

Area reference: SP058C / SP058D / SP058E

Figure A.82: Map of the area with designations / constraints

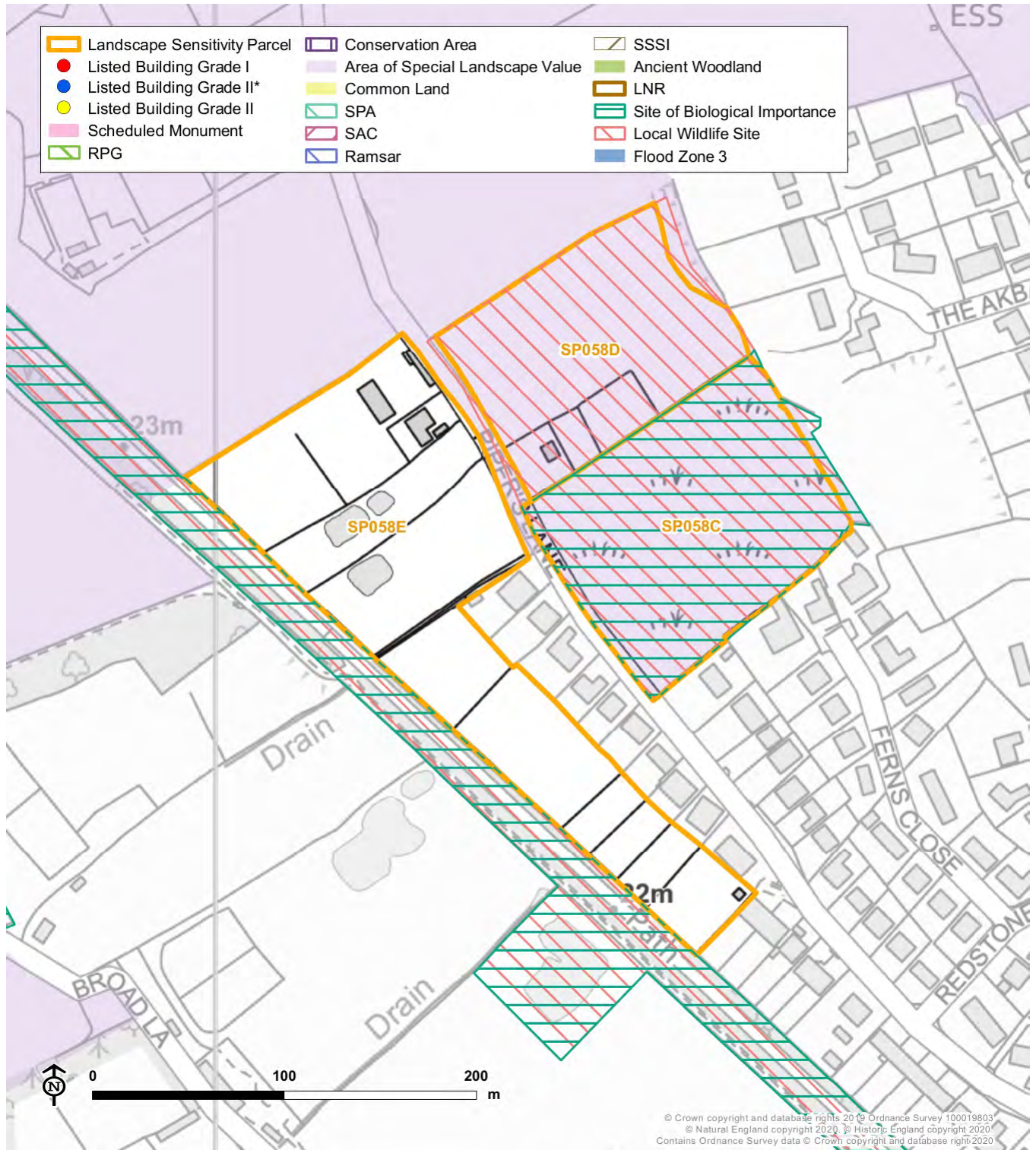


Figure A.83: Aerial photograph of the area

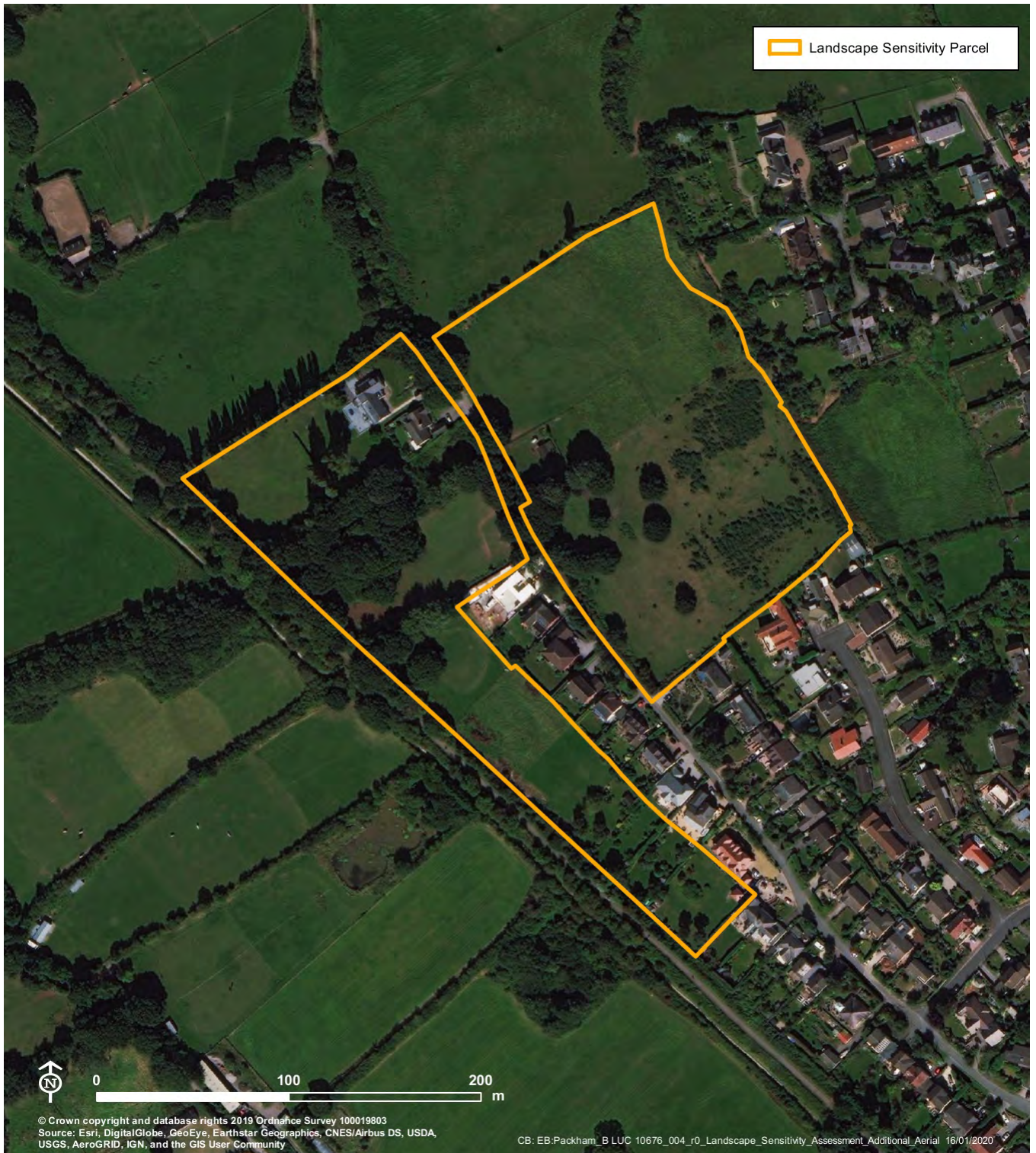


Figure A.84: Representative photos



Piper's Lane Site of Biological Importance / Local Wildlife Site



Woodland enclosure with elevated views towards North Wales

Location and landscape character context

The area (incorporating SP058C, SP058D and SP058E) is situated in the south-west of the borough and lies to the north-west of Heswall. Residential properties lie along its eastern and southern boundaries and the Wirral Way (Long Distance Footpath / National Cycle Route 89 and part of Wirral Country Park) forms the south-western boundary, with field boundaries defining the northern edge of the area. Piper's Lane bisects the area (marking the division of the land parcels).

The area lies within the Dee Estuary LCA, forming part of the Coastal/Estuarine Edge LCT. It comprises a relatively steep slope falling towards the Dee Estuary in the west and overlain by small pastoral fields with associated horsiculture.

Landscape value

The area to the north of Piper's Lane forms part of an Area of Special Landscape Value that covers the Dee Coast. The scrub and grassland vegetation in the east is valued for its contribution to biodiversity, being a Site of Biological Importance / Local Wildlife Site.

The area's use for horse grazing limits its recreational value. The Wirral Way follows the south-western boundary of the area; however intervisibility with the area along the route is restricted by intervening vegetation that lines the footpath.

The table below incorporates these indicators of value into the assessment of sensitivity.

Assessment Criterion	Landscape Sensitivity Description
Physical Character (including topography and scale)	<p>The relatively steep sloping landform falls east to west (from 55m to 20m AOD) from high ground on the Heswall settlement edge towards the River Dee, forms part of a distinctive valley side, indicating higher levels of sensitivity to residential development.</p> <p>The area has a small rectangular field pattern, bound by a mixture of post and rail fencing, fragmented hedgerows and woodland, providing a modest density of small-scale landscape features, resulting in a higher level of sensitivity to residential development.</p>

Natural Character	<p>Much of the area comprises areas used for horse paddocks, with related paraphernalia scattered across the area. There is also some existing development present (bungalows, outbuildings and stables off Piper's Lane), resulting in lower sensitivity to residential development.</p> <p>Higher sensitivity to residential development exist where there are areas of valued semi-natural habitats, including priority habitat grassland (designated as the Piper's Lane Site of Biological Importance / Local Wildlife Site) and lowland mixed deciduous woodland to the south. There is further priority habitat lowland mixed deciduous woodland within the Wirral Way (Caldy to Heswall) Site of Biological Interest, which lies adjacent to the west. Other valued natural features include hedgerows enhanced occasionally with hedgerow trees and mature groups of trees.</p>
Historic landscape character	<p>The Cheshire HLC indicates that the area contains a relatively diverse time depth which increases sensitivity to residential development.</p> <p>Most of the area comprises ancient fieldscapes (pre-1600); namely the small-scale rectangular field pattern to the north which is categorised as Medieval Town Fields which increases sensitivity to residential development in these areas. Lower levels of sensitivity to residential development exist in the south, which consists of paddocks and rear gardens to properties along Piper's Lane.</p> <p>There are no heritage assets within the area.</p>
Character and setting of existing settlement	<p>Much of the surrounding development on the edge of Heswall is visible from the area. Further development could be in accordance with the pattern and form of this existing development, while providing opportunities to improve and integrate the hard settlement edge. The setting to some parts of Heswall is already influenced by existing bungalows, stables and other paraphernalia associated with the horsiculture character of the area, indicating lower levels of sensitivity to residential development.</p> <p>The area provides a rural setting to other parts of this settlement edge with some uninterrupted views afforded from elevated areas across the Dee Estuary towards North Wales and to the wooded skyline of Caldly Hill and Thurston Common in the north, indicating a higher level of sensitivity.</p>
Views and visual character including skylines	<p>The area is visually enclosed by surrounding built development to the south and east, as well as by woodland along the Wirral Way and within the western part of the area indicating a lower sensitivity to residential development. However, the steeply sloping landform results in the area being visually prominent from surrounding areas to the west including the Dee Estuary and as far as North Wales (albeit seen in the context of other development across the slope), increasing sensitivity to residential development. There is also a sense of openness to the north as low fragmented hedgerows along the boundary result in intervisibility with the surrounding landscape.</p>
Perceptual and experiential qualities	<p>Although a rural landscape, the area is influenced by fragmented urban fringe land uses including horsiculture and residential development along Piper's Lane. The area is also already influenced by surrounding development, disturbing its scenic value and limiting dark night skies through existing light sources, and therefore decreasing the sensitivity to residential development.</p>

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to future change from residential development

L	L-M	M	M-H	H
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The steep sloping topography and elevated nature of the landscape (resulting in visual prominence), the natural habitats and features (particularly north of Piper's Lane), presence of historic field patterns and the uninterrupted views across the Dee Estuary towards North Wales from some parts of Heswall increase sensitivity resulting in **moderate-high** sensitivity for SP058D and SP058C. This area is locally designated as part of the Area of Special Landscape Value.

However, the urban fringe elements including existing development and horsiculture character, more enclosed nature and surrounding human influences reduce the sensitivity, particularly south of Piper's Lane.SP058E is considered to have **moderate** sensitivity to any potential future change from residential development.

Guidance³⁶

Given the overall assessment of landscape sensitivity outlined above, the following general guidance applies to any development on this area:

- Conserve and reinforce the network of native hedgerows and seek to create a stronger landscape structure to integrate development by increasing the presence of hedgerow trees and providing additional native woodland planting.
- Restore hedgerow boundaries where these are fragmented and replace post and wire fencing with native hedgerow species.
- Retain and manage areas of deciduous woodland. Pursue opportunities to extend native woodland across undeveloped parts of the area as part of an integrated green infrastructure network connected to the surrounding landscape, to protect visual amenity and to help integrate potential development into the landscape.
- Maintain the extent and increase species diversity of existing grassland to support surrounding heathland (consistent with the priorities of the West Wirral Heathlands and Arrowe Park Nature Improvement Area).
- Conserve the rural character and small scale intact historic field pattern.
- Preserve rural and panoramic views out from the edge of Heswall.
- Avoid visually intrusive development on prominent slopes and elevated areas along the northern edge of the area.

³⁶ The guidance provided should not be interpreted to the effect that residential development of the scale assessed would be considered acceptable in principle in landscape terms.

Area reference: SP059B / SP059C / SP059D

Figure A.85: Map of the area with designations / constraints

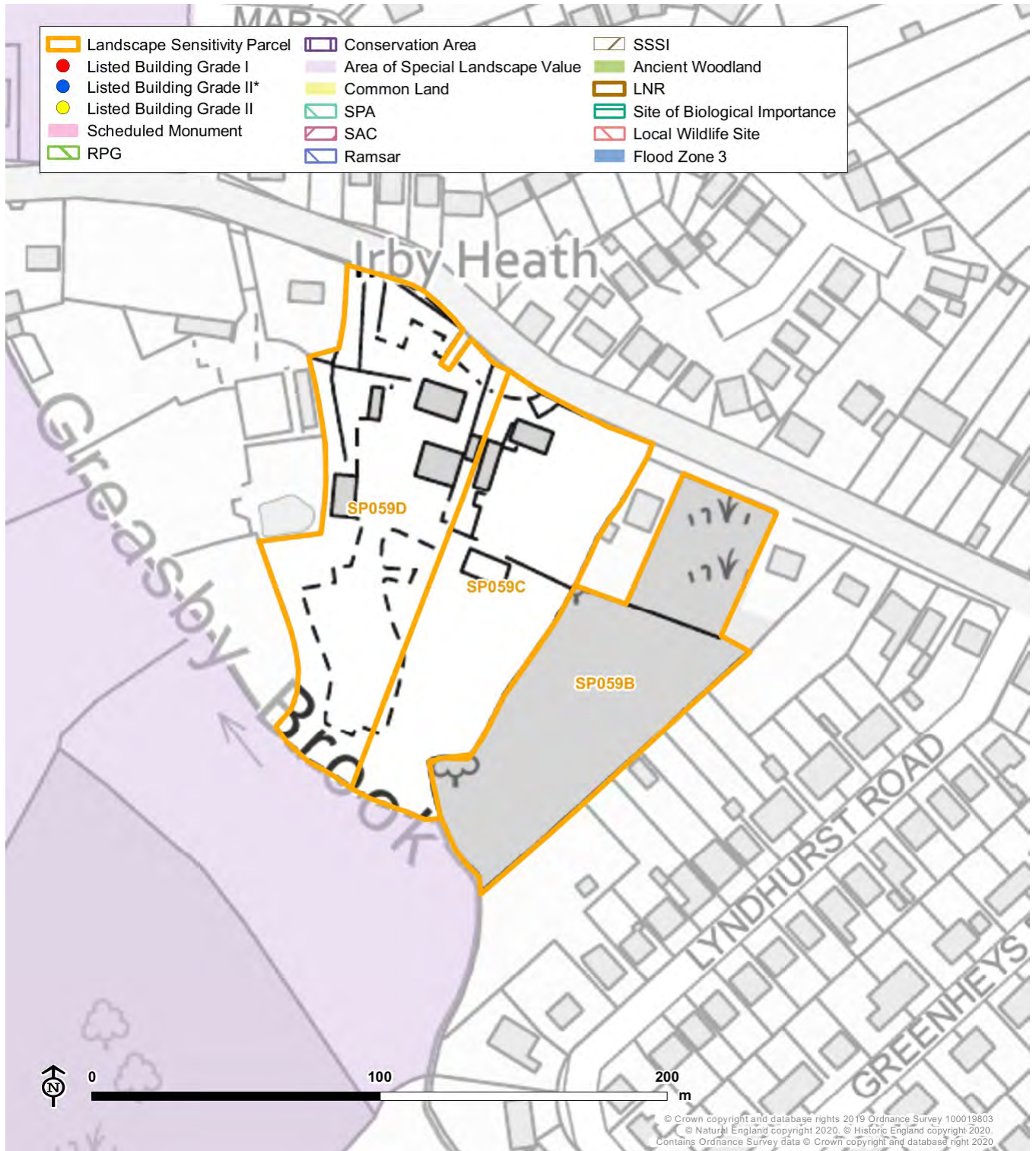


Figure A.86: Aerial photograph of the area



Figure A.87: Representative photos



Existing dwelling located within the area



Overgrown vegetation covers the area

Location and landscape character context

The area (incorporating SP059B, SP059C and SP059D) is situated in the west of the borough and lies to the south-west of Irby. Thurstaston Road forms its northern boundary and properties along Lyndhurst Road lie along the south-eastern boundary. Mature tree groups define the western and south-western boundaries.

The area lies within the Thurstaston and Greasby LCA, forming part of the Sandstone Hills LCT. The area is partially developed with small houses along Thurstaston Road and unused / derelict plots overgrown with vegetation.

Landscape value

This area is not subject to any landscape designations (national or local), although lies adjacent to an Area of Special Landscape Value that covers Thurstaston Hill and Common to the west. Lack of management has resulted in the formation of natural scrub habitats and mature tree groups that surround the area.

Public access into the area is restricted resulting in there being no recreational value.

The table below incorporates these indicators of value into the assessment of sensitivity.

Assessment Criterion	Landscape Sensitivity Description
Physical Character (including topography and scale)	The flat and featureless landform indicates low levels of sensitivity to residential development. The existing dwellings within the area also lower levels of sensitivity as they influence the scale of development that can be accommodated in the landscape. Mature tree groups surround the area and provide some small-scale landscape features, increasing the sensitivity to residential development.
Natural Character	The existing development within the area lowers the sensitivity to residential development. The overgrown character has resulted in the formation of natural habitats, predominantly scrub vegetation that covers most of the area as well as mature trees along the boundary, resulting in higher levels of sensitivity to residential development.

Assessment Criterion	Landscape Sensitivity Description
Historic landscape character	There is no identifiable field pattern due to the developed and overgrown nature of the area. However, the Cheshire HLC indicates some sense of time depth as it categorises most of the area as Ancient Field Systems Irregular resulting in higher levels of sensitivity to residential development. Existing development within the area has been categorised as Post Medieval Settlement and 20th Century Settlement which lowers sensitivity. There are no heritage assets within the area.
Character and setting of existing settlement	The area does not contribute positively to the setting of the settlement given its overgrown and unmanaged appearance or play a separation role between settlements. Future development in the area could have a good relationship with the existing settlement form and pattern, and could improve the existing settlement edge of Irby, therefore indicating low levels of sensitivity to residential development.
Views and visual character including skylines	The area is visually enclosed by surrounding built development and mature hedgerow boundaries that contain it, resulting in a low degree of visibility from the surrounding landscape (including the Area of Special Landscape Value) and indicating a lower sensitivity to residential development.
Perceptual and experiential qualities	The area is influenced by existing development and human activity within and surrounding it. New development would not be out of character and would be an improvement from its overgrown state, resulting in low levels of sensitivity to residential development.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to future change from residential development

L	L-M	M	M-H	H
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The flat landform, overgrown character, presence of existing development, surrounding human influences and visual containment lower the sensitivity across the area. The natural habitats that have formed from the scrub vegetation that covers the area slightly increases sensitivity, as does the presence of an historic field pattern (although its legibility is lost through its unmanaged state). Overall the area is considered to have a **low** sensitivity to any potential future change from residential development.

Guidance³⁷

Given the overall assessment of landscape sensitivity outlined above, the following general guidance applies to any development on this area:

- Retain and manage areas of deciduous woodland within the area. Pursue opportunities to extend native woodland across undeveloped parts of the area as part of an integrated green infrastructure network connected to the surrounding landscape, to protect visual amenity and to help integrate potential development into the landscape.
- Conserve, enhance and manage any other valued habitats that have formed within the area.
- Maintain the extent and increase species diversity of existing grassland to support surrounding heathland (consistent with the priorities of the West Wirral Heathlands and Arrowe Park Nature Improvement Area).
- Restore the small scale intact historic field pattern.

³⁷ The guidance provided should not be interpreted to the effect that residential development of the scale assessed would be considered acceptable in principle in landscape terms.

Area reference: SP059E

Figure A.88: Map of the area with designations / constraints

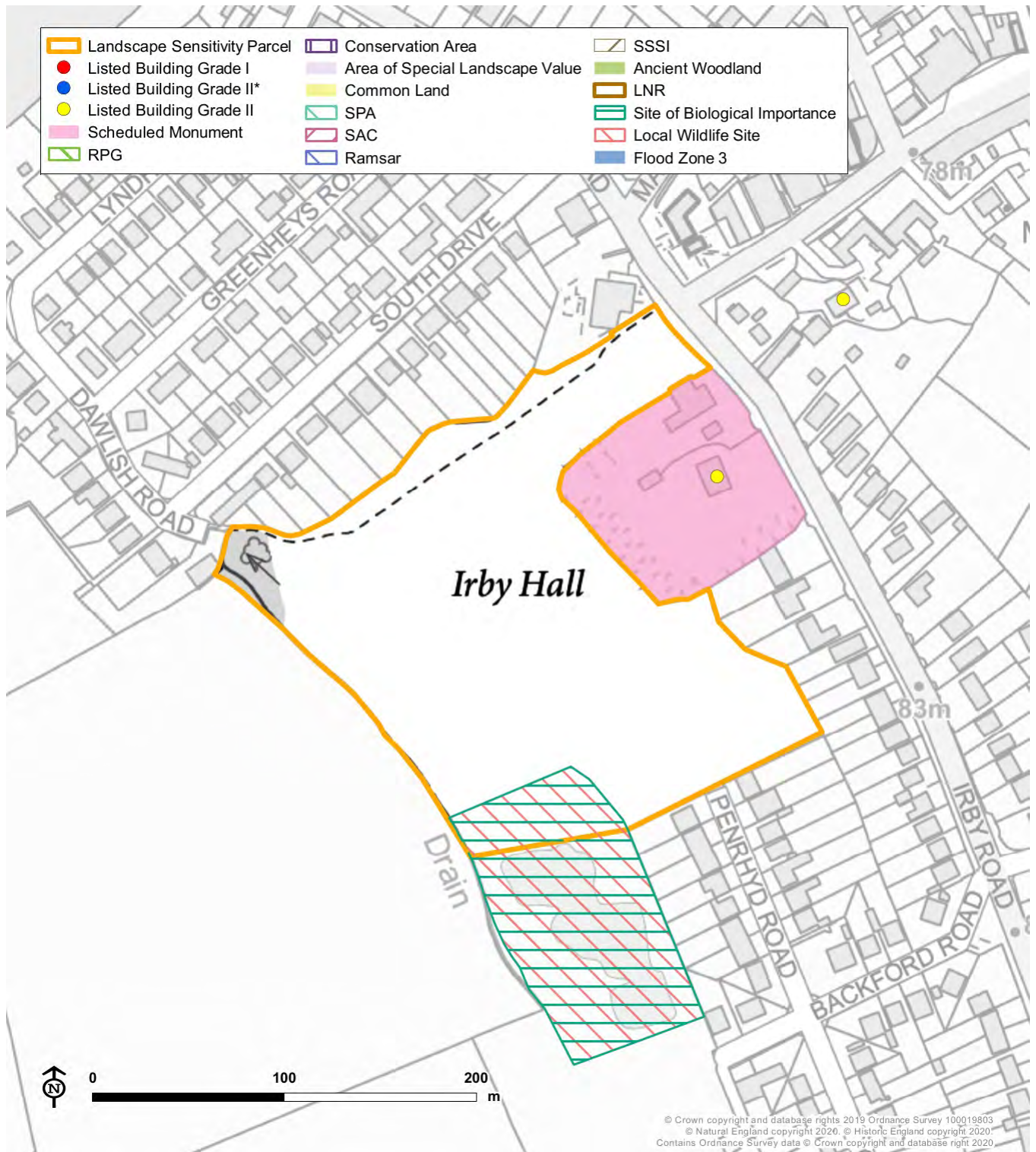


Figure A.89: Aerial photograph of the area



Figure A.90: Representative photos



Intensively farmed arable fields and broadleaf woodland in the north-west corner



Woodland surrounding Irby hall

Location and landscape character context

The area is situated in the west of the borough and lies to the south and west of Irby. Property boundaries along South Drive lie along the northern edge. The eastern boundary is defined by properties along Irby Road (including Irby Hall) and the southern boundary is formed by properties along Penrhyd Road and the edge of Backford Road Pond. A field boundary hedgerow defines the western edge of the area.

The area lies within the Irby and Pensby LCA, forming part of the Sandstone Hills LCT. It comprises relatively flat landform overlain with two small arable fields bounded by woodland and hedgerows.

Landscape value

This area is not subject to any landscape designations (national or local). There is a small woodland copse in the north-western corner and other woodland surrounds the area. Part of the Backford Road Pond Site of Biological Importance / Local Wildlife Site encroaches into the south-western corner of the area, valued for its contribution to biodiversity.

The area's use as working farmland for crops limits its recreational value, although there is a public right of way that runs along the northern boundary, providing a connection between Irby and Thurstaston.

The table below incorporates these indicators of value into the assessment of sensitivity.

Assessment Criterion	Landscape Sensitivity Description
Physical Character (including topography and scale)	An elevated but relatively flat and featureless landform which results in lower levels of sensitivity to residential development. The area comprises two small irregular fields, a small woodland copse in the north-western corner and mostly formed by hedgerows (albeit fragmented in places) providing a modest density of small-scale landscape features, resulting in a higher level of sensitivity to residential development.
Natural Character	The area comprises areas that are intensively farmed through arable practices and limited coverage of semi-natural habitats resulting in lower sensitivity to residential development.

	<p>Valued natural features consist of Priority Habitat Lowland Mixed Broad-leaf Woodland in the north-western corner and field boundary hedgerows, which increase the sensitivity to residential development.</p> <p>The Backford Road Pond Site of Biological Importance / Local Wildlife Site is also valued for its contribution towards biodiversity. Although the boundary of this designation encroaches into the area, the pond and its associated marginal aquatic vegetation fall outside of the area. The area therefore provides a setting to this feature rather than encompassing it.</p>
Historic landscape character	<p>The area forms part of a wider field pattern of ancient fieldscapes (pre-1600), being categorised in the Cheshire HLC as Ancient Field Systems Semi-regular. This results in the area having a sense of time depth, increasing the sensitivity to residential development.</p> <p>The Grade II listed Irby Hall is a moated site which is designated as a Scheduled Monument, abuts the eastern boundary of the area. The whole area is also recognised as an area of archaeological importance. The moated site is relatively well enclosed by mature vegetation, although there are some gaps resulting in intervisibility with the area (particularly beneath tree canopies), and the area contributes to its historic setting, which indicates higher levels of sensitivity to residential development in this area.</p>
Character and setting of existing settlement	<p>The area provides a rural setting to Irby which residential development would adversely affect, however much of the Irby settlement edge is well integrated by mature hedgerow boundaries and woodland. The exception to this is along the south-eastern edge of the area where existing development is visible within the area and where development could provide the opportunity to improve this edge, lowering sensitivity.</p>
Views and visual character including skylines	<p>The area is visually enclosed by surrounding built development to the north, east and south-east, as well as by mature hedgerows and woodland which define these settlement edges, indicating lower sensitivity to residential development. However, the sense of openness to the west and south-west, where field boundaries are low, results in some intervisibility with the surrounding rising agricultural land which increases sensitivity to residential development.</p>
Perceptual and experiential qualities	<p>The area is an undeveloped and rural agricultural landscape with open views to the surrounding agricultural land in the west and distant views to the hills in North Wales. However, the area is influenced by surrounding development, disturbing its scenic value and limiting dark night skies through existing light sources, and therefore decreasing the sensitivity to residential development.</p>

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to future change from residential development

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The small woodland copse and hedgerows, presence of historic field patterns, rural setting provided to Irby Hall and uninterrupted views to the west increase sensitivity. However, the flat landform, intensively farmed character, limited coverage of semi-natural habitats, and surrounding human influences lower sensitivity. Overall, the area is considered to have **moderate** sensitivity to any potential future change from residential development.

Guidance³⁸

Given the overall assessment of landscape sensitivity outlined above, the following general guidance applies to any development on this area:

- Conserve and reinforce the network of native hedgerows to prevent visual intrusion and seek to create a stronger landscape structure to integrate development by increasing the presence of hedgerow trees and providing additional native woodland planting.
- Restore hedgerow boundaries where these are fragmented.

³⁸ The guidance provided should not be interpreted to the effect that residential development of the scale assessed would be considered acceptable in principle in landscape terms.

- Retain and manage areas of broadleaf woodland within the area. Pursue opportunities to extend native woodland across undeveloped parts of the area as part of an integrated green infrastructure network connected to the surrounding landscape, to protect visual amenity and to help integrate potential development into the landscape.
- Revert areas to grassland in order to increase species diversity (consistent with the priorities of the West Wirral Heathlands and Arrowe Park Nature Improvement Area).
- Conserve the rural character and small intact historic field pattern, particularly in proximity to Irby Hall where the area contributes towards the setting of the scheduled monument and listed building.
- Preserve the open setting and biodiversity value of the Backford Road Pond.
- Preserve open views to the west which look towards hills in North Wales.
- Protect and enhance the public right of way connecting Irby to Thurstaston and promote further opportunities to increase access and enjoyment of the landscape in association with any new development.

Area reference: SP060

Figure A.91: Map of the area with designations / constraints

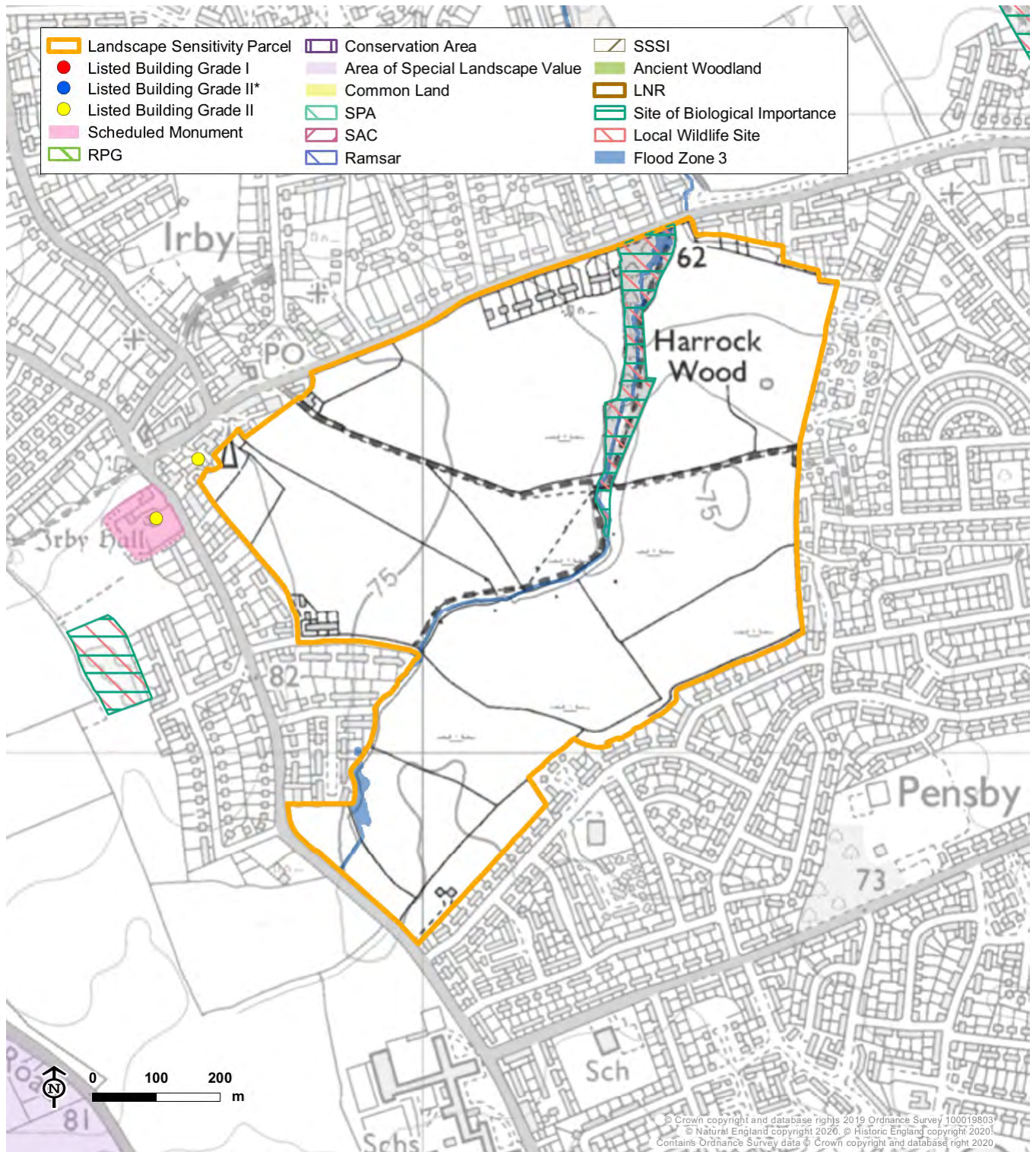


Figure A.92: Aerial photograph of the area



Figure A.93: Representative photos



Fields comprising marshland grazed by livestock and surrounded by existing settlement



Harrock Wood Site of Biological Importance / Local Wildlife Site

Location and landscape character context

The area is situated in the west of the borough and lies in an area enclosed by Irby and Pensby. The settlement of Irby wraps around the area to the north, east and west with Pensby to the south. Residential properties are located along the majority of the area's boundaries and Irby Road forms the only undeveloped edge to the south-west.

The area lies within the Irby and Pensby LCA, forming part of the Sandstone Hills LCT. Gently undulating valley slopes falling to Harrock Wood characterise the area, which comprises marshland with fields of varying scale. The area is largely used for livestock pasture but also accommodates some equestrian related uses.

Landscape value

This area is not subject to any landscape designations (national or local). However, the wooded valley at Harrock Wood is a key feature that is distinctive for its topography and vegetation, and valued for its contribution to biodiversity, being a Site of Biological Importance / Local Wildlife Site.

The area's use as pastoral farmland limits its recreational value, although two public rights of way cross the area, providing connections to different parts of Irby and Harrock Wood, which is designated open access land.

The table below incorporates these indicators of value into the assessment of sensitivity.

Assessment Criterion	Landscape Sensitivity Description
Physical Character (including topography and scale)	<p>The gentle undulating landform falls from the south, east and west to the north (from 75m to 65m AOD) from high ground on the settlement edges towards Thingwall Road, indicating lower levels of sensitivity to residential development. However the narrow wooded valley of Harrock Wood cuts deeply through the landscape, increasing sensitivity to residential development locally.</p> <p>The area is overlain by a pattern of geometric and irregular fields of varying scale that have been mostly formed by Arrowe Brook that meanders from the south-western corner to the north and is lined with vegetation. Fragmented hedgerow boundaries with occasional hedgerow trees have also largely defined the field pattern, providing a modest density of small-scale landscape features, resulting in a higher level of sensitivity to residential development.</p>

Natural Character	<p>The area comprises fields used for livestock grazing with smaller areas relating to equestrian activities, with some marshland on lower ground associated with the watercourses. There is some existing development (stables with outdoor riding arenas in the north-west and south-west), and a limited coverage of semi-natural habitats resulting in lower sensitivity to residential development.</p> <p>Areas of higher sensitivity to residential development exist where there are valued semi-natural habitats, including Priority Habitat Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland at Harrock Wood (designated as a Site of Biological Importance / Local Wildlife Site for its remnant Wych Elm woodland) which is managed by the National Trust. Wetland habitats (Priority Habitat Reedbeds) are scattered throughout the southern part of the area. Other valued natural features include hedgerows enhanced occasionally with hedgerow trees and a small pocket of trees/ shrubs surrounding a field pond in the north-east.</p>
Historic landscape character	<p>The Cheshire HLC indicates that the area contains a relatively diverse time depth which increases sensitivity to residential development.</p> <p>There are ancient fieldscapes (pre-1600) in the south, with smaller scale fields of an irregular field pattern, being categorised as Medieval Town Fields, which increases sensitivity to residential development in this area.</p> <p>Post Medieval fieldscapes also occur within the area, with fields of Late Post Medieval Agricultural Improvement in the north. These consist of larger-scale fields indicating a lower sensitivity to residential development.</p> <p>The historic Irby Farmhouse (Grade II listed) lies adjacent to the north-western corner of the area, although intervisibility with the area is restricted by groups of trees. The northwest of the area is of archaeological importance.</p>
Character and setting of existing settlement	<p>The area plays a role in the remaining separation of Pensby in the south from Irby in the north, resulting in a higher level of sensitivity to residential development. There is intervisibility between the two settlements although the gap is only perceived when travelling along the public rights of way running through the area as well as when travelling along Irby Road (along the south-western area boundary) which provides a connection between the two settlements.</p> <p>Much of the Pensby and Irby settlement edges are visible from within the area and further development could be in accordance with the pattern and form of these existing developments, while providing opportunities to improve and integrate the hard settlement edges. The area provides a rural setting to the settlements with uninterrupted views afforded from some areas towards Harrock Wood as well as longer distance views towards the wooded skyline in the south that extends from Ridgewood Park across to Heswall Dales, indicating a higher level of sensitivity. Parts of the settlement edges in the north-west and south-west are of lower sensitivity to residential development where the setting is already influenced by equestrian uses including stables.</p>
Views and visual character including skylines	<p>The area is almost completely enclosed by surrounding built development, which along with Harrock Wood restricts intervisibility with the wider landscape indicating a lower sensitivity to residential development.</p>
Perceptual and experiential qualities	<p>Although largely a rural agricultural landscape, the area is influenced by fragmented urban fringe elements relating to equestrian uses, reducing sensitivity. The area is already influenced by surrounding development, disturbing its scenic value and limiting dark night skies through existing light sources, and therefore decreasing the sensitivity to residential development. Larger fields within the area are subdivided by post and wire fencing which form visual detractors. The telecommunications mast to the rear of the shopping centre at Irby is also a detracting feature.</p>

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to future change from residential development

L	L-M	M	M-H	H
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The presence of historic field patterns adjacent to Pensby, valued natural habitats along Arrowe Brook and wetland habitats to the south of the area, and the role the area plays in contributing towards a perceived gap between settlements increases sensitivity. However, surrounding human influences and equestrian uses (which are typical of the urban fringe) lower sensitivity. Overall, the area is considered to have a **moderate** sensitivity to any potential future change from residential development.

There is a higher sensitivity within areas close to Harrock Wood where development could affect the intimate and rural character of the wooded valley.

Guidance³⁹

Given the overall assessment of landscape sensitivity outlined above, the following general guidance applies to any development on this area:

- Conserve and reinforce the network of native hedgerows and seek to create a stronger landscape structure to integrate development by increasing the presence of hedgerow trees and providing additional native woodland planting.
- Retain and manage areas of deciduous woodland within the area. Pursue opportunities to extend native woodland across undeveloped parts of the area as part of an integrated green infrastructure network connected to the surrounding landscape, to protect visual amenity and to help integrate potential development into the landscape.
- Maintain the extent and increase species diversity of existing grassland (consistent with the priorities of the West Wirral Heathlands and Arrowe Park Nature Improvement Area).
- Conserve the intact historic field pattern of ancient Medieval Townfields in proximity to Pensby.
- Conserve the wooded field pond in the north-west.
- Preserve the narrow wooded valley at Harrock Wood as a landscape feature, ensuring that the intimate character of the wooded valley is retained.
- Ensure the function of the area as a perceived gap between Pensby and Irby is maintained by providing a clear physical and visual separation between adjacent settlements.
- Protect and enhance the public rights of way connecting different parts of Irby as well as the Harrock Wood open access land and promote further opportunities to increase access and enjoyment of the landscape in association with any new development.

³⁹ The guidance provided should not be interpreted to the effect that residential development of the scale assessed would be considered acceptable in principle in landscape terms.

Area reference: SP061 / SP062

Figure A.94: Map of the area with designations / constraints

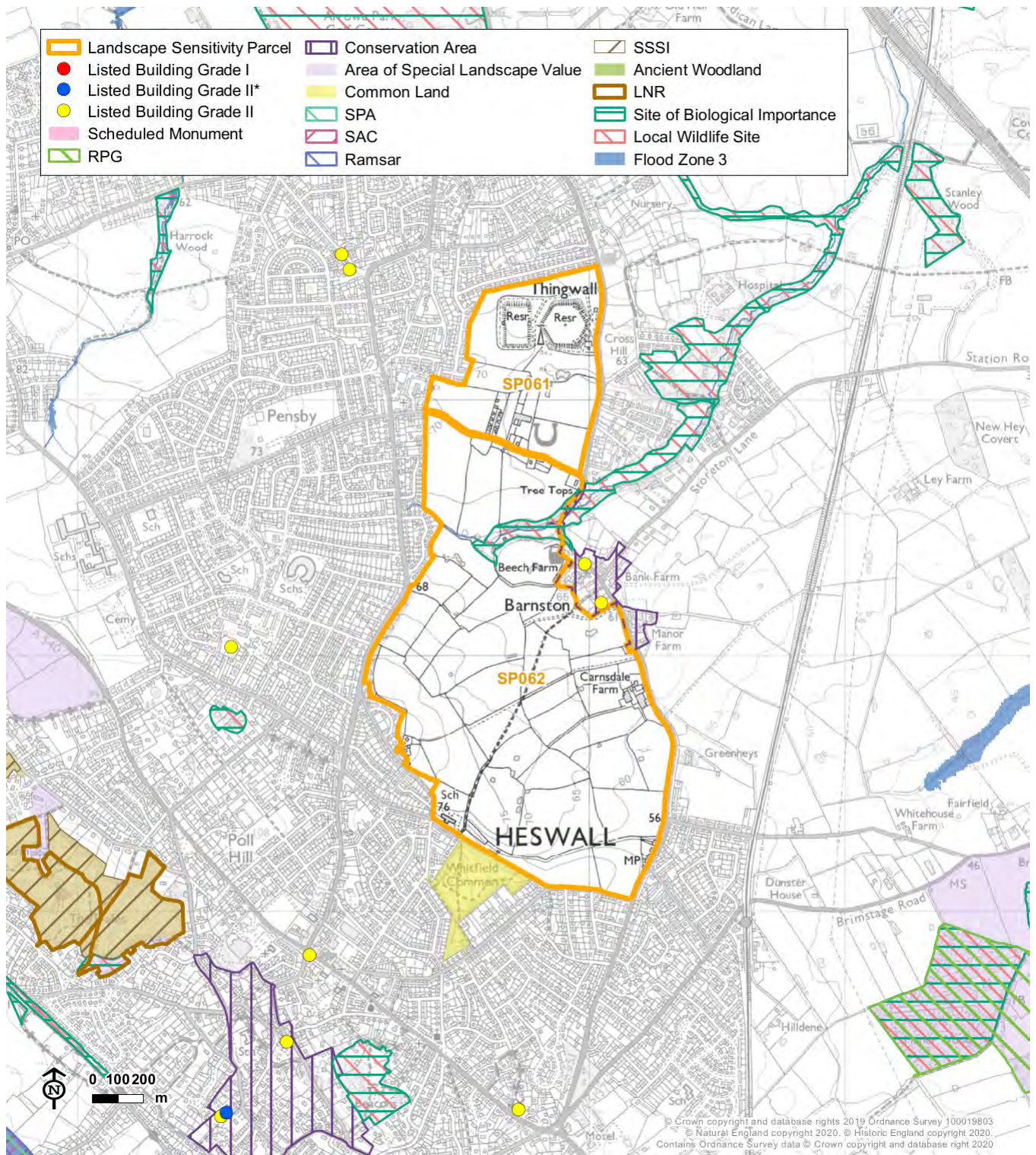


Figure A.95: Aerial photograph of the area



Figure A.96: Representative photos



Gently sloping landform with elevated ground along the Pensby settlement edge in the west



Dwellings in Barnston along the eastern edge of the area

Location and landscape character context

The area (incorporating SP061 and SP062) is situated in the south-west of the borough and lies to the east of Pensby between Thingwall and Heswall. The A551 Barnston Road forms its eastern boundary, with the village of Barnston partly abutting this edge.

The area lies within the Landican and Thingwall LCA, forming part of the Lowland Farmland and Estates LCT. Gentle valley slopes, falling to the Prenton Brook along the wooded Barnston Dale, characterise the area, which comprise a mixture of arable and pasture farmland in the form of small-medium sized fields. The area also accommodates some engineered landform at Crosshill Reservoir in the north, large farm complexes, residential developments and equestrian related uses.

Landscape value

This area is not subject to any landscape designations (national or local). However, the Prenton Brook and associated wooded valley at Barnston Dale is a key feature that is distinctive for its topography and vegetation, and valued for its contribution to biodiversity, being a Site of Biological Importance / Local Wildlife Site. The Conservation Area at Barnston village (which lies directly adjacent to the area) also contributes to the overall value, given the intervisibility between it and the area.

The area's use as working farmland for crops and livestock limits its recreational value, although there is a public right of way that crosses the area, providing a connection between Barnston, Heswall Primary School and Whitfield Common in Heswall.

The table below incorporates these indicators of value into the assessment of sensitivity.

Assessment Criterion	Landscape Sensitivity Description
Physical Character (including topography and scale)	The gently sloping landform falls east to west (from 85m to 55m AOD) from high ground on the settlement edge towards Barnston Road indicating lower levels of sensitivity to residential development. However the narrow wooded valley of the Barnston Dale along the Prenton Brook cuts deeply through the landscape, increasing sensitivity to residential development along its course.

	<p>The northern part of the area consists of two covered reservoirs with engineered grassed mounding surrounded by open grassland. These man-made structures protrude from the ground and lower sensitivity in this area to residential development.</p> <p>There is a mixed field pattern comprising geometric, rectangular and irregular fields that are small to medium in size and mostly formed by hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees, providing a modest density of small-scale landscape features, resulting in a higher level of sensitivity to residential development.</p>
Natural Character	<p>Much of the area comprises areas that are intensively farmed or managed (through both arable and pastoral practices), with some existing ribbon development present (dwellings along Thorncroft Drive, Barnston Livery and Riding Centre off Gills Lane and a cluster of buildings at Carnsdale Farm off Barnston Road), and limited coverage of semi-natural habitats resulting in lower sensitivity to residential development.</p> <p>Pockets of higher sensitivity to residential development exist where there are areas of valued semi-natural habitats, including priority habitat lowland mixed deciduous woodland; the largest area concentrated along Prenton Brook (designated as the Barnston Dale Site of Biological Importance / Local Wildlife Site), and on elevated ground along the edge of Heswall. Valued natural features include hedgerows enhanced occasionally with hedgerow trees and small pockets of trees/ shrubs surrounding frequent field ponds (marl pits).</p>
Historic landscape character	<p>The Cheshire HLC indicates that the area contains a relatively diverse time depth which increases sensitivity to residential development.</p> <p>There is a high concentration of ancient fieldscapes (pre-1600) within the area; namely the small-scale irregular field pattern to the south-west of Barnston which is categorised as Medieval Town Fields, and also an area of archaeological importance. There is an area of semi-regular Ancient Field Systems further south, which increases sensitivity to residential development in these areas. Frequent field ponds (marl pits) are scattered across the ancient fieldscapes and were historically used to extract marl deposits to be used as mineral fertilisers.</p> <p>Post Medieval fieldscapes also occur within the area, with fields of Post Medieval Planned Enclosure situated either side of Gills Lane, as well as Late Post Medieval Agricultural Improvement and 19th century Parliamentary Enclosure adjacent to the edge of Heswall. These consist of larger-scale fields indicating a lower sensitivity to residential development. The north of the area is dominated by man-made reservoirs and categorised as 20th century Industry which further reduces the sensitivity.</p> <p>There are no heritage assets within the area; however the area wraps around the village of Barnston, located to the east along the A551, which is designated as a Conservation Area and is of archaeological importance.</p>
Character and setting of existing settlement	<p>The area plays a role in the separation between the urban areas of Thingwall / Heswall / Pensby in the west from Barnston village in the east, resulting in a higher level of sensitivity to residential development. The gap is best perceived when travelling along the public right of way running through the area and providing a connection between Barnston, Heswall Primary School and Whitfield Common in Heswall.</p> <p>The area also provides a highly rural setting to Barnston which residential development would adversely affect, particularly alongside the Conservation Area where it contributes towards the setting of Christ Church Barnston (Grade II listed) and its associated churchyard, as well as other historic buildings. Although the church is relatively well enclosed by mature vegetation, there are some gaps resulting in intervisibility with the area, as recognised in the Barnston Village Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan⁴⁰ which states, '<i>Particularly across the field to the south of the church, there are fine views across the open countryside</i>'. The area therefore contributes towards the setting of the church, indicating higher levels of sensitivity to residential development in this area.</p> <p>Much of the Thingwall / Pensby / Heswall urban area is highly visible to the area. Further development could be in accordance with the pattern and form of this existing development, while providing opportunities to improve and integrate the hard urban edge, indicating lower levels of sensitivity. The area does however provide a rural setting to this urban edge with uninterrupted views afforded from some areas towards the woodland along Prenton Brook, resulting in a higher level of sensitivity. Parts of Thingwall are of lower sensitivity to residential development where the setting is already influenced by the man-made reservoirs which impede long distance views, as well as the radio mast and sheds which form visual detractors.</p>
Views and visual character including skylines	<p>The area is visually enclosed by surrounding built development, as well as by woodland along Barton Dale and around Barnston, indicating a lower sensitivity to residential development. However, elevated ground along its western edge forms the highest part of the Landican and Thingwall Rural Fringe (with localised high points existing along the edge of Pensby) resulting in some visual prominence from surrounding areas and increasing sensitivity to residential development in this area. Field boundaries are typically formed by low hedgerows resulting in a sense of openness and intervisibility with the surrounding landscape which increases sensitivity to residential development, whereas the brook corridor is visually enclosed by woodland indicating a lower sensitivity.</p>

⁴⁰ Donald Insall Associates Ltd (2007) Barnston Village Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan.

Perceptual and experiential qualities	Although largely a rural agricultural landscape, the area is influenced by fragmented urban fringe elements including the covered reservoirs in the north and the equestrian and residential uses around Gills Lane, reducing sensitivity. The area is already influenced by surrounding development, disturbing its scenic value and limiting dark night skies through existing light sources, and therefore decreasing the sensitivity to residential development. The busy A551 along the eastern boundary provides aural intrusion.
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Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to future change from residential development

L	L-M	M	M-H	H
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The elevated nature of the landscape along the settlement edge (resulting in some visual prominence), presence of historic field patterns (particularly around Barnston village), localised natural habitats and features and the role the area plays in contributing towards a perceived gap between Pensby, Thingwall and Heswall and as a setting to Barnston Conservation Area, increase sensitivity. However, the intensively farmed character (particularly in the south) and limited coverage of semi-natural habitats (outside Barnston Dale) slightly reduces sensitivity. Overall there is **moderate-high** sensitivity for the SP062 land parcel to the south of Gills Lane.

To the north of Gills Lane, the presence of industrial development (including the above ground reservoirs, sheds and radio mast which detract from the landscape character), surrounding human influences and equestrian uses (which are typical of the urban fringe) lower sensitivity. Land parcel SP061 is considered to have **low-moderate** sensitivity to any potential future change from residential development.

Guidance⁴¹

Given the overall assessment of landscape sensitivity outlined above, the following general guidance applies to any development on this area:

- Conserve and reinforce the network of native hedgerows and seek to create a stronger landscape structure to integrate development by increasing the presence of hedgerow trees and providing additional native woodland planting.
- Retain and manage areas of deciduous woodland within the area. Pursue opportunities to extend native woodland across undeveloped parts of the area as part of an integrated green infrastructure network connected to the surrounding landscape, to protect visual amenity and to help integrate potential development into the landscape.
- Conserve the rural character and small to medium scale intact historic field pattern, particularly ancient fieldscapes in proximity to Barnston village where the area contributes towards the setting of the Conservation Area and listed church.
- Conserve the mixture of wooded and open field ponds (marl pits) which are characteristic features of the area.
- Preserve the narrow wooded valley at Barnston Dale as a landscape feature and to retain the role it plays in the setting of Barnston village, ensuring that the intimate character of the wooded valley is retained.
- Preserve rural views out from and surrounding Barnston Conservation Area.
- Avoid visually intrusive development on prominent slopes and elevated areas along the western edge of the area, ensuring that wooded skylines, particularly on the fringes of Heswall, are conserved and enhanced through additional planting.
- Ensure the function of the area as a perceived gap is maintained by providing a clear physical and visual separation between adjacent settlements.

⁴¹ The guidance provided should not be interpreted to the effect that residential development of the scale assessed would be considered acceptable in principle in landscape terms.

- Protect and enhance the public right of way connecting Barnston to Whitfield Common and promote further opportunities to increase access and enjoyment of the landscape in association with any new development.

Area reference: SP064E

Figure A.97: Map of the area with designations / constraints

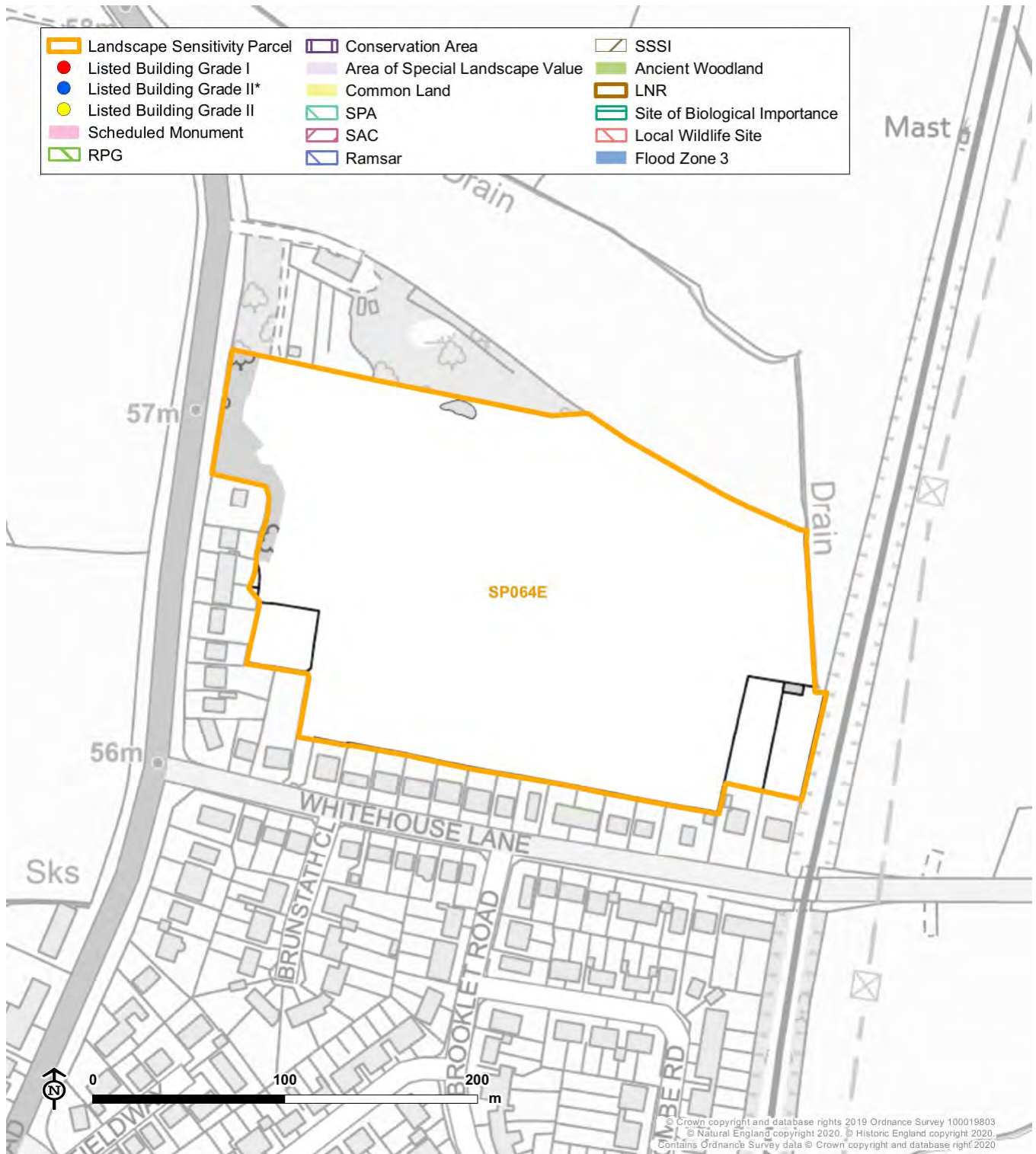


Figure A.98: Aerial photograph of the area



Figure A.99: Representative photos



Pastoral field used for grazing and enclosed by vegetated boundaries



Broadleaf woodland along the north-western edge of the area

Location and landscape character context

The area is situated in the south-west of the borough and lies to the north of Heswall. Existing residential properties situated along Whitehouse Lane back on to the area and form its southern boundary. The A551 Barnston Road runs along the western boundary with properties also abutting the south-western edge of the area. The Borderlands railway line defines the eastern edge and a tree lined hedgerow contains the area in the north.

The area lies within the Landican and Thingwall LCA, forming part of the Lowland Farmland and Estates LCT. It comprises a small-scale pastoral field on gently sloping ground, with mature vegetated boundaries.

Landscape value

This area is not subject to any landscape designations (national or local). A strip of wooded copse lies along the north-western edge of the area and trees frequently feature within surrounding hedgerows.

The area's use as working farmland for grazing restricts public access resulting in there being no recreational value.

The table below incorporates these indicators of value into the assessment of sensitivity.

Assessment Criterion	Landscape Sensitivity Description
Physical Character (including topography and scale)	The area gently falls from the A551 Barnston Road in the west to the railway line in the east (from 55m to 50m AOD) indicating lower levels of sensitivity to residential development. Hedgerows form the boundaries of the area with frequent hedgerow trees and a small strip of wooded copse lies along the north-western edge, which together provides some small-scale landscape features, resulting in a higher level of sensitivity to residential development.
Natural Character	The area consists of pasture used for grazing and does not contain any built development. There is a limited coverage of semi-natural habitats resulting in a lower sensitivity to residential development. Valued natural features consist of Priority Habitat Lowland Mixed Broad-leaf Woodland along the north-western edge as well as hedgerows that bound the area enhanced with hedgerow trees, which increases the sensitivity to residential development.

Historic landscape character	The area does not contain an identifiable field pattern given its small scale. There is no sense of time depth and the Cheshire HLC categorises it as C.20 th Recreation, indicating low levels of sensitivity to residential development. There are also no heritage assets within the area.
Character and setting of existing settlement	The area does not play a separation role between settlements, particularly as ribbon development already occurs along the A551 Barnston Road which leads to Barnston to the north-west. Further development could be in accordance with the pattern and form of the existing development on the settlement edge, resulting in lower sensitivity to residential development. The area provides a rural setting to this settlement edge with views afforded from some areas towards a woodland copse abutting the northern boundary, indicating a higher level of sensitivity.
Views and visual character including skylines	The area is visually enclosed by surrounding built development to the south and west, the railway embankment to the east and woodland copse / hedgerow to the north, indicating a lower sensitivity to residential development. Intervisibility is restricted with the wider landscape because of the surrounding coverage of built form and vegetation.
Perceptual and experiential qualities	Although being an undeveloped and rural agricultural landscape, the area is influenced by surrounding development, disturbing its scenic value and limiting dark night skies through existing light sources, and therefore decreasing the sensitivity to residential development. In addition, the proximity of the railway line and the A551 Barnston Road result in aural intrusion.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to future change from residential development

L	L-M	M	M-H	H
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The gently sloping landform, the limited coverage of semi-natural habitats, the visual enclosure and surrounding human influences lower sensitivity across the area. Landscape features in the form of mature hedgerows, hedgerow trees and a woodland copse surround the area and increase the sensitivity slightly, as does the role the area plays in providing a rural setting to the Heswall settlement edge. Overall, the area is considered to have **low-moderate** sensitivity to any potential future change from residential development.

Guidance⁴²

Given the overall assessment of landscape sensitivity outlined above, the following general guidance applies to any development on this area:

- Conserve and reinforce the network of native hedgerows and seek to create a stronger landscape structure to integrate development by increasing the presence of hedgerow trees and providing additional native woodland planting.
- Retain and manage areas of broadleaf woodland within the area. Pursue opportunities to extend native woodland across undeveloped parts of the area as part of an integrated green infrastructure network connected to the surrounding landscape, to protect visual amenity and to help integrate potential development into the landscape.
- Preserve rural views from the Heswall settlement edge.

⁴² The guidance provided should not be interpreted to the effect that residential development of the scale assessed would be considered acceptable in principle in landscape terms.

Area reference: SP071

Figure A.100: Map of the area with designations / constraints

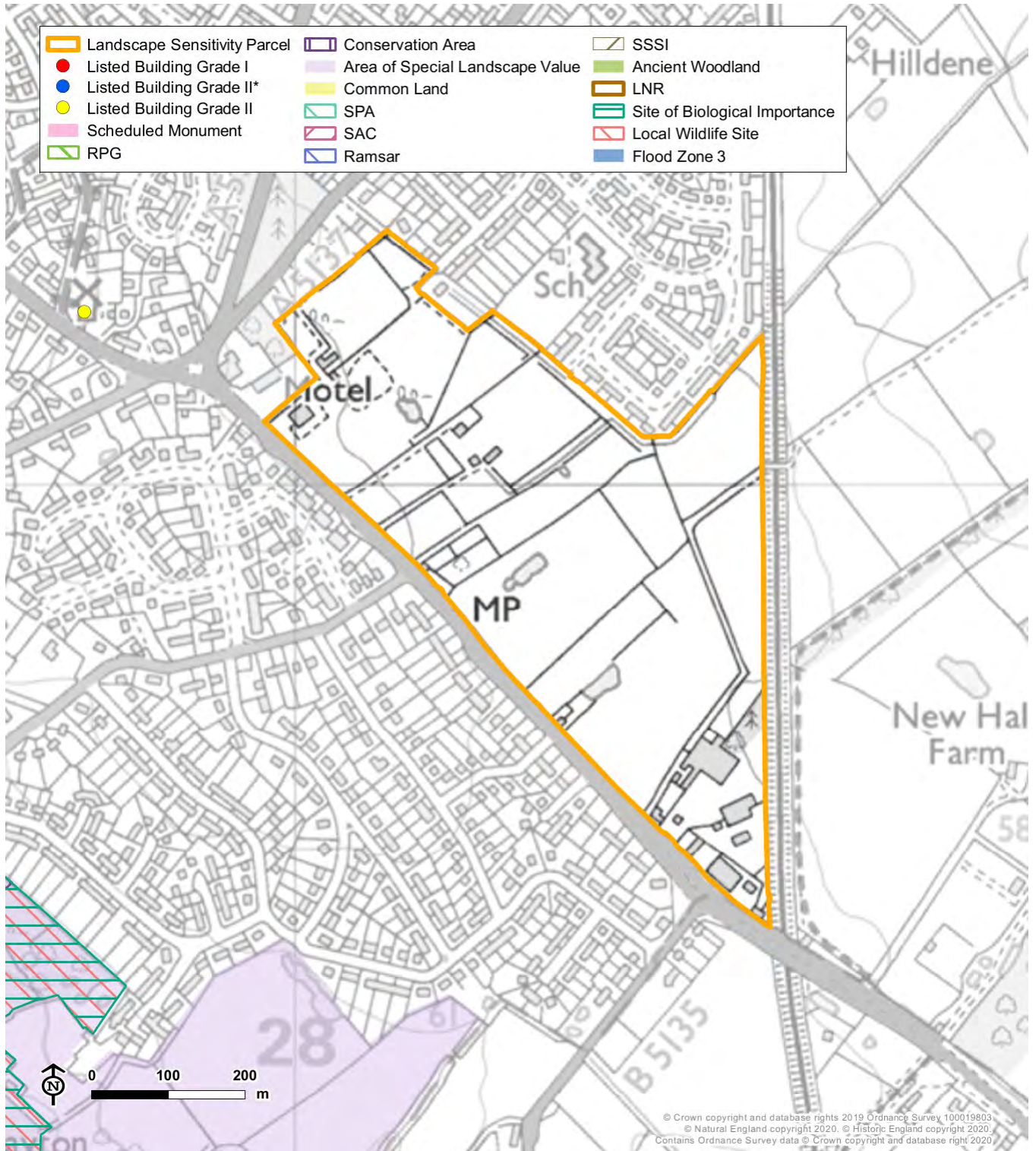


Figure A.101: Aerial photograph of the area



Figure A.102: Representative photos



Gayton Playing Fields in the north of the area



Mature oak field boundaries (seen from the A540)

Location and landscape character context

The area is situated in the south-west of the borough and lies to the east of Gayton, to the south of Barnston. The A540 Chester Road forms its south-western boundary and the Bidston-Wrexham railway line runs along the eastern boundary. Existing residential properties, Barnston Primary School and the Heswall Premier Inn lie along the northern boundary.

The area lies within the Thornton Hough LCA, forming part of the Lowland Farmland and Estates LCT. The area consists predominantly of small-medium scale pastoral fields with mature oak field boundaries on flat ground. It also includes an area of commercial development in the south at Darlington's Yard and playing fields in the north at Gayton Park.

Landscape value

This area is not subject to any landscape designations (national or local). However, the mature oak field boundaries are key distinctive features that are valued for their contribution towards biodiversity and visual amenity.

The area's use as working farmland in its southern half restricts public access. However Gayton Playing Fields in the north of the area provides recreational value.

The table below incorporates these indicators of value into the assessment of sensitivity.

Assessment Criterion	Landscape Sensitivity Description
Physical Character (including topography and scale)	The flat and featureless landform of the area indicates lower levels of sensitivity to residential development. The existing buildings within the area (notably the area of commercial development in the south) also lower levels of sensitivity as they influence the scale of development that can be accommodated in the landscape. However, most of the area has a mixed small-medium scale field pattern and includes frequent mature oak field boundaries providing a modest density of small-scale landscape features, therefore increasing sensitivity to residential development.
Natural Character	The area consists mostly of areas that are managed through pastoral practices as well as areas of permanent amenity grassland in the north. There is some existing development present (car dealerships and garages in the

	<p>south, detached brick dwellings along the A540 Chester Road, stables, an adjacent dwelling in the centre of the area and indoor squash courts adjacent to playing fields in the north), and limited coverage of semi-natural habitats resulting in lower sensitivity to residential development.</p> <p>Pockets of higher sensitivity to residential development exist where there are areas of valued semi-natural habitats, including a very small coverage of priority habitat lowland mixed broadleaf woodland bordering the playing fields in the north. Other valued natural features consist of field boundary hedgerows enhanced with frequent mature oak trees as well as small pockets of trees/ shrubs surrounding field ponds.</p>
Historic landscape character	<p>The area consists of small–medium scale fields that have a regular pattern. The Cheshire HLC categories the southern half of the site as Post Medieval Planned Enclosure. The area also includes land categorised as 20th century Industry in the south and 20th century Recreation in the north. The area therefore has little time depth indicating lower sensitivity to residential development.</p> <p>There are also no heritage assets within the area, however it was screened as medium for archaeological issues by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service. The area would therefore require further archaeological investigation as part of any proposed development.</p>
Character and setting of existing settlement	<p>The area plays some role in the separation of parts of Barnston in the north from parts of Gayton in the south, resulting in a higher level of sensitivity to residential development. There is however limited intervisibility between the two settlements as the mature oak field boundaries intervene.</p> <p>The Barnston and Gayton urban areas are generally well integrated into the landscape by the hedgerow boundaries along the edges of the area and by the mature oak field boundaries which provide a sense of enclosure. The area also provides a rural setting to these settlement edges with the mature oak field boundaries providing skyline features when viewed from properties along the edge of the area, indicating higher levels of sensitivity to residential development. Parts of Gayton are of lower sensitivity to residential development where the setting is already influenced by the unscreened commercial development in the south and by residential development along the western boundaries.</p>
Views and visual character including skylines	<p>The area is visually enclosed by surrounding built development, as well as by the mature hedgerow boundaries along the edge of the area and the mature oak field boundaries within the area which form visually distinctive features. This together with the flat landform of the area results in very limited intervisibility with the surrounding landscape, indicating lower sensitivity to residential development.</p>
Perceptual and experiential qualities	<p>The pastoral character of the area results in a rural setting to the surrounding settlements, with pockets of remoteness through the enclosure provided by the mature oak boundaries which results in a higher sensitivity to residential development.</p> <p>Sensitivity is lowered where fragmented urban fringe elements intrude into the area including small areas of equestrian use in the centre of the area, a skate park in the north and the commercial development in the south. The area is also already influenced by surrounding development, disturbing its scenic value and limiting dark night skies through existing light sources. The busy A540 Chester Road and associated street lighting along the south-western boundary and railway line along the eastern boundary provide a sense of visual and aural intrusion as well as a sense of enclosure to the area.</p>

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to future change from residential development

L	L-M	M	M-H	H
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The mature oak field boundaries, the natural habitats and features, the role the area plays in contributing towards a perceived gap between settlements and the rural setting it provides to the surrounding settlements increase sensitivity. However, the flat landform, the presence of commercial development in the south, the visual enclosure provided by field boundaries, and the surrounding human influences and equestrian uses (which are typical of the urban fringe) lower sensitivity. Overall, the area is considered to have **low-moderate** sensitivity to any potential future change from residential development.

It is considered that the level of sensitivity decreases within the southern part of the area as commercial development and adjoining residential development detracts from the landscape character.

Guidance⁴³

Given the overall assessment of landscape sensitivity outlined above, the following general guidance applies to any development on this area:

- Conserve and reinforce the network of native hedgerows and seek to create a stronger landscape structure to integrate development by increasing the presence of hedgerow trees and providing additional native woodland planting.
- Retain and manage areas of deciduous woodland within the area. Pursue opportunities to extend native woodland across undeveloped parts of the area as part of an integrated green infrastructure network connected to the surrounding landscape, to protect visual amenity and to help integrate potential development into the landscape.
- Conserve the mature oak field boundaries ensuring that they remain visually distinctive features within the landscape.
- Conserve the wooded field ponds which are characteristic features of the area.
- Ensure the function of the area as a perceived gap is maintained by providing a clear physical and visual separation between adjacent settlements.

⁴³ The guidance provided should not be interpreted to the effect that residential development of the scale assessed would be considered acceptable in principle in landscape terms.

Area reference: SP108

Figure A.103: Map of the area with international and national designations / constraints

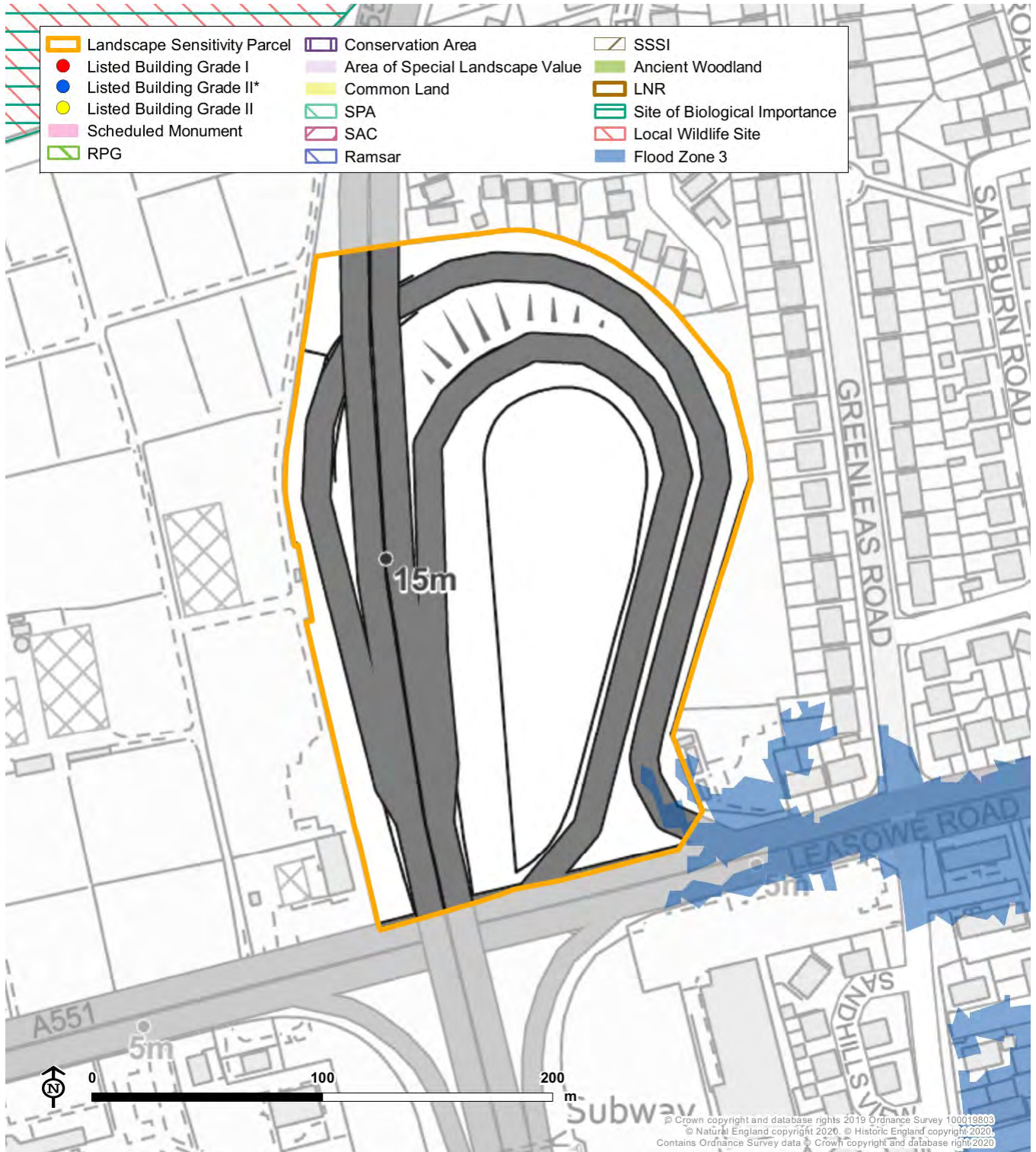


Figure A.104: Aerial photograph of the area



Figure A.105: Representative photos



Verge in the north comprising rough grassland and properties along the edge of Wallasey Trees along the A554 embankment



Trees along the A554 embankment

Location and landscape character context

The area is situated in the north-east of the borough and lies to the west of Wallasey. It is bound on all sides by major roads with the A551 Leasowe Road forming the southern boundary, the A554 North Wallasey Approach Road running along the western boundary and slip roads (connecting the A551 and A554) looping around the northern and eastern edges of the area.

The area lies within the North Wirral Shore LCA, forming part of the Coastal/ Estuarine Edge LCT. It consists mainly of a single pastoral field that is sub-divided by fencing tape and used for horse grazing. One of the slip roads bisects the area in the north resulting in a wide verge consisting of rough grassland.

Landscape value

This area is not subject to any landscape designations (national or local). Small areas of rough grassland provide natural habitats and some biodiversity interest. Major road boundaries restrict public access resulting in there being no recreational value.

The table below incorporates this indicator of value into the assessment of sensitivity.

Assessment Criterion	Landscape Sensitivity Description
Physical Character (including topography and scale)	<p>Most of the area is flat and featureless indicating lower levels of sensitivity to residential development. A steep embankment associated with the A554 runs along the western boundary, forming a prominent engineered feature associated with the busy road and running against the natural topography of the flat and low-lying coastal landscape, therefore further lowering the sensitivity to residential development.</p> <p>There is also a low density of overlying features (limited to a few trees along the embankment) which lowers the sensitivity to residential development.</p>
Natural Character	<p>Most of the area is used for horse grazing surrounded by road infrastructure, with limited coverage of semi-natural habitats resulting in lower sensitivity to residential development.</p> <p>The overgrown nature of the grass verge in the north and mature trees on the road embankment are features that could be vulnerable to loss from residential development.</p>

Historic landscape character	The area does not contain an identifiable field pattern given the presence of road infrastructure that surrounds and bisects it. There is no sense of time depth and the Cheshire HLC categorises it as 20 th century Communications, indicating low levels of sensitivity to residential development. There are also no heritage assets within the area.
Character and setting of existing settlement	Overall the area does not contribute positively to the setting of Wallasey or Leasowe as the busy road infrastructure is a dominant element, particularly as views towards the A554 (on top of the steep embankment) are afforded from surrounding properties which forms a visual detractor as moving vehicles are seen on the skyline, indicating low levels of sensitivity to residential development.
Views and visual character including skylines	The area is visually enclosed by surrounding built development, as well as by the steep embankment to the west indicating a lower sensitivity to residential development. There is some intervisibility with the surrounding roads which slightly increases sensitivity, however it is recognised that views towards the area from the roads are oblique and fleeting.
Perceptual and experiential qualities	The area is significantly influenced by the surrounding road infrastructure resulting in high levels of aural and visual intrusion. It is also influenced by surrounding development, disturbing its scenic value and limiting dark night skies through existing light sources, and therefore decreasing sensitivity to residential development.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to future change from residential development

L	L-M	M	M-H	H
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The flat landform, surrounding road infrastructure and human influences, absence of historic features, visual containment and the aural and visual detractors, lower the sensitivity across the area. The natural habitats that have formed within the verge to the north and the existing mature trees on the embankment slightly increase the sensitivity. However, overall the area is considered to have a **low** sensitivity to any potential future change from residential development.

Guidance⁴⁴

Given the overall assessment of landscape sensitivity outlined above, the following general guidance applies to any development on this area:

- Retain and manage mature trees within the area. Pursue opportunities to extend the coverage of trees across undeveloped parts of the area as part of an integrated green infrastructure network connected to the surrounding landscape, to protect visual amenity and to help integrate potential development into the landscape.
- Conserve, enhance and manage any valued habitats that have formed within the area.

⁴⁴ The guidance provided should not be interpreted to the effect that residential development of the scale assessed would be considered acceptable in principle in landscape terms.

Area reference: SP109

Figure A.106: Map of the area with international and national designations / constraints

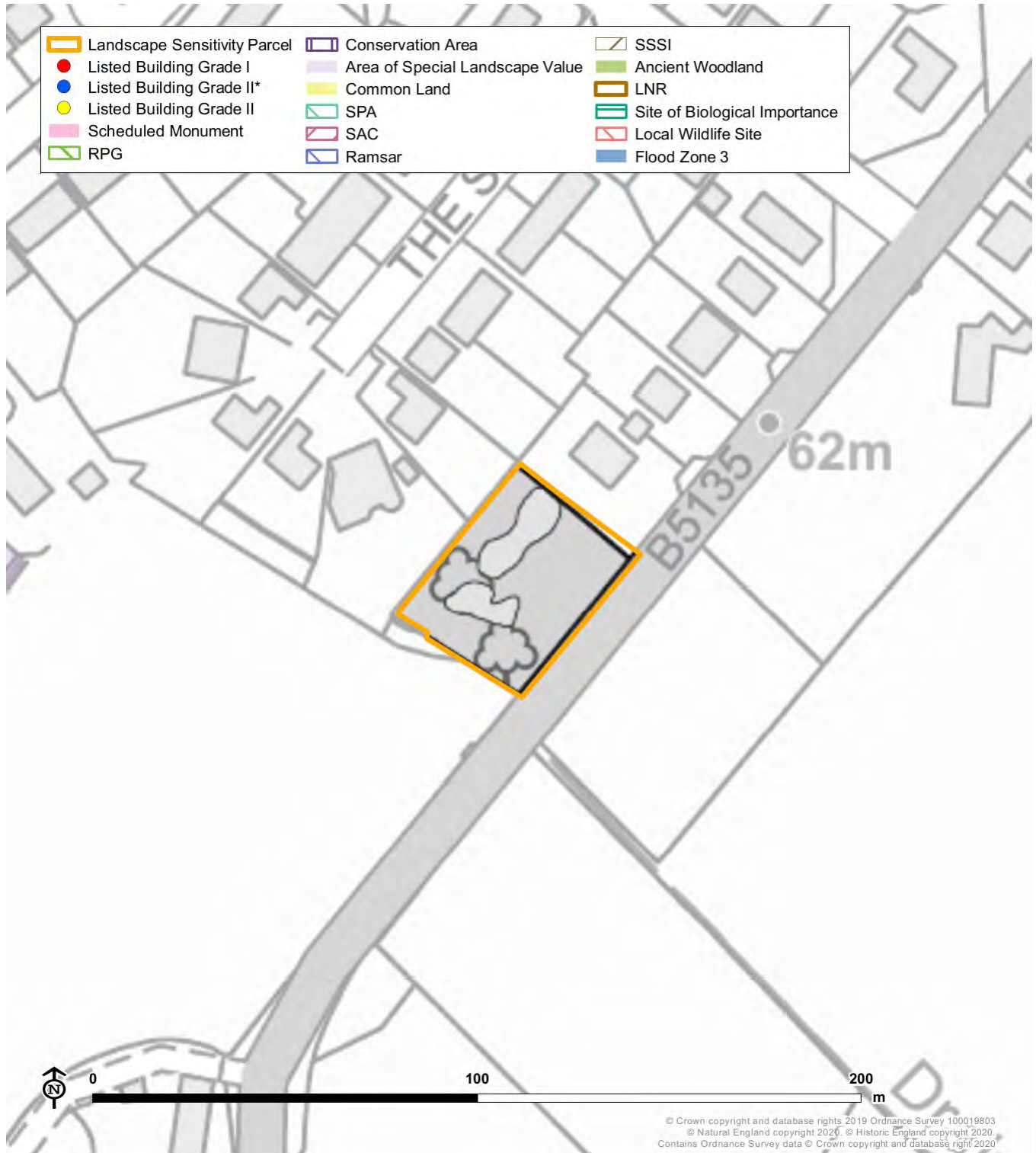


Figure A.107: Aerial photograph of the area



Figure A.108: Representative photos



Mature oak wooded copse



B5135 Boathouse Lane along the south-eastern boundary

Location and landscape character context

The area is situated in the south-west of the borough and lies in the south-east of Gayton. The area is contained by the B5135 Boathouse Lane to the south-east and a hedgerow to the south-west which together form part of the borough boundary. Residential properties lie to the north-east and the north-west of the area.

The area comprises a small wooded copse (mainly mature oak trees), with two small ponds at the edge of the settlement boundary of Gayton.

Landscape value

This area is not subject to any landscape designations (national or local). The wooded copse and ponds provide natural habitats and some biodiversity interest. Public access is restricted resulting in there being no recreational value.

The table below incorporates this indicator of value into the assessment of sensitivity.

Assessment Criterion	Landscape Sensitivity Description
Physical Character (including topography and scale)	The flat landform indicates low levels of sensitivity to residential development. The wooded copse provides a small-scale landscape feature which increases the sensitivity to residential development.
Natural Character	The wooded copse that covers the area is a valued semi-natural habitat being a priority habitat lowland mixed broad-leaf woodland, indicating a higher sensitivity to residential development. However the variety of natural features within the area is very limited which reduces sensitivity.
Historic landscape character	The area does not contain an identifiable field pattern given that it exists entirely as a small wooded copse. There is no sense of time depth and the Cheshire HLC categorises it as 20 th Century Settlement, indicating low levels of sensitivity to residential development. There are also no heritage assets within the area.
Character and setting of existing settlement	The area provides some contribution to the setting of the settlement as it plays a role in integrating existing development into the landscape through providing woodland cover, resulting in a higher sensitivity to residential development.

Views and visual character including skylines	The area is visually enclosed by surrounding built development to the north-east and north-west and by mature boundary vegetation to the south-east and south-west, indicating a lower sensitivity to residential development.
Perceptual and experiential qualities	The wooded copse provides a sense of rural character indicating higher sensitivity to residential development. However the area is influenced by surrounding development, disturbing its scenic value and limiting dark night skies through existing light sources, as well as by aural intrusion from the B5135, therefore decreasing the sensitivity to residential development.

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to future change from residential development

L	L-M	M	M-H	H
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The flat landform, limited variety of natural habitats and features, absence of historic features, visual enclosure and surrounding human influences lower the sensitivity to residential development across the area. The wooded copse and its contribution to biodiversity and towards integrating existing development into the landscape increase the sensitivity. Overall, the area is considered to have a **low-moderate** sensitivity to any potential future change from residential development.

Guidance⁴⁵

Given the overall assessment of landscape sensitivity outlined above, the following general guidance applies to any development on this area:

- Retain and manage areas of deciduous woodland within the area to protect visual amenity and to help integrate potential development into the landscape.

⁴⁵ The guidance provided should not be interpreted to the effect that residential development of the scale assessed would be considered acceptable in principle in landscape terms.

Appendix B: Glossary of Terms



Appendix B

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum (sea level).
Ancient woodland	Woodland which evidence shows has had continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD and has only been cleared for underwood or timber production. It is an extremely valuable ecological resource, with an exceptionally high diversity of flora and fauna.
Arable	Land for growing crops.
Enclosure	The placing in private hands of land to which there were previously common rights; the merging of commonly held strip fields to form a block surrounded by hedges.
Floodplain	The area that would naturally be affected by flooding if a river rises above its banks, or if high tides and stormy seas caused flooding in coastal areas.
GIS	Geographical Information System.
GPS	Global Positioning System.
Grassland	Land used for grazing. Grassland can be improved (by management practices), semi-improved (modified by management practices and have a range of species less diverse than unimproved grassland), or unimproved (not treated with fertiliser, herbicide or intensively grazed and consequently species diversity is high).
Habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism.
HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation.
Intact	Not changed or diminished.
Land cover	Combinations of land use and vegetation that covers the land surface.
LCA	Landscape Character Area. A unique geographic area with a consistent character and identity, which forms part of a landscape character type.
LCT	Landscape Character Type. A generic term for landscape with a consistent, homogenous character. Landscape character types may occur in different parts of the county, but wherever they occur they will share common combinations of geology, topography, vegetation or human influences.
Listed Building	A building, object or structure that has been judged to be of national importance in terms of architectural or historic interest.
LNR	Local Nature Reserve.
LWS	Local Wildlife Site.
Marl	Sedimentary rock or soil consisting of clay and carbonate of lime, formerly used as fertiliser.
Marl pit	A small pit resulting from the extraction of marl, which has often subsequently been filled with water to form a small field pond.
Natural character	Character as a result of natural or semi-natural features such as woodland, grassland, hedgerows etc.
OS	Ordnance Survey

Term	Definition
Parliamentary fields / enclosure	Fields formed by a legal process of enclosure (or inclosure), typically during the 18 th and 19 th centuries, through passing laws causing or forcing enclosure to produce fields for use by the owner (in place of common land for communal use).
Pastoral	Land used for keeping or grazing sheep or cattle.
Ramsar	Wetlands of international importance especially for waterfowl habitat.
Remnant	A part of quantity left after the greater part has been used, removed, or destroyed.
RPG	Registered Park and Garden.
SAC	Special Area of Conservation (EC Directive 92/43/EEC Habitats Directive)
SBI	Site of Biological Importance
Scheduled Monument	Nationally important archaeological sites or historic buildings, given protection against unauthorised change.
Semi-natural vegetation	Any type of natural vegetation which has been influenced by human activities, either directly or indirectly.
SPA	Special Protection Area (EC Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds)
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
Time depth	The time period expressed in the landscape, or the extent to which the landscape reflects a certain time period (a landscape with greater time depth will comprise older elements than a landscape with lesser time depth).
Topography	Combinations of slope and elevation that produce the shape and form of the land surface.
Vernacular	Building constructed in the local style, from local materials. Concerned with ordinary rather than monumental buildings.