:

- Conserve the distinctive field pattern with hedgerow enclosing medium and large scale arable fields across the elevated land, and smaller grazed fields on the lower slopes and around settlements;
- Discourage hedgerow removal and field amalgamation that leads to broader areas of monoculture, and a consequent reduction in the visual interest important to the character of the area;
- Conserve the well treed character of the landscape by woodland and tree management; and
- Retain the mosaic of small-scale pastoral fields, woodlands and mature trees around the fringes of settlements to retain their integration into the surrounding landscape.
5.0 Conclusion

5.1 The aim of the study was to explore the continued use of an SLA designation or alternative high quality landscape designation that would recognise the highest quality landscapes in the District.

5.2 In chapter 2.0 the study summarised the policy context and reviewed the use of SLAs in neighbouring local authority areas. It found that local landscape designations can be part of strategic policies to conserve and enhance the landscape. The use of SLAs has been explored and adopted or in the process of adoption by the two adjacent local authorities, South Northamptonshire and Stratford-on-Avon.

5.3 Chapter 3.0 articulated an approach to reviewing the existing SLAs in the District. The approach was to summarise the distinctive characteristics of each SLA, assessing their landscape value using criteria from GLVIA and then justifying any proposed amendments to the boundaries of those SLAs.

5.4 Chapter 4.0 provided the review of each of the four SLAs. It recommended the retention of most areas of the designation as they demonstrated distinctiveness and specialness in keeping with the landscape value criteria. In addition parts of the Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA, Casteby and Fawsley SLA and Eydon and Culworth SLA have contiguous boundaries with neighbouring SLAs in South Northamptonshire and Stratford-on-Avon.

5.5 Areas recommended for removal and addition are outlined below.

Welland Valley SLA

5.6 The study recommended the retention of this SLA although some small alterations were proposed to the boundary including removal of some small areas to the southern edge of the Welland Valley SLA but the addition of some areas to the south eastern fringes of the designation.

Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA

5.7 The study recommended the retention of the SLA within the Undulating Hillls and Valleys and Ironstone Uplands LCTS but recommended the removal of areas of the Clay Plateau LCT, River Valley Floodplain LCT, Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes LCT, Broad River Valley LCT and Broad Unwooded Vale LCT from the Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA. In all cases the areas recommended for removal did not demonstrate the distinctive characteristics of the SLA. In addition they did not warrant designation as a separate SLA as they did not demonstrate sufficient distinctiveness through the assessment of landscape value criteria. However, the study recommended the addition of an area of land south of West Haddon as this land demonstrated the distinctive characteristics of the SLA.
Catesby and Fawsley SLA

5.8 The study recommended the retention of most of the SLA but recommended the removal of the northern part of the Rolling Agricultural Lowlands LCT, next to the western edge of Daventry, from the Catesby and Fawsley SLA. This recommendation for removal was justified as the land is no longer integral to the SLA due to the proximity and impact of the large warehouses at the western edge of Daventry which has adversely affected the scenic quality of the landscape and thus landscape value. In addition it did not warrant designation as an SLA as it did not demonstrate sufficient distinctiveness in its own right through the assessment of landscape value criteria. However, it recommended the inclusion of a small number of fields along the southern boundary of the SLA. This land demonstrated the distinctive characteristics of the SLA and would contribute to a contiguous boundary with South Northamptonshire District which is in the process of adopting an SLA to the south.

Eydon and Culworth SLA

5.9 The study recommended the retention of the Eydon and Culworth SLA as it demonstrated the distinctive qualities for an SLA. However, this would be subject to South Northamptonshire District retaining the same wider SLA to the south.

Planning Policy Formulation

5.10 The recommendations of the study have been incorporated into a criteria based landscape policy (ENV2 - Special Landscape Areas) for the forthcoming Local Plan. Under policy ENV2, the Council will:

- Give priority to protecting the special qualities of the Special Landscape Areas;
- Support proposals that contribute to these special qualities and resist proposals that would have a harmful effect;
- Take into account the cumulative impact of development proposals on the special qualities of the Special Landscape Areas; and
- Require applicants to assess the likely impacts of their proposed development on a Special Landscape Area, where the Council identifies that the proposal would have an adverse impact.
References

There are no sources in the current document.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEAD OFFICE</th>
<th>MARKET HARBOROUGH</th>
<th>GATESHEAD</th>
<th>LONDON</th>
<th>CORNWALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH</td>
<td>Harborough Innovation Centre, Airfield Business Park, Leicester Road, Market Harborough Leicestershire LE16 7WB</td>
<td>Office 26, Gateshead International Business Centre, Mulgrave Terrace, Gateshead NE8 1AN</td>
<td>8 Trinity Street, London, SE1 1DB</td>
<td>4 Park Noweth, Churchtown, Cury, Helston Cornwall TR12 7BW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Special Landscape Area Study
Daventry District

Appendix 1

Recommendations for Removal of Areas from SLA designation
Appendix - SLA Study

Introduction

1.1 This appendix provides justification for the recommended removal of larger areas of land from the SLAs. The information is relevant to the two larger SLAs:

- Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington; and
- Catesby and Fawsley.

Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA

River Valley Floodplain LCT

1.2 At paragraph 4.20 (bullet 2) of the main report, it was recommended that the area of the River Valley Floodplain LCT (17c Brampton Valley Floodplain LCA) should be removed from the SLA. In order to justify this recommendation the area was considered according to the criteria in the landscape value table below.

Table A – 17. River Valley Floodplain LCT. Land to the east of the Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape quality (condition)</td>
<td>The LCA assesses the condition generally to be 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic quality</td>
<td>The valley is characterised by a meandering watercourse and is frequently marked by willow and ash. In other areas, however, the landscape is largely open, marked only by occasional trees and broadleaved copses and the wooded edge to the Brampton Valley Way punctuating the landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There are open views along the valley from the roads that cross it and more enclosed views along the Brampton Valley Way. Outside the landscape character area there are views towards the valley floodplain from the neighbouring area giving a sense of the flat bottomed linear valley.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>Although having a level of scenic quality, there are a number of river valleys throughout the district and this landscape could not therefore be considered rare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representativeness</td>
<td>The character of the landscape is typical of a river valley floodplain and in the context of the wider district could not be considered a particularly important example.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation interests</td>
<td>Nature conservation designations comprise a local wildlife site (LWS) along the length of the Brampton Valley Way. There are no heritage designations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation value</td>
<td>Brampton Valley Way long distance footpath and cycleway extends along the valley bottom along the full extent of River Valley Floodplain LCT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual aspects</td>
<td>The section of the LCT north of Brixworth could be considered tranquil, although the southern section is more influenced by road infrastructure and development on the valley sides. Neither section could be considered wild.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associations</td>
<td>There are no known associations with this LCT.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Summary

1.3 In summary, the table demonstrates that the area of the River Valley Floodplain LCT is not consistent with the distinctive upland characteristics of the Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA. Furthermore the summary descriptions related to the criteria would not demonstrate sufficient distinctiveness to warrant designation as an SLA. It is considered inclusion of these areas would diminish the credibility and ‘brand’ of the SLA as a designation.

### Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes LCT

1.4 At paragraph 4.20 (bullet 2) of the main report, it was a recommended that the area of the Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes LCT (4a Harlestone Heath and the Bramptons and 4d Hanging Houghton LCAs) is removed from the SLA. In order to justify this
recommendation, the LCT was considered according to the criteria in the landscape value table below.

Table B – 4. Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes LCT. Land to south and east of the Hemplay Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape quality (condition)</td>
<td>The LCA assesses the condition generally to be moderate. Most features are well maintained and intact, however there is evidence of some hedgerow fragmentation south of Brixworth. In the area north of the Northampton fringes the low clipped hedgerows, occasional gaps and limited hedgerow trees slightly undermines landscape condition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic quality</td>
<td>Most land is occupied by arable farming with large fields and low clipped hedgerow boundaries. The steeper slopes near to Lamport, Hanging Houghton and Brixworth are characterised by pastoral fields enclosed by tall unclipped stockproof hedgerows and some hedgerow trees. There is limited woodland with the exception of the occasional spinney. There are some localised distinctive views towards the spire at Brixworth rising above mature trees. In the area north of Northampton land is also occupied by large arable fields, although there is some variation to this along watercourses where there are riparian trees and pastoral fields. Next to the edge of the town is the large mixed woodland and conifer plantation at Harleston Heath. The landscape around the smaller hamlets of Harleston includes smaller pastoral fields enclosed by larger hedgerows. This is distinctive in the context of the LCT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria</td>
<td>Summary description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>Although having a level of scenic quality through the rising land from the valley floodplain, the occasional spinney and the Harlestone Heath plantation, this landscape could not therefore be considered rare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representativeness</td>
<td>The steeply sloping land, occasional spinneys and the localised views towards the church spire at Brixworth and smaller hamlets at Harlestone are representative of the LCT. However, in the context of the Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA these elements could not be considered particularly distinctive.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Conservation interests | Nature conservation designations comprise a small local wildlife site (LWS) north of Lamport. The plantation at Harlestone Heath is also designated as a LWS.  
In the area north of Northampton there are the conservation areas at Chapel Brampton and Harlestone. There is also a scheduled monument north east of Harlestone. |
| Recreation value     | The long distance Northamptonshire Round crosses the LCT south of Brixworth and then runs to the north of Harlestone Heath. |
| Perceptual aspects   | The proximity of the A508 and A428 undermines the tranquillity of the LCT and the extensive areas of arable fields could not be considered wild. |
| Associations         | There are no known associations with this LCT. |

**Summary**

In summary the table demonstrates that Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes LCT is not consistent with the distinctive upland characteristics of the Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA. Furthermore the summary descriptions related to each criteria would not demonstrate sufficient distinctiveness to warrant designation as an SLA. It is considered that inclusion of these areas would diminish the credibility and ‘brand’ of the SLA as a designation.

**Broad River Valley Floodplain LCT**
At paragraph 4.20 (bullet 4) of the main report, there was a recommendation that the area of the Broad River Valley Floodplain LCT (18a The Nene – Long Buckby to Weedon Bec) is removed from the SLA. In order to justify this recommendation, the area of the LCT was considered according to the criteria in the landscape value table below.

Table C – 18. Broad River Valley Floodplain LCT. Land to the south west Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape quality (condition)</td>
<td>The LCA assesses this landscape as being generally moderate condition. It is well managed and many features are intact. However, in places, field expansion, road infrastructure and other uses has resulted in the loss of landscape features.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic quality</td>
<td>There is a gently sloping valley to an area of floodplain bisected by the M1, West Coast Mainline railway and Grand Union Canal. In parts fields are fragmented and palisade fencing along the railway line is common.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Localised features of interest include mature trees within fields and woodland along the canal contained within a broad river valley.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flore Hill on the western side of Flore is a knoll which rises gently above the surrounding floodplain. It is characterised by arable fields, low hedgerows and some hedgerow trees, a small copse of woodland, groups of mature trees, agricultural barns at Flore Hill Farm and a water tower on the highest ground. Land is influenced by the A5, ribbon development and buildings at Weedon Bec. It is also disconnected from the wider SLA by the M1.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix - SLA Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>River valleys influenced by roads and railways are a common feature within Daventry District. The railway and M1 are a continuous presence and this infrastructure fragments and compartmentalises this landscape. This landscape is not considered rare or a particularly distinctive example within the district.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representativeness</td>
<td>The character of the landscape is typical of a river valley floodplain with frequent urban influences. In the context of the wider district this landscape could not be considered a particularly important example.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation interests</td>
<td>No Conservation Interests. Conservation Area associated with the Grand Union Canal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation value</td>
<td>Grand Union Canal Long distance route along the canal is one of the few public rights of way in this LCT.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual aspects</td>
<td>This is a landscape with frequent urban influences and the noise from the M1 and nearby A5 and A45 mean that it is not tranquil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associations</td>
<td>No known associations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary**

1.7 In summary, this is a valley floodplain landscape that does not display the distinctive upland characteristics of the SLA. The landscape is heavily influenced by road and rail infrastructure along the valley floodplain and is disconnected from the SLA by the M1.

1.8 The influence of road and rail infrastructure fragments the characteristics of the landscape, including Flore Hill. This landscape does not meet the criteria for a separate SLA designation.

**Broad Unwooded Vale LCT**

1.9 At paragraph 4.20 (final bullet) of the main report, there was a recommendation that the land west of the Grand Union Canal within the Broad Unwooded Vale LCT is
removed from the SLA. In order to justify this recommendation, the area of the LCT was considered according to the criteria in the landscape value table below.

Table D - 19. Broad Unwooded Vale LCT. Land to the north west of Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington SLA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape quality (condition)</td>
<td>The LCA assesses the landscape condition as moderate. There is evidence of fragmentation and loss of features as well as enlargement of fields as a result of intensification of farmland. Management of hedgerows at a very low height often gives rise to an expansive landscape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic quality</td>
<td>Land to the immediate west of the Grand Union Canal comprises generally large scale arable fields enclosed by low clopped hedgerows and some hedgerow trees, mainly focused along rural lanes and tracks. Pockets of smaller scale pasture are present, also enclosed by low hedgerows. This is an open expansive flat landscape broken only by the distinctive ridgeline to the east of the Grand Union Canal. Traffic along the A14, wind turbines near DIRFT and a 400kV overhead line are prominent in views.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>This is a typical flat vale landscape of intensive farming with arable and pastoral fields bounded by low hedgerows and some hedgerow trees. The most distinctive feature are the views to the higher ground to the east of the Grand Union Canal. This landscape cannot be considered rare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representativeness</td>
<td>This is a fairly typical lower-lying landscape within Daventry. It is consistent with the description of character within the LCA and there is little to differentiate this land from the rest of the Vale of Rugby LCA or other parts of the district.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Criteria and Summary Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conservation interests</td>
<td>Two small copses are designated Local Wildlife Sites. The Grand Union Canal corridor is designated as a Conservation Area and the designation occasionally extends onto land adjacent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation value</td>
<td>Shakespeare’s Avon Way long distance footpath crosses the northern part of the farmland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual aspects</td>
<td>Open expansive farmland with views towards a continuous ridge of higher ground. Fairly simple palette of characteristics comprising fields, low hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Areas of expansion of farm development and ribbon development close to settlements. Presence of traffic along the A14, wind turbines, overhead lines and development mean that whilst the landscape has a rural character it is not considered tranquil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associations</td>
<td>No known associations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Summary

1.10 In summary, this is a flat landscape on the western side of the Grand Union Canal that does not display the distinctive upland characteristics of the SLA. The upland qualities of the SLA can be appreciated from this area of land but it is not an integral part of the SLA.

1.11 The landscape comprises arable and pastoral farmland on flat land that is relatively common across the district. It does not display characteristics that are particularly rare or distinctive that would warrant SLA designation.

### Catesby and Fawsley SLA

#### Rolling Agricultural Lowlands LCT

1.12 At paragraph 4.33 (bullet 4) of the main report, there was a recommendation that the northern part of the Rolling Agricultural Lowlands LCT (14a Newbold Grounds) closest to the western edge of Daventry is removed from the SLA. In order to justify this recommendation, that area was considered according to the criteria in the landscape value table below.

Table E - 14. Rolling Agricultural Lowlands LCT. Land to the north west of Catesby and Fawsley SLA
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Summary description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape quality (condition)</td>
<td>The LCA considered that this is 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic quality</td>
<td>The area of land is characterised by west facing slopes down to the River Learn (forming the county boundary) with westerly views towards Warwickshire. The large warehouse developments on the western edge of Daventry are prominent in views and this is a detractor to scenic value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>This is a rolling landscape with a broad scale field pattern and limited vegetation cover. With few distinctive features, this landscape cannot be considered rare.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Representativeness               | This is a fairly typical rolling landscape in Daventry District. It is consistent with the description of character within the LCT but there is little to differentiate this land from the rest of the LCT or other parts of the district.  
The representativeness of this rolling landscape is heavily influenced by the large warehouses at the western edge of Daventry. |
| Conservation interests           | Braunston Covert and a small woodland north of Ashtree Farm are designated Local Wildlife Sites. There are no heritage designations. |
| Recreation value                 | Jurassic Way long distance footpath crosses the central part of this area of land.                                                                 |
Criteria | Summary description
---|---
Perceptual aspects | Open expansive and rolling farmland with a fairly simple palette of characteristics comprising fields, low hedgerows and hedgerow trees. The presence of traffic along the A45 and the large warehouse developments at the western edge of Daventry means that whilst the landscape has a rural pattern it is next to an urban fringe and it is cannot be considered tranquil.
Associations | No known associations

**Summary**

1.13 In summary, this northern part of the Rolling Agricultural Lowlands LCT no longer forms an integral part of the Catesby and Fawsley SLA due to the influence and proximity of the large warehouses to the western edge of Daventry.

1.14 The rolling land comprises large arable and pastoral fields with hedgerows and occasional small woodland but this rural pattern is adversely effected by the large warehouses and therefore does not warrant SLA designation.
Figure 1 - Special Landscape Area

Hemplow Hills, Cottesbrooke and Brington
Figure 2 - Special Landscape Area

Daventry Landscape Character Assessment

G6053.038A.2
Sheet 2 of 4

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Welland Valley
Catesby and Fawsley
HEMPLOW HILLS,
COTTESBROOKE
AND BRINGTON

KEY
- Daventry District Borough Boundary
- Special Landscape Area (SLA)
- Former SLA
- Additional Area not Previously Included in SLA

South Northamptonshire Special Landscape Area (subject to 2017 review)
Northamptonshire Special Landscape Area (Ironstone Hill Fringe)

Landscape Character Areas
- Boulder Clay Landscapes
  - Clays Plateau
  - Undulating Claylands
  - Wooded Clay Plateau
- Instone Landscapes
  - Instone Hills
  - Instone Uplands
  - Rolling Instone Valley Slopes
- Limestone Landscapes
  - Limestone Valley Slopes
- Lower Jurassic Geology Landscapes
  - Farmed Scarp Slopes
  - Rolling Agricultural Lowlands
  - Undulating Hills and Valleys
- Riverine Landscapes
  - Broad River Valley Floodplain
  - Broad Unwooded Vale
  - River Valley Floodplain
- Other
  - Urban

Daventry District Borough Boundary
Special Landscape Area (SLA)
Former SLA
Additional Area not Previously Included in SLA
South Northamptonshire Special Landscape Area (subject to 2017 review)
Northamptonshire Special Landscape Area (Ironstone Hill Fringe)

Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH
Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Scale
1:104,000 @ A3

Date
16/11/2017

Rev
Updates following client comments
RE
TJ
16/11/2017
Figure 6 - Special Landscape Area

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KEY

- Daventry District Borough Boundary
- Special Landscape Area (SLA)
- Other SLA
- South Northamptonshire Special Landscape Area (subject to 2017 review)
- Northamptonshire Special Landscape Area (Ironstone Hills Fringe)

Landscape Character Areas
- Redlake Clay Landscapes
- Undulating Claylands

Inventive Landscapes
- Ironstone Hills

Lower Jurassic Geology Landscapes
- Low Palaeo Hills
- Rolling Agricultural Lowlands
- Undulating Hills and Valleys

Riverine Landscapes
- Broad River Valley Floodplain
- Broad Unwooded Vale

Other
- Urban

Figure 7 - Special Landscape Area

Daventry Landscape Character Assessment

G6053.043A.3
Sheet 3 of 4

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Viewpoint 1: View from Hothorpe Hills towards Welland Vale

Viewpoint 2: View towards wooded scarp slopes of Hothorpe Hills

broad flat Welland Vale

Mosaic of woodland, grassland and pasture along the scarp slopes
Figure 5

Viewpoint 3: View from eastern edge of Market Harborough towards scarp slopes of Hothorpe Hills.

Viewpoint 4: View from edge of Arthingworth towards Vale of River Ise.
Viewpoint 5: View from edge of Arthingworth towards partly wooded scarp slopes

Viewpoint 6: View towards scarp slopes east of Kelmarsh
Viewpoint 1: View north from Fawsley Park Estate towards Badby Down

Viewpoint 2: View south from Badby Down towards Fawsley Park Estate

Badby plantation

mature trees forming silhouette to Badby Down

Houseground clump

Wooded areas help articulate landform

Wooded area near to Fawsley Hall

Parkland landscape

Daventry Landscape Character Assessment

Project

Catesby and Fawsley SLA

Figure 7

IN6053.017

TEP

WYC

TJ

26/04/17

Figure 7

Catesby and Fawsley SLA
Viewpoint 3: View north from Chapel Lane towards Newnham, Newnham Hill and Fox Hill.

Viewpoint 4: View south from Chapel Lane towards Bullshill Spinney and Badby Wood.
Newnham Hill

Range of hills form profile to southern edge of Daventry and screen the settlement from view

Everdon Hill

Range of ironstone hills provide distinctive edge to Daventry

Newnham

Viewpoint 5: View north Chapel Lane towards Newnham and Newnham Hill.

Viewpoint 6: View north towards Everdon, Everdon Hill, Newnham and Newnham Hill.
Charwelton Hill

Distinctive hills and knolls on skyline

Charwelton Hill

Distinctive hills and knolls on skyline

(Charlton-on-Avon District)

rolling agricultural lowlands to western edge of Daventry District

Viewpoint 7: View from Iron Cross towards Charwelton Hill

Viewpoint 8: View from Catesby Estate towards rolling agricultural lowlands

Daventry Landscape Character Assessment

Viewpoint

IN6053.017

Figure 7

Catesby and Fawsley SLA

Figure 7

IN6053.017

Project

Daventry Landscape Character Assessment

Date

26/04/17

Catesby and Fawsley SLA

Figure 7
Viewpoint 1: View across Brockhall Estate

Viewpoint 2: View across landscape looking north from the edge of Great Brington

Frequent trees and hedgerows create a patchwork effect across the landscape.

Wooded copse emphasise landform.
Hedgerows and trees emphasize landform

Honey Hill

Great Brington on highground nestled in trees

St Mary the Virgin with St John Church, Great Brington

Mature woodland within Althorp Estate

Distinctive copses form landmarks across the landscape

Spire at little Brington

Nobottle Wood

Viewpoint 3: Honey Hill viewed from adjacent Wellford Road

Viewpoint 4: View looking south west across the landscape from highground along Lodge Lane (east of Long Buckby)
Viewpoint 5: View towards Great Brington on approach into Village along Whilton Road to the west

Viewpoint 6: View from Midshires Way (long distance footpath) looking north towards edge of SLA.
Viewpoint 7: View looking east across low lying vales towards Hemplow Hills from Rugby Road in Leicestershire

Viewpoint 8: View looking south across landscape from East Haddon Road
Viewpoint 9: Rounded copses of pasture on unnamed rural road north of Cottesbrooke Park

Smaller copse on high ground

Rounded copse emphasises landform

Mitkey Spinney

frequent hedgerow trees

Smaller copse on high ground

Rounded copse emphasises landform

Mitkey Spinney

frequent hedgerow trees
Figure 8: Daventry Landscape Character Assessment

**Viewpoint 2:** View from West Farndon Road looking north east towards Farndonhill

- Riparian trees along River Cherwell
- Pasture along valley floor
- Eydon Hill
- Frequent copses of woodland
- Evergreen planting around Farndonhill farm
- Isolated Farndonhill with trees silhouetted on high ground
- Pole Spinney
- Frequent hedgerow trees

**Viewpoint 1:** View from edge of West Farndon looking east across River Cherwell Valley

- Pasture along valley floor
- Eydon and Cullworth SLA
- 09/05/17
- WYC
- TJ
- 09/05/17
- Eydon and Cullworth SLA

**Daventry Landscape Character Assessment**

- Figure 8
- IN8053.019
Isolated Hill profile visible on edge of Byfield

Half Moon Spinney

Viewpoint 3: View looking south across SLA from the southern edge of Byfield