Area 19
Oldbury Levels

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\(\#11\) Photograph viewpoints
★ Site nominated for new nuclear power station
Scale: not to scale
The Oldbury Levels landscape character area is a largely flat, open to semi-enclosed agricultural area with rhines, small orchards and relatively little but scattered settlement, strongly influenced by the adjacent Severn Estuary.

Key Characteristics

- Flat landscape of medium to small sized mainly pastoral fields, both regular and irregular in shape occasionally punctuated by isolated knolls and defined to the west by the sea wall. This historic landscape dates back to the Roman period and is underlain by alluvial deposits of high archaeological potential, containing deposits going back to prehistoric times. Some ridge and furrow survives and pasture dominates.

- Field pattern is frequently defined by the network of rhines and often associated hedges are a mixture of both closely clipped and overgrown. These provide important habitat and connectivity for wildlife.

- Small scattered deciduous woodlands and copses, with often frequent hedgerow trees, occasional pollarded trees, some withy beds and small orchards associated with farms that provide habitat for notable species including European Protected Species. Some areas have very little tree cover.

- Pastoral farmland across this character area provides overwintering habitat for birds associated with the adjacent international designated Severn Estuary, and the support a diverse range of flora. Neutral and marshy grassland across this character area support a diverse range of flora.

- Intricate network of angular, enclosed lanes, often following the historic drainage pattern, connects a limited but regular distribution of often historic settlement, comprising a small village and hamlets, largely built of stone, with some brick. Much of the Levels are relatively sparsely populated.

- Lanes are occasionally flanked by broad grass verge common land and rhines. Unpaved trackways provide wider connections across the Levels.

- Open to semi-enclosed rural landscape, with some extensive views of the Severn Ridge and Wye Valley / Forest of Dean ridge, and a strong visual influence of the estuary. The area provides a generally rural setting in views of the Severn Bridge. Localised enclosure is formed by mature trees, hedgerows, orchards and copses.
Key Characteristics

- Oldbury Power Station and radiating powerlines are large scale elements and visually prominent within an otherwise largely rural historic levels landscape that often has a remote and tranquil character.

Location

The Oldbury Levels landscape character area is located in north west South Gloucestershire.

Its northern limits follow the South Gloucestershire Authority boundary, although the landscape character continues northwards.

The southern and eastern boundaries follow an often subtle transition in landform, land cover and drainage pattern between the Levels and the rising Severn Ridges, largely following the 10m contour, although in some places the topographic change is imperceptible.

The western boundary follows the sea defence wall, which marks a distinct change in land cover between the mainly enclosed fields of the Levels and the open intertidal area of rough grassland, warths and mudflats to the west, where the open expanse of the Estuary is dominant. The boundary continues around and excludes Oldbury Power Station complex, as this element and its siting specifically relates to the Estuary edge. (See Figure 58).

Physical Influences

The geology of this area is predominantly Alluvial, with Alluvial Gley soils, peats and occasional Alluvial gravel fans, typical of the lowland Levels and adjacent Severn shoreline. This creates a low lying, very flat landscape. With the exception of slightly higher ground west of Hill (19 metres a.o.d.), Henridge Hill (17 metres a.o.d.) and Oldbury-on-Severn (14 metres a.o.d.), the topography generally lies at or below 10 metres a.o.d.

A defining physical element of this area is the sea wall to the west and complex pattern of drainage ditches, locally called rhines.

The sea wall comprises a grass covered earth embankment up to 2m high above the adjacent natural ground level. Flood defences have been a feature along the edge of the Estuary for some time, with map evidence indicating the wall has been in existence since at least the mid 18th century. The wall could be much earlier, with one section within the Bristol Authority area dating to the Saxon period.

Some rhines date back to medieval times, with other phases of construction during the Napoleonic era and First World War. These phases in land drainage reclaimed areas of marshland, to improve agricultural production. The pattern of rhines gives some indication of their date of construction, the more regular patterns representing the most recent areas of drainage. The rhine system is controlled by sluices in the sea wall, which discharge into tidal pills and the Estuary beyond.

In places, ‘gryps’ (comprising a subtle landform feature of a linear shallow bank similar to ridge and furrow) provide drainage to the system of rhines.

Rockhampton Rhine and its irregular and dense matrix of tributaries, covers an extensive area to the east, eventually flowing west to join the broad meandering tidal channel of Oldbury Pill, at Oldbury-on-Severn.

The pattern of rhines to the north is considerably less intense, with a simple, regular pattern of north west flowing channels, discharging into the small Hill Pill.
The drainage pattern across the Levels is evident primarily from higher ground to the east of this area (Photo 3), the pills being visible where they discharge into the Severn. This drainage pattern, defines many of the field boundaries. Few of the rhines are named on the OS maps (1:25,000 Explorer range), yet most have local names, contributing to local identity and colour.

The area is also scattered with many small field ponds.

**Land Cover**

The Oldbury Levels character area consists largely of pasture, with some areas of arable land. The field pattern is diverse, with distinct areas associated with rhines and land use.

Ridge and furrow is a common subtle feature evident within many unimproved fields within the Levels (Photo 6). Gryps, created for field drainage, are also evident and form low banks which spread out from the centre of fields. They appear similar to ridge and furrow, but tend to be straighter, shorter and shallower. Beneath the visible landscape the underlying soil layers were gradually laid down over time and are of significant archaeological potential. Much of the area is unsurveyed and there are therefore the potential for significant finds going back to prehistoric times across the historic landscape of the Levels..

Hedgerows follow the variously irregular and regular Rockhampton Rhine drainage pattern, forming medium to small intricate field patterns, lying centrally and to the east towards Rockhampton.

Arable cover is particularly concentrated to the west of Hill and fringing the Estuary to the north of Nupdown.

Fields adjacent to the Severn Estuary typically comprise a mix of regular, rectangular and narrow strip, medium to small fields, often orientated in alignment with the sea wall and Severn Estuary beyond.

To the north of Nupdown Road, fields are typically larger, with a more balanced and regular pattern throughout this area.

Lanes are occasionally flanked by broad grass verges of common land.

Various hedgerow boundaries include a combination of clipped, overgrown and laid hedges, a few are intermittent.

Tree cover is variable in structure and distribution, comprising some areas with strong deciduous hedgerow trees, mature specimens and pollards scattered within hedgerows and fields.

There are also scattered regular shaped small woodlands and copses, including withy coppice beds and poplars.

Dead elm trees are evident within some hedgerows, often within drier, more elevated areas of the Levels.

The Rockhampton Rhine area has a particularly frequent pattern of mature hedgerow trees and now isolated tree specimens, following the line of former hedgerows (Photo 8). In contrast, the Levels west of Upper Hill have very few trees (Photo 3).

Near settlement, tree and hedgerow structure becomes more diverse, with orchards commonly associated with farms throughout the area (Photo 2 & 5) and some non native trees such as Leylandii conifers within the area of Oldbury-on-Severn (Photo 10).

Rhines typically include open standing water adjacent to lanes and tracks (Photo 4); although they can become overgrown with reeds (Photo 1).

Toot Hill Fort, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, lies to the north of Oldbury-on-Severn, on a slight rise above the surrounding Levels.
Biodiversity

This pastoral landscape with its mosaic of grassland and criss-crossing of watercourses and rhines, plus ponds and scattered tree cover, connected by wildlife corridors including hedgerows make the Oldbury Levels an important habitat for a diverse range of species.

The pastoral land presents an important roosting and foraging opportunity for the over-wintering birds associated with the internationally and nationally designated Severn Estuary and its associated species.

Tree cover is relatively sparse, with just over one hectare designated as ancient woodland. Orchards are the most widespread of the features that make up the 32 hectares of woodland. Just two of the wooded areas are designated as SNCIs. Key species likely to be associated with the broadleaved woodland include bats and dormice both of which are present across the District and are UK priority species with associated Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP).

The remainder of the SNCIs comprise a mosaic of habitats including neutral and marshy grassland, rhines and estuarine habitats. This designation recognises the importance of these habitats within the national context for flora and fauna. There is one site within the Oldbury Levels designated as an SNCI for the neutral and marshy grassland present on the site. This diverse habitat supports a range of invertebrates which in turn provide a food source for mammals including bats. The strong hedgerow network and often associated rhines provides habitat and good connectivity between habitats.

There are many watercourses including rhines criss-crossing the landscape through this area. These watercourses will or are likely to support a diverse range of species from aquatic macro-invertebrates to fish, water vole and otters. Ponds and pools within the area will support amphibians such as great crested newts (a European Protected Species).

Settlement and Infrastructure

There is relatively little settlement within the area, with one village, hamlets and scattered farmsteads dotted along the lanes and across the landscape.

There is a history of land reclamation in the Levels dating back to Roman and mediaeval times.

The Medieval settlement layout within Hill Parish to the north east is almost unchanged and elsewhere still distinct, where settlement consists of a strung out line of farms on the edge of the Levels (e.g. Upper Hill, Hill and Rockhampton), with other satellite farms within the Levels themselves.

Oldbury on-Severn comprises a linear village focussed on a crossroads and a church, with settlement being strung out along a number of small lanes, and generally comprising sandstone and brick cottages and houses.

Rockhampton, along the eastern boundary and at the toe of the Severn Ridges, is a hamlet comprising a dispersed pattern of farms, cottages and houses along lanes (Photo 8), interspersed with grass common land, built of sandstone and render, with a rectory and church creating a focal point.

Beyond this village and hamlet, much of the settlement pattern within the Levels has a distinct, regular and balanced arrangement of farmhouses and buildings, often well spaced and formally set within small fields, grassland and orchards, the frontages facing the adjacent lanes.

Oldbury Naite comprises a sandstone farm, with other houses and groups of buildings often set back from the road on private tracks.

Shepperdine comprises a dispersed rural hamlet lying close to the sea wall and north of the existing nuclear power station.

A few farms in a mix of sandstone, render and brick are distributed elsewhere at regular
intervals, although large areas of landscape intensely dissected by ditches remain uninhabited.

A boundary wall at Nupdown Farm includes copper slag coping stones, a by-product from the Warmley Brassworks within the Kingswood landscape character area.

A number of modern agricultural sheds are grouped around farms to the south west; for example at Great Leaze Farm, on the lane approach to Oldbury Power Station and at Jobsgreen Farm, adjacent to the power station.

The buildings of the now inactive Oldbury Power Station, within the adjacent Severn Shoreline and Estuary area, abuts this agricultural area and comprises large, block reactor buildings, ancillary buildings, a small copse and sea wall embankment boundary around the site (Photo 11).

The character area is crossed by a network of minor unclassified lanes and roads, their sometimes angular pattern strongly influenced and determined by rhines, which often edge these routes. Lengths of lanes are occasionally unenclosed by field boundaries. A number of named, unpaved lanes (typically bridleways), connect with the local road network (Photo 4).

The area is well dissected by public rights of way.

The Severn Way runs along the sea wall at the edge of the character area, and depending on the intervening vegetation, gives views into or across the Oldbury levels character area.

- One of a series of Circular Rides, a recreational route, follows a convoluted course along lanes and bridleways, crossing the Levels to Oldbury-on-Severn via the Rockhampton Rhine, Stoneyard Lane track, passing to the north of Oldbury Naite before reaching Oldbury-on-Severn.

- The pattern of bridleways largely echoes the angular form of the lane network and often follows un-metalled tracks.

- A dense pattern of footpaths radiate from Oldbury-on-Severn, with frequent interconnections. Elsewhere, they follow often straight, long courses cutting across fields, slightly guided by the pattern of field boundaries or rhines.

Several overhead powerlines supported on large steel pylons cross the area, radiating from Oldbury Power Station, one passing north eastward and two passing eastwards, north and south of Oldbury Naite.

**Landscape Character**

The Oldbury Levels comprise a rural flat, semi-enclosed to open landscape, with a backdrop of the Severn Ridges to the east. The landscape structure is influenced greatly by the pattern of rhines, which in turn largely defines the vegetation structure and the alignment of lanes. Settlement is limited, being concentrated on slightly elevated ground, elsewhere scattered at regular intervals, with areas heavily dissected by rhines largely unpopulated.

The Levels have a largely tranquil and remote character, typically due to the relative lack of landmarks or visual focus within the landscape. This is a result of the combination of very limited built development; visual enclosure by strong vegetation structure; emphasis of the sky within views; and, where more open, views to the distant backdrops of the Severn Ridges or Forest of Dean, emphasising the scale of the Levels area.

The visual inter relationship of the Severn Ridge and the levels is important, with views to listed buildings, scheduled monuments and historic landscapes on the ridge contributing to the character of the levels.

The Rockhampton Rhine landscape is largely enclosed and textured by mature trees and pollards. Clipped or overgrown hedges defining the irregular field pattern (Photo 8).
The rest of the area largely comprises regular shaped fields bounded by clipped hedges, slightly less tree cover and occasional orchards, which combined with linear settlement and an angular road layout, contribute to a simple, balanced rectilinear landscape form (Photo 3 & 9). Ridge and furrow within pasture fields are frequent local features.

The area to the north of Nupdown Road has a slightly more open character due to the larger field size.

Large numbers of over wintering birds drawn to the Severn Estuary, are often a seasonal feature of the Levels, both in the fields and overhead.

Settlement forms focal points which punctuate the landscape. The village of Oldbury-on-Severn and hamlet of Rockhampton are linear built areas, largely of traditional cottages and houses which edge or contain the lane network, creating semi-enclosure. They are typically well integrated within the rural fabric, due to the generally low lying topography and adjacent strong vegetation structure and include green space both private and public that contributes to the character and amenity of the village.

The church at Rockhampton forms a local landmark. Similarly, the church of St. Arilda’s to the south of Oldbury-on-Severn, on an elevated knoll within the Severn Ridges area, is a prominent distinctive landmark, evident for some distance.

Elsewhere, the formal and balanced arrangement of stone built farmsteads, set back from but facing the lanes, set within small open pockets, with adjacent orchards, form distinct local features.

The pattern of angular lanes, often fringed by broad grass verges edged by water filled rhines, is a particular feature, offering more open views of the local area and sometimes to elevated ground and beyond.

Oldbury Power Station is prominent in many views (Photo 11). Its large scale, built form and mass greatly contrast with the otherwise tranquil rural character of the area. The dominance of this building complex within the landscape significantly increases with proximity. Within the vicinity of the power station, the scale of the buildings, seen against the Estuary and sky, dwarf adjacent vegetation and other landscape features. Despite their scale which contrasts strongly with the surrounding landscape, the pale blue and grey striped finish to the reactor buildings, massing into a single block of simple form, has however some effect in reducing the buildings’ massing in certain local views, dependent upon weather and light conditions. The powerlines and their towers converging on the power station are also prominent, often seen in silhouette against the skyline.

Of a smaller scale, but nonetheless contrasting with the traditional built form of the locality, large prefabricated farm sheds are associated with a number of traditional stone built farms. They are generally well integrated, where set behind the older buildings and/or within the strong vegetation structure. Elsewhere they are locally prominent, given the scale and height of these structures and materials used, which contrast in form and texture to the older buildings and the greenness and openness of the surrounding landscape.

The flat nature of the landform, combined with various layers of low hedges, occasional hedgerow trees and small woodlands, produce an open to semi-enclosed textured landscape. Medium to distant views are possible within this framework, from open lanes and from minor high points at Oldbury-on-Severn and Rockhampton, towards the Severn Ridges to the east (Photo 7), or towards the Wye Valley ridges and Forest of Dean beyond the Severn Estuary to the west.

These distant views provide a regional context to the area and contribute to its character.

The expanse of the Severn Estuary, although not visible from the majority of views, does reflect light and provides some ‘lightness’ to the edge of the area.
The sea wall forms a particular barrier to views close to the Estuary from the landward side, but does itself offer the opportunity for views into and/or across the Oldbury levels landscape from the Severn Way which runs along its top.

**The Changing Landscape**

The Oldbury Levels landscape character area is a rural area, retaining much of its historic pattern, grain of land use and character. The largely pastoral land use has remained unchanged since medieval times. Development is typically small scale or low key (with the exception of Oldbury Power Station and powerlines) and the area appears relatively unaffected by pressures for change experienced elsewhere in South Gloucestershire.

The rural character of the area is reinforced by the Severn Ridge backcloth to the east, the rising slopes similarly containing very little settlement and no prominent development.

The area has a strong landscape infrastructure, providing effective enclosure, protection and drainage to farmland across the Levels.

The rhine drainage pattern, linked to the tidal pills, is essential to the agricultural viability of the area, maintaining the ground water level below that of the adjacent fields and also makes a significant contribution to the diversity of habitat and biodiversity value of the levels.

Hedgerows are generally actively managed however, a limited number of hedges are intermittent, or have been removed or replaced with fencing and dead elm is also present. A decline in hedgerow management has the potential to erode the existing landscape infrastructure as well as biodiversity value and wildlife connectivity. Dependent on the number of hedgerow trees that are allowed to develop, or are planted, the landscape character of areas with currently overgrown hedgerows could become more or less open as a result of management.

The regular cyclical pollarding of hedgerow trees and coppicing of withy beds is also in decline. The relative scarcity of tree pollards is a good indication of this fact. The eventual loss of overgrown withy beds would result in a loss of a local traditional feature, which presently contributes to the landscape structure and provides a visual focus within some views.

The loss of mature hedgerow trees through Dutch Elm Disease has been particularly widespread across the Levels. As a result, and despite the existing vegetation framework, the character of the area is now significantly more open and windswept than in the middle of the 20th century. There is little evidence that these trees have been replaced: the cyclical regrowth and die-back of elm suckers mark the location of former mature trees, where management of hedgerows is infrequent. Where they occur, dead elms influence the condition, integrity and appearance of the landscape framework in the locality, affecting the degree of openness/enclosure.

Where new hedgerow tree planting is also introduced it would, over time, help to replace the vegetation structure lost as a result of Dutch Elm Disease. As with other hedgerow management, the landscape character could become more or less open as a result.

The vegetation structure generally is not being supplemented by new planting to create succession and sustain it in the long term. Without this, the existing strong framework will decline in the future, resulting in a more open landscape and a potential reduction in diversity of habitat.

Great Crested Newts and other aquatic species are vulnerable to any loss of habitat including the terrestrial habitat around ponds as well as the ponds themselves.

Many orchards planted alongside farms have been well maintained and are a characteristic feature of the area. Some are ageing in structure, however there is some evidence of community interest in communal juicing and cider making projects, as well as some new
planting of orchards which bodes well for these characteristic features of the locality and their biodiversity value.

The continual pastoral land use of the Levels since medieval times has resulted in little ground disturbance. As a result few archaeological surface finds, more normally associated with ploughed arable land, have been made. Although the archaeological value and content of the area is largely unknown, the peat within the Levels may contain evidence of early prehistoric activity, which could be of considerable significance, due to its national rarity. Development has the potential to result in significant impact on any archaeological resource.

Ridge and furrow and gryps are a subtle feature within many traditional pasture fields and are easily damaged by a change in land use to arable farming or other uses such as solar farms.

The introduction of Leylandii conifers within some parts of Oldbury-on-Severn has produced a suburban garden feature which contrasts markedly with the native, rural vegetation structure. Further planting of these or other ornamental trees within the area would erode the rural character of the locality and potentially could affect the character of the wider area.

The characteristic interrelationship between the older buildings found in isolated hamlets, built farms, settlement and their landscape setting, is sensitive to change which would visually affect this balance, through either vegetation removal, building infill or architecture, which does not reflect the local traditional style or scale. In some settlements, more recent housing development has already started to change this traditional character, and around the village of Oldbury horse keep is affecting the character of some local areas, and the introduction of lighting can also disturb wildlife.

Several clusters of large prefabricated farm sheds many of which are for poultry, as well as areas of horsekeep have been developed in recent years, affecting the character and quality of the local landscape. A greater frequency of buildings or the introduction of larger, more prominent structures, has the potential to reduce the present tranquillity and remote character of the area.

The area has extensive views from slightly elevated locations, towards the flat Severn Estuary and Forest of Dean hills to the west and towards the Severn Ridges to the east. These distant backdrops provide some sense of enclosure and context within an otherwise rather isolated area. Views therefore significantly contribute to the character of this area. Any change such as the introduction of prominent built development or cumulative small scale built development, which might be seen against these backcloths, could potentially influence this area’s character.

Any large scale horizontal or vertical built development or structures would be particularly visible, as evident with the power station. An increase in the visual prominence of such structures in this flat landscape, would further influence the perception of tranquillity and remoteness, apparent within much of the area and erode its rural pattern, influencing the character of both this and adjacent areas. The area is also subject to pressure for wind power generation, however a decision to refuse four 127m high turbines was upheld on appeal including on the grounds of impact on the rural landscape. Where the visual relationship is strong, applications in the surrounding character areas also have the potential to affect the character of the Oldbury Levels.

The decommissioning of Oldbury Power Station, is likely to result in some ongoing changes to the structures surrounding the main reactor buildings and changes in the use of the site and remaining structures. However, an adjacent area to the north east has been nominated in the National Policy Statement EN-6: Nuclear Power Generation for the development of a new nuclear power station. Given the increased scale of energy generation, the project promoters advise that the new station would require cooling facilities, however rather than conventional
natural draught towers they have stated that their preferred option is for fan assisted cooling, which results in towers of similar height to the existing power station. It is envisaged however that there would be a significant increase in built form as compared with the existing station as well as potential impacts arising from flood protection measures. The construction of a new power station would be likely to require facilities both in the local area, and transport facilities may be located remotely from the nominated site.

At the time of writing, the current proposals for the existing station remain that in the very long term (over 100 years), the site is proposed to be returned to open landscape, however it is not currently known to what extent there might be integration and reuse of land or facilities with the proposed new station. The removal of the existing structures would ultimately result in a change in the character of the area within local and distant views, although the significance of this would be reduced by the construction of a new station.
Landscape Strategy

- Ensure that any new development reinforces the distinctive rural character of the levels landscapes and does not erode its often remote often tranquil character.

- Secure the active and long term reinforcement and/or management of the historic hedgerow pattern, including of hedgerows, the pollarding of willows and withy beds and the management of tree belts to help ensure the conservation of these key features and their biodiversity value in the long term.

- Conserve and extend overwintering habitat for species associated with the international and national designations on the Severn Estuary.

- Secure orchard restoration & re-planting to strengthen the presence of this locally characteristic feature of the levels landscape.

- Any proposal for a new nuclear power station should be planned and designed to minimise impact on the character and amenity of views from the surrounding landscapes. This will include careful consideration of the the bulk and height of the built form (including in combination with the existing station)

- Where new development is considered appropriate carefully consider materials and the colour of finishes to ensure maximum integration with the character and appearance of the landscape, waterscape and skies, including consideration of impact on views from and across the estuary.

- Negotiate to secure a robust and integrated landscape and ecological framework that is commensurate with the scale of the proposed built form, and provides an effective foil to the proposed new nuclear power station and any associated infrastructure.

- Conserve the Medieval settlement pattern of the Hill Parish area, and the particular character of the linear settlement of Oldbury on Severn, ensuring that the critical balance of development and green spaces that contributes to the character of the settlements is maintained.

- Ensure that new development and present and future land use practices respect and conserve the historic landscape of the levels including its field systems and remaining areas of ridge and furrow and have special regard to the archaeological potential of the area.

- Protect and enhance the character and quality of the rural setting to and views of the Grade 1 listed original Severn Bridge.

- Any new vertical development should avoid eroding the particular rural, tranquil and remote character of the wider Levels landscape.

- Ensure the active and long term management, maintenance and repair of the extensive drainage network of rhines, gryps and pills.
1. Hedge with dead elms, the ditch contains tall rushes.

2. View west, overlooking scattered farms at Hill. Dead elm hedgerow within foreground with mature trees and small orchards.

3. View north west from Hill Court towards Brick House Farm. The flat Levels are mostly grazed by cattle and sheep.

4. Deep drainage rhines are a characteristic feature with unmade road. Former marshland.

5. Old cider apple orchards are a frequent feature.

6. Ridge and furrow is very common within the levels (a subtle feature, here the shadow picks out undulations in the field). Newbridge Mead (Neubrecht = newly broken up - 13th century).

7. View north east towards Rockhampton, with the Severn Ridge as a backdrop.

8. View north west from Camp Hill, with dispersed settlement of Rockhampton along the edge of the levels. Dense mature tree cover is common to this particular area of the Levels.

9. View south west from Camp Hill, with Lower Morton within the middle distance.

10. View north from church tower to Oldbury-on-Severn. The Sailing Club HQ is to the left. Oldbury Power Station adjacent to the Estuary. Note the numerous Leylandii planted within the rural framework.

11. View towards Oldbury Power Station, with the farm buildings of Oldbury Naite in front and the Forest of Dean ridge behind.

Figure 59 – Area 19

Oldbury Levels

Landscape Character Areas
The Landscape Character Area boundary shown on this map is indicative, sometimes marking a distinct change, but more often representing a transition in character with adjacent areas.

Similar attributes may therefore be evident within adjacent areas. (For further information refer to Report Section 4.1)