The Environment

1. Introduction

1.1 Environmentally significant characteristics of the Plan Area

This section of the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to safeguard the environmental features of Newbold Verdon that are both *significant* (for their biodiversity, history, etc.) and *valued* by local people. It also deals with broader environmental matters impacting on the parish and its residents, including rights of way, flood risk, energy generation and environmentally responsible development.

What distinguishes Newbold Verdon from neighbouring parishes – what combination of environmental features uniquely characterises its natural, historical and social landscapes?

- Rich mosaic of intermixed historic landscapes
- Eclectic mix of building ages and styles in the villages(s)
- Evidence for the rise and fall of the local coalmining economy
- Small copses and hedgerows (planted 17th to 19th centuries) with biodiversity value
- Newly created habitats with high biodiversity value in restored quarries
- Rare surviving ridge and furrow and other medieval earthworks
- Extensive views north to Charnwood Forest and south into the midland plain
- 20th-century housing estates with integral open spaces and community facilities

By identifying sites where the historic features, topography and wildlife of these landscapes are best seen, the Plan aims to protect as much of the parish's characteristic environment as is both compatible with sustainable development and complete enough to be appreciated by local people.

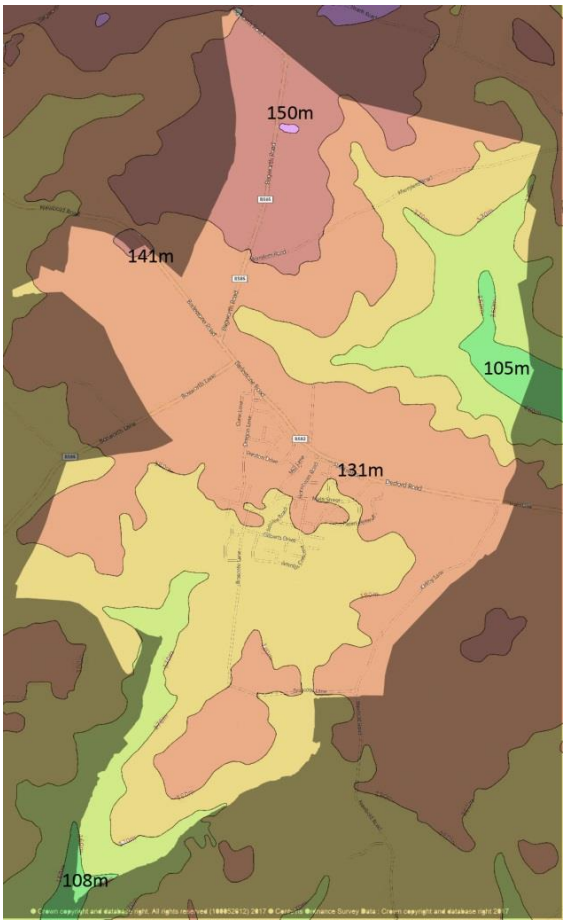
1.2 Landscape, geology and setting

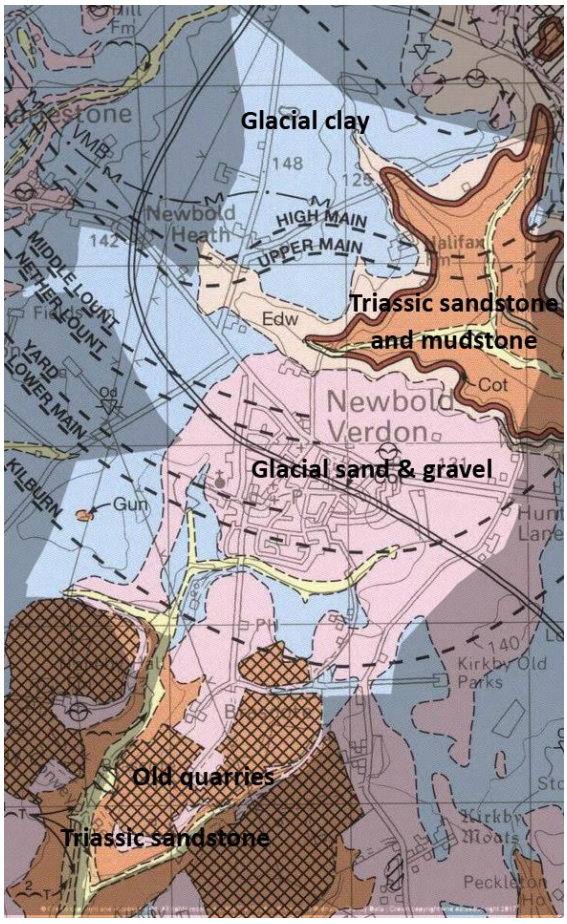
This is a gently rolling landscape where the red soil of the Midland Plain rises northward into the Leicestershire Coalfield and Charnwood Forest. The village of Newbold Verdon spreads along a low ridge between two local river systems – Rothley brook, flowing northeast, and Thurlaston Brook, flowing southeast. The lowest points in the parish (just above 100m) are in these valleys, the highest (150m) in the north; Newbold Verdon itself is at 131m.

Some 100 metres below the surface lie the Carboniferous *Coal Measures* rocks on which the mining industry of the neighbouring coalfield (an important part of the parish economy until recently) was based. The coal measures are covered by a

layer of Triassic sandstones and clays - including brick-clay (another local industry) – but these are only seen at the surface in the valley bottoms and in the Cadeby (Brascote) quarries. Elsewhere all the 'solid' rocks are blanketed by Ice Age glacial till ('boulder clay'), sand and gravel. The location of Newbold (and of Brascote and Naneby, see 1.3) was chosen by the original settlers partly because of the advantages of living on light sandy soil rather than sticky clay.

Figure ENV X: (left) topography and (right) geology of the Plan Area





1.3 Historical environment

The parish coincides approximately with the eastern two-thirds of a large 'Dark Ages' and early medieval estate that comprised Newbold, Brascote, Naneby (now deserted) and Barlestone. Newbold ('Niewbold') is listed in Domesday Book (1086) together with Brascote ('Brocandescote'). The estate was subdivided in about 1280, but the sites of two of the medieval manor houses can still be seen.

However, people have lived in the area now covered by the parish for at least eight thousand years. Archaeology showing this includes Neolithic to Bronze Age worked flints, Iron Age ('British') and Romano-British enclosures (farmsteads), and a Roman pottery kiln.

Newbold itself was probably established in the early 7th century. Its name is pure Old English (Anglo-Saxon) with the later addition of its (Norman) landlord's name:

Niwe = Old English 'new'
Boðl = Old English 'build[ing]', 'dwelling place'
Verdun = Norman French family name (Nicholas de Verdun was Lord of the Manor in 1226)

Based on University of Nottingham *Key to English Place-names*: http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/map/county/Leicestershire

The original 7th century settlement can be 'reconstructed' from earthworks and documentary evidence; it was laid out along the top of a ridge of sand and gravel, where the soil was lighter and better-drained (see 1.2), surrounded by springs and beyond them the heavier clayland that supported the township's agricultural economy. Even 1500 years ago, all extensive native woodland was long gone (prehistoric or Roman clearance, probably) and woodland remains scarce today. Farming was managed on the three-field system, with large open fields, mostly arable but with permanent and temporary grazing, and very few hedges. This medieval farm landscape was largely eradicated by Enclosure, which began in the 16th century and was completed in 1811), and replaced the open fields with a planned mosaic of smaller, newly-hedged, mainly grazing fields.

These 16th to 18th century fields can still be seen today, especially to the north and east of the village; there are also areas of smallholdings created by working families when Newbold Verdon's economy became more industrialised in the 19th and 20th centuries with the growth of coalmining, quarrying and brickmaking. Newbold Verdon village expanded at the same time, in several phases of rebuilding (Victorian and Edwardian) and new (since c. 1950) housing estates; the population increased from 602 in 1841 to around 3250 today.

This multi-layered historical record has given Newbold Verdon's landscape a distinctive mixed appearance, in which 20th century housing estates and a 19th century industrial village surround areas where traces of medieval townships and Tudor and Georgian fields can still be seen.

1.4 Natural environment

The very long history of intensive agriculture in the parish means that first impressions are of an area of relatively low biodiversity. Most farmland is arable or improved grassland with species-poor hedges, there are only a few small spinneys and coverts and no statutorily protected wildlife sites. This has two implications for the Neighbourhood Plan.

First, the few surviving biodiversity sites in the parish are precious and their protection is important. Second, fieldwork and a desk study of all information and data relating to Newbold Verdon's wildlife and environment has confirmed the value of the previously recorded and/or designated sites and features, but added

a number of sites of at least parish-level biodiversity significance, some with potential for enhancement.

1.5 Existing environmental designations

The parish is located in parts of three *National Character Areas* (NCAs, defined by Natural England for Planning purposes): NCA 71 *Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield*, NCA 73 *Charnwood* and NCA 94 *Leicestershire Vales*. There are 11 *Listed Buildings* and one *Scheduled Monument*, 8 further sites of historical significance with surviving above-ground features (Historic England *Heritage Gateway* mapping and Leicestershire & Rutland *Historic Environment Records*), 11 areas of *Priority Habitat* (as defined and mapped by Natural England), and seven *Potential Local Wildlife Sites* (pLWS, identified in an *Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey* carried out for HBBC in 2012).

2. Environmental inventory

An environmental inventory (Appendix X) of Newbold Verdon parish was carried out between June and September 2017. The work comprised two elements:

- Review of all existing designations and available information, and
- Fieldwork to identify sites and features of natural and historical environment significance in the context of the Plan Area.

The review compiled information from many sources, including:

- DEFRA
- Natural England
- Historic England
- Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Records
- Leicestershire & Rutland Environmental Record Centre records (biodiversity and geology)
- Environment Agency
- British Geological Survey
- Old maps (Ordnance Survey, manuscript)
- British History Online
- Local history and archaeology publications
- Local knowledge

Fieldwork reviewed open and currently undeveloped land in the Plan Area, and significant species, habitats, landscape characteristics, earthworks and other extant features were checked.

These data, along with all relevant site-specific information from the existing information review, were mapped and tabulated, and each site was scored and

evaluated using the nine criteria for Local Green Space selection in the *National Planning Policy Framework* 2012:

Fig. X. Environmental inventory scoring system used in the Plan

Criterion (NPPF 2012)	**Score range**			**Notes**
ACCESSIBILITY	0	1-3	4	e.g. private, no access (0) – visible from public place – accessed via PRoW – fully open to the public (4)
PROXIMITY / LOCAL	0	1-3	4	Distant (0) --- fairly near to --- adjoins (3) or is within (4) settlement
BOUNDED	0	1-3	4	Individual parcel of land (not an undefined or large area)
SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY	0	1-3	4	Opinion of local people e.g. via questionnaire or at consultation events
RECREATIONAL / EDUCATIONAL USE	0	1-3	4	Actual or potential, informal sports, dog-walking, Forest School use, informal or official open space, etc.
BEAUTY (including views)	0	1	2	Subjective, relative (give justification); use consultation map results
TRANQUILITY	0	1	2	Subjective, relative (give justification)
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE	0	1-3	4	Extant, visible evidence. Number of periods/features/records etc. / Relevant existing designations (Historic Environment Records)
WILDLIFE SIGNIFICANCE, GEOLOGY	0	1-3	4	Richness of species and habitats (Priority (BAP) spp. / Priority habitats) / relevant existing designations (Habitat Survey, Local Wildlife Sites / site of geological/industrial history significance
[Maximum possible score]			**32**	

Environmental protection in the sustainable development of Newbold Verdon

In the National Planning Policy Framework, the *natural and historical environment* is acknowledged to be an essential component of *sustainable development*; as such it should be given equal weight in a balance against social and economic growth, including new development, when Planning matters are being determined.

This section identifies land and features of environmental significance in Newbold Verdon. It includes policies to protect the best from loss or damage by allocating them to categories based on their type, importance, function (as community assets, for example) and intrinsic value.

The levels of protection afforded by the Policies in this chapter are summarised in *Supporting Document X.*

Care was taken during preparation of the Plan to ensure that the policies (and the sites and areas of environmental significance covered by them) were not unduly restrictive on development during the Plan's lifetime. Only 5% (approximately) by

area of the currently open land in the parish has been earmarked for environmental protection, while the proportion (including existing Open Space, Sport and Recreation sites) in, and within 500m of the limits of, the present built-up area is 11.2%:

Total area of Newbold Verdon parish = 825 ha

Total area proposed for environmental protection in this Plan = 41.7 ha (5%)

Built-up area + 500m margin (and otherwise developed areas) = 115 ha

Area proposed for environmental protection within this = 12.9 ha (11.2%)

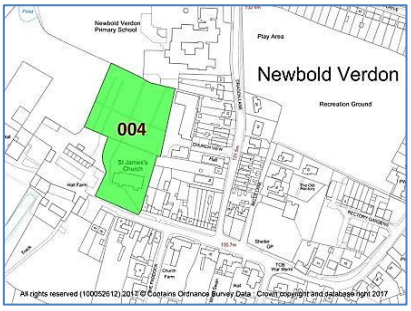
3. Local Green Space

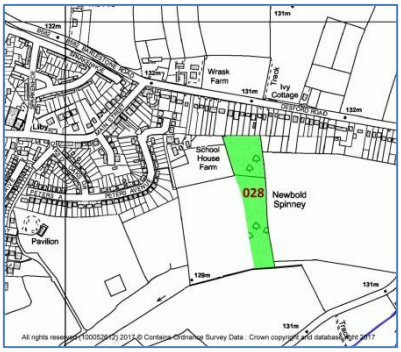
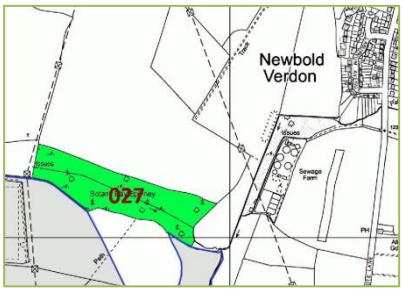
Of the approximately 200 parcels of open land in the parish, 94 tbc were identified as having notable environmental (natural, historical and/or community) features. These sites were scored, using the nine criteria for Local Green Space designation noted in the *National Planning Policy Framework 2012* (see Fig. X for the criteria and scoring system adopted for this Plan).

Three sites score 75% (24/32) or more of the maximum possible and are also appropriate for Local Green Space designation. One is already (in part) protected as a burial ground, the others exceed the essential requirements for designation as Local Green Space as outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF paragraph 77). NB Private ownership – needs consultation with landowner. Their statutory protection will ensure that these most important places in Newbold Verdon's natural and human environment are safe for future generations.

[Table will become a *supporting document* later]

Ref.	EVIDENCE	NPPF (2012) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA									
		Access /4	Proximity /4	Bounded /4	Special /4	Rec/Ed /4	Beauty/ Views /2	Tranq. /2	History /4	Wildlife /4	**TOTAL**

Ref.	EVIDENCE	NPPF (2012) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA									
		Access /4	Proximity /4	Bounded /4	Special /4	Rec/Ed /4	Beauty/ Views /2	Tranq. /2	History /4	Wildlife /4	**TOTAL**
004	**St James' Churchyard and Cemetery** At the heart of the Conservation Area and village. Full public access. PRoW S19 runs along the western boundary. Fully bounded, stone walls and fences. Existing protection as burial ground and as setting of Grade II listed building. The local school has close ties with the church. Maintained as an OSSR site by the Parish Council. The combination of old buildings, trees, lawns, headstones and wildlife make this a tranquil and attractive part of the village. Views from the churchyard to open countryside. Headstones (Swithland Slate) date from xxxx. Church is 1899 rebuilding by important local architect HC Goddard (Church Heritage Record 619287). Mature trees and shrubs, with bats, swifts and other species of conservation concern.	**4**	**4**	**4**	**4**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**4**	**3**	**31**
	 St James Church and churchyard, February 2012										
											
028	**Newbold Spinney** Mixed mature deciduous woodland. Access via PRoW R95 via Peter's Avenue and Kirkby Lane. Adjacent to proposed Limits to Development. Full fence, hedge and stream boundaries. Popular and well-used by local people incl. joggers, dog-walkers and birdwatchers. Forms part of several circular walks from the village. Planted c.1811 as cover for foxes and gamebirds as part of the planned Enclosure landscape. 4 BAP species birds, mammals, invertebrates (lepidoptera, etc.), flowering plants.	**4**	**3**	**4**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**27**

Ref.	EVIDENCE	NPPF (2012) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA									
		Access /4	Proximity /4	Bounded /4	Special /4	Rec/Ed /4	Beauty/ Views /2	Tranq. /2	History /4	Wildlife /4	**TOTAL**
		Newbold Spinney, October 2016									
											
027	**Botany Bay Wood** Mixed deciduous woodland with stream. Access via public footpath S16 and via bridleway S25. Clear boundaries. Part of a well-used walk and a recreational destination for local people. Also used as a pheasant shoot. Reputedly named 'Botany Bay' in 18th century as a warning to poachers. Originally 'the Plantation', part of the extensive landscaped grounds of Newbold Hall (Nathaniel Crewe, c.1699). High biodiversity: flowering plants (including bluebells, wood anemone, dogs mercury (ancient wood indicator species), 4+ BAP species birds, invertebrates, butterflies, etc. Ref in BTO Bird Atlas 2007-11 and surveyed for botany 1996-2017	**3**	**2**	**4**	**3**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**25**
	[image needed]	Botany Bay, Summer 2017									
											

POLICY ENV 1: PROTECTION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACE – Development proposals that would result in the loss of, or have an adverse effect on, the following designated Local Green Spaces (map below) or their settings will not be permitted other than in exceptional circumstances.

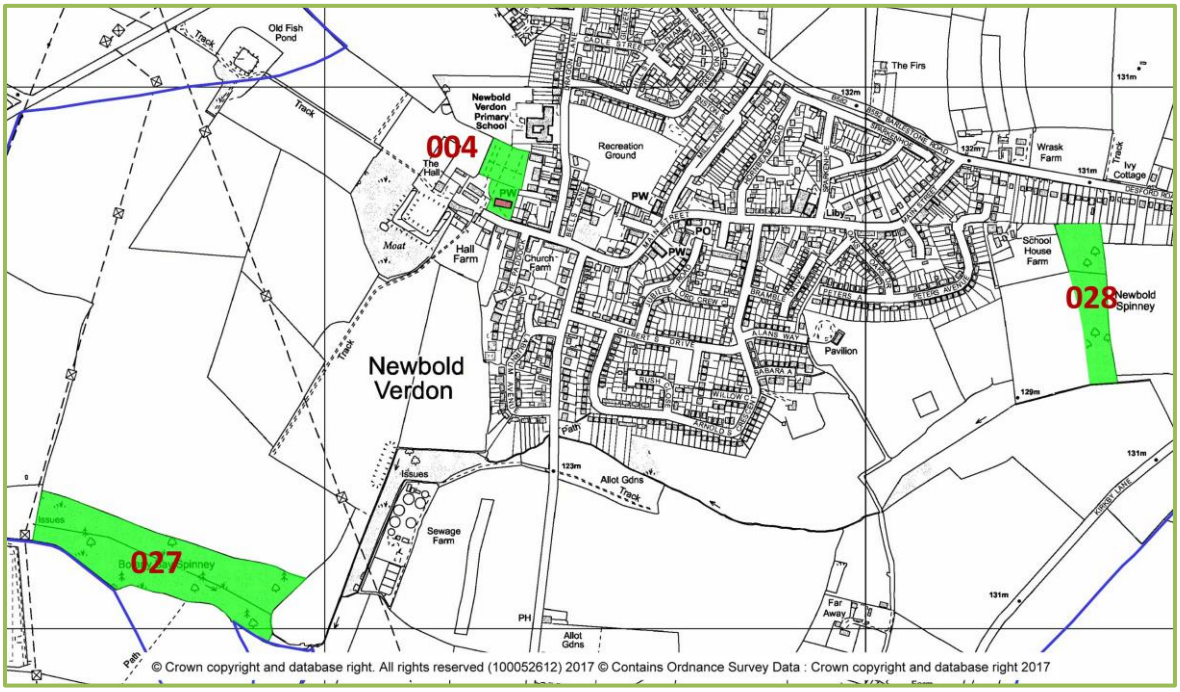
Churchyard and cemetery of St James' Church (map reference 004)

Newbold Spinney (028)

Botany Bay Wood (027)

Fig. x: Local Green Spaces

Pink shading indicates existing statutory protection as Listed Building



4. Sites of environmental significance

A group of inventory sites scores highly for 'history' and 'wildlife' (scoring at least 4 / 8 under these two criteria) but, because their community value scores are not high enough they are not eligible for Local Green Space designation. The features for which the identified sites have been selected and notified are listed in the environmental inventory (Appendix X).

The **historical environment** sites comprise a) sites with *extant and visible* archaeological or historical features recorded in the Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Records database; and b) other sites of historical and social significance identified in local records and during the inventory process.

The **natural environment** sites comprise a) those where *priority habitats* occur (Natural England mapping) or where Leicestershire *biodiversity action plan (LBAP) species* have been recorded as breeding or as regular visitors; and b) sites identified during the inventory process as being of high biodiversity significance in the context of the Plan Area.

The environmental inventory used local knowledge, research and fieldwork to add sites of historical, archaeological and biodiversity significance not previously recorded by or notified to the Planning Authorities. Taken together, these sites are essential for biodiversity conservation in the Parish and for the preservation and appreciation of Newbold Verdon's historical and cultural heritage. The map (Fig. X) shows their locations.

Fig. x: All sites of environment significance in the Plan Area (policy ENV 2)

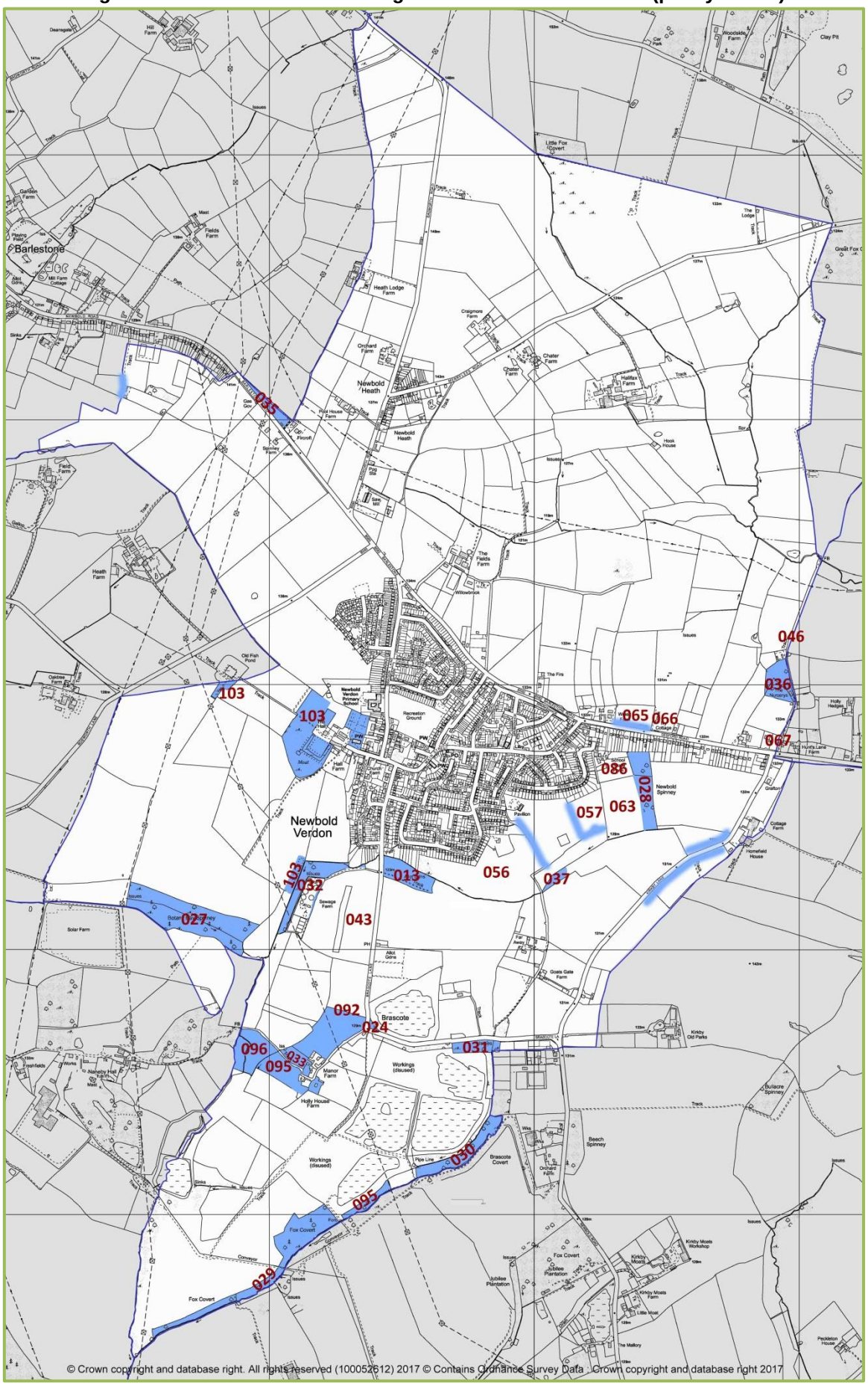
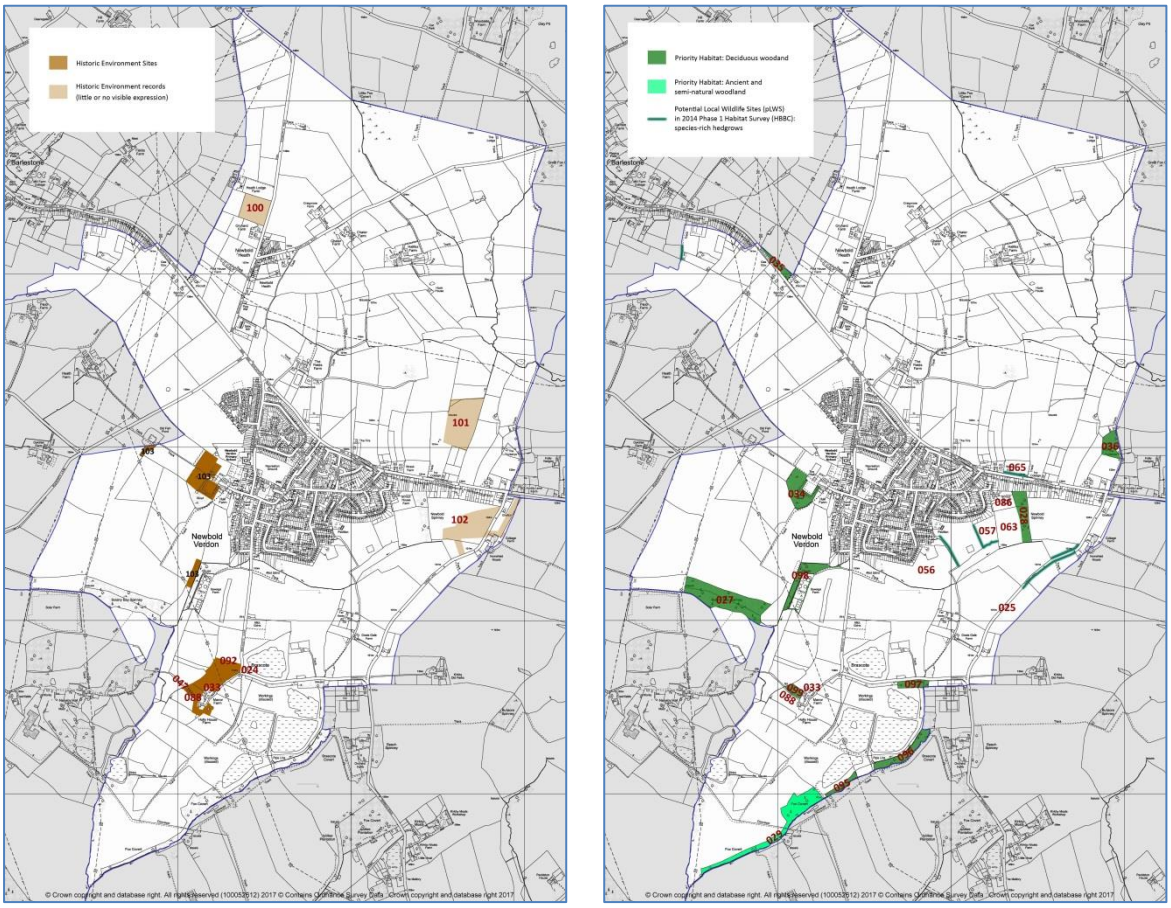


Fig. X Sites with existing historical (left) and natural (right) environmental designations

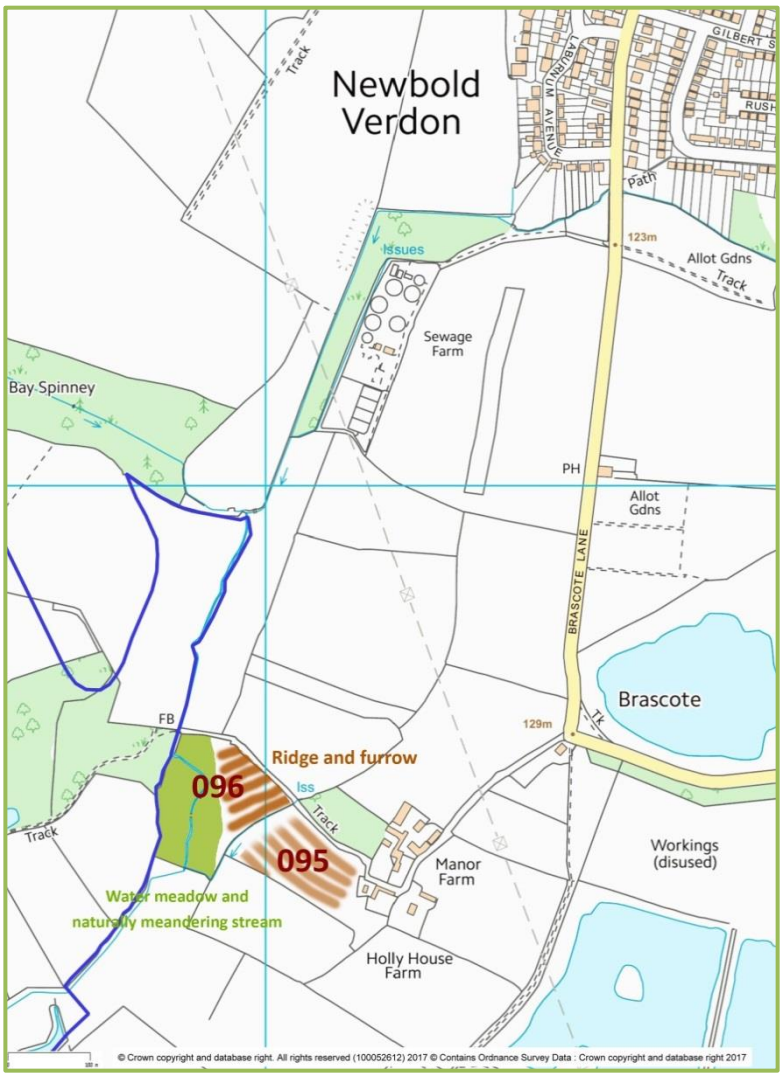


POLICY ENV 2: PROTECTION OF SITES AND FEATURES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE – 27 sites (environmental inventory, appendix X, and map Fig. x below) are known to be of at least local significance for biodiversity (species and habitats) and / or history. They are important in their own right and are locally valued. Development proposals that affect them will be expected to protect or enhance the identified features.

5. Ridge and furrow

From the time of its establishment as a village in the late ‘dark ages’ through the medieval period Newbold Verdon was farmed using the open field system. The arable crops were rotated on a three- or four-year cycle, while the rest of the productive land was set aside as permanent meadow and woodland. Ploughing was by teams of oxen; ploughs were of the non-reversible type, meaning that as the teams progressed up and down the furlongs the earth was always thrown to the plough’s right, creating strong ridges and deep furrows. Most parishes in the English midlands continued farming in this way until the 18th century, when agricultural improvement led to the Enclosure of the open fields and their conversion to grazing land. The ridges and furrows of the old ploughlands were

Fig. x The two surviving ridge and furrow fields in the Plan Area are a significant heritage asset



'fossilised' under the new grass fields; many survived in this way into the 20th century, when a new agricultural revolution led to a return to arable farming, but this time on an industrial scale. Hedges were grubbed out and deep ploughing destroyed most of the surviving ridge and furrow; across most of the Midlands there has been a loss of (typically) 90% since the 1940s.

Newbold Verdon did not follow this pattern. Its enclosure was carried out earlier, starting with the creation of a large estate of parkland, gardens and fields in the late 16th century, while its subsequent history – in particular the changes in farming, land use and settlement associated with coal mining and other industries – appears to have caused the gradual obliteration of ridge and furrow. The result is that only two small parcels of permanent grassland in Brascote still show traces of the medieval open field system, interestingly at a place where the ploughland can be seen to have met the water meadows beside a small brook.

In English legislation ridge and furrow fields (except for the few that are Scheduled Monuments) are not statutorily protected, despite recognition that *"as the open field system was once commonplace in NW Europe, these [surviving] sites take on an international importance"*[1]

While the two individual fields in Newbold Verdon are not claimed to be of international importance, their extreme local rarity means that any further, avoidable, loss would be irreversibly detrimental. Historic England strongly

[1] Hall, D 2001. *Turning the Plough. Midland open fields: landscape character and proposals for management*. ('TTP1') English Heritage and Northamptonshire County Council

recommends treating all surviving ridge and furrow as (non-designated) *heritage assets*, and this is the approach taken in this Plan.

POLICY ENV 3: RIDGE AND FURROW – The areas of ridge and furrow earthworks mapped above (Fig. X) are (non-designated) heritage assets. Any loss or damage arising from a development proposal (or a change of land use requiring planning permission) is to be avoided; the demonstrable benefits of such development must be balanced against the significance of the ridge and furrow features as heritage assets. In cases where development can be shown to be essential in principle, alternative (i.e. without ridge and furrow) development sites will be selected.

6. Important Open Spaces

A group of sites scored highly in the inventory for their outstanding community value. They have been identified in fieldwork, community consultations and in Parish records; a majority are existing Open Space, Sport & Recreation (OSSR) sites (under e.g. typologies in Hinckley and Bosworth Council (HBBC) Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study (PPG19) 2011, carried out in preparation for the HBBC Local Plan, but some are new.

In Newbold Verdon these sites fall into the following HBBC typologies:

- **Amenity Green Space**
- **Outdoor sports facilities**
- **Children and young people**
- **Allotments**
- **Cemeteries and churchyards**

together with these typologies that are not [?] used by HBBC but are recognised by many English Planning Authorities:

- Wide roadside **verges** of landscape, historical, wildlife and/or amenity value
- **Green lanes** with high recreational value and of historical and/or ecological significance

Their value as open space *within and close to the built-up areas* and/or their value as community resources are recognised in this Community Action.

COMMUNITY ACTION ENV 1: IMPORTANT OPEN SPACES - The Parish Council will actively work with Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, landowners, the community and other partners to secure the protection of the locations and features of the following sites (listed below and mapped in Fig. ENV X and detailed in Appendix X) through confirmation as existing, or designation as new, Open Space, Sport and Recreation (OSSR) sites in appropriate typologies, as follows:

Amenity Green Space

- Brascote Lake amenity green space (024)
- Open space at surgery, Dragon Lane (016)
- Mallory Close 'Green' (005)
- Open Space at the bungalows, Main Street (008)
- Open Space on corner of Arnold's Crescent (front of shops) (006)
- Open Space on Arnold's Cresent (007)
- Open Space on Laburnum Avenue (022)
- Open space on Jubilee Road (021)
- Mill Lane/Main Street open space (014)
- Library Open Space, Sparkenhoe (010)
- Sparkenhoe Open Space (011)

Outdoor Sports Facilities

- Alan's Way Recreation Ground (inventory reference 002). NVPC OSSR and Field in Trust
- Dragon Lane Recreation Ground (001). NVPC OSSR

Children and Young People

- Playing Fields, Newbold Verdon Primary School (009).
- Old Farm Lane Play Area (003). NVPC OSSR

Allotments

- Brascote Lane Allotments (including adjacent wildlife sites) (013). NVPC OSSR

Cemeteries and Churchyards

- St James' Churchyard and cemetery (004; also proposed Local Green Space0

Roadside verges

- Roadside verges around 'The Block' (Brascote Lane, Kirkby Lane, Desford Road, Main Street) [locations?] (025)
- Brascote Lane verges (023)
- Verges on roads to Newbold Heath [locations?] (026)
- Sparkenhoe / Barlestone Road verges
- Arnold's Crescent verges (019)
- Gilbert's Drive verges (020)
- Dragon Lane verge(s) (015)
- Mill Lane verge (017)
- Sparkenhoe/Desford Road verge(s) [locations?] (012)

Green Lanes

- Track from Desford Road north along the parish boundary (046; LCC Bridleway R 74)
- Harry's Lane extension (044; LCC footpath S13)
- From Harry's Lane eastward (045: LCC byway S12 and footpath S13)
- [Brascote deserted village] (047; LCC bridleway S25 and track to Brascote Lane junction)

The Parish Council will, with HBBC and the community, continue to seek to improve and develop the play and leisure facilities at Dragon Lane Recreation Ground OSSR and the sports and leisure facilities at Alan's Way Recreation Ground OSSR.

Fig. x: Important Open Spaces

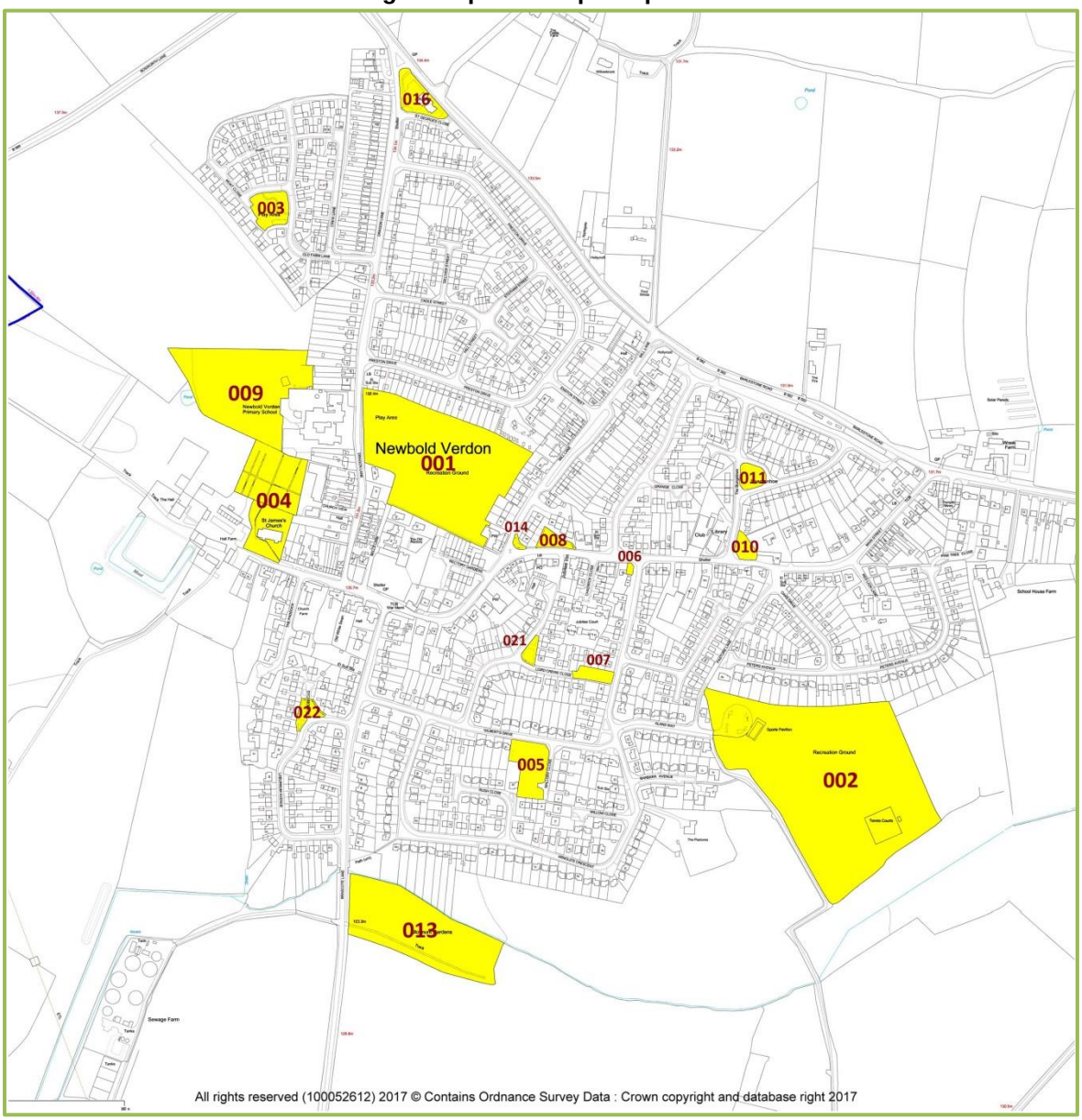
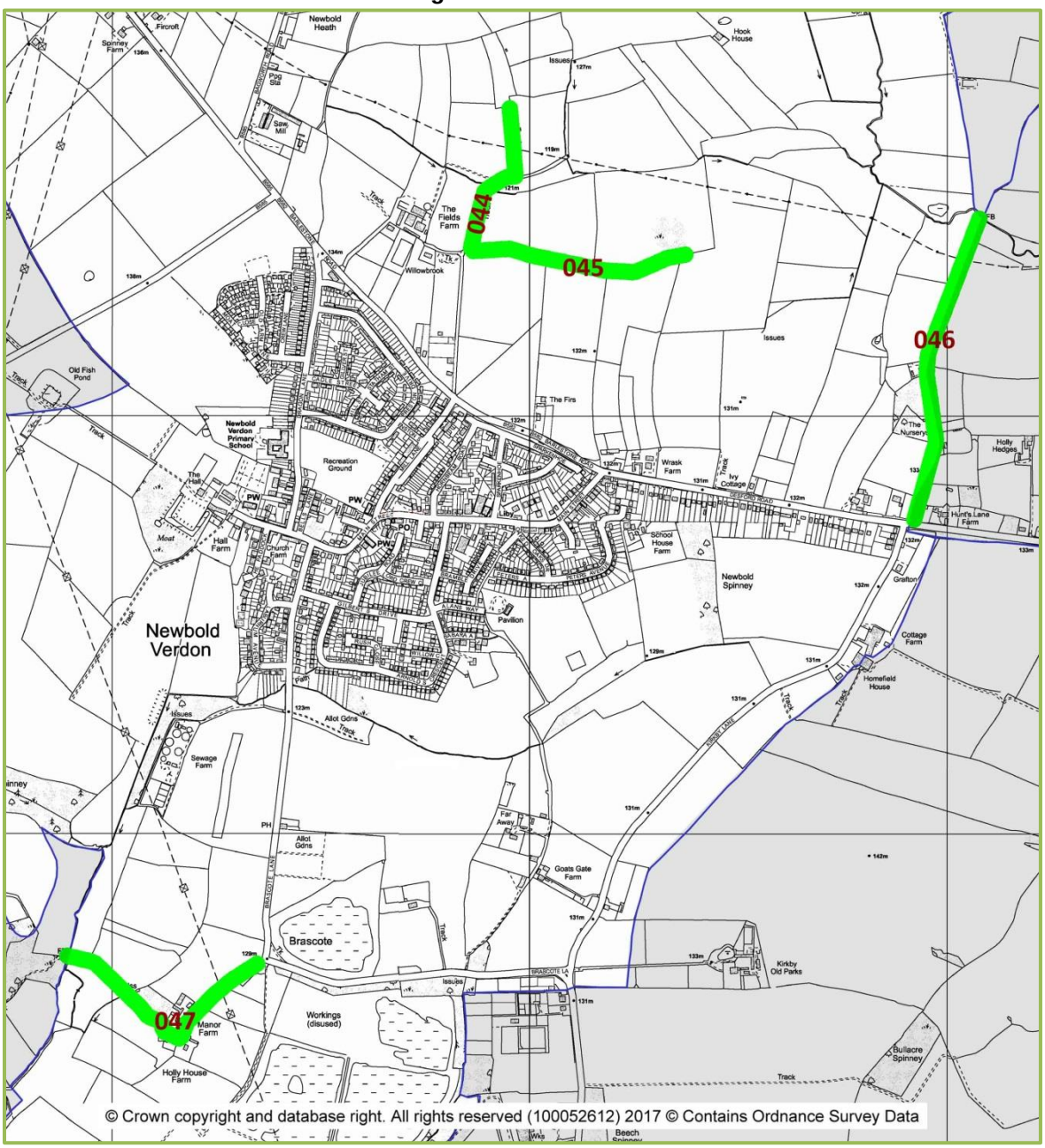


Fig. x: Green Lanes



7. Biodiversity and Wildlife Corridors

It could be claimed that Newbold Verdon is a 'typical', ecologically undistinguished area with no major wildlife hotspots, and thus that it has little or no biodiversity significance to be taken into account in the Planning system. This would be a misunderstanding of the concept of biodiversity, which is entirely and only the sum of the wildlife in every individual English parish: Newbold Verdon is as important in this regard as every other parish, and residents want it to play its essential part in protecting what remains of England's biodiversity.

The following policy is therefore about parish-level compliance with the Hinckley & Bosworth Core Strategy 2009, the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 (as amended), and the European Habitats and Species Directives – and about how the Plan Area can 'do its bit' to protect and enhance biodiversity.

As part of this aim, wildlife corridors have been identified locally along linear landscape features that are known to be relatively biodiverse (including habitats based on watercourses, open water, marsh, woodland, hedgerows, green lanes and unimproved grassland) and which demonstrably provide connectivity for species of conservation concern. The corridor in the south part of the Plan Area coincides in part with the *Earl Shilton to Newbold Verdon multifunction corridor* (HBBC Core Strategy Policy 20, 2009), while all corridors include sites identified in the *Extended Phase I Habitat Survey* conducted for preparation of the Core Strategy.

POLICY ENV 4: BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS - Development proposals will be expected to safeguard locally significant habitats and species, especially those protected by relevant English and European legislation, and, where possible, to create new habitats for wildlife.

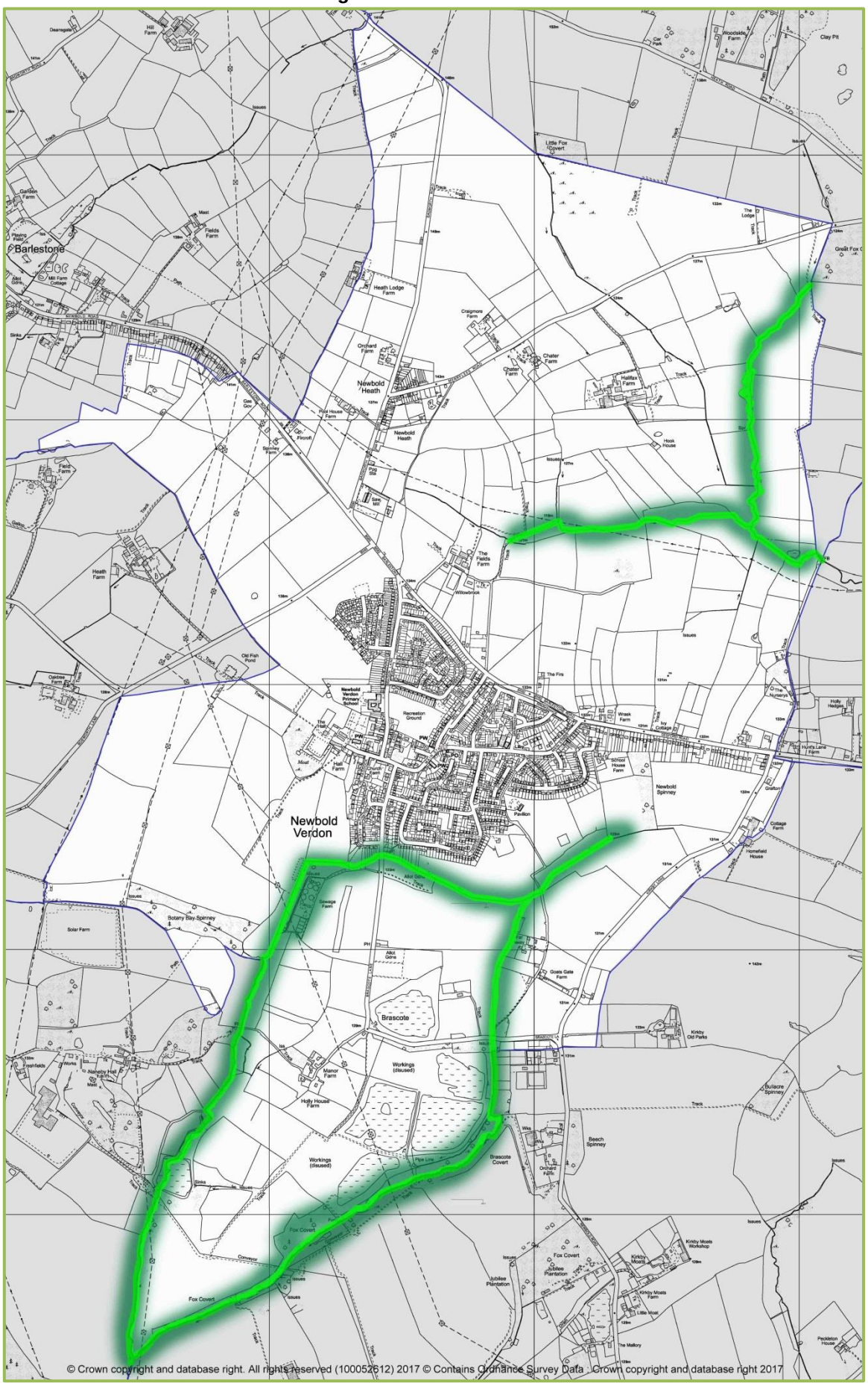
Permitted development in the Plan Area will be expected to protect and enhance the identified wildlife corridors (Fig X) and other potential habitat links. New development should not create barriers to the permeability of the landscape for wildlife in general, or fragment the populations of any species of conservation concern.

COMMUNITY ACTION ENV 2: BIODIVERSITY

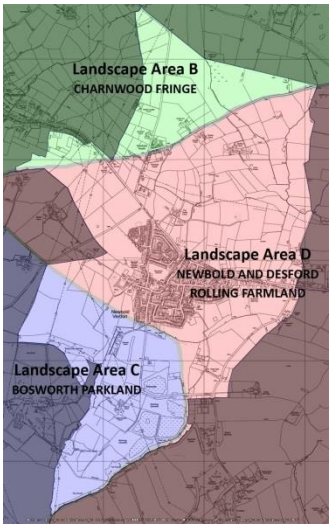
a) The Parish Council, in conjunction with other bodies, will maintain the environmental inventory list of known sites of biodiversity interest prepared for this Plan;

b) The Parish Council will work with community groups, landowners, funders and other organisations to enhance the biodiversity of the Parish by creating and/or managing habitat sites (e.g. wildflower meadows, woodland, wetland) on suitable parcels of land.

Fig. x: Wildlife corridors

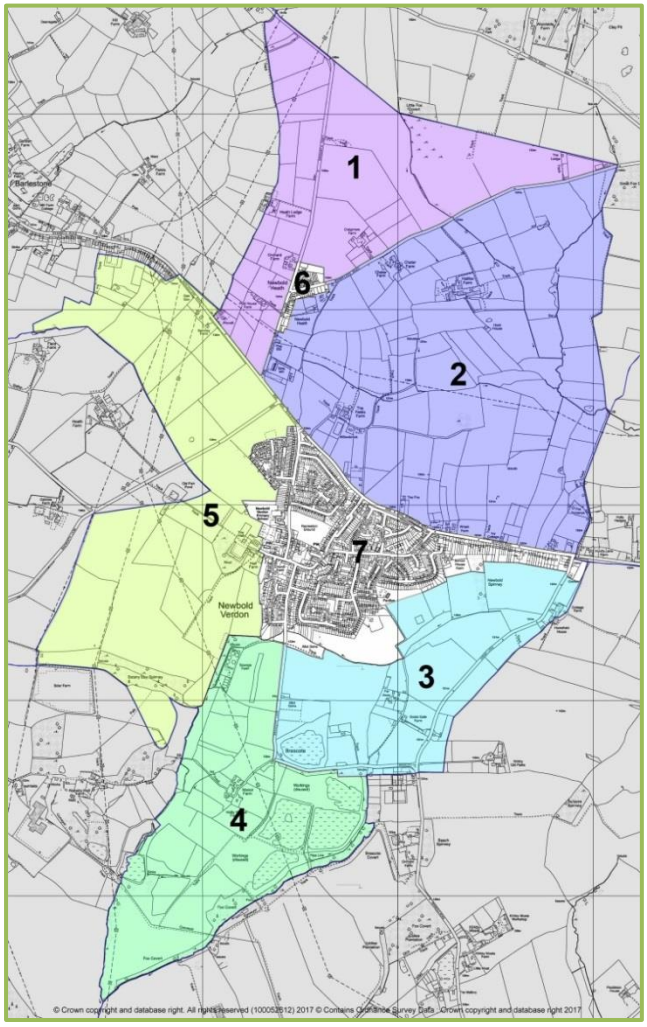


8. Landscape Character Areas



The open countryside of the Plan Area is highly valued by residents. It is as important for defining the character and sense of place of Newbold Verdon as the built village environments are. The parish falls within three Landscape Areas (assessed for character and sensitivities) designated in the HBBC *Landscape Character Assessment 2017*, as shown here (right).

Residents of the Plan Area considered that, although useful at the larger scale of the Borough, the HBBC areas did not reflect the landscape character differences at the parish level. Although Open Countryside is protected from large-scale development, Planning decisions about the specific appropriate types of development to be permitted outside the limits to development should take into account the particular characteristics of each of the following six local *landscape character areas* (LCAs) in the parish that were identified during the preparation of this Plan.



LCA 1: Newbold Heath

- Includes (in north) the highest land in the parish. Open, few hedges or trees; extensive views.
- Valley sides fall to east and south
- Mainly arable but some grazing
- In landscape terms is part of the Leicestershire Coalfield, with areas of semi-derelict scrub and rough grassland.
- Includes the 110m Stonehaven wind turbine (4 others are visible); National Grid powerlines, busy Bagworth Road runs north-south.
- Historically the area was heathland; any natural regeneration of vegetation reflects this (birch trees, flowering plant and grass species)

LCA 2: Newbold Valley

- Attractive area of small fields with hedges and standard trees (evidence of 16th century enclosure)
- Rolling countryside with small valley toward east side

- Well-established, traditional farms (Chater, Halifax); some diversification: timber, equestrian and individual renewable energy infrastructure (solar and wind)
- Important views from the village across this area
- Good network of well-used footpaths and green lanes.

LCA 3: "The Block"

- Primary countryside access area and visual amenity for the village of Newbold Verdon
- Gently rolling landscape
- Important views (lake, etc.) and woodland access. Includes Newbold Spinney (Local Wildlife Site, proposed Local Green Space)
- Rural character, only two houses.
- Agricultural land quality is high (grade 2); arable, improved grazing/silage and semi-improved permanent grass

LCA 4: Brascote and Brascote Lake

- Site of deserted medieval village of Brascote (now hamlet)
- Includes only parcels of land in the Plan Area with preserved medieval ridge and furrow earthworks and traditional water meadow. (NB the integrity of one ridge and furrow field has recently been compromised by installation of overhead conveyor)
- Arable and pasture, but large areas have been (and continue to be) quarried for sand and gravel. Previously quarried areas and old silting ponds are either returned to agriculture or allowed to become wetland/scrubland habitat (opportunities for habitat creation and management)
- Brascote Lake forms eastern boundary
- Well-used footpath and bridleway
- Views south are rural, but those to west are compromised by power lines and solar farm

LCA 5: Hall Farm land and Old Heath

- Site of medieval Newbold Verdon manor house
- Immediately west of the modern village limits to development; provides historical and rural setting for the village
- Includes largest area of woodland in the parish
- Largely flat or undulating open landscape
- Mainly large arable fields, but important group of permanent pasture fields south of Hall Farm, currently grazed by Park cattle
- Extensive earthworks and cropmarks provide archaeological evidence for the medieval to 16th century fishponds, formal gardens and parkland of Newbold Verdon Hall
- Important views of the old part of Newbold Verdon, including the church (of which this area provides the *setting*) from south of Hall Farm

LCA 6: Newbold Heath hamlet

- Small community of mainly 19th and 20th century houses associated with mining and other employment
- Residents enjoy direct access to countryside views and footpaths

For full details see Supporting Document X *Character Assessment.*

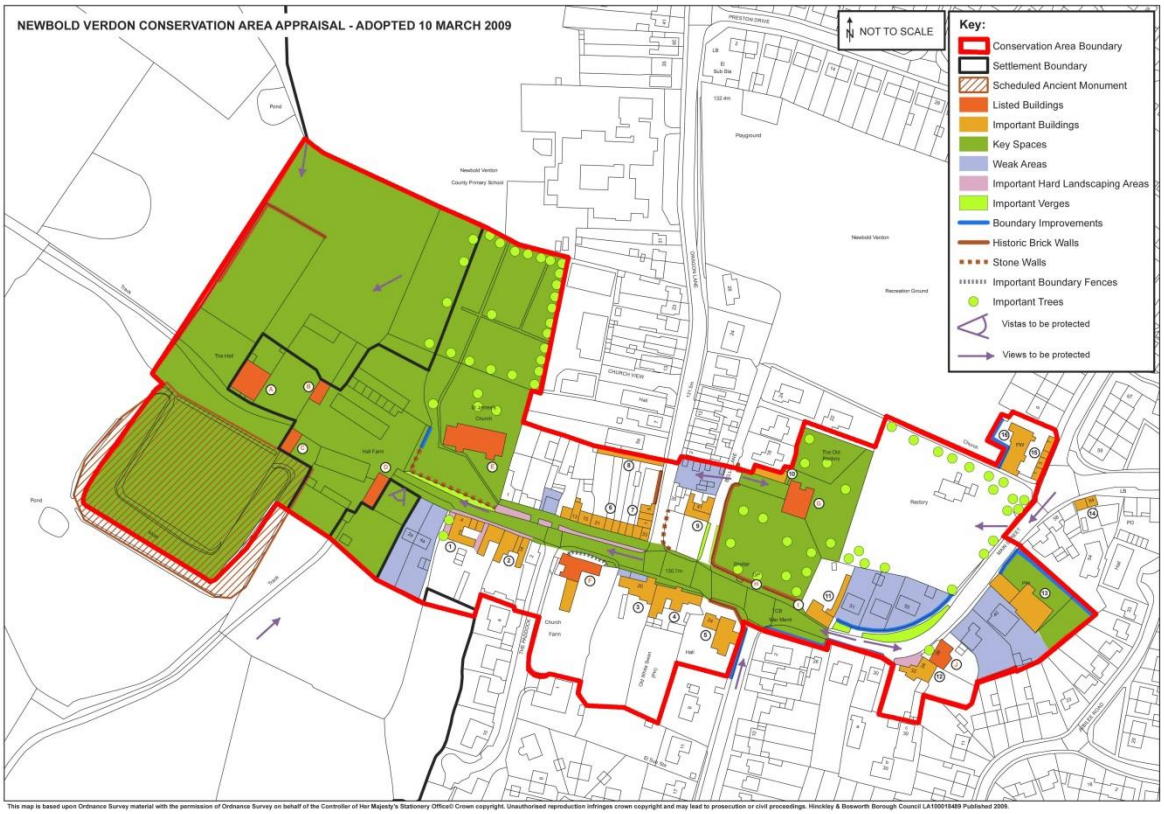
POLICY ENV 5: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS – Any new development proposals in these areas of Open Countryside will, where possible, maintain the existing individual characteristics of the six Landscape Character Areas identified in Figure X and described above.

9. Buildings and structures of local significance

CONSERVATION AREA

The Conservation Area was confirmed in its present delineation in 2009. A Neighbourhood Plan is not empowered to redefine these boundaries but in any case there is no desire to do so. National regulations and Local Plan policies will apply.

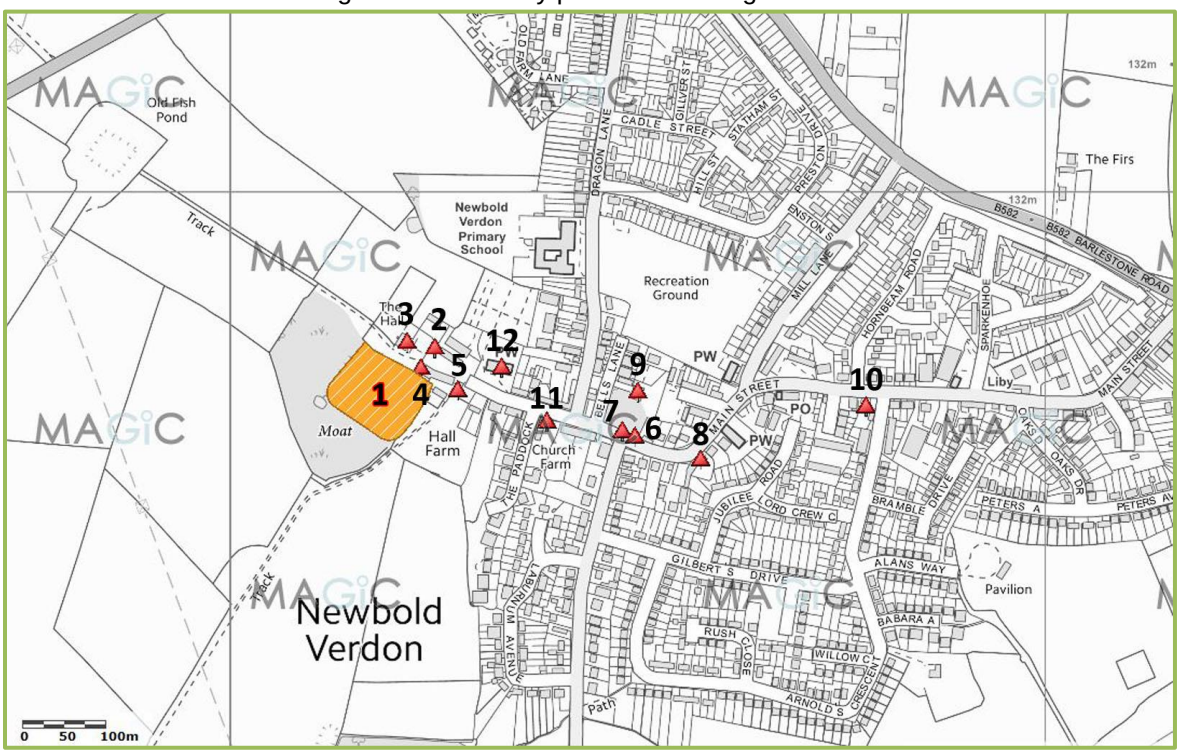
Figure X: Newbold Verdon Conservation Area boundary (appraisal, HBBC 2009)



SCHEDULED MONUMENT and LISTED BUILDINGS

Eleven buildings and structures in the Plan Area have statutory protection through Listing at Grade I or II. One Scheduled Monument has similar statutory protection. The Neighbourhood Plan lists them for reference, and to note that new development will be required to take into account, on a case by case basis, their ***settings*** as defined by Historic England.

Figure X: Statutorily protected heritage assets



1. MOATED SITE SOUTH OF THE HALL

Scheduled Monument

2. **NEWBOLD VERDON HALL**

Grade: I

3. PAVILION AT NORTH WEST CORNER OF FORECOURT AT NEWBOLD VERDON HALL

Grade: II

4. PAVILION AT SOUTH WEST CORNER OF FORECOURT AT NEWBOLD VERDON HALL

Grade: II

5. PAVILION AT SOUTH EAST CORNER OF FORECOURT AT NEWBOLD VERDON HALL

Grade: II

6. K6 TELEPHONE KIOSK ADJOINING NUMBER 49, MAIN STREET

Grade: II

7. GATES AND SIDE SCREENS THE OLD RECTORY, MAIN STREET

Grade: II

8. COB COTTAGE, MAIN STREET

Grade: II

9. THE OLD RECTORY, BELL LANE

Grade: II

10. IVY COTTAGE, 92 MAIN STREET

Grade: II

11. **CHURCH FARMHOUSE AND FENCE**

Grade II

12. CHURCH OF ST JAMES

Grade II

Source: https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/

POLICY ENV 6: THE SETTINGS OF DESIGNATED AND NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS – In addition to the protection afforded by national regulations, development proposals will be expected to safeguard the settings of the Scheduled Monument, Listed Buildings and other extant heritage assets in the Plan Area.

10. Important Views

Consultation during the Neighbourhood Plan's preparation identified a widely-held wish to protect Newbold Verdon's relationship with the surrounding open countryside and the wider landscape, including its elevated position between the old Leicestershire Coalfield and Charnwood Forest to the north and the 'Midland Plain' to the south. One of the main ways in which residents expressed this wish was by describing a number of highly-valued views around the parish and into the village from the surrounding countryside. These consultation findings were supported by the environmental inventory, which although principally aimed at identifying sites of environmental significance also confirmed the sight-lines of the suggested views and mapped them (below, Figure x)



View 1: north along avenue at Brascote



View 2: northeast to St James Church, Newbold Verdon



View 3: west from Harry's Lane



View 4: East-southeast from Newbold Heath plateau

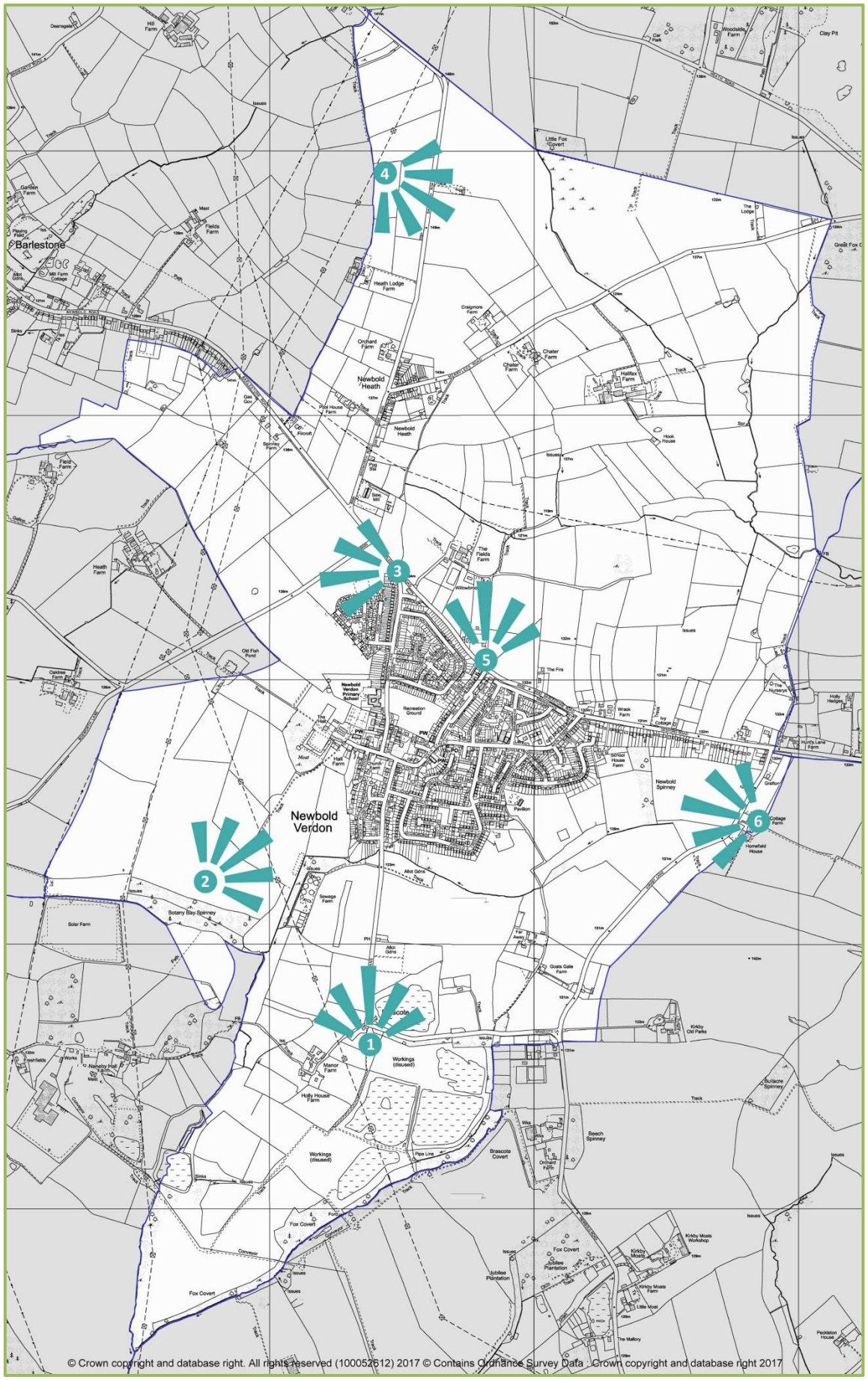


View 5: North from Harry's Lane at north edge of Newbold Verdon. Small hedged fields



View 6: Northwest from parish boundary to Newbold Spinney

Fig. X: Important views. See text for descriptions



POLICY ENV 7: SAFEGUARDING IMPORTANT VIEWS - Development proposals should respect the open views and vistas as shown in Figure 17. Proposals which would have an unacceptably detrimental impact on these views and vistas will not be supported.

1. **North along avenue of trees – historic view of Brascote**
2. **Northeast from open country south of Hall Farm to St James church and the historic centre of Newbold Verdon**
3. **West from Harry's Lane across open farmland. Defines separation of Newbold Verdon from Barlestone**
4. **East-southeast from Newbold Heath plateau across Desford Vale (Heathly Brook). Defines separation of Newbold parish from Desford**
5. **North from Harry's Lane and north edge of Newbold Verdon toward Newbold Heath. Defines separation between Newbold Verdon and Newbold Heath**
6. **Northwest from parish boundary to Newbold Spinney (proposed Local Green Space and part of the HBBC multi-function corridor)**

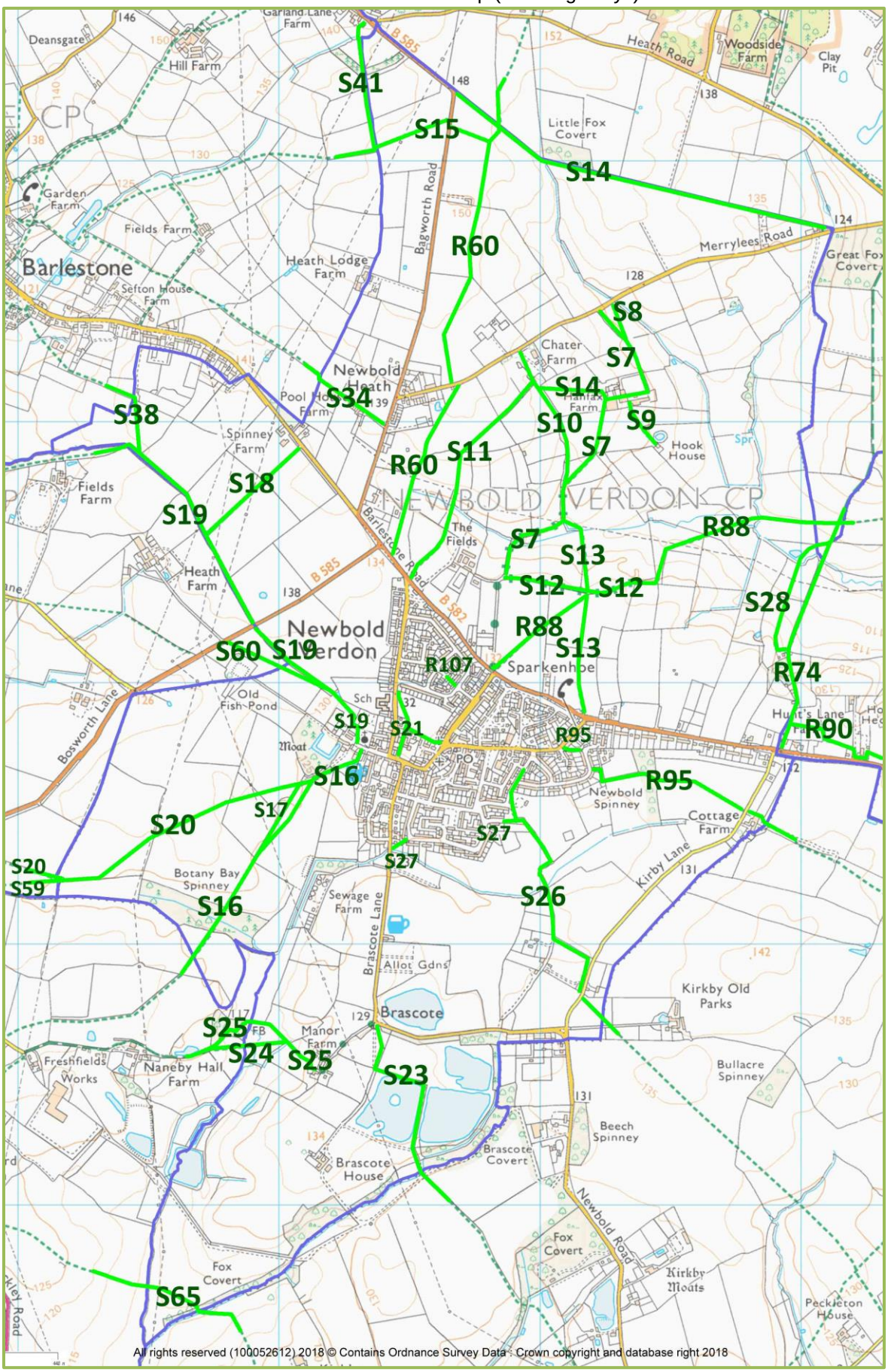
11. Public Rights of Way

A good network of footpaths and bridleways survives in the Plan Area. To some extent they are a characteristic historic feature, as well as being a well-used community asset that helps improve physical and mental wellbeing for local residents (and visitors). The network around Newbold Verdon records essential walking routes established and used in two periods of local history when walking was the only way of getting around: in the medieval period, for walking between the villages and from them into the open fields and to market towns, and in the 18th – 19th century industrial period, for walking to work. The modern public roads mostly post-date these old walking routes, which – unlike the situation in many Leicestershire communities – have survived, thanks to continued use into the 20th century.

Although this popularity continues, including with the support of the Three Villages Walking Group, the need for vigilance and a combination of Highways Authority and community support, and maintenance is recognised by this Policy. It also requires developers to respect the historical and rural character of local footpaths, which have a value and meaning beyond simply being unobstructed linear features.

Fig. x Statutory Rights of Way in Newbold Verdon

Based on the definitive map (LCC Highways)



POLICY ENV 8: FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS - Development proposals that result in the loss of, or have a significant adverse effect on, the existing network of footpaths and bridleways will not be supported.

Any change from the existing rural character of a path or track, including its incorporation into a new development as a paved sidewalk or restricted-width alleyway, will be considered to be an 'adverse effect'.

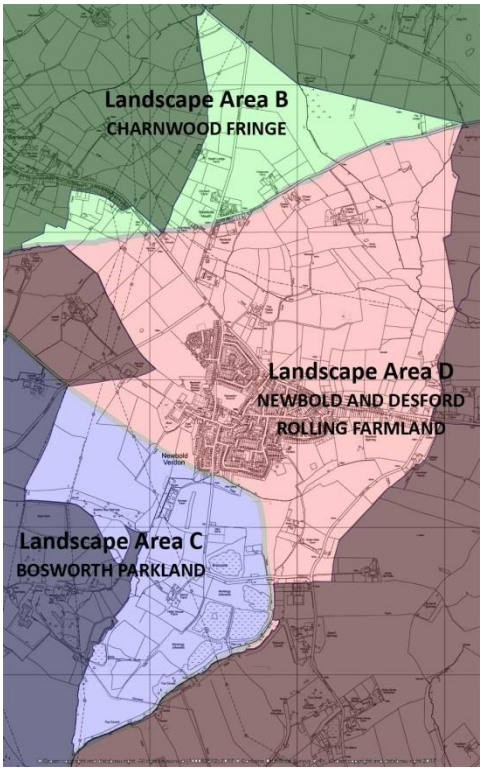
COMMUNITY ACTION ENV 3: FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS - The Parish Council will work with landowners, Leicestershire County Council, community groups and other bodies to achieve enhancements to the present network of walking routes in the Parish, including where possible replacement of styles with gates.

11. Renewable energy generation infrastructure

The Plan Area already has three turbines and two medium-area solar power generation arrays. They have been installed during the lifetime of the HBBC Core Strategy (Local Development Framework, 2009 – 2026), which included no specific, parish-scale, policies.

More recently, with respect to turbines, HBBC has published (2014) its *Renewable Energy Capacity Study*, which uses Landscape Character Areas defined before 2009; the 2014 document has been partly superseded by the HBBC *Landscape Character Assessment* 2017, meaning there have been changes to the names of the LCAs between publication of the 2014 sensitivity assessment (below) and the 2017 LCA mapping (right).

These changes do not affect the strategy currently applied by HBBC in Newbold Verdon, where (with sensitivities for turbines less than 80m tip height between *low* and *moderate*) the existing turbines appear to be in compliance.



Borough-wide Landscape Character Areas in the Plan Area (HBBC 2017)

Landscape Character Area	Small scale wind turbines (25-40m)	Medium scale wind turbines (40-80m)	Large scale wind turbines (80-135m)
A: Charnwood Fringe Character Area	Low-moderate	Moderate	Moderate-high
C: Market Bosworth Parkland Character Area	Low-moderate	Moderate	Moderate-high
D: Desford Vales Character Area	Low	Moderate	Moderate-high

Sensitivity to turbines, by Landscape Character Area (HBBC, 2014)

Residents accept the present level of renewable energy generation infrastructure, for both wind and solar energy, but there is a strong belief that the parish has now 'done its bit', and that any more medium- to large-scale installations would begin to have a cumulative adverse effect on landscape sensitivity, particularly views, and the amenity of local people. The following policy is intended to encourage local-scale energy generation while controlling medium- to large-scale installations.

POLICY ENV 9: RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION INFRASTRUCTURE - Renewable energy generation infrastructure will be supported if the proposal can demonstrate that it will not have a severe adverse impact on:

a) **the health, wellbeing or amenities of residents and visitors (including, amongst other things, noise, visual impact, reflections, glare, shadow flicker, water pollution, smell, air quality, gaseous or particulate emissions)**

b) **the character of the surrounding landscape and, in particular, views from any valued and accessible viewpoint (see Policy ENV x)**

c) **biodiversity (species and habitats, as in Policy ENV x**

d) **significant historic environment sites, non-designated heritage assets or ridge and furrow (Policies ENV x, x and x)**

and if the proposal:

a) **represents residential, business, amenity or community-initiated, solar and wind generation infrastructure of an appropriate scale for the size, character and level of other facilities, the built environment and services in the three villages; and**

b) **is supported by appropriate and relevant assessments and documentation in respect of, among other things, transport, heritage, archaeology, landscape visual impact, environmental impact, flood impact, ecological mitigation, arboriculture (impact and method) and tree reference and protection.**

Single wind turbine development proposals will be acceptable if turbine tip height does not exceed 25 metres

Solar energy generation development proposals will be supported if:

a) **The ground area covered by panels does not exceed 2500m^2 (50x50m) and/or the ground beneath the panels remains available for agricultural (e.g. grazing) purposes**

b) **The panel array is not visible from any valued and accessible viewpoint (see Policy ENV x), or from any private or residential property**

c) **Reflection (glare) is not evident from any viewpoint**

Environmental protections [as *supporting document X*]

In the National Planning Policy Framework, the *natural and historical environment* is acknowledged to be an essential component of *sustainable development*; as such it should be given equal weight in a balance against social and economic growth, including new development, when Planning matters are being determined.

This section identifies land and features of environmental significance in Newbold Verdon. It includes policies to protect the best from loss or damage by allocating them to categories, as follows, based on their type, importance, function (as community assets, for example) and intrinsic value.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS PROVIDED BY THE PLAN

	Weight	Selection	Protection	Notes
Local Green Space (LGS)	Statutory	NPPF criteria (see below) applied locally. Highest environmental importance in the Plan Area, scoring 75%+ overall.	Full protection of the site and its features 'other than in exceptional circumstances'	No other obligations or burdens on landowner. No new public rights (e.g. access) are conferred Policy ENV x
Statutory Listed Building	Statutory	English legislation National significance Age, rarity, aesthetic merit, best of type	Demolition, extension, alteration require 'special permission' from HBBC. The 'setting' of the feature will also be considered if affected by development nearby	Already protected – no Policy needed in the Plan
Other site of environmental significance	Non-statutory, but in compliance with English and EU regulations / directives	National, county and district designations (existing) for biodiversity and /or history Sites not eligible for LGS designation but with demonstrable high environmental significance in the Plan Area, scoring 4-8 for	The sites, significant historical features, habitats and species should be taken into account if development or change of use is planned; presumption against harm or destruction	No new public rights (e.g. access) are conferred Policy ENVx

	Weight	Selection	Protection	Notes
		history+ wildlife		
Important Open Space ('Open Space, Sport & Recreation' sites, OSSR)	Non-statutory	NPPF and HBBC criteria and guidance 'all open space of public value' in 9 categories (HBBC) Sites not eligible for LGS designation but with demonstrable high community value in the Plan Area. (Some LGS may also be OSSR). Score 75%+ in community value criteria	Presumption against redevelopment or loss of value May also be protected by public ownership or covenant	Includes all sites identified by HBBC as OSSR, and additional sites identified in the Plan's environmental inventory No other obligations or burdens on landowner No new public rights (e.g. access) are conferred Policy ENV x
Wildlife corridor	Non-statutory	NPPF paragraph 117, etc., and conservation good practice. Broadly linear features identified in the environmental inventory for their biodiversity value and for providing connectivity between habitats and species in the Plan Area	Should be taken into account if development or change of use is planned; presumption against harm or destruction	No other obligations or burdens on landowner No new public rights (e.g. access) are conferred Policy ENV x
'Local List'	Non-statutory	NPPF paragraph 17. Identified in the environmental inventory and through community consultation	Notification as non-designated heritage assets. Advisory on owners, community and HBBC	Less proscriptive than statutory Listing. No other obligations or burdens on landowner if the building is in a Conservation Area. Otherwise both the structure and its 'setting' will be taken into account in Planning Applications Policy ENV x
Ridge and	Non-statutory	NPPF paragraph	Notification as non-designated	No other obligations or

	Weight	Selection	Protection	Notes
furrow		135. Historic England encourages LPAs and Neighbourhood Plans to treat sites with ridge and furrow as non-designated heritage assets	heritage assets. Advisory on landowners, farmers, community and HBBC	burdens on landowner, although sites receiving DEFRA subsidy as ridge and furrow will be protected for the lifetime of the agreement. No new public rights (e.g. access) are conferred Policy ENV x
View	Non-statutory	Identified in inventory, through community consultation and fieldwork	Recognition, and notification to HBBC to identify zones in which careful consideration should be given to regulations (e.g. permitted development in open countryside)	Policy ENV x

REFERENCE ONLY: This policy will be incorporated with other 'building standards' issues in the Housing chapter

Environmental considerations in development

Residents in the Plan Area want their communities to play their part in the sustainable development of the District. As noted in the National Planning Policy Framework, Planning Authorities should, through their policies, contribute as fully as possible to the aims of *Biodiversity 2020* DEFRA, 2011. New development in NV should be designed to incorporate the current (at time of Application) best practice standards and methods for biodiversity protection and enhancement.

POLICY ENV X: BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION IN NEW DEVELOPMENT – Provision should be made in the design and construction of new development in the Plan Area to protect and enhance biodiversity, including:

- **Roof and wall construction following technical best-practice recommendations for integral bird nest boxes and bat breeding and roosting sites**

- **Hedges (or fences with ground-level gaps) for property boundaries that maintain connectivity of habitat for hedgehogs**
- **Security lighting operated by intruder switching, not on constantly. Site and sports facility lighting to be switched off during 'curfew' hours between March and October, following best practice guidelines in *Bats and Lighting* LRERC 2014. Maximum light spillage onto bat foraging corridors should be 1 lux.**