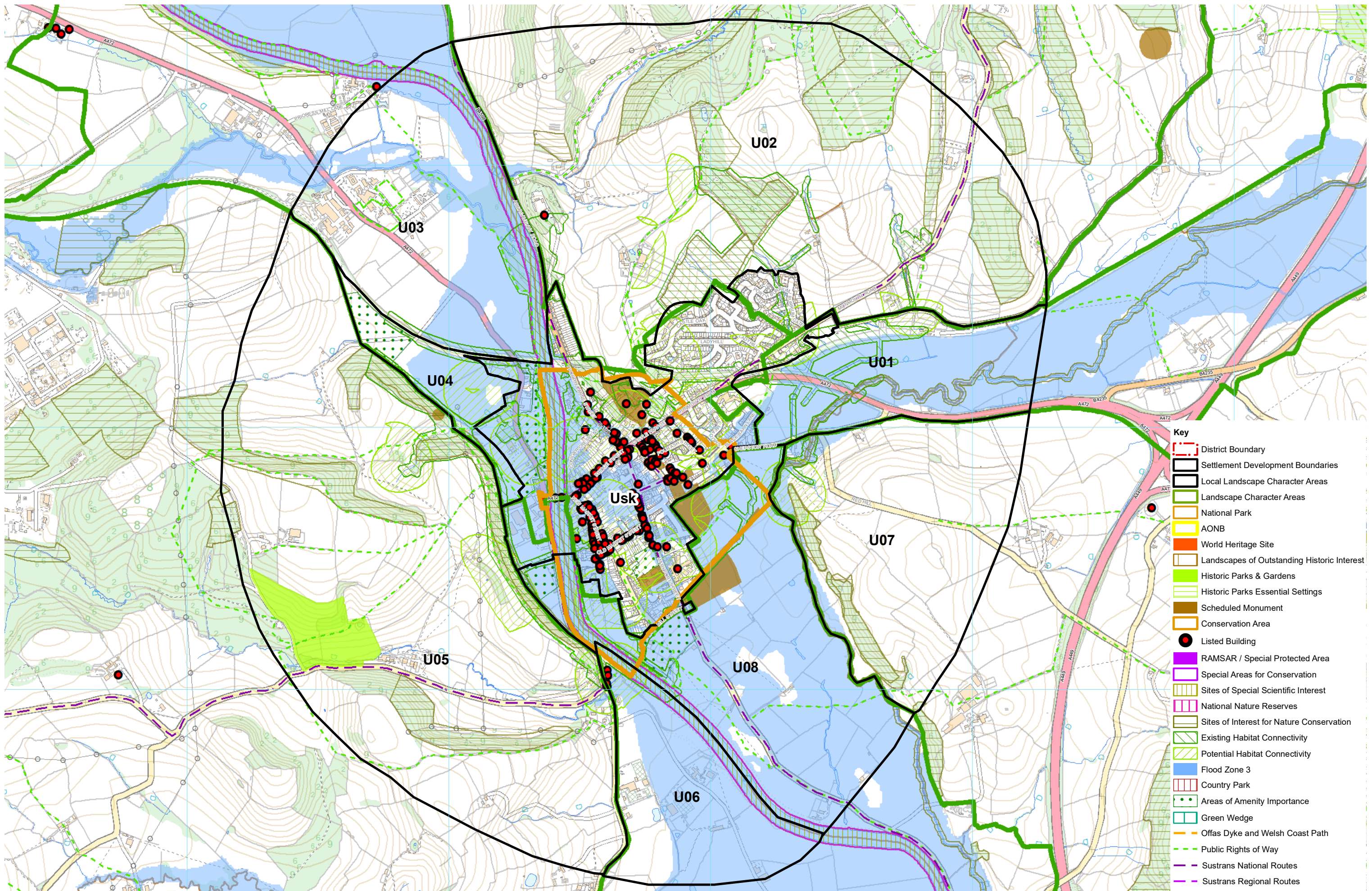


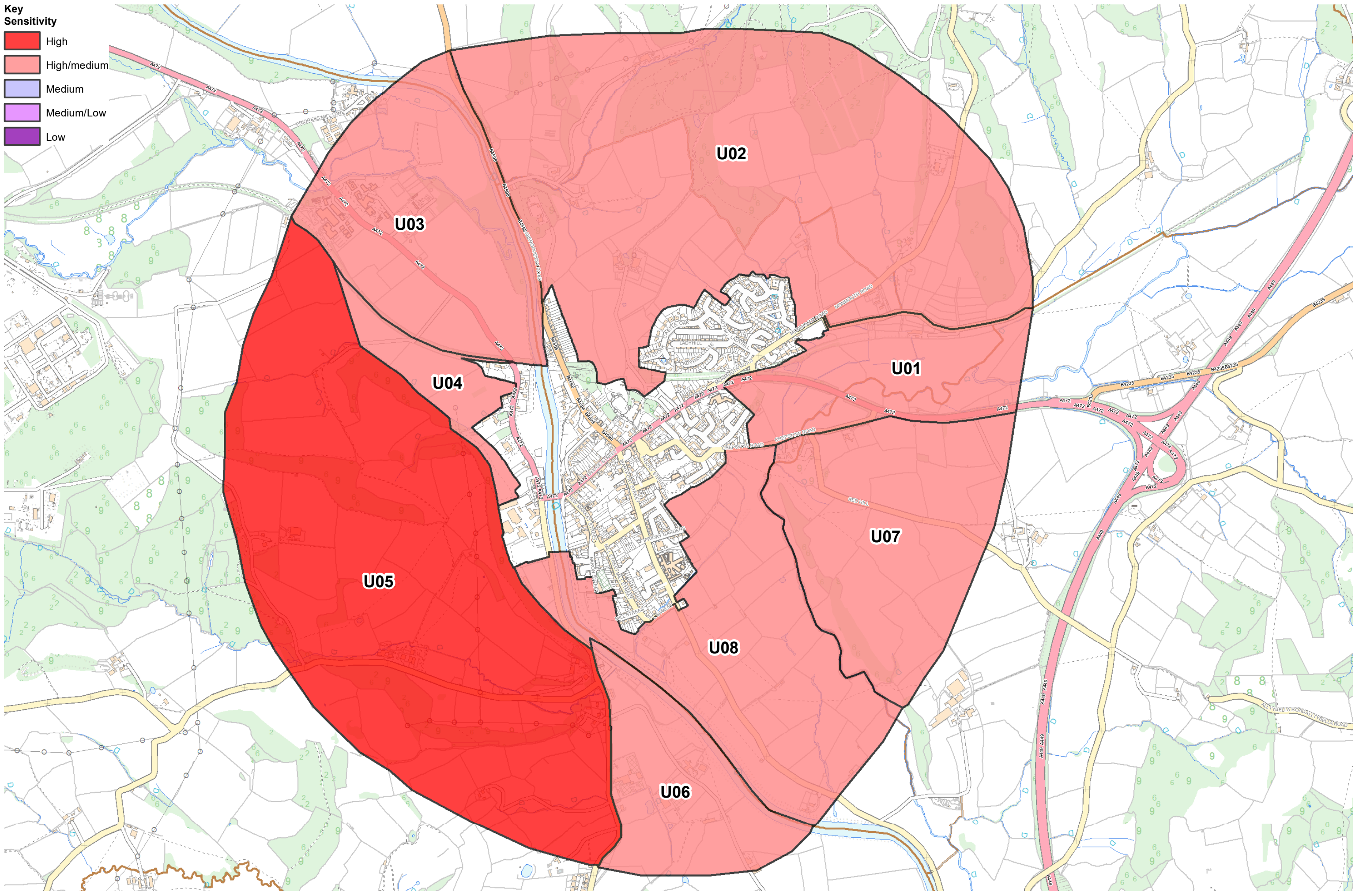
Usk LLCAs



- 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

Key Sensitivity

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



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: November 2019
 Status: Final

Usk

Landscape sensitivity of LLCAs

SUMMARY

Key characteristics

Distinctive flat valley floor, mostly floodplain, with lower valley sides to the north.

Medium-size irregular pasture and arable fields with low-cut hedgerows or fences with some trees.

Trees including alders along the sinuous Olway Brook, on a dismantled railway and occasionally on field boundaries.

The area is generally open allowing views along and across the valley, forming a positive rural approach to the settlement from the east.

Settlement edge is relatively recent and better screened to the north by trees.

Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing High/Medium

The susceptibility of the area lies in its distinctive, open low-lying floodplain and rural character and function focused on the Olway Brook with very limited rural settlement on the lower valley sides. Its trees associated with the brook, dismantled railway and A472 help to contain the landscape and reduce views through to the settlement edge. They also form part of the habitat network with the brook. The value of the area lies in the scenic quality of the Olway Brook and its corridor and the open views to the adjoining hillsides and the Olway Brook SINC. LANDMAP value is outstanding for cultural landscapes for the majority of the area.

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 Moderate
Historical Landscapes	Moderate	Cultural Landscapes 60% outstanding, 40% 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	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	Olway Valley	LCA Number	46	also part of	0	0
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Characteristics

Landform valley floor, mostly floodplain, with lower valley sides

Landcover pasture and arable

Pattern

Settlement pattern rural dwellings on lower valley slopes

Woodland cover riparian corridor of alders, on a dismantled railway and occasional hedgerow trees

Boundaries medium-size irregular fields with low-cut hedgerows or fences with some trees

Presence of water Olway Brook and drains, pool north of the A472

Diversity simple Scale medium

Sense of enclosure generally open

Function of Area

Pastoral Arable Horticulture Recreation other

Comments pasture 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

the area appears to be managed as part of a wider landholding and has one public footpath close to the settlement edge and the main A472 approach and minor road from the east that pass through it

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

Comments the area acts as floodplain which continues into the Usk valley floor- Area U8

PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Skyline

Prominence/importance not applicable Complexity simple

Comments -

Key views

To settlement forms rural eastern approach to the settlement

From settlement -

Landmarks -

Detractors A472 approach road is a minor detractor

Intervisibility

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

Comments intervisibility with adjacent hillsides and from A472

Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development some Presence of people infrequent

Summary medium

Comments the A472 reduces the tranquillity of an otherwise peaceful valley floor

Settlement edge

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

Comments recent development is somewhat open on the valley floor but is better integrated to the north east along Monmouth Road, screened by vegetation

Visual relationship and connectivity

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

Setting

Comments forms rural eastern approach to the settlement and overlooked by adjacent hillsides

Receptors

urban residents

roads/rail/cycleways

long distance/public footpaths

Sensitivity

high/medium

high/medium

high

Comments main receptors are travellers along the A472, Chepstow Road, Monmouth Road, users of PROWs to the east and west and settlement edge dwellers

OTHER

Other factors majority of the area is in floodplain

Potential Improvements (if no development) maintain trees and other vegetation in the existing habitat corridors along the Olway, dismantled railway and road corridor. Maintain hedges to link into corridors above.

Mitigation (if development) -

SUMMARY

Key characteristics

Steeply rising hill and valley sides up to the Gwehelog.

Medium-sized irregular pastoral fields with low-cut hedges and blocks of woodland such as Cockshoot Wood and forestry eg Park Wood.

Scattered farmsteads and rural dwellings and house at Beech Hill.

The area forms the backcloth and positive approach to the settlement and valleys in views from the south, east and west and directly links with the castle.

The isolated white dwelling at Little Castle Farm is a local landmark on the hillside.

Housing estate development is encroaching on its lower slopes to the north and east.

There is a listed building at Beech Hill.

Cockshoot Wood and other woods are SINC.

Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing High/Medium

The susceptibility of the area lies in its important role for Usk in providing an unspoilt, tranquil and rural backcloth of steep hills and valleys sides of woods and pasture defined by the Usk to the west and the Olway Brook to the south. It links into Usk Castle contributing to its setting. The woods and pastures also provide a network of positive habitats which assist connectivity and there are pleasant public footpaths running through the area connecting the settlement with the wider landscape of the Gwehelog. The value of the area lies in its scenic qualities as rising hill and valley sides backcloth with woodland and pasture, the SINC, the listed building at Beech Hill and the PROWs and regional cycle route through the area. LANDMAP value is outstanding for cultural landscapes and high for visual and sensory. The vast majority of the area is considered sensitive to housing development but one small discreet site may have some potential- see CS0114.

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 Moderate
Historical Landscapes	Moderate	Cultural Landscapes Outstanding
Visual and Sensory	High	

Designations

Landscape designations comments

National Park AONB

Historic/archaeology designations comments Listed building at Beech Hill

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

Landscape of Hist. Interest Scheduled Monument Conservation Area WHS

Biodiversity designations comments River Usk adjacent is a pSAC and SSSI. Most woodlands including Cockshoot Wood are SINC.

SAC NNR SINC Yes SSSI RAMSAR

Recreation Factors

Country Park National Trail National/Regional Cycle Route Yes

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SUSCEPTIBILITY

Landscape Character Area

LCA Name Gwehelog Valleys LCA Number 17 also part of 15 0

Characteristics

Landform steeply rising hill and valley sides up to the Gwehelog

Landcover pasture and woodland/forestry plantation

Pattern

Settlement pattern scattered farmsteads and rural dwellings and house at Beech Hill
 Woodland cover blocks of woodland such as Cockshoot Wood and forestry eg Park Wood, occasional hedgerow trees and trees along riparian corridors
 Boundaries medium-sized irregular pastoral fields with mix of low-cut and outgrown hedges
 Presence of water small stream tributaries of the Usk and Olway Brook
 Diversity diverse Scale medium
 Sense of enclosure generally open with some enclosed areas in woodlands and steep valleys

Function of Area

Pastoral Arable Horticulture Recreation other

Comments pasture, woodland and forestry plantation

Functional relationship and connectivity

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

...with adjacent assessed area? some Corridor?

Existing Habitat Connectivity Habitat Connectivity Opportunity

the area may be managed as part of a wider landholding including land to the north and the Olway Brook to the south and has only one public right of way linking into the settlement. Existing habitat connectivity running north from the settlement edge on the hillside including woodland and pasture. Habitat connectivity opportunity to the north of the settlement associated with PROW.

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

Comments -

PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Skyline

Prominence/importance prominent Complexity simple

Comments the steep hills provide a skyline from various viewpoints, sometimes with woods on the skyline and sometimes hedgerows

Key views

To settlement the slopes provide a backcloth and positive approach to the settlement when viewed from the south, east and west

From settlement potential views from Usk Castle tower [in winter] and from bridges over the Usk

Landmarks Little Castle Farm noticeable as a minor landmark on hillside to north east of settlement

Detractors -

Intervisibility

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

Comments hillsides noticeable from surrounding valley floors, and some intervisibility with castle

Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development one side 180 Presence of people infrequent

Summary high/medium

Comments the area has only a B road adjacent and a minor road running through it with one public footpath and limited views of the town and so is generally tranquil

Settlement edge

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

Comments whilst the relationship of the castle with the area is positive with a direct link, the recent

developments to the north east are creeping up the hillside, encroaching on the town's setting. These are also progressing east at Burrium Gate which is set down in the landscape to an extent to the south although rising northwards. The older linear development along Abergavenny Road is constrained by landform but is an undesirable northern extension of the settlement.

Visual relationship and connectivity

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

Setting

Comments the area acts as a hillside setting to the town in the valley and the castle linking into the Gwehelog to the north

Receptors

viewpoints

rural residents

urban residents

long distance/public footpaths

Sensitivity

high

high

high/medium

high

Comments there are potential views across the area from the castle, users of public footpaths and roads, rural residents within the area and from residents on the settlement edge

OTHER

Other factors the setting of Beech Hill should be conserved

Potential Improvements (if no development)

Mitigation (if development) -

SUMMARY**Key characteristics**

Flat valley floor and floodplain of arable and pastoral farmland with woodland and an agricultural college. The fields are a mix of regular and irregular field boundaries with low-cut hedges giving an open character to the south.

Mixed woodland and riparian vegetation lie by the River Usk and trees are around the college buildings and along the adjacent dismantled railway to the south and west.

The Coleg Gwent Agricultural College to the north lies in a green open campus with large agricultural buildings.

The area is overlooked by the Usk Valley Walk, the bridge over the Usk to the south and by the A472 and B4598.

The main settlement edge is beyond the dismantled railway to the south and only the isolated ribbon development to the east of the Usk is visible.

The River Usk is a SAC and SSSI.

Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing High/Medium

The susceptibility of the area lies in its character as a generally flat, open valley floor and floodplain distinctly separate from the settlement which acts as a setting for the River Usk corridor. The woodland by the Usk is a particularly positive feature. The value of the area lies in the scenic quality of the River Usk corridor and its setting, the River Usk SAC and SSSI and the public footpaths through the area. LANDMAP value is outstanding for historic landscape, and for landscape habitats (the Usk only), and high for visual and sensory and cultural landscapes.

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 Moderate, Usk (Outstanding) at
Historical Landscapes	Outstanding	Cultural Landscapes High
Visual and Sensory	High	

Designations

Landscape designations comments	-		
National Park	AONB		
Historic/archaeology designations comments	listed mill building to the north		
Historic Parks and Gardens	Hist. Parks and Gardens Setting	Listed Building	
Landscape of Hist. Interest	Scheduled Monument	Conservation Area	WHS
Biodiversity designations comments	River Usk is a SAC and SSSI		
SAC Yes	NNR	SINC	SSSI Yes RAMSAR

Recreation Factors

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

LCA Name	Upper Usk Valley	LCA Number	15	also part of	0	0
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Characteristics

Landform flat valley floor and floodplain

Landcover arable, pastoral with woodland, agricultural college and new council offices

Pattern

- Settlement pattern the Coleg Gwent Agricultural College to the north lies in a green open campus with large agricultural buildings, whilst the council offices are discreetly located to the south of the college complex
- Woodland cover mixed woodland and riparian vegetation by the River Usk , trees around the college and council buildings and along the adjacent dismantled railway to the south and west
- Boundaries a mix of regular and irregular field boundaries with low-cut hedges and a few trees in places to the north
- Presence of water River Usk
- Diversity diverse Scale medium- large
- Sense of enclosure open to the south and enclosed to the north

Function of Area

Pastoral Arable Horticulture Recreation other

Comments arable, pastoral, agricultural college and council offices

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 only one public right of way linking into the settlement- the Usk Valley Walk

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

Comments -

PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY**Skyline**

Prominence/importance not applicable Complexity simple

Comments -

Key views

To settlement main approach to settlement from the north

From settlement view across area from dismantled railway bridge across the River Usk

Landmarks -

Detractors -

Intervisibility

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

Comments visible from road and adjacent valley sides

Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development some Presence of people infrequent

Summary medium

Comments quiet rural character affected by A472 running through the area and B4598 to the east with associated linear housing

Settlement edge

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

Comments the linear development to the east intrudes north along the valley

Visual relationship and connectivity

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

Setting

Comments visually the area forms part of the Usk valley floor. The area is screened from the majority of the settlement by the dismantled railway, landform and vegetation although linear development to the east does overlook the area.

Receptors**Sensitivity**

long distance/public footpaths

high

roads/rail/cycleways

high

urban residents

high/medium

rural residents

high

Comments the main receptors are uses of the Usk Valley Walk, the A472 and B4598, residents to the east and to the north

OTHER

Other factors -

Potential Improvements (if no development) encourage trees in hedgerows

Mitigation (if development)

SUMMARY

Key characteristics

Flat valley floor, mostly floodplain, with dismantled railway on embankment to north and steeply rising valley sides to south west.

The mix of small-scale arable and pasture fields are highly enclosed by woodland at Graig Foel, on the dismantled railway to the north and around adjacent large property curtilages.

The adjacent settlement edge is a low-density mix of dwellings and a hotel in generally large well vegetated gardens.

The area is disturbed to an extent by the A472 and commercial premises in the north eastern corner are a detractor.

The northwestern corner is Amenity Open Space.

Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing High/Medium

The susceptibility of the area is in floodplain and is separated from the main part of Usk as a settlement. The value of the area lies in its scenic quality as an enclosed small-scale fieldscape complementing the steep wooded slopes of Graig Foel adjacent, and its public footpaths. LANDMAP value is high for visual and sensory, 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	Moderate	Landscape Habitats Moderate
Historical Landscapes	High	Cultural Landscapes High
Visual and Sensory	High	

Designations

Landscape designations comments	Area of amenity importance to the west		
National Park	AONB		
Historic/archaeology designations comments	Graig Foel medieval ringwork SAM adjacent to south west		
Historic Parks and Gardens	Hist. Parks and Gardens Setting	Listed Building	
Landscape of Hist. Interest	Scheduled Monument	Conservation Area	WHS
Biodiversity designations comments	Graig Foel SINC to the western boundary		
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	Upper Usk Valley	LCA Number	15	also part of	0	0
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Characteristics

Landform flat valley floor, mostly floodplain, with dismantled railway on embankment to north and steeply rising valley sides to south west

Landcover arable and pasture

Pattern

Settlement pattern settlement edge development including commercial vehicle use and ribbon development of houses on A472

Woodland cover strong woodland cover to the south west- Graig Foel and along railway embankment, around properties to the east and as copse in field.

Boundaries small-scale irregular fields with a mix of outgrown and low cut hedges

Presence of water small watercourse along south western boundary

Diversity simple Scale small

Sense of enclosure enclosed

Function of Area

Pastoral Arable Horticulture Recreation other

Comments arable and pasture

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, possibly to the north, and has public rights of way running across it linking the settlement with wider countryside

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

Comments -

PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Skyline

Prominence/importance not applicable Complexity

Comments -

Key views

To settlement area provides rural valley floor setting for the low density western edges of settlement

From settlement area visible in glimpses from A472

Landmarks -

Detractors commercial premises to the north east

Intervisibility

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

Comments the area is highly enclosed by landform, vegetation and by some properties

Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development one side 180 Presence of people infrequent

Summary medium

Comments the A472 can be heard in the area and the adjacent settlement and development also reduces the area's tranquillity

Settlement edge

Pre C20th edge C20-21st edge Nature of edge positive Form of edge highly indented

Comments the adjacent edge is a low-density mix of dwellings and a hotel in generally large gardens which provide a green and low-key edge to the settlement

Visual relationship and connectivity

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

Setting

Comments the area forms part of the agricultural valley floor setting of the settlement edge, complementing the steep wooded slopes to the south west in U05

Receptors

Sensitivity

LLCA U04 Settlement: Usk

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

Comments users of footpaths through the area have clear views as would adjacent residents. Users of the A472 glimpse views into the area.

OTHER

Other factors the majority of the area is in floodplain

Potential Improvements (if no development) improve or remove commercial vehicle use by A472

Mitigation (if development)

SUMMARY**Key characteristics**

Valley sides to Usk and tributaries and hills.

Irregular and medium-sized fields within mix of low-cut and outgrown hedgerows.

Woodland lies on steep valley sides generally with some trees in hedgerows and around settlement scattered rural settlement including farms and dwellings.

The eastern part of the area [including Graig-yr-Allt acts as a strong wooded backcloth to Usk and forms part of the wider countryside to the west of the settlement.

Development directly adjacent is an industrial estate and rugby football ground with rough car park which rely on the slopes to screen and mitigate them.

Graig Foel medieval ring work lies in woodland.

Cefn Ila historic park and garden lies in open countryside.

Much of the woodland comprises SINC.

Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing High

The susceptibility of the area lies in its eastern edges are steep wooded slopes which act as a strong backcloth to the settlement and are highly visible from the river side. The rest of the area has apparent skylines and is of rural character with a strong woodland pattern forming part of a wider countryside to the west of the settlement. The value of the area lies in its scenic quality of wooded slopes, the tranquility away from roads, Graig Foel medieval ring work, Cefn Ila historic park and garden and the woodland SINC.

LANDMAP value is outstanding for geological landscape and high for visual and sensory 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	Outstanding	Landscape Habitats 5% high, 95% moderate
Historical Landscapes	Moderate	Cultural Landscapes High
Visual and Sensory	High	

Designations

Landscape designations comments -

National Park AONB

Historic/archaeology designations comments Graig Foel medieval ring work, Cefn Ila historic park/garden

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

Landscape of Hist. Interest Scheduled Monument Yes Conservation Area WHS

Biodiversity designations comments Woodland SINC

SAC NNR SINC SSSI RAMSAR

Recreation Factors

Country Park National Trail National/Regional Cycle Route

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SUSCEPTIBILITY**Landscape Character Area**

LCA Name Western Hills LCA Number 13 also part of

Characteristics

Landform valley sides to Usk and tributaries and hills

Landcover mainly pasture with arable

Pattern

Settlement pattern scattered rural settlement including farms and dwellings

Woodland cover woodland lies on steep valley sides generally with some trees in hedgerows and around settlement

Boundaries irregular and medium-sized fields within mix of low-cut and outgrown hedgerows

Presence of water tributary streams to the Usk

Diversity diverse Scale small-medium

Sense of enclosure mix of enclosed and open

Function of Area

Pastoral Arable Horticulture Recreation other

Comments mainly pasture with arable

Functional relationship and connectivity

...with wider landscape significant ...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 and has public rights of way running across it linking the settlement with wider countryside. Graig Foel woodland acts as a connecting habitat and there is opportunity to extend connections to the west.

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

Comments -

PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Skyline

Prominence/importance prominent Complexity simple

Comments the hillsides especially Graig-yr-Allt form the prominent skyline to the west of Usk

Key views

To settlement views from PROW on hills looking towards the settlement

From settlement views across bridges and from the river side looking west

Landmarks -

Detractors -

Intervisibility

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

Comments the hillsides and tops especially Graig-yr-Allt are intervisible with the Usk valley

Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development one side 180 Presence of people occasional

Summary high/medium

Comments the majority of the area is highly rural, quiet and away from settlements and roads

Settlement edge

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

Comments development directly adjacent is an industrial estate and rugby football ground with rough car park which rely on the slopes to screen and mitigate them

Visual relationship and connectivity

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

Setting

Comments the eastern part of the area acts as a strong wooded backcloth to the town and forms part of the wider countryside to the west of the settlement

LLCA U05 Settlement: Usk

Receptors

rural residents
long distance/public footpaths
urban residents
roads/rail/cycleways

Sensitivity

high
high
high/medium
medium

Comments the eastern edge is overlooked by residents and visitors to Usk while the rest of the area has relatively few receptors ie users of public footpaths and rural residents

OTHER

Other factors -

Potential Improvements (if no development)

There is potential for tree planting to link the Graig Foel woodland to further woodland to the west and encourage trees within hedgerows.

Mitigation (if development) -

SUMMARY**Key characteristics**

A flat valley floor and floodplain with irregular medium-sized arable and pastoral fields with low-cut gappy hedgerows.

Riparian vegetation is strong and trees lie around settlement and along some hedgerows.

Settlement is rural and scattered and the area is tranquil with no public footpaths.

A nursery brings some activity to the area.

The area is generally open but with some enclosure from valley sides and trees.

Overall the area is part of the Usk valley floor corridor and is visible from the Usk Valley Walk to the east.

Church of St Madoc is the major feature and it and associated features are listed.

River Usk is a SAC and SSSI.

Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing High/Medium

The susceptibility of the area lies in its generally flat, open valley floor and floodplain distinctly separate from the settlement which acts as a setting for the River Usk corridor. The Church of St Madoc with associated features is a particular landmark associated with the river corridor. The value of the area lies in the River Usk SAC and SSSI, the listed building and structures at St Madoc and the scenic quality of the River Usk corridor and its setting. LANDMAP value is high for visual and sensory, historic landscape and cultural landscape and outstanding for landscape habitats for the Usk only.

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 Moderate, Usk (Outstanding) at
Historical Landscapes	High	Cultural Landscapes High
Visual and Sensory	High	

Designations

Landscape designations comments	-		
National Park	AONB		
Historic/archaeology designations comments	Church of St Madoc and associated features are listed		
Historic Parks and Gardens	Hist. Parks and Gardens Setting	Listed Building	Yes
Landscape of Hist. Interest	Scheduled Monument	Conservation Area	Yes WHS
Biodiversity designations comments	River Usk adjacent is a SAC and SSSI		
SAC Yes	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	Southern Usk Valley	LCA Number	12	also part of	0	0
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Characteristics

Landform flat valley floor and floodplain

Landcover arable and pasture

Pattern

Settlement pattern scattered rural settlement

Woodland cover riparian vegetation and trees around settlement and along some hedgerows

Boundaries irregular medium-sized fields with low-cut gappy hedgerows

Presence of water River Usk adjacent

Diversity simple Scale medium

Sense of enclosure generally open but with some enclosure from valley sides and trees

Function of Area

Pastoral Arable Horticulture Recreation other

Comments arable, pasture and nursery

Functional relationship and connectivity

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

...with adjacent assessed area? some Corridor?

Existing Habitat Connectivity Habitat Connectivity Opportunity

the area appears to be managed as part of a wider landholding and forms part of the River Usk corridor although it has no public rights of way running across it. The River Usk forms part of a strong habitat network and there is opportunity to link the riparian corridor with woodland to the west.

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

Comments -

PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Skyline

Prominence/importance not applicable Complexity simple

Comments -

Key views

To settlement settlement edge visible from near church along river

From settlement view from southern settlement edge

Landmarks Church of St Madoc

Detractors -

Intervisibility

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

Comments the area is moderately open to view from adjacent valley sides

Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development some Presence of people occasional

Summary high/medium

Comments the area is bounded by a minor road but has no public right of way and very limited settlement and therefore is tranquil although users of the nursery may reduce this

Settlement edge

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

Comments n/a- the main settlement of Usk does not lie adjacent

Visual relationship and connectivity

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

Setting

Comments the area forms part of the rural Usk valley floor

Receptors

rural residents

Sensitivity

high

LLCA U06 Settlement: Usk

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

Comments the main receptors are users of the adjacent minor road, rural residents and users of the Usk Valley Walk on the other side of the river

OTHER

Other factors there is a public car park by St Madoc for visitors

Potential Improvements (if no development) tree and hedge planting and enhancement around and south of St Madocs to link into riparian corridor. Refurbishment and management of riverside carpark to encourage riverside access.

Mitigation (if development) -

SUMMARY**Key characteristics**

Rounded low hill and valley sides.

Irregular medium-sized pasture fields with some arable and low cut hedgerows making the hilltop open.

Deciduous woodland on the steep slopes with occasional trees in hedgerows.

The low hill acts as backcloth to the settlement and also to the valley floors to the north and west.

The area is visible from the A472 to the north.

Olway Brook and woodland SINCs.

Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing High/Medium

The susceptibility of the area is in its wooded slopes which act as a backcloth to the settlement and are visible from the river side and settlement approaches. The rest of the area is open, tranquil and rural forming part of a wider countryside to the east of the settlement. The value of the area lies in its scenic quality as backcloth to the Usk and Olway valleys and along the river corridor and in its SINCs. LANDMAP value is high for cultural landscape and for the majority of the area for historic 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	85% high, 15% moderate	Landscape Habitats Moderate
Historical Landscapes	60% high, 40% moderate	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	Olway Brook and woodland blocks on steep slopes are SINCs	
SAC	NNR	SINC SSSI RAMSAR

Recreation Factors

Country Park National Trail National/Regional Cycle Route

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND SUSCEPTIBILITY**Landscape Character Area**

LCA Name Llangeview LCA Number 11 also part of

Characteristics

Landform rounded low hill and valley sides

Landcover pasture with some arable

Pattern

Settlement pattern small cluster along Olway Road

Woodland cover deciduous woodland on the steep slopes with occasional trees in hedgerows

Boundaries irregular medium-sized fields with low cut hedgerows

Presence of water -

Diversity simple Scale medium

Sense of enclosure generally open

Function of Area

Pastoral Arable Horticulture Recreation other

Comments pasture with some arable

Functional relationship and connectivity

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

...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 one public right of way running across it. The Olway Brook forms part of a wider river habitat network linking into the Usk.

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

Comments -

PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Skyline

Prominence/importance prominent Complexity simple

Comments the rising hillsides form a backcloth to the settlement to the east

Key views

To settlement view to settlement from Red Hill

From settlement view out from Chepstow Road

Landmarks -

Detractors -

Intervisibility

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

Comments the area is a rising hillsides and is intervisible with open flat valleys on two sides and with valley sides opposite

Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development some Presence of people infrequent

Summary high/medium

Comments the area has only one minor road passing through it although there is some disturbance from the A472 to the north but is otherwise rural and quiet

Settlement edge

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

Comments n/a

Visual relationship and connectivity

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

Setting

Comments the low hill acts as backcloth to the settlement and also to the valley floors to the north and west

Receptors

rural residents

roads/rail/cycleways

long distance/public footpaths

Sensitivity

high

high

high

LLCA U07

Settlement: Usk

urban residents

high/medium

Comments the area is visible from the A472 to the north, by residents at Olway Bridge and on the south eastern edge of Usk and from the PROW

OTHER

Other factors -

Potential Improvements (if no development)

maintenance of Olway Brook natural course and riparian corridor and woodland management to maintain/improve SINC status

Mitigation (if development) -

SUMMARY

Key characteristics

Flat valley floor and floodplain.

Mix of regular and irregular medium-sized fields with low-cut hedges and riparian vegetation with a few trees in hedgerows.

Settlement is rural and scattered to the south with sports grounds and prison on the settlement edge to the north.

The area forms part of the River Usk corridor and has public rights of way running across it including the Usk Valley Walk.

Moderately open with some enclosure from valley sides.

Conservation Area covers the environs of the settlement; and there are Roman Fort SMs.

Landscape and visual sensitivity to housing High/Medium

The susceptibility of the area lies in its generally flat, open valley floor and floodplain south of the settlement and includes a Roman fort on the settlement edge. The area acts as a setting for the River Usk corridor. The value of the area lies in it's the Roman fort scheduled monument, the Conservation Area, the USK SAC/SSSI and the Olway Brook SINC, the Usk Valley Walk, PROWs and regional cycle route. LANDMAP value is outstanding for part of the area for historic landscape and landscape habitats (the Usk), and high for visual and sensory, historic landscape (the rest of the area) 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 Moderate, Usk (Outstanding) at
Historical Landscapes	35% outstanding, 60% high, 5% m	Cultural Landscapes High
Visual and Sensory	High	

Designations

Landscape designations comments	-	
National Park	AONB	
Historic/archaeology designations comments	Conservation Area covers the environs of the settlement; Roman Fort SMs	
Historic Parks and Gardens	Hist. Parks and Gardens Setting	Listed Building
Landscape of Hist. Interest	Scheduled Monument Yes	Conservation Area Yes WHS
Biodiversity designations comments	River Usk adjacent is a SAC and SSSI, Olway Brook is a SINC	
SAC Yes	NNR	SINC
	SSSI Yes	RAMSAR

Recreation Factors

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

Landscape Character Area

LCA Name	Southern Usk Valley	LCA Number	12	also part of	0	0
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Characteristics

Landform flat valley floor and floodplain

Landcover predominantly pastoral

Pattern

Settlement pattern scattered rural settlement

Woodland cover riparian vegetation with a few trees in hedgerows

Boundaries mix of regular and irregular medium-sized fields with low-cut hedges

Presence of water River Usk adjacent with small watercourses within the area

Diversity simple Scale medium to large

Sense of enclosure moderately open with some enclosure from valley sides

Function of Area

Pastoral Arable Horticulture Recreation other

Comments pastoral with sports grounds south of Usk and open space adjacent to the River Usk to the north west

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 and forms part of the River Usk corridor and has public rights of way running across it including the Usk Valley Walk and a regional cycle route. The River Usk forms part of a strong habitat network including the Olway Brook.

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

Comments -

PERCEPTUAL SUSCEPTIBILITY

Skyline

Prominence/importance not applicable Complexity

Comments -

Key views

To settlement view to settlement edge including prison

From settlement view from adjacent houses south

Landmarks -

Detractors -

Intervisibility

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

Comments the area is moderately open and overlooked by the hill to the east

Tranquillity

Noise sources roads

Views of development one side 180 Presence of people infrequent

Summary high/medium

Comments the area has only one minor road passing through it although there is some intervisibility with the settlement to the north but is otherwise rural and quiet

Settlement edge

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

Comments the settlement edge is mitigated to extent by trees and by sports grounds

Visual relationship and connectivity

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

Setting

Comments the area forms part of the rural Usk valley floor south of the settlement

Receptors

Sensitivity

LLCA U08 Settlement: Usk

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

Comments the main receptors are users of the Usk Valley Walk, the regional cycle on the route of the minor road running through the area, adjacent settlement edge dwellers, and rural residents to the south.

OTHER

Other factors -

Potential Improvements (if no development) Maintain river corridors and associated riparian vegetation.

Mitigation (if development) -