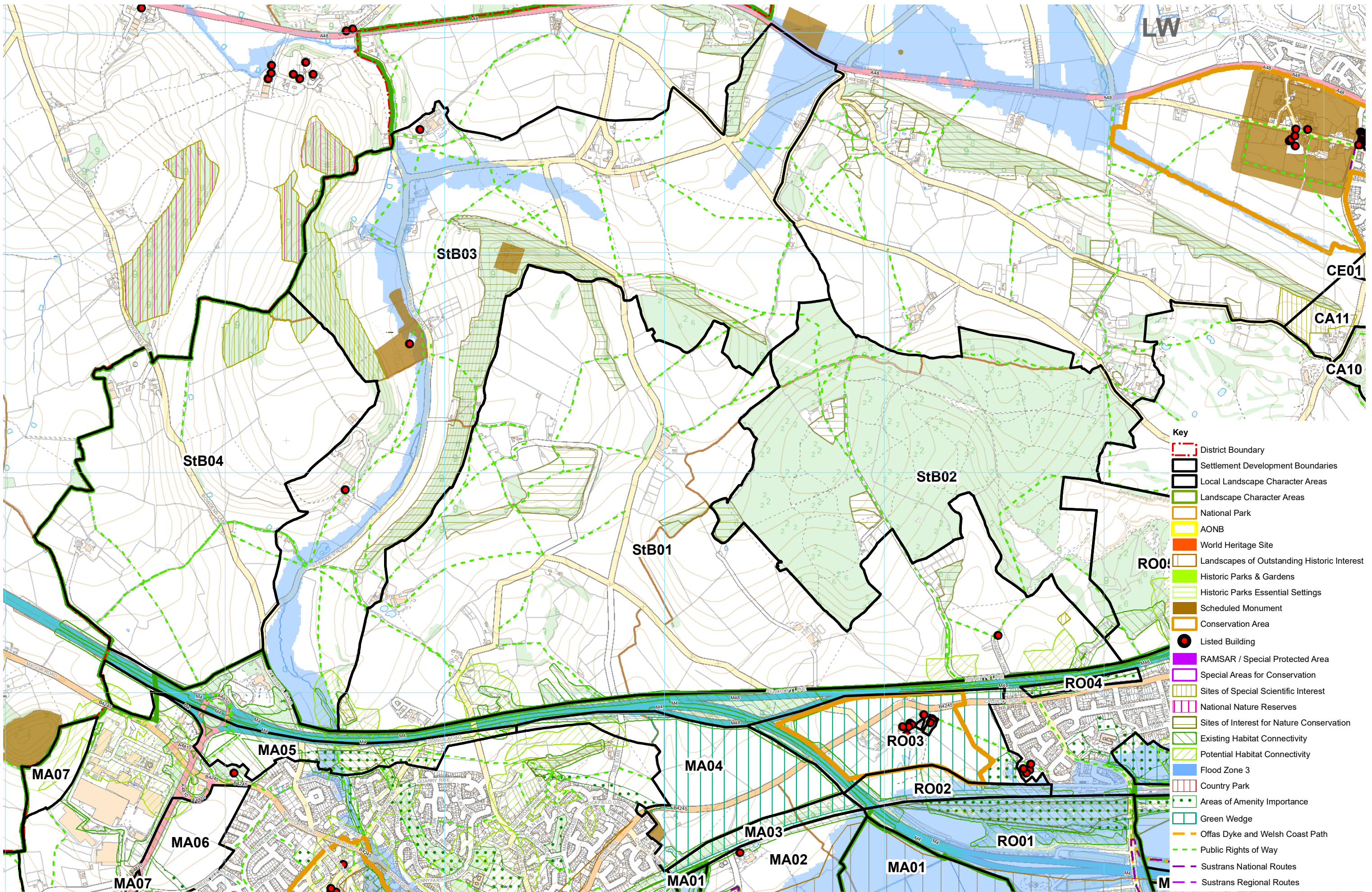


# **St Brides LLCA**





- Key**
- District Boundary
  - Settlement Development Boundaries
  - Local Landscape Character Areas
  - Landscape Character Areas
  - National Park
  - AONB
  - World Heritage Site
  - Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest
  - Historic Parks & Gardens
  - Historic Parks Essential Settings
  - Scheduled Monument
  - Conservation Area
  - Listed Building
  - RAMSAR / Special Protected Area
  - Special Areas for Conservation
  - Sites of Special Scientific Interest
  - National Nature Reserves
  - Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation
  - Existing Habitat Connectivity
  - Potential Habitat Connectivity
  - Flood Zone 3
  - Country Park
  - Areas of Amenity Importance
  - Green Wedge
  - Offas Dyke and Welsh Coast Path
  - Public Rights of Way
  - Sustrans National Routes
  - Sustrans Regional Routes

0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometres

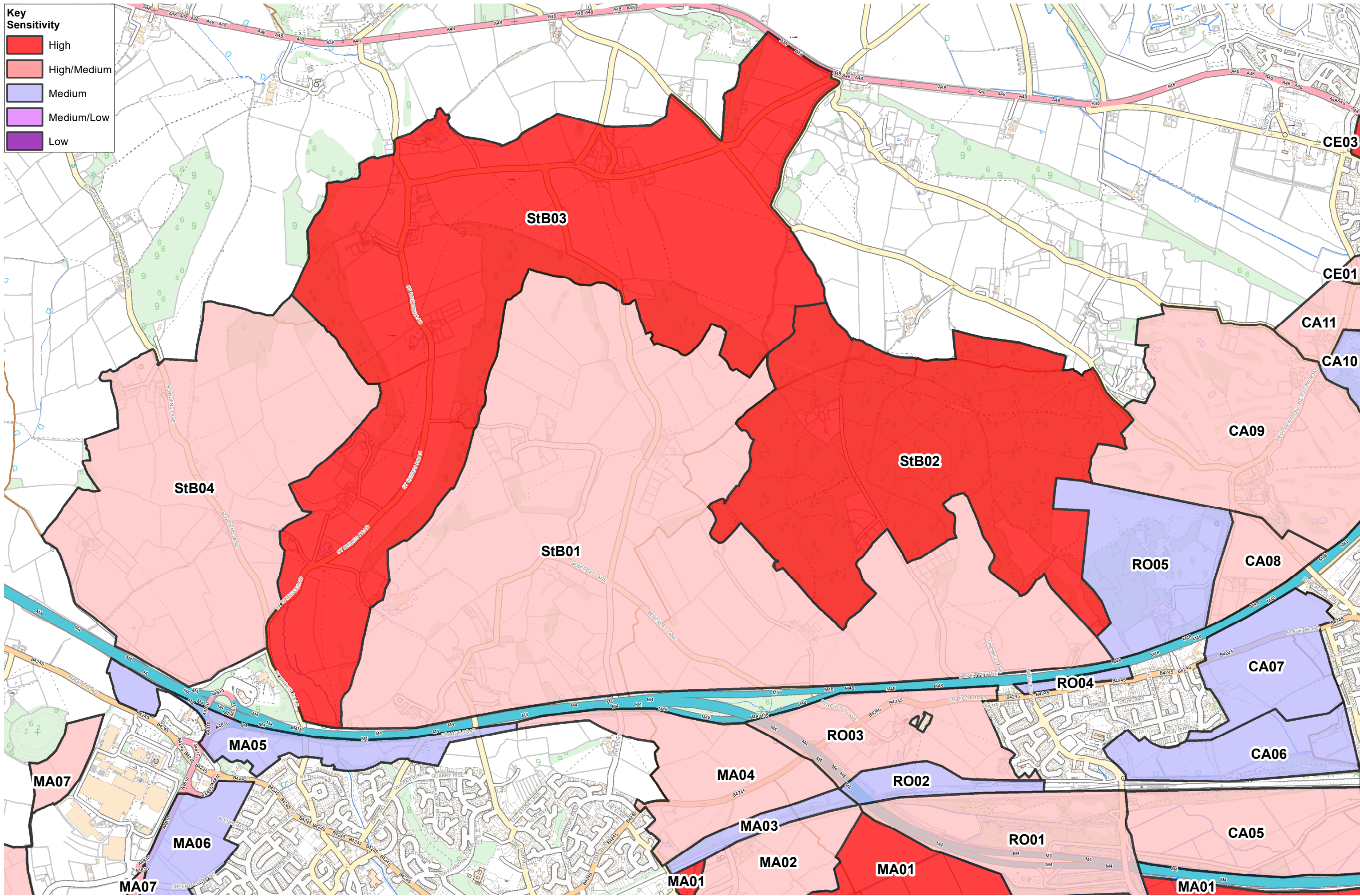


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 www.whiteconsultants.co.uk

Project: Monmouthshire Landscape Sensitivity Study  
 Client: Monmouthshire County Council  
 Date: February 2020  
 Status: Revision 1

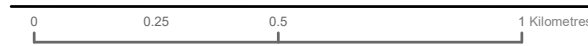
**Settlement: St Brides**  
**LLCA Constraints**





**Key Sensitivity**

- High
- High/Medium
- Medium
- Medium/Low
- Low



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 www.whiteconsultants.co.uk

Project: Monmouthshire Landscape Sensitivity Study  
 Client: Monmouthshire County Council  
 Date: October 2020  
 Status: 1020 revision

**St Brides**  
**Landscape sensitivity of LLCAs**

**SUMMARY****Key characteristics**

Smoothly undulating landscape sloping predominantly southwards with pronounced slopes towards the south. Mix of regular and irregular medium-sized pasture and arable fields with mainly low cut hedgerows with outgrown hedgerows to the south west around Knollbury.

Trees mainly in woodland copses with some in hedgerows to the south west, and providing a backcloth in the adjacent woodland.

Limited scattered rural settlement of farmsteads and dwellings with small cluster around Knollbury to the south west.

Old Windmill is a landmark.

The area is rural with a clear definition of the M4 and M48 defining the current edge of suburban settlement.

Views over the levels towards the Prince of Wales bridge and the Severn Estuary.

The area's tranquillity is disturbed by the M4 and M48 and views of settlement to the south.

Common y Coed calcareous grassland SINC and woodland SINC.

**Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing** High/Medium

The susceptibility of the area lies in its predominantly open pasture and arable slopes rising up from the motorways forming a rural backcloth to the more developed lower land to the south, the role of the motorways as a strong dividing line with suburban settlement to the south, the area's relationship with the woodland to the north, east and west and St Bride's Brook valley forming part of the wider landscape, the landmark of the Old Windmill, and the woodland copses and hedgerows around Knollbury. The value of the area lies in the listed windmill, the woodland and calcareous areas grassland SINC, the scenic qualities of the area enclosed by woodland and wide views in parts over the Severn estuary. LANDMAP value is high for historic landscape, cultural landscape and geological landscape.

Does the area or its attributes contribute to the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act Goals ?

- a prosperous Wales  a resilient Wales  a more equal Wales  a globally responsible Wales  
 a Wales of cohesive communities  a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language  a healthier Wales

**VALUE**

Landmap Context	Aspect area value	Aspect area value
Geological Landscapes	High	Landscape Habitats 90% moderate, 10% high
Historical Landscapes	High	Cultural Landscapes High
Visual and Sensory	Moderate	

**Designations**

Landscape designations comments -

National Park AONB

Historic/archaeology designations comments Old Windmill listed building

Historic Parks and Gardens Hist. Parks and Gardens Setting Listed Building Yes

Landscape of Hist. Interest Scheduled Monument Conservation Area WHS

Biodiversity designations comments Common y Coed calcareous grassland SINC, Grange Wood and the Larches SINC, woodland west of Common y Coed SINC

SAC NNR SINC Yes SSSI Yes RAMSAR

**Recreation Factors**

Country Park National Trail National/Regional Cycle Route

**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SUSCEPTIBILITY****Landscape Character Area**

LCA Name Caerwent Hinterland LCA Number 4 also part of

**Characteristics**

Landform Smoothly undulating landscape sloping predominantly southwards. Some more pronounced slopes



towards the south.

Landcover primarily pasture with arable

### Pattern

Settlement pattern small cluster around Knollbury, loose small rural hamlet of Common y Coed and sparse and scattered rural settlement such as farms or dwellings elsewhere

Woodland cover broadleaf tree belts within the area around Common y Coed, mixed plantation woodland on the high ground to the east (Thicket Wood and Slade Wood) and woodland on steep valley slopes to the west (Grange Wood). Trees in hedgerows around Knollbury.

Boundaries medium to large fields with low cut hedges to the north and east and small fields to the west and around Knollbury with gappy outgrown and low cut hedges

Presence of water -

Diversity simple Scale medium

Sense of enclosure generally open

### Function of Area

Pastoral  Arable  Horticulture  Recreation  other

Comments primarily pasture with arable and some limited horse grazing

### Functional relationship and connectivity

...with wider landscape limited ...with settlement limited

...with adjacent assessed area? limited Corridor?

Existing Habitat Connectivity  Habitat Connectivity Opportunity

the area appears to be managed as part of several landholdings and has PROWs linking into the settlement to the south. There are existing habitat areas of woodland linking into the linear valley side woodland to the west (Grange Wood).

Are adjacent assessed areas mutually reliant... ...visually?  ...functionally

Comments -

## PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

### Skyline

Prominence/importance prominent Complexity simple

Comments the land rises northwards to form the rural skyline when viewed from the M48 and to an extent from the M4 in the winter, with a backcloth of woodland in places. The south western edge of the area also forms the skyline when viewed from the St Bride's Brook.

### Key views

To settlement  Views over the levels towards the Prince of Wales bridge and the Severn Estuary.

From settlement  .

Landmarks Old windmill to the east

Detractors M4 and M48 with associated traffic and stanchions

### Intervisibility

Site observation high ...to key features  ...from key places

Comments the slopes are intervisible with the major roads and lower land to the south

### Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development one side 180 Presence of people infrequent

Summary medium/low

Comments the noise from the M4 and M48 and related movement reduces the tranquillity of the area to the south although tranquillity increases to the north in the area not intervisible with the roads and settlements

**Settlement edge**

Pre C20th edge  C20-21st edge  Nature of edge  Form of edge

Comments settlement is located beyond the adjacent motorways

**Visual relationship and connectivity**

...with settlement some  ...with wider landscape significant  ...with adjacent assessed area some

 **Setting**

Comments the area forms part of the rising open rural backcloth north of the levels with a partial backcloth of adjacent woodland and a well-defined edge of the M4 and M48 motorways to the south. The south eastern edge forms the edge of the St Bride's Brook valley.

**Receptors****Sensitivity**

rural residents

high

long distance/public footpaths

high

roads/rail/cycleways

medium

Comments the main receptors are users of the M48 and M4, local lanes and PROWs, with some rural dwellers

**OTHER**

Other factors -

Potential Improvements (if no development)

reinforce and enhance hedges, allow trees to grow in hedges, positive long-term management of woodland/copses to maintain their contribution to landscape character and biodiversity.

Mitigation (if development)

**SUMMARY****Key characteristics**

Undulating hilltops with steeper slopes to the south

Mixed woodland and conifer plantation

The woodland forms a strong skyline when viewed from lower land to the south, west and north, forming a strong backcloth.

Tranquil to the north.

Slade Wood is used for recreation such as walking.

**Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing** High

The susceptibility of the area lies in its land cover of mixed woodland which contributes significantly to the character of the area and its surroundings as a backcloth and a strong wooded skyline on the elevated land, the habitat connectivity of the area to the south and its use for recreation in Slade Wood. The value of the area lies in the scenic qualities of the wood and wooded skyline and its use for recreation. LANDMAP value is high for historic landscape, cultural landscape, landscape habitats and geological landscape.

Does the area or its attributes contribute to the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act Goals ?

- a prosperous Wales    a resilient Wales    a more equal Wales    a globally responsible Wales  
 a Wales of cohesive communities    a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language    a healthier Wales

**VALUE**

<b>Landmap Context</b>	<b>Aspect area value</b>	<b>Aspect area value</b>
Geological Landscapes	High	Landscape Habitats 90% high, 10% moderate
Historical Landscapes	High	Cultural Landscapes High
Visual and Sensory	Moderate	

**Designations**

Landscape designations comments	-		
National Park	AONB		
Historic/archaeology designations comments	-		
Historic Parks and Gardens	Hist. Parks and Gardens Setting	Listed Building	
Landscape of Hist. Interest	Scheduled Monument	Conservation Area	WHS
Biodiversity designations comments	-		
SAC	NNR	SINC Yes	SSSI      RAMSAR

**Recreation Factors**

Country Park      National Trail      National/Regional Cycle Route

**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SUSCEPTIBILITY****Landscape Character Area**

LCA Name    Caerwent Hinterland    LCA Number    4      also part of

**Characteristics**

Landform    undulating hilltops with steeper slopes to the south

Landcover    mixed woodland and conifer plantation

**Pattern**

Settlement pattern    two isolated dwellings in enclosures

Woodland cover    mixed woodland and conifer plantation

Boundaries    -

Presence of water    -

Diversity    simple      Scale    large

Sense of enclosure    highly enclosed

**Function of Area**Pastoral  Arable  Horticulture  Recreation  other 

Comments mixed woodland with recreation and conifer plantation

**Functional relationship and connectivity**

...with wider landscape none ...with settlement none

...with adjacent assessed area? none Corridor? Existing Habitat Connectivity  Habitat Connectivity Opportunity 

some existing habitat connectivity of woodland to the south with other woodland

Are adjacent assessed areas mutually reliant... ... visually?  ...functionally 

Comments

**PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY****Skyline**

Prominence/importance prominent Complexity simple

Comments forms a strong skyline when viewed from lower land to the south, west and north

**Key views**To settlement  -From settlement  -

Landmarks the woodland on the skyline itself acts as a landmark

Detractors -

**Intervisibility**Site observation high ...to key features  ...from key places 

Comments the woodland is highly visible from the lower land to the north and south forming a strong backcloth

**Tranquillity**

Noise sources roads

Views of development none Presence of people infrequent

Summary medium

Comments the woodland is used for recreation and noise from the motorways is apparent in the southern parts but not to the north

**Settlement edge**Pre C20th edge  C20-21st edge  Nature of edge Form of edge

Comments the area does not adjoin any significant settlement

**Visual relationship and connectivity**

...with settlement limited ...with wider landscape significant ...with adjacent assessed area significant

 Setting

Comments the woodland acts as a strong backcloth to the surrounding lower landscapes

**Receptors**

rural residents

long distance/public footpaths

roads/rail/cycleways

**Sensitivity**

high

high

medium

Comments the main receptors are users of the woodland for walking, users of the M48 and M4, local lanes



and PROWs, with some rural dwellers

**OTHER**

Other factors -

Potential Improvements (if no development)      replace coniferous woodland with broadleaf woodland over time ensuring that the skyline remains wooded

Mitigation (if development) -

**SUMMARY****Key characteristics**

Flat bottomed valley of St Brides Brook with very well defined steep sides to the east and west.

Primarily pastoral farmland with some arable enclosed by low-cut hedges with distinctive broadleaf woodland on steep slopes.

Rural settlement with large isolated farm complexes and more modern small rural clusters north of St Brides Netherwent's original core and at Carrow Hill.

Well-defined enclosure of valley sides for the most part.

Visually the valley is very tranquil but noise from the M4 affects the southern part.

The valley itself is relatively discreet but the woodlands on the upper slopes are visible and contribute to the wider landscape.

There are a series of key features and places (especially the listed buildings) which contribute to the area's special character.

Historic interest includes St Brigid church listed building, St Bride's Netherwent Deserted Medieval Village SM, The Larches Camp prehistoric hillfort SM, Pen-y-lan listed farmhouse, Salisbury listed farmhouse.

Biodiversity interest includes Penhow Woodlands SSSI, Grange Wood and the Larches SINC, Upper Severn Acres SINC.

**Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing** High

The susceptibility of the area lies in the enclosed rural character of the open valley enclosed by the distinctive steep valley sides which are wooded in part, the riparian corridor of St Bride's Brook with its associated floodplain, the area's historic settlement and features and its tranquil character to the north. The value of the area lies in its three listed buildings including St Brigid Church and two farmsteads and its two scheduled monuments, its biodiversity interest including SSSI and SINC woodlands, and its scenic quality of well-defined vistas up and down the valley framed by woodland and valley sides, with occasional landmarks of rural buildings. LANDMAP value is high for historic landscape and cultural landscape.

Does the area or its attributes contribute to the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act Goals ?

- a prosperous Wales    a resilient Wales    a more equal Wales    a globally responsible Wales  
 a Wales of cohesive communities    a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language    a healthier Wales

**VALUE**

Landmap Context	Aspect area value	Aspect area value
Geological Landscapes	25% high, 75% moderate	Landscape Habitats 45% moderate, 10% high, 45% low
Historical Landscapes	High	Cultural Landscapes High
Visual and Sensory	Moderate	

**Designations**

Landscape designations comments -

National Park AONB

Historic/archaeology designations comments St Brigid church listed building, St Bride's Netherwent Deserted Medieval Village SM, The Larches Camp prehistoric hillfort SM, Pen-y-lan listed farmhouse, Salisbury listed farmhouse

Historic Parks and Gardens Hist. Parks and Gardens Setting Listed Building Yes

Landscape of Hist. Interest Scheduled Monument Conservation Area WHS

Biodiversity designations comments Penhow Woodlands SSSI, Grange Wood and the Larches SINC, Upper Severn Acres SINC

SAC NNR SINC Yes SSSI Yes RAMSAR

**Recreation Factors**

Country Park National Trail National/Regional Cycle Route

**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SUSCEPTIBILITY**

**Landscape Character Area**

LCA Name LCA Number 4 also part of 0 0

**Characteristics**

Landform flat bottomed valley of St Brides Brook with very well defined steep sides to the east and west

Landcover Primarily pastoral farmland with some arable enclosed by low-cut hedges with some trees and distinctive broadleaf woodland on steep slopes

**Pattern**

Settlement pattern rural settlement with large isolated farm complexes and more modern rural clusters north of St Brides Netherwent's original core and at Carrow Hill

Woodland cover Strong broadleaf woodland on steep valley slopes with some riparian vegetation

Boundaries low-cut hedges generally with some outgrown hedges to the south

 Presence of water St Brides Brook

Diversity simple Scale medium

Sense of enclosure well-defined enclosure of valley sides for the most part

**Function of Area**Pastoral  Arable  Horticulture  Recreation  other 

Comments Pastoral and arable

**Functional relationship and connectivity**

...with wider landscape some ...with settlement limited

...with adjacent assessed area? some Corridor? Existing Habitat Connectivity  Habitat Connectivity Opportunity 

St Brides Brook links to the habitats corridors to the south. The area is used for walking and cycling by Magor residents and others. The area appears to form part of a series of wider landholdings.

Are adjacent assessed areas mutually reliant... ...visually?  ...functionally 

Comments -

**PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY****Skyline**

Prominence/importance very prominent Complexity simple

Comments distinctive valley side woodlands form very strong skylines

**Key views**To settlement  -From settlement  -

Landmarks St Brigid church and the two listed farmhouses

Detractors M4 to the south

**Intervisibility**Site observation medium ...to key features  ...from key places 

Comments whilst the valley itself is relatively discreet the woodlands on the upper slopes are visible and contribute to the wider landscape.

**Tranquillity**

Noise sources roads

Views of development some Presence of people infrequent

Summary medium

Comments visually the valley is very tranquil but noise from the M4 affects the southern part of the area and there is some presence of people on the minor roads and PROWs

**Settlement edge**



Pre C20th edge  C20-21st edge  Nature of edge  Form of edge

Comments the valley is separated from Magor by the motorway

### Visual relationship and connectivity

...with settlement limited  ...with wider landscape significant  ...with adjacent assessed area significant

Setting

Comments the valley is relatively enclosed and separated from Magor by the motorway. Woodlands on the upper slopes are visible and contribute to the wider landscape.

### Receptors

rural residents

long distance/public footpaths

roads/rail/cycleways

### Sensitivity

high

high

medium

Comments the main receptors are visitors to St Brigid church and the deserted Medieval Village, users of the local lanes and PROWs, some rural dwellers, and users of the M4

### OTHER

Other factors -

Potential Improvements (if no development)

Encourage riparian vegetation along the brook, positive long-term management of woodlands to maintain their contribution to landscape character and biodiversity.

Mitigation (if development)

**SUMMARY****Key characteristics**

Rolling hills and distinctive dry valley, with the eastern edge forming part of the steep valley sides of St Bride's Brook valley.

Pasture enclosed by low cut hedges in regular and semi-regular field pattern with occasional oaks.

Salisbury Hill including Penhow Woodlands are prominent to the north and the lower hill to the south west forms the skyline to the east and west.

The M4 is audible and there is some presence of people on the minor road and PROWs.

Penhow Woodlands SSSI.

**Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing** High/Medium

The susceptibility the area lies in its role as open slopes visible to the St Bride's Brook valley, the prominent upper slopes of Salisbury Hill, the skyline role of the area to the north, east and south west and the distinctive character of the dry valley with its rolling slopes, oaks and hedges. The value of the area lies in Penhow Woodlands SSSI. LANDMAP value is high for historic landscape and cultural landscape.

Does the area or its attributes contribute to the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act Goals ?

- a prosperous Wales  a resilient Wales  a more equal Wales  a globally responsible Wales  
 a Wales of cohesive communities  a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language  a healthier Wales

**VALUE**

<b>Landmap Context</b>	<b>Aspect area value</b>	<b>Aspect area value</b>
Geological Landscapes	90% moderate, 10% low	Landscape Habitats 90% moderate, 10% high
Historical Landscapes	High	Cultural Landscapes High
Visual and Sensory	Moderate	

**Designations**

Landscape designations comments	-		
National Park	AONB		
Historic/archaeology designations comments	-		
Historic Parks and Gardens	Hist. Parks and Gardens Setting	Listed Building	Yes
Landscape of Hist. Interest	Scheduled Monument	Conservation Area	WHS
Biodiversity designations comments	Penhow Woodlands SSSI		
SAC	NNR	SINC Yes	SSSI Yes RAMSAR

**Recreation Factors**

Country Park      National Trail      National/Regional Cycle Route

**LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SUSCEPTIBILITY****Landscape Character Area**

LCA Name    Caerwent Hinterland    LCA Number    4      also part of

**Characteristics**

**Landform**    rolling hills and distinctive dry valley, with the eastern edge forming part of the steep valley sides of St Bride's Brook valley

**Landcover**    pasture enclosed by low cut hedges in regular and semi-regular field pattern with occasional oaks

**Pattern**

**Settlement pattern**    Two isolated farmstead/dwellings

**Woodland cover**      Penhow woodlands to the north

**Boundaries**            mainly low-cut hedges with some outgrown hedges

Presence of water    -

**Diversity**    simple      Scale    medium

Sense of enclosure enclosed in the valley floor and open on the upper valley sides

### Function of Area

Pastoral  Arable  Horticulture  Recreation  other

Comments mainly pastoral with a small amount of arable to the north west

### Functional relationship and connectivity

...with wider landscape some ...with settlement limited

...with adjacent assessed area? some Corridor?

Existing Habitat Connectivity  Habitat Connectivity Opportunity

the area appears to form part of wider landholdings, including in St Bride's Brook valley, and there is some linkage into the PROW network to the east as well as to the wider landscape to the north.

Are adjacent assessed areas mutually reliant... ... visually?  ...functionally

Comments -

## PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

### Skyline

Prominence/importance prominent Complexity simple

Comments Salisbury Hill including Penhow Woodlands are prominent to the north and the lower hill to the south west forms the skyline locally

### Key views

To settlement  -

From settlement  -

Landmarks Penhow Woodlands

Detractors -

### Intervisibility

Site observation high ...to key features  ...from key places

Comments area rises to high points to the north and west which are apparent in the wider landscape as well as providing the backcloth to the St Bride's Brook valley along with valley slopes

### Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development some Presence of people occasional

Summary medium

Comments visually the area is tranquil and rural but the M4 is audible and there is some presence of people on the minor road and PROWs

### Settlement edge

Pre C20th edge  C20-21st edge  Nature of edge Form of edge

Comments the valley is separated from Magor by the motorway

### Visual relationship and connectivity

...with settlement limited ...with wider landscape some ...with adjacent assessed area significant

Setting

Comments area rises to high points to the north and south west which are apparent in the wider landscape as well as providing the backcloth to the St Bride's Brook valley along with valley slopes

### Receptors

rural residents

long distance/public footpaths

### Sensitivity

high

high



roads/rail/cycleways

medium

Comments the main receptors are users of the M4, local lanes and PROWs, with some rural dwellers

**OTHER**

Other factors -

Potential Improvements (if no development)

Positive long-term management of woodlands to maintain their contribution to landscape character and biodiversity, encourage tree growth in hedges to help replace older oaks over time.

Mitigation (if development) -