

# Appendix F

## Ryder Landscape – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

## Character Area A – Historic Core of the Great Barr Estate

### Sub-division into land parcels

The overall Character Area A has been sub-divided into the ten land parcels.

The ten land parcels are listed below and located on the aerial photograph opposite.

A1 – Great Barr Hall and Environs

A2 – The Lakes

A3 – The Great Meadow

A4 – St Margarets Woodland

A5 – Northern Parkland

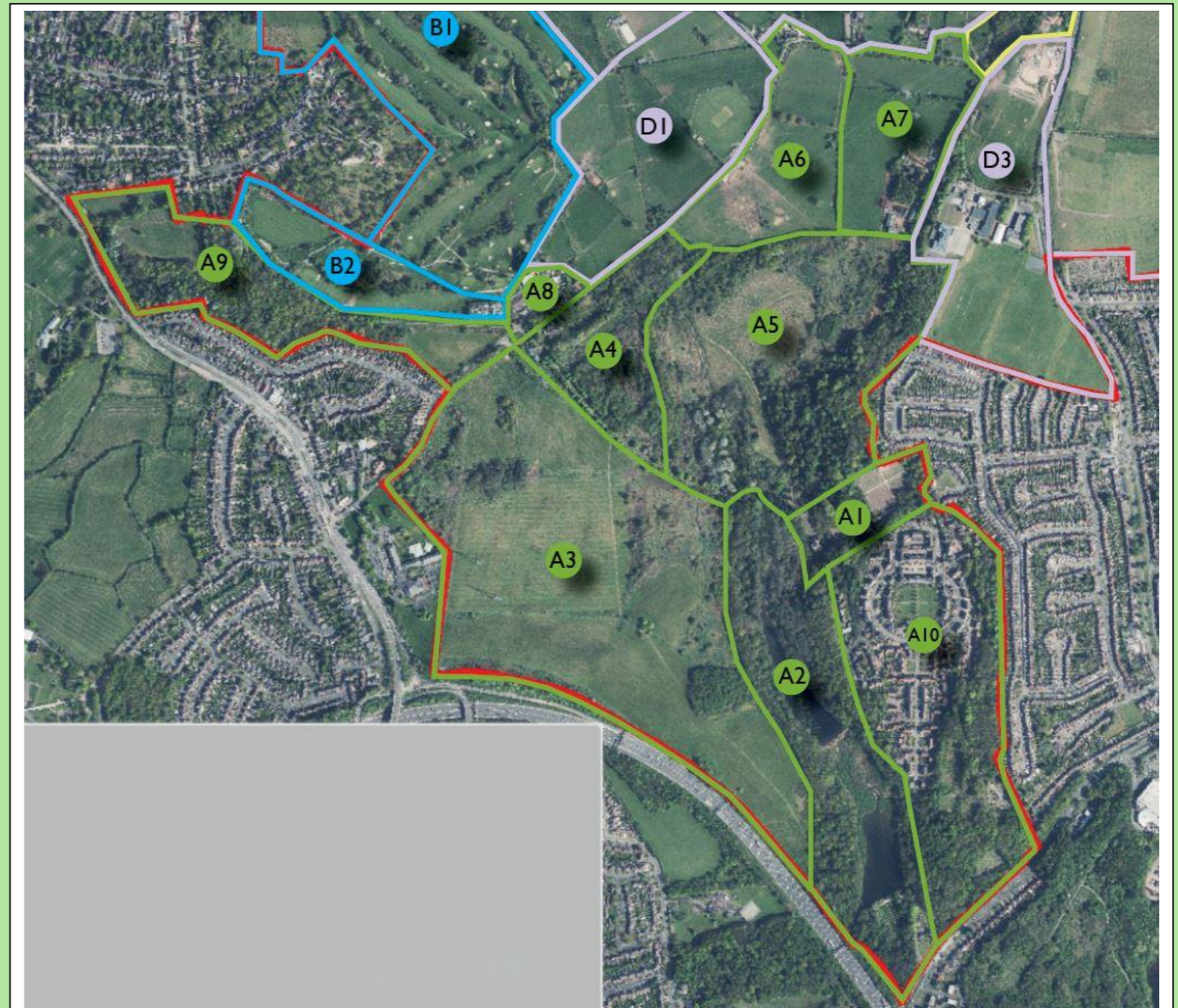
A6 – Chapel and Pinfold Lanes

A7 – Old Hall Farm and Setting

A8 – Great Barr Village

A9 – Merrion's Wood

A10 – Nether Hall Park Housing



Locations of Land Parcels within Character Area A – The Historic Core of the Great Barr Estate (Holding Image)

Aerial photograph © Bluesky International Ltd and Getmapping Plc 2024 and subsequent extracts.

Associated OS maps © Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey AC0000811014

# Land Parcel A1 – Great Barr Hall and Environs – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High** and Visual sensitivity - **High**



*Located to the east of the Registered Parkland the hall itself is roofless and currently overgrown. It is protected by security fencing but illegal access is taken. Former terrace gardens and views to lake are overgrown with woodland that appears to be self-set and under limited active management.*

- **Value** – The heart and focus of the Registered Historic Parkland (RHP). Even in its current state of decline the Hall and its former gardens are of national interest and value – see Historic England Register Listing 1001202.
- **Susceptibility** – The Hall and immediate surroundings are not publicly accessible given their state of repair. They are highly susceptible in terms of their historic interest which is an irreplaceable resource.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given its historic importance unless it is the Hall itself that is restored for residential purposes. The loss of the space around the Hall would remove any chance of its restoration and relinking to the main house of the Estate. There is no foreseeable capacity for residential development in the vicinity of Great Barr Hall.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. There is no foreseeable scope for energy development in the environs of the Hall.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Concentrate on the preservation and then restoration of the Hall and surrounding gardens for their historic interest. Avoid uncharacteristic forms of development that would impinge on the current or future restoration of the Hall.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Restore** working to an adopted Conservation Management Plan.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Restoration of the Hall. Control of natural processes that are returning the gardens to woodland. Opening-up former views from the Hall to the lake and terrace gardens by felling the self-set woodland.



*View to Great Barr Hall from the west after approaching the core of the Registered Historic Parkland on Sutton's Drive.*

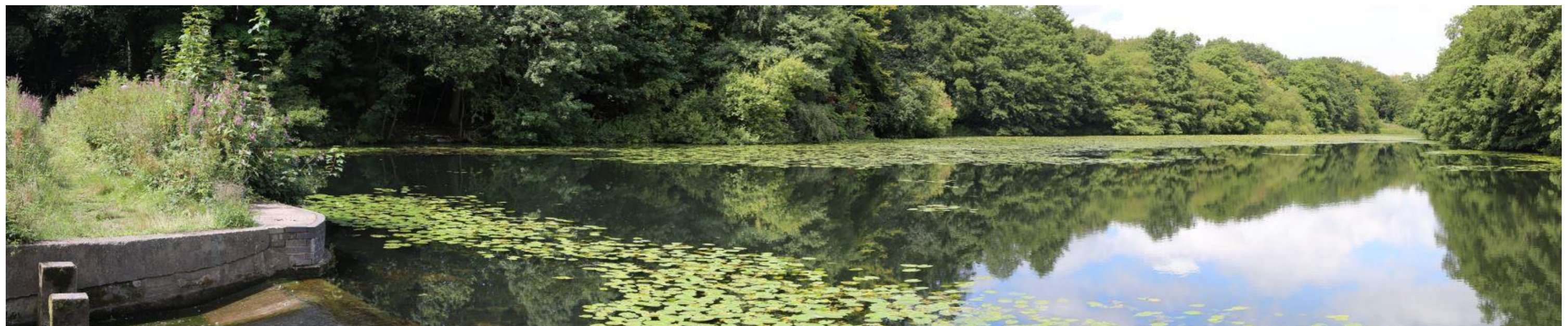
# Land Parcel A2 – The Lakes – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High** and Visual sensitivity - **High**



*The twin lakes form the focus to the centre of the park but is in part screened by the extensive bankside tree vegetation. The lower, southern lake is silted up in part which has allowed colonisation by willow scrub but the tree fringed margins are still discernible. The view to the left is from the southern end of the south lake which is still in water.*

- **Value** – Scenic feature that is still extant even with the decline of the other parts of the park and gardens. Focus for many views and highly attractive as a water element and for its habitat value.
- **Susceptibility** – The Lakes area given the designed view along their axis are highly susceptible to inappropriate development. Their historic interest is obvious and long term management is required to prevent silting up or water quality issues reducing their quality as water bodies or as scenic features within the parkland.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given its historic importance and inability to host residential development on their banks without loss of mature trees and removal of undeveloped form.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. Possibility of micro hydro-electric energy production at the middle cascade but any such project would need to be hidden from sight to prevent visual intrusion on the views up and down the lakes.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Concentrate on the preservation of water quality, control of notifiable weed species in and around the lake and plan for a cycle of de-silting works, particularly of the lower lake which is reverting to willow carr. Siltation and lowering water depths can lead to increased water temperatures which in turn can lead to algal blooms which would can cause eutrophic water conditions.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Maintain** working to an adopted Conservation Management Plan and seeking hydrological advice as required. Keep water depth.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Opening up former views from the Hall to the lake and terrace gardens by felling the self-set woodland. Consider accessible path around the lake including a footbridge crossing at the middle cascade for people with mobility difficulties.



*View north in the direction of Great Barr Hall taken from the mid-point of the lakes where a cascade with stepping stones separate the two pools.*

# Land Parcel A3 – The Great Meadow – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High** and Visual sensitivity - **High**



*The Great Meadow is a large area of open pasture land with no apparent boundaries and uses groups and lines of trees laid out to take the eye and to accentuate height within the open parkland. The elevated knoll towards the centre of the Great Meadow allows longer views out over the area and to the rest of the historic park. The elements of the meadow are simple in terms of grass and trees but scale is impressive.*

- **Value** – A designed and retained feature of the RHP. The value of simple open space with mature trees is not to be underestimated giving the park grandeur and scale.
- **Susceptibility** – The Great Meadow is highly susceptible to built form being set in its wide, open space. Likewise inappropriate planting or succession through natural regeneration would alter its appearance.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given its historic importance and open landscape form. There is no foreseeable capacity for residential development.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development even with the twin pylon lines crossing above the meadow.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Concentrate on the preservation of the meadow's openness and seek to plant the next generation of parkland trees within the existing mature stands to start their replacement process before their senility. Consider judicious extension of the southern tree planting belt to provide further screening between the meadow and the M6 including hiding the motorways gantry signs.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Protect** working to an adopted Conservation Management Plan and seeking to diversify the meadow sward for greater habitat interest.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential, energy or other forms of built development to take place in this open land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Meadow sward diversification and possible grazing management. Planting to screen the rear of the Holiday Inn hotel as well as the M6 corridor. It is considered unrealistic on economic grounds to seek the undergrounding of the overhead transmission lines but that would have the greatest enhancement effect.



*View north in the Great Meadow looking towards Gilbert's Wood, a sign gantry on the M6 to the left of the panorama shows the proximity of the motorway to this part of the RHP. Pylons also cross this designed meadow.*

# Land Parcel A4 – St Margaret’s Woodland – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High** and Visual sensitivity - **High**



Located between AL5 – Northern Parkland AL8 – Great Barr Village this area of mixed woodland comprises older woodland, self-set naturalised woods and small open glades as pictured above. The route through the woodland is generally on single width paths and tree density is high. To its western side twin power lines run over the top of the woodland. The photograph above is from the churchyard looking north.

- **Value** – As a piece of woodland that has been allowed to develop to incorporate older woodlands such as The Duckery and to act as a counterpoint to more open areas of the parkland and St Margaret’s Church as a Listed Building.
- **Susceptibility** – The woodland is susceptible to lack of management and inappropriate development. Building or the setting of services through the woodland would require the felling of blocks of trees.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given its historic and natural importance and the need to fell large areas of trees to create open, buildable plots as well as access road and service runs. The woodland does not lend itself in character or sensitivity terms to the construction of new homes.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. There is no foreseeable scope for energy development in the woodland other than small scale wood fuel creation through necessary woodland management or the creation of a coppicing regime within its extents.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Concentrate on the categorisation, preservation and then diversification of the woodland responding to arboreal disease change and retaining its habitat value.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Improve** working to an adopted Conservation Management Plan with the focus on a specific woodland management plan. Good volunteer opportunity.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place within the woodland parcel and it retain its fundamental character.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – The opening up of further glades within the woodland and possible linkage to community forest initiatives.



View south west towards St Margarets Church from within its own churchyard. For the greater part of the woodland that lies to the east of the church the building is not evident and the landscape appears as woodland.

# Land Parcel A5 – The Northern Parkland – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High** and Visual sensitivity - **High**



*The northern parkland has grass drives and mature tree lines leading back to Great Barr Hall and would have provided a physical link and provided views to Old Hall Farm to the north. St Margaret's Church would have formed a focal point when looking out of the park west towards the village of Great Barr. A modern timber bridge crosses Holbrook and forms a visual focus in the current space.*

- **Value** – As a retained piece of the original parkland with physical and visual links to the former seat of the Scott family at Old Hall Farm. The historic ha-ha suggests 'borrowed views' to the north.
- **Susceptibility** – The open ground of this part of the parkland is highly susceptible to change from built form given its general lack of visible buildings other than St Margaret's spire and from succession woodland forming or deliberate tree planting in groups or to create woodland where none stood in this part of the park.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given its lack of visibility to built form even though Nether Hall Park is relatively close to the east on the former hospital site. There is no foreseeable capacity for residential development in this part of the parkland.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. There is no foreseeable scope for energy development in this Land Parcel even with the presence of the overhead transmission lines and sight to pylons standing in A4 and A6.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Concentrate on the preservation of the open space within the parkland by managing the natural regeneration through re-establishing mowing or grazing in this area.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Restore** working to an adopted Conservation Management Plan to keep the parkland open.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Improvement and diversification of the meadow species and re-establishing views northward to Old Hall Farm and the 'borrowed landscape' to the north.



*View west towards St Margaret's Church in the adjacent land parcel. The northern parkland is fringed by mature woodland including The Duckery and has developing scrub across its unmown pasture. Twin pylon lines can be seen crossing the adjacent Land Parcels A4 St Margaret's Woodland and A6 Chapel and Pinfold Lanes.*

# Land Parcel A6 – Chapel and Pinfold Lanes – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High** and Visual sensitivity – **High/Medium**



*The Chapel and Pinfold Lanes area forms the immediate northern setting to the Great Barr Park RHP and benefits from being fringed with the mature woodland from the park. It slopes towards Holbrook. The area is a series of medium sized pasture fields largely put to horse grazing. Longer views from the Beacon Way that passes through the land parcel allow sight back to Great Barr village across a rural landscape.*

- **Value** – As the immediate northern setting to the Great Barr RHP and as part of the previous ‘borrowed landscape’ that was viewed from the northern part of the parkland. Also part of the wider setting to Old Hall Farm Listed Building that was the original farm that managed this land. Hedgerows and trees help to build up the sense of a vegetated rural landscape and Chapel Lane is a focus on St Margaret’s church.
- **Susceptibility** – Open rural landscape that allows views across to the RHP and Old Hall Farm. Built form would interrupt these views as would change of land use away from arable or grazing e.g. woodland.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given its importance as the open setting to the RHP and the lack of existing residential built form to link it to would make it appear incongruous.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development that would remove the land parcel’s rural character. There are pylons and overhead electricity transmission lines crossing this land parcel but no other suggestion of landscape form that would conceal or give a character precedent to development of energy infrastructure within the parcel.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Improve the condition of the landscape as a collection of rural pasture fields concentrating on hedgerow reinstatement in tandem with hedgerow tree planting.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Improve** working to an adopted Conservation Management Plan that seeks to improve its existing rural characteristics.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow residential or energy development to take place in this land parcel and keep its openness and value as setting to the RHP.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Restoration of boundary hedgerows, removal of concrete plank wall to the RHP and improvement to stabling buildings in the area. Horse grazing kept at sustainable levels for the pasture.



*View south along Chapel Lane towards St Margarets Church spire and the edge of Great Barr village. The mature trees of the RHP including those in The Duckery mark create a wooded skyline with pylons set above.*



# Land Parcel A7 – Old Hall Farm and Setting – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High** and Visual sensitivity – **High/Medium**



*One of the traditional barns set at Old Hall Farm which is a Grade II farmstead. Old Hall Lane runs up to the Barr Beacon ridge with the farm enjoying elevated views into the Holbrook valley.*

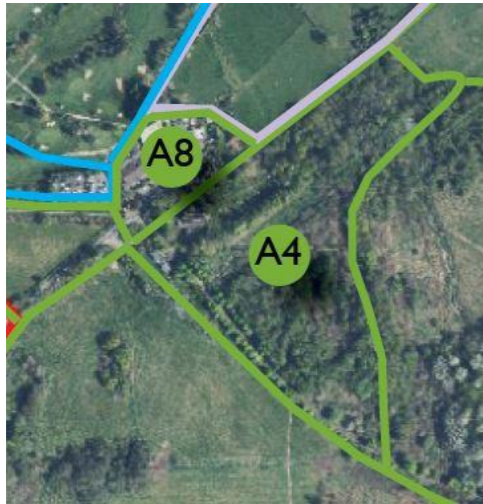
- **Value** – As the immediate landscape setting to the Listed Old Hall Farm with its historic and visual links back to the RHP. This agricultural landscape provides context to and appreciation of the Listed asset.
- **Susceptibility** – To development or land use that introduces other built form or additional screening in the landscape that reduce the appreciation of Old Hall Farm and the ability to appreciate the local valley.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given the farm's Listed Status. There may be scope for sensitive redevelopment of the farm and barns itself for residential development but not the introduction of other dwellings in the open ground around the farm.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development given the anticipated impact on the rural landscape character.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Concentrate on the preservation and then restoration of the landscape as a set of rural fields to reinforce the appearance of the farm as a historic collection of rural buildings.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Improve** working to an adopted Conservation Management Plan seek to improve the appearance of the landscape as a collection of pasture fields set to historic field patterns.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either new build residential or energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Restoration of field boundaries with hedgerow and possibly estate rail fencing down drive to farm. Reformation of a historic track leading towards the RHP.



*View to south west taking in one of the old barns at Old Hall Farm (Grade II Listed) with a mixture of hedge defined grazing fields and twin lines of pylons running across the shallow valley to the south west.*

# Land Parcel A8 – Great Barr Village – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High** and Visual sensitivity - **High**



*The former estate farm buildings are built to a high architectural standard using red brick and similar styling to create an attractive farm complex near the parkland but not within it. The former School House appears as a workers dwelling whilst others in the village benefit from longer views to the north and Land Parcels D1 and D2.*

- **Value** – Great Barr Village has value in its own right as a collection of fine buildings and as an estate village where workers that served the Great Barr Estate lived.
- **Susceptibility** – The village’s housing stock is susceptible in both architectural character and locational terms. It is set within an open, part agrarian landscape/part estate landscape and development has the potential to tie it in physical and perceptual terms back to larger area of Great Barr suburbs that is marked by Coronation Road. The open land around the village is critical to its remaining rural character.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given its historic building collection and rural character set within an open landscape.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity as it is a historic residential settlement with no precedent for overt energy production.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Concentrate on the preservation of the built stock of the village to retain its overall character of an estate village. Keep its largely one sided character with St Margarets Church the only significant built form to the east (RHP) side of Chapel Lane.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Enhance** working to an adopted Conservation Management Plan ensuring secondary built forms in the public realm such as walls and gates are appropriate and authentic in style so they contribute positively to the village. Keep St Margarets Church within an attractive tree framework to add visual amenity to the village.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place within the village.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – More sympathetic street light columns and change to footpath materials. Improvement scheme for the lay-by area near the entrance to the Sutton’s Drive.



*View north in Great Barr village taking in some of the brick built farm buildings and edge of former farm yard. The trees to the right (east) of the shot are set within St Margarets Churchyard.*

# Land Parcel A9 – Merrion’s Wood – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High** and Visual sensitivity - **High**



*Merion’s Wood starts with a long grass drive that is a continuation of Sutton’s Drive through the RHP. It is an attractive pedestrian route that links Great Barr Village to Birmingham Road to the west. It is a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and displays areas of mature woodland and a series of broader paths through it giving it a more open feel than other woods in the Conservation Area. Lodges mark entrances into the woods.*

- **Value** – As an area of mature woodland now with nature conservation interest that was part of the original parkland with drives focusing on St Margarets Church and lodges at either end marking its former inclusion with the wider Great Barr estate. Now with good public access from the east and west it also has value as a publicly accessible piece of Green Infrastructure to side of large built up area.
- **Susceptibility** – The woodland is mature and is susceptible to any form of development that would require felling or the need to build on the small parcels of land near its eastern and western ends that assist in the retention of its former position within a wider estate landscape.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity either within the Wood or in the small open fields running up to it will alter its character and how it is experienced and appreciated. There is no foreseeable capacity for residential development within or adjacent to Merrion’s Wood without significant adverse effects on its current landscape character.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all types of energy development. There is no foreseeable scope for energy infrastructure within this land parcel without significant adverse effects.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Emphasise both the historic and natural value of the woodland and seek to keep it an attractive, publicly accessible area.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Maintain** working to an adopted Conservation Management Plan and a long term woodland management plan that will see the sustainable retention of Merrion’s Wood.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place in this land parcel whether it be the wooded part or the small fields.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Improved maintenance to either end of the wood to make it more visually appealing to people passing either end on Chapel Lane and Birmingham Road.



*View to Great Barr Hall from the west after approaching the core of the RHP on Sutton’s Drive*

# Land Parcel A10 – Nether Hall Park Housing – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **Medium** and Visual sensitivity - **Medium**



*The entrance to the Nether Hall Park housing area is set off Queslett Road with a reproduction lodge and park gates and an axial route up to the main housing area where hospital buildings stood. Entrance pair of three storey flats leading onto blocks of other apartments and houses. The route into the housing area is axial to reflect the parkland design and is emphasised by a fastigate tree avenue.*

- **Value** – As a former entrance to the RHP and for recreating some sense of park’s historic relationship and appreciation from Queslett Road. The access drive seeks to restore some sense of estate grandeur.
- **Susceptibility** – This part of the historic core has already changed twice since the park’s heyday first to a hospital and then to the current housing area. It has reduced historic susceptibility but is still susceptible to inappropriate development that reduces the character of the housing and its axial, approach drive.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **Low** sensitivity given it is already a housing area. However there is no foreseeable space for further residential development within the parcel’s boundary.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity given its residential land use. There is no foreseeable scope for energy development within the housing area.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Concentrate on maintaining the frontage landscape and axial drive’s landscape character as reminiscent of the former estate that the development is built over.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Maintain** working to Nether Hall Park’s agreed Management Plan.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow additional residential or new energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Recreation of a view west to the Lakes from the axial drive where once an important view would have allowed appreciation of the lake from this drive. Replace failed stock in the avenue of fastigate trees along the entrance drive.



*View north along the access drive to the main housing area with avenue trees to the left (west) side of the drive. The banking and tree planting to the right (east) side of the drive is more natural in character.*

## Character Area B – Great Barr Golf Club

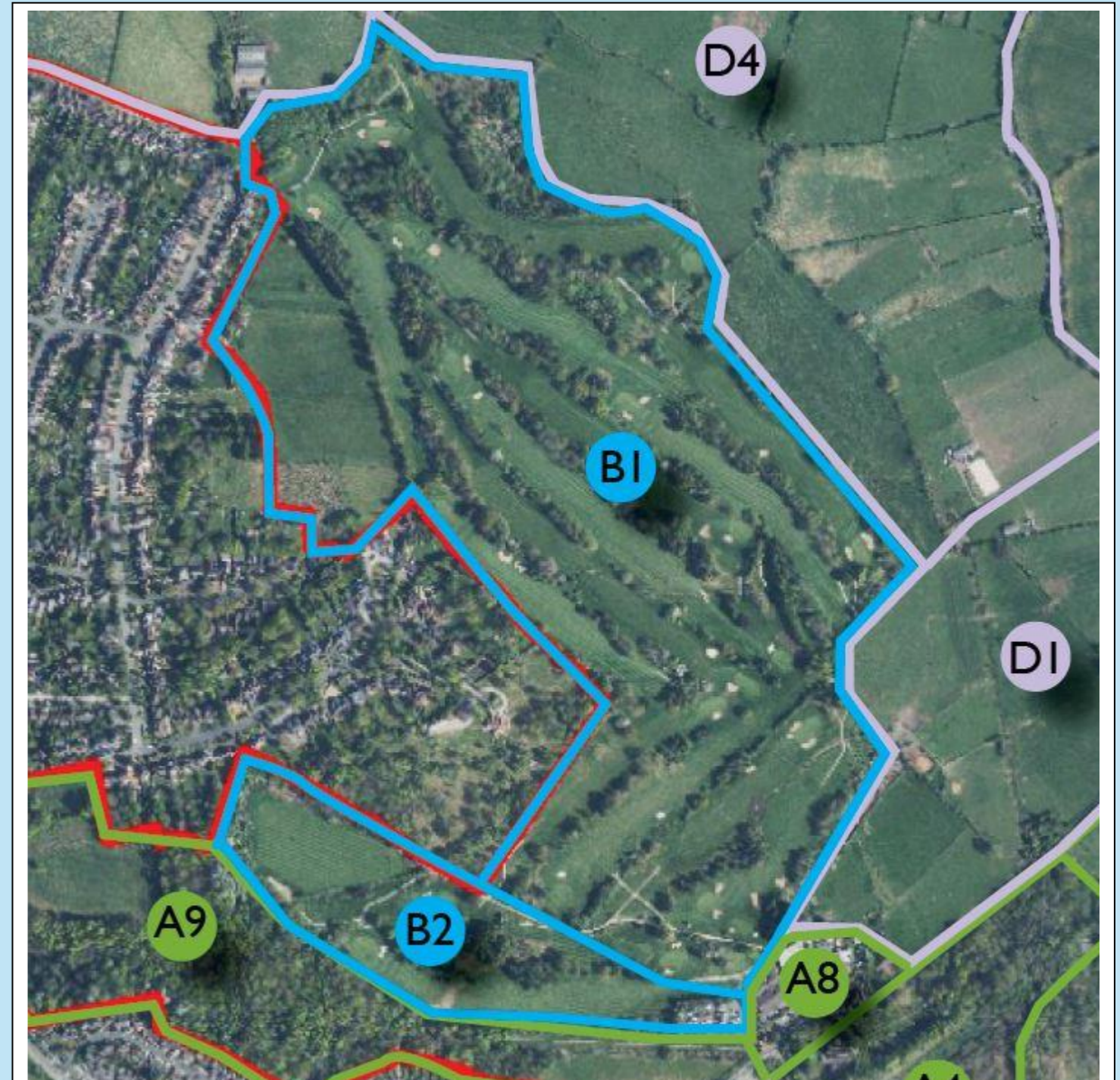
### Sub-division into land parcels

The overall Character Area B has been split into two land parcels.

Both land parcels are listed below and located on the aerial photograph opposite.

B1 – Main Golf Course

B2 – Southern Golf Course



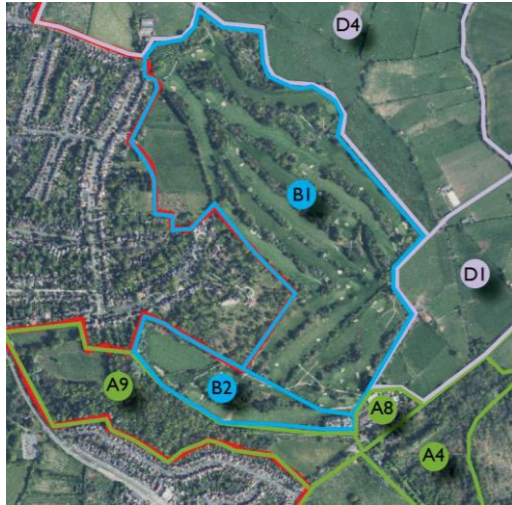
Locations of Land Parcels within Character Area B – Great Barr Golf Club (Holding Image)

Aerial photograph © Bluesky International Ltd and Getmapping Plc 2024 and subsequent extracts.

Associated OS maps © Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey AC0000811014

# Land Parcel B1 – Main Golf Course – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **Medium** and Visual sensitivity - **High**



*Great Barr Golf Club is set to the west of Great Barr village and is a parkland golf course with extensive tree coverage and appears highly maintained and attractive as a golfing venue. Lines of trees are used to separate the different fairways and with the backing of Merrion's Wood leads to the appearance of a well treed area. The quality of horticultural and sports turf upkeep is plain to see.*

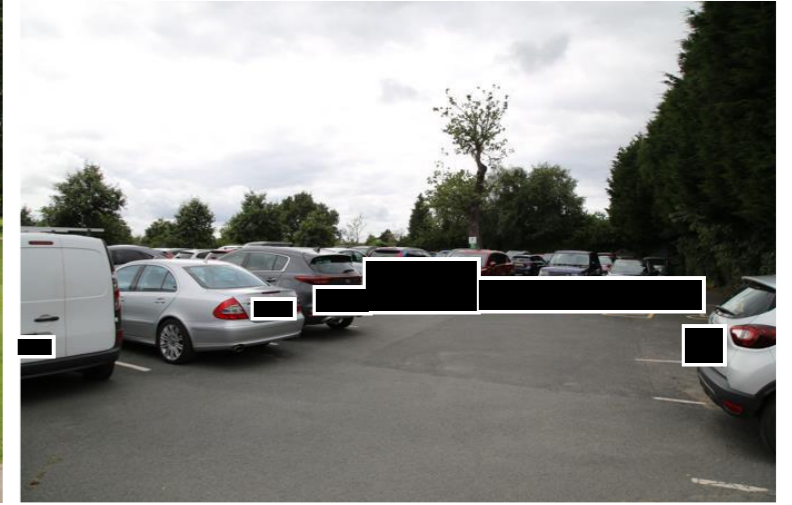
- **Value** – As an attractive and well maintained golf course that provides an open setting to Great Barr Village and links the open rural areas to the north of the RHP with Merrion's Wood to the west.
- **Susceptibility** – As a designed landscape that has been formed and is made for golf it appears as a scenically appealing if unnatural landscape. Its scenic appeal would be reduced by inappropriate development within its own course or within the rural land that fringes it.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given the general lack of existing residential properties in the vicinity or visible from the golf course. Housing proposals would appear incongruous and in contrast to the existing landscape character of the golf course.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. There is no foreseeable scope for energy development within the golf course.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Retain as a parkland golf course with a good collection of native tree.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Retain** working to an adopted Conservation Management Plan that allows the golf course to operate as a sustainable business without adversely affecting the character and quality of the neighbouring land parcels.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place on the golf course and still retain its character and 18 hole size.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Potential architectural improvement to the club's buildings' interfaces with Land Parcel A8 – Great Barr Village.



*View to north west across the practice putting green at the Great Barr Golf Club with the scene appearing well treed with tree lines between fairways and the distant view enclosed by Merrion's Wood.*

# Land Parcel B2 – Southern Golf Course – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **Medium** and Visual sensitivity - **High**



The southern part of Great Barr Golf Club used to be part of the parkland associated with the hall. There is little evidence today of its former landscape character and use as it appears as a golf course. The southern end of the golf club is where the entrance to the club is positioned along with its car park that is screened from the golf course by a high, coniferous hedge.

- **Value** – As part of an attractive and well maintained golf course that provides an open setting to Great Barr Village and interface with the historic drive that leads on into Merrion’s Wood to the west.
- **Susceptibility** – As a designed landscape that has been formed and is made for golf it appears as a scenically appealing if unnatural landscape. Its scenic appeal would be reduced by inappropriate development within its own extents or within the rural land that fringes it.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given the general lack of existing residential properties in the vicinity or visible from the golf course. Housing proposals would appear incongruous and in contrast to the existing landscape character of the golf course.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. There is no foreseeable scope for energy development within the golf course.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Retain as a parkland golf course with a good collection of native tree and an open relationship to Merrion’s wood.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Retain** working to an adopted Conservation Management Plan that allows the golf course to operate as a sustainable business without adversely affecting the character and quality of the neighbouring land parcels.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place on this part of the golf course and still retain its character.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Potential boundary improvements with Land Parcel A9– Merrion’s Wood to form an attractive but secure boundary between the club’s car park and the adjacent drive.



View from the edge of Merrion’s Wood looking to the southern parts of the Great Barr Golf Club course that used to lie in the historic parkland of Great Barr Hall.



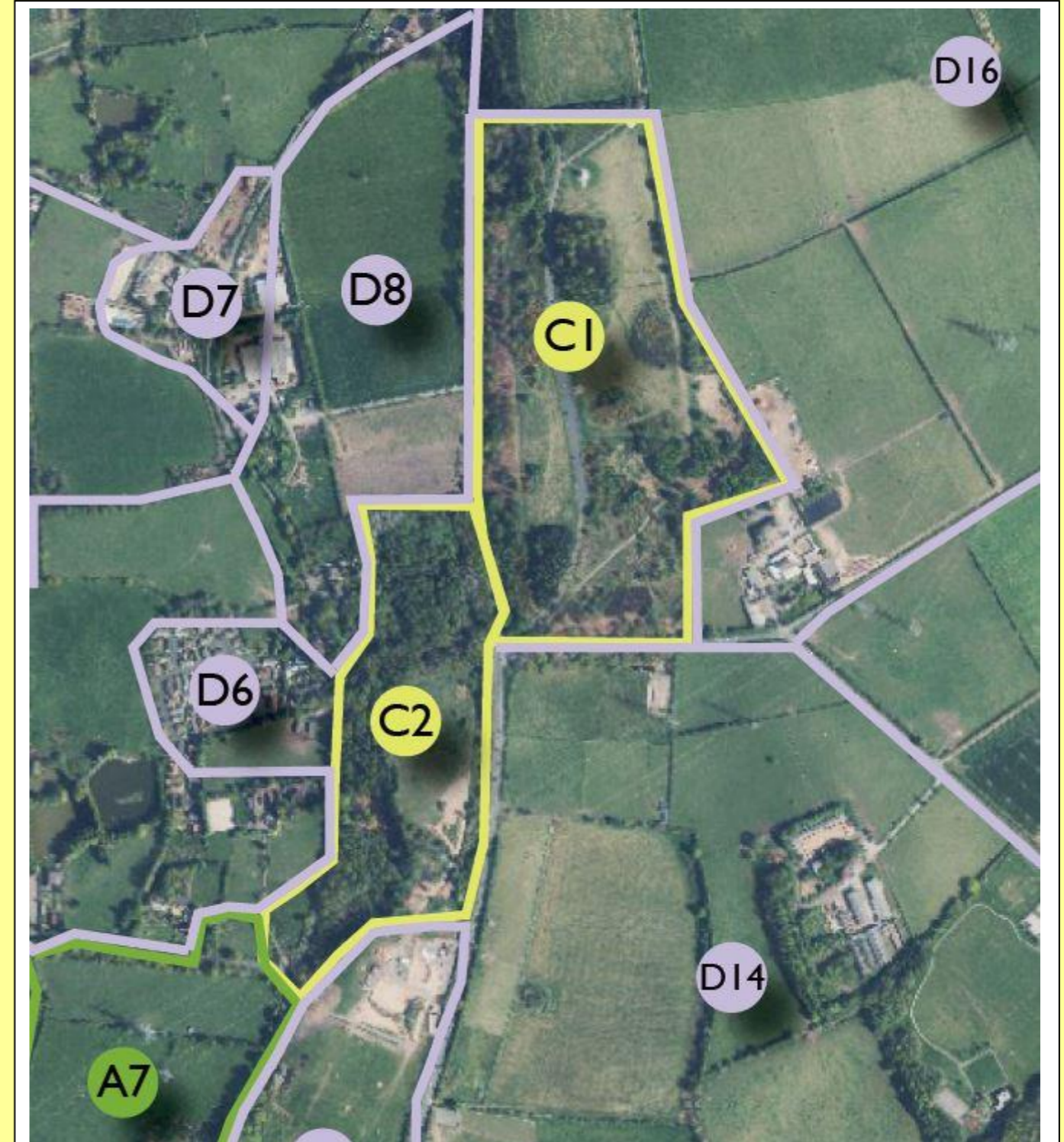
## Character Area C –Barr Beacon

### Sub-division into land parcels

The overall Character Area C has been split into two land parcels.

Both land parcels are listed below and located on the aerial photograph opposite.

- C1 – Upper Barr Beacon
- C2 – Lower Barr Beacon



Locations of Land Parcels within Character Area C – Barr Beacon (Holding Image)

Aerial photograph © Bluesky International Ltd and Getmapping Plc 2024 and subsequent extracts.

Associated OS maps © Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey  
AC0000811014

# Land Parcel C1 – Upper Barr Beacon – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High** and Visual sensitivity - **High**



*The upper part of Barr Beacon acts as a local landmark given it is the highest ground in the area and acts as a backdrop to many views. At its summit is a War Memorial to the fallen of both World Wars. Barr Beacon's popularity is helped by the ready access and free car parking that runs along the top of the landform. Its elevation allow scenic long distance views out to the east and west.*

- **Value** – As an evident and clearly popular publicly accessible local landmark. Its historic value can be tied back to leading landscape architects and the social value of a war memorial and the keeping of the land in trust as a living memorial to the fallen of the First World War.
- **Susceptibility** – The Upper Beacon is highly susceptible to inappropriate development or change in land cover that restricts either public access or views out over the surrounding landscape.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given its historic importance, public accessibility and elevation within the landscape.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development given its historic, social, recreational and environmental qualities.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Seek to keep the Greek thalos styled war memorial a place of quiet reflection and minimise the disturbance generated by the mis-use of the large car park on the quiet enjoyment of the Upper Beacon itself and the expansive views it allows to be taken.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Restore** working to an adopted Conservation Management Plan or site specific management plan to retain and promote its historic, recreational, environmental and geological features and value.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place in this popular and well visited land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Restoration of the space around the War Memorial and ensuring views out from the Beacon are kept open including maximising the view south to Birmingham.



*View to the north east from the top of Barr Beacon where the Greek thalos style War Memorial stands. The elevation of upper Barr Beacon allow long panoramic views out to the east and west.*

# Land Parcel C2 – Lower Barr Beacon – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High/Medium** and Visual sensitivity - **High**



*The Barr Beacon Quarry lies to the west side of Beacon Road and ceased being worked for sandstone in the 1920's. It is part of the Forest of Mercia Community Forest. Parts of the woodland are old such as this clump of regenerating holly whilst other parts are newer. The former quarry site is steep in parts and the general woodland enclosure is full with no open spaces within the wood.*

- **Value** – As a publicly accessible woodland and a former quarry that allows the geological aspects of Bar Beacon to be understood.
- **Susceptibility** – The former quarry was set on the western scarp side of the Beacon and is steep in fall. The developed woodland would be susceptible to most forms of development requiring clearance.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given the need for clearance and landform working to create suitable sized and flat development platforms. There is no foreseeable capacity for residential development in the former quarry.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. There is no foreseeable scope for energy development in the now wooded quarry.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Concentrate on the preservation of sustainable woodland cover with a good path network through it to facilitate public access.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Maintain** working to an adopted Woodland Management Plan as developed by the Forest of Mercia.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Diversification of the wood, thinning in part and active management for the benefit of woodland flora and fauna.



*View west down the main path through Barr Beacon Quarry which has reverted to a mixed deciduous woodland.*

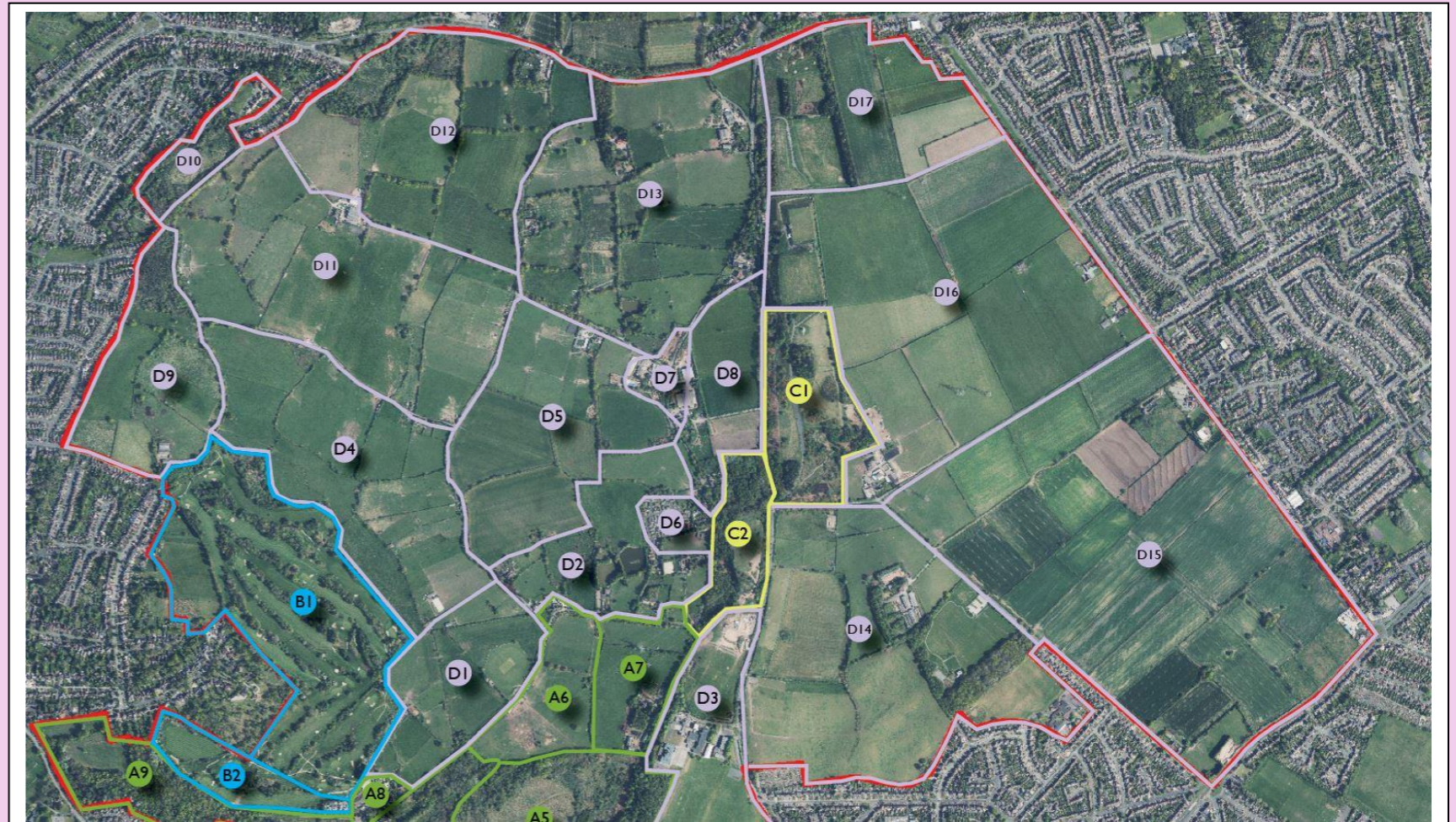
## Character Area D – Wider Countryside

### Sub-division into land parcels

The overall Character Area D has been sub-divided into the 17 land parcels.

The 17 land parcels are listed below and located on the aerial photograph opposite.

- D1 – Bronze Cricket Club and Environs
- D2 – Pinfold Small Fields
- D3 – Beacon School and Environs
- D4 – Holbrook Valley Fields
- D5 – Crook Lane Large Fields
- D6 – Beacon Heights Mobile Home Park
- D7 – Boden Lane Business Area
- D8 – Beacon Road Fields
- D9 – Skip Lane Fields
- D10 – Skip Lane Heath
- D11 – Barr Lakes Lane Large Mixed Fields
- D12 – Crook Lane Hedged Fields West
- D13 - Crook Lane Hedged Fields East
- D14 – Doe Bank Mixed Fields
- D15 – Aldridge Road Regular Fields
- D16 – Bridle Lane Regular Fields
- D17 – Beacon Mixed Fields



Locations of Land Parcels within Character Area A – The Historic Core of the Great Barr Estate (Holding Image)

Aerial photograph © Bluesky International Ltd and Getmapping Plc 2024 and subsequent extracts.

Associated OS maps © Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey AC0000811014

# Land Parcel D1 – Bronze Cricket Club Area – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High/Medium** and Visual sensitivity – **High/Medium**



*Bronze Cricket Club ground is located to the west of Chapel Lane and is set within an attractive rural scene. The ground forms a recreational landscape element within the wider rural scene. This Land Parcel provides an attractive rural setting to the west of Chapel Lane as people leave Great Barr village and is also visible from Crook Lane where some of its fields are not as actively managed.*

- **Value** – As setting to Great Barr Village it provides the first rural land experienced whilst travelling north. It is part of the setting to the RHP and facilitates views along Chapel Lane to the spire of St Margarets. It also acts as an attractive rural setting to the cricket pitch that it is named after and Great Barr Golf Club to the south.
- **Susceptibility** – This land parcel is susceptible to a loss of openness and degradation of agricultural character whether this be built form or energy installations such as solar that lessen its rural appeal.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given its openness and appearance as the first rural land experienced when travelling from the larger housing areas to the south.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development largely due to a reduction in the parcel's open, rural character that they would cause.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Seek to retain and restore active, agricultural use across the whole land parcel as a means to keep the parcel open and continuing to be a positive arrival point to the countryside and as an attractive setting to the cricket and golf clubs.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Restore** working with local landowners to an agricultural and landscape management plan to restore agricultural land use and features within the parcel.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either typical forms of residential or energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Restoration of rural features such as hedgerow planting and laying of existing hedges to improve their condition, wildlife value and longevity. Hedgerow tree planting and field gate improvements that provide secure gated entrance but restricts fly-tipping and trespass opportunities.



*View west from the end of the off-road section of the Beacon Way looking across pasture fields to Merrion's Wood that forms the scenic skyline.*

# Land Parcel D2 – Pinfold Small Fields – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High/Medium** and Visual sensitivity – **High/Medium**



*The Pinfold Small Fields lie to the north of Pinfold Lane and have a number of dispersed, older farm buildings set within the area including Old Court Farm as pictured above. The field sizes are generally small with tall hedges and trees set within them. The Foxhill Fishery is set off Pinfold Lane and comprises a number of man-made ponds dug for the purposes of coarse fishing and appears popular given apparent usage.*

- **Value** – As setting to older farm buildings and with a general unimproved agricultural form of smaller fields, winding lanes, hedgerow boundaries and lack of modern barns and other built form giving good time depth to the land parcel.
- **Susceptibility** – To further built form, particularly to elements that do not appear rural or traditional in nature. Highway improvements could also alter the appeal of the road corridors through the parcel.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High/Medium** sensitivity given its rural time depth. There is possible capacity for micro scale residential development in the vicinity of Old Court Farm but it would have to respect the character of this heritage feature and give no sense of encroachment into the countryside.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. There is no foreseeable scope for commercial energy development in this land parcel.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Seek to retain the small scale of the fields and their hedged, well treed character.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Improve** working with local landowners to an agricultural and landscape management plan to further hedgerow health and tree succession.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow residential development above micro-scale or energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Landscape improvements to the Foxhill Fishery car park frontage to address how it appears from Pinfold Lane. Painting of Armco barrier to front of Old Court Farm.



*View north to the gated entrance of the Old Court Farm residential properties set off Crook Lane. The small fields beyond are generally bounded by hedgerows with hedgerow trees set along their length*

# Land Parcel D3 –Barr Beacon School Area – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **Medium** and Visual sensitivity - **Medium**



*Barr Beacon School is a secondary school set on the ridge that leads up to the top of the Beacon. It is in the eastern part of the current Conservation Area. Beacon Road runs up the high ground with the school and playing fields set to its western side with High Wood running along the Beacon's ridge forming a wooded skyline in part. There are some houses that break the skyline along with mature trees with different forms*

- **Value** – As open ground and sports pitches to the school and as appreciation of the climbing elevation of travelling up Barr Beacon to its summit at C1 – Upper Barr Beacon.
- **Susceptibility** – To loss of openness and positioning of further development on the local ridgeline that is visible to the west of the schools sports fields.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **Medium** sensitivity given the land parcels proximity to major housing to the east of Beacon Road and the skyline houses off Aviemore Crescent. However there is no foreseeable land availability for housing development without the loss of school grounds.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. There is no foreseeable scope for ground mounted energy development in the vicinity of the school but small scale roof mounted PV Panels may be acceptable.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Retention of the open ground of the School's sports pitches to allow appreciation of the high ground and wooded ridge to the west.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Retain & Manage** as part of the school estate and highway corridor.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or ground mounted energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Improvement to the School's highway hedge with occasional hedgerow tree planting to complement the range of amenity trees elsewhere along the Beacon Road corridor.



*View west to the playing fields of Barr Beacon High School with the ridge like form of the Beacon forming a dividing ridge and restricting views to the RHP and rural landscape to the west. Some housing blocks evident on the ridge as is Beacon Road to the fore.*

# Land Parcel D4 – Holbrook Valley Fields – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High/Medium** and Visual sensitivity – **High/Medium**



*Small fields set either side of the Holbrook Valley many put to horse grazing with the trees in the mid-ground the fairway dividers on the golf course and the trees in the background Merrion's Wood. Clipped roadside hedges mark houses even when they are not visible in the landscape from the nearby lane. The hedgerows are full and limit sideways views from Crook Lane. The RHP woodland forms the wooded horizon to south.*

- **Value** – As a shallow valley where the slope and rise of both sides of the landform can be seen and appreciated. Part of rural setting to Great Barr Golf Club and its openness allows appreciation of Merrion's Wood as a scenic skyline.
- **Susceptibility** – To features or development that is not rural in character or which truncate, or appear incongruous in views across the valley.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given its openness and lack of association with existing residential areas.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity given its rural character and openness combined with its role as setting to other land parcels including B1 – Main Golf Course and A9 – Merrion's Wood.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Retention of its open grazing pasture form and ability to see and appreciate the shallow valley landform.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Improve** working with local landowners to deliver an agricultural and landscape management plan to improve agricultural land use and features within the parcel.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Restoration of field boundary hedgerows and inclusion of hedgerow trees for their scenic and wildlife interest. Keep working areas away from field entrances.



*View south from Crook Lane looking across the shallow Holbrook valley towards the wooded ridgeline made up of trees in Merrion's Wood and across Great Barr Golf Course*



# Land Parcel D5 – Crook Lane Fields – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High/Medium** and Visual sensitivity – **High/Medium**



Located to the east of Crook Lane this land parcel has medium to large sized pasture fields with full boundary hedgerows and notable hedgerow trees. The landform generally rises to the east culminating with the high, ground of Upper Barr Beacon that forms a wooded skyline. The parcel is experienced from Crook Lane and in views west from Upper Barr Beacon.

- **Value** – As functioning agricultural land with well defined field pattern and hedged boundaries. The mature hedgerow trees provide scenic interest and reinforce the rural character of this land parcel.
- **Susceptibility** – To general loss of openness and change in land use away from rural purposes.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given its openness, rural character and lack of association with any other residential development.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity given its openness and the fact that it is overviewed as near ground in views west from Barr Beacon. The large, open fields may be considered appropriate for solar development but the visual connectivity of this land parcel would mean that they would appear intrusive when viewed from near and more distant views.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Retain as open grazing pasture with hedged boundaries.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Retain** working with local landowners to an agricultural and landscape management plan to improve field access arrangements and limit opportunities for fly-tipping.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Periodic and sectional hedgerow laying to improve its longevity and wildlife value, plant the next generation of hedgerow trees and possibly plant field corner copses to add further scenic interest and wildlife habitat.



View east across a large pasture fields looking towards the wooded high ground of the Upper Barr Beacon that limits the view east from this land parcel. Pylons near Pinfold Lane (Land Parcel A6) are evident but do not dominate the view or the wider land parcel.

# Land Parcel D6 – Beacon Heights Mobile Home Park – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **Medium** and Visual sensitivity - **Medium**



*The Beacon Heights mobile home park appears as a long established settlement which is highly maintained enclave within a wider rural area. It is signed off Pinfold Lane but not prominent from it. The mobile homes are more lodge buildings in style with mature individual gardens. There are clues to the parcel's former farming land use such as old outbuildings and native hedges set around it.*

- **Value** – As setting to the mobile homes based at the park and to the original farm dwellings set at the entrance to the facility. Small role in the setting of Lower Barr Beacon that is set on the opposite side of Pinfold Lane from
- **Susceptibility** – The park is already developed for residential / leisure purposes with some elements of the original rural buildings near its entrance of Pinfold Lane.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **Medium/Low** sensitivity given it is already developed for a residential purpose, the form of development however would have to complement the existing mobile homes and farm houses set on the park.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity given its existing developed form. There is no foreseeable scope for energy development at the park.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Allow the site owners and occupier to continue with their domestic landscape management whilst retaining limited intervisibility with the Pinfold Lane corridor to the east.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Retain and enhance** – Retain the main part of the park as a residential landscape of mobile homes and enhance the landscape interface of the park with Pinfold Lane.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place on this already developed land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Landscape planting to entrance area onto Pinfold Lane and replacement of the highly urban bus shelter that stands opposite the entrance to one that is rural in character.



*View looking down one of the avenues of static caravans built in a lodge style at Beacon Heights Mobile Homes park.*

# Land Parcel D7 – Boden Lane Business Area – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **Medium/Low** and Visual sensitivity - **Medium**



*This land parcel is centred on the junction between Pinfold Lane and Boden Lane which is prominent due to a combination of houses, farm buildings and working sheds. The activities that go on in the area include green waste recycling and more rural pursuits such as horse stabling and storage of silage and farm machinery. Security gates are set at some of the entrances*

- **Value** – As a rural part of the Conservation Area set centrally to the area with a prominent farm styled building set at the junction of Boden Lane and Pinfold Lane.
- **Susceptibility** – To further expansion of non-rural business activities, additional low quality built form and proliferation on none rural boundaries and entrance treatments.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High/Medium** sensitivity with the existing prominent farm building possibly giving scope for micro scale housing development without the sense of expansion.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to the considered forms of energy development even if they were to replace some of the existing activities such as the green waste site that is relatively discrete in this land parcel.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Seek to improve the road junction area and the entrances to the businesses and rural enterprises that are set off it.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Improve** - working to an adopted agricultural and highway management plan to restore the rural frontages in this land parcel as experienced from both Pinfold and Bodon Lanes. Keep land use as rural focussed and resist the creep of business and storage expansion that would further reduce the landscape quality of this area.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow anything other than micro-scale residential. Energy development is considered inappropriate within this land parcel given its fundamental rural character and setting within the heart of the local rural area.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Improvement to the highway corridor, better accesses to rural businesses and improvement of the gates used to secure the various properties.



*View east across the junction of Pinfold Lane and Boden Lane to Barr Beacon forming a wooded skyline to the east of this land parcel.*

# Land Parcel D8 – Beacon Road Fields – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High/Medium** and Visual sensitivity – **High/Medium**



*This parcels lies west of Beacon Road and consists of westerly facing sloping pasture fields and small areas of woodland. It is an actively farmed landscape with the Beacon Farm business at its core. Beacon Road itself is set behind planting set on the road bank but views to the west are extensive where they exist under tree canopies or from access roads given the elevation up the Barr Beacon landform.*

- **Value** – As a collection of open and scenically attractive pasture fields that allow expansive views west to be experienced from Beacon Road and Upper Barr Beacon.
- **Susceptibility** – To the insertion of built form or land use change that removes its attractive rural character and prevents, or reduces the quality of views to the west.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given it would reduce the open character of this land parcel. There is no foreseeable capacity for residential development in the open pasture fields of this landscape but possibly micro residential development to serve the farm set near the farm business within the mid-parcel tree line.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. There is no foreseeable scope for energy development in this land parcel.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – The retention of the openness of the sloping pasture fields and the role they play in facilitating long, strongly rural views to the west for people travelling on Beacon Road or visiting Upper Barr Beacon.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Retain** working with local landowners to an agricultural and landscape management plan to retain agricultural land use and features within the parcel.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow anything other than micro residential development. Energy development is considered inappropriate within this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Visually breaking up of large span roof with some field tree planting and a few small groups of field trees to give the impression of parkland landscape in views.



*View west from Beacon Road looking across sloping pasture field to the distant hills to the west of Wolverhampton with limited visible built form within the scene other than the roofs of barn buildings at Beacon Farm.*

# Land Parcel D9 – Skip Lane Fields – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High/Medium** and Visual sensitivity – **High/Medium**



*The Skip Lane land parcel has the feel of being slightly elevated to the west side of the Conservation Area allowing longer views to the east. It is a mix of pasture fields some given over to horse rearing. Skip Lane itself is heavily vegetated with tall roadside hedges and trees set within them. The hedges restrict sideways views to the east making the long views out to the rural landscape more striking when they do occur.*

- **Value** – As a slightly elevated landscape that allows the wider rural landscape to the east to be experienced. Ridge and furrow field markings are suspected to remain in the area adding to its sense of time depth.
- **Susceptibility** – To removal of its openness through the introduction of new built form or the change of land use away from rural activities.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given its open character and strong rural appeal. There is no foreseeable capacity for residential development in this land parcel.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. There is no foreseeable scope for energy development in this land parcel.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Concentrate on the preservation and then restoration of the Hall and surrounding gardens for their historic interest. Avoid uncharacteristic forms of development that would impinge on the current or future restoration of the Hall.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Restore** working with local landowners to an agricultural and landscape management plan to retain agricultural land use and positive features such as hedgerows and the ridge and furrow markings.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Seek to address detracting features such as traffic flow and fly-tipping along Skip Lane. Sectional laying of the hedgerow along Skip Lane to put it back into good order.



*View east from Skip Lane looking into the shallow valley that the Holbrook drains with an apparently well treed landscape running up to the high ground of Barr Beacon forming the horizon.*

# Land Parcel D10 – Skip Lane Heath – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **Medium** and Visual sensitivity – **Medium/Low**



*Skip Lane Heath is the name of the land parcel set to the west of Skip Lane running up to the houses set to the west of the Great Barr Conservation Area. Skip Lane is well vegetated. Some housing is set back off Skip Lane and is not visible. The photograph to the right was taken from the west side of the local ridge with the trees in the Skip Lane Heath land parcel acting as a backdrop to the wider housing area.*

- **Value** – The upper, western part of the rural section of the Conservation Area that gives setting to Skip Lane and Skip Lane Field (Land Parcel D9) and a backdrop to the Daisy Bank housing area that forms the eastern suburbs of Walsall .
- **Susceptibility** – To loss of vegetation, change of land use and sense of an undeveloped area set to west side of Skip Lane. Development in the area would reach over the top of the existing local ridge.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **Medium** sensitivity with the Daisy Bank housing area to the west and western parts of Skip Lane already developed there is a sense of being on the fringe of a larger residential area. There is possible capacity for up to medium scale residential development in screened locations with access from the Daisy Bank side to retain the wooded rural character of Skip Lane.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. There is no foreseeable scope for energy development given the parcel’s rural character and proximity to residential areas.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Retain the land parcel’s function as a separation between the suburbs of Walsall and the rural landscape of the wider Great Barr Conservation Area.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Restore** working with local landowners to an agricultural and landscape management plan to restore positive land management and landscape features within the parcel.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – Retention of a wooded character to separate any residential development from the more open rural land parcels to the east.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Improved management of roadside vegetation and better traffic management along Skip Lane.



*View from Skip Lane to the west of the road where a mixture of outgrown hedges, scrubby woodland and small pasture fields exist running up to the local ridge that screens the Daisy Bank housing area to the west.*

# Land Parcel D11 – Barr Lakes Lane Fields – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High/Medium** and Visual sensitivity – **High/Medium**



*This land parcel comprise pasture fields within an area of rolling landscape with Skip Lane to the west and Crook Lane to the east. It is used for grazing beef cattle and horses. The rise and fall of the land is subtle with hedge lines helping to pick out lower ground suggestive of a stream or ditch set between fields. The number of lanes around the edge of this area makes it visually prominent.*

- **Value** – As a piece of intact farmland with scenic elements and good collection of field hedges and roadside trees adding to its appeal as pastoral landscape that is readily visible from the surrounding lanes.
- **Susceptibility** – To a loss of openness or inclusion of uncharacteristic development that is not rural in nature.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given its openness, strong rural character and lack of other residential development to link it with.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development given its open, rural character. There is no foreseeable scope for energy development in this land parcel.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Retain as a block of agricultural land use and continue to limit the influence of built form on the area.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Maintain** working with local landowners to an agricultural and landscape management plan to retain agricultural land use and features within the parcel.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Further hedgerow trees along the lanes and sectional hedge laying to improve the hedge's longevity and wildlife value.



*View north west towards the high ground on Skip Lane showing a farmed, pastoral landscape with large fields bounded by hedgerows and mature trees on the local higher ground.*

# Land Parcel D12 – Crook Lane Fields West – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High/Medium** and Visual sensitivity – **High/Medium**



*Public Footpath Ald40 marker at its junction with Crook Lane, This footpath route allows access across the parcel linking Crook Lane with Sutton Road. The size and number of hedgerow standard trees in the native hedges that surround the improved pasture fields in the area are notable landscape features in their own right. Lanes are well vegetated with bracken and hedges.*

- **Value** – As agricultural pasture fields sub-divided by native hedgerows with a good collection of mature hedgerow trees. This parcel address Sutton Road to the north and provides the green open space to that busy route and acts the first piece of rural landscape experienced after passing the houses of Daisy Bank for travellers heading east.
- **Susceptibility** – To the loss of openness and the introduction of elements that are not rural in character or appearance.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given the resultant loss of openness and rural character. Micro-scale residential development may be able to be accommodated at Moat House Farm subject to it being complementary to the farm's form and architectural styling.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. There is no foreseeable scope for energy development in this land parcel without harm to its rural appeal.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Retention of the existing pasture field system with its strong hedgerow pattern and impressive collection of hedgerow trees.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Maintain** working with local landowners to an agricultural and landscape management plan to retain agricultural land use and features within the parcel.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow residential development above micro scale or energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Sectional hedgerow laying, planting the next generation of hedgerow trees and improving the appearance and use of the moated area at Moat House Farm that appears from aerial photography to be used as a caravan storage facility.



*View west from Crook Lane to fields that show large native hedgerows and notable mature hedge trees.*



# Land Parcel D13 – Crook Lane Fields East – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **Medium** and Visual sensitivity – **High/Medium**



*A mix of medium and large sized pasture fields lie to the east of Crook Lane. The general view east is towards the woodland on Barr Beacon as the skyline. Mix of pasture grazing and silage production in the fields with some dispersed dwellings such as Little Oak Barn Farm set adjacent to Crook Lane.*

- **Value** – As an area of agricultural land providing rural setting to Sutton Road and Beacon Road. It contains examples of dispersed farmsteads that managed the productive land in the wider Great Barr Estate.
- **Susceptibility** – To development that affects its openness or introduces incongruous features that do not complement its pastoral landscape character.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given its open character with the only potential capacity being micro-scale development at the historic farmsteads that respects their heritage appeal and which in landscape terms would not significantly alter their scale and positioning in the landscape
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. There is no foreseeable scope for energy development in this land parcel.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Concentrate on the preservation of a working agricultural landscape providing a valuable green break between larger housing areas within the area.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Maintain** working with local landowners to an agricultural and landscape management plan to retain agricultural land use and enhance positive features within the parcel.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow residential development greater than macro in size or energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Hedgerow improvement through sectional laying, hedgerow tree planting initiative, prevention of fly-tipping and traffic calming on Crook Lane.



*View south west from Pinfold Lane with mature hedgerows demarking medium sized fields and relatively few hedgerow trees.*

# Land Parcel D14 – Doe Bank Fields – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **High/Medium** and Visual sensitivity – **High/Medium**



*The fields in the Doe Bank area are put to horse pasture with some small scale stabling. Pylons and overhead powerlines run approximately perpendicular across the valley towards its north end. Currently there are long views west to Birmingham down the Doe Bank but these will be screened out by a row of recently planted trees when they are established. Bank of vegetation screens sight to Beacon Road and encloses the parcel.*

- **Value** – As a self-contained small valley feature set to the east side of the Barr Beacon tail. It has a scenic composition of u-shaped valley form and pockets of woodland. Its alignment allows long views south towards Birmingham’s city centre marked by a clutch of high rise buildings set on the distant horizon.
- **Susceptibility** – To a loss of openness and blocking of views across the small valley or along its length southwards to Birmingham.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High** sensitivity given its open character combined with the sloping valley sides likely to require significant landform modelling to create development platforms.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. There is no foreseeable scope for energy development that will retain the character of the land parcel even with the presence of the twin power lines crossing the area.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Retention of grazing pasture to keep the banked fields open and appearing as countryside even with their proximity to housing..
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Improve** working with local landowners to an agricultural and landscape management plan to restore agricultural boundaries and seek the removal of inappropriate tree planting.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Re-working of field boundary that has just received the tree line planting and increasing tree planting along the valley floor to create more of a landscape marker.



*View south from Bridle Lane down the curving small valley landform looking towards the taller buildings of Birmingham’s business district on the skyline. Twin pylon lines run across the scene.*

# Land Parcel D15 – Aldridge Road Fields – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **Medium** and Visual sensitivity - **Medium**



Views taken from Aldridge Road look west up the slope to the southern tail of the Barr Beacon landform. The fields are large and regular and appear put to arable crops. Aldridge Road itself is one sided in terms of built form with houses facing west out to the open countryside. To the east of the land parcel a line of houses along Doe Bank Lane face out to the southern end of the parcel

- **Value** – Large area of agricultural land that defines the residential extents of Streetly to the east. Allows an appreciation of a rural landscape who's openness facilitates views towards Barr Beacon.
- **Susceptibility** – To the loss of openness and sense of encroachment of residential form into a rural field system. Over intensification of farming land use reducing the intrinsic qualities of the countryside.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **Medium** sensitivity given the presence of housing to three sides of the land parcel – Aldridge Road to the east, Queslett Road East to the lower southern side and Doe Bank Lane up part of the western boundary.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. Energy development would alter the fundamental rural character of the land parcel.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Retention of the productive agricultural fields which in spatial terms assist in demarcating urban form in the area.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Enhance** working with local landowners to an agricultural and landscape management plan to restore agricultural field boundaries throughout the parcel.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – Should residential or other expansive development come forward then ensure that whole field units are taken and clear new edge of settlement lines are formed to respect the scale and form of the current field pattern.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – work to improve the scale of field hedgerows and dotting them with hedgerow trees to create a more apparent well treed landscape. Possible sub-division of field size,



View north west from Aldridge Road as it skirts Land Parcel D15, the landform is rising to north with Barr Beacon forming the high ground across open, larger scale arable fields. The 'Tin Tabernacle' set to left of view is an early example of modular building technology where the church was set up to serve the rapidly expanding residential community.

# Land Parcel D16 – Bridle Lane Fields – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **Medium** and Visual sensitivity - **Medium**



*Bounded by Bridle Lane to its south and Aldridge Road to its east this land parcel has a more pronounced change in land form than D15 as it rises up to meet the highest part of the Beacon. The Aldridge Road corridor has housing along its east side and is in places set behind a corridor of amenity trees. Open views from Aldridge Road across the parcel are limited by the road side hedge.*

- **Value** – As a large area of agricultural land that allows sight to the Upper Barr Beacon and provides clear spatial demarcation to the housing along Aldridge Road. It is also part of the foreground landscape in views east from Barr Beacon.
- **Susceptibility** – To the loss of openness or introduction of intrusive elements. Change in land use to none agricultural purposes would reduce its intrinsic qualities as countryside.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High/Medium** sensitivity the Site's sloping, open nature making residential development highly evident. There is some housing adjacent to the land parcel along Aldridge Road but set back behind a wide, tree and hedge planted open space limiting its influence on the parcel.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development. Large fields tend to be sought for solar parks but the sloping ground and visibility from Barr Beacon add greater visual constraints.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Retention of working pasture fields with a programme of field boundary improvements.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Enhance** working with local landowners to an agricultural and landscape management plan to improve field boundaries within the parcel.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Hedge tree planting and possible small field corner copse planting to break up the large form of the fields, possible field sub-division by new hedgerow planting.



*View west looking up the sloping ground towards Barr Beacon. Three pairs of pylons can be seen set high on the slope and are viewed against the sky as is the smaller telecoms tower at Barr Beacon Reservoir.*

# Land Parcel D17 – Beacon Hill Fields – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Sheet

Landscape sensitivity – **Medium** and Visual sensitivity - **Medium**



*Like D15 and D16 this land parcel is largely experienced from Aldridge Road to the east with the landform sloping up to the west to meet the top of Barr Beacon. Aldridge Road is undulating in part due to the rolling nature of the land parcel. It is for most part set with houses to the east side of the road with a small block of housing near the Foley Arms roundabout with the B4151.*

- **Value** – As a rural area with a collection of smaller fields that allow sight to C1 - Upper Barr Beacon land parcel and assists in the spatial definition of housing to the east side of Aldridge Road.
- **Susceptibility** – To the loss of openness and the introduction of non-rural forms of development or land management.
- **Sensitivity to Residential Development** – **High/Medium** given its open rural form with some proximity to housing at the parcel's north east corner with short blocks of house set to the west side of Aldridge Road where for the most part of this 2.2km long straight road there is only housing set to its eastern side.
- **Sensitivity to Energy Development** – **High** sensitivity to all considered types of energy development given its open, sloping ground. There is no foreseeable scope for energy development in the land parcel.
- **Recommendations & Guidelines** – Retention of mixed sized pasture fields and the good hedgerow network that they contain. Keep an appreciation of the sloping ground running up to north end of the Upper Barr Beacon.
- **Landscape strategy** – **Conserve & Improve** working with local landowners to an agricultural and landscape management plan to improve field boundaries and hedgerow tree planting within the parcel.
- **Potential mitigation measures** – There are no mitigation measures that would allow either residential or energy development to take place in this land parcel.
- **Potential enhancement measures** – Hedgerow gapping up and laying on a section basis. Plant more hedgerow trees in the roadside hedge to the west side of Aldridge Road.



*View west up the sloping ground of this area of small, hedged fields which have the twin power lines running over the land parcel and a small ribbon of housing to its north eastern corner.*