Test Valley Borough Council

Test Valley Landscape Sensitivity Assessment of Wind and Solar Developments

Final report
Prepared by LUC
December 2020

Test Valley Borough Council

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Contents

Chapter 1
Introduction and context

Introduction to study

1.1 LUC and the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) were commissioned by Test Valley Borough Council in December 2019 to prepare a renewable energy and low carbon study for the Borough.

1.2 This Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (LSA) has been prepared alongside an assessment of the technical potential for wind and solar energy developments within the Borough. The results of the study aim to provide an indication of landscape sensitivity across the Borough, so that potential landscape opportunities and constraints can be considered in addition to the technical opportunities/constraints for these developments.

1.3 This chapter sets out the scope and policy context for the study.

Scope of assessment

1.4 This assessment focuses on the potential landscape issues associated with onshore wind energy and ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) developments. It does not provide guidance on the wide range of other planning issues that may need to be considered as part of the preparation and determination of planning applications.

1.5 The results of the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (see Chapter 3 and Appendix 1) provide an initial indication of the relative landscape sensitivities of different areas within Test Valley to wind and solar PV energy developments and guidance for accommodating such developments in the Borough's landscape. It should not however be interpreted as a definitive statement on the suitability of a certain location for a particular development. All developments will need to be assessed on their individual merits as part of a detailed planning application.

Policy context

European Landscape Convention

1.6 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) came into force in the UK in March 2007. It established the need to recognise landscape in law; to 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.

1.7 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."*

1.8 Signing up to the ELC means that the UK is committed on the one hand to protect, manage and develop our landscapes and on the other 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".*

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

1.9 The Government published an updated and revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in February 2019, which sets out the environmental, social and economic planning policies for England. This superseded the July 2018 NPPF, which replaced the original version published in March 2012. Central to the 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.

1.10 One of the overarching objectives that underpins the NPPF is set out in Paragraph 8: *"an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment."*

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

1.12 The NPPF is explicit in its requirement for development plan policies to protect and where appropriate, enhance the landscape. Paragraph 170 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".*

1.13 At paragraph 127(c), it states that "*Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments … are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding environment and landscape setting".*

1.14 Specifically with regard to renewable and low carbon development, the NPPF states that to help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, local plans should provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts).

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG)

1.15 Further guidance is provided in the PPG on how local planning authorities can identify suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy. It states that when:

> *"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. Landscape Character Assessment is a process used to explain the type and characteristics of landscape in an area. Natural England has used Landscape Character Assessment to identify 159 National Character Areas in England which provide a national level database. Landscape Character Assessment carried out at a county or district level may provide a more appropriate scale for assessing the likely landscape and visual impacts of individual proposals."*

Local Policy

1.16 The Revised Local Plan for Test Valley (2011-2029) was adopted in 2016. This document sets out the development plan for the Borough and sets out a series of policies to provide clear guidance on how the Council will respond to development proposals.

1.17 The Local Plan is clear about its commitment to supporting measures which mitigate against climate change. Paragraph 7.50 states that *"The Council supports the principle of energy generating proposals which help mitigate and adapt to climate change within both defined settlements and the countryside. The Council will consider the merits of such proposals against the relevant policies of the Local Plan".*

1.18 Policy E1 'High Quality Development in the Borough states that:

> *"Development will be permitted if it is of a high quality in terms of design and local distinctiveness. To achieve this development:*
>
> - *a) should integrate, respect and complement the character of the area in which the development is located in terms of layout, appearance, scale, materials and building styles;*

- *b) should not detract from the dominance of, or interrupt important views of, key landmark buildings or features;*
- *c) should be laid out to provide connectivity between spaces and a positive relationship between public and private spaces; and*
- *d) makes efficient use of the land whilst respecting the character of the surrounding area and neighbouring uses.*

Development will not be permitted if it is of poor design and fails to improve the character, function and quality of the area."

1.19 Conservation of landscape character within the Borough is supported policy within the Local Plan. Policy E2 'Protect, Conserve and Enhance the Landscape Character of the Borough' states that:

"To ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of the landscape of the Borough development will be permitted provided that:

- *a) it does not have a detrimental impact on the appearance of the immediate area and the landscape character of the area within which it is located;*
- *b) it is designed and located to ensure that the health and future retention of important landscape features is not likely to be prejudiced;*
- *c) the existing and proposed landscaping and landscape features enable it to positively integrate into the landscape character of the area;*
- *d) arrangements for the long term management and maintenance of any existing and proposed landscaping have been made;*
- *e) it conserves the landscape and scenic beauty of the New Forest National Park or the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty where applicable; and*
- *f) does not result in the loss of important local features such as trees, walls, hedges or water courses."*

1.20 The Council is currently working on the preparation of the next Local Plan.

The North Wessex Downs AONB

1.21 A proportion of the north of the Test Valley Borough, to the north of Andover is within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The North Wessex Downs AONB is a nationally important protected landscape. There is a presumption against major development in AONBs, except in exceptional circumstances, as set out in paragraph 172 of the NPPF. However, the landscape sensitivity assessment undertaken has included areas of the North Wessex Downs AONB. Any potential impacts of development on the AONB special qualities have been considered.

1.22 The North Wessex Downs was designated in 1972 and is the third largest AONB in the country, covering an area of 1,730 km^2 (668 sq miles). The AONB spans across central southern England, from Clane in the west to the route of the river Thames in the east, where it abuts the Chilterns AONB. The northern extent of the AONB runs through southern Swindon, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire, whilst the south encircles Newbury. AONBs are designated for the fine quality of their landscape, which does not simply refer to the visual appearance of the landscape, but includes flora, fauna, geological/physiographical features, man-made, historic and cultural associations and our sensory perceptions of it.

1.23 The North Wessex Downs AONB is distinctive for its landscape of vast, dramatic and undeveloped chalk downlands. Special qualities of this landscape include an abundance of different and distinctive land coverages, including semi-natural chalk grassland as well as the well-wooded plateaux, arable lands and intimate and secluded valleys. The landscape boasts a series of diverse chalk habitats including internationally rare chalk streams, as well as rich mosaic of woodland, pasture, heath and common land. The ancient origins of this landscape are reflected in its features of cultural heritage significance as well as many historic market towns. The open, largely uninhabited landscape of the downland retains a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity with dark night skies, a notable contrast to surrounding more developed areas.

1.24 In 2019 the North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2019-2024 was adopted. The primary purpose of this document is to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the AONB's natural beauty and with regards to planning. To ensure this, the management plan sets out a series of objectives (within Chapter 7) in relation to development. Those which are applicable to wind and solar PV developments are as follows:

- *"DE 01: Encourage all proposals for new development, redevelopment and re-use to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the North Wessex Downs. Oppose forms of development that fail to conserve and enhance the character and quality of the AONB and its setting and to make reference to the AONB's published guidance.*
- *DE 05: Encourage the consideration of landscape, including historic landscape, impacts at the earliest opportunity in the planning process through preparation of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Landscape and Visual Appraisal and Environmental*

Impact Assessment reports as appropriate to the location.

- *DE 12 Encourage the retention of existing and provision of new 'Green Infrastructure'. Ensure that Green Infrastructure (including new or enhanced biodiversity assets) is incorporated within the area of all 'major developments', both within and in the setting of the AONB."*

1.25 In 2006, the North Wessex Downs AONB Partnership commissioned LUC to undertake a study to identify the sensitivities and constraints of the landscape to wind turbines[1]. The study concluded that all areas within the AONB are constrained to a degree to the potential of wind turbine development. Four landscape types were deemed to be 'highly sensitive' to wind energy developments including 'River Valleys' such as the 'Bourne Valley', partially within the Test Valley Borough. The remaining four landscape types were classified as 'moderately – highly' constrained to wind turbine development, including the Downland with Woodland character type, which makes up the majority of the AONB landscape within the Test Valley Borough.

The New Forest National Park

1.26 A small proportion of the south-west of the Test Valley Borough is within the New Forest National Park. This area was excluded from the Landscape Sensitivity assessment as planning matters for this area of the Borough fall under the remit of the National Park Authority. However, it is important to consider the influence of development outside of the National Park boundaries may have on the designated landscape. The Landscape Action Plan for the New Forest National Park states that "*Wind farm developments visible from the National Park… could have an impact on views into and out of the National Park*".

Structure of this report

1.27 The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 2** summarises the method that was used to undertake the landscape sensitivity assessment.
- **Chapter 3** sets out the findings of the study.
- **Chapter 4** provides guidance on the siting of wind and ground-mounted solar PV developments.

[1] North Wessex Downs AONB A Study of Landscape Sensitivities and Constraints to Wind Turbine Development (2006)

Chapter 2
Methodology

Introduction

2.1 This chapter summarises the method that was used to undertake the landscape sensitivity assessment including the key sources of evidence used, the scales of development considered and the assessment criteria and process followed.

2.2 As outlined in Chapter 1, the south-western corner of Test Valley Borough lies within the New Forest National Park and planning matters for this area of the Borough fall under the remit of the National Park Authority. The New Forest National Park was therefore excluded from this assessment. The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) lies partly within the Borough and this falls under the planning control of Test Valley Borough Council and hence was included in the Assessment.

Spatial and descriptive framework

2.3 The 2018 Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment[2] was used as the spatial framework for the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment, with an assessment conducted for each of the 12 Landscape Character Types (LCTs). The Test Valley Landscape Character Assessment therefore forms the primary evidence base for the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment. This spatial framework is illustrated in **Figure 2.1**. A thorough desk-based study drawing on other sources of spatial and descriptive information about the landscape was supplemented by field survey work by a team of landscape professionals to verify the findings.

2.4 Other key sources of information used to inform the assessment include:

- Ordnance survey base maps (1:250K, 1:50K and 1:25K);
- Biodiversity designations (international, national and local);
- Heritage designations (national);
- Relevant Local Authority data for Conservation Areas;
- Aerial photography (Google Earth);
- North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan[3]

[2] Test Valley Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2018)

[3] North Wessex Downs AONB Management Plan 2019-2024 (2019)

LUC

Figure 2.1: Spatial framework for the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Landscape Character Areas

- 2 Pasture and Woodland Associated with Heathland
  - 2A Embley Wood and Heathland
  - 2B North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic
- 3 Mixed Farmland and Woodland - Medium Scale
  - 3A Baddesley Mixed Farm and Woodland
  - 3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland
  - 3C Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland
- 4 Mixed Farmland and Woodland - Small Scale
  - 4A Sherfield English
  - 4B Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland
- 5 River Valley Floor
  - 5A Lower Test Floodplain
  - 5B Middle Test Valley Floor
  - 5C Upper Test Valley Floor
  - 5D Dun River Valley Floor
  - 5E King's Somborne River Valley Floor
  - 5F Wallop Brook Valley Floor
  - 5G River Dever Valley Floor
  - 5H Pillhill Brook Valley Floor
  - 5I Upper River Anton Valley Floor
  - 5J Lower River Anton Valley Floor
- 6 Enclosed Chalk and Clay Woodland
  - 6A Norman Court Wooded Downs
  - 6B Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods
  - 6C Little Somborne Wooded Downs
  - 6D Harewood Forest Wooded Downs
  - 6E Amport Wooded Downs
  - 6F Rushmore Wooded Downs
  - 6G Faccombe Wooded Downs
- 7 Semi-enclosed Chalk and Clay Farmland
  - 7A Ashley Downs
  - 7B Broughton Downs
  - 7C Linkenholt Downs
- 8 Enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland
  - 8A Tangley and Doles Wood
- 9 Semi-enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland
  - 9A North Andover Plateau
- 10 Open Chalklands
  - 10A East Dean Chalk Downland
  - 10B King's Somborne Chalk Downland
  - 10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland
  - 10D Leckford and Chilbolton Downs
  - 10E Drayton Chalk Downland
  - 10F Andover Chalk Downland
  - 10G Cholderton Downs
- 11 Chalk Downland Ridges
  - 11A Quarley Hill Downs
- 12 Bourne Valleys
  - 12A River Swift Valley
  - 12B: River Bourne Valley

Test Valley Borough Council Boundary
New Forest National Park
North Wessex Downs AONB

0 5 10 km

Map scale
1:200,000 @ A3

CB:XX EB:Packham_B LUC Fig2_1_10953_Spatial_Framework_for_LSA_a 26/08/2020
Source: TVBC, NE

Test Valley Borough Council

Type and scale of developments considered

Wind turbines

2.5 This Landscape Sensitivity Assessment applies to all forms of turbines, although it was based on the most common horizontal axis three-bladed turbine. The development scenarios considered in this study are outlined in **Table 2.1**. The LSA assesses sensitivity to the 'principle' of development, and does not include an assessment of the potential cumulative impacts of multiple developments or schemes with multiple turbines.

Table 2.1: Wind turbine development sizes/scales

Turbine Height (to blade tip)	Turbine scale bandings
Up to 25m	Very small wind installation
25m to 60m	Small wind installation
60m to 100m	Medium wind installation
100m to 150m	Large wind installation
150m to 200m	Very large wind installation

Field Scale Solar PV

2.6 The assessment was based on field scale PV developments. It considers the suitability of different scales of solar PV development based on bandings that reflect those that are most likely to be put forward by developers (now and in the future). These are set out in **Table 2.2** below:

Table 2.2: Solar development sizes/scales

Solar PV size	Solar PV scale bandings
Up to 1ha	Very small solar PV installation
1 to 5 hectares	Small solar PV installation
5 to 20 hectares	Medium solar PV installation
20 to 50 hectares	Large solar PV installation
50-120 hectares	Very large solar PV installation

2.7 The assessment covers wind and field scale solar PV developments as they can have an impact at a landscape scale. Other forms of renewable energy technology e.g. solar PV/ hot water heating on roofs, ground source heat pumps, 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.

Evaluating landscape sensitivity

2.8 The landscape sensitivity assessment was undertaken in line with Natural England's 'An approach to landscape sensitivity assessment – to inform spatial planning and land management', June 2019. The assessment also drew on best practice in recent assessments completed by LUC and others.

2.9 The study uses the following definition of landscape sensitivity:

'Landscape sensitivity is the extent to which the character and quality of the landscape is susceptible to change as a result of wind or solar PV developments.'

Assessment criteria

2.10 In line with the recommendations in Natural England's guidance, carefully defined criteria have been used to assess the sensitivity of landscape character. The criteria were based on attributes of the landscape most likely to be affected by wind energy and solar PV developments.

2.11 This landscape sensitivity assessment used seven criteria headings to identify sensitive landscape features to both wind and solar development. The following criteria headings were used:

- Landform and scale;
- Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features;
- Tracks / transport pattern;
- Skylines / intervisibility;
- Perceptual qualities including sense of openness/enclosure;
- Historic landscape character; and
- Scenic and special qualities.

2.12 **Table 2.3** sets out the criteria that were used for the assessment of landscape sensitivity to the principle of wind energy developments and solar PV developments. It includes guidance and examples of higher and lower sensitivity features for applying the criteria in Test Valley which were then verified through professional judgement and field verification for each Landscape Character Type.

2.13 It should also be noted that due to the horizontal nature of solar energy development, some criteria (e.g. skylines) are less of an important consideration when assessing landscape sensitivity.

Table 2.3: Criteria and guidance for assessing landscape sensitivity to wind energy and solar PV developments

Landform and scale				
A smooth gently sloping or flat landform is likely to be less sensitive to wind energy development 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. Landscapes with frequent human scale features that are traditional of the landscape, such as stone farmsteads and small farm woodlands may be particularly sensitive to larger turbines. This is because large features such as wind turbines may dominate smaller scale traditional features within the landscape. A flat or gently undulating lowland landscape or extensive plateau is likely to be less sensitive to solar development than a landscape with prominent landforms and visible slopes, including hills and knolls. This is because arrays of solar panels will be less easily perceived in a flat landscape than on a slope, especially higher slopes. Larger scale landforms are also likely to be less sensitive than smaller scale landforms.				
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
An extensive lowland flat landscape or elevated plateau, often a larger scale landform.	A simple gently rolling landscape, likely to be a medium-large scale landform.	An undulating landscape, perhaps also incised by valleys, likely to be a medium scale landform, with hidden areas as well as some visible slopes	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.	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.

Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features				
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, and landscapes with frequent human-scale features that are traditional to the landscape, such as red-brick villages, farmsteads, small farm woodlands, trees and hedges. This is because larger wind turbines may dominate traditional human scale features within the landscape. Since solar 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) are likely to be less sensitive to field-scale solar development than highly rural or naturalistic landscapes. Landscapes with small-scale, more irregular field patterns are likely to be more sensitive to the introduction of solar development 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).				
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
An open, continuous landscape with uniform land cover and lacking in human-scale features, or an urban or 'brownfield' landscape.	A landscape of large open fields, little variety in land cover, with occasional human-scale features such as trees and domestic buildings.	A landscape with medium sized fields (or a mix of modern and historic enclosure), some variations in land cover and presence of human-scale features such as trees and domestic buildings. A rural landscape which may contain some brownfield sites or urban influences	A landscape with irregular or small-scale fields, variety in land cover and presence of human-scale features such as trees and domestic buildings. A rural landscape, perhaps with some areas of semi-natural land cover.	A landscape with a strong variety in land cover, and complex patterns, containing numerous human-scale features and semi-natural land cover. The field pattern may be characterised by small-scale, ancient fields.

Tracks / transport pattern				
Landscapes that are devoid of tracks will be particularly sensitive to wind energy development because it will be more difficult to absorb permanent new tracks into the landscape without change to character in these areas. In addition, if a Landscape Character Area (LCA) has a rural road network which contributes to landscape character (e.g. winding narrow lanes bounded by high hedgebanks or sunken lanes), this aspect of character may be affected by access works to enable HGVs carrying turbines to a site. This characteristic therefore also influences sensitivity. The construction of solar PV development is less likely to require the construction of new tracks, although this is a possibility.				
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
A landscape containing existing roads and vehicular tracks, and no restrictions in terms of narrow hedged lanes.	A landscape containing existing roads and vehicular tracks, and few restrictions in terms of narrow hedged lanes.	A landscape containing some existing roads and vehicular tracks, including some restrictions in terms of narrow hedged lanes.	A landscape containing few lanes or vehicular tracks, and these are predominantly narrow lanes bounded by high hedgebanks.	A landscape devoid of roads or vehicular tracks.

Skylines / intervisibility				
Prominent and distinctive and/or undeveloped skylines, or skylines with important landmark features, are likely to be more sensitive to wind energy development 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, the addition of turbines may lead to visual confusion, and as such this may not be a consistent indicator of reduced sensitivity. The relative visibility of a landscape may influence its sensitivity to wind and solar PV development. An elevated landscape such as a hill range or plateau, which is viewed from other landscapes, may be more sensitive than an enclosed landscape, since any turbines/solar panels will be more widely seen. Landscapes which have important visual relationships with other areas, for example where one area provides a backdrop to a neighbouring area, 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.				
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
A landscape in which skylines are not prominent, and there are no important landmark features on the skyline. An enclosed, self-contained landscape, or one with weak connections to neighbouring areas.	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 LCTs may be more prominent. A landscape with limited connections to neighbouring areas, and/or where adjacent landscapes are not visually related.	A landscape with some prominent skylines, but these are not particularly distinctive – there may be some landmark features on the skyline. A landscape which has some inter-visibility with neighbouring areas, and/or where relationships between adjacent landscapes are of more importance.	A landscape with prominent skylines that may form an important backdrop to views from settlements or important viewpoints, and/or with important landmark features. A landscape which is intervisible with several areas, and/or where adjacent areas are strongly interrelated.	A landscape with prominent or distinctive undeveloped skylines, or with particularly important landmark features on skylines. A landscape which has important visual relationships with one or more neighbouring areas.

Perceptual qualities including sense of openness/enclosure				
Landscapes that are relatively remote or tranquil tend to be more sensitive to wind energy/solar PV development, since turbines or panels 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. Qualities such as tranquillity can be found even in settled areas, where the influence of overtly modern development is reduced. Renewable energy development will generally be less intrusive in landscapes which are strongly influenced by modern development, including settlement, industrial and commercial development and infrastructure. A landscape with a strong sense of enclosure (e.g. provided by land cover such as woodland or high hedgebanks) is likely to be less sensitive to solar PV development than an open and unenclosed landscape because the development will be less easily perceived, especially at a distance, in an enclosed landscape.				
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
A landscape with much human activity and modern development, such as industrial areas. A very well enclosed landscape – perhaps provided by thick, high hedgebanks and hedgerows, tree belts and woodland.	A rural or semi-rural landscape with much human activity and dispersed modern development, such as settlement fringes. A relatively high level of enclosure provided by hedgebanks and thick hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees.	A rural landscape with some modern development and human activity, such as intensive farmland. A landscape with some open and some more enclosed areas – likely to be a rural landscape with some hedgebanks and hedgerows and tree belts.	A more naturalistic landscape and/or one with little modern human influence and development. An open landscape with little sense of enclosure (low, few or no hedgebanks or hedgerows, few trees).	A tranquil landscape with little or no overt sign of modern human activity and development. An extremely open landscape such as an unenclosed plateau with no field boundaries or trees.

Historic landscape character				
Landscapes which contain important archaeological or historic features are likely to have a higher level of sensitivity to wind energy/ solar PV development. Historical features may be in the form of historic land cover types and field systems, areas of buried archaeology, historic designed landscapes such as Registered Parks and Gardens or structures designated for their historical significance. Landscapes which make a significant contribution to the setting of a historical feature or landscapes may also have higher sensitivity to wind energy/solar PV development. Landscapes that are primarily of modern influence and origin will have a lower sensitivity to wind energy/solar PV development.				
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
A landscape with relatively few historic features important to the character of the area and little time depth (i.e. large intensively farmed fields).	A landscape with a small number of historic features important to the character area and some time depth.	A landscape with some visible historic features of importance to character, and a variety of time depths.	A landscape with many historic features important to the area and a strong sense of time depth.	A landscape with a high density of historic features important to the character of the area and great time depth (i.e. piecemeal enclosure with irregular boundaries, ridge and furrow)

Scenic and special qualities				
Landscapes that have a high scenic quality will be more sensitive than landscapes of low scenic quality. Scenic qualities can include contrasts and combinations of landform and landcover which together contribute to attractive views. Scenic qualities may be 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.				
Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
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 of limited attractive character, with few pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements.	A landscape of intermittently attractive character, with occasional pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements.	A landscape of attractive character, with some pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements.	A landscape of consistently attractive character, with pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements.

Making an overall judgement on landscape sensitivity

2.14 Once the criteria were assessed individually, the results were drawn together into an overall score for landscape sensitivity for that LCT. For some LCTs, landscape sensitivity varies between its component LCAs and any variations are identified and described in the profiles. These are shown in the individual assessments compiled in **Appendix 1**.

2.15 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 landscape sensitivity is the result of a complex interplay of often unequally weighted variables (or 'criteria').

2.16 There may be one criterion that has a particularly strong influence on landscape sensitivity which increases the overall sensitivity score (an example might be a landscape with a prominent/highly visible skyline, or particularly high levels of tranquillity or remoteness). There may also be criteria that produce conflicting scores. For example, a settled landscape, while containing greater human influence (indicating a lower sensitivity), will also include more human scale features that could be affected by large-scale wind turbines (indicating a higher sensitivity). Conversely, a more remote landscape will lack the human scale features but is likely to present a higher sensitivity from a perceptual point of view. In these situations, a professional judgement is made on overall sensitivity, taking all criteria into account in the context of their importance to landscape character and quality overall.

Judging landscape sensitivity to different sizes of development

2.17 The next stage of the assessment led to an overall judgement on landscape sensitivity to different sizes (turbine heights) of wind energy development and different scales of solar PV development.

2.18 Sensitivity is judged on a five-point scale as shown in **Table 2.4** below. These sensitivity ratings can apply to any landscape in England – they are not specific to the Test Valley. Sensitivity verdicts are based on professional judgement and the relative importance of each criterion varies between LCTs; key characteristics may identify where a particular criterion is more important, and should therefore be given greater weight in the judgement of sensitivity.

Table 2.4: The five-point sensitivity scale

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High (H)	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 (M-H)	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 turbines/ solar panels without significantly changing landscape character. Great care would be needed in siting and design.
Moderate (M)	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 (L-M)	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 (L)	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.

Chapter 3
Overview of results

Summary of landscape sensitivity across Test Valley

3.1 The overall results of the landscape sensitivity assessment are set out in **Tables 3.1 and 3.2.** The overall results are also mapped in **Figures 3.1** to **3.5** (for wind energy) and **Figures 3.6** to **3.10** (for solar PV).

3.2 The aim of the maps is to show visually the results of the landscape sensitivity assessment at the LCT/LCA level; they are not intended to illustrate the visual impacts of individual wind energy developments on the surrounding landscape. That would need to be undertaken for individual schemes, aided by the use of computer-generated maps of 'Zones of Theoretical Visibility' (ZTVs) and visualisations.

3.3 The LCTs/LCAs in Test Valley often contain areas of higher and lower sensitivity within them that vary from the overall sensitivity 'score'. **It is therefore very important to take note of the content of the individual landscape sensitivity assessments, including any commentary which highlights areas which deviate from the overall sensitivity.**

Table 3.1: Overall landscape sensitivity scores to different wind scenarios

Landscape Character area (LCA)	Overall sensitivity to wind development				
	Very small: up to 25m	Small: 25m to 60m	Medium: 60m to 100m	Large: 100m to 150m	Very large: 150m to 200m
2A Embley Wood and Heathland	M	M-H	M-H	H	H
2B North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
3A Baddesley Mixed Farm and Woodland	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
3C Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland	M	M	M-H	H	H
4A Sherfield English	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
4B Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
5A Lower Test Floodplain	L	L-M	M	M-H	H
5B Middle Test Valley Floor	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
5C Upper Test Valley Floor	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
5D Dun River Valley Floor	M	M-H	M-H	H	H
5E King's Somborne River Valley Floor	M	M-H	M-H	H	H
5F Wallop Brook Valley Floor	M	M-H	M-H	H	H
5G River Dever Valley Floor	M	M-H	M-H	H	H
5H Pillhill Brook Valley Floor	M	M-H	H	H	H
5I Upper River Anton Valley Floor	M	M-H	H	H	H
5J Lower River Anton Valley Floor	M	M-H	H	H	H
6A Norman Court Wooded Downs	M	M-H	H	H	H
6B Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods	M	M-H	H	H	H
6C Little Somborne Wooded Downs	M	M-H	H	H	H
6D Harewood Forest Wooded Downs	M	M-H	H	H	H
6E Amport Wooded Downs	M	M-H	H	H	H
6F Rushmore Wooded Downs	M-H	H	H	H	H
6G Faccombe Wooded Downs	M-H	H	H	H	H
7A Ashley Downs	L-M	M	H	H	H
7B Broughton Downs	L-M	M	H	H	H
7C Linkenholt Downs	M-H	M-H	H	H	H

Landscape Character area (LCA)	Overall sensitivity to wind development				
	Very small: up to 25m	Small: 25m to 60m	Medium: 60m to 100m	Large: 100m to 150m	Very large: 150m to 200m
8A Tangley and Doles Wood	M-H	H	H	H	H
9A North Andover Plateau	L-M	M	H	H	H
10A East Dean Chalk Downland	L-M	M	M	M-H	H
10B King's Somborne Chalk Downland	L-M	M	M	M-H	H
10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland	L-M	M	M	M-H	H
10D Leckford and Chilbolton Downs	L-M	M	M	M-H	H
10E Drayton Chalk Downland	L-M	M	M	M-H	H
10F Andover Chalk Downland	L-M	M	M	M-H	H
10G Cholderton Downs	L-M	M	M	M-H	H
11A Quarley Hill Downs	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
12A River Swift Valley	M-H	H	H	H	H
12B River Bourne Valley	M-H	H	H	H	H

Table 3.2: Overall landscape sensitivity scores to different solar PV scenarios

Landscape Character area (LCA)	Overall sensitivity to solar PV development				
	Very small: Up to 1ha	Small: 1-5 hectares	Medium: 5-20 hectares	Large: 20-50 hectares	Very large: 50-120 hectares
2A Embley Wood and Heathland	L-M	M	M	M-H	M-H
2B North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic	L	L-M	M	M-H	M-H
3A Baddesley Mixed Farm and Woodland	L	L-M	M	M-H	H
3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland	L	L-M	M	M-H	H
3C Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
4A Sherfield English	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
4B Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
5A Lower Test Floodplain	L-M	M	M-H	M-H	H
5B Middle Test Valley Floor	L-M	M	M-H	M-H	H
5C Upper Test Valley Floor	L-M	M	M-H	M-H	H
5D Dun River Valley Floor	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
5E King's Somborne River Valley Floor	L-M	M	M-H	H	H

Landscape Character area (LCA)	Overall sensitivity to solar PV development				
	Very small: Up to 1ha	Small: 1-5 hectares	Medium: 5-20 hectares	Large: 20-50 hectares	Very large: 50-120 hectares
5F Wallop Brook Valley Floor	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
5G River Dever Valley Floor	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
5H Pillhill Brook Valley Floor	M	M-H	H	H	H
5I Upper River Anton Valley Floor	M	M-H	H	H	H
5J Lower River Anton Valley Floor	M	M-H	H	H	H
6A Norman Court Wooded Downs	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
6B Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
6C Little Somborne Wooded Downs	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
6D Harewood Forest Wooded Downs	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
6E Amport Wooded Downs	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
6F Rushmore Wooded Downs	M-H	M-H	H	H	H
6G Faccombe Wooded Downs	M-H	M-H	H	H	H
7A Ashley Downs	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
7B Broughton Downs	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
7C Linkenholt Downs	M	M-H	H	H	H
8A Tangley and Doles Wood	M-H	M-H	H	H	H
9A North Andover Plateau	L-M	L-M	M	M-H	H
10A East Dean Chalk Downland	M	M-H	M-H	H	H
10B King's Somborne Chalk Downland	L-M	M	M-H	M-H	H
10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland	L-M	M	M-H	M-H	H
10D Leckford and Chilbolton Downs	L-M	M	M-H	M-H	H
10E Drayton Chalk Downland	L-M	M	M-H	M-H	H
10F Andover Chalk Downland	L-M	M	M-H	M-H	H
10G Cholderton Downs	L-M	M	M-H	M-H	H
11A Quarley Hill Downs	L-M	M	M-H	H	H
12A River Swift Valley	M-H	H	H	H	H
12B River Bourne Valley	M-H	M-H	H	H	H

Figure 3.1: Overall landscape sensitivity to 'very small' wind energy development (up to 25 m)

Landscape Sensitivty
- Low
- Low - Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate - High
- High

Test Valley Borough Council Boundary
New Forest National Park
North Wessex Downs AONB

Landscape Character Area

2A Embley Wood and Heathland
2B North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic
3A Baddesley Mixed Farm and Woodland
3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland
3C Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland
4A Sherfield English
4B Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland
5A Lower Test Floodplain
5B Middle Test Valley Floor
5C Upper Test Valley Floor
5D Dun River Valley Floor
5E King's Somborne River Valley Floor
5F Wallop Brook Valley Floor
5G River Dever Valley Floor
5H Pillhill Brook Valley Floor
5I Upper River Anton Valley Floor
5J Lower River Anton Valley Floor
6A Norman Court Wooded Downs
6B Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods
6C Little Somborne Wooded Downs
6D Harewood Forest Wooded Downs
6E Amport Wooded Downs
6F Rushmore Wooded Downs
6G Faccombe Wooded Downs
7A Ashley Downs
7B Broughton Downs
7C Linkenholt Downs
8A Tangley and Doles Wood
9A North Andover Plateau
10A East Dean Chalk Downland
10B King's Somborne Chalk Downland
10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland
10D Leckford and Chilbolton Downs
10E Drayton Chalk Downland
10F Andover Chalk Downland
10G Cholderton Downs
11A Quarley Hill Downs
12A River Swift Valley
12B River Bourne Valley

0 5 10 km

Map scale 1:200,000 @ A3

CB: EB:Packham_B LUC Fig3_1_10953_Very_Small_Wind_LSA 10/12/2020
Source: TVBC, LUC

Figure 3.2: Overall landscape sensitivity to 'small' wind energy development (25 m to 60 m)

Landscape Sensitivty

- Low
- Low - Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate - High
- High

- Test Valley Borough Council Boundary
- New Forest National Park
- North Wessex Downs AONB

Landscape Character Area

2A Embley Wood and Heathland
2B North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic
3A Baddesley Mixed Farm and Woodland
3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland
3C Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland
4A Sherfield English
4B Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland
5A Lower Test Floodplain
5B Middle Test Valley Floor
5C Upper Test Valley Floor
5D Dun River Valley Floor
5E King's Somborne River Valley Floor
5F Wallop Brook Valley Floor
5G River Dever Valley Floor
5H Pillhill Brook Valley Floor
5I Upper River Anton Valley Floor
5J Lower River Anton Valley Floor
6A Norman Court Wooded Downs
6B Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods
6C Little Somborne Wooded Downs
6D Harewood Forest Wooded Downs
6E Amport Wooded Downs
6F Rushmore Wooded Downs
6G Faccombe Wooded Downs
7A Ashley Downs
7B Broughton Downs
7C Linkenholt Downs
8A Tangley and Doles Wood
9A North Andover Plateau
10A East Dean Chalk Downland
10B King's Somborne Chalk Downland
10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland
10D Leckford and Chilbolton Downs
10E Drayton Chalk Downland
10F Andover Chalk Downland
10G Cholderton Downs
11A Quarley Hill Downs
12A River Swift Valley
12B River Bourne Valley

0 5 10 km

Map scale
1:200,000 @ A3

CB: EB:Packham_B LUC Fig3_2_10953_Small_Wind_LSA 10/12/2020
Source: TVBC, LUC

Figure 3.3: Overall landscape sensitivity to 'medium' wind energy development (60 m to 100 m)

Landscape Sensitivty

- Low
- Low - Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate - High
- High

Test Valley Borough Council Boundary
New Forest National Park
North Wessex Downs AONB

Landscape Character Area

2A Embley Wood and Heathland
2B North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic
3A Baddesley Mixed Farm and Woodland
3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland
3C Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland
4A Sherfield English
4B Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland
5A Lower Test Floodplain
5B Middle Test Valley Floor
5C Upper Test Valley Floor
5D Dun River Valley Floor
5E King's Somborne River Valley Floor
5F Wallop Brook Valley Floor
5G River Dever Valley Floor
5H Pillhill Brook Valley Floor
5I Upper River Anton Valley Floor
5J Lower River Anton Valley Floor
6A Norman Court Wooded Downs
6B Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods
6C Little Somborne Wooded Downs
6D Harewood Forest Wooded Downs
6E Amport Wooded Downs
6F Rushmore Wooded Downs
6G Faccombe Wooded Downs
7A Ashley Downs
7B Broughton Downs
7C Linkenholt Downs
8A Tangley and Doles Wood
9A North Andover Plateau
10A East Dean Chalk Downland
10B King's Somborne Chalk Downland
10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland
10D Leckford and Chilbolton Downs
10E Drayton Chalk Downland
10F Andover Chalk Downland
10G Cholderton Downs
11A Quarley Hill Downs
12A River Swift Valley
12B River Bourne Valley

0 5 10 km

Map scale 1:200,000 @ A3

CB: EB:Packham_B LUC Fig3_3_10953_Medium_Wind_LSA 16/12/2020
Source: TVBC, LUC

Figure 3.4: Overall landscape sensitivity to 'large' wind energy development (100 m to 150 m)

Landscape Sensitivty

- Low
- Low - Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate - High
- High

- Test Valley Borough Council Boundary
- New Forest National Park
- North Wessex Downs AONB

Landscape Character Area

2A Embley Wood and Heathland
2B North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic
3A Baddesley Mixed Farm and Woodland
3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland
3C Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland
4A Sherfield English
4B Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland
5A Lower Test Floodplain
5B Middle Test Valley Floor
5C Upper Test Valley Floor
5D Dun River Valley Floor
5E King's Somborne River Valley Floor
5F Wallop Brook Valley Floor
5G River Dever Valley Floor
5H Pillhill Brook Valley Floor
5I Upper River Anton Valley Floor
5J Lower River Anton Valley Floor
6A Norman Court Wooded Downs
6B Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods
6C Little Somborne Wooded Downs
6D Harewood Forest Wooded Downs
6E Amport Wooded Downs
6F Rushmore Wooded Downs
6G Faccombe Wooded Downs
7A Ashley Downs
7B Broughton Downs
7C Linkenholt Downs
8A Tangley and Doles Wood
9A North Andover Plateau
10A East Dean Chalk Downland
10B King's Somborne Chalk Downland
10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland
10D Leckford and Chilbolton Downs
10E Drayton Chalk Downland
10F Andover Chalk Downland
10G Cholderton Downs
11A Quarley Hill Downs
12A River Swift Valley
12B River Bourne Valley

Map scale
1:200,000 @ A3

0 5 10 km

CB: EB:Packham_B LUC Fig3_4_10953_Large_Wind_LSA 10/12/2020
Source: TVBC, LUC

Figure 3.5: Overall landscape sensitivity to 'very large' wind energy development (150 m to 200 m)

Landscape Sensitivty

- Low
- Low - Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate - High
- High

Test Valley Borough Council Boundary
New Forest National Park
North Wessex Downs AONB

Landscape Character Area

2A Embley Wood and Heathland
2B North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic
3A Baddesley Mixed Farm and Woodland
3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland
3C Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland
4A Sherfield English
4B Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland
5A Lower Test Floodplain
5B Middle Test Valley Floor
5C Upper Test Valley Floor
5D Dun River Valley Floor
5E King's Somborne River Valley Floor
5F Wallop Brook Valley Floor
5G River Dever Valley Floor
5H Pillhill Brook Valley Floor
5I Upper River Anton Valley Floor
5J Lower River Anton Valley Floor
6A Norman Court Wooded Downs
6B Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods
6C Little Somborne Wooded Downs
6D Harewood Forest Wooded Downs
6E Amport Wooded Downs
6F Rushmore Wooded Downs
6G Faccombe Wooded Downs
7A Ashley Downs
7B Broughton Downs
7C Linkenholt Downs
8A Tangley and Doles Wood
9A North Andover Plateau
10A East Dean Chalk Downland
10B King's Somborne Chalk Downland
10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland
10D Leckford and Chilbolton Downs
10E Drayton Chalk Downland
10F Andover Chalk Downland
10G Cholderton Downs
11A Quarley Hill Downs
12A River Swift Valley
12B River Bourne Valley

0 5 10 km

Map scale
1:200,000 @ A3

CB: EB:Packham_B LUC Fig3_5_10953_Very_Large_Wind_LSA 10/12/2020
Source: TVBC, LUC

Figure 3.6: Overall landscape sensitivity to 'very small' solar PV development (up to 1 ha)

Landscape Sensitivty

- Low
- Low - Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate - High
- High

Test Valley Borough Council Boundary
New Forest National Park
North Wessex Downs AONB

Landscape Character Area

2A Embley Wood and Heathland
2B North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic
3A Baddesley Mixed Farm and Woodland
3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland
3C Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland
4A Sherfield English
4B Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland
5A Lower Test Floodplain
5B Middle Test Valley Floor
5C Upper Test Valley Floor
5D Dun River Valley Floor
5E King's Somborne River Valley Floor
5F Wallop Brook Valley Floor
5G River Dever Valley Floor
5H Pillhill Brook Valley Floor
5I Upper River Anton Valley Floor
5J Lower River Anton Valley Floor
6A Norman Court Wooded Downs
6B Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods
6C Little Somborne Wooded Downs
6D Harewood Forest Wooded Downs
6E Amport Wooded Downs
6F Rushmore Wooded Downs
6G Faccombe Wooded Downs
7A Ashley Downs
7B Broughton Downs
7C Linkenholt Downs
8A Tangley and Doles Wood
9A North Andover Plateau
10A East Dean Chalk Downland
10B King's Somborne Chalk Downland
10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland
10D Leckford and Chilbolton Downs
10E Drayton Chalk Downland
10F Andover Chalk Downland
10G Cholderton Downs
11A Quarley Hill Downs
12A River Swift Valley
12B River Bourne Valley

0 5 10 km

Map scale
1:200,000 @ A3

CB: EB:Packham_B LUC Fig3_5_10953_Very_Small_Solar_LSA 10/12/2020
Source: TVBC, LUC

Figure 3.7: Overall landscape sensitivity to 'small' solar PV development (1 to 5 ha)

Landscape Sensitivty

- Low
- Low - Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate - High
- High

- Test Valley Borough Council Boundary
- New Forest National Park
- North Wessex Downs AONB

Landscape Character Area

2A Embley Wood and Heathland
2B North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic
3A Baddesley Mixed Farm and Woodland
3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland
3C Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland
4A Sherfield English
4B Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland
5A Lower Test Floodplain
5B Middle Test Valley Floor
5C Upper Test Valley Floor
5D Dun River Valley Floor
5E King's Somborne River Valley Floor
5F Wallop Brook Valley Floor
5G River Dever Valley Floor
5H Pillhill Brook Valley Floor
5I Upper River Anton Valley Floor
5J Lower River Anton Valley Floor
6A Norman Court Wooded Downs
6B Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods
6C Little Somborne Wooded Downs
6D Harewood Forest Wooded Downs
6E Amport Wooded Downs
6F Rushmore Wooded Downs
6G Faccombe Wooded Downs
7A Ashley Downs
7B Broughton Downs
7C Linkenholt Downs
8A Tangley and Doles Wood
9A North Andover Plateau
10A East Dean Chalk Downland
10B King's Somborne Chalk Downland
10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland
10D Leckford and Chilbolton Downs
10E Drayton Chalk Downland
10F Andover Chalk Downland
10G Cholderton Downs
11A Quarley Hill Downs
12A River Swift Valley
12B River Bourne Valley

0 5 10 km

Map scale
1:200,000 @ A3

CB: EB:Packham_B LUC Fig3_7_10953_Small_Solar_LSA 10/12/2020
Source: TVBC, LUC

Figure 3.8: Overall landscape sensitivity to 'medium' solar PV development (5 to 20 ha)

Landscape Sensitivty

- Low
- Low - Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate - High
- High

Test Valley Borough Council Boundary
New Forest National Park
North Wessex Downs AONB

Landscape Character Area

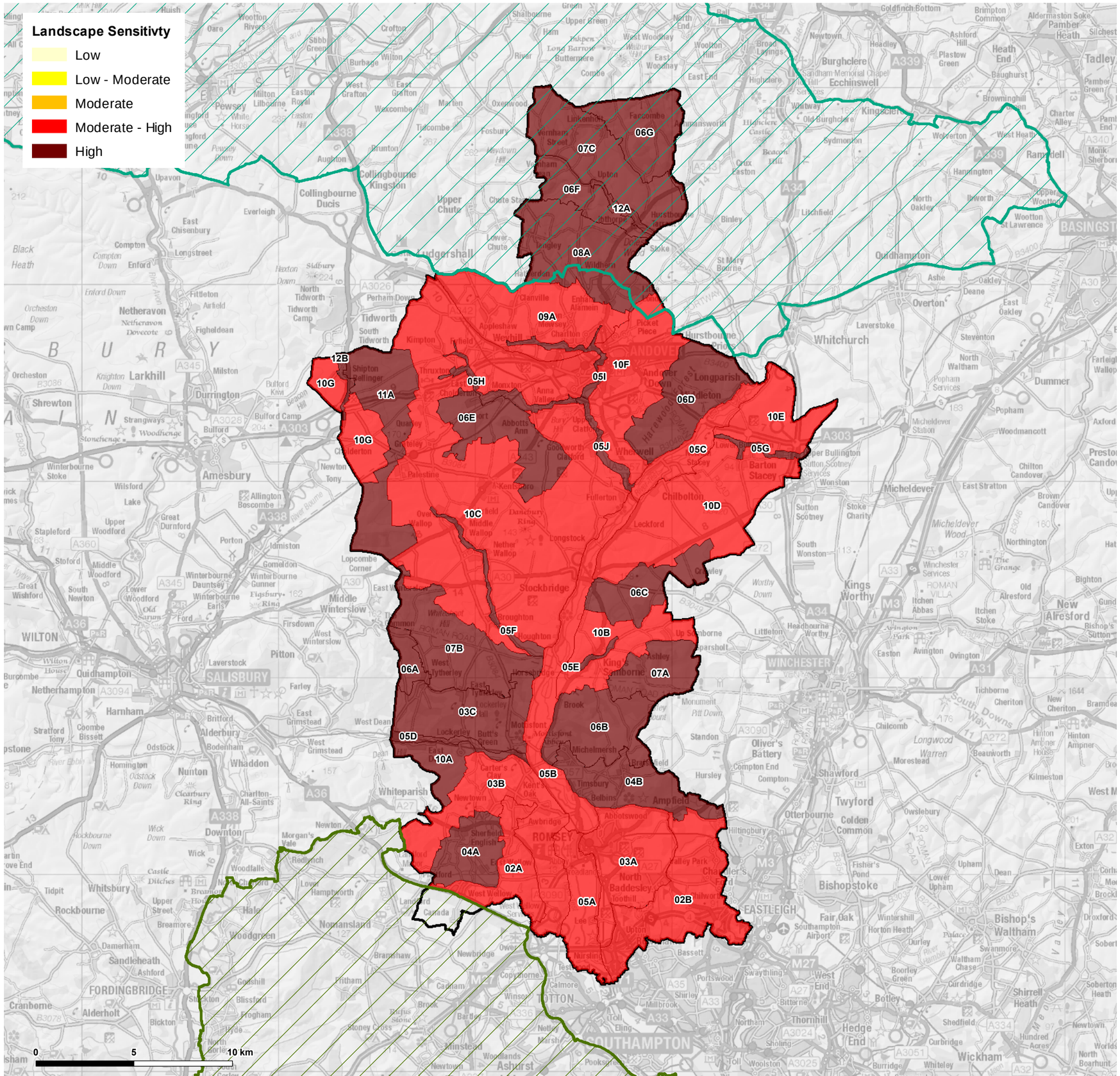
2A Embley Wood and Heathland
2B North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic
3A Baddesley Mixed Farm and Woodland
3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland
3C Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland
4A Sherfield English
4B Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland
5A Lower Test Floodplain
5B Middle Test Valley Floor
5C Upper Test Valley Floor
5D Dun River Valley Floor
5E King's Somborne River Valley Floor
5F Wallop Brook Valley Floor
5G River Dever Valley Floor
5H Pillhill Brook Valley Floor
5I Upper River Anton Valley Floor
5J Lower River Anton Valley Floor
6A Norman Court Wooded Downs
6B Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods
6C Little Somborne Wooded Downs
6D Harewood Forest Wooded Downs
6E Amport Wooded Downs
6F Rushmore Wooded Downs
6G Faccombe Wooded Downs
7A Ashley Downs
7B Broughton Downs
7C Linkenholt Downs
8A Tangley and Doles Wood
9A North Andover Plateau
10A East Dean Chalk Downland
10B King's Somborne Chalk Downland
10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland
10D Leckford and Chilbolton Downs
10E Drayton Chalk Downland
10F Andover Chalk Downland
10G Cholderton Downs
11A Quarley Hill Downs
12A River Swift Valley
12B River Bourne Valley

0 5 10 km

Map scale
1:200,000 @ A3

CB: EB:Packham_B LUC Fig3_8_10953_Medium_Solar_LSA 10/12/2020
Source: TVBC, LUC

Figure 3.9: Overall landscape sensitivity to 'large' solar PV development (20 to 50 ha)



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CB: EB:Packham_B LUC Fig3_9_10953_Large_Solar_LSA 10/12/2020
Source: TVBC, LUC

Test Valley Borough Council Boundary
New Forest National Park
North Wessex Downs AONB

Landscape Character Area

2A Embley Wood and Heathland
2B North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic
3A Baddesley Mixed Farm and Woodland
3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland
3C Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland
4A Sherfield English
4B Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland
5A Lower Test Floodplain
5B Middle Test Valley Floor
5C Upper Test Valley Floor
5D Dun River Valley Floor
5E King's Somborne River Valley Floor
5F Wallop Brook Valley Floor
5G River Dever Valley Floor
5H Pillhill Brook Valley Floor
5I Upper River Anton Valley Floor
5J Lower River Anton Valley Floor
6A Norman Court Wooded Downs
6B Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods
6C Little Somborne Wooded Downs
6D Harewood Forest Wooded Downs
6E Amport Wooded Downs
6F Rushmore Wooded Downs
6G Faccombe Wooded Downs
7A Ashley Downs
7B Broughton Downs
7C Linkenholt Downs
8A Tangley and Doles Wood
9A North Andover Plateau
10A East Dean Chalk Downland
10B King's Somborne Chalk Downland
10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland
10D Leckford and Chilbolton Downs
10E Drayton Chalk Downland
10F Andover Chalk Downland
10G Cholderton Downs
11A Quarley Hill Downs
12A River Swift Valley
12B River Bourne Valley

Map scale
1:200,000 @ A3

Figure 3.10: Overall landscape sensitivity to 'very large' solar PV development (50 to 120 ha)

Landscape Sensitivty

- Low
- Low - Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate - High
- High

Test Valley Borough Council Boundary
New Forest National Park
North Wessex Downs AONB

Landscape Character Area

2A Embley Wood and Heathland
2B North Baddesley to Chilworth Woodland Mosaic
3A Baddesley Mixed Farm and Woodland
3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland
3C Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland
4A Sherfield English
4B Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland
5A Lower Test Floodplain
5B Middle Test Valley Floor
5C Upper Test Valley Floor
5D Dun River Valley Floor
5E King's Somborne River Valley Floor
5F Wallop Brook Valley Floor
5G River Dever Valley Floor
5H Pillhill Brook Valley Floor
5I Upper River Anton Valley Floor
5J Lower River Anton Valley Floor
6A Norman Court Wooded Downs
6B Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods
6C Little Somborne Wooded Downs
6D Harewood Forest Wooded Downs
6E Amport Wooded Downs
6F Rushmore Wooded Downs
6G Faccombe Wooded Downs
7A Ashley Downs
7B Broughton Downs
7C Linkenholt Downs
8A Tangley and Doles Wood
9A North Andover Plateau
10A East Dean Chalk Downland
10B King's Somborne Chalk Downland
10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland
10D Leckford and Chilbolton Downs
10E Drayton Chalk Downland
10F Andover Chalk Downland
10G Cholderton Downs
11A Quarley Hill Downs
12A River Swift Valley
12B River Bourne Valley

Map scale
1:200,000 @ A3

0 5 10 km

CB: EB:Packham_B LUC Fig3_10_10953_Very_Large_Solar_LSA 10/12/2020
Source: TVBC, LUC

Chapter 4
Guidance on siting Wind and Solar PV developments

Generic Guidance on Siting Wind Energy Developments

4.1 The following provides some generic guidance on siting wind energy development, focussing on minimising landscape and visual effects. It is recognised that technologies need to be sited and designed to ensure a reasonable output.

4.2 In all cases the strategy for the relevant landscape character area should be considered when choosing potential sites for wind energy development. The following guidance should be followed for siting any wind energy development, whether it comprises one small turbine or multiple large turbines:

- Site wind energy developments away from dramatic rugged landforms or valued distinct landform features.
- Seek to avoid areas valued for their remoteness, areas free from human influence and perceived 'untamed' naturalness.
- Because of intrinsic historic landscape character significance, or potential for preserved archaeological evidence, avoid siting wind energy development on land with historic field boundaries. Some more recent but discrete enclosed landscapes may also be sensitive, particularly when associated with a Listed historic farmstead.
- Seek to avoid areas where ground level disturbance affects landscapes that are difficult to restore.
- Ensure siting of turbines does not adversely affect the distinctive characteristics and special qualities of the North Wessex Downs AONB or the New Forest National Park (as set out in designation documents and Management Plans).
- Ensure siting of turbines does not damage the special qualities of the landscape as recorded in the Test Valley Landscape Character Area descriptions.
- Aim to avoid or minimise adverse effects on views from important viewpoints (including views which are integral to the character of conservation areas and recognised/iconic views), popular tourist and scenic routes, and settlements.
- Consider locations in association with business parks and reclaimed, industrial and man-made landscapes

where other landscape sensitivities are not compromised.

- Consider the landscape effects of transmission infrastructure when siting development, aiming for sites that will minimise the need for above ground transmission infrastructure, particularly through AONBs and National Parks. Undergrounding cables may mitigate effects in sensitive locations.
- Consider sites where areas of existing vegetation could screen ground-level features of wind energy developments (such as fencing, tracks and transformers).
- The visibility of turbines from valleys and lower ground may be reduced if they are located on high plateau with concave or steep wooded slopes.
- Protect the character and setting of conservation areas (including views integral to their character), the setting to heritage assets (where the character of the landscape is an important part of their setting) and Registered/local historic parks and gardens/battlefields (including views to and from, particularly designated views).
- When siting medium, large or very large-scale turbines, avoid selecting sites on undeveloped or distinctive skylines, or skylines with important cultural or historic landmark features.
- When selecting sites consider potential effects of transporting turbines to site, and the possible limitations presented by winding narrow lanes.

4.3 When siting single turbines the following guidance should be considered:

- Consider siting turbines so they are perceived as part of other built development/in association with a building group where effects on amenity allow. For example, there may be some opportunity to site smaller single turbines in relation to farm buildings with larger scale single turbines sited in relation to larger businesses or community buildings - development should be commensurate with (or reflect) the scale of the associated buildings.

4.4 When siting multiple turbines the following guidance should be considered:

- Locate turbines on the most level part of a site or following contours to avoid a discordant variation of turbine heights.
- Seek to keep a turbine group within one landscape character type (particularly as perceived in sensitive views) so that turbines do not span across marked changes in character on the ground, such as changes in topography.

Additional considerations

4.5 Care should be taken when designing the detailed layout and design of turbines:

- Alternative options should be investigated to find the optimum layout and design of any new wind energy development.
- Consideration should also be given to the ancillary features of any new wind energy development, including access tracks, transformers, substation and control buildings and lighting, which must be accommodated into the landscape.
- The land use of the proposed site around the turbines must also be considered and where possible, the original land use should be continued.
- The possibility of landscape enhancement should be investigated with any new development.

Guidance for multiple wind developments and minimising cumulative landscape and visual impacts

4.6 As larger numbers of wind energy developments are built, it is increasingly necessary to consider their cumulative effects. Multiple developments can adversely affect the character of the landscape and people's perceptions of it. Development of multiple proposals may eventually result in a situation where wind energy developments become the overwhelming influence on the landscape.

4.7 Without an agreed strategy or thresholds of acceptable change for a particular landscape or area it is difficult for developers and decision makers to determine acceptable limits to development. A landscape strategy may help indicate how much development might be accommodated in a landscape. However, in the absence of thresholds or landscape strategies the guidance below can assist in minimising cumulative effects.

- When designing a wind energy development it is important to consider how the scheme fits with other existing, consented and proposed schemes (including within neighbouring planning authorities) to minimise cumulative effects.
- If wind energy development already exists in a particular type of landscape, further wind energy development could continue this pattern of development (e.g. small cluster on hill tops, or single turbines associated with buildings), as long as the existing development is considered appropriate in the context of landscape character.

- Ensure multiple developments do not detract from distinctive landforms and are in scale with ridges and hills.
- If two or more wind energy developments are clearly visible in the same view and appear in the same type of landscape they should appear of similar scale and design (including the number of blades and proportion of rotor diameter to tower height), unless the existing design is considered inappropriate – the closer they are to each other the more important this is.
- Ensure any wind energy scheme, or extension to an existing scheme, takes account of landscape sensitivity as well as any landscape strategies for wind energy development that may be available.
- It will be important to ensure that wind energy developments do not have a defining influence on the overall experience of the landscape and that some open views devoid of turbines are maintained within Test Valley.
- As multiple wind energy developments are built they may 'compete' with the landscape's original foci – it is important to maintain a hierarchy of focal points so that the original foci can still be appreciated in the landscape.
- Consider views from settlements when designing multiple wind energy developments – avoid 'surrounding' a settlement with wind turbines.
- Consider views from protected landscapes when designing multiple wind energy developments – avoid 'surrounding' a protected landscape with wind turbines.
- Individual wind energy developments should generally appear visually separate from each other unless specifically designed to create the appearance of a single combined wind farm.
- When designing wind farm extensions it will be important that scale of turbines (including the proportion of rotor diameter to tower height) and rotation speeds are compatible.

Generic Guidance on Siting Ground Mounted Solar PV Developments

4.8 The following provides some generic guidance on siting ground mounted solar PV development, focussing on minimising landscape and visual effects. It is recognised that technologies need to be sited and designed to ensure a reasonable output.

- Site solar PV development on lower slopes/within folds in gently undulating lowland landscapes or on flat plateau sites rather than on upper slopes.
- Any PV development on plateau landscapes should generally be set back from edges to minimise effects on views from surrounding areas.
- Site development in landscapes with a sense of enclosure (e.g. provided by woodland or high hedges) rather than in open and unenclosed landscapes.
- Consider views from local viewpoints, popular routes, recognised/iconic views, and designated landscapes when considering the siting of solar PV development in the landscape - site panels in areas where they can be well concealed or integrated into sensitive views.
- When siting development, consider the appearance of the development as viewed from the 'backs' and 'sides' (where frames will be more visible) as well as from the 'front'.
- For sites that are overlooked by higher ground the design of the site and how it integrates with the landscape will be particularly important.
- Prehistoric enclosures and medieval enclosures (including strip fields) are likely to be more sensitive to the introduction of solar PV development than more modern fields.
- Because of intrinsic historic landscape character significance, or potential for preserved archaeological evidence, avoid siting solar PV development on land with historic field patterns.
- Ensure sites do not span across marked changes in character on the ground.
- Avoid siting field-scale PV development in areas valued for their remoteness and free from human influence.
- Seek to avoid adverse effects on viewpoints (including views which are integral to the character of conservation areas and viewpoints in sensitive areas including recognised /iconic views), popular tourist and scenic routes and settlements.
- Sites in naturalistic landscapes will be more sensitive than sites in areas containing existing hard surfacing or built elements (e.g. urban areas, brownfield sites or large-scale horticulture).
- Consider providing enhanced management of landscape features, habitats and historic assets as part of a development, including contributing to wider landscape scale targets and projects.
- Consider how panels will be transported to site – rural lanes can be very narrow and have high hedges. Damage should be avoided, but if damage occurs reinstatement will be required.

- Ensure siting of solar PV development does not adversely affect the distinctive characteristics and special qualities of the North Wessex Downs AONB or the New Forest National Park (as set out in designation documents and Management Plans) - the more visible a development is in the landscape, the higher the risk that it may affect scenic quality/natural beauty.
- Ensure siting of solar PV development does not harm the special qualities of the landscape as recorded in the Test Valley Landscape Character Area descriptions.
- Protect the character and setting of conservation areas (including views integral to their character), the setting to heritage assets (where the character of the landscape is an important part their setting) and Registered/local historic parks and gardens/battlefields (including views to and from, particularly designated views).

Additional considerations

4.9 The detailed layout and design of any new solar PV development is an important consideration:

- Alternative site layouts should be investigated to compare the effects of different designs and to find the optimum layout and design of a solar PV development.
- Consideration should also be given to the ancillary features of any new solar PV development, including access tracks, inverters, cabinets or buildings, security features and lighting, which must be accommodated into the landscape.
- The land use of the proposed site as well as opportunities to provide landscape enhancements should be considered with any new solar PV development.

Guidance for multiple ground mounted solar developments and minimising cumulative landscape and visual impacts

4.10 Cumulative effects of multiple schemes are a significant issue for planning authorities to deal with. Without an agreed strategy or thresholds of acceptable change for a particular landscape or area it is difficult for developers and decision makers to determine acceptable limits to development. A landscape strategy may help indicate how much development might be accommodated in a landscape. However, in the absence of thresholds or landscape strategies the guidance below can assist in minimising cumulative effects.

- Ensure any solar PV development takes account of landscape sensitivity as well as any landscape strategies for solar PV development that may be available.
- When designing a solar PV development it is important to consider how the scheme fits with other existing, consented and proposed schemes (including within neighbouring planning authorities) to minimise cumulative effects.
- Aim for similarity of design between schemes that fall in the same type of landscape (in terms of siting, layout, scale, form and relationship to key characteristics) to maintain a simple image and reinforce links between landscape characteristics and design response.
- When designing extensions it will be important that scale and appearance of panels are compatible.
- Individual solar PV developments should generally appear visually separate unless specifically designed to create the appearance of a single combined development.
- It will be important to ensure that solar PV developments do not have a defining influence on the overall experience of the landscape and that some open views devoid of solar PV developments are maintained within the Test Valley.
- Ensure the area of development is in scale with the landscape in which it lies.
- If two or more solar PV developments are clearly visible in the same view and appear in the same Landscape Character Type they should appear of similar scale (unless the first development is considered too large for its landscape context) and their design should relate to the underlying landscape in the same way.
- Consider views from settlements when designing multiple solar PV developments – avoid ‘surrounding’ a settlement.

Appendix A

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment profiles

A.1 This Appendix contains the detailed Landscape Sensitivity Assessment profiles for each of the 11 LCTs which have been included in this study.

A.2 Each profile includes the following:

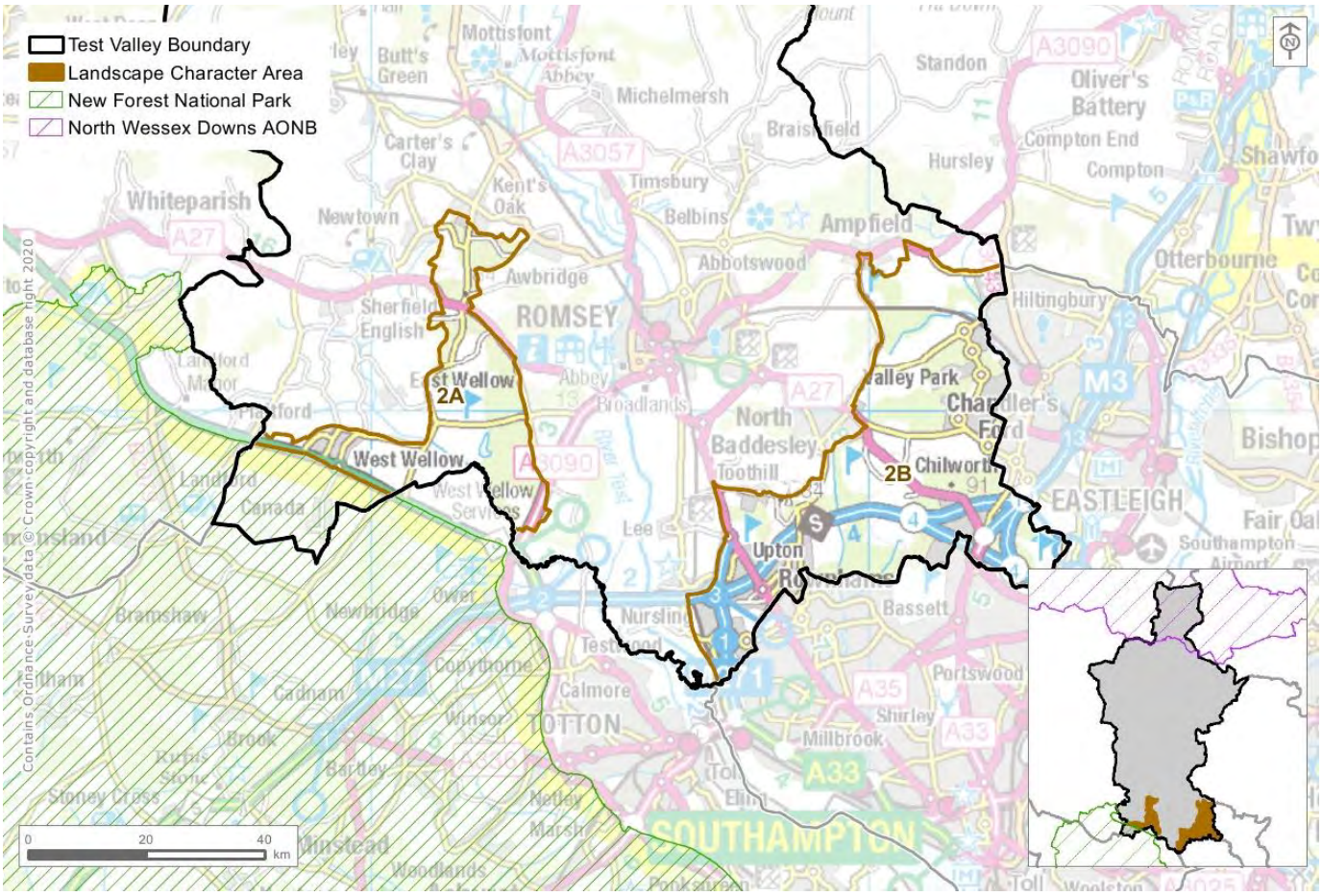
- A location map of the LCT and component LCAs within Test Valley Borough.
- An overview of the landscape character.
- Landscape sensitivity assessment results for wind and solar energy development.
- A commentary on any areas which deviate from the overall LCT sensitivity.

A.3 **Table A-1** provides a contents table of the full landscape sensitivity assessment profiles.

Table A-1: Contents table of LCT profiles

LCT 2: Pasture and Woodland Associated with Heathlands

Component LCAs: 2A Embley Wood and Heathland, 2B North Baddesley and Chilworth Woodland Mosaic



Pasture surrounded by woodland, showing pylons crossing the skyline

Horse paddocks enclosed by fencing and woodland

Overview of the Landscape Character Type

Within the Test Valley there are two areas of this LCT, both in the south of the borough on higher ground, associated with heathland fringe around the New Forest. More heavily wooded and influenced by non-agricultural human activity than the adjacent areas of mixed farmland and woodland to the north, the LCT is an enclosed landscape with pockets of low intensity grazed pasture in a well-wooded setting. Settlements within the LCT tend to be nucleated but open. Away from urban areas, land use is mainly pastoral. Parklands are a typical feature of this landscape type.

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Score solar	Score wind
Landform and scale	■ Very gently rolling landscape between 20 and 79 metres AOD, with small dry valleys, smooth ridges and no sharp escarpments. ■ There is a prominent ridgeline on the eastern boundary of Embley Park, where the land slopes gently towards the River Blackwater. ■ Fields tend to be small to medium in scale with a mix or irregular and regular shapes.	**L-M**	**M**
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features	■ Settlements are mainly nucleated and tend to be small but frequent. The rural-urban fringe of Chandler's Ford extends into the LCT. Away from urban areas, scattered farmsteads are common. ■ Parklands are a common feature of this landscape type, characterised by scattered mature trees, rows of trees, wood pasture, exotic trees, ancient pollards and veteran trees. ■ Extensive areas of ancient semi-natural woodland, plantations on ancient woodland sites and active coppice are linked by hedgerows. On higher ground, small and irregular areas of assarted woodland are evident. Trodds Copse Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is located in the north of LCA 2B. ■ Priority habitats include unimproved grassland and fragments of lowland heathland.	**M**	**M**
Tracks / transport pattern	■ Roads are mainly minor. The M27 intersects the south of LCA 2B and the A36 cuts across 2A. ■ North-south roads tend to be gently winding, in part following the contours. Roads running east-west are straighter and link settlements. ■ There are numerous footpaths within villages and across common land, sometimes linking settlements together.	**M**	**M**
Skylines / intervisibility	■ Views are generally short and are mostly limited to the next field boundary or woodland edge. There are occasional views across open water of lakes and adjacent small pasture fields enclosed by woodland. ■ Golf courses and residential development are visible, particularly on the urban fringe where woodland has been removed close to Eastleigh and Southampton. ■ Overhead electricity lines run parallel north of the M27, and pylons form prominent skyline features. ■ Occasional telecoms masts are often surrounded by trees which reduces their prominence in the skyline.	**L-M**	**M**
Perceptual qualities including sense of openness/enclosure	■ The high degree of woodland cover provides the area with a sense of remoteness despite proximity to settlements and major roads. The woodlands also contribute to a strong sense of enclosure. Areas of tranquillity can also be found within existing areas of parkland. ■ In areas where woodland has been removed, visibility of golf courses and residential development creates a suburban character. ■ Away from the A36 and M27, the landscape is valued for its quiet rural character in contrast to Southampton.	**L-M**	**M**
Historic Landscape Character	■ The presence of Iron Age earthworks Dunwood Camp, Castle Hill and Chilworth Ring scheduled monuments, Grade II Listed buildings in the villages of Chilworth and West Wellow, and a number of listed farmhouses scattered across the LCT reflect the long-term inhabitation of the area. ■ Two Registered Parks and Gardens (Embley Park and Awbridge Danes, both Grade II Listed) are present within the LCA 2A. ■ Where ground slopes down towards the valley floor, the agricultural landscape changes with more parliamentary fields, associated with the wooded areas.	**M**	**M**
Scenic and special qualities	■ Extensive areas of woodland, including ancient woodland, particularly in association with parkland. There is a strong interconnecting pattern of farmland and woodland. ■ Scattered traditional farmsteads, set within a pattern of small parliamentary fields maintain a rural character.	**M**	**M**

Criteria	Description	Score solar	Score wind
	■ Red brick cottages with slate roofs are characteristic of the traditional linear settlements.		

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to development scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCT (including between different LCAs within a given LCT), with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Sensitivity Assessment profile, particularly the boxes entitled 'Variations in landscape sensitivity within the LCT' and 'Notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity, by Landscape Character Area'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Landscape Character Type Level					
Development Scenario	Sensitivity				
Wind Scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m		**L-M**			
Small wind installation 25m to 60m			**M**		
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m				**M-H**	
Large wind installation 100m to 150m					**H**
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					**H**
Solar Scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha	**L**				
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares		**L-M**			
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares			**M**		
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares				**M-H**	
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares				**M-H**	
Variations in sensitivity within the LCT					
Areas which contribute to the setting of the New Forest National Park have higher levels of sensitivity to all renewable energy developments considered within the assessment. Areas which are influenced by existing development and infrastructure, including the urban fringes of Eastleigh and Southampton and the motorway corridors have reduced sensitivity to solar PV and wind energy developments due to the extensive infrastructure which is already present in these areas.					
Notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity, by Landscape Character Area					
LCA 2A: Embley Wood and Heathland					
Wind Scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m			**M**		
Small wind installation 25m to 60m				**M-H**	
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m				**M-H**	
Large wind installation 100m to 150m					**H**

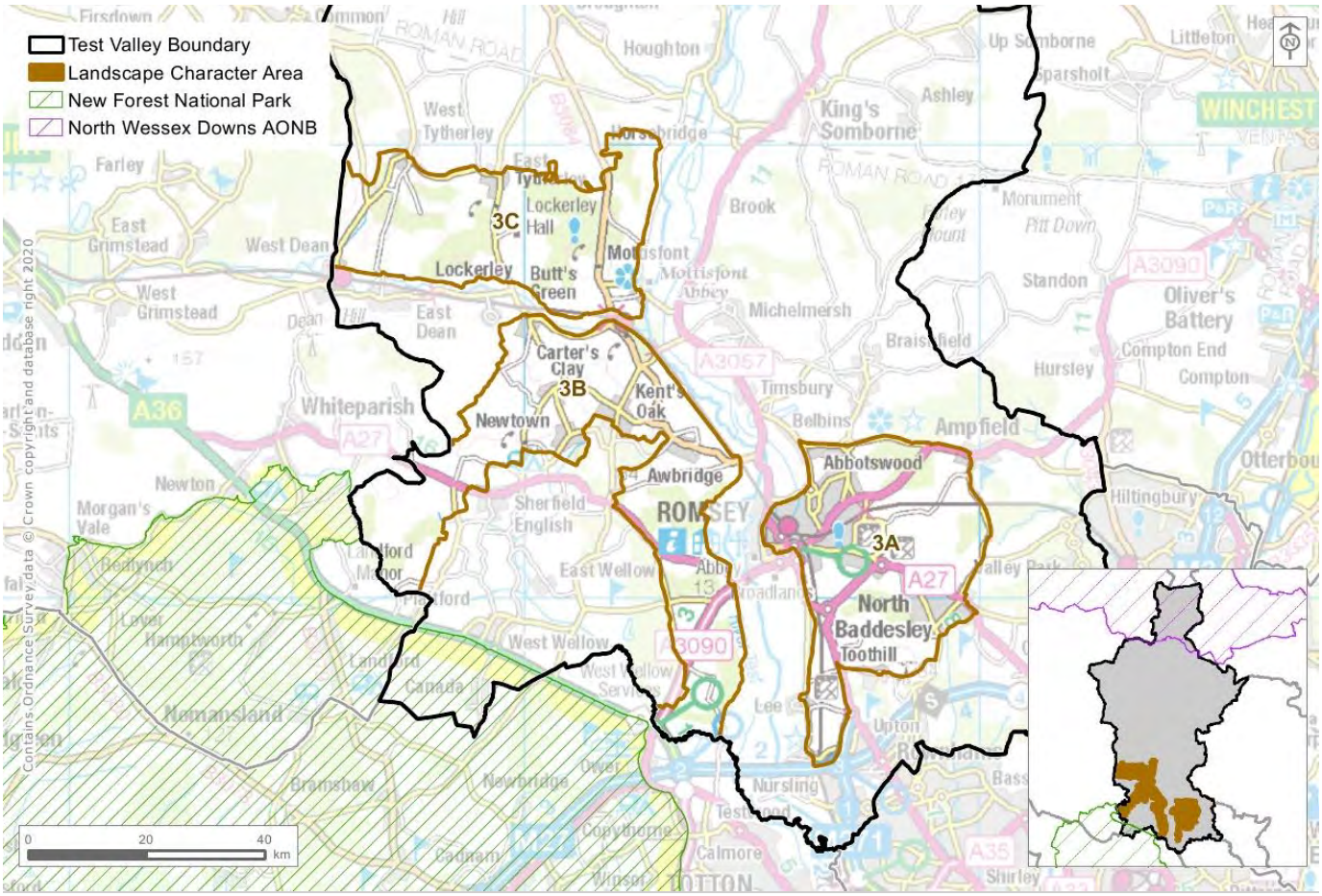
Landscape Character Type Level					
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					**H**
Solar Scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha		**L-M**			
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares			**M**		
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares			**M**		
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares				**M-H**	
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares				**M-H**	

Explanation for variance in sensitivity from overall LCT scores:

This LCA has higher levels of sensitivity to very small and small wind and solar PV developments due the presence of Registered Parks and Gardens and lack of urban fringe influence and motorways. Sensitivity is also increased due to the wider setting that the landscape provides to the New Forest National Park.

LCT 3: Mixed Farmland and Woodland – Medium Scale

Component LCAs: 3A Baddesley Mixed Farmland and Woodland, 3B Melchet and Awbridge Wooded Farmland, 3C Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland



View north east to small pasture fields with blocks of woodland.

Medium-scale arable fields enclosed by hedgerows, north of Mottisfont.

Overview of the Landscape Character Type

There are three areas of this LCT within the Test Valley Borough, characterised by small to medium sized areas of pasture with arable farmland, woodland, shelter belts and hedgerows. In some areas, large areas of woodland dominate, and in others, large, open fields of pasture and arable farmland are the dominant landscape feature, enclosed either by hedgerows or adjacent woodlands and shelterbelts. Parklands are a typical feature in this landscape and create a sense of time-depth.

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Score solar	Score wind
Landform and scale	■ Topography is irregular and provides a mix of small valleys, local knolls, ridges and depressions. Elevation ranges from 20 metres to 84 metres AOD. ■ Ridge deposits of sand and gravel are found in the southern areas of the borough, as a result of past and present mineral workings. ■ A small scale and often irregular field pattern influenced by the landform is present, particularly in the west.	**M**	**M**
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features	■ The LCT has a high proportion of woodland cover including extensive ancient semi-natural woodland and semi-natural woodland with active coppice, linked by hedgerows. Occasional pockets of heathland remain. ■ Areas of mixed farmland are made up of medium sized arable fields, small pasture fields and woodlands. Fields are enclosed by hedgerows. ■ There is evidence of old mineral workings, some of which have regenerated as small woodland copses. Some larger pits have been left to fill with water, forming small lakes and ponds. ■ The historic market town of Romsey and village of North Baddesley form two large settlements within the area. Other settlements are small scale, tending to be linear or nucleated in form. Away from main settlements, there are scattered farmsteads and large houses within parklands. ■ Baddesley Common and Emer Bog nature reserve is designated as a SSSI and SAC (Special Area of Conservation) for its biodiversity value. Mottisfont Bats SSSI/SAC is a protected area of woodland within the LCT.	**M**	**M**
Tracks / transport pattern	■ A network of rural lanes often enclosed by mature trees, cross the valleys and ridges. Some A-roads cross through LCA 3A and 3B. ■ Numerous droveways, woodland tracks and park pales cross the landscape. Many are now public rights of way. ■ The Test Way long distance footpath and National Cycle Route 24 intersect the LCT.	**M**	**M**
Skylines / intervisibility	■ Views are dependent on hedgerow quality; where hedgerows are present, views are relatively short and enclosed. Where hedgerows are sparse, views are longer and extend across countryside to wooded ridges. ■ Woodlands are a common feature of skylines. ■ Some settlements, for example the villages of Newtown and Shootash are contained within trees and woodland cover. ■ Pylons and transmission lines are common on skylines and are particularly concentrated around Romsey.	**L-M**	**M**
Perceptual qualities including sense of openness/enclosure	■ The sense of seclusion and tranquillity is disturbed close to large settlements and major roads; however, tree and woodland cover creates areas with greater levels of tranquillity. ■ Hedgerows are a locally important feature, but their quality is variable, and they are sometimes absent, resulting in large open areas. Where hedgerows are present, they tend to be mature and dense, giving a sense of enclosure, particularly along narrow rural lanes.	**M**	**M**
Historic Landscape Character	■ Field systems are of 18th-19th century origin, including enclosure of earlier assarted field systems and development of parklands. ■ A number of listed buildings are scattered across the area including clusters in Romsey Conservation Area, at Gosport, and at Grove Place (Grade I listed, with associated parkland). ■ Toothill Camp and Holbury Wood Camp are scheduled monuments. There is also a moated site and a manor house listed as scheduled monuments within the LCT.	**M**	**M**
Scenic and special qualities	■ Away from major settlements, the LCT has a rural character created by high woodland cover and predominant mixed farmland land use. Roads are often lined by mature trees, high hedgerows, grass verges and ditches. ■ The presence of internationally and nationally designated habitats contributes to the semi-natural character of the LCT.	**M**	**M**

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to development scenarios

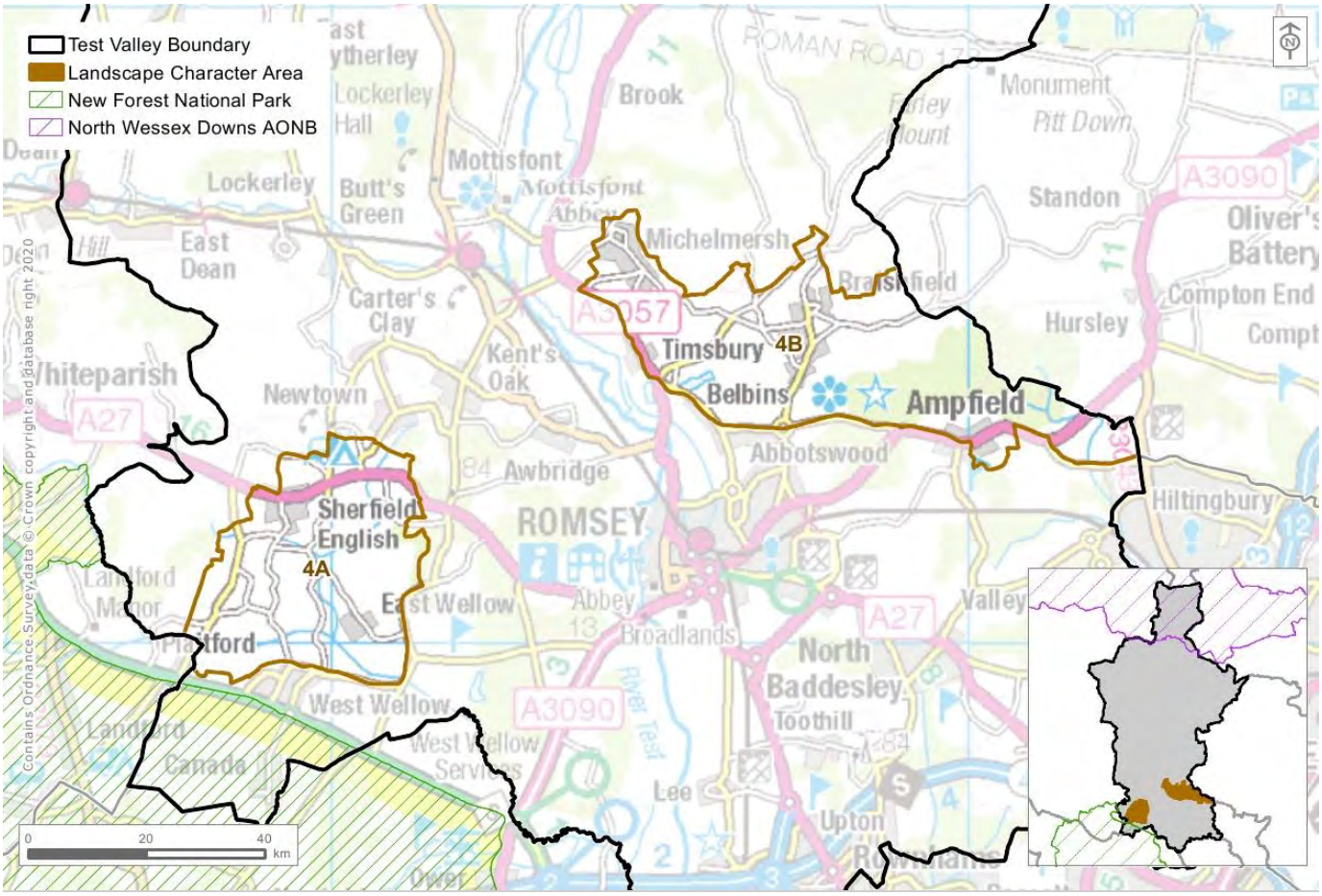
Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCT (including between different LCAs within a given LCT), with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Sensitivity Assessment profile, particularly the boxes entitled 'Variations in landscape sensitivity within the LCT' and 'Notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity, by Landscape Character Area'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Landscape Character Type Level					
Development Scenario	Sensitivity				
Wind Scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m		**L-M**			
Small wind installation 25m to 60m			**M**		
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m				**M-H**	
Large wind installation 100m to 150m					**H**
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					**H**
Solar Scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha	**L**				
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares		**L-M**			
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares			**M**		
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares				**M-H**	
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares					**H**
Variations in sensitivity within the LCT					
Areas associated with the urban fringes of larger settlement such as Romsey and North Baddesley and areas adjacent to major roads have reduced sensitivity to very small and small wind and solar PV developments.					
Notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity, by Landscape Character Area					
LCA 3C: Tytherley and Mottisfont Wooded Farmland					
Wind Scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m			**M**		
Small wind installation 25m to 60m			**M**		
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m				**M-H**	
Large wind installation 100m to 150m					H
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					H
Solar Scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha		**L-M**			
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares			**M**		
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares				**M-H**	

Landscape Character Type Level					
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares					H
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares					H
Explanation for variance in sensitivity from overall LCT scores: This LCA has higher levels of sensitivity to both wind and solar PV developments due to its strongly rural character with high levels of tranquillity. It is less densely settled than the other LCAs within this LCT and contains no major roads.					

LCT 4: Mixed Farmland and Woodland -Small Scale

Component LCAs: 4A Sherfield English, 4B Michelmersh to Ampfield Wooded Farmland



View of pastoral fields with blocks of woodland and telegraph poles crossing the skyline.

Small-scale arable fields bound by mature hedgerow trees.

Overview of the Landscape Character Type

This landscape is characterised by small and medium scale fields in areas of assarted woodland. Land use is predominantly agricultural with a mix of pastoral and arable land, interspersed with areas of woodland surrounding farmsteads and on areas of uncultivated land. There are no major settlements, but several small villages are distributed across the area, as well as numerous scattered farmsteads, giving a rural feel. This LCT shares some characteristics with LCT 3, the notable difference being the generally smaller field size.

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Score solar	Score wind
Landform and scale	■ An undulating landscape of small valleys, smooth ridges and local knolls rising to around 85m AOD near Knapp. Elevation is approximately 20 metres AOD along some of the watercourses. ■ The River Blackwater and other small watercourses cross the LCT. There are numerous lakes and pools. ■ Small- medium scale fields are influenced by the landform and often irregular in shape.	**M**	**M**
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features	■ Land use comprises a small-scale pattern of grazing and arable land with some woodland associated with farmsteads and areas of uncultivated land, particularly on steeper slopes. ■ Settlements are small and dispersed, with farmsteads scattered throughout the LCT. ■ Tracts of ancient semi-natural woodland and pockets of remnant heathland are present across the LCT. Ampfield Wood is a large area of woodland in the east of the LCT comprising mainly mixed broadleaf but also some coniferous plantation.	**M**	**M**
Tracks / transport pattern	■ There is a dense network of minor rural lanes, enclosed by tall hedgerows. A stretch of the A27 intersects part of LCA 4A. ■ The Monarch's Way long distance footpath passes through part of LCA 4B. Several other footpaths and bridleways cross the LCT, tending to follow field boundaries, reflecting the agricultural heritage of the area.	**M**	**M**
Skylines / intervisibility	■ Hedgerow quality and quantity varies; views from roads are restricted in places where hedgerows are dense and contain mature broadleaf trees. Where hedgerows are absent, views across fields are long reaching. ■ Skylines are dominated by woodland; however, pylons and overhead lines are also visible crossing the LCT. ■ In some areas, views are interrupted by polytunnels, however these are often well concealed by thick hedgerows.	**M**	**M**
Perceptual qualities including sense of openness/enclosure	■ Enclosed small winding leafy lanes with thick hedgerows contrast with larger open areas which enable expansive views across fields. ■ There are no major settlements within the area, the high density of scattered farmsteads contributes to an intact rural character. ■ Away from main roads, there are areas of open land, which offer high levels of tranquillity. ■ Hedgerows surround settlements, providing integration into the landscape and providing an intimate environment.	**M**	**M**
Historic Landscape Character	■ Areas of small and medium sized fields with wavy boundaries are interspersed by small areas of ancient woodland, indicative of the past assarting of woodland. ■ Settlements tend to be small and often linear. Settlements mainly comprise red brick buildings with clay and concrete tiles, although Listed early timber-framed thatch properties are scattered throughout. ■ Notable listed buildings include the Grade I listed Church of Saint Maragret in the village of East Wellow. Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum in the east of the LCT is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden.	**M**	**M**
Scenic and special qualities	■ The LCT has a predominantly agricultural character as a result of the pastoral and arable land use, intimate field patterns, winding rural lanes and regular scattered farmsteads. ■ Pockets of remnant heathland, ancient woodland and ancient meadows are present. ■ There are high levels of tranquillity away from major settlements and main roads.	**M**	**M**

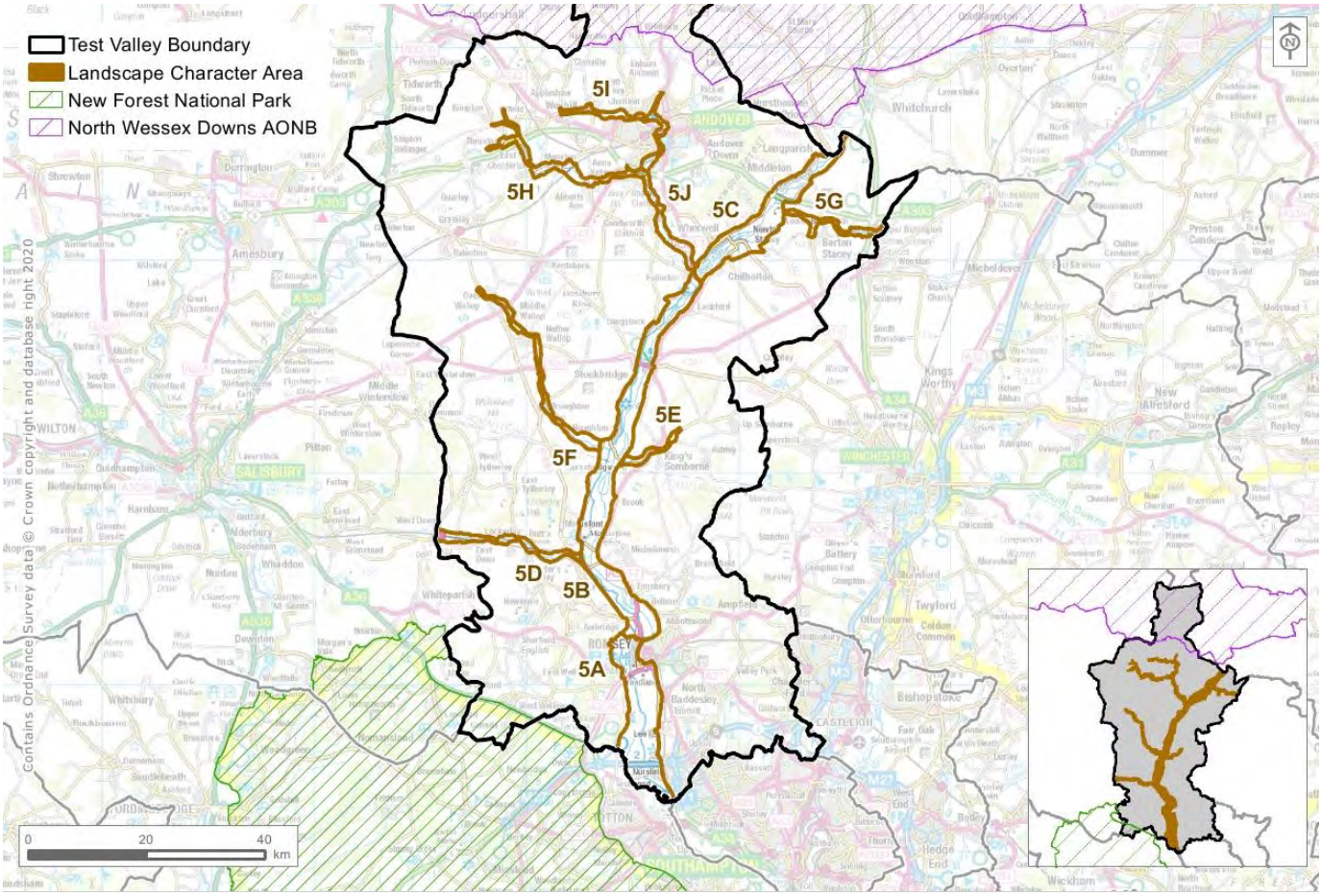
Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to development scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCT (including between different LCAs within a given LCT), with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Sensitivity Assessment profile, particularly the boxes entitled 'Variations in landscape sensitivity within the LCT' and 'Notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity, by Landscape Character Area'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Landscape Character Type Level					
Development Scenario	Sensitivity				
Wind scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m		**L-M**			
Small wind installation 25m to 60m			**M**		
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m				**M-H**	
Large wind installation 100m to 150m					**H**
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					**H**
Solar Scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha		**L-M**			
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares			**M**		
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares				**M-H**	
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares					**H**
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares					**H**
Variations in sensitivity within the LCT					
Areas which are characterised by frequent woodland have reduced sensitivity to solar PV developments, as the woodland could be utilised to screen development from the wider landscape. Areas where there are existing pylons have reduced levels of sensitivity to 'very small' and 'small' scale wind turbines, as the pylons form existing vertical features on the skyline.					
Notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity, by Landscape Character Area					
N/A					

LCT 5: River Valley Floor

Component LCAs: 5A Lower Test Floodplain, 5B Middle Test Valley Floor, 5C Upper Test Valley Floor, 5D Dun River Valley Floor, 5E King's Somborne River Valley Floor, 5F Wallop Brook Valley Floor, 5G River Dever Valley Floor, 5H Pillhill Brook Valley Floor, 5I Upper River Anton Valley Floor and 5J Lower River Anton Valley Floor




View of horse pasture fields with pylons marking the skyline.


View of a well-wooded horse grazed valley in LCA 5G.

Overview of the Landscape Character Type

This LCT occurs extensively throughout the Test Valley and includes the valley of the River Test which flows north-south through the borough, as well as numerous smaller tributary valleys which feed into the River Test. The character of the valleys varies with small-scale, strongly rural valleys associated with smaller brooks and the wide floodplain of the River Test. Settlements are often associated with crossing points of the valleys. The frequent wetland habitats contribute to the naturalistic character of the landscape.

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Score solar	Score wind
Landform and scale	■ The valleys within the LCT exhibit a varied landform and range from the wider flat-bottomed valleys of the main river systems and the narrower valleys with steeper sides which contain either tributaries of the main river system or bournes/winterbournes. ■ Elevation ranges from 5 metres AOD in the south of 5A, to 80 metres AOD near Thruxton in 5H and Weyhill Bottom in 5I. ■ The scale of the valleys is varied due to their differing landforms, field patterns and levels of development.	M	M
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features	■ The primary agricultural land use is pasture including watermeadows. Fields on the valley floor are often divided by ditches. ■ The settlement pattern originally consisted of nucleated villages and hamlets, which since the 18th century have expanded to become more linear. Settlements are often located at bridging points across watercourses. ■ Numerous lakes have formed in areas of past gravel extraction. There are also areas of active extraction along the valleys. ■ The valleys contain extensive areas of semi-natural habitat. These include parts of the River Test and Lower Test Valley SSSIs. The south of the LCT contain parts of the internationally designated Solent Maritime SAC and Solent and Southampton Water SPA (Special Protection Area)/Ramsar Site. ■ Linear tracts of wet carr woodland are located on the valley floor and areas of ancient woodland cloak the valley sides.	M-H	M-H
Tracks / transport pattern	■ Most roads are minor rural lanes which follow the upper slopes of the valleys, above the floodplain. Several A-roads cross the valleys and the A3057 runs down much of the length of the Test Valley. The M27 crosses the Test Valley north of Southampton. In the valleys of tributaries to the River Test roads are often minor and cross the LCA at bridging points. ■ There are numerous public rights of way crossing the valleys. The Test Way follows the valley bottom, linking Inkpen (in Berkshire) with Eling Tide Mill in the south. Parts of the National Cycle Route 246 follow the Test Way.	M	M
Skylines / intervisibility	■ Skylines are marked by woodland on the valley sides or on higher ground in adjacent LCTs. Pylon lines follow the course of the River Test. ■ Due to the low-lying landform, the LCT is often overlooked from adjacent landscapes. Views tend to be funnelled along the valleys, where topography and woodland allow.	M	M
Perceptual qualities including sense of openness/enclosure	■ Perceptual qualities vary depending on the topography and land cover. Smaller scale valleys associated with tributaries of the River Test have a small-scale and intimate character. The River Test valleys contain more frequent roads and development, especially close to Southampton. ■ The valleys have a strong natural character. Away from development and roads, there is often a sense of tranquillity and solitude. ■ Features including major roads and industrial development can detract from the rural and naturalistic qualities experienced in the valleys.	M	M
Historic Landscape Character	■ There are numerous surviving systems of post-medieval water meadows interspersed by stands of valley floor woodland and rough grazing. ■ Watercress beds were a historically important local industry and are a locally distinct feature found at numerous locations in the river valleys. ■ Numerous scheduled monuments throughout the LCT include remains from the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods. ■ Villages have a strong sense of time depth, with clusters of listed buildings centred around the core of historic settlements. Many villages have a traditional local vernacular including thatch, flint and red brick. ■ Historic estate parklands create a sense of time depth include Houghton Lodge (Grade II*), Broadlands (Grade II* Registered) and Mottisfont Abbey (Grade II).	M-H	M-H
Scenic and special qualities	■ There is a strong naturalistic character due to frequent semi-natural wetland habitats. ■ Areas of Open Access Land including Bransbury Common are popular for recreation and of local value. ■ Each of the valleys and the rivers within them, have a unique character with a strong sense of place.	M-H	M-H

Criteria	Description	Score solar	Score wind
	■ Villages containing attractive vernacular buildings have a strong sense of time depth and are locally distinctive.		

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to development scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCT (including between different LCAs within a given LCT), with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Sensitivity Assessment profile, particularly the box entitled 'Variations in landscape sensitivity'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Due to the significant variation between the component LCAs within this LCT, an overall assessment at the LCT level has not been completed. Similar LCAs have been grouped where applicable and scores given at the LCA level.

Overall landscape sensitivity by LCA					
LCA 5A: Lower Test Floodplain					
Wind scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m	**L**				
Small wind installation 25m to 60m		**L-M**			
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m			**M**		
Large wind installation 100m to 150m				**M-H**	
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					**H**
Solar scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha		**L-M**			
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares			**M**		
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares				**M-H**	
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares				**M-H**	
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares					**H**
Explanation for variance in sensitivity: This LCA has low/low-moderate sensitivity to 'very small' and 'small' scale wind turbines. This is due to the presence of existing vertical features on the skylines including pylons and the relatively developed character of these valleys, with frequent roads and industrial developments. This LCA has low-moderate/moderate sensitivity to smaller solar developments as their wide flat valley floors with a high density of mature vegetation features could be used to screen solar developments, in comparison to the smaller narrower inland valleys which have steeper more visually prominent valley sides and fewer features which could be utilised to enclose/screen development.					
LCAs 5B: Middle Test Valley Floor and 5C: Upper Test Valley Floor					
Wind scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m		**L-M**			
Small wind installation 25m to 60m			**M**		
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m				**M-H**	

Large wind installation 100m to 150m					**H**
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					**H**
Solar scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha		**L-M**			
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares			**M**		
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares				**M-H**	
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares				**M-H**	
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares					**H**

Explanation for variance in sensitivity:

The Test River Valley in LCAs 5B and 5C has a narrower profile compared to downstream areas in 5A, and therefore is slightly more sensitive to wind developments. This part of the LCT has fewer large-scale features such as pylons. However, it has a less intimate character than the smaller tributaries of the River Test.

These LCAs have a reduced sensitivity to smaller solar developments as their flat valley floors with a high density of mature vegetation features could be used to screen some solar developments, in comparison to the smaller narrower inland valleys which have steeper more visually prominent valley sides and fewer features which could be utilised to enclose/screen development.

LCAs 5D: Dun River Valley Floor, 5E: King's Somborne River Valley Floor, 5F: Wallop Brook Valley Floor and 5G: River Dever Valley Floor					
Wind scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m			**M**		
Small wind installation 25m to 60m				**M-H**	
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m				**M-H**	
Large wind installation 100m to 150m					**H**
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					**H**
Solar scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha		**L-M**			
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares			**M**		
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares				**M-H**	
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares					**H**
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares					**H**

Explanation for variance in sensitivity:

The LCAs of 5D, 5E, 5F and 5G have a smaller-scale character than the LCAs following the River Test, with narrower sloping valley sides and a greater frequency of human scale features. This small-scale character elevates the sensitivity of the valleys to wind and large solar PV developments.

These valleys possess a naturalistic character, with a high frequency of semi natural habitats as well as small historic villages. The high concentration of scenic features elevates the sensitivity to both wind and solar PV developments.

Roads within these LCAs are often minor, crossing the valleys at bridging points, increasing sensitivity to wind developments.

LCAs 5H: Pillhill Brook Valley Floor, 5I: Upper River Anton Valley Floor and 5J: Lower River Anton Valley Floor					
Wind scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m			**M**		
Small wind installation 25m to 60m				**M-H**	

Medium wind installation 60m to 100m					H
Large wind installation 100m to 150m					H
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					H
Solar scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha			M		
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares				M-H	
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares					H
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares					H
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares					H

Explanation for variance in sensitivity:

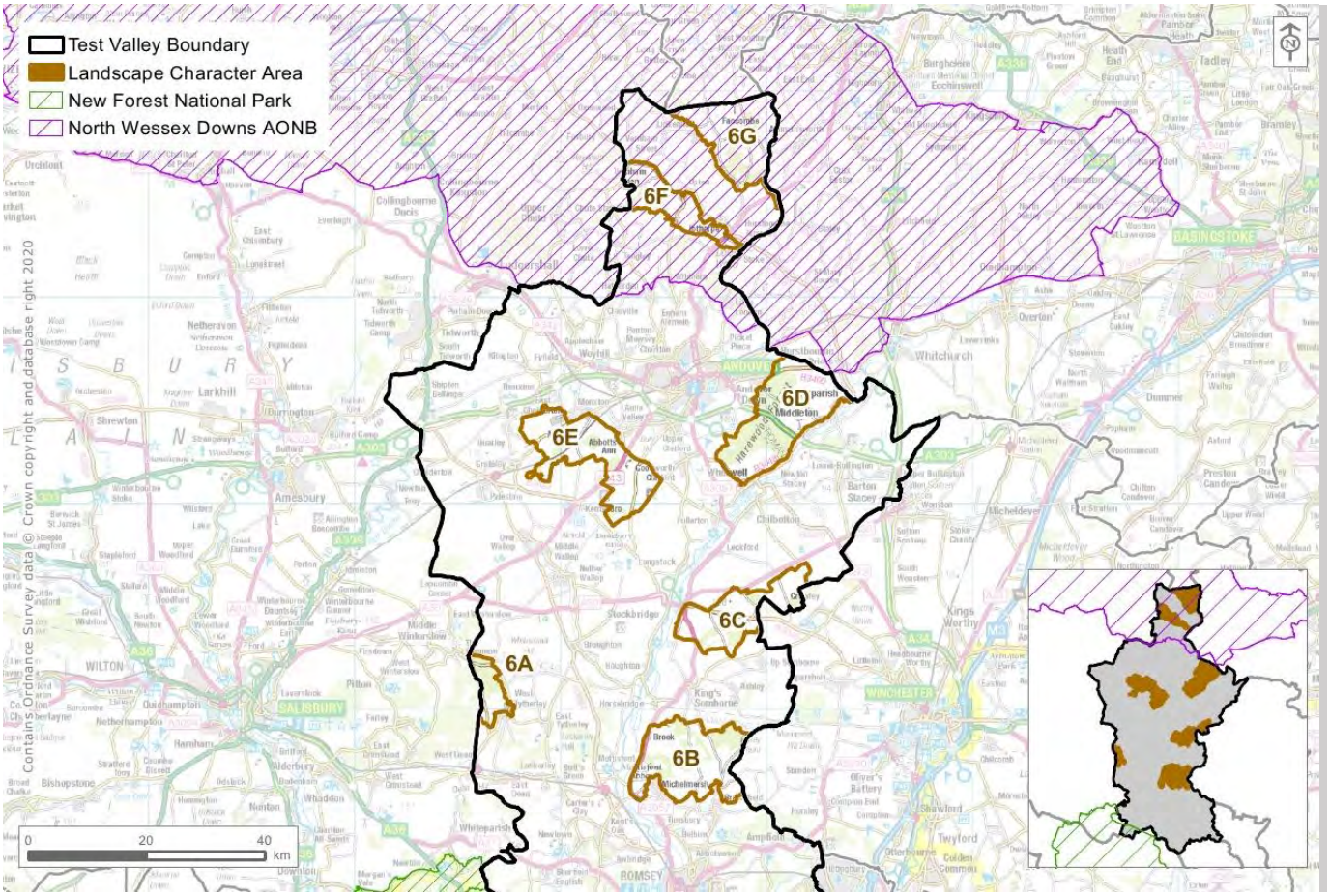
The LCAs 5H, 5I and 5J have a small-scale enclosed character, defined by incised valleys, therefore making them more sensitive to wind and medium/large solar PV development then LCAs following the River Test.

These LCAs are well settled, although villages often retain their scenic historic character and many are designated as conservation areas, with large numbers of listed buildings. This elevates the sensitivity of the landscape to both wind and solar PV developments.

Some areas are influenced by modern development including sports pitches, which give them an urban edge character and are therefore slightly less sensitive to smaller scale solar PV development than other parts of this group of LCAs.

LCT 6: Enclosed Chalk and Clay Woodland

Component LCAs: 6A Norman Court Wooded Downs, 6B Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods, 6C Little Somborne Wooded Downs, 6D Harewood Forest Wooded Downs, 6E Amport Wooded Downs, 6F Rushmore Wooded Downs and 6G Faccombe Wooded Downs



View east from bridleway to the south-west of the unnamed road between Upton and Vernham Dean.

View west from Abbotts Ann Road to the south-east of Monxton.

Overview of the Landscape Character Type

The Enclosed Chalk and Clay Woodland landscape character type occurs throughout the Test Valley Borough and consists of woodland with associated fields which are predominantly under arable cultivation. Topography tends to be complex with dramatic scarp slopes. Historic designed parklands within this LCT contribute to a sense of time-depth. Sparsely settled character with small villages and scattered farms, linked by minor rural laneways.

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Score solar	Score wind
Landform and scale	■ The LCT has a complex landform of rolling downland which is often incised by dry valleys. The landscape also features dramatic scarps, with rounded tops and gentle dip slopes. ■ Elevation has a wide range, from 25 metres AOD in LCA 6B near Stonymarsh, to over 240 metres AOD near Faccombe in LCA 6G. ■ The frequent woodland and complex landform create an intimate, small-scale landscape, although there are some areas characterised by larger, expansive fields.	**M**	**M**
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features	■ Agricultural land is divided by hedgerows into large open arable fields and improved grassland, with pockets of equestrian use. ■ Frequent areas of woodland are located throughout the LCT, including large areas such as Harewood Forest and Parnholt Wood. There is a mix of ancient woodland, replanted woodland and coniferous plantation. Some are nationally or locally designated for their biodiversity value. ■ Wood pasture is extensive in some LCAs including near West Tytherley in 6A, to east of Andover Down in 6D and south of Amport in 6E. ■ The LCT is sparsely settled with settlement limited to small villages and scattered farmsteads. Most buildings are constructed in a traditional style and there is little modern development. ■ Remnant areas of downland contain pockets of unimproved calcareous grassland, including Stockbridge Down (nationally designated as a SSSI).	**M**	**M**
Tracks / transport pattern	■ Narrow, winding roads extend throughout this Landscape Character Type and retain their medieval or early post-medieval character. A Roman Road (now a public footpath) also crosses through Harewood Forest (LCA 6D). ■ Roads tend to be sparse and limited to narrow rural laneways. The LCT is occasionally crossed by A-roads and railways. ■ Frequent public rights of way cross the landscape, often providing access to the many woodlands. The Test Way, Brenda Parker Way and parts of National Cycle Route 246 cross through the LCT.	**M**	**M-H**
Skylines / intervisibility	■ Skylines are often broad and open, and marked by woodland on the downland slopes. ■ From higher ground, there are extensive views. In some places, the large tracts of woodland limit visibility.	**M**	**M-H**
Perceptual qualities including sense of openness/enclosure	■ The dense woodland cover often creates a sense of enclosure. This contrasts with the sense of expansiveness experienced in more elevated areas with less woodland. ■ Much of the LCT is a secluded landscape, with a sense of quiet remoteness and tranquillity. The landscape has an intact rural character.	**M**	**M-H**
Historic Landscape Character	■ There are numerous historic parks and designed landscapes within the LCT, which often originated as medieval deer parks. ■ Norman Court (north-west of West Tytherley) has historic parkland features including woodpasture and contains several listed buildings. ■ Amport Park to the south-west of Monxton in LCA 6E is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden. Marsh Court in the west of LCA 6C is a Grade II* Registered Park and Garden. ■ Traditional vernacular villages designated as conservation areas, with concentrations of listed buildings are common. ■ Scheduled Monuments include historic field systems, earthworks, a settlement site at Brockley Warren and Woolbury Hill Fort. These create a sense of time-depth in the landscape. ■ Disused chalk and gravel pits are scattered throughout the LCT.	**M-H**	**M-H**
Scenic and special qualities	■ LCAs 6G and 6F are within the nationally designated landscape of North Wessex Downs AONB. ■ Dense woodland cover creates a strong naturalistic character. Many woodlands are nationally or locally designated as SSSIs or Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). ■ Limited settlement and roads results in a strong rural character with high levels of tranquillity and a sense of seclusion. ■ The dense concentration of heritage features creates a strong sense of time-depth.	**M-H**	**M-H**

Criteria	Description	Score solar	Score wind
	■ The LCT contains pockets of common land which are popular for recreation such as Stockbridge Down in the north of LCA 6C.		

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to development scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCT (including between different LCAs within a given LCT), with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Sensitivity Assessment profile, particularly the boxes entitled 'Variations in landscape sensitivity within the LCT' and 'Notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity, by Landscape Character Area'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Landscape Character Type Level					
Development Scenario	Sensitivity				
Wind scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m			**M**		
Small wind installation 25m to 60m				**M-H**	
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m					**H**
Large wind installation 100m to 150m					**H**
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					**H**
Solar scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha		**L-M**			
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares			**M**		
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares				**M-H**	
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares					**H**
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares					**H**
Variations in sensitivity within the LCT					
Areas characterised by a complex folded or sloping landform have increased sensitivity to solar PV developments which are likely to be visually prominent in these areas. More open areas of large arable fields with smoother topography (e.g. south of Monxton) have a slightly reduced sensitivity to very small and small wind energy developments. Areas characterised by a high degree of enclosure may better accommodate solar PV developments and therefore have a reduced sensitivity to solar developments.					
Notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity, by Landscape Character Area					
LCAs 6F: Rushmore Wooded Downs and 6G: Faccombe Wooded Downs					
Wind scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m				**M-H**	
Small wind installation 25m to 60m					**H**
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m					**H**
Large wind installation 100m to 150m					**H**

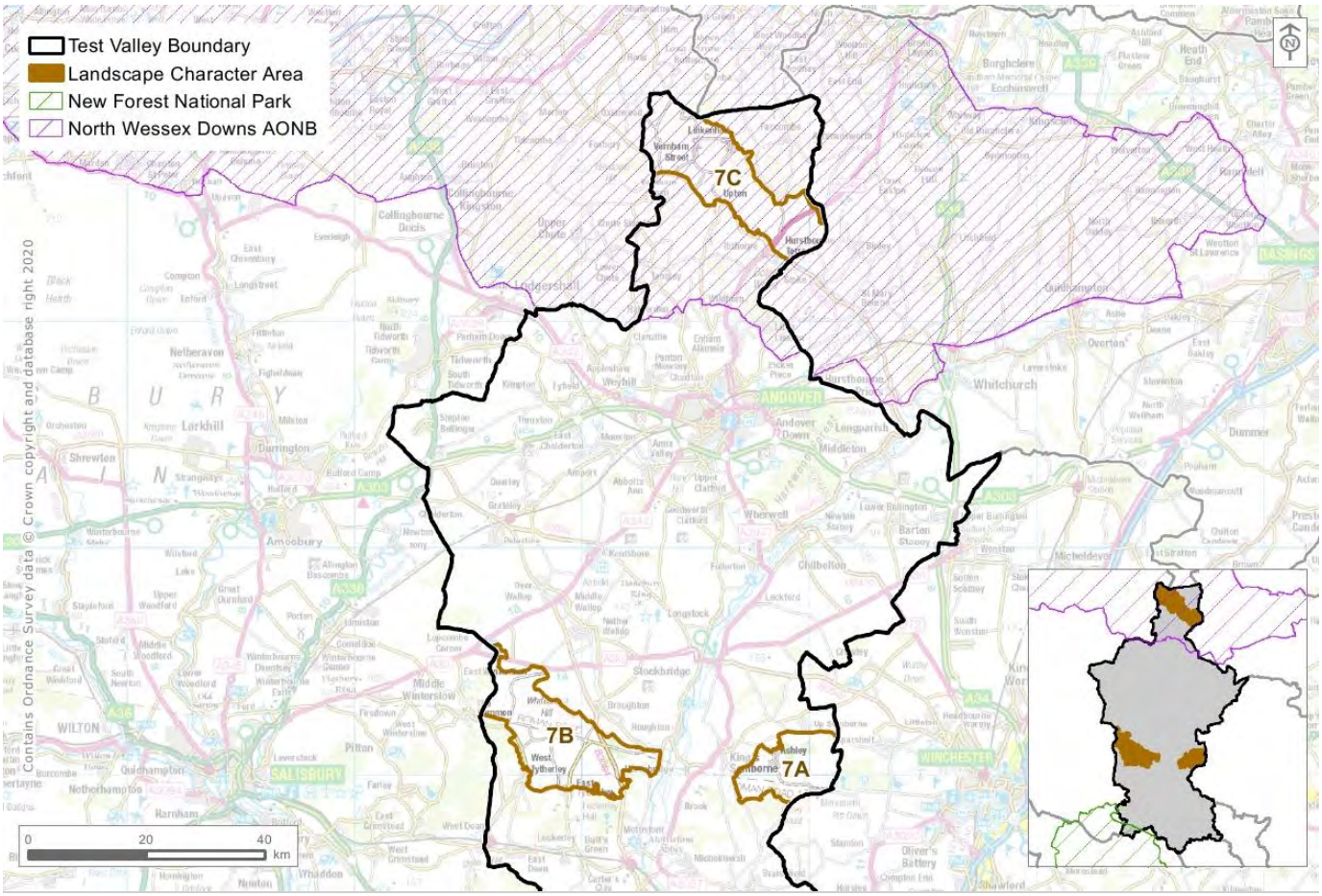
Landscape Character Type Level					
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					**H**
Solar scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha				**M-H**	
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares				**M-H**	
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares					**H**
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares					**H**
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares					**H**

Explanation for variance in sensitivity from overall LCT scores:

Both LCAs are situated within the North Wessex Downs AONB and have dramatic steeply sloping topography. Therefore, the areas have an elevated sensitivity to wind developments which would detract from the visually important landforms or appear discordant. The areas also have an increased sensitivity to solar PV developments with many steep and exposed slopes on which development would be visually prominent and intrusive.

LCT 7: Semi-enclosed Chalk and Clay Farmland

Component LCAs: 7A Ashley Downs, 7B Broughton Downs, 7C Linkenholt Downs



View south-east from near Upper Row Farm in the east of 7C showing pylons marking the skyline.

View north east from the south of 7C showing arable fields bound by hedgerows within a rolling landform.

Overview of the Landscape Character Type

The LCT occurs in three locations within the Test Valley Borough and consists of woodland with associated fields which are predominantly under arable cultivation. Topography tends to be complex with dramatic scarp slopes. Historic designed parklands and Roman remains within this LCT contribute to a sense of time-depth. The landscape has a sparsely settled character with small villages and farmsteads scattered across the LCT. The landscape has a strong sense of seclusion.

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Score solar	Score wind
Landform and scale	■ The landform of the LCT is complex and is typified by an undulating and rolling landform, steep incised dry valleys and distinctive scarps including Beacon Hill and Broughton Down. Elevation ranges widely, between 55 metres to over 230 metres AOD. ■ Woodland and steeply incised landforms can create a localised sense of enclosure and result in a small-scale, intimate landscape. In other parts of the LCT, expansive fields and a smooth undulating landform create a large-scale landscape.	M-H	M-H
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features	■ Most agricultural land is a mixture of arable farmland and improved grassland within medium to large-sized fields. Fields are divided by hedgerows and post and wire fencing. Small areas are used as paddocks. ■ Woodland is a common feature, however there are few large woodlands. Trees primarily occur in small copses, spinneys and shelterbelts and are often found on steep valley sides. Some areas are classified as ancient woodland and are locally designated for their biodiversity value. ■ Settlement is sparse and is limited to small villages (e.g. Ashley and Little Down) and scattered farms. Buildings are often set back from the road or screened by woodland. ■ Broughton Down SSSI is nationally designated in recognition of the important areas of unimproved calcareous grassland habitat.	M	M
Tracks / transport pattern	■ Roads are mostly narrow, sunken rural lanes which often follow the dry river valleys and ridgelines. The A343 crosses 7C near to Hurstbourne Tarrant. ■ In some areas, such as the east of 7C and much of 7A the landscape is devoid of roads, crossed only by public rights of way. ■ A network of footpaths, bridleways and tracks cross the landscape. These are often historic lanes. Routes include the Test Way (which crosses LCA 7C close to Hurstbourne Tarrant) and the Clarendon Way crossing 7A and 7B and Monarch's Way which crosses 7B, in an east-west direction.	M-H	M-H
Skylines / intervisibility	■ Most skylines are undeveloped and marked by distinctive wooded scarps. ■ A pylon line crosses 7C to the north of Hurstbourne Tarrant and Vernham Dean, whist there is also a pylon line present in the east of 7B near Bossington, forming intrusive features on skylines. ■ Skylines are often marked by fragmented bands of hedgerow trees and small woodlands. ■ There are extensive views from higher ground, such as near Warren Court Farm in LCA 7B. Rolling agricultural fields enable long views across the landscape, often with a woodland backdrop.	L-M	M
Perceptual qualities including sense of openness/enclosure	■ There is a strong sense of remoteness and high levels of tranquillity due to the limited settlement and relative inaccessibility of much of the LCT. ■ The large fields and woodlands create contrasting areas of openness and enclosure. Post and wire fences along roads and field boundaries enable long views and create a sense of openness. ■ High hedgerows and mature trees along lanes create a sense of enclosure.	M	M-H
Historic Landscape Character	■ Numerous Scheduled Monuments provide evidence of the historic occupation and uses of the landscape. This includes the site of a Roman settlement and a Roman Road which crosses through LCAs 7A and 7B. ■ Fields are a mix of parliamentary fields and informal post-medieval enclosure. ■ Remains of chalk pits are scattered throughout the LCAs and provide evidence of the industrial past of the landscape.	M	M
Scenic and special qualities	■ The whole of LCA 7C is within the North Wessex Downs AONB. ■ The LCT has a strong sense of remoteness and seclusion due to the limited settlement and roads. ■ Frequent woodland and hedgerows which create a naturalistic character amongst the intensively farmed arable fields. ■ LCA 7C is overlooked by the dramatic landforms of the neighbouring Enclosed Chalk and Clay Woodland LCAs which give the landscape a distinctive sense of place.	M-H	M-H

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to development scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCT (including between different LCAs within a given LCT), with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Sensitivity Assessment profile, particularly the box entitled 'Variations in landscape sensitivity within the LCT' and 'Notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity, by Landscape Character Area'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Landscape Character Type Level					
Development Scenario	Sensitivity				
Wind scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m		**L-M**			
Small wind installation 25m to 60m			**M**		
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m					**H**
Large wind installation 100m to 150m					**H**
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					**H**
Solar scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha		**L-M**			
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares			**M**		
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares				**M-H**	
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares					**H**
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares					**H**
Variations in sensitivity within the LCT					
Large open arable fields with gentle landforms (such as near West Tytherley) are likely to have a reduced sensitivity to wind developments, compared to the landscapes with more intricate field patterns in which turbines would be more pronounced.					
Notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity, by Landscape Character Area					
LCA 7C: Linkenholt Downs					
Wind scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m				**M-H**	
Small wind installation 25m to 60m				**M-H**	
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m					**H**
Large wind installation 100m to 150m					**H**
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					**H**
Solar scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha			**M**		
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares				**M-H**	
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares					**H**

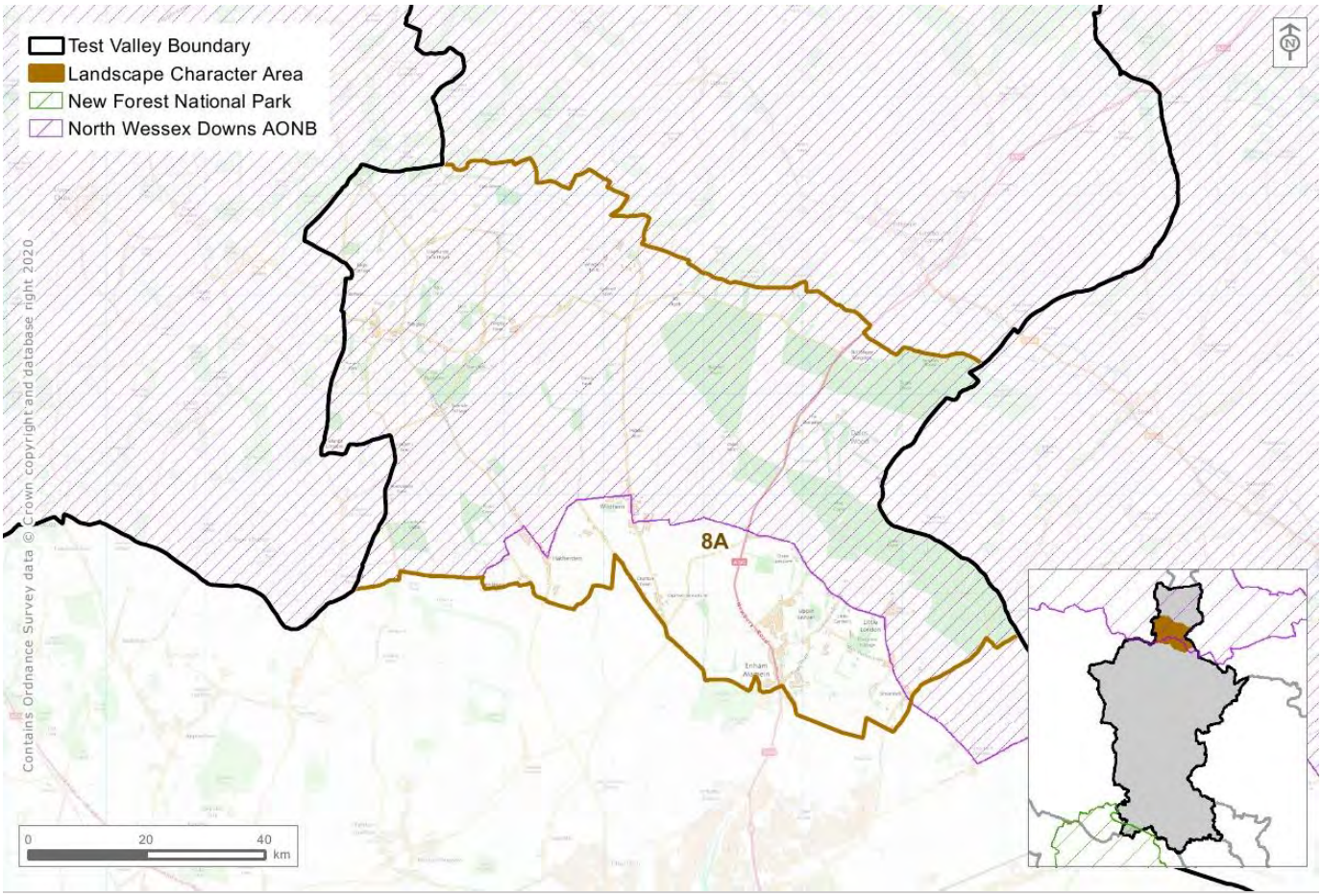
Landscape Character Type Level					
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares					H
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares					H

Explanation for variance in sensitivity from overall LCT scores:

Landscape Character Area 7C has an elevated landscape sensitivity due to its position within the North Wessex Downs AONB, overlooked by the dramatic landforms of the neighbouring Enclosed Chalk and Clay Woodland LCAs which give the landscape a distinctive sense of place.

LCT 8: Enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland

Component LCAs: 8A Tangley and Doles Wood



View south-east from near Eastend Farm looking across rolling pasture and more wooded areas of the LCT.

View south from near Hurstbourne Common over large-scale arable fields, enclosed by woodland. Andover is partially visible in the distance.

Overview of the Landscape Character Type

The LCT is situated to the north of Andover, covering the entire width of this part of the borough. The area contains large arable fields on ridges of clay and flint as well as hedged arable fields and localised areas of pasture. Fields are interspaced with tracts of woodlands and plantations as well as some parklands and estate farmlands.

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Score solar	Score wind
Landform and scale	■ Undulating landform, gently rising to a ridge of higher ground in the north-west. The landscape is dissected in places by steep V-shaped dry valleys ■ The highest elevation in the LCT is 230m AOD at Cow Down in the north-west, the lowest point is in the south-east near Smannell at 85m AOD. ■ The landscape has a varied scale due to landcover and landform with the open arable fields having a large-scale character and the more wooded areas a smaller scale.	M-H	M-H
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features	■ This area is principally arable farmland and improved grassland, with fields divided by hedgerows. ■ Settlement often lies within the dry valleys, which has resulted in a linear settlement pattern along the valley floors. ■ Large tracts of woodland and plantation occur amongst the farmland, with many classified as ancient re-planted woodland. There are also significant areas of woodpasture and parkland, including at Doles Wood, Hatherden and Tangley.	M	M
Tracks / transport pattern	■ Roads are sparse and mostly consist of small rural lanes with one A-road (the A343) traversing the LCT from north to south. ■ Several public rights of way including parts of the Brenda Parker Way, and a small section of the Test Way long distance recreational routes cross the area. Several old laneways and tracks link settlements and farms.	M	M-H
Skylines / intervisibility	■ Wooded skylines in the east are associated with the large areas of woodland. ■ A pylon route marks skylines in the south-west of the LCT. ■ Field boundaries are often made up of large numbers of mature hedgerow trees. There are also frequent small copses and shelter belts, often obscuring long-distance views. ■ More elevated ground in the north of the LCT offers uninterrupted views across the landscape, including views over Andover.	M	M
Perceptual qualities including sense of openness/enclosure	■ Away from settlements and the A343 the LCT has a distinctly rural and remote feel with high levels of tranquillity, noted as a special quality of the AONB. ■ Enclosure is provided by the landform and numerous mature hedgerow trees in the dry river valleys. In the more elevated northern parts of the LCT fields are larger, creating a more open landscape.	M-H	M-H
Historic Landscape Character	■ Enclosure probably took place between the later medieval period and the 17th/18th century. ■ There are three scheduled monuments; Berisbury Camp, and a complex of earthworks, barrows and field systems located within Blagden Copse. ■ Many disused pits, often former chalk quarries, are present in the landscape. ■ Hungerford Lane is a Roman road running through the west of the LCT, part of which is used as a footpath. ■ Listed buildings are concentrated within villages, with others scattered across the LCT including the Grade II* listed Church of St Thomas Canterbury.	M-H	M-H
Scenic and special qualities	■ Almost all of this LCT is within the nationally designated North Wessex Downs AONB, except for the south around Hatherden and Enham Alamein. ■ A quintessential rolling agricultural landscape. ■ There are several large blocks of ancient and semi-natural woodland, particularly in the east. These are noted as a special quality of the AONB. ■ Pockets of calcareous grassland on the northern edge of the LCT contribute to the naturalistic and scenic character of the landscape. ■ There are two small open access areas in the north, Hurstbourne Common and a triangular area of woodland north of Blagden Copse. These areas are of local importance for the enjoyment of the landscape.	M-H	M-H

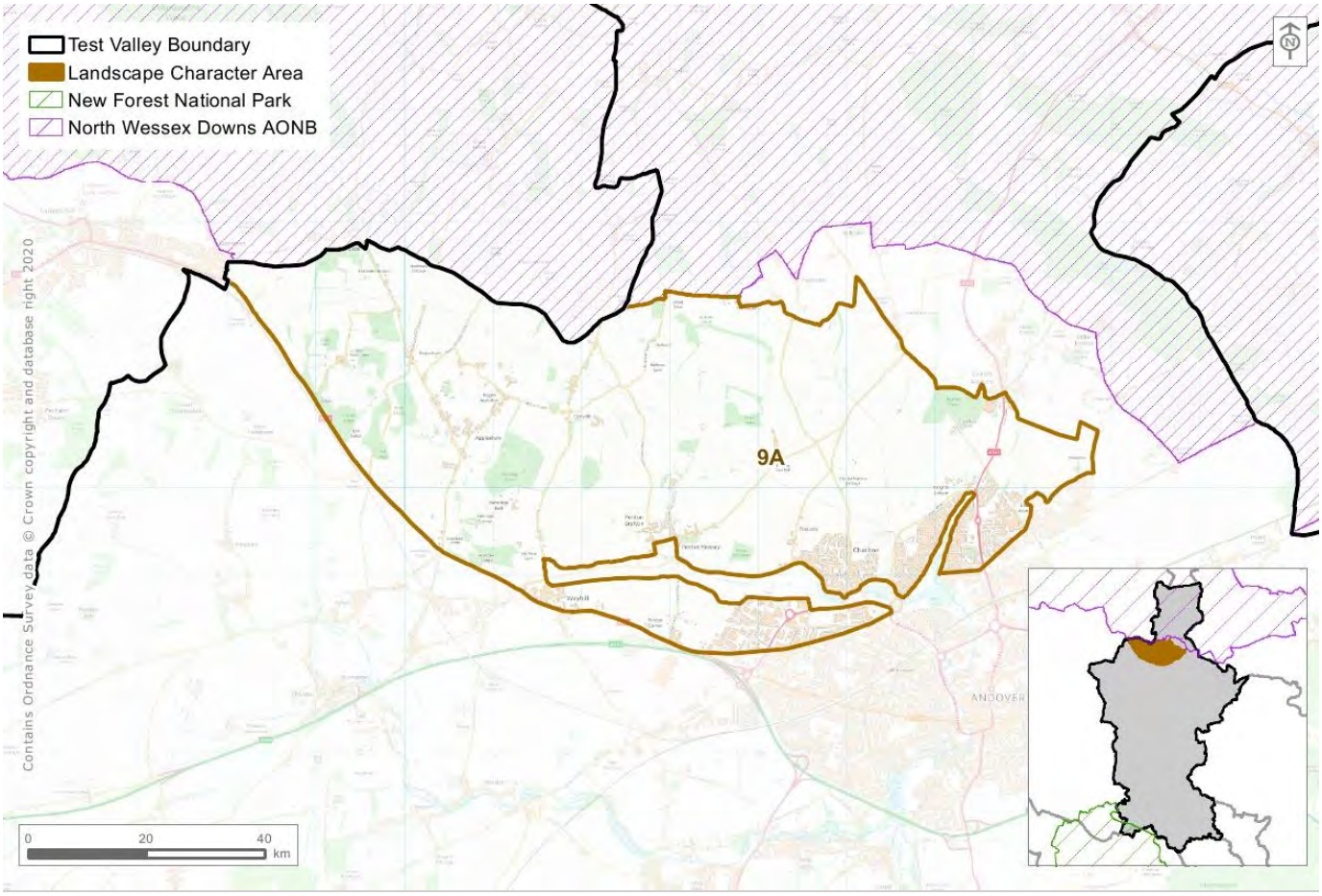
Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to development scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCT (including between different LCAs within a given LCT), with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Sensitivity Assessment profile, particularly the box entitled 'Variations in landscape sensitivity within the LCT'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Landscape Character Type Level					
Development Scenario	Sensitivity				
Wind Scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m				**M-H**	
Small wind installation 25m to 60m					**H**
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m					**H**
Large wind installation 100m to 150m					**H**
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					**H**
Solar Scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha				**M-H**	
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares				**M-H**	
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares					**H**
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares					**H**
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares					**H**
Variations in sensitivity within the LCT					
Areas outside of the AONB in the south-east have a slightly lower sensitivity to both wind and solar PV developments as this area lacks many of the scenic qualities present within the AONB. The west of the LCT has a slightly more traditional rural character with frequent historic villages, some parkland areas and wooded areas. These scenic qualities and the more frequent of human scale features within the landscape elevate the sensitivity to both wind and solar PV development.					

LCT 9: Semi-enclosed Clay Plateau Farmland

Component LCAs: 9A North Andover Plateau



View showing pylons to the north of Ragged Appleshaw

View west from near Penton Copse showing large scale arable fields with pylons marking the skyline

Overview of the Landscape Character Type

There is one area of this LCT within Test Valley Borough, which is situated in the north-west of the borough on the lower slopes of the North Wessex Downs. The LCT is characterised by large scale arable fields, although smaller fields exist in dry river valleys and surrounding settlements. Settlements here most commonly have a linear settlement pattern and are located within valleys.

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Score solar	Score wind
Landform and scale	■ A gently undulating to flat plateau landform, with some gentle dry river valleys. Elevation rages from 75m AOD near Penton Mewsey in the south, to 130m AOD on the Redenham Drove Track in the north. ■ The intricate field pattern and a higher frequency of human scale features and woodland in the west of the LCT creates a small-scale landscape. The east is dominated by a smoother landform, bigger fields and fewer woodlands creating a larger scale open landscape.	**M**	**M**
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features	■ Larger arable fields are usually found on higher ground, with smaller fields in valleys and surrounding settlements. ■ There are areas of historic parkland in the west, distinguished by woodpasture and parkland habitats with in-field trees. ■ Small woodland copses and shelterbelts are scattered across the landscape, including several ancient woodlands. The west of the LCT has a slightly more wooded character. Hedgerows are well-established with mature trees. ■ A well settled landscape in the south and west, where small linear villages are situated in dry valleys. Other villages such as Redenham and Penton Mewsey have an estate character. ■ The town of Andover is situated in the south-east of the LCT and has a localised urbanising influence on landscape character.	**M**	**M**
Tracks / transport pattern	■ There is a network of wavy, minor rural roads, often running along the bottom of dry river valleys. Roadside verges are floristically diverse. ■ The A342 running along the southern boundary and the A343 crossing the east of the area, are the only major roads. ■ Several public rights of way cross the LCT, including parts of the Brenda Parker Way long distance recreational route.	**M**	**M-H**
Skylines / intervisibility	■ Pylon routes cross the length of the area and are prominent on the otherwise undeveloped skylines, marked by mature hedgerow trees, parkland trees and small woodlands. ■ Due to the gently undulating topography, woodland areas and tall mature hedgerow field boundaries, views are often screened, although some glimpsed long-distance views are possible.	**M**	**M**
Perceptual qualities including sense of openness/enclosure	■ The west of the LCT has a rural character with small traditional villages, whilst the south-east is influenced by the urban edge of Andover ■ The landform of the dry valleys combined with the smaller scale field pattern and frequency of woodlands, copses, shelter belts and well-established hedgerows, provide a greater sense of enclosure, most notably in the west. ■ The north-east has a gentler landform, with larger fields creating a relatively open landscape.	**M**	**M**
Historic Landscape Character	■ Regular fields with wavy boundaries are typical of late medieval to 17th/18th century informal enclosure. Parliamentary enclosure is present around remnant parkland estates in the west ■ Within the LCT are four scheduled monuments including a Neolithic long barrow, a Roman villa, Roman buildings on Lambourne's Hill, and Foxcott deserted medieval village. Biddesden House in the north-west is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden. ■ Villages contain numerous listed buildings, including the Grade I listed Church of St Michael and All Angels. Numerous manor houses and farmsteads across the landscape are also listed. ■ There are frequent disused pits in the north-west.	**M**	**M**
Scenic and special qualities	■ Areas of parkland and wood pasture give the landscape a sense of time depth. ■ There are several blocks of ancient and semi-natural woodland on more elevated land giving the landscape a naturalistic character and a distinct sense of place.	**M**	**M**

Criteria	Description	Score solar	Score wind
	■ The LCT lies directly south of the nationally significant North Wessex Downs AONB and shares some of its special qualities including being a well-wooded plateaux landscape.		

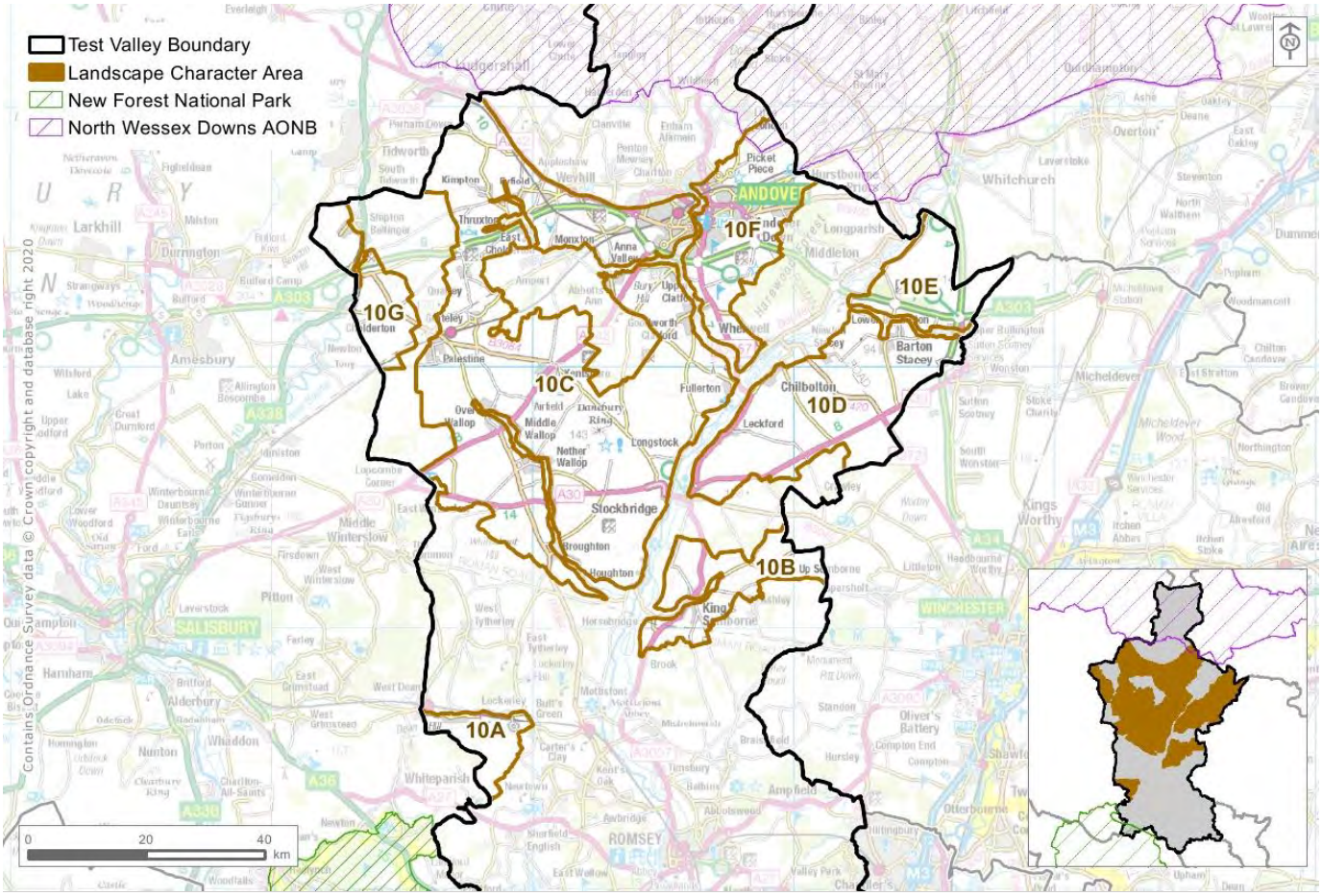
Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to development scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCT (including between different LCAs within a given LCT), with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Sensitivity Assessment profile, particularly the box entitled 'Variations in landscape sensitivity within the LCT'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Landscape Character Type Level					
Development Scenario	Sensitivity				
Wind Scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m		**L-M**			
Small wind installation 25m to 60m			**M**		
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m					**H**
Large wind installation 100m to 150m					**H**
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					**H**
Solar Scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha		**L-M**			
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares		**L-M**			
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares			**M**		
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares				**M-H**	
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares					**H**
Variations in sensitivity within the LCT					
The east of the Landscape Character Area has greater sensitivity to solar PV installations as it has a more open landscape character with less ability to screen solar PV developments. The west of the Landscape Character Area is more sensitive to wind developments as they would be incongruous with the smaller scale landscape character and would dominate and be inconsistent with the human scale features of the landscape including frequent trees, hedgerows, farm buildings and traditional, small scale villages.					

LCT 10: Open Chalklands

Component LCAs: 10A East Dean Chalk Downland, 10B King's Somborne Chalk Downland, 10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland, 10D Leckford and Chilbolton Downs, 10E Drayton Chalk Downland, 10F Andover Chalk Downland and 10G Cholderton Downs



Open skylines with long distance views in LCA 10B

Panoramic views from elevated land in 10D across the rest of the LCA

Overview of the Landscape Character Type

This LCT is situated in the central area of the Test Valley, mainly between Broughton Down and Andover. The LCT is a predominantly large-scale and open arable landscape, with the chalk geology lending itself well to extensive farming. Hedgerows are often replaced by fences and where they remain are largely fragmented. Small numbers of hedged pasture fields exist adjacent to settlements and farmsteads. Woodlands are infrequent and often limited to small copses.

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Score solar	Score wind
Landform and scale	■ The LCT has mixed landform mostly comprising of; gently undulating (10D, 10E, 10F) and low-lying landforms (10B), or broad plateaux landform with small hills (10C). Landforms containing dramatic scarps encircling valleys or overlooking vales are characteristic, such as in 10A and 10C. Throughout the LCT elevation ranges from 30m AOD in 10B to 155m AOD in 10G. ■ There are some small streams and winterbournes, but most valleys are dry. ■ A generally large-scale landscape, although the diversity in landform and landcover creates localised variations.	**M-H**	**M**
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features	■ A large-scale arable landscape, which in places is divided by a fragmented hedgerow structure, containing few mature trees. Elsewhere the hedgerow network is more intact with frequent hedgerow trees. ■ There are localised areas of smaller pasture fields, commonly associated with settlements and farmsteads. Other land uses include vineyards in 10D and solar farms in 10E and 10C. ■ The LCT contains many small settlements, these generally follow the trend of a nucleated settlement pattern on the higher ground and linear within valleys. Farmsteads are dispersed across the character type. ■ The landscape contains pockets of woodlands, many of which are ancient semi-natural woodlands.	**M**	**M**
Tracks / transport pattern	■ A pattern of straight roads (sometimes based on Roman roads) at right-angles, with wide verges which are often floristically diverse. ■ Other roads follow the contours of the land in wide valleys. ■ Roads include A and B roads as well as some rural lanes. Some localised areas are devoid of roads, such as in LCA 10A. ■ Public rights of way are relatively frequent and include the Clarendon Way and Monarchs Way long-distance recreational routes.	**M**	**M**
Skylines / intervisibility	■ Open large-scale arable farming, allowing open long-distance views with big skies. ■ Elevated small hills and scarps provide panoramic views across the open landscape. ■ Skylines are largely undeveloped, marked by small woodlands and shelterbelts, although pylons mark skylines in some areas including in 10C and 10F.	**M**	**M**
Perceptual qualities including sense of openness/enclosure	■ A relatively rural and quiet landscape, although interrupted by main roads and other intrusive features such as the MOD firing range (10D). ■ Some LCAs are notably more rural in character including 10E and 10A, whilst 10F and the north of 10C surrounding Andover have a greater frequency of urbanising features including traffic noise, railway lines and business parks. ■ A large scale open and exposed landscape created by large scale rolling fields.	**M**	**M**
Historic Landscape Character	■ The Open Chalklands type is dominated by extensive stretches of parliamentary fields systems dating to the 19th century. ■ The landscape is rich in archaeological evidence from several periods. Scheduled Monuments include numerous Long and Bowl Barrows from the Neolithic and Bronze ages, Iron Age Hill Forts and a Roman house among other features. ■ Disused chalk pits are common. ■ Settlements frequently retain their historic character, centred on a manorial complex, medieval church or medieval/early post-medieval housing. Some villages have been designated Conservation Areas, most notably Grateley, Quarley and Kimpton in the north of 10C.	**M**	**M**
Scenic and special qualities	■ A small northern section of LCA 10F is within the nationally designated North Wessex Downs AONB. ■ Important patches of unimproved and semi-improved calcareous and neutral grassland occur amongst the agricultural landscape. ■ Three SSSIs exist within this LCT; Brickworth Down & Dean Hill, Danebury Hill and Salisbury Plain (also internationally designated as an SPA and SAC). ■ Pockets of open access land including near Lockerley (10A), on Danebury Down (10C) and on the settlement edge of Andover (10F).	**M**	**M**

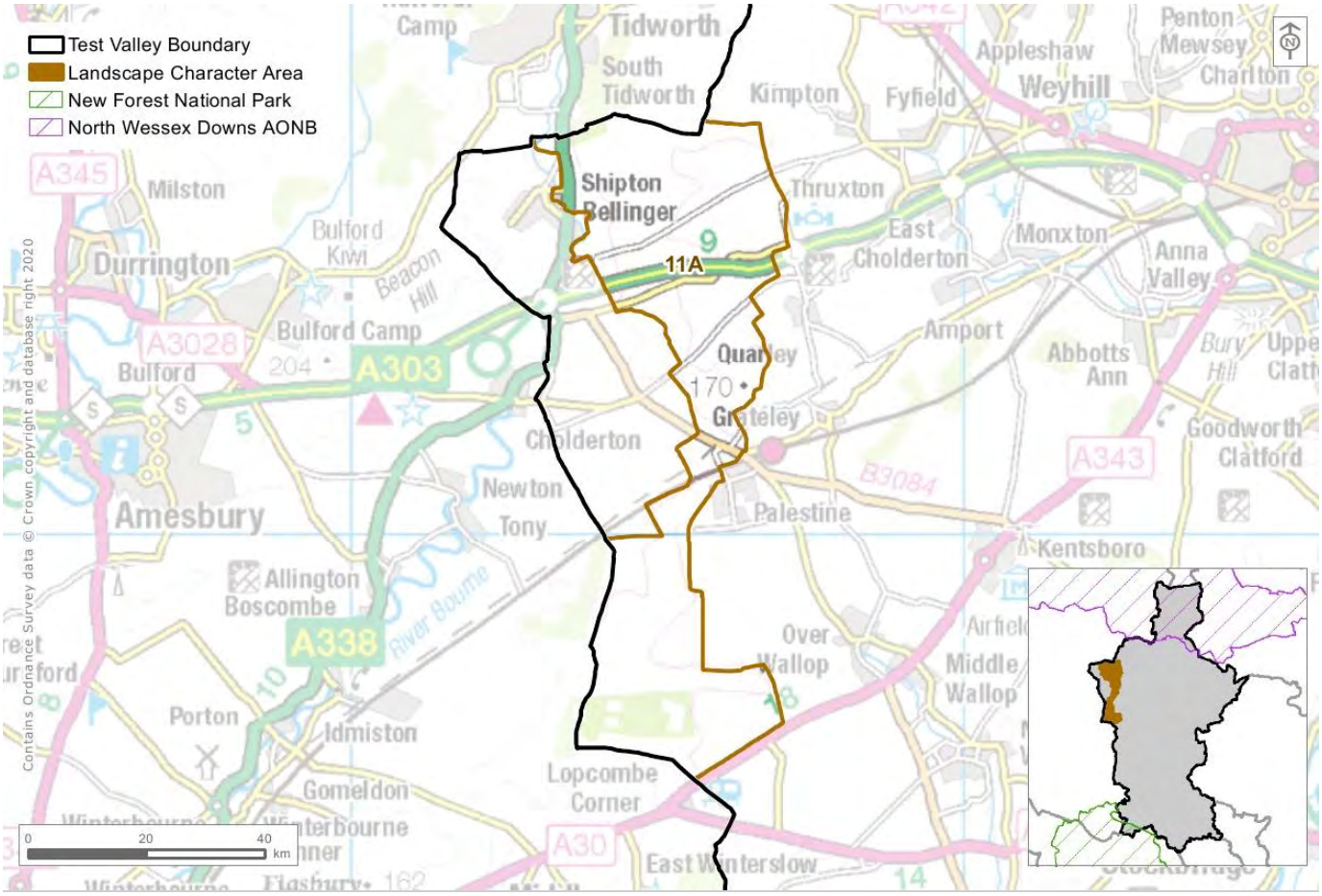
Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to development scenarios

Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCT (including between different LCAs within a given LCT), with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Sensitivity Assessment profile, particularly the boxes entitled 'Variations in landscape sensitivity within the LCT' and 'Notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity, by Landscape Character Area'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Landscape Character Type Level					
Development Scenario	Sensitivity				
Wind scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m		**L-M**			
Small wind installation 25m to 60m			**M**		
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m			**M**		
Large wind installation 100m to 150m				**M-H**	
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					**H**
Solar scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha		**L-M**			
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares			**M**		
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares				**M-H**	
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares				**M-H**	
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares					**H**
Variations in sensitivity within the LCT					
Areas of the LCT which are within or provide part of the setting to the nationally designated North Wessex Downs AONB have higher levels of sensitivity to all renewable energy development scenarios, due to the potential impact of these developments on the special qualities of the AONB. Areas with steep slopes (most notably in parts of 10A and 10C) have an elevated sensitivity to wind and solar PV development as they are locally distinctive and visually prominent.					
Notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity, by Landscape Character Area					
LCA 10A: East Dean Chalk Downland					
Solar scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha			**M**		
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares				**M-H**	
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares				**M-H**	
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares					**H**
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares					**H**
Explanation for variance in sensitivity from overall LCT scores: This LCA has elevated sensitivity to solar developments due to the steeply sloping landform which would result in development being more visually prominent within the local landscape.					

LCT 11: Chalk Downland Ridges

Component LCAs: 11A Quarley Hill Downs



View north from Snoddington Road to a small hill with wooded skylines.

View south from Cholderton Road looking toward Quarley Hill.

Overview of the Landscape Character Type

This LCT is situated in the west of the borough, east of Shipton Bellinger. The LCT is characterised by a series of small hills, with dramatic scarps in places. Land use is mixed arable with limited hedgerows. Pasture woodlands are situated on in accessible slopes. The area is sparsely settled, occupied by a low density of farmsteads and a limited road network.

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Score solar	Score wind
Landform and scale	■ An undulating landscape containing a series of small hills, ridges and upper valley slopes and some scarps. Elevation ranges from 85m AOD in the south-east to 75m AOD in the north and at Isle of Wight Hill in the south. ■ A large-scale open character influenced by large rolling arable fields with low lying boundaries in the north and open grassland in the south. ■ To the south-east of Shipton Bellinger there is a greater woodland cover, creating a smaller scale landscape.	**M**	**M**
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features	■ Extensive areas of large-scale arable farmland are present in the north, often following a regular field pattern. ■ Hedgerows are mixed with some being well-established whilst others are low-cut or removed completely. Mature trees are present in some hedgerow boundaries. ■ Small deciduous woodlands and shelterbelts are common in the north. ■ Most of the south is MOD land, large swathes of which is open calcareous grasslands (designated as a SSSI, SPA and SAC). This area also contains areas of scrub, coniferous plantations and broadleaved woodland. ■ There are no settlements, although parts of Palestine extend into this area. Farmsteads within the LCT are sparse.	**M**	**M**
Tracks / transport pattern	■ Roads cross the landscape on an east to west axis, generally consisting of straight narrow lanes, although the A303 also crosses the area. ■ Snoddington Road is marked by an avenue of horse chestnut trees. ■ No roads cross the southern half of the LCT. ■ There is restricted public access in the south due to MOD land, as well as an area of 'managed access' open space in the north. ■ Public rights of way crossing the LCT are long and straight.	**M**	**M**
Skylines / intervisibility	■ Undeveloped and wooded skylines with wide open views. ■ Small hills such as Quarley Hill are locally distinctive features on skylines and are often wooded. Some are burial mounds or hill forts. ■ A pylon route marks skylines to the north of the A303. ■ There is little intervisibility between the MOD danger area and the surrounding landscape.	**M**	**M-H**
Perceptual qualities including sense of openness/enclosure	■ A largely undeveloped and remote landscape, with high levels of tranquillity. Detractors include MOD exercises and the passing of the A303 and railway line. ■ Large, rolling fields with low hedgerow boundaries provide wide views with big skies and create a feeling of openness.	**M-H**	**M**
Historic Landscape Character	■ The ladder field pattern is typical of parliamentary enclosure. There is also some evidence of potential Iron Age field systems. ■ Scheduled monuments including Bronze Age burial mounds or barrows, an Iron Age hillfort (Quarley Hill Fort) and a Neolithic to Early Bronze Age flint mine are present in elevated areas. ■ There are two Grade II listed buildings in this landscape: a milestone and Racedown Cottage.	**M**	**M**
Scenic and special qualities	■ Pronounced small hills are locally distinctive features which create a sense of place. ■ The LCA contains internationally and nationally important areas for nature conservation, including calcareous grassland habitats, numerous sites of importance for nature conservation, an ancient woodland, an SPA, SAC and Ramsar Site and several SSSIs. The high frequency of habitats gives the area a scenic naturalistic landscape character.	**M**	**M**

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to development scenarios

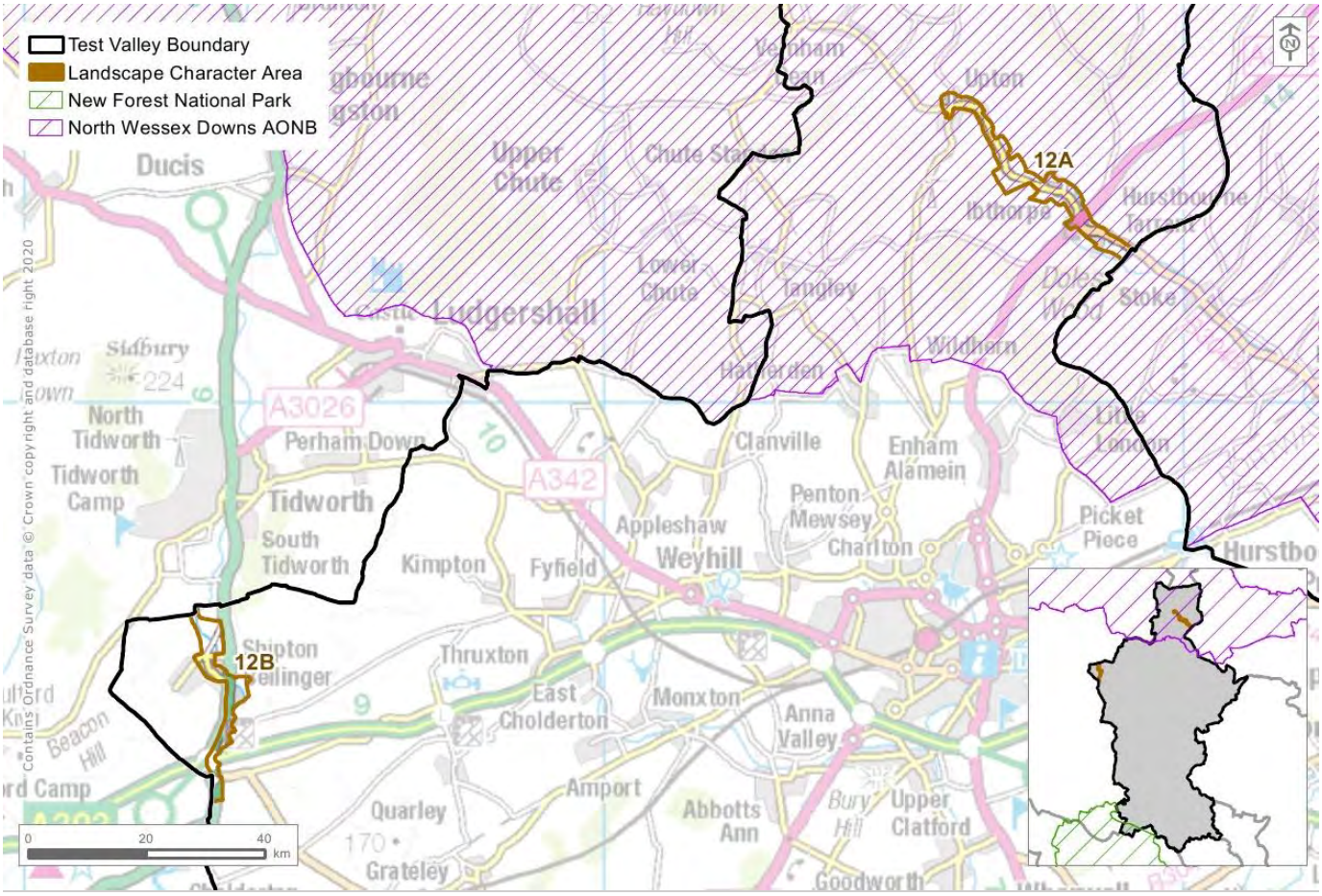
Please note: Landscape sensitivity often varies within an LCT (including between different LCAs within a given LCT), with areas exhibiting higher and lower sensitivity. It is therefore very important to take note of the explanatory text supporting the assessments in each Landscape Sensitivity Assessment profile, particularly the box entitled 'Variations in landscape sensitivity within the LCT'. Whilst the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment results provide an initial indication of landscape sensitivity, they should not be interpreted as definitive statements on the suitability of individual sites for a particular development. All proposals will need to be assessed on their own merits through the planning process, including – where required – through proposal-specific Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs).

Landscape Character Type Level					
Development Scenario	Sensitivity				
Wind scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m		**L-M**			
Small wind installation 25m to 60m			**M**		
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m				**M-H**	
Large wind installation 100m to 150m					**H**
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					**H**
Solar scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha		**L-M**			
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares			**M**		
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares				**M-H**	
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares					**H**
Very large solar PV installation: 50-120 hectares					**H**

Variations in sensitivity within the LCT
Areas near Shipton Bellinger with a smaller landscape scale provided by enclosure from frequent woodland shelterbelts have an elevated sensitivity to wind developments as wind turbines would contrast with the frequent human scale landscape features in this area. The lack of vehicular access tracks in the south also elevates sensitivity to wind development as it will be more difficult to absorb permanent new tracks into this landscape. The high density of semi-natural habitats within this LCT (including many sites of nature conservation interest) elevates the sensitivity of this LCT to both wind and solar PV developments. Open and steeply sloping land such as that surrounding the Isle of Wight Hill in the south have an elevated sensitivity to solar PV developments as these areas are more visually prominent within the local landscape.

LCT 12: Bourne Valleys

Component LCAs: 12A River Swift Valley and 12B River Bourne Valley



View north in LCA 12B shows a rural landscape, enclosed by more elevated land in LCA 11B to the east.

Views within LCA 12A extend up the valley slopes which enclose the LCA. Much of the land use is pasture or horse paddocks.

Overview of the Landscape Character Type

This LCT follows the V-shaped river valleys of the Swift and Bourne Valleys, both of which are situated in the north of the borough. Land use is predominantly mixed pasture, with very small to medium scale fields divided by thick hedgerows and occasional woodlands. The LCT contains some linear and nucleated settlements.

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Criteria	Description	Score solar	Score wind
Landform and scale	■ The LCT is characterised by winterbourne river valleys, containing seasonal surface streams (bournes). ■ The Swift Valley (12A) is narrower than the Bourne Valley (12B) which has a wider and flat-bottomed character, with gentle valley sides. ■ Elevation ranges from 90m AOD in the valley bottoms to 125m AOD on the Swift Valley sides and 105m AOD on Bourne Valley sides. ■ Generally, the valleys are small-scale, intimate landscapes. Although, 12B has a larger scale than 12A, due to its shallower valley slopes.	M-H	M-H
Land cover pattern and presence of human scale features	■ Fields are small-medium scale improved pasture and grassland. These are divided by a mixture of hedgerows, fences and pony tape. ■ Horse paddocks are common in both LCAs. ■ Small pockets of deciduous woodland exist in both valleys, usually situated along ridgelines ■ Near watercourses areas of wet grassland and floodplain grazing marsh occur. ■ Settlement includes small villages, which follow the linear pattern of the valley floors. Shipton Bellinger has a nucleated settlement pattern, centred on a crossing point of the river.	M-H	M-H
Tracks / transport pattern	■ Roads through the valleys are minor and tend to follow the contours of the land within the valley bottom. The A338 crosses through Shipton Bellinger. ■ Both valleys contain several Public Rights of Way, with part of the Test Way long distance recreational route crossing through the Swift Valley.	M	M
Skylines / intervisibility	■ Skylines are often marked by hedgerow trees or woodland in adjacent LCTs. Pylons and overhead lines mark skylines to the south of Shipton Bellinger. ■ In the Swift Valley, views extend up the valley slopes to undeveloped, tree lined and wooded horizons which form a backdrop to views. Views are channelled along the valley. ■ In the Bourne Valley the landscape is more open with greater levels of intervisibility between surrounding LCTs.	M	M
Perceptual qualities including sense of openness/enclosure	■ Both valleys have a distinctly rural character, this is especially prominent in the Swift Valley. Main roads within the Bourne Valley can detract from the rural character and levels of tranquillity. ■ In places hedgerows are low lying and in places gappy or removed completely, replaced with pony fencing/tape. ■ The Swift Valley is an enclosed V-shaped valley. The frequency of mature trees both in hedgerows and small woodlands creates a feeling of enclosure. ■ Limited hedgerows combined with the gentle valley slopes creates a slightly more open landscape in the Bourne Valley.	M-H	M-H
Historic Landscape Character	■ Fields within the LCT generally have an eighteenth or nineteenth century parliamentary field patten. ■ There are large numbers of listed buildings in the villages of the Swift Valley including the Grade I listed Church of St Peter and several Grade II* listed buildings. In Shipton Bellinger Grade II listed buildings are concentrated in its core. ■ A large proportion of the Swift Valley is within Conservation Areas, including the Hurstbourne Tarrant and Ibthorpe Conservation Area and the Upton Conservation Area.	M-H	M-H
Scenic and special qualities	■ The whole of the Swift Valley lies within the North Wessex Downs AONB. ■ In both valleys, high groundwater levels allow species rich wet mesotrophic grassland and floodplain grazing marsh. There are also areas of calcareous grassland within the Swift Valley. These diverse habitat mosaics are locally distinctive and give the valleys a scenic character. ■ The distinct valley landforms create a strong sense of place.	M-H	M-H

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to development scenarios

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Landscape Character Type Level					
Development Scenario	Sensitivity				
Wind scenarios					
Very small wind installation up to 25m				**M-H**	
Small wind installation 25m to 60m					**H**
Medium wind installation 60m to 100m					**H**
Large wind installation 100m to 150m					**H**
Very large wind installation 150m to 200m					**H**
Solar scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha				**M-H**	
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares				**M-H**	
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares					**H**
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares					**H**
Very large solar PV installation 50-120 hectares					**H**
Variations in sensitivity within LCT					
Areas with a more steeply sloping landform or with more open and exposed characteristics are likely to have an elevated sensitivity to solar development as they are more visually prominent.					
Notes on any variations in landscape sensitivity, by Landscape Character Area					
LCA 12A: River Swift Valley					
Solar scenarios					
Very small solar PV installation up to 1ha				**M-H**	
Small solar PV installation 1 to 5 hectares					H
Medium solar PV installation 5 to 20 hectares					H
Large solar PV installation 20 to 50 hectares					H
Very large solar PV installation 50-120 hectares					H
Explanation for variance in sensitivity from overall LCT scores: The Swift Valley has increased sensitivity to solar PV developments as it is situated within the nationally protected landscape of the North Wessex Downs AONB and much of the LCA is within or provides setting to Conservation Areas. The sloping landform in this LCA is steep and therefore visually prominent within the local landscape.					