

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Luton Borough Council Saved Policies: Landscape Setting

The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are areas of nationally important landscape which are considered by the Government to be equal to those in National Parks, and should be afforded the highest standards of management. The primary objective of the designation is the conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and wildlife. Luton lies within the northern end of the Chilterns AONB, which was designated in 1965. Whilst little of the designated area lies within the Borough boundary, it needs to be recognised that development within the town can have an impact on the AONB beyond.

ENV1 The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Planning permission will not be granted for development in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, except for minor development that would have no detrimental effect upon the special character of the AONB.

Areas of Great Landscape Value

Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) represent areas of similar landscape quality to AONBs, but are designated in Structure Plans. Such local designations carry less weight than national designations. AGLV designations exist on attractive and rare chalk downland in the Borough at Dallow Downs and the escarpment near Bradgers Hill. Two areas between the Borough boundary and south of London Luton Airport are similarly designated as part of a larger locally important landscape area extending south into Hertfordshire along the Lea Valley.

ENV2 Areas of Great Landscape Value

Planning permission will not be granted for development in areas of Great Landscape Value, except where:
 [A] the proposal would preserve or enhance the character, natural beauty, landscape and setting of the area, or
 [B] any adverse effect on the AGLV is reduced as far as possible and is clearly outweighed by other planning benefits of the proposal.

Areas of Local Landscape Importance

The Hart Hill area is an important local landscape area that should be protected. It is part of a steep hillside rising above the River Lea and is characterised by mature trees, making the area a significant visible landscape feature from much of the southern part of the town.

ENV3 Hart Hill Area

Planning permission will not be granted for developments in the Hart Hill Area of Local Landscape Importance, as identified on the Proposals Map, unless such developments preserve or enhance the area.

Green Belt

The Green Belt boundary was consolidated in the Borough of Luton Local Plan 1997. This shows that built development, or land committed for development, generally extends to the Borough boundary. The situation has not changed since that time and it is intended that the boundary remains unchanged.

ENV4 Green Belt

Within the areas defined on the proposals map as green belt, planning permission will not be granted for new buildings unless it is for the following purposes:

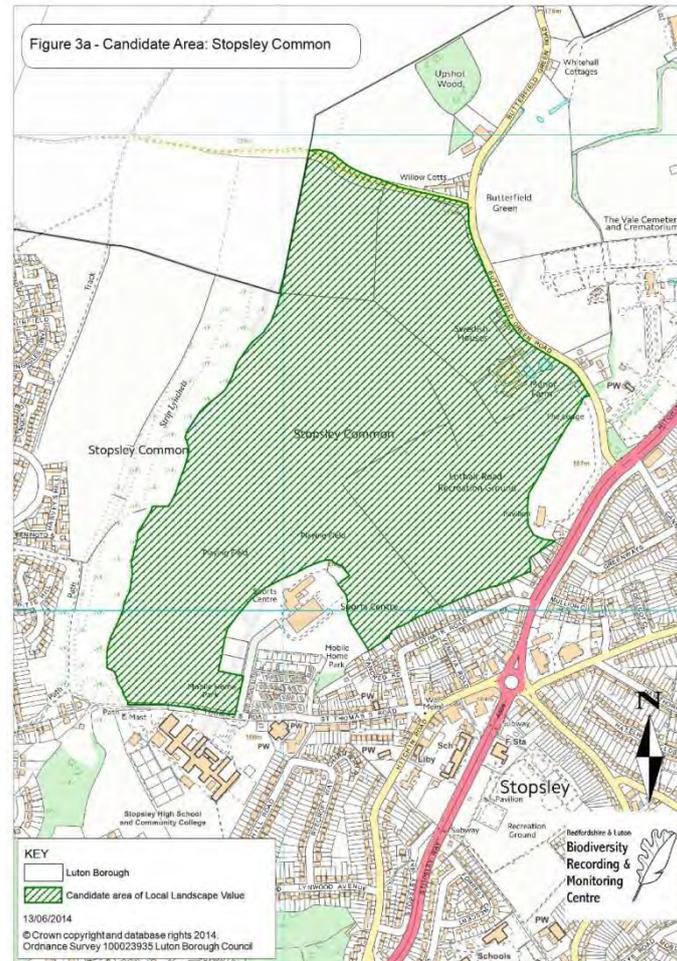
[A] agriculture and forestry; or

[B] essential facilities for outdoor sport and outdoor recreation, for cemeteries, and for other uses of land which preserve the openness of the green belt and which do not conflict with it.

Appendix 2 – Candidate Areas – Assessment Scores and Maps

Candidate Area (a) – Stopsley Common

Description: An open and extensive plateau on the eastern side of Luton, includes Landscape Character Areas 9b and 9c.

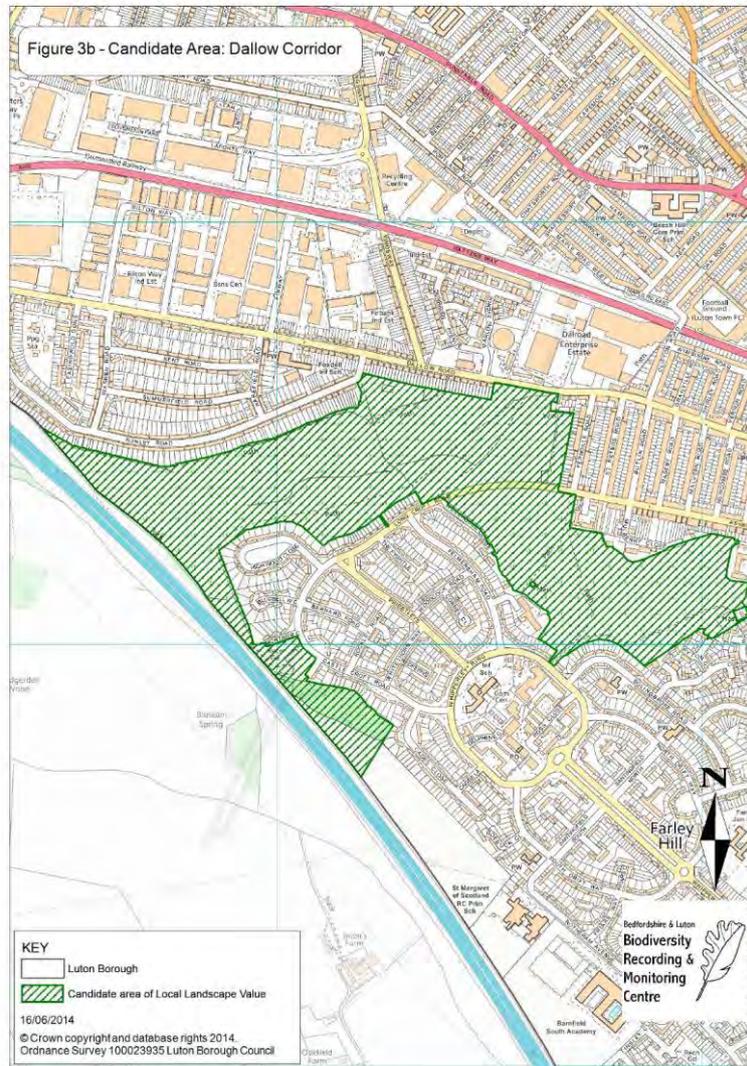


	Criteria	Score	Notes
1	Is there a strong sense of naturalness with limited human interference?	Yes = 3 Relatively natural/some natural features/some human interference through modification/management = 2 Highly modified/managed – few/no natural features = 1	Score = 2 Open landscape, some buildings and infrastructure in fringes. Old hedgerows and trees.
2	Does it demonstrate the underlying geology of interest? What influence do geological/geomorphological features have on the experience of the landscape?	Strong influence/reflecting naturalness = 3 Moderate influence = 2 Limited influence = 1	Score = 3 Plateau at top of steep chalk valley side, clay with flint geology evident in places.
3	Is the landscape unit visually intact?	Yes = 3 Relatively = 2 Poorly = 1	Yes = 3
4	Does it have logical boundaries, and is it a significant enough area to designate and make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?	Yes = 3 No = 1	Score = 3 Largely logical boundaries and significant size.
5	Does it have a distinct, coherent and recognisable landscape character?	Yes = 3 Moderate = 2 Indistinct = 1	Score = 3 Plateau with strong sense of open space.
6	Is it of high scenic quality through a combination of landscape features?	High = 3 Medium = 2 Low = 1	Score = 2 Relatively few features but openness and views contribute to scenic quality.
7	Is the landscape unit functional ecologically?	Yes = 3 Relatively, with reasonable habitats and connectivity = 2 Poor connectivity and few/fragmented habitats = 1	Score = 2 Open landscape with areas of semi-natural habitat including chalk grassland and hedgerows – the fact that part is SSSI and others are CWS/DWS recognise this.
8	Are individual elements (trees, hedges etc) in good condition?	Good = 3 Moderate = 2 Poor = 1	Score = 3 Hedgerows and trees in good condition.
9	Is there a degree of tranquillity, recognising this is an urban area?	High = 4 Moderate = 3 Low = 1	Score = 4 High levels of tranquillity across large part of the area.
10	Is the unit connected to the wider landscape outside the town? Does it relate to adjoining areas / LCAs? Does it form part of their setting?	Yes = 3 Moderately = 2 Not/poorly = 1	Score = 3 Relates to the Chalk Valley side and Bradgers Hill, and also to rolling farmland to north and east (note South Beds LCA covers much of this area as “Barton Hill Rolling Chalk farmland”)
11	Is it important to the setting of the	Yes = 3	Score = 3

	AONB		Immediately adjacent.
12	Is it used for enjoyment/recreational activity?	Highly accessible with high usage = 3 Moderately accessible with medium usage = 2 Poor accessibility with little or no usage = 1	Score = 3 Both the more formal sport and recreation facilities and the more natural areas are highly accessible and well-used.
13	Is it important to local people, especially in terms its beauty of views of it or from it? Is there community support for its protection?	Very important/strong support = 3 Moderately important/medium support = 2 Low importance/little support = 1	Score = 3 Very important due to open nature and views. Strong associations with Stopsley as a community.
14	Does it have any prominent or eye-catching features, or does it create a sense of scale/contrast?	Yes = 3 Some features/sense of scale/contrast = 2 Few/no features/little/no sense of scale/contrast = 1	Score = 3 Definite sense of scale and contrast.
15	Is it important to the setting of the town? Do its character and qualities of the landscape have special importance to Luton? Does it contribute to the distinctiveness of the town? Does it contribute to sense of place?	Yes, strongly = 3 Moderately = 2 Little/none = 1	Score = 3 Views out over the town demonstrate setting. Stopsley itself has a strong sense of place.
16	Is the landscape a rare one in the area, or represent a particular type of landscape?	Yes = 3 Moderately rare/representative = 2 No = 1	Score = 3 Any significant area of greenspace is rare in Luton. It represents an area of undeveloped plateau.
17	Does it have cultural heritage features – built, landscape planting, field boundaries, cultural associations – significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character?	Yes = 3 Some cultural heritage importance = 2 Little cultural heritage importance/impact on landscape = 1	Score = 2 Some ancient hedgerows. One of earliest areas of Luton that was settled, with Iron Age farmsteads discovered at Butterfield.
18	Are there any incongruous features or detractors?	Yes, strong detractors = -3 Moderate detractors = -2 Weak detractors = -1 No detractors = 0	Score = -2 Buildings (including sports facilities) and caravan site on perimeter, school and mobile telecommunications mast. Sports pitches are a marked contrast in 'greenness' to other grassland.
19	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	High extent = 3 Moderate impact = 2 Little/no impact = 1	Score = 3 Will provide protection and ensure special nature (especially openness) is protected. Is covered by other designations, including SSSI in part.
			TOTAL = 48/55

Candidate Area (b) – Dallow Corridor

Description: A steep chalk valley side in southern Luton, with significant woodland/scrub over much of it, extending a significant distance into the urban area and overlooking the town. Includes Winsdon Hill and Bluebell and Runley Woods, and is similar to (but slightly less extensive than) LCA 19a.



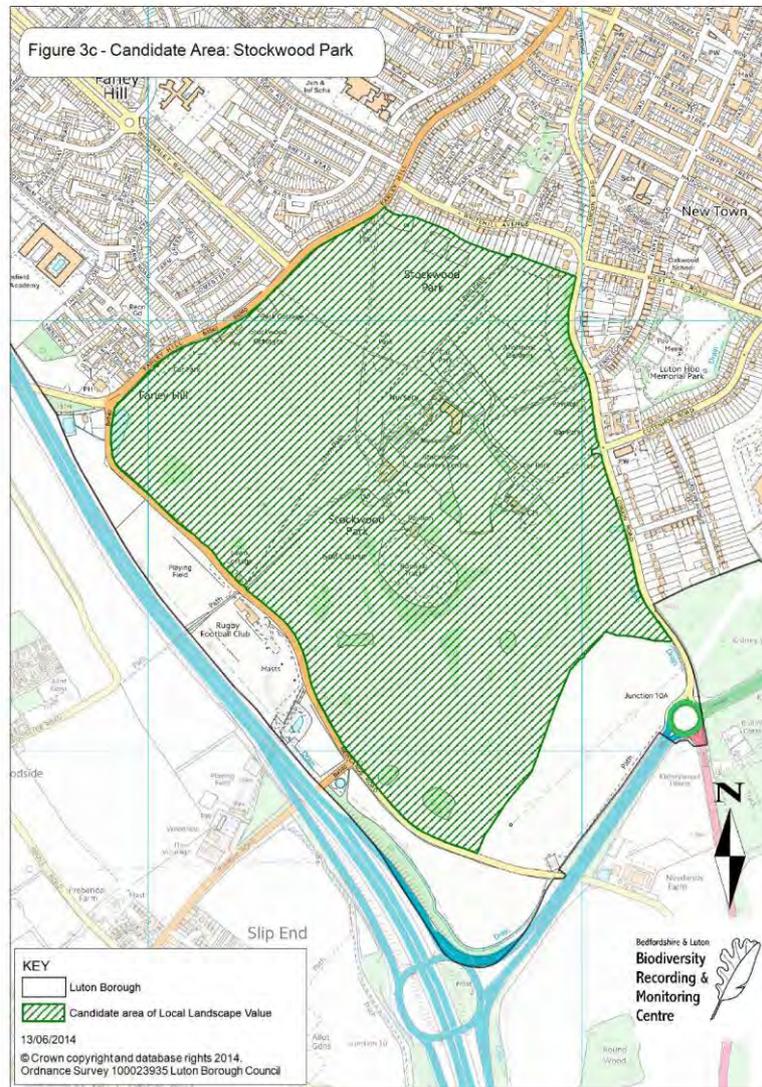
	Criteria	Score	Notes
1	Is there a strong sense of naturalness with limited human interference?	Yes = 3 Relatively natural/some natural features/some human interference through modification/management = 2 Highly modified/managed – few/no natural features = 1	Score = 3 Relatively wild greenspace with woodland, hedgerows and chalk grassland.
2	Does it demonstrate the underlying geology of interest? What influence do geological/geomorphological features have on the experience of the landscape?	Strong influence/reflecting naturalness = 3 Moderate influence = 2 Limited influence = 1	Score = 3 Highly demonstrative of steep chalk valley side that helps give Luton its Chalk 'gap town' identity. Often mistaken as an escarpment.
3	Is the landscape unit visually intact?	Yes = 3 Relatively = 2 Poorly = 1	Score = 3 Some development impact, particularly road between Dallow Downs and Winsdon Hill, but visually intact as a landscape unit.
4	Does it have logical boundaries, and is it a significant enough area to designate and make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?	Yes = 3 No = 1	Score = 3 Clear boundaries and significant size.
5	Does it have a distinct, coherent and recognisable landscape character?	Yes = 3 Moderate = 2 Indistinct = 1	Score = 3 Yes, and highly visible from many parts of the town and surrounds.
6	Is it of high scenic quality through a combination of landscape features?	High = 3 Medium = 2 Low = 1	Score = 3 Very high scenic quality, with high quality views of it and from it. Downland, hedges and woodland combine to create an attractive area.
7	Is the landscape unit functional ecologically?	Yes = 3 Relatively, with reasonable habitats and connectivity = 2 Poor connectivity and few/fragmented habitats = 1	Score = 3 County Wildlife Site with good sized areas of chalk grassland, woodland, hedgerows and scrub (though woodland and scrub beginning to dominate chalk grassland in areas). Good habitat connectivity though severed from Blows Downs by M1. Connectivity to Bluebell Wood reasonable.
8	Are individual elements (trees, hedges etc) in good condition?	Good = 3 Moderate = 2 Poor = 1	Score = 2 The area is well managed. The reason for the score of 2 and not 3 is that the

			hedgerow which forms the old manorial boundary between Dallow and Farley is overgrown and under-managed, and has become a strip of scrub.
9	Is there a degree of tranquillity, recognising this is an urban area?	High = 4 Moderate = 3 Low = 1	Score = 3 Moderate tranquillity, particularly in elevated or woodland/scrub areas away from roads. M1 has limited impact due to effective screening and vegetation, the exception being alongside Bluebell Wood, meaning this part of the area has low tranquillity.
10	Is the unit connected to the wider landscape outside the town? Does it relate to adjoining areas / LCAs? Does it form part of their setting?	Yes = 3 Moderately = 2 Not/poorly = 1	Score = 2 The construction of the M1 has physically severed Dallow Downs/Runley Wood from the rest of the chalk valley side through to Blows Downs. Bluebell Wood is similarly severed from the woodland to the west. However there is still some visual connectivity. The chalk valley side continues through southern Luton.
11	Is it important to the setting of the AONB	Yes = 3	Score = 1 While this area is severed from land to the west (including the AONB boundary a short distance away) by the M1, it is important to the setting of the chalk valley side and has some connectivity with Blows Downs.
12	Is it used for enjoyment/recreational activity?	Highly accessible with high usage = 3 Moderately accessible with medium usage = 2 Poor accessibility with little or no usage = 1	Score = 3 Very well-used site with path networks. Some steep gradients.
13	Is it important to local people, especially in terms its beauty of views of it or from it? Is there community support for its protection?	Very important/strong support = 3 Moderately important/medium support = 2 Low importance/little support = 1	Score = 3 Very important, as demonstrated through recent 'GI planning' exercise. Stunning panoramic views across town and beyond. Subject to a 'declaration' by

			local schools.
14	Does it have any prominent or eye-catching features, or does it create a sense of scale/contrast?	Yes = 3 Some features/sense of scale/contrast = 2 Few/no features/little/no sense of scale/contrast = 1	Score = 3 Creates a strong sense of scale and contrast, rising up from the Lea valley to significant height with steep face.
15	Is it important to the setting of the town? Do its character and qualities of the landscape have special importance to Luton? Does it contribute to the distinctiveness of the town? Does it contribute to sense of place?	Yes, strongly = 3 Moderately = 2 Little/none = 1	Score = 3 Extremely important to the setting of the town, part of the 'gap town' landscape. Very strong sense of place.
16	Is the landscape a rare one in the area, or represent a particular type of landscape?	Yes = 3 Moderately rare/representative = 2 No = 1	Score = 3 Highly representative of steep chalk valley side.
17	Does it have cultural heritage features – built, landscape planting, field boundaries, cultural associations – significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character?	Yes = 3 Some cultural heritage importance = 2 Little cultural heritage importance/impact on landscape = 1	Score = 3 High importance. Strip lynchets – though obscured by woodland. Old manorial boundary hedgebank. Hazel coppice and pudding stones – Winsdon Hill Relic of Dallow Lane hedgerow adjacent to Foxdell School
18	Are there any incongruous features or detractors?	Yes, strong detractors = -3 Moderate detractors = -2 Weak detractors = -1 No detractors = 0	Score = -2 M1 is a detractor in terms of severance, but at least its impact is mitigated through screening. Mobile telecommunications masts on Winsdon Hill. Proximity of built development, especially on brow of hill along Ashburnham Road and along northern edge at the foot of the hill – though at least the latter is softened by scrub.
19	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	High extent = 3 Moderate impact = 2 Little/no impact = 1	Score = 2 To some extent the site is unlikely to be developed due to high ecological importance, but impact of development on edges needs to be carefully managed.
			TOTAL =47/55

Candidate Area (c) – Stockwood Park

Description: A remnant of a much larger estate at the southern tip of the town, with typical parkland features including tree avenues, walls and buildings. Current uses include golf course, sports pitches, athletics track as well as a ‘Country Park’.



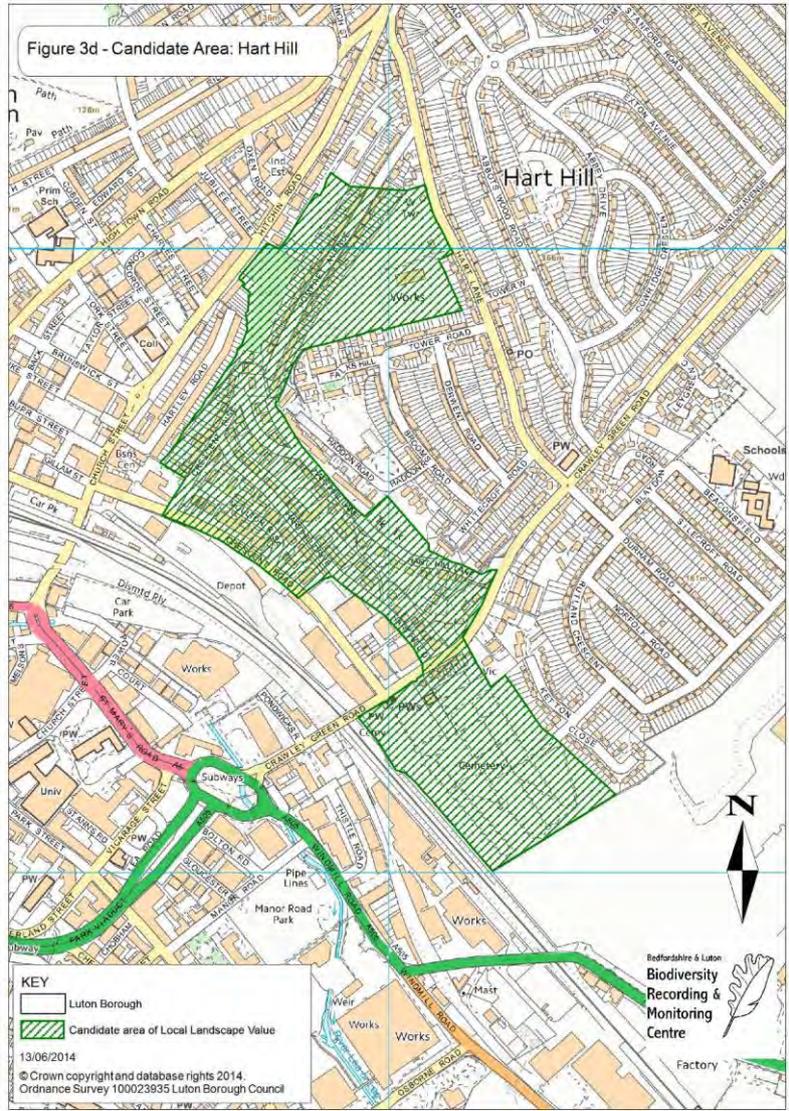
	Criteria	Score	Notes
1	Is there a strong sense of naturalness with limited human interference?	Yes = 3 Relatively natural/some natural features/some human interference through modification/management = 2 Highly modified/managed – few/no natural features = 1	Score = 2 Actually significantly modified, but much in a naturalistic way.
2	Does it demonstrate the underlying geology of interest? What influence do geological/geomorphological features have on the experience of the landscape?	Strong influence/reflecting naturalness = 3 Moderate influence = 2 Limited influence = 1	Score = 1 Limited influence, partly due to historic landscaping.
3	Is the landscape unit visually intact?	Yes = 3 Relatively = 2 Poorly = 1	Score = 3 Largely intact.
4	Does it have logical boundaries, and is it a significant enough area to designate and make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?	Yes = 3 No = 1	Score = 3 Clearly defined historic boundaries still highly relevant.
5	Does it have a distinct, coherent and recognisable landscape character?	Yes = 3 Moderate = 2 Indistinct = 1	Score = 3 Highly recognisable parkland landscape.
6	Is it of high scenic quality through a combination of landscape features?	High = 3 Medium = 2 Low = 1	Score = 3 Highly scenic with rolling landscape, attractive views, areas of woodland, walled gardens, tree avenues.
7	Is the landscape unit functional ecologically?	Yes = 3 Relatively, with reasonable habitats and connectivity = 2 Poor connectivity and few/fragmented habitats = 1	Score = 3 Good woodland habitats, hedgerows, scrub, grassland – even a small area of gorse scrub on acidic soils. Most of the southern half of the area is CWS, and most of the north-east is DWS.
8	Are individual elements (trees, hedges etc) in good condition?	Good = 3 Moderate = 2 Poor = 1	Score = 3 Yes, partly because significant area is managed as a golf course.
9	Is there a degree of tranquillity, recognising this is an urban area?	High = 4 Moderate = 3 Low = 1	Score = 3 Some tranquil areas, especially away from roads, although proximity to airport and flight path means frequent aircraft noise.

10	Is the unit connected to the wider landscape outside the town? Does it relate to adjoining areas / LCAs? Does it form part of their setting?	Yes = 3 Moderately = 2 Not/poorly = 1	Score = 2 There is a degree of relationship with the adjacent landscape to the south and west, though this is heavily modified by the M1. South Beds LCA actually covers this adjacent area as "Slip End Chalk Valley". Top of valley side provides views into Stockwood Park. London Road tree avenues extend parkland feel towards town centre.
11	Is it important to the setting of the AONB	Yes = 3	Score = 0
12	Is it used for enjoyment/recreational activity?	Highly accessible with high usage = 3 Moderately accessible with medium usage = 2 Poor accessibility with little or no usage = 1	Score = 3 Highly accessible with high levels of usage. Additional usage in terms of sports use, golf course etc – though these do reduce the fully accessible area.
13	Is it important to local people, especially in terms its beauty of views of it or from it? Is there community support for its protection?	Very important/strong support = 3 Moderately important/medium support = 2 Low importance/little support = 1	Score = 3 Strong cultural associations, high recreational use, play facilities, allotments, Stockwood Discovery Centre all contribute.
14	Does it have any prominent or eye-catching features, or does it create a sense of scale/contrast?	Yes = 3 Some features/sense of scale/contrast = 2 Few/no features/little/no sense of scale/contrast = 1	Score = 3 Tree avenues, old buildings, tree 'clumps' e.g. Moon Wood.
15	Is it important to the setting of the town? Do its character and qualities of the landscape have special importance to Luton? Does it contribute to the distinctiveness of the town? Does it contribute to sense of place?	Yes, strongly = 3 Moderately = 2 Little/none = 1	Score = 3 At one of the main entry points into town at key M1 junction. Heavily influences views from London Road.
16	Is the landscape a rare one in the area, or represent a particular type of landscape?	Yes = 3 Moderately rare/representative = 2 No = 1	Score = 3 Last remaining fragment of much larger Stockwood Park.
17	Does it have cultural heritage features – built, landscape planting, field boundaries, cultural associations – significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character?	Yes = 3 Some cultural heritage importance = 2 Little cultural heritage importance/impact on landscape = 1	Score = 3 Parkland features including tree avenues, plantings, walled gardens, old buildings.
18	Are there any incongruous features	Yes, strong detractors = -3	Score = -2

	or detractors?	<p>Moderate detractors = -2</p> <p>Weak detractors = -1</p> <p>No detractors = 0</p>	Some of peripheral uses, including sports facilities, allotments, car parking etc are detractors, particularly where metal palisade fencing is used, but are at fringes. M1 and junction are a detractor at southern end.
19	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	<p>High extent = 3</p> <p>Moderate impact = 2</p> <p>Little/no impact = 1</p>	<p>Score = 3</p> <p>There is no other designation covering the whole of the Park.</p>
			TOTAL = 45/55

Candidate Area (d) – Hart Hill

Description: The continuation of the steep chalk valley side that enters the town as Bradgers Hill, with higher levels of development but still a prominent wooded hill. Within LCA 8b.

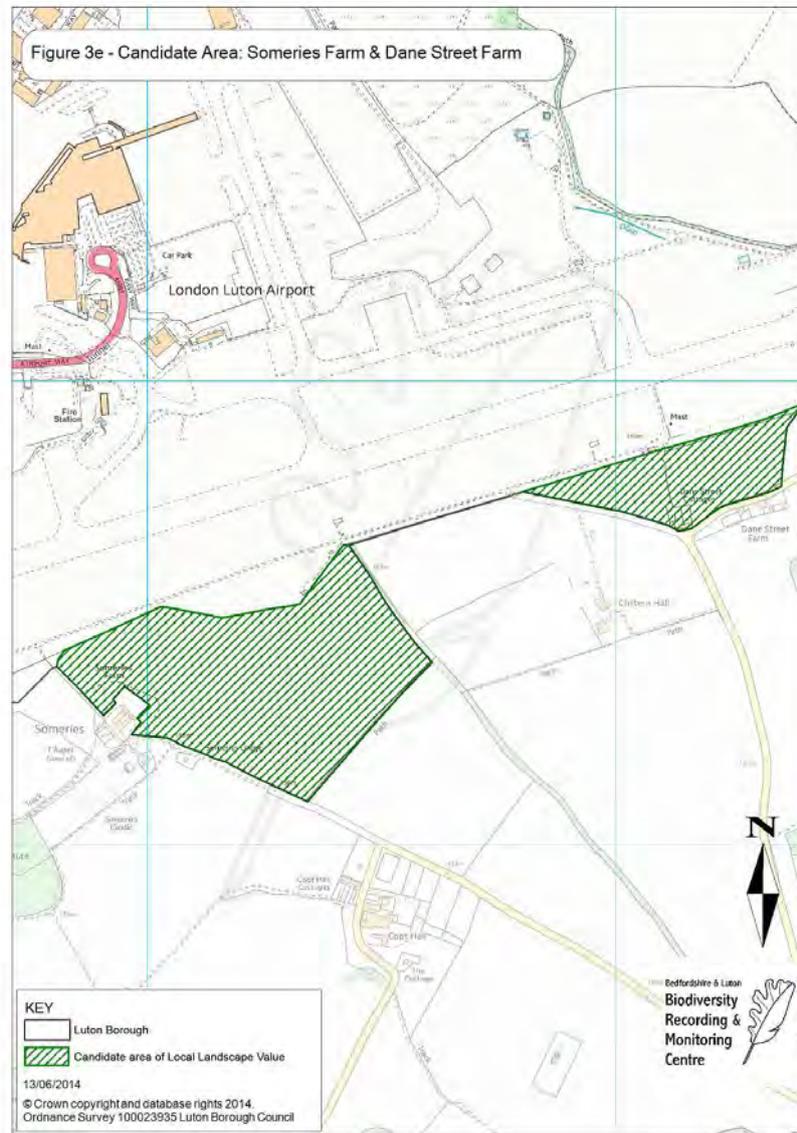


	Criteria	Score	Notes
1	Is there a strong sense of naturalness with limited human interference?	Yes = 3 Relatively natural/some natural features/some human interference through modification/management = 2 Highly modified/managed – few/no natural features = 1	Score = 2 Trees provide the feeling of naturalness, though with buildings and almost completely surrounded by urban landscape.
2	Does it demonstrate the underlying geology of interest? What influence do geological/geomorphological features have on the experience of the landscape?	Strong influence/reflecting naturalness = 3 Moderate influence = 2 Limited influence = 1	Score = 3 Very prominent chalk valley side.
3	Is the landscape unit visually intact?	Yes = 3 Relatively = 2 Poorly = 1	Score = 2 Trees contribute significantly, but there is also a degree of development.
4	Does it have logical boundaries, and is it a significant enough area to designate and make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?	Yes = 3 No = 1	Score = 3 Largely defined by wooded areas. This is a sub-area within LCA8b.
5	Does it have a distinct, coherent and recognisable landscape character?	Yes = 3 Moderate = 2 Indistinct = 1	Score = 3 Underlying chalk geology combined with trees provides this.
6	Is it of high scenic quality through a combination of landscape features?	High = 3 Medium = 2 Low = 1	Score = 2 Largely achieved through trees, though some buildings are incongruous. Cemetery complements at southern end.
7	Is the landscape unit functional ecologically?	Yes = 3 Relatively, with reasonable habitats and connectivity = 2 Poor connectivity and few/fragmented habitats = 1	Score = 2 Some woodland connectivity. Hitchin Road Spinney is recognised as a DWS. Cemetery provides grassland and hedgerow habitats (south-western half is a CWS).
8	Are individual elements (trees, hedges etc) in good condition?	Good = 3 Moderate = 2 Poor = 1	Score = 3 Largely, but mature stock, need long-term strategy.
9	Is there a degree of tranquillity, recognising this is an urban area?	High = 4 Moderate = 3 Low = 1	Score = 1 Adjacent to town centre and not far from airport, though some tranquillity in wooded areas.
10	Is the unit connected to the wider landscape outside the town? Does it relate to adjoining areas / LCAs? Does it form part of their setting?	Yes = 3 Moderately = 2 Not/poorly = 1	Score = 1 Though degree of connectivity to landscape within town to north

			(though no woodland connectivity), connectivity with continuation of valley side to south is virtually lost due to impact of roads, Vauxhall site etc.
11	Is it important to the setting of the AONB	Yes = 3	Score = 0
12	Is it used for enjoyment/recreational activity?	Highly accessible/high usage = 3 Moderately accessible/ medium usage = 2 Poor accessibility/little/no usage = 1	Score = 1 Paths pass through, but little recreational usage.
13	Is it important to local people, especially in terms its beauty of views of it or from it? Is there community support for its protection?	Very important/strong support = 3 Moderately important/medium support = 2 Low importance/little support = 1	Score = 3 Because so visible from town centre it is highly valued for views to it.
14	Does it have any prominent or eye-catching features, or does it create a sense of scale/contrast?	Yes = 3 Some features/sense of scale/contrast = 2 Few/no features/little/no sense of scale/contrast = 1	Score = 3 Prominent wooded hill very close to town centre. Victorian water tower is prominent and has a 'twin' on the opposite valley side.
15	Is it important to the setting of the town? Do its character and qualities of the landscape have special importance to Luton? Does it contribute to the distinctiveness of the town? Does it contribute to sense of place?	Yes, strongly = 3 Moderately = 2 Little/none = 1	Score = 3 Helps frame it as a 'gap town', and extension of wooded hill, visible from much of the town centre, adds to the setting.
16	Is the landscape a rare one in the area, or represent a particular type of landscape?	Yes = 3 Moderately rare/representative = 2 No = 1	Score = 3 Strongly representative of wooded chalk hill.
17	Does it have cultural heritage features – built, landscape planting, field boundaries, cultural associations – significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character?	Yes = 3 Some cultural heritage importance = 2 Little cultural heritage importance/impact on landscape = 1	Score = 2 Victorian Water tower, woodland.
18	Are there any incongruous features or detractors?	Yes, strong detractors = -3 Moderate detractors = -2 Weak detractors = -1 No detractors = 0	Score = -3 Proximity of urban development, including industrial sites to south and nestled into foot of hill, roads and railway.
19	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	High extent = 3 Moderate impact = 2 Little/no impact = 1	Score = 3 Would be only protection for the area, consider it as a whole and help plan for future management to safeguard landscape value of trees in particular.
			TOTAL = 37/55

Candidate Area (e) - Someries Farm and Dane Street Farm

Description: Two areas of the rolling plateau to the south of Luton airport, outliers of Luton Borough. LCAs 15a and 15b.



	Criteria	Score	Notes
1	Is there a strong sense of naturalness with limited human interference?	Yes = 3 Relatively natural/some natural features/some human interference through modification/management = 2 Highly modified/managed – few/no natural features = 1	Score = 2 Agricultural landscape adjacent to airport runway, but with hedgerows, copses, scrub and mature trees.
2	Does it demonstrate the underlying geology of interest? What influence do geological/geomorphological features have on the experience of the landscape?	Strong influence/reflecting naturalness = 3 Moderate influence = 2 Limited influence = 1	Score = 3 Although not as spectacular as other areas, it is a gently rolling plateau.
3	Is the landscape unit visually intact?	Yes = 3 Relatively = 2 Poorly = 1	Score = 2 The area being considered here is, but cannot remove impact of airport as would be a much larger unit otherwise.
4	Does it have logical boundaries, and is it a significant enough area to designate and make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?	Yes = 3 No = 1	Score = 3 Although not large, the areas are defined by hedgerows and tracks.
5	Does it have a distinct, coherent and recognisable landscape character?	Yes = 3 Moderate = 2 Indistinct = 1	Score = 3
6	Is it of high scenic quality through a combination of landscape features?	High = 3 Medium = 2 Low = 1	Score = 3 High scenic quality when viewed from north (i.e. airport behind the observer).
7	Is the landscape unit functional ecologically?	Yes = 3 Relatively, with reasonable habitats and connectivity = 2 Poor connectivity and few/fragmented habitats = 1	Score = 2 Reasonable hedgerows, copses and scrub.
8	Are individual elements (trees, hedges etc) in good condition?	Good = 3 Moderate = 2 Poor = 1	Score = 3 Trees and hedges are in reasonably good condition.
9	Is there a degree of tranquillity, recognising this is an urban area?	High = 4 Moderate = 3 Low = 1	Score = 1 Actually a highly tranquil area without airport, but this creates frequent noise disturbance.
10	Is the unit connected to the wider landscape outside the town? Does it relate to adjoining areas / LCAs? Does it form part of their setting?	Yes = 3 Moderately = 2 Not/poorly = 1	Score = 3 Extremely well – the areas are part of the much larger South Beds LCA Area “Luton Airport Chiltern Green Chalk Dipslope”.

11	Is it important to the setting of the AONB	Yes = 3	Score = 0
12	Is it used for enjoyment/recreational activity?	Highly accessible with high usage = 3 Moderately accessible with medium usage = 2 Poor accessibility with little or no usage = 1	Score = 2 Some usage as Someries Castle is adjacent and there are public rights of way, but somewhat isolated. There is a higher level of usage by 'plane spotters', but they generally have their backs to the areas.
13	Is it important to local people, especially in terms its beauty of views of it or from it? Is there community support for its protection?	Very important/strong support = 3 Moderately important/medium support = 2 Low importance/little support = 1	Score = 2
14	Does it have any prominent or eye-catching features, or does it create a sense of scale/contrast?	Yes = 3 Some features/sense of scale/contrast = 2 Few/no features/little/no sense of scale/contrast = 1	Score = 2 Provides a sense of contrast with the town and airport.
15	Is it important to the setting of the town? Do its character and qualities of the landscape have special importance to Luton? Does it contribute to the distinctiveness of the town? Does it contribute to sense of place?	Yes, strongly = 3 Moderately = 2 Little/none = 1	Score = 1 Isolated from town by airport.
16	Is the landscape a rare one in the area, or represent a particular type of landscape?	Yes = 3 Moderately rare/representative = 2 No = 1	Score = 3 The areas are a rare example of undeveloped chalk 'dipslope' within Luton.
17	Does it have cultural heritage features – built, landscape planting, field boundaries, cultural associations – significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character?	Yes = 3 Some cultural heritage importance = 2 Little cultural heritage importance/impact on landscape = 1	Score = 2 Strong field boundaries, hedgerows, hedgerow trees. Someries Castle adjacent.
18	Are there any incongruous features or detractors?	Yes, strong detractors = -3 Moderate detractors = -2 Weak detractors = -1 No detractors = 0	Score = -3 Airport. Also, development around Someries Farm, with spoil heaps, landfill operations.
19	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	High extent = 3 Moderate impact = 2 Little/no impact = 1	Score = 3 Will help to continue to safeguard, and is the only opportunity to resolve landscape intrusion issues around Someries Farm.
			TOTAL = 37/55

Candidate Area (f) – Turnpike Drive

Description: A strip of scrub and open areas in the very northern part of the town at the foot of Warden Hill, within LCA 7.

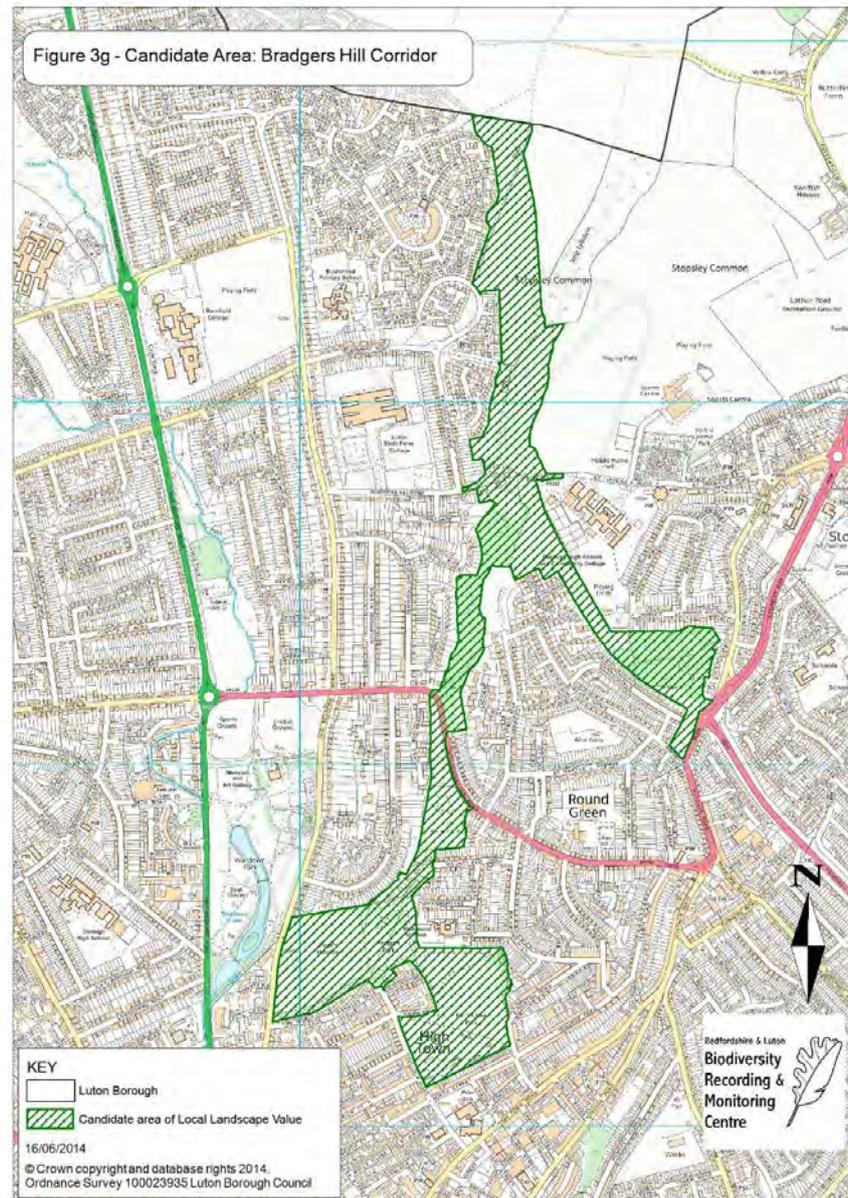


	Criteria	Score	Notes
1	Is there a strong sense of naturalness with limited human interference?	Yes = 3 Relatively natural/some natural features/some human interference through modification/management = 2 Highly modified/managed – few/no natural features = 1	Score = 3 Mix of scrub and open areas with old hedgerows.
2	Does it demonstrate the underlying geology of interest? What influence do geological/geomorphological features have on the experience of the landscape?	Strong influence/reflecting naturalness = 3 Moderate influence = 2 Limited influence = 1	Score = 2 Flat area at foot of Warden Hill.
3	Is the landscape unit visually intact?	Yes = 3 Relatively = 2 Poorly = 1	Score = 1 Size is main reason.
4	Does it have logical boundaries, and is it a significant enough area to designate and make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?	Yes = 3 No = 1	Score = 1 Logical boundaries but small size.
5	Does it have a distinct, coherent and recognisable landscape character?	Yes = 3 Moderate = 2 Indistinct = 1	Score = 1
6	Is it of high scenic quality through a combination of landscape features?	High = 3 Medium = 2 Low = 1	Score = 1
7	Is the landscape unit functional ecologically?	Yes = 3 Relatively, with reasonable habitats and connectivity = 2 Poor connectivity and few/fragmented habitats = 1	Score = 3 Hedgerows and scrub with patchwork of more open areas, linked in to the wider hedge network and adjoins a Local Nature Reserve. Likely to be of DWS standard.
8	Are individual elements (trees, hedges etc) in good condition?	Good = 3 Moderate = 2 Poor = 1	Score = 3
9	Is there a degree of tranquillity, recognising this is an urban area?	High = 4 Moderate = 3 Low = 1	Score = 4 Highly tranquil as on fringe.
10	Is the unit connected to the wider landscape outside the town? Does it relate to adjoining areas / LCAs? Does it form part of their setting?	Yes = 3 Moderately = 2 Not/poorly = 1	Score = 3 Connects to hedgerow network and forms part of the setting of Warden Hill.
11	Is it important to the setting of the AONB	Yes = 3	Score = 3
12	Is it used for enjoyment/recreational activity?	Highly accessible with high usage = 3	Score = 3 Although not a clearly 'signposted' gateway to

		Moderately accessible with medium usage = 2 Poor accessibility with little or no usage = 1	Warden Hill until close by, it is evidently used as such to significant levels. Several paths go through, and links to the Icknield Way and Thedeway.
13	Is it important to local people, especially in terms its beauty of views of it or from it? Is there community support for its protection?	Very important/strong support = 3 Moderately important/medium support = 2 Low importance/little support = 1	Score = 3 Based on usage.
14	Does it have any prominent or eye-catching features, or does it create a sense of scale/contrast?	Yes = 3 Some features/sense of scale/contrast = 2 Few/no features/little/no sense of scale/contrast = 1	Score = 1
15	Is it important to the setting of the town? Do its character and qualities of the landscape have special importance to Luton? Does it contribute to the distinctiveness of the town? Does it contribute to sense of place?	Yes, strongly = 3 Moderately = 2 Little/none = 1	Score = 1
16	Is the landscape a rare one in the area, or represent a particular type of landscape?	Yes = 3 Moderately rare/representative = 2 No = 1	Score = 1
17	Does it have cultural heritage features – built, landscape planting, field boundaries, cultural associations – significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character?	Yes = 3 Some cultural heritage importance = 2 Little cultural heritage importance/impact on landscape = 1	Score = 3 Hedgerows are of significance and frame ancient routes adjacent (Icknield Way and Thedeway – SAM).
18	Are there any incongruous features or detractors?	Yes, strong detractors = -3 Moderate detractors = -2 Weak detractors = -1 No detractors = 0	Score = -2 Golf course buildings and car park, development of Turnpike Drive.
19	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	High extent = 3 Moderate impact = 2 Little/no impact = 1	Score = 3 The site is otherwise unprotected, yet is important to the setting of the AONB.
			TOTAL = 38/55

Candidate Area (g) – Bradgers Hill Corridor

Description: A steep sided chalk valley side extending into the town from the north (part of the same geological feature as Warden and Galley Hills), with significant wooded areas adding to its prominence and providing an attractive setting. Includes the meadow area adjacent to Stopsley High School, linking into Mixes Hill Wood. Part of LCA 8a.



	Criteria	Score	Notes
1	Is there a strong sense of naturalness with limited human interference?	Yes = 3 Relatively natural/some natural features/some human interference through modification/management = 2 Highly modified/managed – few/no natural features = 1	Score = 3 Wooded chalk valley side
2	Does it demonstrate the underlying geology of interest? What influence do geological/geomorphological features have on the experience of the landscape?	Strong influence/reflecting naturalness = 3 Moderate influence = 2 Limited influence = 1	Score = 3 Underlying chalk geology creates a prominent, steep valley side
3	Is the landscape unit visually intact?	Yes = 3 Relatively = 2 Poorly = 1	Score = 3 Retains visual integrity, even into urban area.
4	Does it have logical boundaries, and is it a significant enough area to designate and make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?	Yes = 3 No = 1	Score = 3 Boundaries largely dictated by geology, and significant in size. Agricultural and greenspace land on urban fringe included to help protect setting.
5	Does it have a distinct, coherent and recognisable landscape character?	Yes = 3 Moderate = 2 Indistinct = 1	Score = 3 Very distinctive.
6	Is it of high scenic quality through a combination of landscape features?	High = 3 Medium = 2 Low = 1	Score = 3 High quality due to wooded nature and steep slopes. At a more localised level lynchets create 'stepped' feel in places.
7	Is the landscape unit functional ecologically?	Yes = 3 Relatively, with reasonable habitats and connectivity = 2 Poor connectivity and few/fragmented habitats = 1	Score = 3 Strongly connected corridor, with mosaic of wooded and some open spaces with chalk grassland, through latter could be extended. Most of the area is CWS, Stockingstone Road greenspace is DWS.
8	Are individual elements (trees, hedges etc) in good condition?	Good = 3 Moderate = 2 Poor = 1	Score = 3
9	Is there a degree of tranquillity, recognising this is an urban area?	High = 4 Moderate = 3 Low = 1	Score = 4 Particularly enhanced by wooded feel.
10	Is the unit connected to the wider landscape outside the town? Does it relate to adjoining areas / LCAs? Does it form part of their setting?	Yes = 3 Moderately = 2 Not/poorly = 1	Score = 3 Relates strongly to (and is covered by) South Beds LCA Warden Hill to Stopsley Common Chalk Escarpment LCA – extends

			further into town than this.
11	Is it important to the setting of the AONB	Yes = 3	Score = 3
12	Is it used for enjoyment/recreational activity?	Highly accessible with high usage = 3 Moderately accessible with medium usage = 2 Poor accessibility with little or no usage = 1	Score = 2 Steep slopes make access less easy, but still moderately used. Includes historic trails.
13	Is it important to local people, especially in terms its beauty of views of it or from it? Is there community support for its protection?	Very important/strong support = 3 Moderately important/medium support = 2 Low importance/little support = 1	Score = 3 Exceptional panoramic views in places, e.g. Stockingstone Road. Popular parks including People's Park and Popes Meadow.
14	Does it have any prominent or eye-catching features, or does it create a sense of scale/contrast?	Yes = 3 Some features/sense of scale/contrast = 2 Few/no features/little/no sense of scale/contrast = 1	Score = 3 Wooded nature makes it especially prominent, especially into town.
15	Is it important to the setting of the town? Do its character and qualities of the landscape have special importance to Luton? Does it contribute to the distinctiveness of the town? Does it contribute to sense of place?	Yes, strongly = 3 Moderately = 2 Little/none = 1	Score = 3 Encloses town to east.
16	Is the landscape a rare one in the area, or represent a particular type of landscape?	Yes = 3 Moderately rare/representative = 2 No = 1	Score = 3 Highly representative of steep chalk valley side.
17	Does it have cultural heritage features – built, landscape planting, field boundaries, cultural associations – significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character?	Yes = 3 Some cultural heritage importance = 2 Little cultural heritage importance/impact on landscape = 1	Score = 3 Mediaeval strip lynchets of particular value. Ancient routeways.
18	Are there any incongruous features or detractors?	Yes, strong detractors = -3 Moderate detractors = -2 Weak detractors = -1 No detractors = 0	Score = -1 Becomes more urbanised towards southern end, with Stockingstone Road dissecting it.
19	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	High extent = 3 Moderate impact = 2 Little/no impact = 1	Score = 3 Particularly so for area outside the AONB
			TOTAL = 53/55

Candidate Area (h) Lower Lea Valley

Description: A flat river valley bottom with meadows at the southern end of the town. Part of LCA 4c.

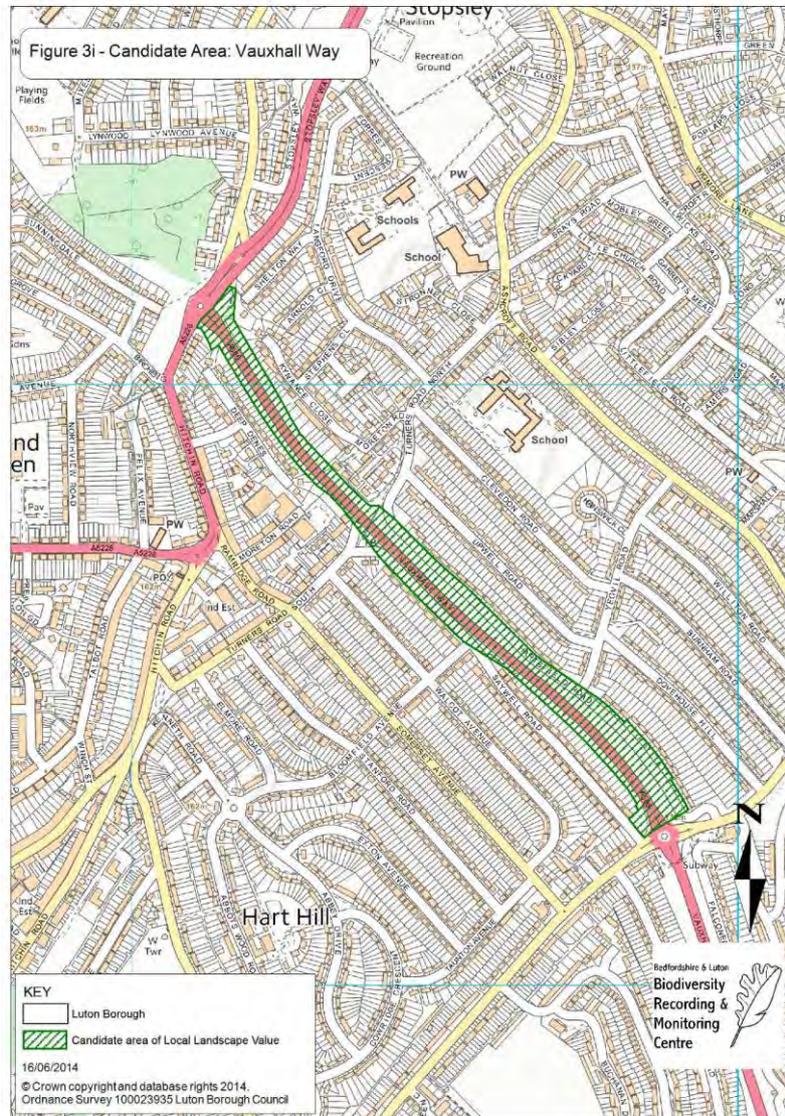


	Criteria	Score	Notes
1	Is there a strong sense of naturalness with limited human interference?	Yes = 3 Relatively natural/some natural features/some human interference through modification/management = 2 Highly modified/managed – few/no natural features = 1	Score = 2 River meadow / floodplain feel in places, but significantly modified. Trees and scrub along river banks, but significantly modified, uniform channel.
2	Does it demonstrate the underlying geology of interest? What influence do geological/geomorphological features have on the experience of the landscape?	Strong influence/reflecting naturalness = 3 Moderate influence = 2 Limited influence = 1	Score = 2 Evidently a river valley though some modification – for example eastern bank has been ‘made up’ to reduce flooding of sports facilities and is no longer part of the functional floodplain.
3	Is the landscape unit visually intact?	Yes = 3 Relatively = 2 Poorly = 1	Score = 2 Urban influence at northern end, and embankment of A1081 at southern end, create a ‘unit’, but this is not the full extent of what the landscape unit should be.
4	Does it have logical boundaries, and is it a significant enough area to designate and make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?	Yes = 3 No = 1	Score = 3 Boundaries are clear – roads/embankment/industrial buildings. Area reasonable in size.
5	Does it have a distinct, coherent and recognisable landscape character?	Yes = 3 Moderate = 2 Indistinct = 1	Score = 2 Reasonably distinct as a river valley, but modified.
6	Is it of high scenic quality through a combination of landscape features?	High = 3 Medium = 2 Low = 1	Score = 2 Moderate quality, with smaller areas within it of high quality.
7	Is the landscape unit functional ecologically?	Yes = 3 Relatively, with reasonable habitats and connectivity = 2 Poor connectivity and few/fragmented habitats = 1	Score = 2 A functional river corridor (CWS), some meadow, vegetation along river banks. However channel much modified and ecologically sub-optimal. Other parts = DWS.
8	Are individual elements (trees, hedges etc) in good condition?	Good = 3 Moderate = 2 Poor = 1	Score = 2 Trees and hedges in reasonable condition, river itself much modified with concrete and straight lines, un-managed.
9	Is there a degree of tranquillity, recognising this is an urban area?	High = 4 Moderate = 3 Low = 1	Score = 3 Busy roads create low tranquillity around northern, eastern and southern edges but relatively high levels of tranquillity within. Airport proximity has impact.
10	Is the unit connected to the wider landscape outside the town? Does it relate to adjoining areas / LCAs? Does it form part of their setting?	Yes = 3 Moderately = 2 Not/poorly = 1	Score = 1 Completely severed from landscape to the south/downstream (Luton Hoo parkland) by A1081 embankment, though the avenue planting in

			Park Street does connect to a degree. Also disconnected from Lea valley to the north/upstream by Vauxhall site and urban edge.
11	Is it important to the setting of the AONB	Yes = 3	Score = 0
12	Is it used for enjoyment/recreational activity?	Highly accessible with high usage = 3 Moderately accessible with medium usage = 2 Poor accessibility with little or no usage = 1	Score = 2 Little unrestricted access, but part of Vauxhall Recreation Club. Also – other sports pitches.
13	Is it important to local people, especially in terms its beauty of views of it or from it? Is there community support for its protection?	Very important/strong support = 3 Moderately important/medium support = 2 Low imp/little support = 1	Score = 2 Good valley views.
14	Does it have any prominent or eye-catching features, or does it create a sense of scale/contrast?	Yes = 3 Some features/sense of scale/contrast = 2 Few/no features/little/no sense of scale/contrast = 1	Score = 3 Sense of scale of Lea Valley, at least in terms of width with valley sides.
15	Is it important to the setting of the town? Do its character and qualities of the landscape have special importance to Luton? Does it contribute to the distinctiveness of the town? Does it contribute to sense of place?	Yes, strongly = 3 Moderately = 2 Little/none = 1	Score = 3 It forms the ‘gap’ that this Chilterns ‘Gap’ town carves through the chalk valley sides, but the effect is reduced through the road embankment (this has not affected the score).
16	Is the landscape a rare one in the area, or represent a particular type of landscape?	Yes = 3 Moderately rare/representative = 2 No = 1	Score = 3 Representative of the Lea Valley, downstream of the town centre where the river is buried. Also a relatively rare open space in an extremely urban part of the town.
17	Does it have cultural heritage features – built, landscape planting, field boundaries, cultural associations – significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character?	Yes = 3 Some cultural heritage importance = 2 Little cultural heritage importance/impact on landscape = 1	Score = 2 Formerly part of the Luton Hoo Estate. Used by Vauxhall for recreational activities over recent decades, creating strong cultural links with many Luton people.
18	Are there any incongruous features or detractors?	Yes, strong detractors = -3 Moderate detractors = -2 Weak detractors = -1 No detractors = 0	Score = -3 A1081 embankment is a very strong detractor. Also – retail park to east, Vauxhall site to north.
19	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	High extent = 3 Moderate impact = 2 Little/no impact = 1	Score = 3
			TOTAL = 36/55

Candidate Area (i) Vauxhall Way

Description: A wooded/scrubby green corridor flanking the Vauxhall Way in the east of the town, LCA 11.

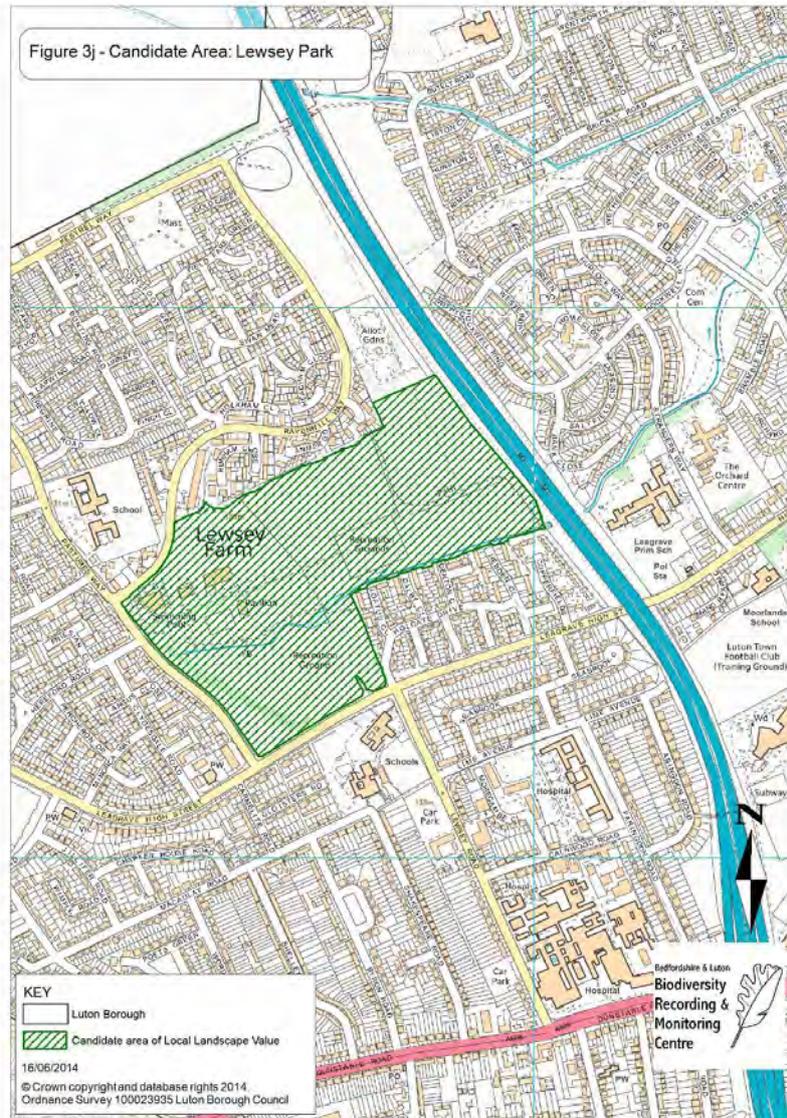


	Criteria	Score	Notes
1	Is there a strong sense of naturalness with limited human interference?	Yes = 3 Relatively natural/some natural features/some human interference through modification/management = 2 Highly modified/managed – few/no natural features = 1	Score = 1 Essentially a road corridor. Main positive feature is that it is a wooded corridor.
2	Does it demonstrate the underlying geology of interest? What influence do geological/geomorphological features have on the experience of the landscape?	Strong influence/reflecting naturalness = 3 Moderate influence = 2 Limited influence = 1	Score = 2
3	Is the landscape unit visually intact?	Yes = 3 Relatively = 2 Poorly = 1	Score = 2 Broken by bridges.
4	Does it have logical boundaries, and is it a significant enough area to designate and make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?	Yes = 3 No = 1	Score = 1 Only really logical boundaries are those of the green corridor, and this is very narrow. The overall area is small.
5	Does it have a distinct, coherent and recognisable landscape character?	Yes = 3 Moderate = 2 Indistinct = 1	Score = 2 Moderately distinctive 'wooded corridor' feel.
6	Is it of high scenic quality through a combination of landscape features?	High = 3 Medium = 2 Low = 1	Score = 1
7	Is the landscape unit functional ecologically?	Yes = 3 Relatively, with reasonable habitats and connectivity = 2 Poor connectivity and few/fragmented habitats = 1	Score = 2 Good connectivity in terms of hedges and scrub, though roads sever in places. A small area on NW side of A505 is part of The Chase CWS.
8	Are individual elements (trees, hedges etc) in good condition?	Good = 3 Moderate = 2 Poor = 1	Score = 2 Management of hedges and scrub required.
9	Is there a degree of tranquillity, recognising this is an urban area?	High = 4 Moderate = 3 Low = 1	Score = 1 Noisy, busy road corridor.
10	Is the unit connected to the wider landscape outside the town? Does it relate to adjoining areas / LCAs? Does it form part of their setting?	Yes = 3 Moderately = 2 Not/poorly = 1	Score = 2 Connects to modified steep valley side to south, but severed by roads.
11	Is it important to the setting of the AONB	Yes = 3	Score = 0
12	Is it used for enjoyment/recreational activity?	Highly accessible with high usage = 3 Moderately accessible with medium usage = 2	Score = 1 Accessible but not used much due to roadside location.

		Poor accessibility with little or no usage = 1	
13	Is it important to local people, especially in terms its beauty of views of it or from it? Is there community support for its protection?	Very important/strong support = 3 Moderately important/medium support = 2 Low importance/little support = 1	Score = 2 Wooded corridor is important as a green feature within the town.
14	Does it have any prominent or eye-catching features, or does it create a sense of scale/contrast?	Yes = 3 Some features/sense of scale/contrast = 2 Few/no features/little/no sense of scale/contrast = 1	Score = 2 Wooded nature makes it prominent.
15	Is it important to the setting of the town? Do its character and qualities of the landscape have special importance to Luton? Does it contribute to the distinctiveness of the town? Does it contribute to sense of place?	Yes, strongly = 3 Moderately = 2 Little/none = 1	Score = 2 On main route between airport and the east.
16	Is the landscape a rare one in the area, or represent a particular type of landscape?	Yes = 3 Moderately rare/representative = 2 No = 1	Score = 1
17	Does it have cultural heritage features – built, landscape planting, field boundaries, cultural associations – significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character?	Yes = 3 Some cultural heritage importance = 2 Little cultural heritage importance/impact on landscape = 1	Score = 2 Some older hedgerow?
18	Are there any incongruous features or detractors?	Yes, strong detractors = -3 Moderate detractors = -2 Weak detractors = -1 No detractors = 0	Score = -3 Road through middle is a major detractor. Also large car park areas to south.
19	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	High extent = 3 Moderate impact = 2 Little/no impact = 1	Score = 3
			TOTAL = 26/55

Candidate Area (j) Lewsey Park

Description: An area of park at the foot of and extending up a steep chalk valley side on the western side of the town. Within LCA 1b.

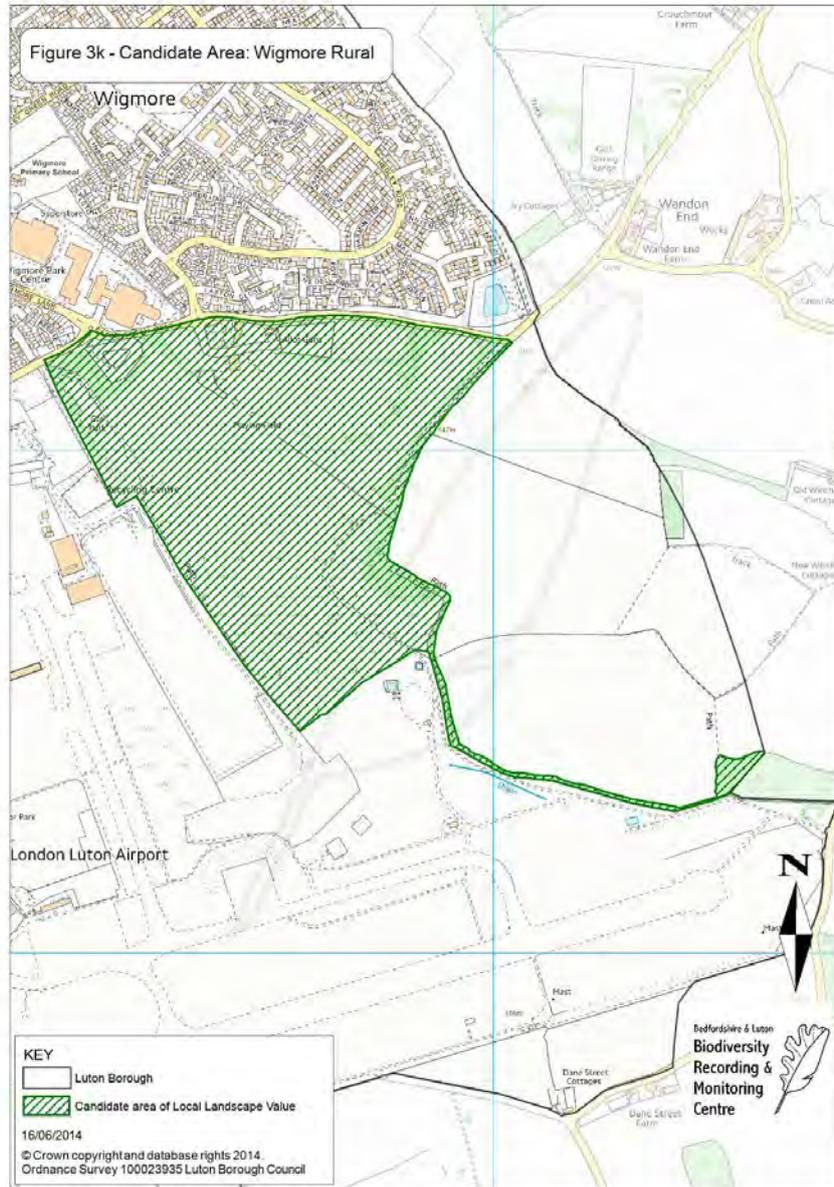


	Criteria	Score	Notes
1	Is there a strong sense of naturalness with limited human interference?	Yes = 3 Relatively natural/some natural features/some human interference through modification/management = 2 Highly modified/managed – few/no natural features = 1	Score = 2 Recognisably an urban park, but with extensive open areas, trees and hedgerows.
2	Does it demonstrate the underlying geology of interest? What influence do geological/geomorphological features have on the experience of the landscape?	Strong influence/reflecting naturalness = 3 Moderate influence = 2 Limited influence = 1	Score = 3 Underlying chalk geology creates a steep valley side.
3	Is the landscape unit visually intact?	Yes = 3 Relatively = 2 Poorly = 1	Score = 2 Urban development encroaches.
4	Does it have logical boundaries, and is it a significant enough area to designate and make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?	Yes = 3 No = 1	Score = 3 Boundaries largely dictated by Park boundaries. Reasonable size.
5	Does it have a distinct, coherent and recognisable landscape character?	Yes = 3 Moderate = 2 Indistinct = 1	Score = 3 Parkland feel is strong, elevation adds to character.
6	Is it of high scenic quality through a combination of landscape features?	High = 3 Medium = 2 Low = 1	Score = 3 Park layout and elevated areas give scenic quality.
7	Is the landscape unit functional ecologically?	Yes = 3 Relatively, with reasonable habitats and connectivity = 2 Poor connectivity and few/fragmented habitats = 1	Score = 3 Some good hedge corridors, chalk stream (Lewsey Brook) flowing through at valley bottom is a CWS with DWS on narrow strip either side of Brook in west of Park and on areas of grassland to north of Brook in east of Park.
8	Are individual elements (trees, hedges etc) in good condition?	Good = 3 Moderate = 2 Poor = 1	Score = 3 Well managed as part of park.
9	Is there a degree of tranquillity, recognising this is an urban area?	High = 4 Moderate = 3 Low = 1	Score = 1 Elevation helps, but significant road noise (including M1) across much of site.
10	Is the unit connected to the wider landscape outside the town? Does it relate to adjoining areas / LCAs?	Yes = 3 Moderately = 2 Not/poorly = 1	Score = 1 Tenuously connected via a narrow green strip to

	Does it form part of their setting?		north.
11	Is it important to the setting of the AONB	Yes = 3	Score = 0
12	Is it used for enjoyment/recreational activity?	Highly accessible with high usage = 3 Moderately accessible with medium usage = 2 Poor accessibility with little or no usage = 1	Score = 3 Popular and accessible town park.
13	Is it important to local people, especially in terms its beauty of views of it or from it? Is there community support for its protection?	Very important/strong support = 3 Moderately important/medium support = 2 Low importance/little support = 1	Score = 3 Yes, high value as a park, with panoramic views over urban area and Blows Downs from higher areas.
14	Does it have any prominent or eye-catching features, or does it create a sense of scale/contrast?	Yes = 3 Some features/sense of scale/contrast = 2 Few/no features/little/no sense of scale/contrast = 1	Score = 2 Gradient and views provide some contrast. Mature trees are very prominent.
15	Is it important to the setting of the town? Do its character and qualities of the landscape have special importance to Luton? Does it contribute to the distinctiveness of the town? Does it contribute to sense of place?	Yes, strongly = 3 Moderately = 2 Little/none = 1	Score = 3 Important as the site of the original Lewsey Farm (part of the Duke of Bedford's estate), with the streaming being an old boundary feature
16	Is the landscape a rare one in the area, or represent a particular type of landscape?	Yes = 3 Moderately rare/representative = 2 No = 1	Score = 2
17	Does it have cultural heritage features – built, landscape planting, field boundaries, cultural associations – significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character?	Yes = 3 Some cultural heritage importance = 2 Little cultural heritage importance/impact on landscape = 1	Score = 3 Hedgerows and trees – parkland features. Also stream is old boundary feature.
18	Are there any incongruous features or detractors?	Yes, strong detractors = -3 Moderate detractors = -2 Weak detractors = -1 No detractors = 0	Score = -2 Enclosed by urban development, M1 nearby, busy roads especially to east and south. Some buildings within it.
19	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	High extent = 3 Moderate impact = 2 Little/no impact = 1	Score = 2 Already has QEII Park status, but would add to level of safeguarding for wider part of the area not included within this.
			TOTAL = 39/55

Candidate Area (k) Wigmore Rural

Description: The majority of this area is the Wigmore Valley Park, an open area on the south-eastern corner of the town, adjacent to Stopsley and the airport. Also includes a green corridor extending along an ancient hedgerow to the south-east, along the airport perimeter, to an area of woodland. This area is within LCA 13.

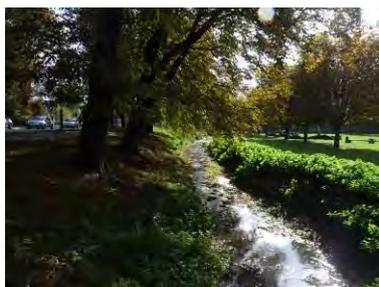
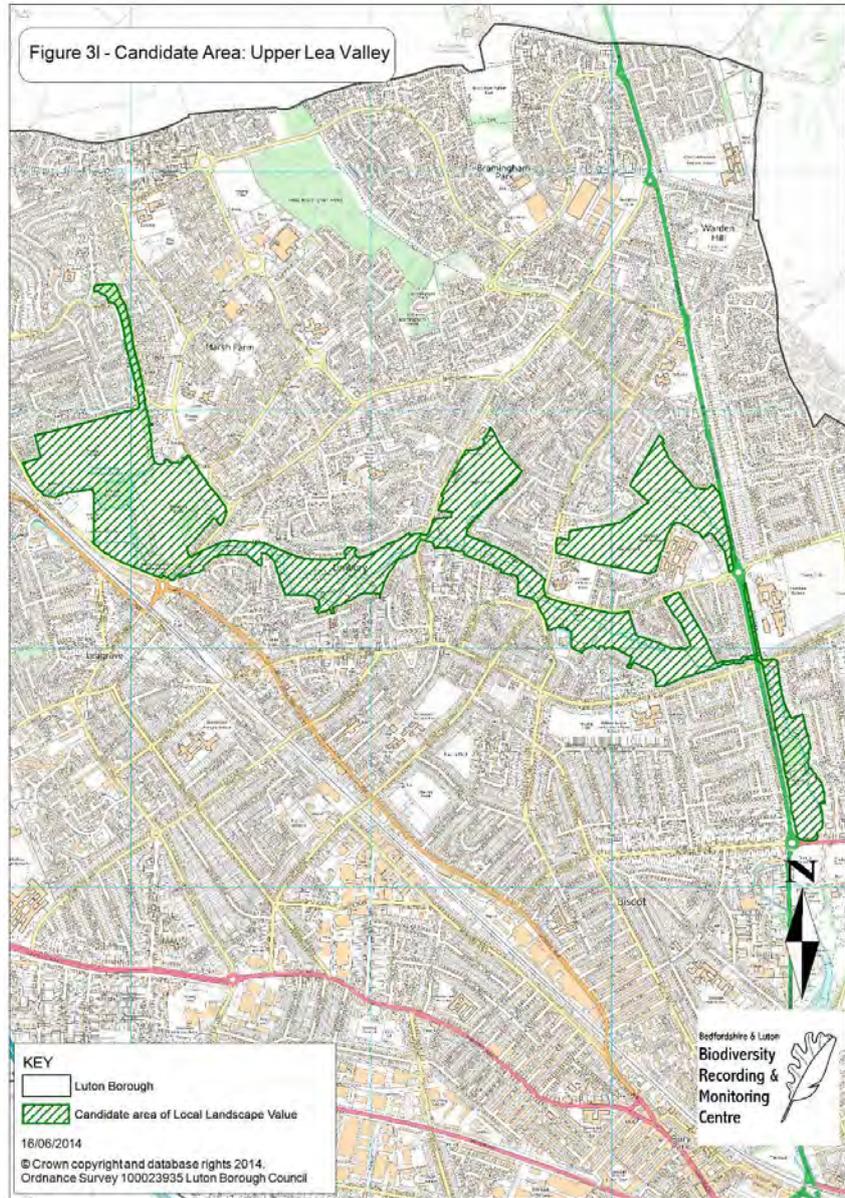


	Criteria	Score	Notes
1	Is there a strong sense of naturalness with limited human interference?	Yes = 3 Relatively natural/some natural features/some human interference through modification/management = 2 Highly modified/managed – few/no natural features = 1	Score = 2 On urban edge, but Wigmore Valley Park includes hedgerows and trees as well as playing fields, play area, buildings. Corridor to south east representative of wider countryside.
2	Does it demonstrate the underlying geology of interest? What influence do geological/geomorphological features have on the experience of the landscape?	Strong influence/reflecting naturalness = 3 Moderate influence = 2 Limited influence = 1	Score = 2 Not spectacular but reflects rolling topography of plateau. Part of Park landform is due to it being former landfill.
3	Is the landscape unit visually intact?	Yes = 3 Relatively = 2 Poorly = 1	Score = 2 Interface between Wigmore Valley Park and wider countryside is not always as continuous as could be. Corridor to south-east is narrow.
4	Does it have logical boundaries, and is it a significant enough area to designate and make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?	Yes = 3 No = 1	Score = 3 Significant size. Boundary is partly dictated by the airport boundary. To the west it is dictated by the development area. Corridor extending to south-east is narrow but important visually.
5	Does it have a distinct, coherent and recognisable landscape character?	Yes = 3 Moderate = 2 Indistinct = 1	Score = 2 Yes, but effectively two areas within an area – open green spaces with hedges and trees linking to hedgerow corridor.
6	Is it of high scenic quality through a combination of landscape features?	High = 3 Medium = 2 Low = 1	Score = 2 Reasonably high quality.
7	Is the landscape unit functional ecologically?	Yes = 3 Relatively, with reasonable habitats and connectivity = 2 Poor connectivity and few/fragmented habitats = 1	Score = 3 Good hedgerow connectivity. Mosaic of neutral and calcareous grassland with wetter patches. Semi-natural habitats in the south of the area and south-east corridor hedgerow = CWS.
8	Are individual elements (trees, hedges etc) in good condition?	Good = 3 Moderate = 2 Poor = 1	Score = 3 Yes – especially in managed park.
9	Is there a degree of tranquillity, recognising this is an urban area?	High = 4 Moderate = 3 Low = 1	Score = 1 Low tranquillity as on urban edge, and

			proximate to airport – occasional / frequent loud noise. More tranquil to south-east.
10	Is the unit connected to the wider landscape outside the town? Does it relate to adjoining areas / LCAs? Does it form part of their setting?	Yes = 3 Moderately = 2 Not/poorly = 1	Score = 2 Hedgerow corridor connects to the adjacent Chiltern Green Chalk Dipslope LCA (Herts).
11	Important to setting of the AONB?	Yes = 3	Score = 0
12	Is it used for enjoyment/recreational activity?	Highly accessible/high usage = 3 Moderately accessible/medium usage = 2 Poor accessibility with little or no usage = 1	Score = 3 Well-used park.
13	Is it important to local people, especially in terms its beauty of views of it or from it? Is there community support for its protection?	Very important/strong support = 3 Moderately important/medium support = 2 Low importance/little support = 1	Score = 3 Yes – views out over countryside.
14	Does it have any prominent or eye-catching features, or does it create a sense of scale/contrast?	Yes = 3 Some features/sense of scale/contrast = 2 Few/no features/little/no sense of scale/contrast = 1	Score = 2
15	Is it important to the setting of the town? Do its character and qualities of the landscape have special importance to Luton? Does it contribute to the distinctiveness of the town? Does it contribute to sense of place?	Yes, strongly = 3 Moderately = 2 Little/none = 1	Score = 2 Provides urban/rural interface.
16	Is the landscape a rare one in the area, or represent a particular type of landscape?	Yes = 3 Moderately rare/representative = 2 No = 1	Score = 2 Partially representative of chalk dipslope, but also partly influenced by former landfill use.
17	Does it have cultural heritage features – built, landscape planting, field boundaries, cultural associations – significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character?	Yes = 3 Some cultural heritage importance = 2 Little cultural heritage importance/impact on landscape = 1	Score = 2 Hedgerows.
18	Are there any incongruous features or detractors?	Yes, strong detractors = -3 Moderate detractors = -2 Weak detractors = -1 No detractors = 0	Score = -2 Airport immediately adjacent. Road and buildings.
19	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	High extent = 3 Moderate impact = 2 Little/no impact = 1	Score = 2 Park status is more important, but does not cover hedgerow corridor. Designation would sit alongside CWS status of hedgerow and help safeguard in its setting.
			TOTAL = 36/55

Candidate Area (I) Upper Lea Valley

Description: The upper reaches of the Lea and tributaries (and surrounding areas) stretching from Leagrave in the north-west of town to Wardown Park near the town centre, and including Cowslip Meadow CWS and Stony Hill CWS. Largely within LCA 4a, but also extending into 2b.



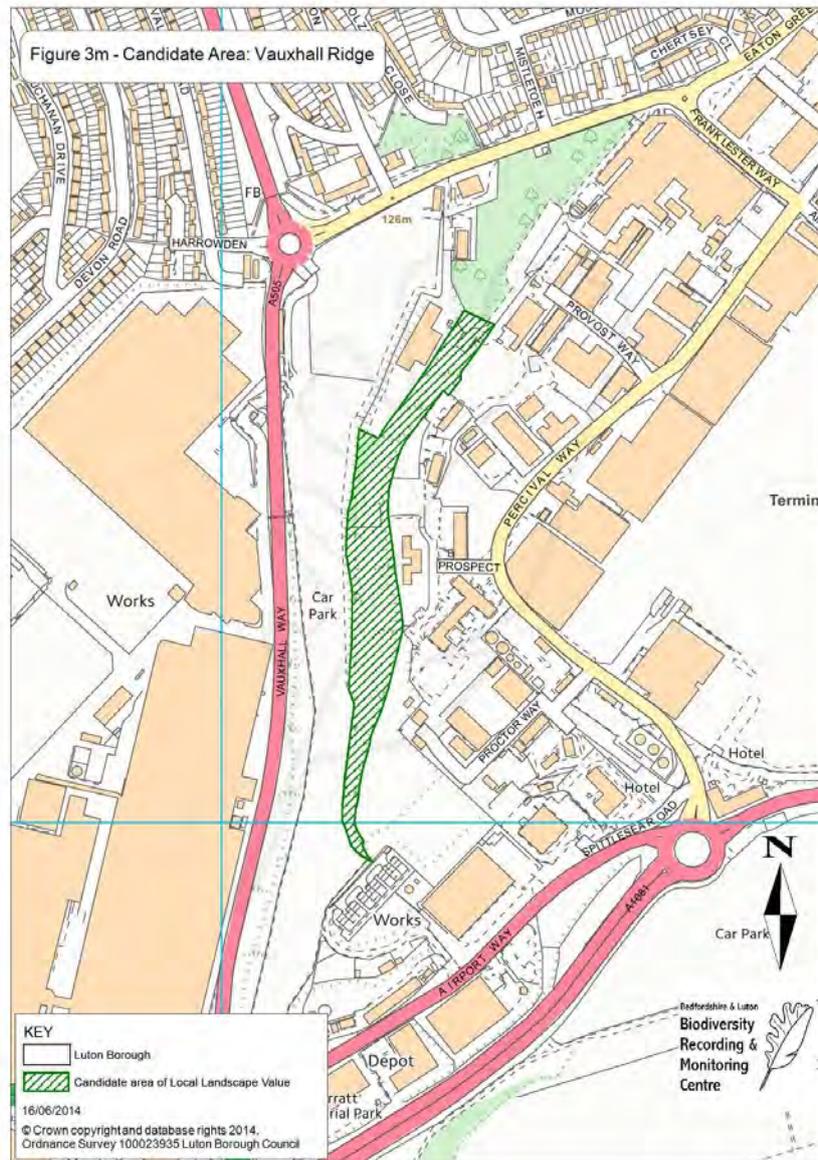
	Criteria	Score	Notes
1	Is there a strong sense of naturalness with limited human interference?	Yes = 3 Relatively natural/some natural features/some human interference through modification/management = 2 Highly modified/managed – few/no natural features = 1	Score = 2 Relatively – while banks are quite high in places the river itself has a reasonable degree of naturalness, and wooded areas add to this. Other areas are less natural but still attractive – e.g. Bide-A-While and recreational areas.
2	Does it demonstrate the underlying geology of interest? What influence do geological/geomorphological features have on the experience of the landscape?	Strong influence/reflecting naturalness = 3 Moderate influence = 2 Limited influence = 1	Score = 3 Evidently within a river valley, with some views out to valley sides.
3	Is the landscape unit visually intact?	Yes = 3 Relatively = 2 Poorly = 1	Score = 2 Relatively intact as an area, but severed in places by roads (especially the New Bedford Road). Tributary rising at Cowsip Meadows disappears (culverted underground) under New Bedford Road and along front of Barnfield College. River itself disappears at southern (downstream) end under roundabout.
4	Does it have logical boundaries, and is it a significant enough area to designate and make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?	Yes = 3 No = 1	Score = 3 Boundaries are dictated by undeveloped / green areas, which do not necessary extend to character area boundaries, but still relatively logical. Significant area overall.
5	Does it have a distinct, coherent and recognisable landscape character?	Yes = 3 Moderate = 2 Indistinct = 1	Score = 2 Green river valley area, encroached upon by development but still evident.
6	Is it of high scenic quality through a combination of landscape features?	High = 3 Medium = 2 Low = 1	Score = 2 Relatively high quality due to variety of greenspace associated, with wooded and open areas and some attractive stretches of meandering river.
7	Is the landscape unit functional ecologically?	Yes = 3 Relatively, with reasonable habitats and connectivity = 2 Poor connectivity and	Score = 3 Riverside greenspaces are CWS or DWS (with exception of Bide-A-While Park and the former garage site, now re-developed).

		few/fragmented habitats = 1	Roads do form barriers, but only New Bedford Road is of major significance. Some good woodland and meadow habitats.
8	Are individual elements (trees, hedges etc) in good condition?	Good = 3 Moderate = 2 Poor = 1	Score = 3
9	Is there a degree of tranquillity, recognising this is an urban area?	High = 4 Moderate = 3 Low = 1	Score = 3 Some areas are very tranquil, and in places this is enhanced by a wooded feel, but close proximity to roads and urban area is also often evident.
10	Is the unit connected to the wider landscape outside the town? Does it relate to adjoining areas / LCAs? Does it form part of their setting?	Yes = 3 Moderately = 2 Not/poorly = 1	Score = 1 Development around Legrave Park contains the head of the valley in an urban area, but it still helps form part of the setting of adjacent LCAs within Luton. The adjoining area/greenspace to the south is markedly different (sports pitches) and severed by the Stockingstone Road (River is culverted underground).
11	Is it important to the setting of the AONB	Yes = 3	Score = 0
12	Is it used for enjoyment/recreational activity?	Highly accessible with high usage = 3 Moderately accessible with medium usage = 2 Poor accessibility with little or no usage = 1	Score = 3 Well used and highly accessible in places, cycle route through much of it.
13	Is it important to local people, especially in terms its beauty of views of it or from it? Is there community support for its protection?	Very important/strong support = 3 Moderately important/medium support = 2 Low importance/little support = 1	Score = 3 Green space value and landscape value.
14	Does it have any prominent or eye-catching features, or does it create a sense of scale/contrast?	Yes = 3 Some features/sense of scale/contrast = 2 Few/no features/little/no sense of scale/contrast = 1	Score = 2 Highlights the river valley, though river not always evident.
15	Is it important to the setting of the town? Do its character and qualities of the landscape have special importance to Luton? Does it contribute to the distinctiveness of the town? Does it contribute to	Yes, strongly = 3 Moderately = 2 Little/none = 1	Score = 2 Lea Valley is important to Luton, and this section is adjacent to major route in. Avenue of trees at 5

	sense of place?		Springs is highly distinctive and forms a landmark visible from across the area.
16	Is the landscape a rare one in the area, or represent a particular type of landscape?	Yes = 3 Moderately rare/representative = 2 No = 1	Score = 2 Woodland is relatively rare within the town.
17	Does it have cultural heritage features – built, landscape planting, field boundaries, cultural associations – significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character?	Yes = 3 Some cultural heritage importance = 2 Little cultural heritage importance/impact on landscape = 1	Score = 3 River Lea is culturally important to Luton. Wauluds Bank is SAM and important archaeological site – pre-historic fortification. Old hedgerows e.g. Cowslip Meadow CWS. Also Bide-A-While Park.
18	Are there any incongruous features or detractors?	Yes, strong detractors = -3 Moderate detractors = -2 Weak detractors = -1 No detractors = 0	Score = -3 Impacted (severed) by the New Bedford Road (and to a lesser degree other roads) and residential areas. Concrete culverts along the river are incongruous, and while there are some reasonably attractive bridges in parts, others are largely concrete, functional constructions. Hard surfaced paths run throughout much of the area. High rise blocks adjacent to Leagrave Park (5 Springs) – some screening from tree avenue.
19	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	High extent = 3 Moderate impact = 2 Little/no impact = 1	Score = 2 Landscape designation could help, but need to consider if it would be any more effective than existing nature conservation designation.
			TOTAL = 38/55

Candidate Area (m) Vauxhall Ridge

Description: A steep sided cutting into the chalk valley side in the south-east of the town, through which runs a major road. The airport sits on the plateau above. Within LCA 16.

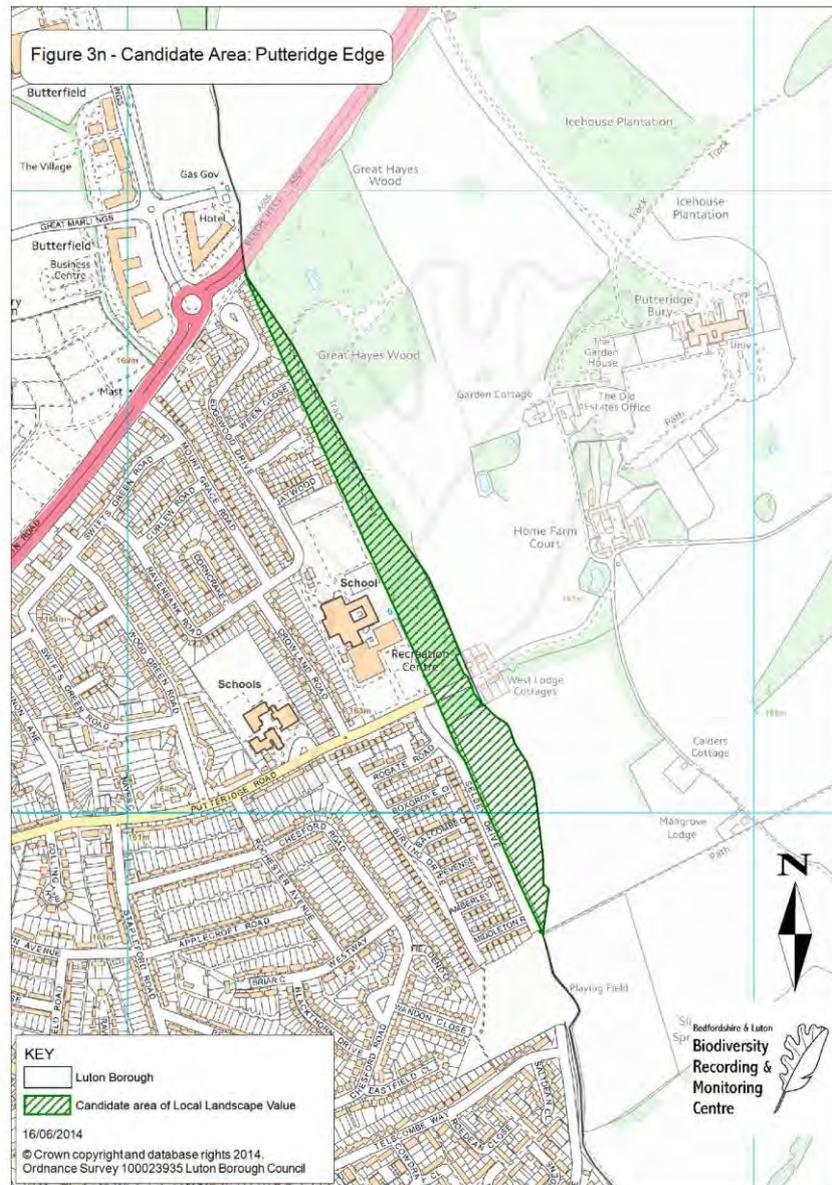


	Criteria	Score	Notes
1	Is there a strong sense of naturalness with limited human interference?	Yes = 3 Relatively natural/some natural features/some human interference through modification/management = 2 Highly modified/managed – few/no natural features = 1	Score = 1 Trees and scrub, but majorly impacted by human activity. Not a natural landscape, it is a cutting created by human activity.
2	Does it demonstrate the underlying geology of interest? What influence do geological/geomorphological features have on the experience of the landscape?	Strong influence/reflecting naturalness = 3 Moderate influence = 2 Limited influence = 1	Score = 3 Chalk geology and elevation particularly evident.
3	Is the landscape unit visually intact?	Yes = 3 Relatively = 2 Poorly = 1	Score = 2 Artificially created.
4	Does it have logical boundaries, and is it a significant enough area to designate and make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?	Yes = 3 No = 1	Score = 1 Boundaries not completely logical due to pattern of development, just about significant enough in area, but very narrow feature.
5	Does it have a distinct, coherent and recognisable landscape character?	Yes = 3 Moderate = 2 Indistinct = 1	Score = 2 Distinctive and illustrates chalk geology, but artificial.
6	Is it of high scenic quality through a combination of landscape features?	High = 3 Medium = 2 Low = 1	Score = 2 Moderately high due to steepness and trees/scrub, but impacted by development surrounding it.
7	Is the landscape unit functional ecologically?	Yes = 3 Relatively, with reasonable habitats and connectivity = 2 Poor connectivity and few/fragmented habitats = 1	Score = 2 An isolated fragment of scrub/trees (mostly ruderal vegetation) with some grassland, severed on all sides by roads or development. All of area is a DWS (and continues to north, with additional area on western and southern sides of car park).
8	Are individual elements (trees, hedges etc) in good condition?	Good = 3 Moderate = 2 Poor = 1	Score = 2
9	Is there a degree of tranquillity, recognising this is an urban area?	High = 4 Moderate = 3 Low = 1	Score = 1 Proximity to busy roads, airport and industrial

			areas.
10	Is the unit connected to the wider landscape outside the town? Does it relate to adjoining areas / LCAs? Does it form part of their setting?	Yes = 3 Moderately = 2 Not/poorly = 1	Score = 1 Connected to plateau above, but this is impacted by the airport.
11	Is it important to the setting of the AONB	Yes = 3	Score = 0
12	Is it used for enjoyment/recreational activity?	Highly accessible with high usage = 3 Moderately accessible with medium usage = 2 Poor accessibility with little or no usage = 1	Score = 1 Largely inaccessible with steep slopes.
13	Is it important to local people, especially in terms its beauty of views of it or from it? Is there community support for its protection?	Very important/strong support = 3 Moderately important/medium support = 2 Low importance/little support = 1	Score = 1 Largely unrecognised by local people.
14	Does it have any prominent or eye-catching features, or does it create a sense of scale/contrast?	Yes = 3 Some features/sense of scale/contrast = 2 Few/no features/little/no sense of scale/contrast = 1	Score = 3 Chalk scars, steep slopes and trees/scrub make it very prominent. Elevation creates sense of scale and contrast.
15	Is it important to the setting of the town? Do its character and qualities of the landscape have special importance to Luton? Does it contribute to the distinctiveness of the town? Does it contribute to sense of place?	Yes, strongly = 3 Moderately = 2 Little/none = 1	Score = 3 Yes – illustrates effect of the chalk geology, and it is on a major through route.
16	Is the landscape a rare one in the area, or represent a particular type of landscape?	Yes = 3 Moderately rare/representative = 2 No = 1	Score = 2 Represents the chalk valley landscape, though significantly modified.
17	Does it have cultural heritage features – built, landscape planting, field boundaries, cultural associations – significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character?	Yes = 3 Some cultural heritage importance = 2 Little cultural heritage importance/impact on landscape = 1	Score = 1
18	Are there any incongruous features or detractors?	Yes, strong detractors = -3 Moderate detractors = -2 Weak detractors = -1 No detractors = 0	Score = -3 Industrial buildings, airport above, major roads, car parks.
19	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	High extent = 3 Moderate impact = 2 Little/no impact = 1	Score = 1 Landscape designation unlikely to be effective as setting is already significantly modified and impacted.
			TOTAL = 26/55

Candidate Area (n) Putteridge Edge

Description: A fragment of former parkland on the eastern fringe of the town at Stopsley, part of LCA 10b.



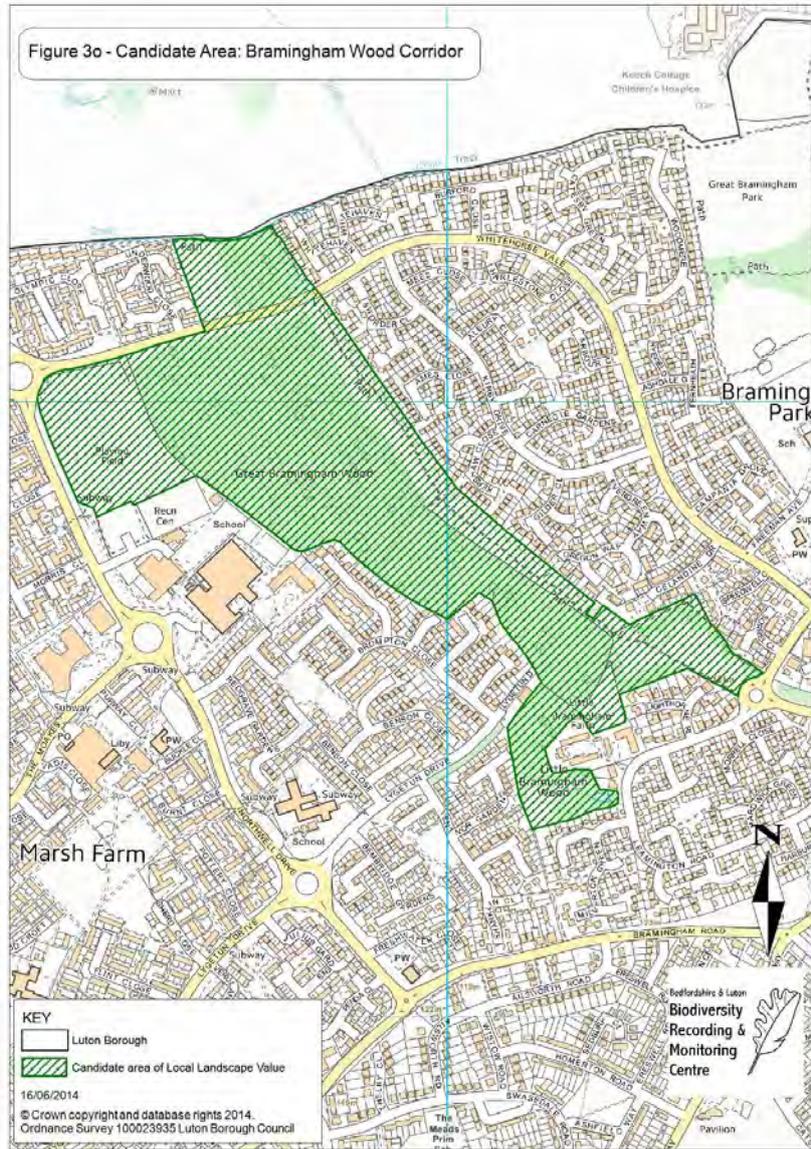
	Criteria	Score	Notes
1	Is there a strong sense of naturalness with limited human interference?	Yes = 3 Relatively natural/some natural features/some human interference through modification/management = 2 Highly modified/managed – few/no natural features = 1	Score = 2 Partly wooded with parkland elements and agricultural fields.
2	Does it demonstrate the underlying geology of interest? What influence do geological/geomorphological features have on the experience of the landscape?	Strong influence/reflecting naturalness = 3 Moderate influence = 2 Limited influence = 1	Score = 2 Rolling chalk farmland.
3	Is the landscape unit visually intact?	Yes = 3 Relatively = 2 Poorly = 1	Score = 2 Although modified by agricultural use the wider landscape is still intact, though parkland landscape less so.
4	Does it have logical boundaries, and is it a significant enough area to designate and make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?	Yes = 3 No = 1	Score = 1 Eastern boundary is the administrative boundary, and landscape unit continues beyond this. Just about significant enough in area, but narrow.
5	Does it have a distinct, coherent and recognisable landscape character?	Yes = 3 Moderate = 2 Indistinct = 1	Score = 2 Mixed – same areas of rolling farmland, others were evidently parkland but now arable. Main reason for low score is it is not distinct from area outside administrative boundary.
6	Is it of high scenic quality through a combination of landscape features?	High = 3 Medium = 2 Low = 1	Score = 3 High quality due to remaining parkland features (e.g. hedges and tree avenues), wooded areas, attractive rolling farmland and backdrop of Putteridge Bury and wider landscape.
7	Is the landscape unit functional ecologically?	Yes = 3 Relatively, with reasonable habitats and connectivity = 2 Poor connectivity and	Score = 2 Some reasonable woodland and hedgerow connectivity. Includes part of Great Hayes Wood DWS.

		few/fragmented habitats = 1	
8	Are individual elements (trees, hedges etc) in good condition?	Good = 3 Moderate = 2 Poor = 1	Score = 3
9	Is there a degree of tranquillity, recognising this is an urban area?	High = 4 Moderate = 3 Low = 1	Score = 3 Some disruption from A505 to north and airport to south.
10	Is the unit connected to the wider landscape outside the town? Does it relate to adjoining areas / LCAs? Does it form part of their setting?	Yes = 3 Moderately = 2 Not/poorly = 1	Score = 3 Strongly connected to wider landscape of spinneys, woodlands and open vistas of the "Breachwood Green Ridge" (Herts LCA) and Putteridge Bury.
11	Is it important to the setting of the AONB	Yes = 3	Score = 3 Important to setting of Putteridge Bury, which is important to wider AONB setting. AONB boundary extends to northern edge of A505. This area screens the urban edge from the AONB.
12	Is it used for enjoyment/recreational activity?	Highly accessible with high usage = 3 Moderately accessible with medium usage = 2 Poor accessibility with little or no usage = 1	Score = 2 Yes but access only by the moderately few rights of way.
13	Is it important to local people, especially in terms its beauty of views of it or from it? Is there community support for its protection?	Very important/strong support = 3 Moderately important/medium support = 2 Low importance/little support = 1	Score = 2 Important as open green edge to town.
14	Does it have any prominent or eye-catching features, or does it create a sense of scale/contrast?	Yes = 3 Some features/sense of scale/contrast = 2 Few/no features/little/no sense of scale/contrast = 1	Score = 2 Not as much as would have historically now parkland is arable.
15	Is it important to the setting of the town? Do its character and qualities of the landscape have special importance to Luton? Does it contribute to the distinctiveness of the town? Does it contribute to	Yes, strongly = 3 Moderately = 2 Little/none = 1	Score = 2 Some views from A505 as enter town – influence of Putteridge Bury (woodland, estate walls). Remnant parkland features

	sense of place?		contribute to sense of place.
16	Is the landscape a rare one in the area, or represent a particular type of landscape?	Yes = 3 Moderately rare/representative = 2 No = 1	Score = 2 Representative of typical Chilterns landscape of small woods and rolling fields. Would score higher if parkland was intact.
17	Does it have cultural heritage features – built, landscape planting, field boundaries, cultural associations – significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character?	Yes = 3 Some cultural heritage importance = 2 Little cultural heritage importance/impact on landscape = 1	Score = 2 Parkland features still have influence, hedgerow and woodland patterns.
18	Are there any incongruous features or detractors?	Yes, strong detractors = -3 Moderate detractors = -2 Weak detractors = -1 No detractors = 0	Score = -1 A505 to north, airport/industrial areas distantly visible to south.
19	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	High extent = 3 Moderate impact = 2 Little/no impact = 1	Score = 1 Because parkland is replaced by arable and features are obscured to a degree, restoration would be required before designation could be effective.
			TOTAL = 37/55

Candidate Area (o) Bramingham Wood Corridor

Description: A relatively large area of ancient semi-natural woodland extending from the northern edge of town and dropping away towards the Lea valley, within LCA 2b. Includes playing fields to west and amenity areas at southern end.

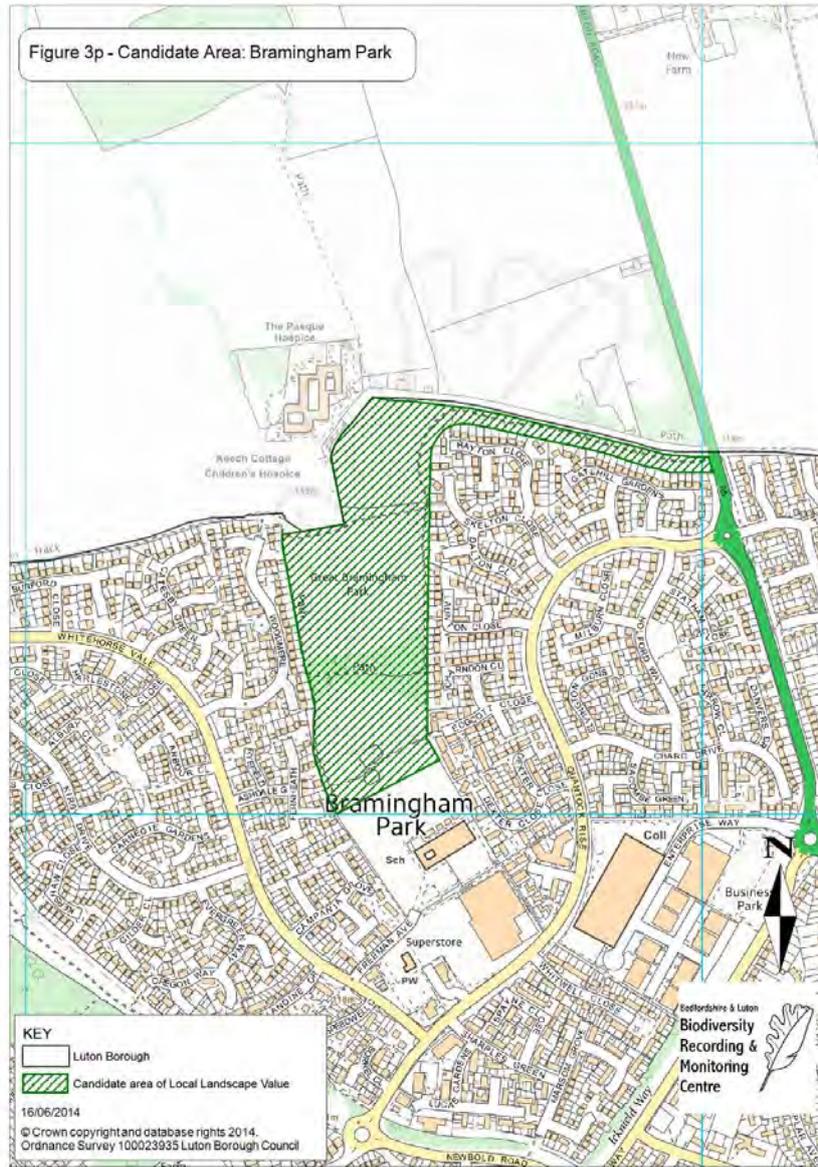


	Criteria	Score	Notes
1	Is there a strong sense of naturalness with limited human interference?	Yes = 3 Relatively natural/some natural features/some human interference through modification/management = 2 Highly modified/managed – few/no natural features = 1	Score = 3 A significant area of woodland extending well into the urban area.
2	Does it demonstrate the underlying geology of interest? What influence do geological/geomorphological features have on the experience of the landscape?	Strong influence/reflecting naturalness = 3 Moderate influence = 2 Limited influence = 1	Score = 3 At top of gentle slopes overlooking the town – rolling landscape – accentuates this.
3	Is the landscape unit visually intact?	Yes = 3 Relatively = 2 Poorly = 1	Score = 3 Although development on most sides the woodland appears relatively intact, though historically would have been larger.
4	Does it have logical boundaries, and is it a significant enough area to designate and make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?	Yes = 3 No = 1	Score = 3 Existing boundaries are logical, with area to north included as link to wider countryside. Large enough area to designate.
5	Does it have a distinct, coherent and recognisable landscape character?	Yes = 3 Moderate = 2 Indistinct = 1	Score = 3 Largely based on the woodland.
6	Is it of high scenic quality through a combination of landscape features?	High = 3 Medium = 2 Low = 1	Score = 3 High scenic quality, though not necessarily through a combination of features.
7	Is the landscape unit functional ecologically?	Yes = 3 Relatively, with reasonable habitats and connectivity = 2 Poor connectivity and few/fragmented habitats = 1	Score = 3 Yes – good sized woodland, CWS.
8	Are individual elements (trees, hedges etc) in good condition?	Good = 3 Moderate = 2 Poor = 1	Score = 3
9	Is there a degree of tranquillity, recognising this is an urban area?	High = 4 Moderate = 3 Low = 1	Score = 3 High in middle of wood, lower towards edges.
10	Is the unit connected to the wider landscape outside the town? Does it relate to adjoining areas / LCAs? Does it form part of their setting?	Yes = 3 Moderately = 2 Not/poorly = 1	Score = 2 Only a narrow gap linking to the wider countryside to north of Luton.
11	Is it important to the setting of the AONB	Yes = 3	Score = 0

12	Is it used for enjoyment/recreational activity?	Highly accessible with high usage = 3 Moderately accessible with medium usage = 2 Poor accessibility with little or no usage = 1	Score = 3 Well-used with access points and paths.
13	Is it important to local people, especially in terms its beauty of views of it or from it? Is there community support for its protection?	Very important/strong support = 3 Moderately important/medium support = 2 Low importance/little support = 1	Score = 3 Very important as a woodland and for the setting – it is visible from adjacent areas.
14	Does it have any prominent or eye-catching features, or does it create a sense of scale/contrast?	Yes = 3 Some features/sense of scale/contrast = 2 Few/no features/little/no sense of scale/contrast = 1	Score = 3 The wood itself is prominent and eye-catching and creates a sense of scale.
15	Is it important to the setting of the town? Do its character and qualities of the landscape have special importance to Luton? Does it contribute to the distinctiveness of the town? Does it contribute to sense of place?	Yes, strongly = 3 Moderately = 2 Little/none = 1	Score = 3 Views of the wood create sense of place – visible from across the town.
16	Is the landscape a rare one in the area, or represent a particular type of landscape?	Yes = 3 Moderately rare/representative = 2 No = 1	Score = 2 Woodland is moderately rare in the town
17	Does it have cultural heritage features – built, landscape planting, field boundaries, cultural associations – significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character?	Yes = 3 Some cultural heritage importance = 2 Little cultural heritage importance/impact on landscape = 1	Score = 3 Ancient woodland boundaries.
18	Are there any incongruous features or detractors?	Yes, strong detractors = -3 Moderate detractors = -2 Weak detractors = -1 No detractors = 0	Score = -2 Adjacent road and residential areas, though playing fields help buffer a significant part of the boundary.
19	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	High extent = 3 Moderate impact = 2 Little/no impact = 1	Score = 2 Landscape designation unlikely to be any more effective than existing CWS status for the wood itself, but may help safeguard the narrow corridor to north so that future development does not compromise links to the wider countryside, and could potentially improve them.
			TOTAL = 45/55

Candidate Area (p) Bramingham Park

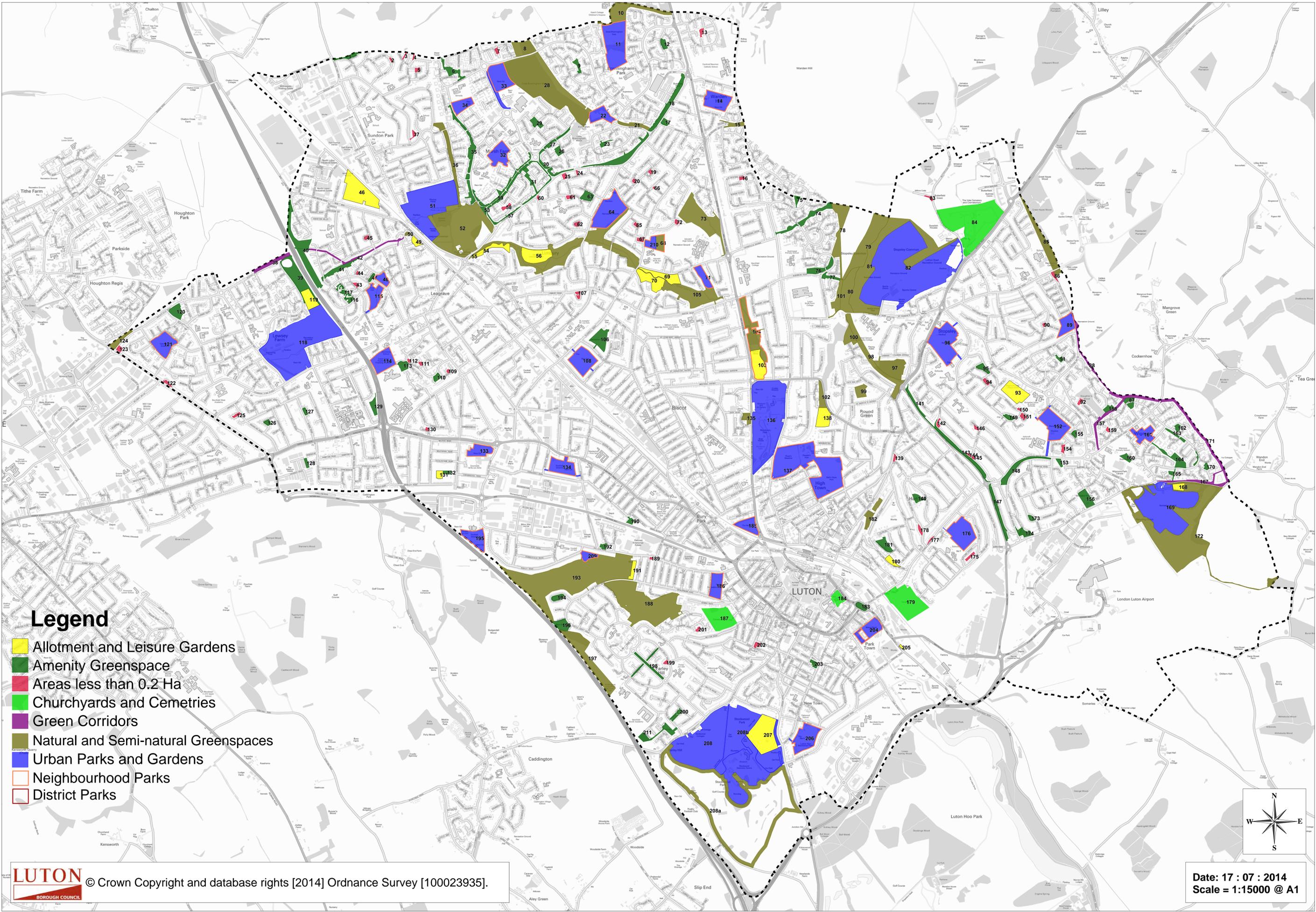
Description: A large park on the northern edge of town, within LCA 2b, with formal park and informal open space. Includes the strip of green space and hedgerow adjacent to Great Bramingham Lane.



	Criteria	Score	Notes
1	Is there a strong sense of naturalness with limited human interference?	Yes = 3 Relatively natural/some natural features/some human interference through modification/management = 2 Highly modified/managed – few/no natural features = 1	Score = 2 The northern part has the stronger sense of naturalness due to its less formal nature.
2	Does it demonstrate the underlying geology of interest? What influence do geological/geomorphological features have on the experience of the landscape?	Strong influence/reflecting naturalness = 3 Moderate influence = 2 Limited influence = 1	Score = 3 Reflects rolling geology at northern edge of Luton, following a valley top south towards the Lea valley.
3	Is the landscape unit visually intact?	Yes = 3 Relatively = 2 Poorly = 1	Score = 2 Relatively intact.
4	Does it have logical boundaries, and is it a significant enough area to designate and make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?	Yes = 3 No = 1	Score = 3 Yes, though as a result of development going right up to park boundaries. Boundary to north is distinct hedgerow, layed in places. Significant sized unit.
5	Does it have a distinct, coherent and recognisable landscape character?	Yes = 3 Moderate = 2 Indistinct = 1	Score = 2 Northern section more open and informal, southern part is more formal, with a line of conifers separating them.
6	Is it of high scenic quality through a combination of landscape features?	High = 3 Medium = 2 Low = 1	Score = 3 Yes, plus good views across town, towards Chiltern hills.
7	Is the landscape unit functional ecologically?	Yes = 3 Relatively, with reasonable habitats and connectivity = 2 Poor connectivity and few/fragmented habitats = 1	Score = 3 Yes, northern section is CWS, with grassland and good hedgerows.
8	Are individual elements (trees, hedges etc) in good condition?	Good = 3 Moderate = 2 Poor = 1	Score = 3
9	Is there a degree of tranquillity, recognising this is an urban area?	High = 4 Moderate = 3 Low = 1	Score = 3
10	Is the unit connected to the wider landscape outside the town? Does it relate to adjoining areas / LCAs? Does it form part of their setting?	Yes = 3 Moderately = 2 Not/poorly = 1	Score = 2 Reasonable connectivity with rolling farmland to north but hospice building and car park at northern edge creates a barrier.
11	Is it important to the setting of the AONB	Yes = 3	Score = 3 Northern edge is very important in terms of

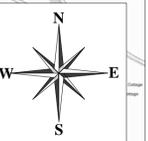
			screening the edge of the settlement.
12	Is it used for enjoyment/recreational activity?	Highly accessible with high usage = 3 Moderately accessible with medium usage = 2 Poor accessibility with little or no usage = 1	Score = 3 Very popular park. Lower usage levels at northern end.
13	Is it important to local people, especially in terms its beauty of views of it or from it? Is there community support for its protection?	Very important/strong support = 3 Moderately important/medium support = 2 Low importance/little support = 1	Score = 3 Well used, popular park, good views from much of it.
14	Does it have any prominent or eye-catching features, or does it create a sense of scale/contrast?	Yes = 3 Some features/sense of scale/contrast = 2 Few/no features/little/no sense of scale/contrast = 1	Score = 2 Conifers separating two sections of the park are eye-catching but not attractive. Views and openness help create sense of contrast.
15	Is it important to the setting of the town? Do its character and qualities of the landscape have special importance to Luton? Does it contribute to the distinctiveness of the town? Does it contribute to sense of place?	Yes, strongly = 3 Moderately = 2 Little/none = 1	Score = 3 Views and parkland feel help create distinctiveness/sense of place.
16	Is the landscape a rare one in the area, or represent a particular type of landscape?	Yes = 3 Moderately rare/representative = 2 No = 1	Score = 2 Parkland is relatively rare.
17	Does it have cultural heritage features – built, landscape planting, field boundaries, cultural associations – significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character?	Yes = 3 Some cultural heritage importance = 2 Little cultural heritage importance/impact on landscape = 1	Score = 3 Hedgerow to north is ancient. Sections have been laid. Adjacent to Icknield Way.
18	Are there any incongruous features or detractors?	Yes, strong detractors = -3 Moderate detractors = -2 Weak detractors = -1 No detractors = 0	Score = -1 Proximity of urban area, hospice building and car park. Line of conifers is incongruous.
19	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?	High extent = 3 Moderate impact = 2 Little/no impact = 1	Score = 2 Landscape designation would only be useful to cover areas not covered by QEII Park designation and CWS.
			Total = 46/55

Erratum: Factual correction - Hart Hill Area is part of saved policy ENV2 however, the Green Belt is Policy ENV3 which is not a saved policy of the current Luton Local Plan 2001-11. .



Legend

- Allotment and Leisure Gardens
- Amenity Greenspace
- Areas less than 0.2 Ha
- Churchyards and Cemeteries
- Green Corridors
- Natural and Semi-natural Greenspaces
- Urban Parks and Gardens
- Neighbourhood Parks
- District Parks



Date: 17 : 07 : 2014
Scale = 1:15000 @ A1