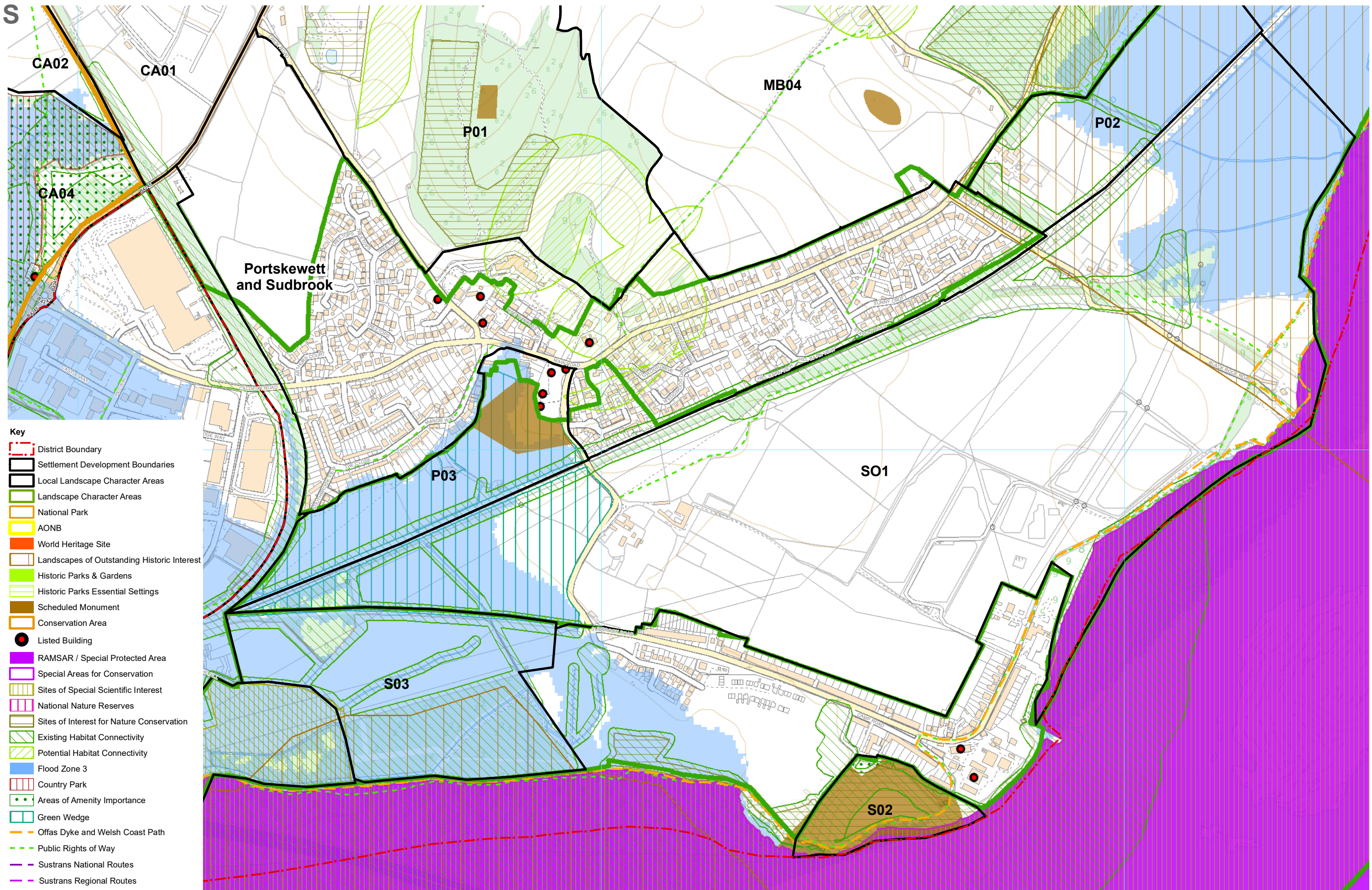
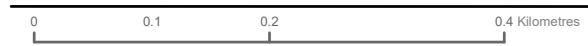
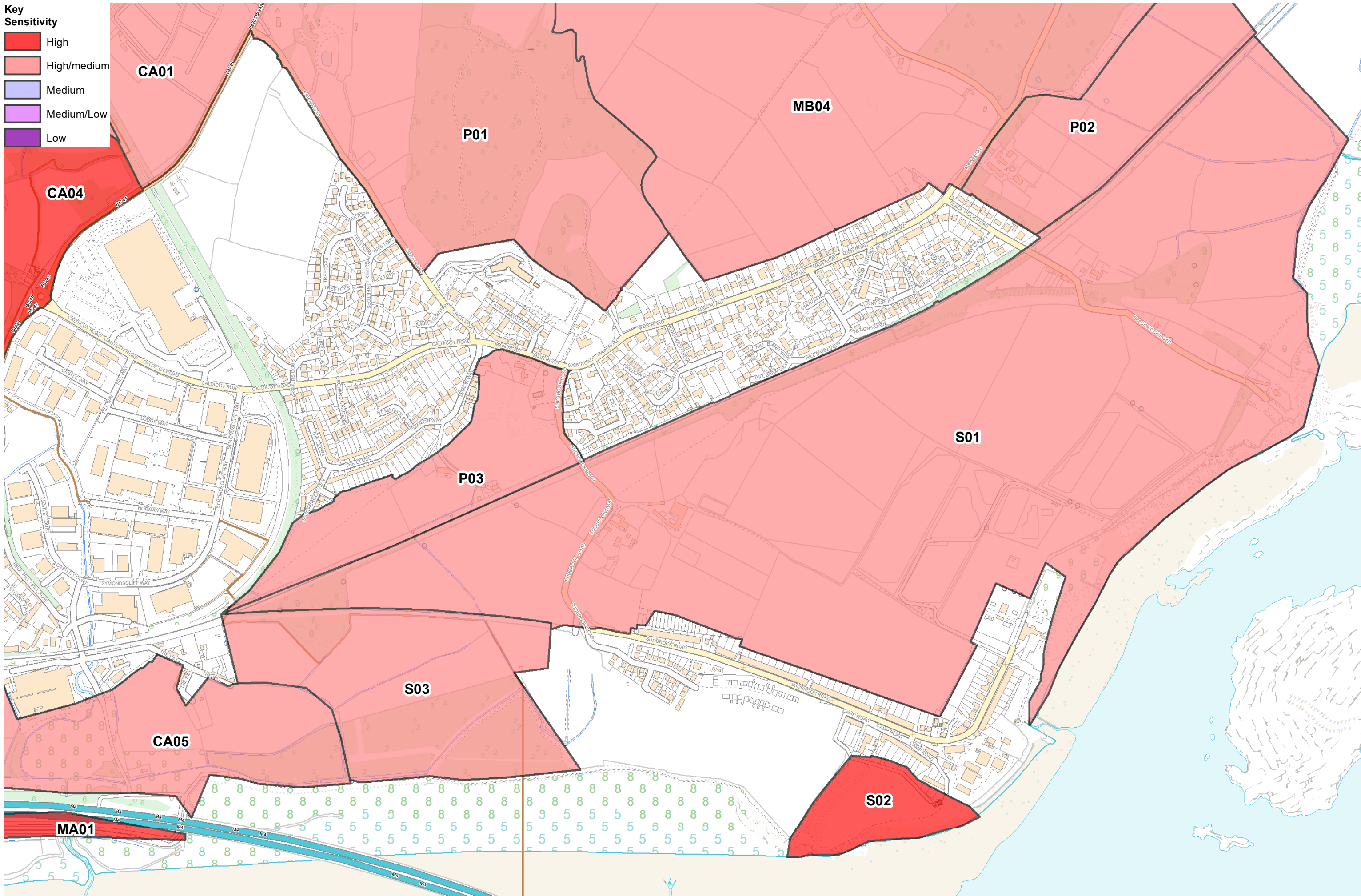


Sudbrook LLCAs



- 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



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 www.whiteconsultants.co.uk

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

SUMMARY

Key characteristics

Very gently undulating or level lowland with levels at the eastern and western ends, both in floodplain.

Mix of rectilinear and irregular medium sized fields with a mix of low cut and outgrown hedgerows.

There are few trees west of Black Rock Road but more to the north - mainly associated with dismantled railway and some in hedgerows and one scrubby copse.

Scattered rural settlement of farmsteads and small linear development south of Portskewett.

Church of St Mary adjacent and Black Rock are landmarks and the latter is a feature on the Severn Estuary coast.

The area is essentially rural but this is disturbed visually by pylons and views of settlement and the second Severn crossing and aurally by the latter.

Parts of the area form a setting to St Mary's Church and also to Black Rock and overall the area provides an open corridor between Portskewett and the coast, along the railway, and a buffer with Sudbrook.

The Gwent Levels Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest lies at the eastern end.

Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing High/Medium

The susceptibility of the area lies in its role as part of the green corridor linking the coastal levels to the east and west forming part of the wider landscape of the Mathern Levels, - its habitat connectivity along the railway linking to the Levels, its role separating Portskewett from Sudbrook, with connecting PROWs and a national cycle route, and as part of the setting for the church of St Mary at Portskewett and Black Rock, with levels features such as reens and floodplain to the east and west. Its value lies in its designation as Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, proximity to the Severn Estuary adjacent - RAMSAR, SPA, SSSI, the landmark at Black Rock with wide scenic estuary views, and national cycle route. LANDMAP value is outstanding for landscape habitats and mostly for historic landscape and high for visual and sensory.

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	Moderate	Landscape Habitats Outstanding
Historical Landscapes	55% outstanding, 45% high	Cultural Landscapes 65% moderate, 35% outstanding
Visual and Sensory	High	

Designations

Landscape designations comments	-		
National Park	AONB		
Historic/archaeology designations comments	Gwent Levels Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest at eastern end		
Historic Parks and Gardens	Hist. Parks and Gardens Setting	Listed Building	
Landscape of Hist. Interest	Scheduled Monument	Yes	Conservation Area WHS
Biodiversity designations comments	Severn Estuary adjacent- RAMSAR, SPA, SSSI		
SAC	NNR	SINC	SSSI RAMSAR

Recreation Factors

Country Park	National Trail	National/Regional Cycle Route
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LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SUSCEPTIBILITY

Landscape Character Area

LCA Name	Mathern Levels	LCA Number	45	also part of	0	0
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Characteristics

Landform very gently undulating or level lowland with levels at the eastern and western ends

Landcover pasture with some arable

Pattern

Settlement pattern scattered rural settlement of farmsteads and one small linear development

Woodland cover few trees- mainly associated with dismantled railway and some in hedgerows, more including copse to the north of Blackrock Road

Boundaries mix of rectilinear and irregular medium sized fields with a mix of low cut and outgrown hedgerows

Presence of water reens on levels and Severn Estuary adjacent; western end is in floodplain

Diversity simple Scale medium

Sense of enclosure open

Function of Area

Pastoral Arable Horticulture Recreation other

Comments pasture with some arable, energy landscape (solar pv and associated infrastructure, and pylons)

Functional relationship and connectivity

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

...with adjacent assessed area? some Corridor?

Existing Habitat Connectivity Habitat Connectivity Opportunity

the area appears to be managed as part of a wider land holding and has a public rights of way linking the area with the settlement, and a national cycle route. The area forms a green corridor/buffer between Portskewett and Sudbrook with habitat connectivity along railway and connecting to the Levels. Parts of the area are a continuation of the levels to the east and west.

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

Comments -

PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Skyline

Prominence/importance apparent Complexity simple

Comments the low crests of the landform form local skylines in places eg north of Sudbrook

Key views

To settlement the area forms an open link between the church of St Mary at Portskewett and the Severn Estuary allowing views of it

From settlement the area forms an open link between the church of St Mary at Portskewett and the Severn Estuary allowing views from it

Landmarks church of St Mary adjacent, Black Rock is a feature on the Severn Estuary coast

Detractors pylons and Sudbrook industrial works adjacent

Intervisibility

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

Comments the area is visible from the higher ground to the north and from the estuary including the second Severn crossing at a distance

Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development many 270 Presence of people infrequent

Summary medium

Comments the area is essentially rural but this is disturbed visually by pylons and solar farm and views of settlement and the second Severn crossing and aurally by the latter

Settlement edge

Pre C20th edge C20-21st edge Nature of edge negative Form of edge smooth/linear

Comments the adjacent settlements are generally unsightly and intrusive albeit mitigated by the railway line and associated vegetation and church of St Mary is a positive feature

Visual relationship and connectivity

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

Setting

Comments parts of the area form a setting to St Mary's Church and also to Black Rock and provides an open corridor between Portskewett and the coast forming part of the wider landscape of the Mathern Levels

Receptors

urban residents

rural residents

viewpoints

long distance/public footpaths

Sensitivity

high/medium

high/medium

high

high

Comments the most important viewpoints are Blackrock and church of St Mary and the area is overlooked by users of PROWs and residents

OTHER

Other factors -

Potential Improvements (if no development) maintain and strenghten hedgerows and trees

Mitigation (if development) -

SUMMARY

Key characteristics

Historic site of Sudbrook Camp with Sudbrook Chapel to the east.

Lies at Sudbrook Point on the coast of the Severn estuary with earthworks on the flat levels.

Area used for informal recreation with public footpaths running to the east and west and a football pitch.

Most of the area is SM except for very small area on eastern corner, Gwent Levels Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest lies on the south western edge and Sudbrook Pump House and Fan House [for mainline railway tunnel] lie to the north east.

The settlement lies to the north, backing onto the site, with the disused Paper Mill to the west.

There are key views from the site across the Severn estuary and to and from the second Severn Crossing.

Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing High

The susceptibility of the area lies in its distinctive open aspect and views over the Severn Estuary, providing a cultural and local recreational resource, with scrub vegetation. Its value lies in its designation as a SM at Sudbrook Camp and chapel in a prominent location at Sudbrook Point with views across the Severn estuary and from the second Severn Crossing, is partly in the Gwent Levels Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest and adjacent to the Severn Estuary RAMSAR, SPA and SSSI, and provides links to the local and wider community in footpath and cycle access on a national route. LANDMAP value is wholly or partly outstanding for visual and sensory, historic landscape, landscape habitats and mostly high for 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	70% high, 30% moderate	Landscape Habitats Outstanding
Historical Landscapes	85% outstanding, 15% no value	Cultural Landscapes 80% moderate, 20% outstanding
Visual and Sensory	Outstanding	

Designations

Landscape designations comments adjacent to Area of Amenity Importance to the north

National Park AONB

Historic/archaeology designations comments almost all the area is covered by Sudbrook Camp and Sudbrook Chapel- SM except for very small area on eastern corner; Gwent Levels Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest on south western edge; Sudbrook Pump House and Fan House (for railway tunnel)

Historic Parks and Gardens	Hist. Parks and Gardens Setting	Listed Building
Landscape of Hist. Interest Yes	Scheduled Monument Yes	Conservation Area WHS
Biodiversity designations comments	on edge of Severn Estuary	RAMSAR, SPA and SSSI
SAC NNR SINC	SSSI Yes	RAMSAR Yes

Recreation Factors

Country Park National Trail National/Regional Cycle Route

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SUSCEPTIBILITY

Landscape Character Area

LCA Name Severn Estuary LCA Number 1 also part of 0 0

Characteristics

Landform flat levels on coast of the Severn Estuary at Sudbrook Point with earthworks

Landcover grass

Pattern

Settlement pattern Sudbrook to north and commercial premises to the west

Woodland cover some scrub

Boundaries none on site

Presence of water Severn estuary adjacent

Diversity simple Scale small

Sense of enclosure exposed to the south and enclosed to the north

Function of Area

Pastoral Arable Horticulture Recreation other

Comments site of fort with recreational and sport use

Functional relationship and connectivity

...with wider landscape some ...with settlement significant

...with adjacent assessed area? none Corridor?

Existing Habitat Connectivity Habitat Connectivity Opportunity

the area is used for informal and formal recreation by the adjacent residents and is linked to the wider landscape by public footpaths to the west and east along the edge of the Severn estuary, and includes a national cycle route; habitat connectivity along the edge of the estuary

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

Comments -

PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Skyline

Prominence/importance not applicable Complexity

Comments -

Key views

To settlement key view to fort and settlement from the Severn estuary and from the second Severn Crossing

From settlement area overlooked by adjacent terrace of houses

Landmarks the fort is a key landmark along the Severn estuary coast

Detractors paper mill to the west

Intervisibility

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

Comments wide intervisibility with the water and second Severn Crossing but not with the land

Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development many 270 Presence of people frequent

Summary medium

Comments the area's tranquillity is limited by adjacent development and by the sight and sound of the second Severn Crossing to the south

Settlement edge

Pre C20th edge C20-21st edge Nature of edge neutral Form of edge moderately indented

Comments a series of old terraces back onto the area creating an informal, incremental edge partially screened by the embankments

Visual relationship and connectivity

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

Setting

Comments the area lies at a significant change in direction of the coast along the Severn estuary, Sudbrook Point, and provides the foreground setting for the settlement when viewed from the second Severn crossing to the south

Receptors	Sensitivity
viewpoints	high
urban residents	high
long distance/public footpaths	high
roads/rail/cycleways	medium

Comments the key receptors are visitors to the Camp, users of the facilities, adjacent residents, users of the footpaths that run through the site and users of the second Severn Crossing

OTHER

Other factors -

Potential Improvements (if no development) manage scrub for biodiversity

Mitigation (if development) -

SUMMARY**Key characteristics**

Flat levels on the coast of the Severn estuary.

Mature poplar plantation to the south and pasture to the north with irregular medium sized fields with outgrown hedges.

New housing development site to the east forms a raw edge and is out of character at present.

The poplars are a major element in the view from Sudbrook west and from Harold's House SAM and church at Portskewett to the north forming part of a view corridor towards the Severn Estuary are visible from the second Severn Crossing.

All the area is in floodplain and the Gwent Levels Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest covers the southern part.

The area is on the edge of Severn Estuary RAMSAR, SPA and SSSI.

Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing High/Medium

The susceptibility of the area lies in its location on the levels floodplain with reens, its role as a green gap between Caldicot and Sudbrook providing a view corridor south from Portskewett church towards the Severn estuary, the role of the area as a habitat connectivity, the poplar plantation as a landmark and the area's visibility from the M4. The value of the area lies the Gwent Levels Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest. LANDMAP value is outstanding for historic landscape, landscape habitats 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	Moderate	Landscape Habitats Outstanding
Historical Landscapes	Outstanding	Cultural Landscapes Outstanding
Visual and Sensory	Moderate	

Designations

Landscape designations comments	-		
National Park	AONB		
Historic/archaeology designations comments	Gwent Levels Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest on southern part		
Historic Parks and Gardens	Hist. Parks and Gardens Setting	Listed Building	
Landscape of Hist. Interest	Yes	Scheduled Monument	Conservation Area WHS
Biodiversity designations comments	on edge of Severn Estuary RAMSAR, SPA and SSSI		
SAC	NNR	SINC	SSSI Yes RAMSAR

Recreation Factors

Country Park	National Trail	National/Regional Cycle Route
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LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SUSCEPTIBILITY**Landscape Character Area**

LCA Name Caldicot Levels LCA Number 2 also part of

Characteristics

Landform flat levels on coast of the Severn estuary

Landcover poplar plantation to the south and pasture to the north

Pattern

Settlement pattern none in area

Woodland cover poplar plantation to the south and area of scrub to the north

Boundaries irregular medium sized fields with outgrown hedges
 Presence of water reens in area with Severn estuary adjacent to the south
 Diversity diverse Scale medium
 Sense of enclosure medium

Function of Area

Pastoral Arable Horticulture Recreation other

Comments pasture and poplar plantation

Functional relationship and connectivity

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

...with adjacent assessed area? some Corridor?

Existing Habitat Connectivity Habitat Connectivity Opportunity

the area appears to be managed as part of a wider landholding, has public rights of way along the coast linking it into nearby settlements and the poplars and hedge boundaries form part of habitat connectivity

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

Comments forms part of habitat connectivity along the Gwent levels

PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Skyline

Prominence/importance not applicable Complexity

Comments -

Key views

To settlement -

From settlement poplars are a major element in the view from Sudbrook west and from Harold's House SM and church at Portskewett to the north forming part of a view corridor towards the Severn estuary

Landmarks -

Detractors pylons and power lines

Intervisibility

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

Comments intervisibility with the water and Prince of Wales bridge

Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development one side 180 Presence of people infrequent

Summary medium

Comments the area's tranquillity is limited by adjacent development to the east, pylons and by the sight and sound of the second Severn Crossing to the south

Settlement edge

Pre C20th edge C20-21st edge Nature of edge negative Form of edge moderately indented

Comments new housing development site to the east which does not reflect sense of place or local character

Visual relationship and connectivity

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

Setting

Comments poplars are a major element in the view from Sudbrook west and from Harold's House SM and church at Portskewett to the north forming part of a view corridor towards the Severn estuary.

The poplars are also a major element in views from the Prince of Wales bridge to the south.

Receptors**Sensitivity**

urban residents	high/medium
long distance/public footpaths	high/medium
roads/rail/cycleways	medium

Comments the site is overlooked by users of the second Severn Crossing, by users of the public footpath along the coast and by nearby residents and at a distance by visitors to Harold's House in Portskewett

OTHER

Other factors -

Potential Improvements (if no development) replace poplars over time with broadleaf native woodland, maintain field boundaries

Mitigation (if development) -