

Warwick District Council

Landscape Sensitivity

and

Ecological & Geological Study

-

Landscape Assessment Update

Produced jointly by

WCC Ecological Services & Habitat Biodiversity Audit

and WCC Landscape Architects

April 2014



**Habitat
Biodiversity
Audit**



**Warwickshire
County Council**



THE UNIVERSITY *of* York

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LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT - PARCEL UPDATES

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BF_04rev1

Burton Green

BG_10rev1

Hampton Magna

HM_05rev1

Kingswood

KW_31rev1

Leek Wootton

LW_05rev1

LW07rev1

Radford Semele

RS_02rev1

RS_07rev1

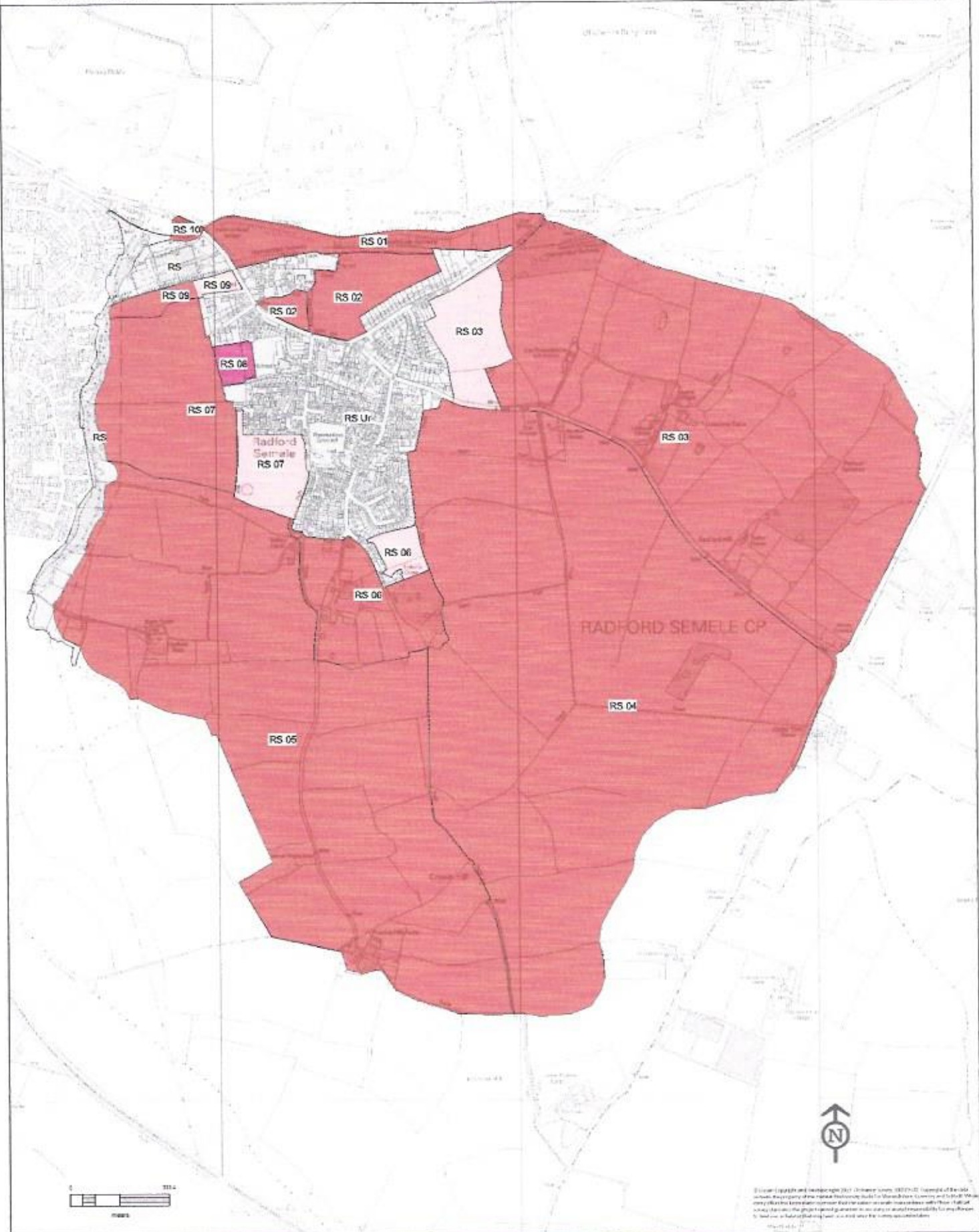
Covering Note

B1 Covering Note

In November 2013 Warwick District Council published the Landscape Sensitivity and Ecological & Geological Study. This was produced jointly by WCC Ecological Services & Habitat Biodiversity Audit and WCC Landscape Architects. This report updates the landscape assessment element of that study for a select number of landscape parcels following matters raised during the Village Housing Options and Settlement Boundaries Consultation.



RADFORD SEMELE LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY TO HOUSING DEVELOPMENT



Sensitivity to Housing Development

- High
- High/Medium
- Low
- Medium
- Medium/Low
- Not recorded

LCP

- Zone

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Landscape Sensitivity to housing development

High-medium

This zone is to the west of the settlement and is bounded by the River Leam corridor with almost uninterrupted views across to residential and large scale commercial units within Sydenham and Whitnash and of the neighbouring zone RS_05. It comprises a regular medium / large scale rolling arable landscape with a small area given over to fenced / taped paddocks on the northern boundary. Internal hedgerows are generally redundant / relic, they have become very gappy and are either neglected and outgrown or trimmed. No new hedgerow planting has taken place. Tree cover is within hedgerow lines, save for a small rounded copse adjacent to a disused filter bed, creating a relatively open and exposed landscape. The settlement edge is abrupt comprising garage blocks and a plethora of fencing styles. PRoW W121 runs along the field edge with part of the route PRoW 119 visible.

In order to preserve an important green buffer between the settlement and Sydenham, and because of the open nature of views, this zone is considered unsuitable for development. However, there is scope for limited development adjacent to the abrupt garden fence line / garage block that could potentially strengthen and enhance the landscape setting with a landscape buffer to the west that linked directly into both the field boundaries and the public footpath network.

Landscape sensitivity to commercial development

High

Commercial development is not apparent within this zone. It comprises a regular medium / large scale rolling arable landscape with a small area given over to fenced / taped paddocks on the northern boundary. Internal hedgerows are generally redundant / relic, they have become very gappy and are either neglected and outgrown or trimmed. No new hedgerow planting has taken place. Tree cover is within hedgerow lines, save for a small rounded copse adjacent to a disused filter bed, creating a relatively open and exposed landscape.

In order to preserve an important green buffer between the settlement and Sydenham, and because of the open nature of views, this zone is considered unsuitable for commercial development.

Landscape characteristics (DESK TOP)

LDU Level	DUNSMORE PLATEAU FRINGE
Physiographic	
Ground type	Loamy brown soils
Landcover	Arable farmlands
Settlement pattern	Villages and large farms
Cultural sensitivity	LOW
Ecological sensitivity	LOW
Visual sensitivity	MODERATE

Land Cover Parcel data

Landscape / planning

Green Belt Parks, Gdns & Amenity Green Spaces Ancient woodland TPO

Biodiversity

SSSI Local Wildlife Sites Warks Wildlife Trust Reserves

Historic /archaeology

Cons. Area SAMS Historic Parks / Gdns Listed Blgs Registered Battlefield

Other

Flood - Eastern boundary to zone.

Characteristics

Landform Soft rock lowlands

Land use Cropping / small amount of pasture managed as paddocks

Field boundaries (FIELD SURVEY)

Type Hedgerows / fenced boundaries

Species mixed

Condition Redundant / relic

Mgmt mixed

Hedge /stream trees

Extent Scattered

Age structure Overmature

Other trees Apparent

Age structure Mixed

Patch survival

Extent Relic

Mgmt Intensive

Ecological corridors

Condition Fragmented

Intensity of use

Impact high

Pattern

Settlement pattern ribbon development

Other built features -

Presence of water -

Scale Medium / large Sense of enclosure open

Diversity simple

Skyline

This is formed by the settlement edge, the edge of Sydenham / Whitnash and field boundary vegetation. There are glimpses of a more distant horizon to the north, beyond Leamington.

Key views

Views are of an open arable landscape, however the edge of the settlement and the built up areas of Sydenham, Whitnash and Leamington detract from the otherwise rural character.

Intervisibility

Site observation High

This zone is on relatively high ground and has limited tree cover, therefore there are good views both in and out.

Tranquillity

Noise sources: A quiet zone

Urban views: Settlement edge, built up areas of Sydenham, Whitnash and Leamington including industrial buildings (although at a distance)

Presence of people: infrequent

Tranquillity rating: high

Functional relationship

This zone links with the farmland to the south and the PRowS also link with the wider area.

Visual relationship

The zone relates visually to the farmland to the south and provides an important green wedge separating the settlement edges of Radford Semele and Sydenham.

Settlement edge

There is a hard, modern settlement edge adjacent to the eastern boundary of the zone.

Key receptors

Sensitivity

Urban residents

high

PRoWs

high

Potential for landscape enhancement

Restore internal field boundaries, particularly adjacent to settlement edge and PRoWs.