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Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Landscape Character Assessment

Final Report

Prepared by LUC

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PART 1



PREFACE

LUC was commissioned in November 2016 to review and update the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Landscape Character Assessment, published in 2006. The study has involved desk based assessment, consultation and field survey, providing a new and comprehensive assessment of the landscape character of the borough. It updates and replaces the previous 2006 assessment, comprising the following changes and additions:

- Updates the content of the document, and adds detail to the landscape descriptions and evaluations;
- Reviews the character area boundaries to ensure that boundaries remain appropriate in the light of landscape change and follow defined features on the ground;
- Updates the section on policy to reflect the changes brought about by the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);
- Updates the content and structure to reflect Natural England's 2014 'Approach to Landscape Character Assessment';
- Includes an assessment of valued features and qualities;
- Is informed by stakeholder consultation;
- Includes character types as well as areas;
- Includes four additional Urban Character Area assessments for Stoke Golding, Thornton, Bagworth and Barlestone; and
- Updates all maps and photographs.

Hinckley and Bosworth is a predominantly rural borough with a high quality, varied and distinctive landscape. It is of great historic importance and includes the site of the Bosworth Battlefield, intact medieval field patterns and areas which retain a strong sense of tranquillity. Part of the National Forest falls within the borough, as does Charnwood Forest and there are many areas of biodiversity interest, existing predominantly as isolated sites within the wider landscape. There are no national landscape designations and it is these subtle qualities and local values which need to be conserved, enhanced and managed.

The landscape of the borough has been assessed and divided into ten landscape character areas based on their physical, cultural, natural and perceptual characteristics. It is important to note that the boundaries between the character areas are defined by lines drawn at a scale of 1:25,000 but in reality there are often areas of transition in between. Fourteen of the larger settlements have been described and evaluated (the borough's urban areas and key rural centres).

INTRODUCTION

1) INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council commissioned LUC in November 2016 to review and update the existing Landscape Character Assessment (2006). The Landscape Character Assessment is intended to provide context for policies and proposals for the next Local Plan period: 2016-2036, inform the determination of planning applications, and inform the management of future change, as well as inform Local and Neighbourhood Development Plan policy development.

Objectives of the Landscape Character Assessment

- 1.2 Landscape Character Assessment is a tool that emerged in the 1980s as a process by which to define the character of the landscape – i.e. what makes one area distinct or different from another. The Character Areas cover the whole borough including rural (landscape) character areas and settlements (urban) character areas.
- 1.3 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 quality of the Hinckley and Bosworth landscape can continue to be celebrated, creating places that people can be proud of. Understanding of character helps to ensure that changes or development does not undermine what is valued or characteristic in a particular landscape or townscape. This is pertinent in the context of the development pressures, primarily the need for new housing.
- 1.4 The aim of this document is therefore to help ensure the retention and, where possible, the enhancement of the character of the borough for current and future generations.

***PART 1** presents the introduction and the character assessments, comprising:*

- **Section 1** which presents the introduction;

- **Section 2** which presents a borough character overview, describing the formative influences on the landscape and townscape of Hinckley and Bosworth;
- **Section 3** which presents the figures;
- **Section 4** which presents a user guide;
- **Section 5** which presents the landscape character areas; and
- **Section 6** which presents the urban character areas.

***PART 2** presents the background and approach to the landscape character assessment comprising:*

- **Section 7** which sets out the policy framework context;
- **Section 8** which describes how the assessment fits with other landscape character assessments; and
- **Section 9** which presents the methodology.

- 1.5 The report is supported by the following appendices:

- **Appendix 1** which provides a glossary of terms and technical jargon;
- **Appendix 2** which details the responses from the two stakeholder workshops undertaken during the assessment process;
- **Appendix 3** which shows a sample field survey sheet that was used during the field visits; and
- **Appendix 4** which presents a bibliography and references used throughout the report.

BOROUGH CHARACTER OVERVIEW

2) BOROUGH CHARACTER OVERVIEW

2.1 Hinckley and Bosworth is a predominantly rural borough with a high quality, varied and distinctive landscape. It is of great historic importance and includes the site of the Bosworth Battlefield as well as areas retaining a strong sense of tranquillity. Part of the National Forest falls within the borough, as does Charnwood Forest. There are no national landscape designations such as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or National Parks and so it is the subtle qualities of the local landscape character and local values which add to sense of place, that it is so important to conserve, enhance and manage.

2.2 The distinctive landscape character of the borough arises from the varying combination of natural and cultural elements, particularly topography, geology and land use.

PHYSICAL INFLUENCES

Geology

2.3 The bedrock geology of the area is shown on **Figure 1** and consists predominantly of Mercia Mudstone with other occasional areas of sandstone and coal measures and superficial geology of alluvium relating to river valleys, and glacial till overlying the bedrock. Carboniferous coal measures extend into the borough from the north, although within the borough these are predominantly concealed beneath the Mercia Mudstone; the concealed coal measures contain deposits of clay which have been used in the production of bricks and tiles.

2.4 The Precambrian rocks of Charnwood to the north-east are very distinctive, and are separated from the area of Carboniferous coal measures by the Thringstone Fault, though this is not a visible feature on the ground. Precambrian rocks have been folded to form areas of outcrops interrupted by faulting and partially obscured by the Mercia Mudstone. The rocks consist of a complex mix of slates, sandstones and breccias with plutonic igneous rocks in the south. The folded landform has created ridges of thin infertile soils supporting heathland over Precambrian Ordovician with valleys containing the more fertile soils over the Mercia Mudstone. The folds run northwest to southeast and the drainage therefore also follows this pattern.

2.5 In contrast to the Charnwood area, the landform to the west is lower lying, and also dominated by Triassic Mercia Mudstone overlaid by glacial till.

Soils

2.6 The soils throughout the borough are varied but with large areas of permeable, reddish, fine loamy over clayey soils in the form of a broad strip through the centre of the area, running north to south. These mix with finer, silty soils to the east. These fine soils are also found predominantly in the west, but with areas of alluvial stoneless soils associated with watercourses.

2.7 There is an area of deep coarse loamy soil in the central eastern part of the borough on south facing slopes, and in the southwest, an area of calcareous clayey soils around Higham on the Hill. Small pockets of deep, well drained coarse, loamy soils over gravel can be found to the south east around Earl Shilton, and in the west by Wellborough and Twycross.

Topography & Hydrology

2.8 Topography is shown on **Figure 2**. There is a marked contrast in topography across the borough from the steep, high ground of the Charnwood Forest area in the north-east, to the flat lowlands of the Sence Valley in the south west.

2.9 The landform in the north east of the borough comprises steep upland slopes and high points reaching over 230m AOD around Copt Oak and Rise Rocks Farm to the north of M1 Junction 22. The landform falls to the south with fairly steep valleys around the River Soar tributaries. The central part of the borough consists of undulating land with heights varying from 140m AOD to 80m AOD across even slopes. There is a further high point to the west around Twycross where the land reaches 130m AOD, but generally the landform is fairly flat with gentle slopes and heights varying from 60m AOD to 110m AOD. This flatter topography surrounds the River Sence tributaries.

2.10 The River Sence flows southwest out of the borough with the network of tributaries flowing through low land creating a generally wide river valley landscape of predominantly flat land to the west. The River Mease also has a marginal influence on the area as tributaries flow from an

area of higher ground in the west around Twycross, flowing north through lower flat ground. In contrast, in the northeast from Thornton and near Groby, tributaries of the River Soar flow through steeper valleys before again reaching flatter land towards the edge of the borough boundary towards Leicester.

Biodiversity

- 2.11 Recent studies¹ have shown that Leicestershire is amongst the poorest counties in the UK for sites of recognised nature conservation value.
- 2.12 The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)², updated in 2016 identifies nineteen Priority Habitats which are to be the focus of local conservation concern. Eight of these are currently present within Hinckley and Bosworth, namely: coastal and floodplain grazing marsh; deciduous woodland; good quality semi-improved grassland; lowland dry acid grassland; lowland fens; lowland heathland; lowland meadows; and traditional orchard.
- 2.13 The BAP intends to halt the loss of biodiversity by promoting restoration, management and creation of BAP priority habitats; promoting creation of new wildlife habitats in the wider countryside; and survey, monitor and promote favourable management of existing good sites through the Local Wildlife Sites system³.

Woodland

- 2.14 Woodland is shown on **Figure 3**. It is mainly concentrated within the Charnwood Forest area in the north-east of the borough where there are areas of ancient semi-natural woodland and ancient replanted woodland. The north-eastern part of the borough is on the edge of Charnwood Forest, with the National Forest also stretching into the north-east of the borough from the north.
- 2.15 The Charnwood Forest is an area recognised in planning policy spanning parts of three district authorities – Charnwood Borough, North-West Leicestershire District and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough. It contains an extensive area of semi-natural woodland and other tree habitats in the

north east of the borough. Oak woods are the most characteristic and can be found in old woodlands, whilst Alder woods are frequent along streams within small areas of wet woodland. Large mature specimens are also common throughout the area, as too is willow dominated scrub around open water and quarries.

- 2.16 The National Forest extends across an ever growing area of the Midlands including but not limited to the Charnwood Forest in the north east part of Hinckley and Bosworth. It is a large scale landscape initiative that seeks to create new woodland habitats that support a diverse range of wildlife. Woodland cover is likely to change further as the National Forest develops and increases in size. There are a number of existing plantations which will continue to mature and prosper as part of the updated National Forest Strategy 2014 – 2024, as well new woodlands being put into management.
- 2.17 Mature parkland trees, and tree avenues are associated with Market Bosworth and the Bosworth Battlefield site in the centre of the borough, as well as some larger blocks of woodland in the north-west of the borough associated with the Gopsall estate. There are areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland in the south-east of the borough around Burbage Common and Woods.
- 2.18 Hedgerows are common field boundaries, and generally consist of native mixed species. In some areas such as around Twycross, hedgerows have been removed altogether and ditches act as field boundaries; this is also true around Kirby Mallory where hedgerows have been removed along roadsides. Hedgerow trees are a common feature, often clumped together and in combination with topography, give an overall well treed appearance providing enclosure with limited views. This is especially true in the central northern area of the borough around Barton-in-the-Beans.

HUMAN INFLUENCES

Historic Influences

- 2.19 Throughout the borough there is evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman occupation. At Barwell, relics from Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman settlements were found especially around the site of St Mary's Church. Watling Street Roman Road now forms the A5 which borders the borough to the south. Around Charnwood, the local stone was used for Neolithic hand axes. Evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlements comes

¹

http://www.lrwt.org.uk/media/uploads/miscellaneous/leicestershire_and_rutland_key_facts.pdf

² In 1992, at the 'Earth Summit' in Rio de Janeiro, the UK Government signed the Biodiversity Convention. This was followed up by the publication of Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan, in 1994, with the stated goal 'to conserve and enhance biological diversity in the UK ...'. One way this is to be achieved is through Local Biodiversity Action Plans, which aim to focus resources to conserve and enhance biodiversity by means of local partnerships, taking account of national and local priorities.

³ <http://www.lrwt.org.uk/what-we-do/biodiversity-action-plan/>

from names which end in 'ton' or 'worth' such as Osbaston and Bagworth.

- 2.20 A number of places have Scandinavian connections which is evident from their names. For example, Ratby and Groby are likely to be Danish agricultural settlements as they tended to be sited on hilltops and included 'by' in their names. Cadby is probably a Danish settlement whose name meant 'Cadders Town'.

Norman and Medieval

- 2.21 During Norman and Medieval periods it would appear that a number of significant buildings were constructed including a Norman castle in Hinckley, Newbold Verdon's St James' Church and St Martin's Church in Desford dates back to the 13th century. In Ratby, the parish Church of St Phillip and St James has a Norman tower, although the main body of the church is 14th century.
- 2.22 When the Domesday Book was assembled in 1086, the borough was fairly thinly populated. To the west, scattered villages were located on higher ground overlooking open fields and nucleated villages surrounded by open land existed in the east. It is likely that Charnwood would have been used for grazing and woodland, although some areas would have been cleared to form heathland. The small market town of Hinckley was mentioned, as was Newbold and Cadeby, Shakerstone (Sacrestone), Barwell (Berryall) and Desford (Deresford or Diresford).
- 2.23 Desford had associations with the royal hunting forest, Leicester Forest, within which people had important rights of common. Other areas of open common land existed and a medieval park was sited at Bagworth. Deer parks such as those located at Groby were enlarged and much of the associated land was open and used for grazing.
- 2.24 Market Bosworth received its market charter in 1285. The town is most famous for its associations with the Battle of Bosworth, which took place on 22 August 1485, when Richard III was killed during battle with Henry Tudor. The original Bosworth Hall was also built at this time.

Post-medieval

- 2.25 The character of the landscape in the north changed substantially as a result of the Enclosures. Areas which had previously had open farmed field strips were now bounded by hedgerows. At this time the mining industry arrived in the northern parts of the borough with active mining occurring at Newbold by 1520. In the 16th century land was also bought up to form large estates which developed into the

landscape parks and country houses which formed a significant feature in the landscape. These estates include Bosworth Hall and the Gopsall Estate.

- 2.26 By the 17th century the hosiery industry was established with the invention of the stocking frame and settlements such as Hinckley became home to knitters who mainly worked from their backyards. Jitties, passages and courtyards still found within the town date back to this era. Other places remained predominately agriculturally based, with open field strips still being farmed and large areas used for pasture. The hosiery trade took a while to reach some places and villages such as Ratby and Desford were not working in the trade until towards the end of the 18th century.

18th century

- 2.27 It was not until the 18th century that land in the west and east of the borough was finally enclosed. The rectilinear field pattern formed in the west is still visible today. In the east, quarrying began extensively around Charnwood where the stone was extracted and used to produce setts. Slate quarrying was common for a while although this soon declined due to competition from Wales. Large houses with landscape parks were built into the south and east and some of the local villages were rebuilt using the local stone.
- 2.28 Another major feature of this time was the construction of the Ashby Canal. Originally, the 1781 canal proposals were for a complex scheme which would run from the River Trent at Burton to Marston Junction at Bedworth. This was eventually greatly simplified after early disagreements, and a design was finally agreed which consisted of a 30mile canal from Marston Junction to Ashby de la Zouch. Construction began on the canal in 1794 and after a succession of engineers including Robert Whitworth and his son, Thomas Newbold and William Crossley, the canal finally reached Market Bosworth in 1798.

19th century

- 2.29 During the 19th century the Industrial Revolution and its wealth affected the growth of many villages. The knitwear industry established specialist factories in Hinckley, and factory owners contributed to public and civic buildings including the library and bank. Together with the growing boot and shoe industry this led to the expansion of the town, with many new red brick factories being built.

2.30 Coal mining came to other areas including Nailstone, Desford and Bagworth where the pit remained open until 1991. The development of the coal mining industry is partly related to the arrival of the railway. The third oldest rail line in the country, which ran from Leicester to Swannington and passed through Ratby, Desford and Bagworth, was constructed with Robert Stephenson as engineer. The line was built to carry coal to Leicester from the Leicestershire Coalfield, and this attracted coal merchants and quarrymen to the area. The trains also carried passengers until 1964.

2.31 The railway also had an impact on the Ashby Canal. The full length of the canal was opened in 1804 and was primarily used for moving coal, although it suffered initially as the coal was of poor quality. However, new mines were opened in the 1820s and the canal prospered. The waterway was bought by the Midland Railway company in 1845 with clauses included which ensured the appropriate maintenance of the canal.

20th century

2.32 The 20th century had a major impact on the landscape and character of the borough through the rapid expansion of settlements and more recently, the addition of major new infrastructure features such as the M1. Hinckley altered greatly with new developments, not always in sympathy with the existing character, and there was a major change in the street pattern. Holycroft Park opened in 1936 and included typical features such as a bandstand, pavilion, railings and gates, and formal planting which still remain.

2.33 The Ashby Canal suffered greatly from mining subsidence, which ultimately led to the closure and loss of the top third. A new section was built in 1919 from Moira, but complex issues between the rail company and the Coventry Canal company meant that maintenance ceased and the top section from Moira to Donisthorpe was soon abandoned.

Land Use

2.34 The borough is predominantly rural; larger built-up settlements tend to be located towards the south and east, and the remainder of the borough is largely open farmland.

2.35 Agriculture is a mixture of arable and pasture, with arable fields more common on flatter and higher ground such as around Norton-Juxta-Twycross in the west, whilst pasture is often associated with parkland, such as at Gopsall and around Market Bosworth, and around villages.

Field patterns vary, with arable fields usually medium-large in scale and pasture fields small-medium, with a concentration of smaller field patterns around settlements. Field boundaries are predominantly mixed or single species hedges with hedgerow trees. Ditches are often present alongside roads.

2.36 Recreational land use is a common feature of the landscape, with publicly accessible woodlands found in the east and central areas, and common land concentrated near Burbage. The Ashby Canal provides a linear recreation feature which runs north/south through the borough and Twycross Zoo and Mallory Park Motor Circuit at Kirkby Mallory provide significant visitor attractions. Country Parks in reclaimed mineral workings and new woodland plantations are present in the north of the borough as part of the National Forest.

2.37 Industrial land uses are predominantly located adjacent to urban areas, for example around the south and west side of Hinckley. Rural employment developments include the MIRA vehicle proving ground at Higham on the Hill, and Caterpillar (UK) Ltd near Desford. Quarrying is still carried out in the northwest of the borough at Cliffe Hill, near Stanton Under Bardon.

Settlements

2.38 Key settlements are shown on **Figure 4**. Larger settlements are located in the south-east of the borough, with a dispersed settlement pattern of smaller, scattered villages in the west.

2.39 Hinckley, Burbage, Earl Shilton and Barwell collectively form a relatively large urban concentration towards the south of the borough, located close to major transport routes such as the M69 and the A5. These settlements grew up around the hosiery and knitwear industry and boot and shoe trade.

2.40 Leicester City is located east of the borough, with good road connections to the M1, M69 and A46 and A50. The settlements of Groby, Ratby and Markfield have consequently expanded in the northeast of the borough, lying close to Leicester. These villages were historically agricultural settlements which progressed from the knitting trade to quarrying and mining.

2.41 In the centre of the borough are smaller settlements including Newbold Verdon and Desford which grew up around the local knitting industry before expanding further with the development of the coal industry. Thornton, Bagworth and Nailstone also have connections to mining and quarrying. Market Bosworth, a rural

market town uniquely associated with the Battle of Bosworth which took place nearby, retains its historic character with Bosworth Hall and its parkland setting.

- 2.42 The settlement pattern in the western part of the borough is one of smaller communities and villages sparsely distributed with scattered farms. These villages have historic connections primarily with agriculture and are also associated with local historic estates such as Gopsall Park.
- 2.43 A number of large houses are located throughout the borough, including Shenton Hall, Odstone Hall, Bosworth Hall and Osbaston Hall.

Settlement Pattern and Built Style

- 2.44 The pattern of settlements is generally either clustered around crossroads or linear, along roads. In some cases, the original form of the settlement has been lost due to recent development but the historic pattern is still evident in places such as Bagworth, Thornton and Market Bosworth.
- 2.45 Red brick is the predominant building material although in the northeast, within the area associated with quarrying, local stone is used as a feature. This can be seen in and around Markfield, Ratby and Groby where buildings are wholly or partly constructed from granite.
- 2.46 Local vernacular details include arched window frames, with other features relating specifically to the history and local industry of specific buildings – for example knitters required light to work, and consequently windows in knitters workshops tended to be larger than average. Examples of this can be found in Ratby, Barwell and Earl Shilton. Lord Howe of the Gopsall Estate had a liking for eyebrow dormer windows and many buildings within the estate include this detail.

Infrastructure

- 2.47 Key roads and railways are shown on **Figure 4**. Infrastructure has had a great impact on the form and location of settlements. Major transport routes pass through the borough including road, rail and canal, which all provide good connections further afield. Generally there is a trend for routes to pass north-south through the borough, with a particular concentration to the east.
- 2.48 The M1 heads north through the northeast part of the borough and this connects to the M69 at Leicester which then runs south and passes close to Hinckley and Burbage. The Roman Road of Watling Street, the A5, forms the southern boundary of the borough and links the area with

towns such as Tamworth and Daventry before heading to Milton Keynes in the south. 'A' roads provide links into Leicester and Nuneaton, via the A47, whilst the A444 and A447 both provide a link to northern areas and the M/A42 which passes to the west of the borough. Settlements are linked by minor roads and lanes and there is a pattern across the borough with a more complex network of routes towards the major settlements to the east and fewer roads located in the west where settlements are smaller and more dispersed.

- 2.49 There are three railway lines that pass through the borough. The Birmingham to Leicester line passes through Hinckley itself and the former Leicester to Swannington railway line passes through to the east but is now only used to transport freight. The Battlefield Line is run as a tourist attraction and runs steam trains from Shakerstone in the north, past Market Bosworth, to terminate at Shenton Station, near Bosworth Battlefield.
- 2.50 The Ashby Canal provides a historical route through the borough. The 22 mile canal begins at Marston Junction near Coventry and heads north passing through Hinckley and past Market Bosworth but never actually reaches Ashby. The canal passes through a predominantly flat rural landscape and was designed as a contour level canal to not require locks. It provides a route for boaters, cyclists and pedestrians and links to a number of attractions within the area, including the National Forest Discovery Centre - 'Conkers'.

- 2.51 **Figure 5** shows light pollution across the borough. This gives an indication of the relative darkness of night skies, an indicator of tranquillity or remoteness. Areas of more concentrated settlement in the east of the borough have higher levels of light pollution, with areas in the west of the borough characterised by more extensive dark night skies.

DESIGNATIONS

- 2.52 Designations most relevant to landscape character are described below and shown on **Figure 6**.

Green Wedges

- 2.53 The Green Wedge designation originates at County Structure Plan level and is applied to areas of strategic open land within the borough which provide physical separation between built up areas and therefore protect the individual identities of these communities. These areas are safeguarded against development, and initiatives which aim to maintain and improve their open

character are encouraged by the Borough Council. Green Wedges are located at the following locations:

- Hinckley/Barwell/Earl Shilton/Burbage; and
- Rothley Brook Meadow.

Country Parks

- 2.54 Country Parks are designated and managed by local authorities in England under the Countryside Act 1968 and are primarily intended for recreation and leisure opportunities; they do not necessarily have nature conservation importance. Some parks and open spaces in the borough are maintained by the relevant parish or town councils. There are five designated Country Parks in the borough: Bagworth Heath Woods; Bosworth Battlefield Country Park; Burbage Common and Woods; and Market Bosworth Country Park.

Ecological Designations

- 2.55 Ecological designations are protected at both the national level and the local level. Local nature designations are protected by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council local policies. These include Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites shown on **Figure 6**.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

- 2.56 SSSI's are a national designation, designated by English Nature under the Wildlife and

Countryside Act 1981, in order to protect important wildlife and geological sites. Within Hinckley & Bosworth there are seven designated SSSIs, the largest of which is the Ashby Canal, which is also a designated Conservation Area. The seven SSSIs are: Ashby Canal; Botcheston Bog; Burbage Wood and Aston Firs; Cliffe Hill Quarry; Groby Pool and Woods; Kendall's Meadow; and Sheepy Fields.

Heritage Designations

Bosworth Registered Battlefield

- 2.57 This registered battlefield is located at the centre of the borough and marks the site of the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. It is registered for its historical importance, topographic integrity, archaeological potential and its technical significance. The Battle of Bosworth was an iconic event in English history, which saw the death of the last English king in battle and the Tudor dynasty claim the throne. Whilst agricultural land management has inevitably changed since then, the battlefield remains largely undeveloped and permits the site of encampments and the course of the battle to be appreciated. It was one of the earliest battles in England for which there is clear evidence of great use of artillery and recent investigation has highlighted that the area still retains material that can further understanding of the battle.

FIGURES

3) FIGURES

3.1 The supporting figures to the Landscape Character Assessment are as follows:

- **Figure 1: Geology**
- **Figure 2: Topography**
- **Figure 3: Woodland**
- **Figure 4: Settlement**
- **Figure 5: Light Pollution**
- **Figure 6: Landscape Designations**
- **Figure 7: Landscape Character and Types**

Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment

Figure 1: Geology

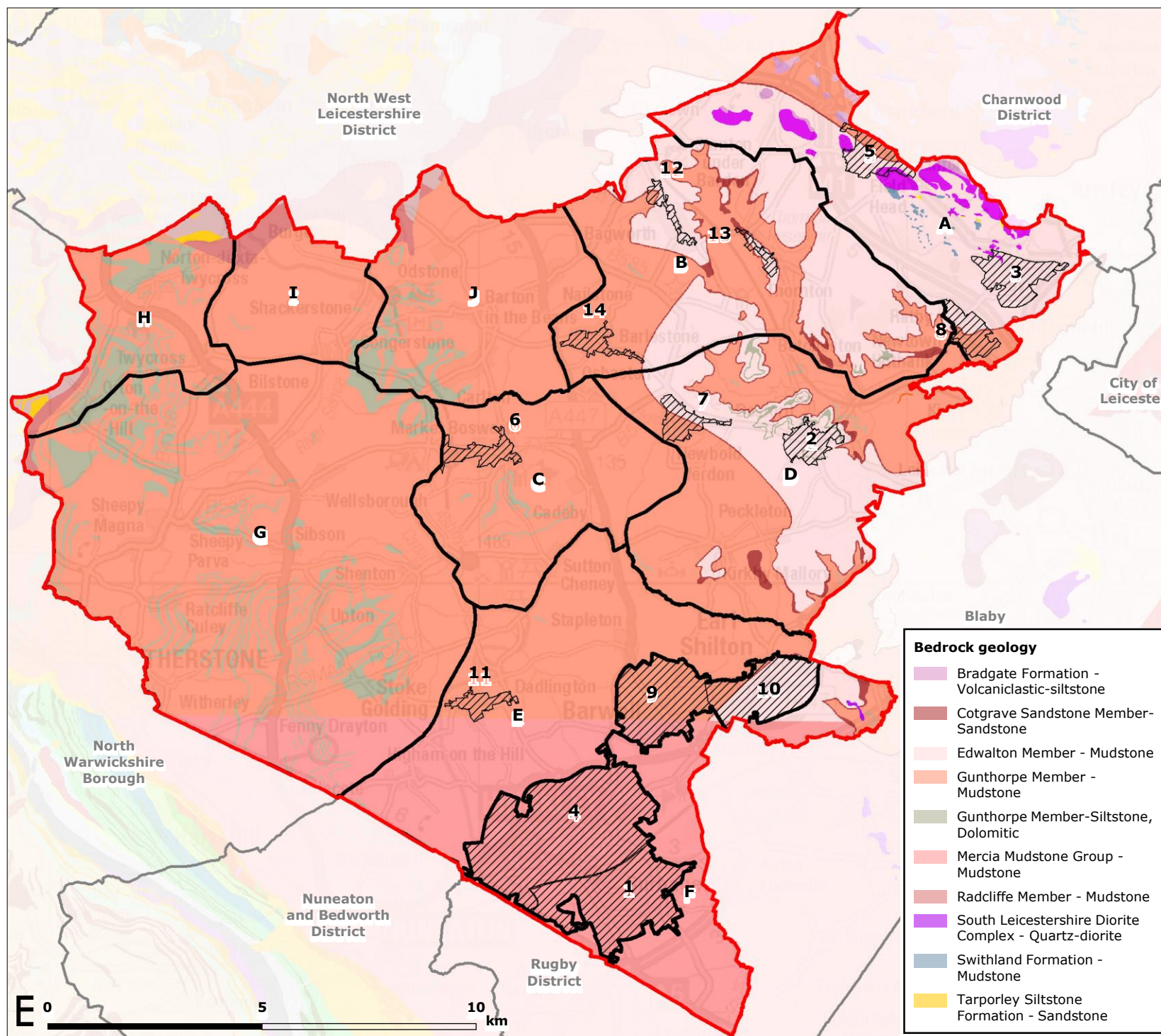
- Hinckley and Bosworth district boundary
 - Surrounding district
 - Urban Character Area
- 1: Burbage
 - 2: Desford
 - 3: Groby
 - 4: Hinckley
 - 5: Markfield
 - 6: Market Bosworth
 - 7: Newbold Verdon
 - 8: Ratby
 - 9: Barwell
 - 10: Earl Shilton
 - 11: Stoke Golding
 - 12: Bagworth
 - 13: Thornton
 - 14: Barlestone
- Landscape Character Area

- A - Charnwood Forest Settled Forest Hills
- B - Charnwood Fringe Settled Forest Hills
- C - Bosworth Parkland
- D - Newbold and Desford Rolling Farmland
- E - Stoke Golding Rolling Farmland
- F - Burbage Common Rolling Farmland
- G - Sence Lowlands
- H - Twycross Open Farmland
- I - Gopsall Parkland
- J - Barton Village Farmlands

Map Scale: 1:125,000 @ A4

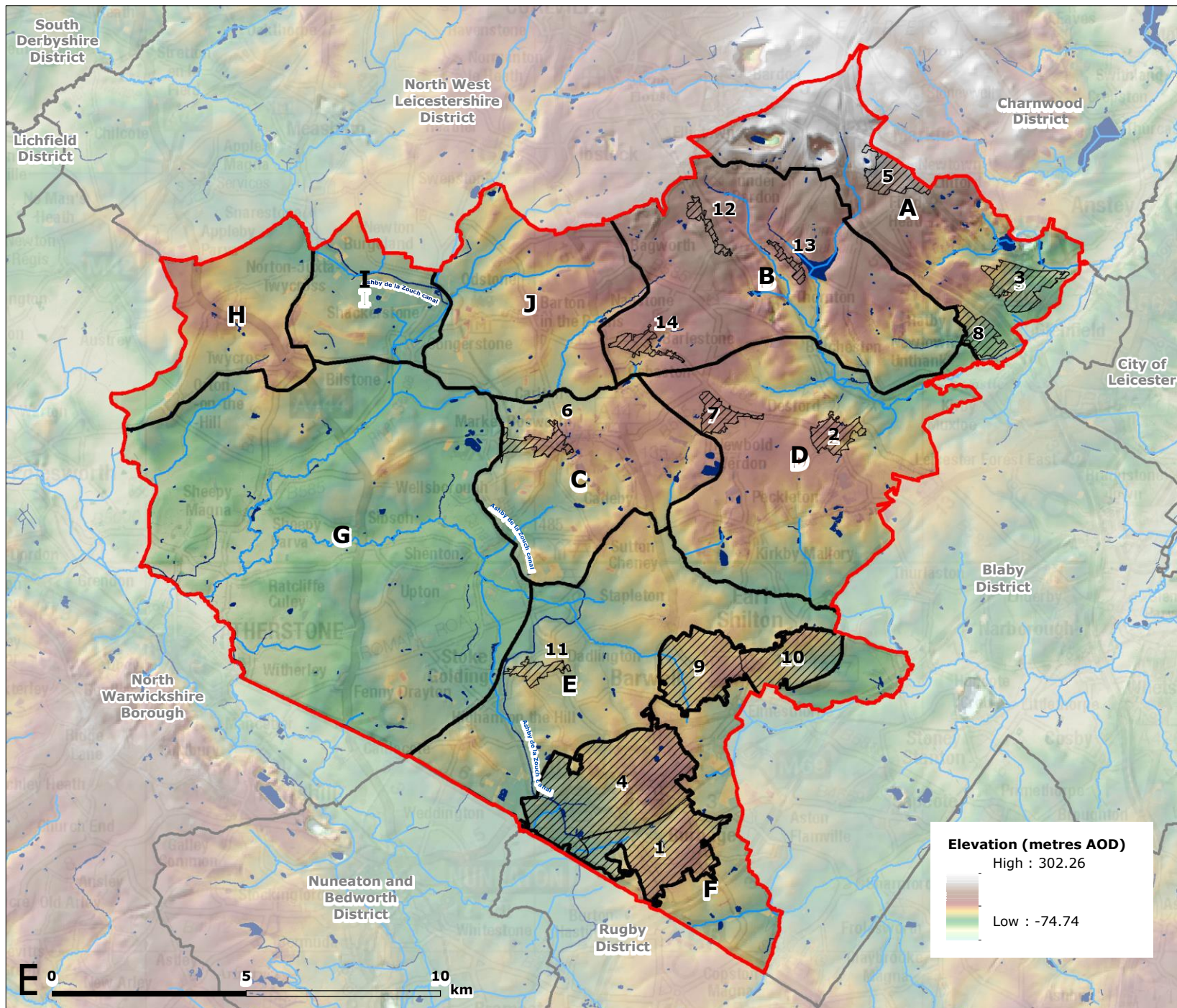


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Bedrock geology

- Bradgate Formation - Volcaniclastic-siltstone
- Cotgrave Sandstone Member-Sandstone
- Edwalton Member - Mudstone
- Gunthorpe Member - Mudstone
- Gunthorpe Member-Siltstone, Dolomitic
- Mercia Mudstone Group - Mudstone
- Radcliffe Member - Mudstone
- South Leicestershire Diorite Complex - Quartz-diorite
- Swithland Formation - Mudstone
- Tarporely Siltstone Formation - Sandstone



Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment

Figure 2: Topography

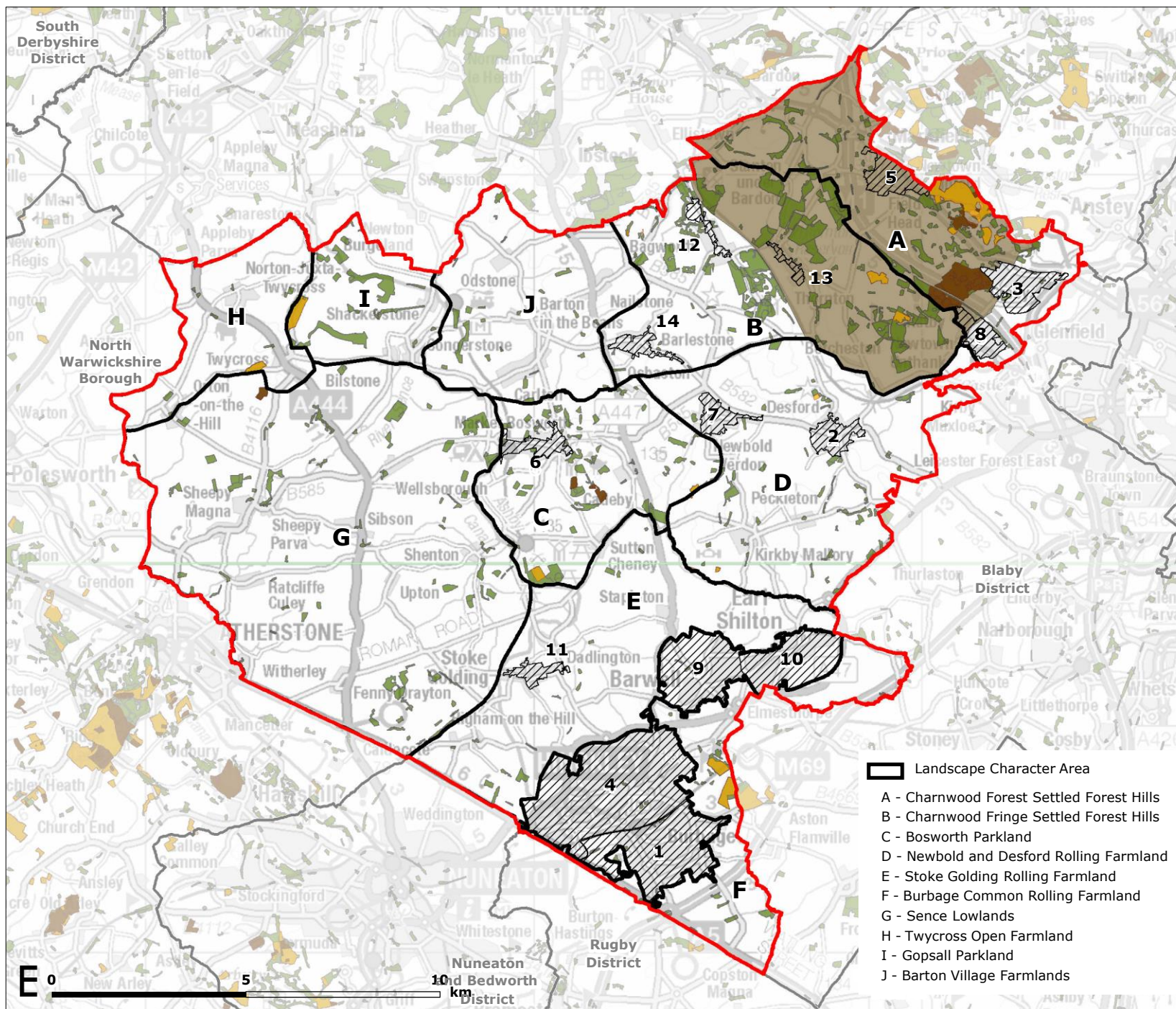
- Hinckley and Bosworth District boundary
- Watercourses
- Surface water
- Urban Character Area

- 1: Burbage
 - 2: Desford
 - 3: Groby
 - 4: Hinckley
 - 5: Markfield
 - 6: Market Bosworth
 - 7: Newbold Verdon
 - 8: Ratby
 - 9: Barwell
 - 10: Earl Shilton
 - 11: Stoke Golding
 - 12: Bagworth
 - 13: Thornton
 - 14: Barlestone
- Landscape Character Area
- A - Charnwood Forest Settled Forest Hills
 - B - Charnwood Fringe Settled Forest Hills
 - C - Bosworth Parkland
 - D - Newbold and Desford Rolling Farmland
 - E - Stoke Golding Rolling Farmland
 - F - Burbage Common Rolling Farmland
 - G - Sence Lowlands
 - H - Twycross Open Farmland
 - I - Gopsall Parkland
 - J - Barton Village Farmlands

Map Scale: 1:140,000 @ A4

Source: OS





Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment

Figure 3: Woodland

- Hinckley and Bosworth District boundary
- Charnwood Forest
- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
- Ancient Replanted Woodland
- National Forest - Woodland
- Urban Character Area

- 1: Burbage
- 2: Desford
- 3: Groby
- 4: Hinckley
- 5: Markfield
- 6: Market Bosworth
- 7: Newbold Verdon
- 8: Ratby
- 9: Barwell
- 10: Earl Shilton
- 11: Stoke Golding
- 12: Bagworth
- 13: Thornton
- 14: Barlestone

Landscape Character Area

- A - Charnwood Forest Settled Forest Hills
- B - Charnwood Fringe Settled Forest Hills
- C - Bosworth Parkland
- D - Newbold and Desford Rolling Farmland
- E - Stoke Golding Rolling Farmland
- F - Burbage Common Rolling Farmland
- G - Sence Lowlands
- H - Twycross Open Farmland
- I - Gopsall Parkland
- J - Barton Village Farmlands

Map Scale: 1:140,000 @ A4



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment

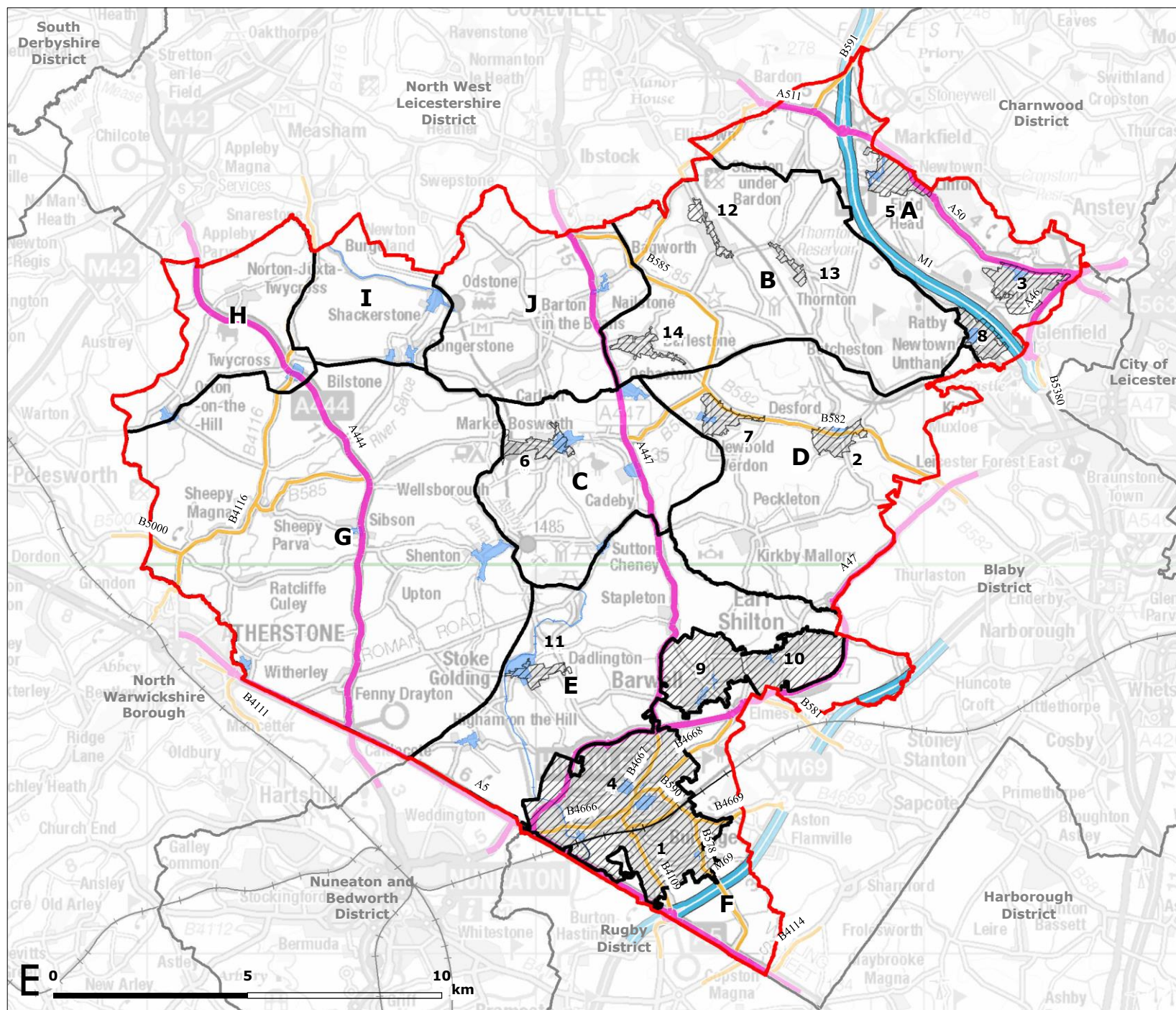
Figure 4: Settlement

- Hinckley and Bosworth District boundary
 - Railway
 - A Road
 - B Road
 - Motorway
 - Conservation Area
 - Urban Character Area
- 1: Burbage
 - 2: Desford
 - 3: Groby
 - 4: Hinckley
 - 5: Markfield
 - 6: Market Bosworth
 - 7: Newbold Verdon
 - 8: Ratby
 - 9: Barwell
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Map Scale: 1:140,000 @ A4



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Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment

Figure 5: Light Pollution

- Legend:**
- ▬ Hinckley and Bosworth District boundary
 - ▬ Landscape Character Area
- Landscape Character Areas:**
- A - Charnwood Forest Settled Forest Hills
 - B - Charnwood Fringe Settled Forest Hills
 - C - Bosworth Parkland
 - D - Newbold and Desford Rolling Farmland
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Night Lights

(NanoWatts / cm² / sr)

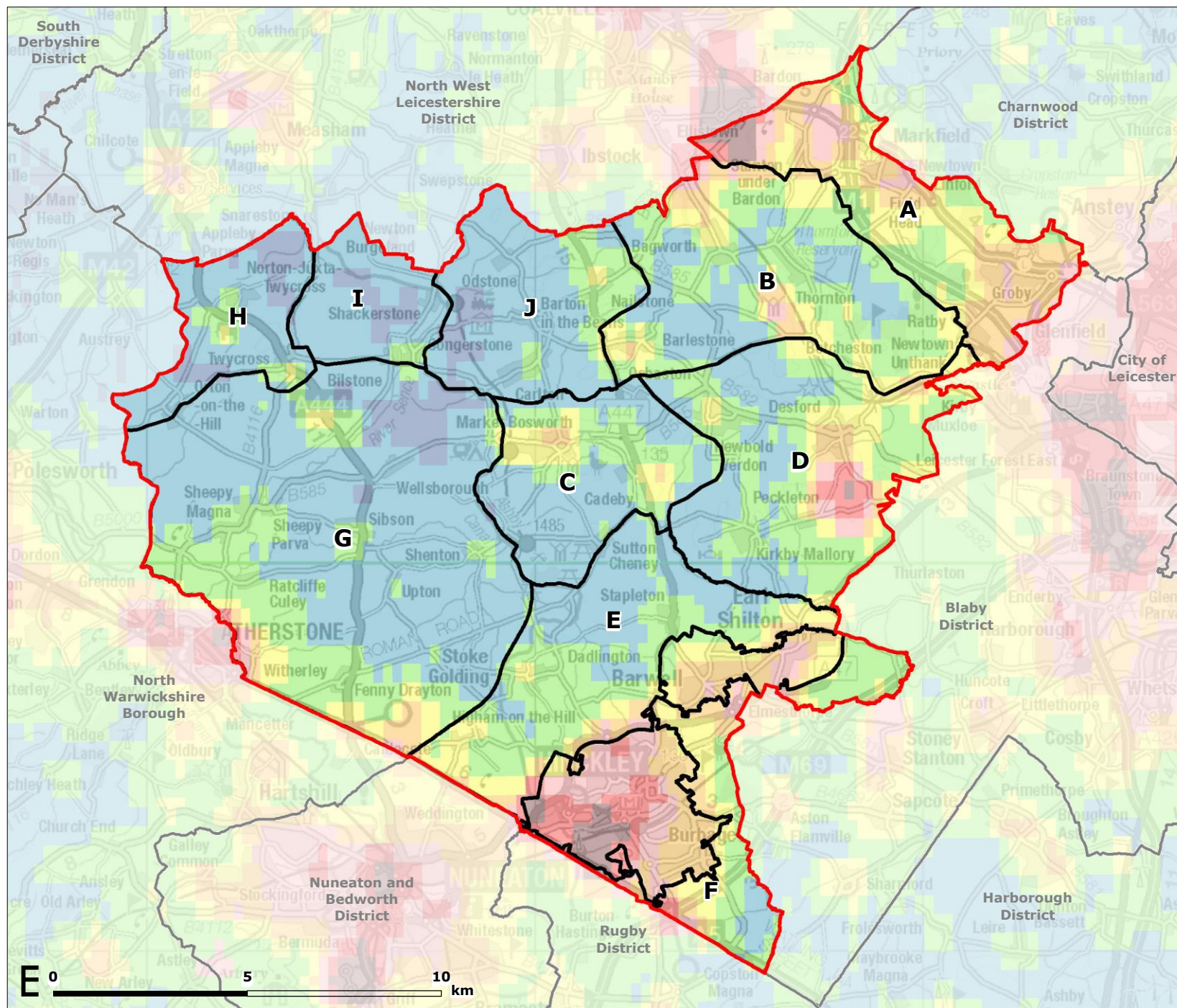
1%	> 32	Brightest
2%	16 - 32	
3%	8 - 16	
3%	4 - 8	Brighter
5%	2 - 4	
7%	1 - 2	
13%	0.5 - 1	Darkest
20%	0.25 - 0.5	
43%	< 0.25	

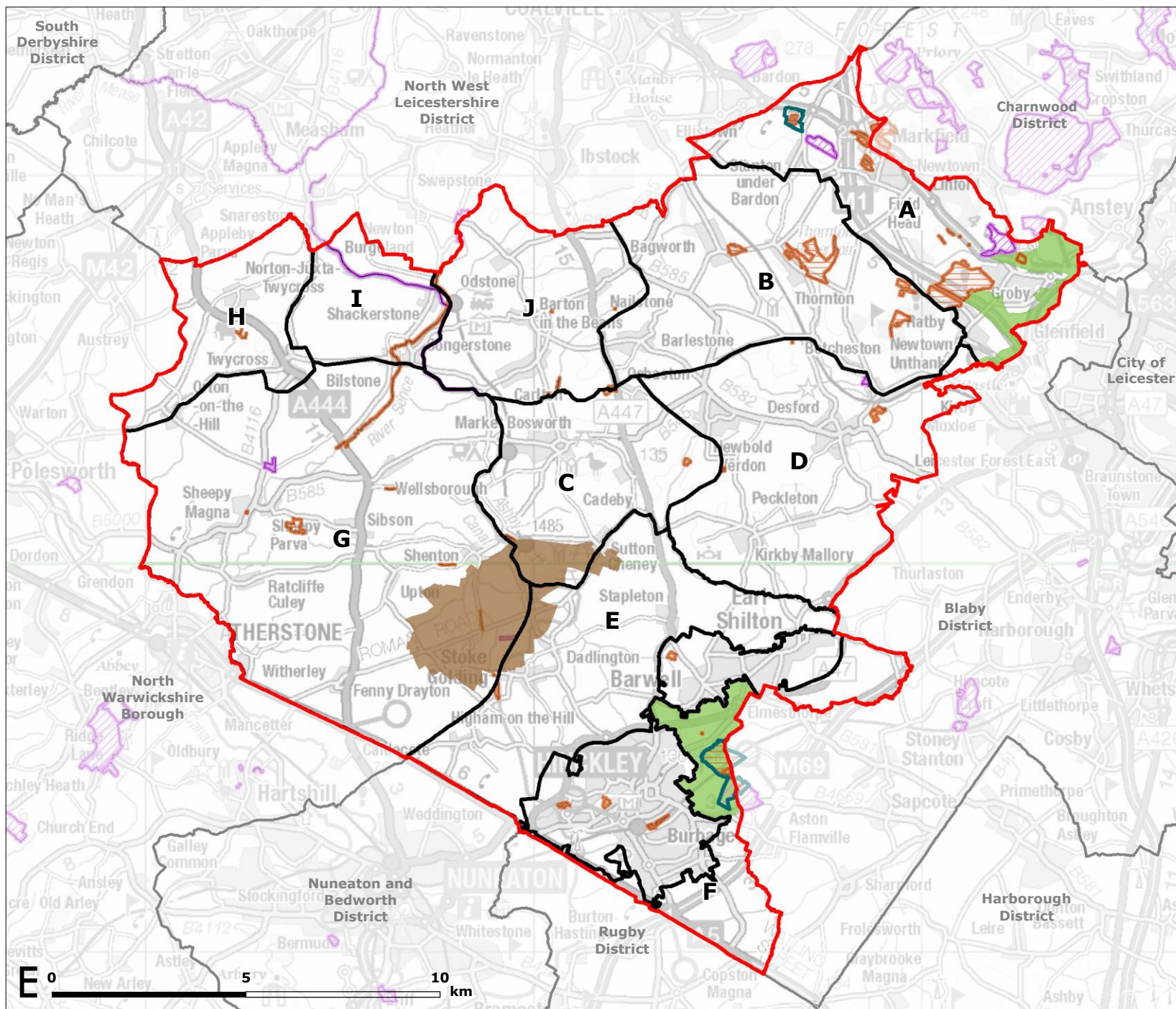
<https://nightblight.cpre.org.uk/>

Map Scale: 1:140,000 @ A4

LUC

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Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment

Figure 6: Landscape Designations

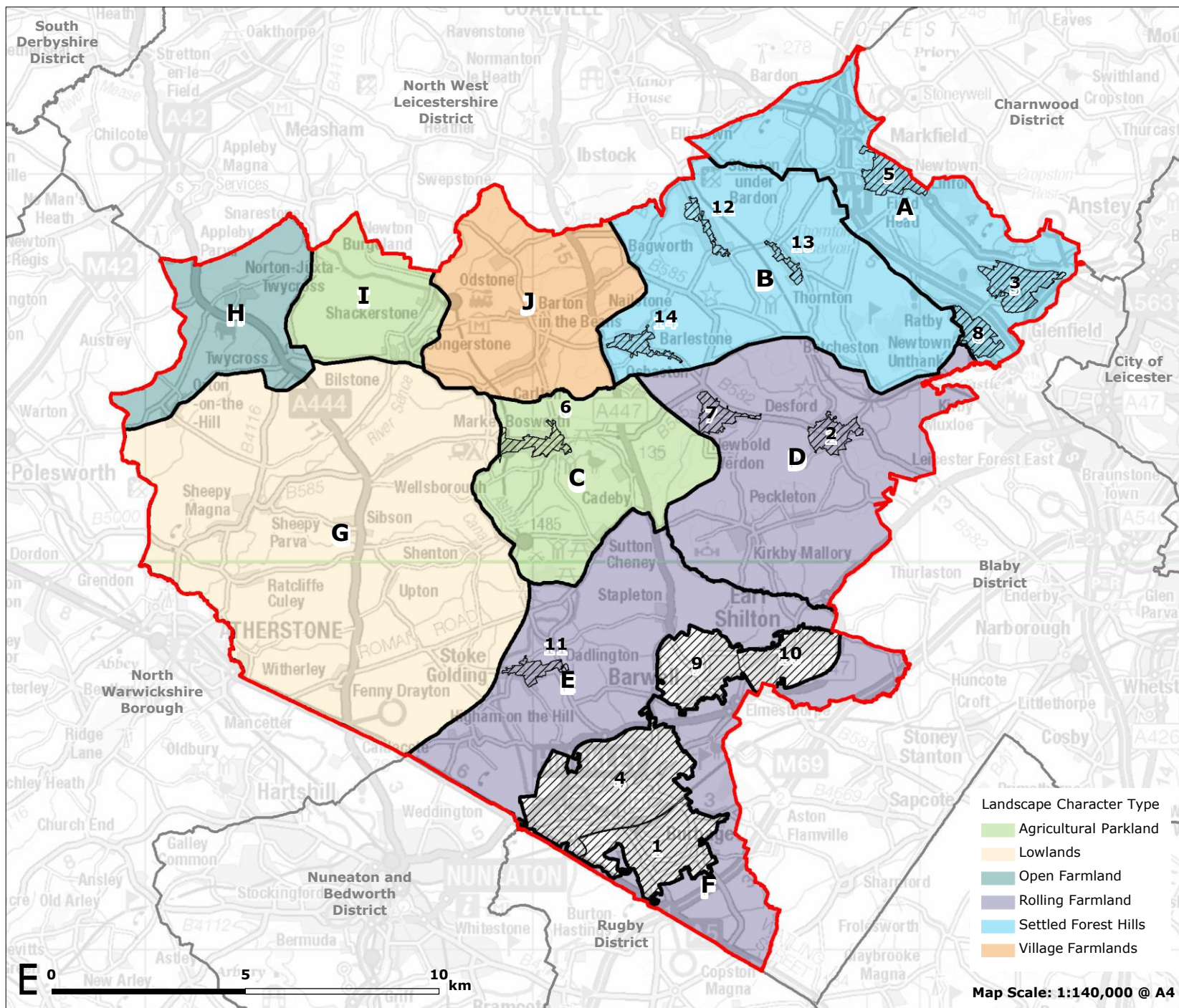
- ▬ Hinckley and Bosworth District boundary
- Green Wedge
- ▬ Local Nature Reserve
- ▬ Local Wildlife Site
- ▬ SSSI
- Bosworth Registered Battlefield
- ▬ Landscape Character Area

- A - Charnwood Forest Settled Forest Hills
- B - Charnwood Fringe Settled Forest Hills
- C - Bosworth Parkland
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- E - Stoke Golding Rolling Farmland
- F - Burbage Common Rolling Farmland
- G - Sence Lowlands
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Map Scale: 1:140,000 @ A4



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council



Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment

Figure 7: Landscape Character Areas and Types

Hinckley and Bosworth District boundary

Urban Character Area

- 1: Burbage
- 2: Desford
- 3: Groby
- 4: Hinckley
- 5: Markfield
- 6: Market Bosworth
- 7: Newbold Verdon
- 8: Ratby
- 9: Barwell
- 10: Earl Shilton
- 11: Stoke Golding
- 12: Bagworth
- 13: Thornton
- 14: Barlestone

Landscape Character Area

- A - Charnwood Forest Settled Forest Hills
- B - Charnwood Fringe Settled Forest Hills
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- F - Burbage Common Rolling Farmland
- G - Sence Lowlands
- H - Twycross Open Farmland
- I - Gopsall Parkland
- J - Barton Village Farmlands

Landscape Character Type

- Agricultural Parkland
- Lowlands
- Open Farmland
- Rolling Farmland
- Settled Forest Hills
- Village Farmlands

Map Scale: 1:140,000 @ A4



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USER GUIDE

4) USER GUIDE

4.1 The Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) can be used to ensure landscape character and context is given due consideration when planning any type of change. The flow chart on the following page aims to aid use of the LCA when being used to inform proposed change (such as new development). It is

arranged around a number of key stages, setting out a series of questions as prompts to help ensure available information is used to shape proposals / assist in planning decisions.

User Guide

What type of change is proposed?



Which **Landscape Character Area (LCA)** or **Urban Character Area (UCA)** is the proposal in?
[refer to Figure 7]

NB if a proposal is close to the edge of two or more LCAs/ UCAs all relevant assessments will need to be consulted. This is because boundaries are usually zones of transition with shared characteristics and because a change within one area can also affect neighbouring areas



Is the proposed site typical of the wider LCA or UCA (as described in the relevant character assessment(s))?



Will any of the **key characteristics** be affected by the proposal? [*Key characteristics are set out in the relevant LCA/ UCA assessment*]

If so, which ones and how? And does this matter to overall character?



Will any of the **key sensitivities/ values** be affected by the proposal? [*key sensitivities/ values are set out in the relevant LCA/ UCA assessment*]

If so, which ones and how?
Can these be avoided through better location or design?



Will the proposal contribute to or conflict with any of the **landscape strategies**? [*Strategies are set out in the relevant LCA assessment*]

If so, which ones and how?



Summary

- Can the proposal be altered in any way to avoid adverse effects on key characteristics, sensitivities or valued attributes, or landscape strategy?
- If not, can adverse effects be reduced or mitigated? How?
- Can the proposal contribute to achieving the strategy for the landscape?
- Does the proposal contribute positively to the borough's principle landscape objectives set out in planning policy?