



GILLESPIES

SHROPSHIRE LANDSCAPE & VISUAL SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

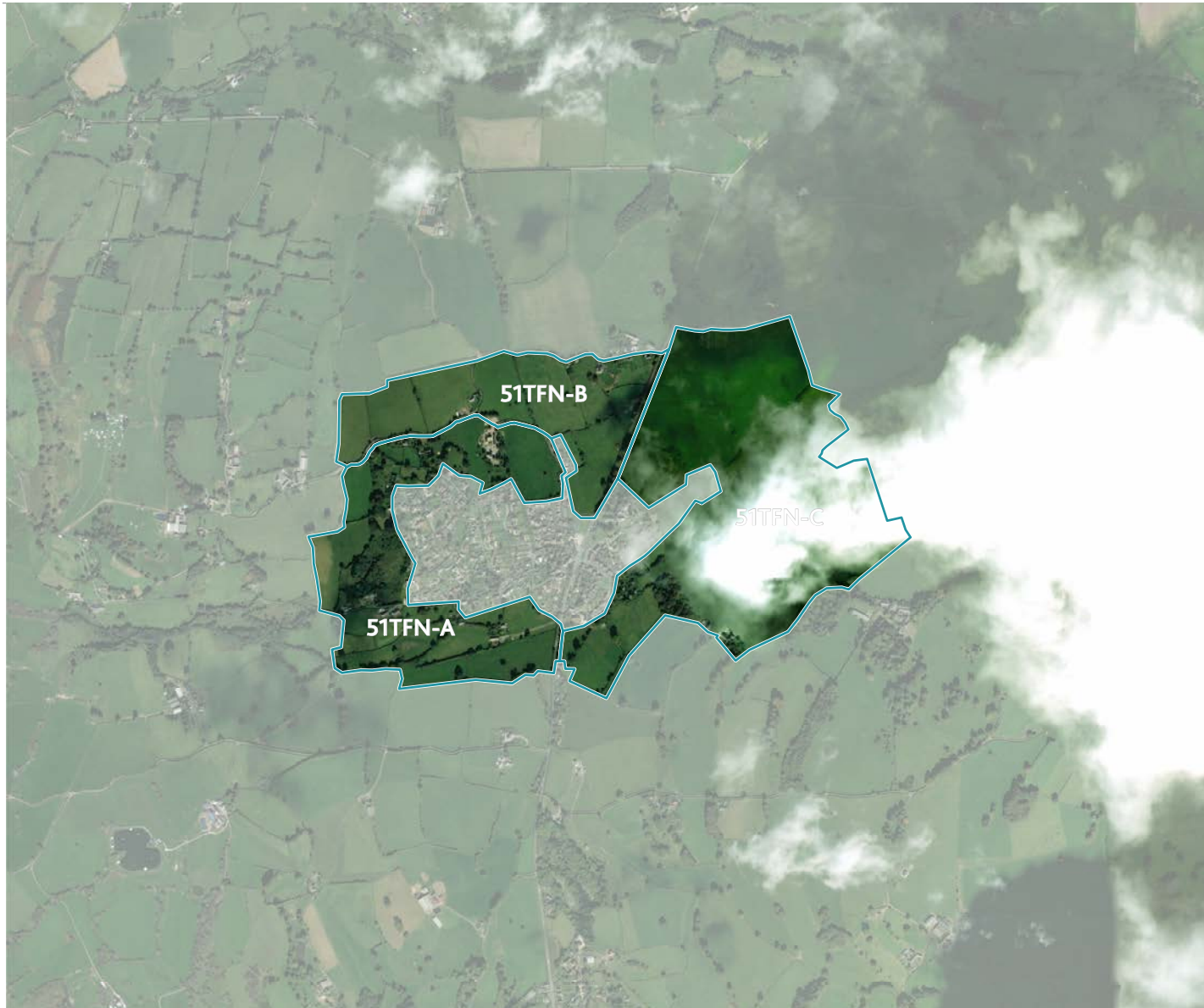
TREFONEN
[51TFN]

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51. TREFONEN [51TFN]



LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Trefonen is a small village situated on the old Welsh border of Offa's Dyke and is in the north west of Shropshire. The Offa's Dyke National Trail runs directly through the village. Trefonen has a population of 740. During the 18th and 19th century mining activity predominated. When industry declined in the latter of the 19th century, people returned to their agricultural roots. This settlement has been divided into 3 parcels for the purpose of this study.



TREFONEN A [51TFN-A]

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

This parcel wraps around the north, west and south of Trefonen and is bounded to the north by the local road Chapel Lane. Two further local roads run through the parcel, as well as a number of PRoWs including Offa's Dyke Path, a national trail. The parcel is characterised by fields and hedgerows on steep topography with a Local Wildlife Site to the west edge of the settlement.



1. UNDULATING LANDFORM VISIBLE IN THE SHORT TO MID-DISTANCE



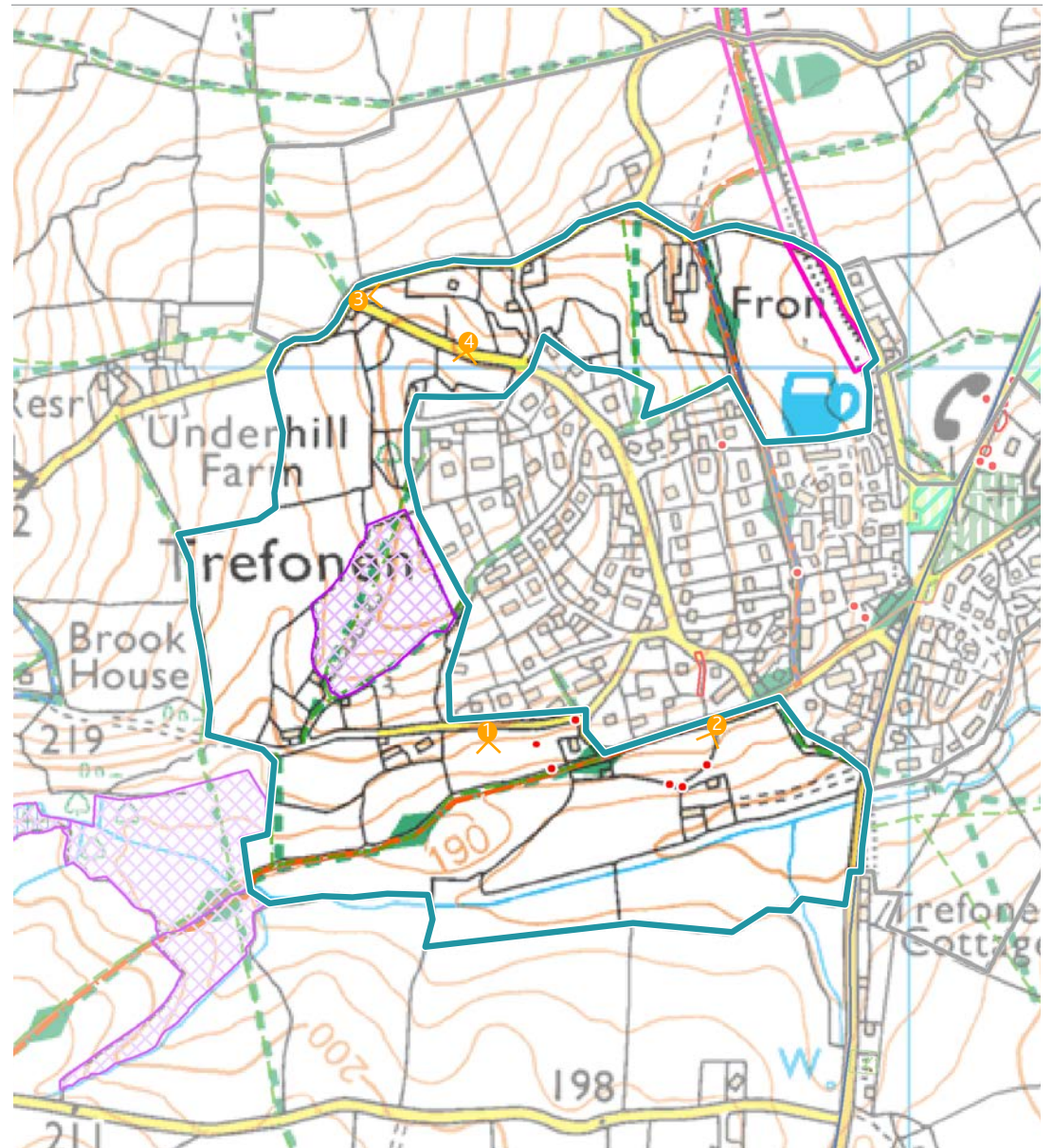
2. UNDULATING LANDSCAPE WITH SCATTERED PROPERTIES AND HEDGEROWS



3. SOME SMALL AREAS OF LOWER QUALITY



4. HEDGEROWS AND HEDGEROW TREES SCREEN VIEWS OUT IN PLACES



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

This parcel has a typical rural character and is generally in a moderate condition. To the north east corner of the parcel is a Scheduled Monument, Offa's Dyke, which covers a small linear strip within the parcel. In the centre of the parcel is a publicly accessible Local Wildlife Site and there are multiple scattered Tree Protection Orders in the south of the parcel that contribute to nature conservation value. A further Local Wildlife Site is located on the boundary of the south west corner, outside of the parcel. There are a number of PRow within the parcel, including Offa's Dyke Way which runs across the south of the parcel and in the northern corner, adjacent to Offa's Dyke. There are no particularly strong physical features within the parcel, however due to the presence of the Offa's Dyke national trail, the parcel does make an important contribution to the enjoyment of the area.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

This is an unvaried landscape with irregular small to medium scale arable and pastoral fields and horse paddocks. This undulating landscape is steep and rises from Trefonen into the surrounding landscape. This parcel has a medium sense of place and some sense of remoteness and tranquility within the Local Wildlife Site that would be vulnerable to loss of quality as a result of noise or visual disturbance from development. Hedgerows and hedgerow trees are characteristic and form strong elements in the landscape and are vulnerable to loss as a result of development as they are irreplaceable in the short to medium term. Existing settlement consists of scattered individual residential properties throughout the parcel that would be susceptible changes to this discrete pattern.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

The undulating landscape is particularly susceptible to development and the presence of the Local Wildlife Site means overall the landscape 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 the parcel have no association with the Shropshire Hills AONB due to its location of over 25km away. There are also no other views towards important landscapes from within the parcel, however views of the undulating landscape in the short to mid-distance are of some value. The landscape is intact with limited detractors, however some areas are of a slightly lower quality.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

There are both open and enclosed views within the parcel. Views are enclosed where hedgerow and hedgerow trees scattered throughout the parcel screen views out in places, particularly to the centre of the parcel in close proximity to the Local Wildlife Site. The parcel is intervisible with the settlement edge and parcel B along the northern boundary, however views towards parcel C views are more filtered by roadside vegetation and properties along Treflach Road. The parcel does not form part of a skyline. The level of PRow use occasional to frequent, due to the presence of the national trail and the local roads. The local roads are however of a lower susceptibility than recreational receptors using Offa's Dyke Path and the residential receptors scattered throughout the parcel.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

There are no views towards any important landscapes and views are often open over an undulating rural landscape which has some visual value. Therefore views experienced are of medium sensitivity to change arising from new housing and medium-high sensitivity to change arising from 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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TREFONEN B [51TFN-B]

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

This parcel is located to the north of Trefonen and is bound to the east by Oswestry Road and to the south by Chapel Lane. There are PRoW within the parcel, including the Offa's Dyke National Trail which runs north to south through the centre of the parcel. The parcel is characterised by steep sloping landform overlain by mixed farmland.



1. SOME AREAS OF LOWER QUALITY LANDSCAPE CHARACTER



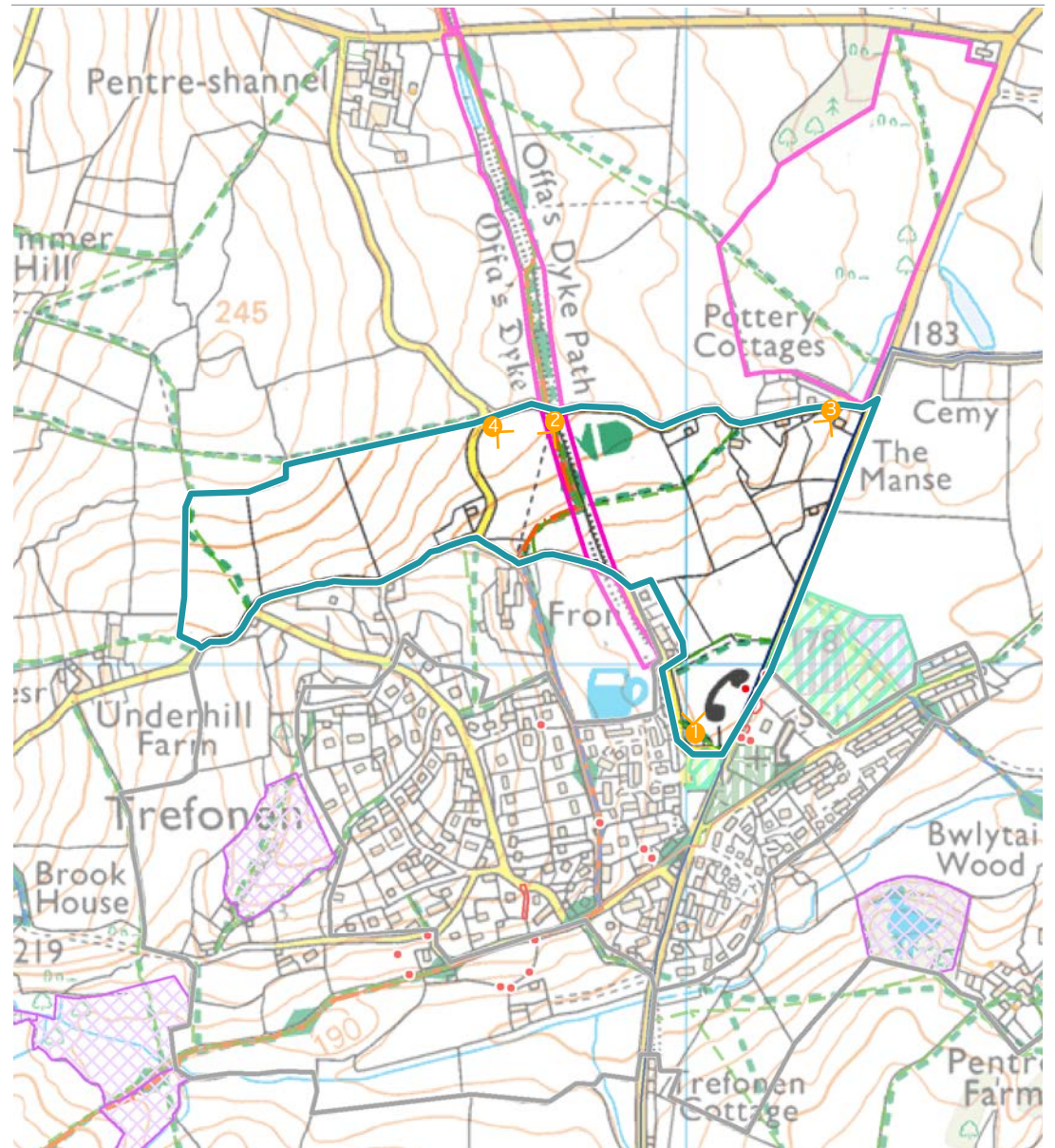
2. VIEW FROM OFFA'S DYKE PATH TOWARDS THE SETTLEMENT EDGE



3. HORSE PADDOKS. SOME FIELDS ARE MORE ENCLOSED BY VEGETATION



4. LONG DISTANCE VIEWS TO THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

This parcel is of typical rural character and is in moderate condition, with some areas which are of a slightly lower quality. The Offa's Dyke is located in the centre of the parcel which is a Scheduled Monument and also has the Offa's Dyke National Trail running alongside it. There are a small number of Tree Preservation Orders in the south east corner of the parcel and several PRoW, one of which connects to the Offa's Dyke Path. A further Scheduled Monument Trefarclawdd colliery remains is located outside of the parcel on the north eastern boundary. There are no particularly strong physical features within the parcel, however due to the presence of the Offa's Dyke Path, the landscape does contribute to the enjoyment of the area.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

This is an unvaried landscape of a regular, small to medium scale arable and pastoral farmland, open grassland and horse paddocks. This undulating and steep landform levels out in the south east corner of the parcel where fields become flatter. There is a medium sense of place within this parcel and there is some sense of remoteness and tranquility that would be vulnerable to noise and visual disturbance as a result of development. Vegetation within the parcel is limited to hedgerows with a few scattered hedgerow trees, however vegetation cover is relatively low and hedgerows are gappy and replaced by fences in places and would be vulnerable to further loss. Existing settlement is limited to a cluster of residential properties in the north eastern corner of the parcel and a single property along Chapel Lane in the south. Dispersed settlements are typically susceptible to changes in landscape pattern.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

Although the landscape is of a lower quality in places, Offa's Dyke Path and the Scheduled Monument of Offa's Dyke increase the value of this 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
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LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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VISUAL

VISUAL VALUE

Views within the parcel have no association with the Shropshire Hills AONB which lies over 25km away. There are however long distance views to the east of some scenic quality. The village of Trefonen is also prominent in views, where the undulating landscape means the village is visible on higher landform over the parcel, particularly from the flatter landform in the south east corner. The landscape is intact with few visual detractors.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Views throughout the parcel vary, however generally they are open, as a result of the topography and low level of tree cover in places. Apart from the flatter area to the south east, where Trefonen is visible on the surrounding hills above, the parcel is elevated. There are views between the parcel and parcel A over Chapel Lane to the south and views across Oswestry Road towards parcel C to the east. There is a high level of intervisibility with the settlement edge, due to the undulating landform. The parcel does form part of a skyline, particularly when viewed from the southern edge and development on this higher ground would be particularly noticeable. The level of access through the parcel is occasional and is increased towards Oswestry Road along the eastern boundary. Although the road receptors are of a lower susceptibility, the residential receptors and recreational users of the Offa's Dyke Path are of a higher susceptibility.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

There are no views over important landscapes, but there are some scenic long distance views to the surrounding countryside and the undulating landform forms localised skylines. Therefore views experienced are of medium sensitivity to change arising from new housing and medium-high sensitivity to change arising from employment. However, sensitivity will be slightly less sensitive in the south eastern corner where landform is flatter.



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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TREFONEN C [51TFN-C]

LOCATION AND CHARACTER

This parcel is located to the east of Trefonen and the settlement edge. The local road Oswestry Road/Treflach Road forms the western boundary. A further, unnamed, local road forms the northern boundary. The Shropshire Way runs through the centre of the parcel, connecting with the former parkland landscape of Woodhill on the south east of the parcel as well as a number of PRoW. The landscape is characterised by large fields with hedgerows to the north and blocks of woodland and higher landform to the south.



1. PARCEL VISIBLE ON SKYLINE FROM THE EDGE OF THE SETTLEMENT, ALONG MARTINS FIELDS



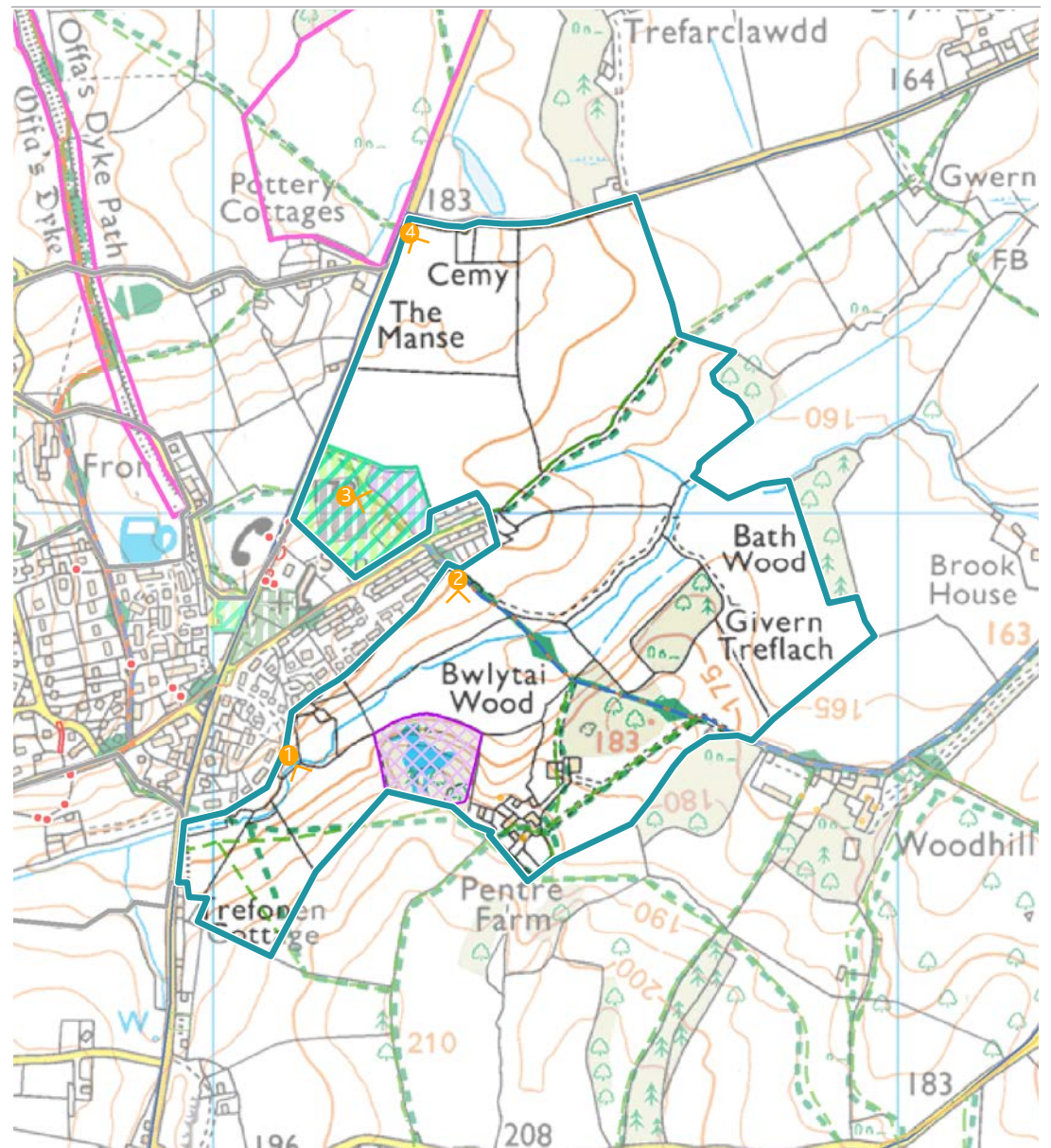
2. VIEW FROM SETTLEMENT EDGE TOWARDS PENTRE FARM ON HIGHER LANDFORM



3. VIEWS OUT OF THE PLAYING FIELDS ARE SCREENED BY BOUNDARY VEGETATION



4. VIEWS FROM THE NORTH OF THE PARCEL – ALONG OSWESTRY ROAD



LANDSCAPE

LANDSCAPE VALUE

This parcel is of a typical rural character and in a moderate condition. Within the parcel, to the southern border, is Bwlytai Wood Nature Reserve and to the west is a cluster of recreational uses including a park and sports pitch. Such features add to the recreational and nature conservation value of the parcel. The Shropshire Way runs through the parcel and connects the former parkland landscape at Woodhill, where there is a complex network of PRoW. Beyond the parcel, along the north west corner boundary is a Scheduled Monument Trefarclawdd colliery remains, and further to the west is Offa's Dyke Path. There is generous woodland cover which is a distinctive landscape feature within the parcel. Due to the presence of the Shropshire Way and other PRoW, the landscape does make an important contribution to the enjoyment of the area.

LANDSCAPE SUSCEPTIBILITY

This is a varied landscape of irregular shaped, small to medium scale arable and pastoral fields with remnants of a parkland character that would be vulnerable to change as a result of development. This gently rolling landscape becomes steeper to the south where the landform rise and would be susceptible to changes in ground level as a result of developments. There is a medium sense of place and some sense of remoteness and tranquility particularly towards the areas of tree cover. Tranquility reduces towards Oswestry/Treflach Road. Woodland blocks in the south of the parcel, as well as the hedgerows throughout the parcel, form strong elements within the landscape and are particularly susceptible as they are irreplaceable in the short to medium term. Existing settlement is limited to a cluster of buildings at Pentre Farm, including agricultural buildings and such discrete settlements are vulnerable to changes in landscape pattern.

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

There are few designations within the parcel. The landform is steep in places with generous tree cover, which means the sensitivity of the landscape to change arising from new housing is medium-low and to 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, due to its location of approximately 15km away. There are also no views towards other important landscapes, there are however views from the north of the parcel, towards higher landform in the east, that are relatively scenic. The landscape is intact with the few detracting elements being agricultural sheds at Pentre Farm.

VISUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

This parcel is visually open to the north, where the fields are larger with less tall vegetation to screen views. However views to the south of the parcel are more contained by the blocks of woodland scattered through this part of the parcel. Views to and from the recreational receptors are limited, due to tree cover along the playing fields boundary. There is intervisibility with the settlement edge with some filtering in places due to hedgerow trees. There is also intervisibility with parcel B across Oswestry Road and the landform rises within parcel B, making it very visible here from parcel C. The parcel forms part of skyline where the landform rises in the south, however this is largely wooded. The level of access through the parcel is frequent due to the network of PRoW and the Shropshire Way, as well as the roads along the boundaries. Receptors using roads are of lower susceptibility than sensitive recreational and residential receptors who are typically more susceptible to changes to their surroundings.

VISUAL SENSITIVITY

There are limited views out towards important landscapes and vegetation filters and screens views in places, however development would be visible on the skyline in the south and the northern half of the parcel is more open. Therefore views experienced are of medium sensitivity to change arising from new housing and medium-high sensitivity to change arising from employment.



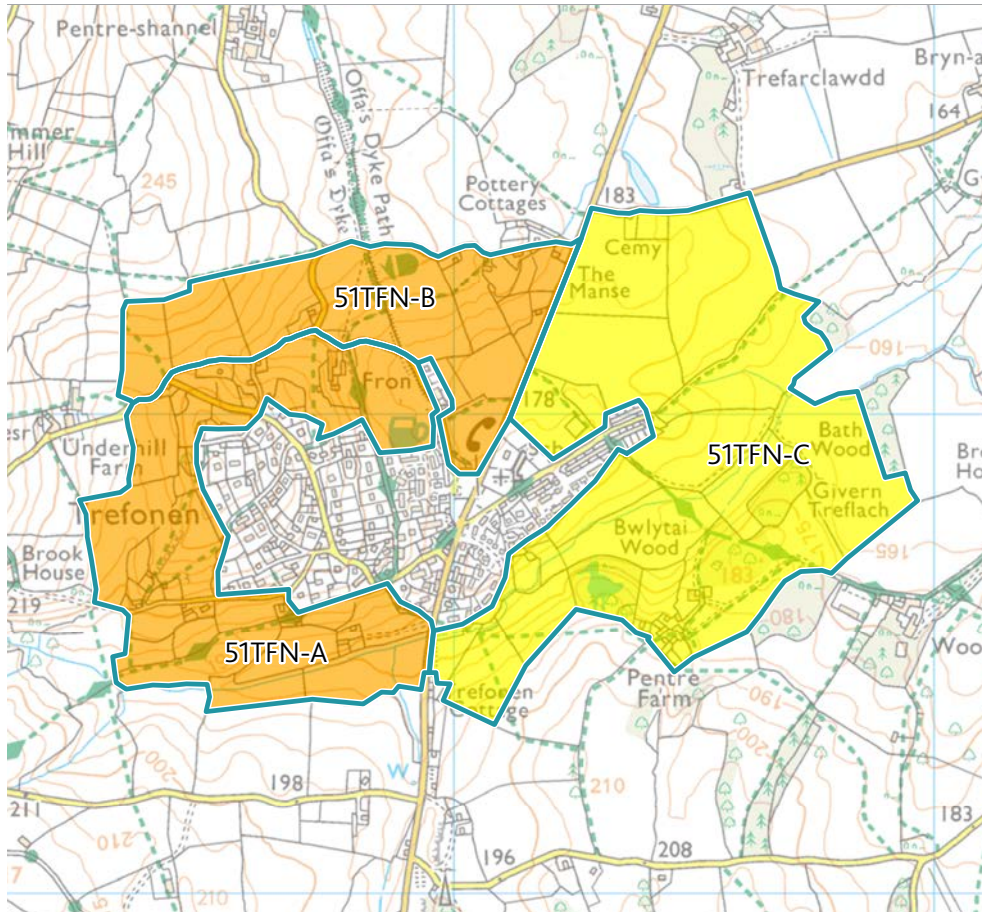
LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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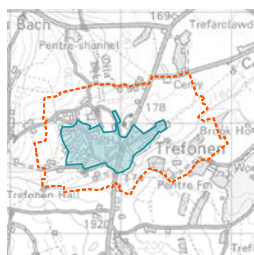
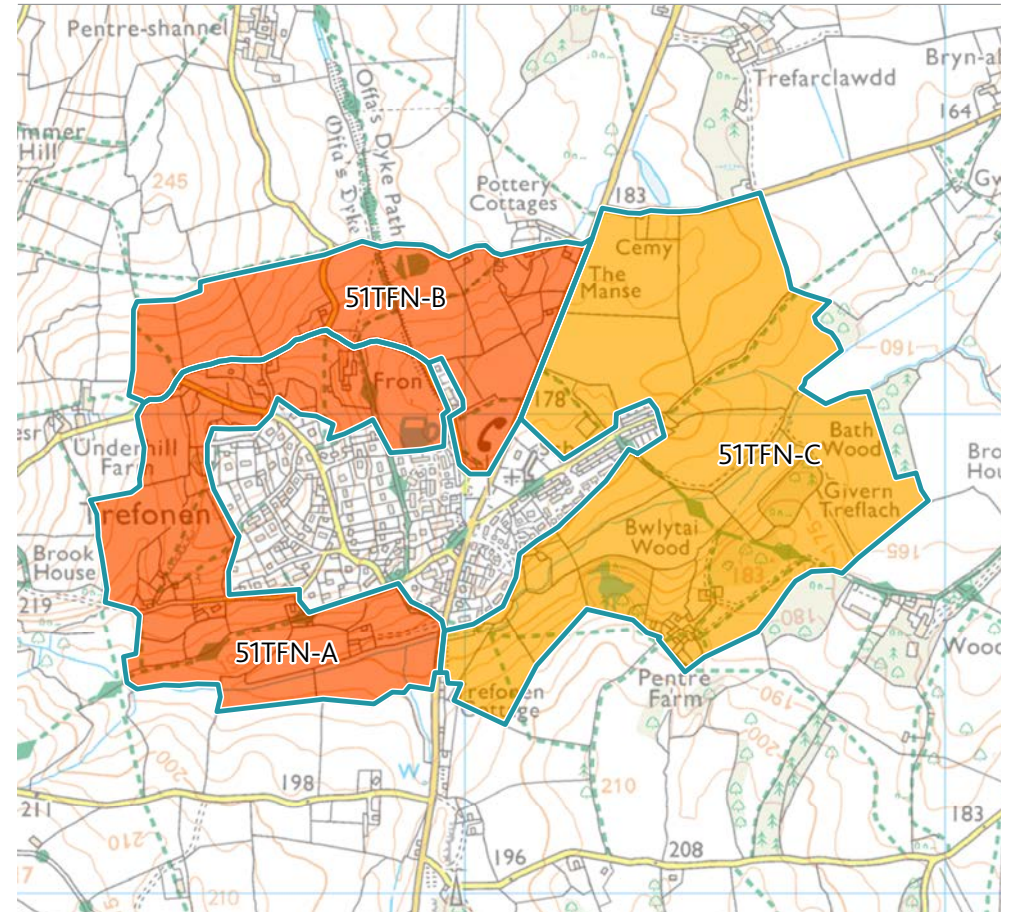
LOW	MEDIUM-LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM-HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
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TREFONEN LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY

HOUSING



EMPLOYMENT



KEY:

SENSITIVITY PARCEL

LANDSCAPE SENSITIVITY:

VERY HIGH

MEDIUM-HIGH

MEDIUM-LOW

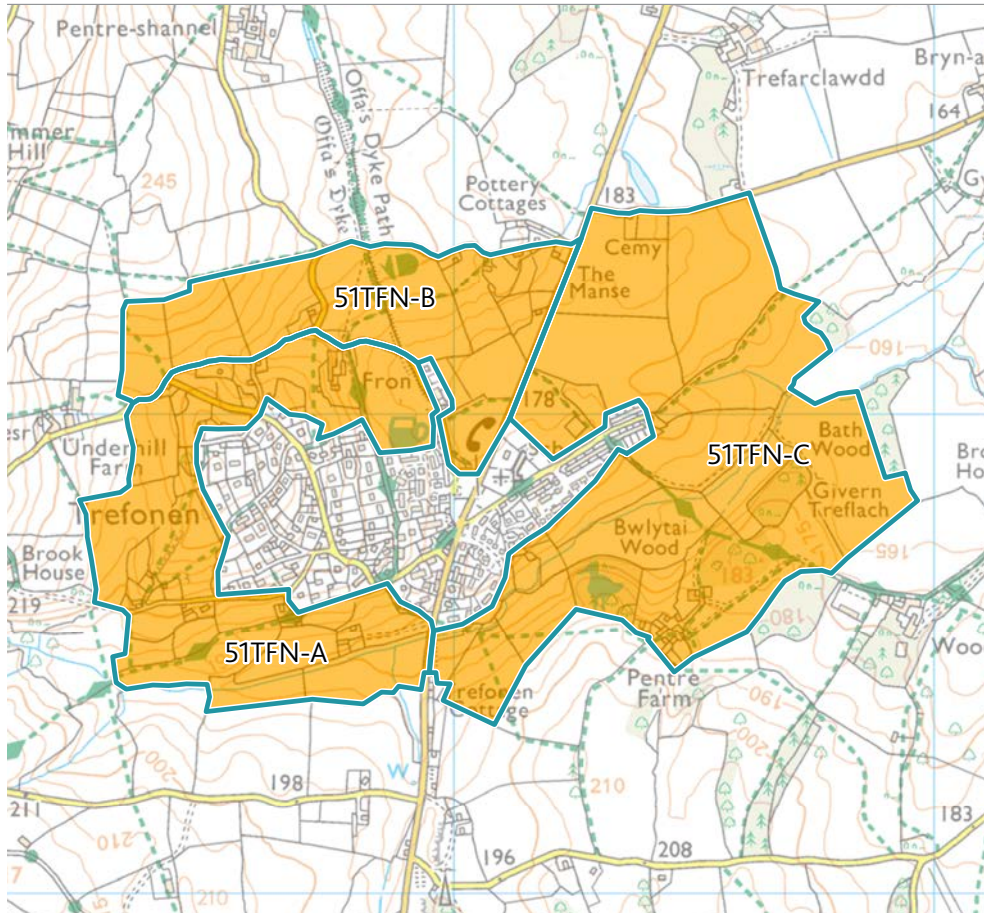
HIGH

MEDIUM

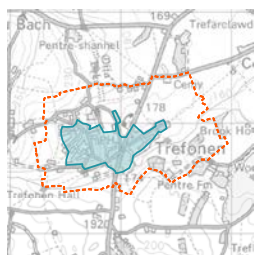
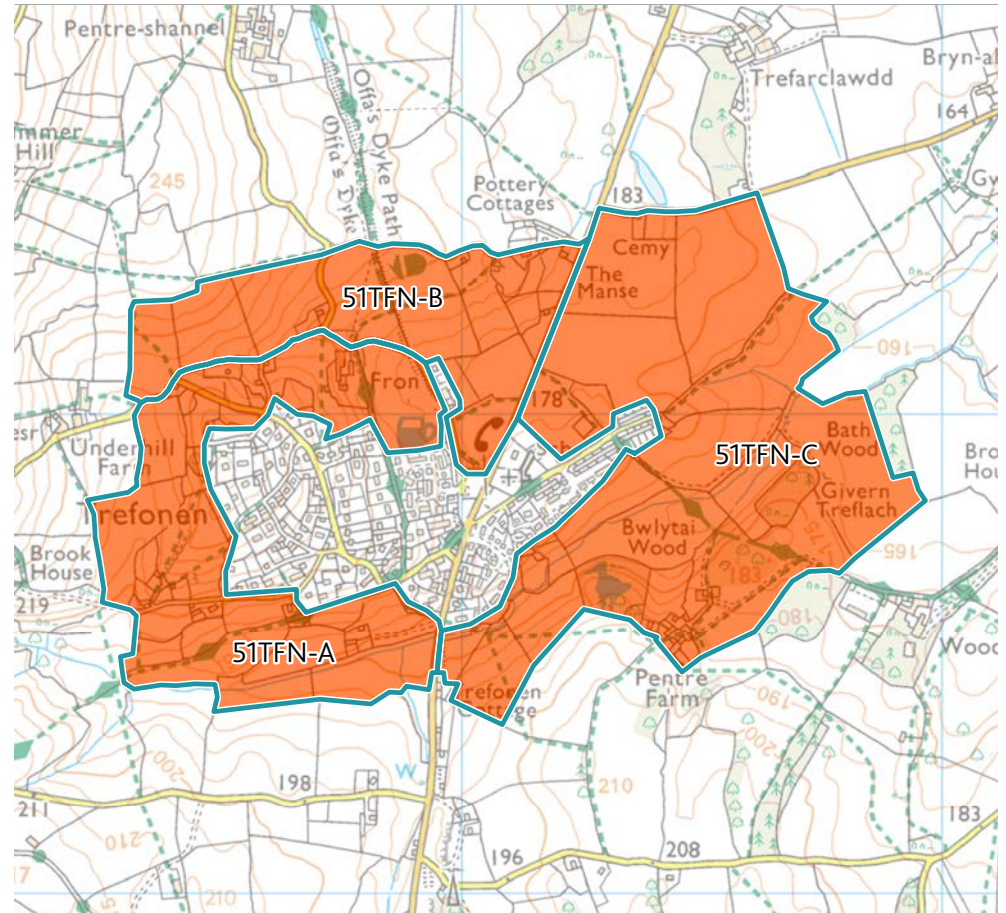
LOW

TREFONEN VISUAL SENSITIVITY

HOUSING



EMPLOYMENT



KEY:

SENSITIVITY PARCEL

VISUAL SENSITIVITY:

VERY HIGH

HIGH

MEDIUM-HIGH

MEDIUM

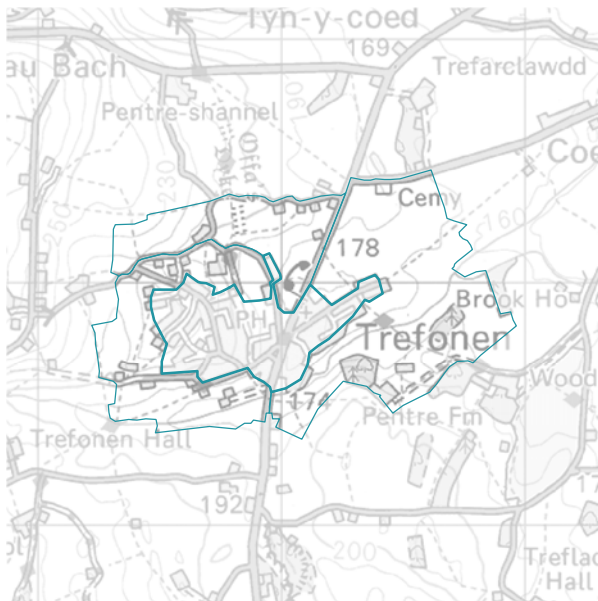
MEDIUM-LOW

LOW









DESIGN GUIDANCE FOR TREFONEN

[51TFN]

3 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

