

Urban Fringe 1: Western edge of Thringstone and New Swannington



1: View from School Lane



2: View from Red Hill Lane

Element	Assessment	Score
<p>County Landscape character area</p>	<p>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 19th 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.</p> <p>Northern tip is part of Charnwood Forest: The underlying pre-Cambrian rocks result in a varied, hilly landform with exposed crags and rocky knolls and fast-flowing streams, resulting in a distinctive character. The area has a high concentration of mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland, including many ancient woodland sites, hedges and hedgerow trees, some of which is unmanaged. The area is characterised by an intimate mixture of woodland and farmland in mixed arable and pasture uses. The area's acidic soils support pockets of heathland vegetation, particularly around rocky outcrops, where the land has never been taken into cultivation. There is variable field patterns, with irregular fields often bounded by mixed hedges contrasted with long narrow rectilinear fields with stone walls. The settlement pattern is generally one of scattered farms and other dwellings, with large villages mainly around the edges of the area. There is a quarrying industry present but which is well hidden within the landform; however the site is visible from some viewpoints. The telecommunications mast at Copt Oak and Bardon Hill are also visually intrusive. The views are diverse, with long distant views across the countryside and views of the reservoirs.</p>	

Urban Fringe 1: Western edge of Thringstone and New Swannington

<p>National Forest Landscape character area</p>	<p>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. 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.</p>
<p>Landscape Quality</p>	
<p>Landscape Character</p>	<p>Strongly rolling landform which falls sharply from the settlement edge to a small watercourse then rises towards Redhill Lane. It forms one of a series of narrow river valleys within the wider landscape. The landform is particularly distinctive with undulations and a rolling topography creating areas of enclosure and areas with more open character. To the south of the fringe the land rises to a broad undulating plateau at 150m AOD. The land has an irregular field pattern often being defined by the river; fields become larger and have more regular field patterns on higher ground. Most of the field patterns were formed during the 16th and 17th century as piecemeal enclosure although areas of planned enclosure (18th and 19th century) in the northern part of the fringe. The land is mostly pasture on the steepest ground and arable on the flatter plateau and higher ground. Hedgerows are generally well maintained and in good condition with frequent mature hedgerow trees. The land contains little woodland although it retains a wooded 'feel' through frequent hedgerow trees, views to extensive woodland within the edge of Charnwood Forest to the north and Coleorton Hall to the west, the presence of mature woodland along the river valley and small linear clumps on settlement fringes and along the dismantled railway. From higher ground there are extensive views to the west across the rolling landscape and towards Charnwood Hills to the north. There are a few isolated farmsteads and a cluster of properties along Church Lane. Other built form includes the settlement edges of Thringstone, Whitwick and New Swannington which are always visible in the landscape although trees and undulating landform reduces their prominence. The wooded hills of Charnwood exert an influence on the landscape. This is a distinctive landscape on the fringe of settlements, the river valley, landform and trees contribute to a strong sense of place.</p>
<p>Representativeness and consistency with wider character</p>	<p>The landscape is consistent with the reported character descriptions. The land has frequent settlements with a mining history such as Whitwick, however the land does not appear sandwiched between urban and industrial uses and the presence of Charnwood Hills above the settlements softens their scale and appearance. There are frequent copses of woodland and hedgerow trees which appear to provide a more wooded character than the character assessments report. The land displays a strong hedgerow pattern with some overgrown hedgerows although most are well maintained. The land cover, being mostly arable with pasture closer to settlements, is also consistent with the character assessment.</p>
<p>Remoteness and tranquillity</p>	<p>Urban influences are always present within the landscape due to the proximity of settlements and their position on higher ground adjacent to the river valley. Settlements appear as a narrow band of continuous development which reduces the tranquillity as the development is much larger in scale than surrounding rural villages. However it is softened by trees and woodland. The presence of high ground within Charnwood Forest provides a dramatic backdrop. From lower ground the views of development are less frequent and the land has a more rural and tranquil character.</p>
<p>Landscape quality value</p>	
<p>Visual Quality</p>	
<p>Visual prominence</p>	<p>This fringe is prominent within the wider landscape; it falls sharply to the river before rising again to higher ground. It is prominent from viewpoints on higher ground at Charnwood Forest and the edge of Thringstone on Talbot Lane. To the west it is visible from Redhill Lane which is high ground and potentially as glimpsed views from corresponding high ground beyond the lane. To the south it is less prominent although visible as a broad plateau at Spring Lane. Along the edges of Swannington views are less extensive and partially limited by landform. The land is important in retaining separation between Thringstone and Whitwick with Swannington.</p>
<p>Nature of the urban edge</p>	<p>The settlements appear as a continuous linear band of development, usually no greater than a few properties deep. Rising land on the fringe of Charnwood Forest is prominent and provides a distinctive backdrop. The settlement edge is softened by small clusters and clumps of tree planting. The edge along Thornborough Road is a prominent 'hard' edge which is seen as a continuous single line of housing.</p>
<p>Distinctive views and setting of the settlement</p>	<p>The most distinctive views within this fringe are from Redhill Lane looking back towards the settlement edges to the woodland on higher ground on the fringe of Charnwood Forest. This high ground softens and reduces the prominence of built development in the landscape. Views to the west include distant views of the Priory Church at Breedon on the Hill. The church is on a prominent hill and the quarried edges of the hill make it distinctive in the wider landscape. There are also views towards Coleorton Hall and Church set within woodland on high ground; the church is visible on the skyline. A church on the fringe of Peggs Green is also a feature. The main urban area of Coalville and warehouse development along its fringes is not visible from this fringe. The land has a rural character and although settlements appear as a continuous belt of development, they have a linear and narrow character which is representative of villages within the wider landscape.</p>
<p>Public accessibility</p>	<p>The Ivanhoe Way crosses the landscape linking School Lane with Redhill Lane. Other footpaths cross through the central part of this fringe linking Thringstone, New Swannington and Swannington. Views across farmland within this fringe are possible from these routes.</p>
<p>Visual quality value</p>	
<p>Scope for mitigation</p>	
<p>This land is a distinctive river valley on the edge of Thringstone and New Swannington, with distinctive views of linear development on higher ground with the wooded high ground on the fringe of Charnwood Forest a prominent feature above. The landform in combination with the wooded river valley and extensive longer views across the landscape are distinctive features. The land has a rural character and also the settlements appear as one continuous development; they are narrow and linear in form which is characteristic of the settlements within the wider landscape. The land becomes slightly less distinctive towards the south of the fringe close to the edge of New Swannington, however the land is important in providing separation between New Swannington and Swannington. As the land is a slight plateau at this southern end intervisibility between the two settlements is limited which reinforces the sense of separation between the settlements. Any development along this edge should ensure that it retains the sense of separation and the linear character of the settlements when viewed from the wider landscape to the west. It should also ensure that the distinctive character of the river valley is retained. This would be difficult to achieve through the implementation of development which would urbanise the river valley, potentially reduce the sense of separation between settlements and make the urban fringe more prominent within the wider landscape.</p>	

Urban Fringe 2: Fringe between New Swannington and Whitwick (Hermitage Road)



1: View from Bridle Road

Element	Assessment	Score
County Landscape character area	<p>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 19th 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.</p> <p>Northern tip is part of Charnwood Forest: The underlying pre-Cambrian rocks result in a varied, hilly landform with exposed crags and rocky knolls and fast-flowing streams, resulting in a distinctive character. The area has a high concentration of mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland, including many ancient woodland sites, hedges and hedgerow trees, some of which is unmanaged. The area is characterised by an intimate mixture of woodland and farmland in mixed arable and pasture uses. The area's acidic soils support pockets of heathland vegetation, particularly around rocky outcrops, where the land has never been taken into cultivation. There is variable field patterns, with irregular fields often bounded by mixed hedges contrasted with long narrow rectilinear fields with stone walls. The settlement pattern is generally one of scattered farms and other dwellings, with large villages mainly around the edges of the area. There is a quarrying industry present but which is well hidden within the landform; however the site is visible from some viewpoints. The telecommunications mast at Copt Oak and Bardon Hill are also visually intrusive. The views are diverse, with long distant views across the countryside and views of the reservoirs.</p>	
National Forest Landscape character area	<p>Area: Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield</p> <p>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.</p>	
Landscape Quality		
Landscape Character	Gently sloping land which falls from the fringe at New Swannington to a watercourse close to the centre of the fringe before rising gently to Hermitage Road. Around Hermitage Recreation Ground the land is relatively flat. The land is enclosed on all sides by built development although landform and vegetation provide some softening of these views. The land includes pasture and arable fields of irregular shape and size bordered by mature overgrown hedgerows which in places appear as a narrow line of trees. Field pattern becomes smaller to the north of the fringe where fields display piecemeal enclosure which was generally formed during the 16 th and 17 th century. The allotments and cemetery along the fringe integrate into this pattern. The south eastern edge is characterised by amenity and recreation with a large lake, sports pitches and a golf course. Woodland is present as linear belts concentrated along footpaths and former railways (now footpaths) and within the golf course and Hermitage Recreation Ground concentrated around the lake, there are less trees around sports pitches. Although woodland cover is relatively low the combination of linear belts of woodland, mature hedgerows and individual trees provides some enclosure, however views are possible to the surrounding built form. The landscape is typical of urban fringes with a range of land uses and a network of footpaths providing informal recreation within the remaining fields. There is evidence of a lack of management within hedgerows leading to them becoming overgrown and fields being left as rough grassland rather than pasture. The character of the land is common to that of many urban fringes; however it provides some separation between settlements. This separation is however reduced by linear development along the roads which effectively joins the built form and isolates this pocket of land from the wider countryside.	1
Representativeness and consistency with wider character	The landscape is consistent with the reported character descriptions: the land is typical of urban fringes with a range of uses, overgrown hedgerows and the farmland appears sandwiched between urban and industrial development. Whilst the boundary between character areas at a county level falls within this fringe, the Charnwood character is not represented. The wooded higher ground of Charnwood Forest is visible beyond urban development. This fringe is isolated from the wider countryside by built development at Whitwick and Coalville and linear development along Thornborough Road and Hermitage Road which link the two settlements.	1
Remoteness and tranquillity	Urban influences are always present within the landscape due to the proximity of the settlement which surrounds the fringe. The presence of recreational land such as golf courses and sport pitches and views of warehouse development in combination with the sound of traffic along the A511 reduce the tranquillity of the landscape. The land has the character of an informal park or pocket of remnant farmland on the edge of a settlement.	0
Landscape quality value		2

Urban Fringe 2: Fringe between New Swannington and Whitwick (Hermitage Road)

Visual Quality		
Visual prominence	The land falls to a low point within the central part of the fringe on the western edge of Hermitage Recreation Ground. As development surrounds the site it limits the visual prominence of the site viewed from anywhere other than the edge of the built form. Properties on the edge of New Swannington, the southern edge of Whitwick and the rear elevations of properties along Hermitage Road would have views across this land. Longer views are possibly from higher ground to the north of Whitwick, these views are across Whitwick and comprise glimpsed views of the fringe as a pocket of green land surrounded by development.	1
Nature of the urban edge	The settlement appears as a continuous linear band of development, with channelled views from footpaths towards the rising edge of Whitwick. Holy Cross Church and the chimney of former works are prominent features within Whitwick. The presence of smaller fields with mature boundaries provides softening to the edge of Whitwick although housing is still visible above this. The edge along Thornborough Road is 'hard' within the southern part of the fringe gradually becoming screened slightly by landform and mature hedgerow boundaries to the north. The edge of Coalville is partially screened by woodland planting along the A511 although the tops of warehouses are discernible above this vegetation in some views.	1
Distinctive views and setting of the settlement	There are few distinctive views from within this fringe. From the bridleway along Bridle Road there are channelled views towards the centre of Whitwick where a tall chimney and the tower of Holy Cross Church and St John the Baptist are features. The presence of the settlement on rising land partially reduces the prominence of these features as they are not seen on the skyline. The settlement is viewed rising part way up the slopes of Spring Hill and other wooded hills on the edge of Charnwood Forest. Bardon Hill and other adjacent wooded hills are features in views beyond Whitwick.	1
Public accessibility	There are numerous footpaths which cross this fringe as well as accessible recreational land and cemetery. These all have views across the fringe although landform and trees often limit the extent of these views.	3
	Visual quality value	6
Scope for mitigation		
This land forms an area of separation between Whitwick and Coalville. However, as development at New Swannington already extends between Whitwick and Coalville and development also extends along Hermitage Road, the impression is of a small piece of land surrounded by development of a single settlement rather than of land lying between a number of different settlements. The land is typical of urban fringe locations with a range of uses. If this fringe was developed it should try and retain separation between Thornborough Road and Hermitage Road through the retention of linear wooded features and hedgerows and through the retention of existing open space and providing 'green' fingers from this into and across the fringe. Views towards the centre of Whitwick should be retained and longer views beyond of higher ground at Spring Hill and Bardon Hill. Any change should respect the field pattern, retain hedgerows and trees and seek to reduce the prominence of urban fringes within views from footpaths.		

2: View from public right of way from Thornborough Road



Urban Fringe 3: Fringe between Hermitage Road, Broom Leys Road and Whitwick (Hall Lane)

1: View from Torrington Avenue



2: View from Green Lane



Urban Fringe 3: Fringe between Hermitage Road, Broom Leys Road and Whitwick (Hall Lane)

Element	Assessment	Score
County Landscape character area	<p>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 19th 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.</p> <p>Northern tip is part of Charnwood Forest: The underlying pre-Cambrian rocks result in a varied, hilly landform with exposed crags and rocky knolls and fast-flowing streams, resulting in a distinctive character. The area has a high concentration of mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland, including many ancient woodland sites, hedges and hedgerow trees, some of which is unmanaged. The area is characterised by an intimate mixture of woodland and farmland in mixed arable and pasture uses. The area's acidic soils support pockets of heathland vegetation, particularly around rocky outcrops, where the land has never been taken into cultivation. There is variable field patterns, with irregular fields often bounded by mixed hedges contrasted with long narrow rectilinear fields with stone walls. The settlement pattern is generally one of scattered farms and other dwellings, with large villages mainly around the edges of the area. There is a quarrying industry present but which is well hidden within the landform; however the site is visible from some viewpoints. The telecommunications mast at Copt Oak and Bardon Hill are also visually intrusive. The views are diverse, with long distant views across the countryside and views of the reservoirs.</p>	
National Forest Landscape character area	<p>Area: Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield</p> <p>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.</p>	
Landscape Quality		
Landscape Character	Gently sloping to flat land with land rising slightly to the edge of the fringe along Hermitage Road to the north at 147m AOD and to the east at properties along Tiverton Avenue at 167m AOD. The land is a mixture of farmland, rough grazing, gardens, Coalville Rugby Club and allotments in the northern corner. The field pattern is a mixture of medium to small scale fields of irregular shape; in places the fields follow the landform. The fields are bordered by hedgerows with few hedgerow trees, except along roads where tree cover is higher. A linear belt of woodland follows the line of a dismantled railway and forms a feature within the landscape, partially screening the edge of development along Broom Hey Lane. There is little other woodland or trees within this landscape which creates an open character with views across the land only interrupted by slight undulations within the landform. The land forms an area of separation between Whitwick and Agar Nook/Coalville, however linear development along Hermitage Road and Broom Hey Lane isolates the fringe from the wider landscape and provides the impression that the land sits within a wider urban area. Built form is present around all fringes of this landscape: there are four dwellings within the fringe which are large semi-detached properties set within large gardens and Broom Leys Farm which is a large building with livery stables and Glebe Farm which has a farmstead, large outbuildings, stables and dog kennels. The land is typical of land on the urban fringes with areas of farmland left unmanaged with maturing hedgerows, pockets of arable and pasture, horse paddocks as well as recreational uses. The flat landform and relatively few landscape features and presence of built form combines to create a uniform and in places bland character. The adjacent distinctive landscape on the fringes of Charnwood Forest is visible and exerts an influence on the views within this fringe.	0
Representativeness and consistency with wider character	The landscape is consistent with the reported character descriptions. The land is typical of urban fringes with a range of uses, overgrown hedgerows and the farmland appears sandwiched between urban and industrial development. Whilst the boundary between character areas at a county level falls within this fringe, the Charnwood character is not represented. The higher wooded ground of Charnwood Forest is visible beyond urban development. This fringe is isolated from the wider countryside by built development at Whitwick and Coalville and linear development along Hermitage Road and development along and to the south of Broom Leys Lane which link the two settlements. There are views to surrounding countryside, however this is seen beyond development as rising ground and displays different characteristics than this fringe.	1
Remoteness and tranquillity	Urban influences are always present within the landscape due to the proximity of the settlement which surrounds the fringe. The presence of recreational land such as the rugby pitches and views of warehouse development, in combination with the sound of traffic along the A511 urban influences reduce the tranquillity of the landscape. The land has the character of an informal park or pocket of remnant farmland on the edge of a settlement. Along some sections of Green Lane through the central part of this fringe the landform provides screening to some of the urban edges which reduces their prominence and allows some sense of separation and tranquillity; however road noise is ever present.	0
		Landscape quality value
		1
Visual Quality		
Visual prominence	The land is relatively flat although rises to local high points close to the northern and eastern fringes. Built development around this fringe provides a strong sense of enclosure limiting	1

Urban Fringe 3: Fringe between Hermitage Road, Broom Leys Road and Whitwick (Hall Lane)

	views from the wider area. Along the A511 there is a sense of separation between Coalville and Whitwick created by views across farmland to hills on the edge of Charnwood Forest; development is visible but seen as a narrow line on lower ground with the hills providing a backdrop. Along other edges this separation is less pronounced as views are of warehouses and residential properties on all sides of this fringe. Views from longer distances are limited although there are glimpses towards the fringe between properties from Leicester Road which is on higher ground. These views are of a pocket of 'green' land surrounded by warehouse and residential development. There are also extensive views across Coalville from Greenhill Road where Coalville urban area is seen as an expanse of housing and warehousing on lower ground with views to farmland beyond.	
Nature of the urban edge	The settlement along much of this fringe is viewed as a 'hard' edge with garden boundaries visible or housing facing onto the fringe with little tree or boundary structure. In the northern corner the landform and mature hedgerows and clusters of trees provide some screening of housing. Along the edge near Broom Leys Lane the mature woodland along the former railway provides a softening of the edge within views from the wider fringe although from fields closest to this edge the edge appears generally 'hard' with little tree planting. There is young woodland along A511 which softens and provides screening to warehouse development, although the tops are visible above.	1
Distinctive views and setting of the settlement	There are few distinctive views from within this fringe. There are views to the west across the fringe towards Christ Church within Coalville; the church is prominent within a uniform skyline comprising trees and the tops of warehouse development although it forms a small part of a wide view of development and farmland. Along this fringe looking north west from the A511 and also from Green Lane there are views towards Bardon Hill and Spring Hill within Charnwood Forest which are prominent wooded hills which form a distinctive backdrop to the settlements. They have an influence and provide a sense of enclosure to the landscape.	1
Public accessibility	There are few footpaths through this fringe. A footpath follows the field closest to the A511 linking Hermitage Road with Broom Leys Lane and another links Green Lane to the A511. Another footpath links Hall Lane with Green Lane in the northern part of the fringe. Views across the fringe are possible from these paths but are often limited by hedgerows; glimpsed views of roofs and hills at Charnwood Forest are possible above the hedgerows.	2
Visual quality value		5
Scope for mitigation		
This land forms an area of separation between Whitwick and Coalville, however as linear development extends between Whitwick and Coalville along Hermitage Road and Broom Leys Road there is little perception along roads and gateways into the settlements that there is separation. Much of the development appears to be a larger conurbation. Along the A511 there is a greater feeling of separation as views are across farmland. These views contain development at Whitwick and Agar Nook although the hills on the edge of Charnwood Forest provide a link to the wider landscape. Development within this fringe would alter and reduce the separation between settlements, however careful siting and placement of mitigation planting including small scale woodlands and areas of open space could retain a sense of separation and potentially reduce the prominence of some edges. The landscape would be altered from a relatively open landscape to one that was more enclosed. Views towards Christ Church and towards Bardon Hill and Spring Hill should be retained. Development should avoid the highest land on the northern edge of the fringe and retain wooded features such as along the dismantled railway. Land on this southern fringe could be accommodated with less alteration to the character as the existing woodland would provide some screening.		

3: View from A511(Stephenson Way)



Urban Fringe 4: Southern Fringe of Coalville



1: View from Beveridge 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 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. To the south of Grange Road it becomes 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 is a gently rolling landscape which forms a series of shallow river valleys which includes the River Sence. The land falls from a high point of 155m AOD by Little Battleflats Farm to a low of 150m AOD by the River Sence; it then rises and falls slightly to another watercourse before rising towards the edge of Coalville at 160m AOD. The land is predominantly arable with pasture present closer to settlements where field pattern becomes smaller. Fields are an irregular shape and variable size. Areas closer to the edge of Coalville were formed during the 18 th and 19 th century, with a small pocket close to the railway containing ridge and furrow. Fields are mostly bounded by mature hedgerows with frequent mature hedgerow trees. Metal fences are present around Bardon 21 warehouse development and there are some post and wire fences close to farmsteads and urban fringes where land is used as horse paddocks. Hedgerow condition is variable with some in good condition and others fragmenting. Most are maintained at a low height which often allows views across the farmland. Woodland is concentrated along the dismantled railways which are on embankments and form prominent wooded features; woodland is also present on restored land and close to the fringes of Hugglescote along the watercourse. Other tree cover includes individual trees and frequent hedgerow trees. There are a few isolated properties along Grange Road comprising farmsteads and larger modern outbuildings. They form prominent features within the landscape. The landscape character has rural qualities and pockets are distinctive particularly close to the rivers, however the landscape is very influenced by the large warehouse development at Bardon 21 and by the urban edge of Coalville and Hugglescote which is visible as an expansive settlement on higher ground. The landscape immediately adjacent to the fringes of Coalville is more enclosed in character and visually separated from the wider landscape by mature woodland on the embankments of former railway lines and restored ground. The land includes pockets of arable farmland with hedgerows and hedgerow trees and areas of pasture to the rear of properties on Bardon Road.	2
Representativeness and consistency with wider character	The landscape shares similar characteristics with the reported documents; it is a gently undulating landscape which is influenced by past coal and clay workings. There is a dense pattern of mining villages and includes mixed farmland with arable dominating further away from settlements. The urban edges are prominent within the landscape and the land is surrounded by industry and residential development. The landscape is consistent with the reported change of character from Urban Fringe to Coalfield Village Farmlands as beyond Grange Road views of Coalville are more distant and softened by trees and landform.	2
Remoteness and tranquillity	Urban influences are always present within the landscape due to the proximity of the settlement which surrounds the fringe. Throughout this landscape there is noise from the surrounding roads and warehouse development is prominent in views. Pockets of enclosure are present where the land is slightly more rural however urban fringes or warehouse development are usually within close proximity.	0
Landscape quality value		4

Urban Fringe 4: Southern Fringe of Coalville

Visual Quality		
Visual prominence	This land is relatively open and is visible from the surrounding landscape; it forms a large swathe of open land adjacent to urban areas and warehouse development. From Bardon Hill there are views across the land but views also contain extensive urban development at Coalville and surrounding settlements and warehouse development at Bardon 21. It is visible from the fringes of Ellistown and Bardon Road. Views towards the fringe from the west are restricted by landform, Ellistown and mature woodland along the railways.	2
Nature of the urban edge	When viewed from the wider landscape the urban edge of Hugglescote and Coalville is partially screened and softened by mature woodland along the dismantled railways. However the edges generally have little tree planting although small clumps of trees provide some breaks in views of the development. The industrial edge is prominent within the landscape; the warehouses are large and highly visible within the landscape. Although a few trees are present on the boundary they do not screen the warehouses.	1
Distinctive views and setting of the settlement	The most distinctive views are to St John the Baptist Church on the edge of Hugglescote, it is on higher ground than the settlement and is a distinctive feature within the skyline and remains prominent within the expansive views of development. Overhead lines cross higher ground and are visible on the horizon but do not detract from the prominence of the church. Bardon Hill is a feature within views from most parts of this landscape and is prominent above the warehouse development at Bardon 21. Other hills on the edge of Charnwood Forest form a distant backdrop to views from Beveridge Lane; from other routes the hills are often not visible. The settlements are visible on high ground within the landscape although the edge of Coalville and Hugglescote is softened by woodland along the dismantled railways. The settlement edge forms a continuous narrow band of housing on rising ground; the roofline is generally uniform with St John the Baptist church prominent on the horizon. This fringe provides an attractive gently rolling rural setting to the settlement although urban influences are frequent. The south eastern edge of Ellistown is also prominent within the landscape. It is seen as a prominent block of houses with little boundary vegetation. Landform prevents most of the settlement from being visible.	2
Public accessibility	There is a network of footpaths through this landscape all of which have relatively open views across the landscape.	3
		Visual quality value
		8
Scope for mitigation		
<p>This landscape is relatively attractive undulating farmland, however it is strongly influenced by the surrounding urban and warehouse development. The properties along the fringes of Coalville are generally only visible from higher ground in longer views as the woodland along the railway provides a strong screen. Development on the fringes close to this edge to the north of the railway and west of the disused railways could be developed with little mitigation required to prevent altering the character of the setting as existing woodland would provide some screening. Any development close to Grange Road should ensure that it does not reduce the prominence of St John the Baptist church on the skyline and it does not alter the rural enclosed approach into Hugglescote. Any development within the wider landscape should include linear woodland along the edges and extend as 'green fingers' into the settlement. It should retain areas of open land close to the rivers and enhance the wetland and riparian trees. Any development should ensure that the settlement still retains the appearance of a narrow belt of housing of rising land. To the south of Grange Road, development would alter the character and increase the urban influences within the landscape, it would also considerably reduce the separation between Coalville and Ellistown and could affect the rural approach to Hugglescote. Any development close to the edge of Bardon 21 should aim to incorporate larger woodlands with irregular shaped edges and pockets of open grassland, retaining the field pattern where possible to provide greater screening to warehouse development in the wider landscape.</p>		

2: View from Mill Pond



Urban Fringe 5: Fringe between Donington le Heath, Hugglescote and Coalville



1: View from Ashburton 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.	
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	This fringe is a small pocket of sloping land which provides separation between Hugglescote and Donington le Heath and the wider urban area of Coalville. Although the boundaries of these settlements meet in places, the land helps to provide the impression that they are separate settlements. The land slopes from Ashburton Road to low ground at the southern end of the fringe along the River Sence. The landscape is mostly covered with young establishing woodland on land that would have formerly been part of the Manor which lies in the north west corner of the fringe. Over time as this woodland matures views will be enclosed and the character altered slightly. The rest of the land comprises school playing fields and a recreation ground, pasture fields and horse paddocks surrounded by mature hedgerows which appear as lines of trees. The field pattern where evident is long and linear and surrounded by mature hedgerows. Along the River Sence the land includes wetland meadows and ponds. The river is demarcated by a line of mature riparian trees. The land is surrounded on all sides by development with longer views across the river valley to the edge of Ellistown. The land provides an open setting to the Manor House and church and a soft 'green' setting to the villages.	3
Representativeness and consistency with wider character	This land is physically separated from the wider landscape although views to the wider landscape remain and it has a strong correlation with the surrounding river valley. The landscape is consistent with character descriptions as it is influenced by surrounding built form and farmland appears sandwiched between urban development. In addition the land contains open spaces and new woodland planting which is consistent with reported descriptions.	3
Remoteness and tranquillity	The landscape has a partly remote character despite the surrounding urban areas. Within the establishing woodland the land has a more tranquil character which will continue to develop and establish as the woodland matures. Elsewhere the land has a less tranquil character as it is surrounded by rural development with longer views across the landscape to warehouse development and other settlements.	1
	Landscape quality value	7

Urban Fringe 5: Fringe between Donington le Heath, Hugglescote and Coalville

Visual Quality		
Visual prominence	The land is on rising ground within a river valley; the land is prominent from footpaths on the edge of Ellistown and is viewed as a tract of green land within a wider settlement. Within the wider landscape to the north, east and west the land is enclosed and generally screened by surrounding built development which reduces its prominence. The properties bordering the site have views of this fringe although the extent of views vary with landform and woodland planting within the fringe.	3
Nature of the urban edge	The majority of the urban edges within this fringe are softened by mature planting, which during the summer will provide a high degree of screening. Only glimpsed views of the tops of rooflines are possible above this vegetation. As the young woodland planting within this fringe matures, views of urban fringes will decrease further.	2
Distinctive views and setting of the settlement	From Ashburton Road and the northern edge of Donington le Heath Woodlands the Manor House and church are distinctive features set within mature woodland and landscaped grounds. The building is a distinctive style and prominent within this fringe. Within the wider views St John the Baptist Church at Hugglescote is prominent; the properties visible on this fringe are on rising ground up to the church which enhances its prominence within the village. Bardon Hill is glimpsed beyond the church but does not diminish its prominence. Views from Ashburton Road are across the river valley, development is discernible along The Green close to the River Sence with the northern edge of Ellistown also visible on high ground. Warehouses and restored land around Bardon Quarry and warehouses and industry on the edge of Ellistown are prominent on the horizon. Over time as woodland within this fringe matures these views will alter as the urban influence diminishes.	2
Public accessibility	The land is crossed by a network of footpaths linking the settlements with each other and the Manor House. The new woodland is accessible and provides other routes through the fringe.	3
Visual quality value		10
Scope for mitigation		
This land is important in retaining the open land between the settlements of Hugglescote and Donington le Heath. It also plays an important role in reinforcing the separation between these settlements and Ellistown as development along The Green is on lower ground and generally less visible within the wider landscape. It is mostly covered by accessible open space and woodland. Pockets of pasture on the fringes are generally enclosed with few views of them. If any of this fringe was developed it would need careful placement to ensure that the linear and rising character of Hugglescote was not affected and the prominence of St John the Baptist Church was retained. It would also need to retain the linear character of Donington le Heath. Any access roads would need to be recessive in views. It would be difficult to undertake development and respect the form of the settlements. In addition it is likely that development could reduce the sense of separation between Hugglescote and Donington le Heath and the perceived separation between these settlements and Ellistown. This would be difficult to mitigate.		

2: View from northern edge of Donington le Heath Woodlands



Urban Fringe 6: Southern Fringe of Donington le Heath and Hugglescote



1: View from Grange 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.	
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. 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 is a shallow river valley along the River Sence. The land falls from a high point on the fringe of Hugglescote to low ground by the River Sence. There are areas of restored ground close to the dismantled railway which is on an embankment. The railway and woodland on it provide enclosure from the wider landscape. The land is a mix of rough grassland and wetland, a narrow river valley, a cemetery and recreation ground, and some narrow pasture fields with fragmented boundaries. Fields are a mixture of small fields close to settlement edges particularly close to Donington le Heath where hedgerows tend to be taller and more mature and recreational land. Woodland is present across the landscape and includes riparian trees along the river, areas of naturally establishing woodland, mature linear woodland along the railway and on restored ground. Field pattern includes areas of 18 th and 19 th century enclosure (Planned Enclosure) close to the railway. Other tree cover includes individual trees and frequent mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Hedgerows are often mature and form a tall line of trees or a narrow wooded belt which increases enclosure. The landscape is representative of a river valley and associated floodplain. Properties are on the edge of villages and the land has a rural character. In places this appears remote where the land is restored and enclosed by woodland and has limited urban influences. The edge of Donington le Heath is distinctive and rural in character. Large properties dispersed within large plots with mature gardens provide a soft village edge to this approach into the wider Coalville urban area. Both Hugglescote and Donington le Heath have a rural character created through a dispersed and varied street character and linear settlement pattern despite being physically linked to the wider Coalville urban area. To the south of Donington le Heath the land includes frequent fragmented hedgerows and scrub which contributes to a less intact floodplain landscape, however the presence of wetlands and trees reinforces this character. Overhead lines are prominent on the skyline within views along this fringe.	2
Representativeness and consistency with wider character	The landscape is a small pocket concentrated along the River Sence. The character descriptions do not focus at this level of detail and do not mention watercourses as a key feature. The presence of pasture and smaller fields on the fringes of settlements is a feature. This landscape is representative of the watercourses within the wider landscape; woodland and tree planting provide softening to urban fringes and create a distinctive character. The evidence of past mining is present in the form of restored mounds and young tree planting.	2
Remoteness and tranquillity	The approach to Hugglescote is enclosed and views are dominated by St John the Baptist Church, the fringes are relatively screened and the approach has a rural village character to it. The approach to Donington le Heath is also rural; views are restricted along Richmond Road until north of the railway. The views are of a dispersed edge with farm buildings which helps to reinforce the rural character. In places the landscape has a more tranquil appearance such as on the edge of the cemetery and close to the river.	3
Landscape quality value		7

Urban Fringe 6: Southern Fringe of Donington le Heath and Hugglescote

Visual Quality		
Visual prominence	This fringe is not visually prominent within the wider landscape. It is on low ground following the course of the River Sence. On the fringes of Hugglescote the railway and mature woodland on an embankment provide a strong screen to the wider landscape. The rising edge of Donington le Heath is visible from high ground at the northern edge of Ibstock; properties on the fringe of the settlement are seen on rising ground dispersed within trees. Properties on Berry Hill Lane are prominent within the landscape. To the north views are only from Berry Hill Lane beyond this the landform screens the fringe.	1
Nature of the urban edge	The edges of the settlements generally contain large gardens and mature trees which reduce their prominence and scale within the fringe. Although often properties have few trees on their actual boundary they border small fields with mature boundaries which provide the impression of soft edges. Often only rooftops are visible in the landscape.	3
Distinctive views and setting of the settlement	Many views within this landscape are enclosed and rural with few or no properties visible; views are channelled along the river valley and enclosed by woodland. St John the Baptist Church at Hugglescote is on high ground and is very prominent on the approach to Hugglescote and is a key feature on the skyline of the village. It is also prominent on higher ground on the approach along Richmond Road. The church is prominent in the wider landscape to the south of the fringe and is a key feature of this edge of the settlement. The edge of Donington le Heath is visible within the landscape, however it contains farm buildings and properties are dispersed and set within large grounds. This softens the edge of the settlement and creates a dispersed rising village roofline. From the edge of the cemetery there are views across the fringe. Bardon Hill is a feature on the skyline.	3
Public accessibility	There are a few footpaths through this landscape with localised views across the land due to enclosure by landform and woodland. Footpaths link the edge of Donington le Heath and Hugglescote with the wider landscape and with Ellistown to the south. These routes quickly become rural in character with a strong sense of separation from the adjacent urban areas. A bridleway provides access from Donington le Heath to accessible woodland at Kelham Bridge Nature Reserve. A byway is also present extending from the edge of Donington le Heath into the fringe.	2
		Visual quality value
		9
Scope for mitigation		
Any development close to Grange Road should ensure that it does not reduce the prominence of St John the Baptist Church on the skyline and it does not alter the rural enclosed approach into Hugglescote. To the south of Grange Road development would alter the character and increase the urban influences within the landscape; it could also considerably reduce the separation between Coalville and Ellistown if visible along Midland Road. Development would affect the river valley enclosed landscape and could introduce a greater density of urban influences than currently present. The dispersed rising roofline within the edge of Donington le Heath and the rural character of the villages of Hugglescote and Donington le Heath should be retained. Although these settlements are physically joined to the wider Coalville area they have a distinctive village character and feel separate from the main urban area. If development took place on their edges it could reduce this separation and character. The landscape has frequent woodlands which provide enclosure; whilst more woodland could be used as mitigation it could reduce the balance of open land and woodland within the fringe.		

2: View from The Green



Urban Fringe 7: South Western Fringe of Coalville



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 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. To the south of Grange Road it becomes 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 fringe forms a wide river valley which falls from a high point of 160m AOD close to Coalville Lane and 159m AOD to the rear of properties on Wentworth Road to low ground along a watercourse. The land comprises a range of uses typical of urban fringe landscapes. The land is mostly a mix of arable and pasture fields; arable is present closer to Leicester Road/Standard Hill. Allotments which are only partially used with the rest being rough grassland are close to the edge of Coalville; other fields are left unmanaged as rough grassland. The land also includes a prominent restored mound, part of Snibston Discovery Centre, with young establishing woodland and grassland. Fields are small to medium in scale with an irregular shape. They are bordered by hedgerows both with and without hedgerow trees; most hedgerows are fragmented or appear as small clumps of shrubs where hedgerows used to be. Woodland is frequent within this landscape and includes young establishing woodland, mature pockets of woodland such as at Snibston Grange Nature Reserve where conifers are a feature and isolated trees and mature hedgerows. Along the fringes of Coalville there are pockets of scrub and establishing woodland which soften urban fringes within views. Along the river valley there are areas of wetland, riparian trees and ponds which add to the diversity of the landscape. The land contains a mix of natural and man-made features the most prominent man-made feature being the restored ground. A caravan storage area on the fringe of Coalville is prominent within the landscape although tree planting would reduce its prominence during the summer. Overhead lines are prominent within the landscape and on the horizon. From higher ground there are long views across the fringe towards development with views beyond to Bardon Hill. Warehouse development is prominent within the northern part of the fringe close to Coalville Lane where it is visible above surrounding trees. The land provides separation between Coalville and Ravenstone although in places such as along Wash Lane both edges are visible and prominent across fields. This landscape is typical of those along the urban fringe with a range of uses and evidence of fragmentation of hedgerows and fields left unmanaged as rough grassland. Urban elements are frequent and exert a strong influence.	1
Representativeness and consistency with wider character	The land is consistent with the Coalfield and Urban/Urban Fringe descriptions. The landscape has often mature or fragmented hedgerows and urban elements are always visible. Farmland in many places appears sandwiched between urban fringes and the land cover is a mix of uses. The land also has evidence of past coal workings with restored land with young woodland planting.	3
Remoteness and tranquillity	The land does not have a remote and tranquil character as there is some interruption by road noise, frequent overhead lines on high ground, caravan storage on the fringe, views of urban fringes and glimpsed views of industry. There are some areas of enclosure with a degree of tranquillity but the presence of urban influences is never far away which reduces the sense of separation and remoteness.	1
Landscape quality value		5

Urban Fringe 7: South Western Fringe of Coalville

Visual Quality		
Visual prominence	The land is prominent on the edge of Coalville as the rising ground makes the land more visible from the south. The undulating landform and the river valley help provide some screening to views from the south of Leicester Road/Standard Hill. Views to the west generally extend only from Wash Lane; beyond this the flat landform prevents views of the fringe. To the north and east views are only possible from properties on the edge of the settlement and views are often limited to across a couple of fields where field pattern is smaller and land enclosed by mature hedgerows or foreshortened by the restored mound.	1
Nature of the urban edge	The edge includes a mixture of both 'hard' and 'soft' edges. The northern edges of Coalville are softened by woodland planting on the restored mound at Snibston Discovery Centre. Other clumps and small woodlands along the edge soften views. However as the settlement is on the higher ground the rooflines are still prominent above woodland vegetation. To the west of the area industry is visible above structure panting, the edge of the settlement on Coalville Lane and along Leicester Road are prominent with few trees or woodland to soften the edges.	1
Distinctive views and setting of the settlement	Views are generally of sloping landform with the settlement rising on the highest ground. The roofline is relatively uniform and there are no features such as Christ Church visible on the horizon. From the edge of Ravenstoe at Leicester Road there are longer views with Bardon Hill visible above the settlement. However this is only possible from higher ground; across much of the landscape there are few landmarks within the views. Overhead lines are prominent and frequent features within the landscape. There is intervisibility between the edge of Coalville and Ravenstone although this is most pronounced along Wash Lane. Along the approach on Leicester Road/Standard Hill woodland and tree planting provide some softening to the settlement edge and the river valley landform provides a strong sense of separation between settlements.	1
Public accessibility	There are a few areas of accessible woodland such as adjacent to Snibston Grange Nature Reserve and Snibston Discovery Centre. Sustrans cycle path 52 bisects the fringe as does a bridleway and footpath which link the edge of Coalville with Ravenstone. Along these routes there are views across the land	2
		Visual quality value
		5
Scope for mitigation		
This landscape is typical of landscapes on the fringes of larger settlements. It has a range of uses and the pockets of farmland are often under managed or left as rough grassland. Areas such as the allotments show underuse with only a few plots being actively cultivated. Woodland is a feature of the fringe with mature and establishing woodland. As establishing woodland matures the enclosure within the landscape will increase. As the landscape contains woodland there is scope and opportunity to use and augment this to provide mitigation and screening to any proposed development. It would be important to ensure that development is limited to the fringes of the settlements and retains and reinforces separation along both Wash Lane and Leicester Road/Standard Hill. This would ensure that Ravenstone retained its separation from the wider Coalville area. Mitigation should include pockets of woodland along urban fringes to reduce their prominence particularly where the separation between settlements is limited and there is intervisibility between them. Development should be avoided along Leicester Road/Standard Hill where landscape framework such as open spaces which respect the field pattern and woodland is more appropriate.		

2: View from Wash Lane



Urban Fringe 8: Western Fringe of Coalville/Swannington



1: View from Alton Hill

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; 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 a gently undulating landscape gradually rising from Blower's Brook towards the edge of Coalville and Swannington at 165m AOD. The land is characterised by large irregular shaped arable fields with smaller pockets of pasture; there are smaller fields closer to isolated properties on Church Lane. Smaller fields are generally areas of older enclosure including Piecemeal Enclosure during the 16 th and 17 th Centuries. Fields are bounded by closely clipped low hedgerows with very few hedgerow trees. Where hedgerow trees are present they are often in small groups or close to field corners. Hedgerow condition is variable with some hedgerow in good condition and others becoming fragmented. Small pockets of woodland are infrequent within the landscape; a small woodland is present along Ashby Road/Alton Hill and to the south of the A511. Woodland along the railway forms a prominent feature to the north of the A511. Blower's Brook is generally not prominent within the landscape although to the south of Glebe Farm mature riparian trees feature along the stream. In views to the west woodland is discernible on higher ground around Farm Town including West Farm Wood, Breach Wood and Reoccliffe Wood. There are few farmsteads in the landscape; Glebe Farm and Hoo Ash Farm are discernible by large agricultural buildings and relatively little boundary planting. Sinope is a small pocket of housing on the A511. There is a caravan site to the rear of these properties although it is indistinct in the landscape as it is surrounded by tree planting. The lack of woodland, few hedgerow trees and few properties creates an open and relatively uniform character to the landscape. The edges of Swannington and Coalville are visible as a single line or small group of houses, their scale is generally small which creates the impression of a village edge.	2
Representativeness and consistency with wider character	The land is consistent with the Coalfield and Coalfield Village Farmlands descriptions. The land includes medium to large scale arable fields and relatively little woodland. This area has no new National Forest planting although young woodland to the east as it matures will increase the amount of woodland visible within this fringe. The open character enables the settlement edges to be visible over long distances although the edges are generally only a small proportion of the size of the adjacent settlement. The landscape character is consistent across the fringe and extends up to the settlement edges.	3
Remoteness and tranquillity	The land has a semi-rural character with fringes often appearing distant and only a small proportion of views. However, as the land is relatively open, views of traffic movement along the A511 and Alton Hill and the presence of large overhead lines reduces the sense of remoteness and reduces tranquillity.	1
Landscape quality value		6

Urban Fringe 8: Western Fringe of Coalville/Swannington

Visual Quality		
Visual prominence	This fringe is visually prominent from the surrounding countryside; it is an open landscape with few woodlands or trees to soften or filter views. Open direct views are possible from Alton Hill, the A511, The Moorlands and properties on the edge of Swannington, Coalville and Sinope. To the north of the A511 views towards the fringe are partially screened by woodland along the railway and a block of woodland to the immediate north. To the south views are generally restricted by Ravenstone.	3
Nature of the urban edge	The urban edges of Sinope, Coalville and Swannington are prominent with little garden or boundary vegetation. However landform which falls to the east means that the settlements appear as a small line of housing. The edge of Ravenstone is partially screened by woodland and mature hedgerows around smaller fields which soften the edge of the village.	2
Distinctive views and setting of the settlement	Views within this landscape are relatively uniform across farmland, within the settlements the edges are seen as a single uniform line of properties, often with little tree planting to provide variation. Ravenstone is generally obscured and not prominent within the wider landscape. Although the settlements are on high ground, they are often seen as small groups or a short line of housing; the rest of the more extensive settlements are obscured creating the impression of a series of small villages. This is reinforced at Coalville by the presence of Hoo Ash Farm on the edge of the settlement. Frequent overhead lines are prominent; their scale appears greater in the landscape as there are few trees or woodlands. To the west views are towards some high ground with woodland on the highest land, these are the most distinctive views within this landscape.	1
Public accessibility	The fringe is crossed by a number of footpaths and a by-way which links the A511 with Church Lane. From these routes there are open unobstructed views across the fringe.	3
		Visual quality value 9
Scope for mitigation		
<p>The landscape within this fringe is characterised by arable fields with few hedgerow trees or woodlands. It has a uniform pattern with often long distance and expansive views. Settlements are present within the landscape on higher ground. However the settlements appear as smaller villages; the extent of urban development is limited to single lines or small groups of properties. Any development in this landscape could have a significant effect on the shape and form of Coalville and Swannington and reduce the separation between each other and between Sinope. The character of the land is open and expansive. Woodland planting would be in character with the young woodlands planted as part of the National Forest but would alter the open character with extensive views. The settlements would no longer be seen as linear development but as larger settlements with a rising roofline which would increase the prominence of urban fringes and alter their smaller scale village appearance. In addition development south of the A511 would reduce separation between Ravenstone and Coalville. In views from the A511 the edge of Ravenstone is mostly screened by woodland. However if development took place on this fringe it would alter the separation experienced along Church Lane, which is already reduced by individual properties along this route and make the edges appear as one settlement in views from the A511.</p>		

2: View from Ashby Road



Urban Fringe 9: Northern Fringe of Coalville



1: View from Hough Hill

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: 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. Type: Historic Settlements and Enclosures: The predominantly open, sparsely wooded, mixed farmland creates a strong rural character with few urban intrusions. The field pattern is generally defined by hedgerows or stone walls. The medium to large fields have low cut, gappy hedgerows, scattered hedgerow trees and some woodland. The intensely cropped fields are large in scale with an 'open' pattern and occasional, poorly defined hedges. There are permanent pockets of pasture along watercourses and around villages. There is a traditional character of small fields with thick hedges and many hedgerow trees. A wooded feel is created by watercourse trees and clusters of small estate woodlands. Settlements are characterised by scattered farmsteads and villages.	
Landscape Quality		
Landscape Character	This fringe is a small pocket of land between the A511 north of Stephenson Industrial Estate and the edge of Swannington. The land falls from higher ground along Hough Hill to lower ground along the A511 and to a narrow river valley on the edge of Swannington. The watercourse is in a narrow valley with steep sides. The fringe is bisected by a railway line. To the south of the line are two large irregular shaped arable fields. The fields are bordered by intact hedgerows which are maintained to a low height and contain no hedgerow trees. The fields are enclosed by mature woodland along the railway line and younger establishing woodland along the A511. There are two pockets of scrub and trees within the fields. To the north of the railway line the land includes allotments and pockets of pasture land close to Swannington (recognised as Piecemeal Enclosure, land enclosed during the 16 th and 17 th centuries within the Historic Landscape Characterisation). Cuckoo Gap Wood, a large accessible woodland, extends across most of the fringe. This is young woodland planted as part of the National Forest; over time as this matures it will create a wooded character to the river valley. There are small pockets of horse paddocks on the northern part of the fringe along Spring Lane. This fringe provides important separation between Swannington on higher ground and Coalville on lower ground. The landform and woodland planting provide a strong sense of separation between the settlements. The landscape is distinctive along the river valley with steeply sloping valley sides and small pockets of pasture. The arable fields are more consistent with the wider character. The landform allows channelled views towards the industrial edge of Coalville and beyond towards Bardon Hill. To the north of the railway views tend to be more enclosed and channelled by landform along the river valley. Features are intact within this landscape although the strength of character is not completely consistent as part of the land is arable and part is woodland. The land either side of the railway has a different character at this local level. The land is typical of urban fringes with a range of uses, however the wooded river valley is a distinctive feature. In time the character will strengthen as the woodland matures.	2
Representativeness and consistency with wider character	The landscape is a small isolated pocket which has some similarities with the wider landscape. The general descriptions of character are not totally consistent as much of it is covered in young woodland. However as documented within these reports, the National Forest woodland planting is becoming increasingly prominent. The land is representative of the Coalfield landscape with mixed farmland and dense pattern of settlements.	2
Remoteness and tranquillity	The land has a relatively remote character created by enclosed views along the river valley, the landform and woodland reduce views of the surrounding settlements and help to create a remote and rural character. To the south of the railway line the land is less tranquil as there are views of warehouse development on the edge of Coalville and traffic noise and movement are features along A511.	2
Landscape quality value		6

Urban Fringe 9: Northern Fringe of Coalville

Visual Quality		
Visual prominence	The land to the south of the railway is visible from the edge of Stephenson Industrial Estate and rear elevations from properties on Ashby Road and A511. Properties along Hough Hill will have some views of the site although views are restricted as the road is set slightly higher than the land and the land falls sharply. More distant views would be possible from footpaths on higher ground on the edge of Charnwood Forest, however these views would be across all of Coalville and the site would be a very small component surrounded by built development. The land to the north of the railway is less visible; properties along Station Hill and Spring Lane have views across the land although these tend to be only across a single field or across the river valley, longer views are restricted by landform. Other views into the fringe are restricted by mature and establishing woodland.	2
Nature of the urban edge	Urban edges bordering this fringe are generally rear gardens which contain some mature trees and shrubs which provide some softening to views. The edge of Swannington is prominent to the south of the railway as it is on higher ground than the fringe. There is little tree or shrub vegetation to soften the appearance of this edge, however it appears as a single line of development. Properties on Spring Lane face the fringe and front gardens have relatively little vegetation; however the edge of built development is only visible from a small part of the fringe, beyond this woodland screens the properties.	2
Distinctive views and setting of the settlement	Views are generally enclosed and foreshortened within this fringe by woodland. From Hough Hill there are longer channelled views across Coalville on lower ground to the rising wooded high ground at the edge of Charnwood Forest by Thringstone and Whitwick. Bardon Hill forms a prominent backdrop to the settlement. Christ Church in Coalville is discernible but only forms a small feature within a wide view of warehouse development across the edge of Coalville. Housing within Coalville is generally screened by the warehouse development. The roofline is uniform with few punctuations. Trees along the A511 will provide some softening to views during the summer months but views would remain of warehouse development. The A511 approach to Coalville is generally quite rural and only once at the junction with Hough Hill does the settlement become apparent; woodland planting along this fringe provides some screening to warehouse development in views. Views towards Swannington are of a single line of housing on high ground above rolling arable fields. The roofline is uniform on this higher ground. Along Spring Lane there is a strong sense of separation between Coalville, New Swannington and Swannington created through pockets of pasture and woodland planting preventing intervisibility between the settlements and a rural approach to Swannington.	2
Public accessibility	There is no public access to the south of the railway. To the north there is a bridleway and footpaths through the accessible woodland, which also has a network of other footpaths. Views are generally only over small distances within the fringe.	3
		Visual quality value 9

Scope for mitigation

This fringe provides separation between Coalville and Swannington. The land falls from Swannington to Coalville where the edge is defined by the A511. Swannington retains its character as a linear village despite its proximity to the larger Coalville area. However there is very little gap between the southern edge of Swannington and the edge of Coalville along Swannington Road. The settlement has a linear character which would be altered if development extended within this fringe. It would also alter the approach into Coalville and extend the urban area beyond the defined edge of the A511. New woodland, whilst in character within the wider area, would alter the character and setting of Swannington on higher ground. It would also alter the narrow river valley character of land to the north of the railway and potentially reduce the remote and more rural character present within this part of the fringe.

2: View from Spring Lane



3: View from Spring Lane



Urban Fringe 10: South Western Fringe of Coalville south of Leicester Road/Standard Hill



1: View from Melbourne 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.	
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. 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 fringe forms a wide river valley which falls from a high point of 144m AOD at the edge of Ravenstone to a low of 130m AOD along the river valley. The land then rises close to Donington le Heath at 150m AOD before falling towards the River Sence to the south. The landscape is characterised by a mix of arable and pasture. Arable farming tends to be on higher and flatter ground with pasture along settlement fringes and lower ground close to the rivers. There are small fields close to settlement edges, where hedgerows tend to be taller and more mature, and larger arable fields throughout the rest of the landscape where hedgerows are lower and contain fewer hedgerow trees. Woodland is a feature within the fringe with prominent mature woodland along the watercourse through the centre of the fringe and other smaller pockets of woodland on field margins. Wetlands and ponds are a feature of land close to the watercourses. Some fields have been sub-divided to provide horse grazing; fencing is often set adjacent to hedgerows which reduces its prominence and retains the overall field pattern. Settlements surround this landscape and are often on higher ground; they often appear as a single line of development and woodland and fields in the foreground of views reinforces the separation between them. Snibston is a small hamlet within the fringe to the south of Leicester Road; it contains a small number of properties including a former school, chapel and a large farmhouse (Grange Farm) and a number of large agricultural buildings. One other farm building (Berryhills Farm) within the fringe is prominent on higher ground. Overhead lines are common on high ground within this landscape and are the most prominent feature on the horizon. The land has a more rural character than to the north of Leicester Road with urban edges appearing more distant. The landform of the river valleys is distinctive and mature woodland and wetlands along the watercourses add to the sense of place and distinctiveness of the landscape.	3
Representativeness and consistency with wider character	The land is consistent with the Coalfield and Urban/Urban Fringe descriptions. The landscape has a less rural character closer to Leicester Road. However further to the south, whilst urban fringes are visible on higher ground the undulating landform and mature woodland help to create separation and a more rural character than the descriptions report. Farming is mixed but mostly arable. Woodland will become an increasingly prominent element as young plantation establishes particularly at Kelham Bridge Nature Reserve.	3
Remoteness and tranquillity	The land becomes increasingly tranquil and rural to the south of this fringe where views of settlements are more distant. The rolling landform and woodland are the most prominent elements which help to reinforce remoteness and a more tranquil character. This tranquil character is diminished close to roads where traffic and noise influence the tranquillity.	2
Landscape quality value		8

Urban Fringe 10: South Western Fringe of Coalville south of Leicester Road/Standard Hill

Visual Quality		
Visual prominence	The land includes high ground and lower ground along the river valleys. Lower ground is less prominent and woodland helps provide enclosure. Higher land within the fringe is visible from Melbourne Road, the edge of Ravenstone, the edge of Coalville at Donington le Heath and more distant views from the northern edge of Ibstock to the south. Where the land rises in the fringe to a broad plateau such as on the northern edge of Donington le Heath on Berryhill Lane views are restricted by the broad plateau with longer views only to corresponding higher ground.	3
Nature of the urban edge	Urban edges are variable with the edge of Ravenstone prominent and forming a 'hard' edge although partially softened by some garden trees within front gardens. Along the edge of Coalville at Degens Way mature trees provide a softening to the edge and a good screen to properties on this fringe. To the rear of St Marys Avenue the properties are visible with little planting along their fringes. These properties are on the edge of a localised plateau which reduces their visibility within the wider area. Properties along Berryhills Lane on the edge of Donington le Heath are prominent on high ground but only viewed as a single line.	2
Distinctive views and setting of the settlement	Views are generally of a rolling landform with distant views of settlements on high ground. From higher ground along Melbourne Road there are glimpsed views toward Bardon Hill which is prominent within the landscape. Billa Barra Hill is also discernible. Within some views from this road warehouse development on the fringes of Coalville, particularly at Bardon 21, and industry at Ibstock are prominent on the horizon. Their scale and prominence is reduced due to the hills beyond and the intervening rolling farmland and woodland of this fringe. Overhead lines are the tallest feature within the views.	1
Public accessibility	There is a network of footpaths linking between Snibston and Donington le Heath. A bridleway provides access from Donington le Heath to accessible woodland at Kelham Bridge Nature Reserve.	2
		Visual quality value
		8
Scope for mitigation		
<p>This landscape is an attractive rolling river valley landscape with mature woodland and wetland features along the rivers. The settlements within this landscape often appear distant within views or as a single line of properties on higher ground. The only indication that the urban areas may extend further is through glimpsed views towards warehouse development at Coalville and Bardon 21 and industry at Ibstock. The landscape contains some woodland although this is generally concentrated along the rivers and as small pockets on field margins. New woodland at Kelham Bridge Nature Reserve will add to the wooded character as it matures. The land has a rural character and settlements are often linear. Development of this fringe could affect this character and setting of the settlements. In addition the land is important in providing separation between Ravenstone, Ibstock, Snibston and Coalville. Any development would need to be concentrated close to the settlements and retain the linear rural character of buildings in views. Narrow belts of irregularly shaped woodland should be used to provide screening and be combined with areas of open land which respect the field pattern. Where the adjacent field pattern is smaller the woodlands should reflect this scale and enclosure. Development could have a detrimental effect on the rural character of this landscape if it made edges more prominent and more extensive within views.</p>		

2: View from St Mary's Lane

