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INTRODUCTION

Brereton Parish Council commissioned URS to prepare this Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) to assist in the formulation of Brereton Neighbourhood Plan through establishment of the key landscape characteristics of Brereton Civil Parish. The document aims to provide a robust evidence base on which to develop appropriate design principles and policies and form the basis of a Neighbourhood Plan area-wide landscape strategy.

The key aims and objectives of the LCA are outlined below:

- Classification of the landscape using a recognised methodology, including the identification of the key characteristics which define Brereton Civil Parish;
- Formulation of clearly defined landscape character areas in order to provide a basis upon which informed judgements regarding future land use can be made. These decisions will aim to protect and enhance the quality and sense of place of the local landscape;
- Identification of landscape value, visual quality, sensitivity to development and capacity for various development types.
- Recognition of landscape components worthy of retention, those susceptible to change or capable of accommodating change as well as areas which would benefit from landscape enhancement;
- Production of a robust evidence base against which future development proposals can be assessed.

The document seeks to fill the existing evidence gap between published LCAs and studies at the site/development specific level and to produce a detailed LCA at the scale of Brereton Civil Parish. Individual development proposals will require assessment on their own merits within the framework of published character assessments and this LCA.
STUDY AREA CONTEXT

Brereton Civil Parish (the “Study Area”) is located within the administrative boundary of Cheshire East on the low-lying gently rolling Cheshire Plain, an area of predominantly dairy farmland stretching from the Mersey Valley in the north to the Shropshire Hills in the south (see Figure 2).

Much of the landscape is characterised by a rural quality of settled, long-established, agricultural use in pasture with localised arable use. Winding country lanes, traditional farm buildings and hedge field boundary treatments are common within the gently rolling landscape of the locality. The meandering river channel of the River Dane defines the boundary of Brereton Civil Parish to the north. The low-lying nature of the landscape affords far-reaching views across the Cheshire Plain, including wider views towards the Peak District in the east and Jodrell Bank telescope to the north.

A mixture of hamlets, villages and scattered farmsteads are present in a complex interspersed pattern within the locality. Brereton Green forms the largest settlement within the area in terms of population size, located on the A50 Road and forming the historic centre of the Civil Parish (see Figure 3). Brereton Heath is the second largest settlement, located on the A54 in the east of the parish. The remaining settlement pattern is defined by hamlets including Smethwick Green, Sandlow Green, Brownedge and Medhurst Green Brereton Heath Local Nature Reserve (LNR), a restored sand quarry, lies immediately west of the village. The urban areas of Holmes Chapel, Congleton and Sandbach are located within close proximity to, although beyond, the boundary of the study area and exert an influence locally.

The River Dane forms the north western boundary of the Parish whilst its tributary the River Croco flows centrally through the parish from south east to north east. The carriageway of the M6 Motorway forms a linear landscape element at the western fringes of the parish boundary. The A50 Trunk Road runs broadly parallel with the M6, located at the southern extent of Holmes Chapel and running towards Junction 17 of the M6 Motorway. Road access within the parish is also provided by sections of the A54 and A54, the latter following an approximate north-west to south-east direction and centred on the settlement of Brereton Heath. The parish also accommodates the transport corridor of the Crewe to Manchester Railway Line, dissecting low lying agricultural land forming the Civil Parish’s western extent.
Figure 3: Parish Location Plan (not to scale)

Figure 3 shows the importance of the position of the parish in relation to the towns of Congleton, Sandbach and Holmes Chapel and the prominence of the trunk road links between them. It also illustrates the importance of the River Croco, which is central to the parish, and Breton Hall which is positioned adjacent to it. The proximity of the parish to the eastern edge of the Peak District National Park “the Peak Fringe”, which forms an important element of long views eastwards from many parts of the parish, is illustrated on Figure 3. Prominent and distinctive hills within long views from the parish include; The Cloud and high ground between it and Croker Hill.
PUBLISHED LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENTS

NATIONAL CHARACTER AREAS - NATURAL ENGLAND

The use of landscape characterisation as part of landscape assessment is a widely accepted tool. The Countryside Commission (now Natural England) produced a strategy for mapping the landscape character of England in order to provide a national and regional framework for the more detailed assessment of character at county and local levels. The study lead to the classification of distinct landscape character areas called National Character Areas (NCAs). The aim was to assist those who make planning decisions to consider how best to enhance and respect local distinctiveness.

In response to its responsibilities in delivering the Natural England White Paper, Biodiversity 2020 and the European Landscape Convention, Natural England recently completed and published revised NCA profiles to form guidance documents to provide a context for local decision making.

At a national scale Brereton Civil Parish lies within NCA 61 Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain, as defined by Natural England. Stretching from Wilmslow in the north to Shrewsbury in the south, the NCA exhibits a rural quality characterised by an extensive rolling plain interrupted by sandstone ridges (see Figures 4a and 4b).

Comprised of a flat or gently undulating pastoral landscape, the NCA is noted for food production due to the fertility of the clay soils which support lush pastures for grazing dairy cattle. The character description for NCA 61: Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain summarises its general character in terms of several key characteristics listed on page 7.
KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF NCA61: SHROPSHIRE, CHESHIRE AND STAFFORDSHIRE PLAIN

- Extensive, gently undulating plain, dominated by thick glacial till from the late Pleistocene Period, producing productive, clay soils and exemplifying characteristic glacial landforms including eskers, glacial fans, kettle holes, moraines and a landscape of meres and mosses;

- Prominent discontinuous sandstone ridges of Triassic age, characterised by steep sides and freely draining, generally infertile soil that supports broadleaved and mixed woodland;

- Few woodlands, confined to the area around Northwich and to estates, cloughs and deciduous and mixed woods on the steeper slopes of the wind-swept sandstone ridges. Locally extensive tracts of coniferous woodland and locally distinctive orchards scattered throughout;

- Strong field patterns with generally well-maintained boundaries, predominantly hedgerows, with dense, mature hedgerow trees. Sandstone walls occur on the ridges and estate walls and Cheshire-style (curved topped) metal railing fences occur locally on estates in Cheshire;

- Dairy farming dominates on the plain, with patches of mixed farming and arable in the north and large areas in the south-east;

- Diversity of wetland habitats includes internationally important meres and mosses comprising lowland raised bog, fen, wet woodland, reedbed and standing water, supporting populations of a host of rare wildlife, including some species of national and international importance;

- Extensive peat flood plains where flood plain grazing marsh habitats support regionally important populations of breeding waders in areas such as Baggy Moor, Weald Moor and Dossey Marshes;

- Many main rivers and their flood plains lie in this area, including the Dee, Dane, Severn, Penk and Sow. Significant areas of grazing marsh, alluvial flood meadows and hay meadows associated with the rivers Dee, Sow, Gowy and Severn. The area has the highest density of field ponds in western Europe;

- Rich archaeological evidence of iron-age hill forts concentrated on the sandstone ridges and the Weald Moors. Remnant ridge and furrow and moated houses are features of the plain. The Roman road, Watling Street, crosses the plain linking London to Wales via Wroxeter. Chester was an important Roman settlement;

- Regularly spaced, large farmsteads, dispersed hamlets, market towns and many other settlements including Macclesfield and Telford. Timber-frame buildings are a distinctive feature of the plain, often highly decorated in Cheshire, for example, the moated Little Moreton Hall. The historic towns including Stafford, Shrewsbury and the city of Chester have a wealth of 17th- and 18th-century half-timber, brick and red sandstone buildings;

- Parklands and gardens associated with estates such as Chilvington, Trentham, Tatton and Altrington; country houses such as Gawsworth Hall, Arley Hall and Adlington Hall; and fortified manor houses and castles such as at Shrewsbury, Stafford, Beeston, Acton Burrell and Cholmondeley;

- Nationally important reserves of silica sand and salt. Active extraction of salt has developed a locally distinctive landscape of subsidence flashes, particularly around the area of Sandbach. Adjacent to these saline flashes are areas of salt marsh rarely found at inland sites;

- The numerous canals are important for recreation as well as habitat. Several National Cycle Routes and nearly 5,000 km of public rights of way cross the plain. Six National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are scattered throughout, close to large population centres and well used for recreation.
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES AND AREAS - CHESHIRE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

The Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment, published by the former Cheshire County Council in 2008, provides a classification of the Cheshire landscape with the intention of stimulating informed discussion to assist in the formulation of policies and guidance. The document aims to encourage a greater awareness of local landscape character and help to recognise contemporary pressures on the Cheshire landscape.

The assessment summarises the landscape character of Cheshire into 20 Landscape Character Types (LCTs), representing areas of landscape which share a common identity based upon a pattern of natural and cultural characteristics (see Figure 7).

The document further refines the landscape into LCAs which form detailed sub-divisions of the LCTs. These are geographically specific and attributed to a specific unique area (see Figure 8).
A large proportion of Brereton Civil Parish lies within land identified as the Lower Farms and Woods LCT characterised by a gently rolling landform of mixed arable and pastoral land use. Narrow winding country lanes and traditional farm buildings form common features throughout the rural setting. Although this LCT shares similarities with the Lowland Plain LCT, it differs primarily due to greater concentrations of localised woodland and a slightly higher settlement density. The study area also encompasses the southern fringes of Holmes Chapel, defined as urban land use within this assessment.

The character description of Lower Farms and Woods LCT summarises its general character in terms of the 'key characteristics':

- Low lying gently rolling topography;
- Hedgerow boundaries and standard trees in a mix of medieval and post-medieval reorganised fields (irregular, semi-regular and regular up to 8 ha) but with a loss of boundaries leading to formation of large fields and a large proportion of fences adding to this impression;
- "Horsiculture" – fenced horse paddocks;
- High density of woodland – blocks, coverts and riparian;
- Medium settlement density – mix of dispersed farms and nucleated hamlets / villages;
- Mosses and some meres resulting from glacial deposits;
- Large number of water bodies.

Land lying to the west of the A50 Road corridor is defined as East Lowland Plain LCT. The landscape in this location is typified by a generally flat agricultural plain comprised of both small and large fields lined by hedge lines which dictate the availability of extensive or panoramic views across the landscape. The nature of the landform and soil type has resulted in a mainly pastoral land use ideal for large scale dairy farming. The 'key characteristics' of this LCT are outlined below:

- Flat and almost flat topography
- Small to medium sized fields (up to 8 ha) used for pasture and arable farming;
- Mainly hawthorn hedgerows and hedgerow trees, some mixed species hedgerows;
- Dispersed hamlets and farms with predominantly low density, and some nucleation;
- Intensive farming and large farm businesses;
- Large number of small water bodies;
- Scattered species rich grasslands;
- Medieval moated sites.

The northern extent of the parish is bound by the meandering corridor of the River Dane, identified within the River Valley LCT. The valley floor at this location forms a wide open expanse of pastoral land use defined by post and wire fences with steeper wooded valley sides. The key characteristics of this LCT are considered and outlined below:

- Steep sided river valleys;
- Meandering river courses
- High levels of woodland along the river and tributary valleys, of which a significant proportion is ancient woodland;
- Tributaries in wooded cloughs;
- Grassy banks – including acid grassland
- Bridges and viaducts
- Isolated halls and farms.

Land lying to the west of the A50 Road corridor is defined as East Lowland Plain LCT. The landscape in this location is typified by a generally flat agricultural plain comprised of both small and large fields lined by hedge lines which dictate the availability of extensive or panoramic views across the landscape. The nature of the landform and soil type has resulted in a mainly pastoral land use ideal for large scale dairy farming. The 'key characteristics' of this LCT are outlined below:
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS - LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT OF CONGLETON BOROUGH

The Landscape Assessment of Congleton Borough (1999) divides the landscape into eleven broadly homogenous units of similar character (see Figure 9). The study formed part of an ongoing process to improve the design of new development within Congleton, assisting in the development of character based planning policies. The document provides recommendations for conservation of landscape character and identifies current forces for change within the landscape.

With the exception of the area defined as Holmes Chapel settlement, at the north-western fringe of the study area, Brereton Civil Parish lies within two distinct LCAs: Cheshire Plain and Dane Valley. The Cheshire Plain LCA is defined as a flat, low lying landscape of predominantly medium scale pastoral fields, giving way to larger scale fields in places which dominate the plain. Characteristic rectilinear field boundaries are contained primarily by well-maintained hedge lines and settlement is dispersed.

The Dane Valley LCA is primarily used for pasture and is defined by the linear landscape feature of the River Dane which separates the Cheshire Plain to the south from the North Congleton Plain to the north. The river sinuously meanders along the broad valley floor where extensive riparian vegetation forms well established tracts of deciduous woodland.

Figure 9: LCAs as defined by the Landscape Assessment of Congleton Borough (1999)
KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF CHESHIRE PLAIN LCA

- Level low lying landscape, although not truly flat;
- Agricultural, predominantly pastoral use. Generally medium scale farmland, large regular rectilinear field patterns interspersed with smaller irregular fields (see Figure 10);
- Maintained hawthorn hedges and hedgerow trees provide containment and are an important landscape feature. A significant number of trees are over mature;
- Numerous isolated houses, farmhouses and small settlements. Traditional buildings constructed using orange-red Cheshire brick and Welsh Slate or blue clay tile roofs;
- There are estates and manor houses having their own distinct character and parkland feel;
- Small blocks of woodland, mainly broadleaf deciduous, though with some coniferous;
- Dense network of roads, primarily hedge lined country lanes. There are few major roads;
- Field ponds scattered, though not omnipresent, are often vegetated and species rich features.

Figure 10a: Agricultural land use at Breerton Green

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF DANE VALLEY LCA

- Flat / undulating river valley, with steep wooded slopes and meadows in the valley bottom;
- Predominantly pasture with some arable farming on more fertile gently sloping ground;
- Meandering watercourse lined with mature vegetation;
- Poorly defined field pattern without clearly defined boundaries with the exception of clipped hedgerows along country lanes and tracks;
- Areas of parkland landscape on upper valley slopes associated with isolated larger country houses;
- Isolated mature trees with lower branches browsed by grazing stock;
- Limited access along narrow country lanes and farm access tracks;
- Short to middle distance controlled by mature vegetation along the valley;
- Dispersed settlement pattern of isolated forms, halls and villages; buildings predominantly red brick under slate.

Figure 10b: Pastoral grazing on the Dane Valley slopes
LCA is the hierarchical classification and description of the physical and cultural characterstics of a landscape. The outcome of this process forms part of the primary tool for the evaluation of landscapes to support change and thereby inform local decision making in relation to development, landscape trends and a vision for the landscape of the future. Small scale LCAs provide a finer grain, more detailed assessment of landscape character which sit below published assessments and above a site specific assessment.

The Landscape Character Assessment of Brereton Civil Parish uses the ‘Living Landscapes Project’ methodology, originally developed by Stephen Warnock at the University of Reading (see Figure 11).

One of the main outputs from this process is the development of a GIS based spatial framework which integrates the natural (physical and biological) and cultural components of an area at the landscape scale. The output of this process forms the basis of Part 1: Baseline of this document.

The fundamental building block of the hierarchy at the landscape level is the Landscape Description Unit (LDU). Defined by a series of definitive attributes at the regional level, level 1 is a broad scale of LDU mapping with four definitive attributes listed as Physiography, Ground Type, Land Cover and Settlement. Each of these attributes is refined further at level 2, resulting in a finer scale of mapping. The eight attributes at level 2 are defined as Landform, Geology (Structure), Geology (Rock Type), Soils, Farm Type (cover), Tree Cover, Settlement and Farm Type (structure) (see Figure 12).
This assessment has identified LDUs for the landscape of Brereton Civil Parish Derived through a process of overlay mapping and field survey verification in accordance with the Living Landscapes Project methodology. LDUs provide a robust description of variations in the character of the landscape at a regional scale. The system is transparent and repeatable, based on nationally consistent data-sets.

These have been further refined to form Land Cover Parcels (LCPs) which form discrete areas of land reflecting variations in the physical character of the landscape.

In relation to development control, selecting sites for habitat restoration and other specific land management issues, Level 2 (LDUs) is too broad scale and further division into Level 3 Land Cover Parcels is appropriate (p58 Living landscape Project 2004).

A pro-forma sheet has been completed for each LCP within the LDUs identified for Brereton Civil Parish. These are included in Appendix A.

The ‘Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (2013)’ Third Edition, IEMA/LI (GLVIA3) (see Figure 13) forms the current basis of landscape and visual assessment and has also informed this study. The GLVIA3 supersedes previous guidance and recognises landscape sensitivity judgements are derived from assessments of landscape value and susceptibility to specific landscape change. Rather than the allocation of a generic sensitivity, Part 2: Development Pressures, defines sensitivity judgements based on the capacity of the landscape to accommodate specific development types (see Figure 14).

GLVIA3 therefore adds to the LCA based on the The ‘Living Landscapes Project’ methodology to enhance the value of the output in relation to development control and future landscape vision.

Recommendations for conservation of the landscape character, incorporating principles and landscape features which complement the existing setting of Brereton Civil Parish, are outlined in Part 3: Landscape Vision.
DEVELOPMENT OF A SPATIAL FRAMEWORK: DEFINITIVE ATTRIBUTES

Desk study analysis of definitive attributes at Levels 1 and 2 has been used to generate map overlays, incorporating the natural dimension of the landscape and its cultural attributes. The analysis of these map overlays are summarised as key bullet points. This process has informed the formulation of key factors which contribute to landscape character, including the definition of discrete LDU boundaries.

PHYSIOGRAPHY

Physiography is an expression of the shape and structure and the land surface as influenced both by the underlying geology and the effect of subsequent geomorphological processes. The definitive attributes at Level 2 are defined as Geology and Landform.

Key Features:

- Flat or gently undulating low lying landscape formed on glacial deposits;
- The meandering river channel of the River Dane defines the boundary of Brereton Civil Parish to the North;
- Fluvial deposits are present, associated with the channels of the River Dane as well as the River Croco at the southern edge of Holmes Chapel;
- The land falls broadly south-east to north-west towards Homes Chapel and the M6 corridor.

Figure 15: Physiography of Brereton Civil Parish
DEVELOPMENT OF A SPATIAL FRAMEWORK: DEFINITIVE ATTRIBUTES

GROUND TYPE

Ground type is an expression of the soil forming environment and its influence in determining the surface pattern of vegetation and land use. Generation of the Level 2 information is derived from analysis of the nature of the underlying bedrock / drift.

Key Features:

- The underlying geology is comprised of till deposits, interspersed with glacial sand and gravel and river terrace deposits;
- Band of alluvium rock type evident within the Dane Valley;
- River terrace deposits associated with the Dane Valley and River Croco at the southern extent of Holmes Chapel;
- Evidence of peat accumulation in depressions within drift deposits.

LEGEND

- Brereton Parish
- Soil Texture
  - Clay to Sandy Loam
  - Loam to Clayey Loam
  - Sand to Sandy Loam
- Rock Type
  - Alluvium
  - Glacial Sand and Gravel
  - River Terrace Deposits (Undifferentiated)
  - Till

Figure 16: Ground Type of Brereton Civil Parish
DEVELOPMENT OF A SPATIAL FRAMEWORK: DEFINITIVE ATTRIBUTES

SETTLEMENT

The study of settlement pattern incorporates analysis of both Settlement and Farm Type (Structure). Although Farm Type data was unavailable, the assessment has been informed by local knowledge. Please note that the baseline assessment of settlement also incorporates mapping of semi-natural habitat.

Key Features:

- A dispersed settlement pattern exists, although Brereton Green and Brereton Heath form the two largest residential centres;
- Smaller nucleated villages, hamlets and individual farm dwellings are scattered across the predominantly agricultural landscape;
- The southern fringes of Holmes Chapel, including development centred on the A50 Road, is evident at the north-western fringes of the parish boundary;
- Brereton Heath Nature Reserve and Bagmere form the largest areas of semi-natural habitat in the study area;
- Small wooded copses and coverts are relatively common;
- Riparian habitat associated with the River Dane;

Figure 17: Settlement Pattern of Brereton Civil Parish

LEGEND
- Brereton Parish
- Listed Building
- Building
- Semi-Natural Habitat
- Urban

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DEVELOPMENT OF A SPATIAL FRAMEWORK: DEFINITIVE ATTRIBUTES

LAND COVER

Land cover is an expression of the type of vegetation (natural and man-made) covering the land surface. The definitive attributes at Level 2 are defined as Farm Type and Tree Cover. Although Farm Type data was not included in the assessment due to the unavailability of data, the document has been informed by local knowledge. In particular, the influence of the Shakerley and Brereton estates on agricultural patterns of land use is important.

The mapping incorporates the criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land in England and Wales known as Agricultural Land Classification (ALC). The most productive and flexible land falls within Grades 1, 2 and Subgrade 3a whereas poor quality land is referred to as Grade 5. Full definitions of the ALC grades and sub-grades are provided in the glossary. Please note that the ALC mapping does not distinguish between Sub grades 3a (best and most versatile land) and 3b (lower quality).

Government policy for England detailed in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (paragraph 112) states that Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of higher quality.

Key Features:

• With the exception of a pocket of higher grade land (Grade 2) located centrally within the parish to the south-east of Brereton Hall, farm land quality is overwhelmingly defined as Grade 3 in the ALC grading system. ALC analysis of sub grades lies outside of the scope of this LCA but may be a significant factor in the relative sensitivity of sites to development;

• Tracts of ancient woodland associated with the meandering corridor of the River Dane;

• Blocks of deciduous woodland cover evident within the agricultural landscape, the largest located at Brereton Heath Nature Reserve;

• Heath and fenland habitat at Bagmere.

Figure 18: Land Cover of Brereton Civil Parish
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

Assessment of historic landscape character allows information to be gathered regarding the development of an area over time. The information derived from historic mapping provides valuable evidence for developers and planners to ensure a place retains its historic identity in the future. The Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (Minor revisions December 2008) forms a detailed resource which can be used to inform other planning processes such as Conservation Area appraisals, Parish Plans and Village Design Statements.

- The pattern of historic landscape form, including the network of transport corridors and rural lanes, appears to survive in the present day;
- The current landscape displays a close correlation to historic landscape character indicating a moderate degree of "time depth" (ie continuity with the past) in the landscape;
- Incremental settlement growth at Brereton Green and Brereton Heath;
- Evidence on the historic map of a tract of heathland / woodland prior to the introduction of the lake and establishment of Brereton Heath Nature Reserve;
- Brereton Hall forms a prominent landscape element. The associated parkland and estate also provides a wider landscape setting.

Listed Buildings, whilst not specific landscape designations, reflect landscape and architectural quality of the wider landscape. Brereton Hall is within private ownership and is designated as a Grade I Listed Building. Clusters of Listed Buildings within Brereton Civil Parish are located within the settlement of Brereton Green and to the west of Brereton Pool. The corridor of the A50 Road also accommodates a number of Listed Buildings.
As well as forming the dominant land use in the parish, farming is an important perceptual component of the locality (see Figure 20). Local people value the quality of life derived from the sense of the rural community. Reflecting the general trend of the Cheshire Plain, the landscape is characterised mainly by dairy farming.

Agricultural land use in the parish also has a historical significance. Brereton Civil Parish was originally under the ownership of just two landowners; the Breerton’s of Breerton Hall and the Shakerley’s of Somerford Hall. However, the break-up of these estates resulted in the sale of some of these farms in the 1900s. Agricultural land use continues to form a prominent feature of the landscape of the parish. The landscape is characterised mainly by dairy farming as has been the case for centuries. The New Zealand grazing system adopted to maximise land use benefits, often results in fields being rested from grazing and localised concentration of livestock in rotation.
In accordance with the Living Landscapes Project methodology, the preparation and analysis of the simplified map overlays produced as part of the GIS based spatial framework has enabled the identification of eight distinct Landscape Description Units or LDUs (see Figure 21). The level 2 assessment of definitive attributes allows the summary of the key factors contributing to landscape character as a series of definitive codes for each LDU (see Appendix B). The LDUs and associated codes are outlined below:

- Smethwick Green (TVBRRG)
- Breerton Green (TPBCPA)
- Breerton Heath (TPBCFS)
- Medhurst Green (TPBDPO)
- Croco Valley (TVBDRP)
- Dunkirk (TPBDPT)
- Sandlow Green (TPBDPO)

Please note that due to the unavailability of data, Farm Type was not included in this assessment as a definitive attribute. Given the relative uniformity of farming and land quality across the parish this is not considered to be a significant omission. The consideration of Rock Type has been incorporated within the Physiography mapping.
The relative value placed on the landscape of each LDU has been determined using criteria derived from the GLVIA3 (see Figure 22). These are listed below:

- Landscape quality (condition),
- Scenic quality,
- Rarity,
- Representativeness,
- Conservation interests,
- Recreational value,
- Perceptual aspects,
- Cultural associations.

Landscapes of high value tend to be those that have an intact character; are in good condition; display a strong scenic quality, wildness or tranquility; have natural or cultural aspects (including time depth) that contribute to a strong sense of place; and have good recreational opportunities. The presence of landscape, cultural and ecological designations – such as listed buildings, SSSIs or nature reserves – add value to a landscape, but do not wholly dictate that an area is of high landscape value. Figure 23 provides the criteria used to define both landscape quality and value within Brereton Civil Parish.

### LANDSCAPE VALUE JUDGEMENTS

#### Range of factors that can help in the identification of valued landscapes

- **Landscape quality (condition):** A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual elements.
- **Scenic quality:** The term used to describe landscapes that appeal primarily to the senses (primarily but not wholly the visual senses).
- **Rarity:** The presence of rare elements or features in the landscape or the presence of a rare Landscape Character Type.
- **Representativeness:** Whether the landscape contains a particular character and/or features or elements which are considered particularly important examples.
- **Conservation interests:** The presence of features of wildlife, earth science or archaeological or historical and cultural interest can add to the value of the landscape as well as having value in their own right.
- **Recreation value:** Evidence that the landscape is valued for recreational activity where experience of the landscape is important.
- **Perceptual aspects:** A landscape may be valued for its perceptual qualities, notably wildness and/or tranquility.
- **Associations:** Some landscapes are associated with particular people, such as artists or writers, or events in history that contribute to perceptions of the natural beauty of the area.

*Based on Swanwick and Land Use Consultants (2003)*

**Figure 22: Summary of factors influencing landscape value (p84 within GLVIA publication)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality</th>
<th>Typical Descriptor Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Characteristic landscape elements are well maintained or being enhanced and provide a positive contribution to landscape character/landscape value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Characteristic landscape elements are being maintained and do not detract from or degrade landscape character/landscape value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Characteristic landscape elements are not being maintained and detract from or degrade landscape character/landscape value.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Typical Descriptor Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very high</td>
<td>Areas and/or features which have a particularly high value, by nature of their condition, high scenic qualities, strong characteristics (such as pattern and land cover), cultural associations, and/or relative position and amenity, including level of tranquility. These are likely to be, but not necessarily, within a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Registered Park and Garden or within a World Heritage Site;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Areas and/or features that are considered to be of high value by virtue of their positive characteristics, sense of place or local or cultural associations. These areas will be of regional or local importance and are likely to be, but not necessarily, designated by the planning authority as being of landscape value;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Landscapes and/or features which retain a positive character and a sense of place and/or of local interest or have local cultural associations. These areas are unlikely to be designated for their landscape value;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Landscapes in fair to poor condition which that have undergone change to the extent that they no longer have a distinctive local character, or particular aesthetic quality, or they lack cultural associations;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very low</td>
<td>Degraded landscapes and/or features in poor condition whose distinctive character and aesthetic quality has been seriously damaged.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 23: Landscape quality and value descriptions*
SMETHWICK GREEN LDU

KEY CHARACTERISTICS:

- A remnant mere comprising particularly rich fen, marshy grassland and carr woodland;
- Deposits of glacial boulder clay and deep soils producing fertile agricultural land;
- Localised depression within low plateau;
- Dispersed settlement pattern of individual farmsteads;
- Land use typified by semi-natural wild land contrasting with adjacent improved farmed;
- Vegetation cover dominated by coverts and tree groups.

FACTORS DETERMINING LANDSCAPE VALUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Smethwick Green</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Quality</td>
<td>The LDU is dominated by agricultural land use with some influence on landscape-quality and character derived from the presence of the fen and heathland habitat at Bagmere. Although some fragmentation of field boundary treatments exists, the landscape condition is intact and displays a close correlation to the historic landscape character.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic Quality</td>
<td>The LDU is comparable to the agricultural land in the wider landscape and exhibits no special scenic quality worthy of note with the exception of an area of wilderness afforded by Bagmere itself.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>Land at Bagmere is of ecological importance as a habitat for breeding birds. There are no other landscape elements which are considered to be rare.</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representativeness</td>
<td>The LDU falls within Lower Cheshire LCT and represents this area to a Medium extent. Specific reference is made in the 'key characteristics' of this LCT to the presence of moors resulting from glacial deposits. The fragmentation of some field boundary treatments leading to the formation of large fields is also evident to the south-west of Bagmere.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Interests</td>
<td>Formally designated as both a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Ramsar site, fen and heathland habitat at Bagmere positively influences the value of this LDU. Bagmere forms The last remaining area in Cheshire for the small-pair-banded Hairy butterfly.</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Value</td>
<td>A short section of the Dane Valley Way crosses the landscape of this LDU, passing to the south-east of Bagmere. However, other recreational opportunities are limited and no public access is afforded to Bagmere itself.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual Aspects</td>
<td>Although the carriageway of the A54 Road dissects the LDU and negatively affects perceived tranquility, tree coverage at Bagmere provides a sense of wilderness.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Associations</td>
<td>No specific cultural or literary associations of the LDU have been identified.</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>The area has Medium landscape quality, representativeness and high conservation interests. However, the LDU has low value in terms of recreation value, perceptual aspects and cultural associations. Rarity is also noted as negligible. Therefore, it is considered that the landscape has a Medium overall value.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LANDSCAPE
DESCRIPTION
UNIT:
BRERETON
GREEN
BRERETON GREEN LDU

KEY CHARACTERISTICS:

- Land underlain by glacial drift and deep soils producing fertile agricultural land;
- Low lying plateau landform;
- Clustered settlement pattern dominated by Brereton Green;
- Predominantly pastoral farmland;
- Tree cover limited to hedgerow field boundaries and copse.

FACTORS DETERMINING LANDSCAPE VALUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Breereton Green</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Quality</td>
<td>The LDU falls within both East Lowland Plan LCT and Lower Farms and Woods LCT (delineated in the Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment). As such, it displays qualities from each LCA to a Medium extent. The landscape condition is relatively intact and displays a close correlation to the historic landscape character, although the corridor of the A55 Road detracts from the overall Medium quality of the landscape.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic Quality</td>
<td>The LDU has a Medium level of aesthetic quality, arising from the predominant land use of agriculture. However, there are localised distractions in the form of the A55 Road and M56 corridors and the Waste Disposal Site to the south-east of the LDU, which affect its overall aesthetic value.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>The disused Brereton Brickworks was of historical importance, providing employment and the bricks for construction of the Brereton estate.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representativeness</td>
<td>The LDU falls within both East Lowland Plan LCT and Lower Farms and Woods LCT and represents each area to a Medium extent. The west of the LDU displays the characteristic flat topography, mainly hawthorn hedgerows and intensive mixed farming practices in medium fields similar to East Lowland Plan LCT. The east of the LDU displays the characteristic low-lying topography, hedges and fenced field boundaries, and medium settlement density of Lower Farms and Woods LCT.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Interests</td>
<td>In terms of historic conservation interests in this particular LDU, there are several listed buildings of local importance. Arlool Wood provides some local nature conservation benefit in virtue of its designation as a Site of Biological Importance. There are, however, no areas of geological conservation interest in this LDU.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation value</td>
<td>There are several local level public rights of way which cross the LDU. These include footpaths (Brenton Footpaths 4, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 28, and 29) and a Regional Cycle Route (Regional Cycle Route 71). In addition, there is a public open space with play area and a cemetery in Brereton, which add to the recreational value of the LDU.</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual Aspects</td>
<td>The agricultural land use generally provides a sense of tranquility. There are localised perceptual distractions, such as the M56 corridor and the Waste disposal Site to the south-east of the LDU, which only reduce aesthetic quality but also affect the tranquility and sense of remoteness within the LDU.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Associations</td>
<td>The parish embraces the heritage of the area from the legend of Lord Brenton and the bear. William Brenton killed his vassel in a tempest after he was interrupted at his meal. His punishment was to fight a bear, but the King gave him three days to make a muzzle to contain the bear. After three days the bear was let loose on the lord, and luckily for him, the muzzle proved to be successful. The muzzled bear became the Coat of Arms of the village. The village has a biannual bear festival and there are other events and references to bears in the area.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rural lane at Brereton Green

Pastoral land use

Glimpse view through hedgerow field boundary
LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION
UNIT:
BRERETON HEATH
### Key Characteristics:

- Land underlain by glacial drift and deep soils producing fertile agricultural land;
- Low lying plateau landform;
- Clustered settlement pattern dominated by Brereton Heath;
- Mixed farmland land use;
- Tree cover dominated by deciduous woodland of modern origin located within the boundary of Brereton Heath Nature Reserve.

### Factors Determining Landscape Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Breereton Heath</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Quality</td>
<td>The LDU falls within LF92 - Lower Farns and Woods LCT (defined in the Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment) and is consistent with the 'key characteristics' of this LCT. The landscape within the Study Area has a quality consistent with an agricultural context although some hedgerows are unmanaged and in poor condition.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic Quality</td>
<td>Although wide variations exist in enclosure, the landscape setting affords some long range open views over the agricultural landscape towards the Cloud and Mow Cop as well as the Pennine Hills. However, visual detractors derived from settlement and the A54 Road corridor impinges on this quality.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>There are no landscape elements within the Study Area which are considered to be rare. The constituent elements are replicated throughout the wider landscape of the Cheshire Plain.</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representiveness</td>
<td>The LDU is representative of the published LCT Lower Farns and Woods which contains the area. Characterised by rolling topography with a medium settlement density, the LDU also comprises features such as woodland coverage and water bodies associated with sand extraction which are considered important within the smaller scale LF92 - Breereton Heath Character Area.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Interests</td>
<td>Formally designated as a Local Nature Reserve, Breereton Heath Nature Reserve positively influences the value of this LDU. This area also forms a locally designated Site of Biological Importance.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Value</td>
<td>Breereton Heath Nature Reserve is managed for recreational purposes and forms a popular feature within the locality. In addition to Public Footpath FP7 which crosses Breereton Heath Nature Reserve, a number of other P解读 from the agricultral landscape. The route of the Dane Valley Roy Long Distance Footpath stretches broadly north to south through this LDU.</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual Aspects</td>
<td>The extent of woodland coverage at Breereton Heath Nature Reserve affects the LDU a sense of wildness. Although the corridor of the A54 Road and the settlement of Breereton Heath affects the rural setting, the wider landscape of this LDU exhibits a sense of rural tranquility.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Associations</td>
<td>With the exception of the local cultural association with bears (incorporated on the Crest on the Breereton Coat of Arms), no specific cultural or literary associations of the LDU have been identified.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>The area has a high recreational value with Medium landscape quality and representativeness. However, the LDU has low value in terms of scenic quality, perceptual aspects, and cultural associations. Rarity is noted as negligible. Therefore, it is considered that the landscape has a Medium overall value.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Landscape Character Assessment**

**Breereton Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan**

---

**Arable land use at Breereton Heath**

**Woodland cover at Breereton Heath Nature Reserve**

**Lake at Breereton Heath Nature Reserve**
Landscape Character Assessment
Brereton Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Landscape Description Unit:
Medhurst Green
MEDHURST GREEN LDU

KEY CHARACTERISTICS:

- Low lying plateau landform to the west of the LDU rising in a sweeping landform to the eastern edge of the parish and land adjacent to the urban edge of Congleton;
- Land underlain by glacial drift and deep soils producing fertile agricultural land;
- Low lying plateau landform;
- Dispersed settlement pattern of individual farm dwellings;
- Predominantly pastoral farmland;

Landscape Character Assessment Brereton Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan

FACTORS DETERMINING LANDSCAPE VALUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Medhurst Green</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Quality</td>
<td>The LDU falls within East Lowland LCT (defined in the Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment) and displays qualities of this LCT to a Medium extent. The landscape of this LDU has a quality consistent with an agricultural context with some evidence of field boundaries in poor condition. The linear corridor of the A534 Road corridor affects the intactness of the landscape and reduces landscape quality in this location.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic Quality</td>
<td>The LDU is comparable to the agricultural land in the wider landscape and exhibits no special scenic quality worthy of note.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>There are no landscape elements within the LDU which are considered to be rare. The constituent elements are replicated throughout the published Lowland Farms and Woods LCT.</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representiveness</td>
<td>The landform of the LDU is largely representative of the low lying gently rolling topography of the published Lowland Farm and Woods LCT. The landscape is dominated by agricultural land use with a dispersed settlement pattern of individual farm dwellings characteristic of this LCT.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Interests</td>
<td>No conservation interests representing defining landscape or geological characteristics are present within this LDU.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation value</td>
<td>The Dane Valley Way Long Distance Footpath crosses the agricultural farmland to the north of the A534 corridor, following the lines of field boundaries.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual Aspects</td>
<td>The presence of the A534, which bisects the agricultural land use within this LDU reduces the sense of rural tranquility.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Associations</td>
<td>No specific cultural or literary associations of the LDU have been identified.</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Value

The LDU is a landscape quality, scenic quality and conservation interest. However, the LDU exhibits a Medium recreational value. Rarity and cultural associations are noted as negligible. Therefore, it is considered that the landscape has a low overall value.
Landscape Character Assessment

Brereton Civil Parish Neighbourhood Plan

LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION
UNIT:
CROCO VALLEY
CROCO VALLEY LDU

KEY CHARACTERISTICS:

- Land underlain by glacial drift and deep soils producing fertile agricultural land;
- Predominantly pastoral farmland with localised arable use;
- Topography characterised by valley floor of the River Croco;
- Dispersed settlement pattern of individual farm dwellings;
- Tree cover dominated by riparian vegetation and woodland at Blackberry Covert.

FACTORS DETERMINING LANDSCAPE VALUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Croco Valley</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Quality</td>
<td>The landscape of the LDU has a quality consistent with a small meandering river valley within an agricultural context. The landscape condition, including the parkland character to the east of Breaston Hall, is intact and displays a close correlation to the historic landscape character. The LDU contains few visual detractors.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic Quality</td>
<td>The LDU is comparable to the agricultural land in the wider landscape and includes features characteristic of a river valley. However, the LDU exhibits no special scenic quality worthy of note.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>There are no landscape elements within the LDU which are considered to be rare. The parkland character of the landscape bordering the byway is not frequently replicated throughout the published Lower Farins and Woods LCT.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representativeness</td>
<td>The landscape of the LDU is largely representative of the low lying gently rolling topography of the published Lower Farins and Woods LCT. The LDU also exhibits a high density of tree coverage associated with the watercourse and Blackberry Covert which is consistent with the characteristics of this LCT. It is also noted in the character description for this LCT that riparian woodland is common along streams and in the grounds of estates.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Interests</td>
<td>The LDU contains the Grade I Listed Building Breaston Hall. A cluster of Listed Buildings is also located along Mill Lane to the west of Breaston Pool. Blackberry Covert forms a locally designated Site of Biological Importance. However, no conservation features representing geological conservation are present within this LDU.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation value</td>
<td>Byway BR31, connecting the settlements of Breaston Green and Breaston Heath, dissects the LDU immediately south of Breaston Hall and is very popular with local people. The lack of PRPath to the north of the LDU restricts public access around Blackberry Covert.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual Aspects</td>
<td>The lack of transport corridors and visual detractors affords the LDU a sense of tranquility.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Associations</td>
<td>The LDU accommodates Breaston Hall, the Grade I Listed Building originally constructed for Sir William Breaston in 1624.</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>The area has a Medium recreational value with Medium landscape quality, conservation interest and recreation value. However, the LDU has low value in terms of scenic quality and rarity. Therefore, it is considered that the landscape has a Medium overall value.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION UNIT:
DANE VALLEY
### Factors Determining Landscape Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Dane Valley</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Quality</td>
<td>The LDU falls within the River Valeys LCT (as defined in the Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment). The landscape of this LDU forms a largely intact steep sided valley with meandering river course located on the flat valley floor. The landscape condition is intact and displays a close correlation to the historic landscape character.</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic Quality</td>
<td>The distinctive valley landform and vegetation associated with the valley slopes provides a strong sense of place and consistency of experience.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>There are no landscape elements within the LDU which are considered to be rare. The constituent elements are replicated throughout the published River Valeys LCT.</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representativeness</td>
<td>The LDU is highly representative of the River Valeys LCT in as much as it comprises a combination of wooded slopes and grassy banks associated with the meandering water course of the River Dane. The contrast provided by the steep vegetated valley sides compared with the flat landscape of the surrounding Cheshire Plain is evident within this LDU.</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Interests</td>
<td>The Dane Valley itself is designated as a SSSI in virtue of its ecological value. The landscape also accommodates tracts of ancient woodland on the steep valley sides. However, there are no areas of geological conservation interest in this LDU.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation value</td>
<td>In addition to the Dane Way Long Distance Footpath, Bridgeway BR31 also affords extensive recreational access to this LDU.</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual Aspects</td>
<td>The LDU exhibits perceptual qualities in the form of tranquility due to its sparsely populated and undeveloped nature. The contrast provided by the steep ground of the wooded valley sides compared with the low lying plain influences the character and perception of this LDU.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Asso.</td>
<td>No specific cultural or literary associations of the LDU have been identified.</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Value

- The area has a high recreational value, landscape quality and representativeness. The LDU also exhibits a medium conservation interest and scenic quality. However, the LDU has negligible value in terms of rarity and cultural associations. Therefore, it is considered that the landscape has a high overall value.

---

**KEY CHARACTERISTICS:**

- Land underlain by fluvial drift and deep soils associated with the River Dane;
- Topography characterised by the steep valley sides and valley floor of the River Dane;
- Unsettled landscape with wild land;
- Predominantly pastoral farmland;
- Tree cover dominated by riparian vegetation and tracts of ancient woodland forming the valley sides;
- Absence of built form or man made detractors to landscape quality.

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**Pastoral land use on the sloping valley sides**

**Combination of hedge and fenced field boundary treatments**
LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION UNIT:
DUNKIRK
FACTORS DETERMINING LANDSCAPE VALUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Dunkirk</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Quality</td>
<td>The LDU falls within ELPS: East Lowland Plan Landscape Character Area (defined in the Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment). It displays qualities from the LCA to a Medium extent. The landscape condition is relatively intact and displays a close correlation to the historic landscape character, although the M6 corridor to the south-west of the LDU extracts from the overall Medium quality of the landscape.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic Quality</td>
<td>The LDU has a Medium level of aesthetic quality, arising from the predominant land use of turf production. There are, however, localised detractors, such as the M6 corridor and the railway line which form linear landscape features and affect its overall aesthetic value. The area is also characterised by encroaching urbanisation from Holmes Chapel to the north and evidence exists of farm building diversification through the creation of commercial opportunities.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>There are no landscape elements within the LDU which are considered to be rare. The constituent elements are replicated throughout ELPS: East Lowland Plan Landscape Character Area.</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representativeness</td>
<td>The LDU falls within ELPS: East Lowland Plan Landscape Character Area and represents it to a Medium extent. The LDU displays the characteristic flat topography, mainly hawthorn hedgerows and intensive farming practices in medium fields of ELPS: East Lowland Plan. In addition, there is a predominantly low density of settlement, occurring in dispersed forms, and a large number of small water bodies throughout.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Interests</td>
<td>In terms of historic conservation interests in this particular LDU, there is one listed building of local importance. There are, however, no areas of ecological or geological conservation interest in this LDU.</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation value</td>
<td>There are a few local level public rights of way which cross the LDU. These include footpaths (Brenton Footpaths 1, 2, 3, 20, and 32) and a Regional Cycle Route (Regional Cycle Route 71).</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual Aspects</td>
<td>Localised perceptual detractors, such as the M6 corridor and the railway line, not only reduce aesthetic quality but also affect the tranquility and sense of remoteness within the LDU.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associations</td>
<td>No specific cultural or literary associations of the LDU have been identified.</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>The area has a Medium recreational value, landscape quality and representativeness. However, the LDU has low value in terms of scenic quality, perceptual aspects and negligible value in terms of rarity, conservation interests and associations. Therefore, it is considered that the landscape has a low overall value.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Land underlain by glacial drift and deep soils producing fertile agricultural land;**
- **Low lying plateau landform;**
- **Dispersed settlement pattern of individual farm dwellings;**
- **Predominantly pastoral farmland with large scale turf production evident north of Back Lane;**
- **Tree cover limited to hedgerow field boundaries;**
- **Detrimental noise intrusion from the M6 reduces tranquility;**
- **Some diversification to non agricultural activities such as paintball.**
LANDSCAPE
DESCRIPTION
UNIT:
SANDLOW
GREEN
**SANDLOW GREEN LDU**

**KEY CHARACTERISTICS:**

- Land underlain by glacial drift and deep soils producing fertile agricultural land;
- Low lying plateau landscape;
- Nucleated settlement pattern at Sandlow Green;
- Land cover is mainly pastoral farmland;
- Tree cover limited to hedgerow field boundaries;
- Long views towards the Peak Fringe.

---

**FACTORS DETERMINING LANDSCAPE VALUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Sandlow Green</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscape Quality</td>
<td>The LDU falls within LFR02 - Lower Farms and Woods Landscape Character Area (defined in the Cheshire Landscape Character Assessment). It displays qualities from the LCA to a Medium extent. The landscape condition is intact and displays a close correlation to the historic landscape character.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic Quality</td>
<td>The LDU has a Medium level of aesthetic quality, arising from the predominant land use of agricultural land. Views towards The Cloud and Shuttingbolpe in the east are valued locally with residents as elements of the wider landscape and panorama.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>There are no landscape elements within the LDU which are considered to be rare. The constituent elements are replicated throughout LFR02 - Lower Farms and Woods Landscape Character Area.</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representativeness</td>
<td>The LDU falls within LFR02 - Lower Farms and Woods Landscape Character Area and represents it to a Medium extent. The LDU displays the characteristic low-lying topography, large fields with a high proportion of fences and large number of water courses of LFR02 - Lower Farms and Woods. In addition, the settlement occurs in dispersed farms and the nucleated hamlet of Sandlow Green.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Interests</td>
<td>There are no areas of cultural, ecological or geological conservation interest in the LDU.</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation value</td>
<td>There are few local level public rights of way which cross the LDU. These include footpaths (Bredon Footpaths 3 and 5) and a Regional Cycle Route (Regional Cycle Route 71), part of which occurs along Bredon Restricted Byway 8.</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptual Aspects</td>
<td>The agricultural land use generally affords a sense of tranquility. The lack of publically accessible land to the south of the A44 Road provides a sense of remoteness.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associations</td>
<td>No specific cultural or literary associations of the LDU have been identified.</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>The area has a Medium landscape quality, scenic quality, representativeness and perceptual aspects. However, the LDU has low value in terms of scenic quality and low-value in terms of rarity, conservation interests and associations. Therefore, it is considered that the landscape has a Medium overall value.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MAPPING LANDSCAPE VALUE JUDGEMENTS OF LDUs

Figure 23: Landscape value of LDUs
The Land Description Units (LDUs) identified previously have been further subdivided to reflect variations within the LDU and create areas called Land Cover Parcels (LCPs). This sub-division has been based on six attributes: Spatial character (sense of enclosure), Indicative ground vegetation, Field boundary types, Enclosure pattern, Tree cover pattern and Characteristic features.

The LCPs have been defined using field survey in combination with desk study and follow logical features on the ground wherever possible (see Figure 24). The field survey sheets from each LCP can be found in Appendix A.

LCPs provide a detailed landscape assessment at a hierarchical scale consistent with development control and landscape management initiatives.

The data recorded on the in-situ pro-forma LCP survey sheets has been combined with the conclusions and data from the desktop survey to reach an assessment of the key landscape characteristics of each LCP. Key characteristics of each of the LCPs is provided in the following pages.
BAGMERE

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

- Low lying with a gently undulating wider landform;
- Strongly defined, isolated area of remnant bog with natural vegetation cover;
- Well defined area of historically unfarmed poorly drained mere;
- Important long views to the Peak fringe, although limited slightly by woodland and topography.

A strongly defined, isolated area of remnant bog with natural vegetation cover, comprising fen, marshy grassland and carr woodland, designated as a SSSI. High landscape value as a remnant of pre-agricultural improvement and a land use that has declined. Cumulative biodiversity value through proximity to Brereton Heath Local Nature Reserve. Limited recreational access.

SMETHWICK GREEN FARMLANDS

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

- Largely flat with localised undulations;
- Rural landscape of mixed agricultural use within medium to large fields;
- Well wooded as a result of interlocking hedgerow trees;
- Important long views to the Peak fringe.

Rural area of mixed agricultural use within medium to large fields bounded by good condition/high quality hedgerows with mature trees. An area with a strongly rural character, high scenic value including important long range views towards the high land of the Peak Fringe. The A534 forms a localised detractor to landscape quality and tranquillity.
LCPs WITHIN BRERETON GREEN LDU

BRERETON GREEN VILLAGE
KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:
- Medium sense of scale – framed views;
- Farmland is predominant land use;
- Variously shaped fields enclosed by hedges/fences;
- Tree cover mostly occurring in a linear pattern;
- Landscape character also defined by the presence of listed buildings in Brereton Green.

Nucleated village within a setting defined by remnant historic elements such as Brereton Hall and long established field patterns. Localised, highly valued distant views to the Peak Fringe. Vernacular and non-vernacular built form combined within a strongly defined, rural context of key elements in good condition which are highly representative of the Cheshire Plain LCA. The LCP has high sub-regional recreational value for walkers and cyclists.

BROWNEDGE FARMLANDS
KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:
- Medium sense of scale – framed views;
- Farmland is predominant land use;
- Variously shaped fields enclosed by hedges;
- Tree cover mostly occurring in a linked pattern;
- Landscape character also defined by the presence of listed buildings on the A50.

Strongly rural LCP with characteristic land use and key landscape elements of the Cheshire Plain well represented. Irregular hedge/woodland boundaries to the west of the A50 contrast with a more managed and regular pattern with fewer trees to the east of the A50. The A50 exerts a localised influence on tranquility and there is limited recreational access or value. Long views to the Peak Fringe are a significant feature.

M6 CORRIDOR
KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:
- Large sense of scale;
- Farmland is predominant land use;
- Sub-regularly shaped fields enclosed by hedges;
- Tree cover mostly occurring in a scattered pattern;
- Landscape character also defined by lower tranquillity levels adjacent to the M6.

Flat, relatively featureless LCP with larger scale fields and increased presence of fragmented land use bounded by locally gappy hedgerows with fewer hedgerow trees. The reduced presence and poorer condition of key landscape elements found elsewhere in the parish is accompanied by local dominance of highway corridors including the A5022 which influence tranquility. Limited recreational access, sense of time depth or recreational value.
LCPs WITHIN BRERETON HEATH LDU

BRERETON HEATH NATURAL AREA

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

• Variable sense of scale;
• Woodland is predominant land use;
• Variably shaped fields enclosed by fences;
• Tree cover mostly occurring in a continuous pattern;
• Landscape character also defined by the presence of Brereton Heath Nature Reserve.

A predominantly wooded LCP with central area of open water within strongly wooded boundaries defined by minor roads. The external landscape pattern is weak having been much modified by mineral extraction. High recreational and land use value as a local nature reserve. Largely enclosed with few external views other than from LCP edges. The contrast of the LCP with the surrounding agricultural context increases recreational and biodiversity value.

BRERETON HEATH VILLAGE

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

• Large sense of scale;
• Farmland is predominant land use;
• Variably shaped fields enclosed by hedges;
• Tree cover mostly occurring in a grouped pattern.

Linear village of largely non-vernacular built form and characterised by un-kerbed grass verges. Horse paddocks are a locally important part of the setting of the village along with narrow lanes, particularly from the south. Limited recreational value and few long views beyond the LCP. The built form is strongly enclosed by vegetation, both gardens and field boundaries such that there is limited sense of the village form other than locally along the A54 where recent housing has been added to the settlement.

DAVENPORT FARMLANDS

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

• Medium sense of scale – open views;
• Farmland is predominant land use;
• Variably shaped fields enclosed by hedges/fences;
• Tree cover mostly occurring in a linear pattern.

Undulating, rather enclosed, fringe to the Dane Valley with characteristic elements of largely pastoral land use with some arable use and a localised parkland element in proximity to Grange Farm hamlet and Davenport House. Restricted access other than the A54 and the predominantly non-vehicular access from it towards Swettenham, which is of high recreational value and provides access to the Dane Valley.
**LCPs WITHIN MEDHURST GREEN LDU**

### LOWER MEDHURST GREEN

**KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:**
- Medium sense of scale – open views;
- Farmland is predominant land use;
- Sub-regularly shaped fields enclosed by hedges;
- Tree cover mostly occurring in a scattered pattern.

Largely flat with important long views towards the Peak Fringe to the east. A well managed post enclosure landscape in pastoral use for dairy farming. Although large fields are present the key characteristic is well managed hedges with mature trees creating a wooded middle and background. Some localised influence on tranquillity from the A534 corridor, which is a localised detractor.

### UPPER MEDHURST GREEN

**KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:**
- Medium sense of scale – framed views;
- Farmland is predominant land use;
- Sub-regularly shaped fields enclosed by hedges;
- Tree cover mostly occurring in a linear pattern.

A strongly rural, enclosure landscape of predominantly pasture on a rolling landform of large to medium scale fields falling from the ridgeline to the west of Congleton. Mid range views but no urban influence from Congleton is apparent other than the A534 corridor, which is a localised detractor.
LCPs WITHIN CROCO VALLEY LDU

BRETERON HALL AND PARKLAND

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

- Farmland is predominant land use;
- Organically shaped fields enclosed by fences;
- Tree cover mostly occurring in a linked pattern;
- Landscape character also defined by the presence of parkland, the River Croco, and listed buildings at Brereton Hall.

LCP of high scenic, recreational and historic value which exhibits time depth in the landscape enforced by limited vehicular access and through routes. The undulating land adjacent to the Lower Croco Valley, historic context of the Church and parkland adjacent to Brereton Hall and occasional long views to the Peak Fringe, combine to create a high value landscape of recreational value in which vernacular built form is prevalent.

LOWER CROCO VALLEY

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

- Medium sense of scale – framed views;
- Farmland is predominant land use;
- Organically shaped fields enclosed by hedges/fences;
- Tree cover mostly occurring in a grouped pattern;
- Landscape character also defined by the presence of the River Croco, and listed buildings at Parkmill Farm.

Narrow LCP defined by the gently sloping sides of the River Croco and the sinuous woodland along it. High value as a natural corridor, albeit with limited recreational access/value, through adjacent enclosed, large scale fields of mixed agricultural use.

UPPER CROCO VALLEY

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

- Medium sense of scale – open views;
- Farmland is predominant land use;
- Variably shaped fields enclosed by hedges/fences;
- Tree cover mostly occurring in a linear pattern.

Narrow relatively open LCP defined by the gently sloping, weakly defined valley sides of the River Croco and the sinuous woodland along it. High value as a natural corridor, albeit with limited recreational access/value, through adjacent enclosed, large scale fields of mixed agricultural use.

Figure 29: Extent of LDU and LCPs
LCPs WITHIN DANE VALLEY LDU

DANE VALLEY RIVER CORRIDOR

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

- Strong sense of enclosure;
- Farmland is predominant land use;
- Organically shaped fields enclosed by post and wire fencing;
- Tree cover mostly occurring in a linked pattern;
- Landscape character also defined by the presence of the Dane Valley SSSI, and the River Dane.

Valley floor of largely open pasture containing the sinuous tree lined course of the River Dane. Long views out of the LCP are limited by the moderately steep, partially, wooded valley sides giving an intimate scale. The absence of built form increases recreational value within the high value, high quality, low intensity agricultural landscape. Limited vehicle access increases tranquillity and valued recreational use.

DANE VALLEY SLOPES

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

- Variable sense of scale;
- Woodland is predominant land use;
- Variably shaped fields enclosed by hedges/fences;
- Tree cover mostly occurring in a grouped pattern;
- Landscape character also defined by the presence of the Dane Valley SSSI, and various stands of ancient woodland.

Undulating, narrow strip defined by step valley sides, woodland and unimproved grassland/rough grazing. Localised views over the Dane Valley with visual enclosure defined by woodland and field boundaries fences rather than hedges. High recreational value due to restricted vehicle access and scenic quality.
LCPs WITHIN DUNKIRK LDU

A50 CORRIDOR

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

- Medium sense of scale – framed views;
- Farmland is predominant land use;
- Variably shaped fields enclosed by hedges;
- Tree cover mostly occurring in a linked pattern;
- Landscape character also defined by lower tranquillity levels adjacent to the A50 and to Holmes Chapel.

Localised LCP on the urban edge of Holmes Chapel, representing a linear commercial/industrial development along the A50 corridor characterised by a loss of pre-industrial character/field pattern with a highway/commercial landscape and land use dominant. Relatively enclosed, including by large scale built form, and of low landscape value.

DUNKIRK TURF FIELDS

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

- Medium sense of scale – open views;
- Grassland is predominant land use;
- Sub-regularly shaped fields enclosed by hedges/fences;
- Landscape character also defined by the presence of turf production.

Strongly enclosed, flat, landscape of fields for grassland/turf production bounded by well managed hedges with numerous trees – largely mature oaks. Few visual detractors and built form of vernacular farmhouses in red brick but also new large agricultural barns. Relatively visually contained as a result of tree cover although glimpsed views beyond the parish include Jodrell bank. Noticeable effect on tranquillity as a result of noise from the M6 corridor.
LCPs WITHIN SANDLOW GREEN LDU

SANDLOW GREEN FARMLANDS

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

- Large sense of scale;
- Farmland is predominant land use;
- Sub-regularly shaped fields enclosed by hedges;
- Tree cover mostly occurring in a linear pattern;
- Landscape character also defined by the presence of Grade 2 Agricultural Land.

Highly characteristic of the Cheshire Plain LCA in land use and form. Relatively isolated apart from the A54 which is a detractor. Little built form or PRoW access. Long views to the high land of the Peak fringe.

SANDLOW GREEN PASTURES

KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

- Large sense of scale;
- Farmland is predominant land use;
- Sub-regularly shaped fields enclosed by hedges/fences;
- Tree cover mostly occurring in a linear pattern.

An LCP strongly representative of the Cheshire Plain LCA defined by the key characteristics of pasture / grassland bounded by linear hedgerows with mature oaks. Important long views exist towards Tegg’s Nose / Cloud and the western edge of the Peak District. Small scale settlements of vernacular brick with the A54 corridor a minor detractor.
In addition to describing the key characteristics of LCPs identified by using the Living Landscapes Project methodology, this assessment uses criteria derived from the GLVIA3 in which sensitivity judgments are derived from the factors listed below:

- The susceptibility of the receptor to the type of change arising;
- The value attached to the receptor.

In determining sensitivity it is important to recognize that some areas of an LCP will, as a result of the specific location, be more sensitive than others and may be in a higher sensitivity category. Any development proposal should be judged on its particular effects and site-specific context.

The step-by-step process illustrated in Figure 33 describes how significant effects are identified within a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. However, as this study does not consider the effects of a particular development proposal on the landscape of Brereton Civil Parish, the document does not assess magnitude of effect. The text boxes highlighted in yellow therefore denote the extent of this LCA and the judgements used to derive sensitivity of receptor. The rationale for the overall judgement is provided for each LCP in order to deliver a clear and transparent justification.

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**Figure 33: Assessing the significance of effects**

**Figure 34: Scale of sensitivity / magnitude of effect / scale of significance of landscape character effects**

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**Appendix: Indicative Scale of Sensitivity / Magnitude of Effect / Scale of Significance of Landscape Character Effects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Magnitude</th>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Significance</th>
<th>Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landscapes which by nature of their character would be unable to accommodate change of the type proposed.</td>
<td>More Sensitive</td>
<td>Total loss or large scale damage to existing character or distinctive features, and/or the addition of new but uncharacteristic conspicuous features and elements.</td>
<td>Higher Magnitude</td>
<td>Loss of mature or diverse landscape elements, features, characteristics, aesthetic or perceptual qualities.</td>
<td>More Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to accommodate change of the type proposed.</td>
<td>Less Sensitive</td>
<td>Partial loss of noticeable damage to existing character or distinctive features and elements, and/or the addition of new but uncharacteristic noticeable features and elements.</td>
<td>Lower Magnitude</td>
<td>Effects on new, distinctive, particularly representative landscape character</td>
<td>Less Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscapes which by nature of their character would be able to accommodate change of the type proposed.</td>
<td>Less Sensitive</td>
<td>Total loss or damage to existing character or features and elements, and/or the addition of new but uncharacteristic features and elements.</td>
<td>Lower Magnitude</td>
<td>Effects on lower-value landscapes</td>
<td>Less Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damaged or substantially modified landscapes with few characteristc features of value, capable of absorbing major change.</td>
<td>More Sensitive</td>
<td>Barely noticeable loss or damage to existing character or features and elements, and/or the addition of new but uncharacteristic features and elements.</td>
<td>Higher Magnitude</td>
<td>Loss of new, uniform, homogenous elements, features characteristics, qualities</td>
<td>More Significant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES - HOUSING

RELATIVE SENSITIVITY OF LCPs TO RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Indicative ranking of sensitivity to housing based on LCP survey sheets and professional judgment.
- Reflects local variation within LCPs, illustrated on Figure 35.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LCP</th>
<th>Landscape susceptibility</th>
<th>Landscape Value</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dane Valley River Corridor</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dane Valley Slopes</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagmere</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bereton Hall and Parkland</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bereton Heath Natural Area</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Croco Valley</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Croco Valley</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davenport Farmlands</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandlow Green Pastures</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandlow Green Farmlands</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smethwick Green Farmlands</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Medhurst Green</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bereton Green Village</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium/Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Medhurst Green</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium/Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bereton Heath Village</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium/Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brownedge Farmlands</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium/Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunkirk Turf Fields</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A50 Corridor</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M6 Corridor</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium/Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 35: Sensitivity of Brereton Civil Parish to residential development
### DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES - HOUSING

#### RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Likely landscape effects</th>
<th>Landscape susceptibility to specific change</th>
<th>LCU</th>
<th>Landscape susceptibility</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Smethwick Green**
- Ecologically sensitive location with limited ability to accommodate residential development of any scale without loss of intrinsic landscape and biodiversity value.
- Limited development potential in the area.
- Existing dispersed settlement pattern where housing is not a common feature of the rural setting. Some ability to accommodate small-scale vernacular development but larger scale non-vernacular built form would potentially change and erode landscape character of a central part of the parish and reduce recreation value.

**Bretton Green**
- Existing residential centres composed of ribbon development and suburban style cut-de-sacs with some potential to accommodate small scale localised development. Factuals between School Lane and Bretton Hall and Parkland LCP are an important part of the setting of the village and contribute to both LCPs such that there is a much lower ability to accommodate housing than for example along the A50 section of the LCP where other built form is found. Potential for loss of key views to the Peak District would change sense of place.
- Presence of the nuclear part of the village of Brettenage and the influence on tranquility of the A5022 corridor south of the A50 locally reduces susceptibility to housing development of sensitive scale. To the north east of the A50 the settlement pattern comprises isolated vernacular built form within an attractive open field pattern.
- Although the existing settlement pattern is dispersed, large scale fields, strong transport influences on tranquility and limited recreational access or use coupled with a locally degraded landscape infrastructure reduce susceptibility to housing. Some elements of the landscape could potentially be strengthened or improved as part of development eg the weak A5022 landscape corridor.

**Bretton Heath**
- Existing residential development forms a common land use and with some scope for small scale development particularly to the east. Fields to the south and west of the village are an important part of the setting and of greater susceptibility lower ability to accommodate development without adverse impacts on landscape character and a disconnection from the rural context.
- Despite the transport corridor of the A544 Road and the proximity to Bretton Heath, the existing settlement pattern is dispersed and susceptible to housing development which would compromise the quality and values of existing features such as Orange Farm hamlet and Parkland in the vicinity of Davenport House. Overall medium susceptibility to housing particularly larger scale.

**Medhurst Green**
- Landscape of existing residential development and landscape deficit strip by by agricultural use coupled with a rural setting to the east. Fields to the south and west of the village are an important part of the setting and of greater susceptibility lower ability to accommodate development without adverse impacts on landscape character and a disconnection from the rural context.
- Landscape susceptibility to specific change | High | Medium | High |

**Crox Valley**
- Landscape of existing residential development and landscape deficit strip by by agricultural use coupled with a rural setting to the east. Fields to the south and west of the village are an important part of the setting and of greater susceptibility lower ability to accommodate development without adverse impacts on landscape character and a disconnection from the rural context.
- Landscape susceptibility to specific change | High | Medium | High |

**Dane Valley**
- Landscape of existing residential development and landscape deficit strip by by agricultural use coupled with a rural setting to the east. Fields to the south and west of the village are an important part of the setting and of greater susceptibility lower ability to accommodate development without adverse impacts on landscape character and a disconnection from the rural context.
- Landscape susceptibility to specific change | High | Medium | High |

**Durham**
- Landscape of existing residential development and landscape deficit strip by by agricultural use coupled with a rural setting to the east. Fields to the south and west of the village are an important part of the setting and of greater susceptibility lower ability to accommodate development without adverse impacts on landscape character and a disconnection from the rural context.
- Landscape susceptibility to specific change | High | Medium | High |

**Sandwell Green**
- Landscape of existing residential development and landscape deficit strip by by agricultural use coupled with a rural setting to the east. Fields to the south and west of the village are an important part of the setting and of greater susceptibility lower ability to accommodate development without adverse impacts on landscape character and a disconnection from the rural context.
- Landscape susceptibility to specific change | High | Medium | High |
DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES - TRANSPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRANSPORT</th>
<th>Likelihood landscape effect</th>
<th>Landscape susceptibility to specific change</th>
<th>Landscape Value</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LDU</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Low</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Smethwick Green</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bagmere</strong></td>
<td>Ecologically sensitive location with limited ability to accommodate development without compromising the intrinsic natural characteristics which contrast with the adjacent agricultural land.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Smethwick Green Farmlands</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Some landscape character is present from the existing A434 corridor however new highways other than immediately adjacent to the existing alignment of the A434 would potentially cut across long established natural landscapes.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Breton Green Village</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>The village is adjacent to the A50 corridor and influenced by it. However other highways in proximity retain the character of country lanes in a rural setting of traditional agriculture.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Birkenedge Farmlands</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>The A50 corridor is relatively contained within this LCP which is otherwise rural in nature. Highway additional/modifications would potentially result in loss of landscape features such as hedgerows, hedgerow trees and introduce increased incursions and reduced tranquility.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Missenden</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>The A6 is a strong influence on tranquility within a LCP of larger field sizes and greater land use diversification. The LCP is of low sensitivity to additional well designed highway modifications assuming adequate mitigation.</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Breton Heath Natural Area Village</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>The village is characterised by linear development along the A50 although more recent development does not replicate this. Some scope exists for transport links to be integrated.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Davenport Farmlands</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Although the A44 passes through this LCP, away from that location it continues the agricultural landscape and recreational value of this LCP results indicates that it is of high sensitivity to transport development outside of the immediate context.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hilghurst Green Lower Meadow Green</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>New transport corridors would potentially cut across long established boundaries, fragmenting fields and disrupting agricultural land use in an area with a strong field pattern and containing characteristics landscape elements.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upper Meadow Green</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>The A44 is a divider in this LCP and whilst land to the south has a strong landscape structure of hedgeres, agriculture and woodland that to the north is more fragmented and able to accommodate transport change.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Colne Valley</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bourdon Hall and Parkland</strong></td>
<td>High sensitivity due to apparent time depth, tranquility and absence of existing highway access coupled with recreational value and use.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lower Colne Valley</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unpopulated with few modern influences on landform or land use along the narrow width of the river result in limited ability to accommodate development without compromising the intrinsic natural characteristics which contrast with the adjacent agricultural land.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upper Colne Valley</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>As above for Lower Colne Valley but reduced susceptibility derived from existing influence from the A434 and other transport links.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dene Valley</strong></td>
<td><strong>Dene Valley River Corridor</strong></td>
<td>Unpopulated with few modern influences on landform or land use along the narrow width of the river result in limited ability to accommodate development without compromising the intrinsic natural characteristics which are of high recreational/biodiversity value.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dene Valley Shores</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>As above – landform constraints and extensive woodland as a key characteristic would reduce the ability to accommodate transport.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dunkirk</strong></td>
<td><strong>A50 Corridor</strong></td>
<td>Existing transport influenced LCP in which further transport could potentially be accommodated.</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duskyk Turf Fields</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Existing transport influenced LCP in which further transport could potentially be accommodated but may result in fragmentation through loss of long established boundaries, fragmenting fields and disrupting agricultural land use.</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sandling Green Farmlands</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Larger scale fields with fewer trees potentially able to accommodate properly mitigated transport links.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sandling Green Farmlands</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Further transport could potentially be accommodated but may result in fragmentation through loss of long established boundaries, fragmenting fields and disrupting agricultural land use.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES - MINERALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minerals</th>
<th>Likely landscape effects</th>
<th>Landscape susceptibility to specific change</th>
<th>Landscape Value</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LDU</td>
<td></td>
<td>LCP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birnam</td>
<td>Mineral extraction would remove the characteristic landscape element which are rare and important at the Parish scale and national scale in terms of biodiversity. Restoration to an equivalent value unlikely and therefore limited ability to accommodate mineral extraction.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mineral working would mostly lead to and remove key landscape elements (hedges/hedge lines). Restoration, unless back to original ground level would involve a change in land use and/or permanent landform modification. Key characteristics lost could be replicated as part of a restoration scheme.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breinton Heath</td>
<td>Low ability to accommodate mineral extraction would change the context and setting of the village which is an intrinsic element of the rural landscape of this LOP. Some ability to replicate landscape elements dependent on restoration scheme.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breinton Heath Natural Area</td>
<td>Mineral extraction would change the context, tranquillity and setting of the village which is an intrinsic element of the rural landscape of this LOP. Some ability to replicate landscape elements dependent on restoration scheme.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breinton</td>
<td>Mineral working would mostly lead to and remove key landscape elements (hedges/hedge lines) within an area of national and parish value with a varied landform. Potential effects on Great Park farmland and tranquillity for recreational users accessing the Dane Valley indicate high landscape sensitivity.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Medenhall Green</td>
<td>Mineral working would mostly lead to and remove key landscape elements (hedges/hedge lines). Some ability to accommodate mineral working due to larger scale field pattern and potential to accommodate landform change assuming key characteristics lost could be replicated as part of a restoration scheme or introduction new compatible land uses eg native conservation.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At above;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Medenhall Green</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At above;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Crox Valley</td>
<td>Natural character and landform would be altered and not fully restored within the same timeframe of the LCP. Low ability to successfully accommodate large scale mineral extraction in a small scale area restricted LCP.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At above;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Crox Valley</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At above;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dane Valley</td>
<td>Natural character and landform would be altered and not fully restored within the same timeframe of the LCP which has a high scenic quality, recreational and landscape value and low potential to accommodate mineral extraction. Adverse effect on tranquillity.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At above;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dane Valley Stapes</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At above;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunkirk</td>
<td>Mineral working would mostly lead to and remove key landscape elements (hedges/hedge lines) would be limited. Restoration, unless back to original ground level would involve a change in land use and/or permanent landform modification but could be accommodated in the context.</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mineral working would mostly lead to and remove key landscape elements (hedges/hedge lines). Restoration, unless back to original ground level would involve a change in land use and/or permanent landform modification. Key characteristics lost could be replicated as part of a restoration scheme. Medium ability to accommodate mineral extraction given landscape scale and key characteristics.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandine Green</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 37: Sensitivity of Breerton Civil Parish to minerals development**


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**Legend**
- Breerton Parish
- LCP
- Sensitivity to Mineral C
  - High
  - Medium
  - Low
## DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES - RENEWABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Landscape susceptibility to specific change</th>
<th>Landscape Value</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LBD</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bagnor</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Smallwood Green</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beeston Green Village</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brinwell Farmstead</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dovering Farmstead</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Donington Farmstead</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pound Farmstead</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Donington</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bagnor</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>High</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bagnor</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td><strong>High</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upper Farmstead</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Donington Farmstead</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pound Farmstead</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rake Farmstead</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Donington</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bagnor</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upper Farmstead</strong></td>
<td><strong>LCP</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medium</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Note

- **High** indicates a high susceptibility to renewable energy development.
- **Medium** indicates a medium susceptibility to renewable energy development.
- **Low** indicates a low susceptibility to renewable energy development.
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Prevent the erosion of vernacular architecture through the use of materials such as Cheshire red brick, appropriate to the local context of the Cheshire Plain;

• New developments should reflect the distinct local settlement pattern of the parish, complementing the pattern of existing ribbon development at both Brereton Heath and Brereton Green and avoiding the use of cul-de-sacs;

• Encourage the use of Cheshire style black and white metal estate railing as boundary and frontage treatments to new developments;

• Ensure that any future developments do not obscure current rural views over the Cheshire Plain. Existing open views and vistas contribute significantly to the character of the locality and these should be protected;

• Promote high quality design that reflects the range of building materials and details characteristic of the locality is to be encouraged. Design of new development should include sufficient variation to avoid monotonous repetition of standard building designs;

• Prevent the erosion of built environment character through incremental development;

• Retain open views towards the Staffordshire Peak ridgeline, the Peak District as well as glimpsed views of Jodrell Bank to the north;

• Localised road improvements should be sensitive to the rural setting and avoid where possible the use of urban materials and unsympathetic road signage;
LANDSCAPE VISION: BIODIVERSITY AND LANDSCAPE

RECOMMENDATIONS

• Hedgerow field boundary treatments should be retained and restored where fragmented to improve landscape condition;

• Existing trees around any new developments should be conserved and supplemented where appropriate;

• Promote the nature conservation and ecological value of the Dane Valley;

• Discourage the rationalisation and loss of agricultural land, including the removal of the historic field pattern to create larger fields due to changing patterns of land ownership;

• Preserve the enclosed nature of the Dane Valley, which forms a visual contrast to the open nature of the surrounding landscape of the Cheshire Plain.

• Retain and enhance the character of areas of estate parkland at Brereton Hall and Davenport Hall, forming a distinctive existing feature of the Cheshire Plain;

• Ensure appropriate management of woodland tracts to prevent deterioration;

• Incorporate well maintained hedgerows and lowland grassland margins within existing and proposed agricultural systems;

• Restore hedgerow boundary treatments to reduce visual fragmentation. Ensure the appropriate maintenance of hedgerows as distinctive landscape and ecological features within the landscape;

• Incorporate appropriately scaled new woodland and tree cover within the wider landscape, ensuring characteristic open views are not obscured;

• Promote the importance of former sand extraction sites such as Brereton Heath Nature Reserve for both geodiversity and biodiversity;

• Encourage linkage of sites of biodiversity such as the Croco valley, Bagmere and Brereton Heath LNR to create wildlife corridors which enhance the individual value;

• Encourage land management initiatives (e.g. Environmental Stewardship Schemes) which assist in linking biodiversity sites.
LANDSCAPE VISION: ACCESS AND RECREATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

• Recognize and strengthen the recreational value of the parish areas of landscape value which are a valued sub regional resource for residents of Holmes Chapel, Sandbach and Congleton as well as the residents of the parish.

• Encourage greater provision for recreational walking, cycling and appreciation of nature to complement the popular existing route connecting the villages of Brereton Heath and Brereton Green with, for example Swettenham;

• Manage visitor pressure and explore opportunities to improve the educational resource of Brereton Heath Nature Reserve, allowing visitors to understand and value the ecological value of this feature;

• Promote the importance of former sand extraction sites such as Brereton Heath Nature Reserve for both geodiversity and biodiversity;

• Strengthen and protect the recreational value by avoidance of development which reduces the value of the landscape for recreation.
Landscape character assessment is a hierarchical process from the national scale, through regional or county assessments to borough and district assessments. The Brereton parish landscape character assessment seeks to identify landscape value, susceptibility to specific change and by combining those two criteria, the sensitivity of the landscape, at a parish scale. This has been undertaken by a combination of mapping, site survey and discussion with local residents and the outcome recorded in this document to inform the development of the Brereton Neighbourhood Plan. The outcome is identification of distinct Landscape Description Units (LDUs) and within those units a more refined subdivision into Land Cover parcels (LCPs).

It is envisaged that the Brereton landscape character assessment (LCA) adds to the detail of the county and borough assessments and will assist in understanding the landscape and cultural elements which define the parish. In thinking about landscape value it is clear that the key elements at Brereton are a well-managed, long-established land use of dairy farming within a regular enclosure landscape, long views of high land of the Peak Fringe, the apparent time depth which is present in vernacular buildings, narrow lanes and mature oaks, the tranquility of the Dane Valley and its natural landform and absence of modern influence. The parish is highly valued for recreation on a regional basis as is apparent from the number of cyclists and walkers who use the lanes and footpaths. Similarly, local biodiversity interest in the Dane Valley, at Brereton Heath Local nature reserve and Bagmere SSSI adds to the enjoyment and value of the landscape.

In thinking about susceptibility to change it is necessary to consider the extent to which the landscape can accommodate that change, whether it be housing, transport, minerals or renewable energy. It follows that when combining landscape value with susceptibility in order to assess sensitivity, there will be areas which are more or less sensitive. The LCA identifies sensitivity at an LCP scale and, for the key development type of housing, places the LCPs into an indicative hierarchy arrived at by applying the methodology and then consideration of the relative value of each LCP. The sensitivity analysis is presented both in tables and by mapping.

The Brereton landscape character assessment will assist in providing a finer grained assessment of the landscape character than is found in assessments at a larger scale but is not a site specific assessment that can be used in itself to determine landscape or visual effects of a particular development. Rather, it provides a context within which specific development proposals will sit and must be assessed on their own merits based on the sensitivity of an individual site (which may vary from the LDU or LCP scale) against criteria which will include magnitude of effect derived from the scale/extent of the development, the duration and the reversibility of effect. For sensitive sites or development which is likely to have a greater magnitude of effect it is envisaged that a landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) would be required to properly assess the effects of the potential development. The Brereton LCA will however assist in considering whether a LVIA is required.

Finally, the LCA may have a role in assisting the parish in thinking about which aspects of the landscape should be strengthened and what the future vision may be for development, recreation, biodiversity in such a way that the landscape of the parish is not compromised and retains its key characteristics for future generations to enjoy.
GLOSSARY

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

Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)
Historic characterisation is the identification and interpretation of the historic dimension of the present-day landscape or townscape within a given area.

Landscape character
A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.

Landscape Character Assessment
The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape, and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinctive. The process results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment.

Landscape quality (condition)
A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of the individual elements.

Landscape value
The relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society. A landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a whole variety of reasons.

LCP
Land Cover Parcel

LDU
Landscape Description Unit

Ramsar site
Wetlands of international importance, designated under the Ramsar Convention.

The Living Landscapes Project
The Living Landscapes Project, a consortium of interests involving universities, consultants and participating local authorities, established to develop and produce Landscape Character Assessments (LCAs).

Sensitivity
A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor.

SSSI
Site of Special Scientific Interest

Time depth
Historical layering – the idea of a landscape as a ‘palimpsest’, a much written over manuscript.

Tranquility
A state of calm and quietude associated with peace, considered to be a significant asset of landscape.