

TELFORD AND WREKIN BOROUGH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

FINAL REPORT
OCTOBER 2023

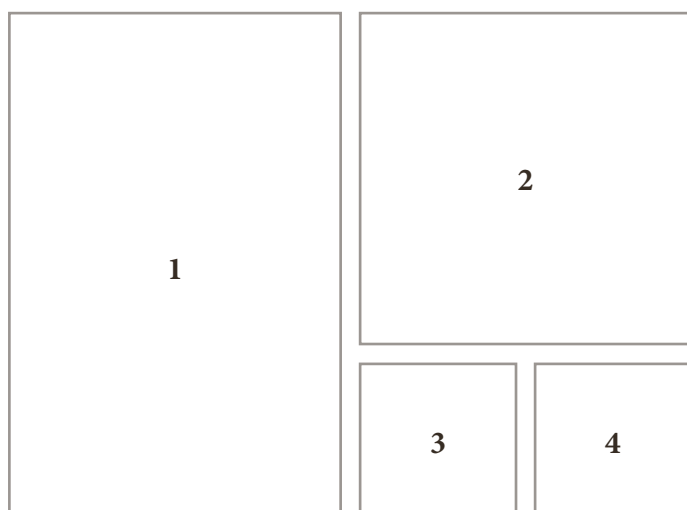
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Prepared for Telford & Wrekin Borough Council

Prepared by The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd.

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Photos on front cover

1. View from the summit of The Wrekin
2. The River Severn as seen from the Iron Bridge
3. View across agricultural land from Spout Lane, Little Wenlock
4. Flooded grazing meadows near Walcot

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January 2023, The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd. was commissioned by Telford & Wrekin Borough Council to undertake a Landscape Character Assessment. The aim of the study is to provide a comprehensive Borough-wide assessment of landscape character to inform land use planning and land management decisions. The Landscape Character Assessment will be used as technical evidence to inform the Local Plan Review.

Telford and Wrekin offers a diverse range of landscapes, including the unique, wooded and distinctive hills of The Wrekin and The Ercall within the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), areas of large-scale intensive farmland and the low lying landscapes of the Weald Moors.

The Telford and Wrekin Borough Landscape Character Assessment 2023 builds on the 2006 Shropshire Landscape Typology by providing a more in-depth description of the cultural, historic and perceptual qualities of the landscape and a description of the landscape's physical characteristics. Landscape Character Type boundaries were reviewed and amended where necessary to reflect changes to the landscape since 2006.

The Telford and Wrekin Borough Landscape Character Assessment identifies 14 Landscape Character Types: High Volcanic Hills and Slopes; Principal Wooded Hills; Wooded

River Gorge; Wooded Hills and Farmlands; Wooded Hills and Estatelands; Sandstone Hills; Sandstone Estatelands; Wooded Estatelands; Estate Farmlands; Principal Settled Farmlands; Enclosed Lowland Heaths; Lowland Moors; Riverside Meadows; and Coalfields.

The Telford and Wrekin Borough Landscape Character Assessment describes each of these 14 Landscape Character Types in detail, using a combination of maps, text and photographs. Each one provides a summary description, followed by information on the key landscape characteristics; physical influences; human influences; aesthetic and perceptual qualities; key sensitivities and values; landscape management recommendations and development management guidelines.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Background and Purpose

- 1.1 Landscape character assessment is an important tool to help local authorities ensure all landscapes are effectively planned, well designed and sensitively managed. It is a decision-making tool which systematically classifies the landscape into distinctive areas based on the interaction between landform, geology, land use, vegetation pattern and human influence. Its role is to ensure that future changes do not undermine the intrinsic character or features of value within a landscape.
- 1.2 In January 2023, The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd. was commissioned by Telford & Wrekin Borough Council to provide a more detailed overview of the landscape of Telford and Wrekin Borough. The study seeks to build upon the 2006 Shropshire Landscape Typology and provide a robust and up-to-date description of the Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within Telford and Wrekin Borough.
- 1.3 The Telford and Wrekin Borough Landscape Character Assessment will be used as technical evidence to inform the Local Plan Review. The Landscape Character Assessment will inform development management, guiding development and land management that is sympathetic to local character and the special qualities of the Borough.
- 1.4 The Landscape Character Assessment Update will form part of the evidence base for the Telford and Wrekin Local Plan Review. The updated Landscape Character Assessment reflects current best practice in landscape character assessment (An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England, 2014) and considers the changes to the landscape of the Borough since 2006.
- 1.5 This document is relevant to anyone who has an interest in the landscape of Telford and Wrekin Borough. The main applications for the document are to:
 - Promote what is special and contributes to sense of place;
 - Provide a technical document to inform the evidence for landscape policies in the Local Plan Review;
 - Assist development management officers to assess whether proposals will make a positive contribution to landscape character;
 - Assist council officers to provide targeted, landscape-related mitigation and conditions to accompany planning decisions;
 - Provide guidance to developers to help prepare proposals which make a positive contribution to landscape

and sense of place; and

- Provide information for use by the general public and interest groups who may have a personal interest in the landscape around where they live.

Landscape Character Assessment

1.6 Landscape character is a complex interplay of physical and human influences which have shaped the landscape over time. An understanding of these influences is central to the assessment process and has provided the basis on which to define and describe landscape character. Landscape Character Assessment is a tool that emerged in the 1980s as a process by which to define the character of the landscape, i.e. what makes one area distinct or different from another. This Landscape Character Assessment Update has reviewed the descriptions of LCTs in the county level 2006 Shropshire Landscape Typology and has updated these descriptions to reflect the current landscape character in the Telford and Wrekin Borough.

1.7 Within the characterisation process, the landscape is classified into a series of ***Landscape Character Types*** (to be referred to as character types). These are distinct types of landscape that are

relatively homogeneous in character.

They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different parts of the district and county, and indeed the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, landform, drainage patterns, vegetation, and historical land use and settlement pattern.

1.8 It is beyond the scope of this study to consider more local variations in landscape character, which should be considered further as part of a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment or Landscape and Visual Appraisal to accompany a planning application.

1.9 An important feature of the character assessment process is that it is objective; no judgment is made of a particular landscape's value or quality. However, attention is given to identifying characteristics that are distinctive, rare or special as well as those that are more commonplace.

Policy Context

European Landscape Convention

1.10 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) came into force in the UK on 1st March 2007; the principal component of the ELC is the need to develop a framework of policies (economic, social,

and environmental) dedicated to the protection, management and planning of landscape, and raising awareness of landscape issues at all levels.

- 1.11 The ELC adopts a broad definition of landscape: *'landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.'*
- 1.12 This places a broad emphasis on landscapes everywhere and in any condition – land, inland water, marine, natural, rural, and peri-urban, outstanding, ordinary or degraded. It therefore provides the focus on landscape as a resource in its own right.
- 1.13 The ELC recognises that today's landscapes are the result of continuous change and that this change will continue in the future. The ELC Implementation Framework places the emphasis on the effective planning, good design and sensitive management of landscapes with people in mind. UK planning policy is compliant with this approach.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 1.14 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England, how these are expected to be applied at a local level in development plans and how developers should address them. The

Framework places great emphasis on plans and developments contributing to sustainable development.

- 1.15 Paragraph 174 of Section 15 states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan).

Planning Practice Guidance

- 1.16 Planning Practice Guidance reinforces the NPPF's commitment to recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supports the use of landscape character assessment as a tool for understanding local distinctiveness and the use of Natural England's guidance on landscape character assessment.



Figure 1: Hierarchy of Landscape Character Assessment

Relationship to Published Landscape Studies

1.17 Landscape Character Assessment can be undertaken at a variety of scales and levels of detail. This Landscape Character Assessment Update is part of a hierarchy of landscape character assessment information from the national to district level.

National Character Areas

1.18 National Character Areas (NCAs), devised and prepared by Natural England, classifies England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape,

biodiversity, geodiversity, history, and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow logical lines in the landscape, often natural features, rather than administrative boundaries.

1.19 For each NCA, a 'profile' document is produced. NCA profiles are guidance documents which can help communities to inform their decision-making about the places that they live in and care for. The information they contain will support the planning of conservation initiatives at a landscape scale, inform the delivery of Nature Improvement Areas (NIA) and encourage broader partnership working through Local Nature Partnerships (LNP). The profiles will also help to inform choices about how land is managed and can change.

1.20 The NCA profiles contain specific 'Statements of Environmental Opportunity' (SEOs) for each area, which offer guidance on the critical issues identified, and which can help to achieve sustainable growth and a more secure environmental future.

1.21 NCAs of relevance to Telford and Wrekin Borough are summarised below (see Figure 2).

NCA 61: Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain

1.22 The Shropshire, Cheshire and

Staffordshire Plain National Character Area (NCA) comprises most of the county of Cheshire, the northern half of Shropshire and a large part of north west Staffordshire. The NCA comprises flat or gently undulating pastoral farmland. A series of small sandstone ridges cut across the plain and are very prominent features within this open landscape. The ridges are characterised by steep sides freely draining infertile soil that supports broadleaved and mixed woodland, which is notably absent from the plain.

- 1.23 The plain landscape comprises large areas of bog, known as mosses. The meres and mosses of the north west Midlands form a geographically discrete series of nationally important, lowland open water and peatland sites. The NCA contains several significant flood plains.

- 1.24 NCA 61 covers the north and north western parts of the Borough and is associated with the plain landscape.

NCA 65: Shropshire Hills

- 1.25 The Shropshire Hills National Character Area (NCA) is dominated by a series of ridges, scarps and intervening valleys running south west to north east, contrasting with mixed agriculture in intervening valleys and dales.
- 1.26 Almost half of this area is designated as the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding

Natural Beauty (AONB), with two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and one Ramsar site. Important habitats include upland and lowland heathland, wet woodland and lowland mixed deciduous woodland.

- 1.27 The geology and history of this area is also very special and geology has been a key influence on industry and settlement patterns.
- 1.28 NCA 65 covers an area to the south west of the Borough around The Wrekin and Ercall hills.

NCA 66: Mid Severn Sandstone Plateau

- 1.29 The Mid Severn Sandstone Plateau National Character Area (NCA) is in the central catchment of the Severn and the lower Stour rivers and is a national watershed between the north easterly flowing River Trent and the south westerly flowing River Severn. The Mid Severn Sandstone Plateau is predominantly rural and important regionally for food production, with large arable fields in the central and eastern areas. There are remnant areas of characteristic lowland heathland and parklands provide an estate character in places.
- 1.30 The NCA exemplifies the link between geodiversity, landscape and industrial heritage, in particular at the Ironbridge

Gorge, a World Heritage Site widely recognised as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution.

- 1.31 NCA 66 covers the south eastern part of the Borough, including Telford, Lilleshall and south eastern parts of Newport.

County Level

- 1.32 The Shropshire Landscape Typology (2006) identifies 28 LCTs across the County. The Shropshire Landscape Typology has stood the test of time and most of its findings remain relevant today. This review has considered the extent to which any updates may be required to reflect changes that have occurred in the past 18 years, for example changes in best practice guidance for how Landscape Character Assessments should be undertaken, any changes in the character of the landscape on the ground, and to provide a more detailed description of the LCTs within Telford and Wrekin Borough.

Local Level

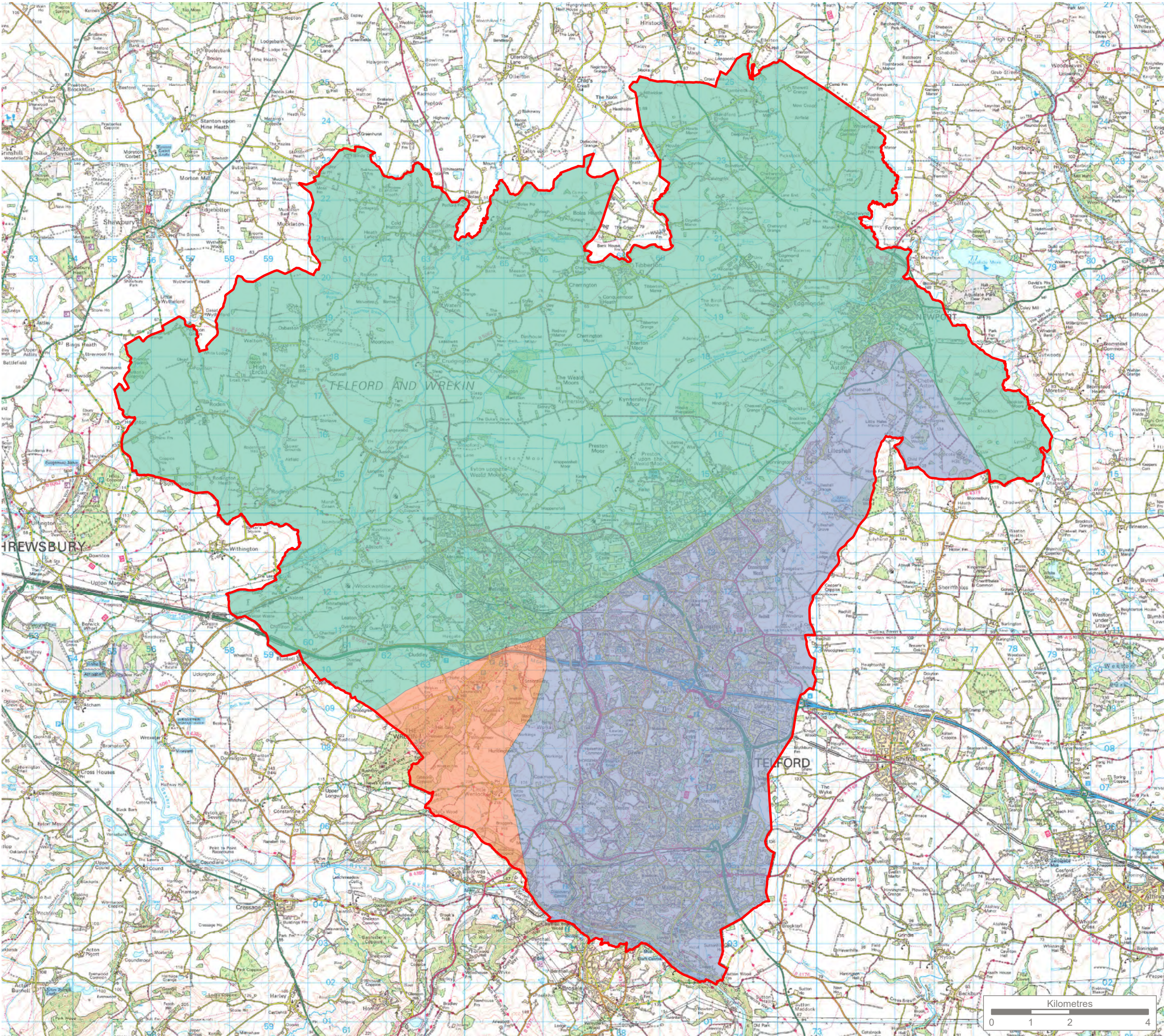
- 1.33 There have been no new landscape character assessments prepared for Telford and Wrekin Borough in the intervening period.
- 1.34 Telford and Wrekin Borough has a number of boundaries with neighbouring local authority areas (see Figure 3):

Shropshire Unitary Authority to the north, west and south, Stafford District to the east and South Staffordshire District to the south east.


- 1.35 Landscape does not stop at administrative boundaries but continues seamlessly into surrounding administrative areas and therefore some of the characteristics described in this assessment extend into neighbouring authorities and their respective landscape character assessments have been considered.

Landscape Designations


- 1.36 The Shropshire Hills AONB extends across the south of the Borough. The diverse geology of the AONB gives rise to craggy ridges, moorland plateaux and wooded scarps.
- 1.37 The special qualities of the AONB are defined in the AONB Management Plan as:
- Hills and landform
 - Geology
 - Wildlife
 - Heritage
 - Culture and Enjoyment
 - Scenic Quality and Tranquillity
 - Farmed Landscape and Woodland
 - Rivers and River Valleys




KEY

 Study area


National Character Areas (NCA)

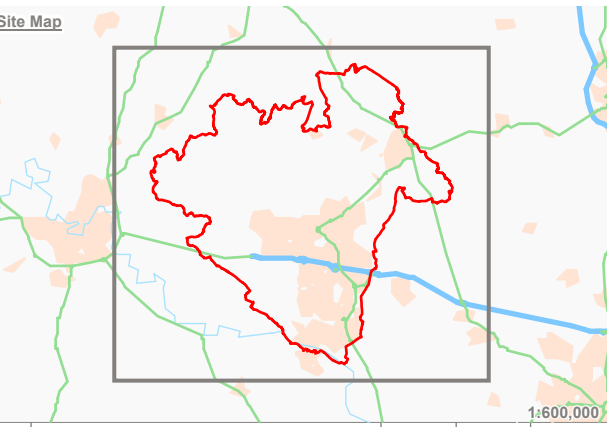
 NCA 61: Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain

 NCA 65: Shropshire Hills

 NCA 66: Mid Severn Sandstone Plateau

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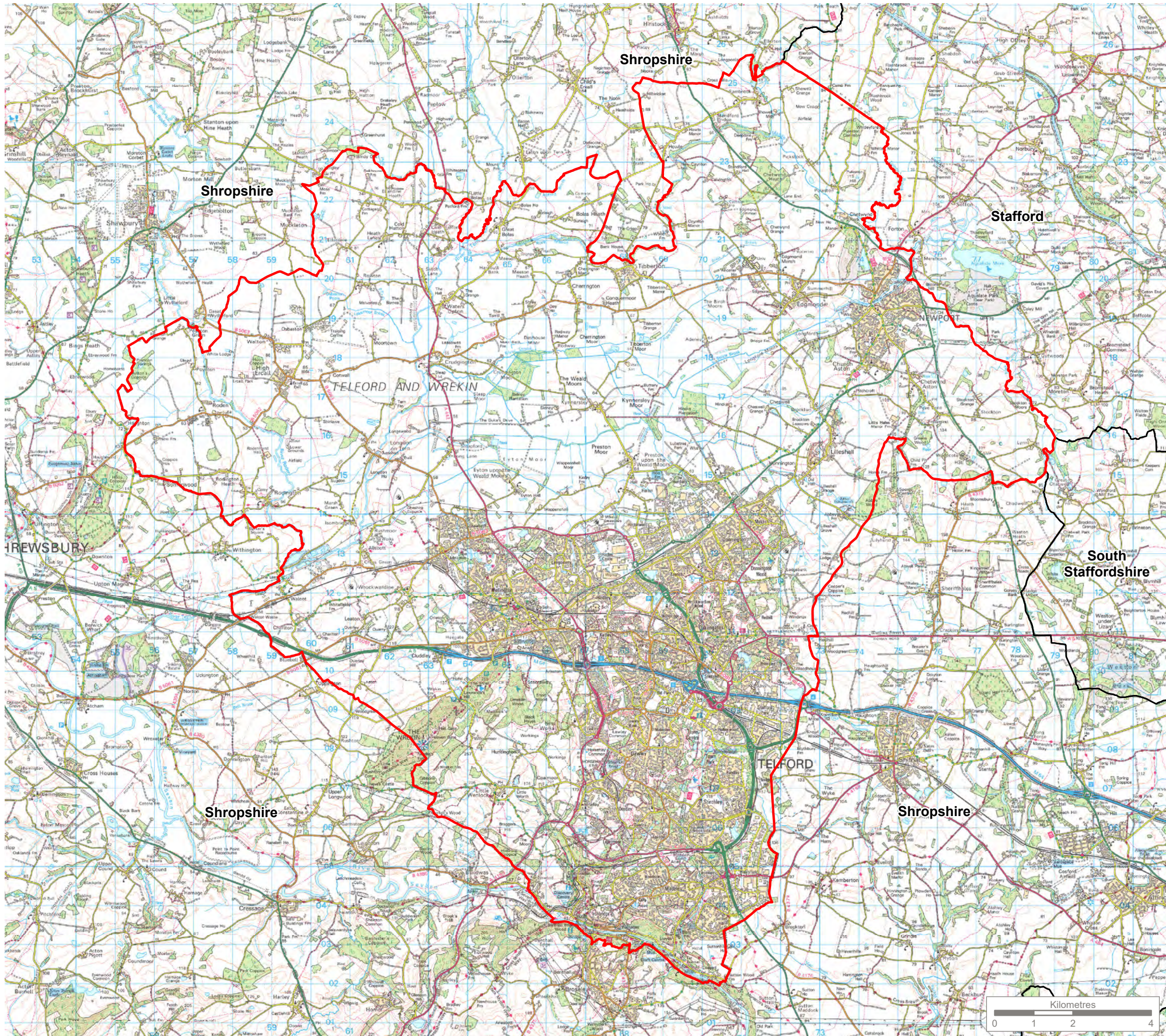
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Project
Telford and Wrekin Landscape Study

Title
Figure 2 National Character Areas

Drawing Number
G9816.001

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
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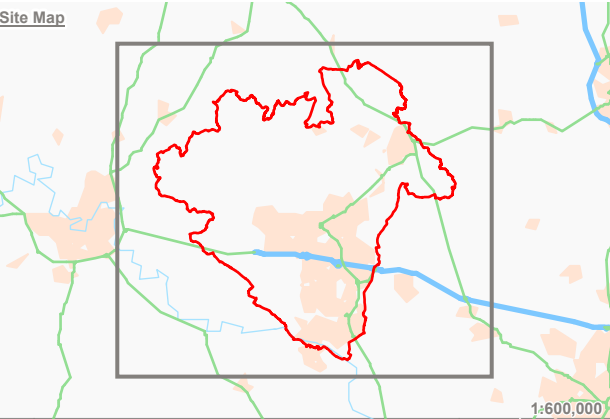
KEY

Telford and Wrekin Borough Boundary

Local Planning Authority

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Figure 3 Local Planning Authorities

Drawing Number
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- 1.38 The AONB boundary is drawn tightly around the wooded hills of the Wrekin and the Ercall, and so the quality of the surrounding area is very important as a setting for the AONB.

2.0 METHOD

2.1 This assessment was carried out following the principles and methods set out in 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment' (Natural England 2014).

2.2 The 2014 guidance lists the five key principles for landscape character assessment as follows:

- Landscape is everywhere and all landscape has character;
- Landscape occurs at all scales and the process of Landscape Character Assessment can be undertaken at any scale;
- The process of Landscape Character Assessment should involve an understanding of how the landscape is perceived and experienced by people;
- A Landscape Character Assessment can provide a landscape evidence base to inform a range of decisions and applications;
- A Landscape Character Assessment can provide an integrating spatial framework - a multitude of variables come together to give us our distinctive landscapes.

Process of Assessment

2.3 The process for undertaking the

assessment involved three main stages as described below.

Stage 1: Desk-based Review

2.4 A desk-based review was undertaken of the existing landscape character, environment and green infrastructure evidence base for Telford and Wrekin.

2.5 The desk-based research also included analysis of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data sets and mapping (see Appendix D) including:

- Topography;
- Geology;
- Hydrology;
- Heritage designations; and
- Natural environment designations.

2.6 Prior to carrying out site surveys the Shropshire Landscape Typology (2006) was reviewed to determine potential key locations or survey points to be visited for each character type.

Stage 2: Field Assessment

2.7 Site surveys were carried out by experienced Chartered Landscape Architects and included a comprehensive 'drive-around' Telford and Wrekin Borough and walking sections of public rights of way to gain an impression of landscape character and views. Pre-determined key viewpoints at roads,

public rights of way and settlements edges were also visited and assessed.

- 2.8 The site survey, which included the completion of a field survey sheet (see Appendix C), supplemented desk-based assessment to provide a review of each character type against the key characteristics to gain an understanding of where consistency remained and where landscapes had been subject to alteration since the previous assessment in 2006. The boundaries to landscape character types were assessed to determine whether any minor amendments would be needed and photographs were taken to demonstrate the characteristics of the landscape.

each character type was updated including reference to topography, geology and drainage; landscape use and land cover; woodland and trees; buildings and settlement; heritage; boundaries and field pattern; recreation; and aesthetic and perceptual qualities.

- **Evaluation** – this section sets out what is important within the LCT and why. It identifies the key sensitivities and values and sets out the landscape strategy and management guidelines

Stage 3: Reporting

- 2.9 The Landscape Character Assessment is presented at LCT level.

- 2.10 Each LCT provides:

- **A Map and Summary** which shows the extent of the LCT and its relationship with other LCTs, followed by a summary paragraph explaining its defining landscape character and location.
- **Representative photos** to help the reader appreciate the character of the LCT.
- **Landscape description** – text for the key characteristics of

Data Sources

Table 1: Data Sources

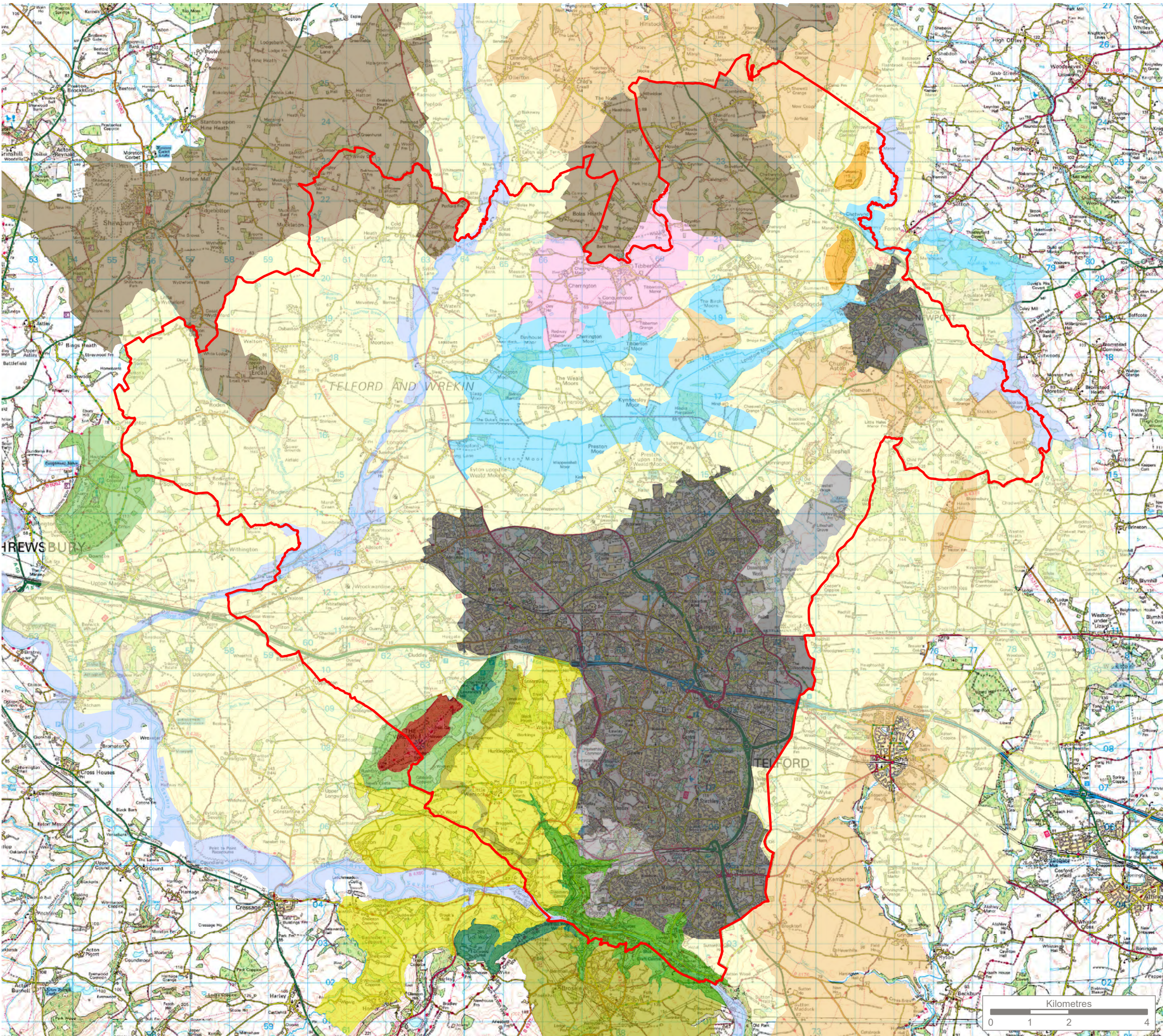
Name	Source
Base Mapping at 1:50k and 1:25k	Ordnance Survey
Terrain 50 Contours	Ordnance Survey
National Character Areas	Natural England
Geology	British Geological Survey
Public Rights of Way	Shropshire County Council
Hydrology and flood risk	Environment Agency
Nature Conservation Designations	Natural England, Telford and Wrekin Borough Council
Heritage Designations	Historic England, Telford and Wrekin Borough Council

3.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

- 3.1 The updated landscape classification identifies 14 Landscape Character Types (LCTs), each representing a distinct identity and common geology, topography, land use and cultural pattern. These are shown on Figure 4.
- 3.2 The identified LCTs reflect those identified in the 2006 Shropshire Landscape Typology, but with some minor tweaks to boundaries as outlined in Table 2 overleaf.
- 3.3 It should be noted that landscape is a continuum and character does not in general change abruptly on the ground. More commonly, the character of the landscape will change gradually rather than suddenly, and therefore the boundaries between LCTs should be considered to reflect zones of transition.

Table 2: Summary of changes to LCT boundaries

LCT	Changes when compared to the 2006 Typology
High Volcanic Hills and Slopes	No changes.
Principal Wooded Hills	No changes.
Wooded River Gorge	No changes.
Wooded Hills and Farmlands	Minor adjustment to exclude a small area along the Borough's western boundary. It was considered that this area relates more strongly to wooded hills and farmlands outside of the Borough. This area was reclassified as Estate Farmlands.
Wooded Hills and Estatelands	No changes.
Sandstone Hills	No changes.
Sandstone Estatelands	Minor boundary changes to reflect recent expansion along the southern edge of Newport.
Wooded Estatelands	No changes.
Estate Farmlands	Minor boundary changes to reflect recent expansion along the western edges of Telford and Newport
Principal Settled Farmlands	No changes.
Enclosed Lowland Heaths	No changes.
Lowland Moors	No changes.
Riverside Meadows	No changes.
Coalfields	Minor boundary changes to reflect recent expansion along the eastern and western edges of Telford.




KEY

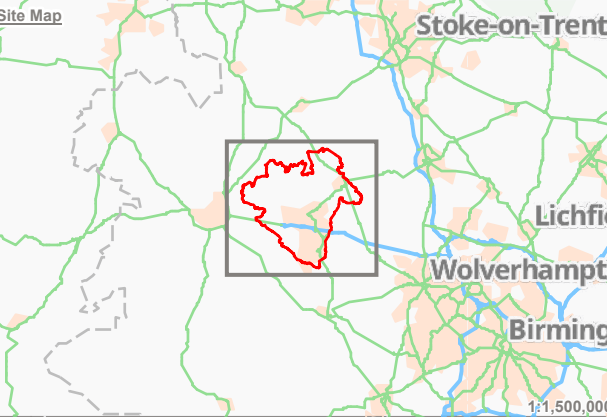
 Study area

Landscape Character Type (LCT)

-  High Volcanic Hills and Slopes
-  Principal Wooded Hills
-  Wooded Hills and Farmlands
-  Wooded River Gorge
-  Wooded Hills and Estatelands
-  Sandstone Hills
-  Sandstone Estatelands
-  Wooded Estatelands
-  Estate Farmlands
-  Principal Settled Farmlands
-  Enclosed Lowland Heaths
-  Lowland Moors
-  Riverside Meadows
-  Coalfields
-  Urban

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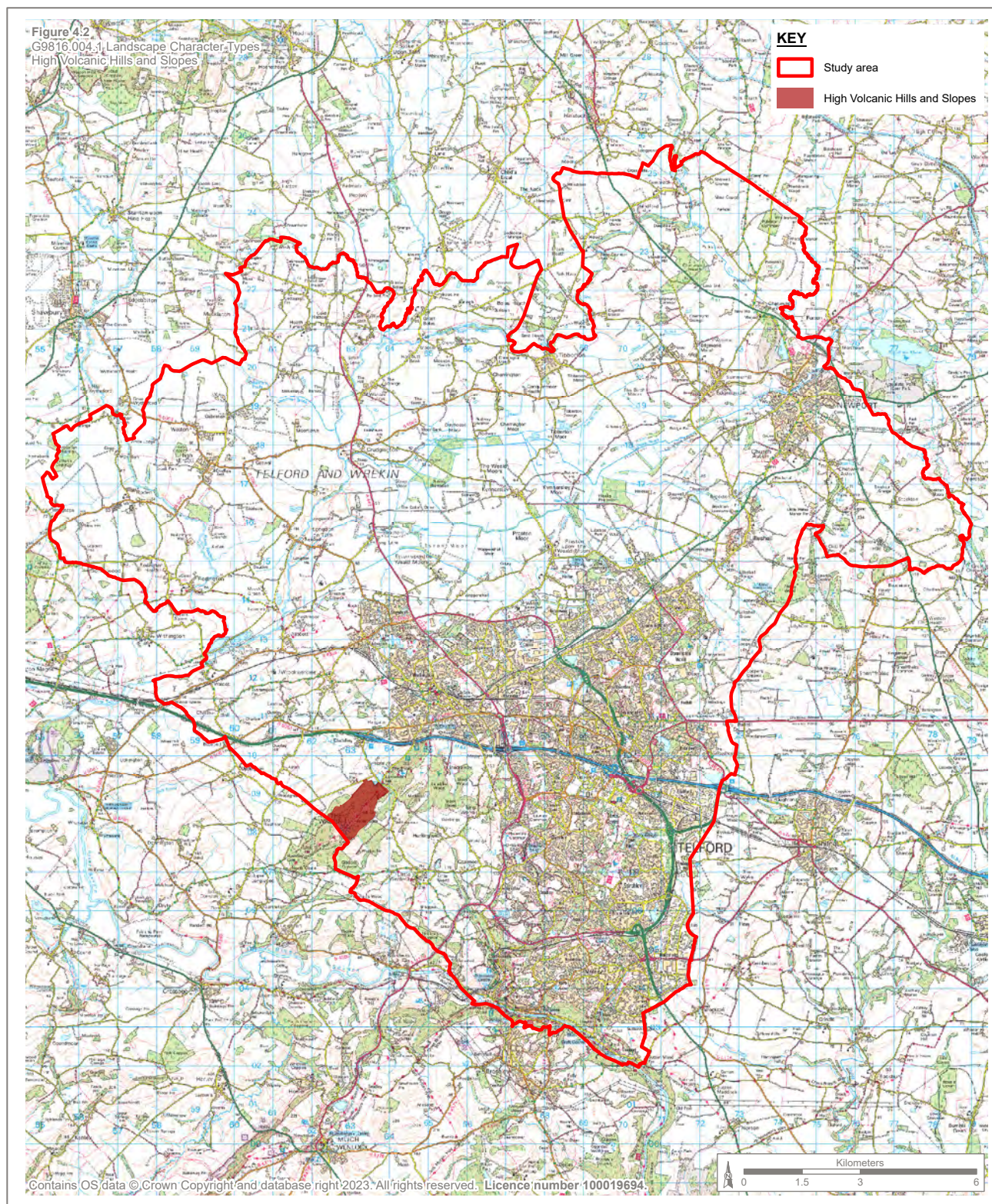
Project
Telford and Wrekin Landscape Study

Title
Figure 4.1 Landscape Character Types

Drawing Number
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LCT High Volcanic Hills and Slopes

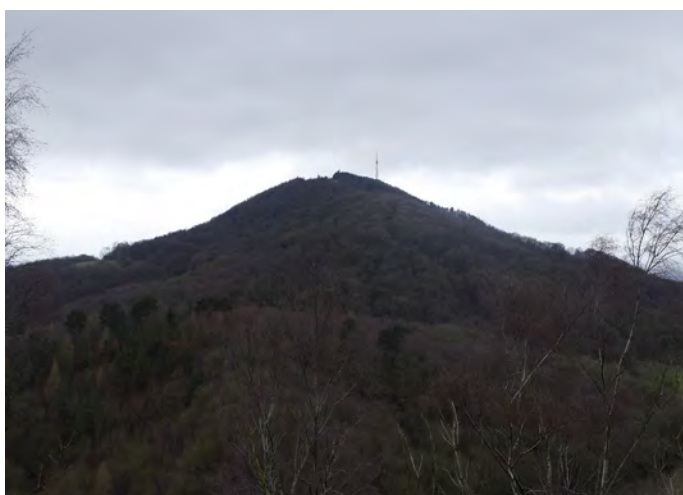


Location and Introduction

The High Volcanic Hills and Slopes only occur in one location, to the south-west of the Borough. The Wrekin is one of Shropshire's best known landmarks and rises steeply out from the Shropshire Plain. The landcover is largely woodland, much of which is ancient.

The high scenic quality and natural beauty of the landscape is recognised through its designation as part of the Shropshire Hills AONB and the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape. The key components of the Shropshire Hills AONB landscape are the hills, farmed countryside, woodlands, rivers and river valleys.

Representative Photographs



View towards The Wrekin from the summit of The Ercall



Woodland lining the path up The Wrekin



View from the summit of The Wrekin



Rocky outcrops on the summit of The Wrekin

Key Characteristics

- Diverse geology, comprising layers of hard volcanic rocks and slightly softer sedimentary rocks.
- Prominent hills with notable steep slopes which form a regional landmark (The Wrekin), visible from much of Telford and Wrekin Borough and beyond.
- An unenclosed landscape with few signs of habitation.
- Large areas of deciduous woodland.
- Outstanding scenic quality, with all of the area designated as part of the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape and almost all of the area within the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Physical Influences

Topography, Geology and Drainage

This landscape type is characterised by Precambrian volcanic geology. The underlying geology comprises layers of hard volcanic rock (including some of the oldest rocks in Britain), and later sedimentary rocks. The rocks and their fault systems are of great geological interest with Wrekin Hill, designated as a Regionally Important Geological Site and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The bedrock geology of the LCT is a combination of lava, tuff and mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. The lava and tuff are overlayed by diamicton. The area has ancient igneous rocks which are exposed in natural rocky outcrops on the top of The Wrekin.

The Wrekin is one of the most elevated landscapes in the County, rising to around 407m AOD. From the summit of The Wrekin there are panoramic views across Telford,

Shropshire, Staffordshire, and the Black Country.

There are no hydrological features present within this LCT.

The LCT includes The Wrekin and The Ercall SSSI which is designated as a SSSI as it forms a prominent ridge which is of geological and biological importance on the north-eastern extremity of the South Shropshire Hills AONB. The biological importance relates to its range of woodland vegetation which occurs at the northern end of The Wrekin and on The Ercall, and the geological importance relates to The Wrekin ridge which provides the best and most varied exposures of Uriconian rocks in England.

Land Use and Land Cover

Woodland is the predominant land cover across the LCT with the Wrekin Forest providing an important recreational and ecological resource.

Woodland and Trees

Woodland is a dominant feature of the landscape across the LCT and contributes to its character. Much of the woodland is ancient, however there has been some more recent afforestation, mainly of softwood, in the last fifty years and also areas of new planting on ancient woodland sites and on areas of scrub land.

Human Influences

Buildings and Settlement

Settlement is extremely limited across the High Volcanic Hills and Slopes and there are very few signs of habitation. There is a single residential dwelling situated halfway up the Wrekin, and the landscape retains an undeveloped, rural setting. There is a communications mast at the summit of the Wrekin which breaks the skyline.

Heritage

The low intensity of historic land use means that archaeological earthworks generally survive in good condition.

The summit of The Wrekin contains the remains of Bronze Age settlement and barrows (burial mounds), as well as the earthworks of a later Iron Age hillfort. This has been designated as a Scheduled Monument.

In medieval times, the Wrekin was a royal deer-hunting forest and the landscape retains

evidence of this former use with tracks still evident through the woodland.

Boundaries and Field Patterns

This is an unenclosed landscape where woodland is widespread. There is a lack of a particular boundary type across this LCT.

Recreation

The Wrekin is a popular destination for recreation with both locals and tourists. There are several Public Rights of Ways forming the Wrekin Trail to the summit, which includes the Shropshire Way long-distance footpath which is promoted and publicised at the regional level. The Wrekin Trail is of regional value and is likely to attract visitors for recreational purposes from the wider region.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Qualities

The LCT generally has an intimate character as it is enclosed by trees and woodland. Much of the area has a sense of tranquillity and timelessness and the distinctive landform of The Wrekin creates a strong and unique sense of place.

Most views within the LCT are filtered by the tree cover, creating confined and intimate views and an enclosed, peaceful and rural feel to the area. In contrast, there are panoramic views from the summit of the Wrekin which are exhilarating and inspirational and it is one of the most open views in Shropshire.

Key Sensitivities and Values

- Recreational value of the Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) which are likely to be appreciated at the regional level and provide access to the summit of The Wrekin.
- Expansive, uninterrupted, long-distance views across the hills from the summit of The Wrekin.
- Absence of settlement and development, contributing to a remote character.
- A sense of tranquillity and remoteness.
- Outstanding scenic quality, the LCT forms part of the Shropshire Hills AONB. The special qualities of the landscape which underpin the designation in this LCT include the dramatic hills and panoramic views. The LCT also forms part of the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape.

Guidance

Landscape Management

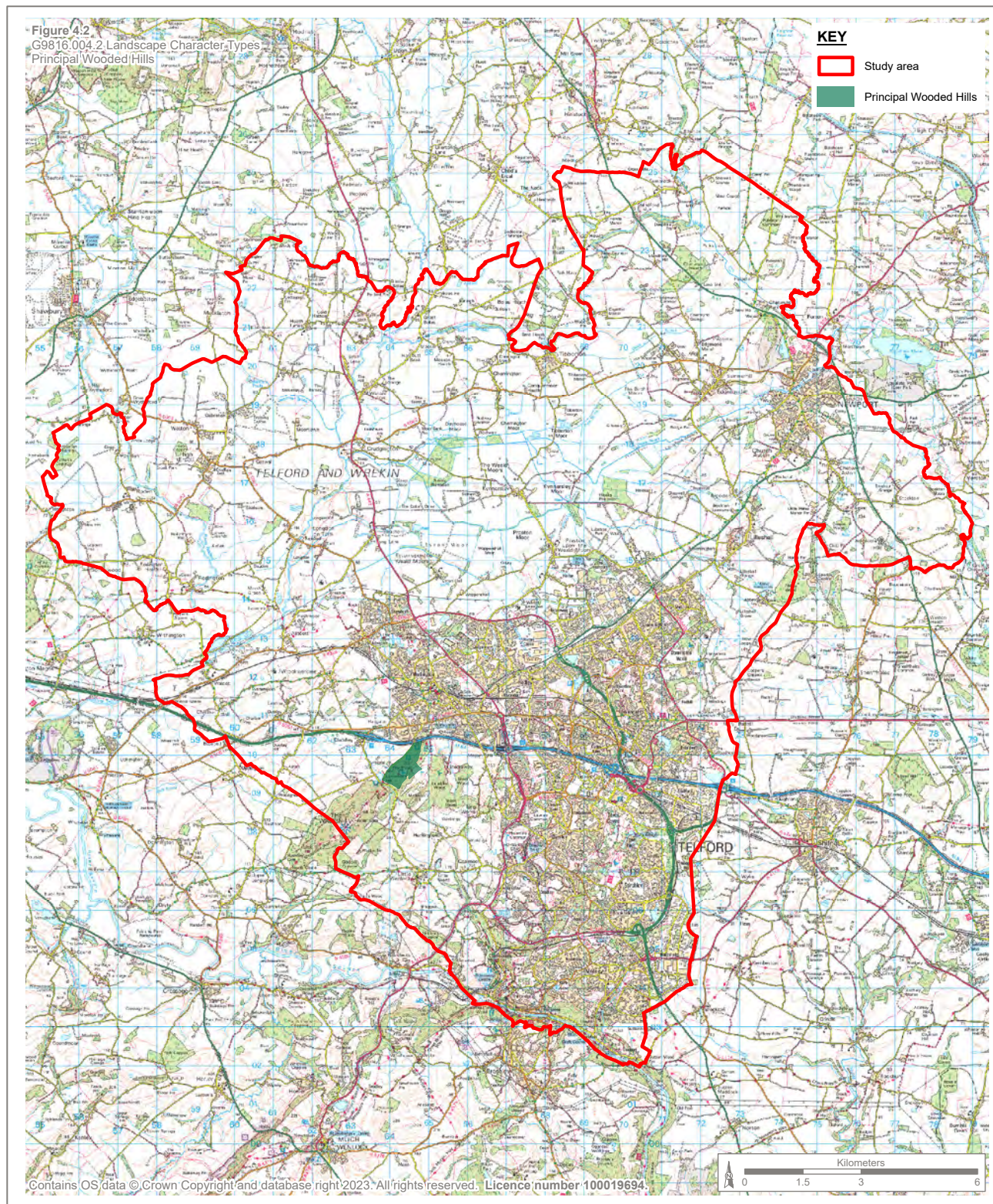
- Conserve and enhance the special qualities of the nationally designated landscape of the Shropshire Hills AONB.
- Conserve and enhance the wooded character of the landscape through a woodland management regime.

Development Management

- Conserve the overall sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by resisting further development.
- Resist the introduction of additional vertical infrastructure e.g. pylons and masts to the summit of The Wrekin.
- Protect the valued recreational use of the landscape, seeking opportunities to further enhance access and enjoyment of the landscape including the Right of Way network.
- Positively manage the pressures from recreation, such as path erosion and damage to archaeological earthworks and habitats, traffic pressures around popular car parks and narrow lanes to avoid damage to important landscape characteristics or perceptual qualities. For example by maintaining a good standard of paths and surfaces, introduction of new routes and trails in the area to relieve pressure from main routes and improved visitor facilities at Forest Glen car park.
- Encourage restoration of areas eroded by visitor pressure, which include The

Wrekin, and seek sensitive design solutions such as ensuring that any small-scale development, for example visitor facilities, are sympathetic to the character of any existing buildings and do not compromise views of The Wrekin or other areas of the AONB in key views.

LCT Principal Wooded Hills



Location and Introduction

The Principal Wooded Hills LCT occurs in one location to the south-west of the Borough, on the slopes of The Ercall and around Lawrence's Hill. The LCT is characterised by woodland and there are few signs of built development.

The high scenic quality and natural beauty of the landscape are recognised through its designation as part of The Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape, with all of the LCT also within the Shropshire Hills AONB. The key components of the Shropshire Hills AONB landscape are the hills, farmed countryside, woodlands, rivers and river valleys.

Representative Photographs



View from the summit of the Ercall



View towards The Wrekin from the wooded summit of The Ercall



The Ercall Forest



Evidence of former quarrying

Key Characteristics

- Prominent, sloping topography.
- Few signs of built development.
- Evidence of former quarrying activity.
- Interlocking pattern of large blocks of mixed broadleaved woodland with ancient character.
- Outstanding scenic quality, with all of the area designated as part of the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape and almost all of the area within the Shropshire Hills AONB.

Physical Influences

Topography, Geology and Drainage

This is a prominent and wooded landscape with a sloping topography. The character of the landscape is influenced by its dominant landform which comprises scarp and folding features in sedimentary rocks. The ancient igneous rocks are exposed in several disused quarries.

The bedrock geology is a combination of lava and tuff and mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. The lava and tuff are overlayed by diamicton.

The Ercall rises to around 265m AOD, a prominent landmark within this LCT.

There are no hydrological features present within this LCT.

The LCT includes The Wrekin and The Ercall

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and The Ercall and Lawrence's Hill Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The area is designated as a SSSI as it forms a prominent ridge which is of geological and biological importance, the north-eastern extremity of the South Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is extensively used for recreation. The biological importance relates to its range of woodland vegetation which occurs at the northern end of the Wrekin and on the Ercall, and the geological importance relates to The Wrekin ridge which provides the best and most varied exposures of Uriconian rocks in England. Reasons for its designation as a LNR include it being an internationally important geological site; comprising 540 million year old ripple beds, ancient pre-Cambrian lava flows in quarries, ancient woodland, woodland birds and sheltered grassland in the quarry floors, which supports butterflies.

Land Use and Land Cover

The landscape is dominated by mixed

woodland. The steep slopes are unsuitable for agriculture and are therefore largely uncleared. Woodland cover includes semi-natural broadleaved woodland with groundcover species including Bluebell, Dogs Mercury, Ramsons and Sanicle.

The landscape is further characterised by the Ercall Quartzite quarries, which are now disused.

Woodland and Trees

The landscape has prominent woodland cover, much of which is ancient with some modern forestry. The Ercall is an area of ancient coppice woodland comprising stunted oak. The woodland in the LCT links to the extensive woodland of the Wrekin in the High Volcanic Hills and Slopes LCT.

There has been some afforestation, mainly of softwood, in the last fifty years. In recent years, the landscape has experienced areas of new planting (softwood and broadleaf) on ancient woodland sites and on areas of scrub land, and conifers have been planted in place of broadleaved species in some locations.

Human Influences

Buildings and Settlement

There are few signs of habitation and the landscape retains an undeveloped, rural setting.

Heritage

The woodlands within this landscape were held in common and managed for coppice or wood pasture during the medieval period. Progressive clearances from the medieval period onwards gradually reduced the extent of the tree cover, but the LCT is still heavily wooded.

There are no heritage designations in the LCT.

Boundaries and Field Patterns

Most of the area is unenclosed woodland. There is a lack of particular boundary type across this LCT.

Recreation

Recreational use has significantly increased in recent years. Several PROWs pass through the landscape, including the Shropshire Way long-distance footpath which is promoted and publicised as the regional level, and is of regional value. PROWs provide a route to the summit of the Ercall.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Qualities

The extent of woodland cover creates a small and intimate landscape. The majority of views are filtered and framed by the woodland.

Views are more open in some areas, such as at the summit of The Ercall, where there are views towards The Wrekin in the High Volcanic Hills and Slopes LCT through gaps in the woodland. From the summit of The Ercall there are views

across surrounding LCTs.

Key Sensitivities and Values

- Recreational value of the PRoWs which are likely to be appreciated at the regional level and provide access to the summit of The Ercall.
- Long, uninterrupted views across the wider landscape from the summit of the Ercall.
- Absence of settlement and development, contributing to a remote character.
- Strong sense of character and place as a result of the extensive woodland cover and prominent topography.
- Sense of tranquillity and remoteness.
- Ecologically important woodland, some of ancient origin.
- Outstanding scenic quality, the LCT forms part of the Shropshire Hills AONB. The special qualities of the landscape which underpin the designation in this LCT include the dramatic hills, panoramic views and extensive Rights of Way. The LCT also forms part of the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape.

Guidance

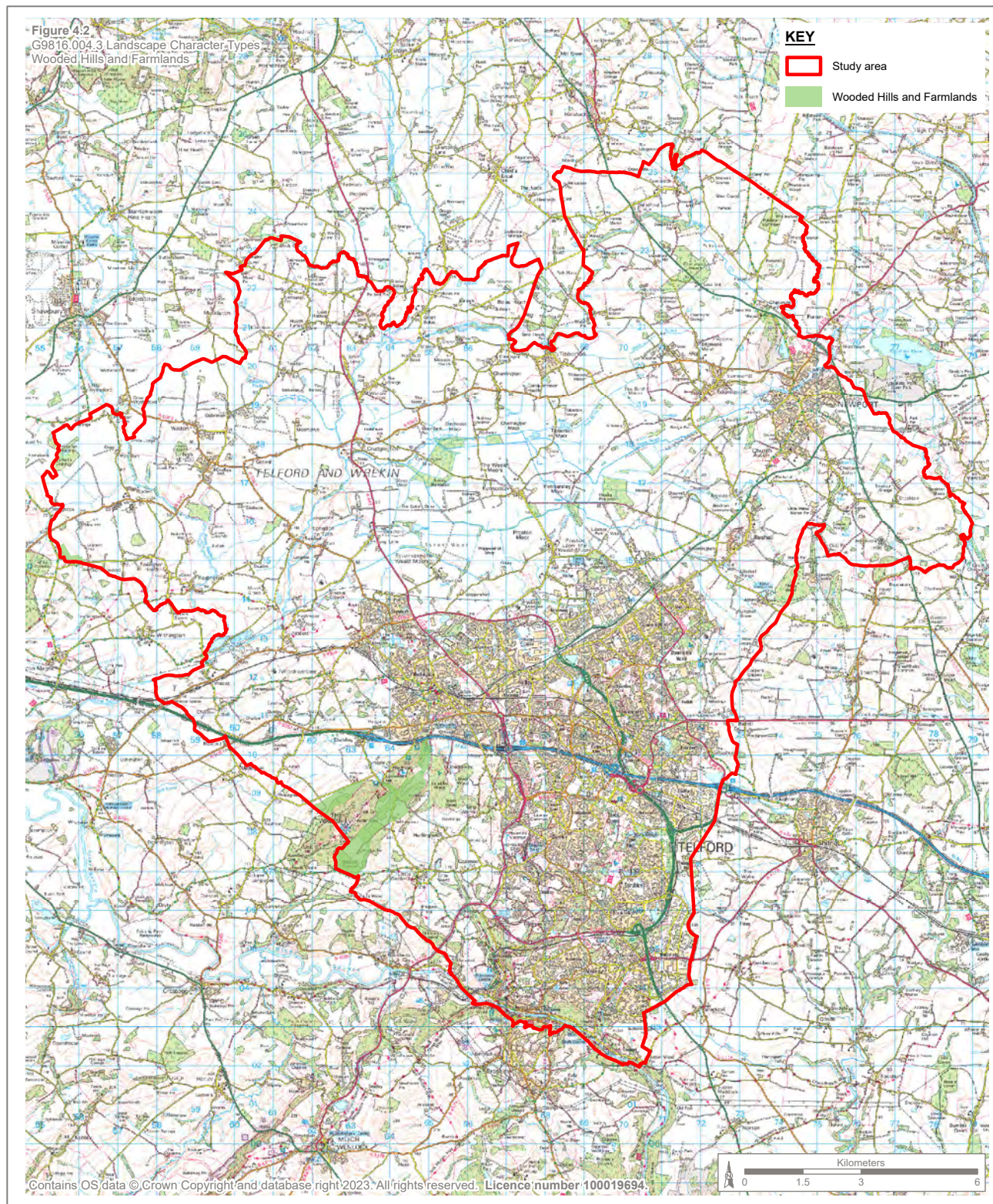
Landscape Management

- Conserve and enhance the special qualities of the nationally designated landscape of the Shropshire Hills AONB.
- Conserve and enhance the wooded character of the landscape through a woodland management regime.

Development Management

- Conserve the overall sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by resisting further development.
- Protect the valued recreational use of the landscape, seeking opportunities to further enhance access and enjoyment of the landscape including the Public Right of Way network.
- Avoid the introduction of large scale or incongruous elements.

LCT Wooded Hills and Farmlands



Location and Introduction

This LCT encompasses the east, south and west flanks of the Wrekin. The flanks of The Wrekin are predominantly covered in woodlands, but some areas have been cleared for pastoral farming, with a sub-regular field pattern with boundaries formed by hedgerows and hedgerow trees. The woodlands and the hedges, often of ancient character, are in good condition providing habitat network connectivity. The LCT has a dispersed settlement pattern, with occasional isolated farmsteads on the flanks of The Wrekin.

The high scenic quality and natural beauty of the landscape is recognised through its designation as part of The Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape, with the majority of the LCT also within the Shropshire Hills AONB. The key components of the Shropshire Hills AONB landscape are the hills, farmed countryside, woodlands, rivers and river valleys.

Representative Photographs



View towards Wrekin Golf Club from the summit of The Ercall



View across farmland towards Lawrence's Hill



View across farmland towards The Wrekin



Farmland enclosed by woodland

Key Characteristics

- Prominent, sloping topography on the flanks of The Wrekin.
- Hedged fields with predominantly ancient origins.
- Large discrete woodlands with ancient character.
- Mixed farming land use.
- Dispersed settlement pattern.
- Medium scale landscapes with framed views.
- Outstanding scenic quality, with almost all of the area designated as part of the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape and the majority of the area is within the Shropshire Hills AONB.

Physical Influences

Topography, Geology and Drainage

The landscape has a sloping topography forming the flanks of The Wrekin and Haughmond Hill (outside of Telford and Wrekin Borough). The LCT ranges from 160m AOD at the north of the LCT near Wrekin Course, to a maximum height of 260m AOD at the top of the northern and southern flanks of The Wrekin.

The underlying bedrock geology mainly comprises sandstone and conglomerate, interbedded with smaller areas of mudstone, sandstone and conglomerate, and mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. Some sections of this bedrock geology are overlayed with diamicton. A small watercourse flows through the landscape between The Wrekin and The Ercall and drainage ditches are common throughout.

Land Use and Land Cover

The LCT is dominated by woodland and interspersed with areas of pasture and mixed farming land use. Part of the LCT to the east of The Ercall is now a golf course.

The land use of a small area of LCT on the north-western boundary of the Borough is mixed and includes woodland plantation, which is mainly coniferous in character, and arable crop production.

Woodland and Trees

The majority of the LCT is characterised by large discrete blocks of woodland on the flanks of the Wrekin and includes Wenlocks Wood and Gibbons Coppice. These are of mixed composition and have an ancient semi-natural character. These large blocks of woodland link to extensive woodland on The Wrekin.

Hedgerow trees, particularly oak, are common across the area, although the areas of arable land contain very few trees.

Human Influences

Buildings and Settlement

The LCT has a dispersed settlement pattern, with very few isolated farmsteads scattered across the flanks of The Wrekin, including Wrekin Farm and Willowmoor Farm.

Heritage

There is one Scheduled Monument, Wrekin Rifle Range, and one Grade II Listed Building, Wrekin Rifle Range Target Gallery, in the LCT.

Boundaries and Field Patterns

The field pattern is irregular with predominantly ancient origins, most likely formed from woodland clearance. Fields are bounded by mixed but species-rich hedgerow networks, including hedgerow trees, which are in good condition.

Recreation

Wrekin Golf Club occupies land to the east of The Ercall but is generally enclosed from view by existing woodland cover.

Several Public Rights of Way pass through the landscape, including the Shropshire Way long-distance footpath which provides a path to the summit of the Wrekin.

The Forest Glen car park to the north of the hill forms an important gateway into the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape. The car park provides information on the AONB and the access routes up and around the hills, including the Wrekin.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Qualities

This is a medium scale landscape where open pastoral fields contrast with large woodlands that create an intimate and enclosed character in large sections of the LCT. Views are framed by woodland but locally open within the field system due to a lack of field and hedgerow trees. There is a general sense of tranquillity throughout the landscape.

Key Sensitivities and Values

- The LCT forms part of the Shropshire Hills AONB with outstanding scenic quality. The special qualities of the landscape which underpin the designation include the dramatic hills, panoramic views and extensive Rights of Way. The LCT also forms part of the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape.
- Recreational value of PRowS.
- Ecologically important woodland, some of ancient origin.
- Relationship to The Wrekin and Ercall Hills, including views towards.

Guidance

Landscape Management

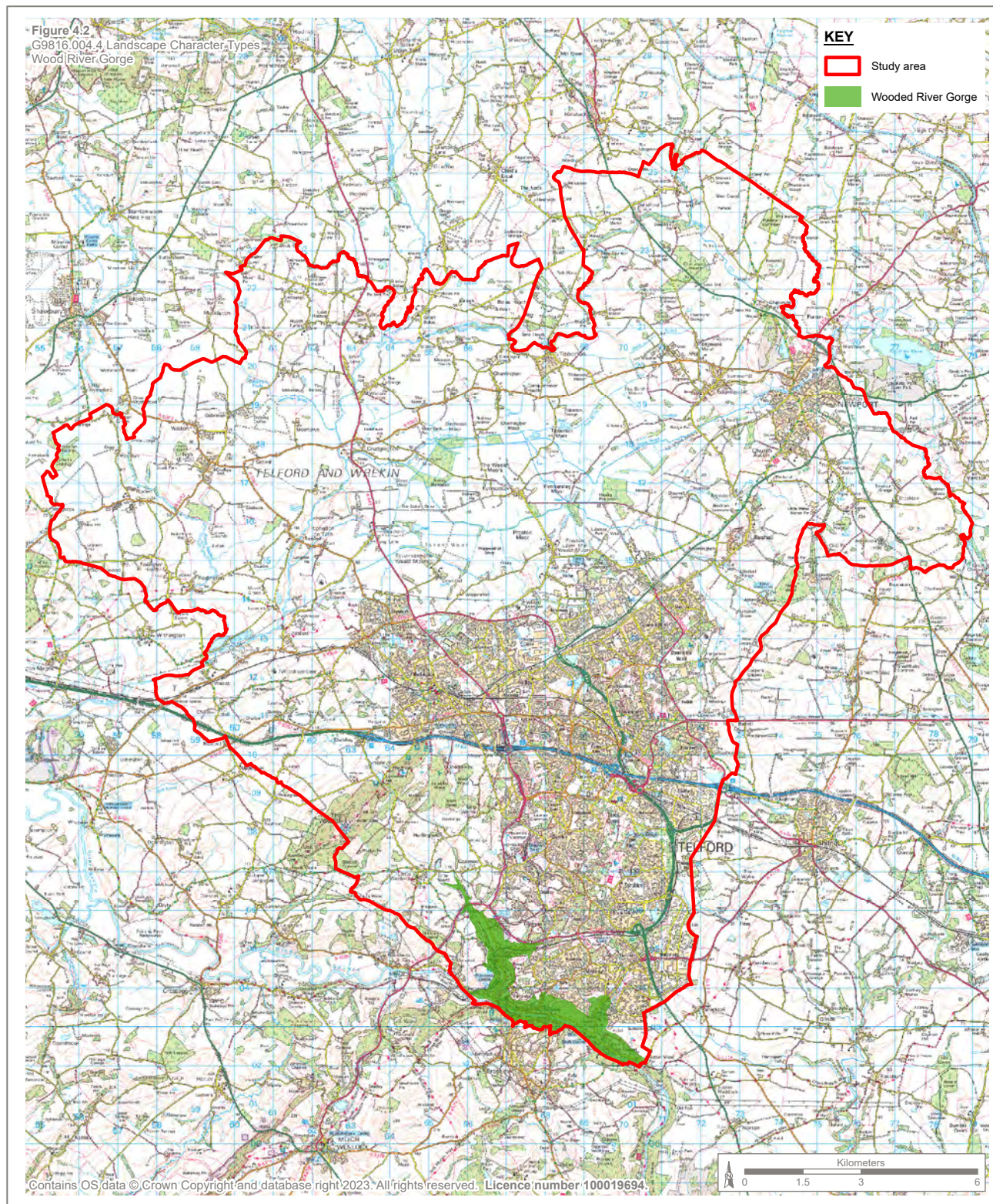
- Conserve and enhance the special qualities of the nationally designated landscape of the Shropshire Hills AONB.
- Conserve and enhance the wooded character of the landscape through a woodland management regime.
- Retain woodland and trees in active management.

Development Management

- Conserve the sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape.
- Protect the valued recreational use of the landscape, seeking opportunities to further enhance access and enjoyment of the landscape including the Right of Way network.
- Positively manage the pressures from recreation to avoid damage to important landscape characteristics or perceptual qualities. Encourage restoration of areas eroded by visitor pressure and seek sensitive design solutions.
- Resist large scale residential and industrial development within the Strategic Landscape, which would adversely affect the area's special qualities.
- Any new development on the fringes of the Strategic Landscape will need to be sympathetically integrated into its landscape setting.
- Ensure any new buildings are sympathetic to their landscape setting in terms of their

scale, siting, materials and design. They should be unobtrusive in their colour and materials and should sit below the skyline to minimise their impacts in views.

LCT Wooded River Gorge



Location and Introduction

This landscape type is found in the south of Telford and Wrekin Borough along the sides of the Severn Valley between Coalbrookdale, Ironbridge and Coalport. It is a river valley landscape which is enclosed by steep valley sides and is a heavily wooded area. The River Severn is an important feature of the landscape and strongly contributed to the development of this area in the Industrial Revolution.

Settlement and industrial development are apparent throughout the Gorge, usually clustered along the riverside. Most of the LCT is in the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site (IGWHS), a designation which reflects the area's contribution to the origin of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th Century.

Representative Photographs



View towards the Iron Bridge



Contrast between the wooded valley sides and the valley floor



Ironbridge Village



View along the river corridor from the Iron Bridge

Key Characteristics

- Steeply sloping valley sides.
- Interlocking woodlands of ancient character.
- Small scale, intimate landscapes with framed views.
- A rich industrial heritage.

Physical Influences

Topography, Geology and Drainage

This LCT is defined by its prominent landform with steep valley sides along the River Severn formed by a glacial overflow that occurred during the ice age. The topography of the flat river floor contrasts with the steeply sloping sides.

The River Severn runs north-west to south-east through the landscape between Ironbridge and Coalport. The Lyde Brook runs south from Coalbrookdale, joining the River Severn near Ironbridge.

The area is exceptionally rich in mineral sources and has significant deposits of coal, carboniferous limestone, iron ore and clay. The bedrock geology of the area includes mafic lava, siltstone and sandstone. The south-eastern edge of the LCT is overlaid with clay, silt and sand. Some areas have been subject to significant quarrying and mining.

Land Use and Land Cover

This is a settled landscape with several large villages and current and historic industrial sites.

The landscape is heavily wooded but there are some areas of pastoral land use and mixed farming on higher land on either side of the gorge.

The narrow valley floor of this LCT is used for grazing where it has not been previously developed.

Woodland and Trees

Woodland is widespread with interlocking woodlands of mixed composition and ancient character. There are some areas of secondary woodland and some areas have been replanted with conifers and softwood. The River Severn is heavily wooded with dense trees along the watercourse. Mixed woodland or dense Alder and Willow are characteristic. The woodlands are of significant ecological interest.

Human Influences

Buildings and Settlement

This is a settled landscape of red brick and tile building style together with numerous industrial buildings. The large village of Ironbridge has a dense settlement pattern with narrow streets cut into the hillside to the north. In Coalbrookdale there is a repeated pattern of dwellings clustered around forges and furnaces with institutional buildings in close proximity. Some areas of the landscape are more sparsely settled with a dispersed pattern of occasional farmsteads and wayside cottages.

Heritage

Ironbridge Gorge was designated as a World Heritage Site in 1986 and is a world-renowned symbol of the birth of the Industrial Revolution. A combination of readily accessible mineral resources, managed woodland cover and the presence of the River Severn enabled the development of coal and iron industries here from the medieval period onwards. The Iron Bridge is the only substantial iron road bridge to survive from the 18th century and it was universally accepted at the time of its construction that it was the first of its kind.

The coal and iron industries reached their peak between the 17th and the 19th centuries and contributed to the rapid expansion of settlements within Ironbridge Gorge. The extent of the World Heritage Site also forms the

Severn Gorge Conservation Area (SGCA). The five main sites of archaeological and historical interest in the Conservation Area are within the LCT and include Coalbrookdale, Ironbridge, Hay Brook Valley, Coalport and Jackfield.

Within the IGWHS and SGCA, there is a cluster of Listed Buildings, particularly in Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge, with few scattered along the rest of the gorge near Jackfield, Hay Brook Valley and Coalport.

Boundaries and Field Patterns

The agricultural areas within the LCT are characterised by small and irregular field patterns, which have been converted to arable use from woodland. Field boundaries are formed by hedgerows, which are generally mixed species and in poor condition, although many fields are bordered directly by woodland.

Recreation

There are numerous recreational opportunities associated with the IGWHS including several museums and a heritage centre.

A network of Public Rights of Way run along the wooded valley sides along the river and through settlements. These PROWs are likely to be appreciated at the local or regional value. The Severn Valley Way long-distance footpath follows the southern bank of the River Severn along much of the Gorge.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Qualities

Views within, across and around the gorge

are characterised by the contrasting effects of industrial and urban buildings alongside heavily wooded slopes that define the Ironbridge Gorge. Pockets of green spaces such as gardens, allotments and recreational spaces are also visible but are frequently seen against a wooded backdrop.

Within settlements the views are generally enclosed by existing built form. Whilst travelling across the gorge glimpses of longer and wider views are revealed and there are panoramic views from the upper slopes and partial, and surprise views from higher elevated roads.

The views up and downstream from the bridges are particularly important as they allow visitors to appreciate the overall shape of the valley and the importance of the river in the history of the gorge.

Key Sensitivities and Values

- Well preserved historic fabric including a network of old lanes, paths, roads, ramps, canals and railroads as well as substantial remains of traditional landscape and housing.
- A strong wooded character, with some areas of ancient woodland.
- Contrast in views and character between the wooded valley sides and the industrialised valley floor.
- The Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site and associated structures.

Guidance

Landscape Management

- Conserve and enhance the wooded character of the landscape through a woodland management regime.
- Where vegetation becomes overgrown on riverbanks, this should be managed so that views of important sites are not obscured. This should be balanced with enhancing biodiversity.

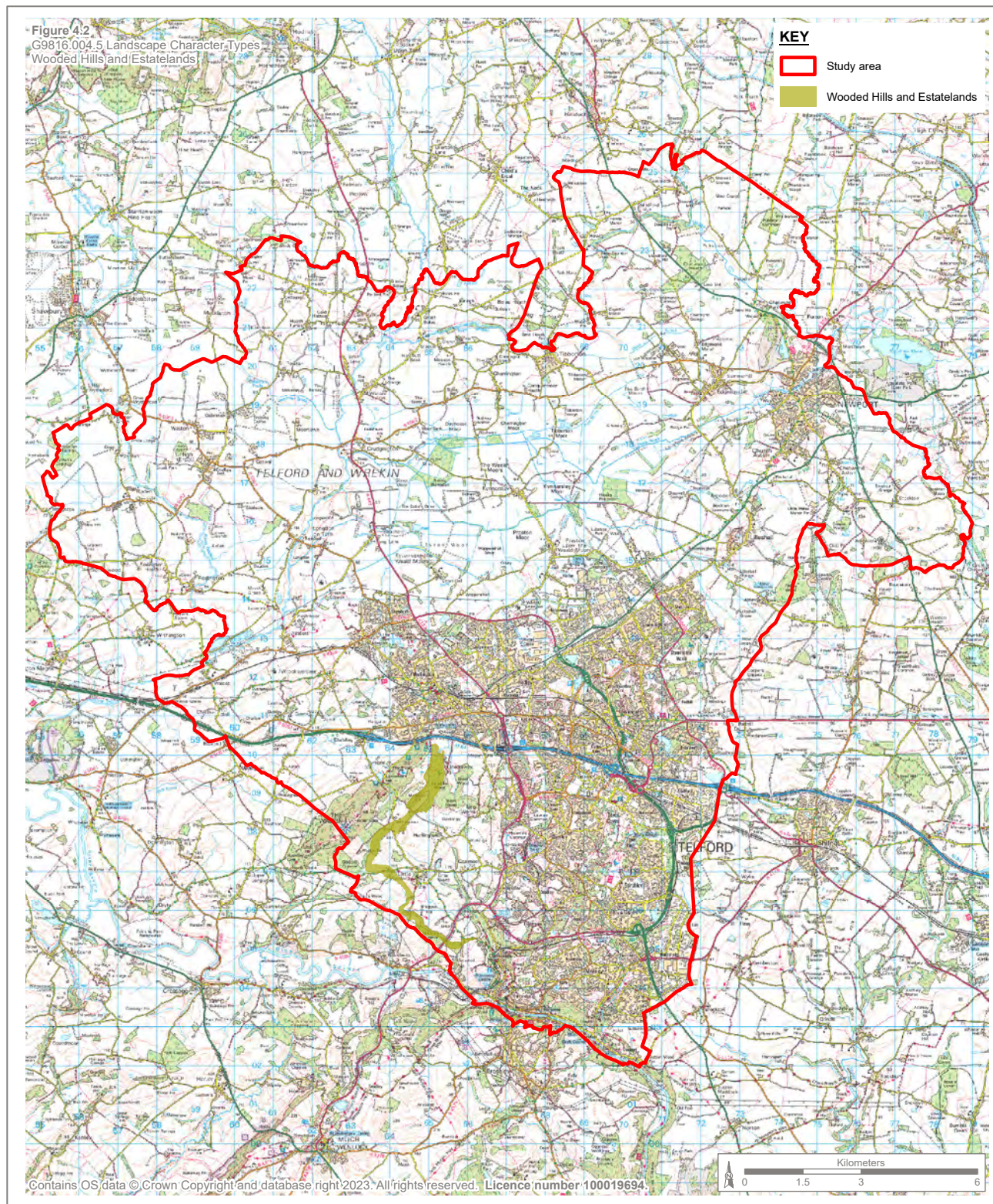
Development Management

- Protect the valued recreational use of the landscape, seeking opportunities to further enhance access and enjoyment of the landscape including the Public Rights of Way network.
- Where new developments are proposed, seek to create a well-structured landscape framework to define the edges of the new development and integrate settlement into the wider landscape.
- Conserve the distinct character and individual identities of settlements. Resist development proposals which would be incongruent with the existing settlement pattern.
- Avoid breaking the skyline or damaging the illusion of unbroken woodland on the valley sides.
- Resist development which causes unnecessary additional intrusion into the woodland

zones.

- Maintain contrast between buildings and wooded areas; limit the amount of new clear open space created.

LCT Wooded Hills and Estatelands



Location and Introduction

This narrow LCT occurs in the south-western part of Telford and Wrekin Borough, to the east and south of The Wrekin. The LCT includes sections of Limekiln Wood and Holbrook Coppice and is characterised by a steeply sloping limestone scarp with areas of ancient woodland. In some areas the woodland has been encroached on by the expansion of agricultural land through increased intensity of pastoral and mixed farming practices.

The LCT is a small to medium scale agricultural landscape with a sloping topography and ancient woodlands situated along the limestone scarp. In places the woodland reduces the scale of the landscape, whilst the single scarp slope increases the scale.

The high scenic quality and natural beauty of the landscape, particularly to the north of the LCT surrounding Limekiln Wood, is recognised through its designation as part of the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape, and with the northern and north-western sections of the LCT within the Shropshire Hills AONB. The key components of the Shropshire Hills AONB landscape are the hills, farmed countryside, woodlands, rivers and river valleys.

Representative Photographs



Steeply sloping ground near Little Wenlock



Limestone scarp near Willowmoor Farm



View towards the flanks of Maddock's Hill near Willowmoor Farm



View towards the Wrekin from Spout Lane, Little Wenlock

Key Characteristics

- Prominent, sloping topography that is defined by a limestone scarp.
- Large discrete blocks of ancient woodland.
- Agricultural landscape with mixed farming land use.
- Sparsely populated with scattered houses and farmsteads.
- Medium-large scale landscapes offering some open and filtered views.
- Outstanding scenic quality, with most of the LCT designated as part of the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape and approximately half of the LCT within the Shropshire Hills AONB.

Physical Influences

Topography, Geology and Drainage

The LCT is a visually prominent landscape with sloping topography. The area is defined by steeply sloping limestone scarp which is heavily wooded in areas including Limekiln Wood and Maddock's Hill and Holbrook Coppice.

The underlying bedrock geology of the area is predominantly sandstone, limestone and argillaceous rocks but includes some areas of mafic lava. Some small sections of this bedrock geology are overlaid by diamicton.

The topography varies across the LCT, from approximately 265m AOD at the summit of Maddock's Hill falling to approximately 200m AOD to the west of Little Wenlock, and to around 170m AOD at Holbrook Coppice.

There are no watercourses in the LCT.

Land Use and Land Cover

The land use of the area is mostly woodland

but pasture and mixed farming has encroached on the woodland. Farming has expanded due to the available range of shallow clays and sandy or loamy free draining soils.

The LCT forms part of the Limekiln Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Limekiln Wood was once part of the Royal Forest of Wrekin and is one of the most botanically interesting woods in Telford.

Woodland and Trees

The LCT is characterised by large and extensive blocks of broadleaved woodland with irregular or partially irregular boundaries. Game coverts are also characteristic of the area. Hedgerow trees, particularly oak, form a significant element of tree cover in some areas whilst they are scattered in others.

Human Influences

Buildings and Settlement

The LCT is sparsely settled with scattered isolated houses and farmsteads, particularly to the west of Little Wenlock. Some areas of the LCT remain unsettled.

Heritage

There are no heritage designations within the LCT.

The site of Limekiln Wood LNR has a long history of mining and quarrying. The remnants of old workings are all that remain, including the ruins of old limekilns, where the lime was used in the iron ore smelting works in Coalbrookdale, and for improving agricultural land.

Boundaries and Field Patterns

The landscape mostly comprises unenclosed woodland with irregular or partially irregular boundaries. There are some localised areas where agriculture fields are mostly of ancient origin and are generally bounded by mixed hedgerows that are often in poor condition. Woodland boundary hedges are species rich whereas agricultural areas are characterised by thorn hedges.

Recreation

Recreation opportunities relate to the several Public Rights of Way that run through the LCT. There are several Public Rights of Way through

Limekiln Wood in the northern section of the LCT, one adjacent to Willowmoor Farm and one to the west of Little Wenlock which are likely to be appreciated and valued at the community or local level.

Limekiln Wood is a Local Nature Reserve and is therefore an attraction for local walkers and nature enthusiasts.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Qualities

The medium-large scale landscape offers either filtered views which are framed by woodland and topography, or open vistas due to the large size and open nature of the surrounding fields. There are open views towards The Wrekin from some areas of the LCT, including the section of unnamed road adjacent to Willowmoor Farm and from Spout Lane to the west of Little Wenlock.

Key Sensitivities and Values

- Recreational value of the PRoWs and Limekiln Wood Local Nature Reserve.
- Absence of settlement and development, contributing to a remote character.
- Sense of tranquillity and remoteness.
- Outstanding scenic quality, the LCT forms part of the Shropshire Hills AONB. The special qualities of the landscape which underpin the designation in this LCT include the dramatic hills, panoramic views and extensive Rights of Way. The LCT also forms part of the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape.
- Uninterrupted views towards The Wrekin and Ercall Hills
- Ecologically important woodland, some of ancient origin.
- Narrow, rural lanes

Guidance

Landscape Management

- Conserve and enhance the special qualities of the nationally designated landscape of the Shropshire Hills AONB.
- Conserve and enhance the characteristics and qualities of the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape Area.
- Conserve and enhance the wooded character of the landscape through a woodland management regime.
- Keep woodland and trees in active management.

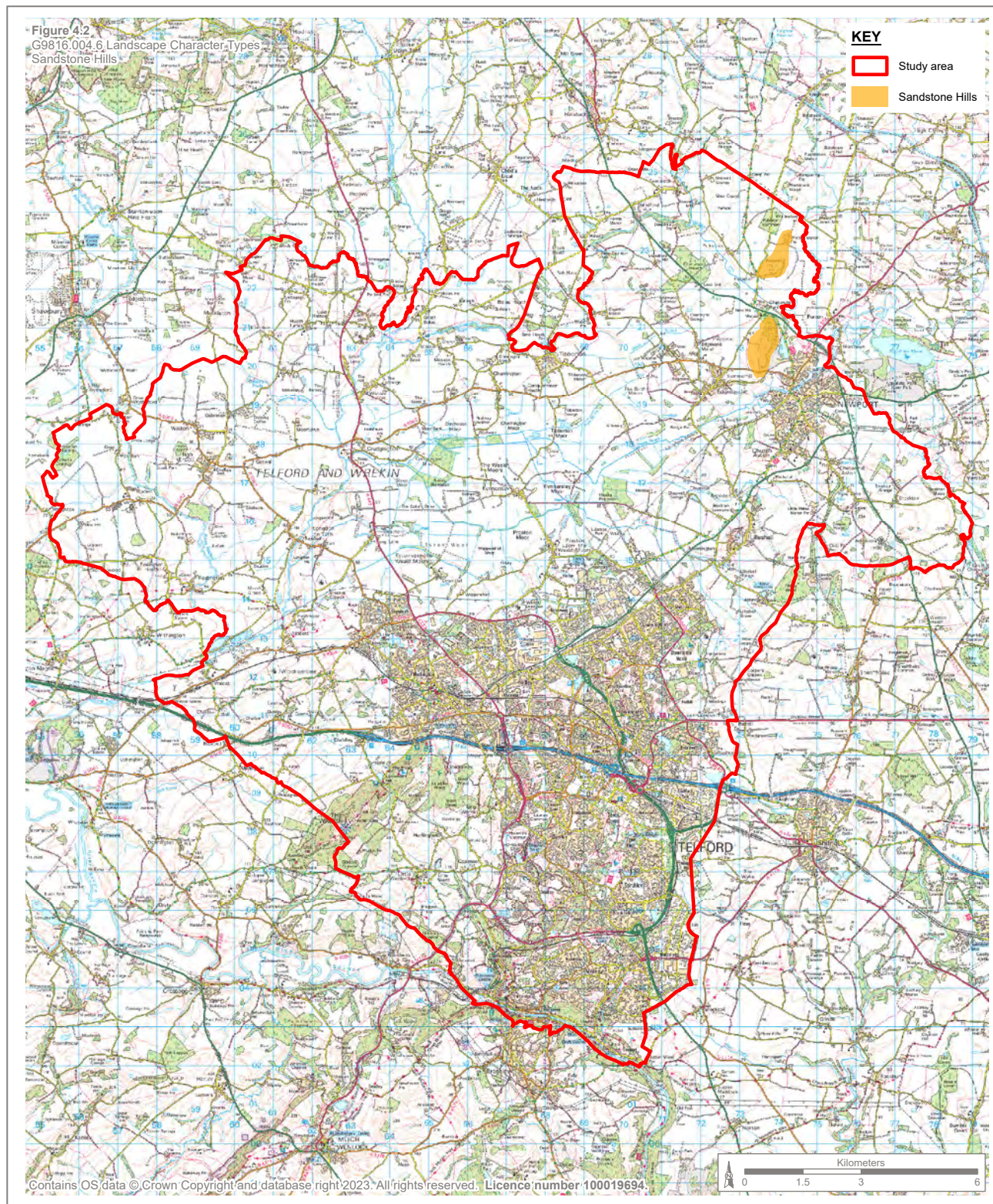
Development Management

- Conserve the overall sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape.
- Protect the valued recreational use of the landscape, seeking opportunities to further enhance access and enjoyment of the landscape including the Right of Way network. Positively manage the pressures from recreation to avoid damage to important landscape characteristics or perceptual qualities. Encourage restoration of areas

eroded by visitor pressure and seek sensitive design solutions.

- New development should not compromise views of The Wrekin or the Shropshire Hills AONB in key views from roads or footpaths.

LCT Sandstone Hills



Location and Introduction

The Sandstone Hills LCT is found in the north-east of Telford and Wrekin Borough, in two small areas to the north of Newport. These areas represent two hills which are relatively steep in the wider landscape and are separated by the River Meese and its valley. Puleston Hill is the northern most hill with The Scaur to the south, which also forms part of Chetwynd Park. The LCT is agricultural in character in the north and dominated by parkland in the south.

Representative Photographs



View towards Puleston Hill from unnamed road between Puleston and Flashbrook



View towards Puleston Hill from entrance to Whitley Manor



View towards Chetwynd Deer Park from Chetwynd Road



View towards Chetwynd Deer Park from Chester Road

Key Characteristics

- Two small, steep sandstone hills, have visual prominence over the surrounding landscape.
- The northern hill is predominantly in arable land use, with a block of woodland on the steepest area of slope.
- The southern hill is mainly within Chetwynd Park, a Grade II Registered Park and Garden, parkland character is evident from the low density woodland, with denser areas of woodland on the steepest slopes.

Physical Influences

Topography, Geology and Drainage

The Sandstone Hills have prominence over the surrounding relatively low-lying landscape. Together, the hills form a steep scarp running from north to south, interrupted by the valley of the River Meese, which runs between them. Puleston Hill reaches a height of 118m AOD whilst The Scaur peaks at a height of 129m AOD.

The bedrock geology of this LCT is interbedded sandstone and conglomerate. The southern section of the sandstone hills is overlaid by a superficial geology of sand and gravel, while the northern section is overlaid by diamicton. In places outcrops of rock are visible, as a result of quarrying activity.

The LCT covers only a small geographical area (essentially two hills), and there are no watercourses running through the LCT.

Land Use and Land Cover

Puleston Hill is in agricultural use, with rectilinear arable fields and a medium sized area of woodland along the steepest part of the slope.

Parts of The Scaur are covered by low density woodland, with more open land and individual trees on the southern side of the hill. The landscape forms part of the Chetwynd Deer Park, previously forming part of the historic Chetwynd estate.

Woodland and Trees

At Puleston Hill, woodland is only present on the steepest part of the slope, comprising dense deciduous woodland where oak is prevalent.

The Scaur is wooded, although not as dense as that at Puleston Hill and likely the result of parkland management. Trees are sparser at the southern end of the hill, with individual specimen parkland trees visible. The densest

area of woodland is on the steepest area of slope, running north to south.

Individual trees throughout the LCT contribute to the parkland character.

Human Influences

Buildings and Settlement

This LCT covers a small geographical area, comprising two sandstone hills. Buildings and settlements are limited. One farm, Whitley Manor Farm, is found on Puleston Hill where the farm buildings are the only buildings in the northern portion of the LCT. The southern portion of the LCT forms part of Chetwynd Deer Park and is largely free of built development. However, at the northern end of the hill, just outside the LCT, is a small cluster of buildings of the Chetwynd Park Estate, including a church and a manor house. These are traditional, stone built buildings.

Heritage

The southern portion of the LCT is within the Chetwynd Park, Grade II Park and Garden. Part of the historic Chetwynd estate, this estate character is still present in the LCT. Just outside the LCT is a cluster of Grade II and II* Listed Buildings, close to the entrance of Chetwynd Park, these are built from sandstone, linking them to the local landscape and geology.

Boundaries and Field Patterns

In the northern portion, fields are generally medium in size and rectilinear in shape, except along the edge of the steep section of the hill, where fields meet woodland. Hedgerows, which are predominantly thorn, are often poor in quality or lacking entirely between fields. More species rich examples are found along roads.

The southern portion of the LCT is almost entirely within Chetwynd Park, so boundaries are generally not present, except for a line of trees marking the western edge of the park.

Recreation

There are no PRow within the LCT and very limited opportunities for recreation. Chetwynd Park, which covers most of the southern portion of the LCT, holds occasional shows and events including the Newport Show.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Qualities

The landscape has a rural feel and the hills form visual landmarks from areas of the adjacent countryside. The land within the LCT is privately owned land and there are no PRow.

The presence of a number of large country houses and their associated parklands helps to preserve the cultural pattern but this has been partly eroded by intensive agriculture.

Key Sensitivities and Values

- Elevated sandstone hills provide topographic interest.
- A tranquil and rural area.
- Absence of settlement and development, contributing to a remote character.
- Chetwynd Park, Grade II listed Park and Garden.
- A sense of history in the landscape, stemming from the presence of historic parkland.

Guidance

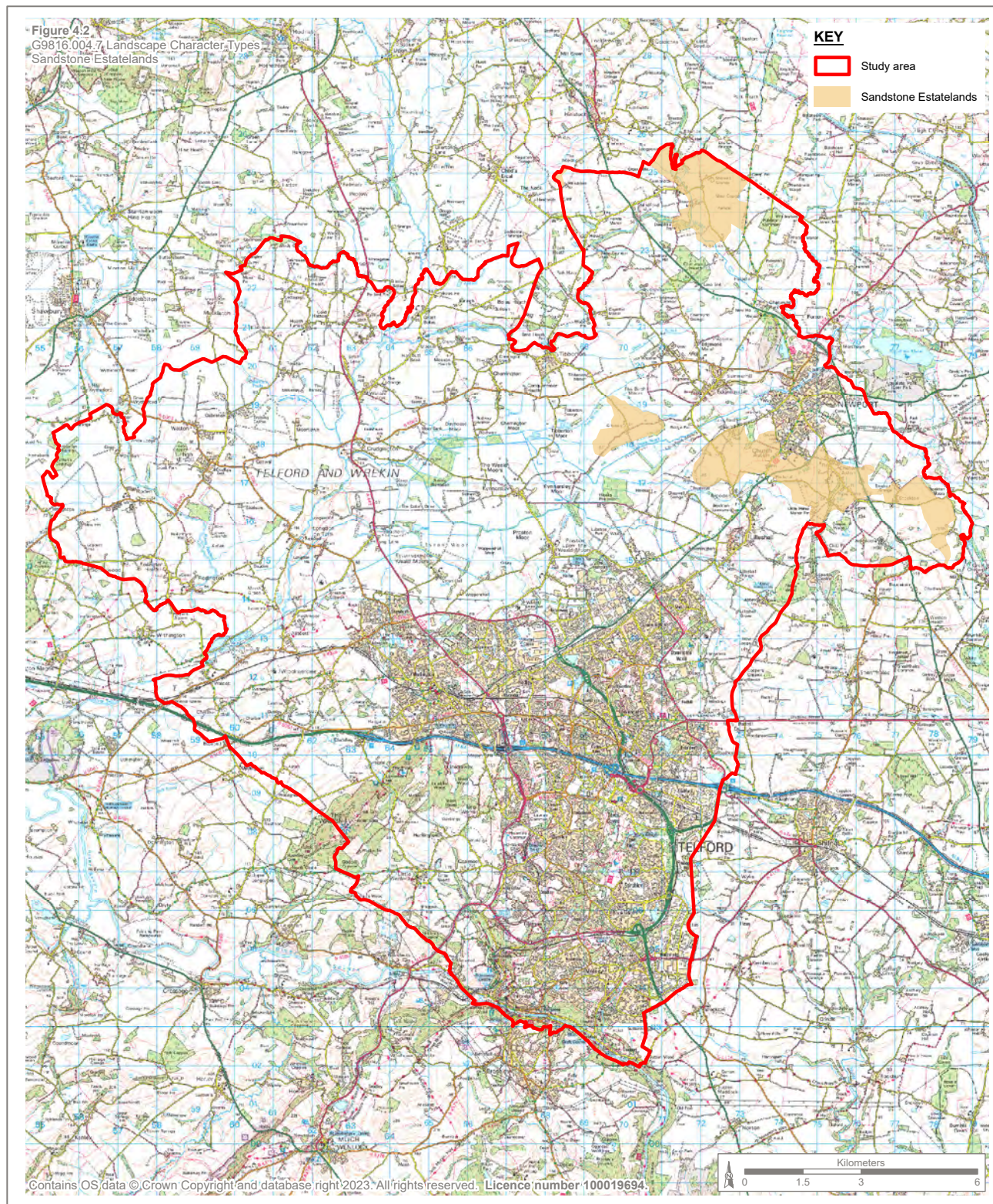
Landscape Management

- Conserve and reinforce the parkland character.
- Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats, including hedgerows, trees and woodland.

Development Management

- Conserve the overall sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape.
- Conserve the open landscape and avoid the introduction of large scale or incongruous elements.
- Avoid visually intrusive development on the ridgeline/hill tops in order to conserve the distinctive character of undeveloped skylines.
- Conserve the local distinctiveness of historic buildings and their parkland landscape setting.

LCT Sandstone Estatelands



Location and Introduction

This LCT covers small areas to the north-east of the Borough near Sambrook and to the south, south-east and south-west of Newport. It is a low, gently rolling landscape. Large, irregularly shaped mixed agricultural fields are in places separated by small to medium size blocks of woodland. Hedgerows are generally in poor condition or have been lost entirely and intensive agricultural use is evident.

The LCT is rural and sparsely populated with a few small villages and hamlets, as well as isolated large farmhouses and country houses. These country houses contribute to the estate land character.

A small section of the LCT around Adeney forms part of the Weald Moors Strategic Landscape.

Representative Photographs



Views across agricultural land from road to the south west of Edgmond



View across agricultural land from road to the south east of Sambrook



View towards H Timmis Farms from Pitchcroft Lane



View across agricultural land near Stockton

Key Characteristics

- Rural and sparsely populated, with an agricultural land use. A mixture of arable and some pasture.
- Irregular field patterns, broken up by blocks of woodland, especially to the south of Newport.
- Evidence of parkland influence, especially to the south of Newport, where Lilleshall Hall Park and Garden is located.

Physical Influences

Topography, Geology and Drainage

As with much of the north of Telford and Wrekin Borough, the majority of the underlying bedrock geology here is interbedded sandstone and conglomerate. However, there are also smaller areas of siltstone and sandstone with subordinate mudstone to the south of Newport. To the south and west of Newport, this is overlaid in parts by small areas of diamicton.

Most of northern Telford and Wrekin Borough, including this LCT area, is relatively low lying and gently undulating, with the average elevation to the south of Newport is slightly higher than to the west.

One ordinary watercourse flows through the LCT close to Adeney which flows into the River Tern.

Land Use and Land Cover

This is a largely rural LCT, comprising

agricultural land surrounding the town of Newport. Most of the agricultural land is in arable use, with some areas of pasture. Some of the fields are separated by small and medium sized blocks of woodland. There are a large number of individual field trees, especially to the south of Newport, which provide evidence of a parkland heritage. However, much of the parkland character in the LCT has been eroded by increasingly intensive agricultural use.

Woodland and Trees

Small to medium sized blocks of woodland occur throughout the LCT, breaking up areas of agricultural land. Additionally, numerous field trees are found across the landscape, these are often large veteran oak trees. Woodland is generally mixed and deciduous. These trees and woodlands help to preserve the estateland character of the area.

Lanes are often bounded by mature hedgerows. A tree lined avenue, leading to Lilleshall Hall, is an evident estateland feature in the landscape.

Human Influences

Buildings and Settlement

The area is rural, with several small villages and hamlets across the area. Isolated large farmhouses and dwellings and large estate farms are scattered across the landscape.

There are also several large country houses, including Adeney Manor. The approach to Lilleshall Hall is a tree-lined avenue, a characteristic estate landscape feature. The presence of large country houses and their associated parklands helps to preserve the historic pattern but this has been eroded by intensive agriculture.

The settlement and road pattern remains predominantly intact. Dwellings are most often red brick and tile. In recent years the village of Edgmond has experienced urban expansion.

Heritage

There are several Grade II Listed Buildings near to Chetwynd Aston which are generally associated with former estatelands and include farmhouses, a manor house and a gatehouse.

The Scheduled Monument to the south of Chetwynd Aston, an “enclosed iron age farmstead”, demonstrates a long history of human occupation and alteration of the landscape in this area. Part of Lilleshall Hall is a

Registered Park and Garden within this LCT.

Boundaries and Field Patterns

The 18th and 19th centuries saw the establishment of new parks and the expansion of existing ones. Between the mid 18th and later 19th centuries landowners invested in the agricultural improvement of their wider estates including the formal enclosure of most of the remaining areas of open heathland, the construction of new farms in the open countryside, and the laying out of straight new roads. These changes produced a pattern of regular fields defined by straight hedgerows. Mechanisation and agricultural subsidies in the 20th Century led to an intensive arable regime creating the current pattern of the enlarged fields and open vistas.

Hedgerows with large veteran trees form many field boundaries. Many internal thorn hedges are in poor condition or have been lost entirely as a result of agricultural intensification. There are however some species rich examples.

Recreation

There are several PRoW running through the LCT, connecting the small villages and hamlets to the wider countryside. These routes are likely to be appreciated at a community or local level.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Qualities

In the area surrounding Adeney the vistas are open, with long distance views towards The

Wrekin. The large fields, flat to gently rolling topography and relative openness create a large scale landscape. Views are largely open except where there are small blocks of trees.

To the south of Newport, the landscape is medium in scale and larger and more frequent blocks of woodland reduce viewing distances. The long avenue of trees in Lilleshall Hall Park frames views here.

Key Sensitivities and Values

- Parkland and associated country houses.
- A tranquil and rural area, with a strong rural character.
- Sense of tranquillity and remoteness.
- Narrow, rural lanes.

Guidance

Landscape Management

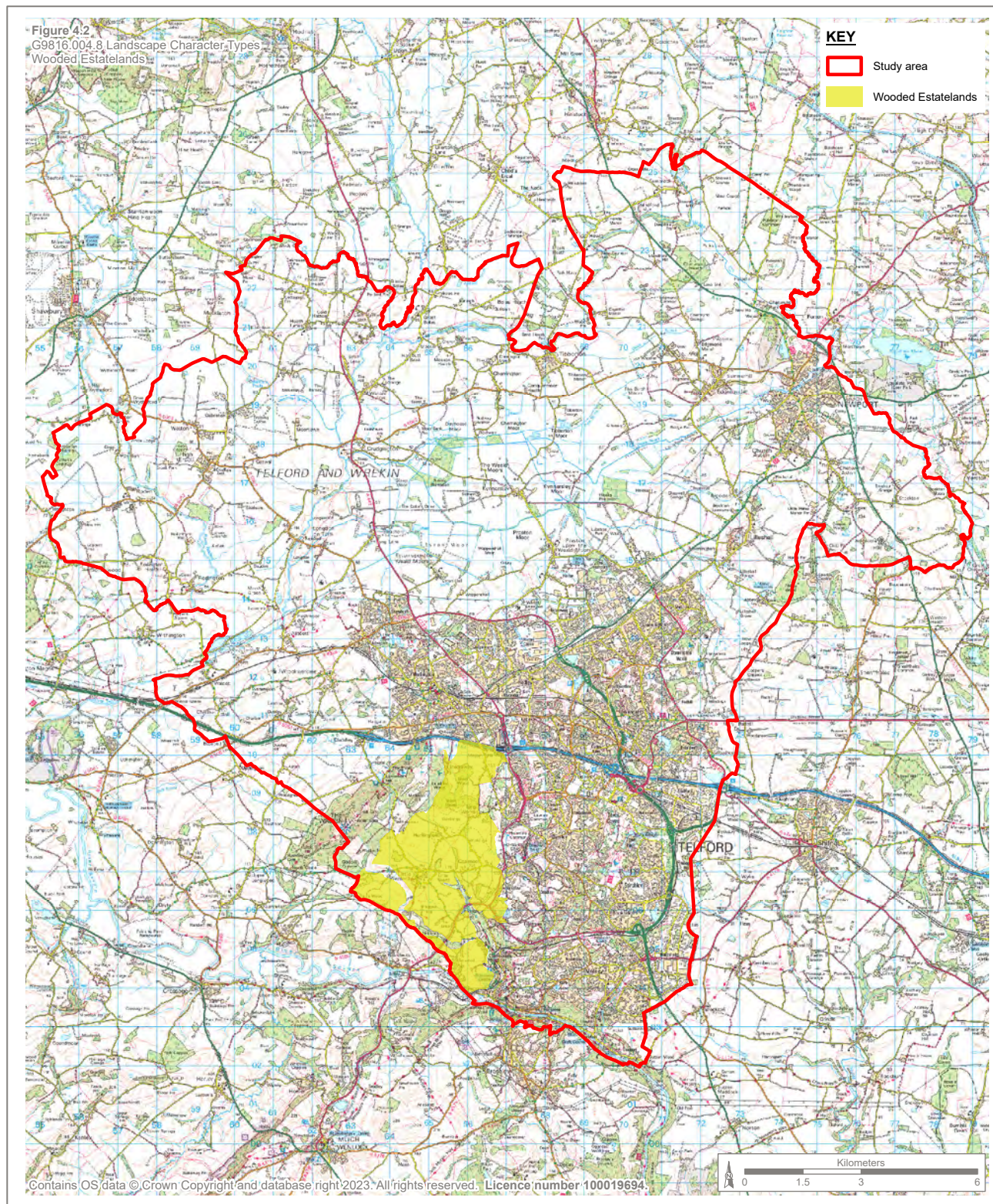
- Conserve and reinforce the estateland character.
- Seek opportunities for field boundary restoration where hedgerows have been lost
- Enhance fragmented field boundary hedgerows with native species, filling in gaps where possible.
- Keep woodland and trees in active management.
- Conserve the traditional agricultural use of the landscape and manage and enhance the ecological value of agricultural fields for example by the creation of uncultivated field margins.
- Explore possibilities for small-scale woodland creation in areas where it could enhance the landscape character and quality.

Development Management

- Conserve the overall sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape and avoid the introduction of large scale or incongruous elements.
- Where possible, advance plant new trees and hedges around new development.
- Retain existing trees, hedges and landscape features as part of any new development.
- Ensure that any new development is sympathetic to the character of existing settlement in terms of scale, materials and design.

- Conserve the character of rural lanes.
- Resist development in areas of estateland character.

LCT Wooded Estatelands



Location and Introduction

The Wooded Estate lands LCT is in the south of the borough, to the west of the Telford urban area and Coalfields LCT. This area contains large blocks of woodland, some of it ancient and is partly within the Shropshire Hills AONB. There is a rolling landform, with a generally high elevation, offering views over the surrounding landscape, except where these are screened and framed by the large areas of woodland.

Besides the woodland, the land use is largely agricultural, with a mix of arable and pastoral land in large, irregular shaped fields. The largest settlement is the village of Little Wenlock, other than this there are only isolated dwellings and farmsteads. The urban fringe of Telford new town encroaches on the east of the LCT.

Representative Photographs



View across agricultural land from Spout Lane, Little Wenlock



View towards the Wrekin from Coalmoor



View south from Coalmoor Lane, Little Wenlock



View south from Coalmoor Lane, Little Wenlock

Key Characteristics

- Relatively high elevation and gently rolling landform.
- Large blocks of ancient woodland.
- Mixed agricultural land use.
- Areas of high scenic quality with parts of the LCT in the Shropshire Hills AONB and the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape.

Physical Influences

Topography, Geology and Drainage

The LCT is underlaid by a mixed bedrock geology. At the southernmost point is an area of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. To the north of this is a strip of sandstone, limestone and argillaceous rock. Further north again is a wider expanse of mudstone, siltstone, sandstone, coal, ironstone and ferricrete. Also present are small areas of mafic lava. Parts of the LCT are overlaid with a superficial geology of diamicton. Coal measures across this plateau have been worked from the industrial revolution through to the present day.

This LCT sits on relatively high ground, with some of the highest elevations in the Borough present here. The area sits on a relatively flat plateau, with more undulating topography in the south. A relatively steep scarp runs along Limekiln Wood.

A stream flows through the centre of the area, flowing south into the River Severn near

Ironbridge. Small to medium sized ponds are found in some fields, especially those surrounding Little Wenlock.

Land Use and Land Cover

The varied but often impoverished soils are associated with high intensity mixed farming. There is a mixed agricultural land use, with both areas of arable land and pasture. This is a largely intensive agricultural landscape, with large, uninterrupted areas of fields.

There are several blocks of woodland throughout the LCT, including significant areas of ancient woodland.

There are also areas of reclaimed former open coal working, which is utilised for a mixture of low grade agricultural production, amenity and landfill.

Woodland and Trees

There are several large blocks of broadleaved woodland throughout the LCT, including significant blocks of ancient woodland

(especially in the north of the LCT). These large, ancient semi-natural woodlands are prominent within the landscape type and are one of its defining characteristics. They also act as a structural component of the landscape, framing views and screening nearby settlements and development.

There are individual field trees across the landscape and hedgerows field boundaries are largely intact, often containing hedgerow trees, particularly oak.

Human Influences

Buildings and Settlement

The area is rural in character, with relatively few settlements. The largest settlement is the village of Little Wenlock. The buildings here are mostly of traditional vernacular, with a mixture of red brick and rendered properties. Outside of Little Wenlock there are occasional isolated dwellings and farmsteads which are dispersed across the landscape, some of which are associated with historic mineral extraction. Open cast mining has eroded much of the cultural pattern.

Due to the expansion and development of Telford new town from the 1970s, the areas at the east of the LCT are increasingly situated on the urban fringe. This urban sprawl from Telford has enveloped a number of the small, nucleated villages which historically contributed to this LCTs cultural pattern.

Heritage

In the north of the area is the Scheduled Monument “Coal mining remains 350m north west and 520m north of New Works village”. In this area, shallow coal seams were initially worked from shallow surface workings, with some extraction also taking place in shafts. The working has resulted in a bell-shaped profile. Much of the heritage and evidence of historic human influence in this area is as a result of mineral workings

The village of Little Wenlock contains numerous Grade II and II* Listed Buildings.

Boundaries and Field Patterns

The area is defined by large fields, which are irregular in shape. Roads and fields are often bounded by thorn hedgerows, which in many cases are in a neglected condition. Some boundaries are formed by drainage ditches. Boundaries often appear to have decayed as a result of agricultural intensification. The fields are separated by large blocks of woodland. The road network and woodland suggest that the origin of the fields is often as a result of woodland clearance. There are also areas which are likely the result of the enclosure of waste.

Recreation

Several PRoWs cross the landscape, generally connecting settlements and are likely to be appreciated at the community or local level.

Limekiln Wood is a Local Nature Reserve and is an attraction for local walkers and nature enthusiasts.

Part of the Shropshire Hills AONB is within the LCT and attracts regional visitors, particularly for walking.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Qualities

Views are often framed by the large areas of woodland, which limit the openness of the landscape. In areas away from the woodland, more open and extensive views are possible.

The eastern edge of the LCT is on the urban fringe of Telford, with development encroaching on the more open countryside, a more expansive road network has a greater visual impact here.

Key Sensitivities and Values

- Part of the LCT is in the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape.
- Sense of tranquillity and remoteness.
- Long, uninterrupted views across the wider landscape.
- Working agricultural character.
- Ecologically important woodland, some of ancient origin.
- Narrow, rural lanes.
- Relationship to The Wrekin and Ercall Hills, including views towards.

Guidance

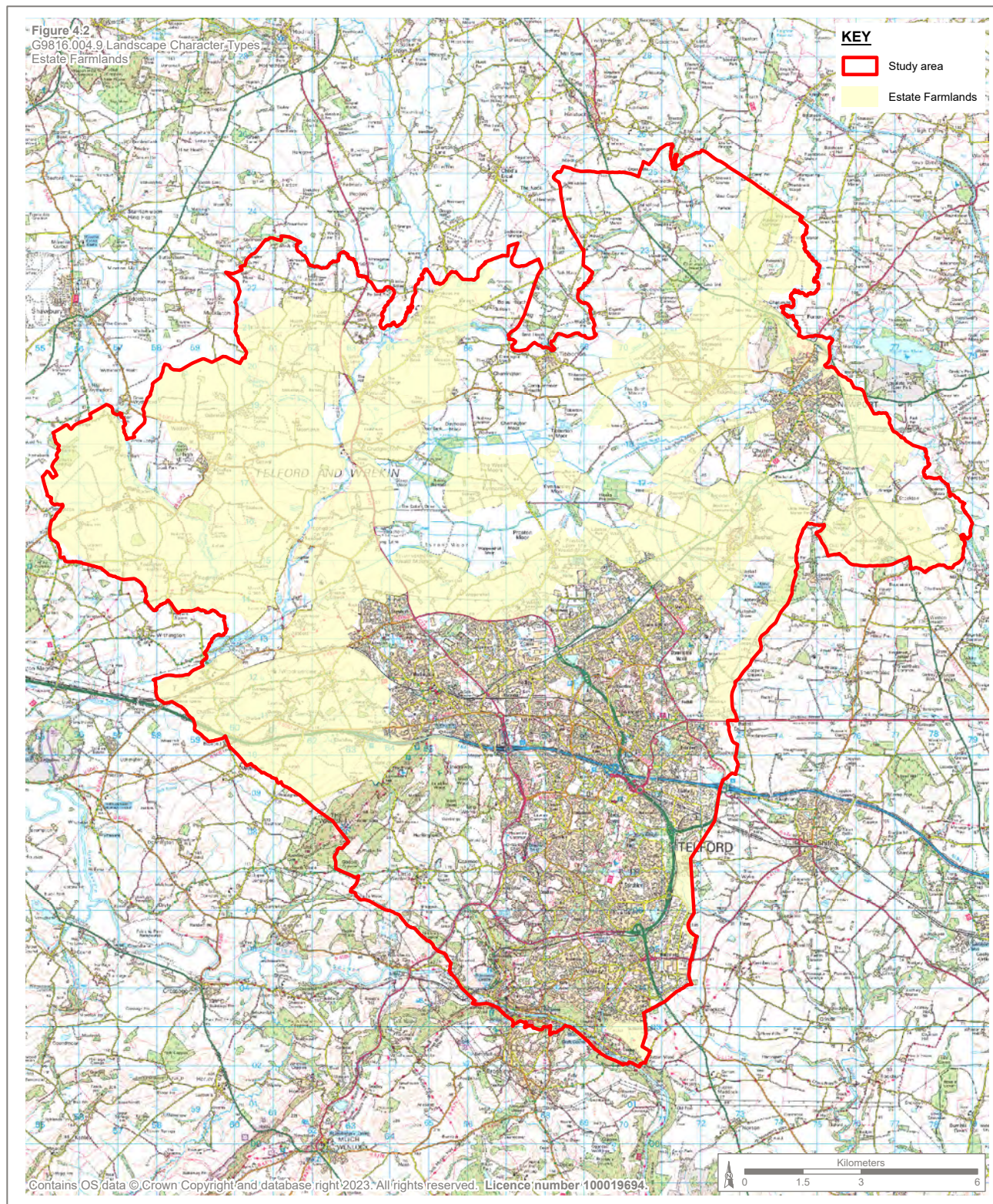
Landscape Management

- Seek opportunities for field boundary restoration where hedgerows have been lost.
- Enhance fragmented field boundary hedgerows with native species, filling in gaps where possible.
- Keep woodland and trees in active management.
- Increase the extent of native deciduous woodland/tree cover, particularly around settlements.
- Manage and enhance the ecological value of agricultural fields by encouraging the creation of uncultivated field margins.
- Conserve and enhance the wooded character of the landscape through a woodland management regime.
- Conserve and enhance the special qualities of the nationally designated landscape of the Shropshire Hills AONB.
- Explore possibilities for small-scale woodland creation in areas where it could enhance the landscape character and quality.

Development Management

- Conserve the open landscape and avoid the introduction of large scale or incongruous elements.
- Conserve the dispersed settlement pattern of small villages and hamlets.
- Where new developments are proposed, seek to create a well-structured landscape framework to define the edges of the new development and integrate settlement into the wider landscape.
- Conserve the open and rural character of the landscape ensuring that it continues to play a role in the separation between the western edge of Telford and the Shropshire Hills AONB.
- Where possible, advance plant new trees and hedges around new development.
- Ensure that any new development is sympathetic to the character of existing settlement in terms of scale, materials and design.
- New development should not compromise views of The Wrekin or the Shropshire Hills AONB in key views from roads or footpaths.
- Conserve the character of rural lanes.
- Conserve the distinct character and individual identities of settlement.
- Protect the LCT from further encroachment, for example through natural or other types of defensible boundaries.

LCT Estate Farmlands



Location and Introduction

The Estate Farmlands LCT occurs throughout the Borough encompassing areas around the villages of Lilleshall, Kynnersley, Edgmond, High Ercall and the towns of Newport and Telford. Parts of the landscape are of high scenic quality and this is recognised with small parts of the LCT designated as part of The Wrekin Forest and The Weald Moors Strategic Landscapes.

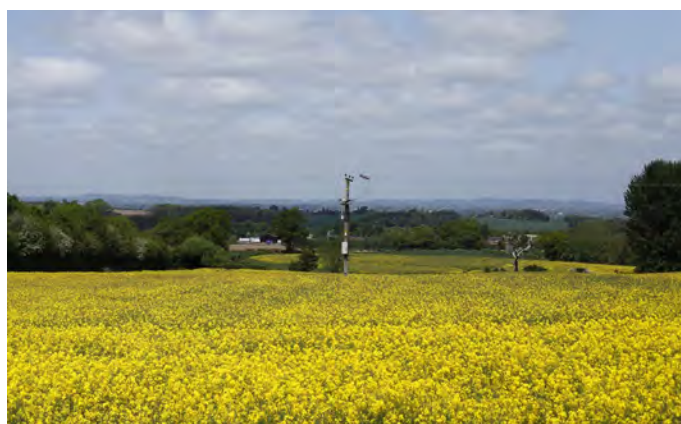
The flat to gently undulating landform supports a productive mixed-farming economy. The parkland heritage of the landscape is still very apparent. High intensity agriculture has led to a decline in the field system with fragmented hedgerows and a loss of hedgerow trees, resulting in a large-scale character. Woodland is sparse, with estateland type planting towards the north-west, generally associated with large country houses. Trees are generally limited to watercourses and hedgerows.

The geological outcrop of Lilleshall Hill, which is dominated by the Lilleshall Monument forms a prominent feature on the horizon.

Representative Photographs



View towards the Wrekin from Richards Road



View across agricultural land from Wrekin Course



The Wall, Kynnersley



Lilleshall Hill and Lilleshall Monument

Key Characteristics

- Mixed farming land use.
- Settlement pattern is a combination of settled, clustered and dispersed.
- Large country houses with associated parklands.
- Planned woodland character.
- Medium to large scale landscapes with framed views.
- Distinctive landscape area surrounding Lilleshall Village and Monument.
- High scenic quality, with sections of the area designated as part of the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape and the Weald Moors Strategic Landscape.

Physical Influences

Topography, Geology and Drainage

The LCT is characterised by rolling topography between 50m AOD and 170m AOD. Lilleshall Hill, which is a key feature of the landscape rises to 125m AOD, well above the surrounding agricultural land at approximately 75m to 85m AOD. The flat to gently rolling topography retains the large scale of the adjacent Weald Moors.

The bedrock geology across the LCT is mixed, but is predominately comprises sandstone and conglomerate, especially to the north of Telford. Siltstone and sandstone with subordinate mudstone occurs towards the north-west of the LCT, along the eastern edge of the Borough and in an area to the immediate west of Telford near Wrockwardine. The area surrounding Wrockwardine also comprises lava and tuff. The landscape surrounding Lilleshall is formed by a combination of mafic lava, lava

and tuff, limestone with subordinate sandstone and argillaceous rocks and mudstone, siltstone, sandstone, coal, ironstone and ferricrete.

The bedrock of a very small part of the LCT surrounding Haughton on the north-western boundary of the Borough is mudstone, sandstone and conglomerate.

This bedrock geology is overlaid by the superficial geology of sand and gravel and diamicton mostly, with some areas of peat, clay and clay, silt and sand to the north of Telford. Lilleshall Hill is a distinctive steep geological outcrop of volcanic rock and Carboniferous limestone.

In the western section of the Borough the River Roden and other watercourses remain intact. The River Meese runs through the northernmost part of the LCT. Drainage ditches form a skeletal network of man-made features.

The northern section of the Newport Canal

is within the LCT. This area is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in recognition of the presence of a range of aquatic plants, including submerged and broadleaved plant communities.

Land Use and Land Cover

Mixed farming predominates across the landscape. Arable and pastoral farming are evident in equal measures, with their distribution closely linked to geology and landform. Large scale and high intensity arable production is prominent throughout the LCT, and the areas to the north-east of the Borough are probably some of the most intensive farming systems within Shropshire.

Some localised areas of market gardening occur in the landscape to the north-east of the Borough near Newport, and to the immediate north and west of the settlement of Telford.

In the outskirts of the LCT to the east and south of Telford, land use is a more diverse mix of horiculture and amenity uses which includes the golf course at Sutton Wood.

In some areas there are large country houses with associated parklands.

There is an abrupt change of character when leaving Telford along the A518 where urban form gives way to an estate style landscape. The landscape forms part of an undeveloped

gap between the urban edge of Telford and the village of Lilleshall.

Woodland and Trees

Tree cover varies throughout the LCT and there are some small areas of woodland present. The woodlands are mixed species and range from being widespread in the north-eastern and eastern parts of the LCT, with more ancient relics in the north and localised in some parts of the eastern, central, north-western and western sections of the LCT.

There are relatively few hedgerow trees which creates an unwooded character. Hedgerow trees are predominantly oak with some ash and are generally in poor condition. Oak field trees are scattered across the LCT and are in poor condition.

The area along the eastern boundary of the Borough in particular has experienced a loss of hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Field trees sometimes mark the line of removed hedgerows but in the majority of cases both hedgerows and trees have been removed. There are a small number of plantations and woodland relics dispersed throughout this area, often associated with wetter areas. Amenity trees are more common given the LCTs parkland origins and the presence of a number of large houses and farms.

To the north-east of the LCT, there are small

plantation woodlands evident of the estate land character. Estate woodland plantations are also common to the west of Telford and to the north of The Wrekin.

To the north-west of the LCT, hedgerow trees have also declined as a result of agricultural practice and only a few oaks remain scattered across the landscape. Woodland is present on a small number of irregular shaped sites, which often contain softwood.

To the north of Telford the LCT appears largely unwooded due to a lack of hedgerow trees. There are small areas of plantation woodland throughout the area but tree cover is often densest along watercourses and in shelter belt plantations. There are some patches of small estate woodland and parkland, and some areas of amenity trees around settlements. Watercourse trees comprise willow or mixed species, although in some areas including to the northern, eastern, north-eastern and north-western areas of Telford, watercourse trees are sparser where some have been lost.

Human Influences

Buildings and Settlement

The settlement pattern across the LCT varies between clustered, dispersed and settled settlements, but is predominantly one of villages and hamlets and large estate farmsteads.

To the north-west of the LCT settlement is clustered in small villages, the largest of which is High Ercall which is partly within the LCT. There are occasional but widely dispersed farmsteads across this section of the LCT and a number of timber framed buildings, probably indicative of a landscape of woodland origin. Many of the isolated dwellings appear to be of estate origin.

To the north-east and eastern sections of the LCT, the settlement pattern is dispersed. This area contains a number of large red brick and tile farmsteads together with a few larger country houses. Important examples of these country houses are Woodcote Hall and Lilleshall Hall. Local stone is widely used, particularly in walls surrounding properties. There has recently been some urban expansion to the village of Edgmond to the north-west of Newport.

Red brick and tile built form predominates in the LCT but there are some areas of mixed building types, including some timber framing and thatching. Local stone is often found in boundary walls, particularly in the area to the immediate north of the urban area of Telford. Other built form within the LCT includes military buildings at RAF High Ercall airfield and commercial storage to north-west.

Heritage

There are numerous Listed Buildings scattered across the LCT, often clustered within villages

and hamlets to the north, north-west and north-east of Telford including Wrockwardine, Rodington, Rowton, Waters Upton, Eyton Upon the Weald Moors, Preston Upon the Weald Moors, Kynnersley, Lilleshall and Edgmond.

Edgmond, Wrockwardine and Kynnersley all have designated Conservation Areas.

There are 3 Registered Parks and Gardens (RPGs) in the LCT. To the immediate west of Telford is Grade II Orleton Hall RPG. Orleton Hall comprises gardens, including a chinoiserie summerhouse, and a 18th Century landscape park which is associated with the country house. Grade II Lilleshall Hall RPG is to the east of Lilleshall, near the Borough boundary and comprises formal gardens and pleasure grounds with large numbers of specimen trees and a landscape park from 1840, and an associated country house. To the north of Newport, some parts of the Grade II Chetwynd Park RPG is in the LCT. It comprises a deer park, of the early 18th Century, elements of 1860s pleasure grounds and an associated country house.

There are several Scheduled Monuments across the LCT. These include the 'Wall Camp in the Weald Moors: a large low-lying multivallate hillfort' Scheduled Monument to the north of Telford near Tibberton Moor, 'Parts of a Roman camp and signal station 410m ESE of Watling Street Grange' and 'Part of a small Roman town, the Roman road called Watling Street and a mansion 255m north west

of Upper Woodhouse Farm'. The 'Lilleshall Abbey' Scheduled Monument is to the south of Lilleshall, adjacent to Abbey Wood in the eastern section of the LCT.

In the Weald Moors Strategic Landscape, the Hill fort at Wall Farm Scheduled Monument, Dukes Drive and Kynnersley Drive are important cultural features.

Boundaries and Field Patterns

Field sizes and shapes vary considerably throughout the LCT, reflecting localised variations in landform and land cover.

Thorn hedgerows are generally in a poor and neglected condition. There is evidence of extensive hedgerow removal and many hedgerows are in decline.

Recreation

The LCT is crossed by an extensive network of Public Rights of Way which provide routes to and from the settlements of Telford and Newport and provide access across the surrounding countryside. The promoted Shropshire Way long distance footpath runs through the eastern section of the LCT and is likely to be of national value. Other PRow are likely to be appreciated at the community or local level.

Lilleshall Hill Local Nature Reserve provides a circular walk for visitors where they can enjoy panoramic views across the Borough.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Qualities

The LCT is characterised by undulating, productive mixed farmland interspersed with small villages and often remote farmsteads. It retains a strong traditional rural character and for the most part is tranquil, with a sense of isolation in certain places; however, nearer to major transportation routes and large urban areas, these qualities have been eroded. Views are often open across the LCT but are filtered in some places by hedgerow trees and in others framed by topography and woodland cover.

There are views towards The Wrekin and Ercall Hills from most of the LCT with views towards the Lilleshall Monument from the north-eastern section of LCT. The monument is seen from within its landscape setting of Lilleshall village and surrounding fields, with views of the monument uninterrupted by main roads or large buildings. The Monument is a popular viewpoint, with long views in all directions.

The landscape is generally tranquil due to its working agricultural character. Several major roads run through the LCT including the A5 and A41, which reduce the tranquillity of the LCT around these areas due to traffic noise. The A5 trunk road connects Telford and Shrewsbury and runs across the western section of the LCT.

Key Sensitivities and Values

- Parts of the LCT are in the Wrekin Forest and Weald Moors Strategic Landscapes.
- Expansive, uninterrupted, long-distance views towards the hills.
- Sense of tranquillity and remoteness.
- Ecologically important habitats, including some woodland of ancient origin.
- Working agricultural character.
- Narrow, rural lanes.

Guidance

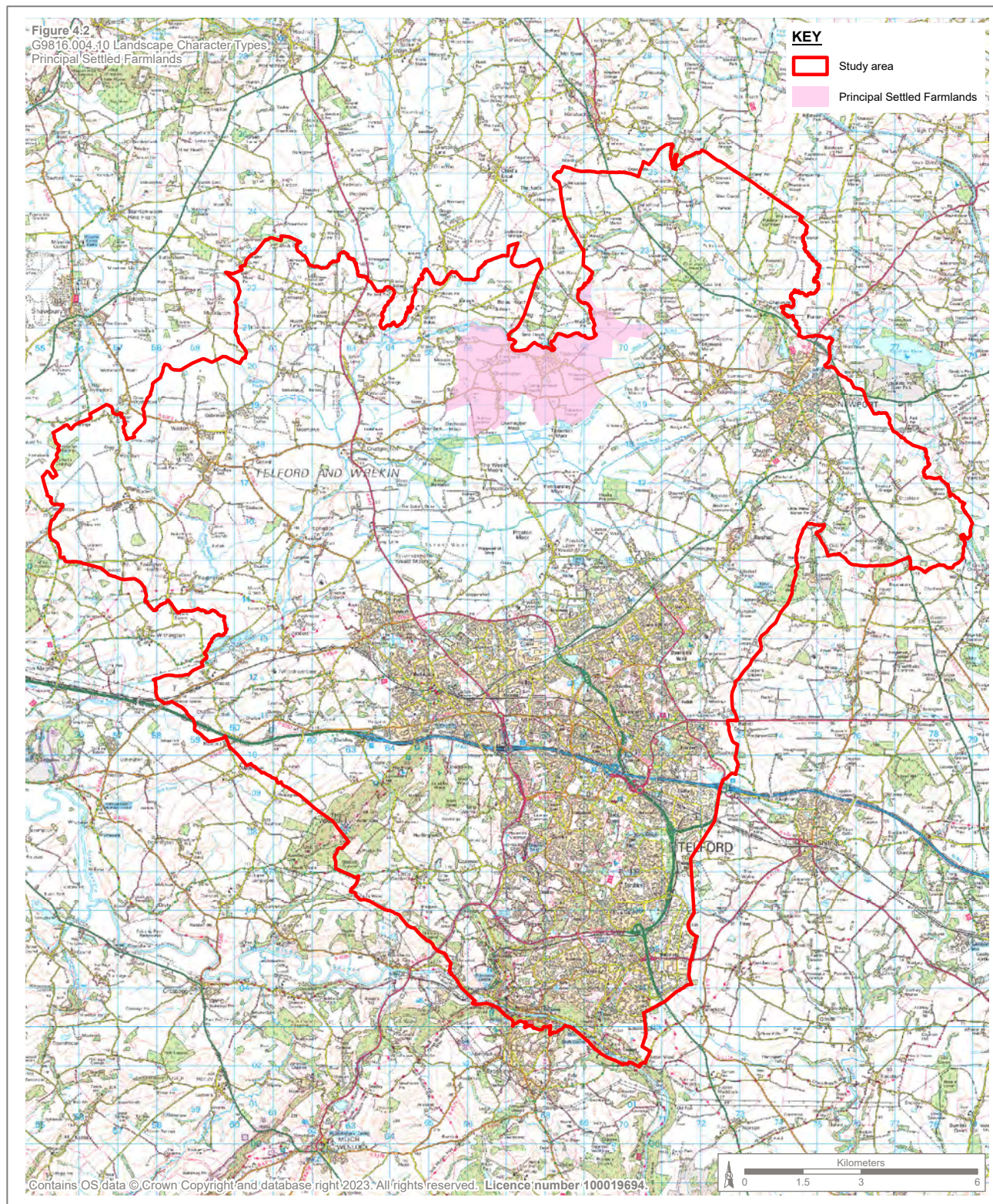
Landscape Management

- Seek opportunities for field boundary restoration where hedgerows have been lost.
- Enhance fragmented field boundary hedgerows with native species, filling in gaps where possible.
- Conserve and enhance the biodiversity interest associated with Newport Canal SSSI.
- Conserve and reinforce the estateland character.
- Manage and enhance the ecological value of agricultural fields by encouraging the creation of uncultivated field margins.
- Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats, including woodlands and hedgerows.
- Conserve the traditional agricultural use of the landscape.
- Explore possibilities for small-scale woodland creation in areas where it could enhance the landscape character and quality.
- Conserve features which contribute to the sense of time-depth.
- Opportunities should be taken for the sympathetic planting, enhancement, and restoration of completed extraction sites.

Development Management

- Conserve the overall sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape.
- Conserve the local distinctiveness of historic buildings and their landscape setting.
- Where new developments are proposed, seek to create a well-structured landscape framework to define the edges of the new development and integrate settlement into the wider landscape.
- Conserve the open and rural character of the landscape ensuring that it continues to play a role in the separation of settlements for example between Telford and Newport.
- Where possible, advance plant new trees and hedges around new development.
- Ensure that any new development is sympathetic to the character of existing settlement in terms of scale, materials and design.
- New development should not compromise views of The Wrekin or the Shropshire Hills AONB in key views from roads or footpaths.
- Ensure new agricultural buildings are sympathetic to their landscape setting in terms of their scale, siting, materials and design. They should be recessive in colour and materials and should sit below the skyline to minimise their impacts in views.
- Conserve the distinct character and individual identities of settlements.

LCT Principal Settled Farmlands



Location and Introduction

The principal settled farmlands LCT occurs in one location to the north of the Borough, in a small area surrounding the village of Tibberton. The landscape is relatively flat and predominantly agricultural, with limited woodland cover. The agricultural land is mainly in arable use, with smaller areas of pasture and horsiculture. The River Meese runs through the north of the LCT.

Tibberton is the main settlement in the LCT, the rest of the area is sparsely populated, with individual farmsteads and houses scattered along rural roads.

Representative Photographs



View across farmland towards the Wrekin from the B5602, Tibberton



Views across farmland from PRow in Tibberton



View towards the Wrekin from Back Lane, Tibberton



View towards residential properties in Tibberton from PRow

Key Characteristics

- Primarily agricultural land use, especially arable agriculture.
- Limited woodland cover.
- The River Meese, with woodland buffer, runs through the north of the LCT.
- Varied pattern of sub-regular, hedged fields.
- A clustered settlement pattern of hamlets and smaller villages and a medium to high density dispersal of farmsteads and wayside cottages.

Physical Influences

Topography, Geology and Drainage

As with the majority of the northern part of the Borough, the underlying bedrock geology here is interbedded sandstone and conglomerate. A superficial geology of diamicton is also present across the majority of the area.

The area is relatively low-lying with a generally flat topography, which is in places gently rolling. The River Meese runs across the north of the LCT.

Land Use and Land Cover

The area surrounding the village of Tibberton is predominantly agricultural. Most areas are in arable use, with some areas of pasture and horsiculture. Varied soil conditions allow use for mixed farming.

The generally flat topography and limited tree cover creates a large-scale landscape, although in parts this is limited by mature hedgerows.

Woodland and Trees

There are only low levels of woodland within this area with one significant block of woodland to the south of Tibberton, which appears to be mixed plantation. The main woodland in the LCT is a dense but generally narrow strip along the River Meese, and willow is common along the watercourse. There are also amenity trees and hedgerows around the edges of Tibberton, which screen the village from the surrounding landscape.

Trees and hedgerows are present along field boundaries, with field and hedgerow trees generally oak and ash.

Human Influences

Buildings and Settlement

The village of Tibberton is the main settlement in the area and is characterised by traditional red brick and tile houses. There is evidence of recent housing development within and at the

edges of Tibberton which is of standard design and construction.

Further out from Tibberton, there are several isolated, individual farmsteads scattered throughout the landscape. There are also large manors (Cherrington Manor and Tibberton Manor), likely of estate origin.

Heritage

There are several Grade II Listed Buildings within the settlement of Tibberton. Nearby, there is also the Grade II* listed Cherrington Manor House, dated 1635, demonstrating the historic influence of estates on the landscape.

Boundaries and Field Patterns

The fields are arranged in a varied pattern and are often irregular in shape, especially around the River Meese. Fields are generally large, with smaller, sub-divided fields on the outskirts of Tibberton. Fields are predominantly bounded by thorn hedgerows which are generally in a poor or deteriorating condition. Mature hedgerow trees are also common, especially to the south and east of Tibberton.

Recreation

There are very limited opportunities for recreation within the LCT with few Public Rights of Way or other recreational facilities.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Qualities

Due to the relatively flat landscape, large

fields and limited areas of woodland, views are often open and the landscape is large-scale. Although, in places these views are limited by mature hedgerows, reducing the scale of the landscape. The River Meese and its associated woodland create a break in the landscape.

Tibberton village is the main settlement in the area, with the rest of the area sparsely populated, with occasional isolated houses and farmsteads. The village is generally well screened from the surrounding landscape by amenity trees and hedgerows.

Key Sensitivities and Values

- Sense of tranquillity and remoteness.
- Working agricultural character.
- Narrow, rural lanes.
- Relatively isolated, strong rural character.
- Long, uninterrupted views across the wider landscape.

Guidance

Landscape Management

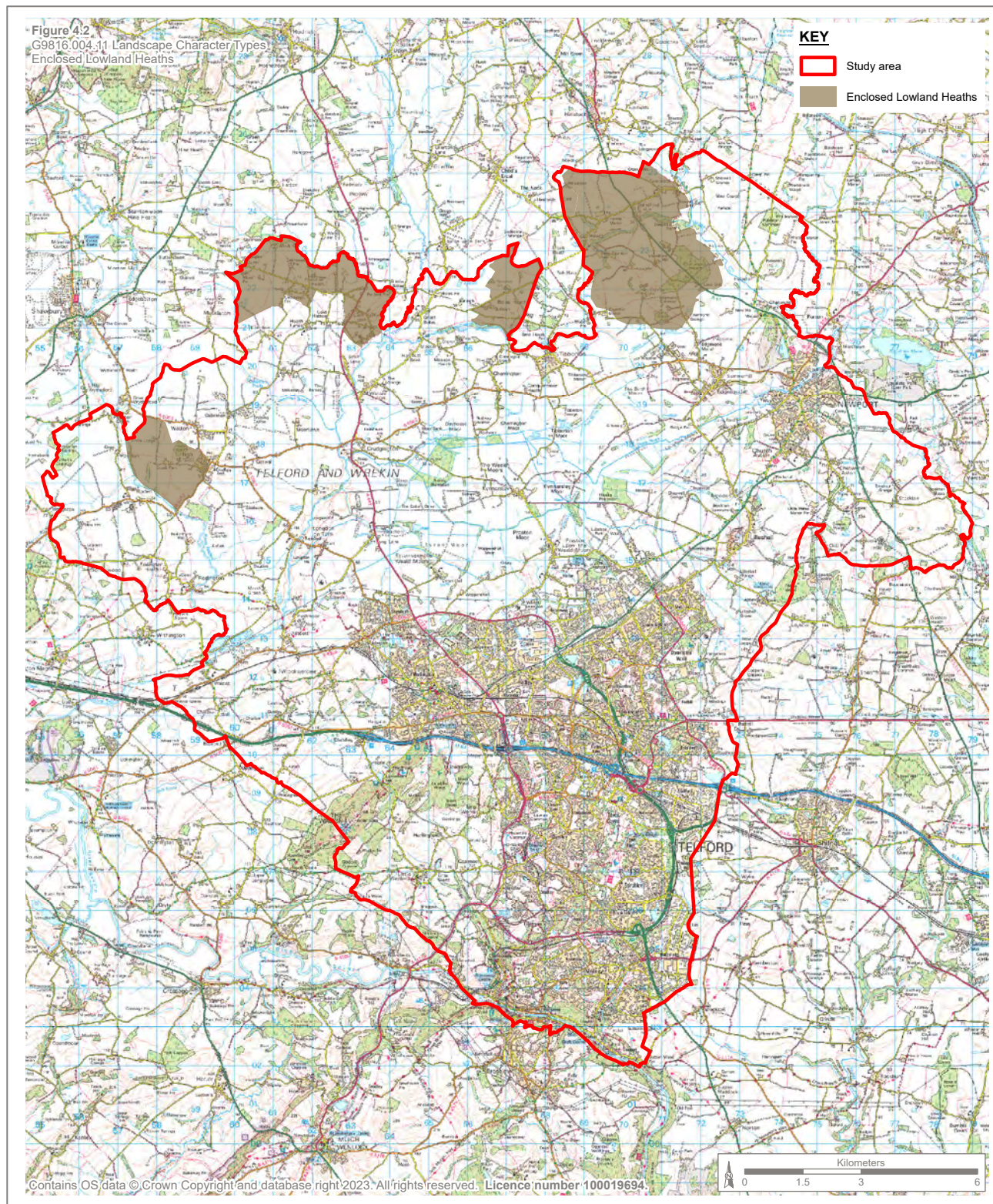
- Seek opportunities for field boundary restoration where hedgerows have been lost.
- Enhance fragmented field boundary hedgerows with native species, filling in gaps where possible.
- Manage and enhance the ecological value of agricultural fields by encouraging the creation of uncultivated field margins.
- Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats, including field boundary hedgerow and trees.
- Conserve the traditional agricultural use of the landscape.

Development Management

- Conserve the overall sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape.
- Conserve the open landscape and avoid the introduction of large scale or incongruous elements.
- Conserve the settlement pattern of small villages and hamlets.
- Where new developments are proposed, seek to create a well-structured landscape framework to define the edges of the new development and integrate settlement into the wider landscape.
- Where possible, advance plant new trees and hedges around new development.

- Ensure that any new development is sympathetic to the character of existing settlement in terms of scale, materials and design.

LCT Enclosed Lowland Heaths



Location and Introduction

Enclosed Lowland Heaths are gently rolling lowland landscapes that occur in several areas to the north of the Borough. They comprise areas of low lying, sandy soils which support mixed, high intensity farming.

The LCT comprises medium to large scale agricultural landscapes, which have evolved from extensive areas of open heathland and 'waste' (common rough pasture). The majority of agriculture here is arable.

Fields are generally rectilinear with thorn hedges, straight roads and scattered brick farmsteads. Hedgerow trees occur in places. Regular plantation woodlands form the most significant woodland component. Hedgerow trees are generally fairly sparse, although in some places linear bands of trees along water courses also make an important contribution. This pattern of tree cover creates a mixture of framed and lightly filtered views.

Settlement is generally limited to villages and their outskirts, with some isolated houses and farmsteads scattered across the landscape.

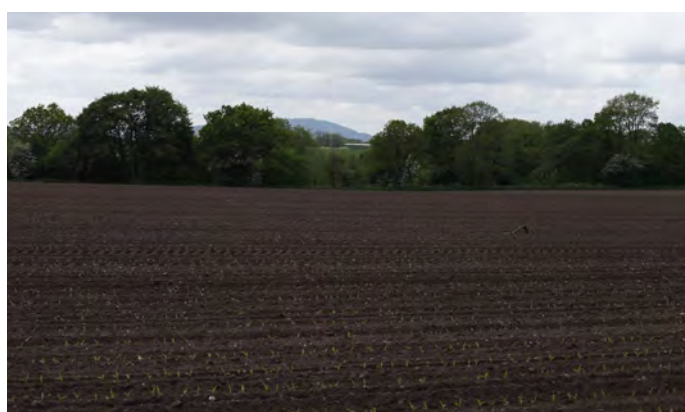
Representative Photographs



View towards Hoo Coppice from Park Lane in High Ercall



View across agricultural land from B5063 near Walton



View across agricultural land to the east of Bolas Heath



View across agricultural land in Bolas Heath

Key Characteristics

- Undulating lowland with sandy soils.
- Widespread agricultural land use, predominantly arable with some pasture.
- Limited woodland, however some blocks of ancient woodland do remain.
- Rural character, small villages with limited development outside of these.
- Rivers and their corridors provide more natural features within the landscape.
- Impoverished, freely draining soils.

Physical Influences

Topography, Geology and Drainage

Topography across the LCT is gently undulating, with a more prominent and varied landform in the north than in the flatter north-west.

The underlying bedrock geology of the majority of the LCT is interbedded sandstone and conglomerate, although to the west of High Ercall the bedrock geology is siltstone and sandstone with subordinate mudstone. There are also some areas in the north of the Borough where a superficial geology of diamicton is present.

The River Roden passes close to High Ercall. The River Meese passes through the northernmost section of the LCT, near to Stanford Bridge. Narrow strips of woodland provide a riparian buffer, separating the river from surrounding intensive agricultural land uses. The river is one of the few remaining

natural features in this area, which has been heavily altered by intensive agricultural use.

Land Use and Land Cover

Land use in the LCT is almost entirely agricultural, with the majority in arable use, alongside some areas of pasture. A mixture of pastoral, arable, market gardening and horsiculture surrounds High Ercall. Limited remnant areas of heath remain.

In places, areas of woodland break up the agricultural landscape, but these are largely limited in scale and extent.

This is already a heavily modified, intensively agricultural landscape which has lost a lot of natural features.

Woodland and Trees

There are some large blocks of woodland set within the wider agricultural landscape, particularly around Chetwynd Firs and High Ercall. However, for the most part woodland is limited in extent, with only small localised blocks.

There are denser areas of trees alongside watercourses, such as the River Meese and River Roden, where trees act as a riparian buffer separating the rivers from the wider, altered agricultural landscape.

Mature hedgerows are common along many of the rural roads. Hedgerow trees are generally oak with ash on wetter soils.

There are amenity trees around settlements such as High Erccall and occasional parkland.

Human Influences

Buildings and Settlement

In general the LCT is rural in character and is sparsely populated. There are occasional villages and hamlets scattered throughout the LCT with dispersed farmsteads and isolated dwellings, some of which appear to be of estate origin. A large proportion of the buildings display a red brick and tile vernacular. Development appears to be relatively consistent and static across the area, with limited recent development. The settlement pattern is still existing but being modified by intensive land use.

There is a significant extent of glasshouses at Erccall Heath and a large industrial building on Eaton on Tern airfield.

The A41 and B5062 are both major roads which

run through the LCT.

Heritage

There are many Listed Buildings within the settlements across this LCT, especially in the village of High Erccall, which include the Grade I listed Church of St Michael. There is also an associated Scheduled Monument, a standing cross in the churchyard. The historic core of High Erccall is designated as a Conservation Area.

Boundaries and Field Patterns

During the later 20th century, intensive arable cultivation replaced traditional mixed farming practices on many of the Enclosed Lowland Heaths, resulting in the enlargement of many fields.

There is generally a sub-regular field pattern with predominantly large fields, particularly around villages.

Field boundaries are often formed from thorn or mixed species hedgerows. They also often include large hedgerow trees along field boundaries. In wetter areas, boundaries are formed by ditches/drains.

Recreation

Opportunities for recreation are limited to Public Rights of Way, which generally link settlements. These PRoW do not appear to be promoted in any way and are likely to be appreciated at the

community level.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Qualities

The relatively flat topography combined with the general lack of woodland creates a large scale landscape and there are many areas with far reaching views across Shropshire. In some places, views may be limited and framed by the presence of woodland.

With limited settlement and widespread agricultural use, the LCT has a rural character and can feel remote.

Key Sensitivities and Values

- A tranquil and rural area, with an open and exposed remote character and large skies.
- Absence of settlement and development, contributing to a remote character.
- A strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness.
- Working agricultural character.
- Ecologically important woodland, some of ancient origin.
- Narrow, rural lanes.
- Relatively isolated, strong rural character.
- The River Meese and its wooded boundary is the main remaining natural feature which is sensitive to change.

Guidance

Landscape Management

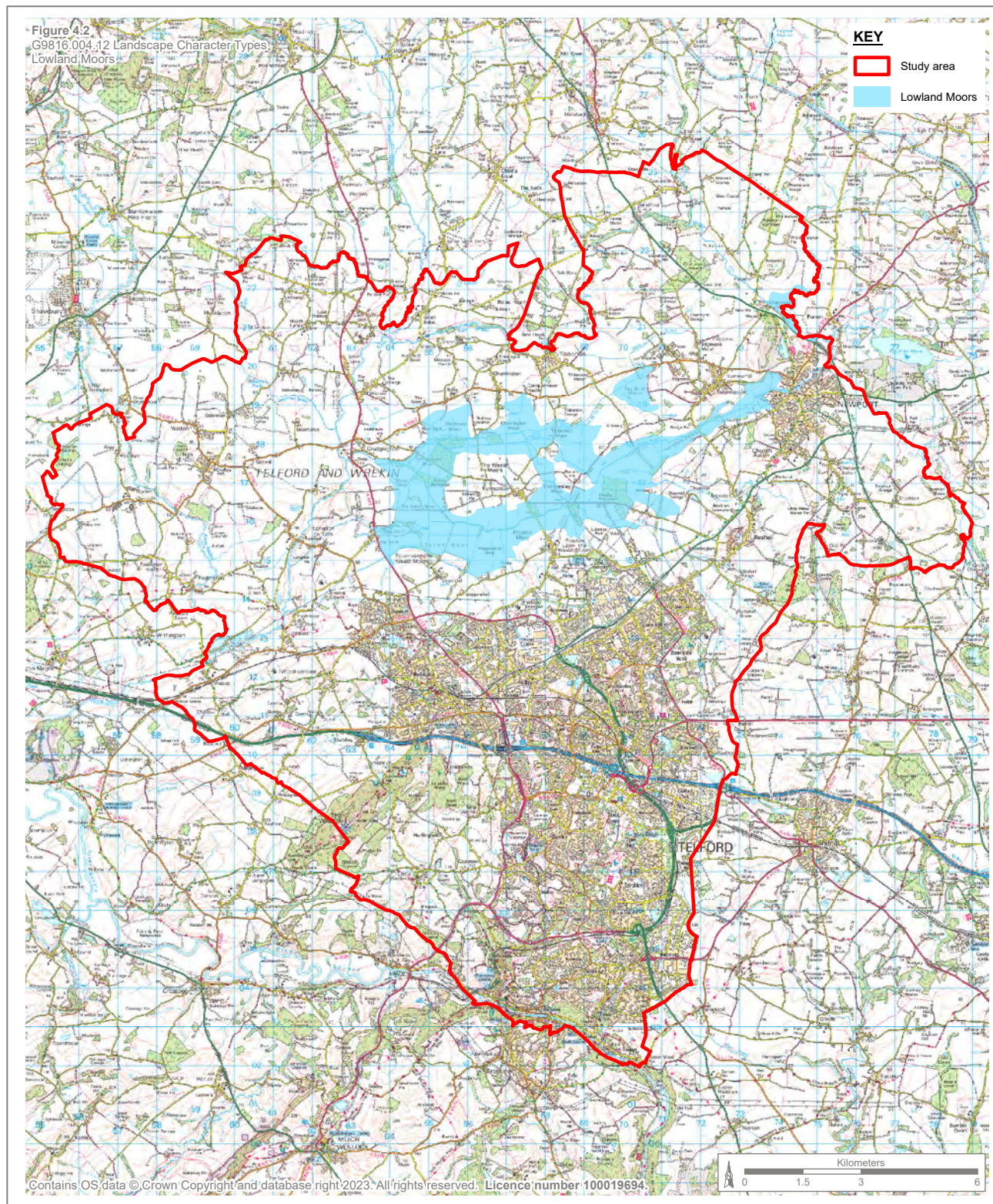
- Enhance fragmented field boundary hedgerows with native species, filling in gaps where possible.
- Keep woodland and trees in active management.
- Manage and enhance the ecological value of agricultural fields by encouraging the creation of uncultivated field margins.
- Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats, including hedgerows and woodland.
- Conserve the traditional agricultural use of the landscape.
- Explore possibilities for small-scale woodland creation in areas where it could enhance the landscape character and quality.

Development Management

- Conserve the overall sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape.
- Conserve the open landscape and avoid the introduction of large scale or incongruous elements.

- Conserve the sparse settlement pattern of small villages and hamlets.
- Conserve the local distinctiveness of historic buildings and their landscape setting.
- Where new developments are proposed, seek to create a well-structured landscape framework to define the edges of the new development and integrate settlement into the wider landscape.
- Conserve the distinct character and individual identities of settlements.

LCT Lowland Moors



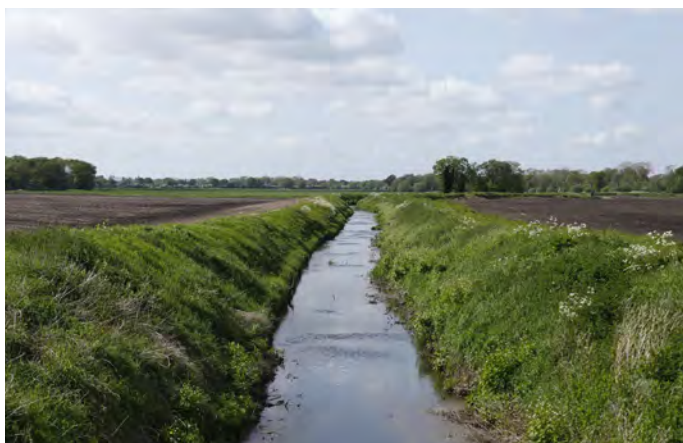
Location and Introduction

The Lowland Moors LCT is a low-lying, wet moorland situated to the north of Telford. The village of Kynnersley is in the centre of the area, and the village of Preston Upon the Weald Moors is in the south. The LCT mainly comprises the area surrounding the Weald Moors but extends along the Lowland Moors to Newport, to include a small section of landscape around the Birch Moors and Chetwynd Park.

The relative lack of settlement and historic integrity is a striking feature of the LCT. Agriculture is intense throughout the unit utilising a mixture of sandy and humic soils. Tree cover is mostly in the form of watercourse trees together with a few hedgerow trees and small woodland plantations.

The value of the landscape is recognised through its designation as part of The Weald Moors Strategic Landscape. This landscape is characterised by its combination of low-lying topography, wooded skylines, network of tree-lined streams and ditches, quiet rural lanes and relative lack of settlement.

Representative Photographs



The Strine Brook



Disused canal on the western edge of Newport



View towards The Wrekin from Dukes Drive



View across Tibberton Moor

Key Characteristics

- Flat, low-lying topography.
- Peaty soils.
- Wet ditches and drains.
- Open landscape with a strong rural character and limited built form.
- Long views across the Moors, sometimes framed by trees.
- Wooded skylines.
- A strong sense of place, with most of the area designated as part of the Weald Moors Strategic Landscape.

Physical Influences

Topography, Geology and Drainage

The LCT has an apparent and prominent flat to gently rolling topography, generally lying at approximately 55m AOD. The Lowland Moors are low-lying wetland landscapes, which occupy shallow hollows in the glacial drifts deposits. Raised 'islands' are generally occupied by villages. The flat peatland topography is a defining characteristic of this landscape.

The underlying bedrock geology of the area is sandstone and conglomerate overlaid by a superficial geology of diamicton to the north between Cruddington Moor and The Birch Moors and peat around Kynnersley Moor, The Duke's Drive, Eyton Moor and Wappenshall Moor, and at Chetwynd Park to the north of Newport. Other smaller areas of superficial geology include sand and gravel near Cheswell Grange and Longford.

As a wetland landscape, the Lowland Moors contain several watercourses including the River Strine to the north, Strine Brook to the north, west and south, Humber Brook to the south-east and Hurley Brook to the south-west. There is a reservoir to the south-west of the LCT adjacent to Hurley Brook.

The LCT features extensive natural and man-made aquatic habitats, with drainage ditches forming a skeletal network of man-made "natural features". The extensive drainage system is a strong feature of the character of the area.

Land Use and Land Cover

There is a mix of land use across the LCT. To the north of Telford, surrounding the Weald Moors, the land use is intensive farming utilising the deep humic soils. Over the years there has been a change from extensive pastoral systems to intensive mixed farming regimes.

Near Newport it is predominantly pastoral grazing on low grade agricultural land. The farmland drains into the mere in the Sandstone Hills LCT and the River Meese.

Patches of wet rough pasture survive where current land use is less intensive. Elsewhere relic patches of wetland vegetation can be found along roadside verges.

The intensity of agriculture together with ongoing drainage work is degrading the ecological integrity of the LCT.

The western section of the Newport Canal Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is within the LCT. This is a 2km disused canal which is one of the best examples in Shropshire for its range of submerged and broadleaved plant communities. There is a continuous narrow fringe of marginal swamp, and in some places areas of fen.

Woodland and Trees

Tree cover across the LCT includes willows along watercourses, scattered pollarded willows along the drainage ditches, regular blocks of estate broadleaved woodland plantations, and scattered ash hedgerow trees. The extent of tree cover varies, but it generally increases around watercourses. There are some small areas of amenity and shelter belt planting.

The section of LCT to the north of Newport around Chetwynd Park is a peatland area surrounded by woodland, with dense

watercourse trees along the River Meese.

Human Influences

Buildings and Settlement

The historical wetness of the soils means that the landscape remains largely devoid of settlements, and the few roads within the LCT were created as part of drainage schemes. The lack of settlement is a very prominent and unusual feature. A small number of wayside cottages and farmsteads are, however, present in some places. The settlement and road pattern of the LCT remains predominantly intact.

Heritage

Heritage designations within the Lowland Moors LCT include the Grade II Listed The White House on Newport Road to the north-east of the LCT and the Grade II Listed Lock Keeps Cottage near Eyton upon the Weald Moors. Wappenshall canal bridge is a Scheduled Monument.

Boundaries and Field Patterns

There is a regular pattern of medium scale fields across the LCT. Enclosure pattern is defined by drainage ditches in good condition and hedgerows along roadsides. The presence of an Internal Drainage Board means the ditches are well maintained although they are ecologically poor. Hedgerows are predominantly thorn and in poor condition.

Recreation

Recreation opportunities are limited, except for some Public Rights of Way which provide access across the LCT. These PRow are likely to be valued at the community level.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Qualities

The flat nature of the topography creates a large open feel to the landscape. Views are largely open across the LCT with long-distance views available towards The Wrekin and Erroll Hills and the Lilleshall Monument.

In some places views are filtered and shortened by woodland plantations and watercourse trees. These woodlands and watercourse trees are highly visible in the landscape due to the flat topography.

The combination of the medium-large scale and open views creates a secluded quality across the landscape. The landscape has a strong rural and isolated character.

There is some localised visual impact from the Rodway pumping station.

Key Sensitivities and Values

- The majority of the LCT is in the Weald Moors Strategic Landscape.
- A tranquil and rural area, with an open and exposed remote character and large skies.
- Absence of settlement and development, contributing to a remote character.
- Strong sense of place.
- Sense of tranquillity and remoteness.
- Long inward views across the Moors, often framed by trees.
- Working agricultural character.
- Narrow, rural lanes.
- Relatively isolated, strong rural character.

Guidance

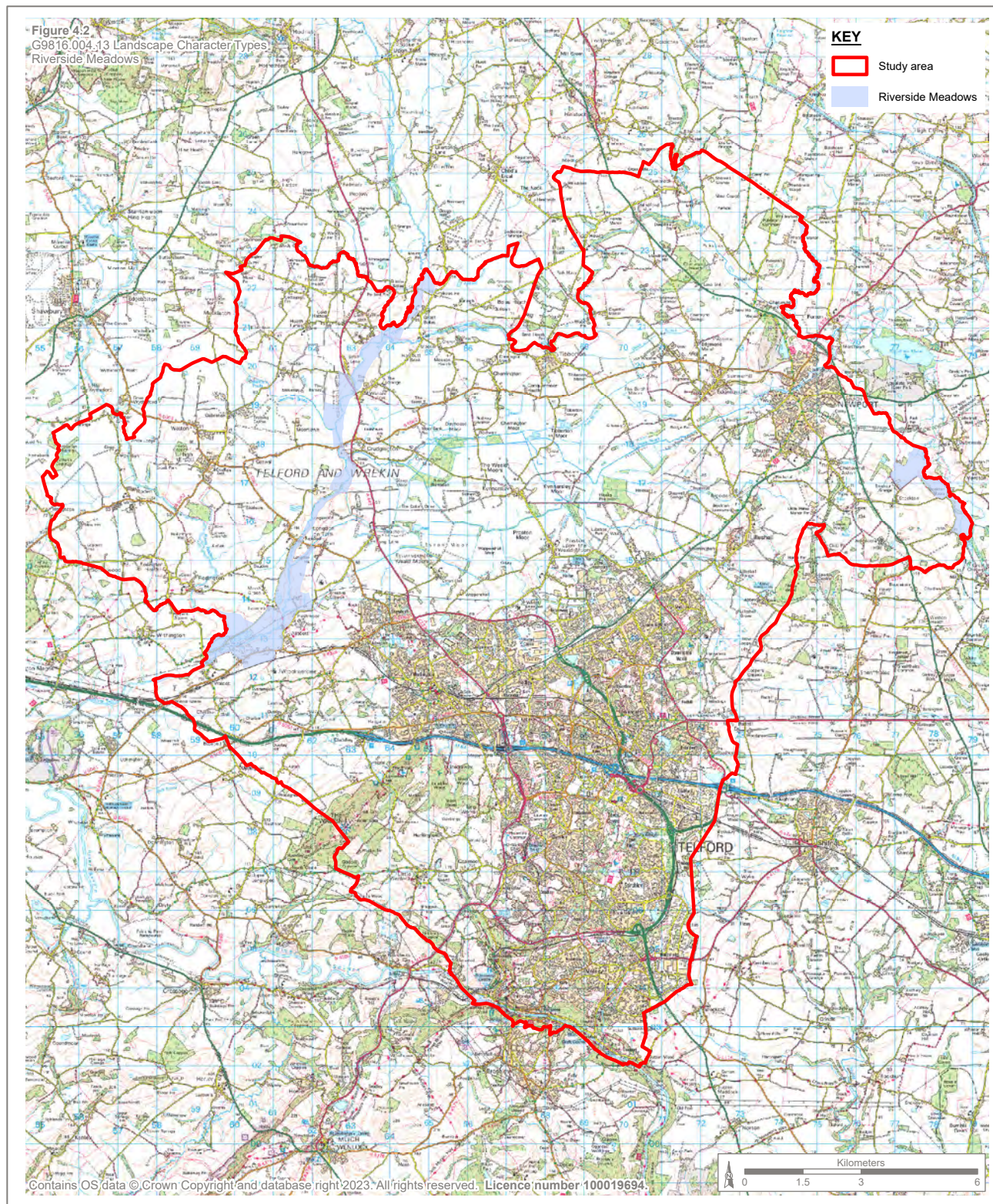
Landscape Management

- Keep woodland and trees in active management.
- Manage and enhance the ecological value of agricultural fields by encouraging the creation of uncultivated field margins.
- Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats, including woodland plantations and drainage ditches.
- Conserve and enhance the wooded character of the landscape through a woodland management regime.
- Conserve the traditional agricultural use of the landscape.
- Seek opportunities for field boundary restoration where hedgerows have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to increase the biodiversity value of watercourses and drainage ditches and their margins.

Development Management

- Conserve the overall sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape and resist applications for new residential development within the LCT.
- Conserve the character of rural lanes, including the roadside hedgerows.
- Ensure new agricultural buildings are sympathetic to their landscape setting in terms of their scale, siting, materials and design. They should be recessive in colour and materials, and should sit below the skyline to minimise their impacts in views.
- Avoid development within the LCT that would be visible on the horizon.

LCT Riverside Meadows



Location and Introduction

The Riverside Meadows LCT occurs in association with existing watercourses, including the River Tern between Great Bolas to the north and Allscott to the west of the borough, and Back Brook to the north-east of the borough.

Watercourses are flanked by extensive areas of waterside meadows defined by hedge and ditch boundaries, which are used for seasonal grazing within a predominantly pastoral farming system.

The removal of trees and hedgerows and the canalisation of the river has led to an increase in the scale of what must have originally been a small scale landscape.

Representative Photographs



View across the Riverside Meadows on the western edge of Newport



River Tern near Cold Hatton Heath



Flooded grazing meadows near Walcot



The River Tern and grazing meadows near Walcot

Key Characteristics

- Flat, floodplain topography.
- Pastoral land use with meadows prone to flooding.
- Linear belts of trees along watercourses.
- Hedge and ditch field boundaries.
- Lack of built form within the LCT.

Physical Influences

Topography, Geology and Drainage

The watercourses are intrinsic to the character of this landscape type and a network of brooks and drainage ditches are present throughout the LCT. The River Tern has been heavily canalised and has no bankside riparian habitat in many places, this means that the river is not discernible at a distance.

The bedrock geology is sandstone and conglomerate overlaid by areas of diamicton, sand and gravel in the western part of the LCT and clay, silt and sand in the east.

This is a flat, floodplain landscape with only minor undulations in landform.

Land Use and Land Cover

Along the River Tern land use is a mixture of dairying and arable production of root crops including sugar beet and potatoes. Towards the north-east of the Borough pastoral land use dominates. Riverside meadows are prone to flooding.

A section of the LCT near Isombridge and Alscott forms part of the Alscott Settling Ponds SSSI, which are a series of water-filled lagoons of various sizes and depths, which receive water from the adjacent sugar factory. In addition to the open water habitat of the lagoons, there are extensive areas of grassland, tall herb and scrub vegetation. The SSSI supports bird communities of county importance, and is particularly noted for overwintering birds including 25 species of wader and 19 of wildfowl. The Site is also important for its diversity of breeding populations.

Woodland and Trees

Tree cover comprises a linear pattern of trees, predominantly alders and willows, along watercourses, with scattered hedgerow and field trees.

Woodland cover is generally sparse and tends to be wet, alder dominated woods, together with estate game coverts and regular poplar

plantations.

The flatness of the landscape makes tree cover appear more significant.

Human Influences

Buildings and Settlement

Because of the frequency of flooding, the Riverside Meadows LCT remain largely unsettled, except for occasional mill buildings and small settlement clusters around bridging points. Small, clustered villages are sited on areas of raised ground on the peripheries of the LCT. The predominant building materials are red brick and tile.

Heritage

There are a small number of Listed Buildings in the LCT along the River Tern, including the Grade I Listed 'Shrewsbury Canal, Longdon Aqueduct (Aqueduct On The Shrewsbury Canal)' and Grade II Listed 'Bridge South West Of Longdon Aqueduct'. There are no other heritage designations in the LCT.

Boundaries and Field Patterns

Much of the enclosure pattern is dictated by watercourses.

Around the River Tern the underlying historic pattern of riverside meadows can still be distinguished in places, but has been heavily modified by intensive agriculture.

The condition of boundary features is variable comprising both hedges and ditches. The ditches are a notable and characteristic feature.

Around River Tern large numbers of hedgerows have been removed and those that remain are unmanaged. The roadside hedges are better maintained but are still gappy in places.

Recreation

Public access is limited, but the Shropshire Way long-distance footpath crosses the River Tern runs between Isombridge and Allscott. The PRoW are likely to be appreciated at the local level.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Qualities

This is a medium scale landscape, with some views framed by vegetation. The removal of trees and hedges has created long open views along the river valley.

The landscape retains a quiet and rural character, which at times can feel remote. There is a sense of calmness, stillness and peacefulness.

Key Sensitivities and Values

- Historic flood meadows.
- Absence of settlement and development, contributing to a remote character.
- Strong sense of place.
- Sense of tranquillity and remoteness.
- Ecologically important habitats.
- Relatively isolated, strong rural character.
- Some long, uninterrupted views across the wider landscape and river valley.

Guidance

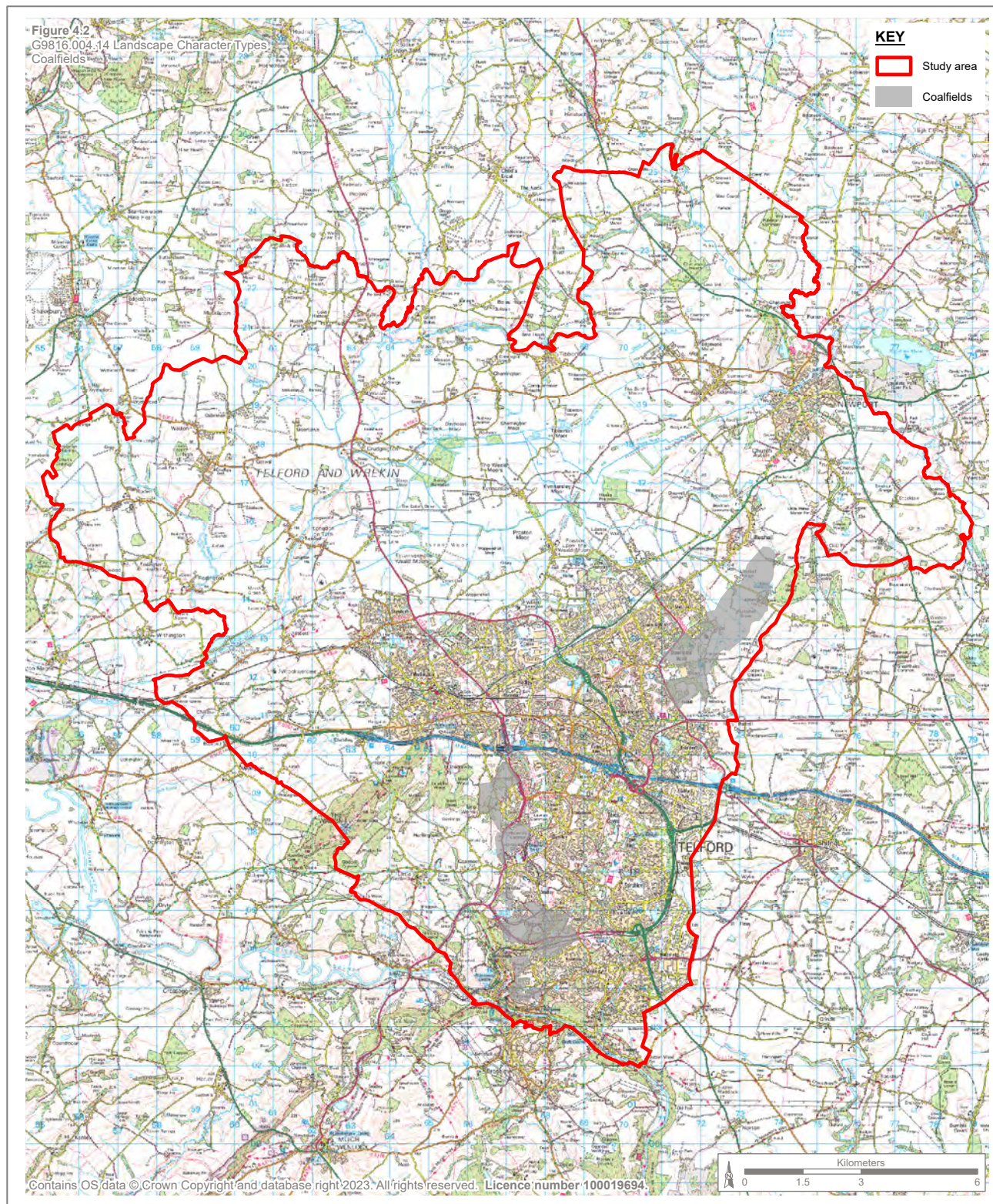
Landscape Management

- Seek opportunities for field boundary restoration where hedgerows have been lost.
- Enhance fragmented field boundary hedgerows with native species, filling in gaps where possible.
- Conserve and enhance the biodiversity interest associated with Allscott Settling Ponds SSSI.

Development Management

- Conserve the overall sparsely settled and rural character of the landscape by limiting development to small-scale proposals.
- Conserve the local distinctiveness of historic buildings and their landscape setting.
- Ensure that any new development is sympathetic to the character of existing settlement in terms of scale, materials and design.

LCT Coalfields



Location and Introduction

The Coalfields LCT occurs in two locations within the Borough, to west of Telford around Lightmoor and Horsehay Common, and to the north-east of Telford, near Donnington and Muxton and extending to Lilleshall Abbey. The LCT borders the existing urban area and the area has been historically utilised for mining and industrial operations, with some of these industrial uses are still evident in the landscape today.

Representative Photographs



View from Horsehay Common towards Telford



View across the Coalfields from Lilleshall Abbey



Granville Country Park



View towards Lawley Furnaces from permissive bridleway near New Works Lane

Key Characteristics

- Upstanding rolling plateau.
- Clear evidence of an industrial past, including large areas of reclaimed land and evidence of former coal mining.
- Dispersed pattern of small farms and wayside cottages, which is heavily influenced by the urban edge of Telford.

Physical Influences

Topography, Geology and Drainage

The Coalfield LCT occurs on an upstanding, gently rolling plateau formed of Carboniferous Coal Measures, which is overlain by heavy, poorly drained soils that once supported extensive areas of woodland and rough pasture. The landscape is gently undulating.

Whilst not a dominant landscape feature, ponds are frequent throughout this LCT and are often associated with former workings. Minor watercourses are common.

Land Use and Land Cover

Coal mining previously occurred throughout this landscape, creating large spoil tips, some of which now support heathland habitats.

The extensive reclamation of derelict industrial land, which occurred alongside the development of the new town, has resulted in widespread amenity planting on the site of former spoil tips, significantly increasing the

amount of tree cover.

Pastoral land use dominates, with many small horse paddocks. In some places the land is not actively managed with scrub vegetation starting to encroach.

To the north-east of Telford the Shropshire Golf Course and to the west Horsehay Village Golf Centre occupy a former mining areas.

This is an area of widespread landscape change. The decline in agricultural use has led to the decline of both hedgerows and open pasture and the landscape is generally in poor condition.

The LCT contains several Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) including Lightmoor LNR, Rough Park LNR, and part of Dawley Hamlets LNR to the south-west of Telford; Lodge Field LNR and The Beeches LNR to the south in Ironbridge; and Granville Country Park LNR to the north-east of Telford.

Woodland and Trees

Woodland is prominent throughout the LCT, although the majority is secondary amenity planting on the site of former ancient woodland sites. Woodland makes an important contribution to the character of the LCT.

Apart from the numerous recent amenity plantations, tree cover is largely restricted to hedgerow trees, with oak forming the dominant species.

Human Influences

Buildings and Settlement

Coal mining activity intensified during the mid-17th century, reaching a peak in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The local iron industry also grew rapidly during this period, and workers cottages and associated smallholdings were established on much of the remaining open common land.

The landscape has been modified by more recent housing developments on the edge of Telford and the construction of the associated urban road network.

Heritage

Designated heritage features are limited to Listed Buildings, which are scattered throughout the LCT and are generally associated with its industrial past.

Boundaries and Field Patterns

The field systems within this landscape type were created through the progressive clearance and enclosure of woodlands, and small encroachments on areas of former 'waste' (common rough pasture).

Hedgerows are generally in decline and in many locations have been replaced by post and rail and wire fencing. The species mix within the hedgerows is indicative of the areas woodland origins.

Recreation

Recreation opportunities include The Shropshire Golf Centre and Telford Equestrian Centre to the north-east of Telford; and Horsehay Village Golf Centre to the west of Telford.

Public Rights of Way pass through the landscape, including the Ironbridge Way long-distance footpath to the west of Telford.

Aesthetic and Perceptual Qualities

There is localised evidence of historical mining and industrial use in the form of buildings and spoil heaps, which provides a sense of time depth.

The landscape scale is intimate in most areas due to the small field size, tall hedges and large amount of woodland cover. Views are generally short distance and framed by woodland and

hedges. Where views are more open there are some views towards The Wrekin and Ercall Hills.

Any sense of tranquillity within the LCT is diminished by its proximity to Telford and its ongoing urban expansion which is having a direct adverse impact on the aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the LCT.

Key Sensitivities and Values

- Recreational value of the PRowWs, golf courses and LNRs.
- Ecologically important habitats.

Guidance

Landscape Management

- Conserve features which contribute to the sense of time-depth.
- Opportunities should be taken for the sympathetic planting, enhancement, and restoration of completed extraction sites.
- Conserve and enhance the biodiversity interest associated with the several LNRs across the LCT.
- Keep woodland and trees in active management.
- Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats, including woodland plantations, grassland and ponds.
- Explore possibilities for small-scale woodland creation in areas where it could enhance the landscape character and quality.

Development Management

- Protect the valued recreational use of the landscape, seeking opportunities to further enhance access and enjoyment of the landscape including the Right of Way network.
- Where new developments are proposed, seek to create a well-structured landscape framework to define the edges of the new development and integrate settlement into the wider landscape.
- Where possible, advance plant new trees and hedges around new development.
- Retain existing trees, hedges etc as part of the scheme.
- Ensure that any new development is sympathetic to the character of existing settlement in terms of scale, materials and design.

APPENDIX A - DATA SOURCES

The following documents were used to inform the Landscape Character Assessment:

- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment. Natural England, 2014.
- Edgmond Conservation Area Draft Management Plan, Telford and Wrekin Council, August 2009.
- European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176). Council of Europe, 2000.
- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition. Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013.
- High Ercall Conservation Area Draft Management Plan, Telford and Wrekin Council, November 2008.
- Horsehay & Spring Village Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, Telford and Wrekin Council, 2017.
- Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Supplementary Planning Document Consultation version. Telford and Wrekin Council, January 2023.
- Kynnersley Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan, Telford and Wrekin Council, 2022.
- Severn Gorge Conservation Area Management Plan. Donald Insall Associates, 2016.
- Shropshire Hills AONB Management Plan 2019 – 24. Shropshire Hills AONB, July 2019.
- Telford and Wrekin Strategic Landscapes Study. Fiona Fyfe Associates with Countryside and Douglas Harman Landscape Planning, December 2015.
- The Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Management Plan. Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site, February 2017.
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, July 2021.
- Wellington Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, Telford and Wrekin Council, 2022.
- Wrockwardine Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Proposals, Telford and Wrekin Council, 2015.

APPENDIX B - GLOSSARY

Agricultural Land Classification – A system used in England and Wales to grade the quality of land for agricultural use, according to the extent by which physical or chemical characteristics impose long-term limitations. The system classifies land into five grades with 1 being the highest quality land and 5 being the lowest.

Ancient Woodland – Woods that have existed since at least AD 1600 and have developed irreplaceable, complex ecosystems.

AOD – Above Ordnance Datum.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – A statutory national landscape designation.

Biodiversity – All the different kinds of life you'll find in one area—the variety of animals, plants, fungi, and even microorganisms like bacteria that make up our natural world.

Carboniferous Period – A geologic period that spans 60 million years from the end of the Devonian Period 358.9 million years ago, to the beginning of the Permian Period, 298.9 million years ago.

Condition – The degree to which a landscape is soundly managed, is fit for purpose or achieves optimum biodiversity.

Conservation Area – An area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

Designated Landscape – Areas of landscape identified as being of importance at international, national or local levels, either defined by statute or identified in development plans or other documents.

European Landscape Convention (ELC) – An international treaty dedicated to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe.

Elements – Individual parts which make up the landscape, such as trees, hedge and buildings.

Features – Particularly prominent or eye catching elements, like tree clumps, church towers, or wooded skylines.

Geographical Information System (GIS) – A system that captures, stores, analyses, manages and presents data linked to a location. It links spatial information to a digital database.

GLVIA3 – Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (2013) produced by the Landscape Institute (LI) and

HEMA.

Gorge – A narrow valley with rocky, steep walls that was created by the weathering and erosion of a river.

Green Infrastructure (GI) – Strategic networks of accessible, multifunctional sites (including parks, woodland, informal open spaces, nature reserves and historic sites) as well as linkages (such as river corridors and floodplains, wildlife corridors and greenways). These contribute to people's well-being, and together comprise a coherent managed resource responsive to evolving conditions.

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) – The identification and interpretation of the historic dimension of the present day landscape within a given area.

Horsiculture – A term used to describe areas on the fringes of settlements which are dominated by equestrian related uses.

Key Characteristics – Those combinations of elements which are particularly important to the current character of the landscape and help to give an area its particularly distinctive sense of place.

Land Cover – The surface cover of the land, usually expressed in terms of vegetation cover or lack of it. Related to but not the same as land use.

Land Use – What land is used for, based on broad categories of functional land cover such as urban and industrial use and the different types of agriculture and forestry.

Landform – Combinations of slope and elevation, the producer shape and form of the land.

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

Landscape Character – Landscape is about the relationship between people and the land, a combination of distinctive and valued natural and cultural elements, which extend to seascapes and the built environment.

Landscape Character Assessment – A tool for identifying the features that give a locality its 'sense of place' and pinpointing what makes it different from its neighbouring areas. In the context of the European Landscape Convention it is an essential tool for identifying and understanding what makes landscapes important.

Landscape Character Type (LCT) – These are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage

patterns, vegetation, historical land use, and settlement pattern.

Listed Building – A building, object or structure that has been judged to be of national importance in terms of architectural or historic interest.

Local Development Framework (LDF) – The Local Development Framework is a non-statutory term used to describe a folder of documents, which includes all the local planning authority's Local Development Documents. An LDF is comprised of Development Plan Documents (which form part of the statutory development plan) and Supplementary Planning Documents.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR) – A protected area of land designated by a local authority because of its special natural interest and/or educational value.

Local Wildlife Site (LWS) – Wildlife-rich sites selected for their local nature conservation value.

National Character Area (NCA) – National Character Areas are defined within the National Character Area Study, Natural England (2013). NCAs divide England into 159 distinct areas.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – The document which sets out the Government's

economic, environmental and social planning policies for England.

Perception – Combines the sensory (that we receive through our senses) with the cognitive (our knowledge and understanding gained from sources and experiences).

Permian Period – A geologic period which spans 47 million years from the end of the Carboniferous Period 298.9 million years ago, to the beginning of the Triassic Period 251.9 million years ago.

PPG – Planning Practice Guidance.

PRoW – Public Right of Way. A right by which the public can pass along linear routes over land at all times.

Ramsar Site – Wetlands of international importance that have been designated under the criteria of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands for containing representative, rare or unique wetland types or for their importance in conserving biological diversity.

Registered Park and Garden (RPG) – Nationally important gardens, grounds and other planned designed landscapes given legal protection by being placed on a list, or 'register'.

Scheduled Monument (SM) – Nationally important sites and monuments given legal

protection by being placed on a list, or 'schedule'.

Secondary Woodland – Woodland that has developed through natural processes on land previously cleared of trees.

Sense of Place – The unique experience that arises as a result of being in or walking through a particular locality, generally as a response to the specific characteristics and quality of the area.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – A formal conservation designation. Usually, it describes an area that's of particular interest to science.

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – Land designated under Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Strategic Landscape – Areas of high landscape quality or visual amenity. A Borough level policy that protects the appearance and intrinsic landscape quality of these areas.

Superficial Geology – Also known as drift deposits, these are the youngest geological deposits formed during the most recent period of geological time, the Quaternary. They rest on older deposits or bedrock.

Tranquillity – A sense of calm and quietude associated with peace, considered to be a significant asset of landscape.

Veteran Tree – A tree which shows ancient characteristics such as a low, fat and squat shape, a wide trunk compared with others of the same species, or hollowing of the trunk.

World Heritage Site (WHS) – A natural or cultural site that demonstrates influence or significance in a global context, has Outstanding Universal Value, and is inscribed on the World Heritage List by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee.

APPENDIX C - FIELD SURVEY SHEET

Landscape Character Assessment Field Survey Sheet

Site Location:				Grid Reference:					
Photo viewpoint reference(s):									
LANDFORM / TOPOGRAPHY: PROMINENT/ INSIGNIFICANT									
Flat Undulating Rolling Steep Vertical		Plain Rolling Lowland Plateau Scarp / Cliffs / Ridge Hills Mountains			Deep Gorge Broad Valley Narrow Valley Floodplain Estuary Coastal				
LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS:									
Built Form									
Scattered Farms	Village	Urban	Urban Fringe	Industry	Military	Ecclesiastic	Country Houses	Farm buildings	Estates
Hamlet	Isolated house	Brick	Sandstone	Slate	Concrete	Render	Granite	Metal	Timber
Prominent		Insignificant		Frequent		Infrequent		Strong influence on landscape character	
Land Cover									
Parkland	Amenity / recreation	Scrub	Marsh	Bog	Moor / heath	Meadow	Agriculture	Rough Grassland	Forestry
Woodland	Horticulture	Horsiculture	Active Quarry	Coast	mudflats	saltmarsh	sea	Restored land	Rock outcrops
Disused Quarry	Wetland meadow	Derelict Land	Bare ground	Golf Course	Caravan Park	Informal open space	Other:		
Prominent		Insignificant		Frequent		Infrequent		Strong influence on landscape character	
Woodland /Trees									
Deciduous woodland	Coniferous plantation	Mixed Woodland	Shelterbelt	Hedgerow trees	Orchard	Copse	Coppice	Isolated trees	Avenue
Parkland	Clumps	Scattered trees	Linear strips	Regenerating scrub	Pollarded trees	Plantation	Other:		
Ages of Trees:	Veteran	Over mature	Mature	Young mature	Young	Newly Planted	Deadwood Apparent	Other:	
Dominant species:									
Prominent		Insignificant		Frequent		Infrequent		Strong influence on landscape character	
Hydrology									
River – natural	River– engineered	Stream	Drainage ditch/ dyke	Reservoir	Lake	Pond– natural	Pond– man made	Wetland	Coast
Estuary	Mudflats	Other:							
Prominent		Insignificant		Frequent		Infrequent		Strong influence on landscape character	
Communications									
Motorway	A Roads	B Roads / Lanes	Access track	Public Footpaths	Railway	Disused railway	Overhead lines	Telegraph poles	Cycleway
Bridleways	Masts	Bare ground							
Prominent		Insignificant		Frequent		Infrequent		Strong influence on landscape character	
AESTHETIC / PERCEPTUAL ASPECTS:									
Scale Intimate Small Large Vast Enclosure Tight Enclosed Open Exposed Diversity Uniform Simple Diverse Complex Form Vertical Sloping Rolling Horizontal Balance Harmonious Balanced Discordant Chaotic					Unity Unified Interrupted Fragmented Chaotic Pattern Random Organised Regular Formal Movement Dead Still Calm Busy Tranquillity Inaccessible Remote Vacant Peaceful Not tranquil				

Site Location:		Grid Reference:			
Key Characteristics and Distinctive Features (Brief Description):					
Visual Landmarks Viewing points(Location on map):					
Landmark Views within character area	Landmark views outside character area	Landmark buildings	Landmark natural features		
Detracting features within view:					
Extent of view:	Open	Enclosed	Short distance views	Long distance views	Expansive
Settlement form and setting within the landscape:					
Architecture (incl. vernacular style/local materials):					
Landscape Condition:	Poor	Moderate	Strong		
Strength of character:	Weak	Moderate	Strong		
Landscape Pressures / Possible management guidelines					

APPENDIX D - BOROUGH OVERVIEW

This chapter summarises the physical and cultural elements that have shaped the landscape of Telford and Wrekin Borough. The Landscape Character Types (LCTs) described later in this assessment share common elements of these characteristics.

The region's landscape has been formed by a combination of physical and cultural influences, through the interaction of nature and human actions. Components such as geology and landform, combined with settlement and land use, are essential determinants of landscape character.

Telford and Wrekin offers a diverse range of landscapes, including the unique, wooded and distinctive hills of The Wrekin and The Ercall within the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), areas of large-scale intensive farmland and the low lying landscapes of the Weald Moors.

Physical Influences

Geology and Soils

Figure 5 illustrates the bedrock (or solid) geology that underlies the Borough. Figure 6 shows the superficial (or drift) geology formed during the Quaternary period.

North

In the northern section of the Borough, the bedrock geology largely comprises sandstone and conglomerate, interbedded, as part of the Bridgnorth Sandstone Formation. This sedimentary bedrock was formed between 298 and 272 million years ago during the Permian Period.

North-West

There is a small section to the north-west corner of the Borough around Roden, Poynton and High Ercall where the bedrock geology is different. Here, the bedrock forms part of the Salop Formation, which is siltstone and sandstone with subordinate mudstone, formed in the Carboniferous and Permian periods. This area is overlain by bands of diamicton, peat, clay, clay, silt and sand, and sand and gravel. The soils here are freely draining slightly acid sandy soils.

North-East

The area surrounding Lilleshall to the north-east has a bedrock geology of siltstone and sandstone with subordinate mudstone, an area of Limestone with subordinate sandstone and argillaceous rocks, an area of mudstone, siltstone, sandstone, coal, ironstone and ferricrete and another area of lava and tuff. This area is partly overlain with diamicton and clay. The soils here are mainly free draining slightly acid loamy soils.

Central and South

The central and southern sections of the Borough, comprising the urban area of Telford have a mixed bedrock geology of mudstone, siltstone, sandstone, coal, ironstone and ferricrete, and siltstone and sandstone with subordinate mudstone. This area is partly overlain with bands of sand and gravel and diamicton, with a small area of superficial geology of clay, silt and sand near Ironbridge to the south of the Borough. The soils here are predominantly loam with some clay.

West and South-West

The area of the Borough to the west and south-west has a varied bedrock geology. The Wrekin and Ercall hills and the area around Leaton and Wrockwardine have a bedrock of volcanic lava and tuff. The area surrounding Ironbridge to the south and Cluddley and Orleton Park to the north have a siltstone and sandstone with subordinate mudstone bedrock geology. The northern flanks of the Wrekin is formed by sandstone and conglomerate, interbedded and the southern flanks and the area surrounding Coalbrookdale is formed by mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. The area to the south-west around Little Wenlock, Holbrook Coppice and Huntington is formed by sections of sandstone, limestone and argillaceous rocks, mudstone, siltstone, sandstone, coal, ironstone and ferricrete, and mafic lava. This area as a whole is partly overlain by some areas of clay,

sand and gravel, and diamicton. Here there are freely draining acid loamy soils over rock.

Topography & Hydrology

Figures 7 and 8 illustrate the topography and watercourses within the Borough of Telford and Wrekin, which are closely related to the underlying geology.

Telford and Wrekin exhibits a wide variety of different landforms, from the low-lying wetland moors to the north, rolling farmland to the north-west, north and north-east, The Wrekin and Ercall Hills and Shropshire Hills to the south-west and the wooded gorge landform to the south.

Generally, the undulating farmland landscape across the northern section of the Borough lies between 50m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and 80m AOD, with some localised points where the land rises steeply, such as Lilleshall Hill at 132m AOD, Pulseton Hill at 118m AOD and Chetwynd Park at 129m AOD.

The land rises to the south around Telford, rising from 70m AOD to the north to around 165m at Telford Central and further rising to over 200m AOD at Dawley Bank and Heath Hill. In comparison to the Telford settlement, the Newport settlement to the north-east lies at between 70m AOD and 80m AOD.

To the south-west and south of the Borough

the land rises very steeply to form part of the Shropshire Hills AONB. The Wrekin is the highest point within the Borough, with the summit reaching 407m AOD. Also within this area is the Ercall and Maddocks Hill at 265m AOD, and Lawrence's Hill at 231m AOD. The village of Little Wenlock to the south of this area lies at around 230m AOD.

The land then slopes southwards towards the Coalbrookdale, Ironbridge and Coalport areas, which are on the river valley sides at between 70m AOD and 100m AOD. The River Severn valley floor forms the lowest topography within the Borough, typically ranging between 40m and 50m AOD.

There are numerous main watercourses running through the Borough, these include the River Severn, the River Tern, River Meese and River Roden. The River Meese is a tributary of the River Tern and runs east across the northern section of the Borough from the north of the Borough to near Chetwynd Park on the north-eastern boundary of the Borough. The River Tern runs north to south-west across the north-western section of the Borough from near Cold Hatton Heath to Walcot. The River Roden flows south-east through the Borough from Poynton to where it meets the River Tern at Walcot. The River Severn flows north-west to south-east in the southern most section of the Borough, and is associated with the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site.

Biodiversity

There are numerous ecological designations within Telford and Wrekin Borough, and these are generally concentrated to the south of the Borough. Such designations exist at the International, National and Local (Borough) Level. Figure 9 illustrates the ecological designations in the Borough. Each relevant designated site is identified and described in the individual LCT profiles.

There are no Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar Sites (international level designations) within the Borough.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are national level designations. There are seven SSSI's in the Borough which are designated for their biological and geological importance. These include Newport Canal SSSI to the north-east in Newport, Muxton Marsh SSSI and New Hadley Brickpit in the urban area of Telford, Allscott Settling Ponds SSSI on the western borough boundary, and The Wrekin and The Ercall SSSI, Lydebrook Dingle SSSI, Lincoln Hill SSSI and the northernmost section of the Tick Wood and Benthall Edge SSSI to the south-west of the Borough.

There are 17 Local Nature Reserves (LNR) in the central and southern sections of the Borough. These are either within the urban

area of Telford or in the surrounding woodland and farmland areas to the east and south-west of the town. There are an additional six sites awaiting to be formally designated as LNRs

There are over 70 local wildlife sites and local geological sites in the Borough which cover a wide range of habitats including ancient woodland, lowland hay meadows, wetland flushes, grasslands and rivers and streams.

Landscape Designations

The Shropshire Hills AONB, designated in 1958 in recognition of its natural beauty, lies along the Borough boundary and makes up most of the uplands area in Shropshire. It is a rolling upland landscape characterised by hills, farmlands, woods rivers and villages and is best known for The Wrekin.

The northernmost section of the AONB extends into Telford and Wrekin Borough, encompassing the area surrounding The Wrekin, The Ercall and Limekiln Wood.

The special qualities of the AONB include its:

- Diversity and Contrast;
- Hills;
- Farmed Countryside;
- Woodlands;
- Rivers and River Valleys;
- Geology;
- Wildlife;

- Heritage;
- Scenic and environmental quality;
- Tranquillity; and
- Culture and Opportunities for Enjoyment.

Several LCTs identified are within the AONB, including the High Volcanic Hills and Slopes LCT, Principal Wooded Hills LCT, the Wooded Hills and Farmlands LCT and the Wooded Hills and Estatelands LCT.

The Telford and Wrekin Local Plan identifies two areas within the Borough as Strategic Landscapes, these are the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape to the south-west of the Borough, and the Weald Moors Strategic Landscape to the north of the urban area of Telford (see Figure 10).

The Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape is characterised by its extensive woodland, ancient road and settlement patterns, long history with farming and industry, important component of local and regional identity, outstanding views and access and recreation opportunities.

The Weald Moors Strategic Landscape is characterised by its combination of low-lying topography, wooded skylines, network of tree-lined streams and ditches, quiet rural lanes and lack of settlement within its boundaries.

Policy NE 7 (Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Strategic Landscapes) in The Telford and Wrekin Local Plan 2011-2031, seek to protect these landscapes from development which would cause detrimental change to the quality of the landscape. These areas have been given the highest level of protection in the Borough.

Woodland

Woodland is common throughout the Borough and is a key characteristic of several identified LCTs, particularly to the west of Telford.

Ancient woodland habitats are predominantly found in the western section of the Borough, to the west of Telford, particularly around the Wrekin and Ercall Hills, Limekiln Wood, Coalbrooke and Ironbridge. There are some small and isolated ancient woodland habitats to the north-west of the Borough near High Ercall and Roden, and to the east near Lilleshall. Figure 9 shows the ancient woodland habitats across the Borough.

Telford & Wrekin Borough Council aspires to establish the Borough as a Forest Community which will protect, manage and enhance its natural environment and green spaces to support stronger communities by enhancing people's accessibility to nature and to help address climate change and declines in biodiversity. The Forest Community will frame future place making within the Borough.

Human Influences

Historic

The Shropshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment provides the historic and archaeological character of the whole landscape of Shropshire, including Telford and Wrekin Borough. Historic Landscape Character (HLC) types of the Borough include colliery around the current urban area of Telford, and predominantly piecemeal enclosure and reorganised piecemeal enclosure across the Borough. Other HLC types include floodplain marshes and drained wetland around the Weald Moors area, and areas of planned enclosure, parks and gardens, unimproved enclosed hill pasture and other large fields. In terms of current HLC types across the Borough, the settlement and urban area of Telford predominantly comprises post-1880s settlement, with some areas of pre-1880s settlement and historic settlement core types to the west, north and north-east of Telford. A large amount of the northern section of the Borough comprises very large post-war field, and areas of piecemeal enclosure and reorganised piecemeal enclosure. To the west and south-west of the Borough, the current HLC type is more varied and includes broadleaved ancient woodland, broadleaved woodland with sinuous boundaries and small irregular fields.

In terms of heritage designations, there are several Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Park and Gardens,

Conservation Areas and one World Heritage Site within Telford and Wrekin Borough (see Figure 11) as described below.

The Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site (IGWHS) lies to the south of the Borough and was designated as a World Heritage Site (WHS) in 1986 and is a world-renowned symbol of the birth of the Industrial Revolution. A combination of readily accessible mineral resources, managed woodland cover and the presence of the River Severn enabled the development of coal and iron industries from the medieval period onwards here. The Iron Bridge, designed and engineered by Thomas Farnolls Pritchard and Abraham Darby III, is the only substantial iron road bridge to survive from the 18th century. It was universally accepted at the time of its construction that it was the first of its kind.

The extent of the World Heritage Site also forms the extent of the Severn Gorge Conservation Area. The five main sites of archaeological and historical interest of the Conservation Area include Coalbrookdale, Ironbridge, Hay Brook Valley, Coalport and Jackfield. There are seven other Conservation Areas within the Borough, these include Edgmond, High Ercall, Horsehay and Spring Village, Kynnersley, Newport, Wellington and Wrockwardine.

There are twenty-six Scheduled Monuments

scattered across the Borough. This includes:

- The Ironbridge and Bedlam Furnaces to the south;
- Lilleshall Abbey to the east;
- Wappenshall canal bridge (on the Shropshire Union Canal) to the north of Telford; and
- Large multivallate and univallate hillforts, a round barrow, a Late Bronze Age settlement and WWII military remains, on The Wrekin to the west of the Borough.

There are numerous Grade I, Grade II* and Grade II Listed Buildings are scattered across the Borough. These are often clustered in towns and villages, such as Newport, Edgmond, Lilleshall, High Ercall, Eyton upon the Weald Moors, Preston upon the Weald Moors, Roddington, Wellington, Wrockwardine and Little Wenlock. In particular, there are large clusters of Listed Buildings in and around Coalbrookdale, Ironbridge and Madeley.

Registered Park and Gardens include Grade II Chetwynd Park to the north-east near Newport, Grade II Lilleshall Hall to the east of Lilleshall Village, and Grade II Orleton Hall to the west of Wellington within the urban area of Telford.

Land Use

Land use differs across the Borough and often reflects the topography and soil types described above. The land use in the urban

settlements of Telford and Newport largely comprise residential, commercial and mixed use. The outskirts of Telford include recreational opportunities including golf courses and Local Nature Reserves. Land use to the north-east, north and north-west of the Borough predominantly comprises arable and pasture farming, with smaller villages comprising residential development and some areas commercial development. There are also some former areas of farmland and grassland that now comprise solar development, for example in Wappenshall, Donnington Wood, Rushmoor and Allscott. Land use to the west and south-west, particularly within the Wrekin Forest Strategic Landscape and the Ironbridge World Heritage Site is largely woodland and development is limited due to policy protection.

In terms of Agricultural Land Classification, the settlement areas of Telford and Newport are either in urban or non-agricultural use (see Figure 12). Other areas of non-agricultural use include the area surrounding the Wrekin and Ercall Hills in the Shropshire Hills AONB. The agricultural land surrounding this area, as well as to the south around Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge and in part of the Weald Moors, is classified as Grade 4 agricultural land, which is poor quality agricultural land. Other agricultural land to the west of the Borough, including around Little Wenlock, is classified as Grade 3 agricultural land which is good to moderate agricultural land. In the northern section of the Borough, some areas such as

around Wrockwardine, High Ercall, Waters Upton, Tibberton, Lilleshall and Howle are also classified Grade 3 agricultural land. Smaller areas including in and around Longdon on Tern, Eyton upon the Weald Moors, Cherrington, Edgmond and Church Aston are classified as Grade 2, which is very good agricultural land

Settlements

The settlement pattern varies across the Borough. The main settlement areas include the town of Telford which comprises a large urban area in the central and southern sections of the Borough, and the market town of Newport to the north-east. In the farmland and agricultural areas surrounding these settlements, the settlement pattern is scattered with both large and small villages and hamlets and isolated wayside cottages and farmstead.

Infrastructure

Main infrastructure routes within the Borough include the M54 motorway which intersects the urban area of Telford west-east across the central section of the Borough. The M54 adjoins the A5 to the west, which is a major route that connects Shrewsbury and Telford. Other A roads include the A41 which passes through the north-eastern corner of the Borough, the A518 which connects Newport with the northern part of Telford, and the A442 which runs through the south-eastern area of Telford, connecting

the northern section of Telford with Bridgnorth outside of the Borough boundary to the south

The Wolverhampton to Shrewsbury Line runs north-west to south-east across the Borough, with train stations at Wellington, Oakengates and Telford Central.

Overhead lines, pylons, transmission lines and poles cross the urban, semi-rural and rural landscapes of the Borough.

The Silkin Way is a 22.5km long key active and green travel route for walkers and cyclists between Bratton and Coalport, connecting north and south Telford.

Perceptual

Away from the main settlements of Telford and Newport, and main roads including the M54, A5, A442 and A518, many parts of the Borough enjoy high levels of tranquillity. The areas of highest tranquillity are concentrated to the north-west, north and north-west of the Borough, as illustrated on Figure 13.

Light Pollution and Dark Skies

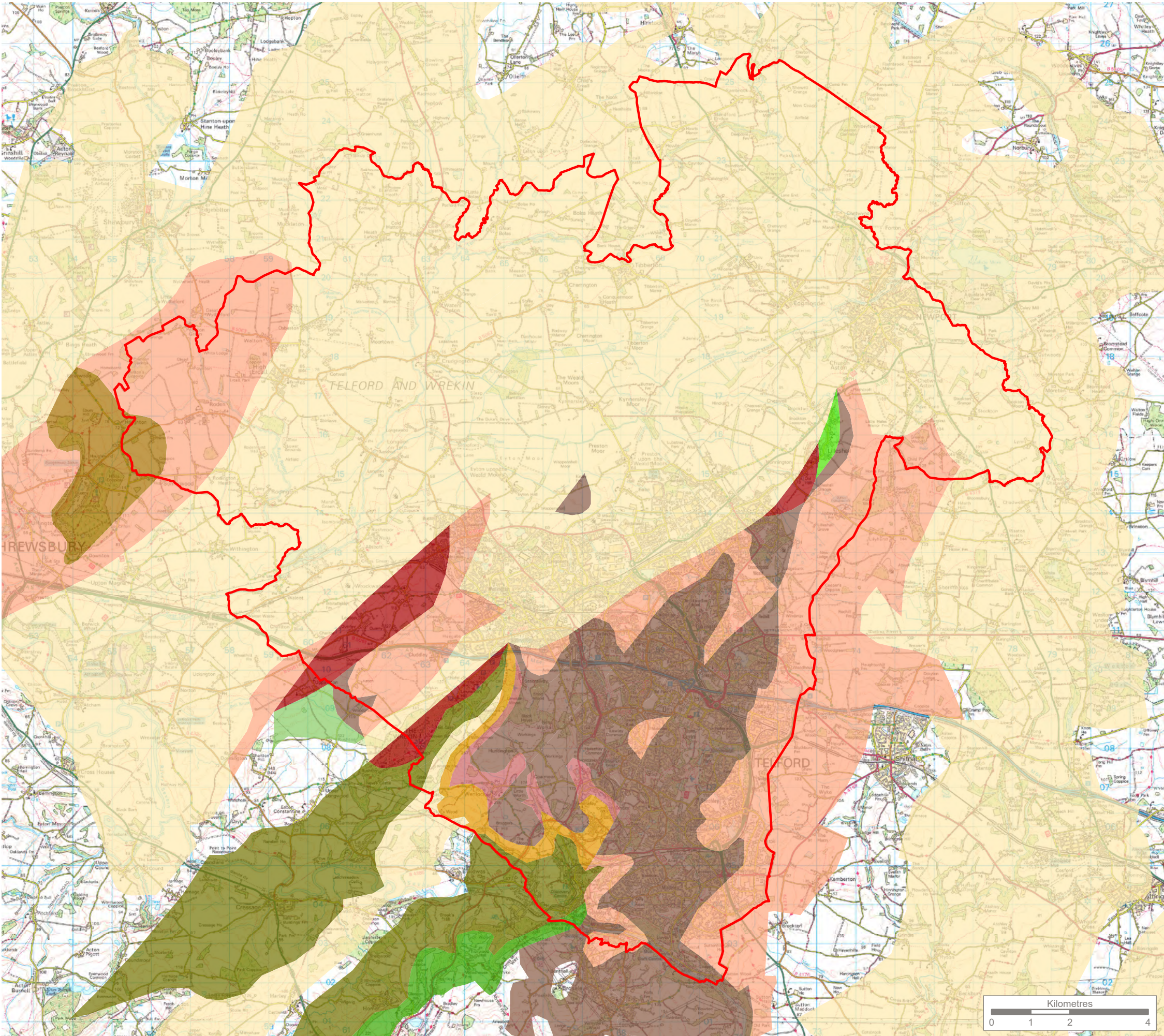
Telford and Wrekin Borough is the 165th darkest district out of the 326 within England (CPRE, 2016). The levels of light pollution and dark night skies within The Borough have

been mapped by CPRE are shown on Figure 14. Light pollution is concentrated around the Borough's main settlements, Telford and Newport, with night lights generally being between 8-16 and 16-32 Nanowatts/cm²/sr in these areas. Night lights are at their brightest, >32 (Brightest) Nanowatts/cm²/sr in the Telford Central, Hollinswood, Stafford Park and Halesfield areas of Telford. This light pollution decreases with distance from these settlements.

There are several areas of dark night skies within the Borough in the Howle, Sambrook and Pickstock area to the north-east, in Weald Moors and surrounding areas to the north, in the Poynton, Rodington and Longdon-upon-Tern areas to the north-west and around The Wrekin in the south-west. Less than 0.6% of the Borough experience the darkest night skies (<0.25 (Darkest) Nanowatts/cm²/sr) free from interference with artificial light, which is in the area around Bolas Heath to the north and Deepdale Farm to the north-east.

Landscape Change

The principal changes to the landscape and Telford and Wrekin Borough since 2006 has been the loss of open countryside to accommodate new housing and infrastructure, particularly on the edges of Telford and Newport.



KEY

Study area

Lithology

Lava and tuff

Limestone with subordinate sandstone and argillaceous rocks

Limestone, mudstone and calcareous mudstone

Mafic lava

Metalimestone

Mudstone, sandstone and conglomerate

Mudstone, siltstone and sandstone

Mudstone, siltstone, sandstone, coal, ironstone and ferricrete

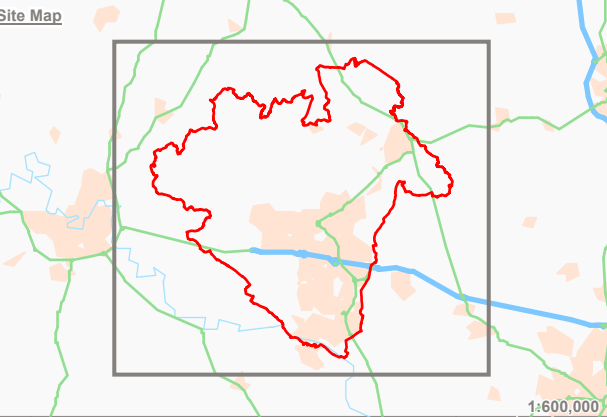
Sandstone and conglomerate, interbedded

Sandstone, limestone and argillaceous rocks

Siltstone and sandstone with subordinate mudstone

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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

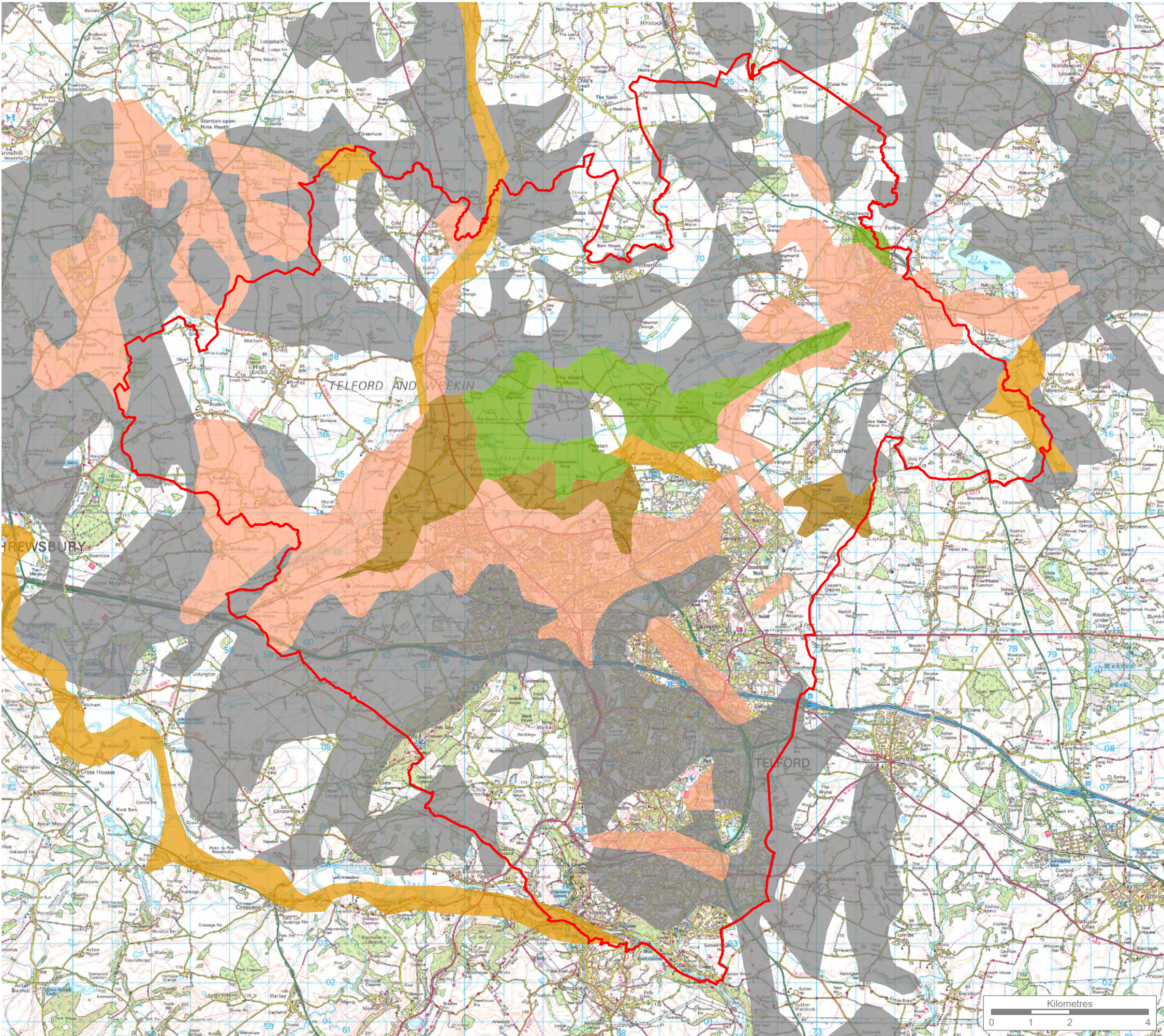
Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH
Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project
Telford and Wrekin Landscape Study

Title
Figure 5 Bedrock Geology

Drawing Number
G9816.005

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	MK	LF	1:100,000 @ A3	10/07/2023



KEY

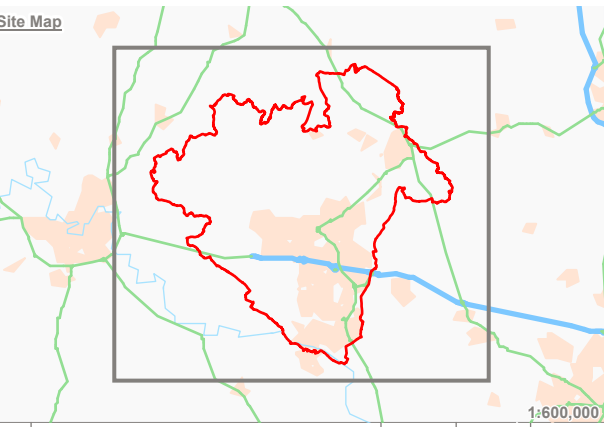
Study area

Lithology

- Clay
- Clay, silt and sand
- Diamicton
- Peat
- Sand and gravel

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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

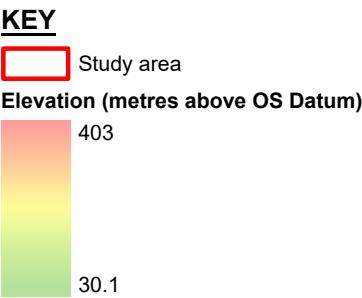
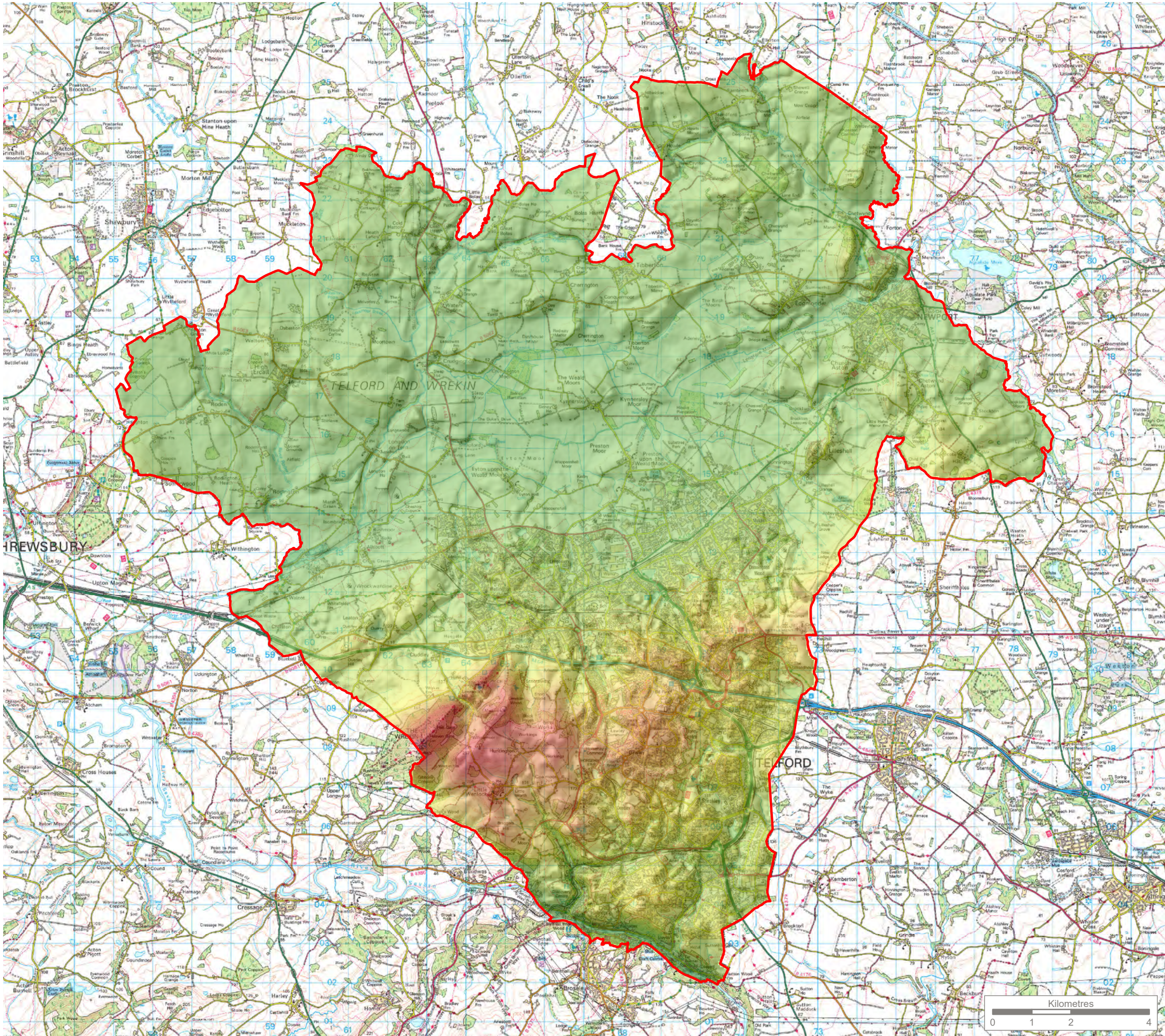
Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH
Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project
Telford and Wrekin Landscape Study

Title
Figure 6 Superficial Geology

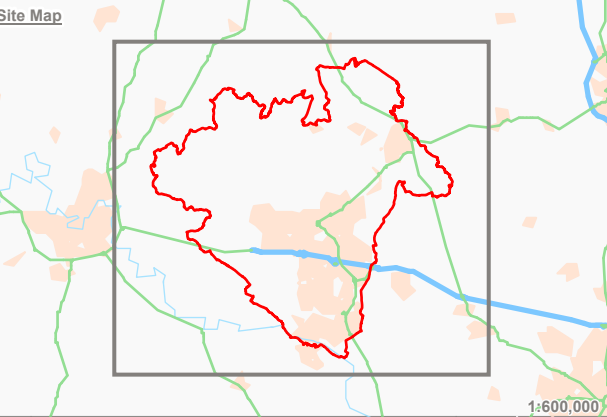
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Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	MK	LF	1:100,000 @ A3	10/07/2023



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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH
Tel 01925 844004 e-mail tep@tep.uk.com www.tep.uk.com

Project
Telford and Wrekin Landscape Study

Title
Figure 7 Topography

Drawing Number
G9816.007

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	MK	LF	1:100,000 @ A3	10/07/2023



KEY

Study area

Watercourses

Statutory main river

Other watercourse

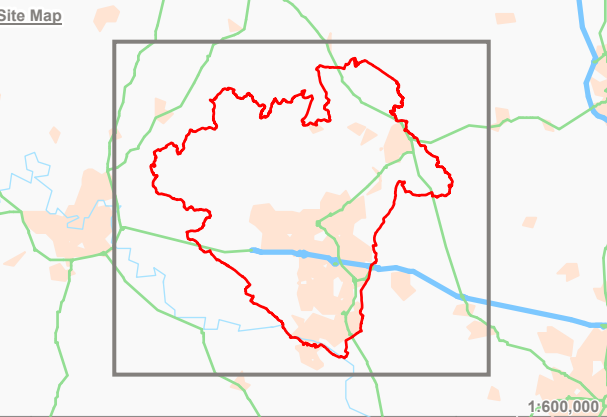
Flood Zones

Flood zone 2

Flood zone 3

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Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

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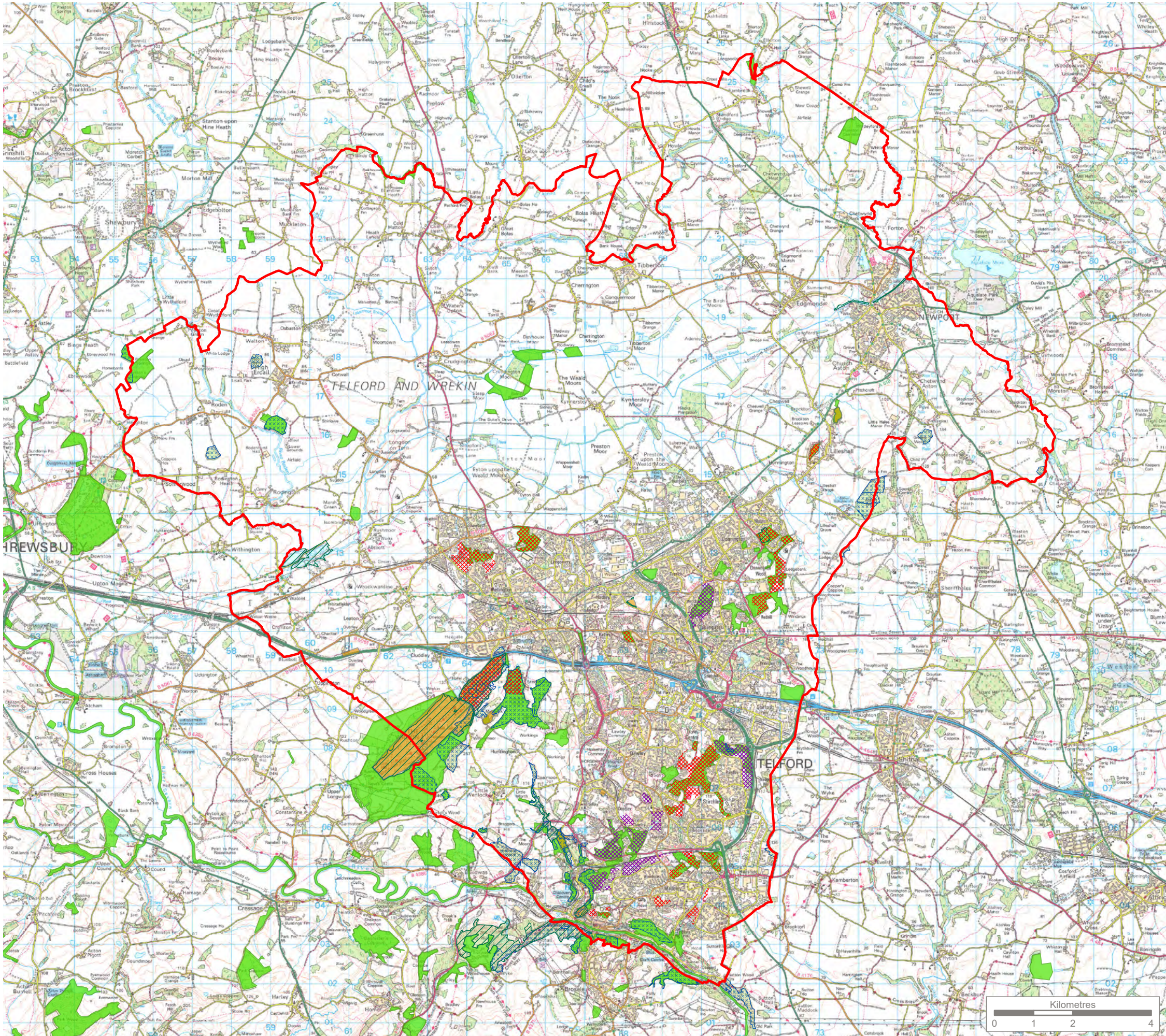
Genesis Centre, Birchwood Science Park, Warrington WA3 7BH
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Project
Telford and Wrekin Landscape Study

Title
Figure 8 Hydrology

Drawing Number
G9816.008

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	MK	LF	1:100,000 @ A3	10/07/2023



KEY

Study area

Site of Special Scientific Interest

Local Nature Reserve

Local Nature Reserve (provisional)

Ancient Woodland

Local Geological Site

Local Wildlife Site

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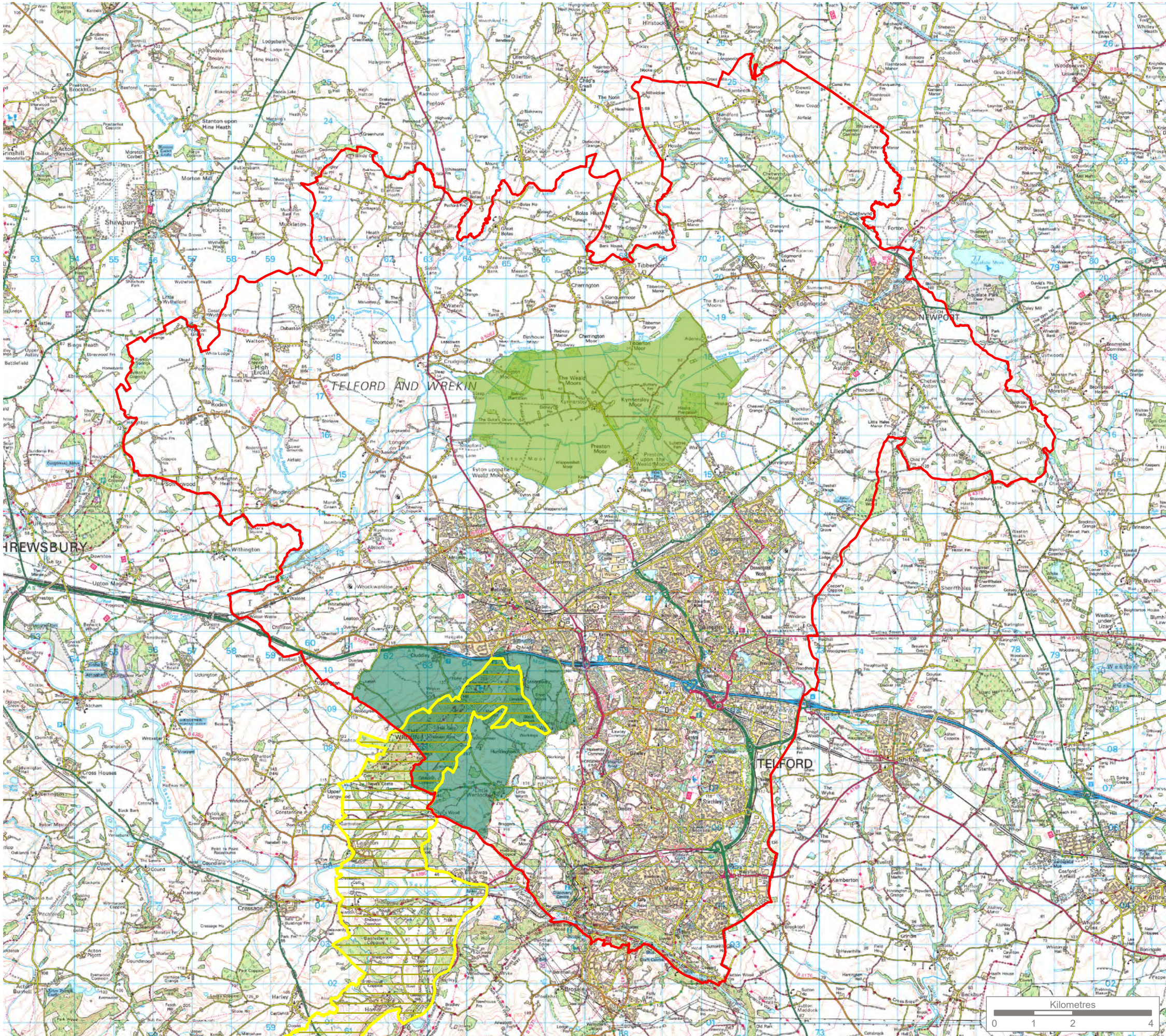
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Project
Telford and Wrekin Landscape Study

Title
Figure 9 Environmental Designations

Drawing Number
G9816.009

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	MK	LF	1:100,000 @ A3	10/07/2023




KEY

- Study area
- Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Strategic Landscapes

- Weald Moors
- Wrekin Forest

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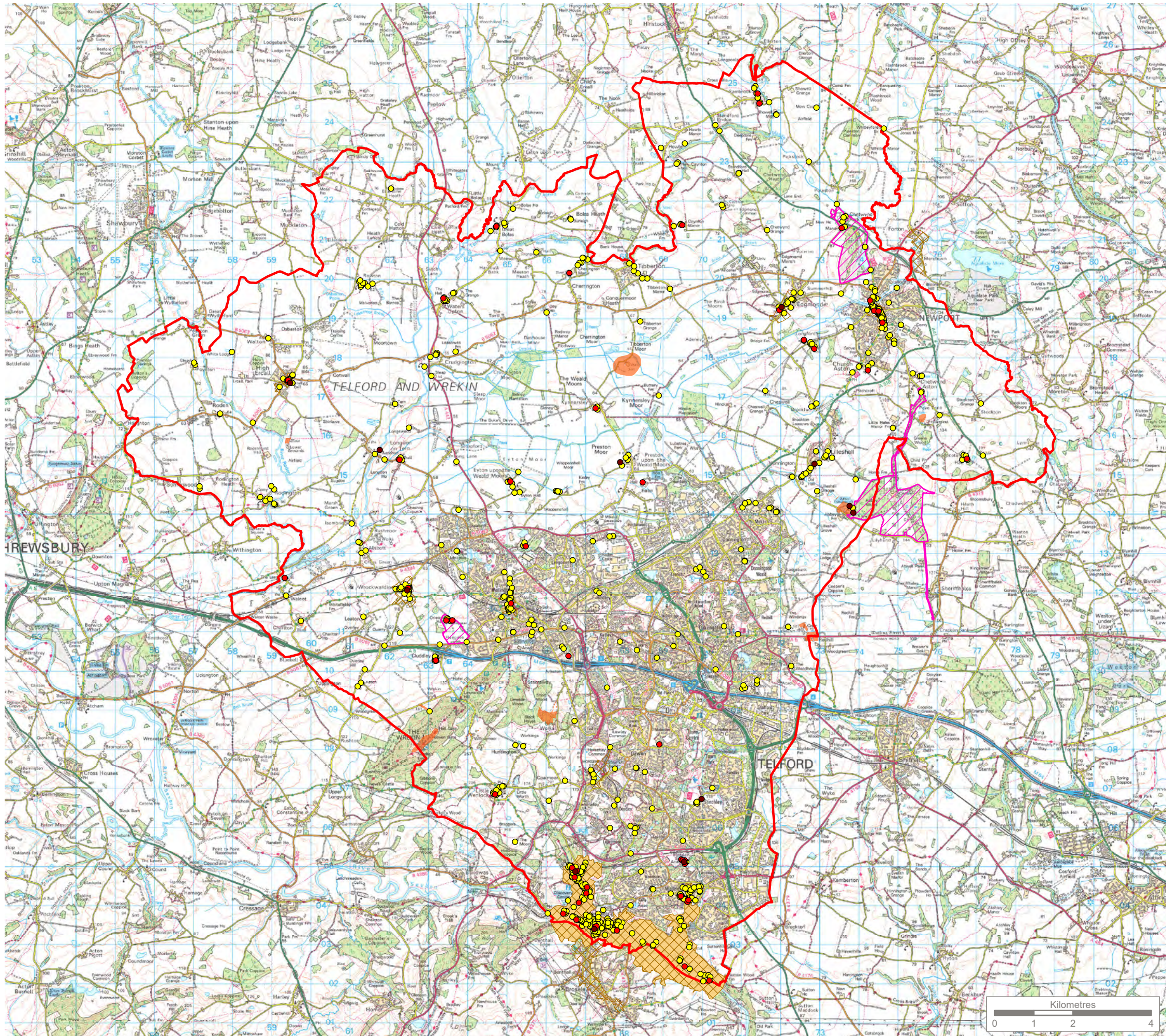
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Project
Telford and Wrekin Landscape Study

Title
Figure 10 Landscape Designations

Drawing Number
G9816.010

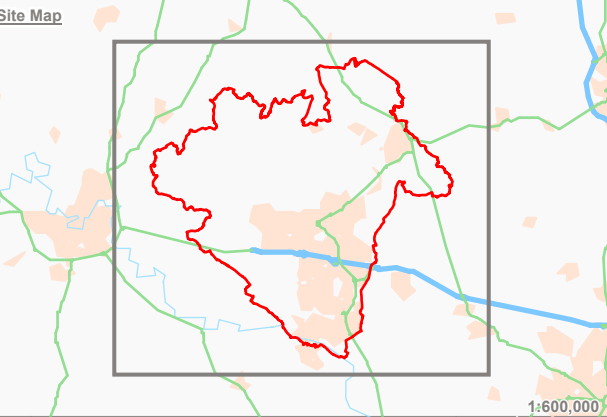
Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	MK	LF	1:100,000 @ A3	10/07/2023



- KEY**
- Study area
 - Grade I Listed Building
 - Grade II* Listed Building
 - Grade II Listed Building
 - Registered Park and Garden
 - Conservation Area
 - Scheduled Monument
 - World Heritage Site

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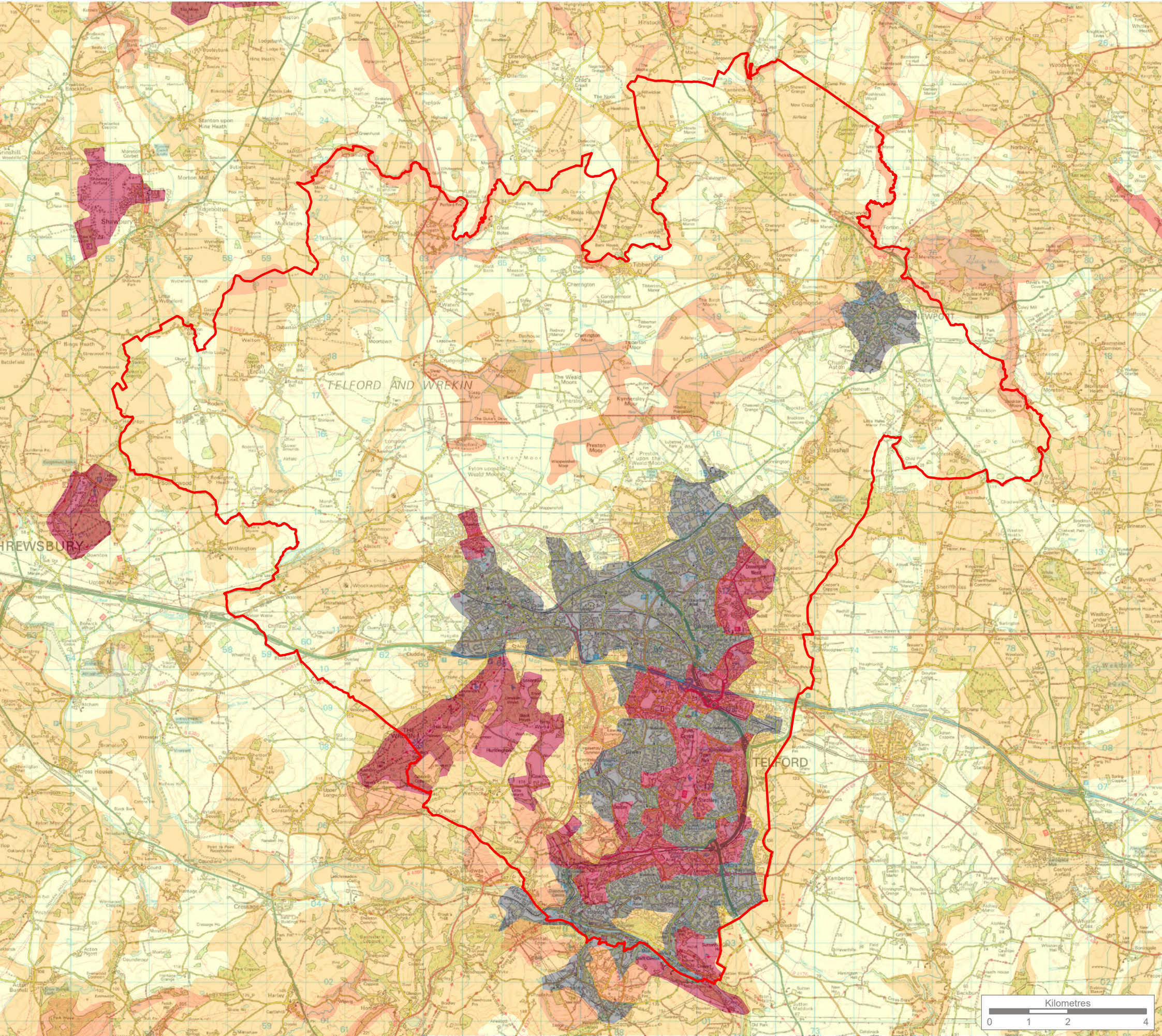
TEP | **THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP**
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Project
Telford and Wrekin Landscape Study

Title
Figure 11 Heritage Designations

Drawing Number
G9816.011

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
CW	MK	LF	1:100,000 @ A3	10/07/2023



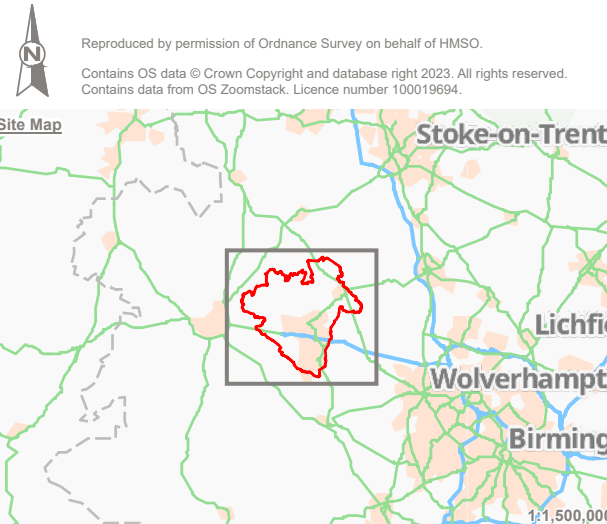
KEY

Study area

Provisional Agricultural Land Classification

- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5
- Non Agricultural
- Urban

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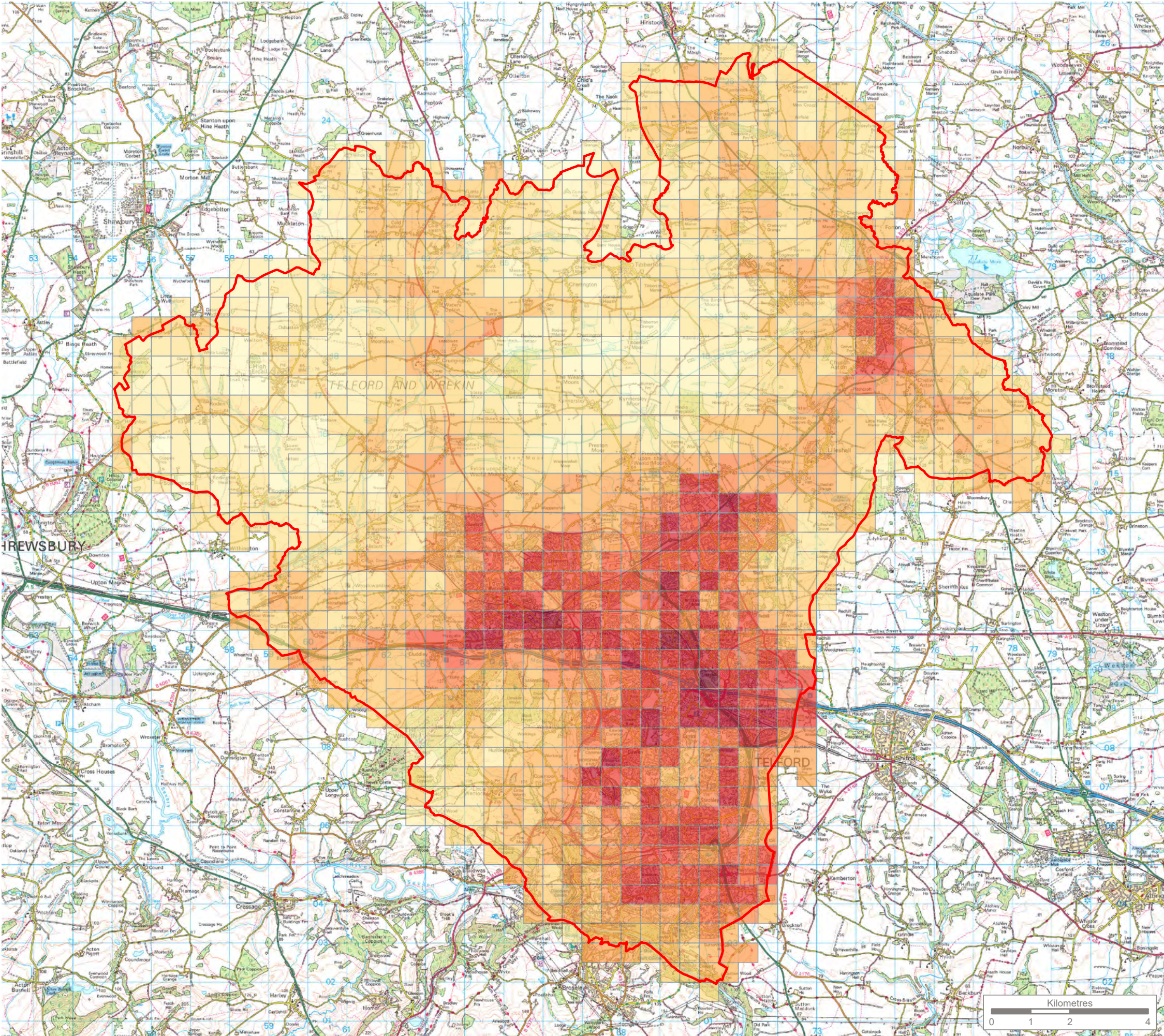
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Project
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Title
Figure 12 Agricultural Land Classification

Drawing Number
G9816.012

Drawn CW	Checked MK	Approved LF	Scale 1:100,000 @ A3	Date 10/07/2023
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KEY

Study area

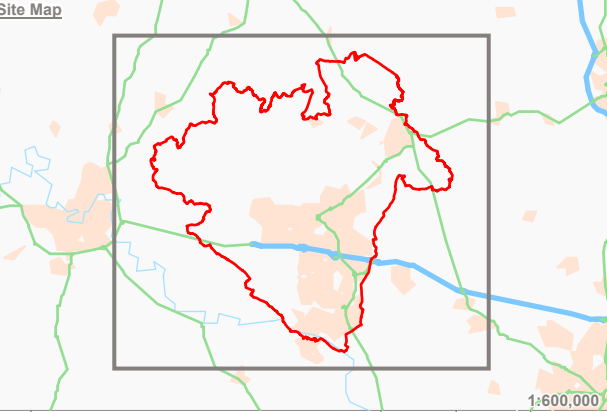
Tranquility

Less tranquil

More tranquil

Note:
National Tranquility Mapping Data 2007 developed for CPRE, the countryside charity and Natural England by Northumbria University. © Crown Copyright and database rights 2023. Ordnance Survey licence number 100022021.

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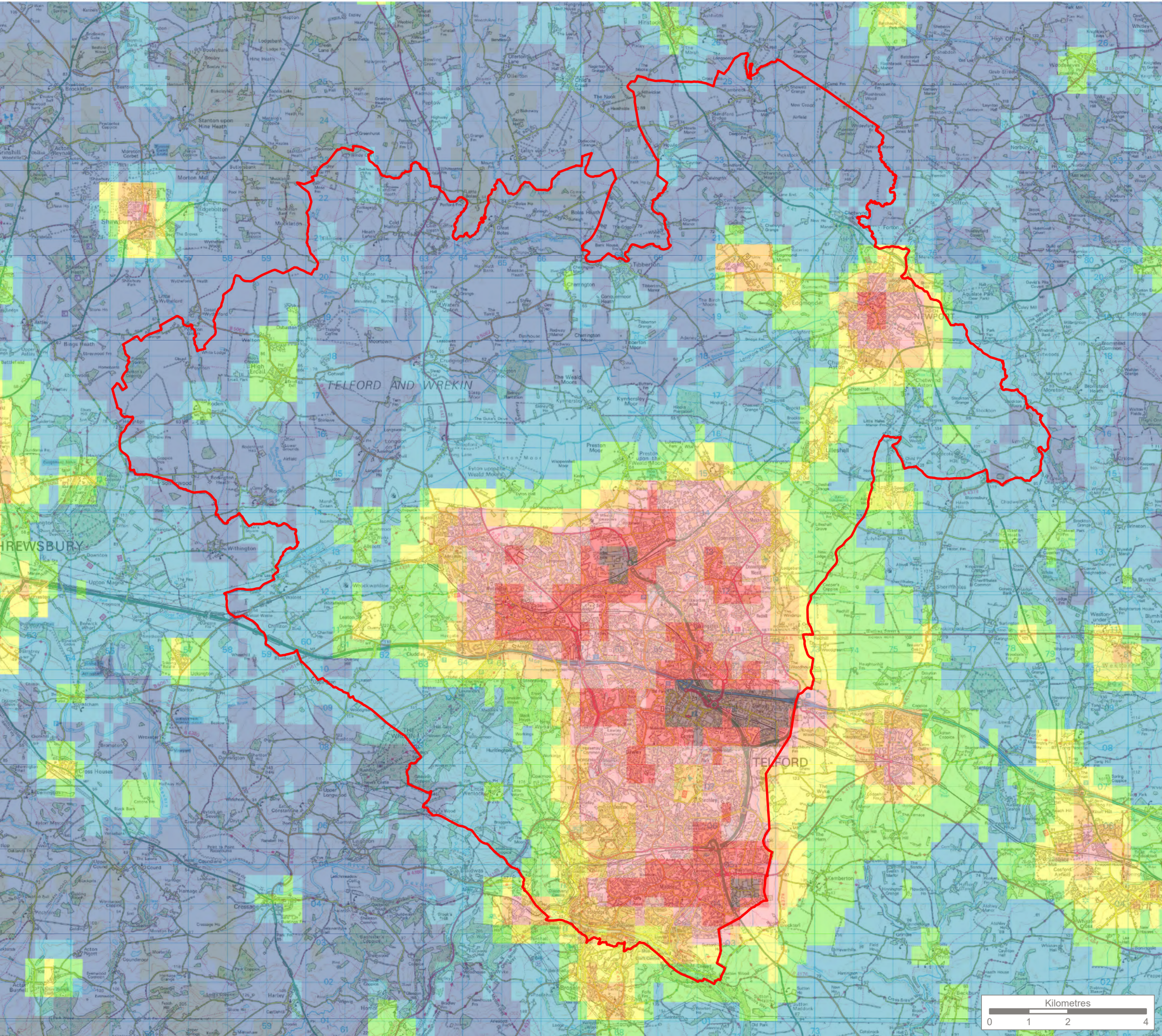
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Project
Telford and Wrekin Landscape Study

Title
Figure 13 Tranquility

Drawing Number
G9816.013

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SP	CW	LF	1:100,000 @ A3	10/07/2023



KEY

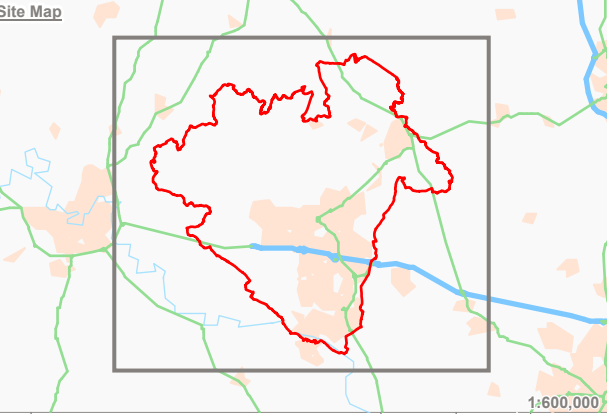
Study area

Night Lights (NanoWatts / cm2 /sr)

- < 0.25 (low)
- 0.25 - 0.5
- 0.5 - 1
- 1 - 2
- 2 - 4
- 4 - 8
- 8 - 16
- 16 - 32
- >32 (high)

Note:
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Project
Telford and Wrekin Landscape Study

Title
Figure 14 Dark Skies

Drawing Number
G9816.014

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
SP	CW	LF	1:100,000 @ A3	11/07/2023

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