

Urban Fringe 1: Northern Fringe of Ibstock



1:View from Leicester Road

Element	Assessment	Score
County Landscape character area	The Coalfield: Gently undulating landscape with effects of past and present coal and clay working. It displays a relatively dense pattern of former mining towns and villages characterised by 19 th century mining terraces which follow the roads. The landscape is characterised by mixed farmland although away from settlements the land is mostly arable. There is generally low woodland cover. The land contains areas of restored land, some including establishing heathland, once far more extensive. Around Coalville the landscape is influenced by Bardon 21 warehousing, Bardon quarry and other light industrial development. Bardon Hill and quarry are features within views. The assessment notes that the land is part of the National Forest.	
National Forest Landscape character area	Area: Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield Type: Urban/Urban Fringe: large, often sprawling settlements with new built development are dominant. Major roads and railways are also prominent which affect the tranquillity of the area. Cropped farmland with gappy, poorly managed hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Farmland often appears sandwiched between urban and industrial uses. There are areas of remnant pasture around settlements which display a strong hedgerow pattern although hedges are often overgrown. Urban trees, open spaces and new woodland planting contribute to the setting of the urban area, however horse grazing, allotments and other non-agricultural uses contribute to the fragmented appearance of the area.	
Landscape Quality		
Landscape Character	The land is on the northern fringe of Ibstock. It is generally a flat area which slopes towards the dismantled railway line and Kelham Bridge Nature Reserve along the River Sence. The land comprises large regular shaped arable fields bounded by low hedgerows. Some hedgerows are becoming over mature and fragmenting in places; others are well maintained. Post and rail fences have replaced hedgerows around some fields. The field pattern is representative of Planned Enclosure during the 18 th and 19 th Century. The railway is prominent as a line of mature trees. Other trees and woodland are scarce within the landscape. Trees are present around the grounds of Croft, an individual property on the edge of Ibstock, and around Blackberry Farm. There are a few properties on the edge of this fringe including Blackberry Farm which is a prominent farm house and agricultural buildings. Leylandii conifers are prominent features around the farms fringes. Within the wider landscape, the land includes extensive young woodland planting Kelham Wood and Sence Valley Forest Park which will provide some enclosure as it matures. This fringe is close to the edge of Ellistown which is also on high ground. In views from the north both settlements are visible with a small break of farmland between. The landscape is typical of the wider area comprising fields with low hedgerows and few trees. The settlement edge of Ibstock is prominent within the wider landscape.	2
Representativeness and consistency with wider character	The edge is consistent with the wider character of the landscape and reported descriptions. Settlement edges are prominent features within the landscape on high ground with views between settlements. The land shows evidence of past coal and clay workings with areas of new woodland on restored land. The fields are arable with hedgerows of variable condition.	3
Remoteness and tranquillity	The land does not have a rural or tranquil character; traffic movement and road noise on Ravenstone Road/Melbourne Road and Richmond Road in combination with the prominent settlement edge prevents the land from feeling remote or rural.	0
Landscape quality value		5

Urban Fringe 1: Northern Fringe of Ibstock

Visual Quality		
Visual prominence	The land is prominent within the wider area; it is visible from higher ground on the southern fringes of Ravenstone where it appears as a narrow line of development also on high ground. This is consistent with the character of other settlements within the area. The land is also prominent from open space at Kelham Bridge Nature Reserve and from Berry Hill Lane on the edge of Donington le Heath.	3
Nature of the urban edge	This urban edge is prominent within the landscape; it has relatively little tree planting or woodland to provide screening or to soften views of built form. Tree planting around Blackberry Farm, Croft and a property along Ravenstone Road provide some softening to the edge from longer distance views to the north. Within the fringe properties are typically visible as a 'hard' urban edge.	1
Distinctive views and setting of the settlement	Views towards this edge of Ibstock are of a linear development on high ground. In places larger proportions of the settlement are visible as a uniform slightly rising roofline with the industrial buildings within the Clayworks visible on the horizon. Poplars on this fringe are a prominent element on the skyline. The approach to the settlement along Richmond Road is generally rural; rising land along the river valley provides screening. The settlement edge is only prominent within views as the road rises onto higher land close to Blackberry Farm. Views out from this edge of the settlement along Leicester Road are across rolling farmland. St John the Baptist Church at Hugglescote and Bardon Hill are features in longer views beyond properties on Richmond Road.	1
Public accessibility	There is one footpath along the eastern part of this fringe linking the settlement with a byway at Sence Valley Forest Park and to Blackberry Lane. Views are possible across this fringe from the footpath.	1
		Visual quality value
		6
Scope for mitigation		
<p>The characteristics of this land are relatively common within the wider landscape and along urban fringes within the District. The settlement is prominent within this fringe as a narrow belt of development. This area of land is visible from a number of vantage points in the wider landscape although this will reduce slightly over time as young woodland at Kelham Bridge Nature Reserve and Sense Valley Forest Park matures. The land is also prominent from the edge of Donington le Heath. Any development along this edge should aim to retain the narrow linear character of this edge of properties. It should also incorporate blocks of smaller woodland, open space and groups of trees within grassland on the fringes to soften the appearance of urban edges and should integrate with the adjacent National Forest planting. Any development would need to ensure that it remains indistinct from lower ground within the river valley on the approach from Donington le Heath along Richmond Road. In addition the edges of Ellistown and Ibstock are relatively close; any development should ensure that when viewed from the wider landscape to the north, new development does not appear connected with Ellistown which would reduce the sense of separation between the two settlements. It would be difficult to retain the appearance of a single line of development along this edge as the land falls from the edge of the settlement to the river valley to the north. Woodland at Kelham Bridge Nature Reserve is on lower ground which reduces its potential as screen planting along this fringe.</p>		

2: View from Blackberry Lane



3: View from Leicester Road



Urban Fringe 2: Western Fringe of Ibstock



1: View from Pisca Lane

Element	Assessment	Score
County Landscape character area	The Coalfield: Gently undulating landscape with effects of past and present coal and clay working. It displays a relatively dense pattern of former mining towns and villages characterised by 19 th century mining terraces which follow the roads. The landscape is characterised by mixed farmland although away from settlements the land is mostly arable. There is generally low woodland cover. The land contains areas of restored land, some including establishing heathland, once far more extensive. Around Coalville the landscape is influenced by Bardon 21 warehousing, Bardon quarry and other light industrial development. Bardon Hill and quarry are features within views. The assessment notes that the land is part of the National Forest.	
National Forest Landscape character area	Area: Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield Type: Urban/Urban Fringe: large, often sprawling settlements with new built development are dominant. Major roads and railways are also prominent which affect the tranquillity of the area. Cropped farmland with gappy, poorly managed hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Farmland often appears sandwiched between urban and industrial uses. There are areas of remnant pasture around settlements which display a strong hedgerow pattern although hedges are often overgrown. Urban trees, open spaces and new woodland planting contribute to the setting of the urban area, however horse grazing, allotments and other non-agricultural uses contribute to the fragmented appearance of the area. The southern part of this fringe is type; Coalfield Village Farmlands: The landscape is fragmented by opencast mineral workings (coal), new built development and extensive areas of reclaimed land. There are tracts of gently rolling farmland with medium to large scale fields. The planting of new woodland is becoming increasingly prominent and helps to integrate new built development and mineral workings. The main wooded feature consists of mature hedgerow trees, but these are sparse and many show signs of dieback. The hedgerows pattern is also declining, with hedges becoming fragmented. Settlements are characterised by red brick mining villages and isolated terraces of miners' cottages. There are long views across the landscape with industrial uses and edges of settlements visible over long distances.	
Landscape Quality		
Landscape Character	This fringe is on the western edge of Ibstock on flat land at 135m AOD. The land falls to a shallow bowl within Sence Valley Forest Park and with a watercourse which lies between Heather and Ibstock. The land comprises a few arable and pasture fields bordered by hedgerows, identified as Planned Enclosure land enclosed during the 18 th and 19 th Century. The hedgerows are generally in good condition although fragmentation and replacement with stockproof fencing is present particularly around pasture fields and Mill Hill Farm. There are few hedgerow trees, although mature trees and woodland along the hedgerow boundary on the edge of Sence Valley Forest Park and linear woodland along both Pisca Lane/Ashby Road and Station Road provide enclosure. There is extensive accessible woodland plantation to the west at Sence Valley Forest Park and Mill Hill Wood which as it matures will provide strong enclosure to this fringe. There are isolated properties along Ravenstone Road on the northern edge of Ibstock and Mill Hill Farm is close to the edge of the young woodland planting. Other built form includes the prominent edge of Ibstock to the east. A small playing field borders the edge of the settlement although generally appears as a small field on the edge of Ibstock. The land between Pisca Road and Station Road provides open land and separation between Ibstock and Heather. Over time as woodland planting matures this separation will be increased. This landscape is typical of pockets of farmland on urban fringes.	1
Representativeness and consistency with wider character	The land is consistent with the wider landscape although integration with it will gradually reduce as the woodland in Sence Valley Forest Park matures and provides visual separation from the wider area. The land is representative of reported descriptions with a prominent urban fringe and arable farmland with low hedgerows.	2
Remoteness and tranquillity	This landscape is close to the edge of Ibstock, which is prominent, and prevents the land from having a tranquil or remote character. The tranquillity is reduced further by traffic movement along Melbourne Road, Station Road and Pisca Lane/Ashby Road.	1
Landscape quality value		4

Urban Fringe 2: Western Fringe of Ibstock

Visual Quality		
Visual prominence	The land is on higher ground on a broad plateau, however the presence of woodland along the edge reduces its prominence. This woodland is currently relatively young, however over time as it matures views of the settlement and fringe would be obscured from the north and west. To the east only properties on the edge of Ibstock have views across the landscape. To the south properties on Station Road limit views of this fringe from the countryside beyond.	1
Nature of the urban edge	The urban edge has relatively little planting along it and is visible as a 'hard' edge within this fringe. Development in places appears as a single line and in others as a rising roofline and cluster of properties. Pockets of small woodland provide limited softening to the edge.	0
Distinctive views and setting of the settlement	There are very few distinctive views. There are no views towards St Denys Church in Ibstock. Properties are viewed as a uniform and sometimes single line. Along Station Road there are views of St John the Baptist Church at Heather which it is prominent on the skyline above the rising edge of the village. Views are limited and channelled through trees; as woodland matures views of the church may become less prominent as trees may provide screening.	2
Public accessibility	There are limited points of access through this landscape. Footpaths are along the edges and within Sence Valley Forest Park and a footpath links the edge of Ibstock with Mill Hill Wood to the south of Pisca Lane/Ashby Road. Playing fields which are publicly accessible are on the edge of the settlement to the north of Pisca Lane/Ashby Road.	1
		Visual quality value
		4
Scope for mitigation		
As the woodland at Sence Valley Forest Park and Mill Hill Wood matures it will provide a strong screen to the settlement and this fringe. In addition it will help to reinforce the separation between Heather and Ibstock. Development along this fringe could be accommodated as the existing planting would, once mature, provide a strong screen to the development. In addition there are no landmark views into Ibstock and the approaches are already influenced by linear development, particularly on Pisca Lane. Any development which took place should aim to include a matrix of woodland and trees to soften views of the development from Pisca Lane and Station Road to reinforce the separation between Heather and Ibstock. Development to the south of Pisca Lane and north of Station Road should be carefully sited to ensure that views to St John the Baptist Church are retained and that a sense of separation between settlements is maintained. Any greater intervisibility between settlements would have an adverse effect on the sense of separation. It should also provide linkages through any development from the settlement to the adjacent Sence Valley Forest Park.		

2: View from Station Road



Urban Fringe 3: South Western Fringe of Ibstock



1: View from public right of way leading to Paget Farm

Element	Assessment	Score
County Landscape character area	The Coalfield: Gently undulating landscape with effects of past and present coal and clay working. It displays a relatively dense pattern of former mining towns and villages characterised by 19 th century mining terraces which follow the roads. The landscape is characterised by mixed farmland although away from settlements the land is mostly arable. There is generally low woodland cover. The land contains areas of restored land, some including establishing heathland, once far more extensive. Around Coalville the landscape is influenced by Bardon 21 warehousing, Bardon quarry and other light industrial development. Bardon Hill and quarry are features within views. The assessment notes that the land is part of the National Forest.	
National Forest Landscape character area	Area: Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield Type: Urban/Urban Fringe: large, often sprawling settlements with new built development are dominant. Major roads and railways are also prominent which affect the tranquillity of the area. Cropped farmland with gappy, poorly managed hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Farmland often appears sandwiched between urban and industrial uses. There are areas of remnant pasture around settlements which display a strong hedgerow pattern although hedges are often overgrown. Urban trees, open spaces and new woodland planting contribute to the setting of the urban area, however horse grazing, allotments and other non-agricultural uses contribute to the fragmented appearance of the area. The southern part of this fringe is type; Coalfield Village Farmlands: The landscape is fragmented by opencast mineral workings (coal), new built development and extensive areas of reclaimed land. There are tracts of gently rolling farmland with medium to large scale fields. The planting of new woodland is becoming increasingly prominent and helps to integrate new built development and mineral workings. The main wooded feature consists of mature hedgerow trees, but these are sparse and many show signs of dieback. The hedgerows pattern is also declining, with hedges becoming fragmented. Settlements are characterised by red brick mining villages and isolated terraces of miners' cottages. There are long views across the landscape with industrial uses and edges of settlements visible over long distances.	
Landscape Quality		
Landscape Character	This fringe is on the south western edge of Ibstock. The land forms a shallow valley along a watercourse and is important in retaining a sense of separation between Ibstock and Heather. The land comprises medium to small regular fields bounded by low hedgerows with some hedgerow trees. Hedgerows show evidence of some minor fragmentation and infilling with post and wire and stockproof fencing. The field pattern is identified as planned enclosure occurring during the 18 th and 19 th centuries. Woodland is present as small copses and linear belts close to the urban fringes; the most mature is around industrial buildings between Heather and Ibstock. The woodland provides separation between the settlements along Station Road and screening to the industrial buildings. Areas of young plantation are frequent and will increase the wooded character of this landscape as they mature. Isolated properties include Valley Farm and Paget Farm; other built form is along the fringes of Ibstock. The edge of Heather along Newton Road is prominent on high ground. Areas of recreation and allotments are present along the fringes of Ibstock; their shape and scale integrates with the surrounding field pattern. The landscape is typical of the wider landscape and its character is defined by the landform along the watercourse, although the watercourse is relatively indistinct within the fringe. Longer views to the south west across rolling farmland reinforces a rural character to the landscape despite the close proximity of the urban edge.	2
Representativeness and consistency with wider character	This landscape is consistent with the wider countryside. The land is rolling farmland with medium scale fields with relatively few hedgerow trees. New plantation will become increasingly prominent as it matures. Urban fringes are present within the landscape with both Ibstock and Heather being visible within this fringe.	3
Remoteness and tranquillity	The land has a relatively rural character despite the presence of urban fringes. Pockets of woodland and trees soften the scale of the settlement within the view. Views out towards the wider countryside also help to reinforce the tranquillity although it is reduced slightly by intermittent sounds of traffic movement along surrounding roads.	2
	Landscape quality value	7

Urban Fringe 3: South Western Fringe of Ibstock

Visual Quality		
Visual prominence	The land is prominent within the wider landscape. The edge of Ibstock is on higher ground on the edge of a small river valley; the central part of the land is more enclosed as it falls towards the watercourse however the majority of this fringe is on higher ground. There are views to the fringe from the eastern edge of Heather and from the edge of Ibstock. It is also prominent within views on the approach into Ibstock along Hinckley Road. To the west views are possible towards the fringe from a network of public rights of way.	3
Nature of the urban edge	Built form on the edge of Ibstock is prominent within the landscape although along Station Road the urban edge is typically viewed as a narrow belt of housing. Mature trees and garden boundary shrubs provide some softening. On the edge of Ibstock properties are within larger gardens and mature vegetation screens buildings helping to break up and soften the scale of built form in views. Properties along Church View are more prominent within the landscape with less boundary planting; however these properties appear as a small groups of buildings. The majority of Ibstock is screened due to the nature of the landform within the settlement.	1
Distinctive views and setting of the settlement	Views towards this edge are of a linear band of development on high ground softened by trees and shrubs. Views within the southern part of this fringe include the spire of St Denys Church which is a prominent feature of the skyline. Along Station Road there are distinctive views towards St John the Baptist Church at Heather on high ground. Within the wider landscape views are to a narrow belt of development on the edge of Heather with St John the Baptist Church a feature on the highest ground. There are also long views towards the wider countryside to the south west. St Denys Church is a prominent feature on the approach into Ibstock along Hinckley Road. The scale of Ibstock in views along this road is generally reduced by tree planting and landform helping to create a village character to this approach into the settlement.	2
Public accessibility	There is a public right of way and bridleway which links Station Road to Paget Farm and then connects to Heather across the river valley. There is also a public right of way leading from Church View out into the wider countryside to the south west. From both footpaths there are views across the fringe.	2
		Visual quality value
		8
Scope for mitigation		
This is an undulating fringe with a simple pattern of arable and pasture fields bordered by low hedgerows with infrequent hedgerow trees. The land is also important in reinforcing separation between Ibstock and Heather as both fringes are visible within the landscape. Existing young woodland on the northern and southern edges of the fringe will help this separation and provide a greater degree of enclosure to the landscape as it matures. Although urban fringes are frequently visible within the landscape, they are often viewed as a narrow belt of development; any development on this fringe would need to retain this character. Views of St John the Baptist Church at Heather and St Denys Church should remain prominent. Development within this fringe could reduce the sense of separation between Heather and Ibstock and would alter the village approach into Ibstock along Hinckley Road. It would increase the scale of development within views; the land rises from the southern edge of Ibstock and the appearance of a rising settlement edge would be difficult to mitigate.		

2: View from Hinckley Road



Urban Fringe 4: South Eastern Fringe of Ibstock



1: View from the edge of Grange Wood

Element	Assessment	Score
County Landscape character area	The Coalfield: Gently undulating landscape with effects of past and present coal and clay working. It displays a relatively dense pattern of former mining towns and villages characterised by 19 th century mining terraces which follow the roads. The landscape is characterised by mixed farmland although away from settlements the land is mostly arable. There is generally low woodland cover. The land contains areas of restored land, some including establishing heathland, once far more extensive. Around Coalville the landscape is influenced by Bardon 21 warehousing, Bardon quarry and other light industrial development. Bardon Hill and quarry are a feature within views. The assessment notes that the land is part of the National Forest.	
National Forest Landscape character area	Area: Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield Type: Urban/Urban Fringe: large, often sprawling settlements with new built development are dominant. Major roads and railways are also prominent which affect the tranquillity of the area. Cropped farmland with gappy, poorly managed hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Farmland often appears sandwiched between urban and industrial uses. There are areas of remnant pasture around settlements which display a strong hedgerow pattern although hedges are often overgrown. Urban trees, open spaces and new woodland planting contribute to the setting of the urban area, however horse grazing, allotments and other non-agricultural uses contribute to the fragmented appearance of the area. The southern part of this fringe is type; Coalfield Village Farmlands: The landscape is fragmented by opencast mineral workings (coal), new built development and extensive areas of reclaimed land. There are tracts of gently rolling farmland with medium to large scale fields. The planting of new woodland is becoming increasingly prominent and helps to integrate new built development and mineral workings. The main wooded feature consists of mature hedgerow trees, but these are sparse and many show signs of dieback. The hedgerows pattern is also declining, with hedges becoming fragmented. Settlements are characterised by red brick mining villages and isolated terraces of miners' cottages. There are long views across the landscape with industrial uses and edges of settlements visible over long distances.	
Landscape Quality		
Landscape Character	The land is on the southern fringe of Ibstock and slopes towards a watercourse before rising again to the fringe of Battram. The land comprises medium sized regular shaped arable and pasture fields bounded by low hedgerows, some of which are fragmenting in places. The field pattern is representative of enclosure during the 18 th century. There are few hedgerow trees and these tend to be more concentrated around pasture fields closer to properties on Copson Street where the land is flatter. A watercourse along the urban edge is a localised feature. Extensive young woodland (Battram Wood and Grange Wood) has been planted around the watercourse and extends from Pretoria Road to Battram. This is still young plantation, however as it matures it will provide a strong sense of enclosure around this fringe of Ibstock. Ibstock Grange comprises a large farmstead and some agricultural buildings surrounded by a few small regular shaped fields. The property has some mature trees around it which reduce its prominence. As the young plantation which surrounds it matures, it will appear enclosed by trees to the south. Another isolated property, Redholme Bungalow Farm is to the immediate south of the settlement edge; this also is surrounded by young plantation which will provide enclosure as it matures. The edge of Ibstock is mostly well contained on rising slopes, however a single line of properties extends on high ground along Pretoria Road and is prominent within the landscape to the south. Woodland to the north of this housing prevents views of the clayworks. The landscape is typical of the wider area comprising a few arable fields with low hedgerows and few trees. The settlement edge of Ibstock is prominent within the landscape as it is on high ground. From the edge of Ibstock the roofline of Battram is discernible on the skyline to the south. This landscape is typical of urban fringe landscapes across North West Leicestershire District. The character of this fringe will become more distinctive over time as National Forest woodland planting matures.	1
Representativeness and consistency with wider character	The landscape has consistency with the reported character descriptions; the land has been considerably altered by mining, the landscape includes medium to large scale arable fields with new woodland planting becoming increasingly prominent; fields contain relatively few hedgerow trees, and urban fringes are visible.	3
Remoteness and tranquillity	The land close to the fringe does not have a remote character as the sound of traffic is audible in the landscape and there are views across the edge of Ibstock. Over time as the woodland planting matures the land may become more tranquil and remote, particularly from within the woodland areas, as views of built form would be softened and in some places screened.	1
	Landscape quality value	5

Urban Fringe 4: South Eastern Fringe of Ibstock

Visual Quality		
Visual prominence	The fringe is sloping ground rising to a high point along Pretoria Road. Development, woodland and the clayworks on this higher ground prevent views of the fringe from roads and footpaths to the north. To the east and south there are views from accessible woodland, footpaths, Battram and Ellistown Terrace Road. However these views will reduce or be screened as woodland planting along this fringe matures. To the west views are limited to properties on the edge of Ibstock.	0/1
Nature of the urban edge	The fringes of Ibstock are generally prominent within this landscape; properties along Pretoria Road overlook the fringe and have little or no tree planting within gardens to provide filtering. The wider edge of Ibstock backs onto the fringe and has some trees and hedgerows along the rear gardens which provides a slight filtering to the edge. However the properties are on rising ground and therefore the edge is prominent as a rising edge with trees interspersed throughout.	1
Distinctive views and setting of the settlement	There are views across the urban edge of Ibstock; this comprises a rising uniform roofline of dense properties interspersed with trees. St Denys Church is prominent on the southern edge of the settlement, its spire is visible above the horizon. Views to the south are of young woodland and individual farms which is typical of a view across farmland. Woodland and trees are a feature on the horizon.	0
Public accessibility	There is one byway which links Pretoria Road with Redholme Farm and a network of public rights of way and other footpaths through accessible woodland. They currently have views over this fringe, however over time as woodland mature views will be reduced and enclosed. Views from the byway across the landscape would remain.	1
		Visual quality value
		2/3
Scope for mitigation		
<p>This is a sloping fringe with a simple pattern of arable fields with few trees. Woodland to the south, as it matures, will provide enclosure and screening to this fringe from the wider landscape. This would provide mitigation screening should any of this fringe be developed. If the land was developed it would alter the linear character of this part of the settlement, however it would match the settlement setting to the west which is on rising ground. Any development should retain views of St Denys Church. Development should be carefully placed to ensure that the roofline is not visible from Battram, to retain the sense of separation between the settlements. The land on the western edge of this fringe is more sensitive as it may make development more visible from the landscape to the west and may reduce the prominence of the church in these views.</p>		

2: View from Pretoria Road



Urban Fringe 5: Southern Fringe of Ibstock



1: View from a public right of way linking Hinckley Road with Overton Road

Element	Assessment	Score
County Landscape character area	The Coalfield: Gently undulating landscape with effects of past and present coal and clay working. It displays a relatively dense pattern of former mining towns and villages characterised by 19 th century mining terraces which follow the roads. The landscape is characterised by mixed farmland although away from settlements the land is mostly arable. There is generally low woodland cover. The land contains areas of restored land, some including establishing heathland, once far more extensive. Around Coalville the landscape is influenced by Bardon 21 warehousing, Bardon quarry and other light industrial development. Bardon Hill and quarry are a feature within views. The assessment notes that the land is part of the National Forest.	
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Landscape Quality		
Landscape Character	This fringe is a series of small river valleys which creates a gently undulating landform which continues to rise to the south. The land is a mixture of small linear fields surrounded by mature hedgerows on rising ground. To the south of the watercourse there is a larger field pattern of regular fields bounded by intact hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees. Land is identified as re-organised (piecemeal) enclosure typically created through amalgamation of piecemeal enclosure during the 18 th century. There are frequent mature trees along the watercourses and there is a linear woodland along Overton Road which in combination with hedgerow trees provide some enclosure. There are few properties beyond the edge of Ibstock although a few isolated properties, The White House, Pathways and Butterwick are along Overton Road set within mature gardens. Ibstock Lodge comprising a farmstead and a number of small agricultural buildings is to the south of the fringe on higher ground. The landscape has a rural character with views towards St Denys Church which is a distinctive feature of this edge. The rising edge of Ibstock is prominent feature within views however close to the church built form is more dispersed and set within mature trees. This section of Ibstock is a Conservation Area and built form within it is distinctive. The roads on this fringe such as Overton Road are narrow and have a rural character. This is one of the most distinctive fringes around the edge of Ibstock; it is less influenced by past mining operations and the area closest to the urban edge has an attractive river valley character with frequent trees and hedgerows with development less prominent. As new woodland planting matures, views within this fringe will be of woodland on rising and highest ground providing further screening of Ibstock.	3
Representativeness and consistency with wider character	The land is consistent with the wider landscape. It has an undulating landform and views of settlement edges. The land contains pasture closer to the settlement and arable land further away, there is a strong hedgerow pattern which includes both mature hedgerows and lower well maintained ones. New woodland planting to the east will become increasingly prominent as it matures. The other main wooded feature is hedgerow trees with only small pockets of other woodland. The land is more intact than many landscapes within the wider landscape.	3
Remoteness and tranquillity	This landscape is close to the edge of Ibstock which is prominent although the presence of smaller fields, trees and the church helps to soften this appearance and provide a more rural character. Along Overton Road the land feels more rural and remote with views across fields towards wooded watercourses.	2
Landscape quality value		8

Urban Fringe 5: Southern Fringe of Ibstock

Visual Quality		
Visual prominence	The land is generally lower than the majority of the settlement which reduces its prominence within the wider landscape to the north. The land rises to the south restricting views from beyond Overton Road. To the west views to the fringe are possible with the church a prominent feature. To the east there are channelled views of the church although woodland planting provides some screening to the fringe. As plantation woodland at Grange Wood matures these views would be foreshortened and the fringe screened. To the north views are only possible from some properties along the southern fringes of Ibstock.	2
Nature of the urban edge	The urban edge is softened around the church by smaller fields and mature hedgerows which provide screening of buildings and reinforces the prominence of St Denys Church. Development to the south of High Street/Curzon Street is prominent on rising ground. This edge has mature tree planting and smaller fields close to it but the rising roofline remains visible above.	3
Distinctive views and setting of the settlement	St Denys Church on the edge of Ibstock is particularly prominent within the landscape and forms a key feature and contributes to a distinctive entrance into the settlement along Overton Road and Hinkley Road. It is set within a cemetery with mature trees framing views. The settlement is seen beyond on rising ground although tree planting around the church creates an impression of separation. The approaches to Ibstock along surrounding roads within this fringe generally remain rural until close to the settlement. This edge includes some of the older linear development which is distinctive in character. The village character is however diluted by the presence of more dense development on rising ground. There are glimpsed views of the clayworks on high ground although it is seen within the context of the settlement. From Overton Road there are glimpsed views towards higher ground at Charnwood Forest.	3
Public accessibility	There are a number of footpaths through this landscape linking the settlement edge to the wider countryside and through the fringe. From these footpaths there are views across the landscape. Screening of the majority of properties helps to create a strong sense of separation from the settlement within this fringe.	3
		Visual quality value
		11
Scope for mitigation		
<p>This fringe has a more rural character than other fringes around Ibstock. The edges of the older part of the settlement are softened by small fields and mature trees and hedgerows and whilst newer development is prominent on the rising slopes it is relatively compact with some tree planting along its fringes. Roads have a rural character and the river valley landform is distinctive. Any development on this fringe will reduce the prominence of St Denys Church on lower ground on the edge of the settlement. It would obscure views of the church, the graveyard and surrounding trees and would alter the narrow vegetated and dispersed character of the older core of Ibstock. In addition the settlement is on higher rising ground, development beyond the watercourse would alter this form and character. The rural and wooded character of the watercourses would need to be retained; it would be difficult to do this if development extended close to their banks. Woodland planting could be used to provide mitigation but would potentially provide screening to distinctive views of the church whilst development would be visible on rising slopes beyond. If development was visible from the wider landscape to the south it would increase the prominence of Ibstock within wider views and provide a greater urban influence. Development would also alter the character of rural approaches into the settlement along Hinckley Road and Overton Road.</p>		

2: View from Overton Road

