

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Wind and Solar PV Development

Newark and Sherwood District Council

Final report

Prepared by LUC

March 2026



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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 In September 2025, Newark and Sherwood District Council commissioned LUC to prepare a Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (LSA) for wind energy and solar photovoltaic (PV) development. This study forms an update to the [Newark and Sherwood Council's 2014 Newark and Sherwood Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Development](#), to reflect changes in policy and technology, and with the additional consideration of solar PV development.

1.2 This Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for wind energy and solar PV schemes provides judgements on the landscape sensitivity of different parts of the study area to these forms of development. The findings of this study will underpin the Local Plan and will be used to guide determination of planning applications. The Landscape Sensitivity Assessment should be read in conjunction with the [Newark and Sherwood Council's 2025 adopted Newark and Sherwood Local Development Framework, Solar Energy Supplementary Planning Document \(SPD\)](#) and the [Newark and Sherwood Council's 2014 Newark and Sherwood Local Development Framework, Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Document \(SPD\)](#).

1.3 The study is based on the description and classification of the landscape presented in the [Newark and Sherwood Council's 2013 Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment](#). This provides a characterisation of the district into broad landscape character areas and more detailed policy zones. The relative sensitivity of each of the defined landscape character areas was assessed. Landscape character does not change at administrative boundaries, and the study therefore considers the adjoining landscapes within Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire where they influence character within Newark and Sherwood.

1.4 The 2014 Newark and Sherwood Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Development was undertaken based on policy, guidance and good practice that was relevant at the time, as well as the prevailing wind energy technology. Since 2014, a number of changes to planning policy have occurred. Most notably, in 2015, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was updated with policy tests that effectively restricted wind energy development in England. In 2024 these policy tests were removed from the NPPF.

1.5 The 2014 study provided a judgement regarding the overall 'capacity' of each LCA to accommodate wind development, with an overall strategic aim for the level of development that could be accommodated within each LCA. Approaches to landscape sensitivity have also evolved, and the concept of landscapes having an

inherent capacity is no longer supported by published guidance documents. [Natural England’s 2019 An approach to landscape sensitivity assessment – to inform spatial planning and land management](#) forms the key guidance document for undertaking assessments of landscape sensitivity in England, and replaces the guidance on which the 2014 Landscape Capacity Study was based. The guidance defines landscape sensitivity, within the context of spatial planning and land management, as:

“a measure of the resilience, or robustness, of a landscape to withstand specified change... without undue negative effects on the landscape and visual baseline and their value”.

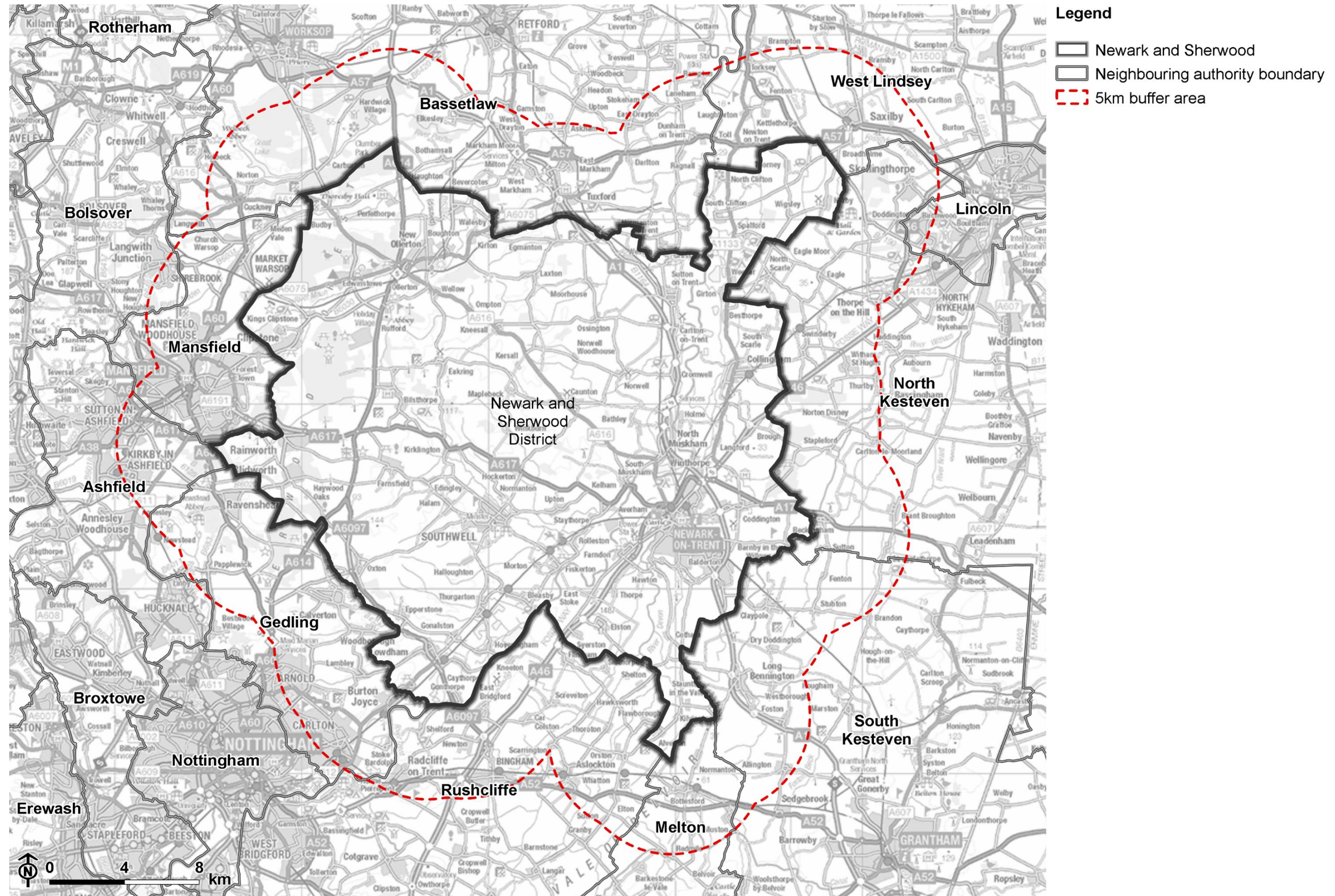
1.6 It is a term applied to landscape character and the associated visual resource, combining judgements of their susceptibility to the specific development type/development scenario or other change being considered, together with the value(s) related to that landscape and visual resource.

1.7 The guidance does not offer advice on assessing ‘capacity’, i.e. determining an amount of development. This amount cannot be considered based on the landscape alone, but is a policy decision. Therefore, this study presents findings in relation to relative sensitivity, but does not draw conclusions on capacity.

Study area

1.8 The study focuses on the landscape of Newark and Sherwood District, and the study area boundary is therefore contiguous with the district boundary. To ensure consideration of cross-boundary effects, a buffer area of 5km around the district boundary was defined. Within this area, information on landscape character and wind and solar energy development was collected, but assessments of sensitivity are not made. The study area and buffer area are shown in **Figure 1.1**.

Figure 1.1: Study area



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Policy context

European Landscape Convention

1.9 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) came into force in the UK in March 2007. It established the need to recognise landscape in law; and develop landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management, and planning of landscapes; and to establish procedures for the participation of the general public and other stakeholders in the creation and implementation of landscape policies. The ELC remains relevant despite the UK's departure from the EU.

1.10 The ELC definition of 'landscape' recognises that all landscapes matter, be they ordinary, degraded, or outstanding:

"Landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors."

1.11 Signing up to the ELC means that the UK is committed to protect, manage, and plan our landscapes for the future. The Convention also advocates work to raise landscape awareness, involvement and enjoyment amongst local and visiting communities. Landscape character is defined by the ELC as *"a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse"*. Again, this reinforces the underlying message that 'all landscapes matter'.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

1.12 The latest version of the [UK Government's 2024 National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\)](#) sets out the environmental, social and economic planning policies for England. Central to NPPF policies is a presumption in favour of sustainable development; that development should be planned for positively and individual proposals should be approved wherever possible.

1.13 One of the overarching objectives that underpins the NPPF is set out in Paragraph 8: *"an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy"*.

1.14 Paragraph 187 states that “*planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes*” and “*recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside*”.

1.15 The NPPF also makes explicit reference to the need for defined strategic policies that make sufficient provision for climate change mitigation and adaptation, landscape and green infrastructure (paragraph 20).

1.16 Paragraph 165 states that “*to help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should:*

- *a) provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, and their future re-powering and life extension, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed appropriately (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts);*
- *b) consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure their development; and*
- *c) identify opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers.”*

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

1.17 Further guidance is provided in the [Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' 2023 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy National Planning Practice Guidance](#) on how local planning authorities can identify suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy. Paragraph 005 states that:

“In considering impacts, assessments can use tools to identify where impacts are likely to be acceptable. For example, landscape character areas could form the basis for considering which technologies at which scale may be appropriate in different types of location...”

Local policy

1.18 On 16 July 2019 Newark and Sherwood District Council declared a climate emergency. The District Council has committed to measures to try and reduce its own carbon footprint as well as that of the local community.

1.19 The following policies within the [Newark and Sherwood District Council's 2019 Newark and Sherwood Plan Review – Amended Core Strategy Development Plan Document](#) and the [Newark and Sherwood District Council's 2013 Newark and Sherwood Local Development Framework – Allocations and Development Management Development Plan Document](#) relate directly to the District's stance on development of renewable energy and the protection of landscapes throughout Newark and Sherwood.

1.20 Core Policy 10 'Climate Change' states that *“the District Council will work with partners and developers to... Promote energy generation from renewable and low-carbon sources, including community-led schemes, through supporting new development where it is able to demonstrate that its adverse impacts have been satisfactorily addressed”*.

1.21 Core Policy 13 'Landscape Character' states that *“the District Council will work with partners and developers to secure... New development which positively addresses the implications of relevant landscape Policy Zone(s) that is consistent with the landscape conservation and enhancement aims for the area(s) ensuring that landscapes, including valued landscapes, have been protected and enhanced”*.

1.22 Policy DM4 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation' provides the framework against which the appropriateness of proposals will be assessed. It states that *“planning permission will be granted for renewable and low carbon energy generation development... where its benefits are not outweighed by detrimental impact”* on a number of criteria, including the following landscape-relevant criteria:

- *“The landscape character or urban form of the district or the purposes of including land within the Green Belt arising from the individual or cumulative impact of proposals”*;
- *“Southwell Views as defined in Policy So/PV or the setting of the Thurgarton Hundred Workhouse as defined in Policy So/Wh”*; and
- *“Heritage Assets and or their settings”*.

1.23 Proposed amendments to Policy DM4 are set out in the Amended Allocations & Development Management DPD and includes further guidance that *“Applications to develop new wind energy schemes involving turbines of sufficient size to require planning permission will only be considered acceptable in areas set away from sensitive receptors”*.

1.24 The 2014 Landscape Capacity Study supported the Newark and Sherwood District Council Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), adopted in March 2014. A solar energy SPD was adopted in June 2025.

Chapter 2

Method

2.1 The study comprises a criteria-based assessment, in line with the Natural England guidance on Landscape Sensitivity Assessment. This methodology highlights specific landscape and visual characteristics that are most likely to be affected by the development scenarios considered as part of this assessment (wind turbines and solar PV).

2.2 For the overall landscape sensitivity assessment of wind turbines and field-scale solar PV, an overall judgement on landscape sensitivity is presented on a five-point scale from 'high' to 'low' (see paragraphs 2.40-2.45 and Table 2.4).

2.3 The general approach to the study comprised the following key stages:

- Identification of the key characteristics of wind and solar energy development and its potential effects on the landscape, to inform development of a methodology for the assessment of landscape sensitivity;
- Assessment of the sensitivity of the different landscape character areas in Newark and Sherwood to wind turbine and solar PV development at a range of scales;
- Preparation of siting and design guidelines for wind turbine and solar PV development in each landscape character area, taking account of the assessed sensitivity of the landscape, and potential cumulative effects of operational and consented development; and
- Consideration of the potential for cumulative effects resulting from proposed developments within the district more broadly, including for developments which exceed the size of the 'very large' typology considered in this study and which extend across multiple LCAs, presented separately in Chapter 4.

2.4 Each of these stages is discussed in more detail in the following sections.

Spatial Framework

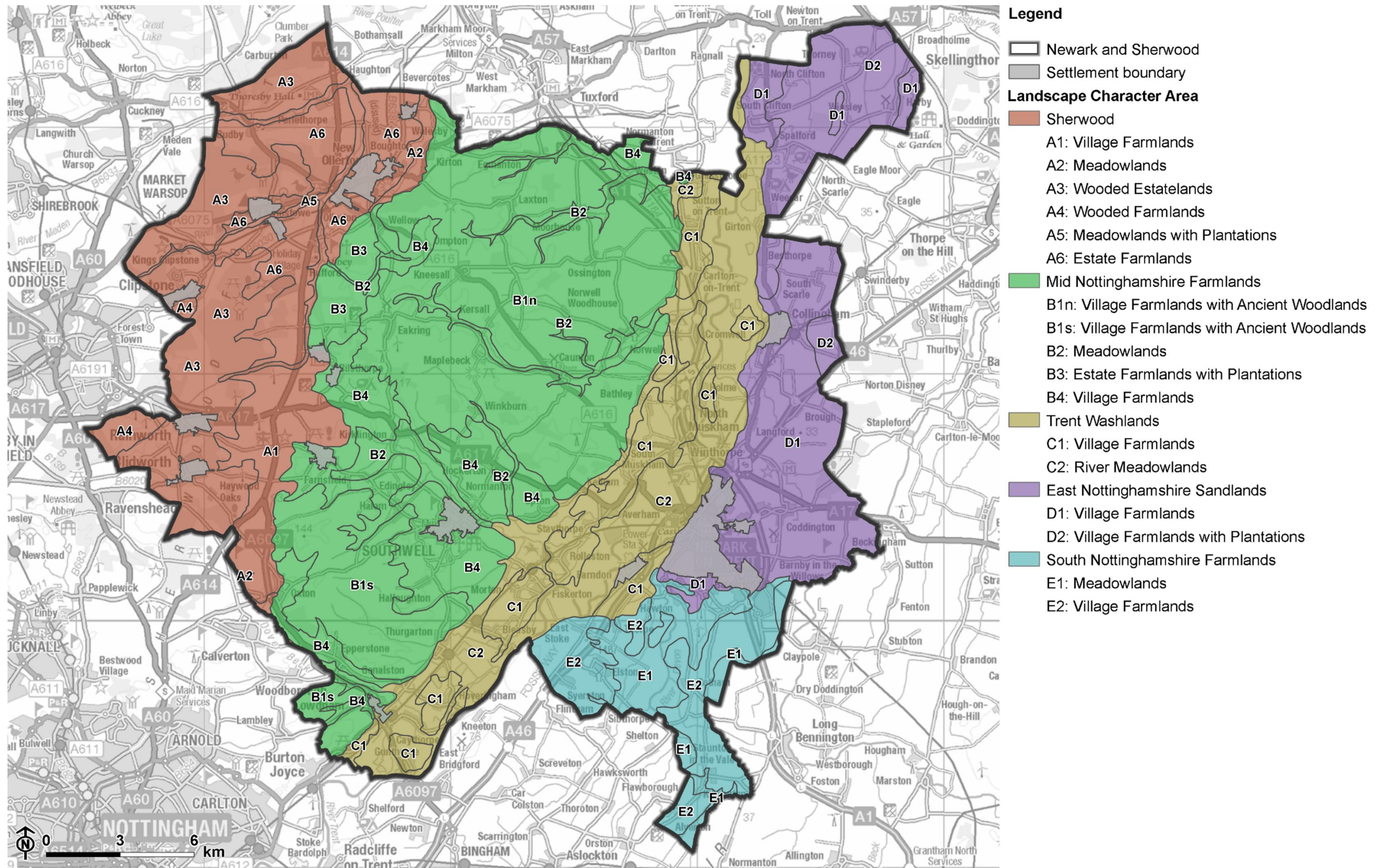
2.5 The study covers the Newark and Sherwood District Council administrative area, with a radius of 5km applied to the wider buffer area for consideration of cumulative effects and intervisibility with landscapes outside of Newark and Sherwood. The study looks at land outside the main settlements (as defined in the LCA) of:

- Bilsthorpe

- Blidworth
- Collingham
- Edwinstowe
- Farndon
- Farnsfield
- Lowdham
- Newark Urban Area
- Ollerton and Boughton
- Rainworth
- Southwell
- Walesby

2.6 This study uses the mapping and descriptive information provided by the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (NSLCA), updated in 2013 and adopted by the Council as a Supplementary Planning Document on 11 December 2013. Landscape Character Areas used for this assessment are shown on **Figure 2.1**.

Figure 2.1: Spatial framework of landscape classification in Newark and Sherwood



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 Contains data from Newark and Sherwood District Council.

Type and scale of developments considered

2.7 The landscape sensitivity assessment focuses on the landscape considerations associated with ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind energy developments at a strategic level.

2.8 Other forms of renewable energy technology, e.g. solar PV/hot water heating on roofs, ground source heat pumps, and micro hydro are small-scale renewable developments, many of which either fall under permitted development rights and/or cannot be considered at a landscape scale.

Field-scale solar PV

2.9 Field-scale solar PV developments consist of racks of panels and associated structures such as inverters or transformer substations, fencing, and screening planting. These developments can occupy substantial areas of ground which may be visible, particularly if located on slopes. Landscape and visual effects may include the following:

- Solar PV developments may be particularly visible in open landscapes, on upper slopes of hillsides or where overlooked;
- The reflective nature and materiality of PV panels contrast with the colour and texture of the surrounding rural landscape;
- The presence of solar PV panels and associated infrastructure may increase the perceived human influence on the landscape and erode intrinsically rural character;
- Solar PV development will change the land use and appearance of a field or fields, affecting land cover patterns;
- The regular edges and linear arrangement of solar PV developments may be conspicuous in more irregular landscapes (particularly where field boundaries are irregular);
- The height of racks (up to 4 metres) may exceed the scale of typical hedgerow field boundaries;
- Screen planting around solar PV developments may change the sense of enclosure of a landscape and restrict or alter important views;
- Construction of solar PV development may result in damage to landscape features such as hedgerow field boundaries or alteration of the underlying field pattern or scale;

- The significance of designated and undesignated heritage assets (including historic parks and gardens, historic field systems and registered battlefields) and/or their setting may be impacted by the construction of solar PV development; and
- Structures may appear out of place in particularly wild or undeveloped landscape which are valued for their qualities of remoteness and tranquillity.

2.10 The LSA considers the suitability of different scales of solar PV development, using bandings reflecting those that are most likely to be put forward by developers. These are set out in Table 2.3 below.

2.11 Proposed solar PV developments larger than 150 hectares have not been considered in the assessment of each LCA. Landscape sensitivity to these very large schemes would be categorised as “high” sensitivity regardless of location, requiring developers to pay particular attention to this issue in their specific applications. The potential cumulative effects of developments larger than 150 hectares which extend across multiple LCAs are discussed in Chapter 4.

Table 2.1: Solar development sizes/scales

Solar PV Size	Solar PV Scale Bandings
1 to 5 hectares	Small solar PV installation
5 to 20 hectares	Medium solar PV installation
20 to 50 hectares	Large solar PV installation
50 to 150 hectares	Very large solar PV installation

Figure 2.2: The Grange Solar Farm (over 90 hectares) within the South Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (E2) and South Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Meadowlands LCA (E1)



Wind energy developments

2.12 All turbines considered in this study are substantial vertical structures that may be highly visible within the landscape. Wind energy developments may affect the landscape in the following ways:

- Construction of turbines and related infrastructure may result in the direct loss of landscape features e.g. trees and hedgerows;
- The movement of the turbine blades is a unique feature of wind energy development, setting them apart from other stationary tall structures in the landscape, and may affect characteristics of stillness, remoteness and tranquillity;
- The presence of turbines may increase the perceived human influence on the landscape, particularly in terms of overt modern development, and this can particularly affect landscapes which have a strong sense of naturalness or tranquillity, or which form a setting to heritage assets or exhibit a strong sense of time depth;

- Turbines may be perceived as out of scale in relation to human scale features in the landscape e.g. farmsteads, rural lanes, walls and hedgerows;
- The tall vertical scale of turbines may alter the apparent scale of landforms;
- Turbines on skylines may compete with existing skyline features (e.g. church towers), where undeveloped skylines or landmark features are characteristic of the landscape; and
- Access tracks or upgrades on access routes may be highly visible, particularly in open or undeveloped landscapes.

2.13 The LSA considers the suitability of different scales of wind turbines, using bandings reflecting the scale of development that is most likely to be put forward by developers. Table 2.2 sets out the wind energy development scenarios considered in the sensitivity assessment. No maximum height is provided as wind turbine technology continues to progress. However, the very largest turbines currently in use (~250 metres) are unlikely to come forward in Newark and Sherwood.

Table 2.2: Wind energy development sizes/scales

Wind Turbine Size	Wind Energy Scale Bandings
15m to 30m tip height	Very small
31m to 60m tip height	Small
60m to 100m tip height	Medium
100m to 150m tip height	Large
Over 150m tip height	Very large

Figure 2.3: Debdale Hill wind turbines (102m blade tip height) within the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCA (B1n)



Evaluating landscape sensitivity

2.14 The landscape sensitivity assessment is informed by Natural England’s ‘An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment’ (June 2019). The assessment also draws on best practice in recent assessments completed by LUC and others.

Assessment criteria

2.15 Landscape sensitivity assessment requires judgements on both landscape susceptibility (how vulnerable the landscape is to change from the type being assessed, in this case solar PV and wind energy developments) and landscape value (consensus about importance, which can be recognised through designation as well as through descriptions within the Landscape Character Assessment).

2.16 The selection of landscape sensitivity indicators (‘criteria’) for this study is informed by the attributes of the landscape that could be affected by solar and wind energy development. These consider the ‘landscape’, ‘visual’ and ‘perceptual’

aspects of sensitivity. Their selection is also based on current best practice and the experience of LUC in undertaking similar studies elsewhere in the UK.

2.17 In line with the recommendations in Natural England's guidance, carefully defined criteria are used to assess the sensitivity of landscape character.

2.18 The following five criteria headings are used for this study:

- Landform and scale;
- Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features);
- Historic landscape character;
- Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility); and
- Perceptual and scenic qualities.

2.19 Paragraph 2.21 onwards sets out the criteria used for the assessment of landscape sensitivity to the principle of solar PV developments. It includes guidance and examples of characteristics that would indicate higher and lower sensitivity. Paragraph 2.30 onwards sets out the criteria used for the assessment of landscape sensitivity to the principle of wind energy developments.

2.20 While there is overlap between the criteria, it should also be noted that due to the horizontal nature of solar energy development, some criteria (e.g. skylines and presence of human scale features) are less of an important consideration when assessing landscape sensitivity. Other considerations that are more relevant to large-scale wind energy development include proximity to residential buildings and dark night skies (which could be impacted by aviation lighting).

Solar PV assessment criteria and guidance

Landform and scale

2.21 A flat or gently undulating lowland landscape or extensive plateau is likely to be less sensitive to solar PV development (and therefore have greater landscape potential) than a landscape with prominent landforms and visible slopes. This is because arrays of solar PV panels will be less easily perceived in a flat landscape than on a slope (including hills and knolls), especially higher slopes.

Table 2.3: Solar PV landform and scale sensitivity levels

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	A landscape with a rugged landform or dramatic landform features (which may be large in scale), or a small scale or intimate landform. The landform may be very steep with exposed, visible slopes.
Moderate-High	A landscape with distinct landform features, and/or irregular in topographic appearance (which may be large in scale), or a smaller scale landform. The landscape may contain prominent, visible slopes.
Moderate	An undulating landscape, perhaps also incised by valleys, likely to be a medium scale landform, with hidden areas as well as some visible slopes.
Low-Moderate	A simple gently rolling landscape, likely to be a medium-large scale landform.
Low	An extensive lowland flat landscape or plateau, often a larger scale landform.

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

2.22 Simple, regular landscapes with extensive areas of consistent land cover are likely to be less sensitive to solar PV development. Since solar PV panels introduce a new land cover (of built structures), landscapes containing existing hard surfacing or built elements (e.g. urban areas, brownfield sites or large-scale horticulture with associated structures such as greenhouses/polytunnels) are likely to be less sensitive to development than highly rural or naturalistic landscapes. These locations would therefore have greater landscape potential for accommodating solar PV schemes. Landscapes with small-scale, more irregular field patterns or frequent traditional human-scale features are likely to be more sensitive to the introduction of solar PV development (and therefore have less landscape potential) than landscapes with large, regular scale field patterns because of the risk of diluting or masking the characteristic landscape patterns. This would be particularly apparent if development takes place across a number of adjacent fields where the field pattern is small and intricate (bearing in mind that the height of panels could exceed that of a hedge or stone wall). This criterion will also take into account whether renewable energy generation is an existing land use.

Table 2.4: Solar PV landcover sensitivity levels

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	A landscape characterised by ancient, small-scale, irregular field patterns and/or a landscape dominated by semi-natural land cover.
Moderate-High	A landscape dominated by ancient, small-scale or irregular field patterns with a few isolated areas of modern enclosure and/or with some areas of semi-natural land cover.
Moderate	A landscape with a mixture of large-scale, modern fields and some smaller, more historic enclosure. A rural landscape, perhaps with some brownfield sites or urban influences.
Low-Moderate	A landscape which is mainly defined by large, modern fields or those sub-divided for non-traditional uses, e.g. horse keeping. An area of large-scale horticulture or some urban or brownfield influences.
Low	An urban or 'brownfield' landscape.

Historic landscape character

2.23 Landscapes which contain important historic features, historic associations, or archaeological features (where these legibly contribute to landscape character) are likely to have a higher level of sensitivity to solar PV development (and therefore have lower landscape potential). Historic features may be in the form of historic land cover types and field systems, such as the Laxton field system, historic landscapes such as Registered Parks and Gardens and Registered Battlefields (and their setting), or buildings, structures or settlements designated for their historical significance and their setting, such as Southwell views and Conservation Areas with a strong relationship to the surrounding landscape. Local planning designations including the Sherwood Forest Heritage Area are also considered.

2.24 Areas which make a significant contribution to the setting of a historic feature or landscape may also have higher sensitivity to solar PV development. Landscapes that are primarily of modern influence and origin will have a lower sensitivity to solar PV development.

Table 2.5: Solar PV historic landscape character sensitivity levels

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	A landscape with a high density of historic features important to the landscape character of the area and great time depth.
Moderate-High	A landscape with many historic features important to the landscape character of the area and a strong sense of time depth.
Moderate	A landscape with some visible historic features of importance to landscape character, and a variety of time depths.
Low-Moderate	A landscape with a small number of historic features important to the landscape character of the area and some time depth.
Low	A landscape with relatively few historic features important to the landscape character of the area and little time depth (e.g. large intensively farmed fields).

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

2.25 The relative visibility of a landscape may influence its sensitivity to solar PV development. An elevated landscape such as a hill range or plateau, which is viewed from other landscapes, may be more sensitive than a landscape with a strong sense of enclosure (e.g. provided by land cover such as woodland, tree cover or high hedges), since any solar panels will be more widely seen. Landscapes that have important visual relationships with other areas, for example, where one area provides a backdrop to a neighbouring area or enables views to distinctive landscapes/features, are considered more sensitive than those with few visual relationships. The extent of inter-visibility may be modified by the importance of these views to appreciation of the landscape, and whether adjacent landscapes provide a setting for one another. Areas visible from open access land and public rights of way are also likely to have higher levels of landscape sensitivity as they would be seen by more people.

2.26 Prominent and distinctive and/or undeveloped skylines, or skylines with important landmark features, are likely to be more sensitive to solar PV development (and therefore have lower landscape potential) because development may detract from these skylines as features in the landscape, or draw attention away from existing landform or landmark features on skylines if not sited appropriately. Important landmark features on the skyline might include historic features or monuments as well as landforms. Where skylines are affected by development, e.g. through the presence of electricity pylons, the addition of solar panels may lead to

visual confusion due to differences in scale. Therefore, developed skylines might not necessarily indicate lower sensitivity.

2.27 This criterion will also consider whether existing energy development is visible in the landscape.

Table 2.6: Solar PV visual character and amenity sensitivity levels

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	A landscape which has important visual relationships with one or more neighbouring areas. A landscape with prominent or distinctive undeveloped skylines, or with important landmark features on skylines. A landscape with high recreational value/frequent opportunities to experience the landscape.
Moderate-High	A landscape which is intervisible with several areas, and/or where adjacent areas are strongly interrelated. A landscape with prominent skylines that may form an important backdrop to views from settlements or important viewpoints, and/or with important landmark features.
Moderate	A landscape which has some intervisibility with neighbouring areas. A landscape with some prominent skylines, but these are not particularly distinctive – there may be some landmark features on the skyline. A landscape with some recreational value/some opportunities to experience the landscape.
Low-Moderate	A landscape with limited connections to neighbouring areas, and/or where adjacent landscapes are not visually related. A landscape in which skylines are simple, flat or gently convex and/or there are very few landmark features – other skylines in adjacent LCAs may be more prominent.
Low	An enclosed, self-contained landscape, or one with weak connections to neighbouring areas. A landscape in which skylines are not prominent, and there are no important landmark features on the skyline. A landscape with limited recreational value/limited opportunities to experience the landscape.

Perceptual and scenic qualities

2.28 Landscapes that are relatively remote or tranquil tend to be more sensitive to solar PV development, since solar panels may be perceived as intrusive.

Landscapes that are relatively free from overt human activity and disturbance, and which have a perceived naturalness or a strong feel of traditional rurality, will therefore be more sensitive and have lower landscape potential. Qualities such as tranquillity can be found even in settled areas, where the influence of overtly modern development is reduced. Solar PV development will generally be less intrusive in landscapes which are strongly influenced by modern development, including settlement, industrial and commercial development and infrastructure, including existing renewable energy development. Landscapes with cultural characteristics/associations will also increase sensitivity to this criterion.

2.29 Landscapes that have a high scenic quality will be more sensitive. Scenic qualities can include contrasts and combinations of landform and landcover. Scenic qualities are recorded in the Landscape Character Assessment, or may be referenced in tourist material. Scenic viewpoints may be marked on Ordnance Survey maps. Scenic quality is also considered in the field.

Table 2.7: Solar PV perceptual and scenic qualities sensitivity levels

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	A landscape of consistently attractive character, with pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. A tranquil landscape with little or no overt sign of modern human activity and development.
Moderate-High	A landscape of attractive character, with some pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. A more naturalistic landscape and/or one with little modern human influence and development.
Moderate	A landscape of intermittently attractive character, with occasional pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. A rural landscape with some modern development and human activity, such as intensive farmland.
Low-Moderate	A landscape of limited attractive character, with few pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. A rural or semi-rural landscape with much human activity and dispersed modern development, such as settlement fringes.
Low	A landscape without attractive character, with no pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements, such as industrial areas or derelict land. A

Sensitivity Level	Definition
	landscape with much human activity and modern development, such as industrial areas.

Wind energy assessment criteria and guidance

Landform and scale

2.30 A flat or gently sloping landform is likely to be less sensitive to wind energy development (and therefore have greater landscape potential) than a landscape with a dramatic rugged landform, distinct landform features (including prominent hills and valleys) or pronounced undulations. Larger scale landforms are likely to be less sensitive than smaller scale landforms – because turbines may appear out of scale, detract from visually important landforms or appear visually confusing (due to turbines being at varying heights) in the latter types of landscapes.

Table 2.8: Wind energy landform and scale sensitivity levels

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	A landscape with a rugged landform or dramatic landform features (which may be large in scale), or a small scale or intimate landform. The landform may be very steep with exposed, visible slopes.
Moderate-High	A landscape with distinct landform features, and/or irregular in topographic appearance (which may be large in scale), or a smaller scale landform. The landscape may contain prominent, visible slopes.
Moderate	An undulating landscape, perhaps also incised by valleys, likely to be a medium scale landform, with hidden areas as well as some visible slopes.
Low-Moderate	A simple, gently rolling landscape, likely to be a medium-large scale landform without distinctive landform.
Low	An extensive lowland flat landscape or plateau; often a larger-scale landform with no distinctive landform features.

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

2.31 Simple, regular landscapes with extensive areas of consistent land cover are likely to be less sensitive to wind energy development than landscapes with more complex or irregular land cover patterns, smaller and/or irregular field sizes or a frequent presence of semi-natural habitats. This is because large features such as wind turbines may dominate smaller-scale features/field sizes within the landscape. Landscapes with frequent human scale features that are traditional to the landscape, such as villages, farmsteads, small farm woodlands, trees and hedges, may be particularly sensitive to larger turbines. This is because large features such as wind turbines may dominate smaller scale features within the landscape.

2.32 This criterion will also take into account whether there is existing land use for renewable energy generation.

Table 2.9: Wind energy landcover sensitivity levels

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	A landscape with a strong variety in land cover, complex field patterns and/or semi-natural land cover. Frequent presence of traditional human-scale features. The field pattern may be characterised by small-scale, ancient fields.
Moderate-High	A landscape with irregular or small-scale fields and a variety in land cover. A rural landscape, perhaps with some areas of semi-natural land cover and regular presence of traditional human-scale features.
Moderate	A landscape with medium sized fields (or a mix of modern and historic enclosure) and some variations in land cover. Some presence of traditional human-scale features. A rural landscape which may contain some brownfield sites or urban influences.
Low-Moderate	A landscape which is mainly defined by large, modern fields, with little variety in land cover and limited traditional human-scale features. A landscape which contains areas of brownfield sites or urban influences.
Low	An open, continuous landscape with uniform land cover and lacking in traditional human-scale features, or an urban or 'brownfield' landscape.

Historic landscape character

2.33 Landscapes which contain important historic features, historic associations, or archaeological features (where these legibly contribute to landscape character) are likely to have a higher level of sensitivity to wind energy development (and therefore have lower landscape potential). Historic features may be in the form of historic land cover types and field systems, such as the Laxton field system, historic landscapes such as Registered Parks and Gardens (and their setting), or buildings, structures and settlements designated for their historical significance and their setting, such as Southwell views and Conservation Areas with a strong relationship to the surrounding landscape. Local planning designations including the Sherwood Forest Heritage Area are also considered.

2.34 Areas which make a significant contribution to the setting of a historic feature or landscapes may also have higher sensitivity to wind energy development. Landscapes that are primarily of modern influence and origin will have a lower sensitivity to wind energy development.

Table 2.10: Wind energy historic landscape character sensitivity levels

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	A landscape with a high density of historic features important to the landscape character of the area and great time depth.
Moderate-High	A landscape with many historic features important to the landscape character of the area and a strong sense of time depth.
Moderate	A landscape with some visible historic features of importance to landscape character, and a variety of time depths.
Low-Moderate	A landscape with a small number of historic features important to the landscape character of the area and some time depth.
Low	A landscape with relatively few historic features important to the landscape character of the area and little time depth (e.g. large intensively farmed fields).

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

2.35 The relative visibility of a landscape may influence its sensitivity to wind development. An elevated landscape such as a hill range or plateau, which is viewed from other landscapes, may be more sensitive than a landscape with limited visibility (and therefore have lower landscape potential). Landscapes which have important

visual relationships with other areas, for example where one area provides a backdrop to a neighbouring area or enables views to distinctive landscapes/features, are considered more sensitive than those with few visual relationships. The extent of inter-visibility may be modified by the importance of these views to the appreciation of the landscape, and whether adjacent landscapes provide a setting for one another. Areas visible from open access land and public rights of way are also likely to have higher levels of landscape sensitivity.

2.36 Prominent and distinctive and/or undeveloped skylines, or skylines with important landmark features, are likely to be more sensitive to wind energy development (and therefore have a lower landscape potential) because turbines may detract from these skylines as features in the landscape, or draw attention away from existing landform or landmark features on skylines. Important landmark features on the skyline might include historic features or monuments as well as landforms. Where skylines are affected by development, e.g. through the presence of electricity pylons or existing turbines, the addition of turbines of a different scale may lead to visual confusion. Therefore, the presence of existing development cannot always be assumed to result in a lower sensitivity to new development.

2.37 This criterion will also consider whether existing energy development is visible in the landscape.

Table 2.11: Wind energy visual character and amenity sensitivity levels

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	A landscape which has important visual relationships with one or more neighbouring areas. A landscape with prominent or distinctive undeveloped skylines, or with important landmark features on skylines. A landscape with high recreational value/frequent opportunities to experience the landscape.
Moderate-High	A landscape which is intervisible with several areas, and/or where adjacent areas are strongly interrelated. A landscape with prominent skylines that may form an important backdrop to views from settlements or important viewpoints, and/or with important landmark features.
Moderate	A landscape which has some intervisibility with neighbouring areas, and/or where relationships between adjacent landscapes are of more importance. A landscape with some prominent skylines, but these are not particularly distinctive – there may be some landmark features on the skyline. A

Sensitivity Level	Definition
	landscape with some recreational value/some opportunities to experience the landscape.
Low-Moderate	A landscape with limited connections to neighbouring areas, and/or where adjacent landscapes are not visually related. A landscape in which skylines are simple, flat or gently convex and/or there are very few landmark features on the skyline – other skylines in adjacent LCAs may be more prominent.
Low	An enclosed, self-contained landscape, or one with weak connections to neighbouring areas. A landscape in which skylines are prominent, and there are no important landmark features on the skyline. A landscape with limited recreational value/limited opportunities to experience the landscape.

Perceptual and scenic qualities

2.38 Landscapes that are relatively remote or tranquil tend to be more sensitive to wind energy, since turbines may be perceived as intrusive. Landscapes which are relatively free from overt human activity and disturbance, and which have a perceived naturalness or a strong feel of traditional rurality, will therefore be more sensitive (and have lower landscape potential). Qualities such as tranquillity can be found even in settled areas, where the influence of overtly modern development is reduced. Wind energy development will generally be less intrusive in landscapes which are strongly influenced by modern development, including settlement, industrial and commercial development and infrastructure, including existing renewables development. Landscapes with cultural characteristics/associations will also increase sensitivity to this criterion.

2.39 Landscapes that have a high scenic quality will be more sensitive. Scenic qualities can include contrasts and combinations of landform and landcover. Scenic qualities are recorded in the Landscape Character Assessment, or may be referenced in tourist material. Scenic viewpoints may be marked on Ordnance Survey maps. Scenic quality is also considered in the field.

Table 2.12: Wind energy perceptual and scenic qualities sensitivity levels

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	A landscape of consistently attractive character, with pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic

Sensitivity Level	Definition
	elements. A tranquil landscape with little or no overt sign of modern human activity and development.
Moderate-High	A landscape of attractive character, with some pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. A more naturalistic landscape and/or one with little modern human influence and development.
Moderate	A landscape of intermittently attractive character, with occasional pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. A rural landscape with some modern development and human activity, such as intensive farmland.
Low-Moderate	A landscape of limited attractive character, with few pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. A rural or semi-rural landscape with much human activity and dispersed modern development, such as settlement fringes.
Low	A landscape without attractive character, with no pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements, such as industrial areas or derelict land. A landscape with much human activity and modern development, such as industrial areas.

Making overall judgements on landscape sensitivity

As with all assessments based upon data and information, which is to a greater or lesser extent subjective, some caution is required in its interpretation. This is to avoid the suggestion that certain landscape features or qualities can automatically be associated with certain sensitivities – the reality is that an assessment of a landscape’s sensitivity to development is the result of a complex interplay of often unequally weighted variables.

2.40 Sensitivity verdicts are based on professional judgement and the relative importance of each criterion varies between LCAs. There may be one criterion that has a strong influence on landscape sensitivity in a particular LCA, which increases the overall landscape sensitivity score (an example for solar PV might be a landscape with prominent slopes or significant coverage of semi-natural habitats).

Key characteristics may identify where a particular criterion is more important, and is therefore given greater weight in the judgement of sensitivity.

2.41 There may also be criteria that produce conflicting scores. For example, a small-scale landscape with historic field patterns may also afford greater screening of panels from topography and a dense network of hedgerows. A conflicting example for wind could be in the context of a settled landscape. While it would have a greater human influence (indicating a lower sensitivity to new development), it would also contain more human-scale features that could be affected by large-scale wind turbines (indicating a higher sensitivity). Conversely, a more remote landscape is likely to lack human-scale features but is likely to present a higher sensitivity from a perceptual point of view.

2.42 In these situations, a professional judgement is made on overall landscape sensitivity, taking all criteria into account in the context of their importance to the landscape character and quality of the individual LCA.

2.43 Landscape sensitivity is expressed on a five-level scale from low sensitivity to high sensitivity as shown in Table 2.4.

2.44 The assessment profiles contain a ‘Summary of overall landscape sensitivity’, which identifies specific features or attributes within the landscape that have greater or lesser sensitivity to a given development scenario. The impact of a proposed development on these specific features/attributes should be taken into consideration during the planning process (e.g. LVIA).

2.45 As this is a strategic study, the smaller-scale typologies considered will generally result in a smaller impact on the landscape character. The sensitivity to these smaller typologies is therefore typically considered lower than larger typologies. As the scale of development increases, so does the likely impact and the sensitivity of the landscape.

Table 2.13: Overall sensitivity definitions

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are highly vulnerable to change from wind and solar energy development. Such development is likely to result in a significant change in character.
Moderate-High	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change from wind and solar energy development. There may be some limited opportunity to accommodate wind

Sensitivity Level	Definition
	turbines/solar panels without significantly changing landscape character. Great care would be needed in siting and design.
Moderate	Some of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change. Although the landscape may have some ability to absorb wind and solar energy development, it is likely to cause a degree of change in character. Care would be needed in siting and design.
Low-Moderate	Fewer of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change. The landscape is likely to be able to accommodate wind and solar energy development with limited change in character. Care is still needed when siting and designing to avoid adversely affecting key characteristics.
Low	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are robust in that they can withstand change from the introduction of wind turbines and solar panels. The landscape is likely to be able to accommodate wind and solar energy development without a significant change in character. Care is still needed when siting and designing these developments to ensure best fit with the landscape.

Consideration of cumulative effects

2.46 As larger numbers of renewable energy developments are built, it is increasingly necessary to consider their cumulative effects. The cumulative effects of multiple schemes are a significant issue for planning authorities, particularly for free-standing solar PV developments, which tend to cluster around grid connection points.

2.47 The most significant cumulative effects are those that result in changes in the character of a landscape to such an extent as to transform it into a different landscape type. It should be recognised that if numerous developments are built, then at some point another development could tip the balance through its additional effects.

2.48 Key cumulative considerations include:

- How different developments relate to each other and the underlying landscape;
- Similarities or differences in design rationale, such as turbine scale and spacing, or relationship of solar arrays to field patterns;

- Their frequency as one moves through the landscape, or the sequential visual effects resulting from multiple developments;
- How landscape mitigation associated with multiple developments influence the landscape pattern or character of views;
- How different developments relate to the composition of key views e.g. consideration of impacts on developed versus undeveloped parts of the view; and
- Their visual separation, or the potential for combined or successive visual effects in key views.

2.49 The LSA does not include assessment of the potential cumulative impacts of specific multiple developments, as different combinations of development are not known at this stage. Specific cumulative effects are most appropriately considered at the individual site level, including through the process of LVIA.

2.50 However, the LSA does consider the influence of the baseline of operational wind and solar developments within the landscape, emerging patterns of consented and proposed developments, and how the key sensitivities of the landscape may be influenced by multiple developments.

2.51 Additional guidance on the LVIA and cumulative assessment process is included in Appendix A.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility Mapping

2.52 Based on the data provided by the Council, cumulative zone of theoretical visibility (CZTV) maps were produced to demonstrate the patterns of existing and potential future turbine visibility across the district. CZTVs were calculated using a computer program and working with a 'bare earth' digital terrain model which does not take account of trees, woodland or buildings in determining visibility. Separate CZTVs were produced to reflect the current (operational) baseline, and the potential future baselines (including consented, but unbuilt, wind farms).

2.53 The patterns of visibility were compared against the landscape sensitivity baseline to provide an indication of potential cumulative effects. This sought to identify where cumulative development could affect the most sensitive landscapes, as well as areas of lower sensitivity where a greater degree of change may be considered acceptable.

2.54 Solar PV panels are much smaller structures (typically 4m or lower) and therefore the wider visual impact is generally lower. Given the potential for screening

or integration of solar panels by existing vegetation or proposed landscape mitigation, effects resulting from solar energy development will likely be focused on the direct effects (such as changes to land cover or field patterns), rather than indirect effects resulting from visibility of solar developments more broadly. As such, CZTV maps illustrating visibility of solar farm development were not prepared.

2.55 The cumulative baseline is discussed further in Chapter 4.

Consideration of solar developments exceeding 150 hectares

2.56 Solar developments which exceed the size of the ‘very large’ typology considered in this study, including those currently proposed within or near Newark and Sherwood, tend to be distributed across multiple parts of the landscape and may be seen as multiple separate developments. As such, the key cumulative considerations identified for each LCA will be relevant to these projects, in addition to the following cumulative considerations for the district more broadly:

- How different developments or different parts of development(s) relate to each other and the underlying landscape, particularly where there are marked transitions in the landscape such as:
 - The change in scale between the smaller-scale landscape of the Meadowlands and surrounding landscapes of a medium to larger scale;
 - The change in landcover and landscape pattern between the densely wooded character of the Wooded Estatelands and the more open character of surrounding fields; and
 - The visual relationship between the lower-lying Trent Valley and rising landform to the west.
- How solar arrays relate to the underlying field pattern, as most operational solar developments retain the underlying field pattern and avoid amalgamation of fields. Loss of small-scale field pattern, particularly those surrounding historic villages, should be avoided.
- The potential for sequential visual effects resulting from visibility of development(s), particularly for sensitive recreational receptors travelling on the Robin Hood Way, Trent Valley Way, Southwell Trail and National Cycle Network routes.
- Opportunities for habitat enhancement and restoration associated with development(s) and how these may feed into a wider strategic landscape restoration aims, including enhanced connectivity of areas of woodland, field boundaries and riparian habitats.

- How multiple developments or parts of development(s) may appear in combined or successive visual effects in key views including:
 - Promoted OS viewpoints;
 - Panoramic views from local high points like Robin Hood Hill; and
 - Views from important historic landscapes including Southwell, Laxton and important views/vistas experienced within Registered Parks and Gardens.

2.57 Additional cumulative considerations specific to each LCA are included in the Chapter 5.

Presentation of results

2.58 The full landscape sensitivity assessments for each of the LCAs are presented in separate assessment profiles. These are structured as follows:

- A map of the LCA with a summary description of its location and extent;
- A summary of the key characteristics of the LCA (as defined in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment);
- Representative photographs;
- An assessment of the LCA against each of the sensitivity criteria for new solar PV and wind energy development;
- An overall discussion on the landscape sensitivity of the LCA to new solar PV and wind energy developments, referencing particular features, attributes or locations which may be more or less sensitive;
- Landscape sensitivity scores for new solar PV and wind energy development within each of the different development typologies, for each LCA;
- Any variations in sensitivity between different parts of the LCA;
- Cumulative considerations for each LCA, including a description of operational, consented and proposed development relevant to the LCA; and
- Specific guidance for development within the LCA.

2.59 Chapter 5 sets out the overall results of the assessments.

Chapter 3

Landscape Baseline

Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment

3.1 The Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (NSLCA) divides the district across five regional character areas (RCAs) which extend beyond the district boundaries. The RCA boundaries are shown in **Figure 2.1**.

3.2 The NSLCA identifies ten Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) across the five RCAs, resulting in sixteen geographically-specific Landscape Character Assessments (LCAs). The previous capacity study used the policy zones described in the NSLCA, although with reference and under the grouping of sixteen county-wide LCAs. For simplicity and to better align this study with the adopted Supplementary Planning Documents, this study treats the LCAs as assessment units, rather than the policy zones. The only exception is the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland. This LCA has been split, with northern and southern areas considered separately, due to local variations in character and the large extent of the LCA. Other amendments to this classification, as well as the key differences between the boundaries previously used in the 2014 Landscape Capacity Study, are described in Appendix B.

3.3 This study also uses information from other relevant landscape studies including the [Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council’s 2012 Southwell Landscape Setting Study](#).

3.4 The sensitivity assessment in Chapter 5 presents an evaluation of each of these LCAs, and provides guidance on appropriate siting and design of wind energy and solar PV development in each.

3.5 The spatial classification is shown in Table 3.1 and mapped in **Figure 2.1**.

Regional Character Areas and their Component Landscape Character Areas

- Sherwood RCA
 - Sherwood: Village Farmlands (A1)
 - Sherwood: Meadowlands (A2)

- Sherwood: Wooded Estatelands (A3)
- Sherwood: Wooded Farmlands (A4)
- Sherwood: Meadowlands with Plantations (A5)
- Sherwood: Estate Farmland (A6)
- Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA
 - Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland (B1n and B1s)
 - Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Meadowlands (B2)
 - Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Estate Farmlands with Plantations (B3)
 - Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Village Farmlands (B4)
- Trent Washlands RCA
 - Trent Washlands: Village Farmlands (C1)
 - Trent Washlands: River Meadowlands (C2)
- East Nottinghamshire Sandlands RCA
 - East Nottinghamshire Sandlands: Village Farmlands (D1)
 - East Nottinghamshire Sandlands: Village Farmlands with Plantations (D2)
- South Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA
 - South Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Meadowlands (E1)
 - South Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Village Farmlands (E2)

3.6 The NSLCA Supplementary Planning Documents are available on the Newark and Sherwood District Council website:

- <http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/spds/>

Adjoining Landscape Character Assessments

3.7 The landscape character assessments of the adjoining local authorities within the 5km buffer have also been considered:

- [Bassetlaw District Council's 2009 Landscape Character Assessment – Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire;](#)
- [Nottingham City Council's 2009 Greater Nottingham Landscape Character Assessment;](#)

- [Environmental Resources Management \(ERM\) for West Lindsey District Council's 1999 West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment;](#)
- [David Tyldesley and Associates for North Kesteven District Council's 2007 North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment;](#)
- [FPCR for South Kesteven District Council's 2007 South Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment;](#) and
- [ADAS UK Ltd for Melton Borough Council's 2011 Melton Landscape Character Assessment Update 2011.](#)

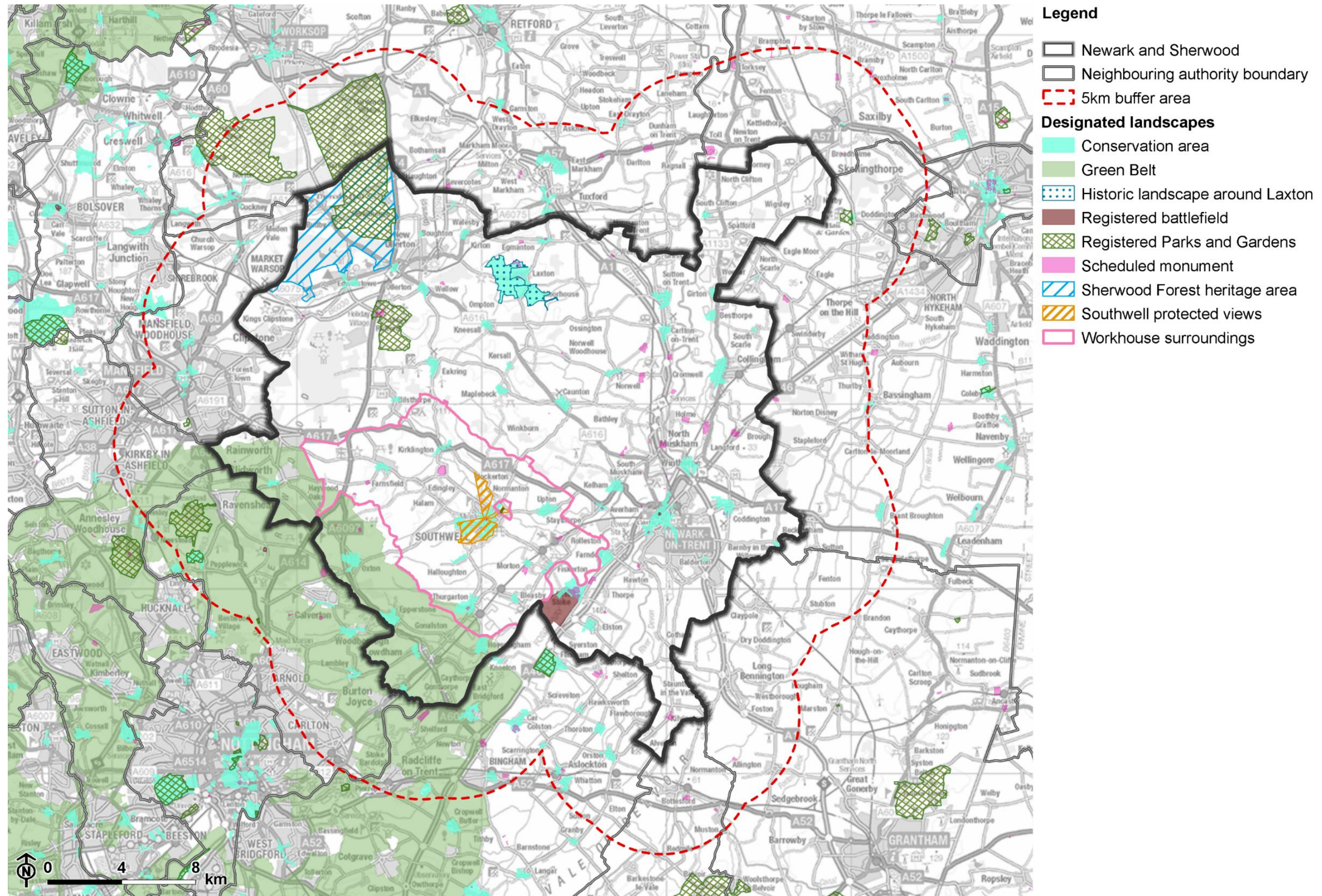
3.8 These documents have provided an understanding of the landscapes which immediately adjoin Newark and Sherwood, and where landscape character is continuous across administrative boundaries. The Bassetlaw and Greater Nottingham LCAs are based on the same county-wide LCA as the NSLCA, and as such are readily comparable in the way that regional character areas have been defined across district boundaries.

Designated landscapes

3.9 There are no landscapes in Newark and Sherwood, or in the 5km buffer of the study area, which are protected at a national level for their landscape quality or scenic value (i.e. National Parks or National Landscapes). Nor are there any local or regional designations which are specifically designed to protect landscape quality or scenic value. Nevertheless landscapes may have scenic qualities. These may be recorded in the landscape character assessment, or picked up through fieldwork.

3.10 The Nottingham-Derby Green Belt wraps around the Nottingham urban area and extends north-east into Newark and Sherwood. The Green Belt is a planning tool rather than a landscape designation: land is not included within the Green Belt for its scenic quality. The presence of the Green Belt does not therefore affect judgements about the underlying sensitivity of the landscape and is not referred to in the assessment criteria. However, it is a consideration in determining applications and may affect decisions about siting and design. Where an LCA extends into the Green Belt this has been noted in the guidelines section. The extent of the Green Belt within Newark and Sherwood is shown in **Figure 3.1**.

Figure 3.1: Landscape, planning and historic environment designations



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Historic environment aspects of the landscape

3.11 The aim of this study is not to provide a comprehensive heritage assessment. However, the clear relationship between heritage asset(s) and landscape character are addressed and considered under the 'Historic Landscape' sensitivity criterion (see Chapter 2). Landscapes with particular heritage significance include those designated at a national level as Registered Parks and Gardens and Registered Battlefields, areas within conservation areas and other local landscape heritage designations. Designations which have been considered are shown on **Figure 3.1** and are briefly discussed below.

3.12 There are four sites within the district which are designated by Historic England as Registered Parks and Gardens for their special historic interest. Two (Thoresby and Rufford) are extensive parklands associated with country houses, while two are smaller gardens relating to historic buildings within or near settlements. The designated areas, plus views identified in the register entries, will be particularly sensitive to wind energy and solar PV development. The Registered Parks and Gardens are:

- Thoresby Park to the north of New Ollerton (grade I);
- Thurgarton Hundred Workhouse at Southwell (grade II*);
- Rufford Abbey to the south of Ollerton (grade II); and
- Newark Castle Gardens, Newark (grade II).

3.13 The site of the Battle of Stoke Field (1487) is included on the Historic England Register of Historic Battlefields for its special historic interest. It lies between East Stoke and the Trent, to the south-west of Newark.

3.14 The historic landscape around Laxton is England's only remaining medieval open-field system still in use. The field system is identified and protected in the development plan. The field system covers an irregular area extending up to 2km from the village. This area and its immediate setting will be sensitive to wind energy development.

3.15 The setting of the town of Southwell has been the subject of a detailed study which has led to the definition of protected views from, of and across the town's principal heritage assets (the Minster, Holy Trinity Church and Workhouse) and an area defined as the immediate surroundings of the Workhouse. The extents of these designations are defined on the LDF Policies Map, and have associated policies (Policy So/PV and Policy So/Wh) which seek to provide for their protection. The

views and the settings of the assets will be particularly sensitive to wind energy and solar PV development.

3.16 Sherwood Forest Heritage Area occupies the north-west corner of the district, including Sherwood Forest Country Park and the Major Oak, as well as Thoresby Park. The designation seeks to protect the traditional landscape of forest and heath which was once widespread in this part of Britain.

3.17 Conservation areas are designated by the Council to protect the special architectural and historic interest, character and appearance of settlements, although in some cases they extend into the rural context. There are 47 conservation areas within Newark and Sherwood. The special qualities of conservation areas are set out in conservation area appraisals, including reference to views of the settlement in the landscape. There are 17 completed appraisals within Newark and Sherwood. Where these appraisals are available, they have been reviewed and any key relationships with the landscape are noted.

3.18 The heritage value of other historic environment features, such as scheduled monuments and listed buildings, are considered in this study where these exert a legible influence on the landscape beyond a very localised area.

Historic environment aspects within the wider buffer area

3.19 Thoresby Park and Rufford Abbey form part of the Dukeries, a unique conjunction of substantial estate houses, which also includes the Registered Parks and Gardens of Welbeck Abbey and Clumber Park, as well as Worksop Manor, which are all within Bassetlaw district to the north. Clumber Park in particular is contiguous with Thoresby, while Welbeck Abbey is to the west, within 5km of Newark and Sherwood. As with the rest of the Sherwood Forest area, the Dukeries are overlaid by historical and later mineral workings.

3.20 Other Registered Parks and Gardens which are close to the district boundary include Doddington Hall west of Harby, and Flintham Hall to the south of Newark. Further afield are the substantial parks of Belvoir Castle and Belton House, across the Vale of Belvoir to the south-east.

Chapter 4

Cumulative Baseline

4.1 As larger numbers of renewable energy developments are built, it is increasingly necessary to consider their cumulative effects. The cumulative effects of multiple schemes are a significant issue for planning authorities, particularly for free-standing solar PV developments, which tend to cluster around grid connection points.

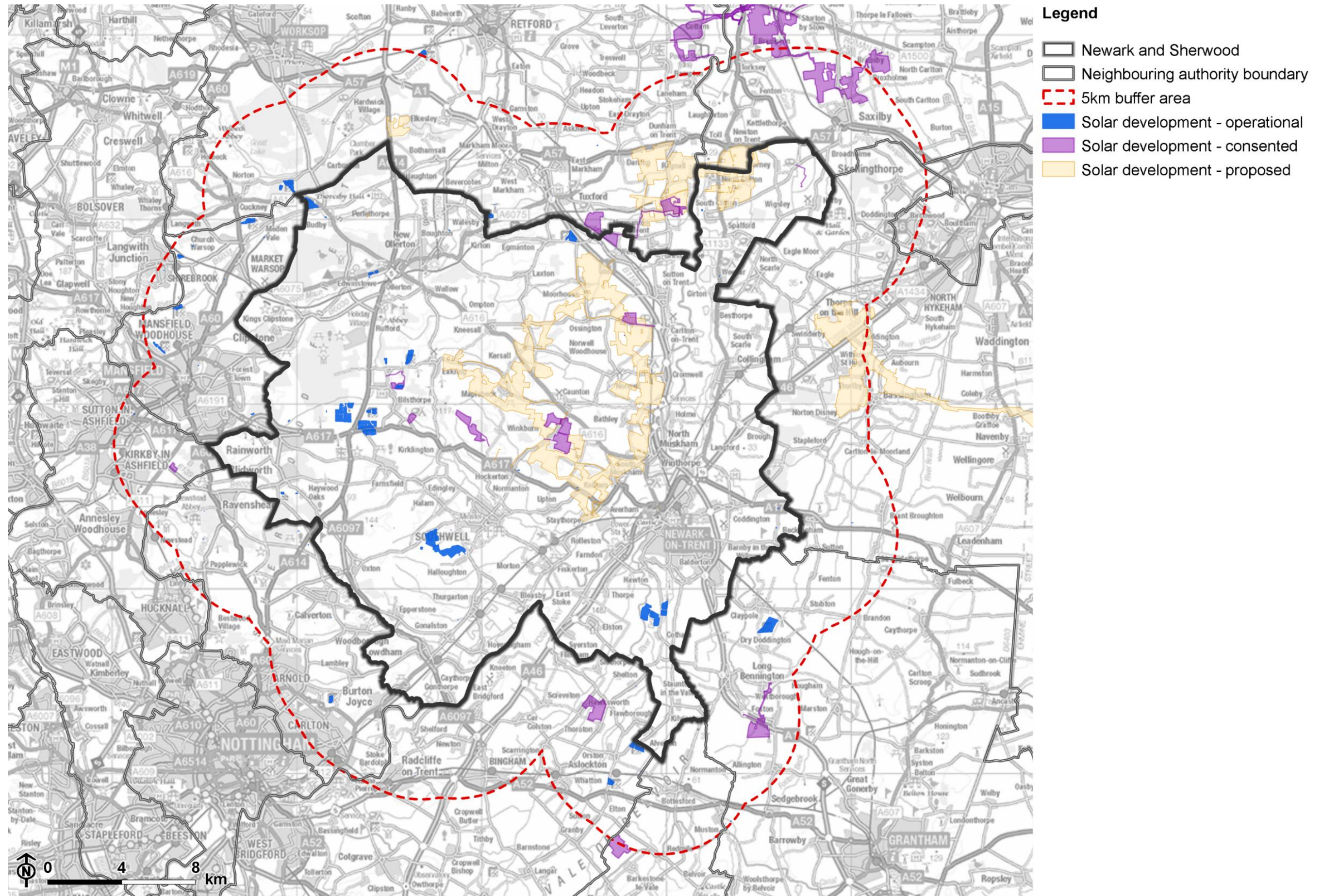
4.2 The most significant cumulative effects are those that result in changes in the character of a landscape to such an extent as to transform it into a different landscape type. It should be recognised that if numerous developments are built, then at some point another development could tip the balance through its additional effects. In practice, it is challenging to identify this ‘tipping point’, but landscape sensitivity analysis provides a tool to assist the decision maker.

Solar energy

4.3 Given the typical vertical scale of solar PV panels and potential for screening of solar panels by existing vegetation or proposed landscape mitigation, cumulative effects resulting from solar energy development will likely be focused on the direct effects (such as cumulative changes to land cover, field pattern or perceptual qualities), rather than indirect cumulative effects resulting from combined visibility of different solar developments more broadly. As such, CZTV maps illustrating combined visibility of solar farm development were not prepared.

4.4 **Figure 4.1** illustrates the existing, consented and proposed solar farm development within the study area, colour coded by the status of each development.

Figure 4.1: Solar energy development in Newark and Sherwood



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Contains data from Newark and Sherwood District Council. Contains data derived from national solar planning applications accessed October 2025.

4.5 Operational solar PV development is mainly located in the centre, south and south-east of the district. These operational developments are generally located in areas with flat or gently undulating landform with an underlying landscape pattern of medium to large scale fields. Mature field boundaries and areas of woodland surrounding these developments generally limits their visibility in the wider landscape.

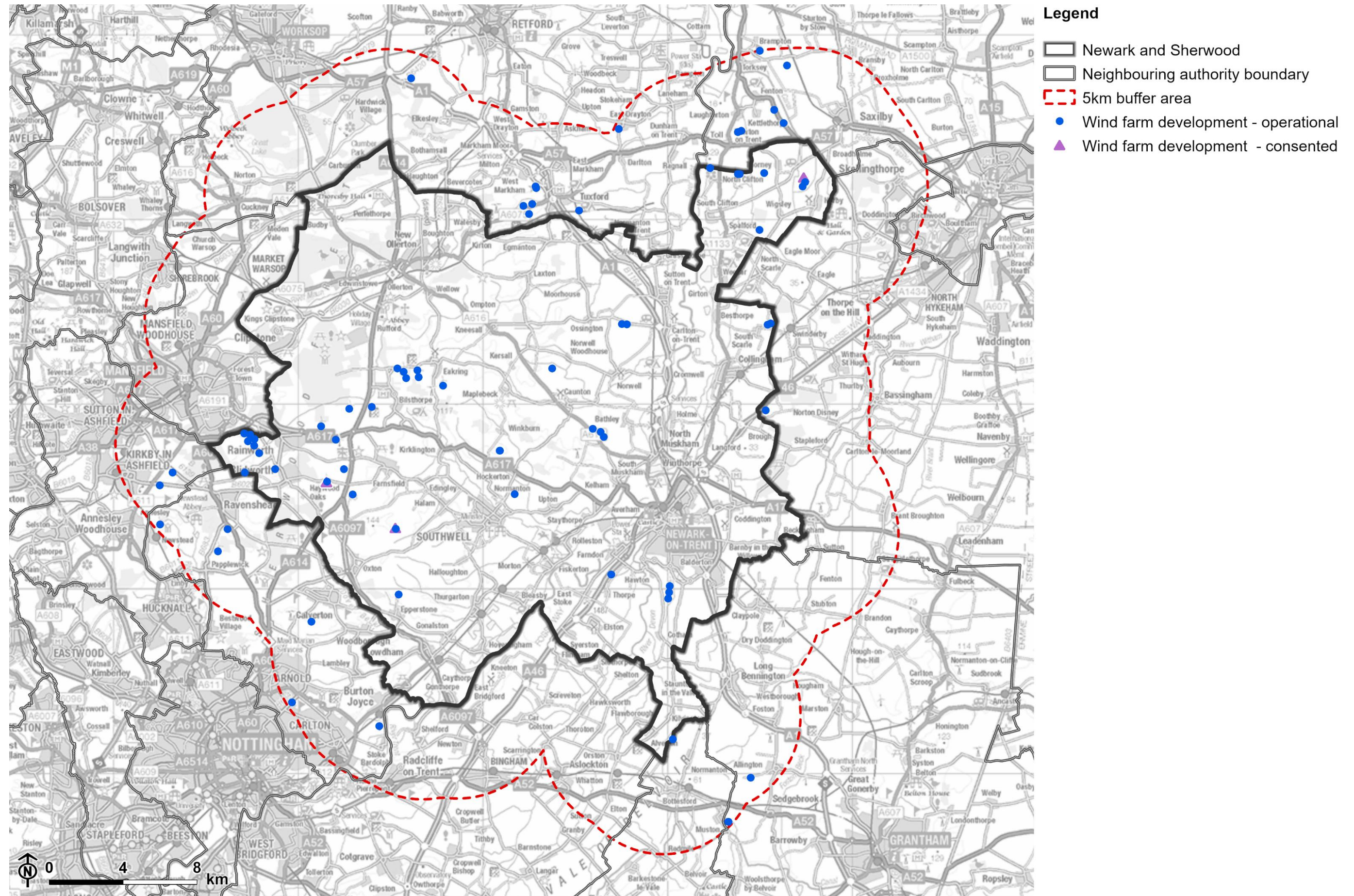
4.6 Consented or permitted solar PV development is mainly located in the centre of the district, and near its northern boundary. Consented development will increase the influence of solar PV arrays along the northern district boundary, and will introduce solar PV arrays into the centre of the district, mainly within the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCA (B1n).

4.7 Proposed solar PV development mainly comprises very large, strategic-scale developments, such as the Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park, broadly located across the centre and east of the district, and the One Earth Solar Farm, which extends across the north-eastern district boundary into the West Lindsey and Bassetlaw districts.

Wind energy

4.8 Data supplied by Newark and Sherwood District Council in October 2025 provides the current picture of operational, consented/permited and proposed wind energy in the district. This data represents a point in time view of development, which is continually changing as applications are consented or refused, and new proposals come forward. Operational and consented wind turbines within the district are shown on **Figure 4.2**. There are currently no proposals for wind turbines within the district.

Figure 4.2: Wind energy development in Newark and Sherwood



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Contains data from Newark and Sherwood District Council.

4.9 Given the vertical scale of wind turbines, cumulative effects resulting from wind energy development will include direct cumulative effects, resulting from changes in land cover, landform and perceptual qualities typically occurring at a more localised level, and indirect cumulative effects resulting from combined visibility of different wind farms experienced more widely. For this reason, CZTV maps are a useful tool for understanding the potential for cumulative effects resulting from multiple wind farm developments.

4.10 The CZTV maps included in the 2014 Capacity Study have been updated, based on the method set out in Chapter 2, for two development scenarios, as follows:

- Operational wind turbines; and
- Consented wind turbines.

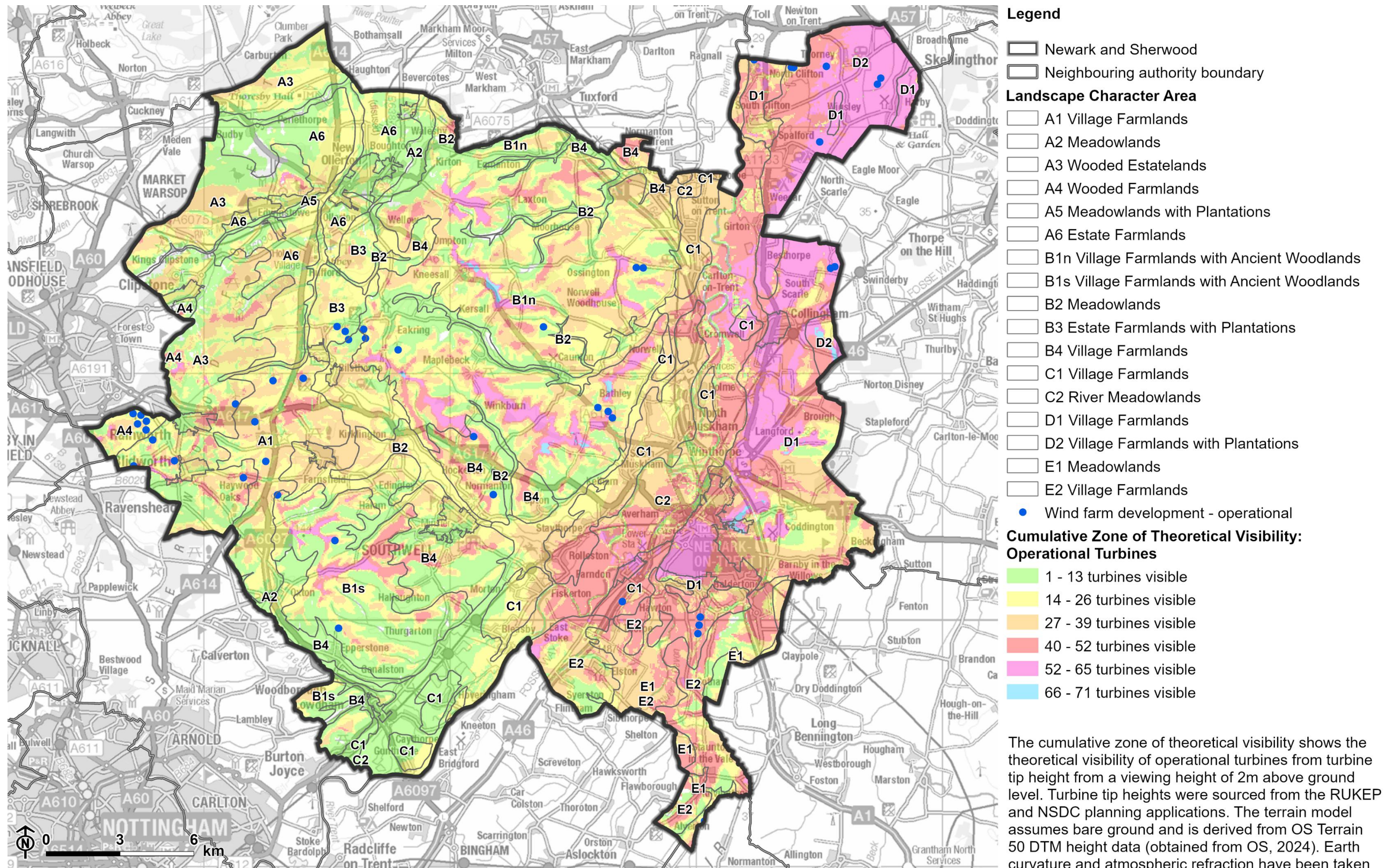
4.11 In each case, all relevant turbines within Newark and Sherwood have been included. The first scenario represents the current state of development, while the second illustrates areas of potential increase in visibility in the future. There is a relatively high level of certainty that consented turbines will be built, as compared to proposed but undetermined planning applications (should these come forward in the future).

4.12 It should be noted that each CZTV is based on bare earth digital terrain modelling, which takes no account of trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility in the field. As such they overestimate the level of development visible from any one point, though the general patterns are considered to be representative. It should also be borne in mind that visibility of turbines does not equate to an impact on landscape character or views. The actual number of operational or consented turbines visible from parts of the district will be lower than those indicated by the CZTV.

4.13 The CZTV of all operational turbines within Newark and Sherwood and the 5km buffer area is shown in **Figure 4.3**. The highest level of theoretical visibility is indicated across the higher ground within western and central parts of the district, and more extensively across the area south and west of Newark, extending along the east of the Trent and beyond the district boundary. The largest number of turbines is theoretically visible from areas of the Trent Washlands, East Nottinghamshire and South Nottinghamshire, as well as from parts of the Village Farmlands LCA (B4) and Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCA (B1n and B1s) within Mid Nottinghamshire. The lowest levels of theoretical visibility are located in the Estate Farmlands LCA (A6) of northern Sherwood, the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland LCA (B1s) in the south of Mid Nottinghamshire, and within incised river valleys within the Meadowlands LCAs (A2 and B2) of Sherwood and Mid

Nottinghamshire. The presence of trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility in the field will reduce the amount of actual visibility of turbines in the landscape, as compared to the levels of theoretical visibility indicated on the CZTV.

Figure 4.3: Cumulative zone of theoretical visibility – operational turbines



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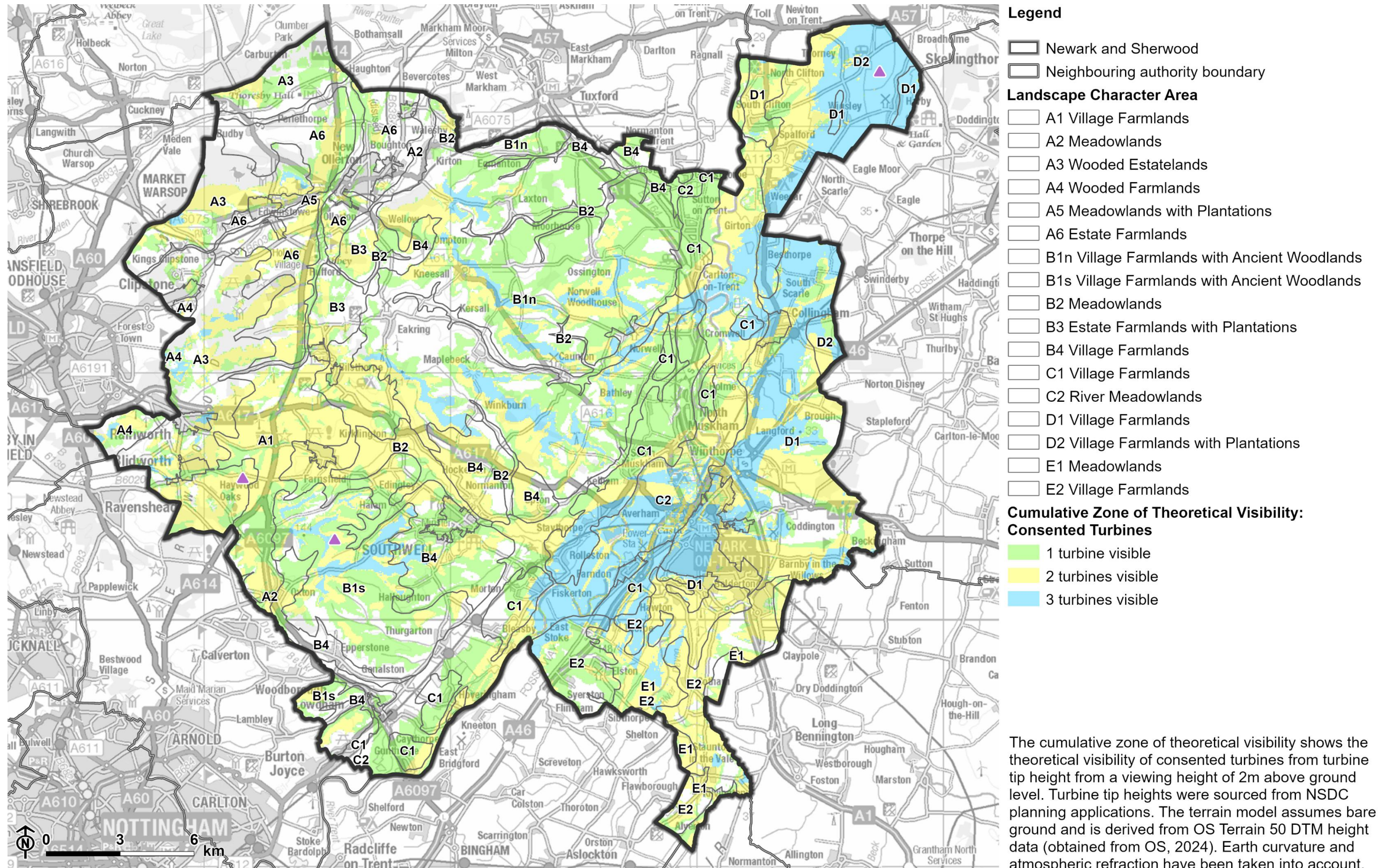
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The cumulative zone of theoretical visibility shows the theoretical visibility of operational turbines from turbine tip height from a viewing height of 2m above ground level. Turbine tip heights were sourced from the RUKPEP and NSDC planning applications. The terrain model assumes bare ground and is derived from OS Terrain 50 DTM height data (obtained from OS, 2024). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcPro 3.6.1 software.

4.14 The CZTV of all consented turbines is shown in **Figure 4.4** and the CZTV of all operational and consented turbines is shown in **Figure 4.5**. The majority of the additional development in this scenario follows a similar pattern as the theoretical visibility of the operational turbines within the district. The largest number of turbines will be theoretically visible from areas of the Trent Washlands, East Nottinghamshire and South Nottinghamshire, as well as from parts of the Village Farmlands LCA (B4) and Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCA (B1n and B1s) within Mid Nottinghamshire. The limited nature of theoretical visibility within the Estate Farmlands LCA (A6) of northern Sherwood, and within incised river valleys within the Meadowlands LCAs (A2 and B2) of Sherwood and Mid Nottinghamshire will be retained.

4.15 The CZTVs have informed the discussion of cumulative effects of wind energy developments for each LCA in Chapter 5.

Figure 4.4: Cumulative zone of theoretical visibility – consented turbines



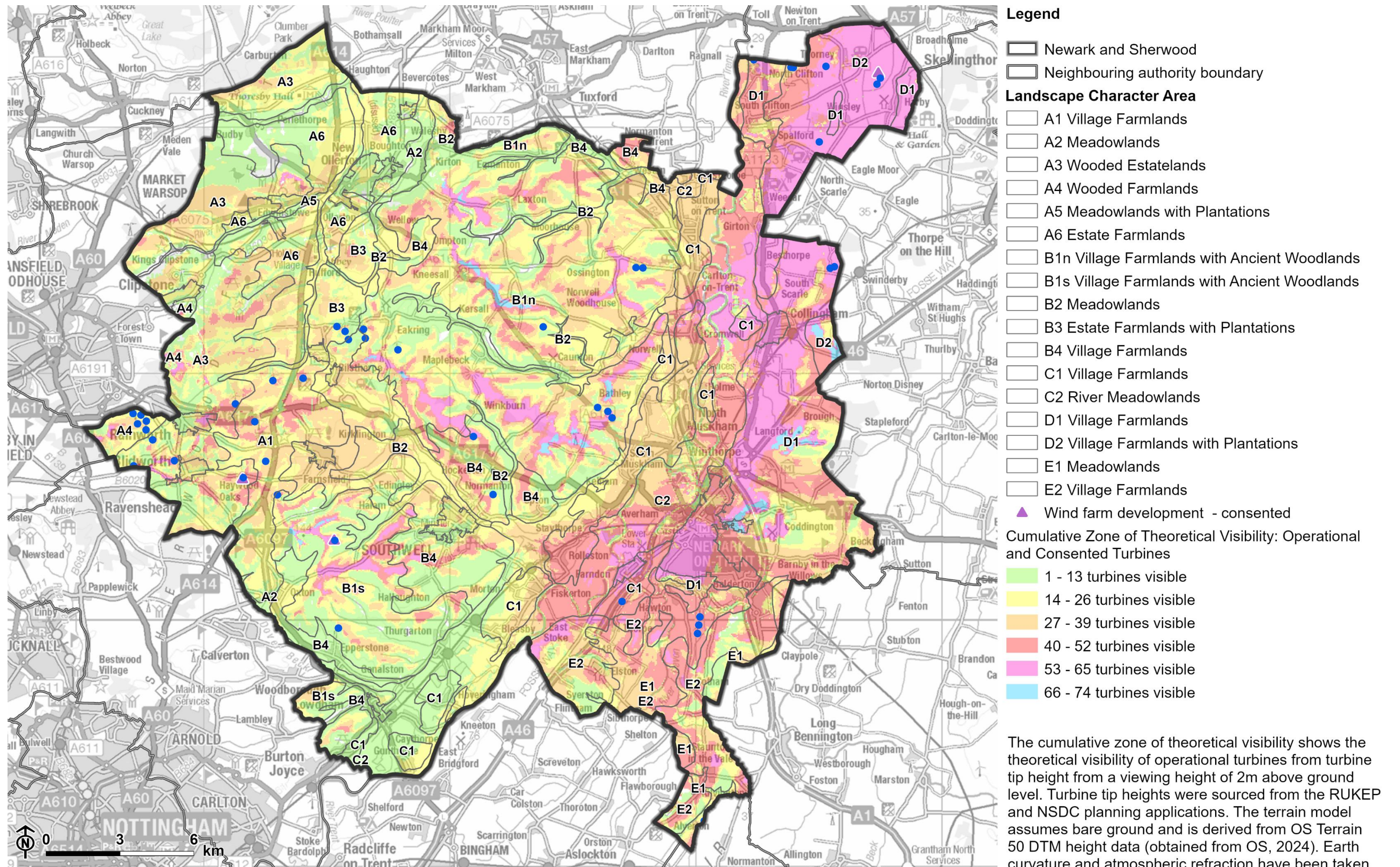
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The cumulative zone of theoretical visibility shows the theoretical visibility of consented turbines from turbine tip height from a viewing height of 2m above ground level. Turbine tip heights were sourced from NSDC planning applications. The terrain model assumes bare ground and is derived from OS Terrain 50 DTM height data (obtained from OS, 2024). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcPro 3.4.0 software.

Figure 4.5: Cumulative zone of theoretical visibility – operational and consented turbines



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Chapter 5

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Results

5.1 The LCAs within Newark and Sherwood District contain areas of higher and lower sensitivity that vary from the overall scores. It is therefore important to take note of the content of the individual assessment profiles, including any commentary which highlights areas which could be more sensitive to solar PV and/or wind energy developments.

5.2 The overall results of the landscape sensitivity assessment are set out in Tables 5.1 and 5.2 and shown on **Figure 5.1-Figure 5.9**.

Table 5.1: Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

RCA	LCA	Small Solar PV	Medium Solar PV	Large Solar PV	Very Large Solar PV
Sherwood	A1 Village Farmlands	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High
Sherwood	A2 Meadowlands	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate-High	High
Sherwood	A3 Wooded Estatelands	Moderate	Moderate-High	Moderate-High	High
Sherwood	A4 Wooded Farmlands	Low-Moderate	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High
Sherwood	A5 Meadowlands with Plantations	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High
Sherwood	A6 Estate Farmland	Low	Moderate	Moderate-High	Moderate-High
Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands	B1n Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland (northern unit)	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High
Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands	B1s Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland (southern unit)	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High
Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands	B2 Meadowlands	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High
Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands	B3 Estate Farmlands with Plantations	Low	Low	High	High
Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands	B4 Village Farmlands	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High
Trent Washlands	C1 Village Farmland	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High
Trent Washlands	C2 River Meadowlands	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High

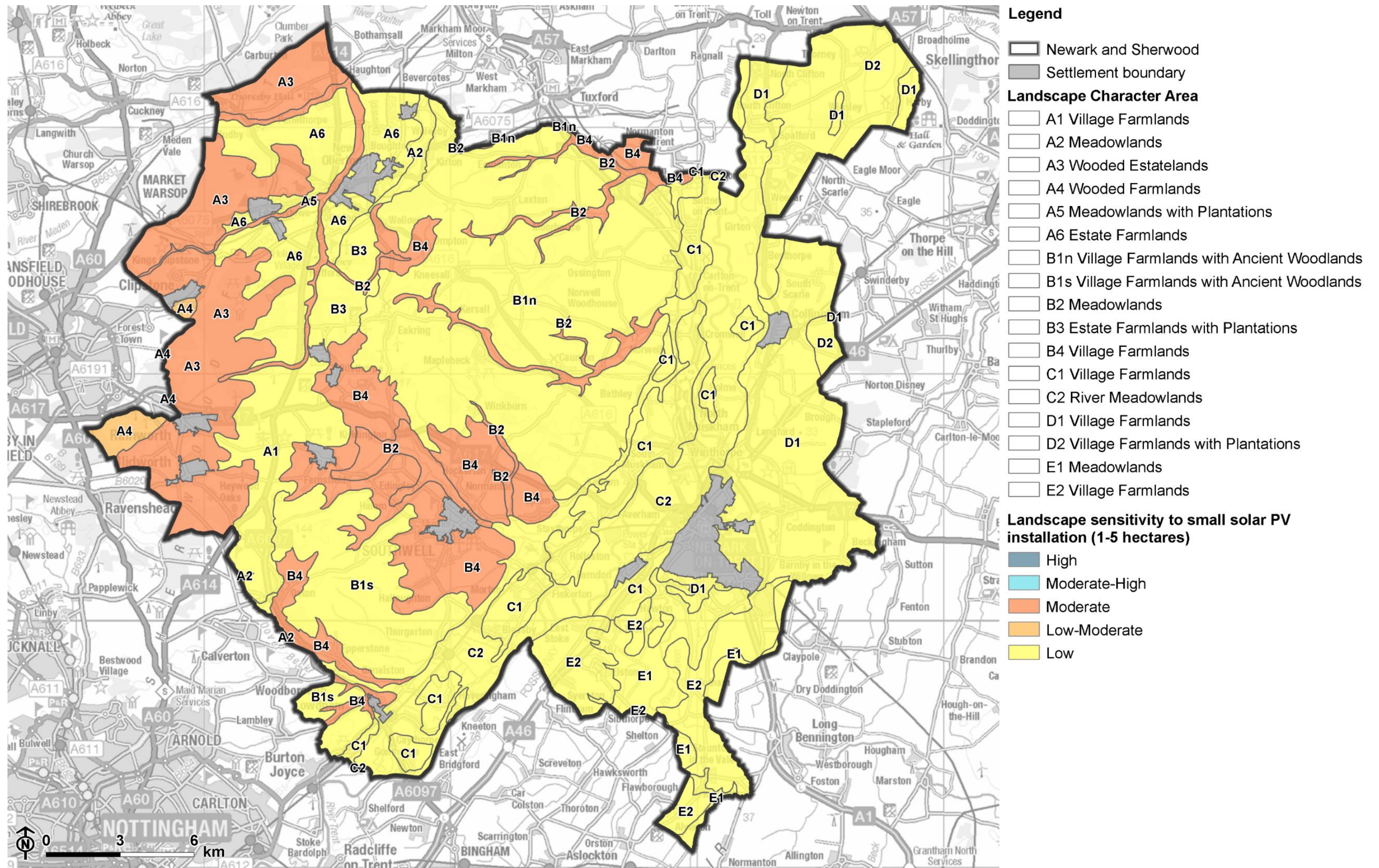
RCA	LCA	Small Solar PV	Medium Solar PV	Large Solar PV	Very Large Solar PV
East Nottinghamshire Sandlands	D1 Village Farmlands	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High
East Nottinghamshire Sandlands	D2 Village Farmlands with Plantations	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High
South Nottinghamshire Farmlands	E1 Meadowlands	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate-High	Moderate-High
South Nottinghamshire Farmlands	E2 Village Farmlands	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High

Table 5.2: Overall landscape sensitivity to wind development

RCA	LCA	Very Small Turbines	Small Turbines	Medium Turbines	Large Turbines	Very Large Turbines
Sherwood	A1 Village Farmlands	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
Sherwood	A2 Meadowlands	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High	High
Sherwood	A3 Wooded Estatelands	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High
Sherwood	A4 Wooded Farmlands	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	Moderate-High
Sherwood	A5 Meadowlands with Plantations	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High
Sherwood	A6 Estate Farmland	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High
Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands	B1n Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland (northern unit)	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High

RCA	LCA	Very Small Turbines	Small Turbines	Medium Turbines	Large Turbines	Very Large Turbines
Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands	B1s Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland (southern unit)	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High
Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands	B2 Meadowlands	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High
Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands	B3 Estate Farmlands with Plantations	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands	B4 Village Farmlands	Moderate	Moderate-High	Moderate-High	High	High
Trent Washlands	C1 Village Farmland	Low	Low-Moderate	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High
Trent Washlands	C2 River Meadowlands	Low	Low-Moderate	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High
East Nottinghamshire Sandlands	D1 Village Farmlands	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	Moderate-High
East Nottinghamshire Sandlands	D2 Village Farmlands with Plantations	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	Moderate-High
South Nottinghamshire Farmlands	E1 Meadowlands	Low	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High
South Nottinghamshire Farmlands	E2 Village Farmlands	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High

Figure 5.1: Landscape sensitivity to small solar PV installation (1 to 5 hectares)

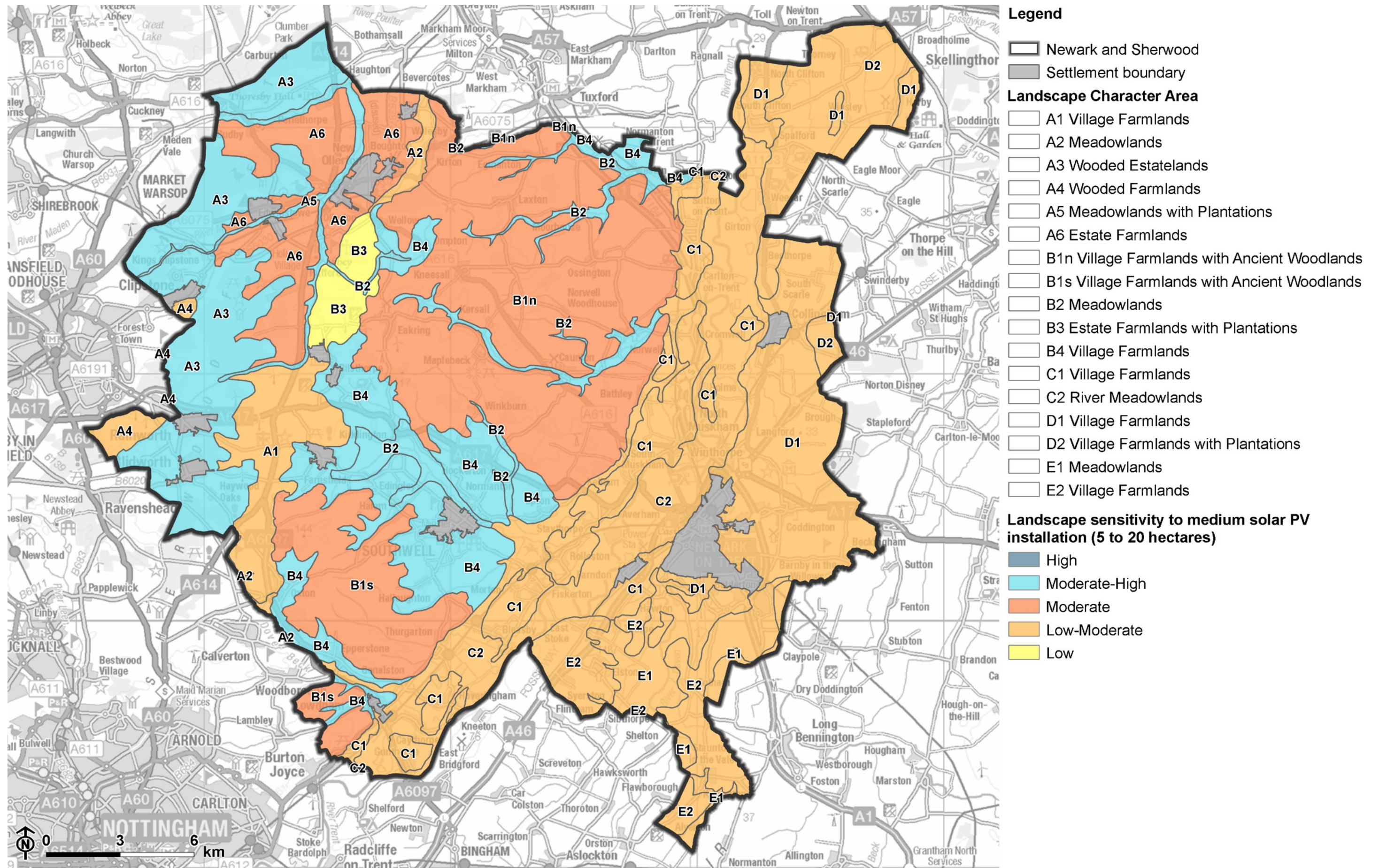


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Figure 5.2: Landscape sensitivity to medium solar PV installation (5 to 20 hectares)

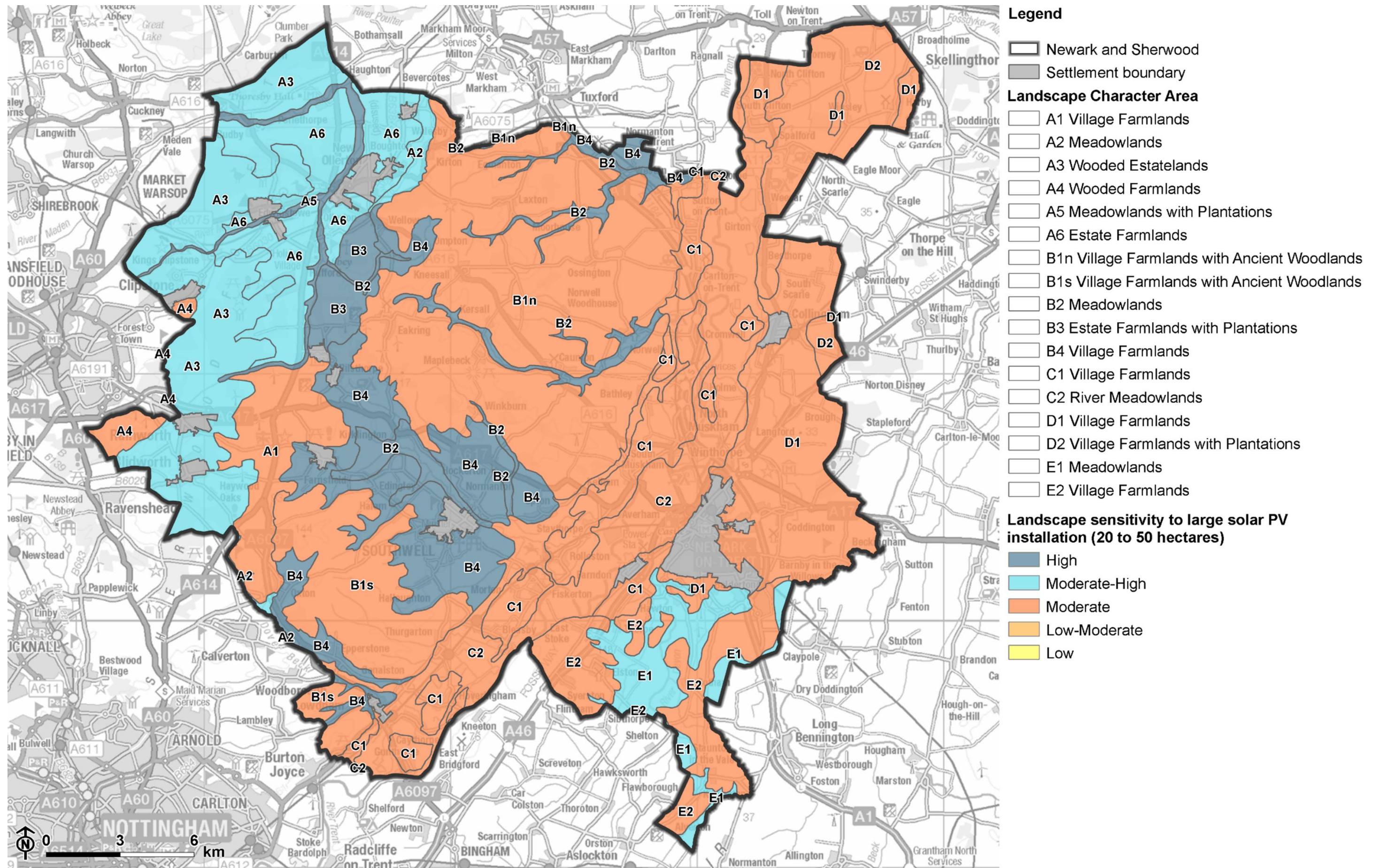


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Figure 5.3: Landscape sensitivity to large solar PV installation (20 to 50 hectares)

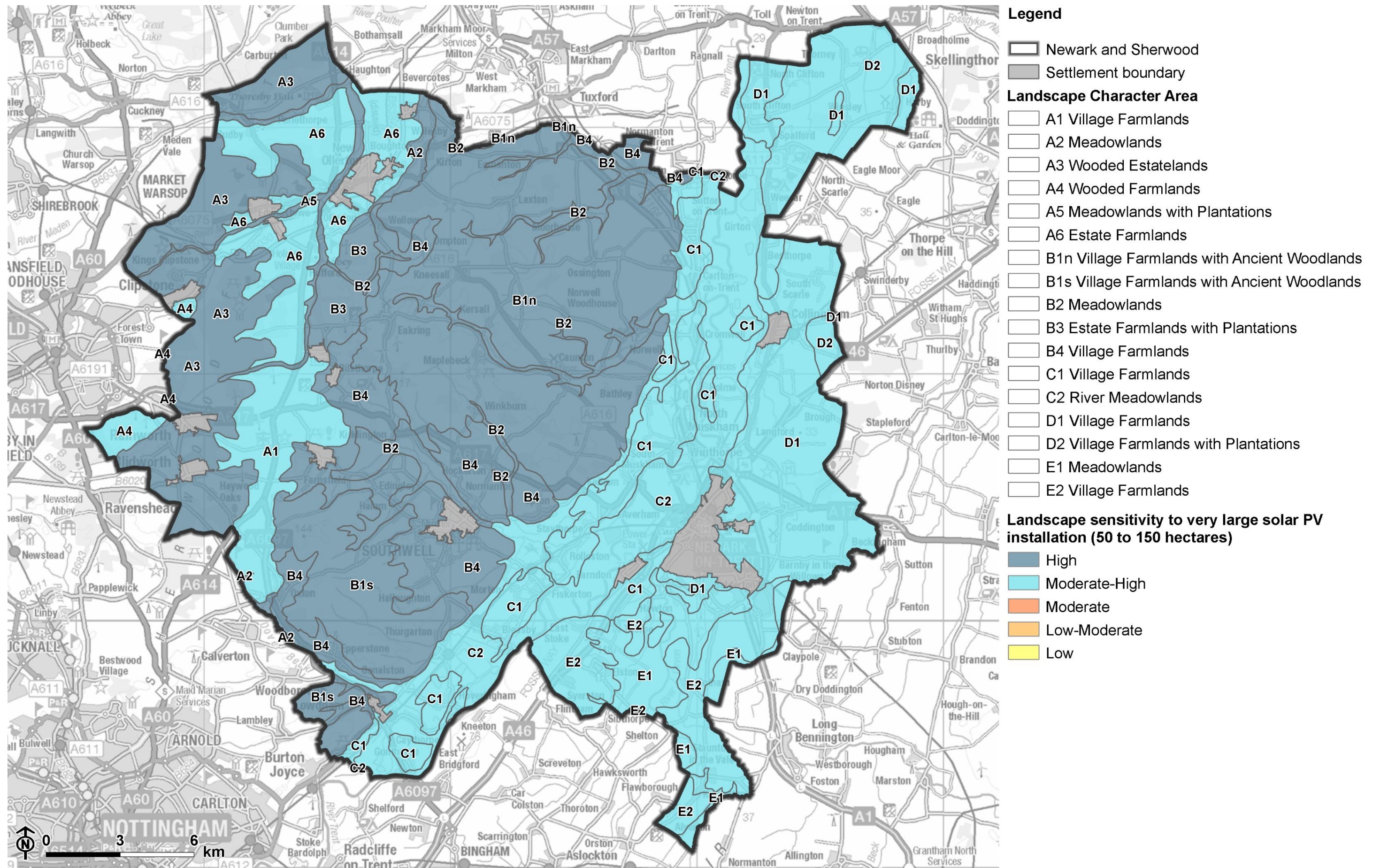


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Figure 5.4: Landscape sensitivity to very large solar PV installation (50 to 150 hectares)

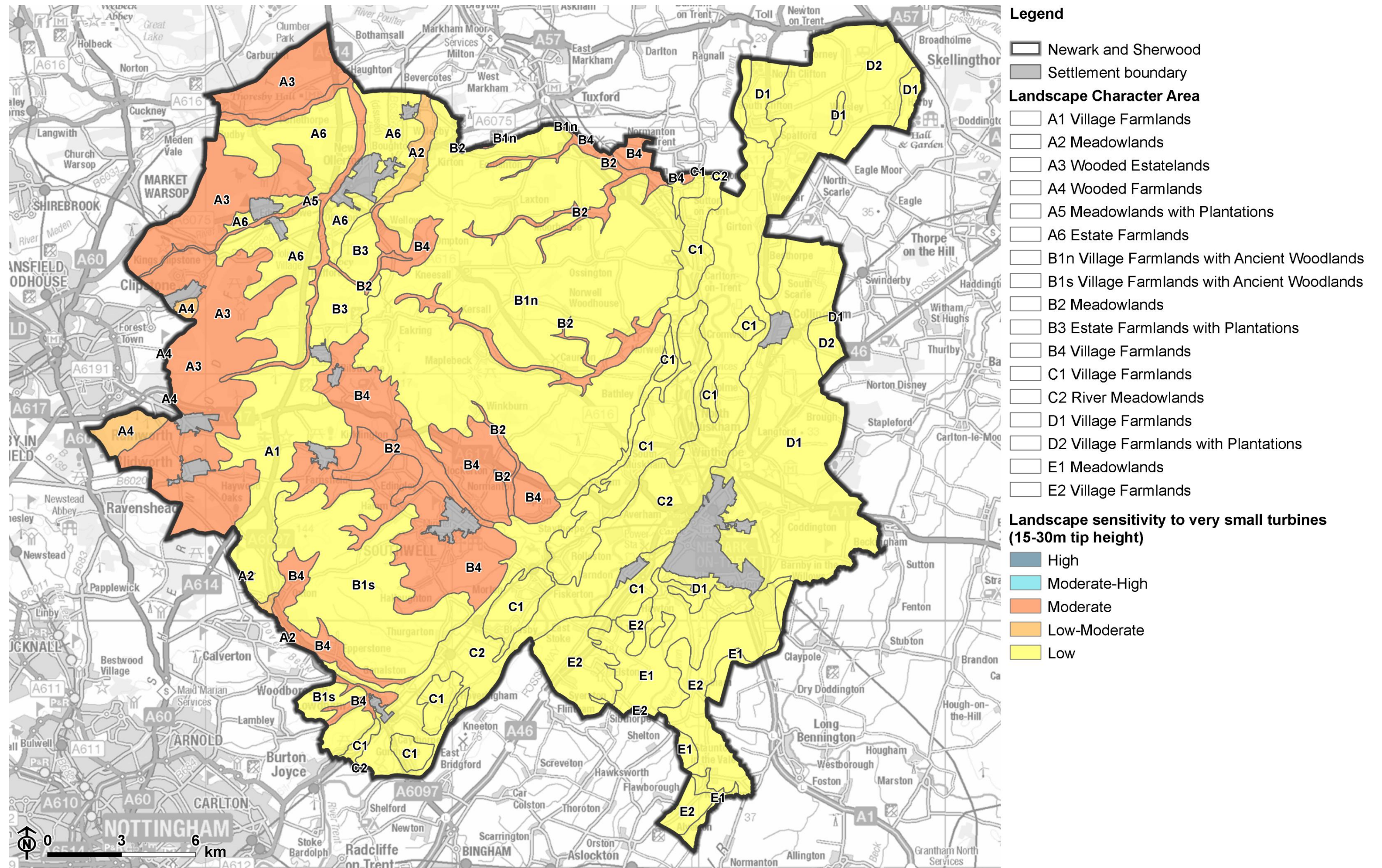


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Figure 5.5: Landscape sensitivity to very small turbines (15m to 30m tip height)

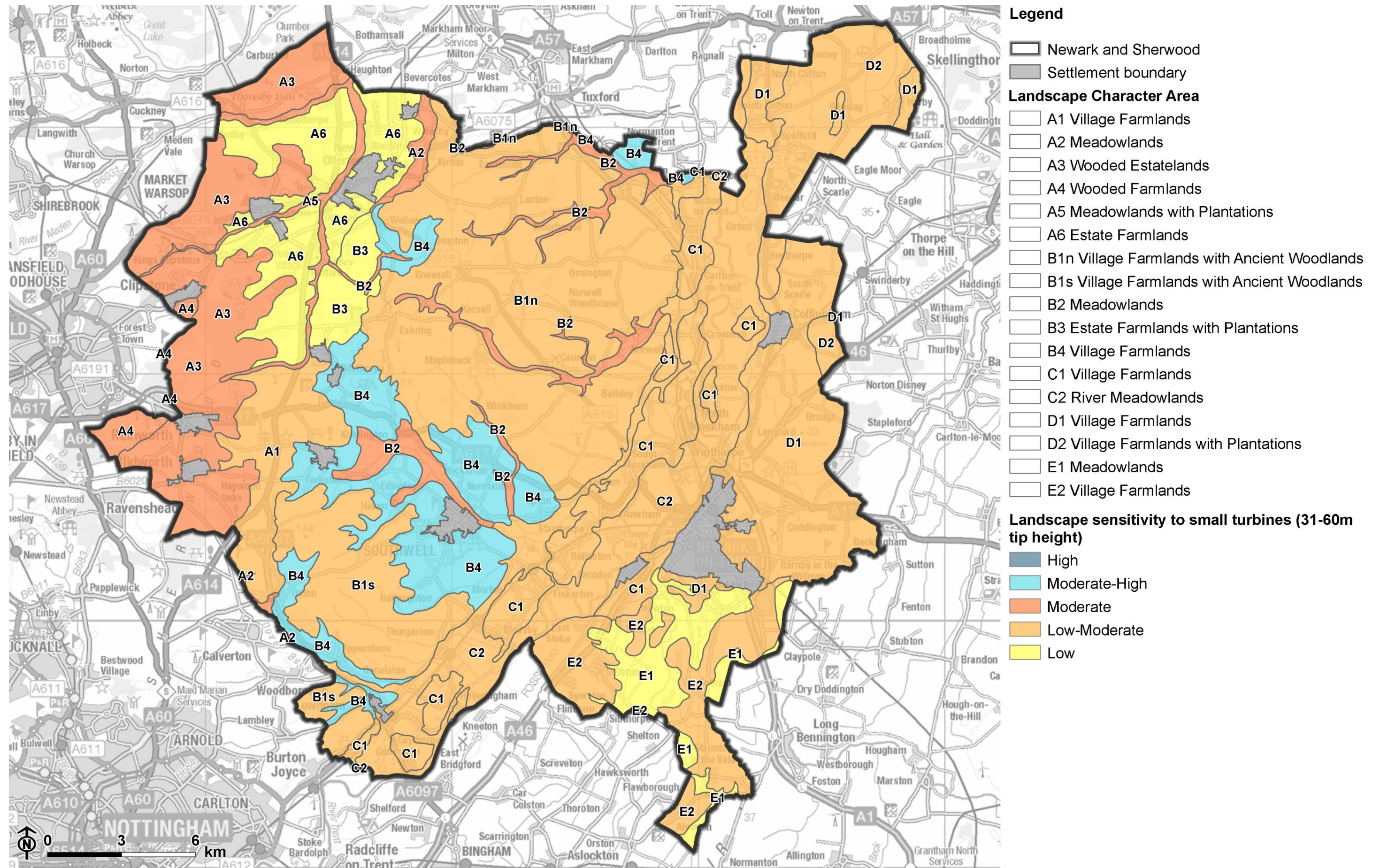


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Figure 5.6: Landscape sensitivity to small turbines (31m to 60m tip height)

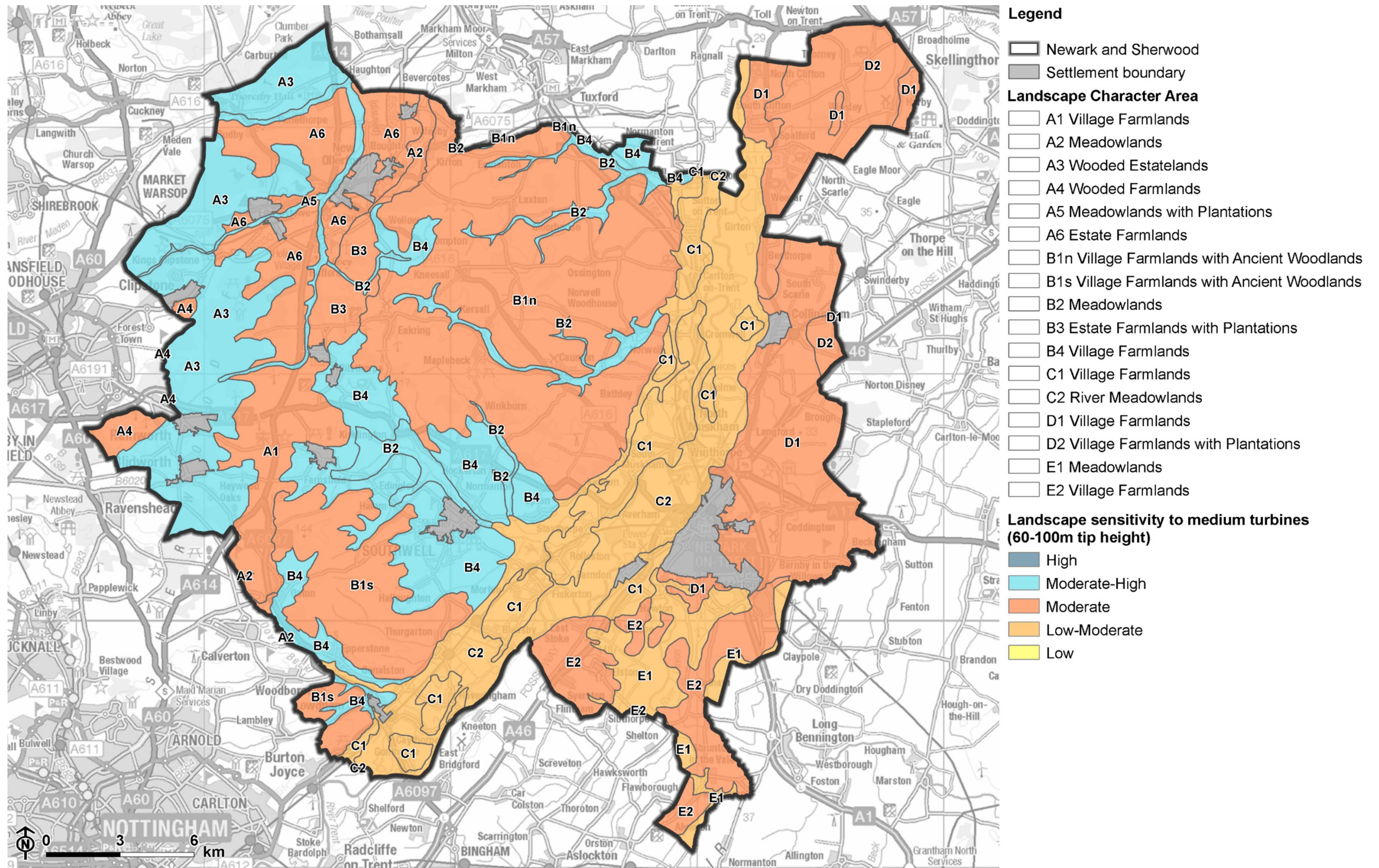


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Figure 5.7: Landscape sensitivity to medium turbines (60m to 100m tip height)

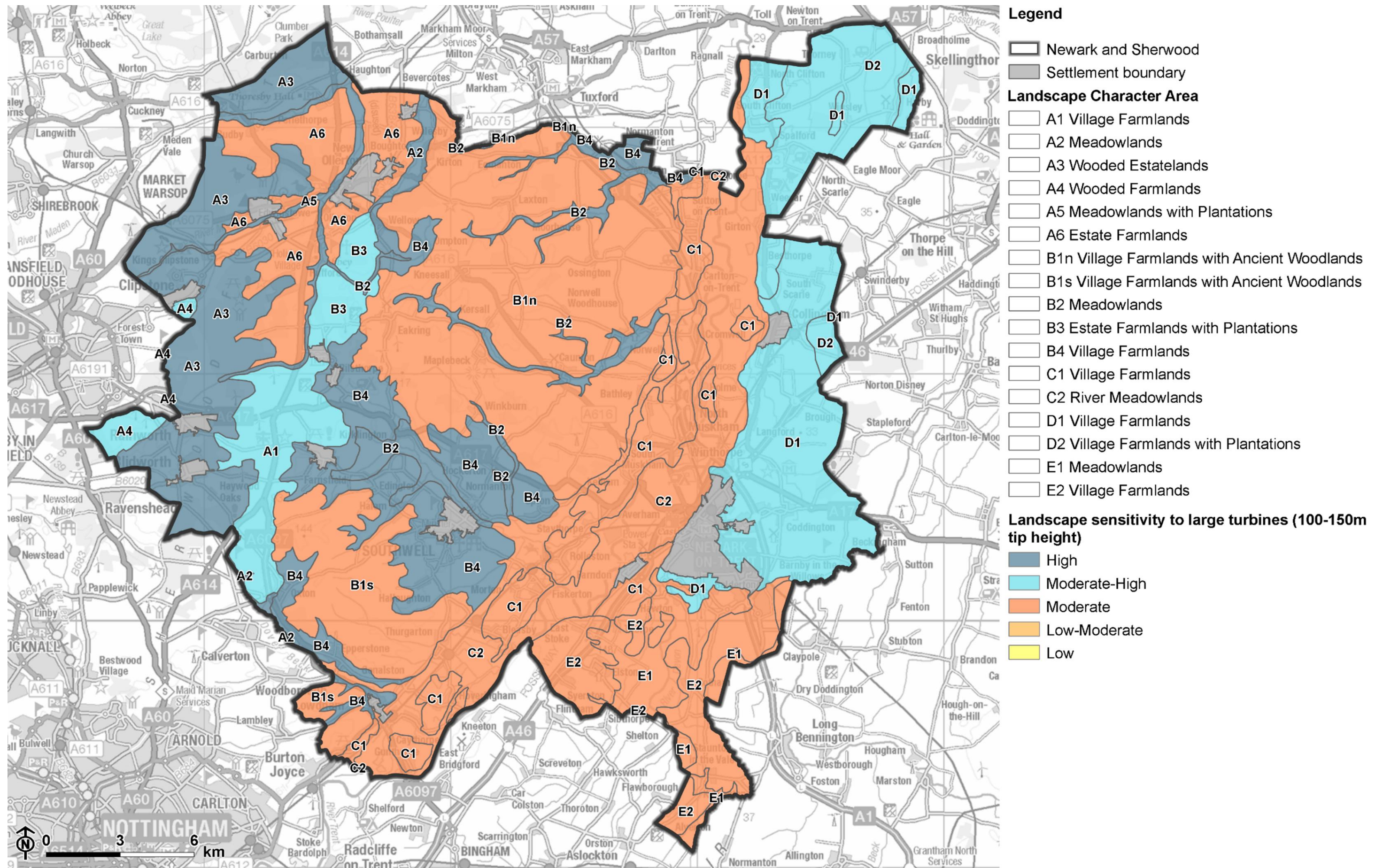


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Figure 5.8: Landscape sensitivity to large turbines (100m to 150m tip height)

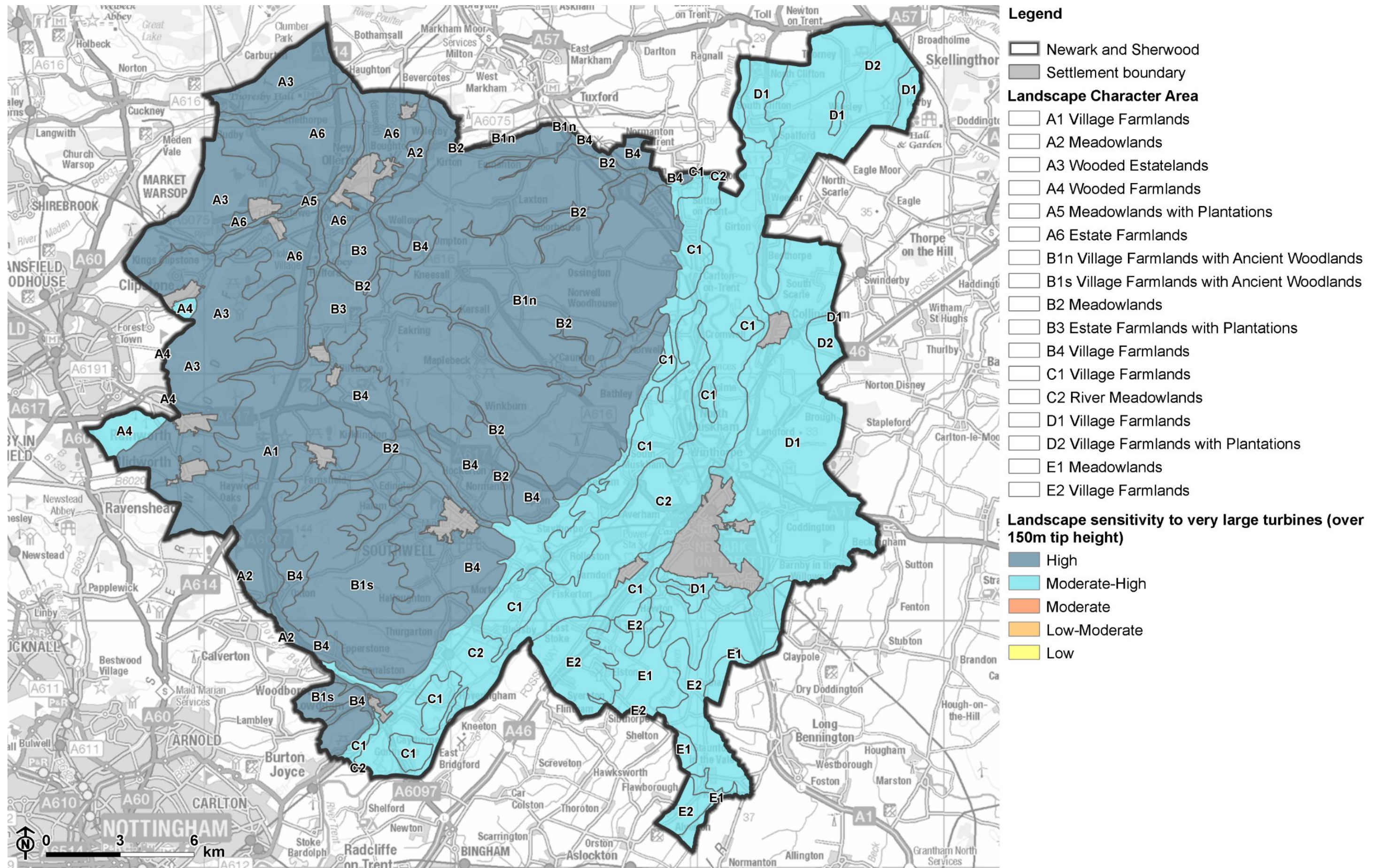


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Figure 5.9: Landscape sensitivity to very large turbines (over 150m tip height)



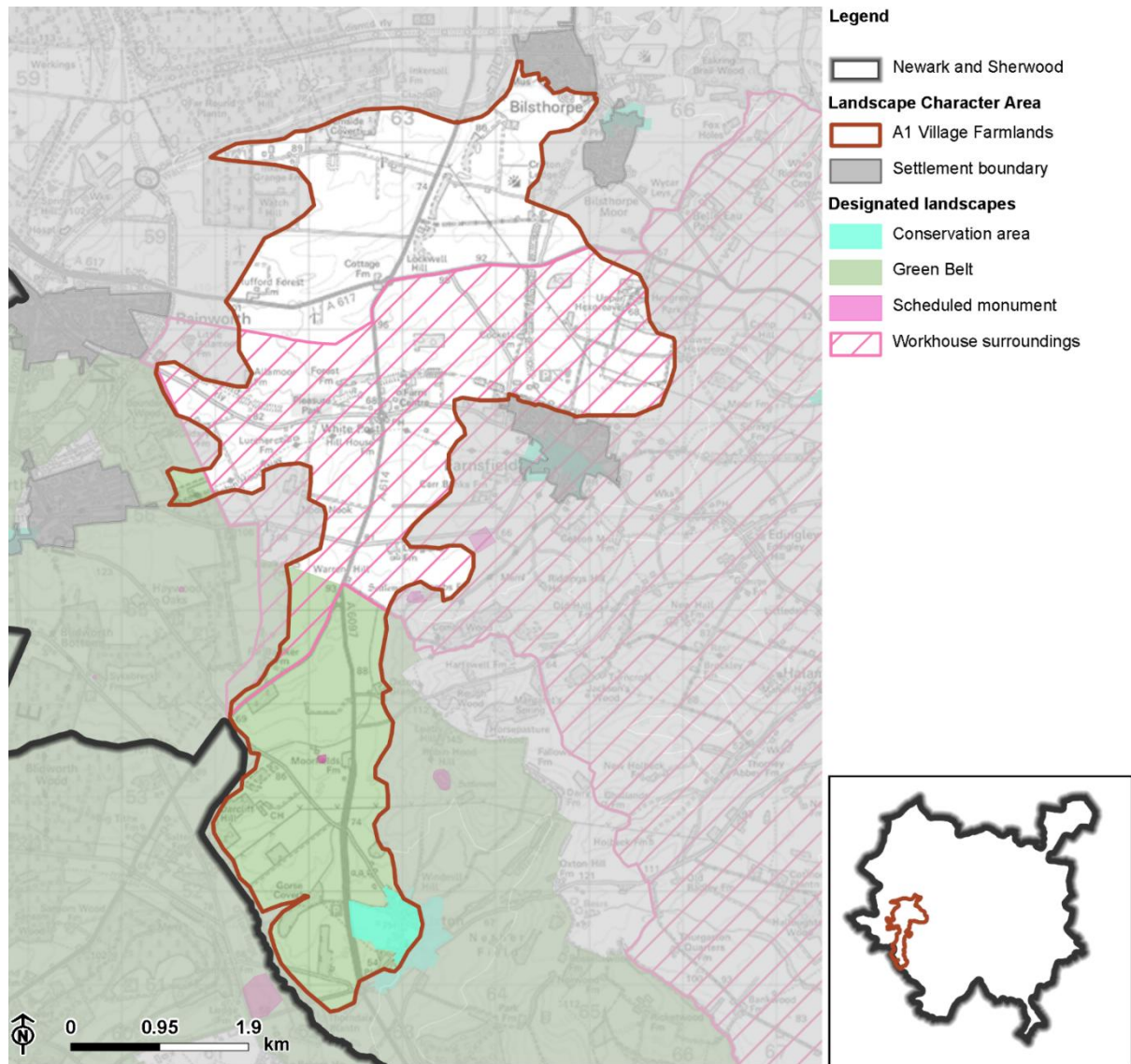
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Sherwood RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (A1)

Figure 5.10: Contextual map of the Sherwood RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (A1)



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Location

5.3 This LCA lies in the south-west of Sherwood. The LCA is intersected by the A614 between the district boundary in the south and Rainworth Water in the north. The settlements of Bilsthorpe, Farnsfield and Oxton lie along its eastern boundary.

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.4 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Gently rolling topography;*
- *Medium to large-scale semi-irregular field pattern;*
- *Views framed by rising ground and woodland edges;*
- *Nucleated settlement pattern of small red brick villages;*
- *Mining settlements with associated pit heaps and railway lines”*

Figure 5.11: Views east from the A617 with large-scale, gently undulating fields bordered by gappy hedgerows and shelterbelts, and turbines and pylons on skyline



Figure 5.12: Views across pastures towards Robin Hood Hill from the A614



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- Medium to large-scale landform with gently undulating and broadly rolling topography, slightly rising to the north and sloping down to flatter areas around Farnsfield and the Upper Dover Beck. There are occasionally steeper slopes in localised areas.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- The land cover pattern consists of large semi-irregular fields, which are predominately arable. These fields are enclosed by gappy low hedges and infrequent hedgerow trees.
- Small dispersed deciduous and mixed-species woodlands.
- Sparsely settled with villages located on the western edge, and farmsteads dispersed throughout.
- Existing solar PV development and wind turbines exert a modern influence on landcover in the north.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Historic landscape character

- Part of the Oxton Conservation Area extends into the south-eastern edge of this landscape, including an area extending to the A6097 which forms part of the village context.
- The Moorfields Farm Mound Scheduled Monument is also located in the south of the LCA, however these earthworks only form a fairly small feature and therefore do not influence the landscape more widely.
- Large intensively farmed fields have limited time depth.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- This landscape has a relatively open character, although enclosed by rising (and often wooded) skylines, including views north-west and south-west beyond the district.
- Skylines are relatively simple and gently convex; some are prominent with small-scale ridges topped with trees making up the middle distance skylines.
- Pylons appear on skylines crossing the north and south of the LCA, and turbines appear on the skyline in views from the A617 and A614.
- Solar development in the north of the LCA, on either side of the A617 (Old Rufford Road), and to the west of the A614. Solar development is seen alongside wind turbines in some views.
- This LCA is strongly intervisible with other neighbouring LCAs that are more elevated, and overlook this LCA from higher ground. Robin Hood Hill (located in the adjacent Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCA (B1s)) is a distinctive feature seen from the south-east of the LCA, and forms an important backdrop to this landscape. In views from the hilltop, the landscape of this LCA forms the foreground to wider panoramic views.
- The Robin Hood Way long distance walking route crosses through the centre of LCA. There is a greater influence of recreational activity in the centre of the LCA, with White Post Farm Centre, Wheelgate Amusement Park and picnic

area at the edge of the Southwell long distance walking trail. Other PRowWs pass through the east and south of the LCA.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- There is a strongly rural character throughout this landscape with limited development. The tranquillity is interrupted along the main road corridors, larger farmsteads, and adjacent visitor development (theme park and petting farm) which have a strong influence. Solar and wind development is located adjacent to the main road corridors.
- The landscape of this LCA has a variable scenic quality. The majority of the area is a relatively simple rural landscape. Locally, visual diversity is increased in wooded areas which are more attractive.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- Open views from elevated land or steep slopes and views framed by rising ground and woodland edges within the LCA.
- Intervisibility with neighbouring areas, with steeper slopes, hills and woodlands forming an important backdrop to views. Robin Hood Hill (in the adjacent Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCA (B1s)) is an important visual landmark. The rural landscape of the LCA forms the foreground in panoramic views west from the hill top.
- Pockets of higher scenic quality associated with woodland and localised steeper topography.

- Occasional man-made influences including pylons and operational wind turbines within the LCA may cause visual confusion or other cumulative effects with new development.
- Strong rural character.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

5.5 The gentle landform and the simple landcover of medium to large scale arable fields indicates a lower sensitivity. The presence of the A617 and A614 reduces tranquillity, indicating a lower sensitivity. The presence and extent of existing electrical infrastructure across the north of the LCA (pylons, solar PV and wind development) reduces sensitivity, although cumulative effects will form an important consideration.

5.6 The LCA is sparsely settled and predominantly rural in character, which indicates a higher sensitivity. There is increased sensitivity around areas of high recreational value (PRoWs, visitor attractions and long distance walking trails (Robin Hood Way, the Southwell Trail)), and around village settlements on the eastern edge of the LCA. The openness of the landscape and intervisibility with adjacent LCAs, particularly from more elevated landform, increases sensitivity.

Table 5.3: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in Sherwood RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (A1)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Low
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Low-Moderate
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	Moderate
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	Moderate-High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.7 Areas where there are steeper slopes and woodland within this landscape are of higher sensitivity.

5.8 In the south of the LCA, the landscape pattern is more complex. Intervisibility with Robin Hood Hill and the more intimate setting of the Oxton Conservation Area and Oxton village are of higher sensitivity.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.9 The gentle landform and the simple landcover of medium to large scale arable fields indicates a lower sensitivity. There are areas of intensively farmed landscapes, with human influences of main roads (A167 and the A164), power lines, solar farms and wind turbines, which reduces sensitivity.

5.10 The landscape is open with limited tree cover, and due to its gentle topography there are often long views across this area, including from adjacent LCAs. Turbines in this landscape could therefore be highly visible both within the LCA and from adjacent areas, increasing sensitivity. There is increased sensitivity around areas of high recreational value (PRoWs, visitor attractions and long distance walking trails (Robin Hood Way, the Southwell Trail)), and around village settlements on the eastern edge of the LCA.

Table 5.4: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in Sherwood RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (A1)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Low
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Low-Moderate
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Moderate
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	Moderate-High
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.11 Areas where there are steeper slopes within this landscape are of higher sensitivity.

5.12 In the south of the LCA, the landscape pattern is more complex. Intervisibility with Robin Hood Hill and the more intimate setting of the Oxton Conservation Area and Oxton village are of higher sensitivity.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.13 Operational development is focussed in the north of the LCA, and includes:

- A very large solar PV development located to the east of Inkersall Grange Farm;
- A medium solar PV development located west of Crifton Lodge Farm; and
- A very large solar PV development located south-east of Lockwell House Farm, bridging both sides of the A617.

5.14 There are no consented or proposed solar PV developments within the LCA.

5.15 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- Potential erosion of the rural nature of the LCA due to multiple solar PV developments.
- Sequential effects on views for road receptors on the A6097 and A617 and recreational receptors on the Robin Hood Way and Southwell Trail. The nature of views for road receptors is transitory.
- Effects of multiple solar developments on the rural character of the landscape, particularly in the south of the LCA, close to the Oxtun Conservation Area and in views towards and from Robin Hood Hill.
- Mitigation planting associated with additional solar PV developments may affect the openness of the landscape and intervisibility with other LCAs.
- The landscape character clearly transitions in the north of the LCA near Sherwood Pines Forest Park (within the Wooded Estatelands LCA (A3)), between the more open fields of the Village Farmlands, and the more wooded character beyond. Encroachment of solar PV development towards Rainworth Water may cause of blurring of this transition.
- The landscape clearly transitions in the south-east, where landform rises towards the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCA (B1s), that has a more undulating and wooded character. Encroachment of solar PV development on the rising slopes along this boundary may cause a blurring of this transition in the landscape.

Wind

5.16 Operational development is located to the centre and north of the LCA and includes:

- One small turbine (50m blade tip height) at Lockwell Hill Farm;
- One medium turbine (77m blade tip height) at Inkersall Grange Farm;
- One medium turbine (83.5m blade tip height) at Featherstone House Farm; and
- One small turbine (48.5m blade tip height) at Lurcher Farm.

5.17 Stonish Hill Wind Farm (100m blade tip height) is visible to the north of the LCA, and there are views to Lindhurst Wind Farm to the west.

5.18 There are no consented or proposed wind developments within the LCA.

5.19 The CZTV (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) indicates widespread visibility across the slightly more elevated landform of the north of the LCA. The CZTV also indicates high levels of theoretical visibility along the A614 and A617 road corridors. Relatively high levels of theoretical visibility are also indicated on the Robin Hood Way long-distance walking trail, running from Blidworth to Farnsfield across the centre of the LCA. This is largely due to the presence of wind development in the north-east of the LCA. The presence of trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility in the field will reduce the amount of actual visibility of turbines in the landscape, as compared to the levels of theoretical visibility indicated on the CZTV.

5.20 Key cumulative considerations for wind developments within the LCA will include:

- Placement of turbines in relation to the existing operational wind development in the north of the LCA would increase human influence of turbines on the skyline.
- Should turbines of large or very large tip height be proposed, this may result in visual confusion or a disparate pattern of development, compared to the small and medium scale of existing turbines.
- Effects of multiple wind turbines on the rural character of the landscape, particularly in the south of the LCA, close to the Oxtun Conservation Area and in views towards and from Robin Hood Hill. Multiple wind farm developments may lead to encirclement of views from Robin Hood Hill.
- An increase in wind energy development may also result in visual confusion with electricity pylons and solar PV developments within the LCA, both in views from within the LCA and from elevated views in other LCAs.

- Potential sequential views of wind turbines for recreational receptors on the Robin Hood Way and Southwell Trail.
- A clear transition existing in the landscape in the south-east, where landform rises towards the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCA (B1s). Wind turbines located near the rising slopes along this boundary may cause a blurring of this transition in the landscape by introducing vertical scale indicators of a much larger scale than the underlying landform.

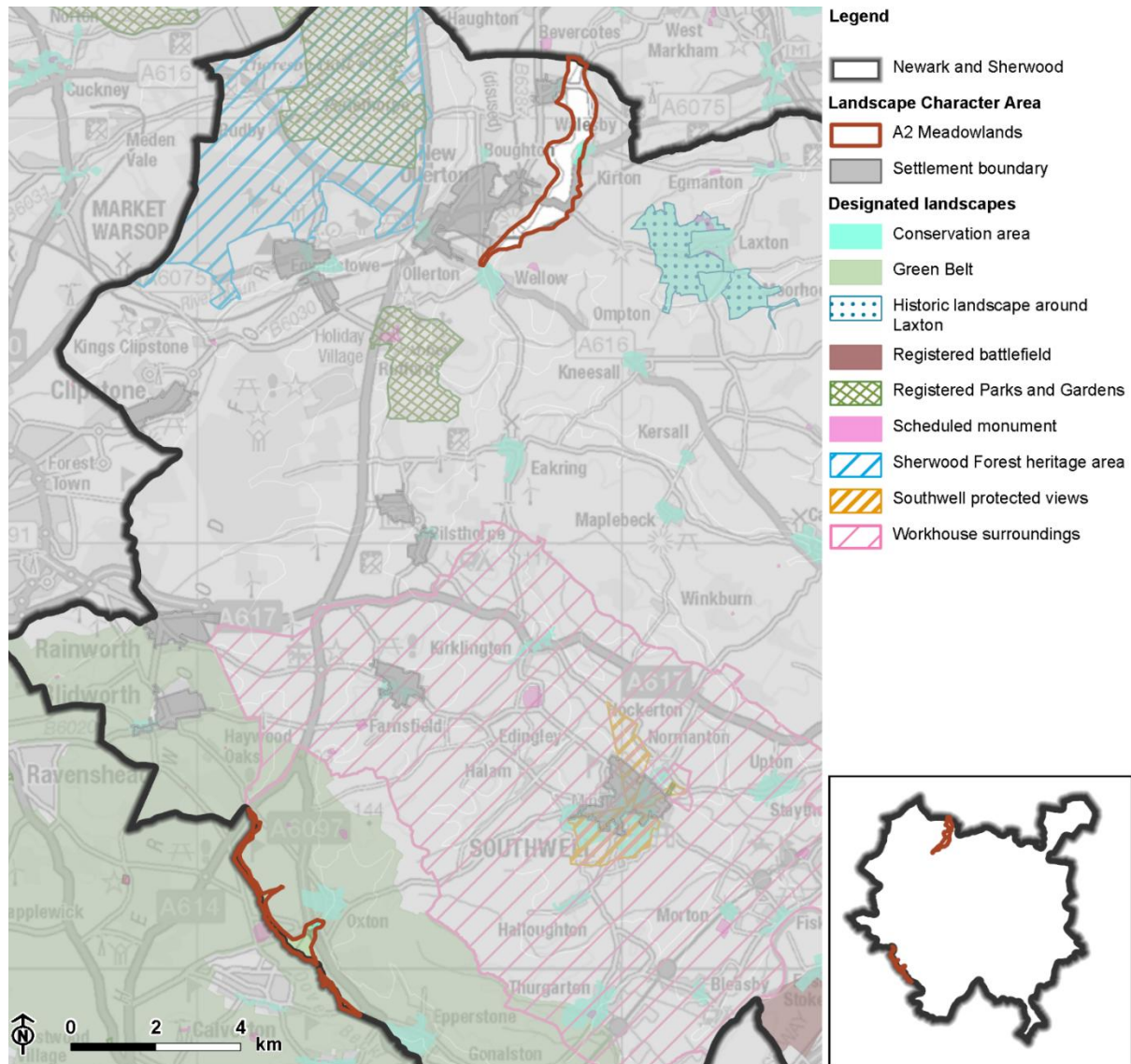
Guidance for development

5.21 Specific guidelines for renewable energy development within the Sherwood: Village Farmlands LCA include:

- Existing solar development in the north is well screened by hedgerows, shelterbelts and undulating landform. Woodland is also located to the west of the most easterly development. Should development come forward in this LCA, a similar pattern of siting and screening should be applied.
- Consider the effects of turbines and solar PV development on views from Robin Hood Hill.
- Lower-lying locations would have more limited intervisibility with neighbouring LCAs, and may be less sensitive to solar development.
- Avoid siting turbines adjacent to localised areas of higher scenic quality, especially around woodland and localised areas of steeper topography.
- Consider the presence of pylons on the skyline and the scale of different turbine heights in order to avoid 'clutter' on the horizon.
- Avoid areas with stronger rural or historic character which are more sensitive to development, including the Oxtun Conservation Area in the south and the area surrounding Robin Hood Hill.
- The south-eastern extent of the LCA is located in the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt. Whilst Green Belt classification is considered under the remit of Planning, some important landscape and visual effects would need to be considered.

Sherwood RCA: Meadowlands LCA (A2)

Figure 5.13: Contextual map of the Sherwood RCA: Meadowlands LCA (A2)



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Location

5.22 This LCA covers two narrow areas at the north-eastern and south-western edges of Sherwood. In the north the area follows the Boughton Dyke and Bevercotes Beck, between Wellow and Walesby. The second area follows the southern district boundary at Oxton Bogs, to the west of Oxton.

5.23 These relatively narrow areas are set within the wider landscape context of the Sherwood area and the adjacent Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands.

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.24 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Meandering river channels, sometimes defined by woodland edges;*
- *Permanent pastures and flood meadow;*
- *Fringing alder, willows and riparian scrub;*
- *Alder and willow carrs;*
- *Mine sites, pit heaps and urban edges”*

Figure 5.14: Views south-east from PRow through Oxton Bogs, one wind turbine on the skyline



Figure 5.15: Views north from Walesby, with pylons forming a skyline feature amongst partially wooded skylines



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- The river corridors are narrow and linear in form. The landscape is of small scale where it is more enclosed, or medium scale in open areas of floodplain, such as north of Kirton.
- The Oxton Bogs lies within a gently sloping, distinct and small-medium scale valley.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Landcover in these areas is varied. Along the Bevercotes Beck to the north there are woodlands, former mineral workings, a large industrial estate, and permanent pasture, flood meadow and arable land around Kirton and Walesby. Fields are of small to medium scale. Riparian woodland is limited in this northern area.
- The Oxton Bogs area is almost entirely made up of riparian woodland belts, with some adjacent arable land and conifer plantations. The frequent trees give this landscape a human scale.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Historic landscape character

- Small parts of the Kirton and Oxton Conservation Areas extend into this LCA.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low
- Wind – Low

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Skylines around Bevercotes Beck are generally obscured by woodland and commercial buildings. In the north, from the eastern edge of Walesby and the minor road, steeply rising ground to the east forms wooded or open skylines seen from the valley. Along Oxton Bogs the skylines are formed by the valley sides, which are generally wooded or with trees on the skyline.
- The valley landscapes are overlooked from adjacent higher ground. The relationship is particularly important in the north, where the Bevercotes Beck area forms the foreground to the distinctive steep slopes of Wellow Park and Bevercotes Park, which mark the edge of the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCA (B1n).
- One PRoW crosses the Oxton Bogs area, multiple PRoWs traverse the Bevercotes Beck area towards Kirton.
- Overhead electricity lines and pylons are a feature of skylines to the north and small-scale wind turbines can be seen on the skyline from the southern area.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- The floodplain near Boughton has been almost entirely developed, with an extensive industrial estate on former mining land, and areas of vacant land. The open floodplain north of Kirton is intensively managed. Only in the riparian woodlands adjoining Wellow Park, and the Oxton Bogs, is a more tranquil landscape experienced.

- The Oxton Bogs is an area of attractive mature woodland set within a distinct valley, although with an influence of one small-scale wind turbine.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- Generally small scale of the landscape.
- Enclosed and sheltered nature of the valleys, contained by occasionally steeply rising ground which forms a backdrop.
- Valleys are overlooked from surrounding higher ground, including from several main roads. The landscape provides a backdrop to Wellow Park and Bevercotes Park.
- Riparian woodlands form a key feature within parts of this landscape.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

5.25 The small scale of this landscape and narrow riparian-lined river corridors indicate higher sensitivity to solar PV development. In addition to its small scale, the clear transition between this LCA and bordering LCAs increases sensitivity. In addition, rising land adjacent to this landscape would mean that any development is likely to be overlooked. The presence of the two Conservation Areas increases sensitivity.

5.26 The influence of industrial and intensive agricultural development in the northern area east of Boughton decreases sensitivity. Areas of recreational value around Bevercotes Beck indicate higher sensitivity.

Table 5.5: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in Sherwood RCA: Meadowlands LCA (A2)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Low
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Low-Moderate
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	Moderate-High
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.27 The southern area of the LCA, around Oxton Bogs, has increased sensitivity due to the presence of riparian woodland following the river and stronger sense of naturalness along this distinct narrow valley.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.28 The north of the LCA, around Bevercotes Beck has a more varied character. There are extensive areas of industrial activity, which indicate a lower sensitivity, though the relationship between the floodplain and the adjacent hills to the east increases sensitivity. Larger turbines may alter the current undeveloped skyline created by the wooded ridge on sloping landform in views from Walesby and the surrounding minor road network, which increases sensitivity. The historic village context of the two Conservation Areas also increases sensitivity.

5.29 In the southern part of the LCA, the presence of riparian woodland, and smaller to medium scale field patterns adjacent to river corridors indicate a higher sensitivity. However, the presence of the road network and areas of industrial development (particularly to the north) are less sensitive to development.

5.30 In addition to its small scale, the clear transition between this LCA and bordering LCAs increases sensitivity.

Table 5.6: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in Sherwood RCA: Meadowlands LCA (A2)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Low-Moderate
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Moderate
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Moderate
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	High
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.31 The Oxton Bogs area forms a relatively small and narrow valley and is extensively wooded. Within this area medium or larger turbines are likely to appear out of scale in comparison to the mature trees and scale of the valley, increasing sensitivity.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.32 There is a very small scale operational solar development (less than 1 hectare) in the northern extent of the LCA, that bridges into the neighbouring Estate Farmlands LCA (A6). It is located to the west of Bevercotes Beck and Kirton.

5.33 There is no other consented or proposed solar PV development within the LCA.

5.34 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- Potential for multiple developments to overwhelm the small scale of the LCA by altering field patterns and the sense of enclosure provided by rising slopes, changing the overall landscape character.
- Potential for larger development to blur boundaries with the adjacent LCAs, reducing local distinctiveness of the landscape.
- Woodland is a characteristic feature of this landscape, including riparian scrub that follows the incised river corridors. Multiple solar PV development may lead to loss of this landcover, with the potential to change the landscape character.

- Sequential effects of views of solar PV development from the PRowWs that follow the river corridors.

Wind

5.35 There is no operational, consented, or proposed wind developments in the LCA. The Woodborough Park Farm wind turbine (66m blade tip height) can be seen on the skyline from the Oxton Bogs area to the south.

5.36 The CZTV maps (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) indicate limited theoretical visibility across both areas of the LCA. To the north, limited visibility is indicated on rising landform north-east of Walesby. Limited theoretical visibility is indicated in the south of the LCA due to the low-lying nature of the landscape, and rising landform around the LCA. The presence of trees, hedges, buildings and other features will further restrict actual visibility of turbines in the landscape, as compared to the levels of theoretical visibility indicated on the CZTV.

5.37 Key cumulative considerations for wind developments within the LCA will include:

- There are no existing wind turbines within this LCA, although the Woodborough Park Farm wind turbine can be seen in views to the south from Oxton Bogs. Development would need to consider scale of turbines in views.
- The potential for multiple wind turbines to alter the perception of scale of the rising skylines which enclose the valleys. Large turbines would overwhelm the intimate scale of parts of the valley.

Guidance for development

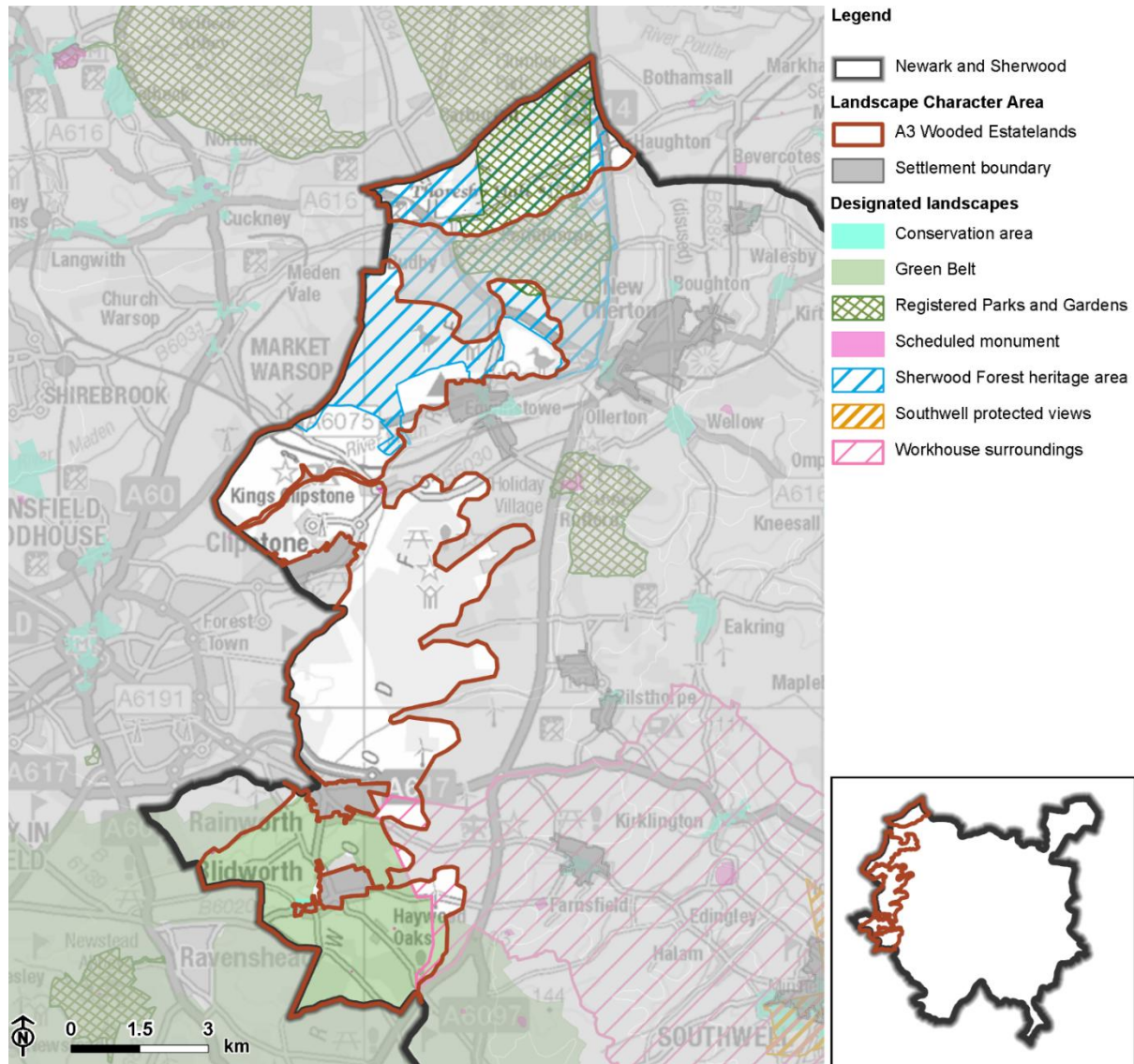
5.38 Specific guidelines for renewable energy development within the Sherwood: Meadowlands LCA include:

- The small-scale landscape is particularly sensitive to large scale development and opportunities for siting are likely to be very limited.
- Renewable energy development should avoid altering the field pattern or the profile of slopes which enclose the small-scale valley landscapes.
- This landscape is relatively low-lying, with limited intervisibility to other landscapes. Higher ground surrounds this LCA, therefore development is more likely to be overlooked.

- Favour locations with limited intervisibility with neighbouring LCAs, especially when they are elevated and overlook this LCA, and/or when neighbouring LCAs are of higher sensitivity with views out being a characteristic feature.
- Avoid altering skylines or key views which form the context to Conservation Areas, for example, in views west from Kirton, and from the edge of Oxton.
- Avoid loss of riparian woodland which characterises southern extents of the LCA, around Oxton Bogs.
- Sensitive site turbines in relation to the key features of the landscape, particularly the areas of riparian woodland.
- The southern extent of the LCA is located in the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt. Whilst Green Belt classification is considered under the remit of Planning, some important landscape and visual effects will need to be considered.

Sherwood RCA: Wooded Estatelands LCA (A3)

Figure 5.16: Contextual map of the Sherwood RCA: Wooded Estatelands LCA (A3)



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Location

5.39 This LCA occurs in a discontinuous band along the western edge of the district, near the district boundaries with Ollerton to the north, Mansfield to the west, and Gedling to the south. The landscape extends from Thoresby Park in the north to Blidworth in the south.

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.40 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Undulating landform;*
- *Sparsely settled and largely inaccessible;*
- *Views framed by woodland edges;*
- *Extensive broad-leaved, mixed and coniferous woodlands;*
- *Extensive areas of unenclosed heath;*
- *Unfenced minor roads”*

Figure 5.17: Views from Thoresby Park Estate



Figure 5.18: Sherwood Forest Country Park



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- A medium scale landscape with an undulating landform.
- Landform is steeper and smaller in scale to the north of the LCA around Kings Clipstone (where it borders the Meadowlands with Plantations LCA (A5)); and towards Blidworth in the south-west of the LCA.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Extensive tree cover dominates this LCA with its mix of broad-leaved woodland, some of which is ancient, and coniferous plantations, giving the landscape a heavily wooded character.
- In between areas of woodland, field pattern consists of medium to large-scale arable fields enclosed by a combination of post and wire fencing, wide hedges with hedgerow trees. Wooden picket fencing is used around estates.
- The parkland and estate landscapes add complexity to the area, particularly in the north around Thoresby Park. Other land cover patterns include large areas of unenclosed heathland, wooded heath and man-made lakes.
- Generally the area is largely undeveloped, with the only development being estate villages, scattered farm buildings and lodge houses.
- The landscape includes most of the forested and wooded areas which comprise the remnants of Sherwood Forest, as well as more recently established conifer plantations. This area includes several important recreational areas.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – High
- Wind – High

Historic landscape character

- Historic features in the landscape are focused in the north and south of the LCA.
- Thoresby Park, situated within the north of the LCA, is a Registered Park and Garden (RPG) (Grade I). Thoresby Park includes areas of parkland, woodland and ornamental buildings, arranged around the 19th-century Thoresby Hall and the River Meden. Thoresby forms part of the wider Dukeries area, extending north and west and including the RPGs of Clumber Park and Welbeck Abbey. A bowl barrow (Scheduled Monument) is located west of the RPG boundary near Budby North Forest, although this forms a relatively small feature with limited influence on the wider landscape.
- The northern extent of the LCA is designated as part of the Sherwood Forest Heritage Area. The Heritage Area is a planning designation to protect the remaining areas of forest and heath which once occupied large tracts of this part of Britain.
- Remains of King John’s Palace (a Scheduled Monument) are located in the centre of the LCA near Kings Clipstone, although most of the Scheduled Monument comprises underground archaeological remains.
- The Blidworth Conservation Area extends into the south of the LCA and two mounds (Scheduled Monuments) are located in the rural landscape to the south of the village, although the influence of these features in the wider landscape is limited.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- The LCA is relatively enclosed in character due to the presence of hedgerow trees, woodland and plantations. Longer views are available from roads to the west of Edwinstowe towards Sherwood Pines, and on the edges of Thoresby Hall, where a series of wooded ridges appear along the skyline with pylons becoming prominent features.
- The LCA has high recreational value, due to the number of Country Parks and PRoWs, access tracks, cycle trails, picnic areas and visitor centres (Sherwood Forest Country Park, Thoresby Park, Budby North Forest, Go Ape, Sherwood Pines Forest Park, and Blidworth Wood). The Robin Hood Way long distance walking trail crosses this LCA in Blidworth to the south and in the north through Sherwood Forest Country Park.
- Turbines can be seen on the skyline around Blidworth (including from the picnic area off the B6020).

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate-High
- Wind – High

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- This is a relatively tranquil and occasionally remote landscape with little influence from modern development, particularly within woodlands and country parks. Areas of broadleaf woodland and heath have a unified, intact character and are more naturalistic in comparison to other LCAs within the district. However, plantation forestry adds a more human influence locally, as do the busy main roads.
- The managed and planned parkland and estate landscapes have a distinct and attractive character with a mix of views and enclosed areas featuring attractive woodland, steeper slopes and parkland. Some arable and plantation areas are simpler, with lower visual appeal.
- Overhead lines are present in views from this LCA, however the presence of woodland/forestry limits their (visual) influence more widely.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate-High
- Wind – High

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- Extensive areas of semi-natural land cover including large areas of deciduous woodland and tracts of unenclosed heath.
- Smaller areas of strongly sloping landform.
- Historically important parklands and estates which are distinct and appealing.
- Undeveloped character with perceived qualities of tranquillity.
- Series of wooded skylines which can be seen in longer-reaching views.
- The combination of openness and enclosure and varied land cover which increase visual diversity and scenic quality.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

5.41 The presence of protected woodland and distinct estateland (including Thoresby Park RPG (Grade I)) across this LCA increases sensitivity to solar PV development. The extensive woodland and lack of development across the LCA highlights its tranquillity. The recreational value of a variety of PRowS, access tracks, activity centres, historic assets, heritage areas and long-distance walking trails across the LCA also increases sensitivity.

5.42 Intervisibility across the LCA is limited due to forestry and woodland coverage. Areas of simpler landform and medium scale field pattern that border plantations, to the north and south of the LCA indicate a lower sensitivity.

Table 5.7: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in Sherwood RCA: Wooded Estatelands LCA (A3)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Moderate
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Moderate-High
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	Moderate-High
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.43 To the west of Blidworth, landscape pattern is smaller-scale and more complex, and is more sensitive to solar PV development.

5.44 In the north and south-east of the LCA, larger-scale and simpler arable fields adjacent to conifer plantations are of lower sensitivity.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.45 The varied landcover of woodland and tracts of unenclosed heath contributes to the scenic quality of the LCA and increases sensitivity to wind energy. Historic parkland around Thorseby Park also indicates higher sensitivity. The recreational value of a variety of PRowS, access tracks, activity centres, historic assets, heritage areas and long-distance walking trails across the LCA also increases sensitivity, as the experience of tranquillity and the distinct and attractive visual quality of wooded and parkland landscape would be affected by the introduction of medium and larger scale turbines.

5.46 The presence of large tracts of coniferous plantation and some intensively managed arable farmland, particularly in the north, indicates a lower sensitivity to wind turbines. Intervisibility across the LCA is limited due to forestry and woodland coverage, although medium and larger scale turbines may be occasionally be seen on the skyline above forestry and woodland, or where there are gaps in forestry and woodland.

Table 5.8: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in Sherwood RCA: Wooded Estatelands LCA (A3)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Moderate
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Moderate
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Moderate-High
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	High
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.47 The southern extent of the LCA has a small number of operational medium wind turbine developments, within tracts of medium scale farmland, which has reduced sensitivity.

5.48 Sensitivity would be reduced locally around larger-scale landscapes where open arable farmland is present – to the north of Clipstone, around Rainworth and Blidworth.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.49 Operational development is located in the north of the LCA, in pastoral and plantation landscapes, and includes:

- A large solar PV development in the north of the LCA (Netherfield Lane) west of the A616 and south of Budby North Forest;
- A very small solar PV development (less than 1 hectare) to the north of the settlement of Rainworth, adjacent to the southern boundary of the sewage works and Rufford Coillery Lane;
- A very small solar PV development (less than 1 hectare) located on the eastern LCA boundary at Inkersall Grange Farm;
- A small solar PV development to the south of Blidworth, west of Beck Lane; and
- A very small solar PV development (less than 1 hectare) to the south of Blidworth, and west of Haywood Oaks Farm.

5.50 There is no consented or proposed solar PV development within the LCA.

5.51 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- Multiple solar PV developments may change the wooded character of the area.
- Cumulative solar PV developments may alter the undeveloped character of the area.

Wind

5.52 Operational wind development is focused in the south of the LCA and includes:

- One medium turbine (71m blade tip height) at Rufford Farm; and
- Two medium turbines (77m blade tip height) on the edge of the LCA at Baulker Farm.

5.53 The five-turbine Lindhurst Wind Farm (125m blade tip height) is located adjacent to the south-west of this LCA.

5.54 The CZTV maps (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) indicate relatively high levels of theoretical visibility in the east of the LCA where landform is more elevated. Actual visibility within Sherwood Forest Activity Centre and Sherwood Pines Forest Park is likely to be limited due to extensive woodland coverage. High levels of theoretical visibility are also indicated to the south-east and south of Rainworth around Watch Hill, Allamoor Farm and Boundary Wood, due to the presence of operational wind development.

5.55 Key cumulative considerations for wind developments within the LCA will include:

- Multiple wind developments may alter the undeveloped character of the area.
- The introduction multiple wind turbines may cause visual confusion or 'clutter' if they are seen in combined views with pylons of different scale, where open views are available.

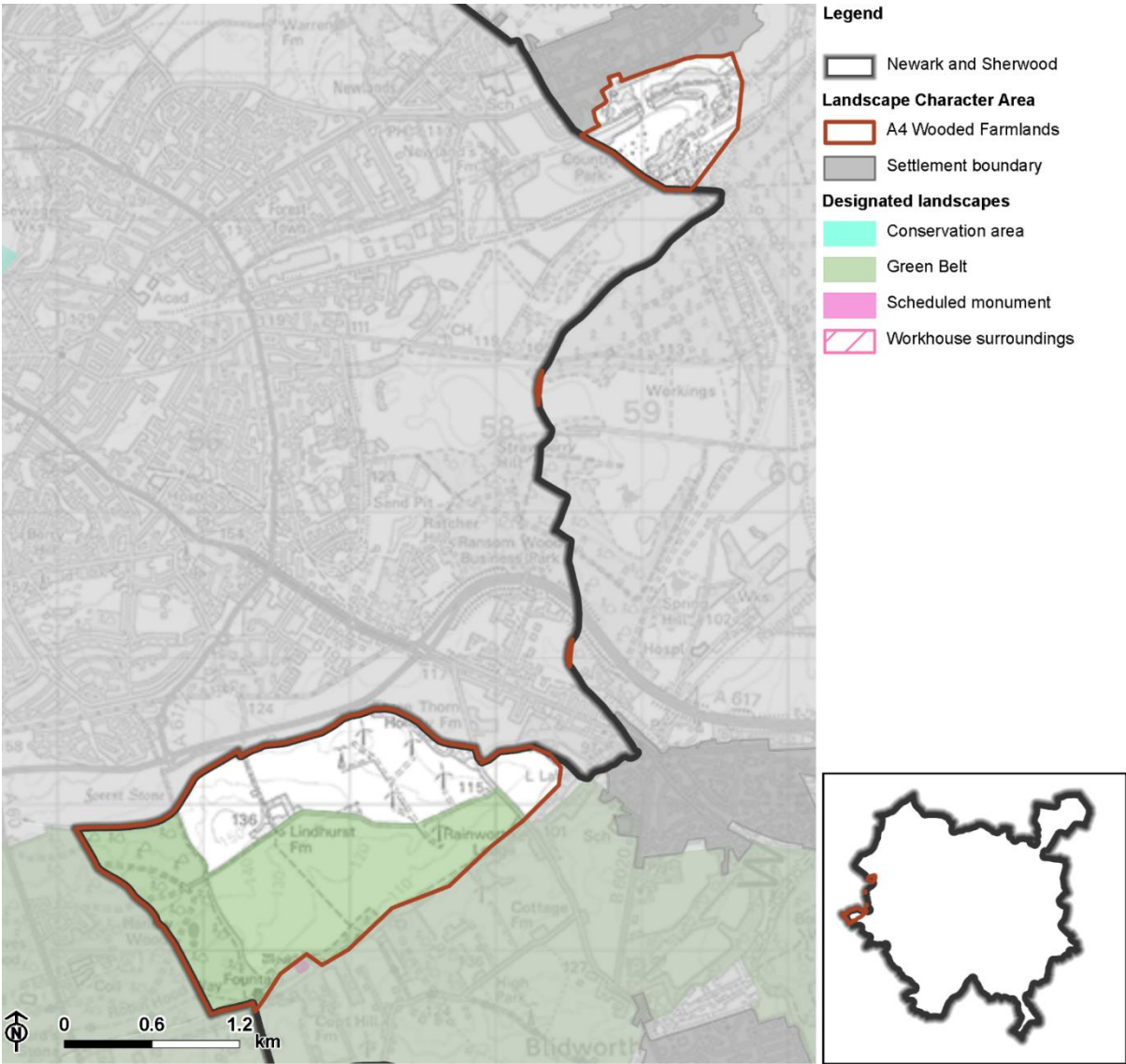
Guidance for development

5.56 Specific guidelines for renewable energy development within the Sherwood: Wooded Estate lands LCA include:

- This LCA has an important recreational function and distinct visual character. Any development should seek to avoid changing the overall wooded and parkland character of this area.
- Protect important views from the neighbouring Estate Farmlands LCA (A6) – in particular, where the scale of turbines may overshadow wooded horizons.
- Avoid siting turbines and solar panels in the historic landscapes of RPGs. Avoid siting turbines and solar panels in locations of varied topography, favouring flatter or more gently undulating landform, including areas of open arable fields with a simple pattern.
- Protect areas that are free from overt human influence and are valued for their perceived tranquillity, such as broadleaved woodlands.
- Development should seek to protect views in areas where woodland and country parks contribute have an attractive character and are of higher visual quality. Avoid any development which would impact on the integrity and appreciation of the Thoresby Park and Rufford Abbey RPGs.
- The south of the LCA is located in the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt. Whilst Green Belt classification is considered under the remit of Planning, some important landscape and visual effects will need to be considered.

Sherwood RCA: Wooded Farmlands LCA (A4)

Figure 5.19: Contextual map of the Sherwood RCA: Wooded Farmlands LCA (A4)



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Location

5.57 This LCA occurs in two small areas at the western edge of the district. One area is to the south-east of Mansfield, and the other is a very small area south of Clipstone.

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.58 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Dissected undulating topography;*
- *Frequent views of wooded skylines;*
- *Strong heathy character reflected in the widespread occurrence of bracken, gorse and broom species;*
- *Geometric pattern of large-scale arable fields;*
- *Planned layout of straight roads;*
- *Neatly trimmed hawthorn hedgerows;*
- *Large pine plantations;*
- *Mining settlement and associated spoil heaps;*
- *Scrubby semi-natural woodland and heaths with ancient stag-headed oaks”*

Figure 5.20: Views north-east from Vicar Water Country Park to Clipstone Coillery mining headstocks on the skyline, above deciduous and coniferous woodland



Figure 5.21: Lindhurst Wind Farm from Blidworth Lane, with wooded skylines interspersed with industrial and residential influences



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- A medium scale landform with undulating topography.
- There is steeper landform within Vicar Water Country Park and open elevations from Blidworth Lane. Small watercourses are incised along the edges of these areas.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- The northern area is in recreational use with woodland and ponds as part of the Vicar Water Country Park. It has a well-wooded feel with large coniferous plantations and semi-natural woodland.
- The southern area predominately consists of arable and pasture farmland with medium to large fields bound by hedgerows and fences, with mixed woodland in the west.
- The only residential property within the LCA is a farmstead at Lindhurst. The edges of Mansfield and Clipstone are visible.
- Both areas have been developed. Vicar Water Country Park is a former mining site, and Lindhurst has a large wind energy development.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Historic landscape character

- There are no heritage designations within this LCA.
- The area’s industrial past has a strong influence on its character, with historic elements of the coal industry still remaining, including mining winding gear (headstocks), processing plants, railway lines and pit heaps.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Skylines are generally not prominent and are simple in character whether open or wooded. The historic winding gear from the former Clipstone Colliery is a significant landmark just to the north. More recent influences include the Lindhurst Wind Farm (five turbines at 125m blade tip height).
- There is some intervisibility between this LCA and neighbouring LCAs from elevated and open locations. Views are contained where there is tree cover and areas of woodland. There is intervisibility with the nearby urban areas of Mansfield, Clipstone and Rainworth.
- The small northern area is confined by dense woodland (Sherwood Pines) to the east and south, and the urban area of Clipstone to the northern boundary.
- The southern area is heavily wooded to the west (Harlow Wood). A small section of the long-distance walking trail, the Robin Hood Way, clips the south-western corner.
- Electricity pylons and wind turbines can be seen on the skyline above wooded horizons.
- The north of the LCA is designated as the Vicar Water Country Park with strong recreational value. PRowS cross the north and south and provide access through and views into the LCA. There is a panoramic viewpoint at the highest point of the park.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Vicar Water Country Park in the north has strong human influence, although remnant mining features provide some visual diversity.
- The southern area has a semi-rural character, although it is strongly influenced by the Lindhurst Wind Farm.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- Wooded skylines.
- Intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes, including those outside the district, and adjacent settlements including Mansfield and Clipstone.
- Areas of semi-natural woodland in Harlow Wood and Vicar Water Country Park.
- Strong influences of industrial past including Clipstone Colliery winding gear (headstocks).

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

5.59 The northern area has more complex landform, steeper topography and smaller scale. Its recreational value, as shown by its designation as a Country Park, has a higher sensitivity to solar PV development. The presence of semi-natural woodland within the Country Park, and to the south of Lindhurst Wind Farm increases sensitivity. The panoramic views from the viewpoint in the Country Park contribute to recreational value and visual sensitivity.

5.60 The medium-large field scale in the southern part of the LCA is less sensitive to solar PV developments. The influence of previous mining operations, large-scale industrial buildings and wind turbines (Lindhurst) reduces sensitivity, although some of the remaining mining infrastructure contributes to the industrial heritage value of the LCA. Despite no settlements being located within the LCA, there is evidence of human activity and development in views across the landscape. The residential edges of Clipstone and Mansfield reduce the rural character and mineral extraction reduces tranquillity. The existing influence of electricity infrastructure, including pylons and wind turbines seen on the skyline above wooded horizons, reduce sensitivity to solar PV. The headstocks at Clipstone Colliery form a key skyline feature.

Table 5.9: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in Sherwood RCA: Wooded Farmlands (A4)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Low-Moderate
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Low-Moderate
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	Moderate
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	Moderate-High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.61 The north of the LCA is of higher sensitivity due to the recreational value of the Country Park.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.62 The recreational value of the former mineral extraction site at Vicar Water Country Park indicates higher sensitivity.

5.63 This is an area of fragmented character, affected by intensification of arable farming, coniferous plantation and former mineral extraction which decreases sensitivity. The medium-scale field patterns, undulating and artificial topography and mixed land cover indicate a lower sensitivity to wind turbines. Views are strongly influenced by former and current human development which decreases sensitivity. The operational turbines within the south of the LCA contribute further to the perception of human influence and decrease sensitivity, although cumulative effects may form an important consideration.

Table 5.10: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in Sherwood RCA: Wooded Farmlands LCA (A4)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Low-Moderate
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Moderate
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Moderate
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	Moderate-High
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	Moderate-High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.64 The north of the LCA is of higher sensitivity due to the recreational value of the Country Park.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.65 There are no operational, consented or proposed solar PV developments within this LCA.

5.66 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- The introduction of multiple solar PV developments may exacerbate the perception of fragmentation within this landscape by introducing further human influence.
- Encirclement of views experienced from the viewpoint at Vicar Water Country Park by multiple solar PV developments will alter the character of views which overlook the former mining landscape.

Wind

5.67 Operational development is located to the southern extent of the LCA and includes:

- Five large wind turbines (125m blade tip height) located at Lindhurst Farm in the south of the LCA.

5.68 There is no other consented or proposed wind development within the LCA.

5.69 The CZTV maps (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) indicate relatively high levels of theoretical turbine visibility from elevated locations within the LCA, including the viewpoint in Vicar Water Country Park. The presence of operational turbines and elevated plateau-like character of the south of the LCA also results in relatively widespread theoretical visibility. The presence of trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility in the field will reduce the amount of actual visibility of turbines in the landscape, as compared to the levels of theoretical visibility indicated on the CZTV.

5.70 Key cumulative considerations for wind developments within the LCA will include:

- The introduction of multiple turbines (and movement of turbine blades) from the viewpoint in Vicar Water Country Park may compete with existing stationary tall structures (the Clipstone Colliery winding gear) in the landscape in the north of the LCA.
- Consider the scale of other operational wind energy developments in the south of the LCA. The introduction of additional turbines of varying scales may cause visual confusion or skyline clutter.

Guidance for development

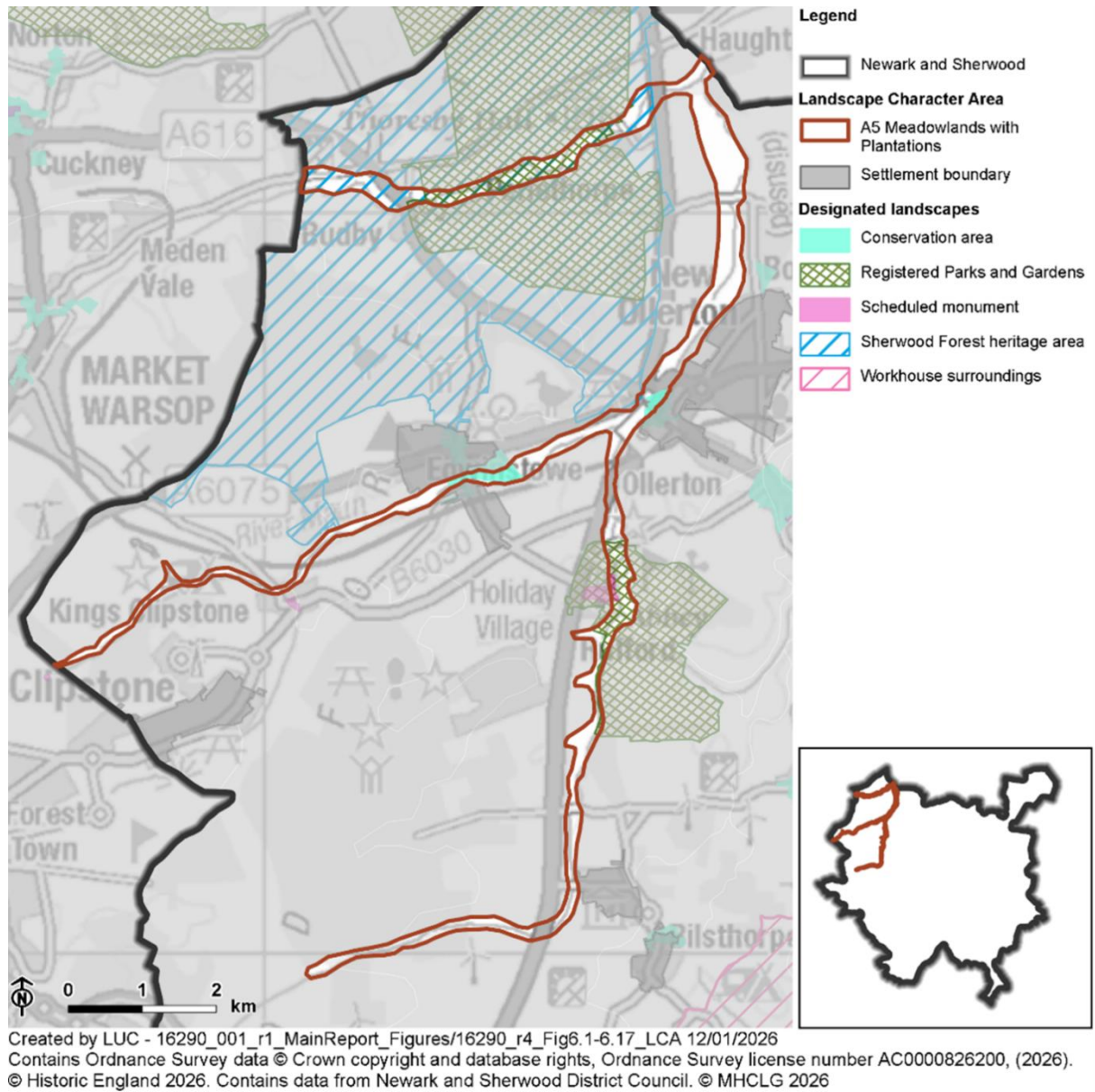
5.71 Specific guidelines for renewable energy development within the Sherwood: Wooded Farmlands LCA include:

- Renewable energy development should consider the presence of pylons, industrial features and existing wind energy developments on the skyline, in order to avoid clutter on the horizon.
- Avoid areas of high intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes and settlements.
- To minimise potential cumulative effects of turbines in relation to the existing Lindhurst Wind Farm, development should continue a similar pattern of scale and design, including the number of blades and the proportion of rotor diameter to tower height.
- Focussing development in landscapes that already accommodate wind farm development to the south may be more appropriate.
- Seek to protect the country park from large developments which could overshadow this area and the landmark Clipstone Colliery winding gear.

- Consideration should be given to the combination of existing wind development, pylons on the horizon, historic winding gear associated with former mineral working, and to a lesser extent the spoil heaps. The operational large (125m blade tip height) turbines at Lindhurst Farm, the winding gear and pylons offer scale references against which proposed turbines could be read and could lead to skyline clutter.
- The south of the LCA is located in the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt. Whilst Green Belt classification is considered under the remit of Planning, some important landscape and visual effects will need to be considered.

Sherwood RCA: Meadowlands with Plantations LCA (A5)

Figure 5.22: Contextual map of the Sherwood RCA: Meadowlands with Plantations LCA (A5)



Location

5.72 This LCA extends along the River Meden, River Maun and the Rainworth Water, in the north-west of Newark and Sherwood. The LCA is narrow, generally less than 0.5km across.

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.73 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Meandering river channels, sometimes defined by woodland edges;*
- *Permanent pastures and flood meadow;*
- *Fringing alder, willows and riparian scrub;*
- *Alder and willow carrs;*
- *Mine sites, pit heaps and urban edges”*

Figure 5.23: Views across flat fields towards New Ollerton, woodland along Broughton Brake extends beyond the River Maun Valley



Figure 5.24: View across River Maun from Robin Hood's Cave, with riparian woodland connecting with the wider wooded landscape



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- A small to medium scale landscape of low-lying gently incised valleys.
- In some places the rivers flow through wide incised valleys, for example to the south-west of Edwinstowe, and further south-west near Cavendish Wood. In other parts they form part of a rolling farmed landscape, including near and to the north of New Ollerton, and near Thorsby Park which forms part of a relatively flat landscape.
- Elsewhere the narrow nature of the river corridors means that the topography is defined by surrounding landscape, which can be quite steep, as at Cavendish Wood which rises above the Maun north of Clipstone.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate-High
- Wind – Moderate-High

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Riparian woodland is a key element in the land cover, distinguishing the river corridors from the surrounding landscape. Some stretches have limited woodland with occasional riverside trees.
- The more open field areas, such as to the east of Edwinstowe and north of New Ollerton, have well-maintained hedgerows set out in a geometric pattern, contrasting with the meandering course of the rivers. Arable fields predominate, with pasture fields around settlements.
- There are important areas of parkland and mixed estate woodland. Coniferous plantations are found on the floodplains.
- Small areas of development include a sewage works and solar farm on the River Maun and the edge of Rufford.

- Although there are few buildings within the river corridors, there are views to adjacent settled areas, with frequent domestic buildings and trees giving the landscape a human scale.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate-High
- Wind – Moderate-High

Historic landscape character

- Thoresby Park (Grade I) RPG covers the north of the LCA along River Maun, and contains several listed buildings.
- The Rufford Abbey (Grade II) RPG covers the south of the LCA along Rainworth Water. The Scheduled Monument of the remains of Rufford Abbey partially lies within the LCA.
- The Edwinstowe and Ollerton Conservation Areas extend into the floodplain.
- There is a more limited historic landscape character in the west of the River Maun valley and south of Rainworth Water valley.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- The skylines in this LCA are generally formed by the rising wooded ground of the adjacent landscapes of the Estate Farmlands with Plantations LCA (B3) (to the east, from the south of the LCA where Cutt’s Wood contains views), and Estate Farmlands LCA (A6), which contains several large wooded and forested areas in close proximity to this LCA. South of the Maun there is an open arable ridge.
- Development is present in some locations, such as New Ollerton, as are occasional electricity pylons which are locally prominent.

- The landscape has high levels of intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes which overlook the low-lying meadowlands. Conversely, views out from the Meadowlands with Plantations LCA (A5) are limited by the rising ground, resulting in a relatively contained and visually framed landscape.
- Rufford Park is designated as a country park. The Robin Hood Way long-distance walking route passes through the landscape briefly within Rufford Park and again to the south of Edwinstowe, where it follows the River Maun for a short distance. Other PRowS are located within the LCA, particularly following the River Maun to the north of New Ollerton.
- Due to the presence of riparian woodland, and woodland on rising landform of adjacent LCAs, the views from public walking routes are often foreshortened, opening up occasionally. Passing Robin Hood’s Cave (which lies just outside this LCA), another PRow has intermittent open views across this landscape.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate-High

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- There is limited feeling of naturalness within the arable landscape, which has a planned and managed character. Modern development is often visible in close proximity.
- The designed parkland landscapes of Rufford Abbey (Grade II) RPG and Thoresby Park (Grade I) RPG have a much stronger feeling of tranquillity through a combination of water, parkland and trees. Nearby modern influences are screened by dense estate woodland.
- Outside these areas the river corridors remain attractive landscapes of riparian woodland and meandering watercourses. Steep wooded valley slopes above the Maun near Clipstone are a relatively dramatic feature within the district.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- The landscapes of Rufford Abbey and Thoresby Park RPGs are of the highest sensitivity due to their historic character, intricate and small-scale nature, and sense of tranquillity. The nationally protected parkland landscapes also offer important recreational resources.
- The river corridors are sensitive to development due to their smaller scale, and their low-lying nature, overlooked by adjacent areas.
- Generally small-scale landscape and an enclosed nature of the valleys, contained by gently rising ground which forms a backdrop to the landscape.
- Mature riparian woodland forms a key feature within the river corridors, linking with other areas of broadleaf and coniferous tree cover within Sherwood. Mature woodland adds scenic interest to the rivers, particularly when combined with steeper topography, and forms characteristically wooded skylines.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

- 5.74** The narrow and small-scale nature of the river valleys, which are frequently lined with riparian woodland indicates higher sensitivity to solar development.
- 5.75** Intervisibility from surrounding LCAs, which are at slightly higher elevation and overlook the Meadowlands with Plantations, increase sensitivity.
- 5.76** The historic character of the landscape, due to the presence of Thoresby Park and Rufford Abbey RPGs, Rufford Abbey Scheduled Monument and two Conservation Areas, also increases the sensitivity.
- 5.77** Characteristics which indicate lower sensitivity to development include the areas of open fields, which are most present to the east of Edwinstowe and north of New Ollerton, and the proximity to and visibility of modern development near settlements.
- 5.78** Additionally, the presence of woodland in adjacent LCAs, and the riparian woodland within this LCA, results in areas of enclosure, which would help to screen development from the wider landscape, although woodland itself is a sensitive feature.

Table 5.11: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in Sherwood RCA: Meadowlands with Plantations (A5)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Moderate
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Moderate-High
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	High
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.79 The areas which cover Rufford Abbey and Thoresby Park RPGs are of the highest sensitivity due to the historic landscape value and recreational use, in addition to the sense of tranquillity experienced from the parks due to a lack of contemporary development.

5.80 The area around New Ollerton in the north is considered less sensitive to development overall, due to the existing presence of modern buildings within the settlement that are visible from the LCA and the traffic on the nearby A614, which influences the sense of rural tranquillity.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.81 The river corridors as a whole are sensitive to development due to their smaller scale, and intervisibility with surrounding landscapes which overlook the valleys.

5.82 Medium and large turbines are likely to be out of scale in this landscape, with its frequent human-scale features and presence of riparian woodland, which is important in connecting with the wider wooded landscape. The historic character of the landscape, due to the presence of Thoresby Park and Rufford Abbey RPGs, Rufford Abbey Scheduled Monument and two Conservation Areas, also increases the sensitivity.

5.83 Within the more open area away from the landscapes of heritage value, there is reduced sensitivity to medium or smaller turbines. Generally, the presence of surrounding open fields within parts of the LCA, and the influence of modern development near settlements, reduces the sensitivity to wind turbines. Buildings, and often pylons, are seen against the skyline, rising above woodland features which contain views from much of the LCA.

5.84 Based on the scale and extent of the landscape, it is considered that this LCA would be of high sensitivity to development of wind farms greater than a few small turbines.

Table 5.12: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in Sherwood RCA: Meadowlands with Plantations (A5)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Moderate
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Moderate
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Moderate-High
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	High
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.85 The landscapes of Rufford Abbey and Thoresby Park RPGs are of the highest sensitivity due to their intricate nature, small scale and sense of tranquillity, and historical value.

5.86 The area north of New Ollerton is of slightly lower sensitivity. In this area the floodplain of the River Maun opens out into a broad, intensively farmed area with little woodland cover. The settlement fringe also influences the area, with buildings present on the skyline, in addition to pylons in the middle to far distance.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.87 Operational development includes:

- A small solar PV development south of Ollerton Road and Sherwood Forest, to the west of Ollerton, occupying a small part of this LCA and the adjacent Estate Farmlands LCA (A6); and
- A large solar PV development by Budby North Forest, to the west of Thoresby Park, occupying a very small part of this LCA and primarily within the adjacent Wooded Estatelands LCA (A3).

5.88 There are no consented or proposed solar PV developments within this LCA.

5.89 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- This LCA is small in scale, and having multiple solar developments may overwhelm the landscape features, or blur boundaries with the adjacent LCAs, leading to a reduction in local distinctiveness.
- Multiple solar developments could result in significant loss of physical features such as the riparian woodland, due to the limited space available in the LCA, which has the potential to change the landscape character, particularly in the woodlands connection to the wider wooded landscape of Sherwood.
- Sequential effects experienced from the PRoWs which cross or follow the river corridor.

Wind

5.90 There are no operational, consented, or proposed wind turbines within this LCA. Two wind turbines (100m blade tip height) within the Estate Farmlands with Plantations LCA (B3) are visible against the middle distance horizon from this LCA, seen above the wooded skyline of Cutt's Wood. Additionally, the singular turbine (77m blade tip height) of Inkersall Grange Farm within the Village Farmlands LCA (A1) can be glimpsed from the southern edge of the LCA.

5.91 The CZTV maps (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) indicate intermittent visibility across the LCA, although this is limited by the intervening landform which encloses the valleys. Areas of the highest levels of theoretical visibility include within Rufford Park (Grade II) RPG, near New Ollerton, and west of Boughton Brake near Robin Hood's Cave. Very limited to no visibility is indicated from the western part of the LCA along the River Maun valley. Actual visibility of turbines will be further reduced by trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility.

5.92 Key cumulative considerations for wind developments within the LCA will include:

- Multiple wind turbines could affect the perception of scale and woodland continuity in the landscape, between the riparian woodland in this LCA and wider wooded landscape of Sherwood, as turbines would appear much larger than the vertical scale of woodland.
- Sequential effects experienced from the PRoWs which cross or follow the river corridor, particularly where the small scale of the valley and areas of dramatic steep wooded slopes can be appreciated.

- Multiple wind turbines located across this LCA and adjoining landscapes may blur boundaries with the adjacent LCAs, leading to a reduction in local distinctiveness.

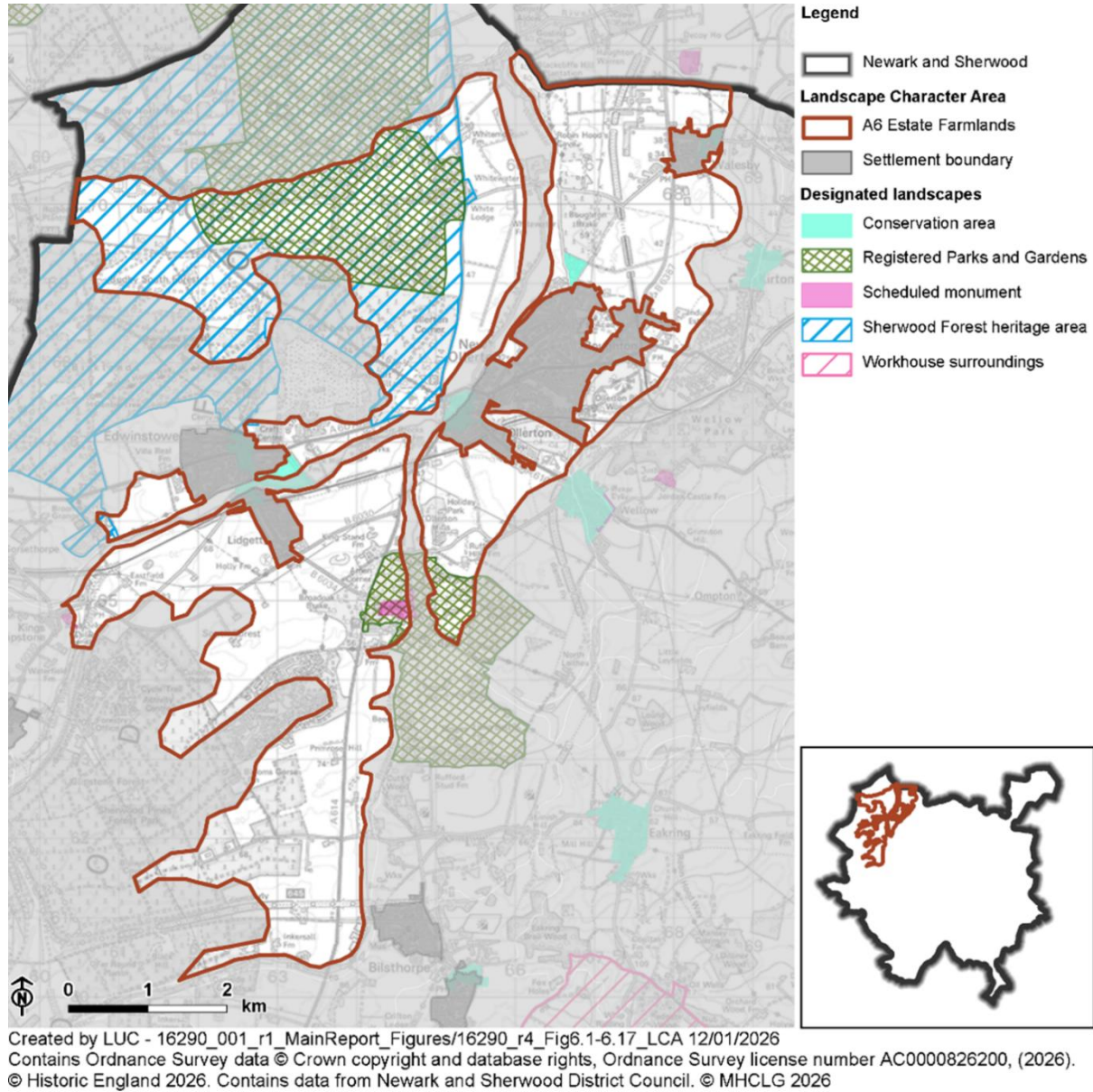
Guidance for development

5.93 Specific guidelines for renewable energy development within the Sherwood: Meadowlands with Plantations LCA include:

- The small-scale landscape is particularly sensitive to large and very large turbines, and opportunities for siting these turbines are likely to be very limited. This is furthered by the low elevation of the LCA and the surrounding high ground.
- Avoid any development which would impact on the integrity and appreciation of the designed landscapes of the Thoresby Park and Rufford Abbey RPGs, or Conservation Areas.
- Avoid locations with intervisibility with neighbouring LCAs, especially when they are elevated and overlook this LCA or when neighbouring LCAs are of higher sensitivity with views out being a characteristic feature. Overall, careful consideration should be given to the sensitivity of adjacent landscapes which could be affected due to the narrow nature of this LCA.
- Site wind energy developments away from intricate landforms or valued distinct landform features, which include Robin Hood's Cave.
- Sensitive site turbines, considering height and proximity, in relation to the key landscape feature of riparian woodland, which is important in connecting with the wider wooded landscape. Also, ensure that these features are not lost to accommodate solar development, which will likely require more space than is available across the LCA.

Sherwood RCA: Estate Farmland LCA (A6)

Figure 5.25: Contextual map of the Sherwood RCA: Estate Farmland LCA (A6)



Location

5.94 This LCA occurs in the north-west of Newark and Sherwood, east of Sherwood Forest. The LCA is bisected by the river corridors of the Rivers Meden and Maun, and Rainworth Water.

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.95 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Isolated brick-built farmsteads and estate cottages;*
- *Large-scale rolling topography;*
- *Views enclosed by wooded skylines;*
- *Estate plantations and belts of trees;*
- *Large arable and grass fields;*
- *Low-cut hawthorn hedges;*
- *Straight roads with wide grass verges”*

Figure 5.26: Thoresby Hall and its parkland landscape with surrounding plantations



Figure 5.27: View from east of Broughton Brake across managed farmland, rising ground forms a backdrop



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- Medium to large-scale landscape with flat to gently rolling topography and some elevated plateau like areas, including at Ollerton Pit Wood.
- Parts of the LCA are enclosed by higher ground, particularly at Sherwood Heath (enclosed by Burstheart Hill to the west), to the east of Rufford Park, and more gradually, in the south of the LCA (enclosed by Sherwood Forest to the west).

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Mainly large to very large-scale mixed agricultural fields bound by low hedges which can be gappy. Some areas of pig farming with associated structures are found in the north-east. Coniferous estate plantation, broadleaf woodland and tree belts form prominent features within the landscape, particularly in the west of the LCA.
- This LCA is sparsely settled, with estate cottages and isolated farmsteads forming the majority of the build development. The largest settlement areas include new development to the east of Edwinstowe, and the Holiday Village by Sherwood Forest.
- Planned estate landscapes and parklands are important features within the LCA.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Historic landscape character

- Thoresby Park Registered Park and Garden (RPG) (Grade I) extends into the north of the LCA. It includes areas of parkland, woodland and ornamental buildings, arranged around the 19th-century Thoresby Hall and the River Meden (which are both outside of the Estate Farmlands LCA).
- Rufford Abbey RPG (Grade II) extends into the east of the LCA. The designed landscape is now a country park, with important estate woodlands around an ornamental lake and the ruins of the abbey (designated as a Scheduled Monument).
- The north-west is part of the Sherwood Forest Heritage Area. The Heritage Area is a planning designation to protect the remaining areas of forest and heath which once occupied large tracts of this part of Britain.
- Boughton Conservation Area covers the Edwardian pumping station north of Boughton, while the Edwinstowe Conservation Area extends into the west of the LCA.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Skylines within this LCA are not prominent due to the relatively flat landform.
- Middle to long-distance views to wooded ridges in the Woodland Estatelands LCA (A3) with occasional longer views to the west along the river corridors, and to the north out of the district. These longer distance views contrast with the local enclosure provided by woodland blocks within the LCA.
- The intervisibility and relationship with the Meadowlands with Plantations LCA (A5) is key, as the narrow river LCA passes through multiple areas of this LCA.

- Rufford Country Park is located in the east and a small part of the Sherwood Forest Country Park is located in the north. The Sherwood Forest Holiday Park also extends into the south of the LCA.
- The rural character of the landscape can be appreciated from an OS promoted viewpoint situated atop Ollerton Pit Woods, where long-distance open views across open fields and adjacent wooded landscapes (including woodland of Wellow Park) are afforded.
- There are several overhead lines with steel lattice pylons crossing through the LCA, particularly to the north of Rufford Abbey where they are seen from public walking routes and across open fields.
- There are a couple of PRowWs crossing the landscape, from which outward views are afforded. These include in the north-east leading to Robin Hood's Cave, and in the south connecting Edwinstowe to Rufford Country Park.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- A predominantly rural landscape which is influenced by areas of managed landscapes and some settlement fringe near Ollerton, Lidgett, Boughton and Walesby. The managed landscapes include areas that are more intensively farmed, particularly present in the north-east, in addition to the formally managed landscapes of the Thoresby Park and Rufford Abbey RPGs.
- Within woodland blocks away from main roads the area can feel tranquil in places. Main roads (including the A616) pass through some areas of parkland and country parks and a railway travels west from Ollerton through the centre of the landscape, with the movement and noise of traffic influencing tranquillity.
- The estate parklands and associated small settlements have higher scenic value. Overall this is a landscape with medium to high scenic quality with some areas of arable farmland. Broadleaf woodland provides visual diversity and attractive views can be gained across the landscape.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- Historically important landscape with areas of high scenic value, and protected parkland landscapes at Thoresby Park and Rufford Abbey RPGs.
- Intervisibility with neighbouring wooded landscapes, including long distance views afforded from Ollerton Pit Woods.
- Variety of views of wooded horizons with some human influences including pylons.
- Broadleaf woodland and tree belts provide areas of tranquillity.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

5.96 The medium to large-scale landscape, which is intensively managed and has a presence of infrastructure already, including several main roads and pylons, has a lower sensitivity to solar development overall. Urban influences are apparent around settlement fringes of Walesby, Boughton, Lidgett and Ollerton. The low-lying and relatively flat nature of the landscape indicates a lower sensitivity.

5.97 Woodland is found across the LCA, though is particularly prominent in the north-west around Thoresby Park. Whilst woodland contributes to an enclosed character, which reduces sensitivity, woodland is a sensitive feature itself.

5.98 The outward views from the PROWs, including leading to Robin Hood's Cave, increase the sensitivity. The heritage value of the Rufford Abbey and Thoresby Park RPGs, Rufford Abbey Scheduled Monument Sherwood Forest Heritage Area and presence of Conservation Areas indicates a higher sensitivity.

Table 5.13: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in Sherwood RCA: Estate Farmland LCA (A6)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Low
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Moderate
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	Moderate-High
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	Moderate-High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.99 The historic landscapes of parkland at Rufford Abbey and Thoresby Park RPGs and the Sherwood Forest Heritage Area are of higher sensitivity.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.100 The flat or very gentle topography also indicates reduced sensitivity to wind turbines, which could relate to the larger scale of the landscape comprising large open fields and large blocks of continuous plantation.

5.101 Urban influences are apparent around settlement fringes of Walesby, Boughton, Lidgett and Ollerton. The existing presence of infrastructure, including several main roads and pylons, indicates a lower sensitivity. Woodland is found across the LCA, though is particularly prominent in the north-west around Thoresby Park. Whilst woodland contributes to an enclosed character, which reduces sensitivity, woodland is a sensitive feature itself and presents smaller scale indicators within the landscape.

5.102 PRoWs including the long distance Robin Hood Way cross the landscape, from which outward views are more sensitive. These include in the north-east leading to Robin Hood’s Cave, and in the south connecting Edwinstowe to Rufford Country Park. The heritage value of the Rufford Abbey and Thoresby Park RPGs, Rufford Abbey Scheduled Monument Sherwood Forest Heritage Area and presence of Conservation Areas indicate a higher sensitivity.

Table 5.14: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in Sherwood RCA: Estate Farmland LCA (A6)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Low
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Low
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Moderate
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	Moderate
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.103 Locally, parkland landscapes at Rufford Abbey and Thoresby Park and the area within Sherwood Forest Heritage Areas are of greater sensitivity due to their historic importance.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.104 Operational development includes:

- A small solar PV development south of Ollerton Road and Sherwood Forest, to the west of Ollerton, which also occupies a small part of the adjacent Meadowland with Plantations LCA (A5).

5.105 There are no consented solar developments within this LCA.

5.106 Proposed development includes:

- A small (less than 1 hectare) solar PV development containing 144 solar panels to the south-east of Thoresby Lake, within Thoresby Park.

5.107 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- Avoid clustering development in sensitive locations which include the designed landscape of Thoresby Park (Grade I RPG).
- Avoid areas adjacent to more sensitive landscapes, such as the river valleys of A5: Meadowlands with Plantations, in order to avoid cumulative effects across landscape character areas.

Wind

5.108 There are no operational, consented, or proposed wind farms within this LCA.

5.109 The CZTV (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) indicates relatively low levels of visibility overall, though areas of higher visibility are indicated near Sherwood Pines Forest Park. This includes in the south of the LCA (west of Blisthorpe), along the PRow, and to the west of Rufford Country Park, briefly crossing over Robin Hood Way. Other areas indicating moderate visibility include from Robin Hood's Cave, and the majority of areas close to the A614. Very limited visibility is indicated from the north of the LCA, including from the sensitive Thoresby Park (Grade I) RPG. The presence of trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility in the field will reduce the amount of actual visibility of turbines in the landscape, as compared to the levels of theoretical visibility indicated on the CZTV.

5.110 Key cumulative considerations for wind developments within the LCA will include:

- Multiple wind turbines could alter the perception of scale within and adjacent to intricate-scale features such as the gentle river valleys, in addition to the scale indicators provided by wooded skylines, as they would be seen to transcend the scale of the trees.
- Visibility of multiple wind farms would lead to sequential effects on views experienced from walking routes including the Robin Hood Way.
- Avoid clustering development in sensitive locations including the designed landscape of Thoresby Park RPG (Grade I) and Rufford Abbey RPG (Grade II), as multiple turbines could detract focus from the features which lead to their designation including estate woodland and parkland.

Guidance for development

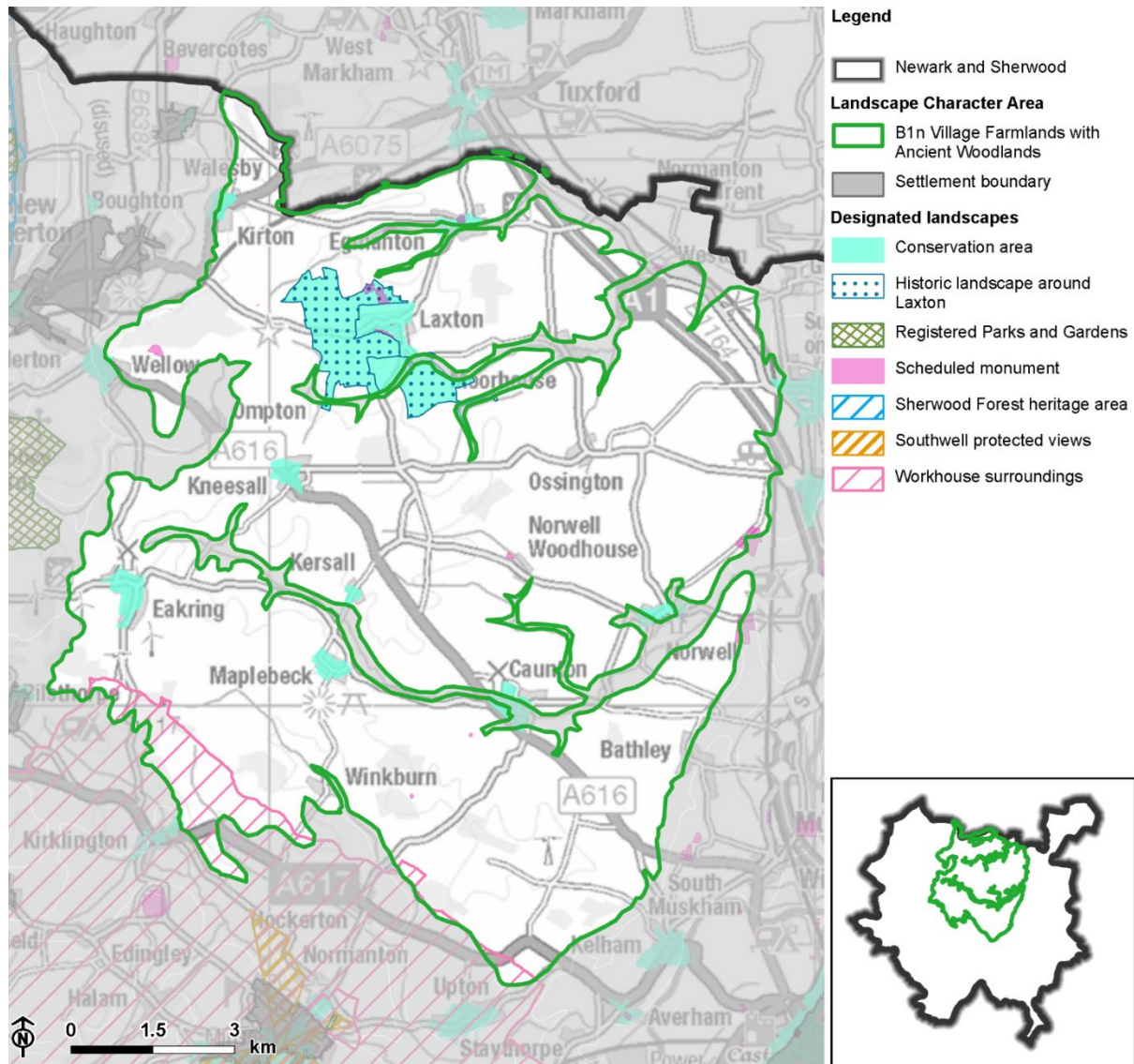
5.111 Specific guidelines for renewable energy development within the Sherwood: Estate Farmland LCA include:

- Avoid siting turbines in locations within or close to historically important and protected landscapes of the LCA, where there is a sense of tranquillity experienced.
- Seek to avoid siting turbines in areas of high intervisibility, where effects may extend across wider areas. This is particularly important in the case where adjacent LCAs are of higher sensitivity – for example, LCA A5: Meadowlands with Plantations.

- Consider the presence of pylons in order to avoid 'clutter' on the horizon, resulting in cumulative visual effects.
- Favour the more human-modified landscapes for siting of larger developments, avoiding areas of perceived tranquillity which are associated with woodland, designed parkland, and river valleys.
- Site wind energy developments away from intricate landforms or valued distinct landform features, which are more present around river valleys.

Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland (north) LCA (B1n)

Figure 5.28: Contextual map of the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland (north) LCA (B1n)



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Location

5.112 The LCA is large and occupies the majority of the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA. The LCA extends from the district boundary in the north to the River Greet in the south, and from Eakring in the west to Sutton-on-Trent and Bathley in the east. A separate section of the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland, to the south of Southwell, is considered as LCA B1s.

5.113 The LCA is interspersed with the narrow areas of the Meadowlands LCA (B2), associated with The Beck, Moorhouse Beck, Goosemoor Dyke, and Gallow Hole Dyke.

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.114 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Varied undulating topography;*
- *Ancient woodlands, often prominently sited on hill tops;*
- *Well-defined pattern of hedged fields;*
- *Streams defined by lines of trees and permanent pasture;*
- *Traditional pattern of farms and small rural villages;*
- *Red brick buildings with pantile roofs;*
- *Quiet country lanes;*
- *Small remnant orchards and permanent pastures around villages”*

Figure 5.29: View south-west from OS viewpoint near Mapelbeck, overlooking medium to large scale fields towards woodland



Figure 5.30: Distant views afforded north from Laxton historical landscape



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- The landscape is generally medium to large scale with gently undulating landform. There is some variety in scale, with shallow open valleys, and occasional more intricate valleys in the south. Between these are large plateau-like areas of higher ground.
- On the highest ground, for example between Wellow and Laxton in the north, the landscape is of a notably large scale, being very open to the north and south, with visibility extending north-east to the town of Tuxford.
- The landscape is more undulating than surrounding LCAs, with a notable change present when crossing boundaries.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low
- Wind – Medium

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- A predominately arable landscape, with medium to large fields enclosed by hedges.
- On the highest ground in the north of the area, a lack of trees creates an open landscape of very large fields.
- Lower-lying areas are distinctively well-wooded with deciduous trees, some of which are remnant ancient woodland. Deciduous and mixed woodland is also a distinctive feature on prominent hilltops, including at Kneesall Wood and Wellow Park.
- Small areas of remnant orchards, parkland and permanent pasture are present in association with the many villages. Villages and narrow country lanes contribute to a human scale.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Historic landscape character

- There are a number of Conservation Areas focused on the numerous villages within this landscape, including Caunton; Eakring; Egmonton; Kersall; Kirton; Kneesall; Laxton; Maplebeck; Norwell; and Wellow. Each Conservation Area contains the village and, in some cases, areas of adjacent farmland which contribute to their setting.
- The historic landscape of Laxton, located in the north of the LCA (to the west of the village of Laxton), is defined as England's last surviving medieval open field farming system.
- A number of surviving historic earthworks associated with motte and bailey castles, ridge and furrow, moated sites and medieval fish ponds are located across the north of the LCA, although as these are relatively small and subtle features, they have a limited influence on the wider landscape.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Skylines are characterised by wooded horizons and woodland on hill tops, with some distinctive hills, or by gently convex ridges in more open areas. Skylines are more prominent when viewed from valleys, where these woodlands are seen on the horizon along with occasional church towers. Pylons cross this landscape and are locally prominent on several skylines.
- Intervisibility with the Sherwood area is important to the west, where this LCA forms a distinct edge formed by wooded hills including Wellow Park.
- From the higher areas in the north, there are open views across this landscape and beyond, with very long views over lower land to the north and east.

- To the south, intervisibility with the Village Farmlands LCA (B4) is a key issue around Southwell – where this landscape serves to frame the valley of the River Greet. Skylines are considered particularly important when viewed from or across the town.
- There are views over and across the Trent Valley, though the eastern edge of this landscape is less distinct than the western edge.
- Within the valley areas of this LCA there are more limited outward views, and the central parts of the landscape are more contained.
- A short section of the Robin Hood Way passes through the south-west of the LCA. Other PRowWs are scattered throughout the area and provide connectivity between farmsteads, settlements and the wider countryside. A promoted viewpoint with a picnic area is located south of Maplebeck.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate-High
- Wind – Moderate-High

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- The area has a feeling of traditional rurality, particularly in valley areas away from major transport corridors, and more wooded areas including around Ossington.
- Modern development comprises several lines of pylons, solar development to the north-east of Egmanton, and busy roads including the A1 in the north-east and A6097 in the south. Parts of the area are intensively farmed, which reduces the sense of tranquillity locally.
- The villages provide attractive focal points within this area, often associated with small areas of parkland and woodland. The more wooded valleys and hills also provide attractive features.
- Intensive farming has reduced the traditional rurality in places due to hedge removal and field amalgamation.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- Areas of more complex topography in the south-east, with slightly more pronounced hills and narrower valleys.
- Remaining areas of sensitive land cover, including ancient woodland (particularly on hilltops), remnant orchards, boundary trees, and small areas of parkland.
- The rural character of the area is locally strong, particularly in areas which lack modern development, away from major roads and pylon lines.
- Open and elevated areas in the north have strong intervisibility with the wider landscape to the north, with extensive views well beyond the district boundary.
- Numerous historic villages, many of which are Conservation Areas, and the background formed by the surrounding rural landscape.
- The historic landscape around Laxton, which is England's only remaining medieval open field system still in use.
- Characteristic views of undeveloped, tree-lined skylines and hilltops in the middle distance.
- Important visual relationships with Southwell, where views overlooking the River Greet form part of the wider background to Southwell.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

5.115 The large-scale landform, simple landcover and agricultural intensification indicates a lower sensitivity. However, the undulating landform and the relative openness of the landscape means that intervisibility of solar development from adjacent LCAs is likely, which increases sensitivity.

5.116 The LCA is rural in character, which indicates a higher sensitivity to development. The majority of settlements form Conservation Areas. The area around

Laxton is particularly sensitive, due to its surrounding historical landscape field pattern.

5.117 The majority of roads that travel through the LCA are minor roads. Major roads locally reduce tranquillity and the sense of rurality (and slightly reduce the sensitivity). This includes the long A616, the A617 which broadly flanks the south of the LCA, and the A1, which flanks the north-east of the LCA, all.

Table 5.15: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland LCA (B1n)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Low
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Moderate
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	Moderate
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.118 The landscape around Laxton is particularly sensitive to solar development due the historic field pattern being largely intact. Solar development may result in the loss of field boundary vegetation which would alter the landscape character. In particular, the openness and long-distance visibility experienced around Laxton would result in solar development being visually prominent. The area around Southwell is also of increased sensitivity, as views overlooking the River Greet form part of the background to Southwell.

5.119 Larger scale plateau areas in the north (away from the more sensitive area around Laxton) are of lower sensitivity to solar PV development than the lower-lying, more intricate valleys in the south.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.120 The visibility of this landscape from the surrounding areas indicates higher sensitivity, particularly around the edges of the landscape, to the north and west.

5.121 Although other criteria indicate lower sensitivity, including the relatively large-scale gently undulating landform, and intensive arable land use, there is a degree of variation with the undulating landform.

5.122 Additionally, the presence of ancient woodland on hill tops indicates higher sensitivity. Alongside the narrow country lanes, these provide human scale features, which would be particularly impacted by large scale turbines.

5.123 There are numerous Conservation Areas which provide attractive focal features, the landscape setting of which are important, which further increases the sensitivity.

Table 5.16: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland LCA (B1n)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Low
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Low-Moderate
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Moderate
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	Moderate
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.124 Historic and traditional-scale villages and their often-wooded settings (for example near Ossington), are more sensitive, as turbines would exceed the scale of woodland. The landscape around Laxton is also of greater sensitivity due to the surviving historic pattern of fields and hedges.

5.125 Views across the River Greet, which contextualises Southwell, and views of the Southwell skyline are of key importance, and of higher sensitivity to wind turbines which could impact the scale of human-scale features such as buildings (within Southwell) and riparian woodland (lining the river).

5.126 Larger scale plateau areas in the north with simpler and more consistent land cover are less sensitive than the more intricate valleys in the south, which contain more frequent human-scale features that the turbines would compete with in views.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.127 Operational development includes:

- Large solar PV development in the north of the LCA, to the east of Egmonton.

5.128 Consented development includes:

- Large solar PV development to the east of Ossington;
- Three large solar PV development adjacent to each other at Knapthorpe Lodge, Hockerton Road, to the south of Caunton; and
- Large solar PV development and associated infrastructure at Winkburn Lane, between Kirklington (south-west) and Maplebeck (north-east).

5.129 Proposed development includes:

- Very large solar PV at Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park, occupying a large portion of B1n, extending from Weston to the north, the boundary with the Village Farmlands LCA (C1) to the east, the boundary with the River Meadowlands LCA (C2) to the south and Eakring to the west; and
- Very large solar farm and associated works at Foxholes Farm, Nathley Lane, between the settlements of Norwell (north) and Bathley (south).

5.130 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- Due to the varied topography in the undulating landform, multiple developments could occupy different elevations, across a large vertical angle of view, from areas which overlook the landscape.
- Given the large scale of the proposed Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park, consideration should be given as to whether other smaller proposed developments would be seen in context of this; whether sensitively integrated or seen to extend the solar farm further.
- The openness of much of the landscape results in overhead line infrastructure being prominent across a wide angle of the view. Solar development seen in views towards OHL infrastructure would increase the presence of infrastructure in views.

Wind

5.131 Operational development includes:

- Two turbines of 77m blade tip height at Hill Farm, to the east of Ossington;
- One turbine of 54m blade tip height at Coultas Farm, to the south-east of Eakrin; and
- Three turbines of 102m blade tip height at Caunton, Dean Hall Farm, and Debdale Hill, to the south-east of the settlement of Caunton.

5.132 There are no consented or proposed wind farms within the LCA.

5.133 The CZTV maps (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) indicate varied visibility across the LCA, with areas of highest theoretical visibility indicated from the more elevated locations. In the north, these areas include to the east and west of Laxton, around Ossington and Norwell, and between Kersall and Kneesall. In the south, areas of higher visibility include between Hockerton and Caunton, and along Robin Hood Way (to the north of Kirklington). Relatively high visibility is also indicated from the OS viewpoint near Maplebeck. The presence of trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility in the field will reduce the amount of actual visibility of turbines in the landscape, as compared to the levels of theoretical visibility indicated on the CZTV.

5.134 Theoretical visibility reduces for lower-lying areas of the LCA, near its transition to the Meadowlands LCA.

5.135 Key cumulative considerations for wind developments within the LCA will include:

- Existing OHL infrastructure is present in views across the landscape, with further vertical development at risk of detracting from the rurality of the landscape and, in particular, affecting the human-scale features of the landscape, which is largely provided by intact hedgerow patterns, narrow country lanes, and historic villages.
- Sequential effects from key walking routes including Robin Hood Way, parts of which indicate visibility of a large number of turbines.

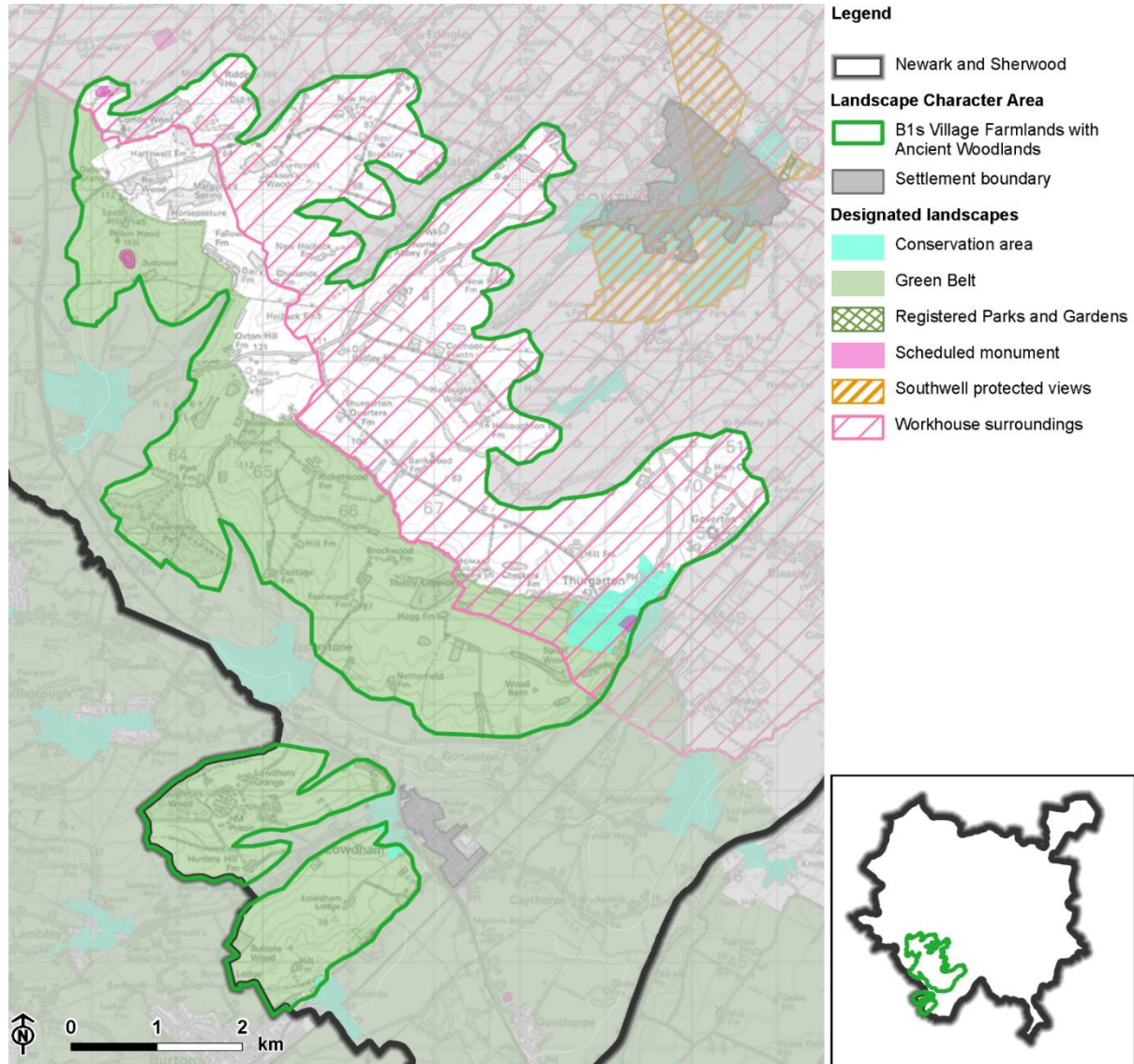
Guidance for development

5.136 Specific guidelines for renewable energy development within the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland LCA (B1n) include:

- Turbines in open and elevated areas of this LCA with long-distance visibility may be highly visible in the wider landscape, and additional care should be taken to ensure appropriate siting.
- When siting wind energy development, select sites in simple, regular landscapes with more extensive areas of consistent land cover, in preference to landscapes with more complex or irregular land cover patterns, smaller field sizes and/or landscapes with frequent human scale features. Generally, the larger scale plateau areas are simpler than the more intricate, lower-lying valleys in the south.
- Avoid areas of ancient woodland or remaining areas of parkland, including the woodland which forms a distinctive feature on prominent hilltops.
- Avoid areas which are free from overt human influence or modern development, and which may be valued for their perceived rural tranquillity – these tend to be the smaller-scale areas which are less intensively farmed.
- Maintain the rural setting of the villages and protect the special historic interest of Conservation Areas, as defined in character appraisals where available.
- Ensure development does not adversely affect the integrity of the historic landscape around Laxton or the traditional character of this area.
- Avoid any development which may adversely affect views towards, from, or across Southwell, and which could detract from the setting of the Minster or other buildings.

Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Farmlands with Ancient Woodland (south) LCA (B1s)

Figure 5.31: Contextual map of the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland (south) LCA (B1s)



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Location

5.137 The character area is relatively large and occupies the south of the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA. The LCA is surrounded by the Village Farmlands LCA (B4). A separate section of the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland, to the north of Southwell, is considered as LCA B1n.

5.138 The LCA includes Robin Hood Hill in the north-west and the dumble valleys south-west of Southwell, extending south-west to the district boundary and towards Dover Beck and Lowdham.

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.139 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Varied undulating topography;*
- *Ancient woodlands, often prominently sited on hill tops;*
- *Well-defined pattern of hedged fields;*
- *Streams defined by lines of trees and permanent pasture;*
- *Traditional pattern of farms and small rural villages;*
- *Red brick buildings with pantile roofs;*
- *Quiet country lanes;*
- *Small remnant orchards and permanent pastures around villages”*

Figure 5.32: View across lower-lying village farmlands and woodland estates within Sherwood, from Robin Hood Hill



Figure 5.33: View towards Robin Hood Hill from Sherwood region



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- The landscape is generally medium to large scale with gently undulating landform.
- The broader hills above Thurgarton contrast with the narrow and steeper dumble valleys. The intricate topography of the hills north of Oxton, including Robin Hood Hill, combined with the intimate dumbles, make this one of the more distinctive landscapes of the district.
- The landscape is more undulating than surrounding LCAs, with a notable change present when crossing boundaries.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- A predominately arable landscape, though with some significant areas of pasture. Medium to large fields are enclosed by hedges, with pastoral areas generally retaining more field boundary trees.
- Lower-lying areas are distinctively well-wooded with deciduous trees. Deciduous and mixed woodland and ancient woodland is also a distinctive feature on prominent hilltops, including at Combs Wood, Epperstone Park and Halloughton Wood.
- Small areas of remnant orchards, parkland and permanent pasture are present in association with villages including Thurgarton. The village and narrow country lanes across the LCA contribute to a human scale.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Historic landscape character

- The Thurgarton Conservation Area and Castle Hill Scheduled Monument are located within the east of this landscape.
- Two hillforts (both Scheduled Monuments) are located in the east of the LCA, although the wider influence of these features on the landscape is relatively localised.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low
- Wind – Low

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Skylines are characterised by wooded horizons and woodland on hill tops, with some distinctive hills, or by gently convex ridges in more open areas. Skylines are more prominent when viewed from valleys, where these woodlands are seen on the horizon along with occasional church towers. Pylons cross this landscape and are locally prominent on several skylines.
- Intervisibility with the Sherwood area is important to the west, where this LCA forms a distinct edge formed by wooded hills including Robin Hood Hill.
- Intervisibility with the Village Farmlands LCA (B4) is a key issue around Southwell – where this landscape serves to frame the valley of the River Greet. Skylines are considered particularly important when viewed from or across the town, including of the historic Southwell Minster.
- There are views over and across the Trent Valley from above Thurgarton, though the south-eastern edge of this landscape is less distinct than the western edge.
- Within the valley areas of this LCA there are more limited outward views, and the central parts of the landscape are more contained. To the south this

landscape continues into Gedling District around Lowdham, with relatively short views across the valley of the Dover Beck, contained by undulating landform and the presence of field boundary trees.

- The Robin Hood Way long distance walking route passes through the north-west of the LCA. Other PRoWs are focused in the south and provide connectivity between farmsteads and the wider rural landscape.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate-High
- Wind – Moderate-High

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- The area has a feeling of traditional rurality, particularly in valley areas away from major transport corridors, in more wooded areas and in the dumble valleys.
- Modern development comprises several lines of pylons, solar development north of Hallaughton, and the busy A6097 road.
- The village of Thurgarton provides attractive focal points within this area, associated with small areas of woodland along watercourses.
- Relatively intact patterns of broadleaf woodland and field boundaries create an attractive and locally distinctive landscape. The more varied terrain, intricate dumble valleys, and hilltop woodlands combine to offer visual diversity.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate-High
- Wind – Moderate-High

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- Intricate dumble valleys and locally complex and distinctive landform, including Robin Hood Hill which rises to the north-eastern edge of the LCA.
- Characteristic views of undeveloped, wooded skylines and hilltops in the middle distance.

- Areas of sensitive land cover, including ancient woodland (particularly on hilltops), remnant orchards, boundary trees, and small areas of parkland.
- The rural character of the area is locally strong, particularly in areas which lack modern development, away from roads and pylon lines.
- Landscape setting is important to Thurgarton Conservation Area within the LCA and other Conservation Areas situated just beyond the LCA.
- Patterns of intact hedgerows and field boundary trees, and along with vegetation flanking the narrow country lanes, create an intimate and human scale.
- Important visual relationships, particularly with the neighbouring LCA to the west (as viewed from Robin Hood Hill) and with Southwell, where views overlooking the River Greet form part of the wider setting of Southwell.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

5.140 The medium to large scale areas of landform, and agricultural use indicates a lower sensitivity. However, there are areas of more intricate topography and landcover which contrast with the broader hills and undulating landscape, indicating a higher sensitivity by creating a distinctive landscape.

5.141 The wooded character of the landscape, including the distinctively wooded lower-lying dumble valleys and the woodland on prominent hilltops, indicates a higher sensitivity.

5.142 The LCA is sparsely settled and rural in character, with the largest village forming a Conservation Area (Thurgarton), and views to villages beyond the LCA (e.g. Southwell) are also within Conservation Areas, indicating a higher sensitivity.

5.143 The roads that travel through the LCA are minor roads and the majority are narrow, however there is slightly more frequent traffic along the B6386 and approaching settlements, which slightly reduce the tranquillity and sense of rurality.

Table 5.17: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland LCA (B1s)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Low
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Moderate
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	Moderate
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.144 Areas of high intervisibility, primarily Robin Hood Hill, are of higher sensitivity to solar development. This is due to the panoramic open views available from the hill, in which multiple developments could overwhelm views towards woodland and human scale features. Additionally, the hills’ prominence in views from adjacent LCAs, particularly in the Sherwood Area, would result in visual effects across the wider landscape.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.145 Although the relatively large-scale gently undulating landform, and arable land use indicate a lower sensitivity, there is a degree of local variation with the undulating landform, more intricate dumble valleys, and presence of ancient woodland on hill tops. Alongside the narrow country lanes, these provide human scale features, which are of high sensitivity to wind turbines. The contrast between the broader hills and intricate valleys increases sensitivity.

5.146 The LCA is sparsely settled and rural in character, with the largest village forming a Conservation Area (Thurgarton), and views to villages beyond the LCA (e.g. Southwell) are also within Conservation Areas, indicating a higher sensitivity. In particular, turbines could impact skyline views associated with Southwell Minster.

5.147 The intervisibility of this landscape from surrounding regions, primarily the Sherwood RCA, indicates higher sensitivity.

Table 5.18: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland LCA (B1s)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Low
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Low-Moderate
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Moderate
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	Moderate
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.148 Areas of high intervisibility, primarily Robin Hood Hill, are of higher sensitivity to wind farm development. This is due to the panoramic open views available from the hill, in which turbines could exceed the scale of woodland. Additionally, the hills’ prominence in views from adjacent LCAs, particularly in the Sherwood Area, would result in visual effects across the wider landscape. Turbines would be seen to tower above the surrounding landscape, if situated on the most elevated ground.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.149 Operational development includes:

- Very large solar farm with associated infrastructure north of Halloughton Southwell, within B1s and crossing over into the Village Farmlands LCA (B4).

5.150 There are no consented solar developments within this LCA.

5.151 There are no proposed solar developments within this LCA.

5.152 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- Due to the varied topography in the undulating landform, multiple developments could occupy different elevations, across a large vertical angle of view, from areas which overlook the landscape.

- The openness of much of the landscape results in overhead line infrastructure being prominent across a wide angle of the view. Solar development seen in views towards OHL infrastructure would increase the presence of infrastructure in views.

Wind

5.153 Operational development includes:

- One turbine of 66.5m blade tip height at New Holbeck Farm, south-west of Southwell; and
- One turbine of 71m blade tip height at Hill Farm, north of Epperstone.

5.154 There are no consented or proposed wind farms within the LCA.

5.155 The CZTV maps (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) indicate theoretical visibility is focused in the most elevated parts of the LCA. These areas include the parts closest to Southwell, extending to Oxton Hill Farm, and from areas around the elevated Robin Hood Hill, where long distance outward views are afforded. Higher visibility is also indicated from the broader hills north of Thurgarton, north-east of Epperstone, and the containing landform south of Lowdham. From the lower-lying parts of the LCA, including the dumble valleys, theoretical visibility is limited by intervening landform. The presence of trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility in the field will reduce the amount of actual visibility of turbines in the landscape, as compared to the levels of theoretical visibility indicated on the CZTV.

5.156 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- Consideration of panoramic views from elevated locations, including the local landmark of Robin Hood Hill, where turbines in adjacent LCAs are visible on the lower-lying ground.
- Existing OHL infrastructure is present in views across the landscape, with further vertical development at risk of detracting from the rurality of the landscape and, in particular, affecting the human-scale features of the landscape, which is largely provided by intact hedgerow patterns, narrow country lanes, and the historic village of Thurgarton.

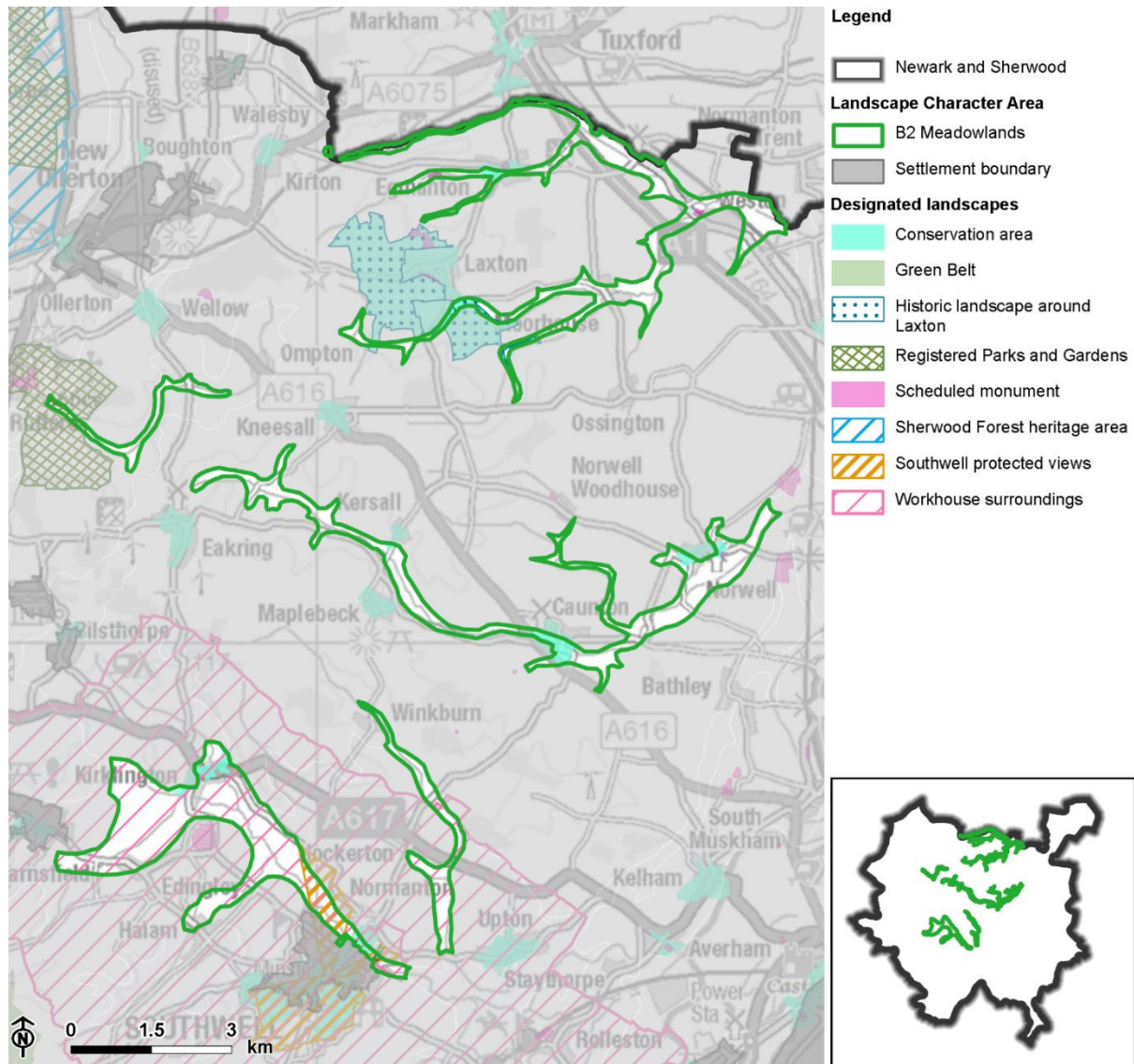
Guidance for development

5.157 Specific guidelines for renewable energy development within the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland LCA (B1s) includes:

- Avoid citing turbines in the most elevated areas of this LCA, including Robin Hood Hill which is highly visible in the wider landscape.
- When siting wind energy development select sites in simple, regular landscapes with more extensive areas of consistent land cover, over landscapes with more complex or irregular land cover patterns, smaller field sizes and landscapes with frequent human scale features.
- Avoid ancient woodland or remaining areas of parkland, including the woodland which forms a distinctive feature on prominent hilltops.
- Avoid areas which are free from overt human influence or modern development, and which may be valued for their perceived rural tranquillity – these tend to be the smaller-scale areas which are less intensively farmed.
- Maintain the rural setting of the villages and protect the special historic interest of the Thurgarton Conservation Area, as defined in character appraisals where available.
- Avoid any development which may adversely affect views towards, from, or across Southwell, and which could detract from the setting of the Minster or other buildings.
- The south-west half of the LCA is located in the Nottingham-Derby Green Belt. Whilst Green Belt classification is considered under the remit of Planning, some important landscape and visual effects will need to be considered.

Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Meadowlands LCA (B2)

Figure 5.34: Contextual map of the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Meadowlands LCA (B2)



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Location

5.158 The Meadowlands extend along the small rivers and streams which flow through the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands. The Meadowlands are defined as corridors following the River Greet, Car Dyke and The Wink, The Beck, Moorhouse Beck, Goosemoor Dyke, and Gallow Hole Dyke, and their tributaries.

5.159 These long, narrow areas are set within a wider landscape context of rolling farmlands, and the boundaries are often indistinct.

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.160 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Flat, alluvial flood plains;*
- *Sparsely settled with few buildings;*
- *Permanent pasture and areas of mixed agriculture;*
- *Small-scale, semi-irregular pattern of hedged fields;*
- *Riparian trees and shrubs;*
- *Tradition of willow pollarding;*
- *Clumps of deciduous trees and small woods;*
- *Ridge and furrow grassland”*

Figure 5.35: View from River Greet towards Southwell, the broad flat plain allows for more prominent skyline views



Figure 5.36: Wooded character created by riparian woodland along Moorhouse Beck, field boundary trees and more distant woodland around Ossington



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- Small-scale shallow valleys which broaden out to medium-scale flat flood plains.
- The Meadowlands are set within the broader, generally shallow valleys of the wider landscape. They form localised riparian corridors within gently rolling topography, and are sometimes framed by steeper slopes.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate-High
- Wind – Moderate-High

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- The floodplains contain a mix of small to large-scale fields with pasture and arable land cover. There are also areas of rough wet grassland.
- Fields are surrounded by intact hedges and mature hedgerow trees, though there has been field amalgamation in broader floodplains. Riparian woodland is a key feature.
- A number of valley-side villages and farmsteads extend into the floodplain. Trees and buildings provide human-scale features.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Historic landscape character

- Historic interest is concentrated in the south of the LCA near Southwell, where the valley of the River Greet is part of the protected views from the town. Within the Meadowlands there are views south towards the town including the Minster on the skyline, for example from Corkhill Lane. The grounds of Thurgarton Hundred Workhouse (Grade II) RPG extend into the Meadowlands north-east of Southwell.
- Outside of Southwell, the Conservation Areas at Caunton, Kirklington, Laxton and Norwell extend into the Meadowlands. Land south of Laxton along the Moorhouse Beck is designated as the Historic Landscape around Laxton. The eastern edge of the Rufford Abbey (Grade II) RPG extends into the west of the Meadowlands.
- There are areas of occasional remnant ridge and furrow and other historic earthworks associated with medieval settlement (designated as Scheduled Monuments), although these are relatively small features which have a limited influence over the wider landscape.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- The adjacent rising valley slopes (of other LCAs) are intrinsic to the appreciation of these landscapes, enclosing the landscape and providing a frame for the valley, generally forming the skyline of the LCA. In some places, for example along the River Greet north of Southwell, and along Moorhouse Beck east of Moorhouse, these valleys broaden out, but views are always contained due to the lower-lying nature of the Meadowlands.
- The skyline often includes trees, and occasionally interrupted by development including pylons. Riparian woodland obscures some skylines.
- Church towers form locally important landmarks across the Meadowlands. Intervisibility with the Meadowlands is particularly important to the north of Southwell, shown by the designation of protected views.
- PRowS follow the river corridors (including north of Southwell), where intermittent views towards the town’s skyline are afforded across areas of

relatively open plain. Generally, the views from footpaths are enclosed by surrounding hedgerow and riparian vegetation.

- Individual small-scale turbines in adjacent LCAs can be seen intermittently on the horizon, beyond hedgerows and woodland, but do not form a key feature of the LCA.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate-High
- Wind – High

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- The riparian woodlands form a natural character. The valleys are strongly rural in character, with narrow lanes and small villages, and are surrounded by farmland. There is limited overt modern development, including at the Southwell settlement edge which is well integrated with the landscape.
- The small scale and intimate nature of this landscape provide some visual diversity. Riparian woodlands are an attractive feature, particularly where they link up with other mature woodlands and field trees, and often provide the only woodland in intensively farmed landscapes. The shallow valleys form an attractive setting to several small villages and the town of Southwell.
- The natural and rural character, along with the small scale features and riparian woodland, leads to a sense of tranquillity.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- Small scale of the landscape.
- Enclosed nature of the valleys, which are often overlooked by surrounding higher ground within adjacent LCAs, leading to intervisibility between LCAs.
- Riparian woodlands are a key feature within this landscape.

- Importance of landmarks, including church towers, and settlement settings where they adjoin the valleys.
- The particular importance the landscape plays in the setting of Southwell, the Conservation Area, and its landmark buildings, including Southwell Minster, both within and beyond the areas recognised by planning policy.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

5.161 The small-scale nature of the LCA indicates a higher sensitivity to solar development. Development of any scale would likely become the most prominent feature in the landscape, particularly given the presence of human scale features.

5.162 The intervisibility between adjacent LCAs, which is in part a feature due to the small scale and narrowness of the LCA, also increases sensitivity, as development would impact the transition and setting that the valleys provide to the wider landscape.

5.163 The presence of riparian woodland also increases sensitivity as it provides scenic interest and is important to the wider landscape setting due to it connecting to field boundary vegetation and woodland (within adjacent LCAs). The removal of riparian woodland to accommodate solar development would impact on the wider landscape character of Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands.

Table 5.19: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Meadowland LCA (B2)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Moderate
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Moderate-High
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	High
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.164 The landscape setting of Southwell is recognised in planning policy as being of great significance to the town. Of particular importance are the views across the town which include the Minster, Workhouse and other landmarks. The presence of this key assemblage of historic buildings in the landscape indicates locally increased

sensitivity in areas of the LCA close to Southwell, where solar development on the wider floodplain of the River Greet may affect appreciation of views of landmark buildings, by detracting focus from the skyline.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.165 The small-scale nature of the landscape, set within usually medium to large scale rolling farmland, indicates a higher sensitivity to wind turbines. Larger turbines are likely to appear out of scale with this landscape, particularly considering the frequent trees and domestic-scale buildings which are visible, and the importance of skyline views, particularly around Southwell.

5.166 The flat Meadowlands are contained by the rising valley slopes, with strong intervisibility between the landscapes, further increasing the sensitivity to development which impacts skyline views.

5.167 Riparian woodland is a key feature of this LCA, offering scenic value. Its connection with mature woodlands around settlements is also important to the wider landscape setting, which increases the sensitivity.

Table 5.20: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Meadowlands LCA (B2)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Moderate
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Moderate
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Moderate-High
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	High
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.168 The landscape setting of Southwell is recognised in planning policy as being of great significance to the town. Of particular importance are the views across the town which include the Minster, Workhouse and other landmarks. The presence of this key assemblage of historic buildings in the landscape indicates locally increased sensitivity in areas of the LCA close to Southwell, where turbines may affect appreciation of views of landmark buildings.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.169 Operational development includes:

- A large solar PV development extends into the meadowlands to the east of Egmonton although this development is primarily within the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCA (B1n).

5.170 There are no consented solar developments within this LCA.

5.171 Proposed development includes:

- The very large scale Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park which would occupy parts of the LCA in the north, around Mapelbeck, Norwell, and Moorhouse, though it is primarily situated within the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCA; and
- A very large solar PV development at Foxholes Farm, Bathley Lane would occupy a small portion of the LCA to the south of Norwell.

5.172 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- This LCA is small in scale, and the combination of multiple solar developments may overwhelm the landscape features.
- Multiple solar developments could result in significant loss of physical features such as the riparian woodland, which has the potential to change the landscape character.
- The potential for sequential effects on the PRowWs that follow the river corridors (including north of Southwell).

Wind

5.173 There are no operational, consented or proposed wind farms in this LCA. There are occasional glimpses to individual, small scale turbines in adjacent LCAs, though these are sparsely placed and often obscured from view by riparian vegetation.

5.174 The CZTV maps (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) indicate varied visibility across the LCA, with higher levels of visibility indicated in the south-west near Kirklington,

including from parts of Robin Hood Way, and in the east near Norwell. In other parts of the LCA, the CZTVs indicate lower levels of visibility, particularly in the central part along The Beck watercourse, given screening by intervening landform. The presence of trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility in the field will reduce the amount of actual visibility of turbines in the landscape, as compared to the levels of theoretical visibility indicated on the CZTV.

5.175 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- Multiple wind farm developments could result in significant loss of physical features such as the riparian woodland, which would remove some trees from skyline views, increasing the prominence of wind turbines.
- The potential for sequential effects on the PRowWs that follow the river corridors (including north of Southwell) that could impact important skyline views.

Guidance for development

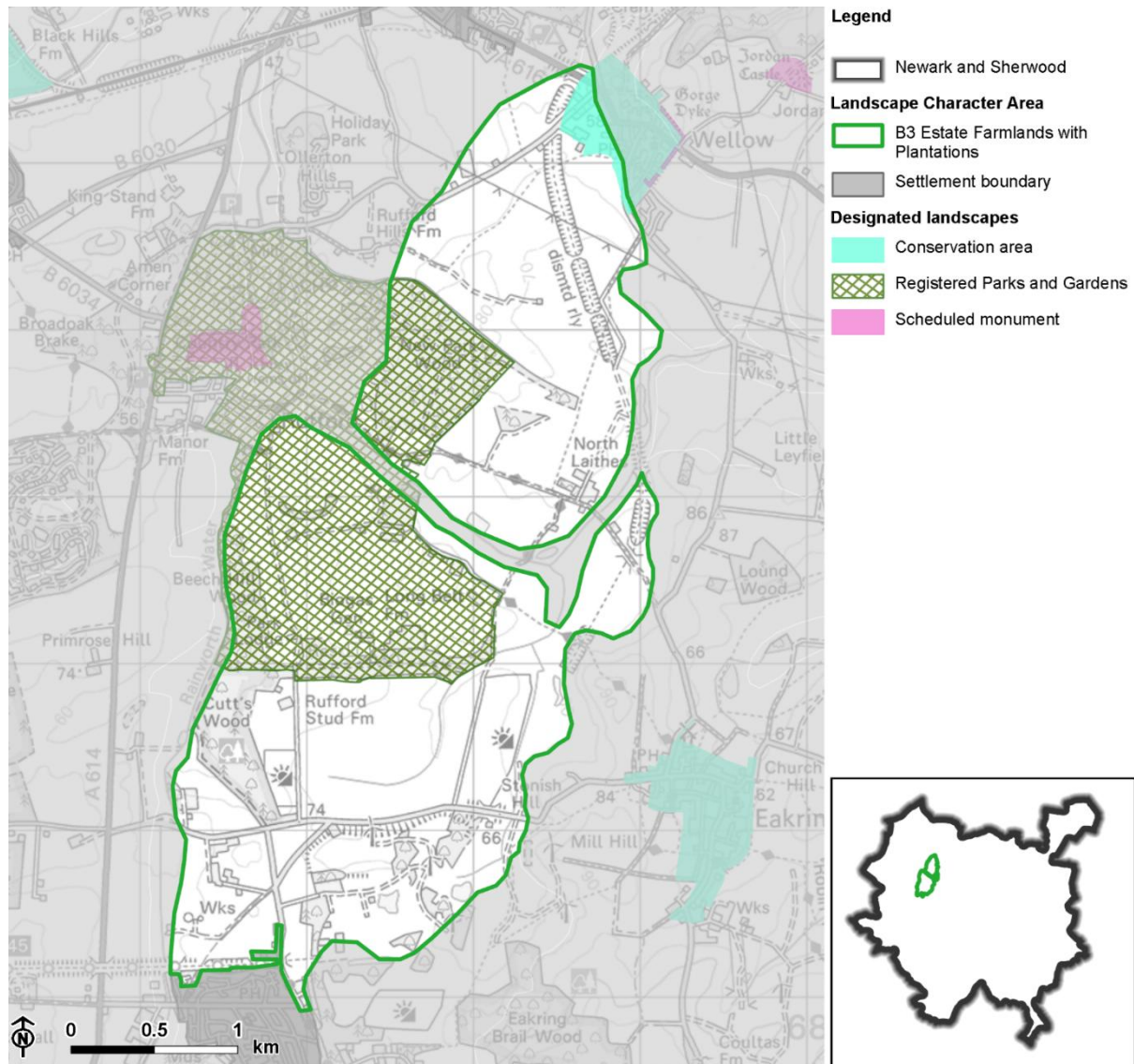
5.176 Specific guidelines for renewable energy development within the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Meadowlands LCA include:

- The small-scale landscape is particularly sensitive to large and very large turbines, and opportunities for siting these turbines are likely to be very limited.
- The combination of intricate scale vegetation (including riparian), the low elevation and surrounding high ground does not offer ideal locations for turbines, as turbines would overwhelm the scale of the low-lying landscape.
- Consider locations with limited intervisibility with neighbouring LCAs, especially when they are elevated and overlook this LCA or when neighbouring LCAs are of higher sensitivity with views out being a characteristic feature. Greater intervisibility is experienced in the north (around Norwell, Caunton, and Egmanton) compared to the south-west (around Kirklington, where there is more screening woodland within the LCA, and where the LCA is not surrounded by such an open landscape).
- Mature riparian woodland may offer opportunities for screening of small turbines and small-scale solar development.
- Ensure that riparian woodland and its relationship to woodland and field boundaries within the wider landscape remains intact.

- Avoid siting turbines where they would interrupt prominent skylines and the settings of settlements or landmarks, such as the skyline of Southwell where the tower and spires of Southwell Minster is prominent on the skyline.
- Avoid any development which may adversely affect views from, of, or across Southwell, and which could affect the setting of the Conservation Area, Minster or other landmark buildings. Reference should be made to the Southwell Landscape Setting study, noting that adverse effects may arise from turbines located beyond the areas currently defined in planning policy.
- Given the intervisibility and the setting this LCA provides to the wider landscape, carefully consider the sensitivity of adjacent landscapes which could be affected by development in the narrow riparian corridors.

Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Estate Farmlands with Plantations LCA (B3)

Figure 5.37: Contextual map of the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Estate Farmlands with Plantations LCA (B3)



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Location

5.177 This LCA occurs in two almost adjacent locations, in the centre of the Newark and Sherwood District, split in two by the narrow valley following Gallow Hole Dyke (within the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Meadowlands LCA (B2)). It extends from south of Ollerton to north of Bilsthorpe, and is broadly between the Old Rufford Road and Eakring.

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.178 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Undulating landform;*
- *Sparsely settled and largely inaccessible;*
- *Views framed by woodland edges;*
- *Extensive broad-leaved, mixed and coniferous woodlands;*
- *Country houses set in ornamental parklands;*
- *Narrow man-made lakes along river valleys;*
- *Extensive areas of unenclosed heath;*
- *Unfenced minor roads”*

Figure 5.38: View from Robin Hood Way overlooking the valley and riparian woodland along Gallow Hole Dyke (within the Meadowlands LCA), amidst gently undulating landform towards Cutt's Wood



Figure 5.39: View into open, flat fields from Deardale Lane, largely framed by woodland of Cutt's Wood



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- A medium scale landscape comprising a relatively flat area, lowest in the centre and rising to the south to the restored spoil heaps, the result of mineral working around Stonish Hill, and to the north around New Park Wood.
- The landscape is framed by rising ground to the east.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low
- Wind – Low

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Large agricultural fields with a mixed land cover of arable and some pasture, and important estate woodlands, including Cutt’s Wood in the south and New Park Wood in the north.
- Fields are bounded by a combination of hedgerows and fencing and few isolated hedgerow trees. Acidic grassland, bracken, broom and gorse can be found along roads. Extensive belts of broad-leaved and mixed woodland form strong features, associated with the Rufford Estate.
- The area is sparsely settled with few scattered farm buildings and lodge houses.
- The south of the LCA has a more developed character given the presence of two solar farms, restored spoil heaps, a disused Biogas generator, Bilsthorpe Business Park and two wind turbines.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low
- Wind – Low

Historic landscape character

- The centre of the LCA lies within the Rufford Abbey Registered Park and Garden (Grade II), which extends into the adjacent Meadowlands with Plantations (A5) and Estate Farmlands (A6) LCAs. Parts of the RPG within this LCA comprise estate woodlands enclosing mainly arable farmland.
- The Wellow Conservation Area is located in the north-east corner of the LCA. Fields in the north-east of the LCA form a rural context to the historic settlement, although woodland lining the dismantled railway limits the relationship between the Conservation Area and the wider landscape of the LCA.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Skylines within the LCA are not particularly prominent except in localised areas where elevated sloping ground is topped by woodland. Wooded skylines on elevated neighbouring LCAs are also present, with pylons on the skyline to the east.
- Woodland within the LCA, coupled with the containment by rising ground to the east, results in a sense of enclosure. These more elevated neighbouring landscapes have an important relationship in framing the parkland. Otherwise longer views out of this area are limited.
- The Robin Hood Way walking route passes through the centre of the LCA, connecting Rufford to Eakring. Outward views are available from much of the route, due to the relatively flat topography of the landscape. There are several other, shorter PRowWs, primarily in the north of the LCA leading to the settlement of Wellow.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- To the north and centre of the LCA (around the Gallow Hole Dyke valley of the Meadowlands LCA (B2)), the landscape has a strong character imparted by woodland belts and is largely unfragmented by modern development. However, an overhead line with steel lattice pylons cuts through the north of the LCA and is seen on the skyline of open views.
- The southern area is influenced by the business park and former mineral workings, as well as by the presence of a few wind turbines and sewage works (which is largely screened by adjacent trees). Additionally, two solar farms are located in the south and are seen in glimpsed views from roads, though partially screened by surrounding trees and hedgerows.
- The area’s parkland landscapes, focused in the north-east, are of scenic as well as historic interest, with the substantial mature woodland belts adding visual interest to this agricultural landscape.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- The important historic parkland of Rufford Abbey (Grade II RPG), including the intact historic character of the wooded estate landscape.
- Extensive broadleaf and coniferous woodland blocks and parkland trees – including of New Park Wood and Cutt’s Wood – create a well wooded character.
- Views framed by woodland edges, with some intervisibility with neighbouring landscape to the east.
- Undeveloped landscape, in the centre of this LCA, away from roads, with a strong intact character unfragmented by modern development.

- Locally prominent wooded skylines.
- Existing wind turbines to the south, situated on elevated ground in comparison to the rest of the LCA, the high visibility of which could lead to cumulative effects.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

5.179 The landscape is contained by rising ground to the east and by woodland within and to the west. Its relatively flat and low-lying position indicates a lower sensitivity to solar development, particularly for small to medium scale solar farms.

5.180 The influence of small to medium existing solar farms, restored spoil heaps, a disused Biogas generator, Bilsthorpe Business Park and two wind turbines in the south indicate a lower sensitivity. However, if proposed development is sited within this area, there is the possibility of it creating a large swathe of development and leading to cumulative landscape and visual impacts.

5.181 The presence of the Rufford Abbey RPG in the centre of the LCA and the Wellow Conservation Area in the north-east increase sensitivity to development.

Table 5.21: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Estate Farmlands with Plantations LCA (B3)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Low
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Low
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	High
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.182 The north and centre of the LCA is generally more sensitive than the south of the LCA, due to the lack of infrastructure and fragmentation by development in the more northern areas.

5.183 Extensive belts of broad-leaved and mixed woodland form strong features within the Rufford Abbey RPG, which are of higher sensitivity.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.184 The landscape remains fairly undeveloped and is sparsely settled with few roads making it feel inaccessible and remote in places, leading to a higher sensitivity.

5.185 Areas of fragmentation are focused in the south where there is existing solar infrastructure, wind turbines, sewage works, and roads cutting through the landscape, leading to the southern portion being of lower sensitivity to development.

5.186 Well wooded areas and the parkland landscape of Rufford Abbey estate (Grade II RPG) contribute and heighten these perceived qualities and increase the sensitivity to wind turbines, particularly the role the woodlands play in enclosing views and the likelihood that turbines would be seen above trees and appear larger in scale.

5.187 The medium to large-scale nature of landscape features (open, flatter fields) and the intensively farmed aspect of some areas indicates a lower sensitivity to small groups of turbines. The proportion of the LCA that is covered by the sensitive historic landscape limits the size and number of developments.

5.188 The existing wind turbines are located on elevated ground within the LCA, and are therefore prominent in views across the LCA.

Table 5.22: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Estate Farmlands with Plantations LCA (B3)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Low
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Low
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Moderate
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	Moderate-High
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.189 The north and centre of the LCA is generally more sensitive than the south of the LCA, due to the lack of infrastructure and fragmentation by development in the more northern areas, with wind turbines currently located in the south of the LCA.

5.190 Extensive belts of broad-leaved and mixed woodland form strong features within the Rufford Estate, which are of higher sensitivity, as turbines could exceed the height of woodland.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.191 Operational development includes:

- A medium solar PV development at Eakring Solar Farm in the south-east; and
- A small solar PV development to the east of Cutt's Wood.

5.192 Consented development includes:

- The access track to solar panels at Bilsthorpe Business Park, although solar arrays are primarily located in the adjacent Village Farmlands LCA (B4).

5.193 There are no proposed solar farms within this LCA.

5.194 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- Solar development is only present in the south of the LCA, where further fragmentation from built features is present, whilst the north has less built development. Existing development could accommodate new development as a discrete extension, but consideration should be given to potential overbearing effects.
- The two existing solar farms are discrete and separate, and any development in between could potentially create a very large swathe of solar development.
- Enclosure by woodland helps limit the influence of existing solar developments. However, the introduction of additional solar farms may spread the influence of electricity infrastructure into other parts of the LCA with a less developed character.

Wind

5.195 Operational development includes:

- Two turbines at 100m blade tip height, which form part of the five-turbine Stonish Hill Wind Farm, to the north-east of Bilsthorpe.

5.196 There are no consented or proposed wind farms within the LCA.

5.197 The CZTV maps (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) indicate varied visibility across the LCA, with the areas of highest visibility on the elevated ground to the south (where two existing wind turbines are located), to the east of Cutt’s Wood, and around New Park Wood in the north of the LCA. The latter two include areas within Rufford Abbey RPG (Grade II). Generally, theoretical visibility of wind turbines is lowest in the south-east and the north. The presence of trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility in the field will reduce the amount of actual visibility of turbines in the landscape, as compared to the levels of theoretical visibility indicated on the CZTV.

5.198 Key cumulative considerations for wind developments within the LCA will include:

- The size, scale and number of proposed turbines in relation to existing turbines.
- Wind turbines are only present in the south of the LCA, where further fragmentation from built features is present, whilst the north has less built development. Existing development could accommodate new development as a discrete extension, but consideration should be given to potential overbearing effects.
- Existing wind turbines are located on elevated ground which results in higher visibility of the turbines from within the LCA.

Guidance for development

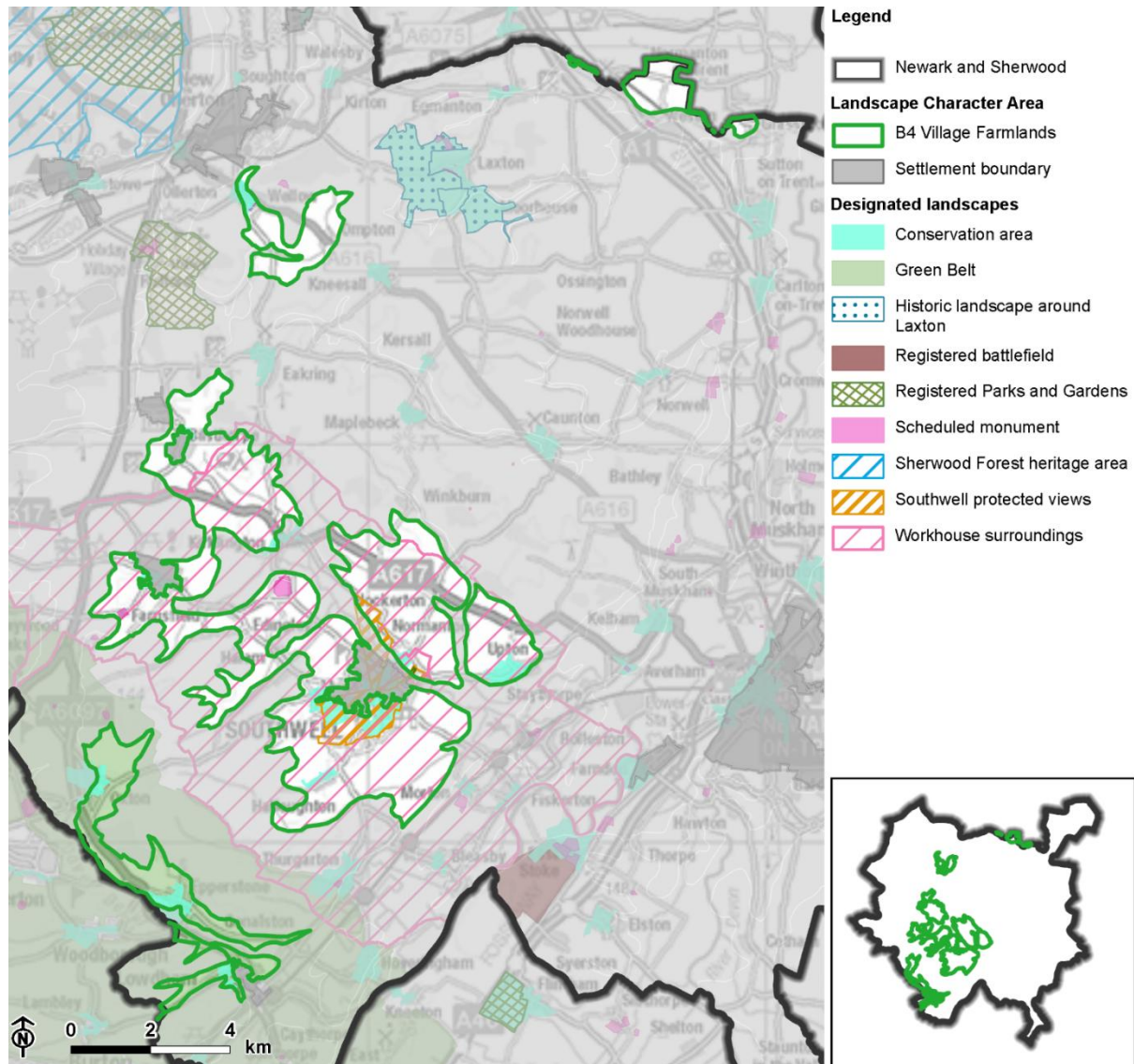
5.199 Specific guidelines for renewable energy development within the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Estate Farmlands with Plantations LCA include:

- Protect the special qualities of the historically important parklands by avoiding siting turbines in sensitive locations.
- Avoid siting large turbines in or adjacent to well wooded areas which frame views across farmland – maintaining the prominent wooded skylines, and the structure the woodland provides in framing views and creating compartments of the landscape.
- Consider intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes, including longer views of or across this small area, given this LCAs lower-lying position. Solar development should be located within the dips of undulations to reduce visibility within the landscape, and to avoid it coalescing with the elevation of the turbines.

- Given the undeveloped nature of the centre of the LCA, seek to site development in areas that are already fragmented or have presence of infrastructure, such as the south.
- However, avoid creating a 'swathe' of development in the south. Particular consideration is needed in siting new solar development between the two existing solar farms.
- Consider the elevation of existing turbines, which contrasts with the majority of the LCA, and avoid infrastructure at different scales and elevations (i.e. occupying a large vertical extent of the view).
- Consider the screening opportunity provided by the lower lying area to the east of Cutt's Wood, particularly as it could reduce visibility from the key receptor of Robin Hood Way.

Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (B4)

Figure 5.40: Contextual map of the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (B4)



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Location

5.200 This landscape occurs in a broad band across the central part of the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands, broadly to the north and south of the River Greet and the town of Southwell. There are separate smaller units of the LCA in the north-west near Wellow and Ompton and in the north-east near Weston. Additional units of the LCA are located in the south of the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands broadly to the north and south of Dover Beck, extending between Oxtun and Lowdham.

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.201 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Gently rolling topography;*
- *Simple pattern of large arable fields;*
- *Nucleated settlement pattern of villages and isolated farmsteads;*
- *Small-scale pastoral landscapes and remnant orchards around settlements;*
- *Lines of willow and other riparian trees along streams;*
- *Open views to the Trent Valley, power stations and pylons”*

Figure 5.41: Views towards Southwell, with Southwell Minster forming a key landmark on the skyline



Figure 5.42: Gently rolling medium to large-scale fields bounded by hedges with hedgerow trees



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- Topography is gently rolling with localised undulations, dipping slowly eastwards towards the River Trent.
- Topography tends to be more undulating or incised where the landscape transitions to the Meadowlands LCA (B2) along the River Greet, or along smaller watercourses including smaller-scale dumble valleys in the south.
- Topography is gentler and simpler in the northern units.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Predominantly medium to large-scale arable fields are surrounded by tall hedges. Smaller-scale fields are located on the edges of villages and areas of more undulating topography.
- Hedges with hedgerow trees, infrequent small woods, in-field trees, remnant orchards and tree-lined streams result in a well wooded character, although hedgerows are lower with fewer trees in the northern units of the LCA.
- Numerous historic nucleated and linear villages are scattered across the landscape, and present traditional human-scale features.
- Operational solar farms located north-east of Bilsthorpe and south-west of Southwell, and occasional large-scale farm and horticultural buildings, present more modern built elements into the landscape.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate-High
- Wind – Moderate-High

Historic landscape character

- The settlement of Southwell contributes the sense of time depth within this landscape, with principal heritage assets of the Minster, Holy Trinity church and Bishops Palace form landmarks adjacent to the LCA. Thurgarton Hundred Workhouse is located within the LCA. The protected views of Southwell extend up to Park Hill to the south and Cork Hill to the north. Undeveloped slopes to the north and south of Southwell form a rural backdrop to the settlement and its heritage assets.
- The settlement pattern of nucleated and linear villages, many of which are Conservation Areas, contribute to time depth, particularly for the southern and central units of the LCA. Areas of adjacent farmland, including smaller-scale fields and remnants of traditional orchards, contribute to the setting of these historic villages.
- Two Scheduled Monuments of Roman origin are located in the west of the LCA, although these comprise underground archaeological remains and therefore have no influence on the wider landscape.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate-High
- Wind – Moderate-High

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Hedgerow trees and woodland appear on near and middle-distance horizons. These skylines are relatively prominent, when seen from the low lying floodplain of the River Greet (within the Meadowlands LCA (B2)), particularly near Southwell.
- Southwell Minster is a key landmark, mainly seen in glimpsed views in between breaks in vegetation. Surrounding skylines within the LCA are important to views in and around the town.

- Undulating topography and vegetation partially screens and filters more distant views, particularly for lower-lying parts of the LCA near the River Greet and the dumble valleys in the south.
- Views are more open in the northern units of the LCA due to the gentler topography and less wooded character. Open views can be gained over the Trent Valley from the eastern part of the area, and occasionally glimpsed from more elevated parts of the slopes enclosing the River Greet.
- Pylons form a large-scale human influence on the skyline within the central unit of the LCA near the River Greet and in the northern units of the LCA. Scattered operational turbines within the LCA, and in adjacent areas, form a localised influence on the skyline, particularly in the central unit of the LCA and most northern unit.
- Areas of recreational value are focused around settlements and the River Greet, including the Robin Hood Way (passing Robin Hood Hill in the west), Southwell Trail, which follows the former Midland Railway line, and numerous other interconnected public rights of way (PRoW).

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- This is a strongly rural landscape which can be quiet away from the influence of main roads. Movement and noise associated with traffic on the A6097 forms a particularly noticeable influence on tranquillity in the south. Larger settlements, such as Southwell and Farnsfield exert a localised influence on the rural tranquillity of the landscape.
- Generally attractive rolling farmland, with intricate wooded dumble valleys that have higher scenic value. The valley setting of Southwell is a scenic landscape with strong field patterns and woodland adding visual diversity.
- Pylons, scattered operational turbines and two solar farms influence the scenic qualities of the landscape locally.
- Relatively dark night skies can be experienced away from settlements.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate-High
- Wind – Moderate-High

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- Varied topography within dumble valleys, localised high points and at the transition to adjoining areas of the Meadowlands LCA (B2).
- Historically important settlements including Conservation Areas.
- Significant landscape setting of Southwell and key landmark buildings, including the Thurgarton Hundred Workhouse within the LCA.
- Characteristically wooded skylines with tall hedges and tree-lined streams, contributing to a sense of enclosure and seclusion and limiting intervisibility with neighbouring LCAs.
- Traditional rural landscape character which contributes to the setting of historic villages.
- Occasional man-made influences including pylons and operational wind turbines within the LCA may cause visual confusion or other cumulative effects with new development.
- Areas of recreational value focused around the River Greet and Southwell, including the Robin Hood Way.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

5.202 The gently rolling topography becomes more complex at areas of localised undulations and incised dumble valleys, increasing sensitivity. The strongly wooded character limits intervisibility, which decreases sensitivity to solar PV development, although the contributions of woodland, trees and hedges to the skyline and traditional rural setting of historic villages increases sensitivity. Historic nucleated and linear settlements present human-scale features and increase the sense of time depth, increasing sensitivity. Areas of high recreational value, such as the Robin Hood Way and other PRow, are focused around settlements and increase sensitivity locally.

5.203 Areas of medium to larger scale arable fields are relatively simple in character and decrease sensitivity to solar PV development. The occasional influence of modern built elements, including large-scale farm buildings, pylons, solar farms and wind turbines decreases sensitivity locally.

Table 5.23: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (B4)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Moderate
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Moderate-High
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	High
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.204 The area around Southwell is considered to be of higher sensitivity to solar PV development due to the importance of the enclosing slopes to the north and south of the settlement, which contribute to its rural setting and appreciation of principal historic assets.

5.205 Areas of smaller-scale field pattern near other historic settlements and on steeper slopes are more sensitive to solar PV development.

5.206 Incised dumble valleys, particularly in the southern units of the LCA, are more sensitive to solar PV development due to the complex topography and intimate wooded character of these valleys.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.207 The gently rolling topography becomes more complex at areas of localised undulations and incised dumble valleys, increasing sensitivity to wind turbines which may erode the sense of contrast by introducing taller indicators of scale within the landscape. Historic nucleated and linear settlements present traditional human-scale features and increase the sense of time depth, increasing sensitivity. Woodland and trees within this LCA form an important and varied skyline, which may be dominated by large scale vertical features like wind turbines, increasing sensitivity.

5.208 The occasional presence of vertical man-made features, such as pylons and operational turbines decreases sensitivity locally, although these also increase sensitivity with regard to potential for cumulative effects resulting from visual confusion. Areas of high recreational value, such as the Robin Hood Way and other PRow, are focused around settlements and increase sensitivity.

Table 5.24: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (B4)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Moderate
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Moderate-High
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Moderate-High
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	High
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.209 The area around Southwell is considered to be of higher sensitivity to wind development due to the importance of the enclosing slopes to the north and south of the settlement, which contribute to its rural setting and appreciation of principal historic assets.

5.210 Incised dumble valleys, particularly in the southern units of the LCA, are more sensitive to wind development due to the complex topography and intimate wooded character of these valleys.

5.211 Areas of smaller-scale field pattern near historic settlements and on steeper slopes are more sensitive to wind development.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.212 Operational solar development is focused in the central unit of the LCA and includes a solar PV development north-west of Halloughton and another solar PV development north-east of Bilsthorpe.

5.213 Consented solar development includes a solar PV development in one of the northern units of the LCA, north of Weston, and two solar PV developments in the central unit of the LCA to the south-east and east of Bilsthorpe.

5.214 Proposed solar development is limited to a small solar PV development in the central unit of the LCA, north-west of Hockerton. An access track associated with the proposed Great North Road solar farm passes through this LCA near Hockerton.

5.215 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- Changes in the character of the dumble valleys, degrading the distinctive small scale and sheltered quality of these areas by introducing human influences or changing the field pattern.
- Changes to the small scale field pattern and traditional rural character of the landscape surrounding Southwell, which forms an important background to the historic settlement and its landmarks. Multiple solar developments may result in a sense of encirclement of these views, if seen on prominent slopes.
- The landscape pattern reflects a combination of multiple smaller areas of woodland, hedgerow trees and remnant traditional orchards. Loss of multiple of these smaller, important features, through introduction of multiple developments, would affect the continuity and strength of the wooded character of the landscape.
- Sequential effects resulting from visibility of multiple developments from the Robin Hood Way.

Wind

5.216 Operational wind development is focused in the central unit, with two separate single turbines (of approximately 25m-46m blade tip height) located to the north-west and south-east of Hockerton, respectively. Two turbines of the Stonish Hill Wind Farm (100m blade tip height) are located in the west of the LCA, north-east of Bilsthorpe.

5.217 There is no proposed or consented wind development located within the LCA.

5.218 The CZTV maps (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) indicate relatively high levels of theoretical turbine visibility in the west of the LCA near Stonish Hill wind farm, where landform is slightly more elevated. Relatively high levels of theoretical turbine visibility are also indicated in the northern unit of the LCA near Normanton on Trent, mainly associated with turbines located within the Trent Valley to the east. High

levels of theoretical turbine visibility are also indicated from parts of the slopes enclosing the River Greet in the central unit of the LCA, given the slightly more elevated nature of these slopes which allow for occasional distant views towards turbines in other LCAs. The presence of trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility in the field will reduce the amount of actual visibility of turbines in the landscape, as compared to the levels of theoretical visibility indicated on the CZTV.

5.219 Key cumulative considerations for wind developments within the LCA will include:

- Multiple developments resulting in encirclement of key views, particularly around Southwell, or impeding on the appreciation of the key historic landmarks within the settlement when viewed from the wider landscape.
- Potential for multiple wind turbines to appear overbearing or dominating the small scale enclosed skylines of the incised dumble valleys by introducing taller indicators of scale within the landscape.
- The human scale of the landscape reflects a combination of multiple smaller areas of woodland, hedgerow trees, remnant traditional orchards, and numerous traditional historic villages. The introduction of multiple wind turbines would alter this by introducing tall, vertical indicators of scale within the landscape.
- Sequential effects resulting from visibility of multiple developments from the Robin Hood Way.
- The introduction of visible aviation lighting associated with multiple very large wind turbines (over 150m blade tip height) degrading the dark sky qualities of the rural landscape.

Guidance for development

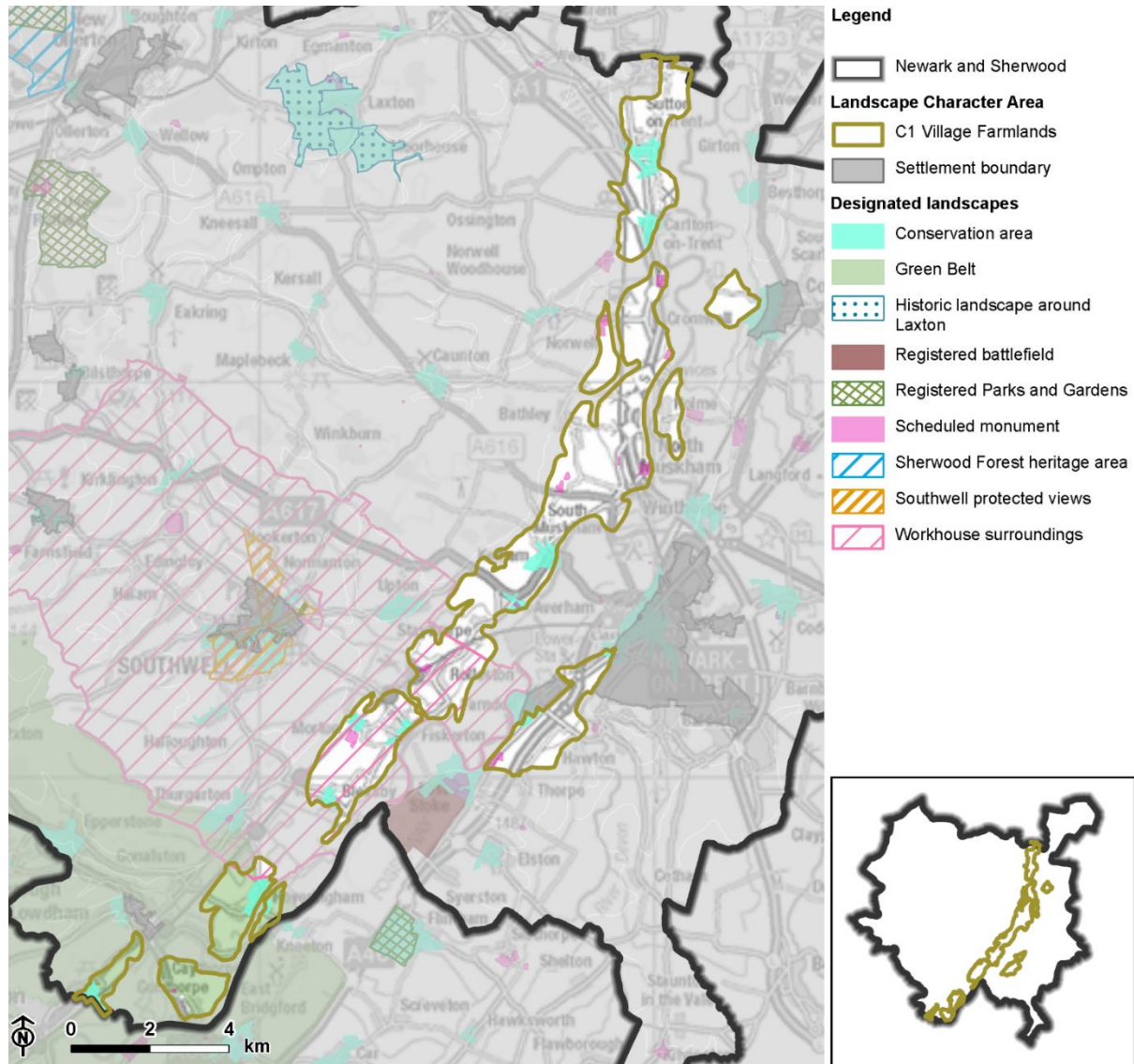
5.220 Specific guidelines should be followed for renewable energy development within the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Village Farmlands LCA include:

- Ensure renewable energy development avoids damaging woodland and trees which contribute to the distinctive enclosed skylines within the LCA.
- Ensure that any new wind turbines are sited away from the existing wind turbines, so that different sizes are not seen together to cause ‘visual confusion’.

- Ensure renewable energy development avoids eroding the more complex pattern of areas of small-scale fields surrounding settlements and on steeper slopes, seeking to sensitively site development in areas of simpler, larger scale fields.
- Avoid siting renewable energy development on or near the slopes enclosing Southwell to ensure the rural landscape setting of principal heritage assets is not compromised.
- Avoid siting renewable energy development within the more sensitive incised dumble valleys.
- Carefully consider views from key recreational routes, including the Robin Hood Way, when siting renewable energy developments.
- Consider opportunities for enhancement and extension of woodland to reduce visibility of renewable energy developments, particularly in the more open northern units of the LCA.

Trent Washlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (C1)

Figure 5.43: Contextual map of the Trent Washlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (C1)



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Location

5.221 This LCA extends in a discontinuous band along the Trent Valley through the District. It occupies the slightly raised river terraces within the valley and at the edges of the floodplain. The area continues north into Bassetlaw and south into Rushcliffe and Gedling districts.

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.222 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Broad, flat river terraces;*
- *Regular pattern of medium- to large-sized fields, which often break down and become open in many areas;*
- *Hedgerow trees form the main component of tree cover;*
- *Presence of willow pollards;*
- *Land use is predominantly arable, with permanent pasture around settlements and roads;*
- *Nucleated villages featuring traditional red brick and pantile-roofed buildings;*
- *Presence of large power stations;*
- *Presence of active and former sand and gravel quarries”*

Figure 5.44: Views across gently rising landform and turbines from Oak Farm PRow



Figure 5.45: View across open fields with patches of woodland and neighbouring turbines



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- The landscape consists of wide, flat river terraces and very gently rolling broad slopes. It is generally a medium to large-scale landform.
- The low lying river terraces here are subtle, appearing as small-scale features rising gently to a maximum of 2 metres above the surrounding land.
- There are few natural landforms of distinction outside of these small-scale river terraces.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low
- Wind – Low

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Land cover is predominantly medium to large-scale intensive arable fields bounded by hedges and sporadic hedgerow trees. Field rationalisation has resulted in a highly variable pattern.
- Land use is dominated by intensive arable production, although important areas of smaller-scale irregular permanent pasture, containing remnant ridge and furrow, exist around settlements.
- Small pockets of woodland and areas of parkland lend a wooded appearance in places. The settlement pattern consists of nucleated villages on dry river terraces, associated with smaller fields and woodlands. Other settlements are found at valley margins.
- Most smaller villages and farmsteads retain traditional red brick and pantile roof construction. Modern housing introduces a suburban character to certain larger villages.

- Narrow hedged lanes link many settlements, running across the terraces to the river. The river is often not a dominant feature, screened by flat terrain, flood banks, and hedgerows.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Historic landscape character

- Conservation Areas within this LCA include Averham, Bleasby, Bulcote, Carlton on Trent, Fiskerton, Hoveringham, Kelham, Morton, and Sutton on Trent. They typically encompass nucleated villages with surrounding woodlands or parkland and open countryside views, many of which are focused towards the River Trent, all of which help maintain the region’s distinct sense of place.
- In addition to Conservation Areas, this LCA also contains several Scheduled Monuments, including earthworks associated with settlement or ceremonial sites. These form relatively small and subtle features with a limited influence on the wider landscape. Other Scheduled Monuments mainly comprise buried archaeological remains of Iron Age and medieval settlements which have a very limited influence on the wider landscape.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Skylines within this LCA are predominately open and flat in character, and are not distinctive.
- Pylons are visible in most places, especially near the large cluster of power lines by the Staythorpe substation in the south. Other masts and industrial structures are also visible.
- This LCA is broadly open in character, with elevated valley sides providing high intervisibility with neighbouring LCAs and allowing middle to long-distance

views, including northwards beyond the Trent Valley. However, outward visibility can be locally restricted where rising valley sides, flood banks, hedgerows, and tree cover create a sense of enclosure. In addition, wooded bluffs within the LCA offer a dramatic backdrop to the south-east of the River Meadowlands LCA (C2).

- Hedgerow trees on near to middle-distance horizons form important local features, and result in a more enclosed character, particularly in the south.
- A short section of the Trent Valley Way crosses the LCA near Averham. PRowS cross the north and south of the LCA and provide access to the wider rural landscape.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- This landscape has been strongly influenced by human activity. Where intensification of agriculture has resulted in removal of field boundaries, the traditional rural character is adversely affected, and modern development (industrial units, mineral workings, roads, railway lines) is more prominent.
- The presence of settlements contributes to a busy character, with occasional suburban or settlement fringe character evident, though smaller villages retain more of a sense of traditional rural tranquillity.
- Despite intensive land use, pockets of scenic quality exist in pastoral areas around villages. The landscape offers few visual contrasts.
- Willow pollards and mature hedgerow trees contribute to scenic quality.
- The relationship between villages and the riverside setting is important, particularly for Fiskerton.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low
- Wind – Low

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- Small areas of woodland which provide contrast to the prevailing simple landcover of arable fields.
- The traditional, historic villages and their important rural landscape settings.
- Smaller scale irregular fields with remnant ridge and furrow which contrast with the larger and simpler scale of arable fields.
- The presence of vertical structures on the horizon, particularly pylons, as turbines may lead to visual confusion where they proliferate.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

5.223 This LCA largely comprises intensive arable farmland, with a flat landform that means arrays of solar PV panels will be less easily perceived in certain areas, thereby reducing sensitivity. The large scale and the presence of numerous modern structures, including pylons, industrial units, and mineral workings, locally reduce the landscape's overall scenic quality and sensitivity to development.

5.224 The primary factors increasing sensitivity are the numerous Conservation Areas and Scheduled Monuments, and the visual integrity of the village settings. The smaller-scale, more wooded village landscapes are of high sensitivity. Areas of small-scale irregular permanent pasture, which sometimes contain remnant ridge and furrow, are also a sensitive feature vulnerable to solar PV development. Additionally, the openness of the landscape in many areas would result in solar PV developments being widely visible, increasing the potential for visual impact and further raising sensitivity.

Table 5.25: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in Trent Washlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (C1)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Low
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Low-Moderate
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	Moderate
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	Moderate-High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.225 Areas situated in the north near Girton demonstrate reduced sensitivity to solar energy development compared to the more complex and unspoilt sections found elsewhere within the LCA. This lower sensitivity is primarily attributable to the prevalence of intensive arable farming, resulting in a simple landcover pattern and a landscape already heavily modified by human activity.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.226 The LCA largely comprises intensive arable farmland, with limited scenic interest and frequent views of modern structures, principally pylons. Overall, these areas are of lower sensitivity, particularly to smaller and medium turbines. The flat landscape and large scale are of lower sensitivity to larger turbines, although the presence of multiple pylons and other tall structures of different heights may lead to visual confusion should turbines of differing scales be introduced. The rural character of the LCA results in higher sensitivity to development, with most settlements designated as Conservation Areas and the area around Laxton being particularly sensitive due to its historic field pattern.

5.227 Set within this intensively farmed landscape are numerous small-scale village landscapes, many of which are intact and have special architectural or historic interest as recognised by the high number of Conservation Areas. The wooded nature and smaller scale of these village landscapes indicate higher sensitivity.

Table 5.26: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in Trent Washlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (C1)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Low
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Low-Moderate
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Low-Moderate
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	Moderate
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	Moderate-High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.228 Areas situated in the north near Girton are considered to be of lower sensitivity to wind development compared to the more complex landscapes found elsewhere

within the LCA. This is due to the influence of intensive arable farming, which creates a simplified landcover and a landscape already heavily modified by human activity.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.229 There are no operational or consented developments within the LCA.

5.230 The very large proposed solar PV development, Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park extends into this LCA between Averham and Cromwell, although it is primarily located within the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCA (B1n).

5.231 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- Landscape screening associated with multiple solar PV developments altering the sense of openness. There would be opportunities to enhance hedgerows where these are degraded.
- Potential for multiple solar PV development to spread across both this LCA and the neighbouring River Meadowlands LCA (C2), diminishing the clear separation and distinctiveness between them.
- Sequential effects of views of solar PV development from the PRoWs that follow the river corridors along the River Trent.

Wind

5.232 A single 66.7m blade tip height operational turbine is located at Fosse Road near Farndon, adjacent to the A1.

5.233 There are no other operational, consented or proposed turbines within this LCA, though the operational turbines at Ollerton Road and Ossington Road to the west are widely visible from within the valley.

5.234 The CZTV maps (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) indicate a higher level of theoretical visibility in the north of the LCA near Cromwell and in the south of the LCA near Rolleston. This is largely a result of the open character of the landscape, with minimal screening provided by existing features. The single turbine at Ossington Road, located on elevated ground to the west of the Trent Valley, is visible from

northern areas of this LCA, including views from the A1 and the railway line. The 102m turbine at Ollerton Road is also visible across the central section of the Trent Valley. The presence of trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility in the field will reduce the amount of actual visibility of turbines in the landscape, as compared to the levels of theoretical visibility indicated on the CZTV.

5.235 Key cumulative considerations for wind developments within the LCA will include:

- The potential for multiple wind turbines to alter the perception of scale of the rising skylines which enclose the valleys. Large turbines would overwhelm the intimate scale of parts of the valley.
- Other wind development would need to consider scale of existing turbines in views.

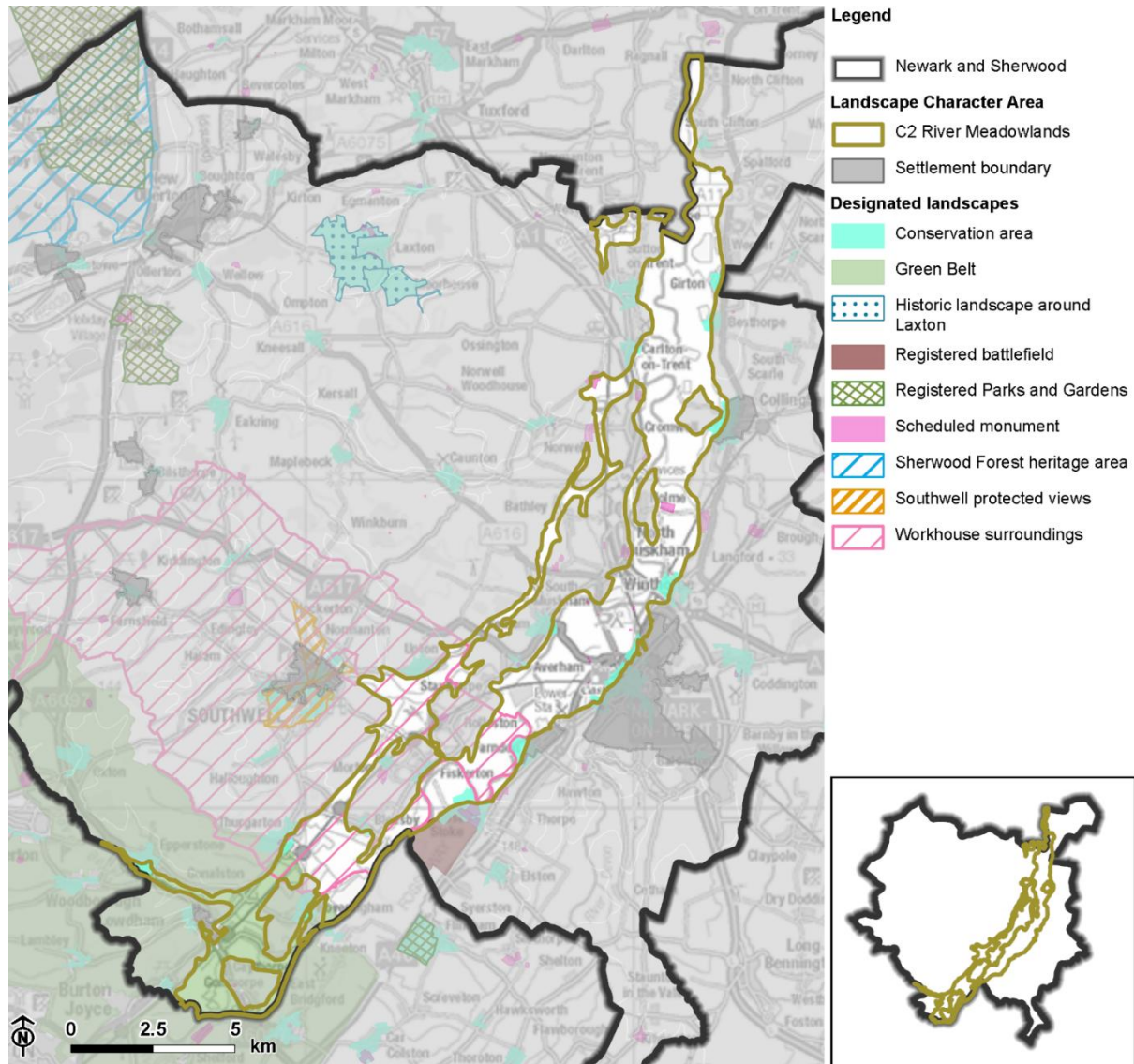
Guidance for development

5.236 Specific guidelines for renewable energy development within the Trent Washlands: Village Farmlands LCA include:

- Avoid siting development where turbines would affect areas of smaller-scale village farmland, favouring the larger-scale areas of open intensive farmland.
- Ensure development does not adversely affect the special character of the Conservation Areas (e.g., as recorded in conservation area appraisals), or their rural and riverine setting.
- Avoid siting development in areas already affected by the presence of multiple pylons, preventing the creation of additional 'clutter' on the skyline.
- The south of the LCA is located in the Derby and Nottingham Green Belt. Whilst Green Belt classification is considered under the remit of Planning, some important landscape and visual effects will need to be considered.

Trent Washlands RCA: River Meadowlands LCA (C2)

Figure 5.46: Contextual map of the Trent Washlands RCA: River Meadowlands LCA (C2)



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Location

5.237 This LCA extends the length of the district as a more or less continuous ribbon along the River Trent. The River Meadowlands occupy the lower ground associated with tributaries of the Trent, including the River Greet and various smaller dykes. They wrap around the elevated Village Farmlands LCA (C1).

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.238 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Meandering river channels, often defined by flood banks;*
- *Sparsely populated with few buildings;*
- *Permanent pasture and flood meadow;*
- *Steep wooded bluffs;*
- *Willow holts;*
- *Long sinuous hedges and pollarded willows;*
- *Regular pattern of medium to large size arable fields, which often break down and become open in many areas;*
- *Hedgerow trees form the main component of tree cover”*

Figure 5.47: Views east from the NCN Route 64 across the meadowlands



Figure 5.48: Views from the PRow at Baggarley Rack of industry/power stations and pylons



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- A medium to large-scale, flat, low-lying floodplain of the Trent River Valley. The only topographical contrast is provided by low, but locally prominent, steeply inclined bluffs at the valley edges like around Poplar Farm and Trent Trench.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Land cover predominantly comprises a mix of arable and pasture fields with low clipped hedgerows and occasional hedgerow trees. The landscape is sparsely settled with few buildings, though settlements are present along the LCA fringes. It has a well-wooded character in certain places, created by wooded slopes, riparian scrub, willow holts, and high hedges enclosing roads.
- Away from the main river, field amalgamation is most evident, where larger arable fields have replaced historic enclosures on the higher, flatter ground of the floodplain. These areas are less constrained by water management and settlement patterns, resulting in a more open, expansive landscape than the traditional field layouts near the river and villages.
- Development within the LCA includes pylons, which are widely visible, as well as large industrial buildings. The presence of multiple mineral extraction sites and large power stations in close proximity, such as those east of Staythorpe House Farm, introduces significant modern interventions into the landscape. These contemporary developments disrupt the traditional rural character.
- Restoration of past mineral extraction sites has created a series of large ponds and lakes, many of which are now managed for nature conservation, such as

Besthorpe Nature Reserve. Other human-scale features include raised flood banks and flood protection works.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Historic landscape character

- A number of Conservation Areas extend into the River Meadowlands, including Besthorpe, Collingham, Fiskerton, Girton, Upton, and Winthorpe, although these are generally set back from the floodplain of the river. Parkland landscapes are a key characteristic of the setting of the Winthorpe Conservation Area, and many of the Conservation Areas have a strong relationship with the River Trent and its tributaries.
- Notable listed buildings within these Conservation Areas, such as churches, are prominent features, with villages like Upton and the hedged fields around Girton exemplifying well-preserved traditional layouts.
- A cluster of Schedule Monuments are located near the Newark sugar factory and comprise earthworks associated with Civil War defences. However, these form relatively small and subtle features and have a limited influence on the wider landscape.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- The skylines are flat with few features, with trees and woodland lining the near and middle-distance horizons. Church spires are vertical elements in the view, in the otherwise undeveloped skyline.
- Industrial buildings are occasionally seen on the skyline, including the Staythorpe and Cottam power stations and the sugar factory at Newark. Pylons

also frequently form prominent skyline features. In the distance, small turbines can also be seen at Clifton Hill and Farndon.

- The landscape is open in places, affording middle to long-distance views out to neighbouring LCAs, including views north to features beyond the Trent Valley. The wooded bluffs within the adjacent Village Farmlands LCA (E2) provide a dramatic backdrop to the south-east of the River Meadowlands.
- The low-lying landscape is generally overlooked by adjacent landscapes in the west of the LCA. There are views to the rising wooded slopes of the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCA (B1), though intervisibility is less pronounced than at the wooded bluffs.
- Views of the village from the floodplain are important for the setting of Besthorpe, while the River Meadowlands themselves are critical for framing views of key landmark buildings in Collingham. The riverside setting provides attractive rural views of the River Trent (Fiskerton).
- The extensive parkland around Winthorpe Hall extends onto the water meadows, providing a key scenic framing element to the settlement.
- The Trent Valley Way, a long-distance footpath, follows the river and provides excellent opportunities for walking, birdwatching, and enjoying the scenic landscape. Other recreational opportunities within the LCA are numerous and include holiday parks and nature reserves with visitor facilities.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- This landscape is predominantly rural. The more intact river corridor areas, featuring flood meadows and willow holts, retain a high degree of tranquillity and possess a strong sense of place.
- Elements of modern development disturb the sense of tranquillity away from the river, particularly around the western edge of Newark, where major roads including the A1 exert a strong influence, along with the influence of the railway line in the south.
- Erosion of the attractive character is also caused by arable intensification and mineral extraction.

- The intact river corridor areas in the north around Girton offer an attractive combination of woodland and pasture that contributes positively to the settings of Conservation Areas on the edge of the Trent floodplain.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- Areas of variable scale of the landscape, from larger, open intensive farmland, to smaller scale areas along the river corridor.
- The views to the dramatic scarp slopes to the south-east.
- The setting the river meadows provide to historic villages with designated Conservation Areas, and historically significant landscapes around Winthorpe Hall.
- Presence of vertical structures on the horizon, including industrial plants, power stations, and pylons, noting that turbines may lead to visual confusion where they proliferate.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

5.239 The LCA comprises a mix of arable and pastoral land, reclaimed mineral sites, and fragmented sections of the river corridor. The flat landform means arrays of solar PV panels are likely to be less easily perceived in some low-lying areas, which reduces sensitivity.

5.240 The landscape fragmentation by past and present mineral extraction, coupled with the presence of large industrial buildings and major roads, also locally reduces the rural character and sensitivity to development.

5.241 The numerous Conservation Areas, the historic landscape around Winthorpe Hall and the semi-natural habitats of the river corridor. The more intact, smaller-scale areas of flood meadows and willow holts slightly increases sensitivity.

5.242 Arable intensification and hedgerow removal have created open areas where arrays would be highly visible, particularly from the wooded bluffs to the south-east, which overlook the low-lying landscape indicates a lower sensitivity.

Table 5.27: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in Trent Washlands RCA: River Meadowlands LCA (C2)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Low
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Low-Moderate
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	Moderate
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	Moderate-High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.243 Small areas where arable intensification has created a more open, managed landscape with fewer traditional features are of lower sensitivity.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.244 The LCA comprises a mix of intensive arable land, reclaimed mineral sites, and more intact sections of the river corridor. The effect of mineral extraction also generally leads to fragmentation of character which locally reduces sensitivity.

5.245 There are areas of intensively farmed landscapes within the LCA, where human influences such as arable operations, solar farms, and other infrastructure are present, which reduces overall sensitivity. These areas of lower sensitivity are particularly evident along the Trent Valley, where arable intensification has occurred.

5.246 The more intact, smaller-scale areas of river corridor which occur within this LCA, characterised by willow holts and flood meadows as opposed to arable land, increase sensitivity to wind turbines, particularly in the context of historic villages with Conservation Areas.

5.247 The flat landscape is visually sensitive to large vertical elements, and the introduction of turbines would have the potential to create visual clutter if numerous large man-made features (pylons, industrial plants, turbines) of different forms and scales are seen together in views.

Table 5.28: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in Trent Washlands RCA: Meadowlands LCA (C2)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Low
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Low-Moderate
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Low-Moderate
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	Moderate
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	Moderate-High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.248 In the northern area of the LCA around Girton, agricultural intensification has created a more open, managed landscape with fewer traditional features, which indicates a lower sensitivity to wind turbines.

5.249 More developed parts of this LCA, for example the western fringe of Newark and areas affected by pylons and power stations, are of lower sensitivity to turbines, although the need to avoid cumulative visual clutter will form a key consideration.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.250 There are no operational or consented developments in the LCA.

5.251 Proposed development includes:

- Very large solar PV development at Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park, occupying small portions of C2, extending west to Village Farmlands LCA (C1) and all the way to the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands (B1n); and
- Large solar PV development One Earth Solar Farm extends into the north of the LCA around North Clifton.

5.252 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- Potential for multiple developments to overwhelm the medium-large scale of the LCA by altering field patterns and the sense of enclosure provided by rising slopes, changing the overall landscape character.
- Sequential effects of views of solar PV development from the PRoWs and Trent Valley Way that follow the river corridors.
- Woodland is a characteristic feature of this landscape, including riparian scrub that follows the incised river corridors. Multiple solar PV developments may lead to loss of this landcover, with the potential to change the landscape character.

Wind

5.253 There are presently no operational, consented or proposed turbines in this LCA, though the operational turbines at Ollerton Road (102m blade tip height) and Ossington Road (74-77m blade tip height) to the west in the adjacent landscape are widely visible from within the valley.

5.254 The CZTV maps (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) demonstrate that theoretical visibility of turbines is generally greater within the Trent Valley than elsewhere in the district. This is largely attributed to the open character of the area, with limited landscape features for screening. In the north of the LCA, turbines located on Ossington Road above Carlton-on-Trent are visible from elevated ground to the west of the Trent Valley, including views from the A1 and the railway. Additionally, the operational turbines at Ollerton Road are visible across the central part of the Trent Valley. The presence of trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility in the field will reduce the amount of actual visibility of turbines in the landscape, as compared to the levels of theoretical visibility indicated on the CZTV.

5.255 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- The potential for visual confusion with electricity pylons within the LCA, both in views from within the LCA and in views to the west.
- The potential for multiple wind turbines to alter the perception of scale of the rising skylines which enclose the valleys. Large turbines would overwhelm the intimate scale of parts of the valley.

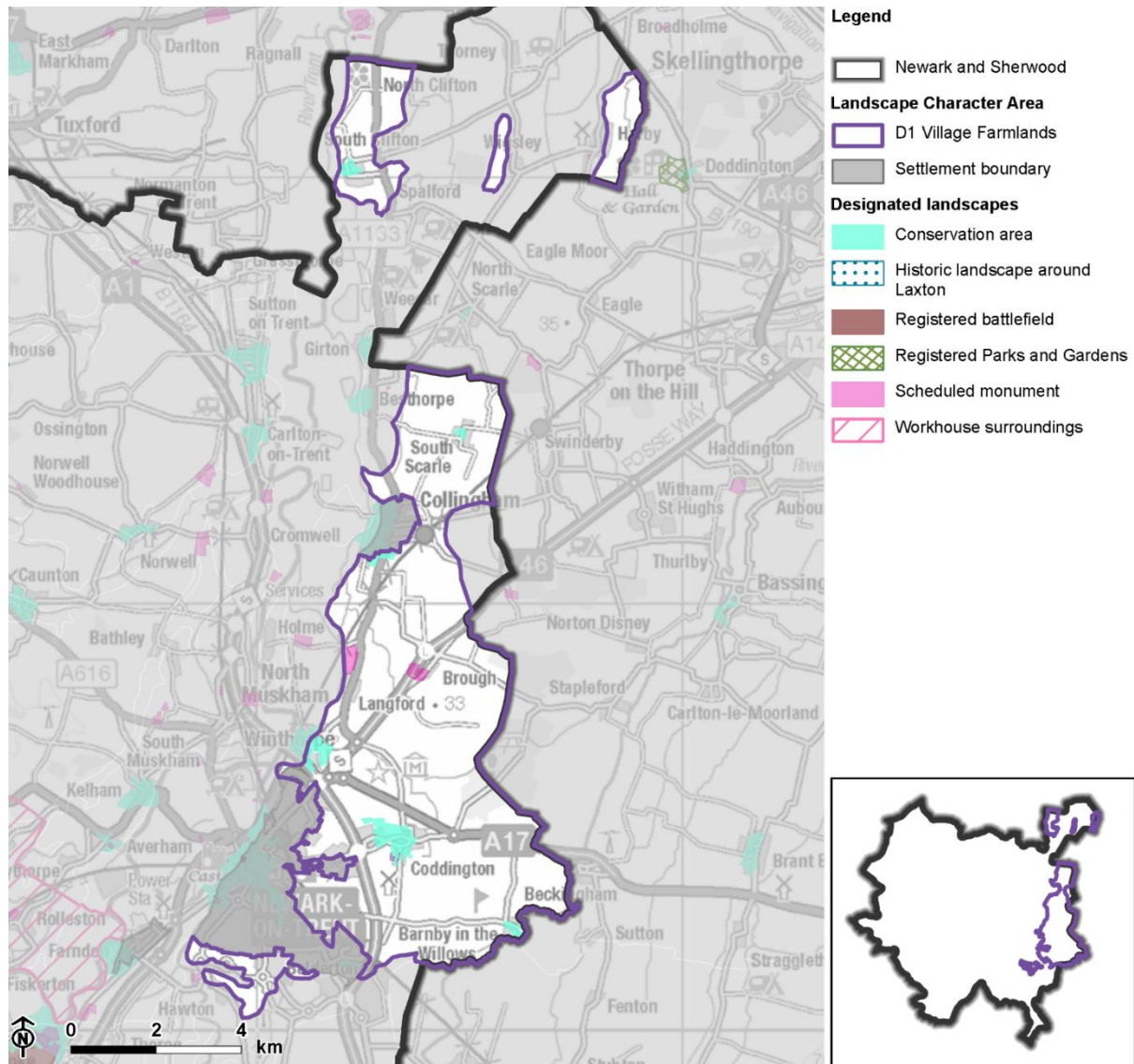
Guidance for development

5.256 Specific guidelines for renewable energy development within the Trent Washlands: River Meadowlands LCA include:

- Ensure renewable energy development avoids damaging the smaller-scale river meadow areas, instead favouring the more open, intensively farmed parts of the LCA.
- Avoid siting turbines close to the distinctive scarps which mark the south-east edge of the Trent Valley.
- Protect the settings of settlements and Conservation Areas from adverse effects.
- Avoid siting development in areas already affected by the presence of multiple pylons and industrial features, preventing the creation of additional 'clutter' on the skyline.
- The south of the LCA is located in the Derby and Nottingham Green Belt. Whilst Green Belt classification is considered under the remit of Planning, some important landscape and visual effects will need to be considered.

East Nottinghamshire Sandlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (D1)

Figure 5.49: Contextual map of the East Nottinghamshire Sandlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (D1)



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Location

5.257 The LCA occupies areas east of the Trent Valley. The LCA wraps around the eastern side of Newark and extends north of Collingham. It includes a detached area on the southern settlement fringe of Newark. Three further detached areas of the LCA are located in the north-east of the district, at North and South Clifton, a very small area at Wigsley and an area north-east of Harby.

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.258 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Free-draining sandy soils;*
- *Variable pattern of land use and land holding;*
- *Mixed small-scale geometric plantations with birch, oak and Scots pine;*
- *Acidic grassland and grass heaths;*
- *Numerous rabbit warrens;*
- *Bracken, gorse and broom along hedgerows and roadside verges”*

Figure 5.50: Views south from Stapleford Lane, to the north-east of Brough, overlooking medium scale fields bounded by hedges and hedgerow trees, with one wind turbine visible (beyond the LCA boundary) on the skyline



Figure 5.51: Views south from a PRoW at South Scarle across relatively flat fields, with small scale wind turbines on the skyline



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- Very gently sloping landform between 10-35 metres AOD, above the floodplains of the River Trent to the west and River Witham to the east, with the highest ground located at Beacon Hill, east of Newark.
- Occasional small rounded hills which, despite their low elevation, form distinctive features that stand out clearly from the surrounding flat terrain, including Danethorpe Hill and Clifton Hill.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- The field pattern is predominantly medium to large-scale defined by a surrounding network of hedges. Land cover is a heterogeneous mixture of arable farmland, permanent and rough pasture, and acidic grassland.
- The LCA is well-wooded in certain areas, featuring significant hedgerow trees, woodland plantations, and blocks of commercial forestry.
- Settlement includes small nucleated villages (North Clifton, Spalford, and Besthorpe), scattered farmsteads, and smallholdings, giving a notable human scale to the LCA. Land uses typical of a settlement fringe are present around Newark, including light industrial and agricultural buildings.
- Areas of tussocky grass heath have developed, notably at Besthorpe and Spalford Warren, with the latter containing communities of particular ecological importance. This heathy character is reinforced by gorse, bracken, and broom species found in verges, hedgerows, and pasture fields.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Historic landscape character

- Several Conservation Areas are present within this landscape, focused on the villages of Barnby-in-the-Willows, Coddington, Collingham, South Clifton, South Scarle, and Winthorpe. The surrounding rural landscape provides an attractive setting for these villages, including the parkland landscapes around Winthorpe and Coddington.
- A number of Scheduled Monuments are located within the LCA, although these predominantly comprise underground archaeological remains which do not influence the wider landscape.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- The LCA is characterised by broad, open horizons that are simple and flat in character, or are formed by the gently rounded low hills. A single line of pylons runs broadly north to south through most of the LCA, creating a prominent vertical element on the skyline.
- In most areas, hedgerow trees appear prominently on the skyline in near and middle-distance views, a feature that is particularly distinctive where these trees top the low hills.
- The majority of the landscape is open with high levels of intervisibility, extending eastwards into Lincolnshire without significant change. To the west, the area is intervisible with the generally lower-lying Trent Valley, where the slightly raised ground along The Fleet marks a transition along the LCA edge.

- There are limited public rights of way within the LCA, although NCN Route 64 passes north-south through the west of the LCA along the route of a disused railway line.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- The LCA has a rural and relatively tranquil character. The combination of low hills, woodland and mature field trees contribute to the visual diversity of the landscape.
- Locally the area is influenced by strong settlement fringe activity around Newark, including the Newark Showground north-east of the city.
- The A1 and A46 major roads and the railway line exert a significant local influence on the sense of rurality elsewhere.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- Presence of low but distinctive hills within this otherwise flat landscape.
- The low ridge which forms the edge of the Trent Valley is a locally distinctive feature.
- Historic villages with designated Conservation Areas which extend into the countryside.
- Broad open views from and to this landscape, including from the Trent Valley and from Lincolnshire.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

5.259 The predominantly flat to gently undulating landform of the LCA, together with its medium-to-large fields, reduces the landscape's sensitivity to solar PV development. The presence of urban fringe features around Newark, such as the showground, and the dominance of major roads like the A1 and A46, further diminishes scenic quality and contributes to lower sensitivity in these areas.

5.260 However, sensitivity is heightened by the extensive intervisibility and the presence of historic villages such as Langford, which are characterised by designated Conservation Areas. Mature trees and low hills framing these historic settings, as well as the parkland landscape surrounding Winthorpe House, add to the landscape's sensitivity to solar PV schemes. Although some areas benefit from screening provided by hedgerow trees and woodland, the overall openness means that larger developments would be visible over considerable distances, including from adjacent LCAs in the Trent Valley to the west.

5.261 In contrast, the landscape near Newark-on-Trent is less vulnerable to change from solar PV development due to its strong urban fringe character, the existence of pylons, and generally lower levels of remoteness and tranquillity compared to the more rural areas in the north of the LCA.

Table 5.29: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in East Nottinghamshire Sandlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (D1)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Low
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Low-Moderate
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	Moderate
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	Moderate-High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.262 The landscape near Newark-on-Trent is less sensitive to change from solar PV development due to its strong urban fringe character, the existence of pylons, and generally lower levels of remoteness and tranquillity compared to the more rural areas in the north of the LCA.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.263 The predominantly flat or gently sloping terrain of the LCA, combined with medium-to-large fields, means the area is less sensitive to the introduction of tall vertical structures. Human influences are already pronounced, particularly around Newark’s settlement edges, as well as major transport routes like the A1, A17, and A46, and a single line of pylons crossing the main area. These elements contribute to a reduced sense of rural character and diminish landscape sensitivity.

5.264 Extensive intervisibility within the LCA, characterised by open horizons, would make wind turbines conspicuous both locally and in distant views from neighbouring areas, such as the Trent Valley. The low, rounded hills, especially those highlighted by hedgerow trees, add to the landscape’s sensitivity. The presence of multiple Conservation Areas further elevates sensitivity, as vertical structures could adversely affect the visual quality and appreciation of key landscape settings, including parkland and green spaces marking village entrances.

5.265 Conversely, areas close to Newark-on-Trent, influenced by urban activities, existing pylons, and a lack of pronounced remoteness or tranquillity, are less sensitive to change from wind energy development than the more rural northern parts of the LCA.

Table 5.30: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in East Nottinghamshire Sandlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (D1)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Low
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Low-Moderate
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Moderate
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	Moderate-High
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	Moderate-High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.266 The landscape near Newark-on-Trent is less vulnerable to change from wind turbines due to its strong urban fringe character, the existence of pylons, and generally lower levels of remoteness and tranquillity compared to the more rural areas in the north of the LCA.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.267 Operational development includes:

- A small solar PV development at Clay Farm; and
- A small solar PV development at Barnby Farm.

5.268 There are no consented or proposed developments within the LCA.

5.269 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- Landscape screening associated with multiple solar developments altering the sense of openness and exposure. There would be opportunities to enhance hedgerows where these are degraded.
- The potential for sequential effects experienced by people along the NCN Route 64.
- The potential for multiple solar PV developments to lead to a sense of encirclement in important views which contribute to the setting or character of Conservation Areas.

Wind

5.270 Operational development includes two wind turbines of 24m blade tip height, north-east of South Scarle.

5.271 There are no consented or proposed wind turbines within the LCA.

5.272 The CZTV maps (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) demonstrate relatively high level of theoretical visibility across the LCA, reflecting its slightly elevated position above the river floodplains to the west and east and its open character. The presence of trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility in the field will reduce the amount of actual visibility of turbines in the landscape, as compared to the levels of theoretical visibility indicated on the CZTV.

5.273 Key cumulative considerations for wind developments within the LCA will include:

- The sequential effects experienced by people along the NCN Route 64.

- The potential for multiple turbines to lead to a sense of encirclement in important views which contribute to the setting or character of Conservation Areas.
- Multiple wind developments may alter the undeveloped character of the area.
- The combination of multiple turbines with existing OHL infrastructure in views may detract from the rurality of the landscape, particularly affecting the human-scale features of the landscape, which is largely provided by intact hedgerow patterns, narrow country lanes, and historic villages.
- The introduction of multiple wind turbines may cause visual confusion or ‘clutter’ if they are seen in combined views with pylons of different scales, where open views are available.

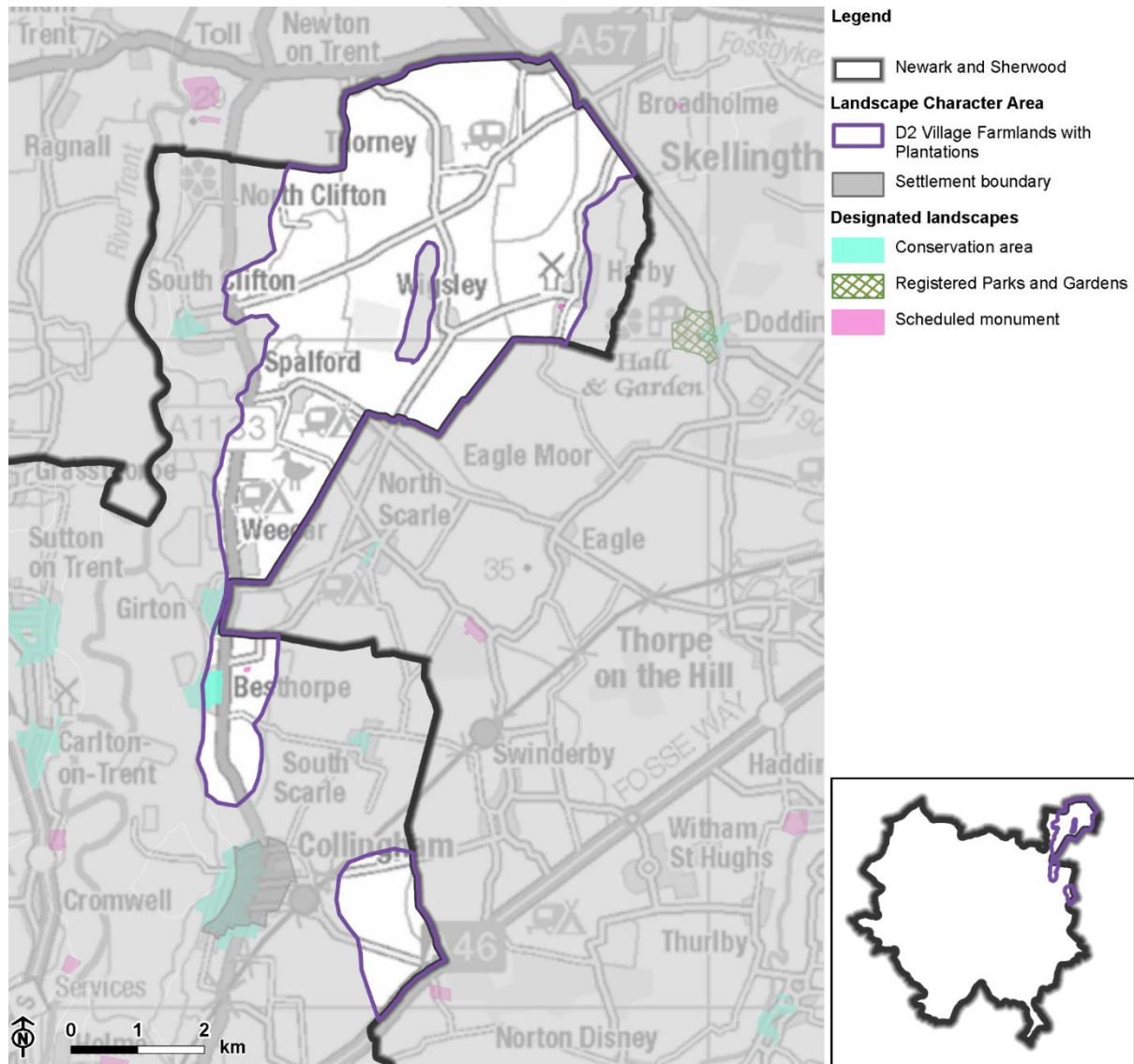
Guidance for development

5.274 Specific guidelines for renewable energy development within the East Nottinghamshire Sandlands: Village Farmlands LCA include:

- Avoid siting larger turbines on hill tops or sides of the low but distinctive hills within this area.
- Consider carefully any proposals on the fringes of Newark for their potential impact on views both from and to residential properties within the town, including views across the LCA from the Trent Valley to the west.
- Avoid development on the low ridge which separates the Trent Valley from the East Nottinghamshire Sandlands to retain the distinction and transition between the two areas.

East Nottinghamshire Sandlands RCA: Village Farmlands with Plantations LCA (D2)

Figure 5.52: Contextual map of the East Nottinghamshire Sandlands RCA: Village Farmlands with Plantations LCA (D2)



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Location

5.275 This LCA occurs in three distinct locations within the East Nottinghamshire Sandlands. The largest of the three areas is situated in the north-eastern corner of the District, encompassing the settlements of Thorney, Wigsley, and Spalford. The two smaller, detached areas are located around Besthorpe (slightly further south) and around Park Hill (east of Collingham).

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.276 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Remote rural character;*
- *Broad low lying terrace;*
- *Gently sloping hills associated with Liassic outcrop;*
- *Acidic sandy soils;*
- *Intensively managed arable farmlands;*
- *Enclosed medium distance views, often to wooded edges;*
- *Variable pattern of woodland and hedgerow trees;*
- *Regular pattern of hedged fields and rural lanes;*
- *Small rural villages and isolated farmsteads;*
- *Vernacular style red brick and pantile roofed buildings”*

Figure 5.53: Views south-east across Lee Nook Farm, with wind turbines visible on the skyline



Figure 5.54: Views east from the Trent Valley Way across fields with wooded edges



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- A predominantly flat, low-lying landscape of extensive and broad floodplain and river terrace.
- The only significant change in elevation occurs in the southern-most area, where Potter Hill rises distinctly to 30 metres AOD.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low
- Wind – Low

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- The landscape has a well-wooded character, defined by tree-lined roads, numerous broadleaved woodlands of various scales, and small-scale coniferous plantations.
- The field pattern consists of medium to large-scale arable fields with high hedge boundaries and hedgerow trees, which also contribute to a wooded character.
- The larger scale of the flat landscape is only apparent where hedges and trees are absent due to intensification of agriculture, such as north of Harby.
- Settlement is limited to small rural villages (North and South Clifton, Spalford, Besthorpe) and dispersed isolated farmsteads, mainly located along the terrace edge, close to the lower-lying alluvial lands of the Trent Valley to the west.
- Village buildings and farmsteads are predominantly traditional red brick and pantile, contributing to the region's character, while villages are set within landscapes of small-scale fields featuring species-rich hedgerows, permanent pastures, and old field ponds.

- The landscape has largely avoided urban and industrial influence, with the only exceptions being where residential housing, major road development, and light industrial units have a local impact.
- The area is marked by parallel lanes, ditches, and mature trees.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Historic landscape character

- Part of the Besthorpe and Girton Conservation Area lies within this LCA, with the remainder extending into the Trent Valley. However, the Conservation Area has a stronger visual and contextual relationship with the neighbouring Trent Valley landscape.
- The historical settlement pattern, shaped by the terrace’s physical environment, comprises intensively managed arable farmland, small traditional red brick settlements, and varied woodland cover. Formerly uncultivated “waste” or damp moorland remained until late 18th-century drainage and enclosure; this legacy is evident in local place names such as Coddington Moor. Today, the region retains a strong agricultural character.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low
- Wind – Low

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Skylines within this LCA are not prominent and have few landmark features. The flat horizon is generally screened by high hedges and woodland. Where longer views are available, trees and woodland appear on the skyline. Pylons are present within the north-eastern corner of the LCA but are seen on the skyline in some distant views as well.
- Intervisibility is relatively limited, as hedgerows, trees, and woodlands contain views to medium distances. Where hedgerow removal has taken place, visibility

is increased dramatically with long views eastward into Lincolnshire, e.g. from around Wigsley. There is limited intervisibility with the low-lying Trent Valley landscape to the west.

- The area is traversed by National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 64 and includes a short stretch of the Trent Valley Way, although other PRowWs are limited. Other recreational facilities include campsites and a nature reserve at Spalford Warren.
- Small existing turbines both within the LCA and in adjacent landscapes are visible. These include the turbines at California Farm, Hawthorn Hill, north of the dismantled railway line around Plot Farm, and south of Wigsley Wood.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- The area has a rural and undeveloped character. Tranquillity is relatively high away from main roads and intensively managed land, and within the more wooded areas.
- The extent of the woodlands serves to effectively screen longer views to more developed areas.
- This landscape has attractive mature woodland, including tree-lined lanes, which contributes to the scenic quality.
- Distinctive parallel lanes and ditches lined with mature trees are features of the area, while the more intensive farmland offers limited scenic diversity.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate-High
- Wind – Moderate-High

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- Extensive mature woodland cover in some areas, including distinctive wooded lanes and tree belts.
- A sometimes peaceful, quiet character, screened by woodland from busy roads and large scale farms.
- More open areas are visible across long distances, with open views eastward from the landscape around Wigsley and Harby.
- The occasional hills which occur within the wider flat landscape (e.g. Potter Hill).

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

5.277 The flat landform is a large-scale area of floodplain, which reduces sensitivity. The LCA has a strong, undeveloped rural character away from the main road corridors. However, its overall sensitivity to accommodate arrays is aided by the presence of surrounding intensive farmland and the local influence of development fringes, which locally diminishes the sense of remoteness.

5.278 The presence of extensive broadleaved woodland and mature tree belts across this LCA elevates sensitivity to solar PV development. Areas such as the setting of the Besthorpe Conservation Area and the intimate landscapes associated with permanent pastures, old field ponds, and small red brick settlements are particularly sensitive due to their valued scenic quality, strong visual integrity, and contribution to tranquillity and distinct local character. The visual enclosure provided by woodland, along with the region's undeveloped rural nature, further increases sensitivity in these locations.

5.279 In contrast, areas characterised by more open, intensively managed farmland, especially where hedges are low or gappy are of lower sensitivity. These parts of the LCA, often adjacent to existing settlement fringes or within the extensive floodplain, experience reduced remoteness and a diminished sense of enclosure, making them less sensitive to the introduction of ground-level solar arrays.

Table 5.31: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in East Nottinghamshire Sandlands RCA: Village Farmlands with Plantations LCA (D2)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Low
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Low-Moderate
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	Moderate
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	Moderate-High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.280 Sensitivity would be slightly higher locally around the smaller scale field patterns that are found near historic villages like Besthorpe, reflecting the more intricate landscape structure in these areas.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.281 The almost entirely flat landform of this LCA, which is of large or very large scale, indicates a relatively lower sensitivity to wind turbines, as there is minimal variation in elevation to affect scale perception. In the northern, more wooded areas, this mature tree cover and high-dense hedges can effectively screen views of small turbines and help hide large agricultural buildings, contributing to a higher sense of tranquillity.

5.282 However, the overriding features are the visual scale impacts and the high intervisibility in the open areas. Areas such as the setting of the Besthorpe Conservation Area and the intimate landscapes associated with permanent pastures, old field ponds, and small red brick settlements are particularly sensitive due to their valued scenic quality, strong visual integrity, and contribution to tranquillity and distinct local character. Around Potter Hill is highly distinctive and is therefore likely to be highly sensitive to medium and larger turbines. In the wooded areas, the mature trees themselves act as ‘scale features’, rendering the height of larger turbines apparent and appearing out of scale. Furthermore, the numerous over-managed, low, and gappy hedgerows in the intensively farmed areas dramatically increase visibility, creating very long views, particularly eastwards into Lincolnshire.

Table 5.32: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in East Nottinghamshire Sandlands RCA: Village Farmlands with Plantations LCA (D2)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Low
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Low-Moderate
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Moderate
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	Moderate-High
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	Moderate-High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.283 Sensitivity would be slightly higher for wind developments locally around the smaller-scale field patterns that are found near historic villages like Besthorpe, reflecting the more intricate landscape structure in these areas.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.284 There are no operational or consented developments within the LCA.

5.285 The very large proposed One Earth Solar Farm extends into the north-west of the LCA, although this development will predominantly be located beyond the district boundary.

5.286 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- Landscape screening associated with multiple solar developments contributes to altering the sense of enclosure and visual diversity, particularly where hedgerows are low and gappy. There would be opportunities to enhance degraded hedgerows.
- Potential for views of multiple solar developments from land to the east within Lincolnshire due to high intervisibility.
- Changes to the small-scale field pattern and traditional rural character of the landscape surrounding Besthorpe, which forms an important background to the historic settlement and its landmarks. Multiple solar developments may result in a sense of encirclement of these views, if seen on prominent slopes.

- Cumulative impacts on the openness and setting of the small settlements and their associated intimate landscapes (permanent pastures, old field ponds).

Wind

5.287 Operational development includes:

- One (77m blade tip height) turbine at Wiglsey Old Airfield;
- Two turbines (77m blade tip height) at Plot Farm near Thorney;
- Two of turbines (21.5m blade tip height) at California Farm; and
- One turbine (18m blade tip height) at Hawthorne Hill Farm.

5.288 A 77m blade tip height turbine is located to the north of the operational turbines at Plot Farm.

5.289 There are no proposed wind developments within the LCA.

5.290 The CZTV maps (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) indicate very high levels of theoretical visibility across the LCA, resulting from the proximity to operational turbines within or near the LCA and relatively flat and open character of the landscape with long views available. The presence of trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility in the field will reduce the amount of actual visibility of turbines in the landscape, as compared to the levels of theoretical visibility indicated on the CZTV.

5.291 Key cumulative considerations for wind energy developments within the LCA will include:

- Differences in scale with the existing operational turbines (Wigsley Old Airfield, Plot Farm, Hawthorne Hill Farm) leading to 'visual confusion'.
- The potential for multiple turbines of varying scales to overwhelm the scale of distinctive local hills (e.g. Potter Hill).
- The potential for sequential effects on receptors travelling on the Trent Valley Way and NCN Route 64.

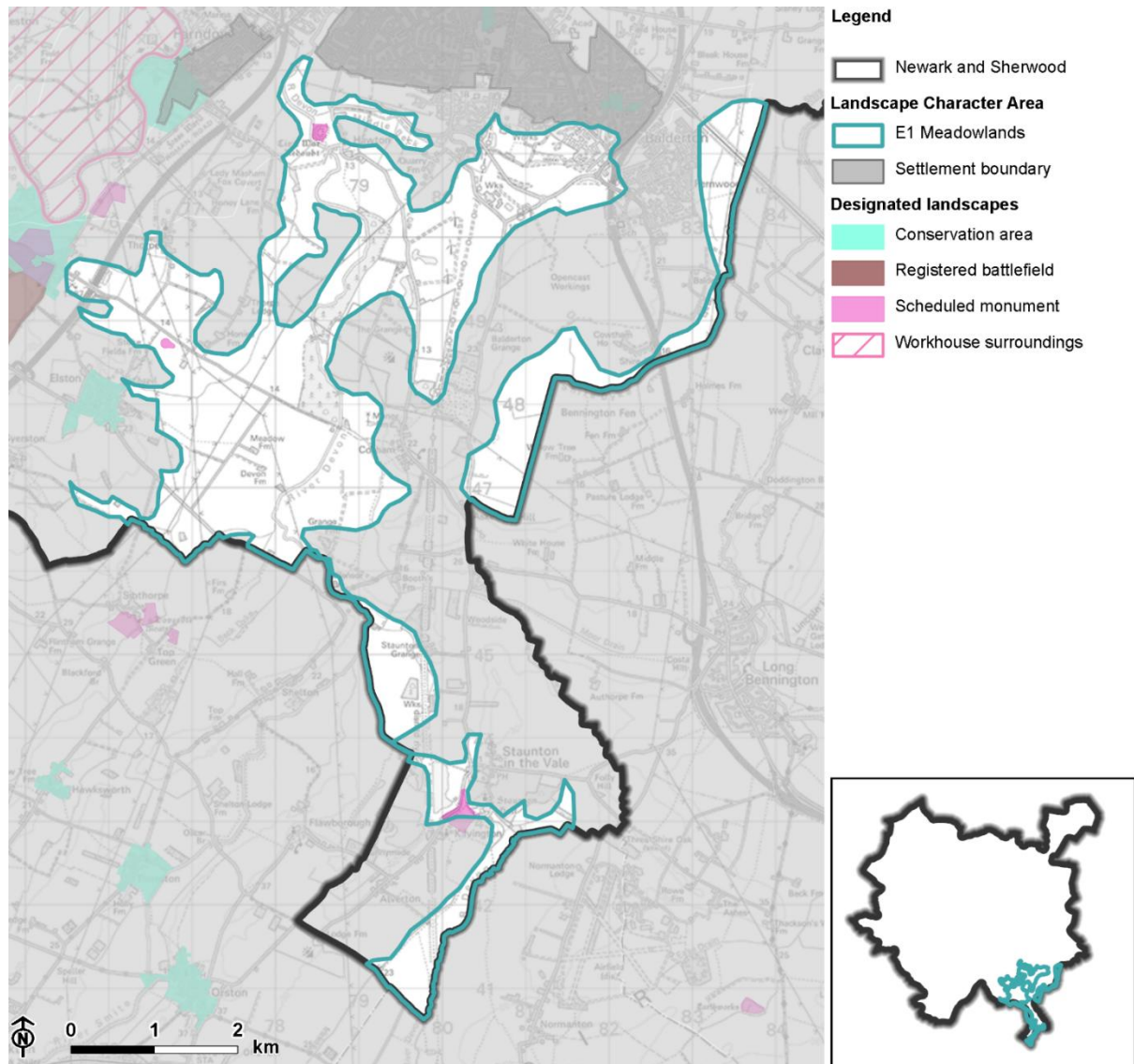
Guidance for development

5.292 Specific guidelines for renewable energy development within the East Nottinghamshire Sandlands: Village Farmlands with Plantations LCA include:

- Ensure any larger-scale development is steered towards the more intensively farmed, broader, and flatter parts of the landscape.
- Careful consideration should be given to the apparent scale of large turbines within wooded areas, and when seen alongside trees. Avoid disturbance to distinctive tree belts when designing access tracks and site infrastructure.
- Seek to avoid areas valued for their tranquil character, particularly the more wooded northern parts of the LCA.
- Consider broad views and cross-boundary effects in siting turbines in more open areas with intervisibility along the Lincolnshire boundary.
- Avoid development that would alter the perception of the low, but distinctive, hills (e.g. Potter Hill) within this flat landscape.

South Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Meadowlands LCA (E1)

Figure 5.55: Contextual map of the South Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA:
Meadowlands LCA (E1)



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Location

5.293 The LCA lies in the south-east of Newark and Sherwood, close to the district boundaries with South Kesteven and Rushcliffe Districts. The LCA is mainly focused on the River Devon and its floodplain, and Shire Dyke in the east.

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.294 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Flat low-lying topography;*
- *Seasonally wet alluvial and peaty soils;*
- *Open, spacious views, sometimes enclosed by rising ground;*
- *Remnant pattern of large hedged fields defined by thorn hedges or ditches;*
- *Small broad leaved plantations;*
- *Absence of farmsteads or other buildings”*

Figure 5.56: Open arable fields with wooded horizon and pylons visible



Figure 5.57: Small tree-lined watercourse separates pasture fields



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- A flat, low-lying landform between 14 and 25 metres AOD, with some occasional gentle undulations. There are no distinctive landform features.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low
- Wind – Low

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- The field pattern is predominately medium to large scale, surrounded by a mix of intact, gappy and missing hedges with a low tree cover.
- This LCA has some hedgerow trees and occasional small broadleaved plantations and coverts. There is a concentration of woodland along the River Devon, mostly coniferous. Other land cover includes semi-natural scrub, grassland, wetland and meadows.
- There are few buildings, and the only settlements are the suburban development of Fernwood, at the south edge of Newark, and the hamlets of Cotham and Staunton-in-the-Vale at the edges of the LCA.
- To the south of Newark the pattern of the landcover has been extensively fragmented by past and present mineral extraction.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Historic landscape character

- There are no listed buildings or Conservation Areas within the LCA. Three Scheduled Monuments lie within the LCA: Hawton moated site, Kilvington medieval settlement and a timber circle north of Elston. While important heritage assets, these Scheduled Monuments have limited influence on the landscape character.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low
- Wind – Low

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- This is an open and spacious landscape with high levels of intervisibility with neighbouring landscapes, particularly to the east where there are long views across Bennington Fen and the River Witham valley (in South Kesteven district). There is more limited intervisibility with the landscape to the south and west, where the ground rises slightly, though there are occasional views through to the Trent Valley.
- This LCA has vast, wide and distant skylines, which are simple in character and flat in form. Spoil heaps from mineral workings are locally prominent where they break the horizon, and are seen on skylines in some more distant views. Skylines are almost always affected by the pylons which run north-south. In this context distinctive poplar trees form landmark features, and there are occasional views of distant church spires (outside of the LCA).
- There are limited public rights of way through the LCA, although NCN Route 64 passes north-south through the west of the LCA along the route of the former Great Northern and London and North Western Railway.
- Small existing turbines both within the LCA and in adjacent landscapes are visible. These include the turbines between Newark Road and Grange Lane in the centre of the LCA. Small scale individual or small groups of turbines in adjacent landscapes are also visible, including at Hawton Wind Farm. Two fields of PV solar panels lie east of Newark Road, part of a larger solar farm which extends into the adjacent Village Farmlands LCA (E2). The solar farm is generally screened from view by roadside hedges, although views are possible from field entrances.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- This is an isolated and often inaccessible landscape, but one which is intensively managed. Although predominately rural in character, there are strong human influences in past and present mineral extraction, landfill, industrial and urban fringe influences. The A1, A46 and proximity to the urban edge of Balderton and Newark have an impact on the tranquillity and experience of dark night skies within the landscape.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- The presence of grasslands and meadows within the LCA.
- Strong intervisibility with land to the east (within South Kesteven district), although there is more limited intervisibility to the south and west within Newark and Sherwood district.
- Skylines are vast but simple in character.
- Electricity pylons across the area and the existing small-scale wind turbines may form visual confusion with new development.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

5.295 The low-lying and flat landscape means arrays of solar PV panels would be less easily perceived and decreases sensitivity to solar PV. The medium-large field scale is less sensitive. The presence of quarrying and the edge of Newark-on-Trent also reduces sensitivity. There are few recorded historic features which legibly

contribute to landscape character. Although the landscape is isolated and often inaccessible, it is strongly influenced by human activities. Views to the industrial and residential edges of Newark-on-Trent, and mineral extraction reduce the rural character, while close proximity to the A1 and A46 reduces tranquillity and the experience of dark night skies.

5.296 The presence of semi-natural land cover, including grasslands and meadows within the LCA, increases sensitivity to solar PV development. Strong intervisibility with land to the east (within South Kesteven district) increases sensitivity, although there is more limited intervisibility to the south and west within Newark and Sherwood district. Skylines are vast but simple in character, affected by electricity pylons and spoil heaps which reduce sensitivity to solar PV. A small area of existing solar PV lies in the south-west of the LCA, connected to a wider installation within the Village Farmlands LCA (E2). It is largely screened from view by hedges.

Table 5.33: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in South Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Meadowlands LCA (E1)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Low
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Low-Moderate
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	Moderate-High
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	Moderate-High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.297 There are no noted variations in landscape sensitivity within this LCA.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.298 The low-lying and flat landscape, larger-scale landform and medium to large-scale fields decreases sensitivity to wind energy development. Human scale features are limited to hedgerows and a few clusters of buildings. The presence of quarrying and the edge of Newark-on-Trent also reduces sensitivity. There are few recorded historic features which legibly contribute to landscape character. Although the landscape is isolated and often inaccessible, it is strongly influenced by human activities, with limited feelings of traditional rurality. Views to the industrial and residential edges of Newark-on-Trent, and mineral extraction reduce the rural character.

5.299 Strong intervisibility with land to the east (within South Kesteven district) increases sensitivity, although there is more limited intervisibility to the south and west within Newark and Sherwood district. Skylines are vast but simple in character. Electricity pylons across the area and the existing small-scale wind turbines both within the landscape and visible in adjacent landscapes may form visual confusion, which increases sensitivity to wind energy development.

Table 5.34: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in South Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Meadowlands LCA (E1)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Low
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Low
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Low-Moderate
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	Moderate
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	Moderate-High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.300 There are no noted variations in landscape sensitivity within this LCA.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.301 Operational development includes part of a very large solar PV development (over 90ha) at Grange Solar Farm, which continues into the adjacent Village Farmlands LCA (E2).

5.302 There are no consented or proposed developments within the LCA.

5.303 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- Landscape screening associated with multiple solar developments altering the sense of openness and exposure. There would be opportunities to enhance hedgerows where these are degraded.
- Potential for views of multiple solar developments from land to the east within South Kesteven.

- The potential for sequential effects experienced by people along the NCN Route 64.

Wind

5.304 There are three large-scale turbines at Hawton (126m blade tip height) in the north of the LCA. There are views to operational very small and small-scale individual turbines within adjacent landscapes.

5.305 There are no consented or proposed developments in the LCA.

5.306 The CZTV maps (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) indicate relatively high levels of theoretical turbine visibility across the majority of the LCA, mainly associated with the Hawton wind turbines in the north. Lower theoretical visibility is indicated in the south-east along the Winter Beck. The presence of trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility in the field will reduce the amount of actual visibility of turbines in the landscape, as compared to the levels of theoretical visibility indicated on the CZTV.

5.307 Key cumulative considerations for wind energy developments within the LCA will include:

- Differences in scale with the large-scale operational turbines at Hawton and very small and small-scale farm turbines seen in adjacent landscapes.
- The potential for 'visual confusion' with electricity pylons within the LCA, both in views from within the LCA and in views from the east (within South Kesteven).
- The sequential effects experienced by people along the NCN Route 64.

Guidance for development

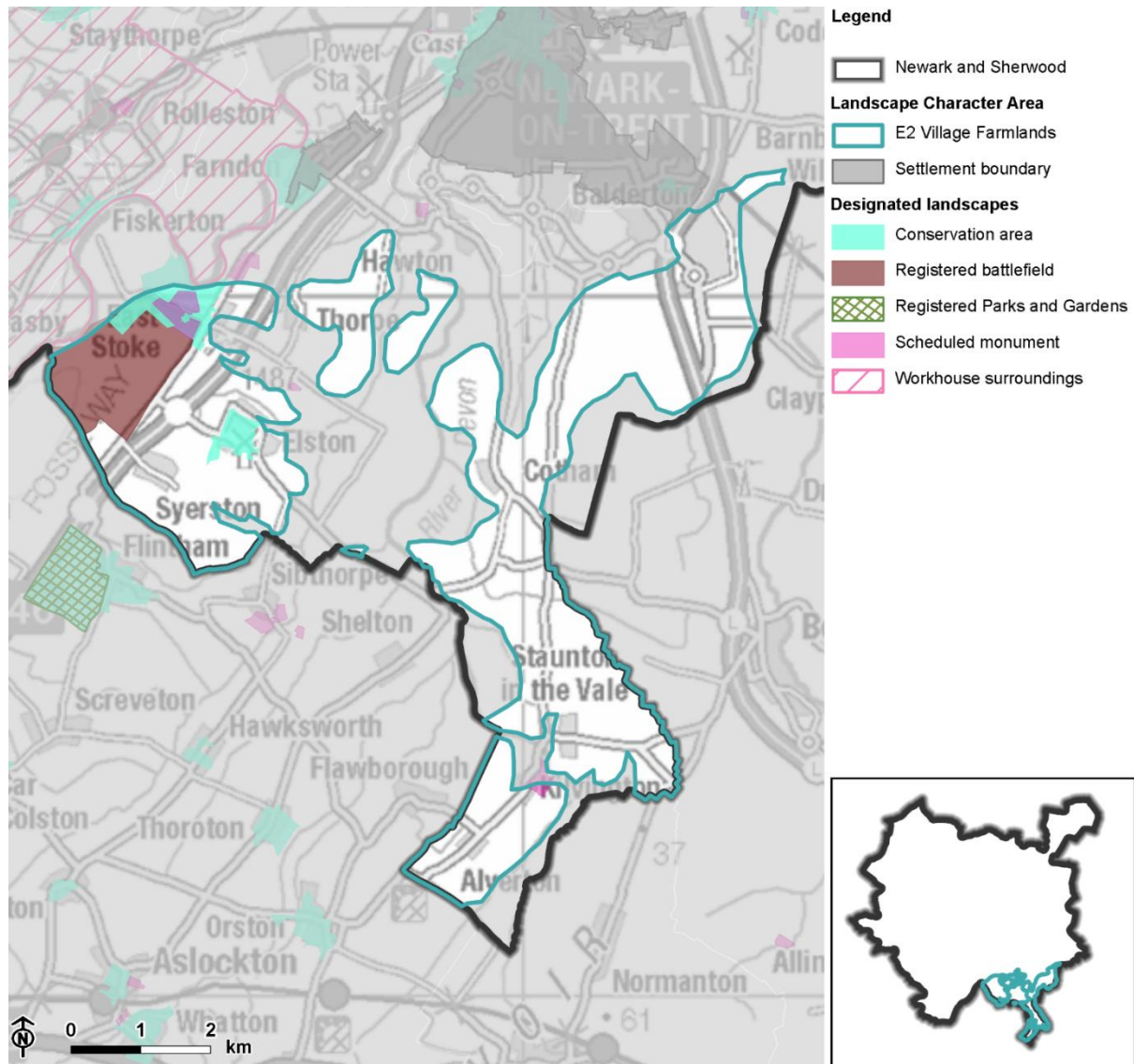
5.308 Specific guidelines for renewable energy development within South Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Meadowlands LCA include:

- Ensure renewable energy development avoids damaging the grassland, wetland and meadow habitats.
- Ensure that any new medium-scale or above wind turbines are sited away from the existing Hawton wind turbines, so that different sizes are not seen together to cause 'visual confusion'. Consider the appearance of multiple developments, which should be designed to appear compatible.

- Carefully consider the intervisibility of any renewable energy development in the adjacent Bennington Fen and the River Witham valley (in South Kesteven district).
- Ensure open views are retained where possible. In some areas, the existing hedgerow network can be utilised to screen PV panels and associated infrastructure. Consider opportunities for hedgerow restoration and enhancement, to provide further screening for PV panels and restore the landscape character.

South Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (E2)

Figure 5.58: Contextual map of the South Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (E2)



Created by LUC - 16290_001_r1_MainReport_Figures/16290_r4_Fig6.1-6.17_LCA 12/01/2026
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Location

5.309 The LCA lies to the south and east of Newark and the Trent Valley. It is in two main areas to the east and west of the River Devon. The eastern part includes the villages of Staunton in the Vale and Balderton, and the western part includes the smaller villages of Elston and Syerston. The southern and south-eastern boundaries of the LCA are formed by the district boundary.

Key characteristics of the LCA

5.310 Key characteristics identified in the Newark and Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment (updated 2013) include:

- *“Gently rolling topography;*
- *Simple pattern of large arable fields;*
- *Neatly trimmed hawthorn hedges;*
- *Nucleated villages with traditional red brick and pantile roofed buildings*
- *Suburbanised commuter villages and small towns;*
- *Small-scale pastoral landscapes along village edges”*

Figure 5.59: Views west from the Old Hall Farm PRow across the meadowlands, historic church on the skyline



Figure 5.60: Long views south from the PRow across the meadowlands to rising hills above the trent



Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landscape sensitivity assessment

Landform and scale

- A medium to large-scale landscape, with an often low-lying landform, between 15 and 25 metres AOD.
- There is more topographic variation in the south-east at Folly Hill and in the west where the land rises to 60 metres AOD before forming a steep slope falling to the west towards the River Trent.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- The landscape pattern is simple, consisting of large-scale arable fields defined by trimmed, gappy and missing hedges.
- Scattered areas of rough grassland, pasture, and with woodland primarily concentrated along the river. There is a general lack of tree cover outside of these riverine woodlands.
- The settlement pattern features nucleated villages, although the urban edge of Newark exerts a dominant influence on the northern boundary, with modern development at Balderton and Fernwood further contributing to the contemporary character of the area.
- Other built development includes industrial buildings and areas of vacant land resulting from former mineral workings in the north-east.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Historic landscape character

- Historic character is concentrated in the west of the LCA, which contains the Registered Battlefield the Battle of Stoke Field and the villages of Elston and East Stoke, which have designated Conservation Areas. The Elston Conservation Area is focused on the village and adjacent woodland. The East Stoke Conservation Area encompasses the parkland of Stoke Hall, the wooded slopes to the south and extends on the Trent floodplain.
- Outside of the Conservation Areas many villages contain listed buildings like Staunton. There is limited recorded historic character in the east and north-east of the LCA.
- Scheduled Monuments associated with the remains of medieval settlements are recorded at Stoke Village and Kilvington. However, these survive as underground archaeological remains and there have no influence on the wider landscape.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Low-Moderate
- Wind – Low-Moderate

Visual character and amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)

- This is a relatively open landscape with high intervisibility, affording longer-distance views eastwards and southwards across the Vale of Belvoir where the topography dips away.
- The western edge of the LCA forms a distinctive wooded scarp, which is a key visual feature when seen from within the adjacent Trent Valley.
- The LCA has generally simple skylines which are flat or gently convex in form. These skylines are locally softened and obscured by the presence of hedgerow trees and woodland blocks.

- The skyline is frequently affected by several overhead lines. Around the urban fringe of Newark, industrial buildings like the Stunton Quarry are also prominent visual elements on the skyline.
- Turbines can be seen on the skyline around Balderton Grange (including from the Grange area to the west).
- There are limited public rights of way through the LCA, although NCN Route 64 passes north-south through the east of the LCA from Askerton Hill along the minor roads.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate-High
- Wind – Moderate-High

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- The east and south are more intensively farmed and homogenous, offering less visual appeal.
- The north-east is influenced by the quarry, A1, modern development at Fernwood/Balderton and the settlement fringe of Newark and the A1, which reduces tranquillity and rurality.
- The west, around Elston and East Stoke, is generally less influenced by modern development. This area contains the rising ground and the parkland landscapes associated with East Stoke, although the new bridges of the A46 are prominent features.

Sensitivity scores

- Solar – Moderate
- Wind – Moderate

Key sensitive features and characteristics

- The historic landscape character in the west, including a Registered Battlefield and the Conservation Areas of the villages of Elston and East Stoke.

- Visual clutter from existing pylons and wind turbines makes the area particularly sensitive to further wind energy development.
- Intervisibility with the Vale of Belvoir from the south and east.
- Sensitive land cover includes areas of rough grassland, pasture and woodland associated with the river corridor.
- Variations in topography at Folly Hill in the south-east and the wooded slopes of the River Trent in the west are more sensitive than the surrounding low-lying landscape.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

5.311 The low-lying, flat, and large-scale landform decreases sensitivity to solar energy development as arrays would be less prominent across the level terrain and can be more easily screened from ground-level views. The predominantly agricultural landcover, characterised by large-scale arable fields, and the presence of industrial influences such as the working quarry and the urban edge of Newark-on-Trent, also reduce sensitivity. Proximity to major transport corridors like the A1 and A46 further diminishes the perceived rurality and tranquillity, providing a landscape context that is already modified by human activity and modern infrastructure.

5.312 The historic importance of the Stoke Field Registered Battlefield and the Conservation Areas of Elston and East Stoke increases sensitivity to solar energy development, as large-scale ground-mounted arrays could compromise the “open field” integrity and historic setting of these assets. Strong intervisibility with the Vale of Belvoir and the presence of the distinctive wooded scarp on the western edge of the LCA increase sensitivity, as the open nature of the landscape provides little topographic containment for long-distance views. While existing electricity pylons and wind turbines introduce industrial elements, the requirement for security fencing and the extensive footprint of solar panels could lead to further visual encroachment on the simple, open skylines and rural character.

Table 5.35: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in South Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (E2)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Small solar (less than 5 hectares)	Low
Medium solar (6 to 20 hectares)	Low-Moderate
Large solar (21 to 50 hectares)	Moderate
Very large solar (51 to 150 hectares)	Moderate-High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

5.313 The landscape sensitivity around Elston, Staunton and East Stoke is higher due to the steeper topography falling to the River Trent and a greater concentration of historic features.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

5.314 The low-lying, flat and large-scale landform decreases sensitivity to wind energy development. The agricultural landcover with limited areas of semi-natural landcover, a working quarry, and prominent infrastructure reduces sensitivity. Views to the industrial and residential edges of Newark-on-Trent and areas of mineral extraction reduce the rural character.

5.315 The historic importance of the Stoke Field Registered Battlefield, and the historic character of the Elston and East Stoke Conservation Areas, increase sensitivity to wind energy development. Strong intervisibility with the Vale of Belvoir, including the distinctive wooded scarp on the western edge of the LCA, increases sensitivity to wind energy development. The simple open skylines also increase sensitivity. Electricity pylons across the area and the existing three wind turbines may form visual confusion, which increases sensitivity to wind energy development.

Table 5.36: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in South Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (E2)

Development Scenario	Overall Landscape Sensitivity Rating
Very small-scale wind (15 to 30 metres)	Low
Small-scale wind (31 to 60 metres)	Low-Moderate
Medium-scale wind (61 to 100 metres)	Moderate
Large-scale wind (101 to 150 metres)	Moderate
Very large-scale wind (over 150 metres)	Moderate-High

Variations in landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

5.316 The landscape sensitivity to wind energy development is higher around Elston, Staunton and East Stoke due to the steeper topography falling to the River Trent and a greater concentration of historic features.

Cumulative considerations

Solar

5.317 Operational development includes:

- A part of a very large solar PV development (over 90ha) at Grange Solar Farm, which continues into the adjacent Meadowlands LCA (E1).

5.318 There are no consented or proposed developments within the LCA.

5.319 Key cumulative considerations for solar developments within the LCA will include:

- Landscape screening associated with multiple solar developments altering the sense of openness and exposure. There would be opportunities to enhance hedgerows where these are degraded.
- The potential for sequential effects experienced by people along the NCN Route 64.

Wind

5.320 There are no operational, consented or proposed wind farms in this LCA. A single turbine (66.7m blade tip height) to the south of Farndon and three turbines

(126.5m blade tip height) south of Newark, close to the northern LCA boundary, are visible within this area.

5.321 The CZTV maps (**Figures 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5**) indicate a relatively high level of theoretical turbine visibility across much of this area, due to the presence of operational turbines to the south of Newark and visibility of more distant turbines, coupled with the relatively open character of the landscape. The presence of trees, hedges, buildings and other features which serve to restrict visibility in the field will reduce the amount of actual visibility of turbines in the landscape, as compared to the levels of theoretical visibility indicated on the CZTV.

5.322 Key cumulative considerations for wind developments within the LCA will include:

- The sequential effects experienced by people along the NCN Route 64.
- Consideration of panoramic views from elevated locations, including the local landmark of Staunton and Folly Hill, where turbines in adjacent LCAs are visible on the lower-lying ground.
- Multiple wind developments may alter the undeveloped character of the area.
- The introduction multiple wind turbines may cause visual confusion or 'clutter' if they are seen in combined views with pylons of different scale, where open views are available.

Guidance for development

5.323 Specific guidelines for renewable energy development within the South Nottinghamshire Farmlands: Village Farmlands LCA include:

- Avoid the development of medium and larger turbines on the Trent Hills and other areas where they may be seen on the skyline from within the Trent Valley. Consider intervisibility with the Vale of Belvoir when siting renewable energy development.
- Avoid development which could impact on the understanding or appreciation of the historical significance of the Stoke Field Registered Battlefield.
- Ensure the setting of Conservation Areas and historic buildings are not impacted by renewable energy development.
- Ensure that any new medium-scale or above wind turbines are sited away from the existing wind turbines, and take into consideration the presence of electricity pylons, so that different sizes are not seen together to cause 'visual confusion'.

- Seek to link the development of turbines in this area with the restoration of former mineral workings and vacant land.

Appendix A

User Guide

A.1 The following list should be consulted to help the user utilise appropriate information for the development of renewable energy proposals or supporting the assessment and appraisal of associated planning applications.

1. What type of change is proposed?
2. To which Landscape Character Area (LCA) does the proposal relate (refer to **Figure 2.1**)? If a proposal is close to the edge of two or more LCAs, all relevant profiles will need to be consulted.
3. To what degree does the site reflect the typical sensitivities identified in the sensitivity criteria (e.g. Landform and scale, Landcover, Historic landscape character, Visual character, and Perceptual and scenic qualities) for the LCA in question? Which of these sensitivities will be affected by the proposal, and how?
4. Will the proposal affect any of the key sensitive features and characteristics identified for the LCA?
5. Does the assessment text identify any areas of higher or lower sensitivity that may be applicable to the proposal?
6. Are there any specific site opportunities for mitigation (including those identified in relevant LCA evidence and Chapter 5)?

Guidance on undertaking Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

Overall need/purpose

A.2 A landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) is a key part of assessing the effect of proposed wind energy or solar PV developments, including as part of the EIA process. An EIA may not be required for all developments; however, it is likely that a landscape and visual impact assessment or appraisal (LVIA) will be required to accompany the planning application. The level of detail required will depend upon the sensitivity of the site and the nature of the proposal and its potential effects. Pre-application discussions with Newark and Sherwood Council are strongly recommended for all wind energy and solar PV applications. This will provide an

opportunity to agree the scope, level of detail and presentation of the LVIA, and ensure that it is based on accurate and up-to-date information. The LVIA should address the key landscape issues raised by the proposals, providing information that is relevant, necessary and material to the decisions to be made.

A.3 General guidance on LVIA is provided in the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment's 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' (GLVIA3). The following guidance sets out the type of information that should be expected to be submitted as part of an LVIA for a solar PV or wind energy development in the Newark and Sherwood District Council area. In addition, LVIA's for EIA developments should comply with the scoping opinion given by the planning authority, where this has been sought.

A.4 The following section sets out the required components of an LVIA, in terms of information required to submit along with a planning application.

Project description

A.5 The planning application should include a description of the project at each phase in its life cycle in sufficient detail to allow the assessment of landscape and visual effects including:

- The location, layout, orientation and dimensions or extent of all wind turbines or solar PV arrays, on-site access tracks, hardstandings, and associated plant and structures (including plans, elevations and sections), permanent or temporary;
- A description of the scale and duration of project activities during construction, operation, and decommissioning (including method of construction and traffic generation);
- Information on site access including routes for transport of renewables infrastructure, including any need for removal of landscape features;
- Location and size of temporary lay down areas, construction compounds, materials storage, temporary fencing, foundations and site cable runs;
- Excavation/levelling details and soil removal estimates (if applicable);
- Plans for site reinstatement;
- Details of any tracking or moving mechanisms;
- Location and appearance of any signage, security features, lighting, fencing and onsite and offsite grid connection points (substation/switchgear cabinet);
- Plans for landscape mitigation measures and/or landscape enhancement; and

- Plans for decommissioning (removal of infrastructure and ancillary structures, proposals for restoration and future land management).

A.6 The LVIA should highlight those aspects of the development that are the key sources of landscape and visual change.

Baseline studies

A.7 The baseline studies should set out the existing conditions within the study area. The study area should be agreed with the planning authority, and should reflect the total area for which significant landscape and visual effects (including cumulative effects) may be anticipated. The extent of the study area will reflect the scale of development proposed and the nature of landform and land cover of the surrounding landscape, which may provide screening or otherwise limit visibility of the proposal. Information on land use, landscape features, landscape character and landscape designations should be provided, drawing on the Landscape Character Assessments. A field survey should be undertaken to supplement desk based information.

A.8 The landscape baseline should be evaluated in accordance with the principles of GLVIA3.

A.9 A zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) should be prepared to indicate the area over which the renewable energy development may be seen. These should consider all components of the renewable energy development e.g. wind turbines or solar PV panels, and associated infrastructure such as substations. ZTVs should be used, alongside fieldwork, to identify representative assessment viewpoints. These viewpoints should be discussed and agreed with the planning authority and other stakeholders. The number of viewpoints required will vary depending on the size of the development and sensitivity of the location. Priority should be given to views from sensitive locations (e.g. residential areas, areas popular with visitors or for outdoor recreation where views may be focussed on the landscape and recognised/iconic views). If the development is visible from a protected landscape, which may include landscapes primarily designated for their contributions to the historic environment, there will be a requirement for at least one viewpoint from that landscape. The purpose for selection should be recorded within the LVIA.

Mitigation

A.10 As a result of the iterative assessment process, there are likely to be modifications to the scheme design to minimise landscape and visual effects,

particularly for larger schemes. In addition, there may be measures to prevent, reduce or offset significant adverse effects. These should be described in terms of relationship to/conservation of valued landscape features, relationship to landscape character (particularly topography, scale, landform and landscape pattern), and appearance from sensitive viewpoints and designated landscapes. All mitigation measures should be described and an indication of how they will be implemented should be provided. Mitigation itself may have an impact on the landscape character, for example, hedgerow screening for a solar PV development could interrupt important long-distance views.

A.11 A description of the main reasons for site selection and any alternatives in site design or layout should also be provided.

Enhancement

A.12 Enhancement aims to improve the character and quality of the landscape beyond the baseline condition, and is therefore additional to mitigation. It may take many forms, including improved land management or creation of new landscapes or features. Landscape enhancement, as part of a proposal, will be looked upon favourably.

Description of effects

A.13 This section should systematically identify and describe the likely effects of the proposal, identifying the magnitude of change to baseline conditions resulting from the proposal. Methods should be clearly set out. The assessment should cover effects at construction, operational and decommissioning phases and should consider direct, indirect, secondary, short, medium and long term effects. Effects on landscape features/fabric, landscape character, landscape values and visual amenity should be assessed.

- Effects on landscape features/fabric should consider loss of elements (e.g. hedges, trees).
- Effects on landscape character should describe the direct changes that will occur to the character of the landscape in which the proposal is located and the indirect changes to character of landscapes from where the development will be visible – this should include how the renewable energy development will affect perceptions of character and how widespread and prominent the changes will be.

- Effects on landscape values should describe any potential changes in special qualities of landscapes as recorded in Landscape Character Assessments.
- Effects on visual amenity should describe and illustrate the extent of visibility and record changes in views from the representative assessment viewpoints with reference to photographs and visualisations. The assessment needs to ensure that the representative viewpoints and visualisations are used to explain the impact of the scheme on visual receptors (e.g. people travelling on roads or public rights of way) across the whole route, rather than just static points.
- Effects on settlements and individual properties should also be considered where relevant.

Assessment of significance

A.14 The significance of effects should be assessed by reference to GLVIA3. The assessment should identify which effects are considered to be significant in the context of the EIA Regulations (for EIA development), as well as which are adverse or beneficial. Methods should be clearly set out and any assumptions clearly stated. The report should acknowledge that when assessments result in multiple negative effects, even when these are not classified as significant under EIA regulations, the cumulative effect of these can be significant.

Presentation of the LVIA

A.15 The document should be clear and logical in its layout and presentation. It should be a balanced document providing an unbiased account of the landscape and visual effects, with reasoned and justifiable arguments. A glossary of technical terms and reference list would also be helpful. For EIA development, a non-technical summary should be provided to enable a non-specialist to understand the landscape and visual effects of the proposal – this should include a summary description of the development, the aspects of landscape character and visual amenity likely to be significantly affected, and the mitigation measures to be implemented.

Maps and illustrations to accompany an LVIA

A.16 The number of maps and illustrations may vary according to the sensitivity of the site and type of proposal. Where possible, a suitable OS base should be used to indicate the location and presence of vegetation and public rights of way.

A.17 As a guide, the following illustrations will typically be required as part of an LVIA (see next section for maps and figures required as part of a cumulative assessment):

- A site layout plan showing position of infrastructure, access arrangements, location of any compounds, and all ancillary elements for the development in the context of the physical landscape fabric (this may already form part of the planning application in which case it can be cross-referenced);
- National character areas within the study area;
- Landscape Character Areas/Types (distance dependent upon scale of development);
- National landscape designations, open access land and public rights of way within the study area;
- Local landscape or planning designations, rights of way and ancient woodland closer to the site (distance dependent upon scale of development);
- Mapping of Registered Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments, listed buildings and heritage trails may also be relevant to the LVIA (this information may also be recorded in the cultural heritage assessment);
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility within the study area or an indication of extent of visibility (including the proportion of the site which will be theoretically visible if possible, and clearly indicating distance radii from the site);
- A map showing viewpoint locations, overlaid onto the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (may be combined with above maps if relevant);
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility overlaid onto character areas and designations (likely to be more than one map); and
- Photographs and photomontages/visualisations for viewpoints to illustrate the location and extent of development in the landscape, provided and reproduced to reflect best practice. Viewpoint locations and type of visualisation will need to be agreed with the Council. Winter views are usually required as outlined in GLVIA3.

Assessment of Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects

Overall need/purpose

A.18 Cumulative assessment as part of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required under the EU Directive on EIA (EIA Directive 2014/52/EU, which amends EIA Directive 2011/92/EU).

A.19 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations 2017) require the Environmental Statement to include a description of likely significant effects resulting from *“the cumulation of effects with other existing and, or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources”*.

A.20 The Landscape Institute defines cumulative landscape and visual effects as *“additional changes to landscape and visual amenity caused by the proposed development in conjunction with other developments (associated with or separate to it) or actions that have occurred in the past, present or are likely to occur in the foreseeable future”* (GLVIA2). Cumulative effects can trigger the EIA process. Even if EIA is not required, it is likely that a cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment or appraisal (CLVIA) will be required to accompany the planning application.

Differences between cumulative assessment baselines

A.21 Cumulative landscape and visual effects will be considered under the primary assessment within the LVIA, which considers potential for effects resulting from the introduction of the proposal with other wind energy and solar PV developments that are operational or under construction. This is a known baseline that can be clearly defined.

A.22 An assessment of cumulative effects may also need to consider potential for effects resulting from the introduction of the proposal with other renewable energy developments which are consented or proposed but not yet built, under a ‘future baseline’ scenario. This baseline is to some extent uncertain and is partially speculative.

A.23 The ‘future baseline’ for cumulative assessment may therefore include (in addition to existing/under construction renewable energy developments):

- Renewable energy developments which have been granted planning permission but are not yet constructed; and
- Proposed renewable energy developments subject to a valid planning application.

A.24 Schemes that are at the pre-planning or scoping stage are not generally considered in the assessment. They should only be included *“if absolutely necessary to make a realistic assessment of potential cumulative effects”* (GLVIA3).

A.25 In accordance with GLVIA3 it may also be necessary to separately consider the total and additional cumulative effects of developments.

A.26 The list of schemes to include and assessment scenarios should be agreed with the Council who will need to decide what is reasonable and proportionate to request for specific applications.

Information required to be submitted as part of the cumulative assessment

A.27 The level of detail required will be dependent upon the sensitivity of the site, the nature of the proposal and other existing and proposed schemes, and the potential for cumulative effects. A pre-planning application meeting with the Council may provide an opportunity to discuss scope. The following presents some guidance on undertaking cumulative assessment of wind energy or solar PV developments in Newark and Sherwood.

Study area and sites to be included

A.28 It is suggested that the assessment focuses on potentially significant cumulative effects and that a study area is selected to enable these significant effects to be reported. Study areas will depend on the size and location of other existing and proposed schemes within the landscape and will vary with the type of landscape, but initial areas of search may be up to 10km from the proposal, or wider for large/very large wind turbines. Sequential impacts should also be considered, for example, along a long-distance footpath. All existing and proposed renewables developments should be mapped within that area. The assessment may then focus on ‘hotspot’ areas to identify likely significant effects. This will help keep the assessment proportional to the scale of the project and the nature of its likely effects.

Cumulative ZTV Analysis

A.29 Creating Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs) for each development, and overlaying these to create a Cumulative ZTV (CZTV), could help indicate areas where the proposed development is predicted to be visible (either on its own, or in conjunction with other renewables developments), and areas where other renewables developments will be visible but the proposed development will not. This can help focus the assessment.

A.30 CZTVs should be provided to illustrate areas of visibility associated with other consented or proposed renewable energy developments (e.g. the 'future baselines'), if applicable. This may include, for example, a scenario that considers the proposal in the context of other existing, under construction and consented renewable energy developments (a fairly certain scenario) as well as a scenario that also considers the addition of other proposed developments (a less certain scenario).

Choice of viewpoints

A.31 A number of viewpoints should be selected to illustrate cumulative visual effects arising from the renewable energy development being assessed, in combination with other existing and proposed renewable energy developments. These selected viewpoints may be the same as, or a subset, of the main LVIA viewpoints, or they may be different. In any case they should be selected specifically to illustrate cumulative effects, including sequential views, representing the worst-case. These should be agreed with the Council prior to submission of a planning application and preferably at the scoping stage.

Baseline evaluation for the cumulative assessment

A.32 The sensitivity of the landscape and visual resource will be the same as that recorded in the LVIA. The 'future baselines' of speculative scenarios (e.g. those which include consented or proposed but yet unbuilt renewable energy projects) should be described, based on the assumption that these other schemes will be present in the landscape under these future baseline scenarios.

Preparing cumulative visualisations

A.33 Cumulative visualisations, to a level agreed with the Council, should be prepared from viewpoints to illustrate the nature and degree of cumulative change to

the landscape and views. This is particularly important in cases where significant cumulative effects are predicted.

Describing and assessing effects

Magnitude of cumulative change to landscape

A.34 The magnitude of cumulative change to landscape character is the influence the additional renewables development will have on the character of the area which is informed by:

- The distance over which the development will have an influence on landscape character in combination with other renewable energy developments;
- The siting or location of the development being assessed in relation to other existing and proposed renewables developments (and their relationship to landscape character areas or types);
- The design of the renewable energy development being assessed in relation to other existing and proposed renewable energy developments (including scale and layout of the development); and
- Whether key characteristics of the surrounding landscape are affected by the cumulative impact.

A.35 It will also be important to consider the combined effect of fencing, tracks, buildings and other ancillary features of the renewable energy developments on the landscape.

Magnitude of cumulative change to views

A.36 The magnitude of cumulative change to views should be described taking into account the following considerations:

- The arrangement of developments in the view, e.g. developments seen in one direction or part of the view, or seen in many directions;
- The visibility/prominence of the proposed development compared to the other existing, consented and proposed schemes;
- The apparent distances, from the viewer, and between developments;
- The relationship between the various sizes and layouts of the developments;

- In the case of magnitude of change to routes (sequential effects), the relative duration and frequency of views of developments from routes;
- It will be important to consider the combined effect of all elements of the proposed development on views; and
- The CLVIA may also consider cumulative effect on views from settlements through use of CZTVs and visits to the settlements.

Significance

A.37 The assessment should identify which effects are considered to be significant in the context of the EIA Regulations (for EIA development), as well as which are adverse or beneficial.

Figures

A.38 The number of maps and illustrations may vary according to the sensitivity of the site, the nature of the proposal and other existing and proposed schemes, and the potential for cumulative effects. However, as a guide the following illustrations will typically be required as part of the cumulative assessment for EIA development:

- Location map for all operational, consented and proposed sites within the study area, presented on a 1:50,000 or 1:25,000 OS base to indicate public rights of way, with concentric distance bands;
- CZTV for existing, consented and proposed renewable energy developments in combination with the proposed development. CZTVs may be particularly useful for larger schemes – more than one CZTV may be useful to show different scenarios, as set out in the guidance above;
- CZTVs overlaid onto landscape character areas, landscape designations and assessment viewpoints as relevant; and
- Photographs and visualisations of up to 360 degrees to show the proposed development in the context of other developments – annotated with site name, status (operational, consented, proposed), and clearly labelled to indicate how the images should be printed, held and viewed.

Appendix B

Differences of LCA Classification Used for this Study and the 2014 Landscape Capacity Study

B.1 The 2013 NSLCA classification was used for the purposes of this study. Key differences between the boundaries previously used in the 2014 Landscape Capacity Study are set out below.

Differences with boundaries used for the 2014 Landscape Capacity Study

Sherwood RCA

- A1 Village Farmlands
 - N/A – boundaries similar.
- A2 Meadowlands
 - N/A – boundaries similar.
- A3 Wooded Estatelands
 - N/A – boundaries similar.
- A4 Wooded Farmlands
 - N/A – boundaries similar.
- A5 Meadowlands with Plantations
 - N/A – boundaries similar.
- A6 Estate Farmland
 - N/A – boundaries similar.

Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA

- B1n Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland (northern unit)
 - Boundaries more nuanced around watercourses (related to B2 Meadowlands LCA) although broadly similar.
- B1s Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland (southern unit)

- Boundaries more nuanced around watercourses (related to B2 Meadowlands LCA) and inclusion of additional areas in south near Lowdham.
- B2 Meadowlands
 - Additional and more nuanced areas included in the north and area expanded around Southwell.
- B3 Estate Farmlands with Plantations
 - Additional area included at Rufford Country Park (previously identified as part of B1n Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCA).
- B4 Village Farmlands
 - Boundary with B2 Meadowlands LCA amended near Southwell.
 - Two small areas in the south near the district boundary reclassified as B1s Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland LCA.
 - Additional small units introduced in the north near Weston and in the north-west near Wellow (previously in B1n Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland LCA), and in the south along A6097 (previously in B1s Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodland LCA).

Trent Washlands RCA

- C1 Village Farmlands
 - N/A – boundaries similar.
- C2 River Meadowlands
 - N/A – boundaries similar.

East Nottinghamshire Sandlands RCA

- D1 Village Farmlands
 - Small additional area introduced in middle of D2 Village Farmlands with Plantation LCA.
 - Slight differences in boundaries near Collingham.
- D2 Village Farmlands with Plantations
 - Boundaries similar apart from small area reclassified as D1 Village Farmlands LCA.

South Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA

- E1 Meadowlands
 - Boundaries better aligned with watercourses/hydrology.
- E2 Village Farmlands
 - Boundaries changed in relation to watercourses/hydrology within E1 Meadowlands LCA (see above).

Appendix C

Field Survey Sheets

Criteria used to inform fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Topography
- Distinctive landform features
- Scale of landform

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Field size/scale and regularity
- Settlements/existing built structures
- Semi-natural land cover

Historic landscape character

- Visible historic features including buildings and landscape features

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Open/enclosed
- Intervisibility with surrounding landscapes
- Skylines: Prominent/distinctive/undeveloped/landmark features
- Existing energy development

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Remoteness
- Tranquillity

- Attractive character – combinations of features/visual contrasts/signs of human influence and development

Field survey results

Sherwood RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (A1)

Date visited

- 19 November 2025

Locations visited

- Oxton
- Oxton Bypass, Ollerton Road, A614/Old Rufford Road, Mansfield Road, Kirklington Road
- Robin Hood Hill, Robin Hood Way
- Lockwell Hill
- White Post Farm Centre
- Bilsthorpe, Rainworth

Fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Large scale field pattern
- More rural feel to the south

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Intensive agriculture to north
- Flatter areas less sensitive however feel more settled
- Pleasure park/petting farm in centre of LCA

Historic landscape character

- Influence of Oxton Conservation Area on the landscape – rural
- Can see spire from Farnsfield but not prominent

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Large scale solar to the north on either side of the main road A617
- Elevated in north
- Wind turbines to north skyline

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Sensitive around lower field of Robin Hood Hill
- Busy road corridors – affects tranquillity
- Recreational development around road corridor
- South/south-east more tranquil

Sherwood RCA: Meadowlands LCA (A2)

Date visited

- 18 November 2025

Locations visited

- Walesby, Kirton
- Tuxford Road
- Oxton Bogs
- Nottingham Road
- Oxton Bypass

Fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Narrow band sensitive to development due to scale
- Kirton residential – larger scale fields north but rising landform to the west
- Views from Ollerton Woods viewpoint

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Riparian and deciduous woodland
- Not many field boundaries in terms of hedgerows, well established along the roads
- Industrial estate north influence however well-established screening
- Fly tipping Boughton Dyke

Historic landscape character

- Not much Oxtun influence
- Kirton some influence of residential

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Intervisibility with A1 on higher ground
- One turbine on the skyline
- Rising ground surrounding the site
- Pylons/OHLs form a feature of skyline to north
- Wooded horizons

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Road influence on tranquillity
- Hill Epperstone Park south-east

Sherwood RCA: Wooded Estatelands LCA (A3)

Date visited

- 18 November 2025

Locations visited

- Thoresby Park and wider estate
- Budby North Forest
- Sherwood Forest Country Park and Sherwood Pines
- Edwinstowe, Gorsethorpe, Clipstone, Rainworth (picnic area), Blidworth
- A6075, Blidworth Lane, Baulker Lane, A617
- Pumping station to south
- Brick Kiln Hill

Fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Enclosed woodland and meadow to the north
- Big estates and associated parkland
- Undulating – may be more complex, feels elevated and open around Kings Wood
- Rainworth elevated

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Turbines may alter sense of scale in woodland
- Some arable farming where there isn't woodland
- Landscape can be complex around estates, simpler where there are plantations
- Commercial and farmed further north
- Kings Clipstone/Clipstone – large scale pylons on skyline, agriculture

Historic landscape character

- Ancient woodland (including the Major Oak)
- Large presence of historic estates/parkland
- GDLs

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Limited intervisibility
- Can see some turbines on skyline above trees from north to east. Pylons and road seen in same views.
- Sherwood Forest – views of turbines in elevated locations (rare) edge of Edwinstowe south-east
- Church tower in Edwinstowe visible – caution around residential areas and skylines
- Residential areas more enclosed

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Recreational – highly sensitive?
- Woodland tranquil, busy road corridors
- Areas of high recreational value less tranquil due to visitor centres/high foot traffic
- Around Blidworth and Rainworth less sensitive, not much intervisibility
- Wentworth bypass influence

Sherwood RCA: Wooded Farmlands LCA (A4)**Date visited**

- 18 November 2025

Locations visited

- Clipstone

- Vicar Water Country Park
- Blidworth Lane

Fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Small scale LCA
- Potential blurring with A3
- Steep/more hilly – views across other LCAs

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Human development influence – residential to the edge of Clipstone
- Influence to the north from ex-mining
- Substation on way into Clipstone

Historic landscape character

- Mining towers

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Southern extent largely covered by Lindhurst Wind Farm
- Wooded edges
- Viewpoint to the north in Vicar Water Country Park – some wind turbines longer distance and middle to the south-west OHLs/pylons amongst woodland.

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Doesn't feel remote
- Not particularly tranquil – some areas in country park, views are of urban development however
- Road influence

Sherwood RCA: Meadowlands with Plantations LCA (A5)

Date visited

- 18 November 2025

Locations visited

- Robin Hood's Cave (close view into LCA)
- Thoresby Park
- A614, west of New Ollerton (close view into LCA)
- A614, west of Cutt's Wood (close view into LCA)
- Rufford Abbey

Fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Gently incised valleys
- Distinctive landscape feature of Robin Hood's Cave on the edge of this LCA
- Intricate scale landform due to the gentle river incisions which occupy the majority of the LCA, with there being no large areas without these features

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Riparian woodland key feature – often adjacent to other areas of woodland
- Hedgerows present – geometric pattern
- More formally planted estate woodlands associated with historic designed landscapes
- Arable fields

Historic landscape character

- Thoresby Park and Rufford Abbey contribute to a sense of history and time depth in the north and centre

- The river corridors are linked into the wider setting of these historic landscapes, however in some smaller areas there is a stronger visual divide between the river and historic designed landscape (e.g. within the formal garden of Rufford Abbey) – therefore the historic landscape is not eligible from parts of this LCA

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Wooded skylines are characteristic due to nearby woodland on slightly rising ground
- The settlement of Ollerton/New Ollerton is visible in open and close distance views, so skylines are locally occupied by buildings and contemporary infrastructure

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Sense of tranquillity and seclusion experienced from the formal parks, particularly Thoresby Park
- Riparian woodland along the river corridors are an attractive feature, especially when, from more open points, the river and trees can be seen meandering
- Limited feeling of naturalness in more open fields due to arable use, presence of buildings on the skyline, and nearby main roads

Sherwood RCA: Estate Farmlands LCA (A6)

Date visited

- 18 November 2025

Locations visited

- Brake Road, north-east of Brake Wood
- Robin Hood Cave
- Thoresby Park
- A614, west of New Ollerton
- A614, west of Cutt's Wood
- Rufford Abbey

Fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Medium to large-scale
- Rather flat to gently undulating, with rolling fields

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Large and very large-scale agricultural fields with some hedgerow presence, sometimes gappy
- The north-east particularly feels intensively farmed
- Very sparsely settled though larger settlements are visible on the skyline (New Ollerton)
- Large estate plantations
- More formal planting associated with historic landscapes (Thorsby Park, Rufford Abbey)

Historic landscape character

- Thoresby Park and Rufford Abbey exert a historic influence, including estate woodland, ornamental planting, prominent historical architecture

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Strong intervisibility and connectivity with LCA A5 along the river corridors
- Flat landform = non-prominent skylines, mostly of estate plantations or woodland and limited to close distance views
- Rural character
- OHLs are somewhat prominent, near Rufford Abbey

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Predominantly rural but influenced by managed landscapes (formal parks)
- Road movement and noise reduces tranquillity from parts of the LCA

- Higher scenic value in the estate parks

Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCA (B1n)

Date visited

- 18 and 19 November 2025

Locations visited

- A616 between Ompton and Kneesall
- OS viewpoint, south of Mapelbeck
- Minor road between Bathley and Norwell
- Minor road north of Norwell, multiple stopping points
- Ossington Road, north of Ossington
- Green Lane, west of Moorhouse
- Weston Road, east of A1
- Acre Edge Road, west of Laxton
- Acre Edge Road, east of Wellow Park
- Kneesall Road, by Kneesall Wood
- Ollerton Road, north-east of Kirkton

Fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Much more undulating than surrounding LCAs, with almost instant changes perceived, particularly to the north-east adjacent to Trent Washlands RCA
- Large scale landform, undulations are also large scale (gently rolling, no strong topographic features)
- Landform results in openness particularly from more elevated plateaus

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Medium to large fields which are enclosed by intact hedgerows
- Lack of trees, resulting in openness, particularly in the north
- More woodland present in the south and at the boundary with Sherwood RCA in the west (predominantly on hill tops)

Historic landscape character

- Laxton historic landscape is highly visible due to the elevation and openness in the north, leading to a legible sense of history
- Presence of conservation areas

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Pylons are locally prominent within the landscape
- Visibility across River Greet towards Southwell, within protected views area
- Limited outward views from the valley areas, with the skylines being characteristically wooded
- Skylines are less prominent in the more elevated, open areas due to them being of higher elevation than surrounding landscape areas, with long distance visibility afforded

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Road influence – primarily minor roads, with moderate to low amount of traffic. Roads intermittently visible across landscape (in medium distance views) due to frequent undulations. But feels somewhat remote.
- Sense of tranquillity and rurality experienced in the wooded area near Ossington
- Conservation areas and frequent villages provide attractive focal features

Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCA (B1s)

Date visited

- 17 and 18 November 2025

Locations visited

- Southwell Road, east of Oxton Hill Farm
- Southwell Road, north of Thurgarton
- Robin Hood Hill, multiple locations along path and summit

Fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Medium to large scale, gently undulating landform
- More prominent topography in some areas, predominantly Robin Hood Hill
- Dumble valleys associated with small watercourses, gently incised

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Farmed landscape, primarily arable, with hedgerows enclosing fields
- Well wooded both within valley areas, and on the more elevated hilltop locations

Historic landscape character

- Key views across Southwell including historic church

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Fields relatively enclosed from roads, due to frequent roadside vegetation/field boundary hedgerows
- Skylines: Southwell Minster prominent (tower and two spires, appearing as multiple buildings above a wooded skyline)

- No notable presence of wind farms or solar farms, but pylons appear on the horizon

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Feeling of traditional rurality experienced away from main roads and in more wooded areas
- However, the A6097 reduces tranquillity in the south-west.
- The varied topography coupled with the intricate valleys and hilltop woodlands offer scenic value

Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Meadowlands LCA (B2)

Date visited

- 18 and 19 November 2025

Locations visited

- Robin Hood Way along River Greet, north of Southwell
- Robin Hood Way along River Greet, by Maythorne Farm
- Corkhill Lane, south-east of Kirklington
- Wheatgrass Hill/A617, south-east of Hockerton
- Green Lane, Moorhouse
- Weston Road, east of A1

Fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Gently rolling topography
- Flatter flood plains

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Riparian woodland is a key feature
- Hedgerows and riparian woodland connecting to woodland blocks

Historic landscape character

- Views towards Southwell Minster overlooking River Greet

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Riparian woodland partially encloses views, including often screening views towards the watercourses
- Views generally more enclosed than surrounding LCAs, partially due to the presence of roadside hedgerows and riparian woodland, and surrounding more elevated/undulating landform

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Natural character experienced, especially away from minor roads and along PRoWs following watercourses
- Riparian woodland links up with woodland blocks
- Sense of tranquillity experienced due to screening/enclosure from built elements, and natural features which coalesce (e.g. to provide a well wooded landscape)

Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Estate Farmlands with Plantations LCA (B3)**Date visited**

- 18 November 2025

Locations visited

- Deerdale Lane, multiple stopping points
- Robin Hood Way

Fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Relatively flat topography with gentle undulations rising to manmade spoil heaps in the south
- The spoil heaps are the most distinctive landform feature
- Medium scale

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Large agricultural fields
- Sparsely settled with few scattered farm buildings

Historic landscape character

- Rufford Abbey parkland estate contributes to historic character – woodland belts, further limits public access to the LCA

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- South of the LCA has a more developed character
- Woodland within the LCA and rising ground to the east results in a sense of enclosure and limited outward views
- Skylines are not particularly prominent, except from the containing rising ground which has woodland atop it
- Open views from Robin Hood Way (long distance walking route)
- Solar farms within LCA are glimpsed from the roads

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- The southern area is much more fragmented by development/infrastructure
- Parkland landscapes (Rufford Abbey) are of scenic value, especially in comparison to the agricultural landscapes

Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmland LCA (B4)

Date visited

- 18 and 19 November 2025

Locations visited

- Corkhill Land, multiple stopping points north of Southwell
- Wheatgrass Hill, A617, south-east of Hockerton
- Southwell Road, near Oxton
- Robin Hood Way, just north of Oxton
- Epperstone Road/Oxton Bypass junction
- Eaking Road, south of Wellow

Fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Gently rolling landform, medium to large scale
- More intricate scale undulations and incisions where the LCA meets B2/River Greet

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Medium to large-scale arable fields
- Presence of tall hedgerows
- Several small settlements and frequent individual farmsteads

Historic landscape character

- Most prominently, open views across River Greet towards Southwell Minster, Southwell skyline overall, including woodland is notable

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Rural character of the skyline due to frequent human scale features
- Prominent skylines around Southwell, primarily wooded but key views (in protected view cone) towards Minster
- Somewhat limited intervisibility due to presence of tall hedgerows. Coupled with the gently rolling undulations and lower-lying regions closer to River Greet
- Views south near Epperstone are contained by rising landform just beyond the LCA (within B1s)

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Strong sense of rurality away from main roads
- Reduced tranquillity in the south due to main road A6097
- Dumble valleys contribute to scenic value
- Pylons reduce the scenic value locally

Trent Washlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (C1)**Date visited**

- 19 and 20 November 2025

Locations visited

- Holme
- South-east of Bathley
- South Muskham
- Averham
- Rolleston
- Farndon
- Fiskerton
- Hoveringham
- Gunthorpe

Fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Very flat, low-lying landform associated with River Trent
- Medium to large scale

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Strong low hedgerows, especially along rural roads, occasional hedgerow trees
- Small blocks of woodland
- Mixed arable and grazing
- Large farm barns visible outside of villages

Historic landscape character

- Picturesque riverside villages e.g. Holme, Averham, Rolleston. Strong connections to the river.

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Views to rising wooded ridges to the north-west (Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands B1n Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands)
- Industrial buildings on edge of Newark visible e.g. sugar factory
- Church towers and pylons, especially around Staythorpe substation and power stations on floodplain, are vertical structures in the flat landscape

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Some road noise close to the A1
- Sense of enclosure from the rising wooded hills to the north-west
- Views towards the river are attractive and peaceful

Trent Washlands RCA: River Meadowlands LCA (C2)

Date visited

- 19 and 20 November 2025

Locations visited

- Besthorpe Nature Reserve
- Holme
- Farndon
- Rolleston
- East Stoke
- Caythorpe

Fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Very flat, low-lying floodplain of the River Trent
- Steep wooded bluffs in south-east
- Medium to large scale

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Restoration of previous mineral extraction, large ponds and areas of woodland e.g. Besthorpe nature reserve
- Arable and pasture fields, low hedgerows
- Riparian vegetation and small blocks of woodland
- Industrial complexes on the floodplain including power stations
- Strong transport connections including A roads and railways

Historic landscape character

- Picturesque riverside villages with strong connection to the river e.g. Gunthorpe, Fiskerton
- Church towers and spires visible

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Very open character
- Church towers and spires visible
- Wooded ridge on horizon to the east and west
- Pylons very visible
- Small turbines visible

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Some road noise close to the A1
- Sense of enclosure from the rising wooded hills to the north-west
- Views towards the river are attractive and peaceful

East Nottinghamshire Sandlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (D1)**Date visited**

- 19 and 20 November 2025

Locations visited

- South edge of Newark
- Winthorpe
- Stapleford Lane
- Edge of Collingham
- South Scarle
- Clifton Hill

- Harby

Fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Flat landform
- Some small hills e.g. north of Collingham, Clifton Hill
- Large scale

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Low hedgerows, some hedgerow trees
- Generally arable, some grazing around edges of settlements and small hills

Historic landscape character

- Small rural villages
- Red brick common
- Stone churches with low towers, not that visible across the landscape

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Long views in the north across the Trent Valley e.g. from Clifton Hill
- Wooded horizons to the east and west
- Pylons visible across the landscape. Otherwise an undeveloped skyline.
- Small existing wind turbines visible, some outside of the LCA (e.g. in views west/south-west from Clifton Hill), others within the LCA

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Edges of Newark more urban including showground
- A1, A46 and to a lesser extent A1133 are busy roads. Traffic noise nearby. Higher levels of tranquillity in more distant locations e.g. Barnby in the Willows, Harby

- New edge of Newark stark in the landscape, although still under construction

East Nottinghamshire Sandlands RCA: Village Farmlands with Plantations LCA (D2)

Date visited

- 19 November 2025

Locations visited

- Besthorpe
- Harby
- Thorney

Fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Flat, low-lying landform
- Small hill at Potter Hill only noticeable variation in topography
- Large-scale

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Strong low hedgerows, especially along rural roads, occasional hedgerow trees
- Small blocks of woodland
- Generally arable, some grazing around edges of settlements

Historic landscape character

- Very small villages, feel more modern apart from Besthorpe
- Farms and larger farm buildings visible across the landscape

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Relatively enclosed visual character due to tree cover, with woodland blocks often creating wooded horizon
- Pylons and small existing wind turbines visible

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- A1133 in west and A46 in south-east are audible but largely a tranquil and rural character

South Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Meadowlands LCA (E1)**Date visited**

- 18 November 2025

Locations visited

- Shore Lane
- Edge of Balderton
- Hawton
- Thorpe
- Moor Lane

Fieldwork observations**Landform and scale**

- Flat landform
- Large scale

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Hedgerows low but intact, occasional trees

- A mix of sheep grazing and arable

Historic landscape character

- Village church towers often visible

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Open, generally undeveloped skyline
- Views of pylons, turbines and church towers are prominent vertical features
- Some views to smaller individual turbines from west and south e.g. from Thorpe and Staunton
- Newark wind farm prominent in north of LCA

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Some fly tipping, road noise and construction noise on edge of Balderton
- New edges of Balderton/Newark stark in the landscape
- A46 road noise interrupts otherwise tranquil landscape in the west, although road is often visually screened

South Nottinghamshire Farmlands RCA: Village Farmlands LCA (E2)

Date visited

- 18 November 2025

Locations visited

- Shire Lane/B6326
- Cotham
- Thorpe
- East Stoke
- Sverston

- Staunton in the Vale
- Alverton

Fieldwork observations

Landform and scale

- Flat landform
- Steep wooded bank at Stoke very distinctive
- Large scale

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns, and presence of human scale features)

- Hedgerows low but intact, occasional trees
- Generally arable, some grazing around edges of settlements and farm buildings

Historic landscape character

- Thorpe is a red brick, historic village
- Distinctive parkland character around Staunton Hall/church
- Village church towers often visible

Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)

- Wooded horizons to west and south
- Pylons very prominent and break skyline
- Views to solar farms south of Alverston and north of Cotham largely hidden by hedgerows
- Newark wind farm prominent in north of LCA
- Some views to smaller individual turbines from south around Staunton/Kilvington

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- New edge of Balderton stark in the landscape, although still under construction

- A46 road noise interrupts otherwise tranquil landscape, although road is often visually screened
- Views of A1 and related industry along the road from e.g. Cotham but generally tranquil

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