



GILLESPIES

SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE & VISUAL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

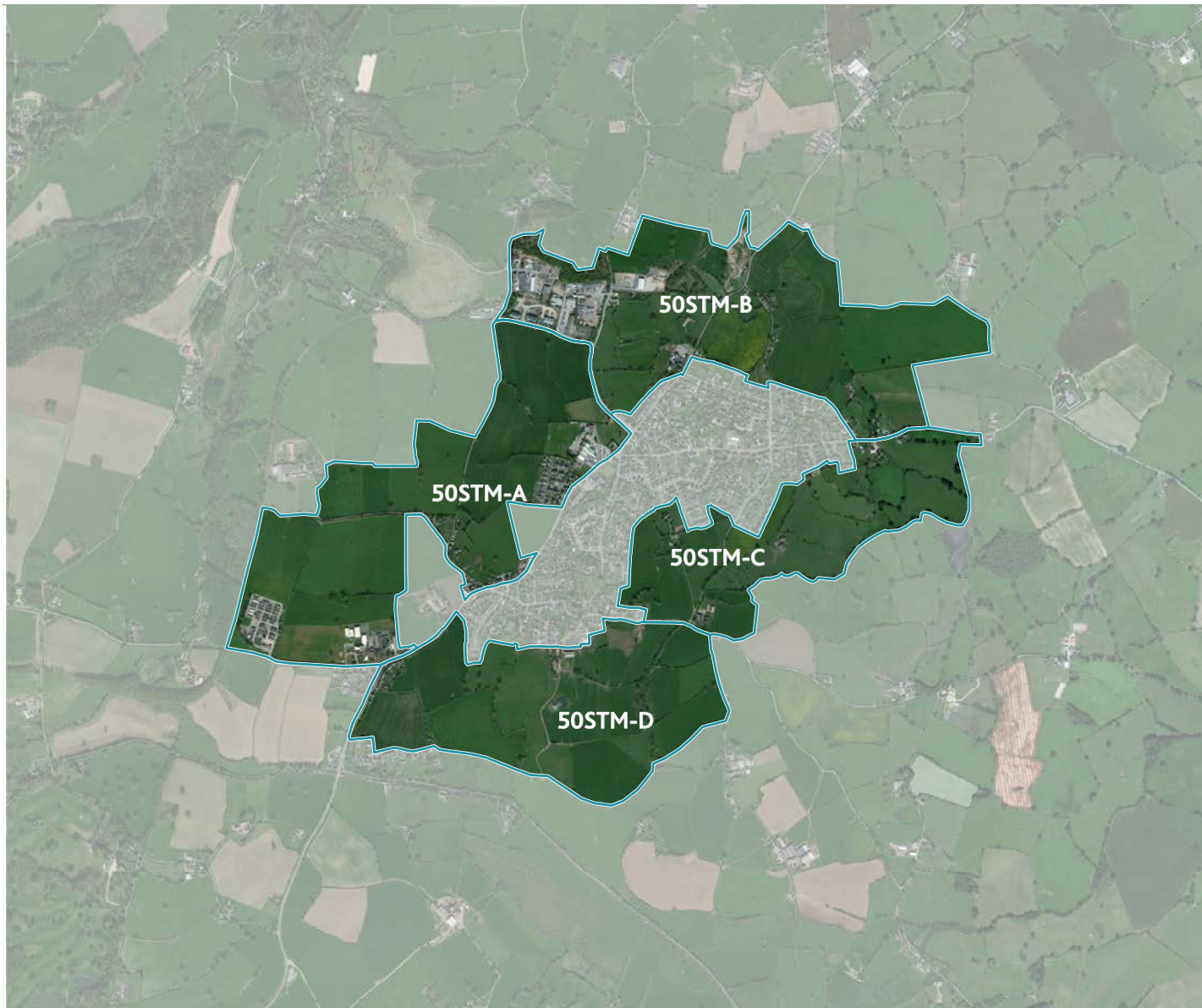
**ST. MARTIN'S
[50STM]**

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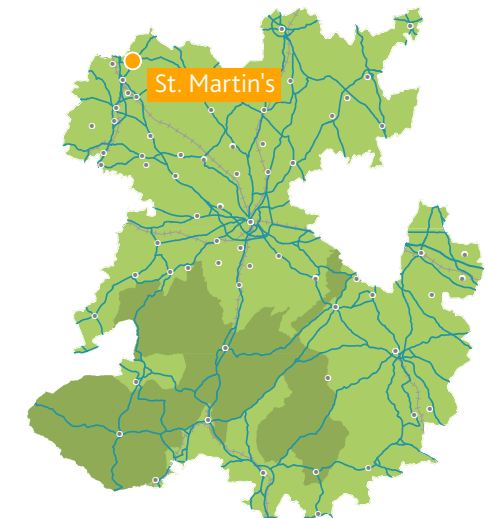
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50. ST. MARTIN'S [50STM]



LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

St Martins is a small borderland village and civil parish north of Oswestry in England and east of Chirk in Wales. For centuries the village was under the influence of Chirk Castle. Agriculture predominates the landscape of St Martins however, coal was successfully mined here for several centuries. The population of St Martins/Ifton Heath is 1,210. This settlement has been divided into 4 parcels for the purpose of this study.



ST. MARTIN'S A [50STM-A]

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

Parcel A is located to the east of St Martin's. The northern boundary is defined by Glyn Morlas Lane and Colliery Road. Rhos-y-Llan Woodland and Fach Farm, a dairy farm, define the eastern boundary of the parcel. There is a minor lane which roughly intersects the centre of the parcel. There are a number of PRoW within the parcel which connect St Martin's to Wat's Dyke Way. The gently rolling to steeply rolling former glacial landscape supports pastoral farming, mostly dairy. Field pattern is irregular with scattered hedgerow trees and intensively managed hedgerows.



1. VIEW FROM WITHIN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE



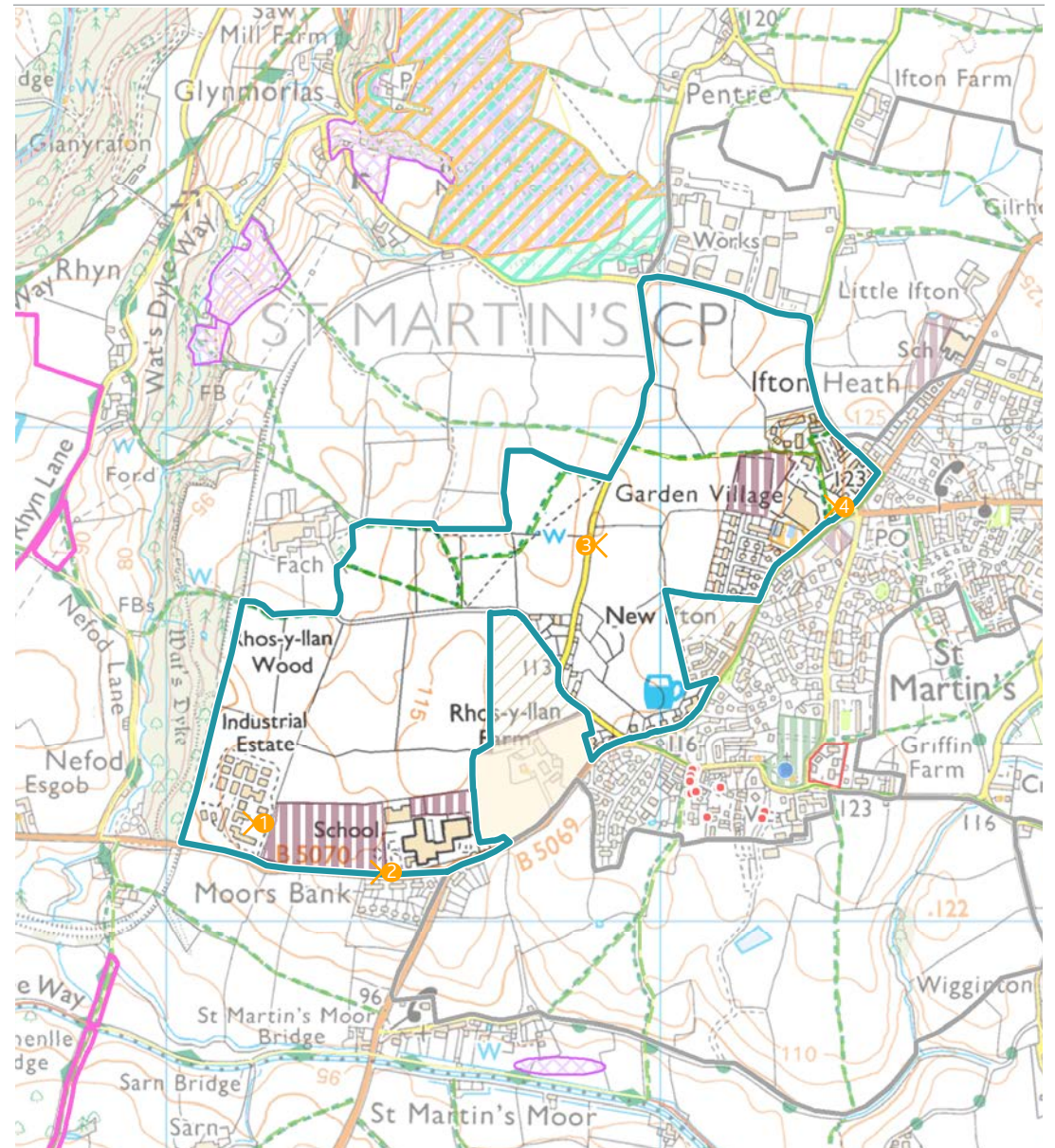
2. VIEW NORTH ACROSS AN OUTDOOR SPORT AREA ASSOCIATED WITH ST. MARTIN'S SCHOOL



3. OPEN VIEW EAST TOWARDS THE SETTLEMENT EDGE



4. LONG DISTANT VIEWS SOUTH WEST FROM COLLIERY ROAD



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

This landscape has a typical rural character which supports pastoral farming, mostly dairy. It is of a moderate condition. There are no designations within the area which would otherwise add value. There is a recreational ground associated with St. Martin's School, a football field and a playground all of which make an important contribution to the enjoyment of the area. There are a number of PRoW within the parcel which connect St Martin's to its wider countryside and to Wat's Dyke Way a National Trail which follows the route of Wat's Dyke. Hedgerows are intensively managed.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

This is a small scale landscape of irregular shaped fields, which supports dairy farming. The landscape is gently rolling. There is a low sense of tranquility as the strength of landscape character is reduced by an industrial estate in the east of the parcel and a large superstore at the settlement edge. An industrial estate to the north of the parcel, along Glyn Morlas Lane, also contributes to the eroded character of the area. The landscape is influenced by a number of overhead lines which further reduce strength of rural character. There are intact hedgerows along field boundaries that form a strong element in the landscape that would be vulnerable to loss as a result of development. Existing settlement is concentrated to the east of Overton Road. There is a housing estate under construction and land allocated for housing off the west of Overton Road. Proposed housing and employment could be accommodated within this landscape as it would form a logical extension to the settlement edge.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

This is a rolling landscape of pastoral use which has an overall eroded rural landscape character. Overall the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from new housing is medium and to employment is also medium.



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 30km away. There are long distance view across the extent of the parcel towards hills in the east. This includes views to a Local Wildlife Site (LWS). The visual value is degraded with the main detracting elements being a number of overhead lines and views to two industrial estates.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

There are long distance views across the rolling landscape towards hills in the east. A long woodland block spans the extent of the Morlas Brook and is a distinctive visual feature. There are few hedgerow trees within the landscape, which contributes to open and extensive views that would be susceptible to noticeable change. There is intervisibility to the settlement edge, experienced by road users of a local unnamed road. Views take in a superstore, existing housing development and a housing development under construction along Overton Road. Visual susceptibility is reduced due to presence of development and human influences within the landscape which form visual detractors including overhead lines and industrial estates. The rolling landscape does however contribute to screening some long distance views of the detractors in the landscape. As well as road users, receptors include users of the recreational ground and play area, residents at the settlement edge, residents within the parcel and users of the PRoW.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

This gently rolling typical rural landscape has long distance views to hills in the east. A high level of human influence contributes to a number of visual detractors in the landscape. The eroded scenic quality, as a result of these negative landscape features, means that the views are experienced are of medium sensitivity to change arising from new housing and 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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ST. MARTIN'S B [50STM-B]

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

Parcel B is located to the north of St. Martin's. Ifton Farm and Yew Tree Farm mark the northern boundary. The southern boundary is defined by the settlement edge of St Martins and B5068, Colliery Road and Glyn Morlas Lane. The B5068 intersects the parcel and there is a robust network of PRoW. The gently rolling to steeply rolling former glacial landscape supports pastoral farming. Fields are irregular with scattered hedgerow trees and woodland blocks in the west, adjacent to the Industrial Estate. The settlement pattern includes clusters of properties within the parcel.



1. VIEW ACROSS ARTHAN'S POOL, FISH POND



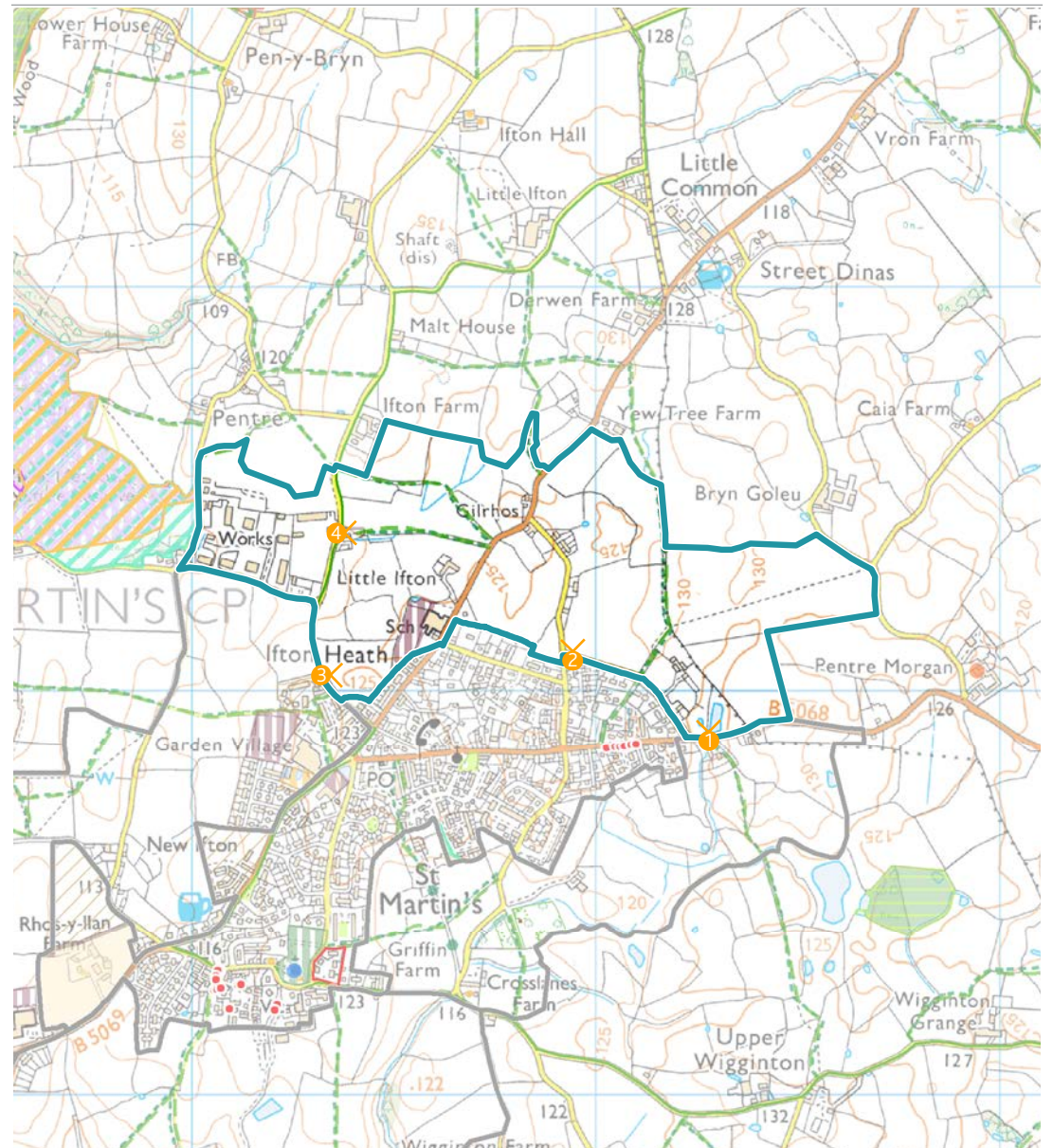
2. VIEW NORTH FROM MOUNT BRADFORD LANE



3. VIEW NORTH EAST ACROSS PASTORAL FIELDS FROM COLLIERY ROAD



4. INDUSTRIAL PRESENCE IN THE WEST OF THE PARCEL



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

This is a landscape with typical rural character of moderate and eroded condition. Arthan's Pond is located in the east of the parcel and adds recreational value to the area as it is used for fishing. In association with Ifton Heath and Area Nursery, there is a recreation ground, which also contributes to the areas recreational value. There are a number of PRoW within the parcel which connect St Martin's to its wider countryside and to Wat's Dyke Way, a National Trail which follows the route of Wat's Dyke. Good connectivity of hedgerows contributes to the nature conservation value of the parcel and enhances rural character, which is further improved by a number of ditches and ponds.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

This is a landscape of small to medium scale mixed agricultural fields over a gently rolling landform. There is a low sense of tranquility with an industrial estate and substation present. There is a greater sense of tranquility towards the north east of the parcel however there is a presence of overhead lines across its whole extent. There are small woodland blocks to the north and east of the industrial site. Hedgerows are mostly intact and there are scattered hedgerow trees. These form strong elements in the landscape that would be irreplaceable in the short to medium term. Existing settlement comprises isolated farmsteads and properties along minor roads that would be susceptible to changes of discrete settlement pattern. The settlement edge is abrupt and partially integrated in some places. Development could be accommodate at the settlement edge with appropriate planting to aid integration.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

This landscape which has experienced erosion from industrial land uses could accommodate some change. Overall the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from new housing and employment is medium.



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 30km away. There are long distance views across the rolling landscape to hills in the north and east and are mostly gained from roads and PRoW in the east of the parcel. There is a presence of overhead lines across the whole extent of the parcel and main detractors in the landscape include the industrial estate and substation in the west of the parcel.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

There are long distant views from the east of the parcel towards hills in the north and west of the wider countryside. The landform is gently rolling in character and there is a generous scattering of hedgerow trees which filter some long distance views. The rolling landform restricts any detracting long distance views of the industrial estate, however from Colliery Road its influence on the landscape is visually prominent. The level of access within the parcel is frequent. There is intervisibility from Arthan's Pond to its wider setting. Other receptors include road users, users of the PRoW, residents at the settlement edge and residents within the sensitivity parcel. The rolling landscape and hedgerow trees provide a degree of screening and could accommodate development with further planting.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

This gently rolling landscape of eroded rural character has a high relative number of people. Despite this, screening hedgerow trees and the nature of the landform has the potential to screen long distance views of proposed development. A high number of detracting features means overall the views experienced are of medium sensitivity to change as a result of new housing and 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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ST. MARTIN'S C [50STM-C]

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

Parcel C is located to the east of St Martin's. The settlement edge of St Martin's and the B6068 form the western and northern extent of the parcel boundary. There is an established PRoW network. The gently rolling to steeply rolling former glacial landscape supports pastoral farming. Fields are irregular in shape with scattered hedgerow trees and there is a traditional orchard near Crosslanes Farm to the south west.



1. VIEWS ACROSS A TRADITIONAL ORCHARD



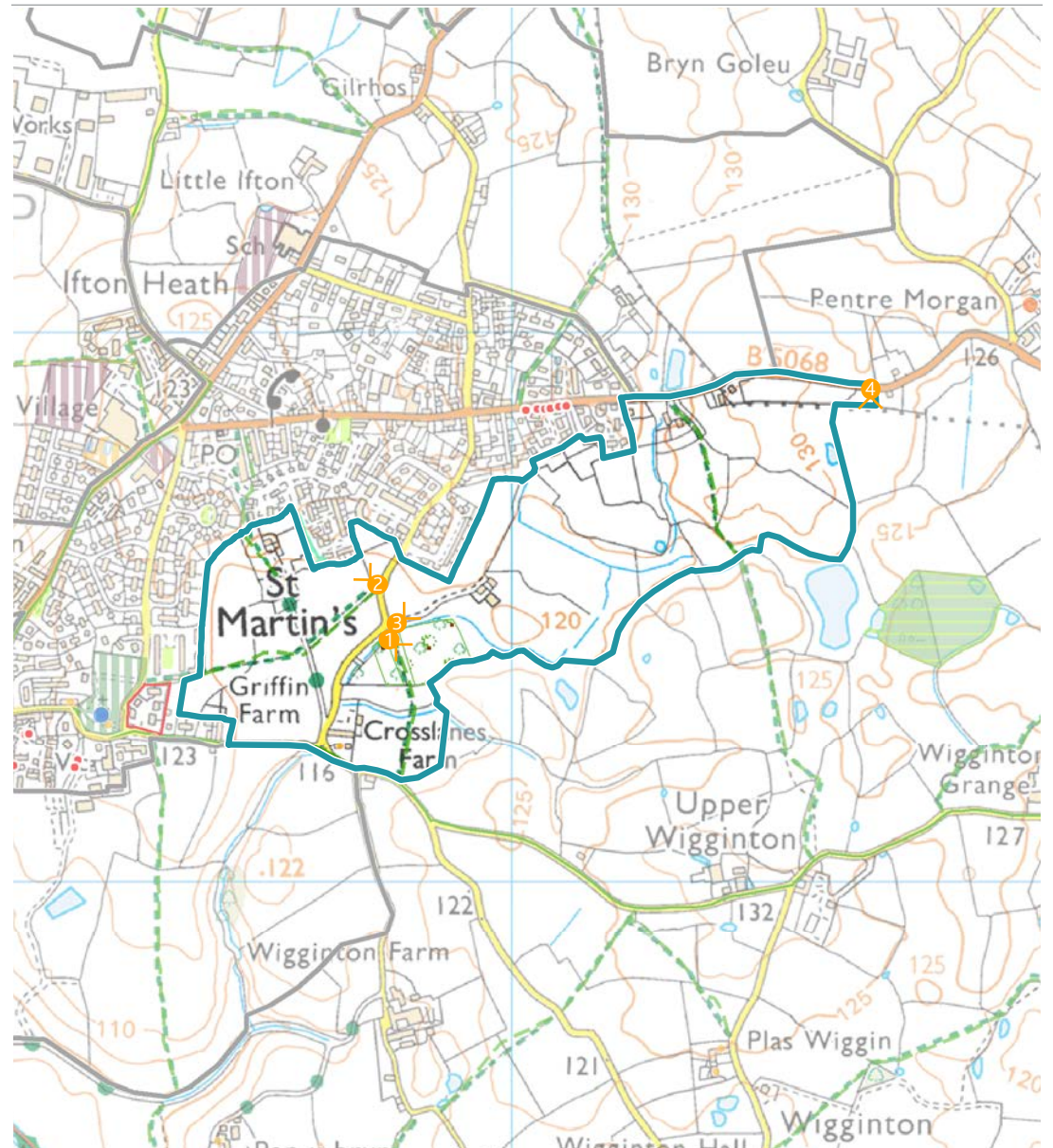
2. VIEW WEST TOWARDS THE SETTLEMENT EDGE FROM PROW OFF COTTAGE LANE



3. VIEW NORTH EAST FROM COTTAGE LANE ACROSS ARABLE FIELDS



4. LONG DISTANT VIEWS SOUTH FROM B5068 ACROSS PASTORAL FIELDS



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

This is a landscape of typical rural character of moderate condition. There is a traditional orchard off Cottage Lane, which is designated as a priority habitat and contributes to the rarity of the landscape. Hedgerows are robust and well connected and the numerous streams, ditches and ponds further contribute to nature conservation value. There are a number of PRoW within the parcel which connect St Martin's to its wider countryside and to Wat's Dyke Way, a National Trail which follows the route of Wat's Dyke.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

This is a landscape of small scale irregular mixed agricultural fields. The landscape is gently rolling and is of a typical rural character. The traditional orchard contributes to the sense of place, however its setting is well contained. This fine grained small scale landscape with intact high hedgerow and hedgerow trees determines some sense of tranquility and has a strong pattern which is vulnerable to erosion as a result of development. However, this sense of tranquility is reduced within close proximity to the settlement edge. Existing settlement comprises few farmsteads and properties along minor roads and lanes and change to this discrete settlement pattern would be noticeable. The relationship with the settlement edge is abrupt, with some partially integrated properties further north.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

This is an intact typical rural landscape with a traditional orchard and a rolling landform. Overall the sensitivity of the landscape to development 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 30km away. The traditional orchard is partly contained therefore its visual value is localised to its setting. This typical rural landscape is intact with a few overhead lines contributing as visual detractors.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Views within this fine grained arable and pastoral landscape are generally well contained. Hedgerows and hedgerow trees contain views to within the field boundaries. There are limited views inwards and outwards and as such development would be potentially visually contained. The level of access within this parcel is occasional. Residential receptors of dispersed individual properties and farmsteads and recreational receptors using the PRoW, are typically highly susceptible to changes to their surroundings. The views these receptors experience however are generally visually contained. The relative number of users likely to experience views are road users of the B Road. However, road users are less susceptible to change as the nature of their view will be transient.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

Views within the parcel are generally contained by vegetation but do have some scenic quality, which means overall, the views experienced are of medium sensitivity to development as a result of new housing and 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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ST. MARTIN'S D [50STM-D]

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

Parcel D is located to the south of St Martin's. The northern boundary is defined by the settlement edge of St Martin's whilst the southern boundary is defined by Moors Lane. There are a number of PRoW connecting the settlement to Shropshire Union Canal and the Wat's Dyke Way. The sensitivity parcel lies on the northern slope of the river valley and predominantly supports pastoral farming. The fields are on a medium-small scale with poor quality intensively managed hedgerows. Fields are irregular in shape with scattered hedgerow trees. Settlement within the parcel is sparse.



1. VIEW WEST ACROSS PASTORAL FIELDS FROM UNNAMED ROAD



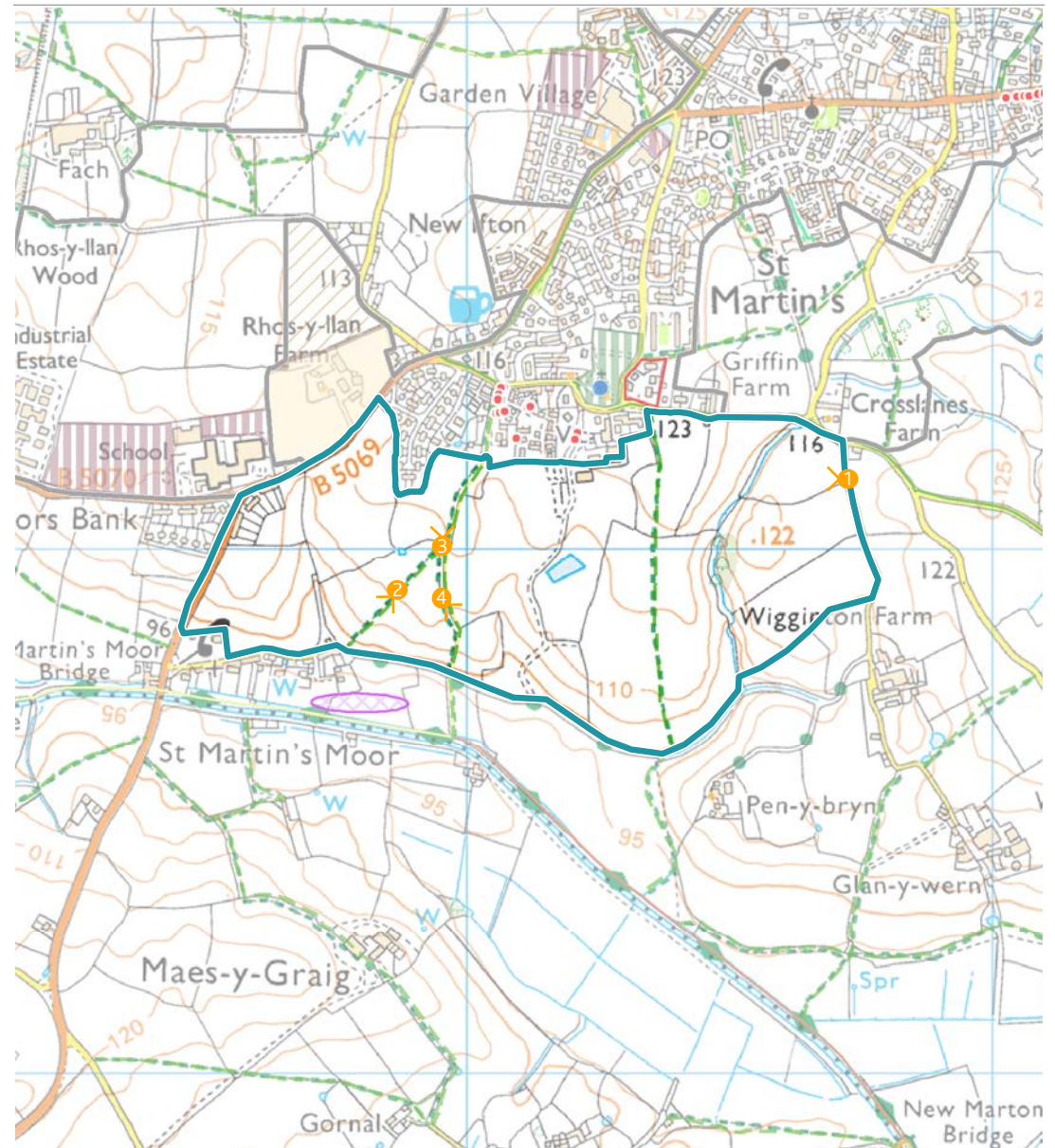
2. LONG DISTANCE VIEWS SOUTH WEST ACROSS THE VALLEY FROM PROWL



3. VIEWS NORTH FROM PROWL



4. VIEW SOUTH EAST FROM PROWL ACROSS THE WIDER LANDSCAPE



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

This is a landscape of typical rural character and in moderate condition. There are a number of PRoW within the parcel which connect St Martin's to the wider countryside. This includes connections to the Shropshire Union Canal and to Wat's Dyke Way, a National Trail. Hedgerows are intensively managed but do still provide some function for connectivity of habitats. There are no notable historic or recreational features within the parcel.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

This is a landscape of small to medium scale irregular pastoral and arable fields. The sensitivity parcel lies on the northern slope of the river valley, which ultimately descends to meet the Shropshire Union Canal. The rolling to undulating landform and slopes to the canal would be vulnerable to change in ground levels as a result of development. There is some sense of tranquility which would be vulnerable to erosion from noise and visual disturbance associated with development. However, intervisibility with settlement along Moors Lane reduces the sense of remoteness. There are intact hedgerows and hedgerow trees along minor lanes and field boundaries that define the rural character and would be vulnerable to loss, being irreplaceable in the short to medium term. Existing settlement comprises several properties along St Martins Road and a single farmstead in the north. Such dispersed properties would be susceptible to noticeable changes to this discrete settlement pattern. The relationship with the settlement edge is abrupt.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

This is an intact typical rural landscape on the north side of a steep river valley. Overall the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from new housing development 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 30km away. There are long distance views across the river valley to the south. These views contribute to the visual quality of the area, although they do not take in designated landscapes. This typical rural landscape is intact with detractors limited to a few overhead lines.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Views from the south facing slope of the river valley, which rises from Moors Lane, are open and extensive and would be vulnerable to noticeable changes across the view. Views elsewhere within the sensitivity parcel are relatively contained to field boundaries by intact hedgerows and hedgerow trees that could aid screening of new development. There is intervisibility with parcel C across Church Lane and intervisibility with the settlement edge however these views are localised to the immediate fields adjacent. From the south facing slope of the river valley, there are views of properties along Moors Lane. The level of access within the parcel is occasional, with road users along B5069 experiencing transient views. Users of the PRoW and residents within and at the settlement edge are typically highly susceptible to changes to their surroundings.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

This typical rural landscape on the south facing side of the river valley has relatively few sensitive receptors present which means overall the views experienced are of medium sensitivity to change as a result of new housing and medium-high to employment.



LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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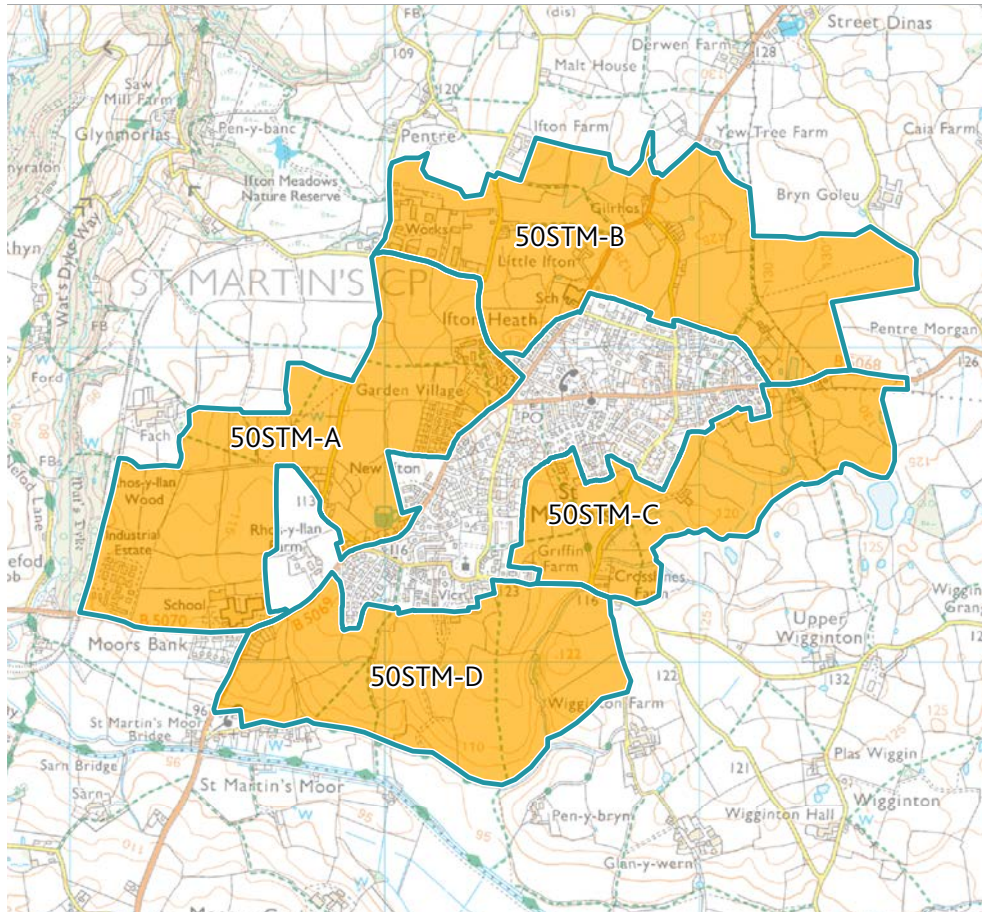


LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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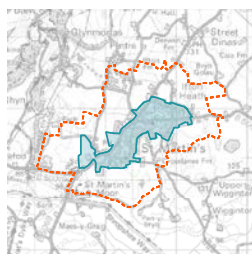
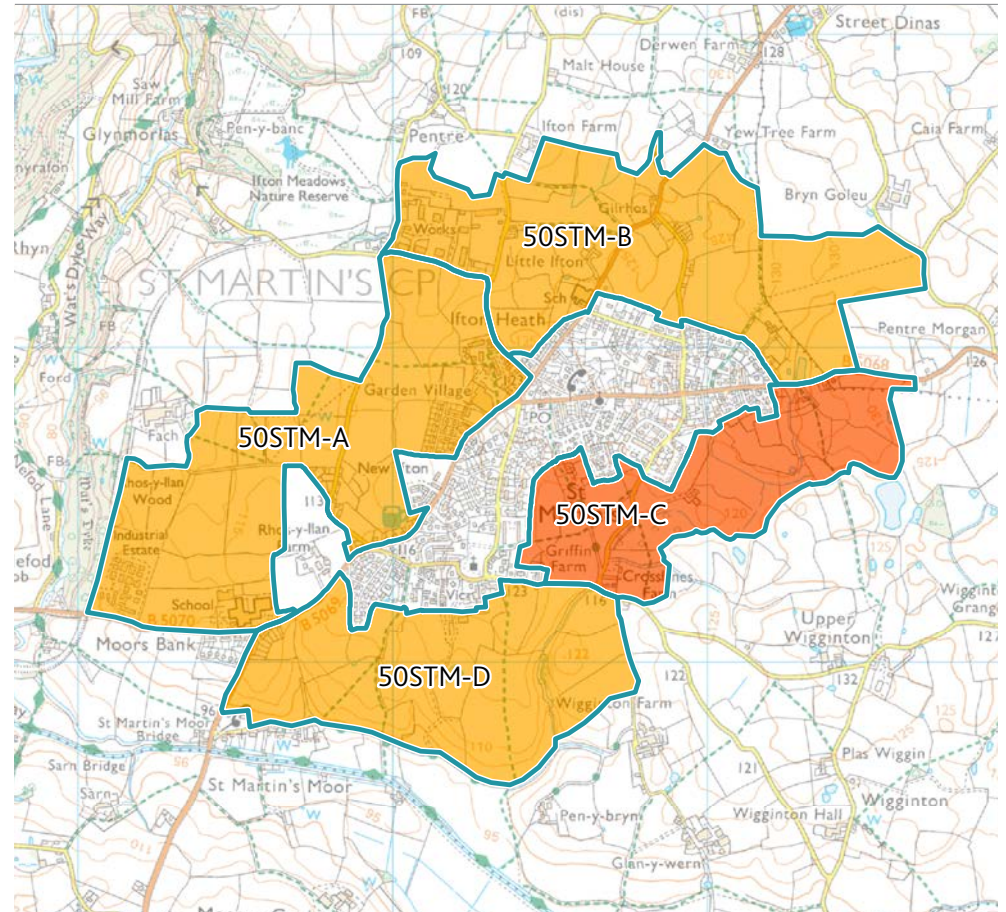
ST. MARTIN'S LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY



HOUSING



EMPLOYMENT



KEY:

SENSITIVITY PARCEL

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY:

VERY HIGH

HIGH

MEDIUM-HIGH

MEDIUM

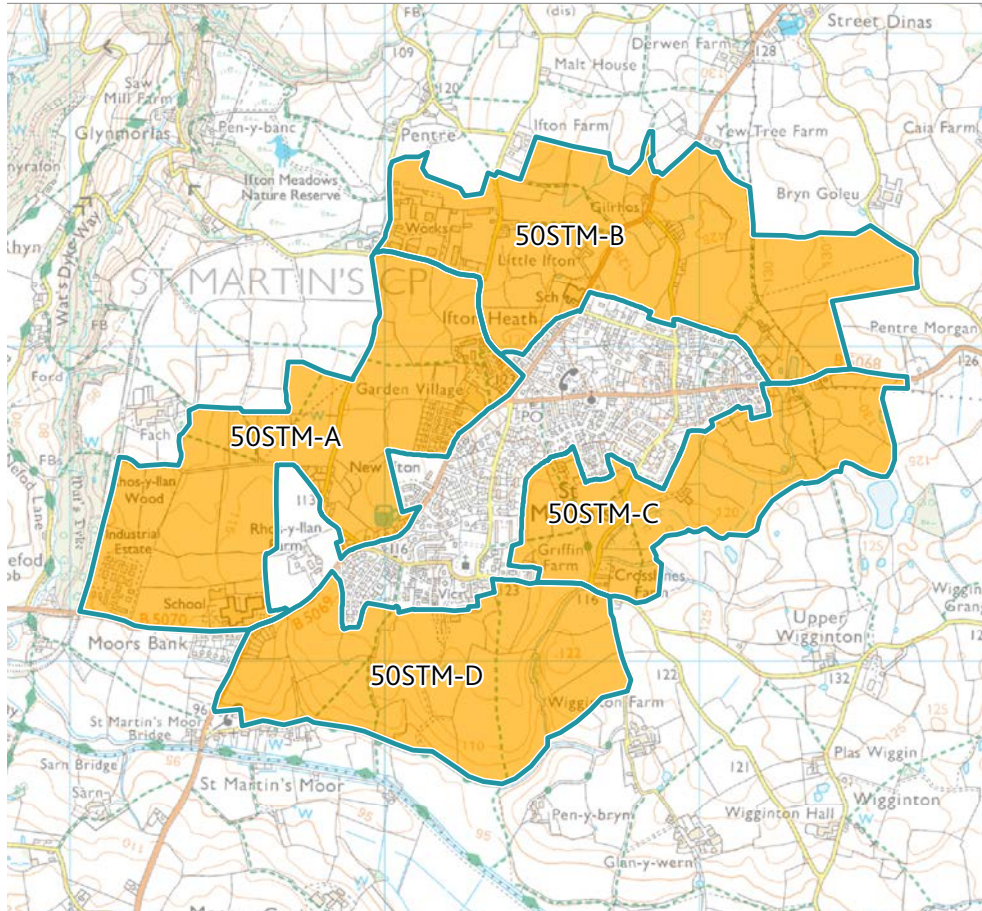
MEDIUM-LOW

LOW

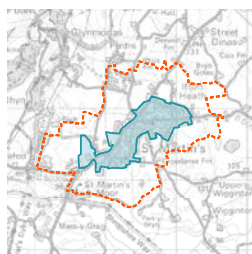
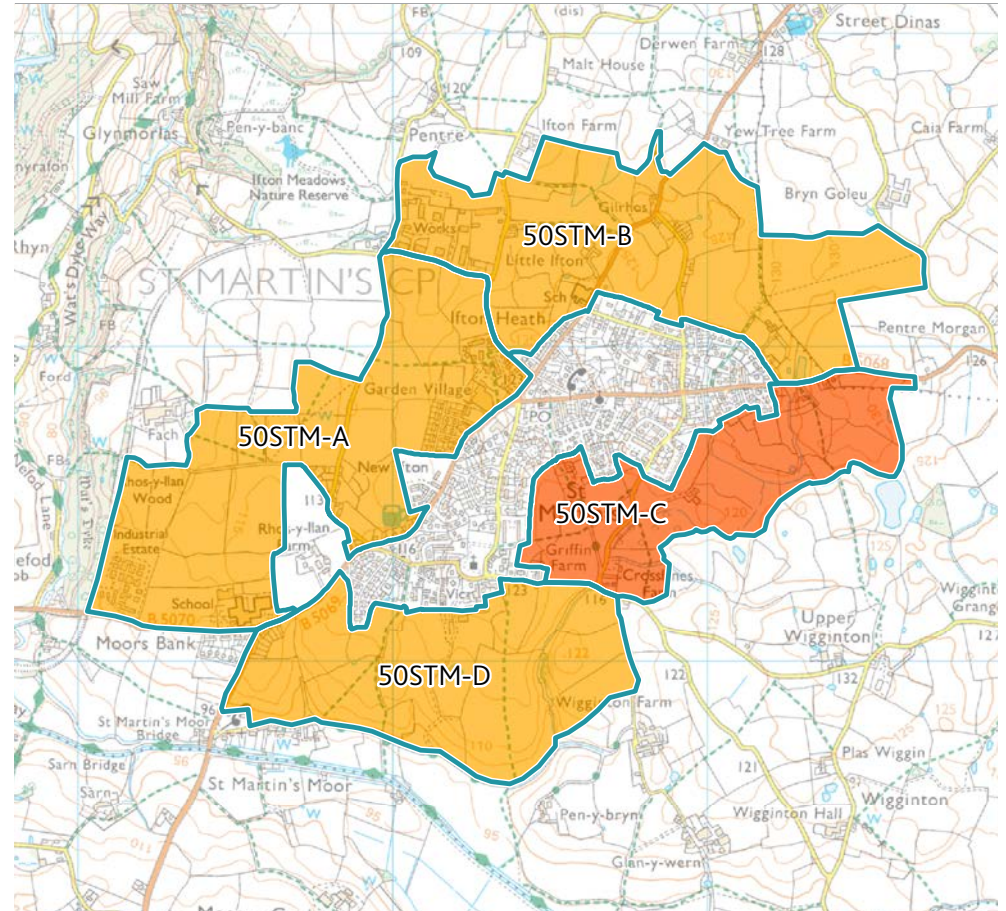
ST.MARTIN'S VISUAL SENSITIVITY



HOUSING



EMPLOYMENT



KEY:

SENSITIVITY PARCEL

VISUAL SENSITIVITY:

VERY HIGH

HIGH

MEDIUM-HIGH

MEDIUM

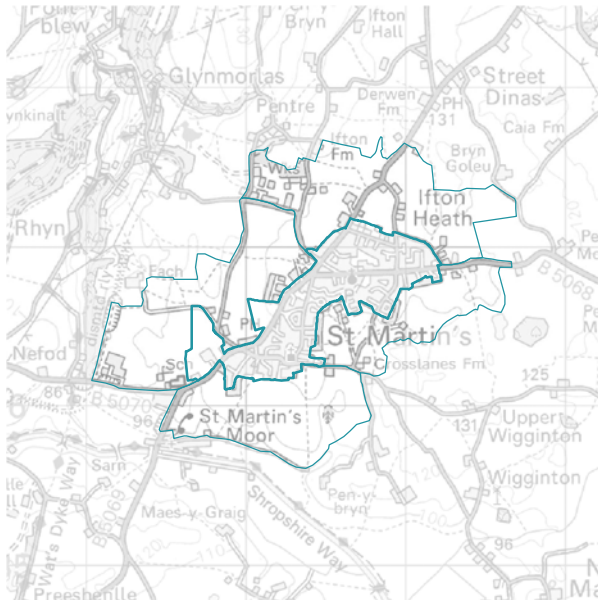
MEDIUM-LOW

LOW









DESIGN GUIDANCE FOR ST. MARTIN'S

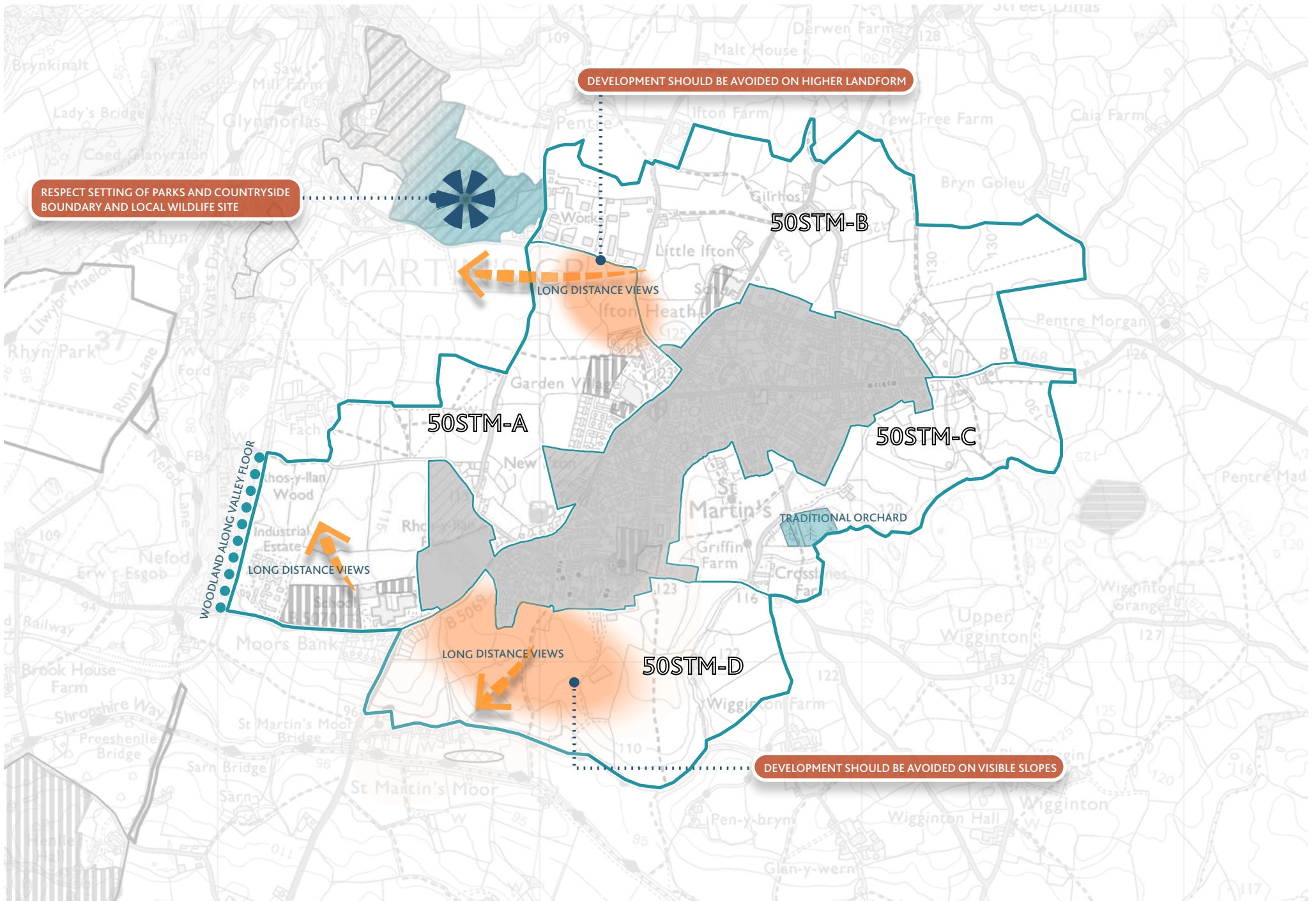
[50STM]

4 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



RESPECT SETTING OF PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE BOUNDARY AND LOCAL WILDLIFE SITE

DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE AVOIDED ON HIGHER LANDFORM

WOODLAND ALONG VALLEY FLOOR

LONG DISTANCE VIEWS

50STM-A

LONG DISTANCE VIEWS

50STM-B

50STM-C

TRADITIONAL ORCHARD

LONG DISTANCE VIEWS

50STM-D

DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE AVOIDED ON VISIBLE SLOPES

