



# Landscape Character Assessment

## Harborough District Council

### **Final report**

Prepared by LUC

August 2024

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# Executive Summary

LUC was commissioned in March 2024 to undertake a Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) for Harborough District Council to underpin the review of the Local Plan and to assist in the local planning process. This LCA provides a comprehensive and up to date strategic district scale framework to guide sustainable development.

Landscape Character Assessment is the process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape. It identifies and explains the unique combination of elements and features that make the landscape distinctive. It helps guide positive change that conserves, enhances, restores, or creates local landscape character, ensuring that the inherent character and qualities of the landscape can continue to be appreciated. This is in line with the European Landscape Convention (ELC)'s requirements to protect, manage and plan for landscape character.

This LCA follows the method promoted by Natural England in 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment' (2014) and takes into account current best practice. In summary, the main stages involved in this study were as follows:

- Desk based review, including baseline data collection and desk-based characterisation.
- Site assessment, including a field survey to verify and review boundaries, check and identify key characteristics, gather perceptual information and take photographic evidence.
- Reporting, including completing a landscape evaluation based on the above desk based and field survey, and identifying landscape management and development management guidance.

The assessment provides a brief summary of the formative physical, cultural and perceptual influences on the landscape of Harborough District. It also identifies forces for change that are prevalent in the landscape, including the

## Executive Summary

climate and ecological emergency, changes to agricultural practices, and development pressures.

The assessment sets out how natural, cultural and perceptual influences have combined to create the unique character within the District. The variation across the District is represented by 10 Landscape Character Types (LCT) which share broadly similar patterns of geology, topography, vegetation, and human influences. The LCTs have been further subdivided into 26 Landscape Character Areas (LCA). LCAs are geographically specific areas which share generic characteristics with other areas of the same type but have their own particular identity or 'sense of place'.

A profile is provided for each LCT to provide a robust and clear description and evaluation of the landscape character of Harborough District:

- Location and summary.
- Key characteristics.
- A description of the landscape including natural, cultural and perceptual influences.
- Key sensitivities and values.
- Landscape strategy.
- Guidance for landscape management and development management.

The LCT descriptions sit alongside supporting mapping and photographs.

Within each LCT, LCAs are described in further detail in terms of the natural, cultural and perceptual influences specific to each LCA.

# Chapter 1

## Introduction and Background

### Background and purpose of Harborough Landscape Character Assessment

**1.1** LUC was commissioned in March 2024 to prepare a Landscape Character Assessment for Harborough District. This study updates the high level 2007 landscape assessment undertaken by Atkins.

**1.2** The aim is to create a comprehensive and up to date strategic district scale landscape evidence to provide a framework for more detailed landscape studies and sensitivity assessments.

**1.3** The Harborough District Landscape Character Assessment (2024) provides a robust evidence base to underpin the review of the Local Plan and to assist in the local planning process. It is intended to both inform work on policy development and development management, guiding development that is sympathetic to local character and the qualities of the landscape. It can help inform locational policies for strategic development as well as appropriate design and mitigation, providing baseline evidence for more detailed Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).

**1.4** Wider application of the Landscape Character Assessment includes nature recovery and climate resilience, for example:

- Land management – Notably policies relating to the implementation of agri-environment schemes and policies which inform nature recovery strategies.



- Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – Identifying habitats which could be enhanced or could contribute to the Government's BNG targets and contribute to nature recovery.
- Green Infrastructure (GI) (a network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features) – Including identifying and protecting existing GI networks and identifying gaps in the GI network where further connections could be made and enhanced. This includes between valued habitats, such as local nature reserves (LNR) and ancient woodland.

**1.5** In summary, the document can be used to consider landscape character when considering any type of change. This includes opportunities for conserving existing character, strengthening, and enhancing character as well as opportunities to create new character.

**1.6** A User Guide is provided in Appendix A.

## The role of Landscape Character Assessment

**1.7** The process of Landscape Character Assessment is described in Natural England's 2014 document 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment' [See reference 1]. Landscape character is defined as:

“a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse”

**1.8** Landscape character assessment is the process of identifying and describing such variations in character across a landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of features and attributes (characteristics) that make different landscapes distinctive. The landscape is the result of the

interaction between people and place which gives an area a local identity. The 'landscape wheel' illustrates how the different natural, cultural, and perceptual attributes of a landscape combine to produce character.

1.9 Understanding the character of place and evaluating an area's defining characteristics is a key component in managing growth sustainably and ensuring that the inherent character and qualities of Harborough's landscape can continue to be appreciated. Understanding of character can be used to ensure that any change or development does not undermine whatever is valued or characteristic in a particular landscape, and help guide positive change that conserves, enhances, restores, or creates local character.

Image 1.1: The 'landscape wheel' (Natural England, 2014)



## Harborough District context

1.10 Harborough District is a local planning authority in the county of Leicestershire, covering an area of 59,178 hectares. (238 square miles). The location and context of the study area is shown on Figure 1.1 of this document.

**1.11** The area is largely rural with the towns of Market Harborough and Lutterworth providing the main shopping and business services. Market Harborough is located in the south of the District, and Lutterworth in the south-west.

**1.12** The 2021 census records the population of the District as 97,600, an increase of 14.3% from 85,400 in 2011. There are 91 different parishes in the District. Approximately one third of the overall population resides in the market towns of Market Harborough and Lutterworth. The District also includes the four large villages of Broughton Astley in the north-west of the District, Fleckney located in the centre of the District along with Great Glen located to the north of the A6 and Kibworth (comprising Kibworth Beauchamp and Kibworth Harcourt) straddling the A6, both to the south-east of the Leicester urban area. These settlements all have a population of over 3,000. In addition, there are over eighty smaller villages, the majority of which have a population of less than 1,000.

**1.13** The City of Leicester exerts an urban influence over the north-western stretch of the District, particularly over the urban fringe settlements of Scraftoft, Bushby and Thurnby on the eastern side of Leicester.

**1.14** The District is relatively well connected with regards to transport links. A number of A roads cross the District providing connections to the M1 motorway which crosses the western part of the District, providing connectivity between Leeds and London. The Midland Mainline railway line provides connections between London and Nottingham. These transport links, combined with the quality of the rural areas contribute towards making Harborough a popular place to live and work.

## **The European Landscape Convention**

**1.15** The European Landscape Convention (ELC) came into force in the UK in March 2007. It establishes the need to recognise landscape in law; to develop landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and planning of

landscapes; and to establish procedures for the participation of the general public and other stakeholders in the creation and implementation of landscape policies. The ELC definition of 'landscape' recognises that all landscapes matter, be they ordinary, degraded, or outstanding:

“Landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”

**1.16** The ELC puts emphasis on the whole landscape and all its values and is forward looking in its approach, recognising the dynamic and changing character of landscape. Specific measures promoted by the ELC of direct relevance to this study include:

- The identification and assessment of landscape.
- Improved consideration of landscape in existing and future sectoral and spatial policy and regulation.

**1.17** The situation regarding the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union (EU), or 'Brexit', is unrelated to the ELC. The ELC is a convention of the Council of Europe, not the EU. Therefore, Brexit does not affect the status of this convention, and as of 31st January 2020, the UK remains a signatory.

**1.18** This Landscape Character Assessment will continue to make a key contribution to the implementation of the ELC in Harborough. It helps to reaffirm the importance of landscape, coordinate existing work and guide future work to protect, manage and plan the landscape.

## National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

**1.19** The NPPF [\[See reference 2\]](#) was revised in December 2023. It sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to

be applied. A consultation on proposed changes to the NPPF was launched in July 2024 by The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and is open until 24th September 2024.

**1.20** Paragraph 180 of the current NPPF states:

“Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan).
- b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.”

**1.21** The NPPF is supported by Planning Practice Guidance which recognises the role that Landscape Character Assessment plays in helping to understand the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape. This assessment for Harborough provides evidence to help protect valued landscapes and recognise the intrinsic value and beauty of the countryside.

## Harborough District policy context

**1.22** This Landscape Character Assessment forms a sound evidence base to support the landscape policy and other character policies in the local plan.







## Relationship to published landscape studies

**1.23** Landscape Character Assessment can be undertaken at a variety of scales and levels of detail. This Harborough Landscape Character Assessment (2024) is part of a hierarchy of landscape character assessment information cascading down from the national to local level.

### National level

**1.24** At a national level, England is divided into 159 distinct National Character Areas (NCAs). Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history, and cultural and economic activity. There are descriptive profiles available for each NCA (published in 2014 by Natural England [[See reference 3](#)]) setting out information on landscape character, changes in the landscape and an assessment of ecosystem services delivered.

**1.25** Harborough District is part of four NCAs:

- NCA 93 High Leicestershire – A landscape of broad, rolling ridges and secluded valleys with a quiet, remote and rural character with small villages and scattered farms. Located in the north and east of the District.
- NCA 94 Leicestershire Vales – A large, relatively open, uniform landscape composed of low-lying clay vales interrupted by a range of varied river valleys, with visually dominant settlements and views towards surrounding higher ground. Located in the west of the District.
- NCA 89 Northamptonshire Vales – A series of low-lying clay vales and river valleys, including the valleys of the Rivers Welland and its tributaries, often with visually dominant settlement. A relatively small area located in the far south-east of the District.
- NCA 95 Northamptonshire Uplands – Gently rolling, limestone hills and valleys with many long, low ridgelines, unified by open field systems with

ridge and furrow, earthworks of deserted and shrunken settlements, a strong mostly Parliamentary enclosure pattern with high, wide A-shaped hedgerows, scattered broadleaves woods and frequent ash and oak trees. A relatively small area located in the far south-west of the District.

**1.26** NCAs within and surrounding Harborough District are illustrated on Figure 1.2 of this document.

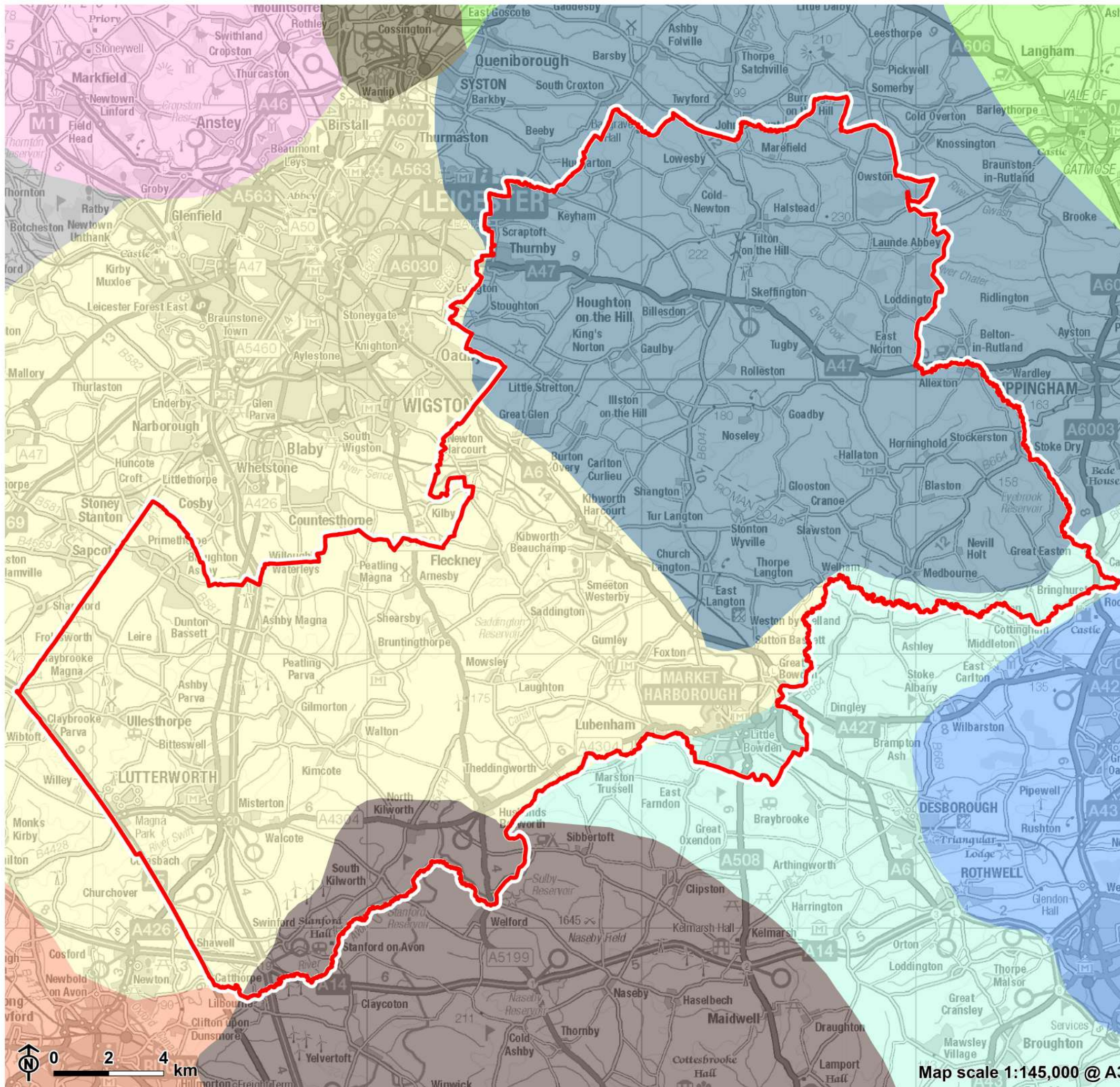
### Local level

**1.27** Landscape does not stop at administrative boundaries but continues seamlessly into surrounding districts. This assessment therefore sits alongside the Landscape Character Assessments of the adjacent authorities of Blaby, Leicester, Charnwood, Melton, Rutland, North Northamptonshire, West Northamptonshire, and Rugby.

**1.28** This study aims to provide an integrated classification across administrative boundaries. The relationship with LCA in neighbouring districts is set out in Appendix B.



Figure 1.2: National Character Area



- Harborough District Council
- National Character Area**
- Charnwood
- Dunsmore and Feldon
- High Leicestershire
- Leicestershire Vales
- Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds
- Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield
- Northamptonshire Uplands
- Northamptonshire Vales
- Rockingham Forest
- Trent Valley Washlands

Map scale 1:145,000 @ A3



# Chapter 2

## Methodology

### Approach

2.1 The Landscape Character Assessment follows the method promoted by Natural England in 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment' (2014) [See reference 4]. The principles of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) are embedded within this approach.

### Process of assessment

2.2 The process for undertaking the study involved three main stages described below.

#### Part 1: Desk review

- Inception.
- Review of existing LCA against current guidance and NPPF.
- Baseline data collection/collation.
- Desk-based classification.
- Pilot.
- Draft description.

## Part 2: Site assessment

**2.3** A rigorous and systematic field survey was undertaken to review and refine the draft classification and draft descriptions. This involved:

- Verifying and fine-tuning the classification of the landscape types and areas identified including review of boundaries.
- Checking and identifying key characteristics.
- Collecting aesthetic/perceptual information.
- Taking photographs to provide a visual record of the landscape.
- Providing more detailed guidance in relation to changes observed on the ground.

## Part 3: Reporting

- Updating the draft descriptions with field observations.
- Completing a landscape evaluation based on the field survey identifying key sensitivities and values.
- Identifying guidance for landscape management and development management.
- Submitting a draft for client review followed by a final report.

## Desk review

**2.4** The initial desk-based stage involved the collation of a wide range of up-to-date mapped information to review the existing landscape classifications with a view to breaking down the larger character areas. Designations relating to cultural heritage, nature conservation and landscape were reviewed for any changes since the original LCA.

**2.5** Data used within the report, including data collated in the GIS database is listed below:

- Base OS mapping at 1:25k and 1:50k (Source: Ordnance Survey).
- Terrain 50 Contour data (Source: Ordnance Survey).
- Superficial deposits, and bedrock geology 1:50k (Source: British Geological Survey).
- Administrative boundaries (Source: Office for National Statistics).
- National Character Areas (Source: Natural England).
- Existing Harborough Landscape Character Assessment (Atkins, 2007) (Source: Harborough District Council).
- Landscape Character Assessment for neighbouring districts (Source: Blaby, Leicester, Charnwood, Melton, Rutland, North Northamptonshire, West Northamptonshire, and Rugby).
- Public Rights of Way, and access land (Source: Natural England).
- River features and flood zones (Source: Environment Agency).
- Nature conservation designations (Source: Natural England (national datasets) and Harborough District Council (local datasets)).
- Priority habitats (Source: Natural England and Harborough District Council).
- Forestry (Source: Forestry Commission).
- Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) dataset (Source: Leicestershire County Council).
- Cultural heritage designations (Source: Historic England (national datasets) and Harborough District Council (local datasets)).
- Dark skies and tranquillity (Source: CPRE).
- Infrastructure (Source: Ordnance Survey).
- Local Plan designations and policy areas (Source: Harborough District Council).

- Long distance footpaths (Source: Walking Englishman).

## Classification

**2.6** Classification is concerned with dividing the landscape into areas of distinct, recognisable, and consistent common character and grouping areas of similar character together:

- Landscape Character Types (LCTs) – Share broadly similar patterns of geology, topography, vegetation, and human influences in each area in which they occur. Although not identical they share a common pattern of elements.
- Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) – Each landscape type is divided into geographically specific character areas. These share generic characteristics with other areas of the same type but have their own particular identity or ‘sense of place’.

**2.7** The revised landscape classification for Harborough is based on a review of the 2007 boundaries and new information on landscape change. It subdivides the five LCAs within the 2007 study into a classification more suited to a district level assessment. The relationship between the 2007 and 2024 LCAs is set out in Appendix C.

**2.8** This process resulted in the definition of ten LCTs and 26 LCAs for Harborough District. The classification is shown on Figure 5.1 of this document.

## Landscape character profiles

**2.9** The Landscape Character Assessment is presented at LCT level in separate profiles.

**2.10** Each LCT description is illustrated with representative photos to help the reader appreciate the character of the LCT and is structured as follows:

## Map and summary of location and landscape character

- An overview map showing the location of the LCT within the District and its relationship with other LCTs and the component LCAs within it.
- A summary paragraph explaining its defining landscape character and location.

## Landscape description

**2.11** This section provides a description of the landscape character of the LCT under each of the following headings:

- **Key Characteristics:** In bullet point format, provides a summary explanation of the character of the LCT.
- **Natural Influences:** A description of the most significant natural influences in the landscape including designated habitats.
- **Cultural Influences:** A description of the most significant cultural influences in the landscape including designated cultural heritage assets.
- **Perceptual Influences:** Informed by field survey, a description of the most significant perceptual and aesthetic influences in the landscape.

## Landscape character areas

**2.12** This section provides concise descriptions of the LCAs within the LCT describing their key natural, cultural and perceptual influences, illustrated by representative photographs.

**2.13** A map of each LCA, at a larger scale to that provided in the LCT description, provides detail on the LCA boundary and which places, features and landscapes are within the LCA.

## Evaluation

**2.14** The evaluation provides an understanding of what is important in each LCT and why:

- **Key Sensitivities and Values:** Identifies the qualities that are particularly valued for their contribution to landscape character (i.e. if any one of these attributes ceased to exist, it would change the character to the detriment of the landscape).
- **Landscape Strategy:** Provides an overall strategy to guide the future direction of the landscape based on opportunities for conservation, restoration, enhancement, and creation.
- **Guidelines:** Provides guidance on how the strategy can be achieved to ensure future change respects local character. The guidelines can be considered as part of development management, for example guiding mitigation or enhancement or influencing wider land management decisions for the rural environment.

## Chapter 3

# Formative Influences

**3.1** This chapter summarises the main physical and cultural influences that have shaped the landscape of Harborough District. The detailed description of different LCTs and LCAs highlight the key characteristics (both positive and negative) and valued attributes that are of most significance to the particular landscape concerned.

**3.2** The landscape of the District has evolved through the interaction of the natural environment and human activities, through the combination of physical and cultural influences. Physical influences such as geology and landform, together with the pattern of settlement and land use are key determinants of landscape character.

## Physical influences

**3.3** The physical components of the landscape have the most tangible and fundamental influences upon its character, being the most permanent and least changeable aspect of its appearance. The underlying geology creates the 'backbone' of the landscape. The actions of weathering, erosion and deposition alter the landform, consequently influencing hydrological patterns and affecting the nature of soil conditions. This affects how humans have used and continue to exploit the landscape for agriculture, settlement, and industry and, consequently, influences the nature of the vegetation and fauna that the landscape can support.



## Geology and soils

**3.4** Figure 3.1 of this document illustrates the solid (or bedrock) geology that underlies the District. Figure 3.2 of this document shows the drift (or superficial) geology formed during the Quaternary period, which overlies the bedrock in places.

**3.5** The District is primarily underlain by a bedrock of Triassic to Jurassic mudstone, siltstone, limestone and sandstone. This is overlain with superficial clay, sand and gravel deposits which were deposited during glaciation. Along rivers the superficial geology is that of alluvial deposits of clay, silt and sand which were created through water processes.

**3.6** Soils are generally loamy and clayey, slowly permeable, seasonally wet and slightly acid which support traditional agricultural uses, particularly arable farming. The impeded drainage of this soil creates seasonally wet pastures and woodland.

**3.7** In the river floodplains, loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater support grassland, wet flood meadows and wet woodlands. In the east of the District lime-rich loamy and clayey soils which are of high fertility support arable farmland as well as ancient woodland. In the west, there are patches of freely draining, slightly acidic, loamy soils which support small areas of pasture and deciduous woodland.

## Landform and drainage

**3.8** Figure 3.3 of this document illustrates the topography and watercourses of the District, which relates closely to the underlying geology.

**3.9** The topography of the District is varied. It ranges from steep valleys and elevated ridge tops in the north, such as Whatborough Hill (approximately 230m AOD), to the gentler valley landform along the River Welland in the centre and

east of the District (approximately 60m AOD). The distinctive ridge line of Laughton Hills (approximately 177m AOD) runs north-east to south-west from Gumley and Mowsely towards South Kilworth and Husbands Bosworth.

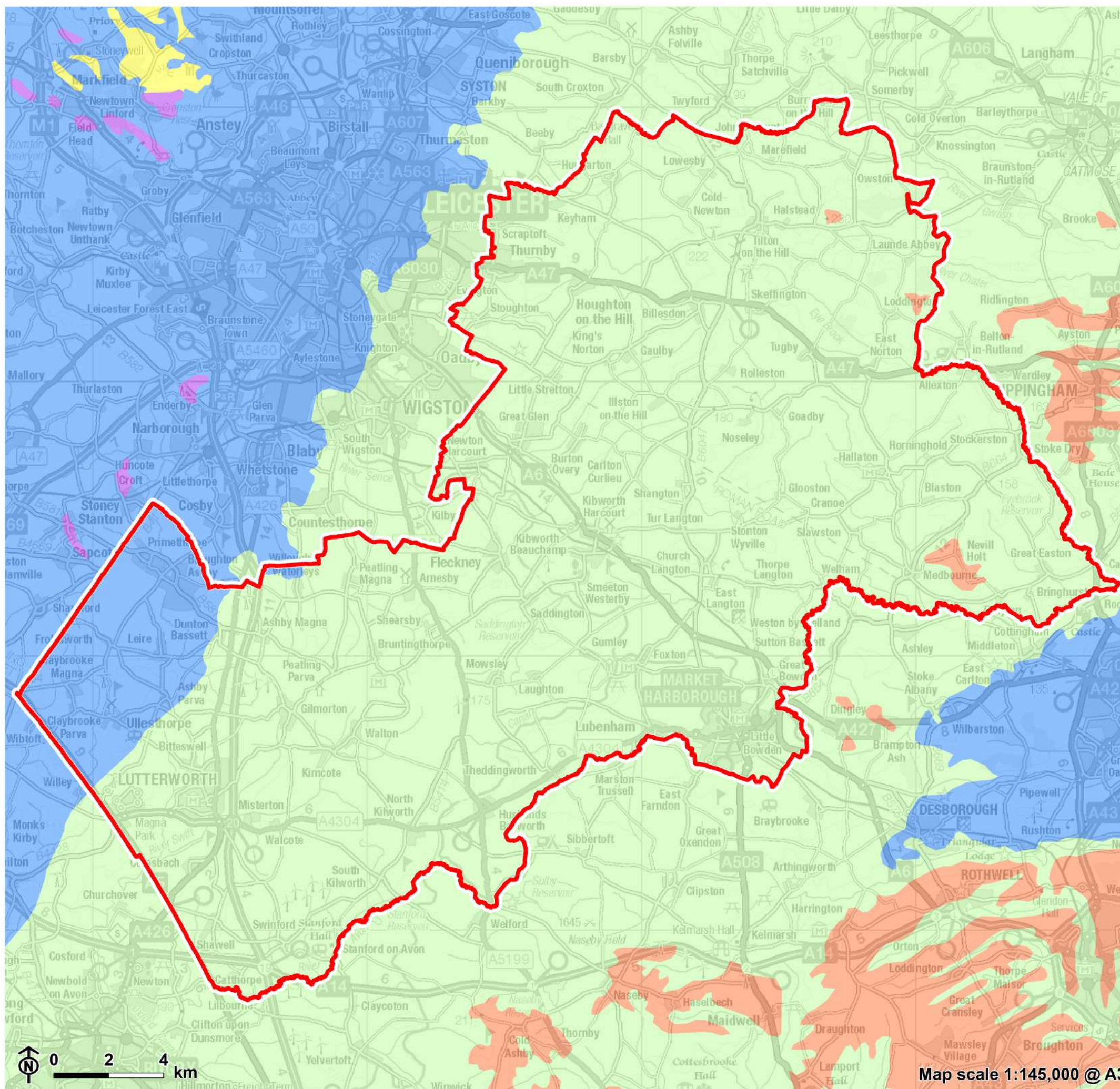
**3.10** There is a network of streams and rivers across the District, the largest being the River Welland which forms the southern District boundary and runs through Market Harborough. Other rivers include the River Sence which is located in the centre of the District, the River Soar and the River Swift in the west and the River Avon which runs along the south-western District boundary.

**3.11** Springs are common and are often the source of brooks and streams which cross the District and run into these larger watercourses. The soils across the District primarily drain into the stream network, with some areas of lower elevation (such as along rivers and in the west of the District), draining into the local groundwater and rivers.

**3.12** Eyebrook Reservoir is the largest body of water within the District. It straddles the Harborough – Rutland county boundary in the east. Other waterbodies include Saddington Reservoir, south of Saddington, a concentration of lakes at Peatling Parva and Stanford Reservoir which straddles the Harborough – Northamptonshire county boundary.



Figure 3.1: Geology



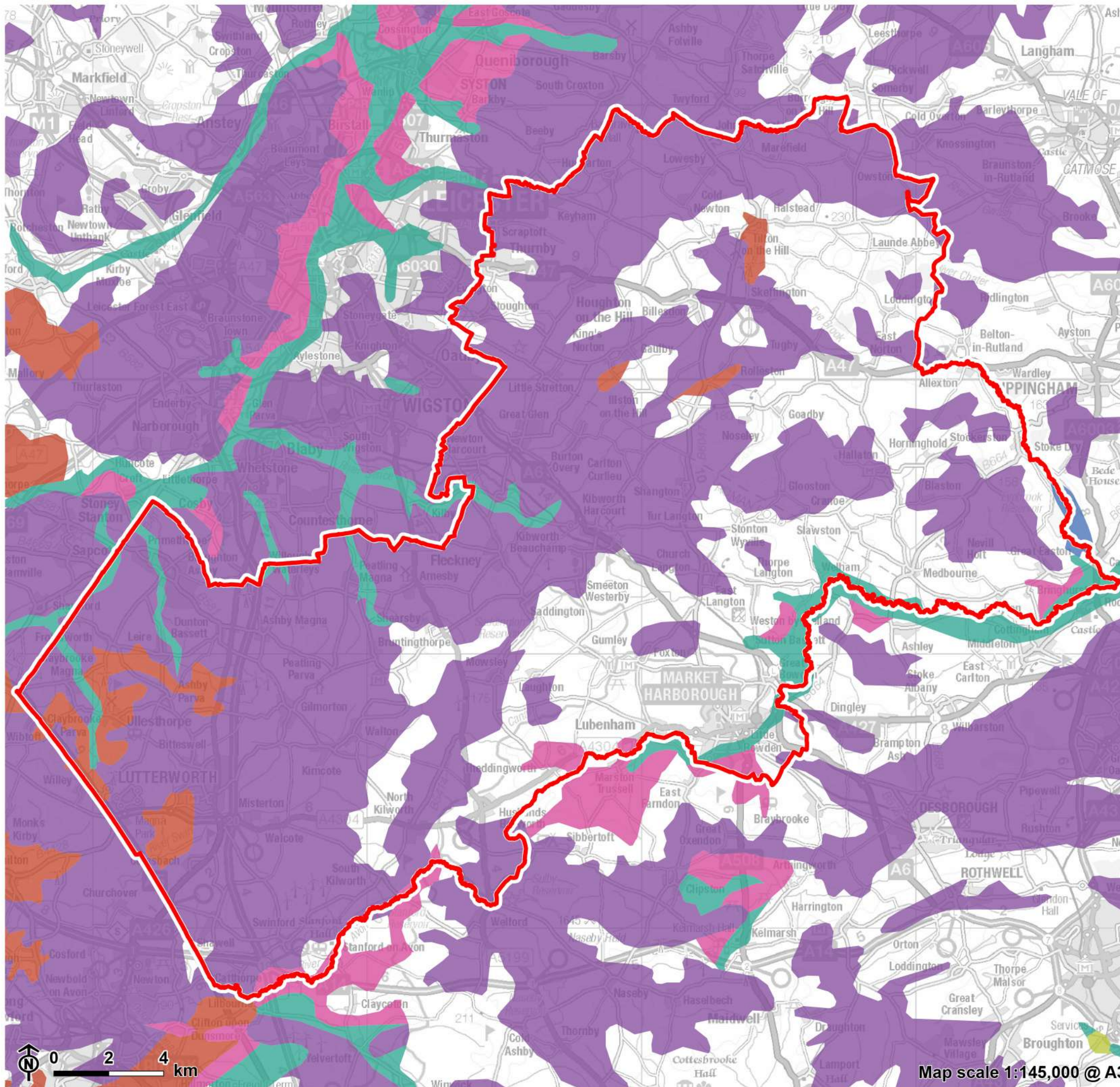
- Harborough District Council
- Bedrock geology**
  - Limestone, Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone
  - Mafic Igneous-Rock
  - Mudstone, Sandstone and Conglomerate
  - Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone
  - Mudstone, Siltstone, Limestone and Sandstone



Map scale 1:145,000 @ A3



Figure 3.2: Superficial geology

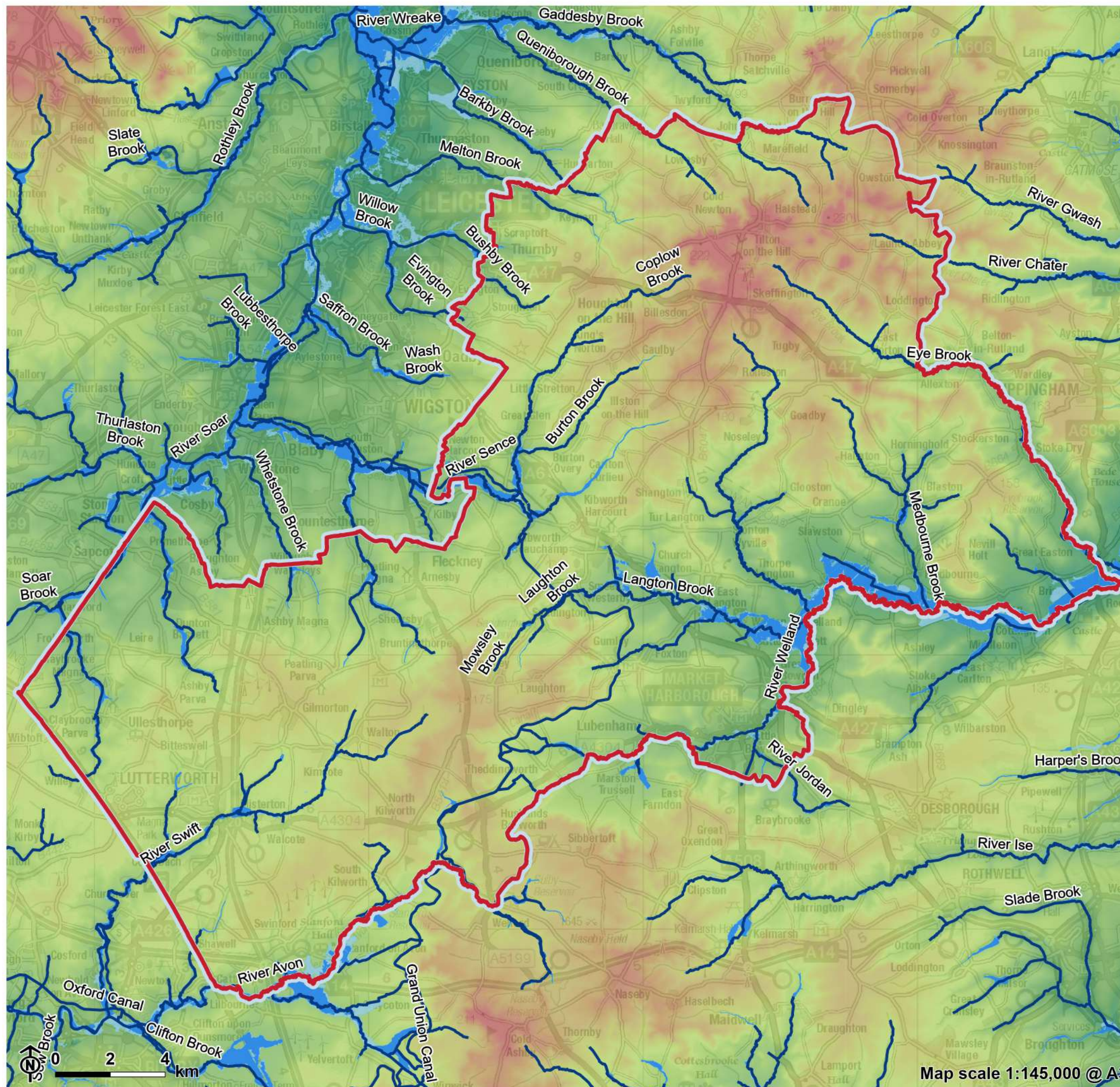


- Harborough District Council
- Superficial geology**
  - Alluvial deposits - clay, silt and sand
  - Glacigenic deposits - diamicton (clay, sand and gravel)
  - Glaciofluvial deposits - sand and gravel
  - Lacustrine deposits - clay and silt
  - River-terrace deposits - sand and gravel
  - Unknown deposits

Map scale 1:145,000 @ A3



Figure 3.3: Topography and watercourses



- Harborough District Council
- River
- Flood zone 2
- Flood zone 3
- Topography**
- 275 m (height Above Ordinance Datum (AOD))
- 34 m (height Above Ordinance Datum (AOD))



## Agricultural land use

**3.13** Figure 3.4 of this document illustrates the quality of agricultural land, known as agricultural land classification. Land use within the District reflects the topography and soil types.

**3.14** The majority of the District is Grade 3 agricultural land. This is good to moderate quality with moderate limitations affecting the choice of crops, timing and type of cultivation, harvesting or level of yield [See reference 5]. There are pockets of more fertile Grade 2 land, generally coinciding with fertile valleys of streams, such as around Shangton, and small amounts of less fertile Grade 4 land, often on steep slopes like those at Launde.

## Nature conservation designations

**3.15** Figure 3.5 of this document illustrates the main nature conservation designations located throughout the District. Each relevant designated site is identified and described in the individual LCT/LCA profiles in Chapter 6.

**3.16** There is a concentration of sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) in the north-east of the District, associated with a high concentration of ancient woodland. However, elsewhere in the District SSSI designations are relatively sparse. There are no national nature reserves (NNR) within the District. LNRs are also relatively sparse – one example is North Kilworth LNR. There are however a large number of local wildlife sites (LWS) located across the District. These cover a variety of habitats, ranging from the Grand Union Canal to fields of mesotrophic grassland, wet woodland, species rich hedgerow and individual mature or veteran trees.

## Priority habitats

**3.17** Priority habitats within Harborough District are shown on Figure 3.6 of this document. The most common is deciduous woodland, particularly in the north and east of the District, supplemented by linear strips in the west along the M1 and dismantled railway.

**3.18** Whilst not forming a strong network, there are also isolated blocks of good quality semi-improved grassland, floodplain grazing marsh and occasional ponds. Traditional orchards are often found on the edge of settlements.

## Woodland

**3.19** Figure 3.7 of this document illustrates woodland cover within Harborough District. Harborough is generally sparsely wooded, with a concentration of woodland, including ancient woodland, in the north-east. This area is associated with the western edge of Leighfield Forest, a Royal Hunting Forest created by Henry I in the 12th century. Ancient woodlands in this area represent one of the highest concentrations of ancient woodlands in the Midlands and are of significant regional and national nature conservation interest. The generally sparse woodland across the rest of the District is a result of the generally fertile agricultural soils.

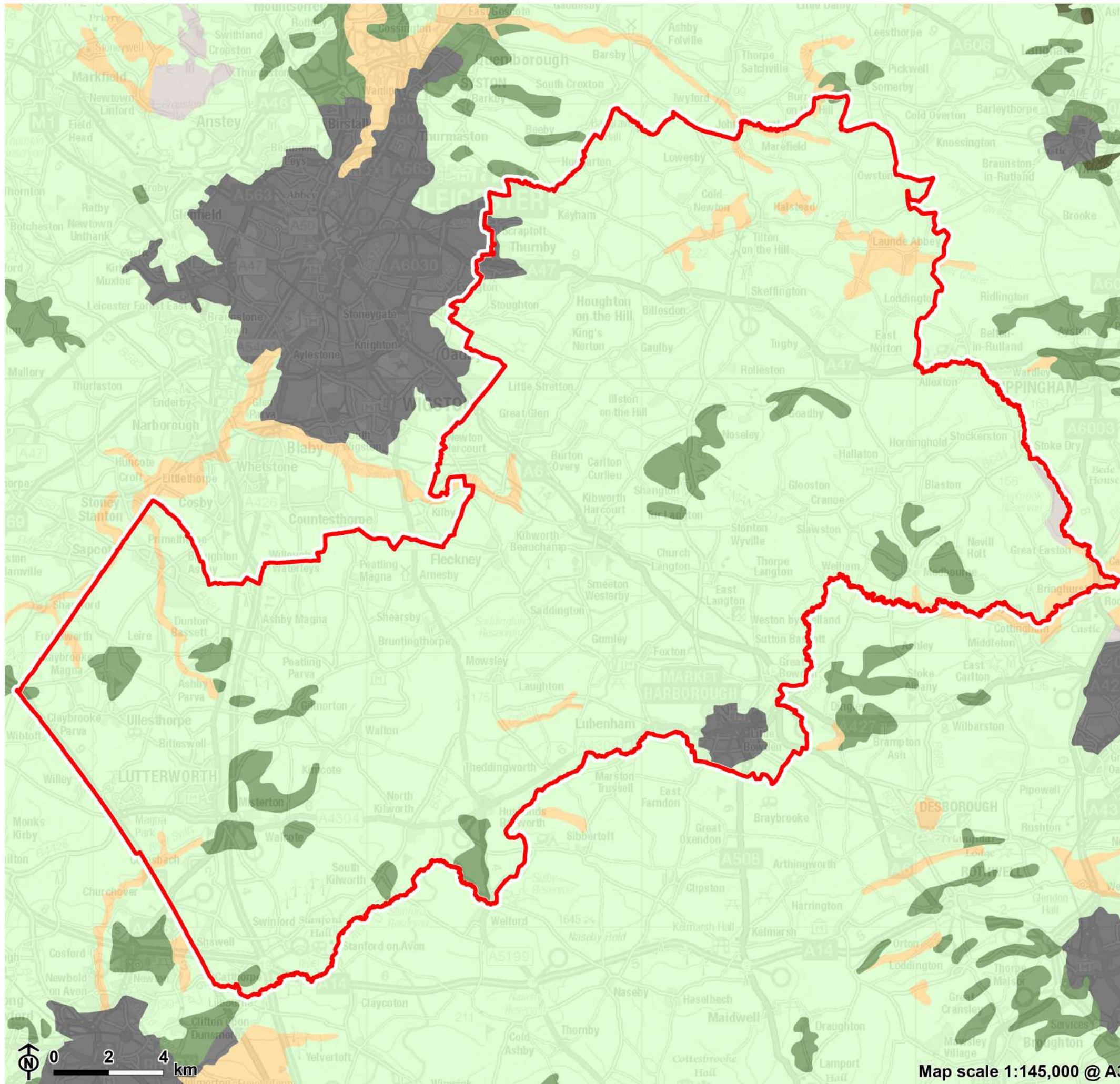
**3.20** Where there is woodland, it often forms small, isolated blocks, often associated with fox hunting indicated by names including 'covert' and 'gorse'. There are also woodland associated with designed parkland landscapes, such as at Gumley, often containing coniferous specimen trees.

## National landscape designations

**3.21** There are no National Landscapes or National Parks within Harborough or the immediate neighbouring districts. The closest designated landscape is the Cotswolds, approximately 32km south-west of Harborough.



Figure 3.4: Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)

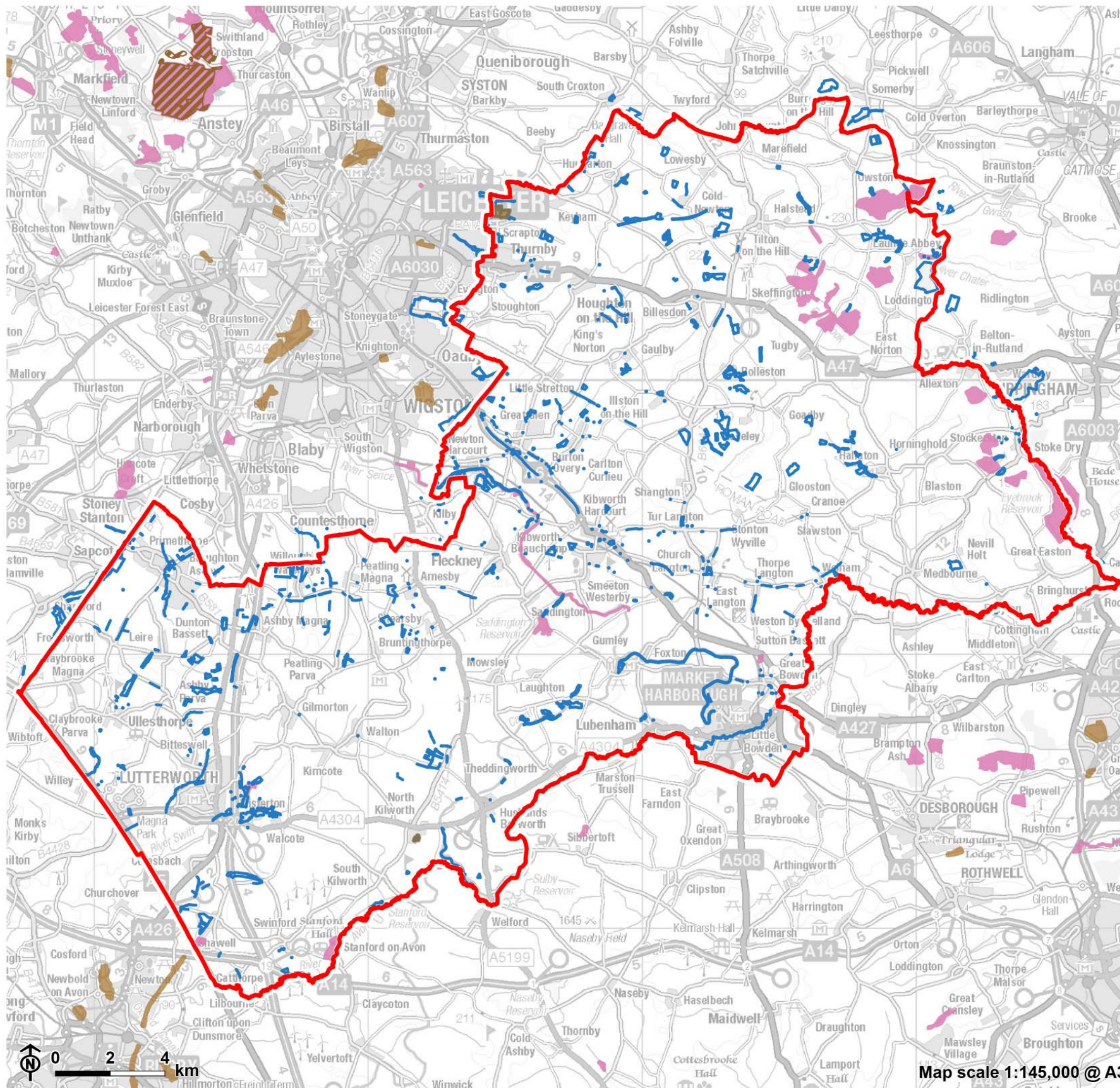


- Harborough District Council
- Agricultural Land classification (ALC)**
  - Grade 1
  - Grade 2
  - Grade 3
  - Grade 4
  - Non Agricultural
  - Urban

Map scale 1:145,000 @ A3



Figure 3.5: Nature conservation designations

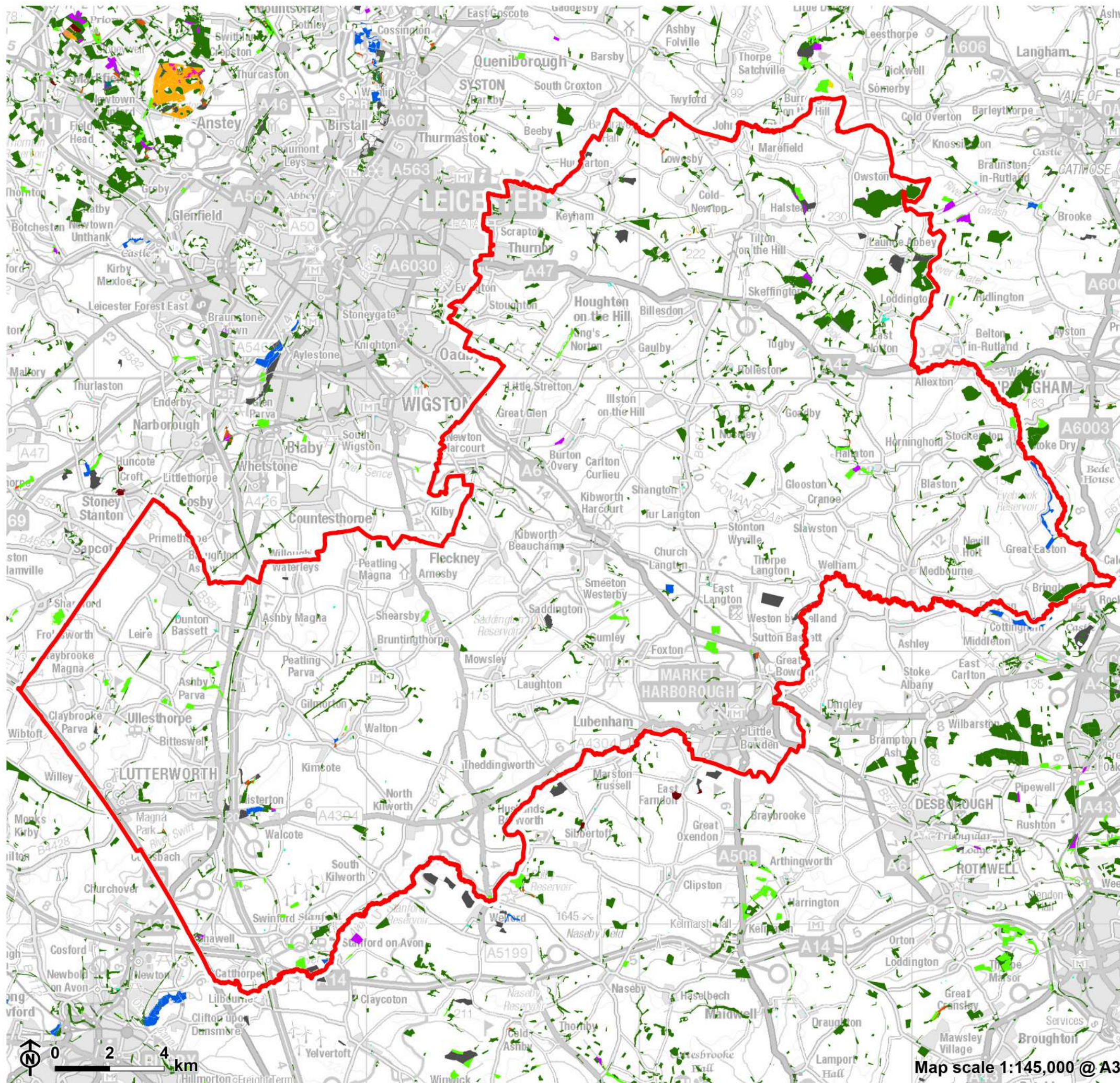


- Harborough District Council
- Special Protection Area
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- National Nature Reserve
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site

Map scale 1:145,000 @ A3



Figure 3.6: Priority habitats



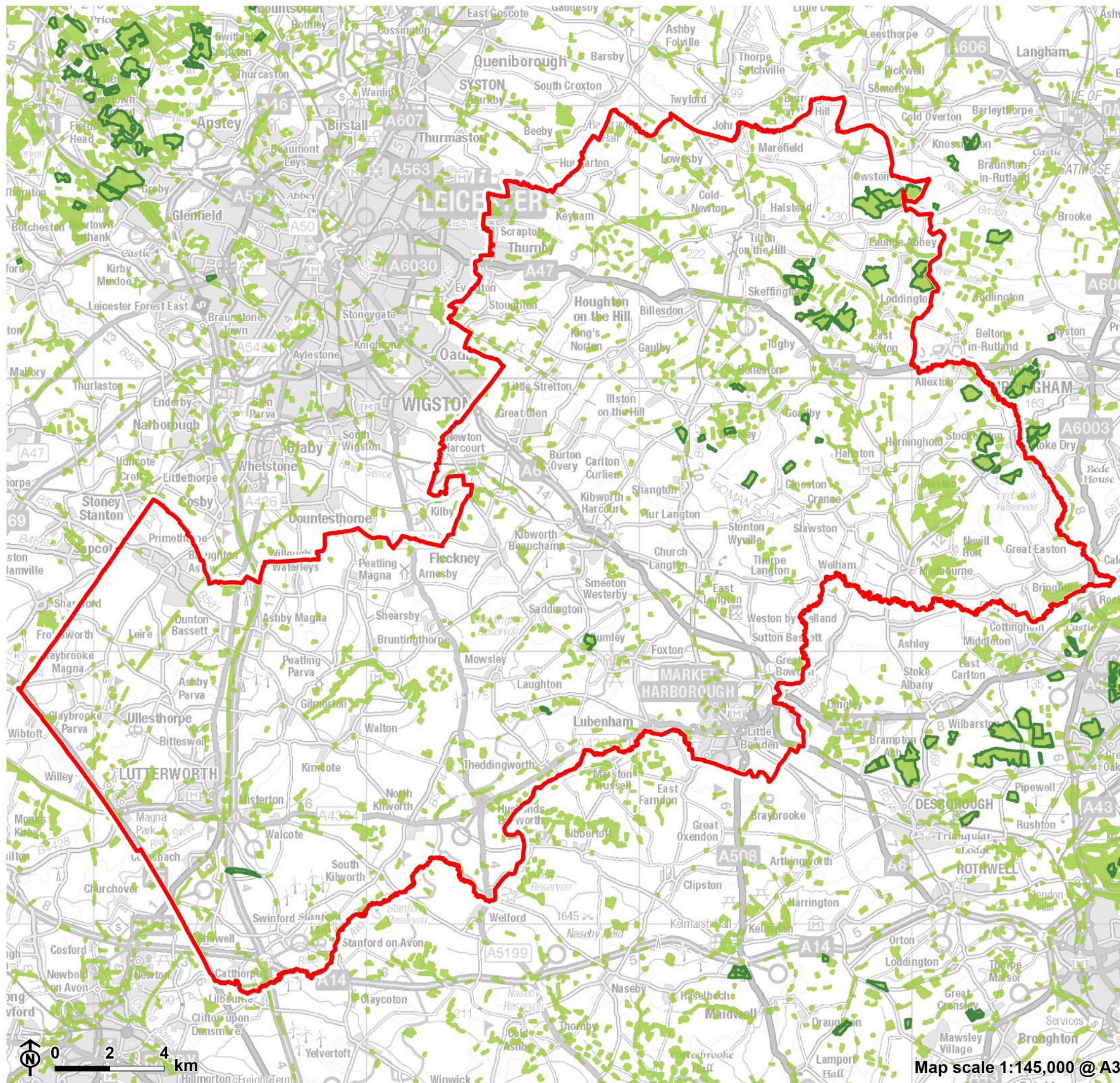
- Harborough District Council
- Priority Habitat**
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
- Deciduous woodland
- Good quality semi improved grassland
- Lowland calcareous grassland
- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Lowland dry acid grassland, lowland heathland
- Lowland fens
- Lowland heathland
- Lowland meadows
- No main habitat but additional habitats present
- Ponds
- Purple moor grass and rush pastures
- Reedbeds
- Traditional orchard



Map scale 1:145,000 @ A3



Figure 3.7: Woodland



- Harborough District Council
- Ancient Woodland
- National Forest Inventory - Woodland



## Cultural influences

**3.22** Harborough District has a long history of human settlement and is rich in history and heritage. This relates to agricultural settlements, the 17th century hosiery industry, and from the 18th century onwards extractive industries and manufacturing, enabled by the railways and Grand Union Canal.

## Cultural heritage designations

**3.23** Harborough District contains:

- 1281 listed buildings, including 22 at Grade I.
- 6 registered parks & gardens (RPG), including Neville Holt and Stanford Hall.
- 65 scheduled monuments (SM), such as Owston Augustinian Abbey and the deserted medieval settlements of Baggrave, Gumley and Stormsworth.
- 63 conservation areas, including the Grand Union Canal.

**3.24** These assets are often clustered within villages, as illustrated on Figure 3.8 of this document. They play a large part in defining the character of the landscape and the individuality of particular settlements.

**3.25** In addition to statutory designations, Harborough has a local list of non-designated heritage assets including the former Magistrates Court in Market Harborough and the Tower House in Gumley.

## Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC)

**3.26** Figure 3.9 of this document shows the broad types identified within the 2019 Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Project [\[See reference 6\]](#).

**3.27** The Fields and Enclosed Land Broad Type dominates the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland HLC (77%), reflecting the overwhelmingly rural nature of the area.

**3.28** The predominantly rural field pattern is dominated by planned and/or parliamentary enclosure with ridge and furrow earthworks a recurring feature across the landscape. Across the study area several HLC Types within the Fields and Enclosed Land Broad Type grouping are likely to date from either the 18th or 19th century. These include planned enclosure, planned enclosure containing ridge and furrow, planned woodland clearance, other large rectilinear fields and other small rectilinear fields.

**3.29** Piecemeal enclosure also features. These include paddocks and closes, small assarts, squatter enclosures and some small irregular fields. They represent the oldest field patterns within the project area; these are unlikely to date much earlier than the mid-15th century.

**3.30** Where earlier pre-parliamentary enclosure took place, the resulting field patterns proved to be less conducive to 20th century agricultural practices than the more regular planned enclosures of the late post-medieval period.

**3.31** Where there is some survival of older field patterns it is often, though by no means exclusively, in proximity to settlements where perhaps there are likely to be a larger number of people having tenure over smaller plots of land.

**3.32** Intensification of farming practice post WWII has led to the widespread removal of field boundaries and ploughing up of large areas of ridge and furrow/other earthwork features. Many of the areas with the highest recorded percentages of field boundary loss coincide with the areas of pre-parliamentary enclosure. The earliest enclosure patterns have proved to be the least favoured for modern farming methods and have gone through more comprehensive change and proportionately higher levels of boundary loss over the course of the 20th century. This highlights the fact that earlier enclosure should be regarded as a fast-diminishing resource requiring particularly sensitive management.

## Access

**3.33** Figure 3.10 of this document shows public rights of way (PRoW), and the national cycle network (NCN) in Harborough.

**3.34** PRoW often radiate out from and connect smaller historic settlements across the surrounding agricultural countryside. The PRoW network provides connectivity between settlement, designated heritage sites and recreational assets such as woodlands. There are fewer PRoW along the south-eastern edge of the District boundary, north of the River Welland and River Avon, particularly around Theddingworth and Husbands Bosworth.

**3.35** The District is crossed by two long distance footpaths; The Leicestershire Round and Midshires Way. The Leicestershire Round is a circular route of over 100 miles that winds between a series of small historic villages in the lowlands of the south-west, starting at Claybrooke Parva through to Dunton Bassett and Shearsby before crossing the District centre into the Welland valley, and through Hallaton in the north-east. The Midshires Way is a 230-mile route crossing the Midlands counties between the Chiltern Hills in Buckinghamshire and Stockport in Greater Manchester. The route runs through rolling and wooded farmland of the north-east of the District, and through the elevated plateau ridge of Tilton on the Hill.

**3.36** Four routes of the NCN pass through the District, two of which connect Leicester and Market Harborough. Route 63 connects the west of Leicester to Owston in the north of the District, also connecting with route 64 that leads south to Market Harborough. Route 6 enters the District from the south of Leicester and passes east through the District centre towards a section of traffic free cycle path into Market Harborough. Route 6 further connects to route 50 which passes through the south of the District, east of Lutterworth, continuing south towards Daventry.

**3.37** A series of local cycle routes make up a well-connected local cycle network. The network is particularly intricate around Lutterworth and

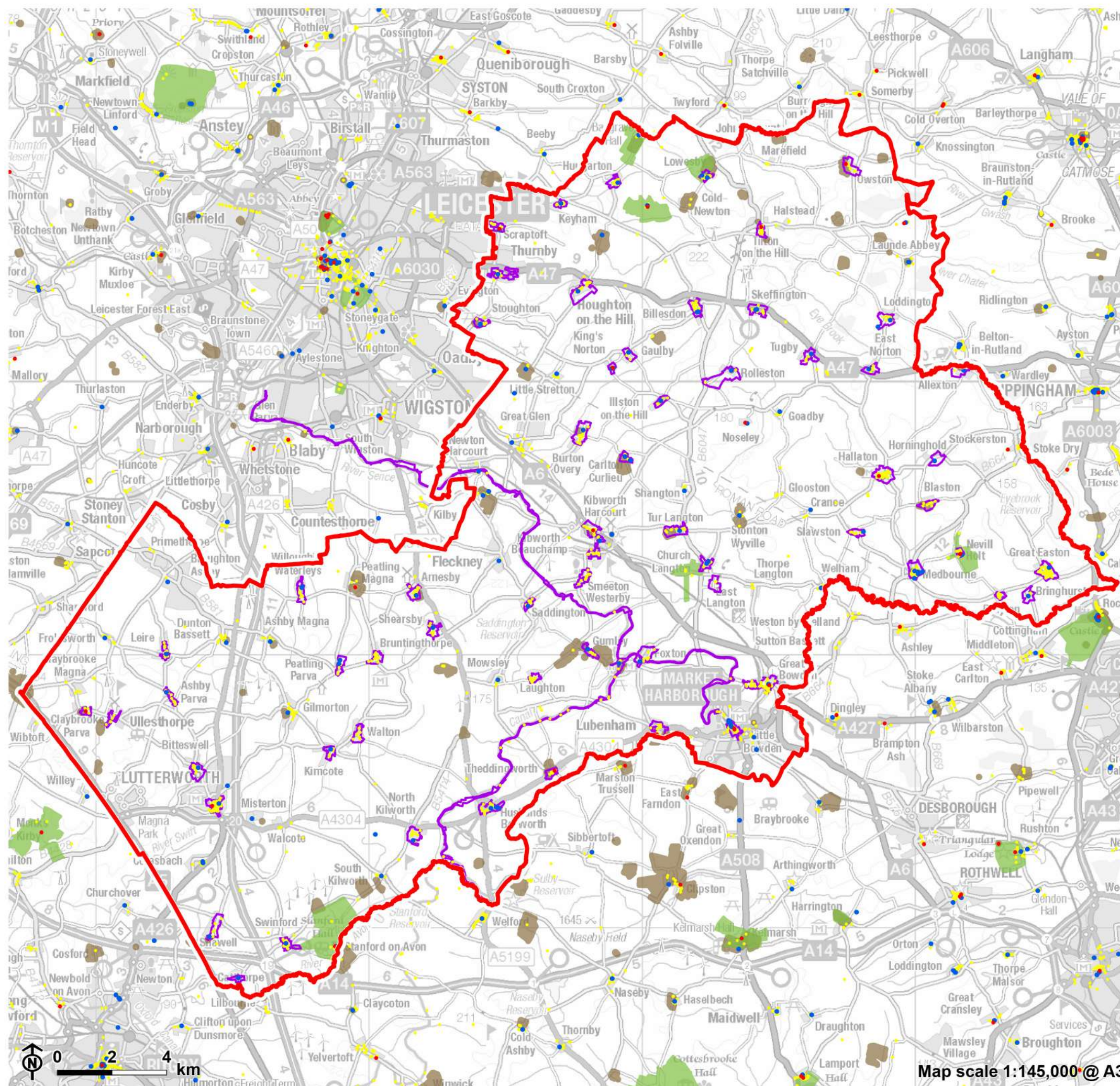
surrounding villages in the south. There is lower coverage across the rolling elevated landform in the north, and in the south around Theddingworth and Husbands Bosworth.

**3.38** Small areas of registered common land can be found within and close to villages across the District. The largest area is between High Cross (SM) and Claybrooke Parva in the south-western corner of the District. Small areas can be found in Walton, North Kilworth, and Great Easton, and several fragmented patches remain in Great Bowden and Hallaton.

**3.39** Harborough District has no official country park designations, however Foxton Locks offers the following recreational amenities: guided walks, museum, café, toilets and car parking. Foxton Locks is located on the Grand Union Canal and the canal towpath provides recreational access to the landscape.



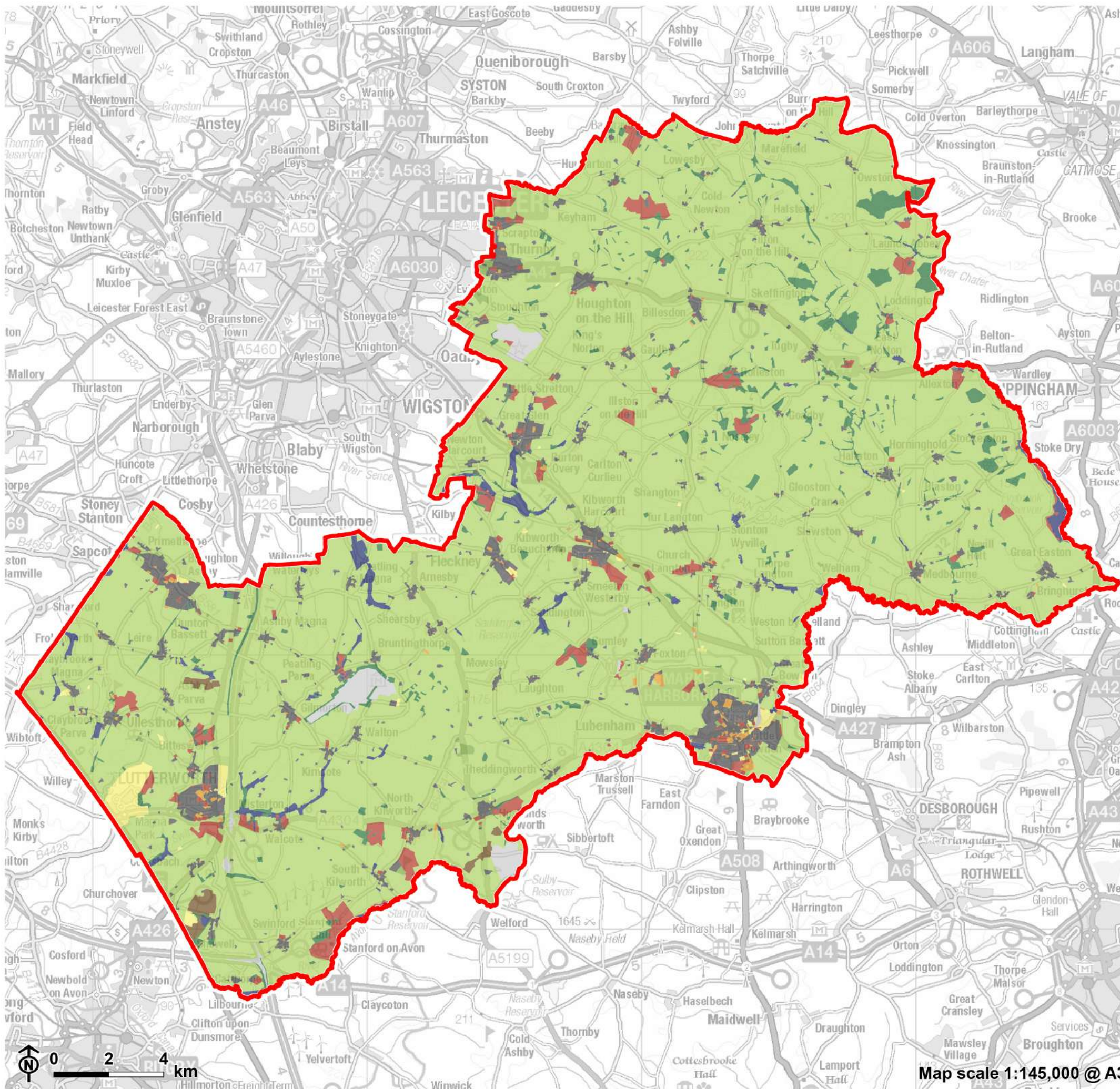
Figure 3.8: Cultural heritage designations



- Harborough District Council
- Conservation Area
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed building**
  - Grade I
  - Grade II\*
  - Grade II



Figure 3.9: Historic Landscape Classification (HLC)



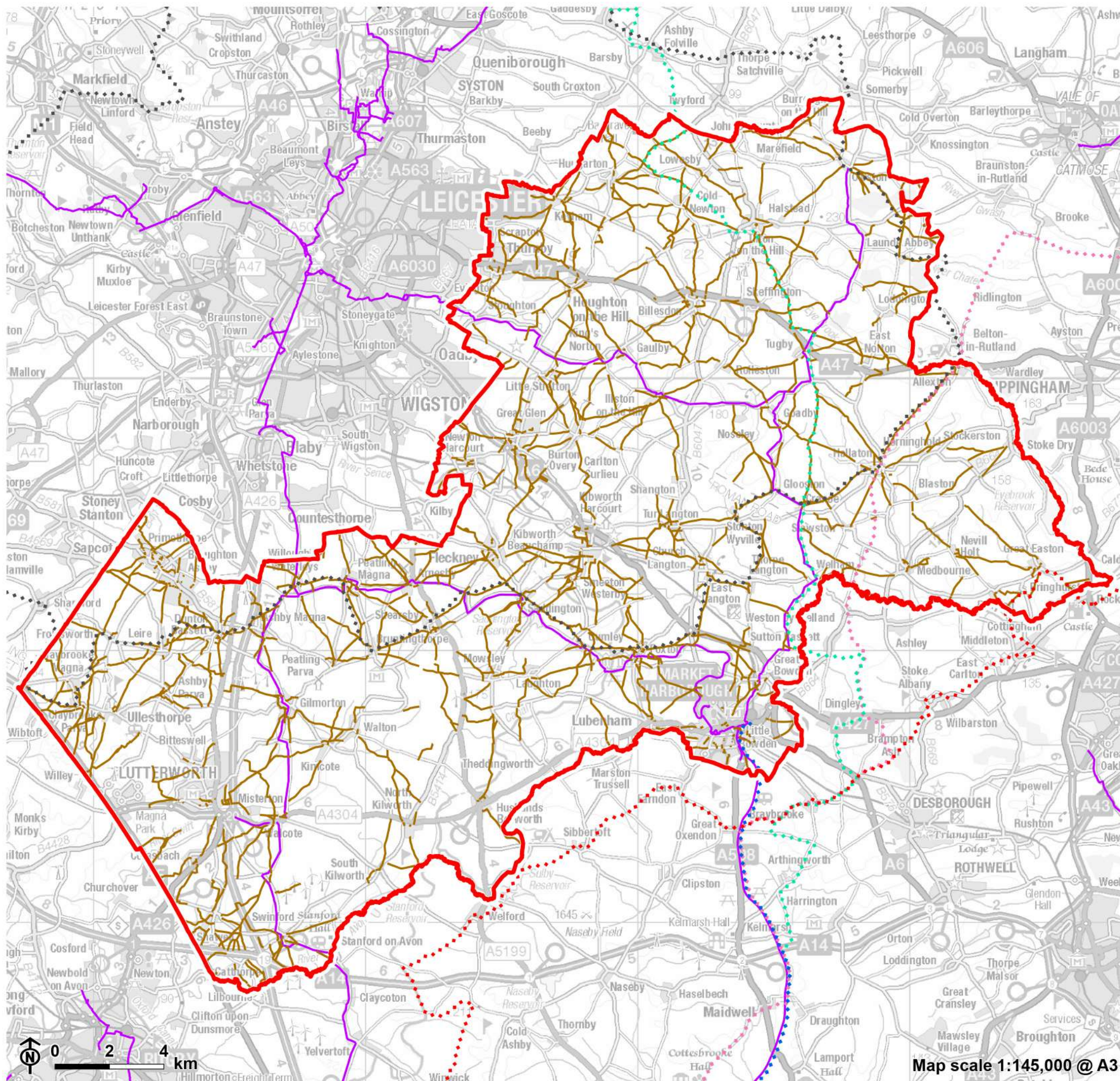
- Harborough District Council
- Historic Landscape Classification (HLC) - Broadtype**
- Civic and commercial
- Extractive and landfill
- Fields and enclosed land
- Industrial
- Orchards and allotments
- Ornamental, parkland and recreational
- Settlement
- Transportation
- Water and valley floor
- Woodland

0 2 4 km

Map scale 1:145,000 @ A3



Figure 3.10: Access



- Harborough District Council
- Public Right of Way
- National Cycle Network
- Long distance footpath**
- Brampton Valley Way
- Jurassic Way
- Leicestershire Round
- Macmillan Way
- Midshires Way

Map scale 1:145,000 @ A3



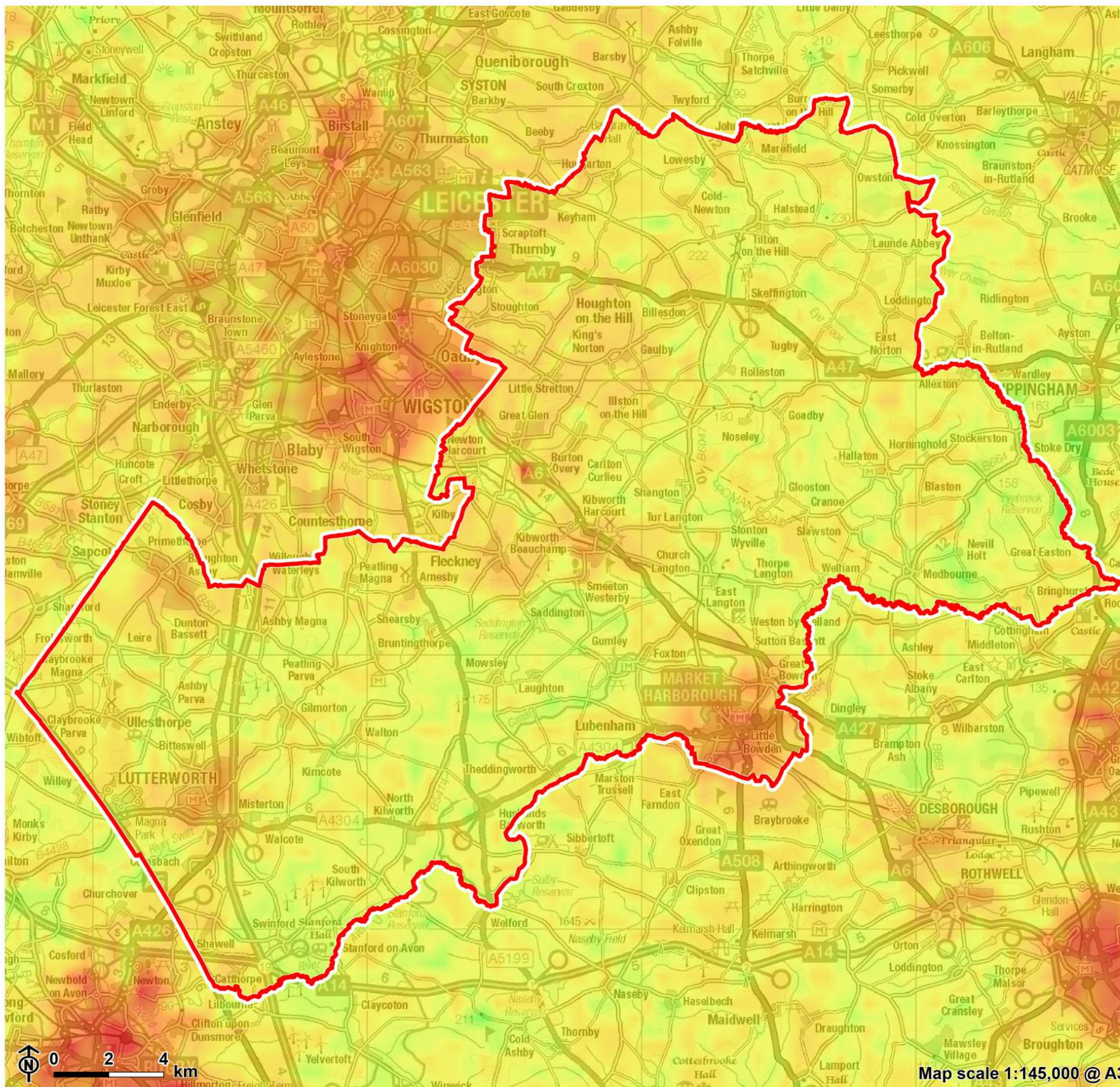
## Perceptual influences

**3.40** Away from the motorway and road corridors and large settlements of Market Harborough and Lutterworth, many parts of the District enjoy high levels of tranquillity. Areas in the north have relatively high levels of tranquillity disturbed only by Leicester's urban fringe on the western edge and the A46 road corridor. Smaller pockets of tranquillity can be found in rural areas surrounding the Saddington and Stanford reservoirs, and Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground. This is illustrated on Figure 3.11 of this document.

**3.41** The levels of light pollution and dark night skies within Harborough District are illustrated on Figure 3.12 of this document. Light pollution decreases with distance from the Market Harborough in the east and Lutterworth and Magna Park in the south. Large areas of dark skies cover the north-east of the District particularly around the heavily wooded landscape of the Launde Estate. There is higher interference of light pollution in the south, but dark skies can be experienced from the elevated plateau of the Mowsley and Laughton Hills.



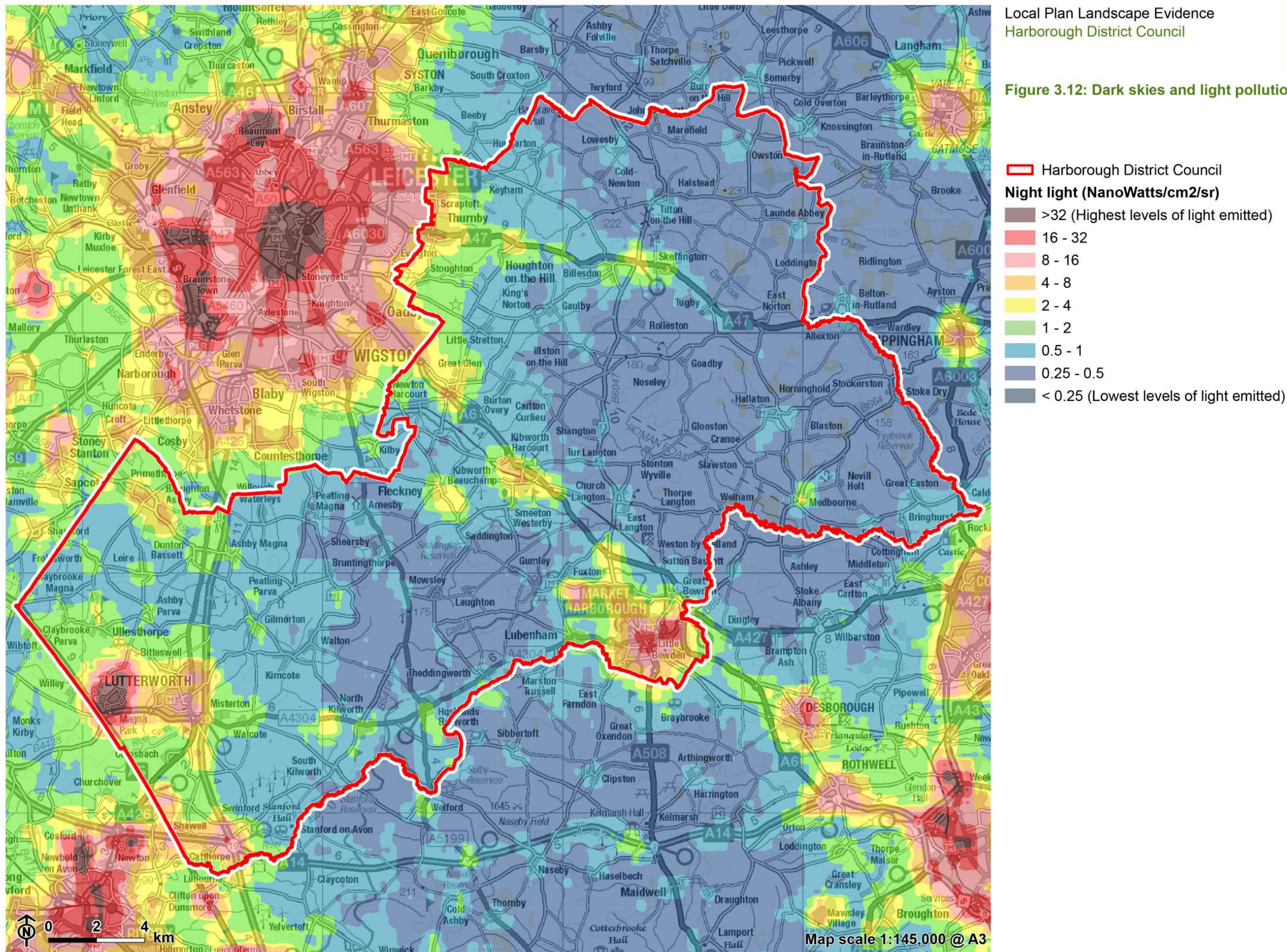
Figure 3.11: Tranquillity



- Harborough District Council
- Relative tranquillity score**
- Relatively more tranquil
- Relatively less tranquil



Figure 3.12: Dark skies and light pollution





## Chapter 4

# Forces for Change

**4.1** Key forces for change within the study area are summarised below. Of key importance is the climate emergency. Increased temperatures, storms, drought, pest and disease are likely to result in large scale changes to landscape character. Concerns around the climate and ecological emergencies are also leading to changes to agricultural practice and increased pressure for renewable development.

## Climate and ecological emergency

- Changes in woodland, hedgerow and grassland habitat extent and species composition which could adversely alter overall landscape character, particularly affecting ancient woodlands.
- An increase in pathogens which could result in woodland being unable to regenerate and the loss of mature/significant trees. Of particular risk are the high number of ash trees across the District, many of which are already showing signs of ash die-back. Ash trees are a prominent characteristic of the landscape, particularly along roadsides, and the loss of these trees could adversely impact the overall landscape character. It will also limit the potential of these trees to sequester carbon to mitigate the climate emergency.
- Reduction in wet woodland, floodplain grazing marsh and meadows as a result of drier, warmer summers reducing damp conditions needed for the survival of these habitats.
- Increased water temperatures and increased drought conditions leading to the poor chemical and ecological status of rivers and streams.
- Replacement of floodplain grazing marsh with dry grassland species as a result of drying of the floodplains in summer, or changes in land use

including a reduction in grazing land to free up land for other uses such as bioenergy crop planting, including willow.

- High water flows and increased rates of soil erosion, resulting in a potential adverse change to the streams and their associated habitats, contrasting with periods of drought and low flows.
- More prolific vegetation growth within rivers and on banks, including invasive non-native species, as well as increase in pests and diseases resulting in loss of native habitats.
- Veteran parkland trees and historic-lined avenues in designed landscapes may be particularly vulnerable to pest and diseases, storms and drought.
- Higher temperatures could result in the potential to grow different crop types such as maize, soya and viticulture which could change the visual quality and character of the landscape. On the other hand, drought could also result in withdrawal of arable land from cropping and reversion to grassland.

## Changes to agricultural practice

- Changes to land use associated with Net Zero commitments may result in changes to landscape character. Future possible changes include tree planting, including woodlands, on-farm woods and shelterbelts; and a reduction in grazing land linked to plant-based diets, to free up land for other uses such as bioenergy crop planting and low-grade biomass production.
- Intensive farming methods which are reducing life at the base of the food chain through the use of insecticides and herbicides.
- Positive landscape change through agri-environment schemes and local initiatives at a landscape scale such as Landscape Partnerships could result in enhanced environmental management of hedgerows, hedgerow trees, woodland and wet pastures alongside streams. Future management of woodlands for fuel or for timber in construction may be a positive benefit.



- On less fertile soils, it is possible that some farms may cease active agricultural production with potential for diversification into other land uses. Land is likely to continue to be sold separately from buildings creating pressure for new development.

## Development

- Demand for further wind energy development in elevated open plateau areas could be visually intrusive on undeveloped skylines and alter the sense of tranquillity and remoteness associated with this landscape.
- Pressure for solar development on arable land which could be visually intrusive and alter the sense of tranquillity and remoteness associated with this landscape.
- Pressure for housing development and associated infrastructure including roads (especially along the eastern edge of Leicester), which is not always in keeping with local character may result in visual impacts and affect general perceptual qualities including tranquillity and dark skies.
- Incremental small-scale changes in the many small, historic villages and hamlets, could erode character.
- Extensions and alterations to individual properties (such as lighting or introduction of suburban style fencing and boundaries), plus increased demand for recreational land uses such as horse riding may cumulatively start to erode the perceived rural, remote character.
- Small scale change including diversification of redundant farm buildings and the gentrification of individual properties could erode the tranquil rural character.
- The rivers are a major source of water abstraction for domestic and commercial uses. Over abstraction can cause low flows in the summer which can result in pressures on water supply and quality. This threatens the natural resources of the river and their associated wetlands.

## Chapter 4 Forces for Change

- Nutrient neutrality offsetting related to new development may lead to changes in land use from arable to pasture, woodland and biomass crops which may have an effect on landscape character.
- Highway improvements may detract from remote and rural character, particularly on minor roads, and increasing vehicle numbers may lead to erosion of passing places on single track lanes.
- Public Rights of Way (PRoW) may be lost or negatively impacted by development.



# Chapter 5

## Classification

### Landscape character types and areas

**5.1** The updated landscape classification identifies ten generic landscape character types (LCTs), each representing a distinct identity and common geology, topography, land use and cultural pattern.

**5.2** The LCTs are subdivided into local landscape character areas (LCAs), which are discrete geographic areas that possess the characteristics described for the landscape type but have a recognisable local identity. The revised classification identifies 26 LCAs. These are listed below and shown, together with the LCTs on Figure 5.1 of this document.

**5.3** It is important to note that boundaries between one LCT or LCA and the next are transitional and there is rarely a clear-cut change 'on the ground'.

**5.4** This assessment has been mapped at a scale of 1:25,000 which provides an appropriate level of detail for the landscape character assessment at the strategic district scale. In considering any change in one character area the impact on views to/from and the character of neighbouring areas should also be considered.

## List of landscape character types and areas

### **Landscape Character Type 1: Farmed Plateau Ridge Tops**

- Landscape Character Area 1a: Tilton on the Hill and Skeffington

### **Landscape Character Type 2: Elevated Rolling Farmland**

- Landscape Character Area 2a: Marefield and Owston
- Landscape Character Area 2b: Hungarton and Lowesby Estates
- Landscape Character Area 2c: Houghton-on-the-Hill to Keyham
- Landscape Character Area 2d: Great Glen to Billesdon
- Landscape Character Area 2e: Shangton to East Langton

### **Landscape Character Type 3: Rolling Wooded Farmland**

- Landscape Character Area 3a: Loddington
- Landscape Character Area 3b: Rolleston to Allextton
- Landscape Character Area 3c: Horninghold and Stockerston

### **Landscape Character Type 4: Settled and Farmed Edge**

- Landscape Character Area 4a: Stoughton to Scraftoft
- Landscape Character Area 4b: Great Stretton to Newton Harcourt



## Landscape Character Type 5: Settled Vale

- Landscape Character Area 5a: Fleckney
- Landscape Character Area 5b: Kibworth
- Landscape Character Area 5c: Market Harborough
- Landscape Character Area 5d: Theddingworth

## Landscape Character Type 6: River Valley Slopes

- Landscape Character Area 6a: Hallaton to Stonton Wyville
- Landscape Character Area 6b: Medbourne to Eyebrook Reservoir

## Landscape Character Type 7: River Valley Floodplain

- Landscape Character Area 7a: Great Bowden to Welham
- Landscape Character Area 7b: Medbourne to Great Easton

## Landscape Character Type 8: Elevated Farmed Plateau

- Landscape Character Area 8a: Laughton and Mowsley
- Landscape Character Area 8b: Husbands Bosworth

## Landscape Character Type 9: Open Farmed Lowlands

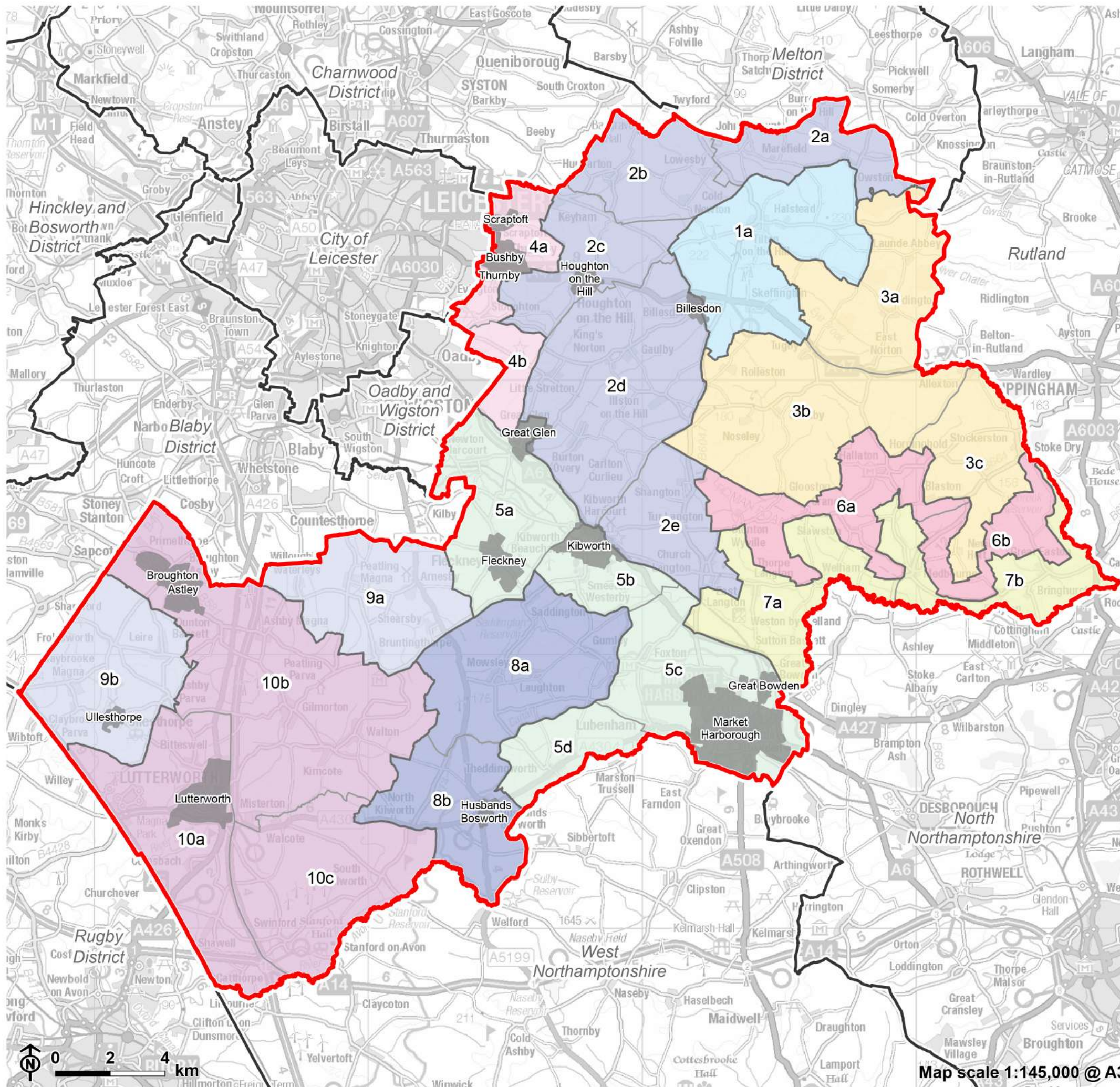
- Landscape Character Area 9a: Willoughby Waterleys to Shearsby
- Landscape Character Area 9b: Claybrooke Magna to Leire

## **Landscape Character Type 10: Transitional Rolling Farmland**

- Landscape Character Area 10a: Lutterworth to Catthorpe
- Landscape Character Area 10b: Gilmorton to Broughton Astley
- Landscape Character Area 10c: Walcote to Swinford and North Kilworth



**Figure 5.1: Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)**



- ▬ Harborough District Council
  - Neighbouring local authority
  - Settlement
- Landscape Character Assessment  
Landscape Character Types (LCT) and Areas (LCA)**
- LCT 1: Farmed Plateau Ridge Tops  
1a Tilton on the Hill and Skeffington
  - LCT 2: Rolling Tributary Farmland  
2a Marefield and Owston  
2b Hungarton and Lowesby Estates  
2c Houghton-on-the-Hill to Keyham  
2d Burton Overy to Billesdon  
2e Shangton to East Langton
  - LCT 3: Rolling Wooded Farmland  
3a Loddington  
3b Rolleston to Allexton  
3c Horninghold and Stockerston
  - LCT 4: Settled and Farmed Edge  
4a Stoughton to Scraptoft  
4b Great Stretton to Newton Harcourt
  - LCT 5: Settled Vale  
5a Fleckney  
5b Kibworth  
5c Market Harborough  
5d Theddingworth
  - LCT 6: River Valley Slopes  
6a Hallaton to Stonton Wyville  
6b Medbourne to Eyebrook Reservoir
  - LCT 7: River Valley Floodplain  
7a Great Bowden to Welham  
7b Medbourne to Great Easton
  - LCT 8: Elevated Farmed Plateau  
8a Laughton and Mowsley  
8b Husbands Bosworth
  - LCT 9: Open Farmed Lowlands  
9a Willoughby Waterleys to Shearsby  
9b Claybrooke Magna to Leire
  - LCT 10: Transitional Rolling Farmland  
10a Lutterworth to Catthorpe  
10b Gilmorton to Broughton Astley  
10c Walcote to Swinford and North Kilworth

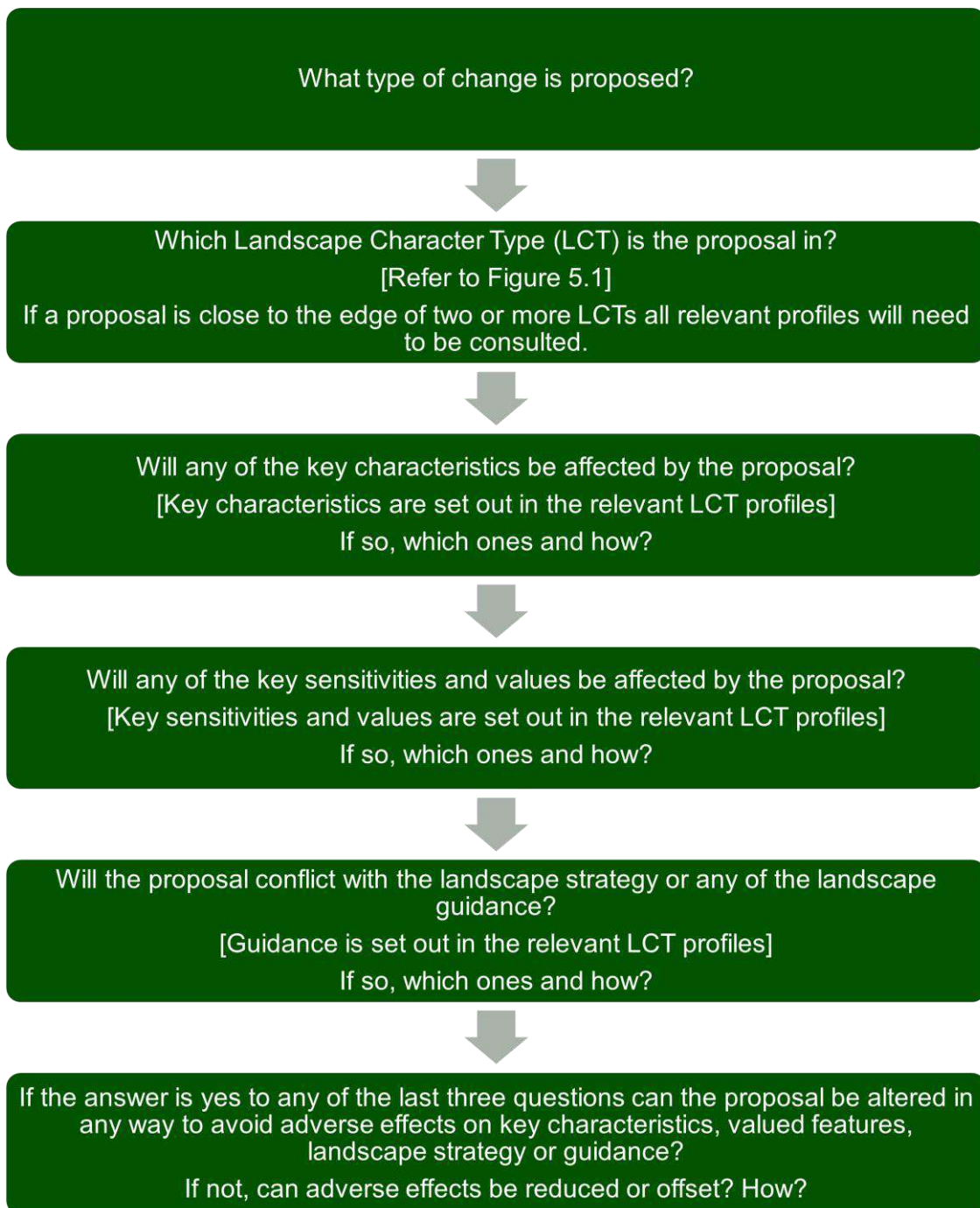
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# Appendix A

## User Guide

Figure A.1: User guide





## **Appendix B**

### Landscape Classification Links to Neighbouring Districts

#### **Landscape Character Type 1: Farmed Plateau Ridge Tops**

Landscape Character Area 1a: Tilton on the Hill and Skeffington

**B.1** No relationship to neighbouring districts.

#### **Landscape Character Type 2: Elevated Rolling Farmland**

Landscape Character Area 2a: Marefield and Owston

**B.2** Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Melton LCA 2006: High Leicestershire Hills (LCT/A 15)

## Landscape Character Area 2b: Hungarton and Lowesby Estates

### **B.3** Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Charnwood LCA 2012: High Leicestershire
- Melton LCA 2006: High Leicestershire Hills (LCT/A 15)

## Landscape Character Area 2c: Houghton-on-the-Hill to Keyham

### **B.4** Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Charnwood LCA 2012: High Leicestershire

## Landscape Character Area 2d: Great Glen to Billesdon

### **B.5** No relationship to neighbouring districts.

## Landscape Character Area 2e: Shangton to East Langton

### **B.6** No relationship to neighbouring districts.



## Landscape Character Type 3: Rolling Wooded Farmland

### Landscape Character Area 3a: Loddington

#### B.7 Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Rutland LCA 2022: Leighfield Forest (LCA Ai)
- Melton LCA 2006: Traditional Pasture (LCT/A 18)

### Landscape Character Area 3b: Rolleston to Allexton

#### B.8 Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Rutland LCA 2022: Leighfield Forest (LCA Ai)

### Landscape Character Area 3c: Horninghold and Stockerston

#### B.9 Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Rutland LCA 2022: Leighfield Forest (LCA Ai)

## Landscape Character Type 4: Settled and Farmed Edge

### Landscape Character Area 4a: Stoughton to Scraptoft

**B.10** Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Charnwood LCA 2012: High Leicestershire

### Landscape Character Area 4b: Great Stretton to Newton Harcourt

**B.11** Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Oadby and Wigston LCA 2018: Oadby and Wigston Vales (LCT A)
- Oadby and Wigston LCA 2018: Oadby and Wigston Green Wedge (Aiv)

## Landscape Character Type 5: Settled Vale

### Landscape Character Area 5a: Fleckney

**B.12** Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Oadby and Wigston LCA 2018: Wigston East (LCT A(v))
- Blaby LCA 2020: Kilby Rural Rolling Farmland (LCA 9)



- Blaby LCA 2020: Kilby Meadows (LCA 8)

## Landscape Character Area 5b: Kibworth

### **B.13** Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- No relationship to neighbouring districts

## Landscape Character Area 5c: Market Harborough

### **B.14** Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Northamptonshire Current LCA 2005: Broad Unwooded Vale (LCT 19)
- Northamptonshire Current LCA 2005: Wooded Clay Plateau (LCT 7)
- Northamptonshire Current LCA 2005: Undulating Hills and Valleys (LCT 13)

## Landscape Character Area 5d: Theddingworth

### **B.15** Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Northamptonshire Current LCA 2005: Broad Unwooded Vale (LCT 19)

## Landscape Character Type 6: River Valley Slopes

### Landscape Character Area 6a: Hallaton to Stonton Wyville

**B.16** No relationship to neighbouring districts.

### Landscape Character Area 6b: Medbourne to Eyebrook Reservoir

**B.17** Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Rutland LCA 2022: Leighfield Forest (LCA Ai)

## Landscape Character Type 7: River Valley Floodplain

### Landscape Character Area 7a: Great Bowden to Welham

**B.18** Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Northamptonshire Current LCA 2005: Broad River Valley Floodplain (LCT 18)



- Northamptonshire Current LCA 2005: Undulating Hills and Valleys (LCT 13)

## Landscape Character Area 7b: Medbourne to Great Easton

### **B.19** Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Northamptonshire Current LCA 2005: Broad River Valley Floodplain (LCT 18)
- Rutland LCA 2022: Eyebrook Basin (LCA Aiii)
- Rutland LCA 2022: Middle Valley West (Caldecott to Seaton) (LCA Ei)

## **Landscape Character Type 8: Elevated Farmed Plateau**

### Landscape Character Area 8a: Laughton and Mowsley

**B.20** No relationship to neighbouring districts.

### Landscape Character Area 8b: Husbands Bosworth

#### **B.21** Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Northamptonshire Current LCA 2005: Clay Plateau (LCT 5)

- Northamptonshire Current LCA 2005: Farmed Scarp Slopes (LCT 15)

## **Landscape Character Type 9: Open Farmed Lowlands**

### **Landscape Character Area 9a: Willoughby Waterleys to Shearsby**

#### **B.22** Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Blaby LCA 2020: Cosby and Whetstone Rolling Farmland (LCA 4)
- Blaby LCA 2020: Blaby, Countesthorpe and Whetstone Fringe (LCA 2)
- Blaby LCA 2020: Kilby Meadows (LCA 8)
- Blaby LCA 2020: Forston Open Farmland (LCA 7)
- Blaby LCA 2020: Kilby Rural Rolling Farmland (LCA 9)

### **Landscape Character Area 9b: Claybrooke Magna to Leire**

#### **B.23** Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Blaby LCA 2020: Soar Meadows (LCA 14)
- Blaby LCA 2020: Ason Flamville Wooded Farmland (LCA 1)
- Rugby LCA 2006: High Cross Plateau, Open Plateau



## Landscape Character Type 10: Transitional Rolling Farmland

### Landscape Character Area 10a: Lutterworth to Catthorpe

#### B.24 Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Rugby LCA 2006: High Cross Plateau, Open Plateau
- Northamptonshire Current LCA 2005: Broad Unwooded Vale (LCT 19)

### Landscape Character Area 10b: Gilmorton to Broughton Astley

#### B.25 Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Blaby LCA 2020: Stoney Stanton Rolling Farmland (LCA 15)
- Blaby LCA 2020: Croft Hill and Quarries (LCA 5)
- Blaby LCA 2020: Cosby Agricultural Parkland (LCA 3)
- Blaby LCA 2020: Cosby and Whetstone Rolling Farmland (LCA 4)

### Landscape Character Area 10c: Walcote to Swinford and North Kilworth

#### B.26 Relationship with neighbouring districts:

- Northamptonshire Current LCA 2005: Broad Unwooded Vale (LCT 19)

## Appendix C

### Landscape Classification Changes 2007 and 2024 LCAs

#### **2024 Landscape Character Type 1: Farmed Plateau Ridge Tops**

2024 Landscape Character Area 1a: Tilton on the Hill and Skeffington

C.1 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- High Leicestershire

#### **2024 Landscape Character Type 2: Elevated Rolling Farmland**

2024 Landscape Character Area 2a: Marefield and Owston

C.2 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- High Leicestershire



## 2024 Landscape Character Area 2b: Hungarton and Lowesby Estates

### **C.3** 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- High Leicestershire

## 2024 Landscape Character Area 2c: Houghton-on-the-Hill to Keyham

### **C.4** 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- High Leicestershire

## 2024 Landscape Character Area 2d: Great Glen to Billesdon

### **C.5** 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- High Leicestershire

## 2024 Landscape Character Area 2e: Shangton to East Langton

### **C.6** 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- High Leicestershire

## **2024 Landscape Character Type 3: Rolling Wooded Farmland**

### 2024 Landscape Character Area 3a: Loddington

#### C.7 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- High Leicestershire

### 2024 Landscape Character Area 3b: Rolleston to Allexton

#### C.8 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- High Leicestershire

### 2024 Landscape Character Area 3c: Horninghold and Stockerston

#### C.9 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- High Leicestershire



## **2024 Landscape Character Type 4: Settled and Farmed Edge**

### 2024 Landscape Character Area 4a: Stoughton to Scraptoft

**C.10** 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- High Leicestershire

### 2024 Landscape Character Area 4b: Great Stretton to Newton Harcourt

**C.11** 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- High Leicestershire

## **2024 Landscape Character Type 5: Settled Vale**

### 2024 Landscape Character Area 5a: Fleckney

**C.12** 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- Lutterworth Lowlands
- High Leicestershire

## 2024 Landscape Character Area 5b: Kibworth

### **C.13** 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- Welland Valley
- Lutterworth Lowlands

## 2024 Landscape Character Area 5c: Market Harborough

### **C.14** 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- Welland Valley
- Laughton Hills

## 2024 Landscape Character Area 5d: Theddingworth

### **C.15** 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- Welland Valley



## **2024 Landscape Character Type 6: River Valley Slopes**

### 2024 Landscape Character Area 6a: Hallaton to Stonton Wyville

C.16 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- High Leicestershire

### 2024 Landscape Character Area 6b: Medbourne to Eyebrook Reservoir

C.17 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- High Leicestershire

## **2024 Landscape Character Type 7: River Valley Floodplain**

### 2024 Landscape Character Area 7a: Great Bowden to Welham

C.18 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- Welland Valley
- High Leicestershire

## 2024 Landscape Character Area 7b: Medbourne to Great Easton

### C.19 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- Welland Valley
- High Leicestershire

## 2024 Landscape Character Type 8: Elevated Farmed Plateau

## 2024 Landscape Character Area 8a: Laughton and Mowsley

### C.20 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- Laughton Hills
- Lutterworth Lowlands

## 2024 Landscape Character Area 8b: Husbands Bosworth

### C.21 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- Leughton Hills
- Lutterworth Lowlands



## **2024 Landscape Character Type 9: Open Farmed Lowlands**

2024 Landscape Character Area 9a:  
Willoughby Waterleys to Shearsby

**C.22** 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- Lutterworth Lowlands

2024 Landscape Character Area 9b:  
Claybrooke Magna to Leire

**C.23** 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- Upper Soar
- Lutterworth Lowlands

## **2024 Landscape Character Type 10: Transitional Rolling Farmland**

2024 Landscape Character Area 10a:  
Lutterworth to Catthorpe

**C.24** 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- Lutterworth Lowlands

- Laughton Hills
- Upper Soar

## 2024 Landscape Character Area 10b: Gilmorton to Broughton Astley

### **C.25** 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- Lutterworth Lowlands
- Upper Soar
- Laughton Hills

## 2024 Landscape Character Area 10c: Walcote to Swinford and North Kilworth

### **C.26** 2007 Landscape Character Areas:

- Laughton Hills
- Lutterworth Lowlands



# References

- 1 [Natural England \(2014\) An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment](#)
- 2 [Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities \(2012, updated 2023\) National Planning Policy Framework](#)
- 3 [Natural England \(2014\) Natural England – National Character Area Profiles](#)
- 4 [Natural England \(2014\) An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment](#)
- 5 [Natural England \(2021\) Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land](#)
- 6 [Leicestershire County Council \(2019\) The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Historic Landscape Characterisation Project](#)

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