

Assessment Unit GLA06

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Part of the broad valley of the River Granta, rising towards the Chalk Hills in the south • Distinctive, small scale mixture of horticultural enterprises set out in regular pattern along two linear roads with glasshouses and grazing with a small amount of deciduous and mixed woodland • Hedgerows and tree boundaries are mature and linear belts of trees follow the route of a dismantled railway south of Pampisford Road
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Highways include the A11 along the western boundary • Settled rural landscape south of Great Abington with built development associated with horticultural enterprise, residential and commercial development including glasshouses, barns, stables and sheds scattered throughout the Assessment Area Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Granta Park to the north contains commercial development, however this is largely screened by woodland along the southern boundary • The southern edge of Great Abington is softened by trees along Pampisford Road, hedged fields to the west and long back gardens
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Eroded sense of tranquillity, due to the A11 which forms the western boundary and scattered development throughout • Low scenic quality associated with the settled landscape with strong enclosure due to trees and hedgerows
Landscape Quality/Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Eroded rural character associated with the small scale horticultural landscape due to scattered commercial and residential development Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Field boundary hedgerows and trees are generally intact

Criteria	Susceptibility
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: Views are generally short, across pastoral fields and horticultural smallholdings and contained by vegetation • Skylines are largely wooded, however occasional buildings and telegraph poles disrupt the skyline Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Distinctive character due to the small scale horticultural landscape pattern • Recreational receptors using PROW • Residential receptors on the southern edge of Great Abington
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Limited historic value Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Small scale horticultural landscape is rare and distinctive in the context of Greater Cambridge • Natural value associated with Shelford – Haverhill Disused Railway (Great Abington) County Wildlife Site, hedgerows, trees and woodland • Recreational value of PROW • Locally valued views from the edge of Great Abington
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.76 This is a small scale landscape characterised by horticultural smallholdings and scattered residential and commercial development which is rare in Greater Cambridge. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to development are natural value of the Shelford – Haverhill Disused Railway (Great Abington) County Wildlife Site, trees, hedgerows and woodland and the small scale field pattern south east of Great Abington. Features which are less susceptible to the development scenario include short views enclosed by trees and hedgerows and scattered commercial and residential development which erodes the sense of tranquillity, rural character and scenic value. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **medium** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium	Typically, a landscape comprising relatively commonplace components and/or has few distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape have some susceptibility to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care may be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.77 In this context, there may be some opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in parts of this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit GLA07

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Simple landcover pattern of medium scale regular arable fields with occasional fragmented hedgerows Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Gently undulating landform which is part of the broad valley of the River Granta, rising towards the Chalk Hills to the south - Wooded parkland at Pampisford Hall adds diversity to the otherwise simple landcover pattern and a dense linear belt of trees follows a dismantled railway west of the A11, and north of the A505
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Highways include the A11 and A505 - Commercial development west of the A11, which is well integrated into the landscape by trees - Recent residential development east of Sawston is prominent in views approaching the village - The development of land south of Babraham Road, Sawston is likely to influence the character and sensitivity of this Assessment Unit to the development scenario Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Largely unsettled rural landscape south east of Sawston with settlement limited to farms and Pampisford Hall - The eastern edge of Sawston directly abuts arable fields and is visible in the wider landscape but is generally softened by trees
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally strong sense of tranquillity, although this is locally eroded by the A11 and A505 - Some scenic quality associated with the open, arable landscape, woodland associated with Pampisford Hall and the wooded Granta River Valley to the north, and views towards the distant Chalk Hills
Landscape Quality/Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario:

Criteria	Susceptibility
	- Low field boundary hedgerows are largely fragmented, or have been removed Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Strong rural character associated with the undulating arable landscape, woodland and distant Chalk Hills
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Distant skylines are largely wooded, however occasional telegraph poles disrupt the skyline Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Long views across gently undulating arable fields towards woodland at Pampisford Hall, the wooded Granta Valley and distant Chalk Hills - Recreational receptors using a PROW in the north however there is generally limited access to the countryside - Residential receptors on the eastern edge of Sawston
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: Simple, arable landcover pattern considered commonplace in Greater Cambridge - Limited geological, topographical and geomorphological value Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Strong character and scenic value associated with views across open arable fields towards the wooded Granta Valley and distant Chalk Hills - Natural value associated with Shelford – Haverhill Disused Railway (Pampisford) County Wildlife Site and parkland at Pampisford Hall - Historic value associated with parkland at Pampisford Hall and Brent Ditch - Recreational value of the limited PROW network - Locally valued views from PROW - Locally valued views from the eastern edge of Sawston
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the

Criteria	Susceptibility
	Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers/using existing woodland as defensible boundaries for development) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.78 In summary, commonplace, arable landcover with limited vegetation and the eastern edge of Sawston being visible in the wider landscape are both features which are less susceptible to the development scenario. However, linear woodland and parkland at Pampisford Hall have natural value, and alongside the wooded Granta Valley to the north east and distant Chalk Hills, add scenic value to long, open views. This is more susceptible to the development scenario. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **medium to high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium to high	Typically, a landscape containing some important components and/or has some distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate to good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care would be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.79 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit GLA08

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - The gently undulating, indistinct topography Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Complex landcover pattern comprising medium to large arable fields, often with dense tree boundaries, and park-like grounds at Manor and College farm
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Highway infrastructure includes the A505 adjacent to the southern boundary - Occasionally the eastern edge of Sawston directly abuts arable fields, and residential development can be seen in the wider landscape, however it is largely softened by trees Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Settled rural landscape east of Sawston and north of Pampisford with built development including farms - The southern edge of Sawston is largely well integrated into the landscape by woodland associated with Sawston Hall which creates a soft enclosed edge to the historic core - The northern edge of Pampisford is well integrated into the landscape by trees and parkland
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally strong sense of tranquillity, despite the proximity of the A505 - High scenic value associated with the undulating arable fields, parkland and woodland
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally intact field boundaries including hedgerows and tree belts - Generally strong rural character associated with woodland and parkland in good condition
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: Generally intimate views across open arable fields visually contained by woodland within the Assessment Unit

Criteria	Susceptibility
	• Skylines are largely wooded and undeveloped, but occasionally are broken by telecommunications poles and wires Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Recreational receptors using the limited PROW network • Residential receptors on the eastern edge of Sawston
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Limited geological, topographical or geomorphological features Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Complex landcover pattern of woodland, parkland and arable fields that is rare in Greater Cambridge • High scenic quality associated with the undulating arable fields, parkland and woodland • Time depth associated with parkland • Natural value associated with parkland and woodland • Recreational value of limited PROW network • Locally valued views from the edge of Sawston
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.80 In summary, this is a complex landscape of parkland, woodland and arable farmland. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario include the landcover pattern, natural value of woodland and

parkland, historic value of parkland, and the generally soft edge of Sawston. Features which are less susceptible to the development scenario include intimate views enclosed by woodland, and occasional views of residential development in the wider landscape, albeit softened by trees. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	Typically, a landscape containing unique/important components and/or is an area of particularly distinctive character and/or contains landscape components that are in very good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are highly susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Such change is likely to result in a significant change to character.

- 3.5.81 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit GLA09

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Simple landcover pattern of medium scale regular arable fields with occasional hedgerows Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Undulating landform which is part of the broad valley of the River Granta, rising towards the Chalk Hills to the south - Dense linear woodland associated with the A11, A1307 and junction between the two adds diversity to the otherwise simple landcover pattern
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Highways include the A11 and A1307 Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Rural landscape containing Little Abington and development set in parkland - The Babraham Institute at Babraham Hall is well integrated into the landscape by trees and parkland - The northern edge of Little Abington is defined by Cambridge Road, and mature trees along the road create a wooded avenue character
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Eroded sense of tranquillity due to the A11 and A1307 - Limited scenic quality due to the A11 and A1307
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Hedgerows have largely been removed from fields Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Strong rural character associated with the undulating arable landscape, linear woodland and distinctive Chalk Hills to the north, despite the presence of the generally densely treed highway network
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: Views across arable fields are generally short and enclosed by landform, woodland to the north and trees associated with the River Granta to the south

Criteria	Susceptibility
	• Skylines are largely wooded, however occasional telegraph poles disrupt the skyline • Limited access to the landscape Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Residential receptors on the northern edge of Little Abington • Recreational receptors using the PROW north of Little Abington
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: Simple, arable landcover pattern considered commonplace in Greater Cambridge • Limited geological, topographical and geomorphological value • Limited recreational value Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Natural value associated with treed and woodlands • Historic value associated with the A11 Roman Road • Locally valued views from the northern edge of Little Abington • Valued views towards the Chalk Hills and Granta River Valley
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

In summary, this is a gently undulating commonplace arable landscape. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario include the natural value of trees and woodland, views towards the Granta Valley and Chalk Hills, and development which is well integrated by trees and parkland. Characteristics which are less susceptible to the development scenario include the highway network which erodes rural character and the sense of tranquillity, generally short views due to woodland, and the simple arable farmland. Overall this Assessment Unit is of **medium** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium	Typically, a landscape comprising relatively commonplace components and/or has few distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape have some susceptibility to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care may be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.83 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Summary

3.5.84 The key findings of the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment of the fringes of Great & Little Abington are summarised in the table below.

Assessment Unit	Landscape Sensitivity
GLA01	Medium to high
GLA02	Medium to high
GLA03	High
GLA04	Medium to high
GLA05	Medium
GLA06	Medium
GLA07	Medium to high
GLA08	High
GLA09	Medium

Whittlesford & Whittlesford Bridge Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Assessment Units

3.5.86 The Assessment Units identified within the study area around the villages of Whittlesford & Whittlesford Bridge are shown on **Figure 3.21** along with their unique reference codes.

Wider Landscape Context

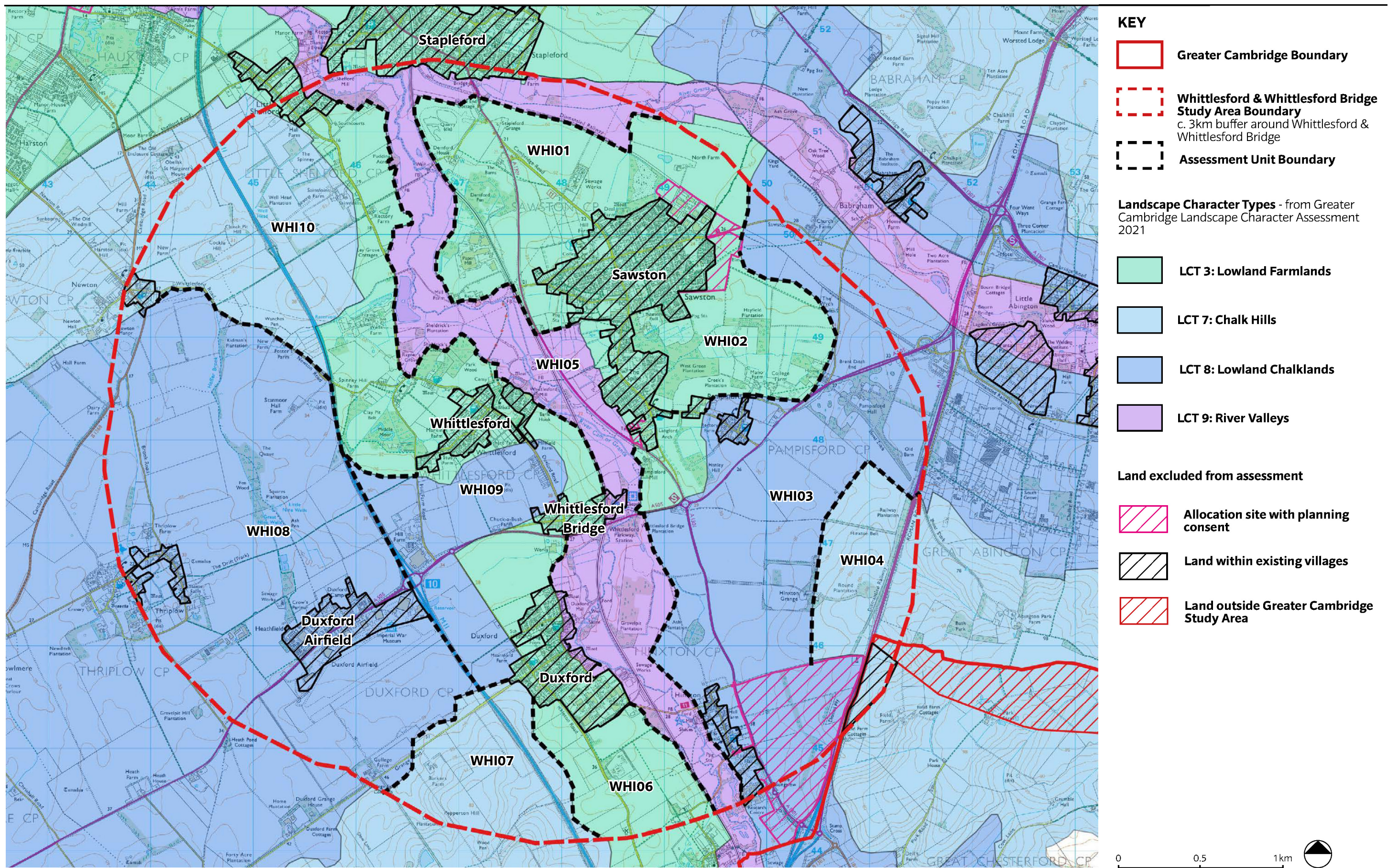
3.5.87 The wider landscape context for the villages of Whittlesford & Whittlesford Bridge is provided by the following Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas²⁵:

Landscape Character Types	Landscape Character Areas
LCT 3: Lowland Farmlands	3D: Cam & Granta Tributaries Lowland Farmlands
LCT 6: Fen Edge Chalklands	6B: Wilbraham Fen Edge Chalklands
LCT 7: Chalk Hills	7B: Gog Magog Chalk Hills 7C: Linton Chalk Hills 7D: Newton Chalk Hills
LCT 8: Lowland Chalklands	8A: Pampisford Lowland Chalklands
LCT9: River Valleys	9B: Cam River Valley 9D: Granta River Valley

Assessment Unit WHI01

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - The gently undulating topography - The generally simple pattern of the landscape comprising predominantly large, open arable fields interspersed with woodland Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario:

²⁵ See Figure 4.1 in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021)



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Criteria	Susceptibility
	Woodland and localised hedgerows and hedgerow trees northwest of Sawston add complexity to the landscape
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Transport infrastructure includes a railway line, the A1301 and Cambridge Road - Settled rural landscape between Sawston and Stapleford with built development including a paper mill, sewage works, former landfill site and commercial development north east of Sawston - Commercial development north east of Sawston is softened by trees but can be seen in the wider landscape - Several large barns and Sawston Village College on the northern edge of Sawston are prominent in views across the open fields with only intermittent hedgerows from the north Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Woodland around a former landfill site softens the north eastern edge of Sawston
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Limited sense of tranquillity due to transport infrastructure and the proximity of Sawston and Great Shelford - Limited scenic value in the landscape which has detracting features including prominent industrial development, a disused quarry, former landfill site and transport infrastructure Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Open countryside provides a strong sense of separation between Sawston and Great Shelford
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Rural character eroded by transport infrastructure and scattered industrial development - Limited field boundary vegetation, particularly in the north Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Woodland is in generally good condition
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Skylines are broken by pylons, a communication mast, large industrial buildings and telecommunications poles - Wide views towards the northern edge of Sawston across farmland, with notable industrial buildings

Criteria	Susceptibility
	Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Generally open views across arable fields towards woodland within the Assessment Unit, and trees associated with the River Cam and Granta corridors to the north, south and west, and the distant Chalk Hills to the north • Recreational receptors using PROW and National Cycle Network Route 11 • Residential receptors on the northern edge of Sawston
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Commonplace, open arable fields • Limited geological, topographical or geomorphological features • Limited scenic qualities • Limited time depth or historic continuity • Detracting features in views include the highway network, poles, communication masts, pylons and commercial development Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Sense of separation between Sawston and Stapleford • Natural value associated with Dernford Fen Grassland County Wildlife Site and Dernford Fen SSSI, as well as woodland • Recreational value of PROW and National Cycle Network 11 between Stapleford and Sawston • Visual relationship with the River Valleys to the north, south and west, and Chalk Hills to the north which provide visual enclosure • Locally valued views from the north-eastern edge of Sawston across arable fields towards the wooded Granta Valley and Chalk Hills beyond
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021), Sawston Village Design Guide (2020) and Sawston Conservation Area Appraisal (2007) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed

Criteria	Susceptibility
	to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.88 In summary, this is an open, arable landscape with several detracting features including large scale industrial development, transport and power infrastructure which erode rural character, scenic value and tranquillity. These features are less susceptible to the development scenario. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario include natural value associated with Dernford Fen Grassland County Wildlife Site and Dernford Fen SSSI, open views towards the wooded river valleys of the Cam and Granta and Chalk Hills to the north. In summary, this Assessment Unit is of **medium** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium	Typically, a landscape comprising relatively commonplace components and/or has few distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape have some susceptibility to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care may be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.89 In this context, there may be some opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in parts of this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit WHI02

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • The gently undulating, indistinct topography Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Complex landcover pattern comprising medium to large arable fields, often with dense tree boundaries, parkland associated with Sawston Hall and woodland
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Highway infrastructure includes the A1301 in the south and the A505 which lies just beyond the southern boundary of the assessment unit • Settled rural landscape south east of Sawston and north of Pampisford with built development including farms, Sawston Hall and linear development between Pampisford and Sawston • Occasionally the eastern edge of Sawston directly abuts arable fields, and residential development can be seen in the wider landscape, however it is largely softened by trees • The development of land south of Babraham Road, Sawston is likely to influence the character and sensitivity of this Assessment Unit to the development scenario Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • The southern edge of Sawston is largely well integrated into the landscape by woodland associated with Sawston Hall which creates a soft enclosed edge to the historic core and a strongly wooded edge to the village • The northern edge of Pampisford is well integrated into the landscape by trees and parkland
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Generally strong sense of tranquillity, despite the A1301 and proximity of the A505 • High scenic value associated with the gently undulating farmland, parkland and woodland
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Generally intact field boundaries including hedgerows and tree belts • Generally strong rural character associated with woodland and parkland in good condition

Criteria	Susceptibility
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Generally intimate views across open arable fields visually contained by woodland • Skylines are largely wooded and undeveloped, but occasionally are broken by telecommunications poles and wires Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Recreational receptors using the limited PROW network • Residential receptors on the eastern edge of Sawston
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Limited geological, topographical or geomorphological features Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Complex landcover pattern of woodland, parkland and arable fields that is rare in Greater Cambridge • High scenic quality associated with the undulating arable fields, parkland and woodland • Time depth associated with parkland • Natural value associated with Sawston Hall Meadows SSSI, as well as parkland and woodland • Recreational value of limited PROW network and link to National Cycle Network Route 11 • Locally valued views from the eastern edge of Sawston across arable fields towards the wooded Granta Valley and Chalk Hills beyond
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021), Sawston Village Design Guide (2020) and Sawston Conservation Area Appraisal (2007) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to

Criteria	Susceptibility
	benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.90 In summary, this is a complex landscape of parkland, woodland and arable farmland. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario include the landcover pattern, natural value of woodland and Sawston Hall Meadows SSSI, historic value of parkland, and the generally soft edge of Sawston. Features which are less susceptible to the development scenario include intimate views enclosed by woodland, and occasional views of residential development in the wider landscape, albeit softened by trees. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	Typically, a landscape containing unique/important components and/or is an area of particularly distinctive character and/or contains landscape components that are in very good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are highly susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Such change is likely to result in a significant change to character.

3.5.91 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit WHI03

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Simple landcover pattern of medium scale regular arable fields with occasional fragmented hedgerows Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Gently undulating landform which is part of the broad valley sides of the River Granta, rising towards the Chalk Hills to the south - Parkland at Pampisford Hall, tree belts at Hinxton Grange, woodland at Ash Plantation and a dense linear belt of trees which follows a dismantled railway north of the A11 add diversity to the otherwise simple landcover pattern
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Highways include the A11, A505 and A1301 - Recent residential development on the east side of Sawston is prominent in views approaching the village - Commercial development south of Sawston is softened by hedgerows and trees, but visible in the wider landscape - The development of land south of Babraham Road, Sawston, and of the Wellcome Genome Campus east of Hinxton are likely to influence the character and sensitivity of this Assessment Unit to the development scenario Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Largely unsettled rural landscape south east of Sawston with settlement limited to the small village of Pampisford and farms - Pampisford is generally well integrated into the landscape by mature trees - The northern and eastern edges of Hinxton abut arable fields, but are softened by mature trees - The eastern edge of Sawston directly abuts arable fields and is visible in the wider landscape but is generally softened by trees
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: Generally strong sense of tranquillity, although this is locally eroded by the A505 and A1301

Criteria	Susceptibility
	Some scenic quality associated with the open, arable landscape, woodland associated with Pampisford Hall and the wooded Granta River Valley to the north, and views towards the distant Chalk Hills
Landscape Quality/Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Low field boundary hedgerows are largely fragmented, or have been removed Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Strong rural character associated with the undulating arable landscape, occasional tree belt or woodland, and distant Chalk Hills
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Distant skylines are largely wooded, however occasional telegraph poles disrupt the skyline Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Long views across gently undulating arable fields towards woodland at Pampisford Hall, the wooded Granta Valley and distant Chalk Hills - Recreational receptors using a PROW in the north however there is generally limited access to the countryside - Residential receptors on the eastern edge of Sawston and on the edges of Pampisford
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: Simple, arable landcover pattern considered commonplace in Greater Cambridge - Limited geological, topographical and geomorphological value Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Strong character and scenic value associated with views across open arable fields towards the wooded Granta Valley and distant Chalk Hills - Natural value associated with Shelford – Haverhill Disused Railway (Pampisford) County Wildlife Site and parkland at Pampisford Hall

Criteria	Susceptibility
	• Historic value associated with parkland at Pampisford Hall • Recreational value of the limited PROW network and of National Cycle Network Route 11, including the link with Sawston • Locally valued views from PROW • Locally valued views from the eastern edge of Sawston and from the edges of Pampisford
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.93 In summary, commonplace, arable landcover with limited vegetation and the eastern edge of Sawston being visible in the wider landscape are both features which are less susceptible to the development scenario. However, linear woodland and parkland at Pampisford Hall have natural value, and alongside the wooded Granta Valley to the north east and distant Chalk Hills, add scenic value to long, open views. This is more susceptible to the development scenario. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **medium to high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium to high	Typically, a landscape containing some important components and/or has some distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate to good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being

Sensitivity Level	Definition
	assessed. Considerable care would be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.94 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit WHI04

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Simple landcover of medium to large rectilinear arable fields intermittently enclosed by mature tree belts and linear woodland associated with the A11 Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Rolling Chalk Hills rising in elevation to the south - Small blocks of woodland on high ground and shelterbelts add complexity to the rolling landscape
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Highways include the A11 which fragments the landscape Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Largely unsettled rural landscape with built development limited to Hinxton Grange
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Sense of tranquillity eroded by traffic on the A11 Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - High scenic quality associated with the locally distinctive rolling hills, hilltop woodlands and views towards the wooded Granta Valley and Chalk Hills to the north
Landscape Quality/Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Low field boundary hedgerows are fragmented or have been removed Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Strong rural character associated with the rolling Chalk Hills, woodland in generally good condition, and views across the wooded Granta Valley to the north
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Skylines are largely wooded however they are broken by telegraph poles, and pylons which are prominent in the east - Limited access to the landscape

Criteria	Susceptibility
	Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Generally expansive views across arable fields towards the wooded Granta Valley with the backdrop of woodland on the Chalk Hills to the north • Strong rural character and high scenic value • Intervisibility with the Chalk Hills to the north, including the users of the Harcamlow Way/E2 European Long Distance Route which follows the Roman Road along the ridgeline north of Linton
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • The large scale and simple arable field pattern is considered relatively commonplace within Greater Cambridge • Limited recreational value Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Strong landscape character associated with the distinctive rolling hills and woodland • Natural value associated woodland • Historic value of the Roman Road along the route of the A11 • Scenic value associated with the locally prominent landform and mature woodland • Intervisibility with the elevated Harcamlow Way/E2 European Long Distance Route north of Linton
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural

Criteria	Susceptibility
	landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.95 In summary, this is a landscape of rolling Chalk Hills. The simple landcover pattern of large scale arable fields has limited natural value, and along with the A11 which locally erodes tranquillity, is less susceptible to the development scenario. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario include the rolling landform, expansive elevated views across the wooded Granta Valley to the north, high scenic value and strong rural character. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **medium to high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium to high	Typically, a landscape containing some important components and/or has some distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate to good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care would be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.96 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit WHI05

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • A narrow green corridor containing the floodplains of the meandering River Cam and River Granta • Landcover is small scale, complex and intricate, comprising meadows, small pastoral fields and occasional arable fields • Riparian trees follows the course of the rivers, which alongside tree belts, scattered areas of woodland, including linear woodland along a dismantled railway in the north and occasional scattered trees, add structure and diversity to the landscape
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Several transport corridors including the A505, A1301 and a railway line Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • A largely unsettled floodplain west of Sawston providing separation between villages on higher ground • Sawston has a soft, intimate western edge with much of the floodplain used for pasture, with some wooded areas and fields and paddocks enclosed by hedges and hedgerow trees • Villages in adjacent Assessment Units generally have soft, well vegetated edges and are well screened by trees on the edges of the floodplain
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Generally strong sense of tranquillity however this is eroded in proximity to the A505 and A1301 • Scenic value associated with the small scale meadows, pasture shelterbelts and areas of woodland combined with the river to create a leafy, enclosed character • The river corridor provides separation between several villages on higher ground to the east and west, including Sawston and Whittlesford, and Duxford and Hinxton
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Generally an intact landscape with robust hedgerows, shelterbelts and woodlands • Strong rural character associated with the River Cam, River Granta, small scale meadows and woodland

Criteria	Susceptibility
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Views are generally short and intimate, framed by willows on the river or woodland and tree belts • Skylines are generally undeveloped and treed, however they are occasionally interrupted by telecommunications poles and wires • East of Duxford the chemical works are dominant in the landscape Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Views are generally of high scenic quality • Recreational receptors including cyclists and users of PROW • Residential receptors on the edges of Stapleford, Little Shelford, Sawston, Whittlesford, Whittlesford Bridge, Duxford and Hinxton
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Generally strong, intimate rural character associated with the River Cam and River Granta which is relatively rare within Greater Cambridge • Generally high scenic value and strong sense of tranquillity • Natural value of the River Cam County Wildlife Site and River Granta County Wildlife Site, as well as woodland and floodplain grazing meadow • Small, historic field pattern has a strong, historic landscape character • Separation between villages • Recreational value of PROW and of National Cycle Network Route 11 between Sawston and Whittlesford • Locally valued views from village edges
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021), Sawston Village Design Guide (2020) and Sawston Conservation Area Appraisal (2007) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape.

Criteria	Susceptibility
	The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.97 In summary, this is a wooded, intimate river floodplain landscape associated with the River Cam and River Granta which is relatively rare in Greater Cambridge. Key features which are more susceptible to the development scenario include the small scale, enclosed landcover pattern, natural value of the River Cam and River Granta County Wildlife Sites as well as woodland and floodplain grazing meadow and separation between villages with soft edges. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	Typically, a landscape containing unique/important components and/or is an area of particularly distinctive character and/or contains landscape components that are in very good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are highly susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Such change is likely to result in a significant change to character.

3.5.98 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit WHI06

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - The generally simple pattern of the landscape comprising predominantly large, open arable fields and dense shelterbelts Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - The undulating topography rising from the River Cam or Granta valley to the east
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - The southern edge of Duxford contains industrial buildings and associated structures of the chemical works which dominate the area and are visible through trees - A National Grid Compressor Station south of Duxford is largely screened by trees - Residential development south west of Duxford abuts arable fields, and is softened by trees but can be clearly seen in views approaching the village Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Largely unsettled rural landscape south of Duxford - A windmill south of Duxford is a distinctive feature
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Limited sense of tranquillity associated with the large scale buildings on the edge of Duxford, gas works and M11 to the south - Large scale arable fields and chemical complex south of Duxford reduces scenic quality Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Views towards the Chalk Hills to the west are of scenic value, but include traffic on the M11
Landscape Quality/Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Eroded rural quality due to the gas works and chemical complex which is out of scale with the adjacent village Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally intact field boundaries including hedgerows along roads, and shelterbelts

Criteria	Susceptibility
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Wide views on the southern approach to Duxford feature glimpsed views of the chemical works which are largely screened by dense tree belts Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Generally long, open views across undulating arable fields towards the wooded Cam River Valley to the east, and rising Chalk Hills to the west • Skylines are largely wooded and undeveloped and a windmill near the southern boundary is a distinctive landmark • Recreational receptors using the limited PROW network • Residential receptors on the southern edge of Sawston • Visitors to the cemetery in the south
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Eroded sense of tranquillity due to the nearby M11 and large scale buildings • Limited time depth • Limited natural value • Eroded rural character due to large scale buildings on the southern edge of Duxford Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Scenic quality associated with the Chalk Hills to the east, but this is eroded by large scale buildings south of Duxford • Recreational value of the cemetery, limited PROW network and small part of National Cycle Network Route 11 in the south east • Locally valued views from the southern edge of Duxford
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape.

Criteria	Susceptibility
	The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.99 In summary, this is an undulating open, arable landscape with views towards the Chalk Hills to the west and River Cam valley to the east. These views provide scenic value and are more susceptible to the development scenario. Key characteristics which are less susceptible to the development scenario include large scale buildings associated with the chemical works south of Duxford, large scale arable fields, open views of residential development south of the village, and the nearby M11 which erodes tranquillity. Overall, this Assessment Unit is assessed as being of **medium** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium	Typically, a landscape comprising relatively commonplace components and/or has few distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape have some susceptibility to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care may be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.100 In this context, there may be some opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in parts of this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit WHI07

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Large scale open landscape with a simple, rectilinear field pattern enclosed by fragmented hedgerows and occasional shelterbelts Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Rising rolling chalk hill rising to Pepperton Hill at c. 83m AOD
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Highway infrastructure includes the M11 Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Largely unsettled rural landscape with built form limited to a farm - The edge of Duxford directly abuts arable fields but is softened by well treed back gardens
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - The M11 detracts from the sense of tranquillity Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally a landscape of high scenic value, although rural character eroded by presence of M11
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Strong rural character associated with the steeply rising landform, although severed by the M11 - Generally an intact landscape with robust hedgerows and shelterbelts
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Limited access to the countryside - Views include traffic on the M11 Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Views north towards Cambridge are expansive and distant, with wooded horizons punctuated by occasional isolated trees - Skylines are generally undeveloped and treed, although a communication mast to the south is a localised detractor

Criteria	Susceptibility
	• Distinctive landscape with generally strong rural character • Residential receptors on the western edge of Duxford
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Limited natural value • Limited historic value • Limited recreational value • The M11 is a detractor from the sense of tranquillity, otherwise high scenic value and strong rural character Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • The steeply sloping landform is distinctive, relatively rare within Greater Cambridge, and has a strong rural character • Long, open, expansive views across Greater Cambridge • Locally valued views from the western edge of Duxford into the countryside towards Pepperton Hill
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.101 In summary, this is a large scale, rolling arable landscape, rising to a high point at Pepperton Hill. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario are the elevated landform, scenic value of the rolling hills and long, expansive views towards Cambridge. The M11 is a localised detractor from the sense of tranquillity, otherwise high scenic value and strong

rural character, and less susceptible to the development scenario. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **medium to high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium to high	Typically, a landscape containing some important components and/or has some distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate to good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care would be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.102 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit WHI08

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Large scale, simple landscape of predominantly medium to large arable fields in a regular pattern with occasional treed field boundaries and small woodlands Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Undulating landform rising towards the Chalk Hills to the north and south • Paddocks and meadows south of Thriplow are well defined by hedgerows and trees • Shallow valley north of Duxford Airfield associated with the well treed Hoffer Brook which adds structure of the landscape • Parkland south of Newton in the north adds diversity
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Duxford Airfield contains large scale aircraft hangars which are very visible in the landscape • Highway infrastructure includes the A505 and M11 along the eastern boundary Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Sparsely settled rural landscape east of Thriplow with several small villages including Newton, and Thriplow • Thriplow has soft northern and southern edge comprising treed paddocks and meadows, and the eastern edge is softened by trees • Newton has a soft edge associated with parkland
Perceptual & Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Scenic quality associated with treed village edges and the backdrop of the Chalk Hills is eroded by the large scale hangars at Duxford airfield and large scale arable farmland and views of moving traffic on the M11 and A505 Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Generally strong sense of tranquillity, however this is locally eroded by the M11 and A505 • Strong sense of separation between villages due to open farmland

Criteria	Susceptibility
Landscape Quality/Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Fields have been enlarged and hedgerows have been removed or are fragmented • Rural character eroded by the M11, A505 and large scale hangars at Duxford Airfield
Views & Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Views include the distinctive hangars at Duxford Airfield • Wooded skylines are occasionally broken by poles and wires associated with the telecommunications network, as well as the large hangars at Duxford Airfield Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Expansive views are generally long and open, with scattered small blocks of woodland, the well treed Hoffer Brook and treed village edges • Views north and south towards the Chalk Hills have scenic value • The church spire at Thriplow is a prominent landmark above trees on the skyline • Recreational users of PROW • Residential receptors on the edges of Thriplow and Newton
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Relatively commonplace, large scale arable landscape • Rural character and scenic value eroded due to the transport network and large hangars at Duxford airfield • Limited time depth Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Scenic value associated with views towards the distinctive Chalk Hills to the north and south • Natural value associated with Whittlesford – Thriplow Hummocky Fields SSSI, Thriplow Peat Holes SSSI, and Thriplow Meadows SSSI • Recreational value of the limited PROW network • Locally valued views from village edges into arable farmland, towards distant Chalk Hills
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the

Criteria	Susceptibility
	Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows and consideration of opportunities for re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.103 In summary, this is a large scale, open arable landscape which is relatively commonplace in Greater Cambridge. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario include views towards distinctive rolling Chalk Hills, natural value associated with three SSSIs, a strong sense of separation between villages due to open arable farmland and the well treed valley of the Hoffer Brook. Key characteristics which are less susceptible to the development scenario include the large scale hangars at Duxford Airfield which are prominent in views, the M11 and A505 which lower the sense of tranquillity and erode rural character and perceptions of scenic value. Overall, this landscape is of **medium to high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium to high	Typically, a landscape containing some important components and/or has some distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate to good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care would be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.104 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit WHI09

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Large scale, simple landscape of predominantly medium to large arable fields in a regular pattern with occasional hedged field boundaries Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Undulating landform rising east of the River Cam
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Settled rural landscape between Whittlesford and Whittlesford Bridge, with linear residential development along Duxford Road eroding the gap between the two villages • Highways include the A505 and M11 along the western boundary • Commercial development at the junction of the M11 Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Whittlesford and Whittlesford Bridge generally abut arable fields but are largely softened by trees
Perceptual & Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Development associated with the villages and linear development on Duxford Road can be seen and combines with traffic on the highway network to erode tranquillity • Limited scenic quality associated due to urban influences associated with Whittlesford and Whittlesford Bridge and the highway network
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Fields have been enlarged and hedgerows have been removed or are fragmented • Rural character eroded by built form associated with the villages and the highway network
Views & Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Wooded skylines are occasionally broken by poles and wires associated with the telecommunications network • Views often include traffic on the M11 • Generally limited access to the landscape

Criteria	Susceptibility
	Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Expansive views generally long and open, including scattered small blocks of woodland, and well treed villages • Recreational users of the limited PROW network • Residential receptors on the edges of Whittlesford and Whittlesford Bridge
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Relatively commonplace, large scale arable landscape • Rural character and scenic value eroded due to visible built form associated with the villages and linear residential development in between • Limited time depth • Limited natural value • Limited recreational value Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Recreational value of National Cycle Network Route 11 • Locally valued views from village edges into arable farmland, towards distant Chalk Hills
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows and consideration of opportunities for re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.105 In summary, this is a large scale, open arable landscape which is relatively commonplace in Greater Cambridge. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario include expansive views across South Cambridge and locally valued views from the edges of Whittlesford and

Whittlesford Bridge. Key characteristics which are less susceptible to the development scenario include the highway network, commercial development near the M11 junction and linear development along Duxford Road which erodes the sense of separation between Whittlesford and Whittlesford Bridge and lower the sense of tranquillity and erode rural character. Overall, this landscape is of **medium** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium	Typically, a landscape comprising relatively commonplace components and/or has few distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape have some susceptibility to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care may be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.106 In this context, there may be some opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in parts of this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit WH10

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Large arable fields with occasional hedgerows and boundary trees Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Gently rolling landform, rising to a high point of c. 31m AOD at Cockle Hill in the north - Shelterbelts and blocks of woodland add structure and diversity to the landscape
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Highways include the M11, which severs the Assessment Unit Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Sparsely settled rural landscape north west of Whittlesford, west of Newton and south of Little Shelford - The northern and eastern edges of Whittlesford are well integrated into the landscape by large grounds of woodland, small scale fields and trees - Newton has a soft eastern edge due to small fields and woodland, and the northern edge which abuts arable fields is softened by trees - The southern edge of Little Shelford is well integrated into the landscape by trees, woodland and long back gardens
Perceptual & Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally strong sense of tranquillity, eroded by the M11 - Generally high scenic value associated with the undulating arable fields and woodland
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Arable fields have been enlarged and hedgerows are limited Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Strong rural character associated with the open Chalk Hills and occasional woodland in generally good condition, locally eroded by the M11

Criteria	Susceptibility
Views & Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Wooded skylines are occasionally interrupted by pylons, poles and wires associated with the telecommunications network Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Views are generally long and open, across arable fields towards wooded horizons - Intervisibility with views from the obelisk at St Margaret's Mount to the north - Recreational users of the PROW network and National Cycle Network Route 11 in the south east - Residential receptors on the southern edge of Little Shelford, eastern edge of Newton and north western edge of Whittlesford
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Commonplace arable field pattern within Greater Cambridge - Limited time depth Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally strong rural character associated with the rolling farmland and woodland - Natural value associated with Middle Moor County Wildlife Site, woodland and shelterbelts - Recreational value of the limited PROW network, and of National Cycle Network Route 11 in the east - Locally valued long, open views from high ground, and intervisibility with the Obelisk at St Margaret's Mount to the north
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape.

Criteria	Susceptibility
	The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows and consideration of opportunities for re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.107 In summary, this is a rolling landscape of arable farmland and woodland considered relatively commonplace in Greater Cambridge. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario include long, open views, generally strong rural character, natural value of Middle Moor County Wildlife Site, woodland and shelterbelts and relatively soft village edges. Characteristics which are less susceptible to the development scenario include power infrastructure, the M11 motorway which locally reduces perceptions of tranquillity and erodes rural character. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **medium to high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium to high	Typically, a landscape containing some important components and/or has some distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate to good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care would be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.108 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Summary

3.5.109 The key findings of the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment of the fringes of Whittlesford & Whittlesford Bridge are summarised in the table below.

Assessment Unit	Landscape Sensitivity
WHI01	Medium
WHI02	High
WHI03	Medium to high
WHI04	Medium to high
WHI05	High
WHI06	Medium
WHI07	Medium to high
WHI08	Medium to high
WHI09	Medium
WHI10	Medium to high

Duxford Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Assessment Units

3.5.110 The Assessment Units identified within the study area around the village of Duxford are shown on **Figure 3.22** along with their unique reference codes.

Wider Landscape Context

3.5.111 The wider landscape context for the village of Duxford is provided by the following Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas²⁶:

Landscape Character Types	Landscape Character Areas
LCT 3: Lowland Farmlands	3D: Cam & Granta Tributaries Lowland Farmlands
LCT 7: Chalk Hills	7F: Southern Chalk Hills
LCT 8: Lowland Chalklands	8A: Pampisford Lowland Chalklands 8B: Morden to Duxford Lowland Chalklands
LCT9: River Valleys	9B: Cam River Valley

Assessment Unit DUX01

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • A narrow green corridor containing the floodplain of the meandering River Cam • Landcover is small scale, complex and intricate, comprising meadows, small pastoral fields and occasional arable fields • Riparian trees follows the course of the rivers, which alongside tree belts, scattered areas of woodland, including linear woodland along a dismantled railway in the north and occasional scattered trees, add structure and diversity to the landscape

²⁶ See Figure 4.1 in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021)

Criteria	Susceptibility
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Several transport corridors including the A505, and a railway line • The southern edge of Duxford contains industrial buildings and associated structures of the chemical works which dominate the area and are highly visible on the approach from Hinxton • Commercial development, Whittlesford Bridge station and associated parking east of Whittlesford Bridge are softened by trees, but visible from the elevated A505 Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • A largely unsettled floodplain east of Duxford and west of Hinxton providing separation between villages on higher ground • Residential development on the western edge of Duxford is generally well integrated into the landscape by woodland, trees, small scale fields and allotments • Hinxton has a soft, well vegetated edge with well treed paddocks west of the village
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Generally strong sense of tranquillity however this is eroded in proximity to the A505 • Scenic value associated with the small scale meadows, pasture shelterbelts and areas of woodland combined with the river to create a leafy, enclosed character • The river corridor provides separation between Duxford and Hinxton
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Generally an intact landscape with robust hedgerows, shelterbelts and woodlands • Strong rural character associated with the River Cam, small scale meadows and woodland
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Views are generally short and intimate, framed by willows on the river or woodland and tree belts • Skylines are generally undeveloped and treed, however they are occasionally interrupted by telecommunications poles and wires • East of Duxford the chemical works are dominant in the landscape

Criteria	Susceptibility
	- East of Whittlesford Bridge, commercial development and a car park associated with the station are visible Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Views are generally of high scenic quality - Recreational receptors including cyclists and users of the limited PROW network - Residential receptors on the edges of Whittlesford Bridge, Duxford and Hinxton
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Limited geological, topographical or geomorphological value Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally strong, intimate rural character associated with the River Cam which is relatively rare within Greater Cambridge - Generally high scenic value and strong sense of tranquillity - Natural value of the River Cam County Wildlife Site as well as woodland and floodplain grazing meadow - Small, historic field pattern has a strong, historic landscape character - Separation between villages - Recreational value of PROW and of National Cycle Network Route 11 between Sawston and Whittlesford - Locally valued views from village edges
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021), Sawston Village Design Guide (2020) and Sawston Conservation Area Appraisal (2007) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to

Criteria	Susceptibility
	benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.112 In summary, this is a wooded, intimate river floodplain landscape associated with the River Cam which is relatively rare in Greater Cambridge. Key features which are more susceptible to the development scenario include the small scale, enclosed landcover pattern, natural value of the River Cam County Wildlife Site, woodland and floodplain grazing meadow, and separation between villages with generally soft edges. Less susceptible are transport infrastructure and commercial and industrial development including east of Whittlesford Bridge and east of Duxford. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	Typically, a landscape containing unique/important components and/or is an area of particularly distinctive character and/or contains landscape components that are in very good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are highly susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Such change is likely to result in a significant change to character.

3.5.113 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit DUX02

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Simple landcover pattern of medium scale regular arable fields with occasional fragmented hedgerows Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Gently undulating landform which is part of the broad valley sides of the River Granta, rising towards the Chalk Hills to the south - Woodland at Ash Plantation adds diversity to the otherwise simple landcover pattern
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Highways include the A505 - Commercial development south of Sawston is softened by hedgerows and trees, but visible in the wider landscape - The development of the Wellcome Genome Campus east of Hinxtun is likely to influence the character and sensitivity of this Assessment Unit to the development scenario Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Largely unsettled rural landscape north of Hinxtun with limited built development - The northern edge of Hinxtun abuts arable fields, but is softened by mature trees
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally strong sense of tranquillity, although this is locally eroded by the A505 - Some scenic quality associated with the open, arable landscape, woodland at Ash Plantation and the wooded Cam River Valley to the west, and views towards the distant Chalk Hills
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: Low field boundary hedgerows are largely fragmented, or have been removed Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario:

Criteria	Susceptibility
	Strong rural character associated with the undulating arable landscape, occasional tree belt or woodland, and distant Chalk Hills
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Distant skylines are largely wooded, however occasional telegraph poles disrupt the skyline - Generally limited access to the landscape Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Long views across gently undulating arable fields towards woodland within the wooded Cam River Valley and distant Chalk Hills - Residential receptors on northern edge of Hinxton
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: Simple, arable landcover pattern considered commonplace in Greater Cambridge - Limited geological, topographical and geomorphological value - Limited historic value - Limited recreational access to the landscape Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Strong character and scenic value associated with views across open arable fields towards the wooded Cam River Valley and distant Chalk Hills - Natural value associated woodland at Ash Plantation - Recreational value of National Cycle Network Route 11 - Locally valued views from the northern edge of Hinxton
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and

Criteria	Susceptibility
	link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.114 In summary, commonplace, arable landcover with limited vegetation and the eastern edge of Sawston being visible in the wider landscape are both features which are less susceptible to the development scenario. However, woodland at Ash Plantation has natural value, and alongside the wooded Cam Valley to the west and distant Chalk Hills, adds scenic value to long, open views. This is more susceptible to the development scenario. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **medium to high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium to high	Typically, a landscape containing some important components and/or has some distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate to good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care would be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.115 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit DUX03

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - The generally simple pattern of the landscape comprising predominantly large, open arable fields and dense shelterbelts Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - The undulating topography rising from the River Cam or Granta valley to the east
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - The southern edge of Duxford contains industrial buildings and associated structures of the chemical works which dominate the area and are visible through trees - A National Grid Compressor Station south of Duxford is largely screened by trees - Residential development south west of Duxford abuts arable fields, and is softened by trees but can be clearly seen in views approaching the village Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Largely unsettled rural landscape south of Duxford - A windmill south of Duxford is a distinctive feature
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Limited sense of tranquillity associated with the large scale buildings on the edge of Duxford, gas works and M11 to the south - Large scale arable fields and chemical complex south of Duxford reduces scenic quality Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Views towards the Chalk Hills to the west are of scenic value, but include traffic on the M11
Landscape Quality/Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Eroded rural quality due to the gas works and chemical complex which is out of scale with the adjacent village Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally intact field boundaries including hedgerows along roads, and shelterbelts

Criteria	Susceptibility
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Wide views on the southern approach to Duxford feature glimpsed views of the chemical works which are largely screened by dense tree belts Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Generally long, open views across undulating arable fields towards the wooded Cam River Valley to the east, and rising Chalk Hills to the west • Skylines are largely wooded and undeveloped and a windmill near the southern boundary is a distinctive landmark • Recreational receptors using the limited PROW network • Residential receptors on the southern edge of Sawston • Visitors to the cemetery in the south
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Eroded sense of tranquillity due to the nearby M11 and large scale buildings • Limited time depth • Limited natural value • Eroded rural character due to large scale buildings on the southern edge of Duxford Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Scenic quality associated with the Chalk Hills to the east, but this is eroded by large scale buildings south of Duxford • Recreational value of the cemetery, limited PROW network and small part of National Cycle Network Route 11 in the south east • Locally valued views from the southern edge of Duxford
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape.

Criteria	Susceptibility
	The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.116 In summary, this is an undulating open, arable landscape with views towards the Chalk Hills to the west and River Cam valley to the east. These views provide scenic value and are more susceptible to the development scenario. Key characteristics which are less susceptible to the development scenario include large scale buildings associated with the chemical works south of Duxford, large scale arable fields, open views of residential development south of the village, and the nearby M11 which erodes tranquillity. Overall, this Assessment Unit is assessed as being of **medium** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium	Typically, a landscape comprising relatively commonplace components and/or has few distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape have some susceptibility to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care may be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.117 In this context, there may be some opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in parts of this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit DUX04

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Large scale open landscape with a simple, rectilinear field pattern enclosed by fragmented hedgerows and occasional shelterbelts Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Rising rolling chalk hill rising to Pepperton Hill at c. 83m AOD
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Highway infrastructure includes the M11 Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Largely unsettled rural landscape with built form limited to a farm - The edge of Duxford directly abuts arable fields but is softened by well treed back gardens
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - The M11 detracts from the sense of tranquillity Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally a landscape of high scenic value, although rural character eroded by presence of M11
Landscape Quality/Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Strong rural character associated with the steeply rising landform, although severed by the M11 - Generally an intact landscape with robust hedgerows and shelterbelts
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Limited access to the countryside - Views include traffic on the M11 Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Views north towards Cambridge are expansive and distant, with wooded horizons punctuated by occasional isolated trees - Skylines are generally undeveloped and treed, although a communication mast to the south is a localised detractor

Criteria	Susceptibility
	• Distinctive landscape with generally strong rural character • Residential receptors on the western edge of Duxford
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Limited natural value • Limited historic value • Limited recreational value • The M11 is a detractor from the sense of tranquillity, otherwise high scenic value and strong rural character Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • The steeply sloping landform is distinctive, relatively rare within Greater Cambridge, and has a strong rural character • Long, open, expansive views across Greater Cambridge • Locally valued views from the western edge of Duxford into the countryside towards Pepperton Hill
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.118 In summary, this is a large scale, rolling arable landscape, rising to a high point at Pepperton Hill. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario are the elevated landform, scenic value of the rolling hills and long, expansive views towards Cambridge. The M11 is a localised detractor from the sense of tranquillity, otherwise high scenic value and strong

rural character, and less susceptible to the development scenario. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **medium to high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium to high	Typically, a landscape containing some important components and/or has some distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate to good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care would be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.119 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit DUX05

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Large scale, simple landscape of predominantly medium to large arable fields in a regular pattern with occasional treed field boundaries and small woodlands Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Undulating landform rising towards the Chalk Hills to the north and south
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Duxford Airfield contains large scale aircraft hangars which are very visible in the landscape - Highway infrastructure includes the A505 and M11 along the eastern boundary Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Sparsely settled rural landscape north east of Duxford - Duxford abuts arable fields and residential development is visible in the wider landscape, however it is softened by trees
Perceptual & Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Scenic quality associated with the backdrop of the Chalk Hills is eroded by the large scale hangars at Duxford airfield, large scale arable farmland and views of moving traffic on the M11 and A505 Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally strong sense of tranquillity, however this is locally eroded by the M11 and A505 - Strong sense of separation between Duxford and Duxford Airfield due to open farmland
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Fields have been enlarged and hedgerows have been removed or are fragmented - Rural character eroded by the M11, A505 and large scale hangars at Duxford Airfield
Views & Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: Views include the distinctive hangars at Duxford Airfield

Criteria	Susceptibility
	- Wooded skylines are occasionally broken by poles and wires associated with the telecommunications network, as well as the large hangars at Duxford Airfield - Limited access to the landscape Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Expansive views are generally long and open, with scattered small blocks of woodland, the well treed Hoffer Brook and treed village edges - Views north and south towards the Chalk Hills have scenic value - Residential receptors on the edges of Duxford
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Relatively commonplace, large scale arable landscape - Rural character and scenic value eroded due to the transport network and large hangars at Duxford airfield - Limited time depth - Limited natural value - Limited recreational value Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Scenic value associated with views towards the distinctive Chalk Hills to the north and south - Locally valued views from Duxford into arable farmland, towards distant Chalk Hills
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows and consideration of opportunities for re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.120 In summary, this is a large scale, open arable landscape which is relatively commonplace in Greater Cambridge. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario include the undulating landform, long, expansive views towards distinctive rolling Chalk Hills and a strong sense of separation between Duxford and Duxford Airfield due to open arable farmland. Key characteristics which are less susceptible to the development scenario include the large scale hangars at Duxford Airfield which are prominent in views and the M11 and A505 which lower the sense of tranquillity and erode rural character and perceptions of scenic value. Overall, this landscape is of **medium to high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium to high	Typically, a landscape containing some important components and/or has some distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate to good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care would be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.121 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit DUX06

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Large scale, simple landscape of predominantly medium to large arable fields in a regular pattern with occasional hedged field boundaries Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Undulating landform rising east of the River Cam
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Settled rural landscape between Whittlesford and Whittlesford Bridge, with linear residential development along Duxford Road eroding the gap between the two villages - Highways include the A505 and M11 along the western boundary - Commercial development at the junction of the M11 Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Whittlesford and Whittlesford Bridge generally abut arable fields but are largely softened by trees
Perceptual & Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Development associated with the villages and linear development on Duxford Road can be seen and combines with traffic on the highway network to erode tranquillity - Limited scenic quality associated due to urban influences associated with Whittlesford and Whittlesford Bridge and the highway network
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Fields have been enlarged and hedgerows have been removed or are fragmented - Rural character eroded by built form associated with the villages and the highway networks
Views & Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Wooded skylines are occasionally broken by poles and wires associated with the telecommunications network - Views often include traffic on the M11 - Generally limited access to the landscape

Criteria	Susceptibility
	Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Expansive views generally long and open, including scattered small blocks of woodland, and well treed villages • Recreational users of the limited PROW network • Residential receptors on the edges of Whittlesford and Whittlesford Bridge
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Relatively commonplace, large scale arable landscape • Rural character and scenic value eroded due to visible built form associated with the villages and linear residential development in between • Limited time depth • Limited natural value • Limited recreational value Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Recreational value of National Cycle Network Route 11 • Locally valued views from village edges into arable farmland, towards distant Chalk Hills
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows and consideration of opportunities for re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.122 In summary, this is a large scale, open arable landscape which is relatively commonplace in Greater Cambridge. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario include expansive views across South Cambridge and locally valued views from the edges of Whittlesford and

Whittlesford Bridge. Key characteristics which are less susceptible to the development scenario include the highway network, commercial development near the M11 junction and linear development along Duxford Road which erodes the sense of separation between Whittlesford and Whittlesford Bridge and lower the sense of tranquillity and erode rural character. Overall, this landscape is of **medium** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium	Typically, a landscape comprising relatively commonplace components and/or has few distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape have some susceptibility to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care may be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.123 In this context, there may be some opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in parts of this Assessment Unit.

Summary

3.5.124 The key findings of the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment of the fringes of Duxford are summarised in the table below.

Assessment Unit	Landscape Sensitivity
DUX01	High
DUX02	Medium to high
DUX03	Medium
DUX04	Medium to high
DUX05	Medium to high
DUX06	Medium

Linton Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Assessment Units

3.5.125 The Assessment Units identified within the study area around the village of Linton are shown on **Figure 3.23** along with their unique reference codes.

Wider Landscape Context

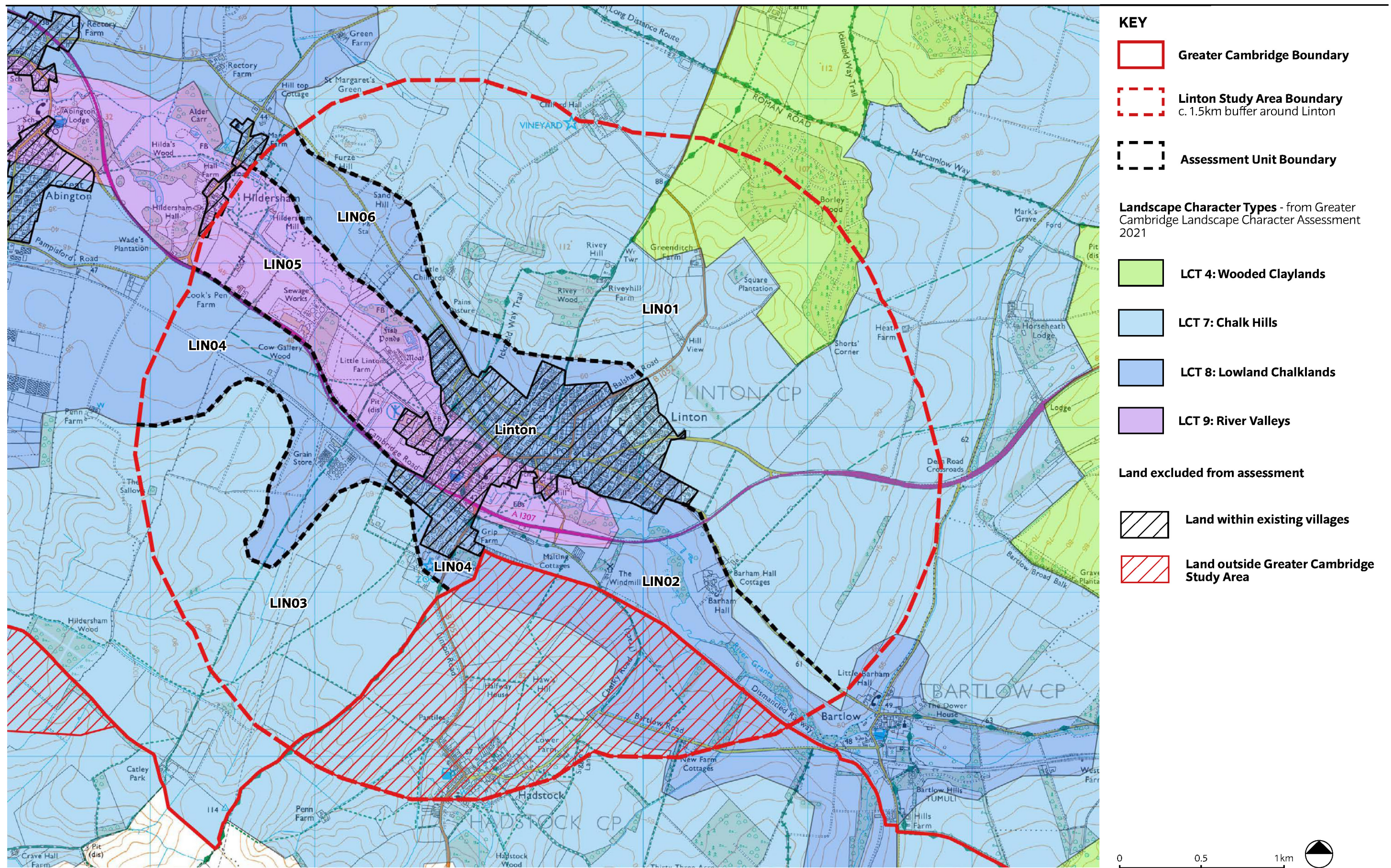
3.5.126 The wider landscape context for the village of Linton is provided by the following Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas²⁷:

Landscape Character Types	Landscape Character Areas
LCT 4: Wooded Claylands	4D: West Wratting Wooded Claylands
LCT 7: Chalk Hills	7F: Southern Chalk Hills
LCT 8: Lowland Chalklands	8A: Pampisford Lowland Chalklands
LCT9: River Valleys	9D: Granta River Valley

Assessment Unit LIN01

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Simple pattern of medium to large rectilinear arable fields with blocks of woodland of varying size often located on the higher ground Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Open, elevated rolling landscape which is part of a series of low, rounded Chalk Hills including Rivey Hill - Woodland, including ancient woodland and mixed plantation woodland, occasional shelterbelts and trimmed field boundary hedges and a vineyard add complexity to the rolling landscape
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: Highways include the A1307 in the south east

²⁷ See Figure 4.1 in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021)



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Criteria	Susceptibility
	- Sometimes residential development on the northern edge of Linton, including on Lonsdale, Balsham Road and Back Road has a harsh edge which directly abuts arable fields, so the village is prominent in views, however the rising topography screens the village when viewed from a distance Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Sparsely settled rural landscape north and east of Linton with built development limited to occasional farms or isolated halls - North of Linton houses often have a well screened edge with trees, long back gardens and hedgerows - Rivey Hill Water Tower is a distinctive feature which can be seen across much of the wider area
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally strong sense of tranquillity, although this is eroded within the A1307 corridor - High scenic quality associated with the locally distinctive rolling hills and hilltop woodlands
Landscape Quality/Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Field boundaries have been removed in places to enlarge arable fields Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Strong rural character associated with the rolling hills and woodland - Remaining low hedgerows enclosing fields are generally in good condition and are only occasionally fragmented
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - On lower ground views towards wooded horizons are visually enclosed, or framed by rolling landform and woodland Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Long, expansive views from higher ground across the Granta Valley, with villages appearing in a wooded context - Skylines are largely wooded and undeveloped, with occasional vertical features breaking the horizon including telegraph poles, distant pylons and the turbines at Wadlow Windfarm on the horizon to the north

Criteria	Susceptibility
	• Rivey Hill Water Tower is a distinctive landmark on the skyline • The rolling Chalk Hills have a strong sense of place, and are locally distinctive with high scenic value • Recreational receptors using the PROW including part of the Icknield Way Trail, and users of the Harcamlow Way and E2 European Long Distance Route which runs along the route of a Roman Road on the ridgeline to the north and has intervisibility with this Assessment Unit • Residential receptors on the northern edge of Linton
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Limited historic landscape value Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Strong rural landscape character associated with the distinctive rolling hills and woodland • Rarity associated with ancient woodland, vines and the rolling landform • Natural value of Furze Hill SSSI, Borley Wood County Wildlife Site, Furze Hills Roadside Verge County Wildlife Site and woodland including ancient woodland at Borley Wood and Rivey Wood • Recreational value of PROW including the Icknield Way Trail • Scenic value associated with the locally prominent landform and mature woodland • Locally valued views from PROW, including expansive elevated views across the Granta Valley • Locally valued long views across open farmland from the village
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers/ enhancing hard edges of Linton) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and

Criteria	Susceptibility
	link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.127 In summary, rolling hills with a pattern of woodland contribute to a strong rural landscape character. Key features are expansive elevated views across the Granta Valley, natural value of woodland and grassland, recreational value associated with PROW including the Icknield Way Trail, and high scenic value. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **medium to high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium to high	Typically, a landscape containing some important components and/or has some distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate to good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care would be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.128 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit LIN02

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Narrow valley of the River Granta • Complex small scale landscape pattern of meadows with mature hedges and woodland, and linear woodland along a disused railway along the southern boundary alongside medium scale arable fields which contrast with the otherwise wooded character
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Highways include the A1307 • Occasionally residential development, including houses on Lonsdale, has an exposed edge and housing is visible in the wider landscape, including from the A1307 Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Sparsely settled rural landscape south east of Linton with built development limited to cottages and Barham Hall • The south-eastern edge of Linton is largely well integrated into the landscape by paddocks, mature hedges, woodland and trees • The Windmill is a distinctive feature
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Generally strong sense of tranquillity, although this is locally eroded by the A1307 • High scenic quality associated with the intimate, well treed landscape
Landscape Quality/Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Field boundaries have been removed in places to enlarge arable fields Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Strong rural character associated with the small scale, pastoral landscape, particularly south of Linton and along the river • Woodland and hedgerows are generally in good condition
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario:

Criteria	Susceptibility
	- Views are generally short and visually enclosed by trees, hedgerows and woodland, or framed by rolling landform and woodland Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Skylines are largely wooded and undeveloped, with occasional vertical features breaking the horizon including telegraph poles - Rivey Hill Water Tower is a distinctive landmark on the elevated skyline which is intermittently visible - Glimpsed views of the rolling Chalk Hills which have a strong sense of place, and are locally distinctive with high scenic value - Recreational receptors using the PROW - Residential receptors on the south-eastern edge of Linton
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Limited historic landscape value Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Strong rural character associated with the small scale, pastoral landscape - Historic landscape value associated with the small scale field pattern south of Linton - Rarity associated with the intimate, wooded chalk river valley within the context of Greater Cambridge - Natural value of the River Granta County Wildlife Site, Shelford-Haverhill Disused Railway County Wildlife Sites at Bartlow and Linton as well as woodland and floodplain grazing marsh - Recreational value of PROW - Scenic value associated with the locally prominent landform and mature woodland - Locally valued views from PROW - Locally valued views across open farmland to wooded horizons from the south-eastern edge of Linton
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape

Criteria	Susceptibility
	(such as structural planting/buffers/enhancing hard edges of Linton) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.129 In summary, this is an intimate landscape associated with the wooded valley of the River Granta. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario include the small scale landcover pattern of hedged paddocks and woodland associated with the river which has a strong, intimate rural character and high scenic quality, natural value, and recreational value. The occasionally harsh edges of Linton and A1307 are less susceptible to the development scenario. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	Typically, a landscape containing unique/important components and/or is an area of particularly distinctive character and/or contains landscape components that are in very good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are highly susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Such change is likely to result in a significant change to character.

3.5.130 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit LIN03

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Simple landcover pattern of medium to large scale regular arable fields intermittently enclosed by mature hedgerows and occasional hedgerow trees Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Rolling Chalk Hills rising in elevation to the south
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Commercial development south of Linton and a large scale grain store to the north are occasionally visible Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Largely unsettled rural landscape with limited built form
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally strong sense of tranquillity - High scenic quality associated with the rolling landscape and views towards the wooded Granta Valley and Chalk Hills to the north
Landscape Quality/Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Low field boundary hedgerows are fragmented or have been removed Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Strong rural character associated with the rolling Chalk Hills, and views across the wooded Granta Valley to the north
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Pylons are prominent on the skyline Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally expansive views across arable fields towards the wooded Granta Valley with the backdrop of woodland on the Chalk Hills to the north - Rivey Hill Water Tower is a distinctive landmark on the horizon to the north - Strong rural character and high scenic value - Recreational receptors using PROW

Criteria	Susceptibility
	Intervisibility with the Chalk Hills to the north, including the users of the Harcamlow Way/E2 European Long Distance Route which follows the Roman Road along the ridgeline north of Linton
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: Simple, arable landcover pattern considered commonplace in Greater Cambridge Limited historic value - Limited natural value Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - High scenic value and rural character associated with the rolling Chalk Hills, backdrop of the Granta River Valley and Chalk Hills to the north - Recreational value of the limited PROW network - Locally valued views from PROW, and intervisibility with the elevated Harcamlow Way/E2 European Long Distance Route north of Linton
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.131 In summary, this is a distinctive landscape of rolling Chalk Hills. The simple landcover pattern of large scale arable fields has limited natural value, and is less susceptible to the development scenario. However, key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario include the rolling

landform, recreational value of the PROW network, expansive elevated views across the wooded Granta Valley to the north, high scenic value and strong rural character. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **medium to high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium to high	Typically, a landscape containing some important components and/or has some distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate to good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care would be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.132 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit LIN04

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Simple landcover pattern of medium scale regular arable fields intermittently enclosed by mature hedgerows and occasional hedgerow trees Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Gently undulating landform which is part of the broad valley of the River Granta, rising towards the Chalk Hills to the south - A linear belt of trees follows a dismantled railway, and Linton Zoo in the east has a dense pattern of hedgerows and trees that contrasts with the otherwise open, arable countryside
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - A large scale grain store south of Cambridge Road and commercial development on the southern edge of Linton are occasionally glimpsed within the wider landscape but largely well integrated with trees - Relatively recent residential development on the eastern edge of Abington is not well integrated into the landscape and is prominent in views - Highways include the A1307 along the northern boundary Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Largely unsettled rural landscape west of Linton with limited built form
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Eroded sense of tranquillity due to the proximity to Linton, Great Abington and the A1307 Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - High scenic quality associated with the undulating arable landscape and views towards the wooded Granta Valley and Chalk Hills to the north
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: Low field boundary hedgerows are fragmented or have been removed Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario:

Criteria	Susceptibility
	Strong rural character associated with the undulating arable landscape, field boundary trees and distinctive Chalk Hills to the south
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Views are occasionally short and enclosed by landform, woodland and shelterbelts - Skylines are largely wooded, however pylons and occasional telegraph poles disrupt the skyline - Views include prominent residential development east of Great Abington Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Long, open views across arable fields towards the wooded Granta Valley with the backdrop of woodland on the Chalk Hills to the north - Recreational receptors using PROW
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: Simple, arable landcover pattern considered commonplace in Greater Cambridge - Limited geological, topographical and geomorphological value Limited historic value Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - High scenic value associated with the undulating landform, backdrop of the Granta River Valley and Chalk Hills to the north - Natural value associated with Shelford – Haverhill Disused Railway (Great Abington) County Wildlife Site - Recreational value of the limited PROW network - Locally valued views from PROW
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape.

Criteria	Susceptibility
	The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.133 In summary, this is a gently undulating, arable landscape with occasional fragmented hedgerows and linear woodland following a dismantled railway. Key characteristics which are susceptible to the development scenario include the gently undulating landform, the natural value of County Wildlife Sites along the disused railway, and open views across the Granta Valley to the Chalk Hills to the north. Characteristic which are less susceptible include scattered commercial development, the A1307, the harsh eastern edge of Great Abington and the simple, arable landcover pattern. In summary, this Assessment Unit is of **medium** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium	Typically, a landscape comprising relatively commonplace components and/or has few distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape have some susceptibility to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care may be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.134 In this context, there may be some opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in parts of this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit LIN05

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Narrow, gently undulating floodplain of the River Granta, a well treed chalk stream - Complex, small scale landcover pattern associated with the River Granta floodplain including floodplain grazing marsh, lowland meadow, woodland and a mixture of small scale, irregular pastoral and arable fields enclosed by hedgerows, shelterbelts and boundary trees
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Highways include the A1307 along its south western edge. - Built development includes Linton College and scattered smaller scale industrial developments including a factory, mills and a sewage works Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Unsettled floodplain landscape with several villages at the edges including Hildersham and Linton - Linton has a soft, enclosed north-western edge due to meadows associated with the River Granta, trees and hedgerows, however Linton Collage is visible in some views on the western edge - Hildersham has a soft eastern edge due to woodland and trees - A windmill south east of Hildersham is a distinctive feature
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally strong sense of tranquillity, although this is eroded by the A1307 - High scenic quality associated with the river, enclosed fields, pasture, woodland and long back gardens
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Field boundary hedgerows and trees are generally intact - Strong rural character associated with the river and small scale fields, woodland and pasture, although this is locally eroded by the A1307
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: Views are generally short and contained by vegetation

Criteria	Susceptibility
	• Skylines are largely wooded, however pylons, occasional buildings and telegraph poles disrupt the skyline Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Occasional framed long views across pastoral fields towards the distinctive Chalk Hills to the south and north • Distinctive wooded character of the small scale landscape associated with the River Granta • Recreational receptors using PROW, including a small part of the Icknield Way in the east
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Distinctive, intimate, small scale landscape incorporating the River Granta, tree groups and enclosed arable and pastoral fields which is considered rare in Greater Cambridge • Natural value associated with the River Granta County Wildlife Site,, woodland and floodplain grazing meadow • High, scenic value associated with the River Granta, small scale, well treed fields and woodland • Historic landscape value associated with the historic route into Cambridge, historic villages, and small scale, historic field patterns • Recreational value of PROW • Locally valued views from PROW, including a small part of the Icknield Way in the east, and village edges
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.135 In summary, this is an intimate, small scale landscape associated with the River Granta. There is natural value associated with the River Granta County Wildlife Site, woodland and floodplain grazing marsh, historic value associated with historic villages and the route into Cambridge and high scenic value. Village edges, and occasional industrial developments are generally well integrated into the landscape by trees, woodland and enclosed paddocks. These key characteristics are more susceptible to the development scenario. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	Typically, a landscape containing unique/important components and/or is an area of particularly distinctive character and/or contains landscape components that are in very good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are highly susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Such change is likely to result in a significant change to character.

3.5.136 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit LIN06

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Simple landcover pattern of medium scale regular arable fields enclosed by occasional mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Rolling landform which is part of the broad valley of the River Granta, rising towards the Chalk Hills to the north
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Screening varies on the northern edge of Linton, and houses often have a well screened edge with trees, long back gardens and hedgerows, however sometimes residential development, including on Lonsdale, Balsham Road and Back Road has a harsh edge which directly abuts arable fields, so the village is prominent in views, however the rising topography screens the village when viewed from a distance Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Sparsely settled rural landscape with small historic villages - The eastern edge of Hildersham is well integrated into the countryside by trees and woodland
Perceptual and Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally strong sense of tranquillity - High scenic quality associated with the undulating arable landscape, views towards the Chalk Hills to the north and wooded Granta River Valley to the south
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Low field boundary hedgerows are often missing and occasionally fragmented Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Strong rural character associated with the undulating arable landscape and distinctive Chalk Hills to the south
Views and Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: Views are generally short and enclosed by landform, woodland and trees

Criteria	Susceptibility
	• Skylines are often disrupted by telecommunications poles and wires, and pylons in the east Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Occasional long, framed views across arable fields • Residential receptors on the northern edges of Hildersham and Linton • Recreational users of the PROW network including a small section of the Icknield Way Trail
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: Simple, arable landcover pattern considered commonplace in Greater Cambridge • Limited historic value Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Natural value associated with Furze Hill SSSI and Furze Hills Roadside Verge County Wildlife Site Scenic value and strong rural character associated with the rolling Chalk Hills • Recreational value of the PROW network including a small section of the Icknield Way Trail • Locally valued views from the edges of villages • Values views towards the Chalk Hills and Granta River Valley
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows, re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented and consideration of opportunities to expand and link woodland, hedgerows and other semi-natural habitats to benefit biodiversity and manage key views across the rural landscape would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.137 Overall, this is a landscape of rolling hills north between the Chalk Hills and Granta River Valley, with small, historic villages. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario include the undulating landform, natural value of Furze Hills SSSI and Furze Hills Roadside Verge County Wildlife Site and the well-integrated village edge of Hildersham. Features which are less susceptible to the development scenario include the commonplace arable field pattern and occasional harsh northern edges of Linton. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **medium to high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium to high	Typically, a landscape containing some important components and/or has some distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate to good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care would be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.138 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Summary

3.5.139 The key findings of the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment of the fringes of Linton are summarised in the table below.

Assessment Unit	Landscape Sensitivity
LIN01	Medium to high
LIN02	High
LIN03	Medium to high
LIN04	Medium
LIN05	High
LIN06	Medium to high

Foxton Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Assessment Units

3.5.140 The Assessment Units identified within the study area around the village of Foxton are shown on **Figure 3.24** along with their unique reference codes.

Wider Landscape Context

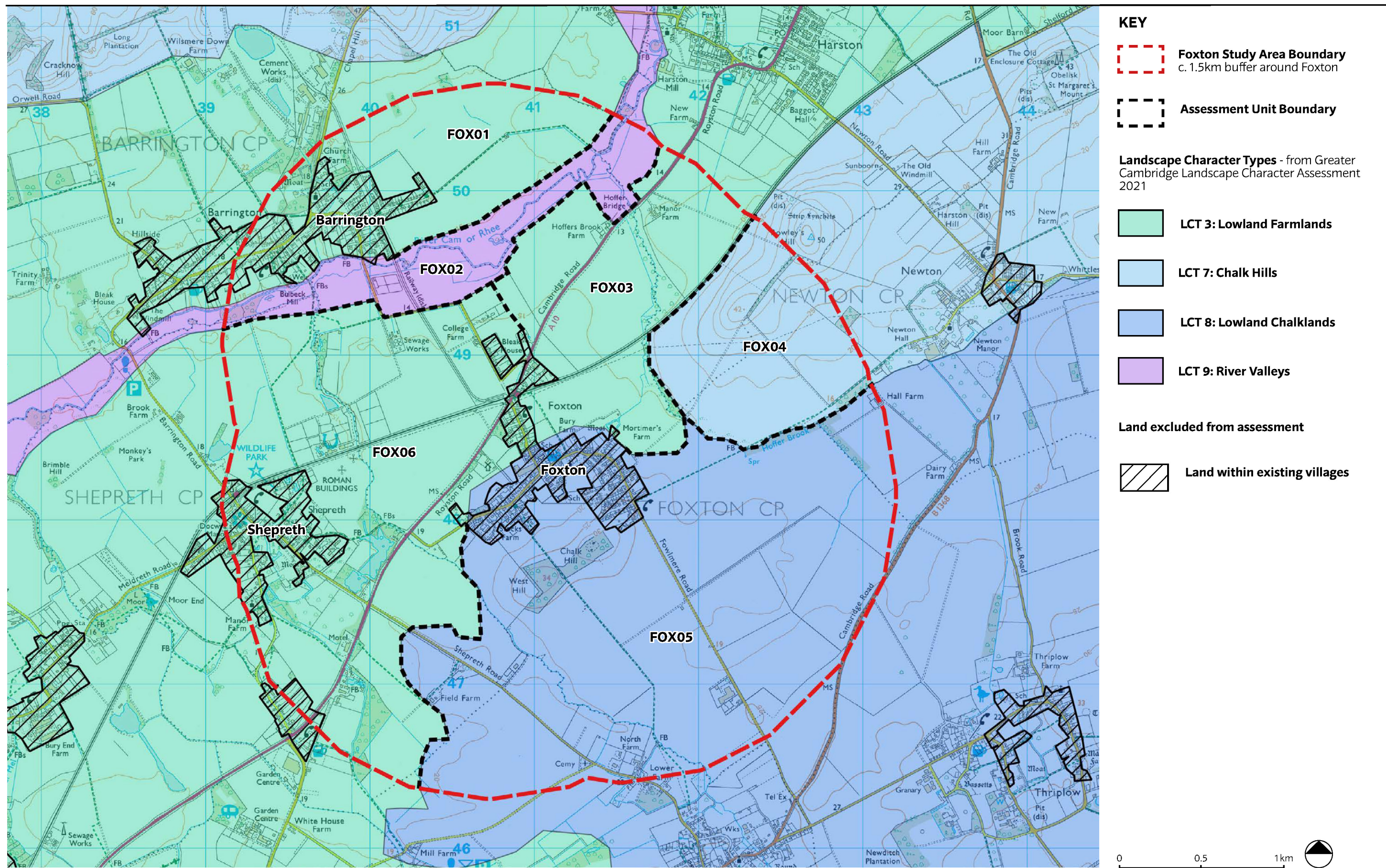
3.5.141 The wider landscape context for the village of Foxton is provided by the following Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas²⁸:

Landscape Character Types	Landscape Character Areas
LCT 3: Lowland Farmlands	3C: Rhee Tributaries Lowland Farmlands
LCT 7: Chalk Hills	7D: Newton Chalk Hills
LCT 8: Lowland Chalklands	8B: Morden to Duxford Lowland Chalklands
LCT9: River Valleys	9C: Rhee River Valley

Assessment Unit FOX01

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Gently undulating landform • Large arable fields in the east with occasional boundary trees and gappy tree belts Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Woodland in the west, north of Barrington and two small blocks of woodland on the northern boundary adds diversity to the landscape
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • The eastern edge of Barrington is generally softened by hedgerows, but residential development abutting arable

²⁸ See Figure 4.1 in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021)



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Criteria	Susceptibility
	fields, including on the south eastern edge where it is particularly harsh can be seen in the wider landscape Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Sparsely settled rural landscape free from modern highway infrastructure north and east of Barrington • The northern edge of Barrington is softened by woodland
Perceptual & Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Generally strong sense of tranquillity despite a harsh settlement edge in places • Generally high scenic value associated with the distinctive rolling chalk hill backdrops to the north and south east
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Arable fields have been enlarged and hedgerows are limited Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Woodland is in generally good condition • Strong rural character associated with woodland and views towards the distant Chalk Hills
Views & Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Wooded skylines are occasionally interrupted by poles and wires associated with the telecommunications network • Localised visual enclosure due to woodland north of Barrington Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Generally long views towards wooded horizons • Views towards the distinctive Chalk Hills at Newton and Wimpole • Recreational users of the PROW network • Residential receptors on the edge of Barrington
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: • Commonplace arable field pattern • Limited geological, topographical or geomorphological value

Criteria	Susceptibility
	- Limited time depth Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally strong rural character associated with woodland - Distinctive views towards the Chalk Hills at Newton and Wimpole - Natural value associated with woodland - Recreational value of the PROW network - Locally valued views from the northern and eastern edges of Barrington
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows and consideration of opportunities for re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.142 In summary, commonplace arable fields in the east contrast with the wooded northern edge of Barrington. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario include long views towards the distant Chalk Hills to the north and east, the soft wooded character of the northern edge of Barrington and strong rural character. Less susceptible are the large arable fields with little vegetation, and harsh eastern edge of Barrington which is prominent in the landscape. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **medium to high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Medium to high	Typically, a landscape containing some important components and/or has some distinctive characteristics and/or is an area in moderate to good condition. Key

Sensitivity Level	Definition
	characteristics and valued attributes of the landscape are susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Considerable care would be needed in locating and designing change within the landscape.

3.5.143 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.

Assessment Unit FOX02

Criteria	Susceptibility
Natural Factors	Natural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Occasionally open arable fields contrast with the intimate landscape immediately adjacent to the river Natural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Shallow valley landform associated with the sinuous River Cam including its tributary with the Hoffer Brook - Simple, small scale landscape comprising riparian trees, floodplain grazing marsh and scattered woodland
Cultural Factors	Cultural factors that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Infrastructure includes a disused railway Cultural factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Sparsely settled river valley south of Barrington - Barrington has a soft, wooded edge with enclosed fields and paddocks with mature hedgerows
Perceptual & Aesthetic Factors	Perceptual and aesthetic factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Generally strong sense of tranquillity - Generally high scenic value associated with the intimate, treed riverside - Contributes to separation between Barrington and Foxton
Landscape Quality/ Condition	Landscape quality/condition factors that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Trees, hedgerows and woodland are in generally good condition - Strong rural character associated with the intimate riverside trees and small fields south of Barrington
Views & Visual Context	Views and visual context that make the landscape less susceptible to the development scenario: - Strong sense of visual enclosure with short views contained by trees - Generally limited access to the landscape Views and visual context that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: - Skylines are generally wooded and undeveloped - High scenic value associated with the well treed and intimate riverside landscape - Recreational receptors using PROW south of Barrington - Residential receptors on the southern edge of Barrington

Criteria	Susceptibility
Landscape Value	Characteristics, features and qualities of landscape value that make the landscape more susceptible to the development scenario: • Small fields, and intimate riverside landscape considered rare in the context of Greater Cambridge • Generally strong rural character • Strong sense of time depth associated with the small scale field pattern south of Barrington • Natural value associated with woodland and trees, floodplain grazing marsh and the River Rhee County Wildlife Site • Recreational value of the limited PROW network • Locally valued views from the southern edge of Barrington
Mitigation Potential	There is potential to mitigate the type and scale of change associated with the development scenario in this area by following the relevant landscape guidelines set out in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment (2021) where appropriate. There may be scope for strategic landscape mitigation measures to help integrate development into the landscape (such as structural planting/buffers) where carefully designed to be compatible with the characteristics of the wider landscape. The management and enhancement of existing hedgerows and consideration of opportunities for re-planting hedgerows where these have been lost/become fragmented would be beneficial for creating a well-integrated settlement edge.

3.5.144 In summary, this is a relatively rare river valley with an intimate, rural character. Key characteristics which are more susceptible to the development scenario include the natural value of the River Rhee County Wildlife Site, high scenic value and strong rural character associate with the river, and well-integrated southern edge of Barrington. Overall, this Assessment Unit is of **high** sensitivity to the development scenario.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	Typically, a landscape containing unique/important components and/or is an area of particularly distinctive character and/or contains landscape components that are in very good condition. Key characteristics and valued attributes

Sensitivity Level	Definition
	of the landscape are highly susceptible to the particular type and scale of change being assessed. Such change is likely to result in a significant change to character.

3.5.145 In this context, there are limited opportunities for residential, commercial and mixed-use development with increased height/scale in this Assessment Unit.