



GILLESPIES

SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE & VISUAL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

WHITTINGTON
[55WHT]

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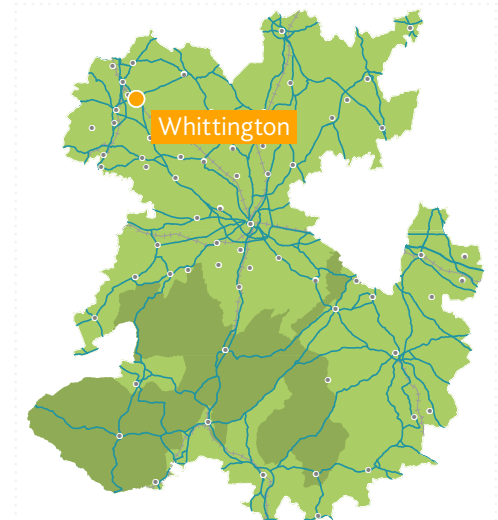
55. WHITTINGTON [55WHT]



LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Whittington is a village and civil parish in the north west of Shropshire. It is the centre of the Parish and has been inhabited since prehistoric times.

Whittington Castle is set in about 12 acres of ground and is the remains of a Norman home. Whittington has a population of 1,540. This settlement has been divided into 2 parcels for the purpose of this study.



WHITTINGTON A [55WHT-A]

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

Parcel A is located to the north of Whittington. The western boundary is defined by the railway line and the eastern boundary is defined by Ellesmere Road (A495). The B5009 runs roughly through the centre of the parcel and is intersected by a well wooded disused railway. The landscape is characterised by undulating landform and pastoral landuse and several designated components. Whittington Castle is within Whittington Conservation Area. The farmland landscape is scattered with hedgerow trees and declining hedgerows.



1. VIEW NORTH WEST FROM WITHIN THE ENCLOSED SETTING OF WHITTINGTON CASTLE



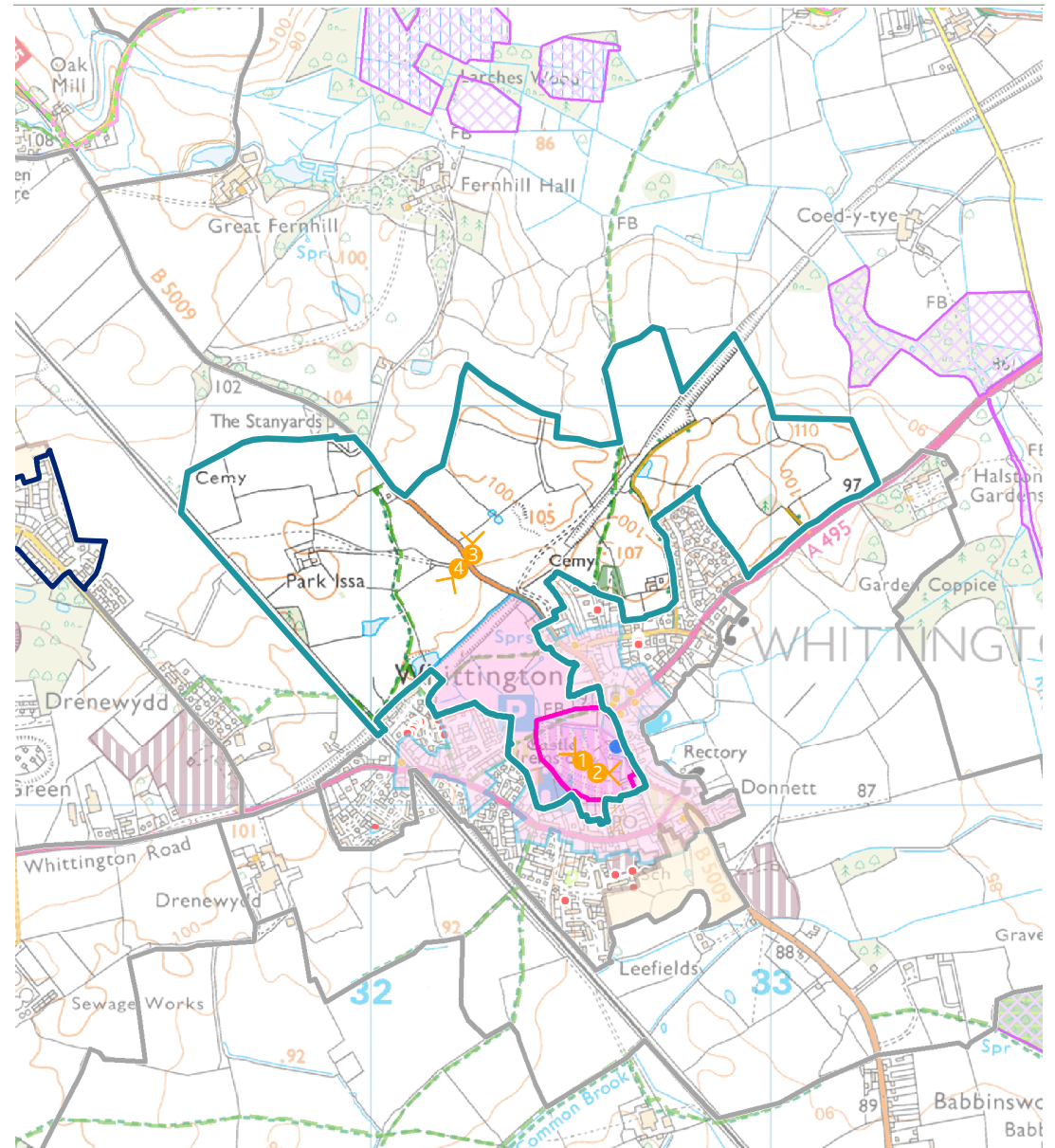
2. WHITTINGTON CASTLE AND POND AS VIEWED FROM A HIGH POINT TO THE REAR



3. VIEW NORTH FROM B5009 ACROSS THE TRADITIONAL FARMING LANDSCAPE



4. VIEW SOUTH WEST ACROSS PASTORAL FIELDS



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

This is a farmed landscape of moderate strength of character. The parcel includes part of Whittington Conservation Area to the south of the parcel, the northern extent of which is formed by the dismantled railway line. There is relatively good tree cover from hedgerow trees and copses and generous linear woodland along former railway line that contributes to the setting of the Conservation Area. Ponds are scattered throughout the parcel and add to the nature conservation value. The Whittington Castle Scheduled Monument is a prominent feature and contributes greatly to the historic and heritage value of the parcel.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

This is a small scale, traditional farming landscape with good connectivity of hedgerows that would be vulnerable to loss and fragmentation of habitat as a result of development. The setting of the Conservation Area, woodland screen along the dismantled railway line and setting of Whittington Castle are vulnerable to reduction in quality as a result of new development and are therefore highly susceptible to change. Elsewhere, the landscape is of a typical rural character with landcover limited to enclosed, pastoral and arable farmlands. There are a number of PRoW which intersect the parcel and add to recreational value that could be reduced as a result of development.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

This is an intact farming landscape with historical interest relating to Whittington Castle and Whittington Conservation Area. Overall the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from new housing is medium-high and to employment is high.



LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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VISUAL

VISUAL VALUE

Views within this parcel have no association with the Shropshire Hills AONB as it is approximately 26km away. The Conservation Area is well screened with limited intervisibility between the castle and the farmland landscape. Therefore, the castle does not influence to the overall visual quality as it is localised to its immediate surroundings however retention of its setting is important.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Whittington Castle forms a strong visual feature, however these views are localised to the extent of the Conservation Area due to generous tree planting around its extent. Development in proximity to the castle would not be appropriate as it would detract from its setting and visual enjoyment of the area which has a high frequency of sensitive visitor and recreational receptors. The landscape elsewhere within the parcel is however less visually susceptible to development as generous tree cover along a former railway track reduces intervisibility and provides screening to enclose views.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

This area has a typical rural character; with Whittington Castle a prominent feature adding to the scenic quality of the area. Therefore, the views experienced are of medium-high sensitivity to change arising from new housing and high to employment.



LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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WHITTINGTON B [55WHT-B]

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

Parcel B adjoins the east and the south of Whittington. The south parcel boundary is north of the small village of Babbinswood. The B5009 runs through the centre of the parcel. A railway line, which connects Shrewsbury to Chester, intersects the parcel. The landform is relatively flat and landuse includes recreational use and mixed farming. Small woodland blocks and farmsteads are scattered throughout this typical rural landscape. The settlement pattern is dominated by the village of Whittington.



1. VIEW WEST ACROSS PASTORAL FIELDS FROM PROW



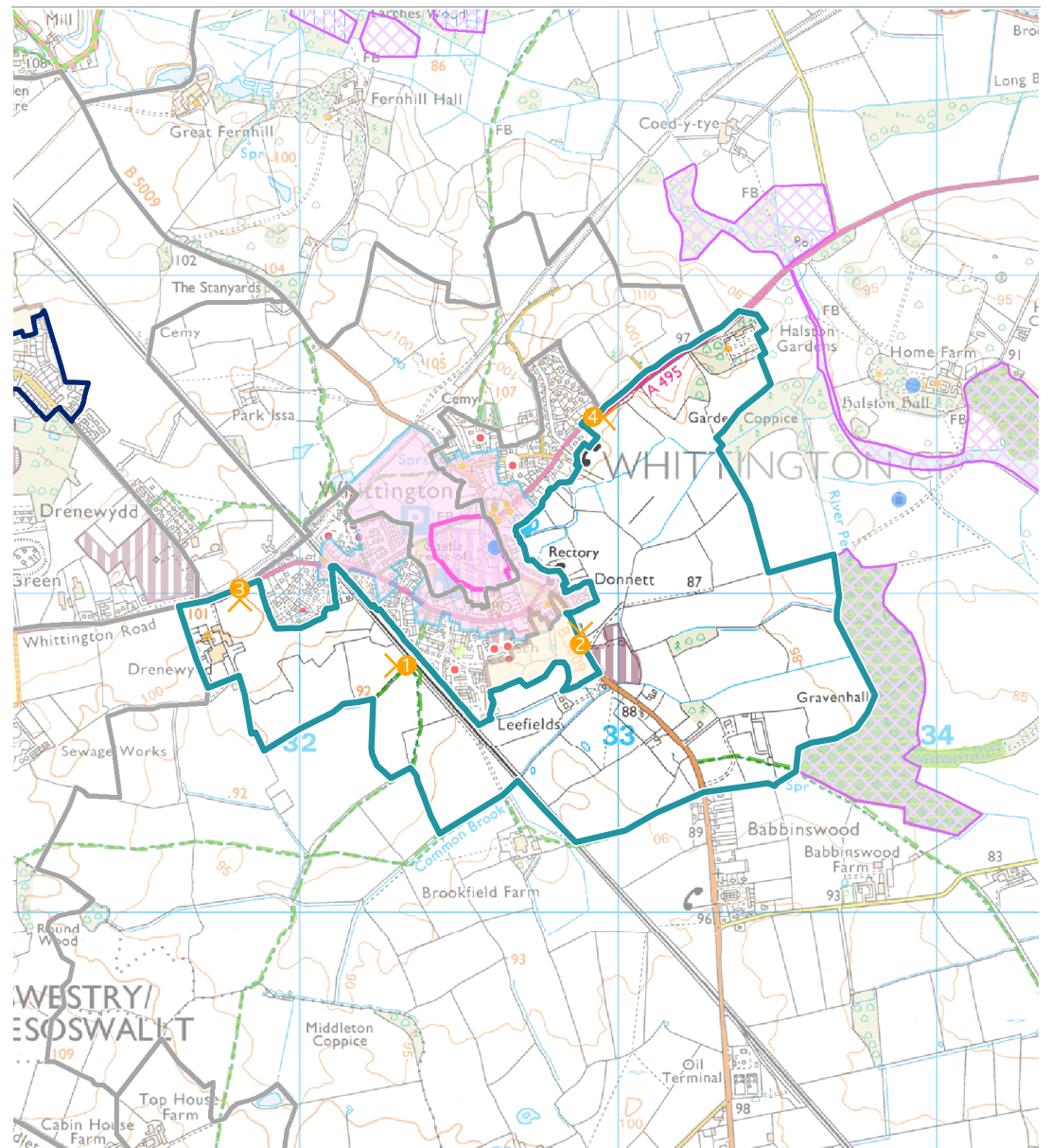
2. VIEW NORTH FROM B5009 OF THE SETTLEMENT EDGE



3. VIEW SOUTH FROM WHITTINGTON ROAD (A495) OF DRENEWYDD FARM AND FIELDS



4. LONG DISTANCE VIEWS EAST ACROSS FARMED LANDSCAPE FROM ELLESMERE ROAD (A495)



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

This is a farmed landscape of moderate rural character. There are no formal designations within or surrounding the parcel which could potential increase its landscape value. Hedgerows to field boundaries are robust and well connected, with scattered ponds and ditches linking to larger woodland blocks and adding to nature conservation value. A number of PRoW, a cricket ground and a bowling green all contribute to the informal recreational value of this landscape.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

This is a small to medium, traditional farming landscape with some sense of tranquility away from the railway line, which connects Shrewsbury and Chester and intersects the parcel along the edge of the settlement of Whittington. The A495 and B5009 intercept the parcel. The landscape has a low scenic quality because of the influence of the transport corridors. Existing settlement comprises dispersed farmsteads and individual properties that would be vulnerable to changes in this discrete pattern as a result of development. The relationship with the settlement edge is partially integrated and could be improved. There is a site between the settlement of Whittington and the parcel with housing allocation that would be appropriate for development especially if combined with planting to integrate the settlement edge.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

This is a typical farmed landscape with busy transport corridors which results in a low sense of tranquility. Overall the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from new housing is medium and to employment is medium-high.



LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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VISUAL

VISUAL VALUE

Views within this parcel have no association with the Shropshire Hills AONB as it is approximately 26km away. Views within the parcel are fairly open. There are long distance views from the Whittington and Ellesmere Road (A495) over the reasonably flat landscape towards the south east, and towards rising ground in the east from B5009, but these do not contribute to the visual quality. Also, the Conservation Area is screened by the settlement.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

The fields are visually contained due to established field boundaries. In some places, long distance views of the wider landscape are gained, however these are not views to designated landscapes. Those who are likely to experience views of any potential new development are: users of the road network, residents, users of the railway and recreational users of the cricket ground, bowling green and PRoW. Residential and recreational receptors are typically highly susceptible to changes to their surroundings. There is a visual relationship with the settlement edge from which views into the parcel are fairly open, although established field boundaries contribute to screening the view. Despite a higher frequency of relative numbers, transport users are particularly less susceptible as their views are transient.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

This area has a typical rural character and despite a high frequency of relative numbers of receptors, many are of a low susceptibility to change. Development could be accommodated in certain locations particularly along the settlement edge however this should be balanced against relatively open views. Therefore, the views experienced are of medium sensitivity to change arising from new housing and medium-high for employment.



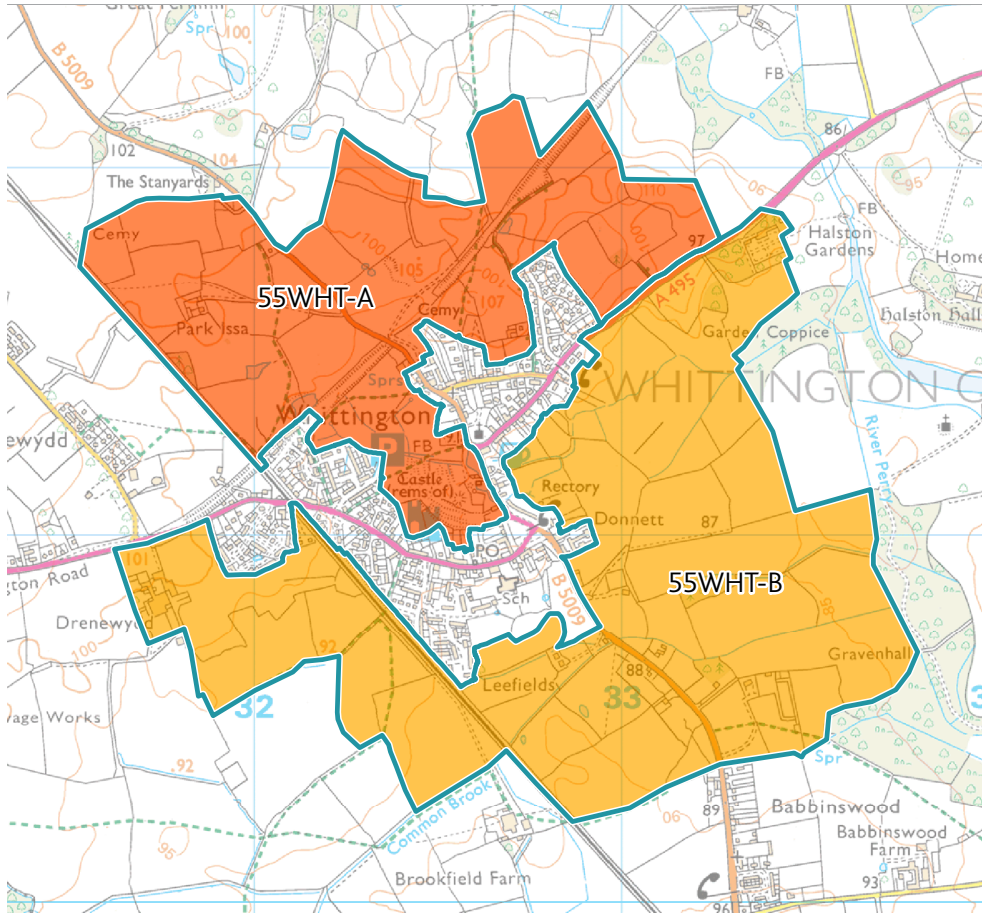
LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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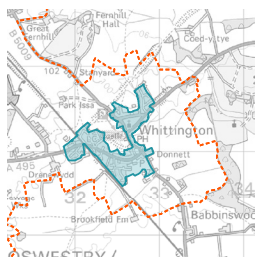
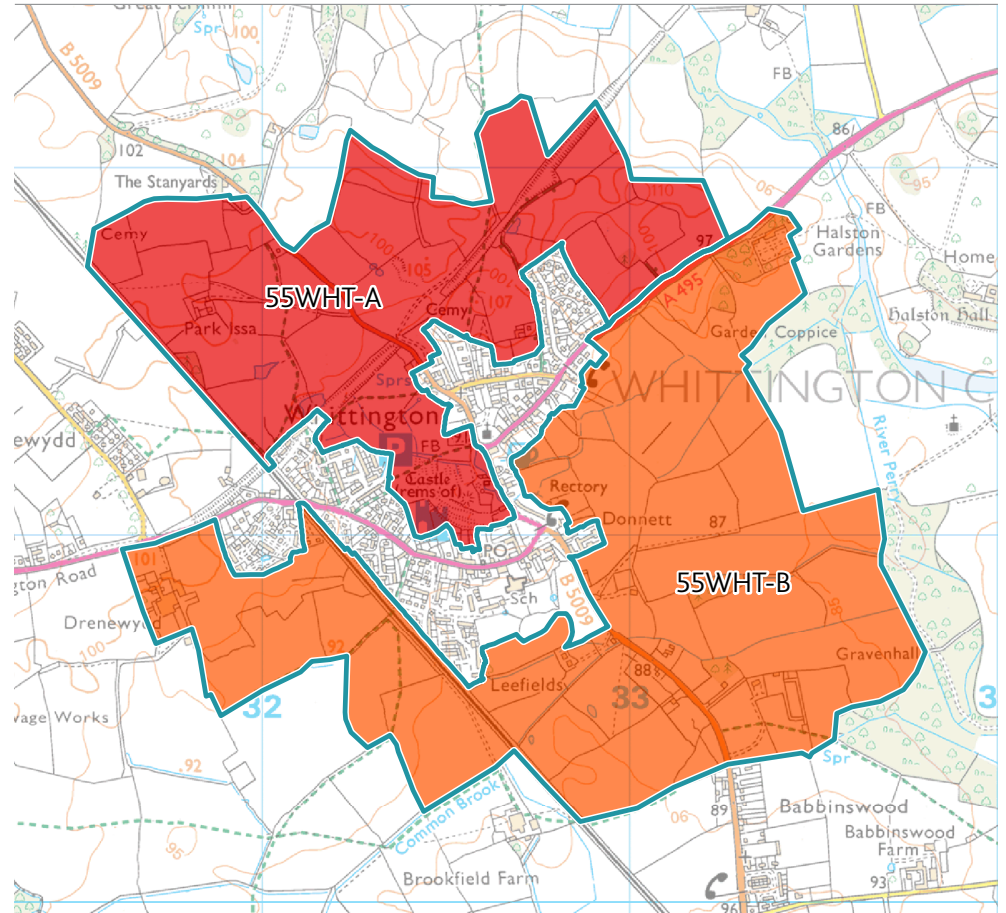
LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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WHITTINGTON LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

HOUSING



EMPLOYMENT



KEY:

SENSITIVITY PARCEL

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY:

VERY HIGH

HIGH

MEDIUM-HIGH

MEDIUM

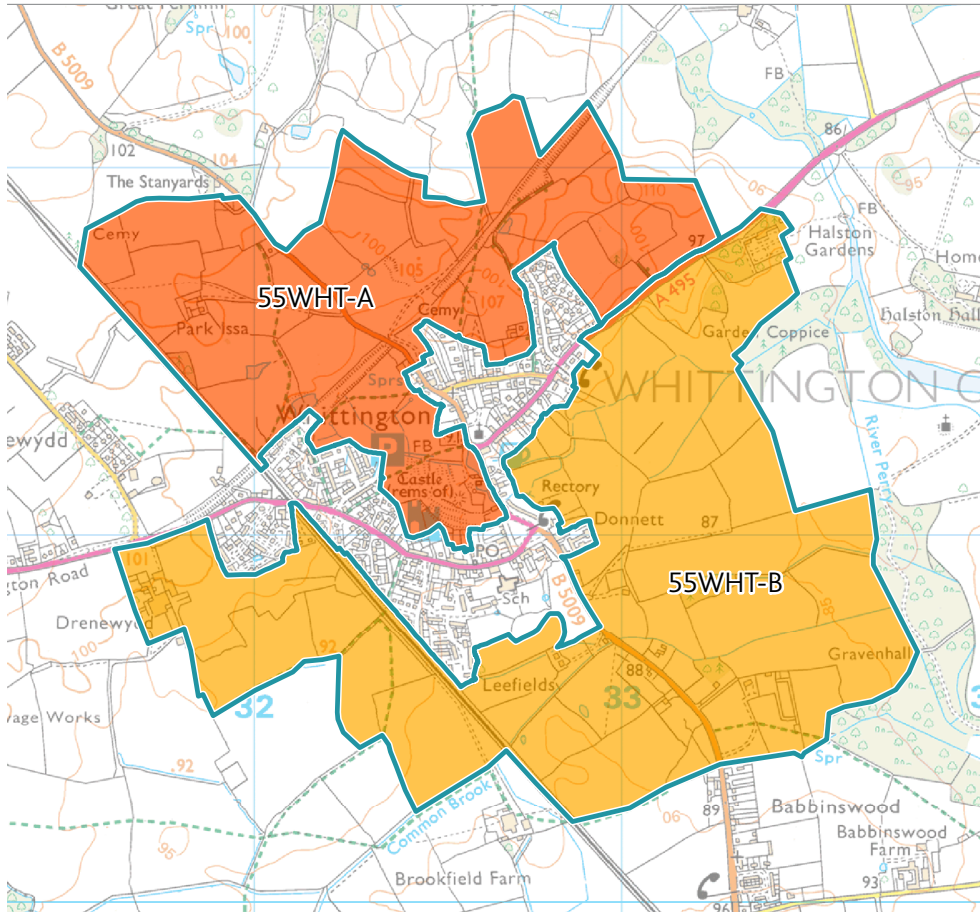
MEDIUM-LOW

LOW

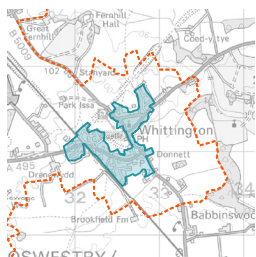
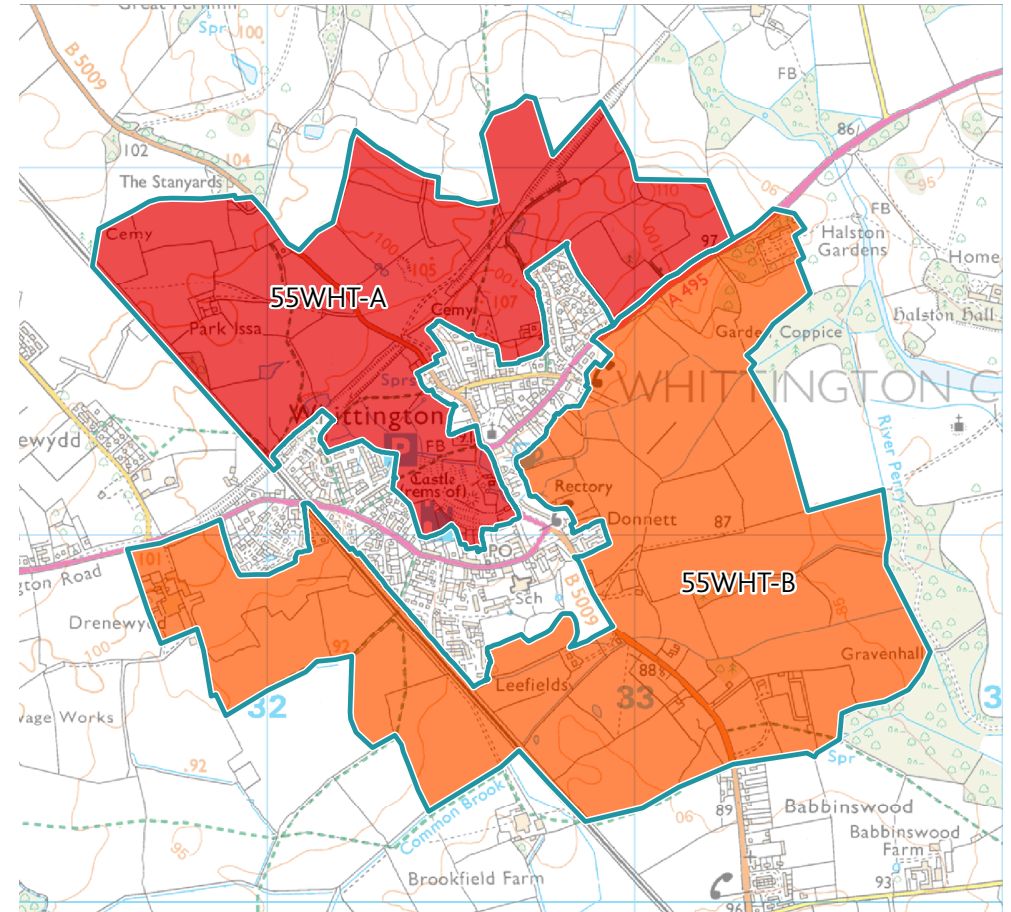
WHITTINGTON VISUAL SENSITIVITY



HOUSING



EMPLOYMENT



KEY:

SENSITIVITY PARCEL

VISUAL SENSITIVITY:

VERY HIGH

HIGH

MEDIUM-HIGH

MEDIUM

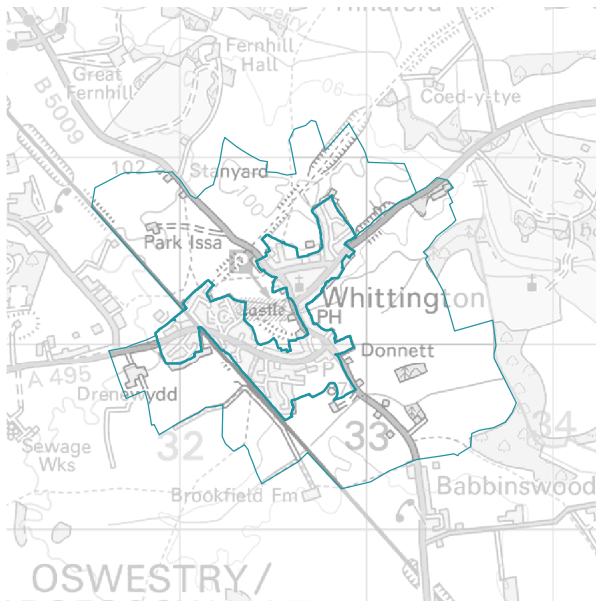
MEDIUM-LOW

LOW









DESIGN GUIDANCE FOR WHITTINGTON

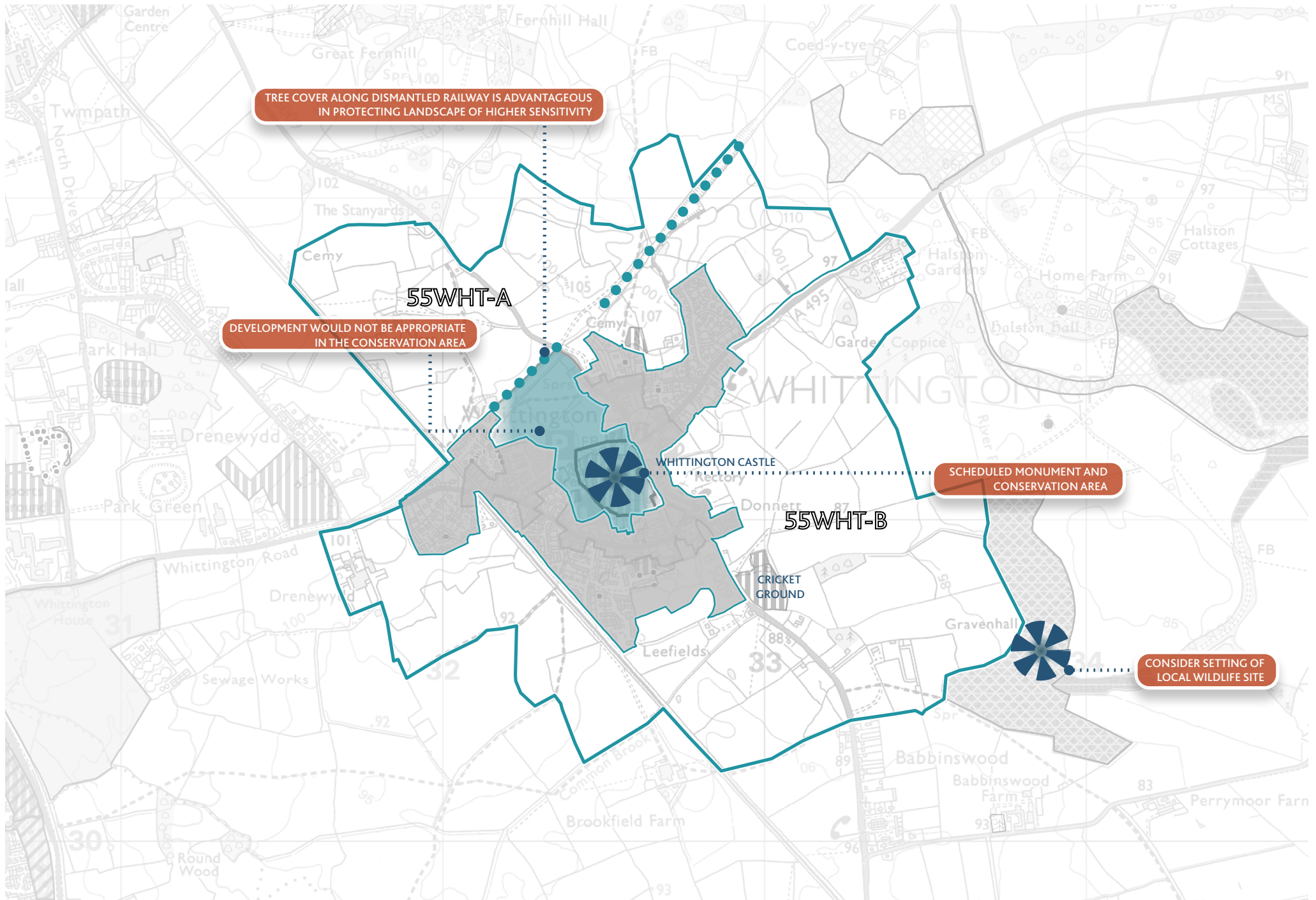
[55WHT]

2 SENSITIVITY PARCELS



KEY

-  PARCEL BOUNDARY
-  SETTLEMENT
-  HIGHER LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY TO DEVELOPMENT
-  HIGHER VISUAL SENSITIVITY TO DEVELOPMENT
-  VIEWS TO BE PROTECTED
-  DESIGNATED FEATURES WHERE THE SETTING SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
-  VISITOR DESTINATION WHERE THE SETTING SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
-  IMPORTANT LANDSCAPE FEATURE WHICH SHOULD BE RETAINED



TREE COVER ALONG DISMANTLED RAILWAY IS ADVANTAGEOUS IN PROTECTING LANDSCAPE OF HIGHER SENSITIVITY

DEVELOPMENT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE IN THE CONSERVATION AREA

SCHEDULED MONUMENT AND CONSERVATION AREA

CONSIDER SETTING OF LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

55WHT-A

55WHT-B

