GILLESPIES

SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE & VISUAL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

SHAWBURY
[49SBY]

28 11 2018 —REVISION 01

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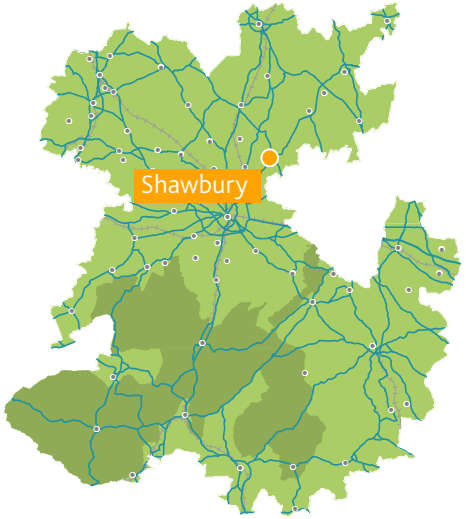
49. SHAWBURY [49SBY]

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Shawbury is a village and civil parish in Shropshire. It is 13.5km north east of the county town of Shrewsbury. The village straddles the A53 between Shrewsbury and Market Drayton. Shawbury is predominated by RAF Shawbury, a Royal Airforce station, which is owned by the Ministry of Defence. It is used as a helicopter training ground. The population of Shawbury is 1,550. This settlement has been divided into 3 parcels for the purpose of this study.



SHAWBURY A [49SBY-A]

Please note that due to sensitivities of the use of the parcel as an active Royal Air Force (RAF) base, access is restricted. This assessment is formed purely from desk based research.

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

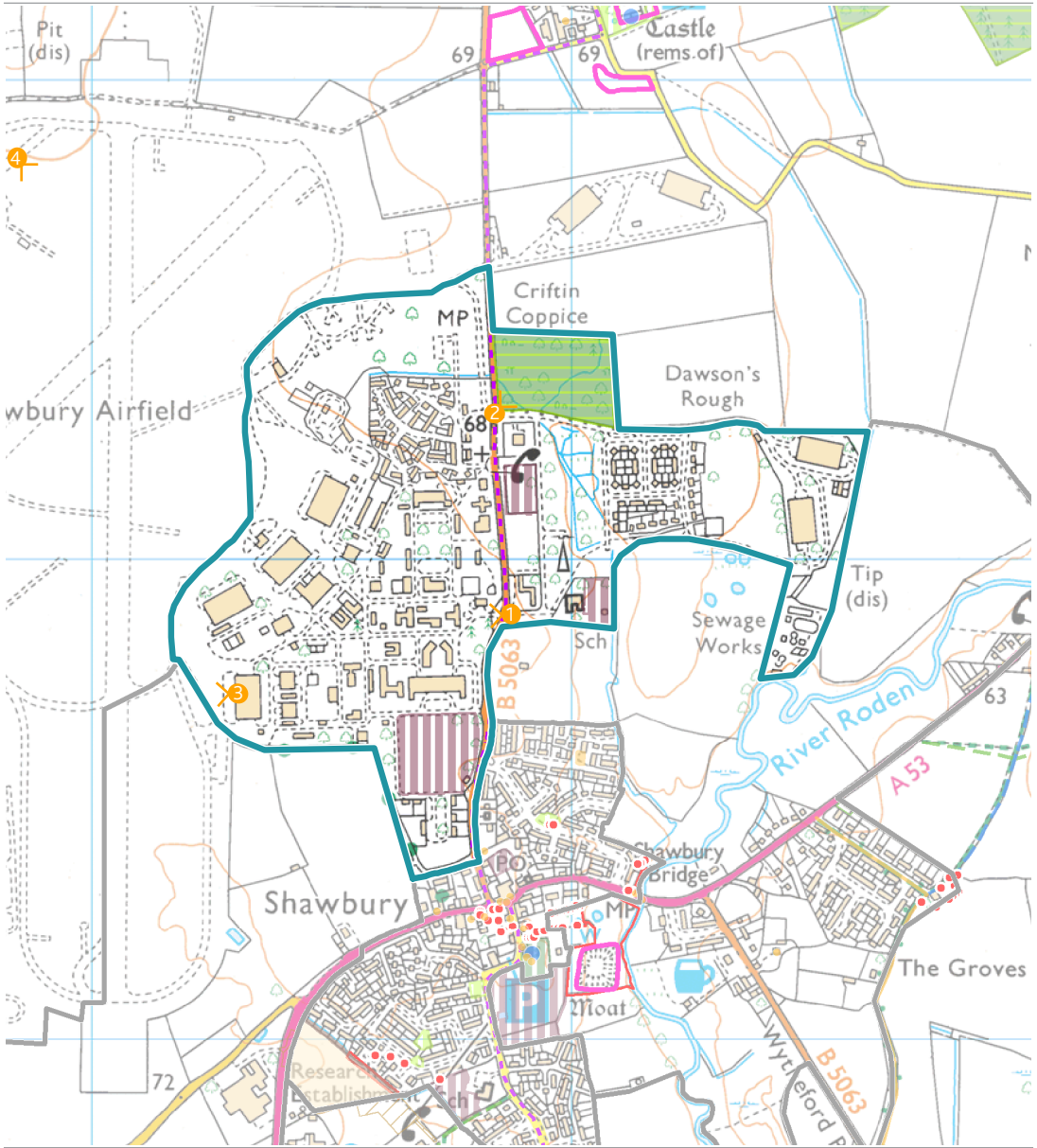
Parcel A is located to the north of the village of Shawbury. RAF Shawbury dominates its locality and the influence of helicopters and other aircraft is widespread. The site is of restricted access and is enclosed in character, as it is confined by wire fencing and planting buffers. The landform is flat. Most of the woodlands appear to be of ancient origin; this includes Ancient Woodland at Criffin Coppice which adds to the well wooded character of the parcel.

1. ENTRANCE TO RAF SHAWBURY
PHOTO © GEOFF PICK (CC-BY-SA/2.0)

2. ROAD JUNCTION BY CRIFTIN COPPICE
PHOTO © ROW17 (CC-BY-SA/2.0)

3. VIEW FROM HANGAR TO WEST OF PARCEL
PHOTO © IAN HUGHES (CC-BY-SA/2.0)

4. VIEW ACROSS SHAWBURY AIRFIELD TOWARDS PARCEL PHOTO © ROW17 (CC-BY-SA/2.0)



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

The landscape has a strong sense of place due to its association as an RAF base. The parcel has a well wooded landscape character which is in part determined by an ancient woodland block at Criffin Coppice. Despite this, the parcel has a relatively low scenic value as its character is degraded by a strong human influence and the barracks and buildings associated with the airfield, such as hangars and stores, stand as prominent features in the landscape. The parcel has recreational value as there are substantial facilities such as a recreational ground, tennis court, football ground and several play areas.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

The parcel has a strong sense of place as an RAF base, however as a result it has an eroded rural character. The parcel is completely flat and highly enclosed in character as it is confined by infrastructure, tree planting and woodland. There are no PRoW through the parcel as it is of restricted access. The influencing character of Criffin Coppice, as an ancient woodland, is somewhat insignificant in comparison to the extent of human influence on the landscape of the parcel. Therefore the parcel has low tranquility and low landscape susceptibility. Development could present an opportunity to restore the landscape character.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

This is a compact and enclosed landscape which is heavily influenced by infrastructure associated with the RAF base, which despite being well wooded, there is erosion of rural character. Overall the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from new housing is low and to employment is low.

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

VISUAL

VISUAL VALUE

Views within this parcel have no association with the Shropshire Hills AONB as it is approximately 14km away. The landscape is degraded and the activities associated with the RAF base are visual detractors, including helicopter and aircraft activity and more permanent features such as overhead lines and large military buildings.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

It can be assumed from desk based research that views are localised and enclosed by wire fences and tree planting. There are no long distance views due to intervening built form. The receptors are restricted to the road users of Wem Road (B5063) who could experience glimpsed views into the parcel and those granted access to the RAF base.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

The parcel is characterised by its use as an RAF base and therefore contributes to views which are enclosed and localised within the parcel. A high number of detracting features means that the views experienced are of low sensitivity to change arising from new housing and employment.

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

SHAWBURY B [49SBY-B]

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

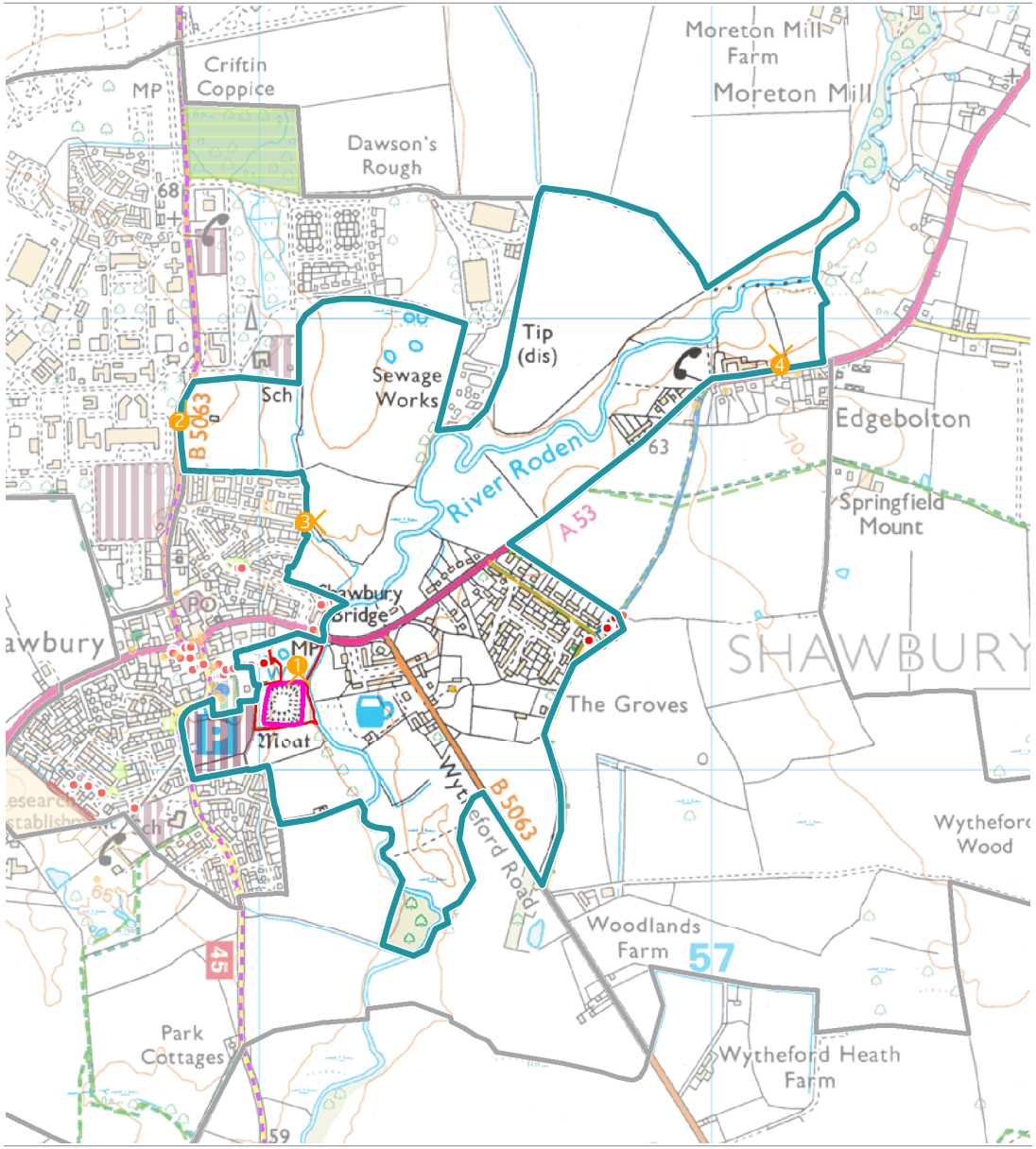
Parcel B is located to the east of Shawbury. The parcel borders the RAF base and includes an extent of the River Roden within its wide flat river valley. The eastern boundary reaches the settlement at Edgebolton along the A53 and in the west it bounds the B5063. Wytheford Road intersects the parcel and joins the A53. The landform is low lying and undulating in places with landuse including pastoral and arable farmland. There is considerable tree cover along the River Roden and hedgerows are intact. The settlement pattern is dominated by Shawbury and the RAF base.

1. VIEW TOWARDS DESIGNATED SHAWBURY MOAT SCHEDULED MONUMENT

2. VIEW EAST FROM WEM ROAD (B5063) TOWARDS THE RAF BASE

3. OPEN VIEWS EAST ACROSS THE PARCEL FROM BRIDGE WAY

4. VIEW NORTH ACROSS THE RURAL LANDSCAPE FROM A53



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

This undulating lowland includes the River Roden which is a prominent landscape feature within this river valley and there are a number of ponds and ditches that contribute to nature conservation value. The parcel includes Shawbury Moat, which is designated as a Scheduled Monument and adds to the recreational and heritage value of the area as it is marked with footpaths and an information board. A recreational ground to the south west of Shawbury Moat also contributes to its recreational value. The heritage asset has a limited influence on the whole extent of the parcel however, as it is relatively contained and its setting screened by planting.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

This wide river valley has a floodplain of small to medium scale fields. The settlement is divided by the path of the River Roden and Shawbury Moat, to the south of the A53. Shawbury Moat has a distinctive landform and is designated as a Scheduled Monument the setting of which would be vulnerable to change in features and character. The moated site is isolated in character and enclosed by the A53 to the north and properties to the east and west. There is considerable tree cover along the River Roden and the hedgerows are intact and would be vulnerable to loss being irreplaceable in the short to medium term. Aside from the designated site, the parcel is of a typical rural character making it less susceptible to change. There is a strong settlement edge to the west of the parcel, which includes the RAF base and Shawbury 'Community Hub'. Overall the landscape has low scenic and perceptual qualities as there is a high frequency of human influence, which includes the 'borrowed' landscape character of the adjacent RAF base, as well as the busy A53 which runs through the wide river valley.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

Overall this is a river valley landscape of a typical rural character with features including a Scheduled Monument. Visual links to the RAF base and other human influence, contribute to a reduced scenic quality. Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from new housing is medium and to employment is medium.

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

VISUAL

VISUAL VALUE

Views within this parcel have no association with the Shropshire Hills AONB as it is approximately 14km away. Views within this typical rural landscape included the 'borrowed' landscape setting of the adjacent RAF base which has many detractors. There is little intervisibility to the moated site as it is enclosed by vegetation.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

There are open views within the parcel however limited views out to the wider landscape as it is visually contained by settlement, the RAF base and intact hedgerows and tree cover. Development could be accommodated on low lying landform screened by existing tree cover. There is intervisibility with detractors within parcel A; the RAF base. There is intervisibility to the settlement edge from various receptors within the parcel; including road users of Wem Road (B5063). The setting of the moated site is visually contained but would be vulnerable to changes to its setting and related views. Other receptors include road users, users of the recreational ground and residents at the settlement edge and those within the parcel.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

The area has a strong settled influence, with views to detractors within parcel A. There is little intervisibility to the moated site. Despite high relative numbers of people likely to be affected, proposed development would be appropriate where screened by low lying landform and vegetation. Therefore views experienced are of medium sensitivity to change arising from new housing and new employment.

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

SHAWBURY C [49SBY-C]

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

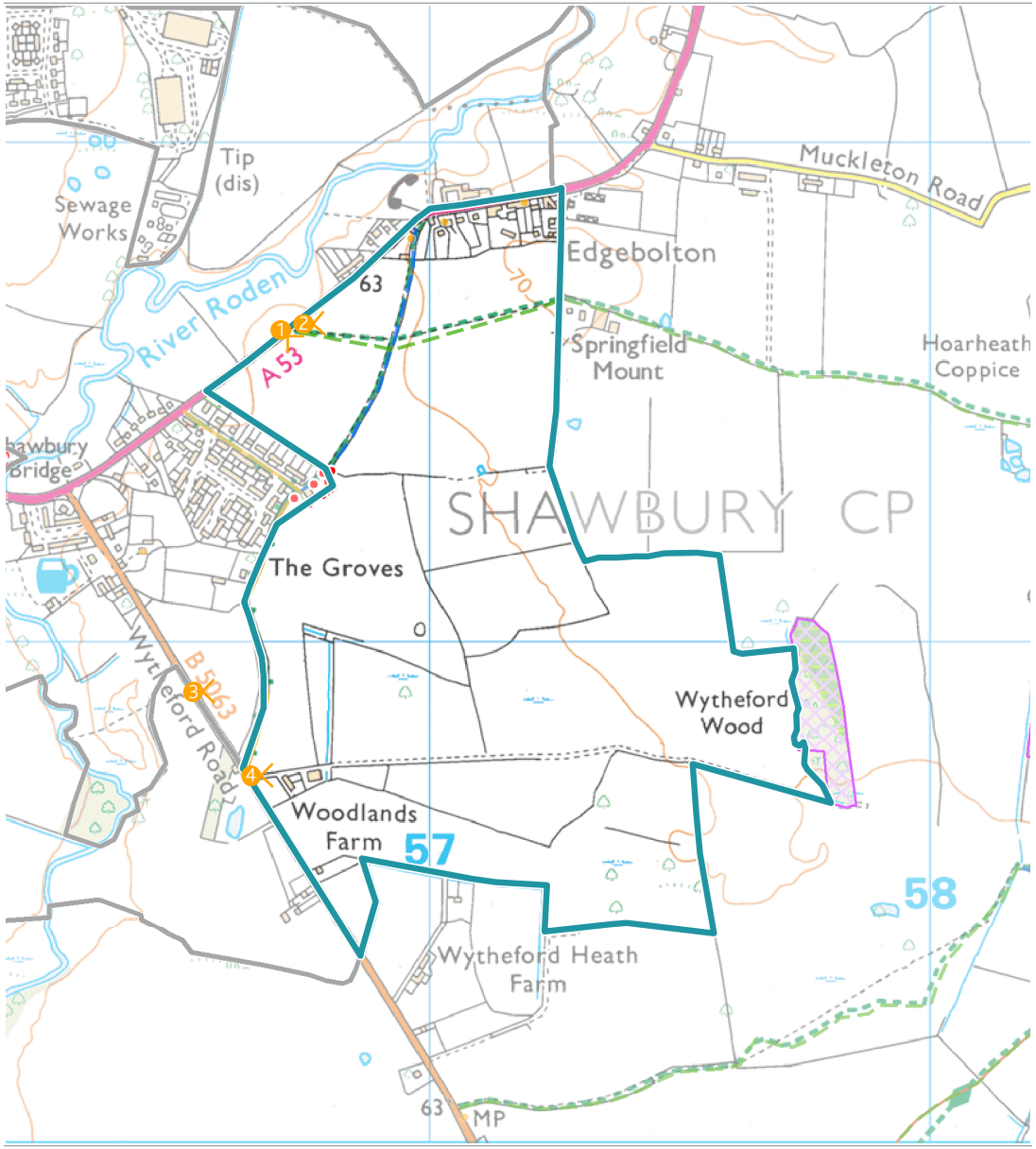
The area has a strong settled influence, with views to detractors within parcel A. There is little intervisibility to the moated site. Despite high relative numbers of people likely to be affected, proposed development would be appropriate where screened by low lying landform and vegetation. Therefore views experienced are of medium sensitivity to change arising from new housing and new employment.

1. INTERVISIBILITY OF PROPERTIES ON MYTTON LANE FROM A53 LOOKING SOUTH EAST

2. EXTENSIVE VIEWS SOUTH EAST ACROSS ARABLE LAND FROM PROW

3. VIEW NORTH EAST FROM WYTHEFORD ROAD (B5063) ACROSS RURAL LANDSCAPE

4. VIEW EAST FROM WYTHEFORD ROAD (B5063) TOWARDS WOODLAND FARM



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

This is a landscape of moderate rural character and condition. The parcel does not have any formal designations. It is important to note the setting of Wytheford Wood in the east, which is designated as a Local Wildlife Site. Although it is not within the parcel, it has an influence of the wider setting and hedgerows and ditches have some connectivity with the LWS. In the north of the parcel there are two PRoW, which connect Shawbury to Edgebolton, and add to the informal recreation value of the area.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

This is a vast landscape of irregular medium to large arable farmland. The area is low lying and flat. There is a medium sense of place with the landscape having a typical rural character. There is a low sense of tranquility with the influence of helicopters from RAF Shawbury being widespread within the area. The influence of the busy A and B roads also contributes to the low tranquility of the parcel. Development would be appropriate on low lying ground adjacent to similar land uses and the settlement edge. Large scale intense arable farming has resulted in a loss of some hedgerows that would be vulnerable to further loss. At the extent of larger fields there are intact hedgerows and hedgerow trees, as well as well as several small woodland blocks which form distinctive features in the landscape and contribute to nature conservation value. The settlement pattern comprises individual properties along the A53 and Woodlands Farm and dispersed properties would be vulnerable to changes to their discrete settlement pattern. The western edge of the parcel bounds a housing estate at the Groves.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

This is an arable farmland landscape of low tranquility and a medium sense of place due to the influence of activity associated with the RAF base and some intensification of farming. 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

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

VISUAL

VISUAL VALUE

Views within this parcel have no association with the Shropshire Hills AONB as it is approximately 14km away. The views experienced within the parcel are not of any designated value. The views are influenced with the widespread passing of air traffic.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

There are vast open views across this large scale landscape, however limited views inward and outward as there are hedgerow and hedgerow trees along the wider extent. Changes would be noticeable within the immediate view as a result of new development. There is some intervisibility to existing settlement edge, however it is relatively contained by hedgerow trees. The widespread passing of air traffic reduces tranquility and indicates a high human influence. The level of access is frequent however it is concentrated in the north and west extent of the parcel. Receptors include road users of the A and B Road, with sensitive recreational receptors using PRoW and residential receptors concentrated along the main roads.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

Receptors are located at the settlement edge in the north and the west with views across the parcel of the farmland landscape that would be susceptible to change in the view. However, the passing of air traffic and settled influence reduces tranquility and there is opportunity to restore some rural features to improve scenic quality. Overall the views experienced are of medium sensitivity to change arising from new housing and medium-high to employment.

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

SHAWBURY D [49SBY-D]

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

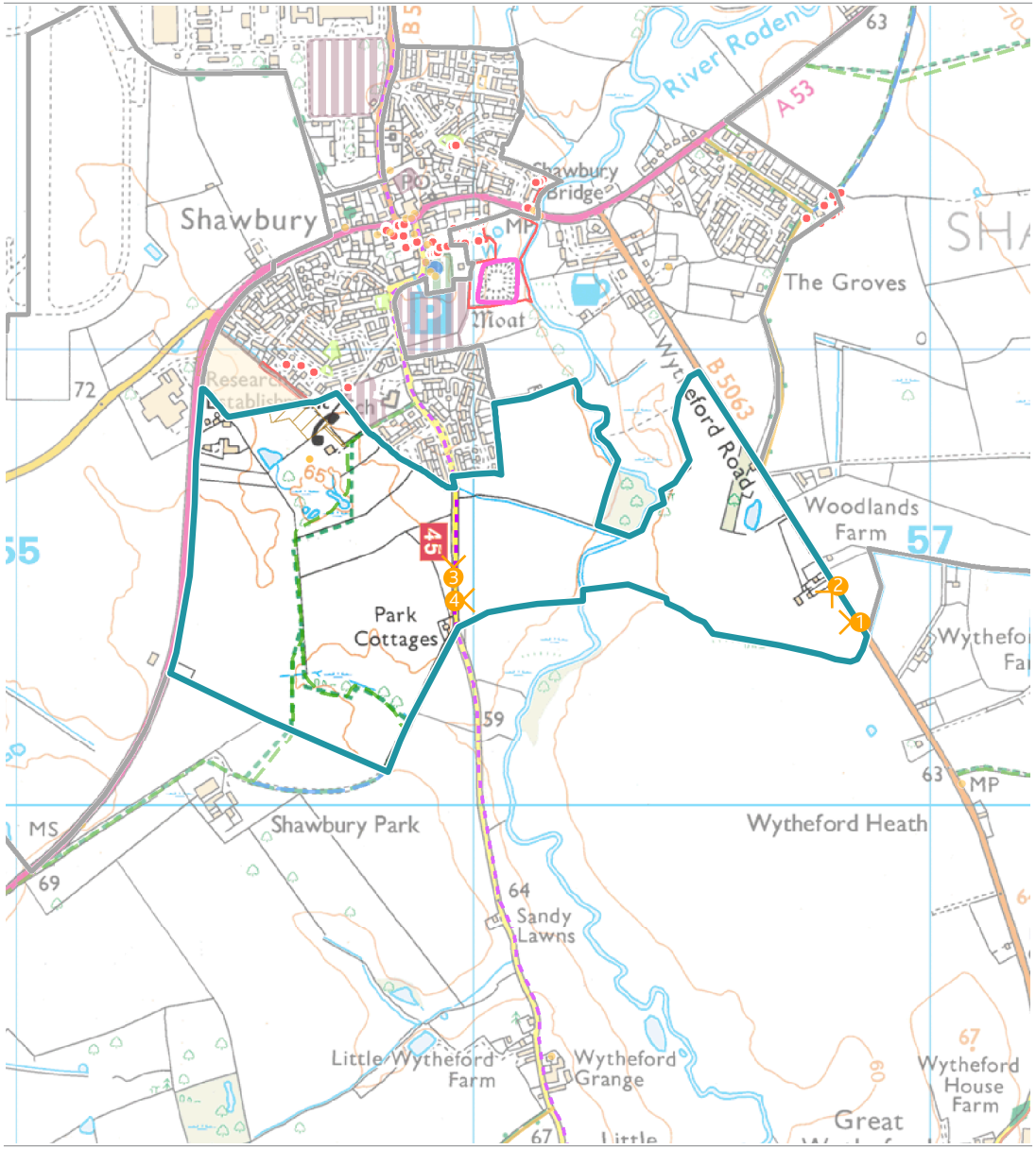
Parcel D is located to the south of Shawbury. In the east, the parcel is bound by Wytheford Road (B5063), and in the west it is bound by A53. Poynton Road roughly intersects the centre of the parcel. National Cycling Route 45 (NCR) is designated along Poynton Road. There is a PRoW which connects Shawbury to its wider countryside. The parcel is a low lying area supporting mixed intensive farming. There is substantial tree cover along the river and a number of copses and hedgerow trees. RAF Shawbury dominates the areas locality and the influence of air traffic is widespread.

1. VIEW EAST FROM WYTHEFORD ROAD (B5063) ACROSS THE RURAL LANDSCAPE

2. OPEN LONG DISTANCE VIEWS SOUTH EAST FROM WYTHEFORD ROAD (B5063)

3. VIEW NORTH FROM POYNTON ROAD TOWARDS A HOUSING DEVELOPMENT UNDER CONSTRUCTION

4. LONG DISTANCE VIEWS EAST ACROSS THE RURAL LANDSCAPE



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

This is a landscape of moderate rural character of good condition. The parcel does not have any formal designations. There is a National Cycling Route (NCR) designated along Poynton Road which contributes to recreational value, as well as a PRoW route. Hedgerows, where present, connect to small copses and riparian habitat, but are relatively sparse due to intensification of farming. Scattered ponds and ditches add to nature conservation value. There no notable historic or recreational features present.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

This is a vast landscape of irregular medium to large arable farmland. The area is low lying and flat. There is a medium sense of place with the landscape having a typical rural character. There is a lowered sense of tranquility with the influence of air traffic from RAF Shawbury being widespread within the area. Large scale intense arable farming has resulted in a loss of some hedgerows that would be vulnerable to further loss. There is substantial tree cover along the river course and around waterbodies to the south of the settlement, which contribute to the geomorphological interest. The existing settlement of Shawbury is located to the north of the parcel, which includes an area allocated for housing development. The relationship with the settlement edge is abrupt. There is a housing development under construction for 20 dwellings as an extension to the settlement edge along Poynton Road. Proposed development could present an opportunity to improve the settlement edge within this medium to large scale landscape and tree planting could restore rural character.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

This is a arable farmland landscape of low tranquility and a medium sense of place due to the influence of activity associated with the RAF base and the parcels use as a large scale intensive farming landscape. 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

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

VISUAL

VISUAL VALUE

Views within this parcel have no association with the Shropshire Hills AONB as it is approximately 14km away. The views experienced within the parcel are not of any designated value. The views are influenced by the widespread passing of air traffic.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

There are vast open views across this large scale flat landscape. There are views inwards and outwards and including intervisibility with Parcel B, C and E. There are long distance views east to Matthew's Coppice and Shawbury Heath and to higher ground in the south east from A53. Such open views would be vulnerable to noticeable change and introduction of new features as a result of development. The river corridor however, acts as a visual barrier in the landscape and in some places there are only glimpsed views as hedgerow trees are well established. Receptors include users of Poynton Road and the A53, users of the PRoW and users of the National Cycle Route along Poynton Road as well as residents within and outside of the parcel. Recreational and residential receptors are typically more susceptible to changes to their surroundings.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

This is an arable farmed landscape with a flat landform. Proposed development would evidently be visible across the landscape, however some views would only be glimpsed and there is an opportunity to improve the landscape with new tree planting. The passing air traffic reduces levels of tranquility. Therefore the views experienced are of medium sensitivity to change arising from new housing and medium-high to employment.

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

SHAWBURY E [49SBY-E]

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

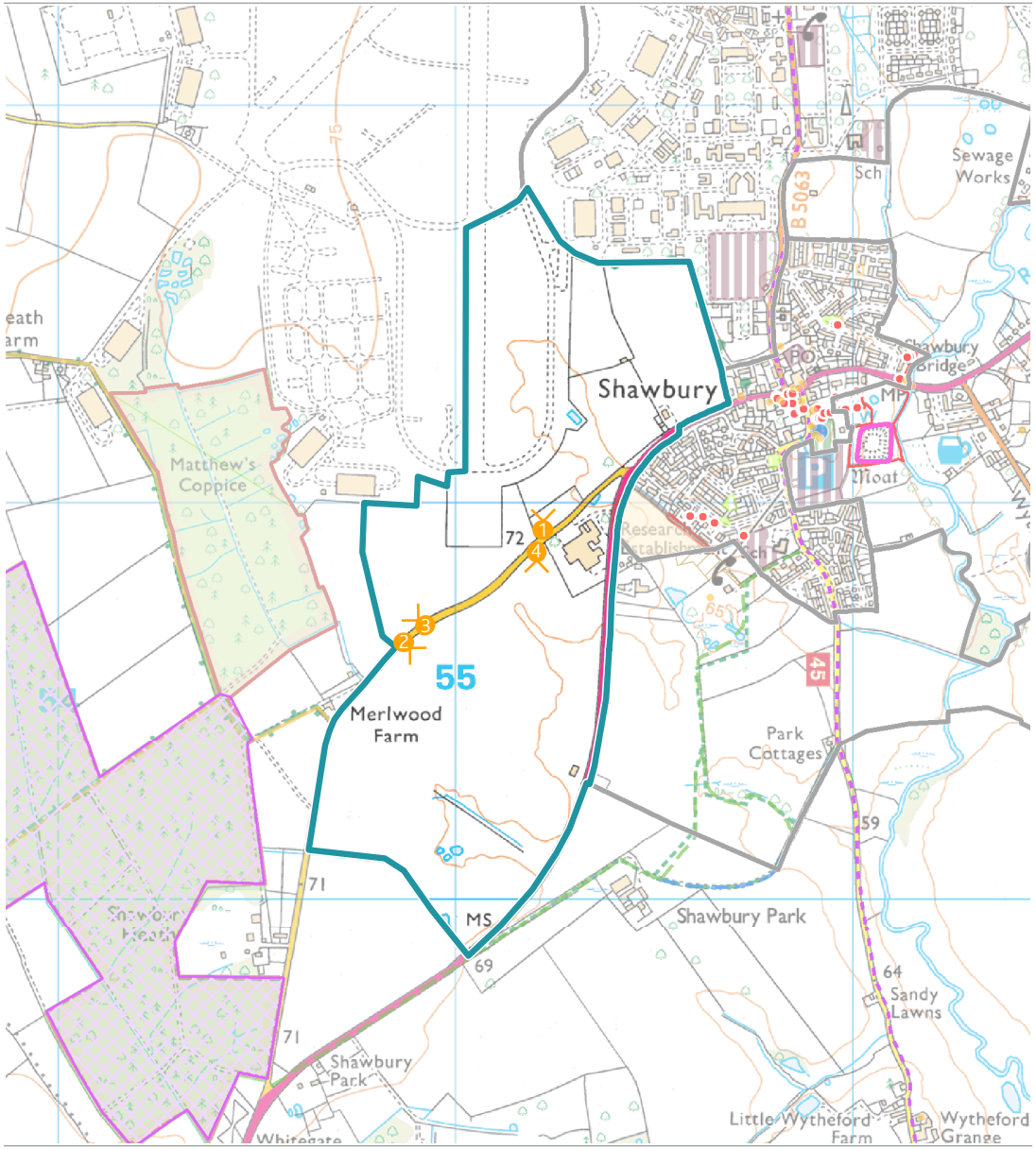
Parcel E is located to the west of Shawbury. The RAF base and associated airfield, form the northern boundary. In the east, the parcel is defined by the settlement edge of Shawbury and the A53. There are no PRoW. The area is low lying and flat. This is a mixed farming landscape and includes the southern part of Shawbury airfield. Large scale intense arable farming has resulted in a loss of some hedgerows and tree cover is limited to few hedgerow trees.

1. VIEW NORTH FROM AN UNNAMED ROAD TOWARDS SHAWBURY AIRFIELD

2. OPEN AND EXTENSIVE VIEWS SOUTH EAST FROM UNNAMED ROAD

3. VIEW NORTH WEST FROM UNNAMED ROAD TOWARDS MATTHEW'S COPPICE AND AIRFIELD

4. FROM UNNAMED ROAD, EXTENSIVE VIEWS SOUTH



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

This is a landscape of typical rural character albeit influenced by Shawbury Airfield. The rest of the parcel is typical of a landscape that is used for high intensity arable farming. The parcel does not have any formal designations. There are no PRoW within the parcel. Historic value is low and there are few notable features.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

This is a vast landscape of simple medium to large arable farmland and includes part of Shawbury Airfield. The area is low lying and flat. There is a lowered sense of tranquility with the influence of air traffic from RAF Shawbury being widespread within the area. Across the landscape there are views to infrastructure associated with the RAF Airfield. Also the influence of a large employment building on approach into Shawbury reduces the susceptibility of the landscape to similar development. Large scale intensive arable farming has resulted in a loss of some hedgerows that would be vulnerable to further loss being irreplaceable in the short to medium term. There are a limited number of trees restricted to the extent of the fields which are large in scale. Settlement includes two employment buildings which are concentrated at the edge of the 'Community Hub'.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

This is an arable farmed landscape of low tranquility due to the influence of activity associated with the RAF Airfield, the parcels use for intensive farming and employment buildings. Overall, the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from new housing is medium and to employment is medium.

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

VISUAL

VISUAL VALUE

Views within this parcel have no association with the Shropshire Hills AONB as it is approximately 14km away. The views experienced within the parcel are not of any designated value. The views are influenced by the widespread passing of air traffic and long distant views of buildings and other infrastructure towards the RAF base.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

There are vast open views across this large scale flat landscape that would be susceptible to noticeable change as a result of development, this includes intervisibility with parcel A and D. There are long distance views to the north, from the settlement edge of Shawbury, which include intervisibility with infrastructure and buildings associated with the RAF base. The views gained are filtered by existing hedgerow and hedgerow trees. A large employment building also stands as a detractor in the landscape. Views to the north are long distance and tranquil with few detractors. The parcel therefore forms part of a skyline and the vast scale of the field means that there is little screening from planting. The level of access is occasional however and the receptors include users of the roads and a small number of residents at the settlement edge who currently experience views towards the RAF base.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

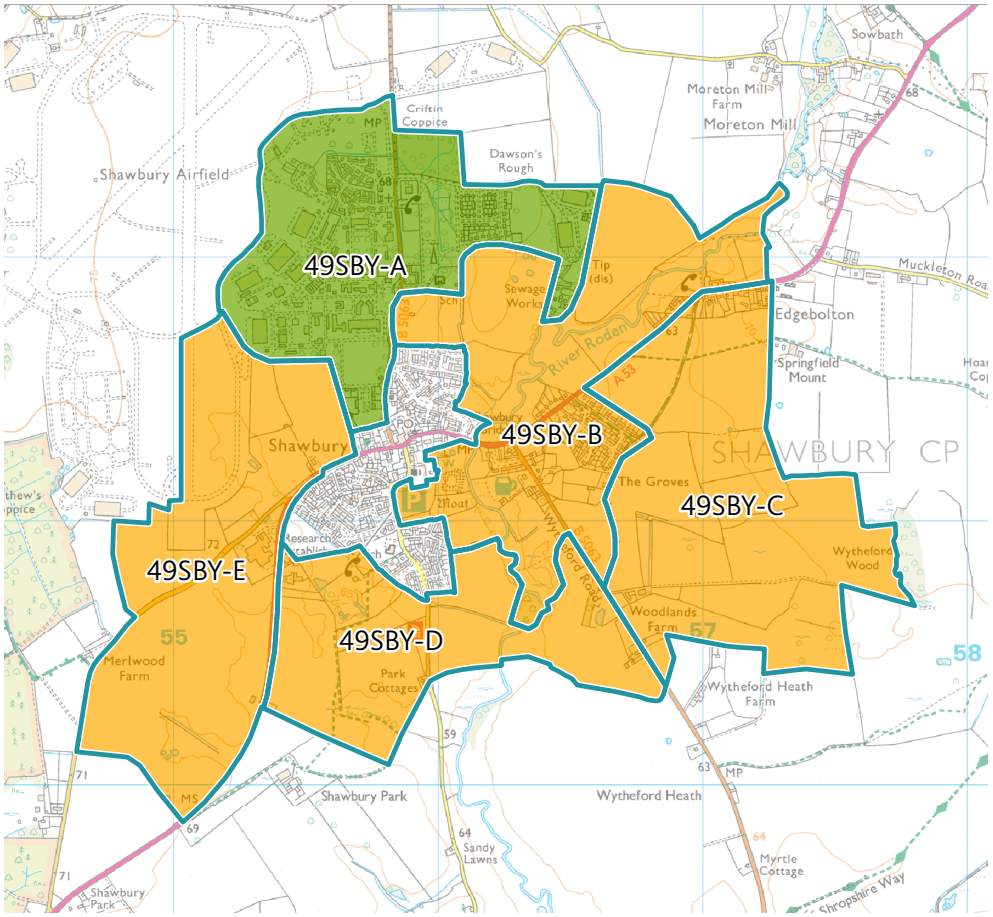
This is a large scale flat landscape. Proposed development would be visible across the view, however there are few receptors to experience these views. The passing of helicopters and nearby military presence influence levels of tranquility. Therefore the views experienced are of medium sensitivity to change arising from new housing and to employment.

LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

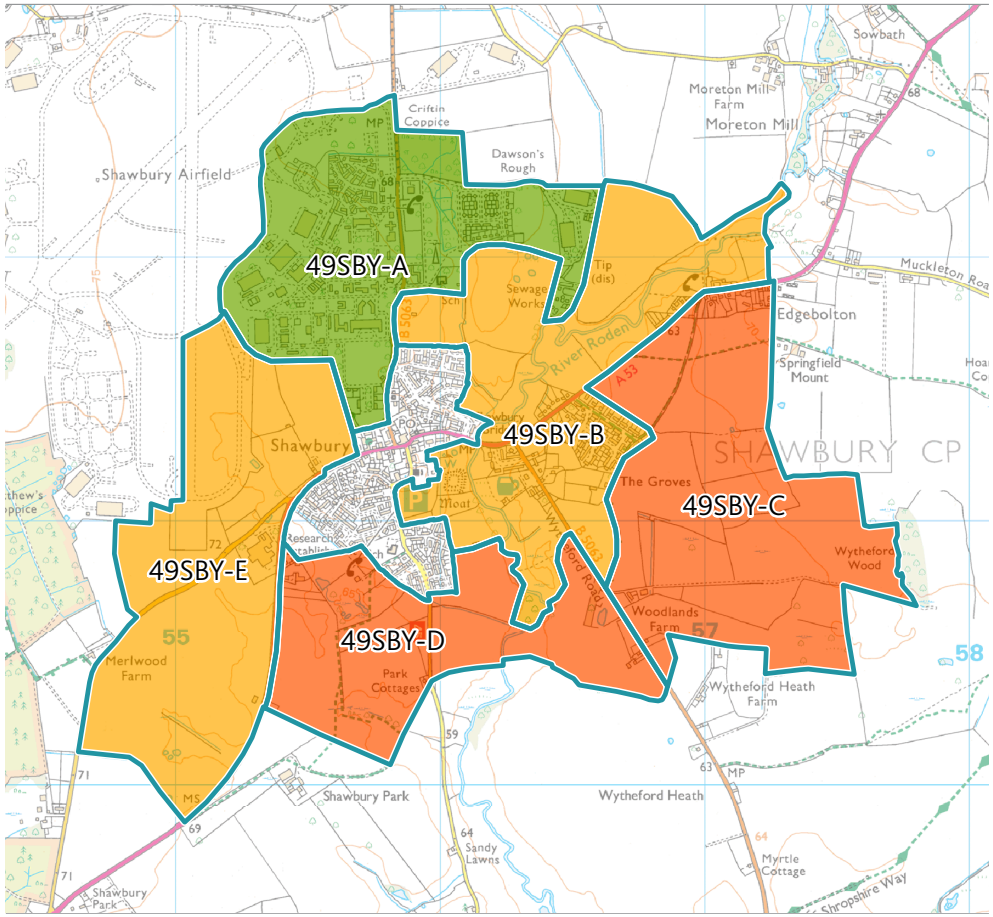
LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH

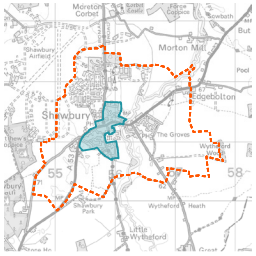
SHAWBURY LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

HOUSING



EMPLOYMENT





KEY:

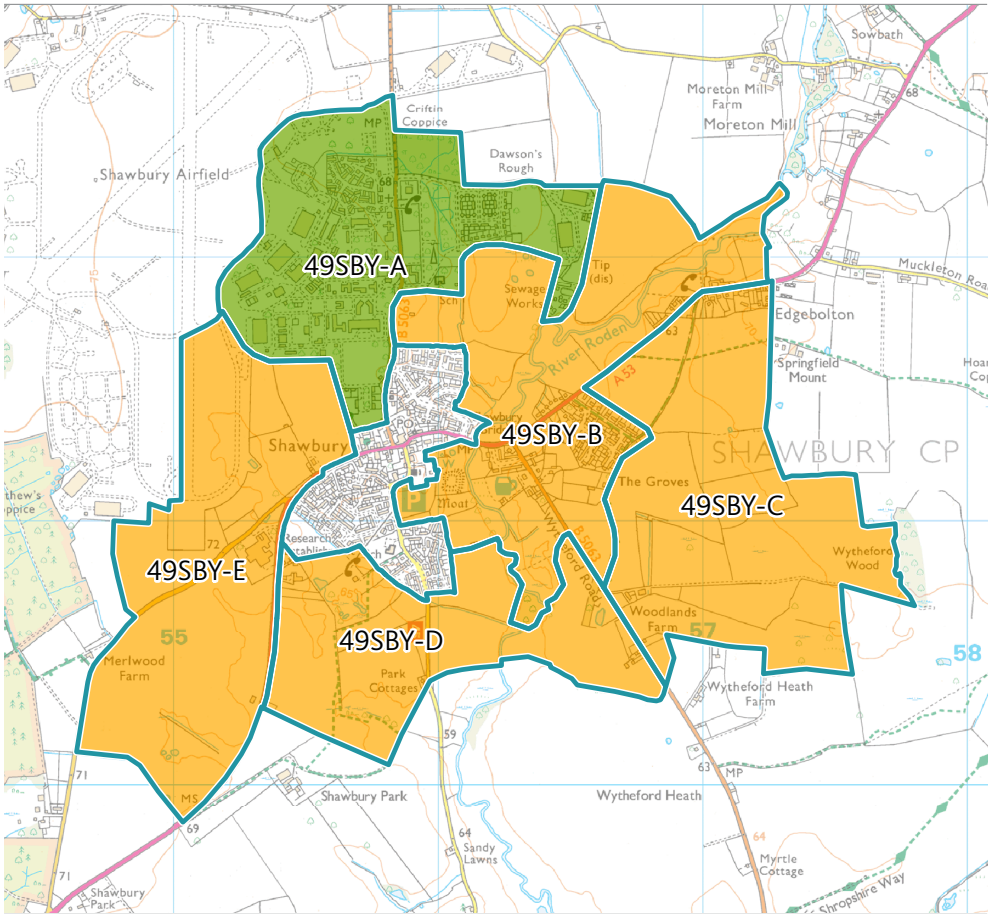
SENSITIVITY PARCEL

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY:

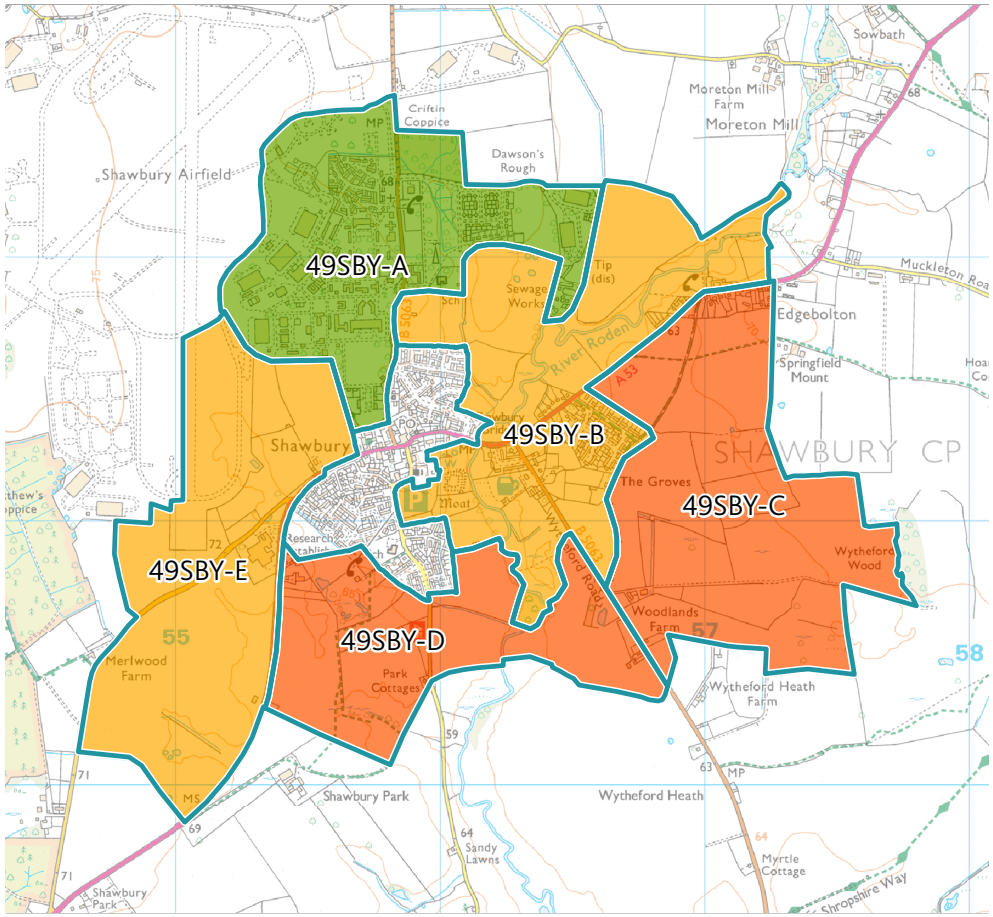
- VERY HIGH
- HIGH
- MEDIUM-HIGH
- MEDIUM
- MEDIUM-LOW
- LOW

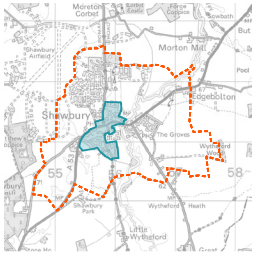
SHAWBURY VISUAL SENSITIVITY

HOUSING



EMPLOYMENT





KEY:

SENSITIVITY PARCEL

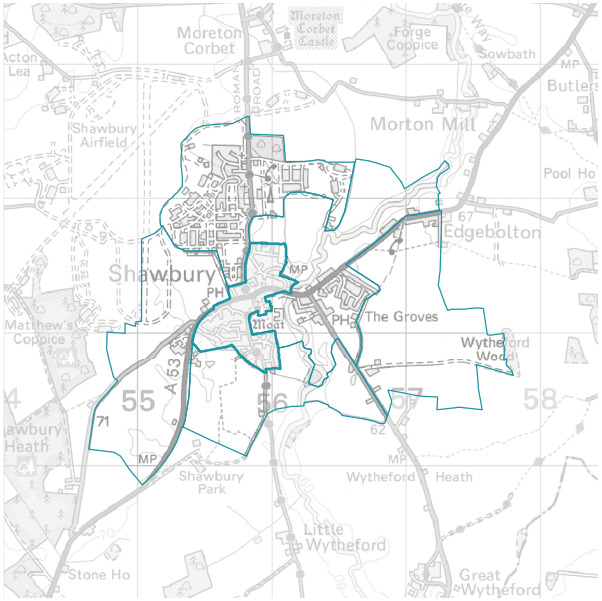
VISUAL SENSITIVITY:

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

DESIGN GUIDANCE FOR SHAWBURY

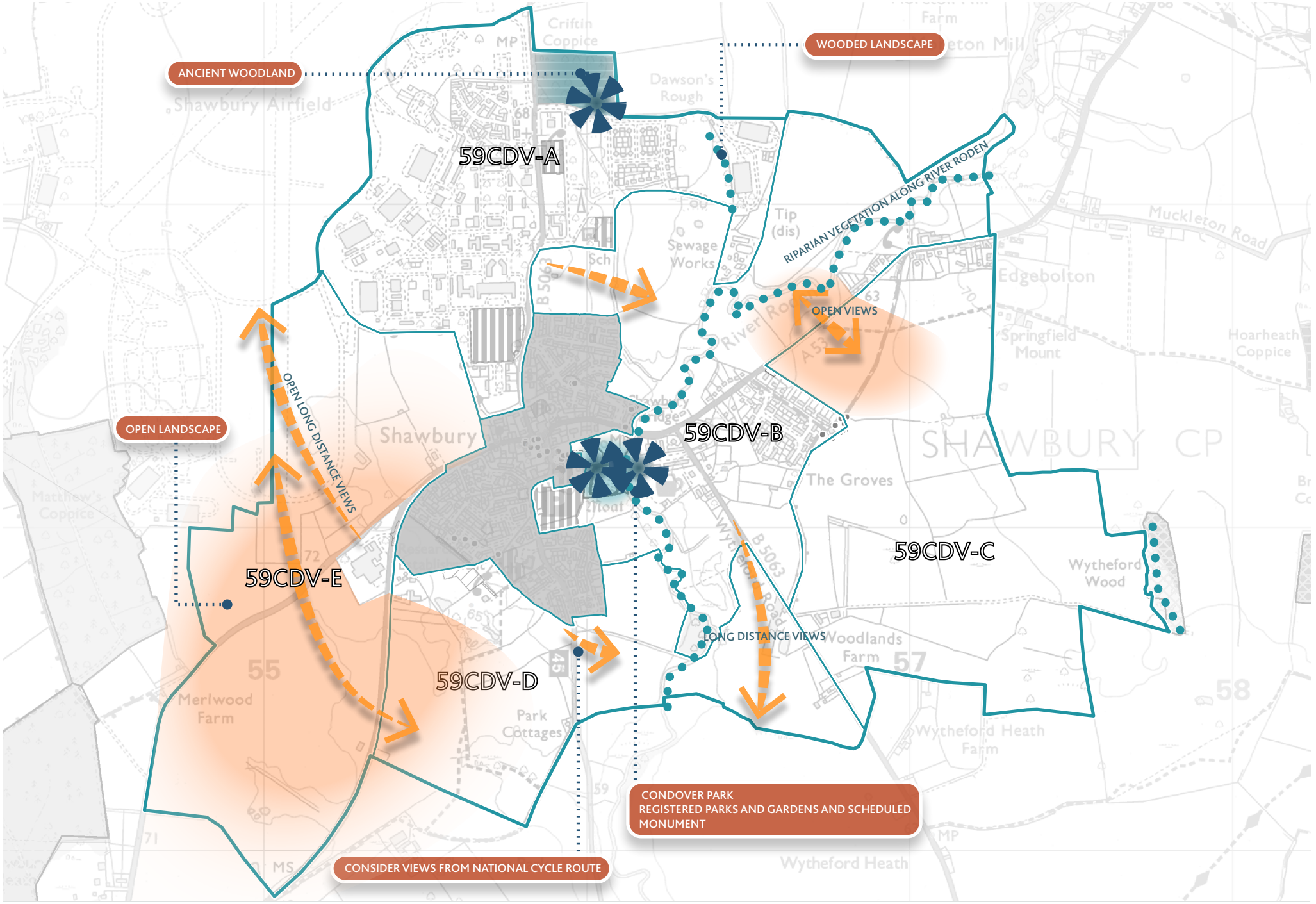
[49SBY]

5 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


ANCIENT WOODLAND
WOODED LANDSCAPE
59CDV-A
RIPARIAN VEGETATION ALONG RIVER RODEN
OPEN VIEWS
OPEN LANDSCAPE
OPEN LONG DISTANCE VIEWS
59CDV-B
59CDV-C
59CDV-E
59CDV-D
LONG DISTANCE VIEWS
CONDOVER PARK
REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS AND SCHEDULED MONUMENT
CONSIDER VIEWS FROM NATIONAL CYCLE ROUTE
Shawbury Airfield
Shawbury
SHAWBURY CP
Edgebolton
Muckleton Road
The Groves
Wytheford Wood
Woodlands Farm
Wytheford Heath Farm
Merlwood Farm
Park Cottages
Springfield Mount
Hoarheath Coppice
Matthew's Coppice
Criftin Coppice
Dawson's Rough
Sewage Works
Tip (dis)
B 5063

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REVISION NO:	ISSUE DATE:	PREPARED BY:	APPROVED BY:
00	12/10/2018	JAG/MD/KC/RG	SG
01	28/11/2018	JAG/MD/KC/RG	SG

P11473-00-001-79

SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT