Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

Solar PV and wind energy development

North Somerset Council

Final report

Prepared by LUC

November 2023

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Chapter 1
Introduction

This chapter gives an overview of this study.

Background to this study

1.1 This report is designed to inform plan-making, development management and land use decisions within North Somerset, in support of the forthcoming Local Plan 2023-2038.

1.2 North Somerset Council commissioned LUC to undertake a landscape sensitivity assessment for solar PV and wind energy development, as part of a wider Renewable Energy Resources Assessment Study (RERAS) undertaken by AECOM in collaboration with WECA (West of England Combined Authority). Together these studies will provide up- to-date evidence in relation to renewable energy generation and related infrastructure. The RERAS report sets out the broad technical parameters for renewable energy development, while this landscape sensitivity assessment helps to inform the analysis in the RERAS report. Unlike the RERAS study, this assessment does not consider biomass energy development.

1.3 This Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for wind energy and solar photovoltaic (PV) schemes provides judgements on the landscape sensitivity of different parts of North Somerset to these forms of development. The findings of this study will allow the Council to identify broad areas for renewable energy development and establish a local policy framework for such development, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 151).

1.4 The method is described in Chapter 2 and results presented in Chapter 3. A User Guide is provided in Appendix A.

Policy context

European Landscape Convention

1.5 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) came into force in the UK in March 2007. It established the need to recognise landscape in law; and develop landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management, and planning of landscapes; and to establish procedures for the participation of the general public and other stakeholders in the creation and implementation of landscape policies. The ELC remains relevant despite the UK's departure from the EU.

1.6 The ELC definition of 'landscape' recognises that all landscapes matter, be they ordinary, degraded, or outstanding:

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

1.7 Signing up to the ELC means that the UK is committed to protect, manage, and plan our landscapes for the future. The Convention also advocates work to raise landscape awareness, involvement and enjoyment amongst local and visiting communities. Landscape character is defined by the ELC as "a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse". Again, this reinforces the underlying message that 'all landscapes matter'.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

1.8 The UK Government published an updated and revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in July 2021, which sets out the environmental, social and economic planning policies for England. Central to NPPF policies is a presumption in favour of sustainable development; that development should be planned for positively and individual proposals should be approved wherever possible.

1.9 One of the overarching objectives that underpins the NPPF is set out in Paragraph 8: “an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment.”

1.10 Paragraph 174 states that “planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes” and “recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside”.

1.11 The NPPF also makes explicit reference to the need for defined strategic policies that make sufficient provision for climate change mitigation and adaptation, landscape and green infrastructure (paragraph 20).

1.12 Paragraph 155 states that "to help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should:

1. provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts);

2. consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure their development…"

1.13 This national policy requirement, along with the council's climate emergency declaration, are the key drivers behind the landscape sensitivity assessments.

National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)

1.14 Further guidance is provided in the NPPG on how local planning authorities can identify suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy. It states that:

1.15 "…when considering impacts, assessments can use tools to identify where impacts are likely to be acceptable. For example, landscape character areas could form the basis for considering which technologies at which scale may be appropriate in different types of location... "

1.16 This study uses the framework of Landscape Character Areas and Landscape Character Types for the landscape sensitivity assessment as set out in the 2018 North Somerset Landscape Character Assessment.

Local Plan Policy

1.17 The development of the Local Plan began in 2018, as part of the wider West of England Joint Spatial Plan. This was a shared strategic plan for North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, B&NES and Bristol Councils. The Joint Spatial Plan was halted at Examination stage, and the Plan was withdrawn in January 2020.

1.18 . Work on the North Somerset Local Plan commenced in 2020 and will cover the period 2023-2038. Initial stages of consultation took place in 2020 and work is ongoing with the view to commencing consultation on a draft plan by the end of 2021 and a pre-submission version in 2022. Adoption is anticipated at the end of 2023.

1.19 The adopted Local Plan for North Somerset is made up of the Core Strategy (adopted April 2012, with amendments, re-adopted January 2017), Sites and Policies Plan Part 1: Development Management Policies (adopted July 2016) and Sites and Policies Plan Part 2: Site Allocations Plan (adopted April 2018).

Priority Objectives

1.20 There are six shared priorities in the Core Strategy 2008-2026 which provide a framework for the objectives and policies. These are:

- Tackling disadvantage and promoting equality of opportunity;
- Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for North Somerset September 2021
- Developing strong inclusive communities;
- Ensuring safer communities;
- Improving health and wellbeing;
- Developing a prosperous economy and enterprising community;
- Living within environmental limits.

1.21 Ten priority objectives summarise how North Somerset will address spatial planning issues. The priority objective relevant to the Council's stance on climate change, renewable energy and the protection of landscapes is:

- Continue to support North Somerset's existing Green Belt in order to prevent the sprawl of Bristol and its encroachment into valued countryside and to preserve the character of existing settlements; elsewhere, valued strategic gaps between settlements and characteristic green spaces and areas will be protected and enhanced.

Policies

1.22 Relevant policies within the Core Strategy 2008 – 2026 are:

- **Policy CS1 Addressing Climate Change and Carbon Reduction** states that development should demonstrate a commitment to reducing carbon emissions, utilising renewable energy where feasible. Developers are encouraged to incorporate site-wide renewable energy solutions.
- **CS2 Delivering Sustainable Design and Construction** states that new development should prioritise the use of sustainable low or zero carbon forms of renewable energy generation. New developments will require the use of on-site renewable energy sources or linking with available off-site renewable energy sources.
- **CS5 Landscape and the historic environment** states that the character, distinctiveness, diversity and quality of North Somerset's landscape and townscape will be protected and enhanced by new development. New development should pay close regard to the North Somerset Landscape Character Assessment. Development proposals in the Mendip Hills AONB should conserve and enhance its natural beauty and respect its character.
- **CS12 Achieving high quality design and place making** states that development proposals should demonstrate sensitivity to the existing local character, and enhance the sense of place and local identity though good design.
- **CS19 Strategic Gaps** states that the identified strategic gaps will help retain the separate identity, character and/or landscape setting of settlement and distinct parts of settlements.

1.23 Relevant policies within the Sites and Policies Plan Part 1: Development Management Policies (adopted July 2016) are:

- **DM2 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy** states that proposals for renewable and low carbon energy installations, excluding wind turbines will be supported if there is adequate mitigation for adverse impacts and the environmental, social and economic benefits outweigh any adverse impacts. Key considerations include visual impacts, including cumulative

impacts, on the landscape and the quality and setting of the Mendip Hills AONB, including views to and from the AONB. Proposals which maximise opportunities for community-led renewable and low carbon energy, and take opportunities to integrate district heating and combined heat and power into new and existing development are encouraged. New developments will need to demonstrate the application of renewable and low carbon energy generation.

- **DM9 Trees and Woodlands** states that existing trees and wooded areas should be incorporated into the design of new development where practical, viewing trees as an asset. The future growth of tree canopy and roots should be considered in the design. Where practical there should be appropriate new tree planting and woodland creation, using local native species.
- **DM10 Landscape** states that development should not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the landscape character, as defined in the Landscape Character Assessment. New development should be integrated into the natural, built and historic environment, establishing a strong sense of place, responding to local character and reflecting the identity of local surroundings. Landscape impact should be minimised and the tranquillity of an area respected.
- **DM11 Mendip Hills AONB** states that new development needs to conserve and where possible enhance the landscape and scenic beauty of the AONB. Development which would have an adverse impact on the landscape, setting, scenic beauty and views into and out of the AONB will not be permitted unless in exceptional circumstances. Attention should be given to the siting, scale, size, character, design, materials and landscaping of developments.
- **DM32 High Quality Design and Place Makin**g states that development proposals should demonstrate sensitivity to the local character and setting, and seek to enhance local distinctiveness and contribute to a sense of place and design.

Mendip Hills Area Outstanding Natural Beauty

1.24 Figure 1.1 shows which parts of the District fall within the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The AONB was designated in 1972 and covers a total of 190 square kilometres, of which 39.5 square kilometres (21%) lie within North Somerset. It is a range of limestone hills stretching from Weston-Super-Mare and the Bristol Channel to the Frome valley. The 'special qualities' of the AONB include the distinctive limestone ridges and scarp slopes, views to and from the AONB, sparsely populated plateaux, dark skies and tranquillity and significant archaeology and history.

1.25 The latest Management Plan was published in 2019 and covers the period to 2024. Relevant objectives include:

- L1 - ensure that the distinctive landscape is conserved and enhanced through appropriate management.
- D3 - encourage reduction in carbon emissions within the AONB utilising renewable energy generation technologies of an appropriate type and scale for their setting.

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Figure 1.1: Coverage of statutory landscape designations within and surrounding North Somerset

North Somerset district boundary

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mendip Hills

CB:JI EB:llott_J LUC 11519_FIG1_1_Statutory_land_designations_N_Somerset 22/06/2021
Source: LUC, NSCC, NE

Chapter 2

Method

This chapter sets out the method for the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment.

Scope of the assessments

2.1 The landscape sensitivity assessments focus on the landscape considerations associated with ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind energy developments at a strategic level.

2.2 The results of the assessments (Chapter 3) describe the relative landscape sensitivity of different areas within North Somerset to solar PV and wind energy developments. A User Guide is included in Appendix A and should assist in using the assessment to shape proposals in appraising planning applications for renewable energy development.

2.3 The assessment uses an established methodology consistent with national guidance. These results should be interpreted alongside the detailed information provided in separate assessment profiles.

2.4 The assessment should not be interpreted as a definitive statement on the suitability of certain locations for development. It is also important to note that this assessment does not provide guidance on the wide range of other planning issues that need to be considered as part of the preparation and determination of planning applications for renewable energy developments.

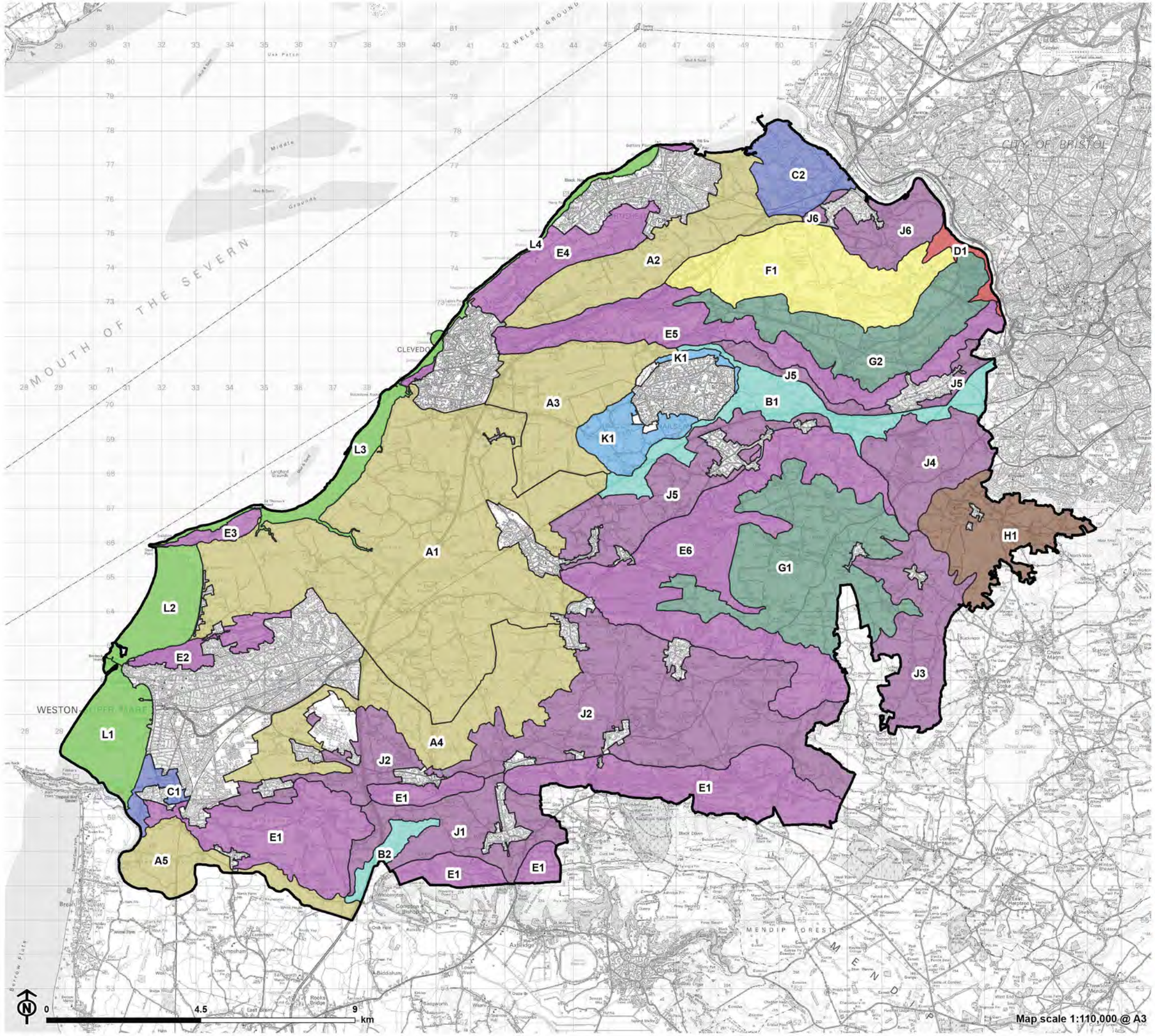
Spatial framework for the assessment

2.5 The assessment uses the spatial framework of Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and component Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) identified by the existing North Somerset Landscape Character Assessment (2018). **[See reference 1]** These are shown in Figure 2.1.

2.6 The assessment considered those areas which are suitable for onshore renewable energy development. Areas within LCT L (Inter-tidal Bays) were excluded from the study.

LUC

Figure 2.1: Landscape Character Types and Areas within North Somerset



North Somerset district boundary

North Somerset Landscape Character Types and Areas (North Somerset LCA 2018)

- A. Moors
  - A1. Kingston Seymour and Puxton Moors
  - A2. Clapton Moor
  - A3. Kenn and Tickenham Moors
  - A4. Locking and Banwell Moors
  - A5. Bleadon Moor
- B. River Flood Plain
  - B1. Land Yeo and Kenn River Flood Plain
  - B2. Lox Yeo River Flood Plain
- C. Settled Coastal Edge
  - C1. Weston Bay Settled Coastal Edge
  - C2. Portbury Settled Coastal Edge
- D. Limestone Gorges
  - D1. Avon Gorge
- E. Limestone Ridges and Combes
  - E1. Mendips Ridges and Combes
  - E2. Worlebury Ridges and Combes
  - E3. Middlehope Ridges Combes
  - E4. Portishead Ridges and Combes
  - E5. Tickenham Ridges and Combes
  - E6. Cleeve Ridges and Combes
- F. Sandstone Uplands
  - F1. Abbots Leigh Sandstone Uplands
- G. Settled Limestone Plateau
  - G1. Bradfield Down Settled Limestone Plateau
  - G2. Failand Settled Limestone Plateau
- H. Settled Hills
  - H1. Dundry Hill
- J. Rolling Valley Farmland
  - J1. Lox Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
  - J2. River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
  - J3. Chew Rolling Valley Farmland
  - J4. Colliters Brook Rolling Valley Farmland
  - J5. Land Yeo and Kenn Rolling Valley Farmland
  - J6. Avon Rolling Valley Farmland
- K. Farmed Coal Measures
  - K1. Nailsea Farmed Coal Measures
- L. Inter-tidal Bays
  - L1. Weston Bay
  - L2. Sand Bay
  - L3. Woodspring Bay
  - L4. Clevedon-Portishead Bays

CB:JI EB:llott_J LUC 11519_FIG2_1_LCA_Type_N_Somerset 22/06/2021
Source: LUC, NSCC, OS

Characteristics of solar PV and wind energy development types and their potential landscape impacts

Solar PV development

2.7 Solar PV developments although not prominent in terms of height, can occupy substantial areas of ground which may be visible, particularly if located on slopes. Landscape effects may include the following:

- Solar PV developments may be particularly visible in open landscapes or on upper slopes of hillsides or where overlooked.
- On a sunny day they can appear blue, while on a cloudy day they can appear a dark grey, both of which contrast with surrounding green areas.
- The presence of Solar PV panels and associated infrastructure may increase the perceived human influence on the landscape and erode intrinsically rural character.
- Solar PV development will change the land use and appearance of a field or fields, affecting land cover patterns.
- The regular edges of solar PV developments may be conspicuous in more irregular landscapes (particularly where field boundaries are irregular)
- The height of racks (up to 3m) may overtop typical hedgerow field boundaries.
- Screen planting around solar PV developments may change the sense of enclosure of a landscape.
- Construction of solar PV development may result in damage to landscape features such as hedgerow field boundaries and alter the landscape scale.

- Structures may appear out of place in particularly wild or undeveloped landscape which are valued for their qualities of remoteness.

Wind energy developments

2.8 All turbines considered in this study are substantial vertical structures that may be highly visible within the landscape. Wind energy developments may affect the landscape in the following ways:

- Construction of turbines and related infrastructure may result in the direct loss of landscape features e.g. trees and hedgerows
- The movement of the blades is a unique feature of wind energy development, setting them apart from other stationary tall structures in the landscape, and may affect characteristics of stillness and remoteness.
- The presence of turbines may increase the influence of built development on the landscape.
- Turbines may be perceived as out of scale in relation to human scale features in the landscape e.g. farmsteads, rural lanes, walls and hedgerows.
- Turbines on skylines may compete with existing skyline features (e.g. church towers) for prominence, where prominent undeveloped skylines or landmark features are characteristic of the landscape.
- Access tracks or upgrades on access routes may be highly visible, particularly in open upland landscapes or undeveloped landscapes.

Type and scale of solar PV developments considered

2.9 he assessment considers the landscape sensitivity of the landscape within North Somerset and to ground-mounted solar PV developments. Such

developments consist of 'arrays' of solar PV panels, usually around three metres in height and mounted on aluminium / stainless steel frames, with associated infrastructure including inverters, on-site powerhouse, security fencing and CCTV. Solar PV developments in domestic gardens or roof mounted panels are outside the scope of this study.

2.10 The assessment judges the suitability of different scales of solar PV developments, based on bandings that reflect those that are most likely to be put forward by developers. The sizes2 used for the assessment are set out in Table 2.1.

2.11 Proposed solar PV developments larger than 60ha have not been considered in this assessment. Landscape sensitivity to these very large schemes would be categorised as “high" sensitivity regardless of location, requiring developers to pay particular attention to this issue in their specific applications.

Table 2.1: Solar PV Development Sizes

Solar PV Development Banding	Area
Band A	Up to 5 hectares
Band B	6 hectares – 10 hectares
Band C	11 hectares – 15 hectares
Band D	16 hectares – 30 hectares
Band E	31 hectares – 60 hectares

Type and scale of wind energy developments considered

2.12 The wind energy landscape sensitivity assessment applies to all forms of wind turbines, although it has been based on the most common horizontal axis three-bladed turbine.

2.13 The assessment considers the suitability of different turbine heights (to blade tip), based on bandings that reflect those that are most likely to be put forward by developers (now and in the future). These are set out in Table 2.2 below.

Table 2.2: Wind turbine development sizes

Solar PV Development Banding	Turbine Height (to blade tip)
Band A	18 – 25 metres
Band B	26 – 60 metres
Band C	61 – 100 metres
Band D	101 – 150 metres

2.14 Turbine heights below 18m are not considered within this assessment, as turbines of this size are not considered to have an impact on the landscape. In addition, permitted development rights apply to domestic wind turbines if standalone wind turbines do not exceed 11.1m and building mounted wind turbines do not exceeding 15m (including building, hub, and blade). **[See reference** 2**]**

Cumulative effects

2.15 As larger numbers of renewable energy developments are built, it is increasingly necessary to consider their cumulative effects. Cumulative effects of multiple schemes are a significant issue for planning authorities, particularly for free standing solar PV developments, which tend to cluster around grid connection points.

2.16 The most significant cumulative effects are those that result in changes in the character of a landscape of such an extent as to transform it into a different landscape type. It should be recognised that if numerous developments are built, then at some point another development could tip the balance through its additional effects.

2.17 Key considerations are how different developments relate to each other, their frequency as one moves through the landscape, and their visual separation. These are most appropriately considered at the individual site level, including through the process of Cumulative LVIA.

Evaluating landscape sensitivity

2.18 This assessment draws on advice contained in Natural England's 'Approach to landscape sensitivity assessment' (2019)4 which supersedes 'Techniques and criteria for judging capacity and sensitivity' (Natural England, 2002). This describes the term 'landscape sensitivity', within the context of spatial planning and land management, as follows:

> "Landscape sensitivity may be regarded as a measure of the resilience, or robustness, of a landscape to withstand specified change arising from development types or land management practices, without undue negative effects on the landscape and visual baseline and their value."

2.19 It is a term applied to landscape character and the associated visual resource, combining judgements of their susceptibility to the specific development type / development scenario or other change being considered together with the value(s) related to that landscape and visual resource.

Assessment criteria

2.20 Landscape sensitivity assessment requires judgements on both landscape susceptibility (how vulnerable the landscape is to change from the type being assessed, in this case solar PV and wind energy developments) and landscape value (consensus about importance, which can be recognised through designation as well as through descriptions within the 2014 Landscape Character Assessment.

2.21 The selection of landscape sensitivity indicators (‘criteria’) for this study is informed by the attributes of landscape that could be affected by solar and wind energy development. These consider the ‘landscape’, ‘visual’ and 'perceptual' aspects of sensitivity. Their selection is also based on current best practice and experience of LUC in undertaking similar studies elsewhere in the UK.

2.22 The following five criteria headings are used for this study:

- Landform and scale (including sense of openness / enclosure);
- Landcover (including field and settlement patterns);
- Historic landscape character;
- Visual character (including skylines); and
- Perceptual and scenic qualities.

2.23 Tables 2.4 and 2.5 at the end of this chapter provide guidance and examples of higher and lower sensitivity features/attributes for applying the criteria in North Somerset, for solar PV and wind energy, respectively. The assessments present a commentary against each criterion to inform the

judgements on levels of sensitivity. It is important to note that the relative importance of each criterion varies between landscapes (due to differences in landscape character). The initial stage of the assessment involved a thorough desk- based study drawing on sources of spatial and descriptive information regarding the landscape (see Appendix B). This was supplemented by field survey work undertaken by a team of landscape professionals to verify the findings.

Making the overall judgements on landscape sensitivity

2.24 Once the landscape sensitivity criteria were assessed individually, the results were translated into overall scores of landscape sensitivity (see Table 2.3) for the different bandings of solar PV and wind energy developments. This was undertaken for every LCT and the results are shown in the individual assessment profiles. If any component LCAs within the LCT were judged to be of higher/lower landscape sensitivity (due to local variations), this is accounted for in the assessments and results.

Table 2.3: The five point landscape sensitivity scale

Sensitivity Level	Definition
High	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are highly vulnerable to change from wind and solar energy development. Such development is likely to result in a significant change in character.
Moderate-High	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change from wind and solar energy development. There may be some limited opportunity to accommodate wind turbines/ solar panels without significantly changing landscape character. Great care would be needed in siting and design.

Sensitivity Level	Definition
Moderate	Some of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change. Although the landscape may have some ability to absorb wind and solar energy development, it is likely to cause a degree of change in character. Care would be needed in siting and design.
Low-Moderate	Fewer of the key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are vulnerable to change. The landscape is likely to be able to accommodate wind and solar energy development with limited change in character. Care is still needed when siting and designing to avoid adversely affecting key characteristics.
Low	Key characteristics and qualities of the landscape are robust in that they can withstand change from the introduction of wind turbines and solar panels. The landscape is likely to be able to accommodate wind and solar energy development without a significant change in character. Care is still needed when siting and designing these developments to ensure best fit with the landscape.

2.25 he five defined levels of landscape sensitivity form stages on a continuum, rather than clearly separated categories. Any given landscape may or may not fit neatly into one category, and an element of professional judgement is required.

2.26 As with all assessments based upon data and information which is to a greater or lesser extent subjective, some caution is required in its interpretation. This is to avoid the suggestion that certain landscape features or qualities can automatically be associated with certain sensitivities – the reality is that an assessment of a landscape's sensitivity to development is the result of a complex interplay of often unequally weighted variables (or 'criteria').

2.27 There may be one criterion that has a strong influence on landscape sensitivity in a particular LCT (or LCA) which increases the overall landscape sensitivity score (an example for solar PV might be a landscape with a prominent/highly visible ridgeline, or significant coverage of semi-natural

habitats). There may also be criteria that produce conflicting scores. For example, a small-scale landscape with historic field patterns may also afford greater screening of panels from topography and a dense network of hedgerows. A conflicting example for wind could be in the context of a settled landscape. While it would have a greater human influence (indicating a lower sensitivity to new development), it would also contain more human scale features that could be affected by large-scale wind turbines (indicating a higher sensitivity).Conversely, a more remote landscape is likely to lack human- scale features but is likely to present a higher sensitivity from a perceptual point of view.

2.28 In these situations, a professional judgement is made on overall landscape sensitivity, taking all criteria into account in the context of their importance to the landscape character and quality of the individual LCT/LCA.

Presentation of results

2.29 The full landscape sensitivity assessments for each of the LCTs are presented in separate assessment profiles. These are structured as follows:

- A map of the LCT, with component Character Areas and representative photographs
- A summary description of the LCT against each of the assessment criteria, giving a landscape sensitivity assessment rating for both development types (following the approach set out at Tables 2.4 and 2.5.
- An overall discussion on the landscape sensitivity of the LCT to new solar PV and wind energy developments, referencing particular features, attributes or locations which may be more or less sensitive.
- Landscape sensitivity scores for new solar PV and wind energy development within each of the different bandings, using the five-point scale shown at Table 2.3.
- Discussion of any variations to the overall LCT scores at the LCA level.

2.30 The next chapter sets out the overall results of the assessments.

Criteria and guidance for assessing landscape sensitivity to solar PV development

Landform and scale (including sense of openness/enclosure)

2.31 A flat or gently undulating lowland landscape or extensive plateau is likely to be less sensitive to solar PV development than a landscape with prominent landforms and visible slopes. This is because arrays of solar PV panels will be less easily perceived in a flat landscape than on a slope (including hills and knolls), especially higher slopes.

2.32 A landscape with a strong sense of enclosure (e.g. provided by land cover such as woodland, tree cover or high hedges) is likely to be less sensitive to solar PV development than an open and unenclosed landscape because these features will be able to provide screening.

Table 2.4: Landscape and scale defined by the five point landscape sensitivity scale

Scale	Definition
High	A landscape with a rugged landform or dramatic landform features (which may be large in scale), or a small scale or intimate landform. The landform may be very steep with exposed, visible slopes and no field boundaries or tree cover to provide screening.

Scale	Definition
Moderate-High	A landscape with distinct landform features, and/or irregular in topographic appearance (which may be large in scale), or a smaller scale landform. The landscape may contain prominent, visible slopes with little sense of enclosure (low, few or no hedges or trees/areas of woodland).
Moderate	An undulating landscape, perhaps also incised by valleys, likely to be a medium scale landform, with hidden areas as well as some visible slopes. Some areas lacking screening by field boundaries or tree cover, whilst others might have a greater sense of enclosure owing to a denser occurrence of these features.
Low-Moderate	A simple gently rolling landscape, likely to be a medium-large scale landform. Some enclosure provided by hedges and tree/woodland cover.
Low	An extensive lowland flat landscape or plateau, often a larger scale landform. A very well enclosed landscape – e.g. with fields bounded by high hedges and dense tree/woodland cover.

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)

2.33 Since solar PV panels introduce a new land cover (of built structures), landscapes containing existing hard surfacing or built elements (e.g. urban areas, brownfield sites or large-scale horticulture) are likely to be less sensitive to field-scale solar PV development than highly rural or naturalistic landscapes. Landscapes with small-scale, more irregular field patterns are likely to be more sensitive to the introduction of solar PV development than landscapes with large, regular scale field patterns because of the risk of diluting or masking the characteristic landscape patterns. This would be particularly apparent if development takes place across a number of adjacent fields where the field

pattern is small and intricate (bearing in mind that the height of panels could exceed that of a hedge or stone wall).

Table 2.5: Landcover defined by the five point landscape sensitivity scale

Scale	Definition
High	A landscape characterised by small- scale, ancient field patterns and/ or a landscape dominated by semi-natural land cover.
Moderate-High	A landscape dominated by ancient, small-scale field patterns with a few isolated areas of modern enclosure and / or with some areas of semi-natural land cover.
Moderate	A landscape with a mixture of large- scale, modern fields and some smaller, more historic enclosure. A rural landscape, perhaps with some brownfield sites or urban influences.
Low-Moderate	A landscape which is mainly defined by large, modern fields or those sub-divided for non-traditional uses, e.g. horse keeping. An area of large-scale horticulture or some urban or brownfield influences
Low	A landscape with large-scale, regular fields of mainly modern origin. An urban or 'brownfield' landscape.

Historic and landscape character

2.34 Landscapes which contain important archaeological or historic features or historic associations are likely to have a higher level of sensitivity to solar PV development. Historical features may be in the form of historic land cover types and field systems, areas of buried archaeology, historic landscapes such as

Registered Parks and Gardens or buildings/structures designated for their historical significance.

2.35 Areas which make a significant contribution to the setting of a historical feature or landscape may also have higher sensitivity to solar PV development. Landscapes that are primarily of modern influence and origin will have a lower sensitivity to solar PV development.

Table 2.6: Historic and landscape character defined by the five point landscape sensitivity scale

Scale	Definition
High	A landscape with a high density of historic features important to the character of the area and great time depth
Moderate-High	A landscape with many historic features important to the area and a strong sense of time depth.
Moderate	A landscape with some visible historic features of importance to character, and a variety of time depths.
Low-Moderate	A landscape with a small number of historic features important to the character area and sometimes depth.
Low	A landscape with relatively few historic features important to the character of the area and little time depth (i.e. large intensively farmed fields)

Visual character (including skylines)

2.36 The relative visibility of a landscape may influence its sensitivity to solar PV development. An elevated landscape such as a hill range or plateau, which is viewed from other landscapes, may be more sensitive than an enclosed landscape, since any solar panels will be more widely seen. Landscapes which have important visual relationships with other areas, for example where one area provides a backdrop to a neighbouring area (which may be a designated

landscape such as the Mendip Hills AONB), are considered more sensitive than those with few visual relationships. The extent of inter-visibility may be modified by the importance of these views to appreciation of the landscape, and whether adjacent landscapes provide a setting for one another.

2.37 Prominent and distinctive and/or undeveloped skylines, or skylines with important landmark features, are likely to be more sensitive to solar PV development because panels may detract from these skylines as features in the landscape, or draw attention away from existing landform or landmark features on skylines if not sited appropriately. Important landmark features on the skyline might include historic features or monuments as well as landforms. Where skylines are affected by development, e.g. through the presence of electricity pylons, the addition of solar panels may lead to visual confusion due to differences in scale. Therefore, developed skylines might not necessarily indicate lower sensitivity.

Table 2.7: Visual character defined by the five point landscape sensitivity scale

Scale	Definition
High	A landscape which has important visual relationships with one or more neighbouring areas. It or the landscape(s) it is visible from is designated as AONB. A landscape with prominent or distinctive undeveloped skylines, or with important landmark features on skylines.
Moderate-High	A landscape which is intervisible with several areas, and/or where adjacent areas are strongly interrelated. A landscape with prominent skylines that may form an important backdrop to views from settlements or important viewpoints, and/or with important landmark features.
Moderate	A landscape which has some inter- visibility with neighbouring areas. A landscape with some prominent skylines, but these are not particularly distinctive – there may be some landmark features on the skyline.

Scale	Definition
Low-Moderate	A landscape with limited connections to neighbouring areas, and/or where adjacent landscapes are not visually related. A landscape in which skylines are simple, flat or gently convex and/or there are very few landmark features – other skylines in adjacent LCTs may be more prominent.
Low	An enclosed, self-contained landscape, or one with weak connections to neighbouring areas. A landscape in which skylines are not prominent, and there are no important landmark features on the skyline.

Perceptual and scenic qualities

2.38 Landscapes that are relatively remote or tranquil tend to be more sensitive to solar PV development, since solar panels may be perceived as intrusive. Landscapes which are relatively free from overt human activity and disturbance, and which have a perceived naturalness or a strong feel of traditional rurality, will therefore be more sensitive. Qualities such as tranquillity can be found even in settled areas, where the influence of overtly modern development is reduced. Solar PV development will generally be less intrusive in landscapes which are strongly influenced by modern development, including settlement, industrial and commercial development and infrastructure.

2.39 Landscapes that have a high scenic quality (including those within Mendip Hills AONB) will be more sensitive. Scenic qualities can include contrasts and combinations of landform and landcover. Scenic qualities are recorded in the Landscape Character Assessment, AONB Management Plans and noted from fieldwork.

Table 2.8: Perceptual and scenic qualities defined by the five point landscape sensitivity scale

Scale	Definition
High	A landscape of consistently attractive character, with pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. All or the vast majority is designated for its scenic qualities. A tranquil landscape with little or no overt sign of modern human activity and development.
Moderate-High	A landscape of attractive character, with some pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. Most or all maybe be designated as AONB. A more naturalistic landscape and/or one with little modern human influence and development.
Moderate	A landscape of intermittently attractive character, with occasional pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. Some may be within AONB. A rural landscape with some modern development and human activity, such as intensive farmland.
Low-Moderate	A landscape of limited attractive character, with few pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. A rural or semi-rural landscape with much human activity and dispersed modern development, such as settlement fringes.
Low	A landscape without attractive character, with no pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements, such as industrial areas or derelict land. A landscape with much human activity and modern development, such as industrial areas.

Criteria and guidance for assessing landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

Landform and scale (including sense of openness/enclosure)

2.40 A flat or gently sloping landform is likely to be less sensitive to wind energy development than a landscape with a dramatic rugged landform, distinct landform features (including prominent hills and valleys) or pronounced undulations. Larger scale landforms are likely to be less sensitive than smaller scale landforms - because turbines may appear out of scale, detract from visually important landforms or appear visually confusing (due to turbines being at varying heights) in the latter types of landscapes. Landscapes with frequent human scale features 5, such as settlements, farmsteads, small farm woodlands, trees and hedges may be particularly sensitive to larger turbines. This is because large features such as wind turbines may dominate smaller scale features within the landscape.

Table 2.9: Landscape and scale defined by the five point landscape sensitivity scale

Scale	Definition
High	A landscape with a rugged landform or dramatic landform features (which may be large in scale), or a small scale or intimate landform often with a dense distribution of human-scale features, such as woodland. The landform may be very steep with exposed, visible slopes.
Moderate-High	A landscape with distinct landform features, and/or irregular in topographic appearance (which may be large in scale), or a smaller scale landform. The landscape may

Scale	Definition
	contain prominent, visible slopes and frequent human-scale features.
Moderate	An undulating landscape, perhaps also incised by valleys, likely to be a medium scale landform, with hidden areas as well as some visible slopes.
Low-Moderate	A simple gently rolling landscape with occasional human-scale features such as trees and domestic buildings; likely to be a medium-large scale landform.
Low	An extensive lowland flat landscape or plateau with few/no human-scale features; often a larger scale landform.

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)

2.41 Simple, regular landscapes with extensive areas of consistent land cover are likely to be less sensitive to wind energy development than landscapes with more complex or irregular land cover patterns, smaller and / or irregular field sizes.

Table 2.10: Landcover defined by the five point landscape sensitivity scale

Scale	Definition
High	A landscape with a strong variety in land cover, complex field patterns and / or semi-natural land cover. The field pattern may be characterised by small-scale, ancient fields.
Moderate-High	A landscape with irregular or small- scale fields and a variety in land cover. A rural landscape, perhaps with some areas of semi-natural land cover.

Scale	Definition
Moderate	A landscape with medium sized fields (or a mix of modern and historic enclosure) and some variations in land cover. A rural landscape which may contain some brownfield sites or urban influences
Low-Moderate	A landscape of large open fields of modern enclosure, with little variety in land cover. A landscape which contains areas of brownfield sites or urban influences.
Low	An open, continuous landscape with uniform land cover, or an urban or 'brownfield' landscape.

Historic and landscape character

2.42 Landscapes which contain important archaeological or historic features or historic associations are likely to have a higher level of sensitivity to wind energy development. Historical features may be in the form of historic land cover types and field systems, areas of buried archaeology, historic designed landscapes such as a Registered Park and Garden, or buildings/structures designated for their historical significance.

2.43 Areas which make a significant contribution to the setting of a historical feature or landscapes may also have higher sensitivity to wind energy development. Landscapes that are primarily of modern influence and origin will have a lower sensitivity to wind energy development.

Table 2.11: Historic and landscape character defined by the five point landscape sensitivity scale

Scale	Definition
High	A landscape with a high density of historic features (many designations) important to the character of the area and great time depth.

Scale	Definition
Moderate-High	A landscape with many historic features important to the area and a strong sense of time depth.
Moderate	A landscape with some visible historic features of importance to character, and a variety of time depths.
Low-Moderate	A landscape with a small number of historic features important to the character area and some time-depth.
Low	A landscape with relatively few historic features important to the character of the area, and little time depth (i.e. large intensively farmed fields).

Visual character (including skylines)

2.44 The relative visibility of a landscape may influence its sensitivity to wind development. An elevated landscape such as a hill range or plateau, which is viewed from other landscapes, may be more sensitive than a landscape with limited visibility. Landscapes which have important visual relationships with other areas, for example where one area provides a backdrop to a neighbouring area (which may be a designated landscape such as an AONB), are considered more sensitive than those with few visual relationships. The extent of inter-visibility may be modified by the importance of these views to appreciation of the landscape, and whether adjacent landscapes provide a setting for one another.

2.45 Prominent and distinctive and/or undeveloped skylines, or skylines with important landmark features, are likely to be more sensitive to wind energy development because turbines may detract from these skylines as features in the landscape, or draw attention away from existing landform or landmark features on skylines. Important landmark features on the skyline might include historic features or monuments as well as landforms. Where skylines are affected by development, e.g. through the presence of electricity pylons or existing turbines, the addition of turbines of a different scale may lead to visual confusion. Therefore, the presence of existing development cannot always assume a lower sensitivity to new development.

Table 2.12: Visual character defined by the five point landscape sensitivity scale

Scale	Definition
High	A landscape which has important visual relationships with one or more neighbouring areas. It or the landscape(s) it is visible from is designated as AONB. A landscape with prominent or distinctive undeveloped skylines, or with important landmark features on skylines.
Moderate-High	A landscape which is intervisible with several areas, and/or where adjacent areas are strongly interrelated. A landscape with prominent skylines that may form an important backdrop to views from settlements or important viewpoints, and/or with important landmark features.
Moderate	A landscape which has some inter- visibility with neighbouring areas, and/or where relationships between adjacent landscapes are of more importance. A landscape with some prominent skylines, but these are not particularly distinctive – there may be some landmark features on the skyline.
Low-Moderate	A landscape with limited connections to neighbouring areas, and/or where adjacent landscapes are not visually related. A landscape in which skylines are simple, flat or gently convex and/or there are very few landmark features on the skyline – other skylines in adjacent LCTs may be more prominent.
Low	An enclosed, self-contained landscape, or one with weak connections to neighbouring areas. A landscape in which skylines are not prominent, and there are no important landmark features on the skyline.

Perceptual and scenic qualities

2.46 Landscapes that are relatively remote or tranquil tend to be more sensitive to wind energy, since turbines may be perceived as intrusive. Landscapes which are relatively free from overt human activity and disturbance, and which have a perceived naturalness or a strong feel of traditional rurality, will therefore be more sensitive. Qualities such as tranquillity can be found even in settled areas, where the influence of overtly modern development is reduced. Wind energy development will generally be less intrusive in landscapes which are strongly influenced by modern development, including settlement, industrial and commercial development and infrastructure.

2.47 Landscapes that have a high scenic quality (including those within the Mendip Hills AONB) will be more sensitive to wind energy development. Scenic qualities can include contrasts and combinations of landform and landcover. Scenic qualities are recorded in the Landscape Character Assessment, AONB Management Plan and noted from fieldwork.

Table 2.13: Perceptual and scenic qualities defined by the five point landscape sensitivity scale

Scale	Definition
High	A landscape of consistently attractive character, with pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. All or the vast majority is designated for its scenic qualities. A tranquil landscape with little or no overt sign of modern human activity and development.
Moderate-High	A landscape of attractive character, with some pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. Most or all may be designated as AONB. A more naturalistic landscape and/or one with little modern human influence and development.

Scale	Definition
Moderate	A landscape of intermittently attractive character, with occasional pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. Some may be within AONB. A rural landscape with some modern development and human activity, such as intensive farmland.
Low-Moderate	A landscape of limited attractive character, with few pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. A rural or semi-rural landscape with much human activity and dispersed modern development, such as settlement fringes.
Low	A landscape without attractive character, with no pleasing combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements, such as industrial areas or derelict land. A landscape with much human activity and modern development, such as industrial areas.

Chapter 3

Landscape sensitivity assessment results

This chapter presents the overall results of the assessment.

Landscape sensitivity assessment results

3.1 The LCTs within North Somerset contain areas of higher and lower landscape sensitivity that vary from the overall scores. It is therefore very important to take note of the content of the individual assessment profiles, including any commentary which highlights areas which could be more sensitive to solar PV or wind energy developments.

3.2 The overall results of the landscape capacity assessment are set out in Tables 3.1 and 3.2.

3.3 Figures 3.1 to 3.5 present a spatial representation of the landscape sensitivity of North Somerset to new solar PV development (by the five different size bandings). These are followed by Figures 3.6 to 3.9 for wind energy development (by the four different size bandings).

3.4 These maps should always be referred to alongside the individual assessment profiles which set out the scores and reasonings behind them.

Landscape sensitivity scores to new solar PV developments

Table 3.1: North Somerset – LCT A: Moors

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)	BAND E (31-60ha)
A1: Kingston Seymour and Puxton Moors	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
A2: Clapton Moor	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High
A3: Kenn and Tickenham Moors	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High
A4: Locking and Banwell Moors	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High	High	High
A5: Bleadon Moor	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High	High	High

Table 3.2: North Somerset – LCT B: River Flood Plain

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)	BAND E (31-60ha)
B1: Land Yeo, Kenn River and River Avor Flood Plains	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High	High
B2: Lox Yeo River Flood Plain	Moderate	High	High	High	High

Table 3.3: North Somerset – LCT C: Settled Coastal Edge

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)	BAND E (31-60ha)
C1: Weston Bay Settled Coastal Edge	Low-Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High	High
C2: Portbury Settled Coastal Edge	Low	Moderate-High	Moderate	Moderate-High	Moderate-High

Table 3.4: North Somerset – LCT D: Limestone Gorges

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)	BAND E (31-60ha)
D1: Avon Gorges	High	High	High	High	High

Table 3.5: North Somerset – LCT E: Limestone Ridges and Coombes

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)	BAND E (31-60ha)
E1: Mendip Ridges and Combes	Moderate-High	High	High	High	High
E2: Worlebury Ridges and Combes	Moderate	Moderate-High	Moderate-High	High	High
E3: Middlehope Ridges and Combes	Moderate-High	High	High	High	High
E4: Portishead Ridges and Combes	Moderate	Moderate-High	Moderate-High	High	High
E4: Portishead Ridges and Combes Coastal outliers	Moderate-High	High	High	High	High
E5: Tickenham Ridges and Combes	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High	High
E6: Cleeve Ridges and Combes	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High	High

Table 3.6: North Somerset – LCT F: Sandstone Uplands

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)	BAND E (31-60ha)
F1: Abbots Leigh Sandstone Uplands	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High	High	High

Table 3.7: North Somerset – LCT G: Settled Limestone Plateau

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)	BAND E (31-60ha)
G1: Broadfield Down Settled Limestone Plateau	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
G2: Failand Settled Limestone Plateau	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High

Table 3.8: North Somerset – LCT H: Settled Hills

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)	BAND E (31-60ha)
H1: Dundry Hill	Moderate	Moderate-High	Moderate-High	High	High

Table 3.9: North Somerset – LCT J: Rolling Valley Farmland

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)	BAND E (31-60ha)
J1: Lox Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High	High
J2: River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
J2: River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland AONB	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High	High
J3: Chew Rolling Valley Farmland	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High	High	High
J4: Colliters Brook Rolling Valley Farmland	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
J5: Land Yeo and Kenn Rolling Valley Farmland	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
J6: Avon Rolling Valley Farmland	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High

Table 3.10: North Somerset – LCT K: Farmed Coal Measures

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)	BAND E (31-60ha)
K1: Nailsea Farmed Coal Measures	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High	High	High

Landscape sensitivity scores to new wind energy developments

Table 3.11: North Somerset – LCT A: Moors

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)
A1: Kingston Seymour and Puxton Moors	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate-High	Moderate-High
A2: Clapton Moor	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
A3: Kenn and Tickenham Moors	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
A4: Locking and Banwell Moors	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High	High
A5: Bleadon Moor	Low-Moderate	Moderate	High	High

Table 3.12: North Somerset – LCT B: River Flood Plain

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)
B1: Land Yeo, Kenn River and River Avor Flood Plains	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)
B2: Lox Yeo River Flood Plain	Moderate-High	High	High	High

Table 3.13: North Somerset – LCT C: Settled Coastal Edge

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)
C1: Weston Bay Settled Coastal Edge	Low-Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High
C2: Portbury Settled Coastal Edge	Low	Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate

Table 3.14: North Somerset – LCT D: Limestone Gorges

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)
D1: Avon Gorges	High	High	High	High

Table 3.15: North Somerset – LCT E: Limestone Ridges and Coombes

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)
E1: Mendip Ridges and Combes	Moderate-High	High	High	High
E2: Worlebury Ridges and Combes	Low-Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High
E3: Middlehope Ridges and Combes	High	High	High	High
E4: Portishead Ridges and Combes	Low-Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High
E4: Portishead Ridges and Combes Coastal outliers	High	High	High	High
E5: Tickenham Ridges and Combes	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High
E6: Cleeve Ridges and Combes	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High

Table 3.16: North Somerset – LCT F: Sandstone Uplands

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)
F1: Abbots Leigh Sandstone Uplands	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High

Table 3.17: North Somerset – LCT G: Settled Limestone Plateau

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)
G1: Broadfield Down Settled Limestone Plateau	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
G2: Failand Settled Limestone Plateau	Low-Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High

Table 3.18: North Somerset – LCT H: Settled Hills

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)
H1: Dundry Hill	Moderate-High	Moderate-High	High	High

Table 3.19: North Somerset – LCT J: Rolling Valley Farmland

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)
J1: Lox Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland	Moderate-High	Moderate-High	High	High

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)
J2: River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
J2: River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland AONB	Moderate-High	Moderate-High	High	High
J3: Chew Rolling Valley Farmland	Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High
J4: Colliters Brook Rolling Valley Farmland	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
J5: Land Yeo and Kenn Rolling Valley Farmland	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High
J6: Avon Rolling Valley Farmland	Low-Moderate	Moderate	Moderate-High	High

Table 3.20: North Somerset – LCT K: Farmed Coal Measures

LCA	Band A (up to 5ha)	BAND B (6-8ha)	BAND C (11-15ha)	BAND D (16-30ha)
K1: Nailsea Farmed Coal Measures	Low-Moderate	Moderate-High	High	High

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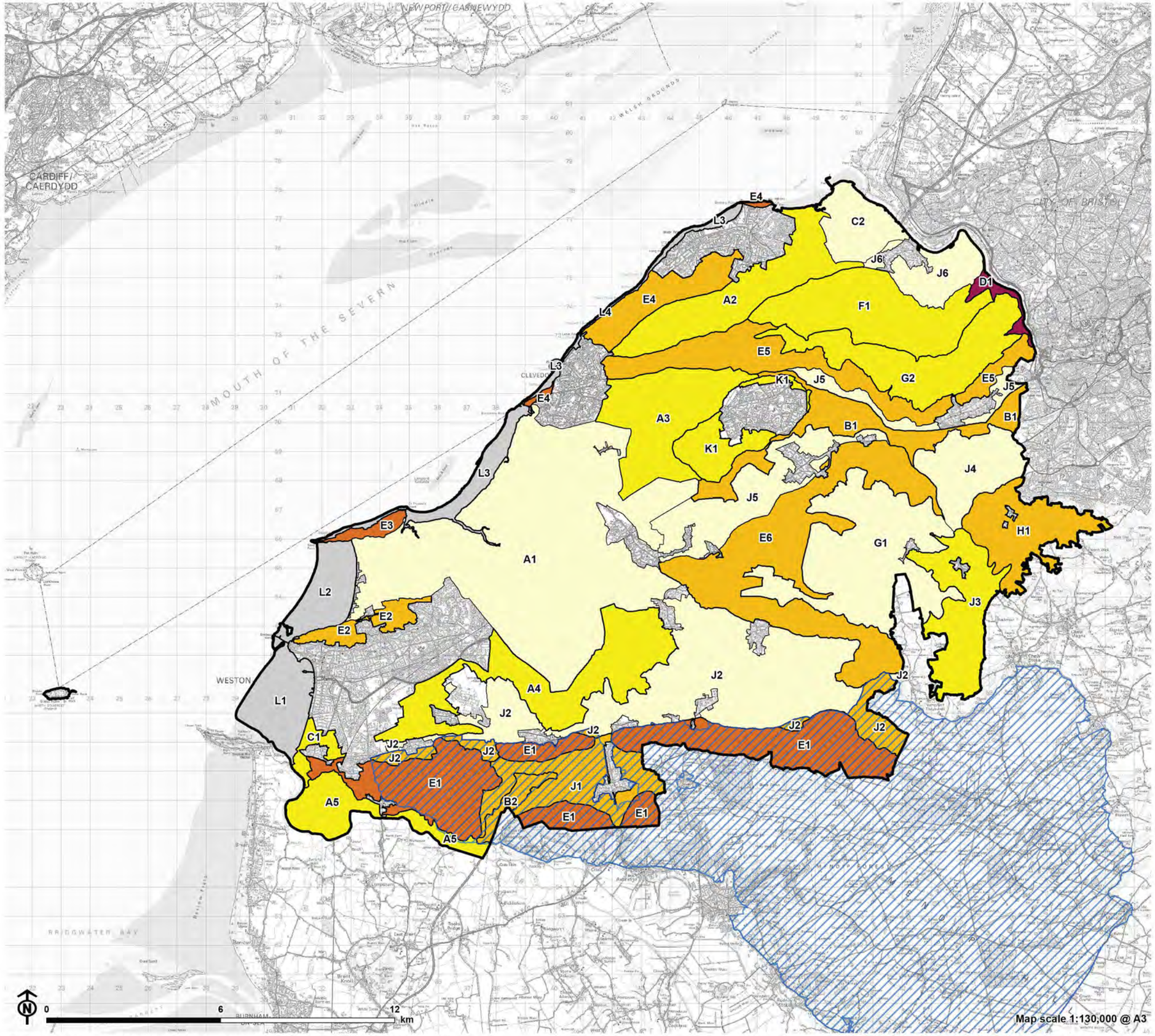
Figure 3.1: Landscape sensitivity for future Band A (≤5ha) solar energy development



Map scale 1:130,000 @ A3

CB:JI EB:llott_J LUC 11519_FIG3_1_Renewable_assessment_North_Somerset_Renewable_combined 27/08/2021
Source: LUC, SGCC, NE, OS

- North Somerset district boundary

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- Mendip Hills

Landscape Sensitivity

- Low
- Low - Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate - High
- High
- Areas scoped out of the assessment on landscape/technical grounds

North Somerset Landscape Character Types and Areas (North Somerset LCA 2018)

A. Moors

A1. Kingston Seymour and Puxton Moors
A2. Clapton Moor
A3. Kenn and Tickenham Moors
A4. Locking and Banwell Moors
A5. Bleadon Moor

B. River Flood Plain

B1. Land Yeo and Kenn River Flood Plain
B2. Lox Yeo River Flood Plain

C. Settled Coastal Edge

C1. Weston Bay Settled Coastal Edge
C2. Portbury Settled Coastal Edge

D. Limestone Gorges

D1. Avon Gorge

E. Limestone Ridges and Combes

E1. Mendips Ridges and Combes
E2. Worlebury Ridges and Combes
E3. Middlehope Ridges Combes
E4. Portishead Ridges and Combes
E5. Tickenham Ridges and Combes
E6. Cleeve Ridges and Combes

F. Sandstone Uplands

F1. Abbots Leigh Sandstone Uplands

G. Settled Limestone Plateau

G1. Bradfield Down Settled Limestone Plateau
G2. Failand Settled Limestone Plateau

H. Settled Hills

H1. Dundry Hill

J. Rolling Valley Farmland

J1. Lox Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J2. River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J3. Chew Rolling Valley Farmland
J4. Colliters Brook Rolling Valley Farmland
J5. Land Yeo and Kenn Rolling Valley Farmland
J6. Avon Rolling Valley Farmland

K. Farmed Coal Measures

K1. Nailsea Farmed Coal Measures

L. Inter-tidal Bays

L1. Weston Bay
L2. Sand Bay
L3. Woodspring Bay
L4. Clevedon-Portishead Bays

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Figure 3.2: Landscape sensitivity for future Band B (6ha to 10ha) solar energy development

North Somerset district boundary

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mendip Hills

Landscape Sensitivity

- Low
- Low - Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate - High
- High
- Areas scoped out of the assessment on landscape/technical grounds

North Somerset Landscape Character Types and Areas (North Somerset LCA 2018)

A. Moors

A1. Kingston Seymour and Puxton Moors
A2. Clapton Moor
A3. Kenn and Tickenham Moors
A4. Locking and Banwell Moors
A5. Bleadon Moor

B. River Flood Plain

B1. Land Yeo and Kenn River Flood Plain
B2. Lox Yeo River Flood Plain

C. Settled Coastal Edge

C1. Weston Bay Settled Coastal Edge
C2. Portbury Settled Coastal Edge

D. Limestone Gorges

D1. Avon Gorge

E. Limestone Ridges and Combes

E1. Mendips Ridges and Combes
E2. Worlebury Ridges and Combes
E3. Middlehope Ridges Combes
E4. Portishead Ridges and Combes
E5. Tickenham Ridges and Combes
E6. Cleeve Ridges and Combes

F. Sandstone Uplands

F1. Abbots Leigh Sandstone Uplands

G. Settled Limestone Plateau

G1. Bradfield Down Settled Limestone Plateau
G2. Failand Settled Limestone Plateau

H. Settled Hills

H1. Dundry Hill

J. Rolling Valley Farmland

J1. Lox Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J2. River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J3. Chew Rolling Valley Farmland
J4. Colliters Brook Rolling Valley Farmland
J5. Land Yeo and Kenn Rolling Valley Farmland
J6. Avon Rolling Valley Farmland

K. Farmed Coal Measures

K1. Nailsea Farmed Coal Measures

L. Inter-tidal Bays

L1. Weston Bay
L2. Sand Bay
L3. Woodspring Bay
L4. Clevedon-Portishead Bays

Map scale 1:130,000 @ A3

GB:JI EB:llott_J LUC 11519_FIG3_1_Renewable_assessment_North_Somerset_Renewable_combined 27/08/2021
Source: LUC, SGCC, NE, OS

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment solar PV and wind energy development
North Somerset Council

LUC

Figure 3.3: Landscape sensitivity for future Band C (11ha to 15ha) solar energy development

North Somerset district boundary

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mendip Hills

Landscape Sensitivity

- Low
- Low - Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate - High
- High
- Areas scoped out of the assessment on landscape/technical grounds

North Somerset Landscape Character Types and Areas (North Somerset LCA 2018)

A. Moors

A1. Kingston Seymour and Puxton Moors
A2. Clapton Moor
A3. Kenn and Tickenham Moors
A4. Locking and Banwell Moors
A5. Bleadon Moor

B. River Flood Plain

B1. Land Yeo and Kenn River Flood Plain
B2. Lox Yeo River Flood Plain

C. Settled Coastal Edge

C1. Weston Bay Settled Coastal Edge
C2. Portbury Settled Coastal Edge

D. Limestone Gorges

D1. Avon Gorge

E. Limestone Ridges and Combes

E1. Mendips Ridges and Combes
E2. Worlebury Ridges and Combes
E3. Middlehope Ridges Combes
E4. Portishead Ridges and Combes
E5. Tickenham Ridges and Combes
E6. Cleeve Ridges and Combes

F. Sandstone Uplands

F1. Abbots Leigh Sandstone Uplands

G. Settled Limestone Plateau

G1. Bradfield Down Settled Limestone Plateau
G2. Failand Settled Limestone Plateau

H. Settled Hills

H1. Dundry Hill

J. Rolling Valley Farmland

J1. Lox Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J2. River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J3. Chew Rolling Valley Farmland
J4. Colliters Brook Rolling Valley Farmland
J5. Land Yeo and Kenn Rolling Valley Farmland
J6. Avon Rolling Valley Farmland

K. Farmed Coal Measures

K1. Nailsea Farmed Coal Measures

L. Inter-tidal Bays

L1. Weston Bay
L2. Sand Bay
L3. Woodspring Bay
L4. Clevedon-Portishead Bays

0 6 12 km

Map scale 1:130,000 @ A3

CB:JI EB:llott_J LUC 11519_FIG3_1_Renewable_assessment_North_Somerset_Renewable_combined 27/08/2021
Source: LUC, SGCC, NE, OS

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Figure 3.4: Landscape sensitivity for future Band D (16ha to 30ha) solar energy development

North Somerset district boundary

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mendip Hills

Landscape Sensitivity

Low
Low - Moderate
Moderate
Moderate - High
High
Areas scoped out of the assessment on landscape/technical grounds

North Somerset Landscape Character Types and Areas (North Somerset LCA 2018)

A. Moors

A1. Kingston Seymour and Puxton Moors
A2. Clapton Moor
A3. Kenn and Tickenham Moors
A4. Locking and Banwell Moors
A5. Bleadon Moor

B. River Flood Plain

B1. Land Yeo and Kenn River Flood Plain
B2. Lox Yeo River Flood Plain

C. Settled Coastal Edge

C1. Weston Bay Settled Coastal Edge
C2. Portbury Settled Coastal Edge

D. Limestone Gorges

D1. Avon Gorge

E. Limestone Ridges and Combes

E1. Mendips Ridges and Combes
E2. Worlebury Ridges and Combes
E3. Middlehope Ridges Combes
E4. Portishead Ridges and Combes
E5. Tickenham Ridges and Combes
E6. Cleeve Ridges and Combes

F. Sandstone Uplands

F1. Abbots Leigh Sandstone Uplands

G. Settled Limestone Plateau

G1. Bradfield Down Settled Limestone Plateau
G2. Failand Settled Limestone Plateau

H. Settled Hills

H1. Dundry Hill

J. Rolling Valley Farmland

J1. Lox Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J2. River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J3. Chew Rolling Valley Farmland
J4. Colliters Brook Rolling Valley Farmland
J5. Land Yeo and Kenn Rolling Valley Farmland
J6. Avon Rolling Valley Farmland

K. Farmed Coal Measures

K1. Nailsea Farmed Coal Measures

L. Inter-tidal Bays

L1. Weston Bay
L2. Sand Bay
L3. Woodspring Bay
L4. Clevedon-Portishead Bays

0 6 12 km

Map scale 1:130,000 @ A3

CB:JI EB:llott_J LUC 11519_FIG3_1_Renewable_assessment_North_Somerset_Renewable_combined 27/08/2021
Source: LUC, SGCC, NE, OS

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment solar PV and wind energy development
North Somerset Council

LUC

Figure 3.5: Landscape sensitivity for future Band E (31ha to 60ha) solar energy development

North Somerset district boundary

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mendip Hills

Landscape Sensitivity

Low
Low - Moderate
Moderate
Moderate - High
High
Areas scoped out of the assessment on landscape/technical grounds

North Somerset Landscape Character Types and Areas (North Somerset LCA 2018)

A. Moors

A1. Kingston Seymour and Puxton Moors
A2. Clapton Moor
A3. Kenn and Tickenham Moors
A4. Locking and Banwell Moors
A5. Bleadon Moor

B. River Flood Plain

B1. Land Yeo and Kenn River Flood Plain
B2. Lox Yeo River Flood Plain

C. Settled Coastal Edge

C1. Weston Bay Settled Coastal Edge
C2. Portbury Settled Coastal Edge

D. Limestone Gorges

D1. Avon Gorge

E. Limestone Ridges and Combes

E1. Mendips Ridges and Combes
E2. Worlebury Ridges and Combes
E3. Middlehope Ridges Combes
E4. Portishead Ridges and Combes
E5. Tickenham Ridges and Combes
E6. Cleeve Ridges and Combes

F. Sandstone Uplands

F1. Abbots Leigh Sandstone Uplands

G. Settled Limestone Plateau

G1. Bradfield Down Settled Limestone Plateau
G2. Failand Settled Limestone Plateau

H. Settled Hills

H1. Dundry Hill

J. Rolling Valley Farmland

J1. Lox Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J2. River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J3. Chew Rolling Valley Farmland
J4. Colliters Brook Rolling Valley Farmland
J5. Land Yeo and Kenn Rolling Valley Farmland
J6. Avon Rolling Valley Farmland

K. Farmed Coal Measures

K1. Nailsea Farmed Coal Measures

L. Inter-tidal Bays

L1. Weston Bay
L2. Sand Bay
L3. Woodspring Bay
L4. Clevedon-Portishead Bays

0 6 12 km

Map scale 1:130,000 @ A3

CB:JI EB:llott_J LUC 11519_FIG3_1_Renewable_assessment_North_Somerset_Renewable_combined 31/08/2021
Source: LUC, SGCC, NE, OS

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment solar PV and wind energy development
North Somerset Council

LUC

Figure 3.6: Landscape sensitivity for future Band A (18-25m) wind energy development

North Somerset district boundary

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mendip Hills

Landscape Sensitivity

Low
Low - Moderate
Moderate
Moderate - High
High
Areas scoped out of the assessment on landscape/technical grounds

North Somerset Landscape Character Types and Areas (North Somerset LCA 2018)

A. Moors

A1. Kingston Seymour and Puxton Moors
A2. Clapton Moor
A3. Kenn and Tickenham Moors
A4. Locking and Banwell Moors
A5. Bleadon Moor

B. River Flood Plain

B1. Land Yeo and Kenn River Flood Plain
B2. Lox Yeo River Flood Plain

C. Settled Coastal Edge

C1. Weston Bay Settled Coastal Edge
C2. Portbury Settled Coastal Edge

D. Limestone Gorges

D1. Avon Gorge

E. Limestone Ridges and Combes

E1. Mendips Ridges and Combes
E2. Worlebury Ridges and Combes
E3. Middlehope Ridges Combes
E4. Portishead Ridges and Combes
E5. Tickenham Ridges and Combes
E6. Cleeve Ridges and Combes

F. Sandstone Uplands

F1. Abbots Leigh Sandstone Uplands

G. Settled Limestone Plateau

G1. Bradfield Down Settled Limestone Plateau
G2. Failand Settled Limestone Plateau

H. Settled Hills

H1. Dundry Hill

J. Rolling Valley Farmland

J1. Lox Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J2. River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J3. Chew Rolling Valley Farmland
J4. Colliters Brook Rolling Valley Farmland
J5. Land Yeo and Kenn Rolling Valley Farmland
J6. Avon Rolling Valley Farmland

K. Farmed Coal Measures

K1. Nailsea Farmed Coal Measures

L. Inter-tidal Bays

L1. Weston Bay
L2. Sand Bay
L3. Woodspring Bay
L4. Clevedon-Portishead Bays

0 6 12 km

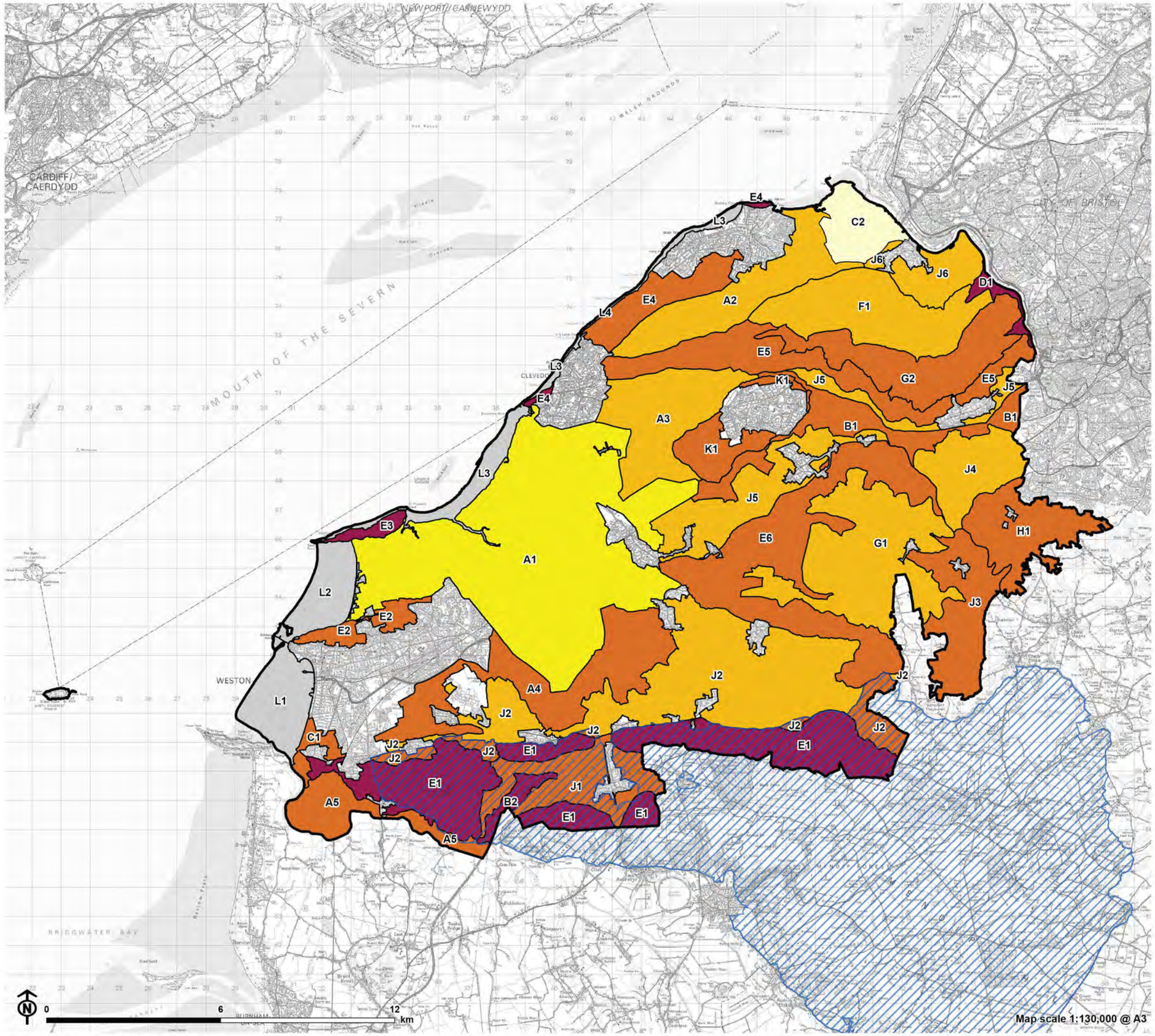
Map scale 1:130,000 @ A3

GB:JI EB:llott_J LUC 11519_FIG3_1_Renewable_assessment_North_Somerset_Renewable_combined 27/08/2021
Source: LUC, SGCC, NE, OS

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment solar PV and wind energy development
North Somerset Council

LUC

Figure 3.7: Landscape sensitivity for future Band B (26-60m) wind energy development



North Somerset district boundary

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mendip Hills

Landscape Sensitivity

- Low
- Low - Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate - High
- High
- Areas scoped out of the assessment on landscape/technical grounds

North Somerset Landscape Character Types and Areas (North Somerset LCA 2018)

A. Moors

A1. Kingston Seymour and Puxton Moors
A2. Clapton Moor
A3. Kenn and Tickenham Moors
A4. Locking and Banwell Moors
A5. Bleadon Moor

B. River Flood Plain

B1. Land Yeo and Kenn River Flood Plain
B2. Lox Yeo River Flood Plain

C. Settled Coastal Edge

C1. Weston Bay Settled Coastal Edge
C2. Portbury Settled Coastal Edge

D. Limestone Gorges

D1. Avon Gorge

E. Limestone Ridges and Combes

E1. Mendips Ridges and Combes
E2. Worlebury Ridges and Combes
E3. Middlehope Ridges Combes
E4. Portishead Ridges and Combes
E5. Tickenham Ridges and Combes
E6. Cleeve Ridges and Combes

F. Sandstone Uplands

F1. Abbots Leigh Sandstone Uplands

G. Settled Limestone Plateau

G1. Bradfield Down Settled Limestone Plateau
G2. Failand Settled Limestone Plateau

H. Settled Hills

H1. Dundry Hill

J. Rolling Valley Farmland

J1. Lox Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J2. River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J3. Chew Rolling Valley Farmland
J4. Colliters Brook Rolling Valley Farmland
J5. Land Yeo and Kenn Rolling Valley Farmland
J6. Avon Rolling Valley Farmland

K. Farmed Coal Measures

K1. Nailsea Farmed Coal Measures

L. Inter-tidal Bays

L1. Weston Bay
L2. Sand Bay
L3. Woodspring Bay
L4. Clevedon-Portishead Bays

CB:JI EB:llott_J LUC 11519_FIG3_1_Renewable_assessment_North_Somerset_Renewable_combined 27/08/2021
Source: LUC, SGCC, NE, OS

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment solar PV and wind energy development
North Somerset Council

LUC

Figure 3.8: Landscape sensitivity for future Band C (61-100m) wind energy development

North Somerset district boundary

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mendip Hills

Landscape Sensitivity

- Low
- Low - Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate - High
- High
- Areas scoped out of the assessment on landscape/technical grounds

North Somerset Landscape Character Types and Areas (North Somerset LCA 2018)

A. Moors

A1. Kingston Seymour and Puxton Moors
A2. Clapton Moor
A3. Kenn and Tickenham Moors
A4. Locking and Banwell Moors
A5. Bleadon Moor

B. River Flood Plain

B1. Land Yeo and Kenn River Flood Plain
B2. Lox Yeo River Flood Plain

C. Settled Coastal Edge

C1. Weston Bay Settled Coastal Edge
C2. Portbury Settled Coastal Edge

D. Limestone Gorges

D1. Avon Gorge

E. Limestone Ridges and Combes

E1. Mendips Ridges and Combes
E2. Worlebury Ridges and Combes
E3. Middlehope Ridges Combes
E4. Portishead Ridges and Combes
E5. Tickenham Ridges and Combes
E6. Cleeve Ridges and Combes

F. Sandstone Uplands

F1. Abbots Leigh Sandstone Uplands

G. Settled Limestone Plateau

G1. Bradfield Down Settled Limestone Plateau
G2. Failand Settled Limestone Plateau

H. Settled Hills

H1. Dundry Hill

J. Rolling Valley Farmland

J1. Lox Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J2. River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J3. Chew Rolling Valley Farmland
J4. Colliters Brook Rolling Valley Farmland
J5. Land Yeo and Kenn Rolling Valley Farmland
J6. Avon Rolling Valley Farmland

K. Farmed Coal Measures

K1. Nailsea Farmed Coal Measures

L. Inter-tidal Bays

L1. Weston Bay
L2. Sand Bay
L3. Woodspring Bay
L4. Clevedon-Portishead Bays

0 6 12 km

Map scale 1:130,000 @ A3

CB:JI EB:llott_J LUC 11519_FIG3_1_Renewable_assessment_North_Somerset_Renewable_combined 27/08/2021
Source: LUC, SGCC, NE, OS

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment solar PV and wind energy development
North Somerset Council

LUC

Figure 3.9: Landscape sensitivity for future Band D (101-150m) wind energy development

North Somerset district boundary

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mendip Hills

Landscape Sensitivity

- Low
- Low - Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate - High
- High
- Areas scoped out of the assessment on landscape/technical grounds

North Somerset Landscape Character Types and Areas (North Somerset LCA 2018)

A. Moors

A1. Kingston Seymour and Puxton Moors
A2. Clapton Moor
A3. Kenn and Tickenham Moors
A4. Locking and Banwell Moors
A5. Bleadon Moor

B. River Flood Plain

B1. Land Yeo and Kenn River Flood Plain
B2. Lox Yeo River Flood Plain

C. Settled Coastal Edge

C1. Weston Bay Settled Coastal Edge
C2. Portbury Settled Coastal Edge

D. Limestone Gorges

D1. Avon Gorge

E. Limestone Ridges and Combes

E1. Mendips Ridges and Combes
E2. Worlebury Ridges and Combes
E3. Middlehope Ridges Combes
E4. Portishead Ridges and Combes
E5. Tickenham Ridges and Combes
E6. Cleeve Ridges and Combes

F. Sandstone Uplands

F1. Abbots Leigh Sandstone Uplands

G. Settled Limestone Plateau

G1. Bradfield Down Settled Limestone Plateau
G2. Failand Settled Limestone Plateau

H. Settled Hills

H1. Dundry Hill

J. Rolling Valley Farmland

J1. Lox Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J2. River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland
J3. Chew Rolling Valley Farmland
J4. Colliters Brook Rolling Valley Farmland
J5. Land Yeo and Kenn Rolling Valley Farmland
J6. Avon Rolling Valley Farmland

K. Farmed Coal Measures

K1. Nailsea Farmed Coal Measures

L. Inter-tidal Bays

L1. Weston Bay
L2. Sand Bay
L3. Woodspring Bay
L4. Clevedon-Portishead Bays

0 6 12 km

Map scale 1:130,000 @ A3

GB:JI EB:llott_J LUC 11519_FIG3_1_Renewable_assessment_North_Somerset_Renewable_combined 27/08/2021
Source: LUC, SGCC, NE, OS

Appendix A

User Guide

This appendix gives information on how to use available information to shape proposals and assist in assessing and appraising planning applications.

A.1 In order to assist in using available information to shape proposals for renewable energy development and assist in assessing and appraising planning applications, we have prepared a list of questions that should be considered. These are:

- What type of change is proposed?
- To which Landscape Character Type (LCT) does the proposal relate (refer to Figure 2.1) and is the site within an AONB? If a proposal is close to the edge of two or more LCTs, all relevant profiles will need to be consulted.
- To what degree does the site reflect the typical sensitivities identified in the sensitivity criteria for the LCT in question? Which of these sensitivities will be affected by the proposal and how?
- Does the assessment text identify any areas of higher or lower sensitivity at Landscape Character Area (LCA) level that may be applicable to the proposal?
- Are there any specific site opportunities for mitigation?

Appendix B

Data and Information Sources

This appendix lists the used data and information sources.

Key sources of information used to inform the study

- North Somerset Landscape Character Assessment SPD (Wardell Armstrong 2018)
- The special qualities and spatial boundaries of the Mendip Hills AONB, as outlined in the Management Plan
- The Mendip Hills AONB Landscape Character Assessment (LDA, 2004)
- Nature Conservation designations (international, national and local)

B.1 In addition, the following table lists the main datasets collated and analysed in Geographic Information System (GIS) software as a key part of the evidence base for this study.

Table B.1: GIS Base maps considered in the study

GIS layer	Source
Local authority boundaries	Ordnance Survey
Ordnance Survey 1: 25K	North Somerset Council
Ordnance Survey 1: 50K	North Somerset Council

GIS layer	Source
Ordnance Survey 1:250k	Ordnance Survey
Aerial imagery	ESRI

Table B.2: List of GIS landscape maps considered in the study

GIS layer	Source
National Character Areas	Natural England
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Natural England
Agricultural Land Classification	Natural England
Light pollution	CPRE
Tranquillity	CPRE
CORINE Land Cover	EEA

Table B.3: List of GIS historic environment maps considered in the survey

GIS layer	Source
Conservation areas	North Somerset Council
Listed buildings	Historic England
Registered Parks and Gardens	Historic England
Scheduled Monuments	Historic England
Registered battlefields	Historic England
Locally listed buildings	North Somerset Council

Table B.4: List of GIS ecological environment maps considered in study

GIS layer	Source
Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)	North Somerset Council
Priority Habitat Inventory (PHI)	Natural England
Local Nature Reserves (LNR)	Natural England
National Nature Reserves (NNR)	Natural England
Ramsar	Natural England
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	Natural England
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	Natural England
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Natural England
Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI)	Natural England

Table B.5: List of GIS access and recreation maps considered in study

GIS	Source
Country Parks	Natural England
National Trails	Natural England
National and Regional Cycle Routes	Sustrans
Ordnance Survey Open Greenspace	Ordnance Survey
RoW Act Open Access Land / Open Country	Natural England
National Trust Land – Always Open / Limited Access	National Trust

Appendix C

Landscape sensitivity assessment profiles for individual Landscape Character Profiles

This appendix gives information on the Landscape Character Profiles including maps, photos and assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development.

LCT A: Moors

Figure C.1: Map of LCT A: Moors

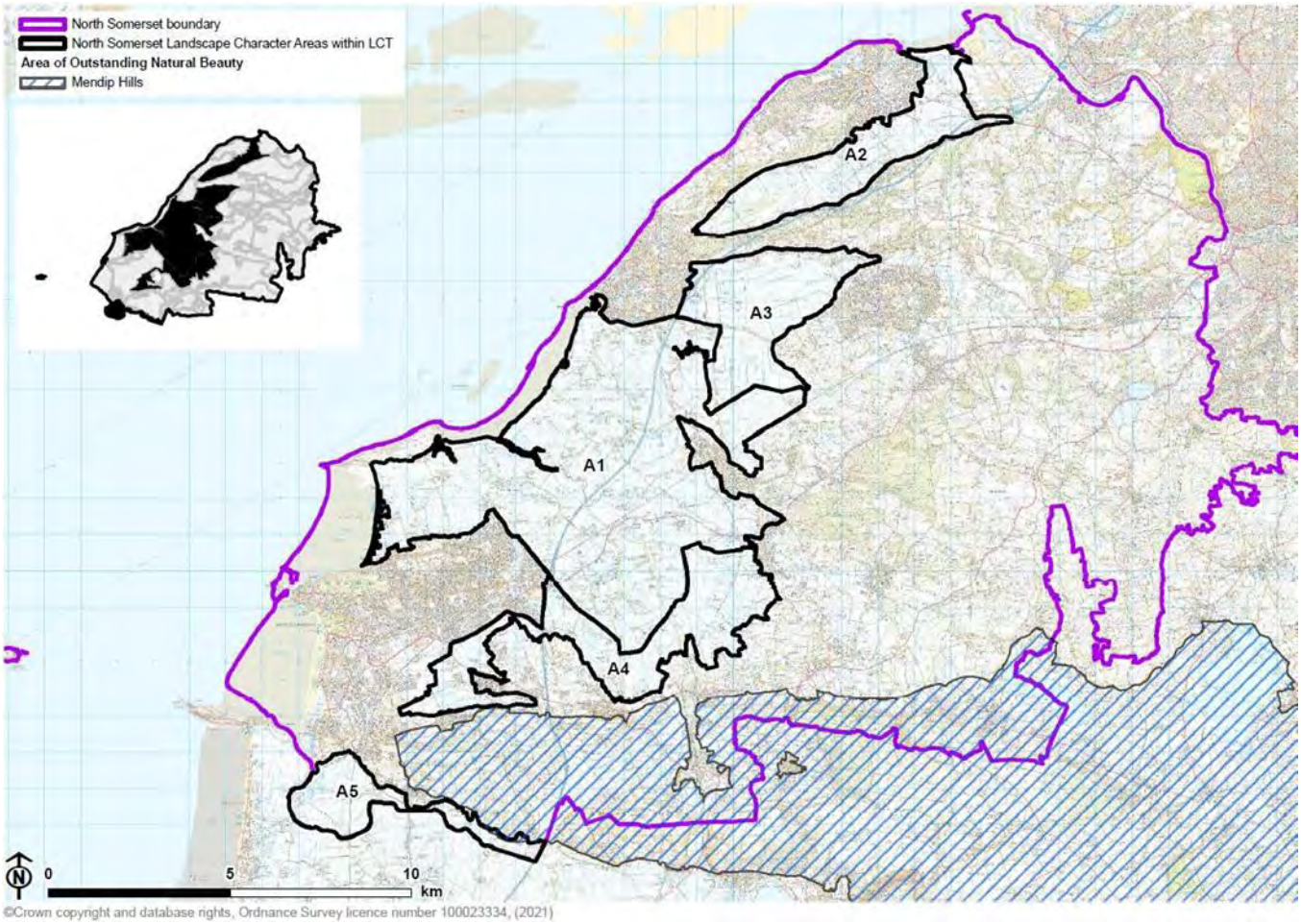


Figure C.2: View south-east from the Middlehope Ridge (LCA E3) across the regular flat pasture fields of A1 enclosed with hedges and ditches

Figure C.3: View south-east from the B3133 across the open pasture of A1 with views to the elevated landform of the Mendip Ridge (LCA E1)

Figure C.4: View south-west from Tickenham Court across Tickenham Moor (A3) with pylons marking the skyline

Figure C.5: View north along the edge of LCA A5, to the village of Bleadon and arable fields enclosed by diche

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)

- An extensive low-lying reclaimed wetland protected by flood defences.
- An open landscape with only intermittent enclosure from hedges and shelterbelts.
- Open views to the wooded ridges of LCT E give the area a sense of contrasting scale.
- Human scale features are occasional, but include hedgerow trees, small villages and church spires.

Table C.1: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Low-Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)

- A landscape dominated by improved pasture supporting cattle, sheep and horses, with small areas of arable farming in LCA A1, A2 and A5.
- The linear form of ditches, rhynes and embanked or canalised rivers, create a distinctive field pattern, framed by intermittent hedges of varying condition.
- A generally unwooded area with some plantations, poplar shelterbelts, fragments of ancient and Carr woodland with larger broadleaved woodlands in LCA A2.

- A landscape rich in nationally designated habitats including extensive rhynes and field diches, a lowland mire (A4) and fen meadows (A2) designated as SSSIs (and LWS).
- The coastal edge of LCA A1, A2 and A5 lie partially within the Severn Estuary SSSI, SPA, SAC and Ramsar Site.
- Traditional cider orchards are frequently associated with farmsteads and older settlements.
- Priority Habitat floodplain grazing marsh extends across the majority of the LCT.
- A sparsely settled landscape, with small historic villages and farmsteads at the edges of the moors. There is localised infill development on settlement edges and along major roads.

Table C.2: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
High	High

Historic landscape character

- The HLC identifies most field patterns to be 15th to 17th C organised enclosure of ancient reclaimed inland moors, with late-medieval enclosures on the sloping edges of LCAs A2 and A3.
- LCA A3 is largely defined by 18th to19th C Parliamentary enclosure or reclamation of peat moors and common.
- Medieval Scheduled Monuments include moated sites, a deserted farmstead, village crosses, a manorial settlement, Woodspring Priory and a duck decoy.
- There is a Romano-British villa (in LCA A1) also a designated Scheduled Monument.

- Part of Clevedon Court grade II* RPG extends into in LCA A3.
- The historic cores of Loxton, Congresbury, Walton-in-Gordano and Weston-in-Gordano are conservation areas.
- Scattered listed buildings include churches and farmhouses

Table C.3: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	Moderate-High

Visual character (including skylines)

- A landscape of distinctive flat and expansive vistas, with views often only impeded by occasional hedgerow boundaries, hedgerow trees or shelterbelts.
- There is a strong visual relationship between the flat moors and the wooded limestone ridges (LCT E) which separate them, including LCA E1 within the Mendip Hills AONB.
- Skylines are simple, marked by mature hedgerow trees and small woodlands. Listed church spires and towers form distinctive landmark features.
- Pylons crossing LCAs A1, A2 A3 and A4 and two tall masts to the south of Clevedon (A1) are intrusive vertical elements in the open landscape.

Table C.4: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- A rural landscape with a strong sense of remoteness and isolation.
- Although noticeably unsettled, urban areas adjacent to the LCT (including Clevedon, Portishead, Yatton, Weston-Super-Mare) introduce suburban land uses including golf courses, industrial units and horsiculture.
- Major roads, including the M5 (often elevated above the low-lying landscape) have a strong visual influence on the surrounding landscape and disrupts its rural tranquillity.
- Sections of the Gordano Round, Nailsea Round, Strawberry Line and West Mendip Way trails cross the LCT but many areas are inaccessible, even by foot.
- A very small section of LCA A5 is within the Mendip Hills AONB.

Table C.5: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	Moderate-High

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: Solar PV Development

Existing solar PV developments:

C.1 There are two Band D solar PV developments in the south of LCA A1 and an application for a Band D development directly north of these. There is also a Band A development near Kingston Seymour in LCA A1.

C.2 There is a Band D solar PV development in the east of LCA A4 and a Band B development partially within this LCA.

Summary of overall landscape sensitivity

C.3 The large-scale flat landform, human influence (in the form of suburban land uses and modern development associated with adjacent settlements, existing solar farms, and major transports routes), and localised visual enclosure could indicate a lower landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments. However, the sense of openness and areas of remote character, historic field pattern, extensive areas of nationally and internationally designated fenland/wetland habitats, historic villages and farmsteads, open and expansive vistas across the moors and from adjacent ridges (including within the Mendip Hills AONB), all increase sensitivity to solar PV developments.

C.4 The more undeveloped moorland areas of this LCT are highly sensitive to Band D solar PV developments. However, there may be opportunities to accommodate carefully sited solar developments of up to Band C in areas influenced by adjacent settlements which have a more urban edge character or in association with the major transport routes that cross the LCT (including the M5), where enclosure can be provided by hedgerows.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.5 The extensive and locally distinctive landscape of the Moors LCT is an area of contrasts, with some areas having a strong sense of rural remoteness with extensive areas of nationally protected wetland habitats, while others are influenced by modern development and infrastructure. These contrasts result in variations in overall sensitivity across the LCT.

C.6 Across the LCT, there are areas that would be highly sensitive to solar PV development including:

- pastoral farmland enclosed by historic linear ditches and rhynes
- areas with a high concentration of important habitats (often nationally designated)
- landscapes overlooked by the distinctive wooded ridges (some within the AONB)
- the undeveloped and highly visible coastal edge, with swathes of international and national nature conservations

C.7 LCA A1 has an overall lower landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments (up to and including Band D) in comparison to other LCAs within this LCT, as large areas lack intervisibility with surrounding LCAs and it is crossed by major infrastructure routes. However, other areas would have an increased sensitivity to solar PV development, including the undeveloped coastal areas in the west and traditional farmland bound by rhynes and designated as SSSI in the east.

C.8 LCAs A2 and A3 have a slightly increased landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments (up to and including Band D) in comparison to LCA A1, as they both have a strong visual relationship with surrounding ridges in LCTs E and F as well as extensive rhynes designated as SSSI, internationally designated coastal habitats (A2), a National Nature Reserve and LWS (A2). However urban areas adjacent to these LCAs influence the perceptual qualities of the landscape.

C.9 LCAs A4 and A5 are overlooked by the Mendip Hills AONB and therefore have an increased landscape sensitivity to Band C solar PV developments in comparison to other areas within the LCT.

Table C.6: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCA A1

Band	Rating
BAND A (up to 5 hectares)	Low
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	Low-Moderate
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	Moderate
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	Moderate-High
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

Table C.7: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCA A2 and A3

Band	Rating
BAND A (up to 5 hectares)	Low-Moderate
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	Moderate
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	Moderate-High
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	High
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

C.8: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCA A4 and A5

Band	Rating
BAND A (up to 5 hectares)	Low-Moderate
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	Moderate
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	High

Band	Rating
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	High
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

Existing wind energy developments

C.10 There are no existing commercial scale wind energy developments within this LCT, however there are two proposed Band C (77m) turbines located to the west of Yatton (A1).

Summary of overall landscape potential

C.11 The large-scale flat landform, human influence (in the form of suburban land uses and modern development associated with adjacent settlements, pylons and masts and major transport routes) could indicate a lower landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments. However, expansive and largely undeveloped skylines (often marked by landmark churches), swathes of nationally and internationally designated fenland/wetland habitats, intervisibility with other landscapes (including parts of the Mendip Hills AONB) and the remote character of the moors all increase sensitivity.

C.12 The landscape would be highly sensitive to Band D wind energy developments, and any Band C schemes would also need very careful consideration owing to the many sensitive attributes of the LCT.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.13 The extensive and locally distinctive landscape of the Moors LCT is an area of contrasts, with some areas having a strong sense of rural remoteness with extensive areas of nationally protected wetland habitats, others being influenced by modern development and infrastructure. These contrasts result in variations in overall sensitivity across the LCT.

C.14 Across the LCT, there are areas that would be highly sensitive to solar PV development including:

- pastoral farmland enclosed by historic linear ditches and rhynes
- areas with a high concentration of important habitats (often nationally designated)
- landscapes overlooked by the distinctive wooded ridges (some within the AONB)
- the undeveloped and highly visible coastal edge, with swathes of international and national nature conservations
- LCA A1 has a reduced landscape sensitivity to Band A and Band B wind energy developments in comparison to other areas within LCT, due to its limited visual relationship with overlooking ridges and the presence of major transport routes such as the M5 and existing urbanising land uses. The coastal north-west and west of this LCA will however have an increased landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments of all scales due to its importance as an undeveloped coast

C.15 LCAs A2 and A3 have a slightly increased landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments of all bands in comparison to LCA A1, as they both have a strong visual relationship with surrounding ridges in LCTs E and F as well as extensive rhynes designated as SSSI, internationally designated coastal habitats (A2), a National Nature Reserve and LWS (A2). However urban areas adjacent to these LCAs influence the perceptual qualities of the landscape.

C.16 LCA A4 and A5 are overlooked by the Mendip Hills AONB and therefore have an increased landscape sensitivity to Band B and Band C wind energy developments in comparison to other areas within the LCT.

C.9: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA A1

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Low
BAND B (26-60m)	Low-Moderate
BAND C (61-100m)	Moderate-High
BAND D (101-150m)	Moderate-High

C.10: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA A2 and A3

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Low-Moderate
BAND B (26-60m)	Moderate
BAND C (61-100m)	Moderate-High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

C.11: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA A4 and A5

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Low-Moderate

Appendix C Landscape sensitivity assessment profiles for individual Landscape Character Profiles

Band	Rating
BAND B (26-60m)	Moderate-High
BAND C (61-100m)	High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

LCT B: River Flood Plain

Figure C.6: Map of LCT B: River Flood Plain

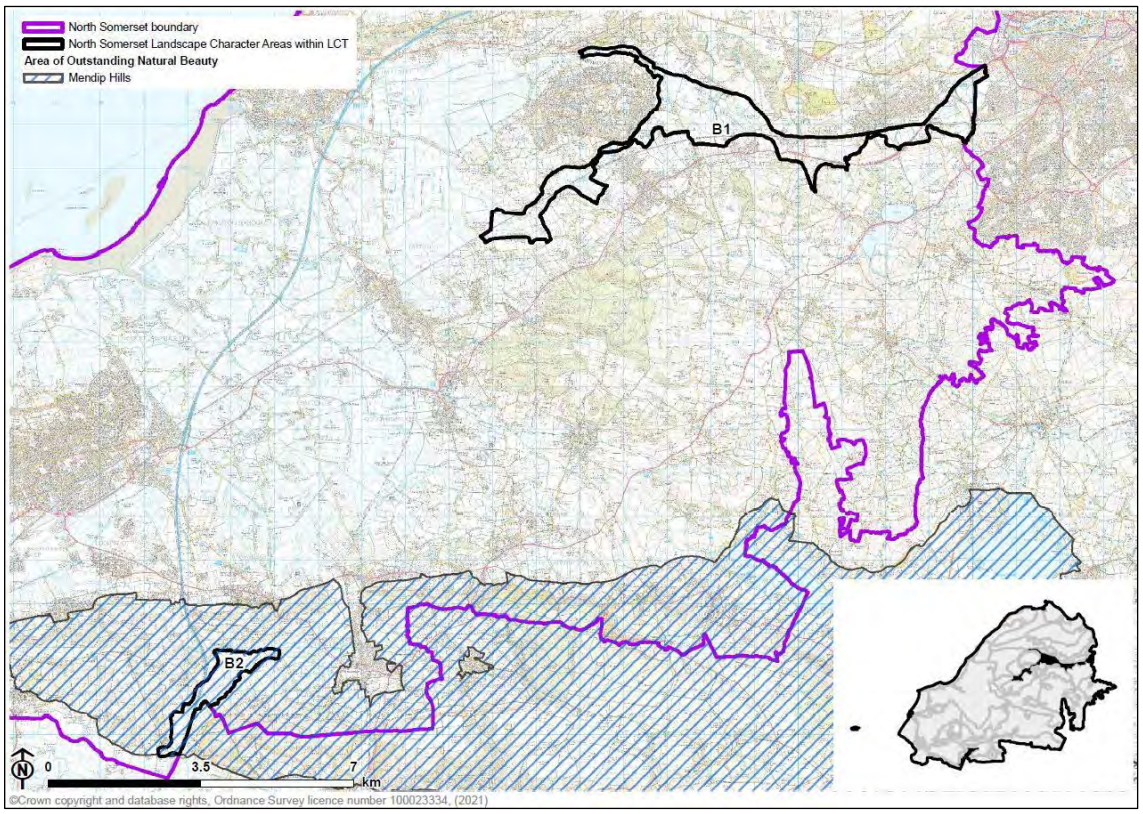


Figure C.7: View south across pastoral floodplain meadows in LCA B1, with Cleeve Ridge behind

Figure C.8: View west down the Lox Yeo valley floodplain in LCA B2

Figure C.9: The M5 motorway cuts through the open floodplain landscape of LCA B2

Figure C.10: Pasture fields in LCA B1 with views towards Tyntesfield estate and the wooded Tickenham Ridge

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)

- A low-lying floodplain landscape associated with the Land Yeo and Kenn River in the north east (LCA B1), and the Lox Yeo in the south (LCA B2).
- The flat landscape of the Lox Yeo floodplain has a strong sense of openness, while in the north the valley varies from intimate and enclosed to wide and open.
- Adjacent rising valley sides and limestone ridges give a sense of containment.
- Human scale features include trees, hedgerows and scattered farm buildings.

Table C.12: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)

- Land use in the floodplains is predominantly pastoral.
- In the south, large scale, rectilinear fields are bound by low, flailed hedges, with occasional hedgerow trees. Fields in the north are mixed in size with irregular boundaries and more frequent hedgerow trees.
- Deciduous woodland lines the riverbanks in blocks and linear tracts, and many woodlands in LCA B1 are Local Wildlife Sites. There is a small area of ancient semi-natural woodland at Gable Wood.

- The Lox Yeo River (LCA B2) is designated as a Local Wildlife Site with its associated floodplain and grazing marsh habitats. Small pools, fishing ponds and reservoirs contribute to the ecological diversity of the LCT.
- Settlement is sparse, comprising scattered traditional farmsteads on slightly elevated ground on the edge of the floodplain, with little modern development.
- Modern development along the urban edge of Bristol (including Long Ashton Park and Ride) extends into LCA B1. LCA B2 contains a small sewage treatment work

Table C.13: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Historic landscape character

- The HLC indicates field patterns are mainly medieval (or earlier) enclosures or post medieval (15th - 17th C.) organised enclosure of anciently reclaimed inland moors, with some late medieval enclosed open fields.
- Loxton Conservation Area extends into the south of LCA B2.
- Tyntesfield Registered Park and Garden (grade II*), owned and managed by the National Trust, abuts the northern boundary of LCA B1. A grade II listed Victorian open-air bathing pond is associated with the estate.
- Other listed buildings include farmhouses, Long Ashton Magistrates Court, and Farleigh Hospital and the Church of St George

Table C.14: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Visual character (including skylines)

- Skylines within the LCT are generally undeveloped but not prominent given the low-lying floodplain landform. Occasional pylon lines cross the landscape.
- The steep wooded valley sides and limestone ridges of the adjacent 'Ridges and Combes' LCT form prominent skylines to this low-lying landscape.
- The floodplain is overlooked by adjacent slopes and ridges, including Crook Peak (in the Mendip Hills AONB) to the south east and from Tyntesfield and Belmont Estates to the north (LCAs E5 and G2).
- The parkland at Tyntesfield estate is influential in views north from LCA B1.

Table C.15: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	Moderate-High

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- .A strongly rural and traditional character with tree-lined streams, grazing cattle and traditional stone farm buildings.
- Non-traditional land uses near Long Ashton and views to the urban edge of Bristol create a more suburban character.

- Major transport corridors cross the LCT and limit the sense of tranquillity. The M5 introduces visual and audible disruption to LCA B2, whilst distant traffic noise can be heard across much of LCA B1.
- LCA B2 is entirely within the Mendip Hills AONB, with special qualities including a sparse settlement pattern, dark skies and views towards the Mendip Hills.
- Numerous public rights of way cross LCA B1. Much of LCA B2 is inaccessible, apart from the West Mendip Way which crosses its southern end.
- National Cycle Network Route 33 runs east-west along the length of LCA B1, providing a traffic-free link between Nailsea and Bristol.

Table C.16: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	Moderate-High

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: Solar PV Development

Existing solar PV developments

C.17 There are no existing solar PV developments in this LCT.

Summary of overall landscape sensitivity

C.18 The simple, low-lying landform, network of trees and hedgerows (particularly in the north) and presence of existing development and

infrastructure could indicate lower sensitivity. However the strong sense of openness on the floodplain, important river and wetland habitats, medieval field patterns, intervisibility with sensitive adjacent landscapes (including Tyntesfield RPG and the Mendip Hills AONB), the traditional rural character and special qualities of the landscape reflected in its designation as part of the Mendip Hills AONB (LCA B2) increases sensitivity.

C.19 There may be some opportunity for small (Band A) solar farms in areas with existing development, that are enclosed by vegetation and are not overlooked, for example at the eastern end of LCA B1, adjacent to Long Ashton Park and Ride, along the A174, or near residential development at Cambridge Batch.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.20 Despite the presence of the M5 motorway, LCA B2 would be more sensitive to solar PV developments than LCA B1, due to its open character, extensive wetland habitats, medieval field patterns, strong visual relationship with adjacent hills and ridges, as well as its location within the Mendip Hills AONB. There is very limited opportunity for any solar development in this LCA, apart from occasional well-sited Band A schemes

Table C.17: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCA B1

Band	Rating
BAND A (up to 5 hectares)	Moderate
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	Moderate-High
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	High
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	High

Band	Rating
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

Table C.18: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCA B2

Band	Rating
BAND A (up to 5 hectares)	Moderate
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	High
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	High
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	High
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

Existing wind energy developments

C.21 There are no existing wind energy developments in this LCT.

Summary of overall landscape potential

C.22 The low-lying landform, relatively simple landcover, presence of existing development as well as pylons and busy transport corridors could indicate a lower sensitivity to wind energy development. However, the intervisibility of the landscape with sensitive landscapes (including Tyntesfield RPG and the Mendip Hills AONB), generally undeveloped skylines, the traditional rural character and

special qualities of the landscape reflected in its designation as part of the Mendip Hills AONB (LCA B2), all heighten levels of sensitivity to wind energy development.

C.23 There may be some limited opportunities for sensitively sited small (Band A) wind developments associated with farm buildings, ensuring important views from Tyntesfield and The Mendip Hills AONB are not negatively impacted.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.24 Despite the presence of the M5 motorway, LCA B2 is more sensitive to wind energy developments than LCA B1, due to extensive wetland habitats, undeveloped skylines, location within the Mendip Hills AONB, and the strong visual relationship with the Mendip ridgeline (including Crook Peak). There is very limited opportunity for wind energy development in this LCA

C.19: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA B1

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Moderate
BAND B (26-60m)	Moderate-High
BAND C (61-100m)	High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

C.20: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA B2

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Moderate-High
BAND B (26-60m)	High
BAND C (61-100m)	High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

LCT C: Settled Coastal Edge

Figure C.11: Map of LCT C: Settled Coastal Edge

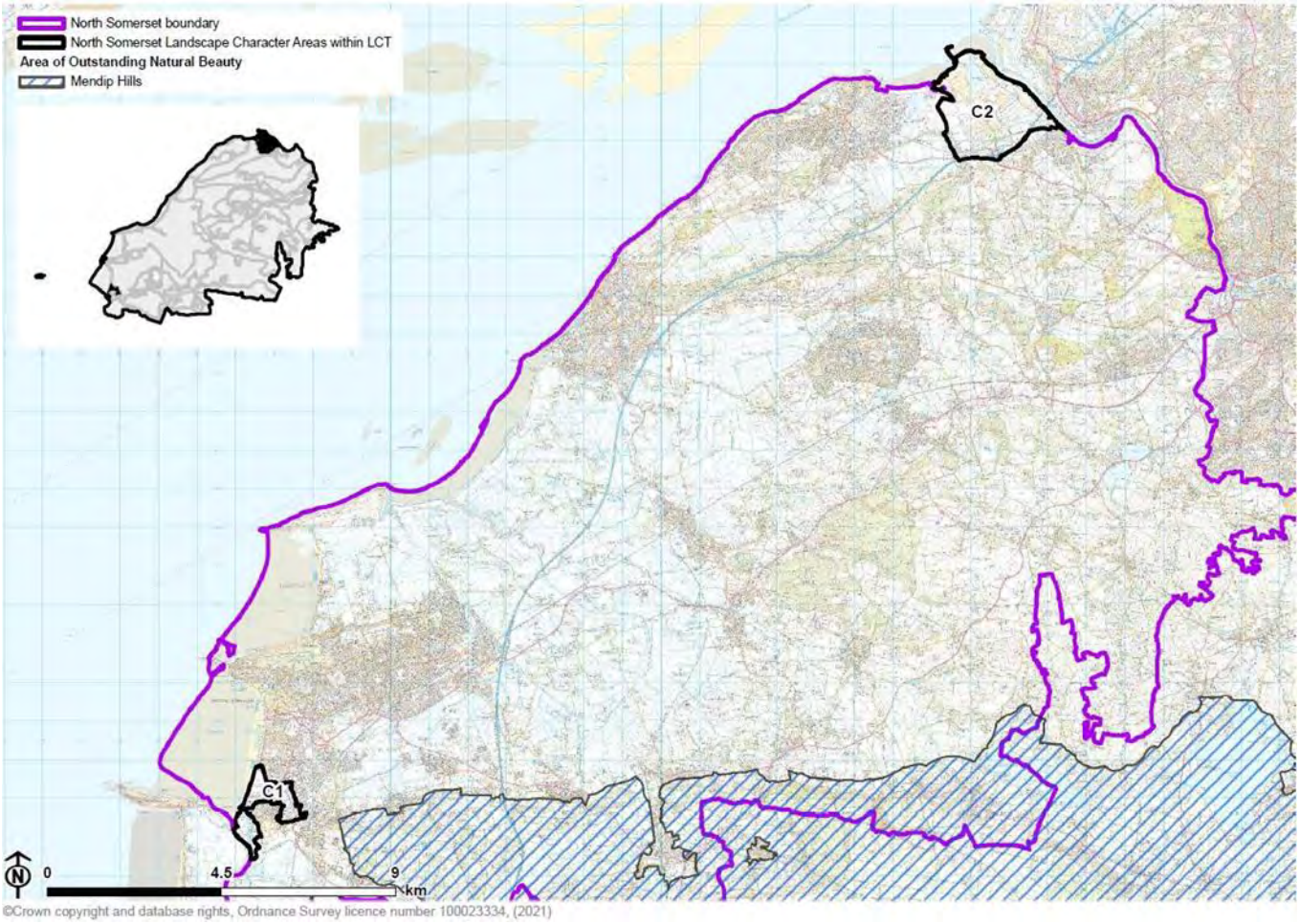


Figure C.12: View north-west from the Old Church of St Nicholas over Uphill, the golf course and coastal edge (C1)

Figure C.13: View south-west in the east of C1, showing enclosed recreational fields and the distinctive Uphill Beacon on the skyline.

Figure C.14: View east to C2 from E4, over the town of Portishead and to the distinctive industrial skyline of the LCA

Figure C.15: View north-west from LCA F1 to the distinctive urban skylines of C2, showing coastal habitats under the M5 bridge

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)

- A large-scale coastal landscape with little variation in landform located at the mouth of the Axe Estuary (LCA C1) and River Avon (LCA C2)
- The flat landform of C1 contrasts with the adjacent Mendip Ridge (E1).
- Extensive industrial areas with large warehouses give C2 a large-scale character.
- A strong sense of openness due to the flat landform and limited woodland.
- Woodland and areas of small-scale pasture fields bound by hedgerows surrounding Uphill in LCA C1 offer localised areas of enclosure.
- Human scale features include hedgerows, mature trees and moored boats.

Table C.21: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)

- Landcover in LCA C1 comprises a golf course, parkland, the grounds of large institutions and some deciduous woodland.
- C2 is dominated by Portbury Docks, with extensive hard standing for vehicle storage, industrial buildings, cranes and busy roads (including the M5), interspersed by shelterbelts (mostly poplar).

- Pockets of pastoral wetland survive, dominated by horse grazing in LCA C1.
- Semi-natural habitats in C1 include coastal floodplain grazing marsh, deciduous woodlands, lowland meadows, sand dunes, salt marsh and mudflats (including parts of the Uphill LNR) and isolated fields of good quality semi-improved pasture.
- Isolated coastal habitats exist in C2 including saltmarsh and mudflats.
- The coastal edge of the LCT lies partially within the Severn Estuary SSSI, SPA, SAC and Ramsar Site.
- LCA C1 surrounds the village of Uphill with its traditional stone vernacular and lies directly to the south of the suburban edge of Weston-Super-Mare.

Table C.22: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Low-moderate	Low-moderate

Historic landscape character

- The HLC identifies the east of C1 to be post-medieval designed ornamental landscapes and organised enclosure of anciently reclaimed inland moors, and the south-east to be 18th to 19th C parliamentary enclosure.
- Fields within C2 are identified as post-medieval organised enclosure of inland moors.
- Ancient unenclosed coastal warths (riverbanks or flat meadows beside an estuary) line the coastal edge of the LCT.
- The conservation areas of Great Weston, Beach Lawns, Uphill and Uphill North extend into C1.
- Listed buildings are limited to the grade II* listed Uphill Manor.

Table C.23: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Visual character (including skylines)

- The developed skylines of cranes, warehouses and the elevated M5 in C2 are visually distinctive from distant elevated landscapes to the south (F1) and to the west (E4) in which they are seen in combination with turbines to the east.
- Brean Down and the Mendip Ridge form a dramatic rural backdrop to the flat landscape of C1 to the south and east, while the suburban edge of Weston-Super- Mare is visually dominant in the north and east.
- Skyline features in C1 comprise mature trees and boat masts.
- There is a strong visual connection to landmark buildings on the Mendip Ridge (LCA E1) above LCA C1, notably the Old Church of St Nicholas (grade II* listed) and the remains of a windmill (grade II listed).

Table C.24: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Low-Moderate	Low-Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- The LCT has a coastal character, manifested in wide sea views, the docks and boatyards.

- Modern development dominates the LCT, including the urban edge Weston Super Mare and suburban land uses in LCA C1, and industrial units and major roads in LCA C2.
- LCA C1 contains large areas of open access land and publicly accessible green spaces and is crossed by a number of public footpaths.
- The majority of C2 is publicly inaccessible, with one footpath crossing the south.

Table C.25: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Low-Moderate	Low-Moderate

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: Solar PV Development

Current PV developments

C.25 There are no existing commercial scale Solar PV developments within this LCT.

Summary of overall landscape sensitivity

C.26 The large-scale lowland flat landscape, with some localised enclosure provided by hedges and woodland, extensive areas of hard surfacing and large-scale industrial development as well as major transport routes could indicate a lower landscape sensitivity to solar PV development. However, the sense of openness due to the limited vegetation, the presence of nationally and internationally important coastal habitats, historic villages such as Uphill, open

access areas and recreational value heighten landscape sensitivity to solar PV development.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.27 There is a distinct difference in landscape character between LCA C1 and C2. However, the open coastal edge along both areas, which is characterised by important coastal habitats would be highly sensitive to solar PV development.

C.28 LCA C1 has an open character, a high concentration of semi-natural habitats, and provides a rural setting to the conservation areas of Uphill and would be highly sensitive to any development of Band C or above. There may be opportunities for carefully sited developments in the east of the LCA, where there is a greater sense of enclosure afforded by woodland.

C.29 The large-scale industrial character of LCA C2, would have a lower sensitivity to solar PV development of all bands, although in practical terms, the limited extent of remaining undeveloped areas, will reduce the ability of the area to accommodate larger scale developments.

Table C.26: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCA C1

Band	Rating
BAND A (up to 5 hectares)	Low-Moderate
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	Moderate-High
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	High
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	High

Band	Rating
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

Table C.27: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCA C2

Band	Rating
BAND A (up to hectares)	Low
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	Low-Moderate
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	Moderate
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	Moderate-High
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	Moderate-High

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

Current energy developments

C.30 There are no existing commercial scale wind energy developments within this LCT.

Summary of overall landscape potential

C.31 The large-scale lowland flat landscape, extensive areas of hard surfacing and large-scale industrial development with skylines characterised by pylons and dockyard cranes (LCA C2) could indicate a lower sensitivity to wind energy developments. However, the presence of nationally and internationally

important coastal habitats, historic villages (C1) and areas of open access heighten landscape sensitivity to wind energy development.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.32 There is a distinct difference in landscape character between LCA C1 and C2.

C.33 LCA C1 has a high concentration of semi-natural habitats along the coastal edge, provides a rural setting to the conservation areas of Uphill and has undeveloped skylines marked by mature trees and boat masts giving in the landscape a more human scale. The LCA would be sensitive to any development of Band B or above. There may be opportunities for carefully sited small wind turbines (Band A) but turbines taller than Uphill Beacon (45m) are likely to detract from this distinctive landmark feature.

C.34 The large-scale industrial character of LCA C2, with its high frequency of built features including cranes, turbines, warehouses and the elevated M5, would be less sensitive to solar PV development.

Table C.28: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA C1

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Low-Moderate
BAND B (26-60m)	Moderate-High
BAND C (61-100m)	High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

C.29: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA C2

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Low
BAND B (26-60m)	Low
BAND C (61-100m)	Low-Moderate
BAND D (101-150m)	Moderate

LCT D: Limestone Gorges

Figure C.16: Map of LCT D: Limestone Gorges

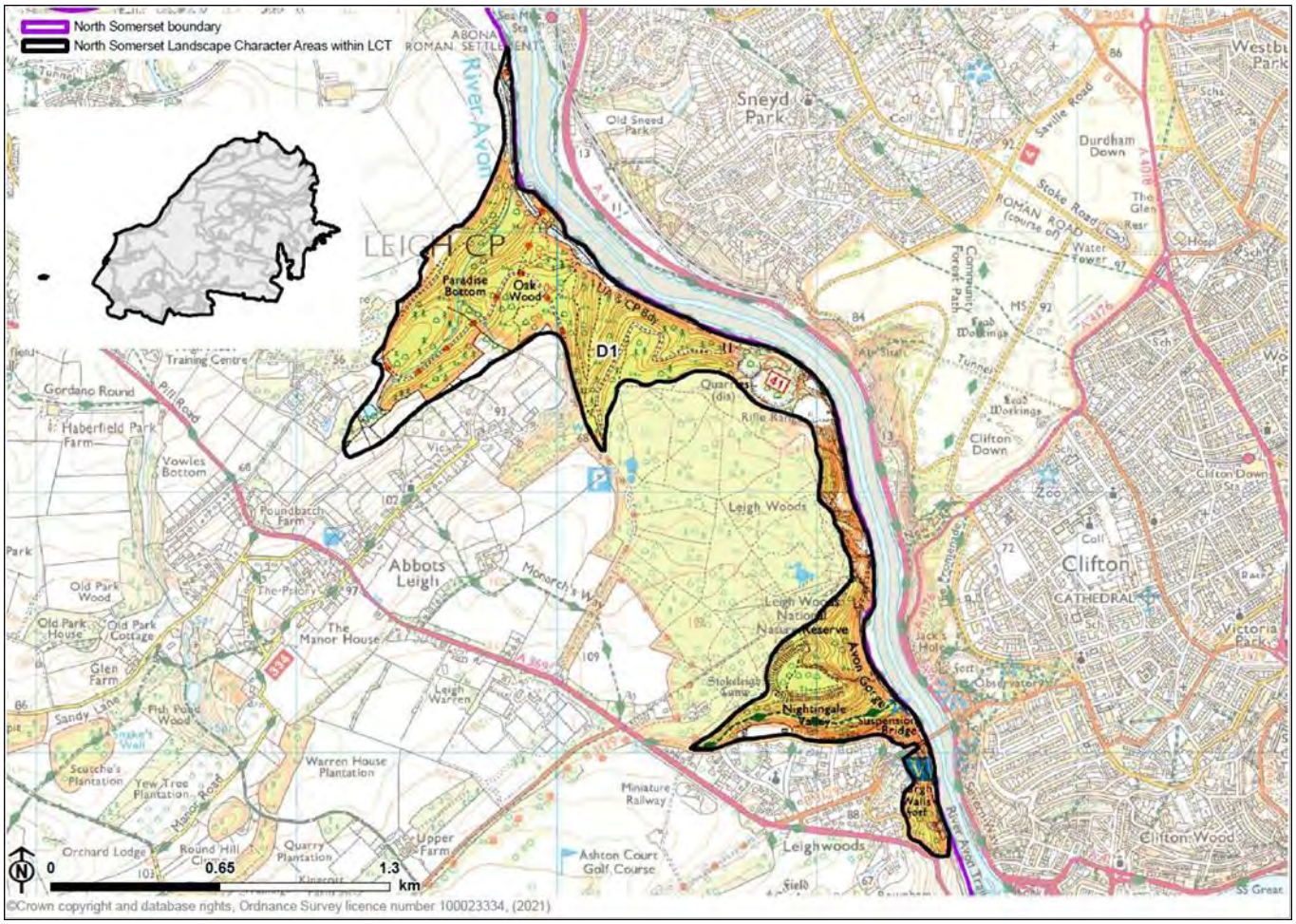


Figure C.17: View north up the gorge from North Road in Leigh Woods village

Figure C.18: View west from Clifton Down to the bare rock face of historic quarries on the opposite bank of the gorge

Figure C.19:View south from Clifton Down to the distinctive (grade I listed) Clifton Suspension Bridge crossing the gorge

Figure C.20: View north-west from Clifton Down across the gorge to Leigh Woods

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)

- A deep narrow gorge cut by the River Avon through the surrounding limestone.
- The gorge walls are exceptionally steep with some exposed rock faces.
- The extensive woodland cover and dramatic topography result in a high degree of enclosure, particularly in the wooded cloughs which cut back into the gorge side

Table C.30: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
High	High

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)

- The steep sides of the gorge are clothed in woodland of great ecological value, comprising species-rich ancient coppice woodlands and wood pasture with pockets of species rich calcareous grassland.
- These habitats are of national significance, with much of the LCT designated as part of the Avon Gorge SSSI and SAC, and the Leigh Woods NNR.
- The majority of the LCT lies within the Avon Gorge and Leigh Woods Somerset LWS.

- There is no settlement in the area, however some properties on the northern edge of the village of Leigh Woods extend into the south of the LCT.

Table C.31: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
High	High

Historic landscape character

- The HLC identifies the majority of the LCT to be pre-1800 ancient woodland, with parts of the north-eastern edge within a post-medieval ornamental landscape.
- The Leigh Woods Village Conservation Area extends into the south of the LCT.
- Stokeleigh Camp, the site of an Iron Age fort, is designated as a Scheduled Monument.
- The Clifton Suspension Bridge (partially within the LCT) is a grade I listed building.
- The north of the LCT is part of the grade II listed Leigh Court Registered Park and Gardens.
- To the south of the LCT lies the small Bristol University Botanic Gardens and Rayne Thatch grade II listed Registered Park and Gardens.

Table C.32: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
High	High

Visual character (including skylines)

- Dramatic but intermittent views are channelled along the river or foreshortened by the towering slopes opposite.
- The wooded slopes of the gorge form a distinctive undeveloped and scenic skyline in views from the settlement edge of Bristol, including from many listed buildings and the OS viewpoint at the Observatory.
- The wooded gorge walls and suspension bridge are iconic skyline features on the edge of Bristol.

Table C.33: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	High

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- .Despite its proximity to the urban edge of Bristol, the Avon Gorge LCT retains its dramatic character with a strong sense of seclusion.
- Visual intrusion and traffic noise echoing through the gorge from the busy A4, disrupts this otherwise peaceful area.
- The area is an important recreational resource, with a large proportion being open access land. The area experiences a high footfall, slightly detracting from its secluded character.
- The LCT is crossed by important public rights of way including Monarchs Way, the River Avon Trail and the Pill Path, a traffic-free cycle route which follows the river along a former tow path.

Table C.34: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	Moderate-High

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: Solar PV Development

Existing solar PV developments

C.35 There are no existing commercial scale solar PV farms within this LCT

Summary of overall landscape sensitivity

C.36 The high degree of enclosure, proximity to the urban edge of Bristol and the influence of the transport corridor through the gorge could indicate a slightly lower landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments.

C.37 However, the dramatic landform of the gorge, the nationally significant ancient woodland, high frequency of features of cultural heritage significance (including a Scheduled Monument and RPGs), distinctive undeveloped wooded skylines, the iconic grade I listed Clifton Suspension Bridge, the secluded landscape character and the area's importance as a recreational resource all heighten the areas landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments of all scales.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.38 There is only one LCA in this LCT.

Table C.35: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCA D1

Band	Rating
BAND A (up to 5 hectares)	High
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	High
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	High
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	High
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

Existing wind energy developments

C.39 There are no existing commercial scale wind energy developments within this LCT.

Summary of overall landscape potential

C.40 The proximity to the urban edge of Bristol and the influence of the transport corridor through the gorge could indicate a slightly lower landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments.

C.41 However, the dramatic landform, the nationally significant ancient woodland landcover, high frequency of features of cultural heritage significance (including a Scheduled Monument and RPGs), distinctive undeveloped wooded skylines, the iconic grade I listed Clifton Suspension Bridge, the secluded landscape character and the areas importance as a recreational resource all make this area highly sensitive to wind energy developments of all scales.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.42 There is only one LCA in this LCT.

C.36: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA D1

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	High
BAND B (26-60m)	High
BAND C (61-100m)	High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

LCT E: Limestone Ridges and Combes

Figure C.21: Map of LCT E: Limestone Ridges and Combes

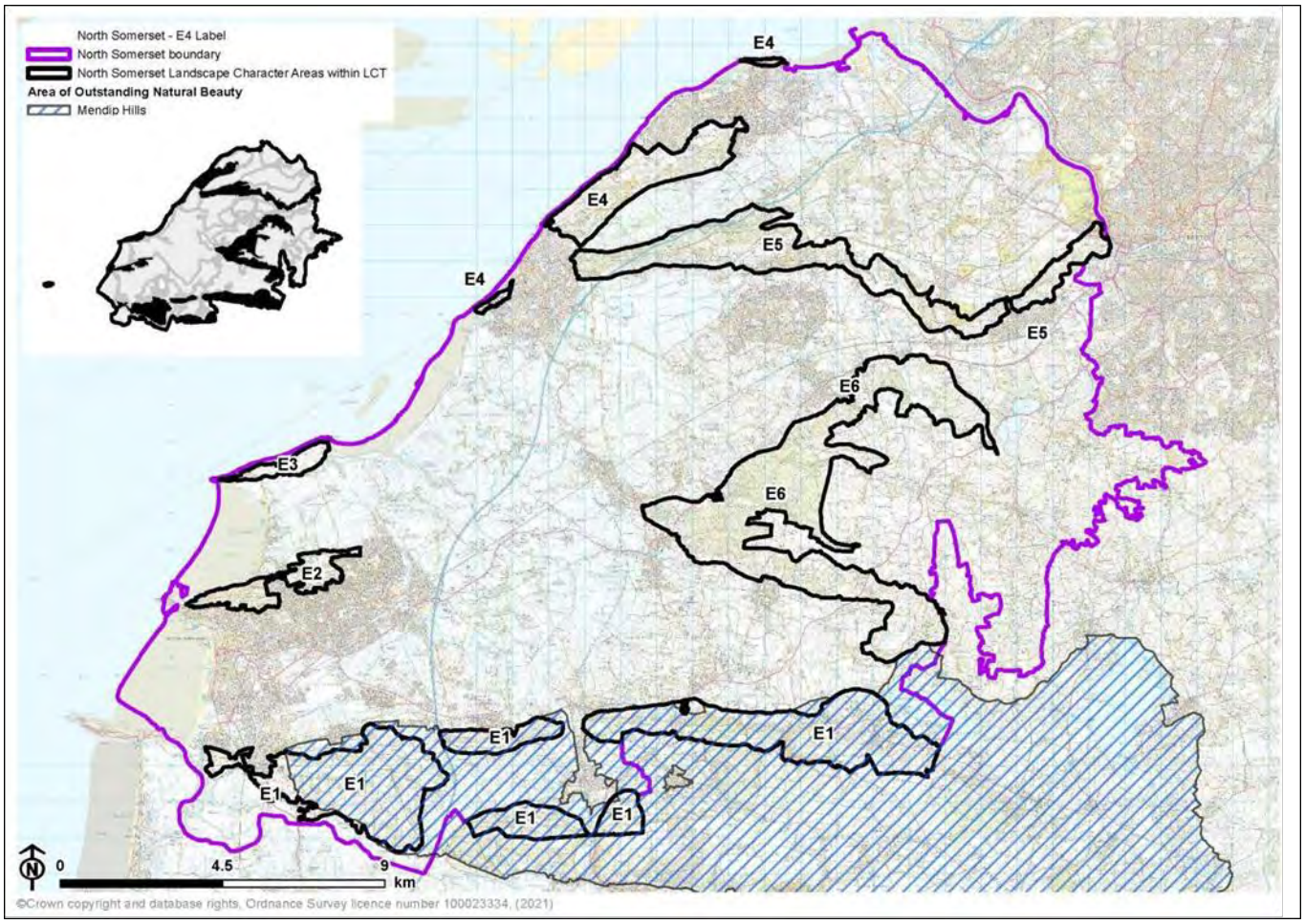


Figure C.22: View north-east from Bleadon Hill (E1) across grassland enclosed with traditional stone walls and woodland on the upper ridge slope

Figure C.23: View south from MIddlehope Ridge (E3) across the coastline to Worlebury Ridge (E2) with dense woodland and settlement

Figure C.24: View north-west along the south-facing slopes of the Tickenham ridge (E5), showing pasture fields and woodland on the upper slope

Figure C.25: View south from Cleve ridge (E6) to the north of Wrington, showing views to the distinctive slopes of E1, within the Mendip Hills AONB

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)

- A series of large-scale elevated limestone ridges, some incised by deep wooded coombes (LCA E1, E5, E6).
- The ridges are bound by steep scarp slopes on both sides (LCA E1, E2) or on one side where they wrap around more elevated plateaux (LCA E5, E6).
- Coastal areas (LCA E3, E4) have near vertical cliff faces and tidal shelves extending into the Severn.
- The LCT has a generally open and exposed character - particularly on the ridge tops, on some lower slopes and the coastal edge (E4 and the entirety of E3).
- Dense woodland, particularly in the hidden coombes, provides localised enclosure.
- Quarrying has altered the landform of some scarp slopes, creating deep pits.
- Human scale features include hedgerow trees, church towers, villages and farms.

Table C.37: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	High

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)

- An agricultural landscape dominated by pasture, grazed by sheep and cattle.
- Plateau tops have a large-scale rectangular field pattern of open grassland bound by drystone walls with lower slopes enclosed by hedgerows with hedgerow trees.
- Large mixed and deciduous woodland, with extensive ancient woodland, including Weston Woods (LNR) Weston Big Wood, King's Wood and Urchin Wood (SSSI).
- Semi-natural grasslands characterise the ridge tops, many designated as SSSI.
- Large golf courses are located on some ridge tops (LCAs E1, E2).
- Spring line villages follow the base of the ridges, otherwise settlement is scattered.
- Small limestone quarries, some still active or in use as tip sites, others designated as geological SSSIs.

Table C.38: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	Moderate-High

Historic landscape character

- The HLC indicates that lower slopes are dominated by late medieval fields, with ridge tops comprising 18th-19th C parliamentary enclosure, medieval assarts and commons of ancient origin.
- A wealth of nationally designated heritage assets, ranging from prehistoric barrows and hill forts, a Roman camp and settlement, a shrunken medieval village and farmstead and a motte-and-bailey castle.

- A large number of parkland estates, including Ashton Court, Clevedon Court and Tyntesfield (all grade II*), Barrow Court and Barley Wood (both grade II).
- The historic core of most villages in the LCT are conservation areas and contain a concentration of vernacular stone buildings.

Table C.39: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
High	High

Visual character (including skylines)

- The ridges form distinct topographical feature rising above and providing a backdrop to low-lying surrounding areas and a distinctive backdrop to the Severn Estuary1, as well as some ridges (including E3 and E4) being visible from Wales.
- Expansive views from the open ridge tops over valleys, moors and out to sea.
- The intimate and enclosed character of wooded coombes is counterbalanced by occasional surprising views out.
- Skylines are largely undeveloped and marked by woodland or hedgerow trees.
- Some ridgetops are crossed by masts or pylons (E1 and E5), and elevated sections of the M5 (E5).
- Landmark features include the former windmill at Uphill, churches at Uphill, Winscombe, Blagdon (E1), Butcombe, Redhill (E6), Wraxall (E5), Weston in Gordano and Walton in Gordano (E4).

Table C.40: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	Moderate-High

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Perceptual and scenic qualities. A landscape of contrasts – with peaceful secluded woods, rugged and exposed ridges and open grasslands often creating a feeling of isolation and remoteness.
- Less tranquil areas are influenced by adjacent urban areas (LCAs E2, E4) and coastal developments, including caravan parks in E4.
- There are some localised occurrences of non-traditional or urban-fringe land uses including golf courses, quarrying and horsiculture.
- Much of the LCT is publicly accessible by footpaths, with large areas of open access land and areas including Sand Point owned by the National Trust.
- LCA E1 lies largely within the Mendip Hills AONB exhibiting its special qualities including flower-rich limestone meadows, extensive views, and distinctive ridges.

Table C.41: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	Moderate-High

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: Solar PV Development

Summary of overall landscape sensitivity

C.43 The distinct landform of the ridges which provide a backdrop to low-lying surrounding areas, the open character of the scarp slopes (due to topography and low hedgerow boundaries), presence medieval field patterns or ancient commons, extensive grassland and woodland habitats, the frequency of nationally designated heritage assets (particularly skyline hillforts), numerous historic parklands, historic settlements, the traditional pastoral agricultural character, expansive views and frequent open access areas and public rights of way could indicate landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments.

C.44 However, localised areas with modern field patterns, or those enclosed by hedges with mature trees, and areas influenced suburban land uses (including golf courses), mineral workings, infrastructure or major transport routes could indicate a lower landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.45 LCA E1 would be highly sensitive to solar PV development (and unsuitable for developments of Band B or larger) due to its location within the Mendip Hills AONB and the proximity of numerous conservation areas. LCA E3 would also be highly sensitive to solar PV development of this scale due to the undeveloped and exposed character of this coastal landscape. The two smaller outlying sections of LCA E4, including Battery Point near Portishead and Church Hill near Clevedon also have a higher landscape sensitivity due to their coastal character and prevalence of historic features and nature conservation value.

C.46 LCA E2 and the main area of LCA E4 (between Clevedon and Portishead) would have a slightly lower sensitivity to smaller (up to and including Band C) solar PV development, due to the enclosure offered by existing vegetation, areas of flat landform of the ridge tops and the influence of existing development and suburban land uses both within and surrounding the areas, and the prevailing noise of the M4 (LCA E4) which disrupts tranquillity. The exposed coastal slopes of LCA E4 would not be suitable for development.

C.47 LCA E5 and E6 would be sensitive to solar PV development due to their more complex landform, and rural and remote character. However, there may be opportunities for carefully sited small (Band A or B) solar PV schemes in areas enclosed by existing vegetation, and in association with existing development or along the M5 corridor in LCA E5.

Table C.42: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCA E1, E3 and the two outlying areas of E4

Band	Rating
BAND A (up to hectares)	Moderate-High
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	High
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	High
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	High
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

Table C.43: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCA E2 and the main area of E4

Band	Rating
BAND A (up to 5 hectares)	Moderate
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	Moderate-High

Band	Rating
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	Moderate-High
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	High
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

Summary of overall landscape potential

C.48 The landform of the ridges which form distinct topographical features in the wider area, the contrasting intimacy of the wooded coombes, the frequency of human scale features, small-scale medieval field patterns, nationally designated heritage assets (particularly skyline hillforts), numerous historic parklands, historic settlements often with conservation areas, the traditional pastoral agricultural character, expansive views and frequent open access areas and public rights of way all heighten levels of sensitivity to wind energy developments.

C.49 However, localised areas with larger scale modern field patterns, or areas influenced by the presence of disused mineral workings and major transport routes could indicate lower landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.50 LCA E1 would be highly sensitive to wind energy developments of Band B and above due to its location within the Mendip Hills AONB and the proximity of numerous conservation areas. This elevated landscape is a distinctive landform feature in views from surrounding areas, including adjacent districts.

C.51 LCA E2 and main section of LCA E4 (between Clevedon and Portishead) would have a slightly lower sensitivity to small (Band A) wind energy development than other areas within the LCT due to the influence of suburban land uses and adjacent urban areas. In LCA E4, the M4 is visually intrusive and reduces levels of tranquillity. There may be opportunities for carefully sited Band A and B development, but taller turbines would be visually prominent on these elevated landscapes and would be visible to a high number of surrounding residential receptors. The exposed coastal slopes of LCA E4 would not be suitable for development.

C.52 The coastal landscape of LCA E3 would be highly sensitive to wind energy development of any scale due to the undeveloped character and landmark features on its open skyline which provides a backdrop to views across the Severn from Wales.

C.53 The two smaller outlying sections of E4, including Battery Point near Portishead and Church Hill near Clevedon have a higher landscape senility to wind energy developments, due to their coastal character and prevalence of historic features and nature conservation value.

C.54 LCAs E5 and E6 would be sensitive to wind energy developments due to their more complex landform, high frequency of human scale features, and rural and undeveloped character. However, there may be limited opportunities for wind energy developments in these landscapes, in association with existing development or along the M5 corridor in LCA E5

C.44: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA E1

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Moderate-High
BAND B (26-60m)	High
BAND C (61-100m)	High

Band	Rating
BAND D (101-150m)	High

C.45: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA E3 and the two small outlying areas of E4

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	High
BAND B (26-60m)	High
BAND C (61-100m)	High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

C.46: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA E2 and the main larger area of E4

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Low-Moderate
BAND B (26-60m)	Moderate-High
BAND C (61-100m)	High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

C.47: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA E5 and E6

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Moderate

Band	Rating
BAND B (26-60m)	Moderate-High
BAND C (61-100m)	High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

LCT F: Sandstone Uplands

Figure C.26: Map of LCT F: Sandstone Uplands

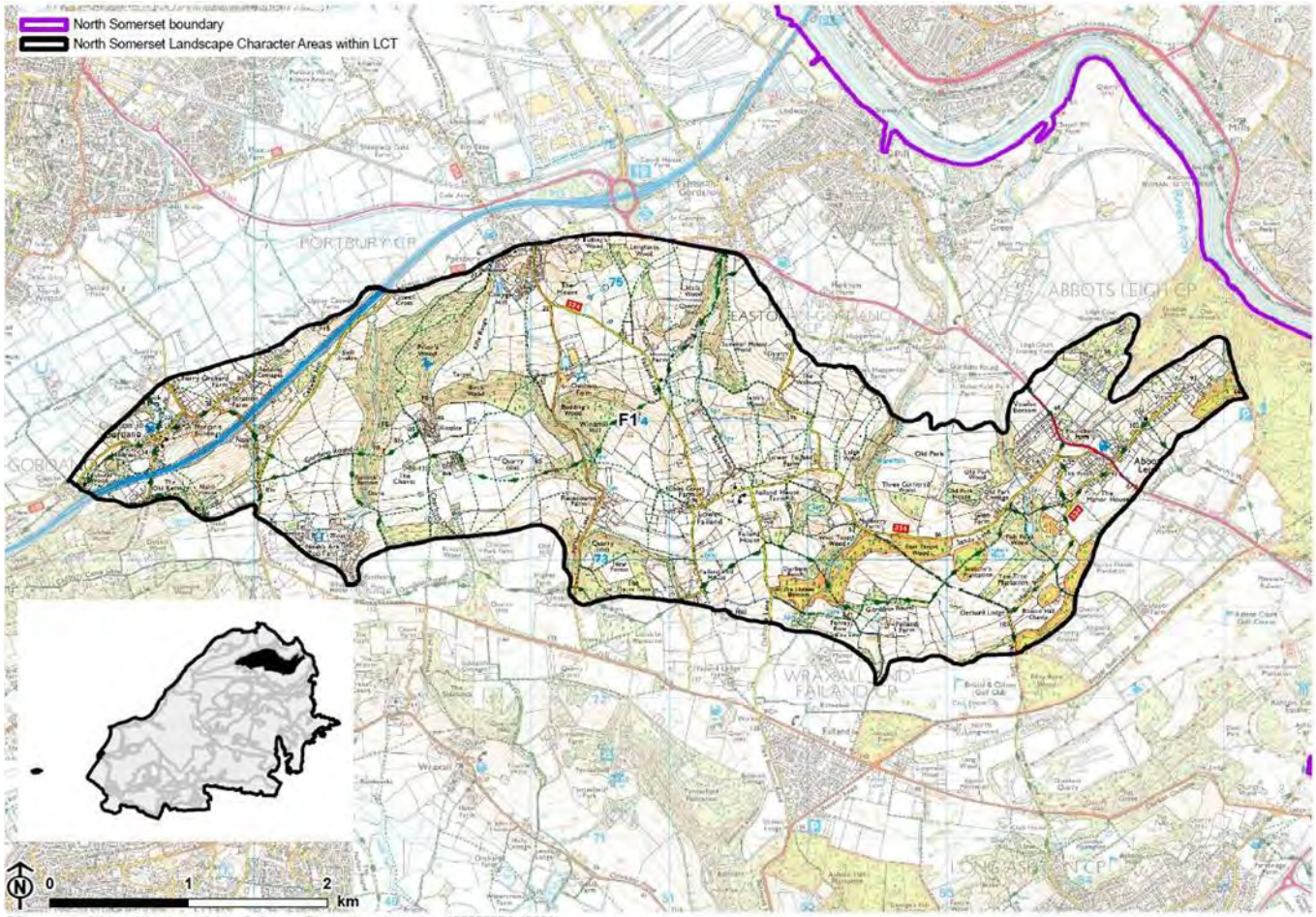


Figure C.27: View north-west from Lower Failand over rolling pasture fields and woodland to the Severn estuary

Figure C.28: View south-east form Weston Wood (E4) towards the slopes of the character area, showing mixed fields, woodland and pylons

Figure C.29: The grade II* listed Holy Trinity Church in Abbots Leigh, built with locally distinctive red sandstone

Figure C.30: Horse pasture on the settlement edge of Clapton in Gordano, with views to Portishea

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)

- An elevated rolling landform, which rises from the lowland to the north (LCA A2) to the high limestone plateau in the south (LCA G2).
- A complex landform comprised of rolling hills and incised narrow, spring-fed valleys.
- There are contrasting levels of enclosure between the open rolling hills and strongly enclosed narrow wooded valleys and minor lanes bound by high hedges.
- Human scale features include hedgerow trees and in clumps, farmsteads and sunken rural lanes.

Table C.48: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)

- Land use is predominantly pastoral, with arable fields on the gentler slopes.
- Irregular medium scale fields bounded by tall, full hedgerows with some hedgerow trees, or occasional drystone walls.
- Extensive woodlands (both deciduous, mixed and conifer plantations), woodland tracts following watercourses and mature hedgerow trees, all

create a well-wooded character. The woodlands are often of ancient origin and many are LNRs.

- Localised areas of semi-natural grassland survive across the LCT. St George's Flower Bank along the A369 is an LNR.
- Several traditional orchards are scattered throughout the landscape.
- Settlement comprises dispersed farmsteads, the small, nucleated villages of Failand and Clapton in Gordano, and hamlets, with traditional buildings of red sandstone.

Table C.49: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Historic landscape character

- The HLC indicates that the majority of field patterns are of medieval origin, including large areas of assart fields, with smaller areas of post-medieval designed ornamental landscapes, and 18th to 19th century parliamentary enclosure.
- The east of the LCT lies within the grade II listed Abbots Leigh RPG.
- An univallate hillfort on Conygar Hill is of late Iron Age to early Bronze Age origin and designated as a Scheduled Monument.
- There are frequent historic sandstone buildings, particularly churches and manor houses, often identified as listed buildings.
- Areas of undesignated historic parkland particularly to the east, are associated with Leigh Court and at Old Park.

Table C.50: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	Moderate-High

Visual character (including skylines)

- There are dramatic and long-reaching views north from elevated areas across the Severn Estuary to South Wales.
- There is a strong visual relationship to urban and industrial areas including Portishead, Avonmouth docks, Bristol and distant industry and turbines in Wales.
- The uplands form a distinctive feature in views from the lower-lying land to the north (A2 and J6) and the Portishead Ridges and Coombes (E4).
- Mature trees including distinctive tall conifers such as larch and pine and woodland mark skylines.
- Pylons crossing the west of the LCT are intrusive on the otherwise undeveloped skylines.
- Church towers and spires including those of Lower Failand and Abbots Leigh are landmark features of the LCT.

Table C.51: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- An intact, rural landscape with a distinctly peaceful and tranquil character.

- The proximity of the urban edge of Bristol and the industrial port of Avonmouth create an urban–rural contrast.
- Suburban land uses include areas of horsiculture around settlements.
- Major roads in the north, including the M5 and the A369 produce localised audible and visual disturbance.
- A complex network of footpaths crosses the LCT, often following the steep combe valleys, including the Gordano Round long-distance trail. Open access woodlands are common in the east.

Table C.52: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: Solar PV Development

Existing solar PV developments

C.55 There are no existing commercial scale Solar PV developments within this LCT.

Summary of overall landscape sensitivity

C.56 The enclosed character of the landscape provided by the extensive woodland and fields with high hedges and mature trees, the presence of major transport routes and pylons (particularly in the west of the LCT) and the urban

influence of Bristol/Avonmouth may indicate a lower landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments.

C.57 However, the distinctive landform of rolling hills with exposed slopes, the extensive woodlands (much of which are ancient) often interspersed by important grassland habitats, medieval field patterns, historic parkland, the traditional rural landscape character and frequent open access areas and public rights of way all increase the area's landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments.

C.58 There may be opportunities for carefully sited smaller solar PV developments (Band A and B) on land more enclosed by woodland/high hedges, in areas of lower ground along the M5 corridor, or within the gentle folds of the landform where not overlooked. However, the more open and rolling upper slopes with localised visual prominence would be less suitable solar PV developments.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.59 There is only one LCA in this LCT.

Table C.53: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCA F1

Band	Rating
BAND A (up to 5 hectares)	Low-Moderate
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	Moderate
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	High
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	High

Band	Rating
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

Existing wind energy developments

C.60 There is a farm-scale (15m) wind turbine at Noah's Ark Zoo farm.

Summary of overall landscape potential

C.61 The presence of major transport infrastructure routes (particularly in the west of the LCT), skylines marked by pylons and the urban influence of Bristol/Avonmouth could indicate a lower landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments. However, the distinctive landform of rolling hills, important semi-natural habitats (including grassland and woodland), medieval field patterns, historic parkland, historic landmark churches, and the traditional rural agricultural character of the LCT all increase the landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments.

C.62 There may be opportunities for carefully placed wind energy developments (up to the lower end of Band C) on the larger- scale areas where skylines are already marked by pylons or the elevated M5.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.63 There is only one LCA in this LCT.

C.54: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA F1

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Low-Moderate
BAND B (26-60m)	Moderate
BAND C (61-100m)	Moderate-High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

LCT G: Settled Limestone Plateau

Figure C.31: Map of LCT G: Settled Limestone Plateau

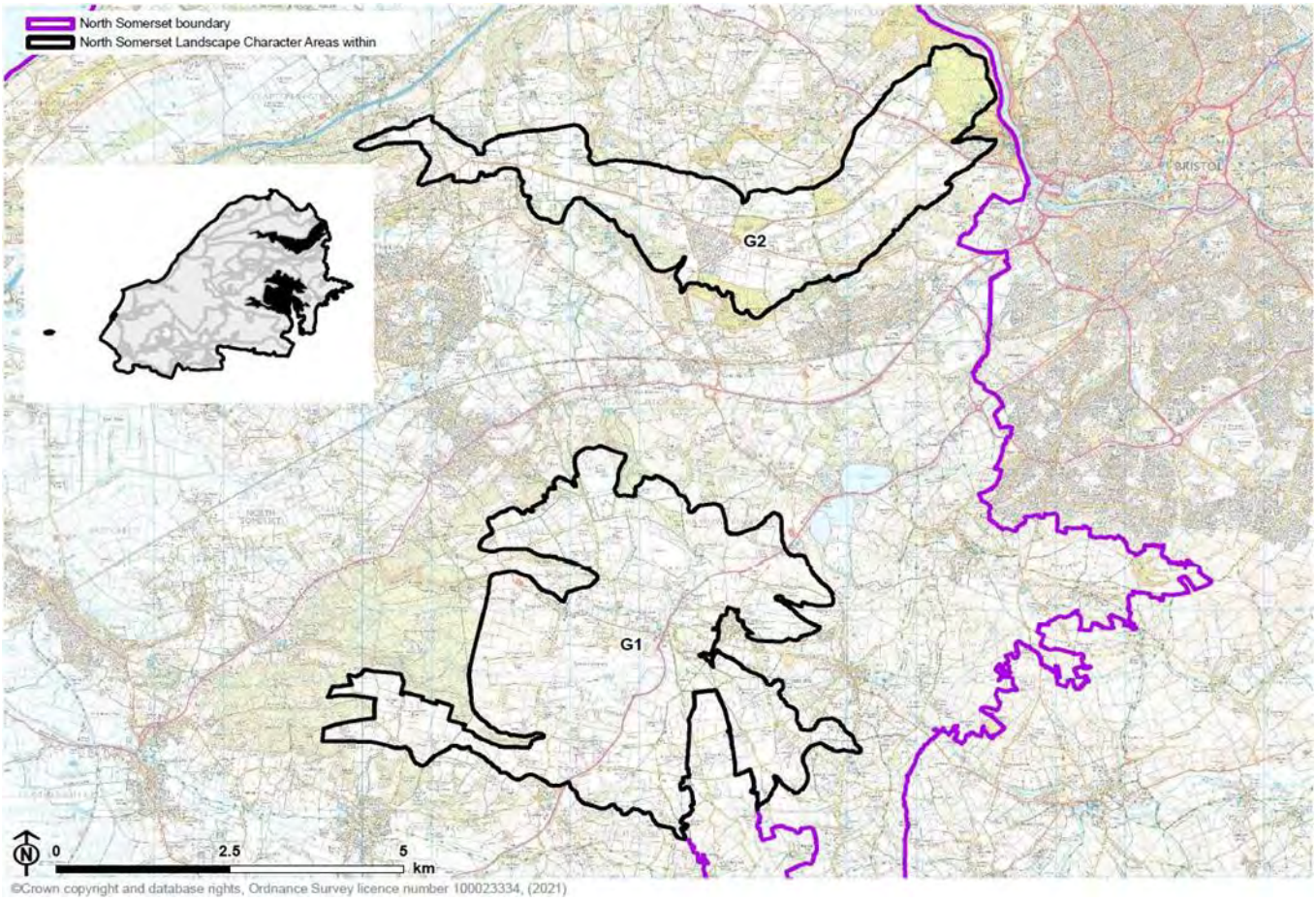


Figure C.32: View north east across large open fields in LCA G1 towards Dundry Hill (LCT H).

Figure C.33: View north towards the Severn Estuary from LCA G2, across undulating fields divided by hedgerows and fencing

Figure C.34:Sports pitches and training facilities near Failand in LCA G2

Figure C.35:Undulating pastoral fields bound by hedgerows, undeveloped skylines with views south to the Mendip Hills AON

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)

- A generally level, broad plateau elevated above surrounding areas.
- An open and exposed landscape due to the flat landform and low hedgerows.
- Large rectilinear fields and the unenclosed common land at Felton Common (LCA G1) have a sense of openness, while smaller scale fields bound by tall hedgerows are more enclosed.
- Large woodlands and roadside shelterbelts in LCA G2 also offer enclosure.
- Human scale features include sport and leisure facilities, mature trees, small woodland copses and farms.

Table C.55: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Low-Moderate	Low-Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)

- Recreational and urban land uses characterise much of the LCT, with golf courses and sports pitches as well as development associated with Bristol Airport.

- Agricultural land use is characterised by large, regular fields of mixed arable and pasture grazing, with sinuous pasture fields found in rural parts of LCA G1.
- Fields are enclosed by hedgerows in variable condition, subdivided by post and wire fencing in places (particularly in LCA G2).
- Woodland belts and copses are scattered across the LCT, with larger woodlands (often identified as LWS) on the edges of LCA G2, extending into adjacent areas.
- Leigh Woods (which extends towards the Avon Gorge) is designated as a SSSI, SAC and LNR and is mostly of ancient origin (LCA G2).
- Ashton Court is designated as an SSSI for its saproxylic invertebrate fauna (LCA G2).
- Extensive areas of unimproved neutral and calcareous grassland survive amongst the agricultural and recreational land uses.
- There are several working and disused quarries, concentrated in LCA G1. Lulsgate Quarry and Hartcliffe Rocks Quarry are SSSIs of geological significance.
- Settlement is mostly limited to isolated farmsteads and nucleated villages.

Table C.56: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Historic landscape character

- Many field patterns are of medieval origin, including those created by assart, with extensive areas of 18th to 19th century parliamentary fields and some modern amalgamated fields in LCA G1.
- There are two ancient unenclosed commons in LCA G1.

- Numerous Registered Parks and Gardens, including Leigh Court (grade II), Ashton Court (grade II*) and part of Tyntesfield (grade II*).
- Prehistoric features include eight Barrows (bowl, long and oval) within LCA G1, and an Iron Age settlement and part of the Promontory Fort in Leigh Woods in LCA G2, all designated as Scheduled Monuments.
- Parts of the conservation areas for Leigh Woods and Felton extend into the LCT.
- Isolated listed buildings include farmhouses, lodges and churches.

Table C.57: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	Moderate-High

Visual character (including skylines)

- Wide open views over the surrounding lowland areas are available from this elevated landscape, particularly at the edges of the plateau.
- Dundry Hill (LCA H1) and Cleeve Ridge (LCA E6) are distinctive landform feature in long views north-east (from LC G1) and west respectively.
- Skylines are marked by mature trees, small-scale overhead power lines, sports facilities (LCA G2) and airport infrastructure (in LCA G1). Some undeveloped skylines remain.

Table C.58: Sensitivity scores

Solar	Wind
Low-High	Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Recreational and urban land uses, particularly large-scale development and infrastructure associated with Bristol airport have an urbanising effect.
- Lighting at Bristol airport negatively impacts the rural character and dark night skies.
- Distant traffic noise can be heard across the LCT, disrupting the sense of tranquillity.
- Localised areas retain a traditional agricultural character (particularly in G1).
- The area is crossed by multiple public rights of way including the Monarch's Way with open access areas at Ashton Court, Felton Common and several woodlands.

Table C.59: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Low-Moderate	Low-Moderate

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: Solar PV Development

Existing solar PV developments

C.64 There are currently no solar PV developments in this LCT.

Summary of overall landscape sensitivity

C.65 The medium-large scale plateau landform, localised visual enclosure offered by hedges and hedgerow trees, disused mineral workings, recreational land uses, urban development and infrastructure (particularly associated with Bristol Airport) could indicate lower sensitivity to solar PV developments.

C.66 However, the generally open character of the landscape due to the flat landform and low hedgerow boundaries, areas with medieval field patterns, important grassland and woodland habitats, historic parklands, and frequent public rights of way and open access areas, all increase landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.67 LCA G1 has a lower landscape sensitivity to solar PV developments as it has a greater sense of visual enclosure provided by the gently undulating landform and surrounding woodland and mature hedgerow boundaries. This LCA is also influenced by development and infrastructure including Bristol Airport and the A38. There may be opportunities to locate small (Band A or Band B) developments adjacent to existing development, within former quarries or in hidden folds of more undulating landforms.

C.68 LCA G2 has a slightly higher sensitivity to solar PV developments due to its more open character with low hedgerows, and the high frequency of semi-natural habitats and historic features including three RPGs. The parkland areas within Ashton Court, Leigh Woods and Tyntesfield estate would be unsuitable for solar PV development.

Table C.60: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCA G1

Band	Rating
BAND A (up to 5 hectares)	Low
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	Low-Moderate
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	Moderate
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	Moderate-High
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

Table C.61: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCA G2

Band	Rating
BAND A (up to 5 hectares)	Low-Moderate
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	Moderate
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	Moderate-High
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	High
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

Existing wind energy developments

C.69 There are currently no wind energy developments in this LCT.

Summary of overall landscape potential

C.70 The medium-large scale plateau landform, areas of larger scale open field patterns, recreational land uses, and urban development and infrastructure (particularly associated with Bristol Airport) could indicate lower landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments.

C.71 However, areas of medieval field patterns, the area's role in the setting of, and inclusion within historic parklands, and localised pockets of traditional agricultural character increase the area's landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments.

C.72 There may be opportunity for some small-scale (Band A) wind turbines associated with existing development or infrastructure.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.73 LCA G1 has lower sensitivity to wind energy developments due to the presence of existing development, including transport corridors and infrastructure associated with Bristol Airport.

C.74 LCA G2 has a slightly higher sensitivity to wind energy developments due to its more open character, high frequency of semi- natural habitats, and historic features, including three RPGs. The parkland areas within Ashton Court, Leigh Woods and Tyntesfield estate would be unsuitable for any wind energy development.

C.62: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA G1

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Low-Moderate
BAND B (26-60m)	Moderate
BAND C (61-100m)	Moderate-High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

C.63: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA G2

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Low-Moderate
BAND B (26-60m)	Moderate-High
BAND C (61-100m)	High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

LCT H: Dundry Hill

Figure C.36: Map of LCT H: Dundry Hill

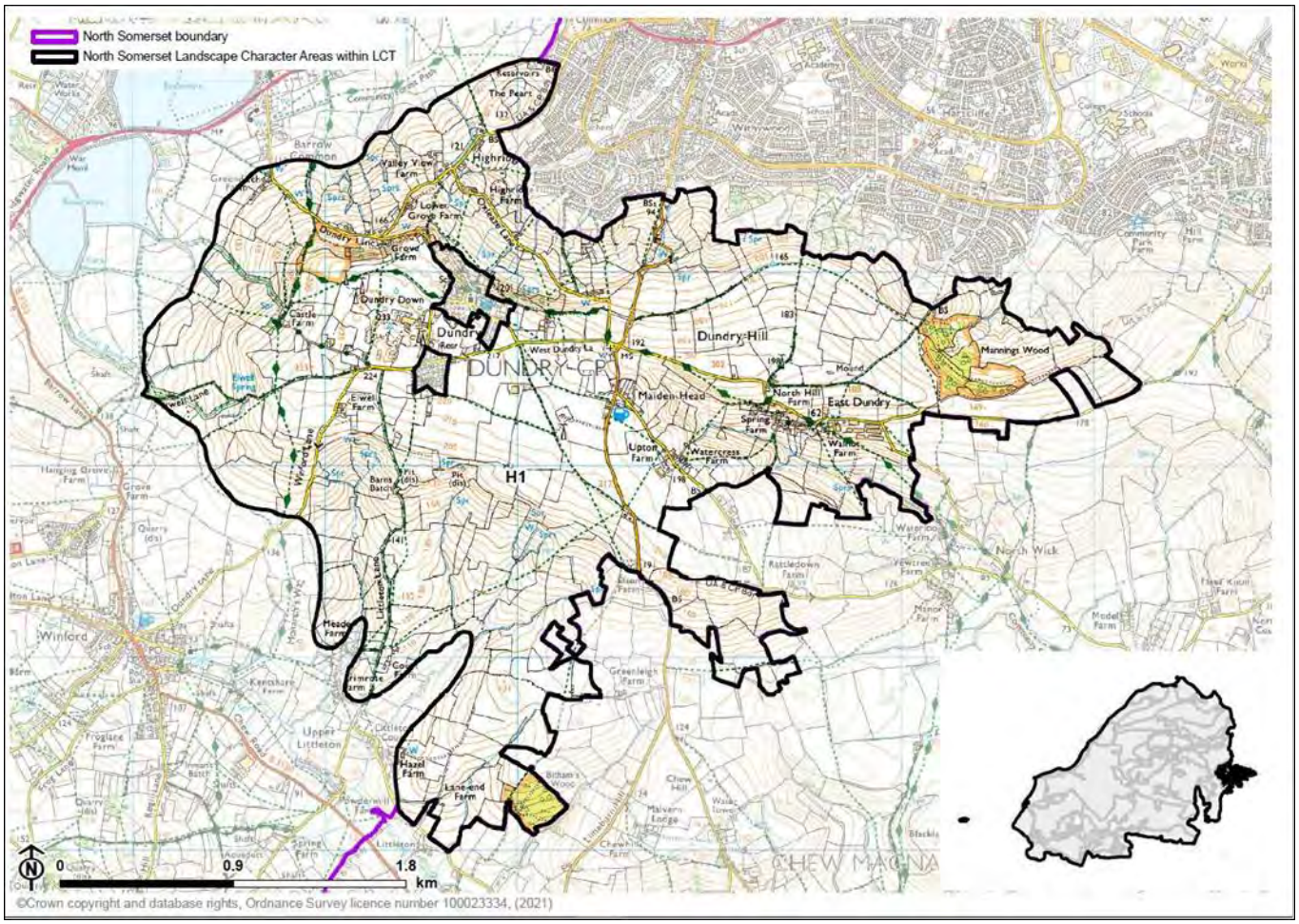


Figure C.37: View south from Bristol to the Dundry ridgeline

Figure C.38: Small-scale pastoral fields on the summit of Dundry Hill, with telegraph poles and a transmission mast

Figure C.39: Sloping fields within a small incised valley near East Dundry

Figure C.40: View south from the southern slopes of Dundry Hill, across the Chew Valley and towards the ridgeline of the Mendip Hills AONB

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)

- An elevated hill landform with steeply sloping sides, rising from 100m AOD to 233m AOD.
- Streams arising from springs have formed narrow valleys on the slopes.
- There is a strong sense of openness and exposure, emphasised by occasional low, wind formed trees.
- Human scale features include hedgerows, narrow lanes and traditional stone-built farmhouses.

Table C.64: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)

- Fields are medium-scale with irregular boundaries, and are predominantly pastoral with some arable land use.
- On the lower slopes, fields are bound by hedgerows of varying condition, with some hedgerow trees of ash and yew, occasionally replaced by fences.
- On the upper slopes and towards the summit, drystone walls are more common, although degraded in places.

- Areas of semi-improved grassland and lowland calcareous grassland are scattered across the LCT, many are Local Wildlife Sites.
- There is a small area of ancient unenclosed common at Dundry Down, designated as a LWS for its grassland and woodland habitats.
- Although woodland is generally sparse, there are linear tracts of deciduous farm woodlands, and a larger area at Mannings Wood to the north east.
- Settlement is limited to the small nucleated villages of Dundry and East Dundry, as well as scattered farms linked by narrow rural lanes.
- Traditional stone buildings are interspersed with modern infill in brick and render, with some ribbon development extending west from the core of Dundry village.

Table C.65: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Historic landscape character

- The HLC indicates field patterns are of medieval (or earlier) irregular enclosure, with some modern fields amalgamated from early enclosure. To the north-east, fields are of late medieval enclosure.
- The grade I church at Dundry, although outside the LCT, is a prominent feature.
- Many of the traditional stone-built farmhouses in the LCT are listed.
- Disused pits around Barns Batch provide evidence of the area's industrial heritage.

Table C.66: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Visual character (including skylines)

- The ridgeline of Dundry Hill form an important rural backdrop to views from Bristol in the north, from the Chew Valley to the south, and in long views from the Mendip Hills AONB.
- The exposed and elevated landform affords wide views over the surrounding lower landscape, with views north towards Bristol and beyond to the Severn Estuary.
- The tall stone church tower at Dundry village forms a significant local landmark.
- Five communications masts of varying size on the hill summit are visually prominent and intrusive on the otherwise open and undeveloped skyline.

Table C.67: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	High

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Pastoral land use, undeveloped skylines and expansive views over the Chew Valley towards the Mendip Hills AONB result in a scenic character, particularly in the south of the LCT.
- There is a sense of tranquillity on the hill summit, although views to the urban edge of Bristol limit the perception of remoteness.

- Encroaching suburban land uses including horsiculture, industrial scale farm buildings, a scrap yard on the edge of the village and a cluster of communications masts at Dundry Down all erode the traditional rural character.
- The hillside is crossed by numerous public rights of way, including The Monarchs Way and Community Forest Path. There are two areas of open access land at Dundry Down and Mannings Wood.

Table C.68: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: Solar PV Development

Existing solar PV developments

C.75 There are currently no solar developments within this LCT.

Summary of overall landscape sensitivity

C.76 The relatively large-scale landscape, and presence of existing man-made features including communication masts could indicate lower sensitivity. However, the open and visually prominent slopes of this elevated ridge, important grassland habitats, medieval field patterns, and strong intervisibility with surrounding areas (including the Mendip Hills AONB to the south) could indicate higher sensitivity to solar PV development.

C.77 Areas of flat, elevated land on the hilltop or hidden folds within the landform (where not overlooked), could present some opportunity for sensitively sited, small scale (Band A) solar PV developments, with appropriate screening provided by hedgerow boundaries or farm woodlands.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.78 There is only one LCA in this LCT.

Table C.69: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCT H

Band	Rating
BAND A (up to 5 hectares)	Moderate
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	Moderate-High
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	Moderate-High
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	High
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

Existing wind energy developments

C.79 There are currently no wind energy developments within this LCT.

Summary of overall landscape potential

C.80 The relatively large-scale landscape, and presence of existing man-made features including communication masts could indicate lower sensitivity. However, the open and visually prominent slopes of this elevated ridge, important grassland habitats, medieval field patterns, and strong intervisibility with surrounding areas (including the Mendip Hills AONB to the south) could indicate higher sensitivity to solar PV development.

C.81 Areas of flat, elevated land on the hilltop or hidden folds within the landform (where not overlooked), could present some opportunity for sensitively sited, small scale (Band A) solar PV developments, with appropriate screening provided by hedgerow boundaries or farm woodlands.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.82 There is only one LCA in this LCT.

C.70: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCT H

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Moderate-High
BAND B (26-60m)	Moderate-High
BAND C (61-100m)	High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

LCT J: Rolling Valley Farmland

Figure C.41: Map of LCT J: Rolling Valley Farmland

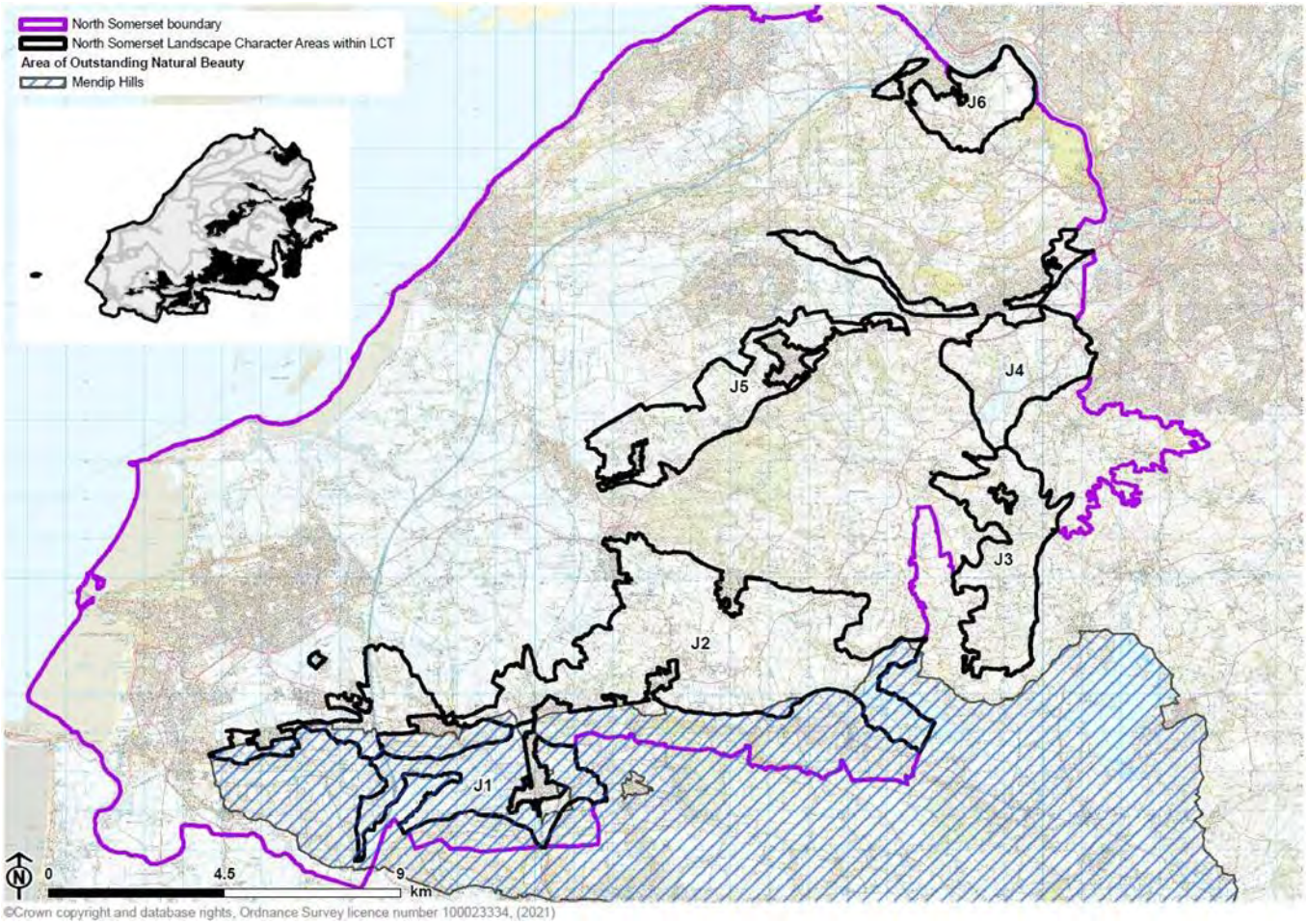


Figure C.42: View across pastoral fields on the settlement edge of Wrington in LCA J2 with the Mendip Ridge (LCA E1) behind

Figure C.43: Part of Iwood Lane Solar Farm (Band D) in LCA J2.

Figure C.44: View north-west from LCA J6 across large-scale open fields towards Avonmouth and the settlement edges of Pill and Bristol

Figure C.45: Pasture fields in LCA J1, overlooked by Crook Peak (in LCA E1)

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)

- A rolling landform formed by rivers and their tributaries which wind between limestone ridges, including the River Yeo, Lox Yeo, Land Yeo, Chew, Avon and Colliter's Brook.
- Topography is undulating, with elevation ranging from 10m to 135m AOD. LCA J6 has a steeper landform, sloping to the River Avon.
- The wooded ridges of adjacent LCTs create a sense of enclosure, particularly in LCAs J1 and J2 which sit at the foot of the Mendip Ridge.
- Human-scale features include hedgerows, narrow rural lanes and small bridges.

Table C.71: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)

- Land use is mainly pastoral, with some arable fields in LCA J4 and commercial orchards around Sandford (LCA J2).
- Fields of varying sizes are bound by tall, thick hedges with hedgerow trees. Small, irregular fields are found in LCA J3, and larger fields in LCAs J4 and J6.

- Deciduous woodland is concentrated in LCA J4 and J6, typically following watercourses including Markham Brook and Colliter's Brook.
- An extensive area of ancient woodland at Barrow Wood (J4) is designated as SNCI.
- The LCT contains a variety of natural and man-made water bodies.
- Important habitats include traditional orchards and grasslands, including lowland meadows and semi-improved grassland (with a number designated as Local Wildlife Sites), and parkland at Langford Court, Tyntesfield, and Ashton Court.
- Blagdon Lake, Plasters Green Meadows and Max Bog are designated as SSSIs.
- Settlement comprises nucleated villages often located on higher ground, with some ribbon development and scattered traditional farmsteads, connected by winding lanes.
- A rail line and major roads cross the LCT including the M5, A369, A38 and A370.

Table C.72: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Historic landscape character

- The HLC indicates large areas of late-medieval enclosure, with some medieval (or earlier) enclosure of rich, wet grassland, and designed ornamental landscapes in the north at Leigh Court and Tyntesfield (both RPGs).
- Many of the villages including Barrow Gurney, Long Ashton, Westleaze & Wyke, Yanley, Lower Langford, Churchill, Banwell and Christon include conservation areas.

- Scheduled Monuments include a Roman settlement, a Roman villa at Banwell, Iron Age settlement remains, a motte and bailey castle and 17th century gunpowder works.
- Listed buildings include scattered farmhouses and churches, including those at Christon and Churchill which are grade I listed.

Table C.73: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate-High	Moderate-High

Visual character (including skylines)

- There are rural views to the wooded ridges of adjacent LCAs, most notably the Mendip Ridges and Combes (LCA E1) which form a backdrop to LCAs J1 and J2. Tickenham and Cleeve Ridge are also prominent in views from LCAs J4 and J5.
- Views to settlement edges of Bristol, Pill and Long Ashton exert a strong urban influence across the north of the LCT (from LCAs J4 and J6).
- Skylines within the LCT itself are generally undeveloped and often marked by trees, except in LCAs J1 and J2 where pylons and overhead cables cross the skylines.
- From LCA J5 there are views of the parkland at Ashton Court and Tyntesfield Estate

Table C.74: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- Transport corridors fragment the rural landscape and introduce traffic noise across the LCT, although pockets of tranquillity exist, especially in LCA J3.
- Suburban land uses, including ribbon development, golf courses and water treatment works have an urbanising effect, particularly in LCAs J6 and J4.
- LCA J1 and the south-eastern tip of LCA J2 fall within the Mendip Hills AONB, with special qualities including views to the distinctive limestone ridges and hills, a sparsely settled character, grassland habitats and the traditional pastoral landscape.
- Numerous public rights of way cross the LCT including the River Avon Trail, The Gordano Round, The Monarchs Way and the Two Rivers Way. The Strawberry Line cycle path runs north-south through LCA J1.
- Ashton Court and Tyntesfield Estate are valued recreational destinations.

Table C.75: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: Solar PV Development

Existing solar PV developments

C.83 There are four existing solar farms in LCA J2, including three Band A developments (Twin Elm Farm and two small private solar farms in Churchill

and Lower Langford), and a Band D scheme at Iwood Lane. Banwell Solar Farm (Band C) falls partially within the LCA.

Summary of overall landscape sensitivity

C.84 The strong sense of enclosure provided by tall thick hedgerows, occasional areas with larger field patterns, parts of the LCT influenced by its proximity to Bristol with suburban land uses or areas with much human activity could indicate a lower sensitivity to solar PV development. However, the presence of some steep, visible slopes, valued semi-natural habitats (including woodland and grassland), the time depth of the landscape reflected in the presence of small, irregular field patterns (some of medieval origin), Scheduled Monuments, historic settlements (with conservation areas) and historic parks, as well as intervisibility with the adjacent ridges, particularly those areas visible from the Mendip Hills AONB, heighten levels of sensitivity.

C.85 There may be opportunities for solar PV developments up to lower end Band C to be located in areas influenced by modern development and along transport corridors, with screening provided by existing infrastructure and/or vegetation.

C.86 Areas which are within the Mendips Hills AONB (LCA J1, and parts of LCA J2) or overlooked by the AONB (the southern area of LCA J3) would be highly sensitive to development.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.87 LCA J1 and other areas of the LCT located within the Mendip Hills AONB would be highly sensitive to Band C or higher solar PV development due to their location within this nationally designated landscape and intervisibility with the adjacent Mendip Ridges (LCA E1). This area is also sensitive due to its small-scale and traditional rural character.

C.88 LCA J3 would also be of high sensitivity to Band C or higher solar PV development due to its strong rural character with pockets of tranquillity, and intervisibility with the Mendip Hills AONB from southern parts of the LCA.

C.89 LCA J2 is a 'transitional' landscape with some areas strongly influenced by modern development and some rural, undeveloped areas. Areas of LCA J2 which are within or overlooked by the AONB would be more sensitive to change, however larger-scale fields in the north of the LCA may be able to accommodate large (up to and including Band E) solar developments if carefully designed and sited.

C.90 LCAs J4, J5 and J6 have a semi-rural character, with much human activity, dispersed modern development, suburban land uses and intrusive traffic noise which reduces their sensitivity to larger (up to and including Band D) solar developments.

C.91 However, these areas would have a high sensitivity to the largest (Band E) developments due to intervisibility with adjacent settlements.

Table C.76: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCA J1 (and areas of J2 withing the Mendip Hills AONB)

Band	Rating
BAND A (up to 5 hectares)	Moderate
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	Moderate-High
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	High
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	High
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

Table C.77: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCA J3

Band	Rating
BAND A (≤5 hectares)	Low-Moderate
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	Moderate
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	High
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	High
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

C.78: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCA J2 (outside the AONB), J4, J5 and J6

Band	Rating
BAND A (≤5 hectares)	Low
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	Low-Moderate
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	Moderate
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	Moderate-High
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

Existing wind energy developments

C.92 There are currently no wind energy developments within the LCT.

Summary of overall landscape potential

C.93 Areas that are influenced by their proximity to Bristol with suburban land uses and limited sense of tranquillity (LCAs J4, J5 and J6), and areas with more intensive agricultural land uses (LCA J4), could indicate a lower sensitivity to wind energy developments. However the frequent human scale features (including hedgerows, narrow rural lanes and small bridges), the time depth of the landscape reflected in the small irregular field patterns (some of medieval origin), presence of Scheduled Monuments and historic settlements (with conservation areas) and historic parks, as well as intervisibility with the adjacent ridges, (particularly those areas visible from the Mendip Hills AONB and designated parkland landscapes at Tyntesfield and Ashton Court RPGs) increases levels of sensitivity.

C.94 There may be some opportunity to accommodate carefully sited Band A and Band B wind developments in areas influenced by modern development and along transport corridors,

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.95 LCA J1 and areas of LCA J2 located within the Mendip Hills AONB would be highly sensitive to Band C or higher wind energy development due to their location within this nationally designated landscape, strong intervisibility with the adjacent Ridges and Combes LCT, and the small-scale, traditional rural character (J1).

C.96 The undulating topography and rural, undeveloped and tranquil character of LCA J3 also indicates a high sensitivity to larger turbine schemes.

C.79: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA J1 and areas of J2 (within the Mendip Hills AONB)

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Moderate-High
BAND B (26-60m)	Moderate-High
BAND C (61-100m)	High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

C.80: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA J3

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Moderate
BAND B (26-60m)	Moderate-High
BAND C (61-100m)	High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

C.81: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCA J2 (outside the Mendip Hills AONB), J4, J5 and J6

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Low-Moderate
BAND B (26-60m)	Moderate
BAND C (61-100m)	Moderate-High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

LCT K: Farmed Coal Measures

Figure C.46: Map of LCT K: Farmed Coal Measures

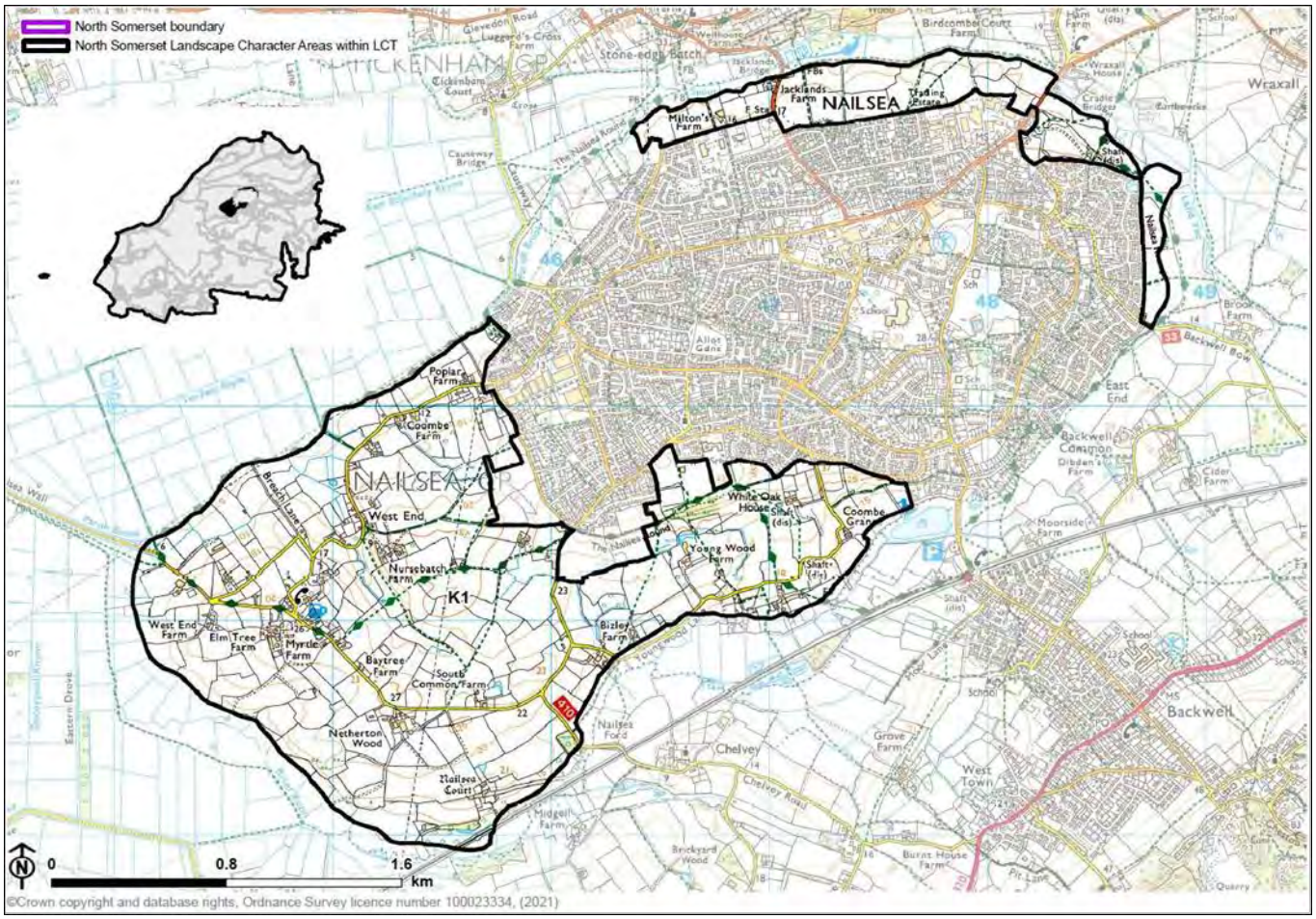


Figure C.47: View south-west from the Tickenham Ridge to the northern settlement edge of Nailsea

Figure C.48: View north-west across the adjacent ‘Moors’ LCT

Figure C.49: View north across undulating pastoral field

Figure C.50: Pastoral fields to the north of Nailsea, overlooked by the Tickenham Ridge

Assessment of landscape sensitivity to renewable energy development

Landform and scale (including sense of openness/ enclosure)

- A gently undulating landform with elevation ranging from 5m to 30m AOD.
- A low 'raised plateau' which is slightly elevated relative to the adjacent lower-lying moors and floodplains.
- This is an intimate-scale landscape as a result of the small medieval fields bound by intact hedgerows.
- There is some sense of openness in places where hedgerows are low clipped.
- Human scale features are frequent and include hedgerows, narrow lanes and stone farm buildings.

Table C.82: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)

- Land use is predominantly small to medium sized irregular pasture, with some horse paddocks.
- Fields are bound by sinuous drystone walls, hedgerows (both clipped and overgrown with occasional hedgerow trees), and ditches on the lower lying land.

- Floodplain grazing marsh (Priority Habitat) extends into the LCT from the adjacent LCA A3 Kenn and Tickenham Moors. Areas of semi-improved grassland are common, and many are designated as Local Wildlife Sites.
- Other semi-natural habitats are limited, with small areas of deciduous woodland and traditional orchards are associated with farms.
- Small ponds are located throughout, generally found within pastoral fields.
- A dispersed settlement pattern of traditional stone and render farmsteads are linked by winding narrow lanes.
- The LCT wraps around the town of Nailsea, with suburban housing backing onto the landscape.

Table C.83: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Historic landscape character

- The HLC indicates some areas of 18th-19th century enclosure, with a small area of ancient unenclosed common adjacent to the southern edge of Nailsea.
- The irregular medieval field patterns are generally well preserved.
- Nailsea Court is a grade I listed manor house. Many of the farmhouses in the LCT are grade II listed buildings.
- Disused shafts provide evidence of the landscape's coal mining heritage.

Table C.84: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Low-Moderate

Visual character (including skylines)

- There are some views out over the adjacent flat pastoral moors landscape type (LCA A1 and A3) to the north-west.
- The settlement edge of Nailsea is well-integrated into the landscape by woodland in the south, but more prominent in the north, where it is overlooked by settlement on the adjacent Tickenham Ridge.
- The flat skylines within the LCT are undeveloped, apart from a pylon line running north-south through the centre of the area.
- Skylines of the wooded ridges to the north and south (LCT E Ridges and Combes) are more prominent than those within the LCT

Table C.85: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Perceptual and scenic qualities

- .A generally tranquil landscape with a sense of remoteness in places, particularly away from the settlement edge.
- A strongly rural character arising from the pastoral land use, small hedgerow-bound fields, narrow winding lanes and scattered traditional farms.

- A number of public rights of way cross the LCT, including The Nailsea Round walking route.

Table C.86: Sensitivity scores

Solar score	Wind score
Moderate	Moderate

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity: Solar PV Development

Existing solar PV developments

C.97 There are currently no solar PV developments within this LCT.

Summary of overall landscape sensitivity

C.98 The intimate scale of the medieval field patterns, semi-natural grassland habitats and tranquil rural character (away from the settlement edge) could indicate higher sensitivity to solar PV developments. However, the gently undulating landform, enclosure provided by intact hedgerows and limited semi-natural habitats across the farmed landscape could indicate lower sensitivity.

C.99 There may be opportunity for smaller (Band A and B) solar PV developments (ensuring medieval field patterns are retained), particularly to the south of the LCT where the landscape is screened by woodland and vegetation

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.100 There is only one LCA in this LCT.

Table C.87: Landscape sensitivity to solar PV development in LCT K

Band	Rating
BAND A (up to 5 hectares)	Low-Moderate
BAND B (6-10 hectares)	Moderate
BAND C (11-15 hectares)	High
BAND D (16-30 hectares)	High
BAND E (31-60 hectares)	High

Overall assessment of landscape sensitivity to wind energy developments

Existing wind energy developments

C.101 There are currently no wind energy developments within this LCT.

Summary of overall landscape potential

C.102 The intimate scale of the medieval field patterns, frequent human scale features (including hedgerows and hedgerow trees, winding narrow lanes and traditional stone buildings), semi-natural grassland habitats, tranquil rural

character and undeveloped skylines could increase sensitivity to wind energy development. However, the gently undulating landform and limited semi-natural habitats across the farmed landscape could indicate a lower sensitivity.

C.103 There may be opportunity for sensitively located single Band A wind turbines associated with existing development near Nailsea industrial estate or adjacent to farm buildings.

Any variations in landscape sensitivity at the LCA level

C.104 There is only one LCA in this LCT.

C.88: Landscape sensitivity to wind energy development in LCT K

Band	Rating
BAND A (18-25m)	Low-Moderate
BAND B (26-60m)	Moderate-High
BAND C (61-100m)	High
BAND D (101-150m)	High

References

1 Available through the following link: https://n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/Landscape%20character%20assessment%20September%202018.pdf

2 Available through the following link: https://www.planningportal.co.uk/permission/common-projects/wind-turbines/planning-permission-stand-alone-wind-turbines

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