



Cannock Chase AONB

Cannock Chase AONB Views and Setting Guide

Final report
July 2020



**Cannock
Chase**
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

Cannock Chase AONB

Cannock Chase AONB Views and Setting Guide

Project Number
10955

Version	Status	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Date
1.	Draft	S Crewe / H Ward	K Ahern	K Ahern	24.04.2020
2.	Client comments addressed	S Crewe	K Ahern	K Ahern	05.06.2020
3.	Final	S Crewe	K Ahern	K Ahern	03.07.2020

Contents

Chapter 1		Chapter 3	
Introduction	2	Selection of Representative Views	28
Purpose of the study	2		
Status of the document	2	Chapter 4	
Introduction	3	Viewpoint Specific Guide	53
How to use this document	4	Interpretation of the ZTV	53
The AONB and its setting	6		
Special qualities	6	Chapter 5	
Policies	7	Spatial Guide	118
Methodology	7		
Task 1: Definition of representative views	8		
Task 2: Site survey	8		
Task 3: Review of existing guidance	8		
Task 4: Pilot testing of the guide	8		
Task 5: Development of the guide	9		
Study area	9		
Structure	11		
Chapter 2			
Context	13		
Planning context	13		
National policy	13		
Features that contribute to the setting of the AONB	15		
Published landscape character assessments	15		
National landscape character	15		
Local landscape character	16		
Topography	19		
Historic environment	21		
Views and visual relationships	23		
Natural character	25		

Chapter 1: Introduction

View looking north from the Triumphal Arch at the Shugborough Estate

Chapter 1

Introduction

Purpose of the study

Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership commissioned LUC in December 2019 to prepare a guide which identifies views to and from the AONB to help ensure that new development is effectively integrated into the landscape setting when viewed from the high ground of the AONB and towards the AONB from outside it. The study provides evidence to promote understanding of the surroundings and deliver a guide to help ensure that the setting is managed and developed in a way that conserves and enhances the significance and special qualities of the AONB.

It has been prepared in response to a priority action outlined within the Implementation Action Plan for the AONB Management Plan¹. It has the following specific objectives:

- To define key views into and out of the AONB.
- To describe principles of assessment and design that need to be considered in development proposals in order to minimise detrimental impacts on Cannock Chase AONB and its setting.
- To inform Local Plan policies.
- To inform Neighbourhood Plan preparation.
- To guide the preparation of design briefs, planning applications etc. and to ensure that these are informed by an assessment of effects on views.
- To ensure that new development does not detract from peoples' enjoyment of views from or towards the AONB.

Status of the document

The document has been produced to support the implementation of the Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan, ensuring that new development is effectively integrated into the setting of the AONB. Cannock Chase AONB straddles five local planning authorities which each have their own policies and guidance relating to design and new development. This guide should be read in conjunction with planning policy and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) documents as set out under Planning Context. Using this document will help public bodies meet their statutory duties to have regard to the purposes of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect AONB land (Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000).



View looking south east towards Cannock Chase AONB from Stafford Castle

Introduction

At just 68 sq. kms, Cannock Chase is England's smallest inland AONB. Its underlying geology and distinctive upstanding domed plateau landform have a strong influence on its landscape character and qualities due to its visual prominence and the wide-ranging uninterrupted views. These views are recognised as one of the defining and special qualities of the AONB.

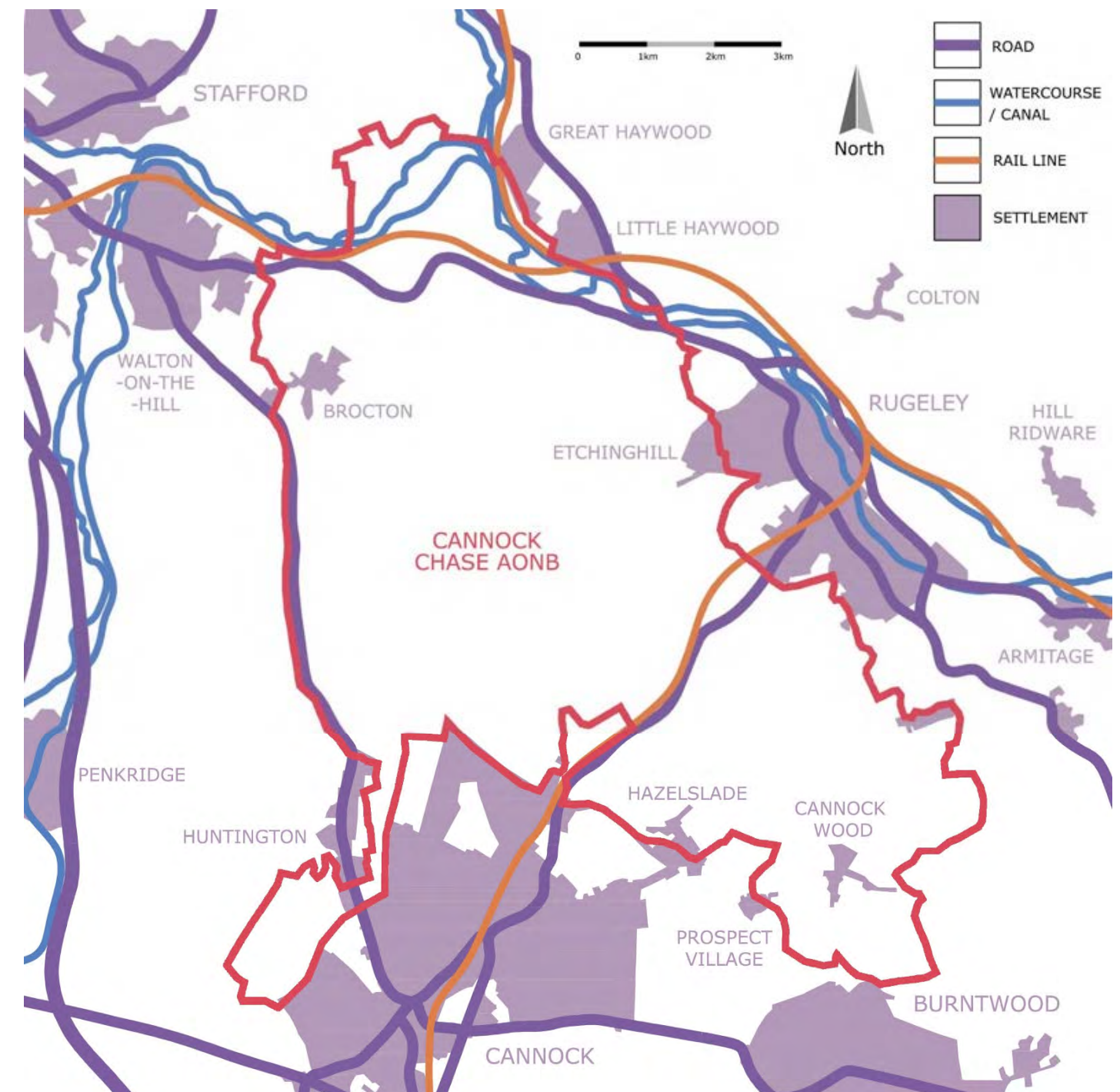
The AONB is characterised by far-ranging views to the west, contrasting vistas over the tranquil valley landscapes of the Trent Sow to the north and outlooks across the developed surroundings of the West Midlands conurbation (see **Figure 1.1**). Open views to and from the high heathland plateau characteristic of the AONB similarly contrast with the more enclosed densely forested areas of the AONB.

Views to the distinctive profile of Cannock Chase are an important attribute within the surrounding areas, where it forms a distinctive backdrop and skyline horizon from the edges of many urban areas and a visual link with the surrounding communities.

The AONB is a highly valued natural and cultural landscape – an oasis within a relatively densely populated area. The inspiring views are especially enjoyed and appreciated by residents, visitors and road users – providing a breathing space, long views, uncluttered horizons and scenic diversity. The requirement for protection and enhancement of the setting of the AONB is recognised within the AONB Management Plan¹ as a mechanism to ensure the long-term survival of the AONB's special qualities.

The setting of Cannock Chase (herein referred to as 'the AONB') encompasses both its visual relationship with its surroundings (how the views from and to the AONB contribute to its character and the way it is perceived and experienced) and its cultural relationships with local communities, landscapes and other heritage assets. Views form one of the key methods how setting is experienced and proposals for change in the setting should, therefore, have regard to the inter-relationship with the AONB, landscape character and its special qualities.

Figure 1.1: Context plan



¹ Cannock Chase AONB Unit (2019) *Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan (2019-2024)*

How to use this document

The special qualities of the AONB can be eroded, changed or enhanced by external influences beyond its boundary. It is recognised that there are numerous pressures for development in the surrounding areas, notably for housing, employment, transport infrastructure, grid connections and renewable energy schemes. The document provides a guide to help ensure that the surroundings of the AONB are developed and managed in ways that conserve and enhance its significance and inherent special qualities. Supporting the objectives of the AONB Management Plan¹, the document provides a guide to Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), landowners and other interested parties regarding the potential impact of development on views within the setting of the AONB.

Comprising both a spatial and viewpoint specific guide, the document will be utilised by LPAs and decision makers when assessing and determining planning applications within the wider setting of the AONB. The study will also guide the preparation of design briefs and Local Plan policies to ensure that these are informed by an assessment of effects on views. Consequently, the study provides a starting point of evidence and understanding to guide sensitive management of the AONB setting.

This guide sits alongside the AONB Design Guide² and together will provide a framework which aims to safeguard the setting of the AONB and conserve and enhance distinctive views.

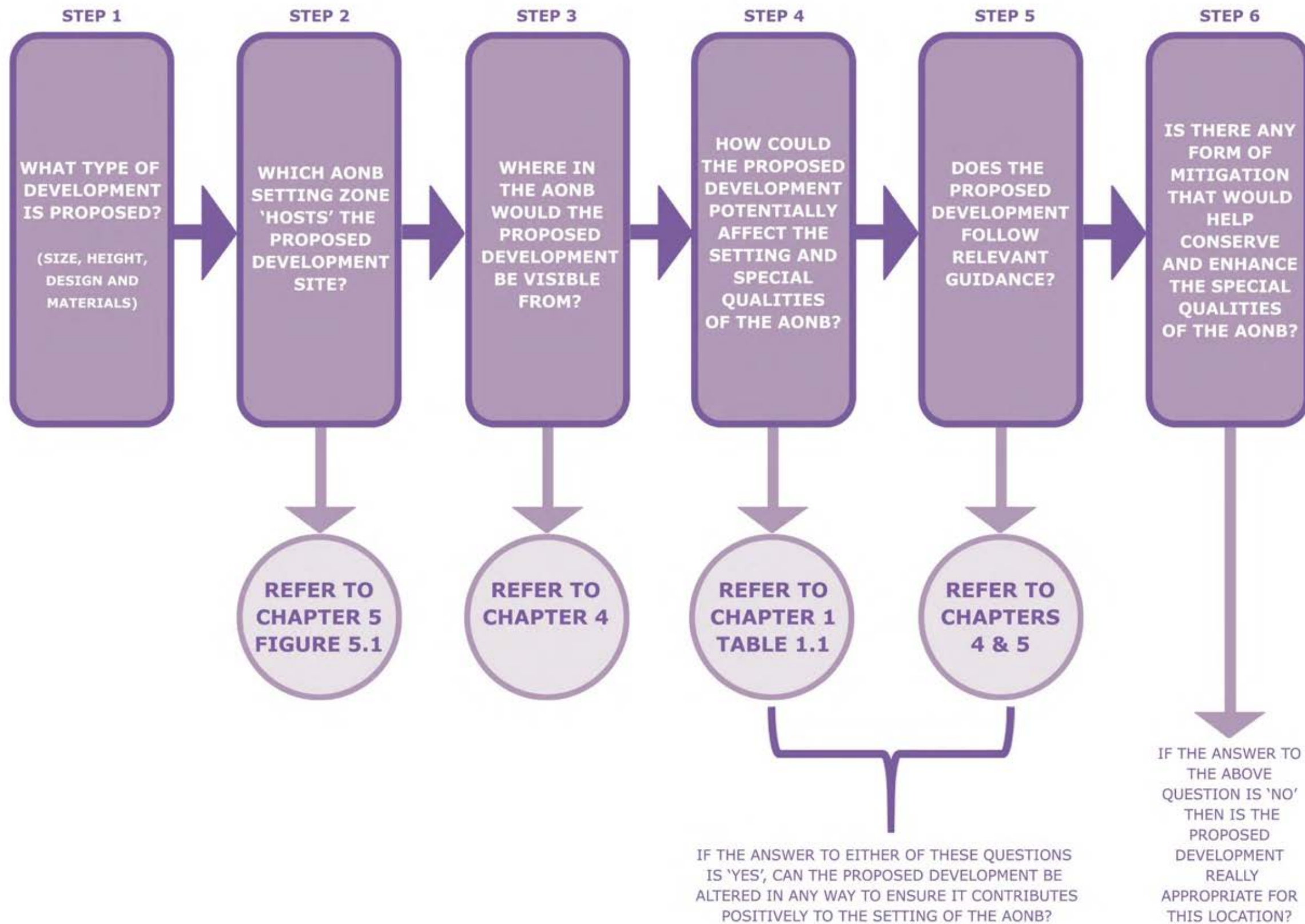
Impacts on the setting of the AONB form a material matter in the consideration of the acceptability of proposed development in Planning. **Figure 1.2** illustrates a user guide to demonstrate how the document aligns to this audience and provides a framework to assist with the approach to planning applications and delivery.



View looking north west towards Stafford from the western fringes of the AONB

² Cannock Chase AONB Partnership (2020) *Cannock Chase AONB Design Guide*

Figure 1.2: User guide



The AONB and its setting

Special qualities

Designated in 1958 under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949), the AONB is characterised by a number of special qualities which emphasize the contrast between its semi-wilderness character and the developed context which surrounds it. The AONB Management Plan¹ provides an understanding of the factors that contribute to the special qualities of the AONB; listed as *Landscape Quality, Scenic Quality, Relative Wildness and Tranquillity, Natural Heritage Features and Cultural Features (see Table 1.1)*.

The characteristic domed plateau landform and the availability of inspiring views are recognised in the AONB Management Plan¹ as special qualities and an essential element of its natural beauty. The extent that views also affect the experience of the AONB in terms of tranquillity is also relevant to this study. These special qualities of the AONB provide a character-based criterion to judge the impact on the AONB due to development or other activities. The key relevant special qualities are highlighted.

This study provides a starting point for evidence and understanding to guide sensitive management of the AONB setting.

Table 1.1: Special qualities of the AONB

Factors of Natural Beauty	The Special Qualities of Cannock Chase
Landscape Quality	<i>A largely intact landscape, particularly in its heathland and wood pasture, providing a historical and spatial continuity of scale, openness, semi-natural land cover, public ownership and access which is in marked contrast to the more urban and fragmented landscapes that surround it.</i>
Natural Heritage Features	<i>An underlying geology of red sandstone containing sand cemented pebbles that was formed 220 million years ago. This geology has contributed to the economic prosperity of the area, through a long history of coal mining (now finished) and quarrying (which continues).</i>
	<i>Rivers, wetlands and waterways, including the Trent and Sow rivers, the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal and the spring-fed mires and wet heaths of the Sherbrook and Oldacre Valleys.</i>
	<i>Ancient broadleaved woodland and wood pastures such as Brocton Coppice, containing veteran oak trees, woodland flowers, birds, bats and insects.</i>
	<i>Wildlife species which are nationally rare, protected and/or strongly associated with the Chase. These include birds such as the nightjar and</i>
Factors of Natural Beauty	<i>woodlark, reptiles such as adder and common lizard, plants such as Cannock Chase berry, invertebrates such as the small pearl-bordered fritillary and bog bush-cricket, and the herds of deer which are recognised as the emblem of the Chase.</i>
Scenic Quality	<i>A varied landscape of heathland, woodland, wood pasture, parkland, mixed pastoral and arable farmland and traditional farmsteads. The large blocks of heathland and woodland in the centre of the AONB contrast with the smaller scale farmed countryside, bisected by thick hedgerows and narrow lanes, around its fringes.</i>
	<i>A domed plateau landform, created by ancient faulting and folding of the rocks, which has been eroded by rivers and streams, particularly on its northern edge by the River Trent.</i>
	<i>Inspiring views, both to the elevated plateau of the Chase from surrounding areas and from the high ground of the Chase across the farmed vales and countryside of the Midlands.</i>
Relative Wildness and Tranquillity	<i>A haven of tranquillity and wildness, compared to the busy towns and roads that surround it, providing popular spaces for informal recreation such as Marquis Drive and Birches Valley, as well as less visited spots for quiet contemplation and watching nature.</i>
Cultural Heritage	<i>A rich history, whose layers in the landscape can be experienced first-hand, including at the Iron Age Hillfort at Castle Ring; the remnants of a medieval hunting landscape; historic houses and parkland; historic field patterns; the rich heritage of iron and glass working and coal mining; the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal; and military camps and cemeteries from the two World Wars.</i>
	<i>Historic parkland, ornamental landscapes, and the relationships between them, often associated with fine houses and landed estates, such as those at Shugborough, Beaudesert, Teddesley, Wolseley and Hatherton.</i>
	<i>Common land, which has an ancient history providing grazing for local farms and smallholdings, including the commons of Cannock Chase, Haywood Warren, Brindley Heath, Penkridge Bank, Shoal Hill and Gentleshaw.</i>
Additional qualities	<i>Local communities and interest groups who cherish and help care for the Chase and its designated status.</i>
	<i>A network of well-maintained rides and paths through woodland and heathland providing opportunities for stimulating exercise and exploration.</i>

The AONB Management Plan¹ states that “the loss, damage or deterioration of any of these special qualities would fundamentally alter the character and quality of the natural beauty of Cannock Chase”.

Policies

The need to protect the setting of the AONB forms a priority objective of the AONB Management Plan¹, as defined within Policy LCP8 below:

- “LCP8: Development and land management proposals in the area, which by virtue of their nature, size, scale, siting, materials or design can be considered to have a negative impact on the natural beauty and special qualities of Cannock Chase AONB, should be resisted.

This policy states that the landscape setting of the AONB should be enhanced, forming a basis to ensure the long-term survival of the special qualities of the AONB. The long vistas over the farmed vales from the elevated plateau of the AONB should also be protected whilst retaining the prominent wooded skyline of the AONB from the surrounding context.

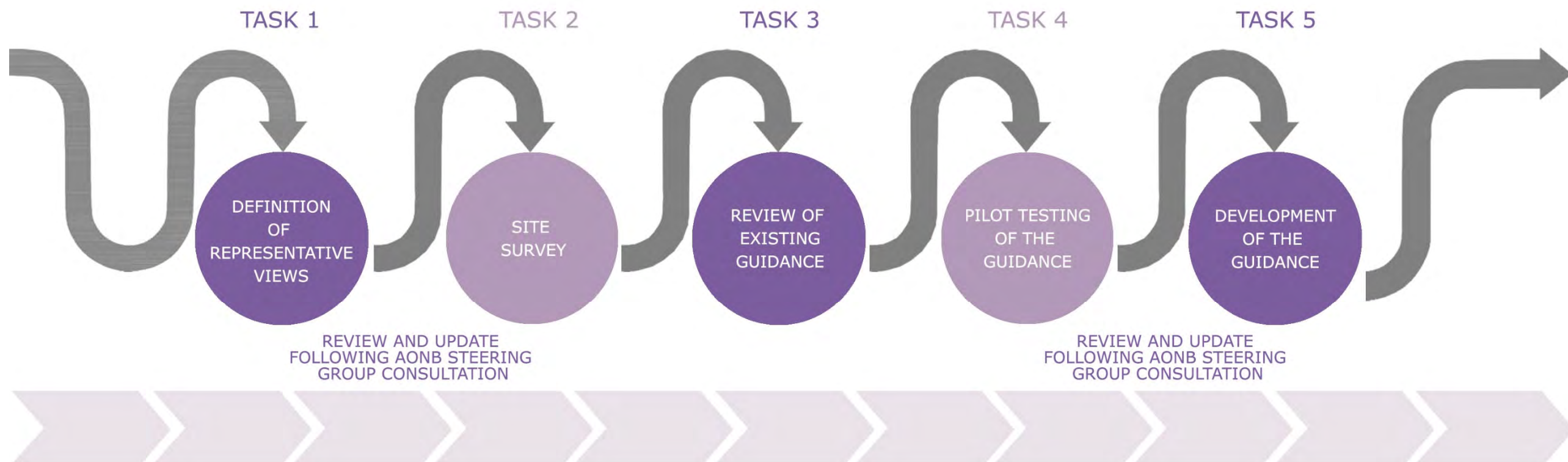
Additional policies of relevance to this study are listed below:

- LCP1: Development proposals within the AONB should be of high quality design and environmental standards, respecting local distinctiveness, be complementary in form and scale with their surrounding and should take opportunities to enhance their setting and minimise their carbon footprint and negative impacts on the local environment.
- LCP9: In the immediate vicinity of the AONB the character of the public realm (e.g. landscaping around roads and buildings, public lighting and signage) should be designed and maintained so that it reinforces and complements the landscape character and quality of the Chase and provides a welcoming experience for those entering the AONB.

Methodology

The methodology was developed with the aim of delivering outputs which provide both a spatial and viewpoint specific guide to ensure future development in the surroundings of the AONB make a positive contribution to the conservation and enhancement of special qualities. The study has adopted a methodology consisting of five main tasks, underpinned by stakeholder consultation. These tasks are outlined below and illustrated on **Figure 1.3**.

Figure 1.3: Methodology



Task 1: Definition of representative views

The initial task focussed on the identification of views and view patterns found across the AONB and wider study area. This was achieved through desktop analysis, study of Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping and review of published landscape character assessments and conservation area appraisals. The Cannock Chase AONB Fixed Point Photography (FPP) Project³ undertaken by Cannock Chase AONB Unit was also referenced during this process. Ensuring a broad geographical distribution across the study area, 20 representative views were identified based on the classification listed below:

- views from specific viewpoints that illustrate the special character and qualities of the AONB;
- sequential views e.g. view out from long distance footpaths / notably scenic roads; and
- landmark views focussed on specific features in the 'setting'.

Task 2: Site survey

The viewpoint photography was recorded during periods of very high or excellent visibility using a digital Single Lens Reflex (SLR) camera, tripod and panoramic head. Stitched panoramas of each view type were then produced in 90 degree sections (using a field of view that illustrates the character and quality of the view). A bespoke field survey form was also used to describe the viewpoint description, visual receptors, landscape character context and special qualities associated with each viewpoint location.

Using ArcMap 10.5.1 software, Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) / Height at which Object Becomes Visible (HOBV) mapping was calculated based on an observer height of 2m above ground level using a Digital Surface Model (DSM). Individual ZTVs were created for each representative viewpoint and merged to create a single viewshed for the study area.

Task 3: Review of existing guidance

An evaluation of guidance and data sources, including the AONB Management Plan¹, published landscape character assessments and conservation appraisals were undertaken to enhance understanding of the AONB's setting.

Task 4: Pilot testing of the guide

The developing approach was tested with sample view analyses and agreed with the AONB Steering Group prior to rolling out the method.



View from the Tower of the Winds at Shugborough Estate

³ Cannock Chase AONB Unit (2005 – ongoing) Cannock Chase AONB Fixed Point Photography Project

Task 5: Development of the guide

A guide for each representative viewpoint and 'setting zone' was developed within the study area. Presented as guiding principles, the document forms a toolkit for developers and decision makers to assess the potential impact on the setting of the AONB.

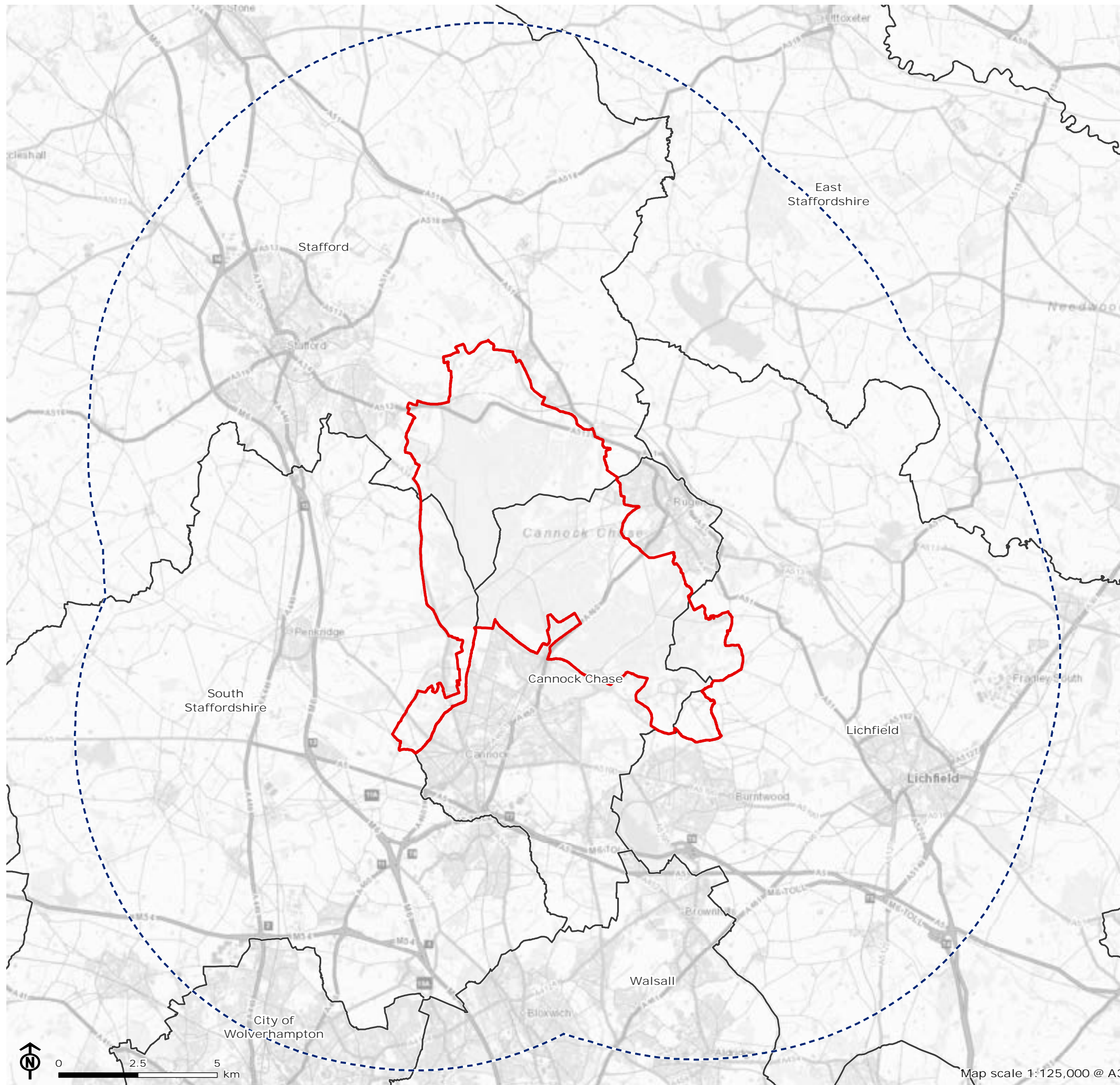
Study area

A 10km study area was established for the study, defined by a combination of desktop study, stakeholder input and professional judgement (see **Figure 1.4**). Although a 'setting' is not defined by a fixed boundary and cannot be definitively described as a spatially bounded area, a 10km extent is considered to encompass the area to which development proposals are likely to have an impact on the natural beauty and special qualities of the AONB. These impacts may be positive or negative, derived by virtue of their nature, size, scale, siting materials or design. A 10km extent was deemed proportionate to capture the issues that might affect the wider setting of the AONB.

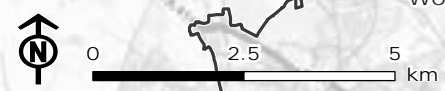


View towards Cannock Wood from Holly Hill Road

Figure 1.4: Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Location



- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Cannock Chase AONB - 10km buffer
- Local authority boundary



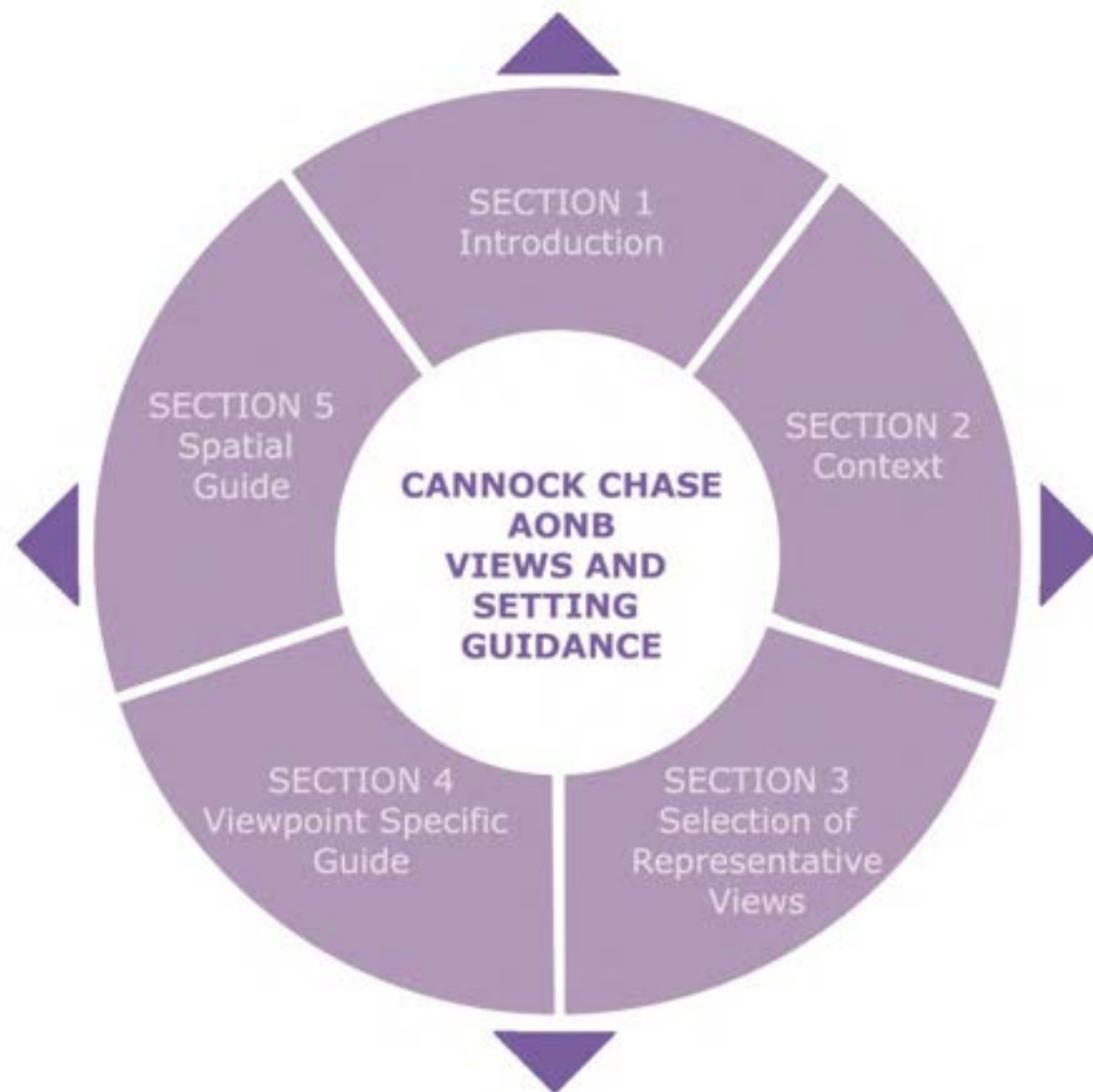
Map scale 1:125,000 @ A3

Structure

The guide will comprise the following elements and is structured as follows:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Context
- Chapter 3: Selection of Representative Views
- Chapter 4: Viewpoint Specific Guide
- Chapter 5: Spatial Guide

Figure 1.5: Structure of the study



Chapter 2: Context



Heathland at the fringes of the AONB

Chapter 2

Context

Planning context

National policy

The National Planning Policy Framework⁴ (NPPF) contains reference to the concept of the “setting” of a heritage asset. The formal planning definition is described as *‘the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral’*. The assessment of effects related to change in the setting of heritage assets is underpinned in England by Planning Practice Guidance – guidance documents issued by Historic England and its predecessor organisation, English Heritage.

The NPPF also acknowledges that surroundings can contribute to the experience of other non-heritage assets. The concept of the setting of the AONB and the potential impacts of development of natural beauty and special qualities is also well established in case law.

The protection of AONBs at the national scale is included within *NPPF Chapter 15: Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment* (para 172):

‘Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited. Planning permission should be refused for major development other than in exceptional circumstances, and where it can be demonstrated that the development is in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:

- a) the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;*
- b) the cost of, and scope for, developing outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and*
- c) any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated’*

Local context

The AONB is governed by the Joint Committee (JC) which has devolved authority from the five LPAs that cover the AONB (Staffordshire County Council, Stafford Borough Council, Cannock Chase District Council, South Staffordshire Council and Lichfield District Council).

Staffordshire County Council

Within the *Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Local Plan 2010-2026*⁵ it is noted that the setting of the AONB must be safeguarded:

There will be a presumption against waste development within Cannock Chase AONB, except in exceptional circumstances. The acceptability of waste management development proposals outside the boundary of the AONB will be assessed with regard to the extent of any adverse impact on the landscape, nature conservation or recreation interest of the AONB in order to ensure that the appearance and valued characteristics of the AONB are not compromised. More specifically, proposals in Cannock Chase AONB should take into account the objectives and purposes listed in Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan (23), related to protection of the landscape character of the AONB, visual impact of activity within the AONB landscapes and protection of the peace and tranquillity in order to ensure that requirements of Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 are met.

There are two permitted sand and gravel quarries within the AONB and *The Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire 2015-2030*⁶ plans for the management of these. Within **Policy 4: Minimising the impact of mineral development** an environmental consideration relates to the landscape within the AONB.

Cannock Chase District Council

The *Cannock Chase Local Plan*⁷ notes that the strategy will *“direct housing and employment development to urban areas in proportion to population sizes at the start of the plan period and protect the Cannock Chase AONB and other green infrastructure”*. It is emphasized that development near the AONB will be particularly sensitive.

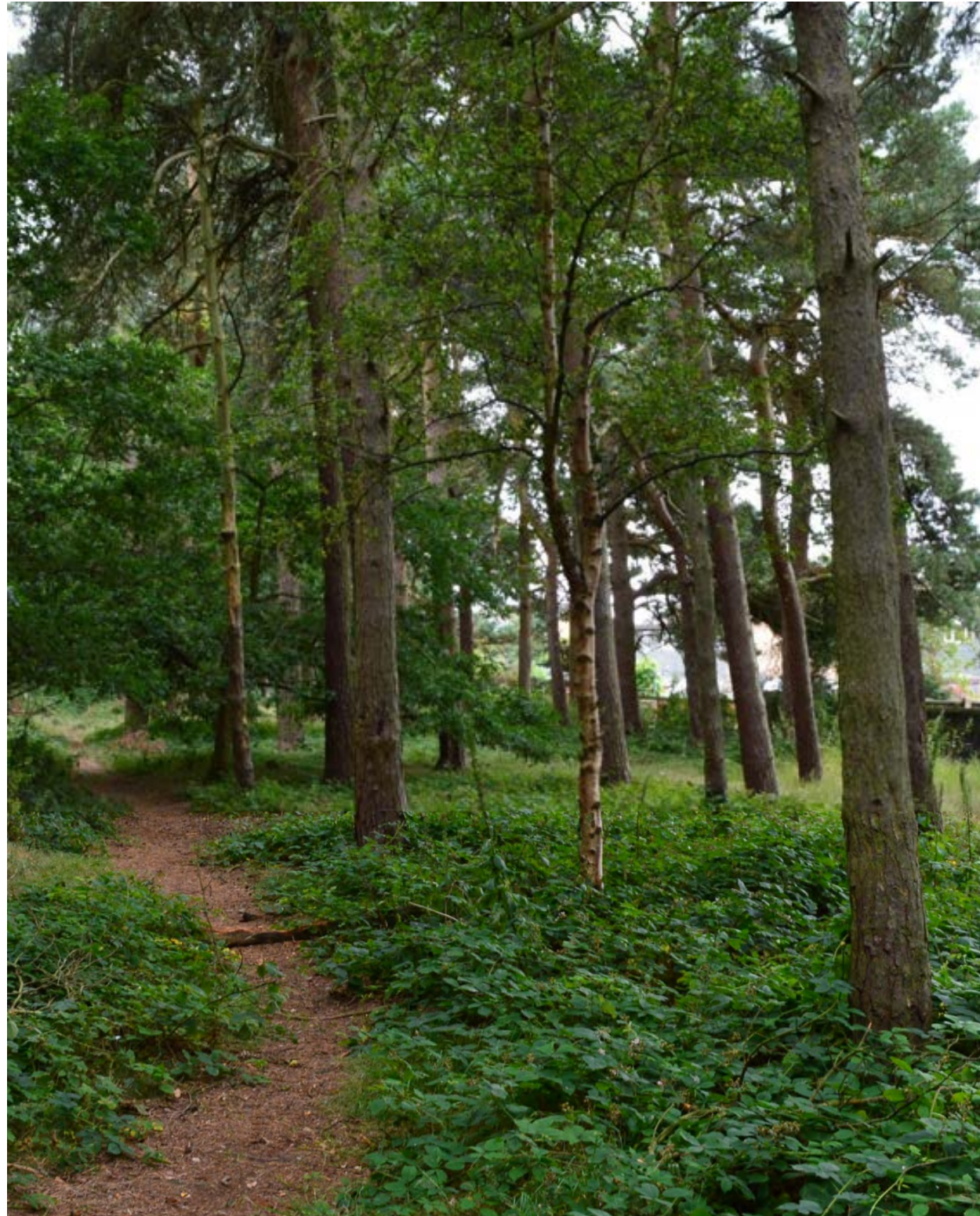
Objective 7 states the need to provide well managed and appreciated environments in order to protect the natural environment of the AONB.

⁴ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) *National Planning Policy Framework*

⁵ Staffordshire County Council (2013) *Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Local Plan 2010-2026*

⁶ Staffordshire County Council (2017) *The Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire 2015-2030*

⁷ Cannock Chase District Council (2014) *Cannock Chase Local Plan (Part 1)*



Mixed plantation woodland within the AONB

Lichfield District Council

The *Lichfield District Council Local Plan Strategy 2008-2029*⁸ highlights the statutory obligations to protect and manage the AONB. In addition the AONB is acknowledged as an important asset for tourism and recreation within the District: *'Only a small part of the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) falls within the District, however its presence in the sub-region is of wider significance because it provides a natural recreational resource, tourist attraction and important landscape'*.

Policy NR5: Natural & Historic Landscapes states that development should not negatively impact upon landscapes with geological, archaeological or historical importance within the district and that a full Historic England Character Assessment should take place if development or land use changes may affect national or locally important landscape assets.

In addition, **Policy NR7: Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation** states that the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in the AONB should be protected from development.

South Staffordshire Council

South Staffordshire Council's *Core Strategy*⁹ notes the importance of the AONB and acknowledges its statutory obligation to protect and manage this landscape.

The strategy notes that the LPA will promote developments and initiatives which protect and improve the natural and heritage assets, including the AONB. This is noted in **Core Policy 2: Protecting and Enhancing the Natural and Historic Environment**. The strategy underlines the importance of partnership work to implement this policy with regard to the AONB.

Cannock Chase SAC within the AONB is of particular importance, with **Policy EQ2: Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation** noting that development will not be permitted unless it demonstrates that there will be no direct or indirect negative effects upon the integrity of this site.

Policy EQ4: Protecting and Enhancing the Character and Appearance of the Landscape notes that thorough scrutiny will be particularly vital for development within the AONB in order to conserve and enhance the landscape.

Stafford Borough

*The Plan for Stafford Borough 2011-2031*¹⁰ (2014) highlights Cannock Chase AONB as an example of the rich variety and biodiversity within the Borough and notes the challenge of *"sustaining the attractive and distinctive quality of the natural and built environment"*. The 2031 vision states that the approach to sustainable housing

⁸ Lichfield District Council (2015) *Local Plan Strategy 2008-2029*
⁹ South Staffordshire Council (2012) *Core Strategy*

¹⁰ Stafford Borough Council (2014) *The Plan for Stafford Borough 2011-2031*

development will benefit the AONB through delivering green spaces and maintaining landscape character.

The AONB is also an important element within **Policy E6 Tourism**, which notes that tourism within the Borough is dependent upon high quality natural and built environments, including assets such as the AONB and Shugborough Park.

The additional protection required for the designated areas within the AONB are acknowledged in **Policy N6 Cannock Chase SAC** and **Policy N7 Cannock Chase AONB**. Pressures relating to air quality and water abstraction within the SAC are noted, including the need to conserve and enhance the distinctive landscape, character and viewpoints within the AONB.

Features that contribute to the setting of the AONB

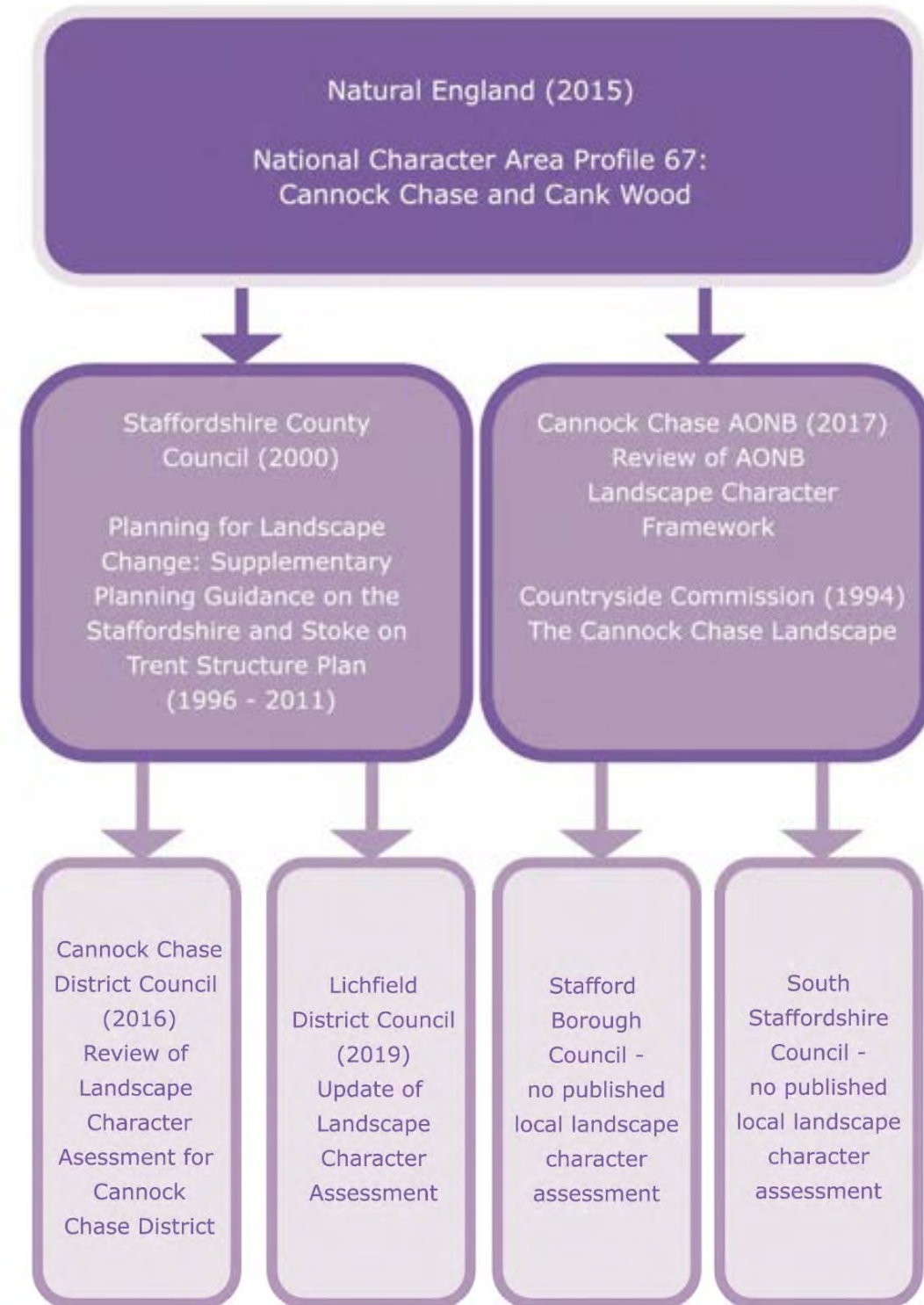
Published landscape character assessments

National landscape character

The landscape character at a national level is characterised by National Character Area (NCA) profiles defined by Natural England. The broad landscape character of the AONB is identified by Natural England as **NCA 67: Cannock Chase and Cank Wood**¹¹. The guidance document for this NCA was published in January 2015 and provides a summary of environmental data for this area. The NCA broadly coincides with the historical hunting forest of Cannock Chase, extending north from the Birmingham and Black Country conurbation towards the north eastern fringes of Stafford. The character description emphasizes that the availability of long views towards wooded horizons form a characteristic of the area, highlighting its elevation. Panoramic views are also afforded to the west across the Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain and to the east over the Claylands and floodplain of the Trent Valley.

The north eastern extent of the wider study area lies within **NCA 68: Needwood & South Derbyshire Claylands**¹², a rolling plateau landscape characterised by plantations and former ancient woodlands and hedged pastoral landscapes. **NCA 61: Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain**¹³ encompasses the study area lying to the west of the M6 corridor. This landscape comprises an expanse of low-lying, pastoral farmland with a network of strong field boundaries. It is noted that the southern extent of this NCA is afforded long views from the plain to the prominent Shropshire Hills, notably the Wrekin and Wenlock Edge. Land lying within the east of the study area is typified by **NCA 69: Trent Valley Washlands**¹⁴, strongly defined by the floodplain of the River Trent and characterised by the availability of views towards adjoining higher ground. The hierarchy of published character assessments for the AONB context is illustrated in **Figure 2.1**.

Figure 2.1: Landscape Character Context of the AONB



¹¹ Natural England (2015) *National Character Area Profile 67: Cannock Chase and Cank Wood*

¹² Natural England (2013) *National Character Area Profile 68: Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands*

¹³ Natural England (2014) *National Character Area Profile 61: Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plan*

¹⁴ Natural England (2013) *National Character Area Profile 69: Trent Valley Washlands*

Local landscape character

Staffordshire County Council

Adopted in May 2001 and entitled 'Planning for Landscape Change'¹⁵, Staffordshire County Council originally published the document to form Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan (now revoked). The document forms a wider project to deliver a characterisation of the landscape which integrates primary environmental aspects with the development of government guidance relating to the conservation and enhancement of the rural landscapes within the Plan area. The guidance was also considered to be of value in a wider context, informing decision making relating to land use and land management. The document provides a comprehensive assessment of Staffordshire's landscape character, summarising the area into 22 precisely defined Landscape Character Types (LCTs) based on the NCAs originally defined by Natural England. Details of the LCTs located within the study area are summarised below.

Sandstone Hills and Heaths LCT forms the predominant LCT within the AONB, characterised by a pronounced landform comprising hills and dissected plateau, overlain with a mixture of historic heathland vegetation and coniferous plantations. There has been some recent conversion to farmland where a regular pattern of large, hedged fields is evident. Industrial development and busy main roads are described as particularly incongruous landscape features within this LCT.

Riparian Alluvial Lowlands LCT characterises the landscape associated with the floodplains of the Trent and Sow to the north and east of the AONB. The area is typified by relatively low-lying landform associated with the river valleys, providing visual links to the landform and surrounding agricultural land use.

Land forming the settlement fringes of Stafford and Lichfield lie within **Sandstone Estatelands LCT**, comprised of woodlands and parklands associated with traditional rural estates. Although remnants of the original heathlands are still found, arable cropping forms the main land use within large hedged and open fields. The lack of hedgerow trees provides an expansive visual character with long ranging views.

Land to the north east of the AONB lies within the **Settled Plateau Farmland LCT**. This landscape is typified by a sloping topography which supports mixed farming. **Settled Plateau Farmland Slopes LCT** adjoin this area, located on the sloping edges of the plateau. The LCT also characterises the land separating Cannock and Wolverhampton at the southern extent of the study area.

Settled Farmlands LCT dominates the landscape to the north and east of the River Trent floodplain as well as land lying between Rugeley and Lichfield. This LCT is closely linked to the Settled Plateau Farmlands LCT and is characterised by undulating, lowland hills with scattered ancient woodlands.

West of the AONB between the M6 corridor and the AONB, the land falls into the landscape of **Settled Heathland LCT**. This landscape is underlain by glacial and alluvial till producing acidic soils which support a range of arable and pastoral agriculture. Visually the land appears well wooded with heathland remnants and woodland evident on higher ground, filtering views towards the wider landscape.

West of the M6 transport corridor and Stafford, the landscape is characterised as **Ancient Clay Farmlands LCT**. Low-lying farmland forms an important land use which contributes to a predominantly rural quality and the availability of long distance views. Transport routes and power lines form incongruous features within the landscape.

Coalfield Farmlands LCT are located to the south of the study area, associated with the former mining villages lying between Cannock and Burntwood. The landscape is sparsely wooded with small to medium scale, hedged fields, predominantly used for stock rearing. Heathland origins are apparent within the woodland composition and around road verges and canal corridors although the poor survival of historic elements pose a threat to the quality of this LCT.

Cannock Chase AONB

The published landscape character assessment for the AONB¹⁶ was reviewed in 2017 with the aim of providing guidelines to help planners and land managers tackle specific environmental and recreational issues within the AONB. The document provided an update to the landscape assessment of the AONB previously prepared by the Countryside Commission¹⁷ on behalf the (then) Joint Advisory Committee.

The dominant LCT within the AONB itself, particularly within the interior and at Shoal Hill and Gentleshaw Common, is **Forest Heathlands LCT** (see **Figure 2.2**). These unenclosed landscapes are dominated by characteristic semi-natural oak and birch woodland, conifer plantations and open heaths. The LCT has a strong natural character, although mineral extraction and urbanisation on the fringes have fragmented the extent of vegetation coverage. The *Landscape Guidelines* for the LCT note the requirement to identify and conserve key views into and from the AONB when considering development proposals.

Sandstone Hill & Heaths LCT characterises the landscape adjacent the settlements of Rugeley, Pye Green and Cannock Wood. The landform is typified by undulating farmland. Whilst some original heathland remains within the wooded landscape, coniferous plantation and intensive agricultural land uses now dominate. The high density of woodlands within the landscape create a sense of enclosure, helping to screen views towards the adjacent urban developments.

Land to the north of the AONB, parallel the River Trent and Sow, is contained within **River Meadowlands LCT**. This landscape is characterised by the low-lying topography of the alluvial floodplain with high intervisibility afforded with the AONB itself. Strong

¹⁵ Staffordshire County Council (2000) *Planning for Landscape Change - Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Structure Plan, 1996 – 2011*

¹⁶ Cannock Chase AONB (2017) *Review of AONB Landscape Character Framework*

¹⁷ Countryside Commission (1994) *The Cannock Chase Landscape – Landscape Assessment*

hedge lines and tree lined watercourses enhance the secluded, pastoral quality of this landscape.

Much of the land to the north of the AONB lies within the **Sandstone Estatelands LCT**. These landscapes are characterised by rolling landform with a predominantly arable land use. Remnant woodland and parklands are also evident within the LCT, forming features of the traditional rural estates which once dominated this area.

Land lying to the north of Slitting Mill and the east of the AONB is contained within landscape defined as **Settled Heathlands LCT**. A gently rolling landform predominates, with mixed farming associated with poor sandy soils forming the primary land use.

Located to the west of Rugeley, **Settled Farmlands LCT** is noted for the small to medium hedged field patterns which date back to the Medieval period. The dominant land use is mixed farming which takes place on the fertile soil formed from the underlying Triassic Mudstone.

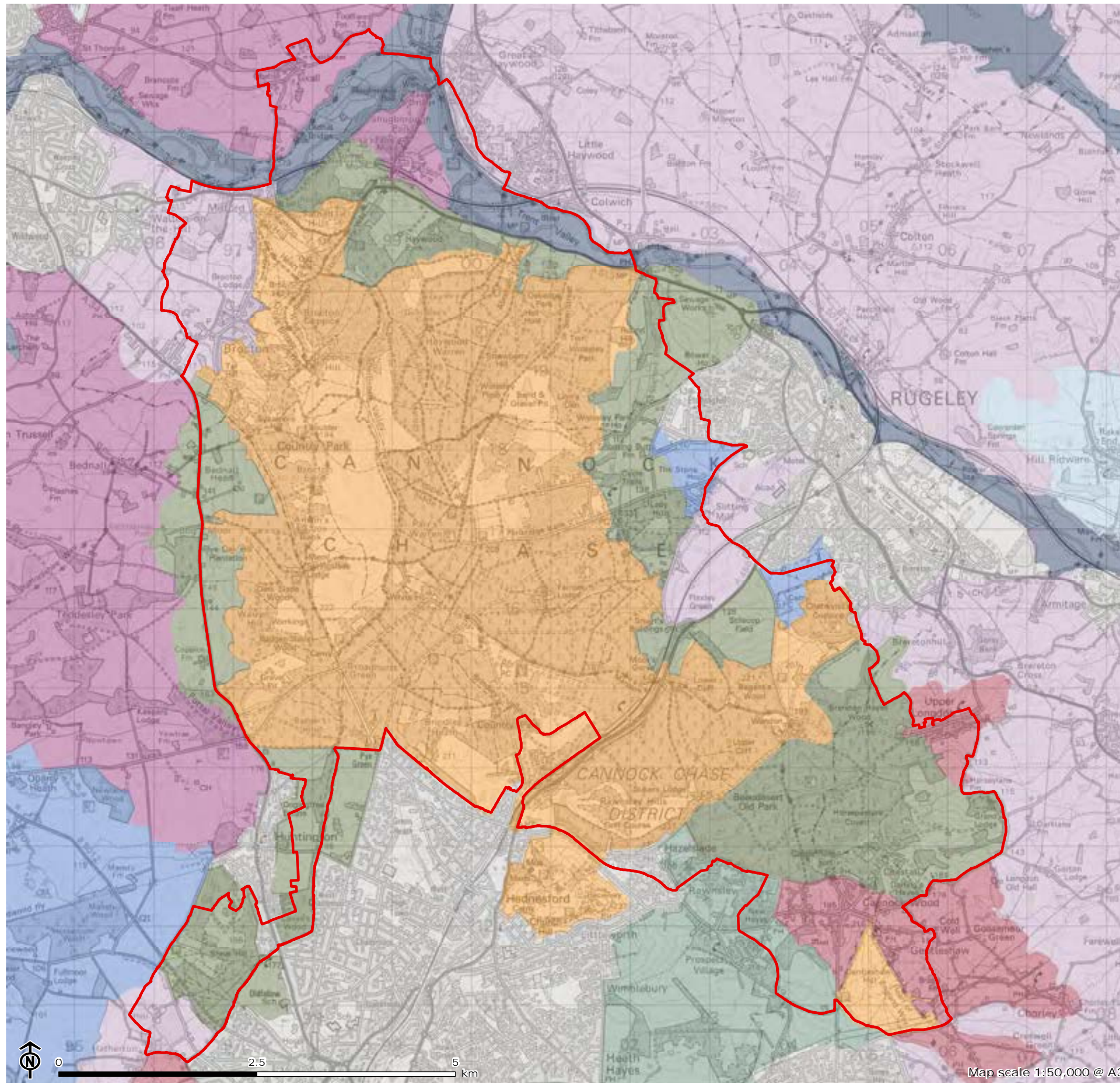
The landscape to the south of Cannock Wood is described as **Settled Plateau Farmlands LCT**. This LCT shares similarities with Settled Farmlands LCT but also includes characteristic patches of relic common and a regular field pattern.

The landscape forming the south eastern edge of the AONB is described as **Coalfield Farmland LCT**. This LCT occurs on the fringe of urban land, including on former mining villages, ancient settled farmland and disturbed ground. Fields are small to medium in scale and the hedgerows host a variety of species.



View looking north west from the summit of Huntington Mound

Figure 2.2: Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Landscape Character Framework



- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Landscape Character Type
- Coalfield Farmlands
- Forest Heathlands
- Lowland Village Farmlands
- River Meadowlands
- Sandstone Estatelands
- Sandstone Hills & Heaths
- Settled Farmlands
- Settled Heathlands
- Settled Plateau Farmlands
- Urban

Cannock Chase District Council

A *Review of Landscape Character Assessment for Cannock Chase District*¹⁸ was prepared in 2016 and provided an update on the LCT information originally undertaken by Staffordshire County Council covering Cannock Chase District. The document aimed to identify areas for landscape conservation and improvement, setting a baseline for future monitoring purposes.

As large areas of Cannock Chase District overlap the boundary of the AONB, many of the LCTs are equivalent to those listed above:

- **Forest Heathlands LCT, Sandstone Hills & Heaths LCT** and **Settled Heathlands LCT** are present within land defined within the AONB;
- **Settled Farmlands LCT** are located within the AONB as listed above. In this study this also includes the **Settled Plateau Farmlands LCT** south of Cannock Wood;
- Lying within the AONB, **River Meadowlands LCT** follow the course of the River Trent;
- **Coalfield Farmlands LCT** characterise the landscape to the south east of the AONB; and
- **Planned Coalfield Farmlands LCT** typify the landscape separating Cannock and Burntwood, characterised by a matrix of planned farmland reclaimed from original woodland and heath.

Lichfield District Council

An *Update of Landscape Character Assessment*¹⁹ for Lichfield District Council was undertaken in 2019, drawing on the work previously undertaken by Staffordshire County Council on landscape condition and management objectives. Consequently, many of the LCTs identified are similar to those that appear within the AONB and Cannock Chase District landscape character updates. A summary of the LCTs contained located within the study area is provided below:

- Land in the most south eastern corner of the AONB falls within the **Sandstone Hills & Heaths LCT**;
- **Coalfield Farmlands LCT** describes land immediately south of the AONB;
- **Ancient Settled Farmlands** forms the dominant LCT within the eastern and southern parts of the study area (this is equivalent to the Settled Farmlands LCT described in Cannock Chase District);
- South of the AONB on the eastern edge of Brownhills and north of Lichfield, land lies within the **Settled Heathlands LCT**;

- **River Meadowlands LCT** exist along the River Trent and its tributary (River Blithe) to the east of the AONB; and
- **Sandstone Estatelands** cover the land immediately south and west of Lichfield.

Lowland Village Farmlands LCT are located to the east of Lichfield at the southern extent of the study area and parallel the River Trent. Productive soils support a land use of mixed farming which features a semi-regular pattern of hedgerows, reflecting the late enclosure of former medieval open fields. Intensification of agriculture and transport corridors associated with nearby urban centres are described as key threats to this LCT.

A small area to the south east of the study area is described as **River Terrace Farmlands LCT**. These landscapes are characterised by large scale agricultural land use. Enclosure within the flat landscape is provided by riparian vegetation, hedgerow trees and small plantations.

Land bordering East Staffordshire District is contained within **Wooded Estatelands LCT**, underlain by heavy, productive soils and dominated by arable farming in medium to large scale hedged field enclosures. Woodland edges, densely scattered hedgerow trees and adjoining wooded hills visually restrict views within this landscape providing a strong sense of enclosure.

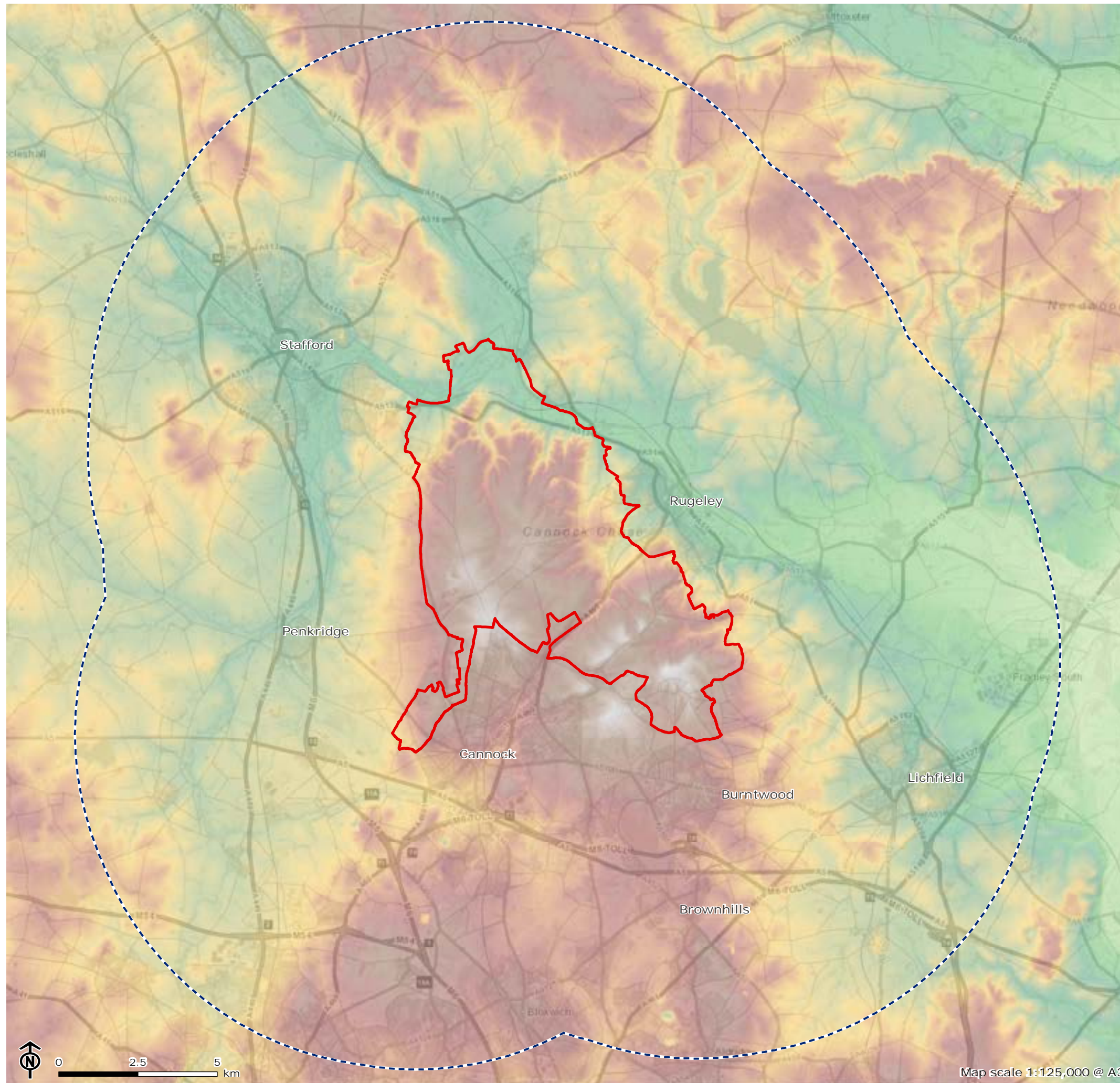
Topography

Landform within the AONB is characterised by domed summits and incised valleys, which contrast with the relatively low-lying land to the north associated with the Trent-Sow floodplain (see **Figure 2.3**). The high ground of the AONB to the south, including its border with the settlement edge of Cannock, continues towards the wider West Midlands conurbation. The Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan 2019-2024¹ recognises the domed plateau as a special quality of the landscape, contributing to the scenic qualities of the AONB and the extent to which the landscape appeals to the senses. The local elevation afforded by the plateau affords panoramic views from the AONB across the farmed vales and wider landscape of the Midlands.

¹⁸ Cannock Chase District Council (2016) *Review of Landscape Character Assessment for Cannock Chase District*

¹⁹ Lichfield District Council (2019) *Update of Landscape Character Assessment*

Figure 2.3: Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Topography



- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Cannock Chase AONB - 10km buffer

Elevation (metres)
High

Low

Historic environment

Natural and cultural heritage features are listed as special qualities contributing to the natural beauty of the area, as identified within Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan 2019-2024¹. The AONB exhibits a strong sense of time-depth, with landscapes moulded as a result of human influence.

The rich cultural history has produced a network of historic features within the AONB. These characteristics are summarised below:

- The presence of large estates, including Shugborough, Teddesley and Hatherton, which have resulted in valued parkland and ornamental landscapes;
- The proliferation of prehistoric remains, including the Iron Age castle hillfort at Castle Ring which offers panoramic views across the AONB;
- A history of grazing from local farms and small holdings which has created characteristic common land within the landscape, for example at Cannock Chase, Haywood, Brindley Heath, Shoal Hill and Gentleshaw;
- The presence of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal and the Trent and Mersey Canal, which cross the AONB. These once formed important routes for the transport of goods during the Industrial Revolution;
- Historic coal mining and contemporary quarry industries, associated with coal measures, red sandstone and sand-cemented pebbles;
- Remnants of a medieval hunting landscape, forming part of the Royal Forest during the Norman period;
- Historic field patterns; and
- Presence of training camps and cemeteries dating from the First World War.

Many of the valued landscapes within the AONB comprise heritage assets, contributing to a unique sense of place.

The Historic Environment Assessment for the AONB²⁰ highlights the contribution of historic character and heritage assets to the AONB, including their significance. A number of outcomes aimed to enhance and manage heritage assets are also characterised. The landscape of the AONB is divided into a series of Historic Environment Character Zones (HECZs) with key recommendations and issues identified. **Figure 2.4** indicates the spatial extent of these HECZs.



Birch woodland and heathland habitat at the southern fringes of the AONB

²⁰ Staffordshire County Council (2015) *Historic Environment Assessment – Cannock Chase AONB*

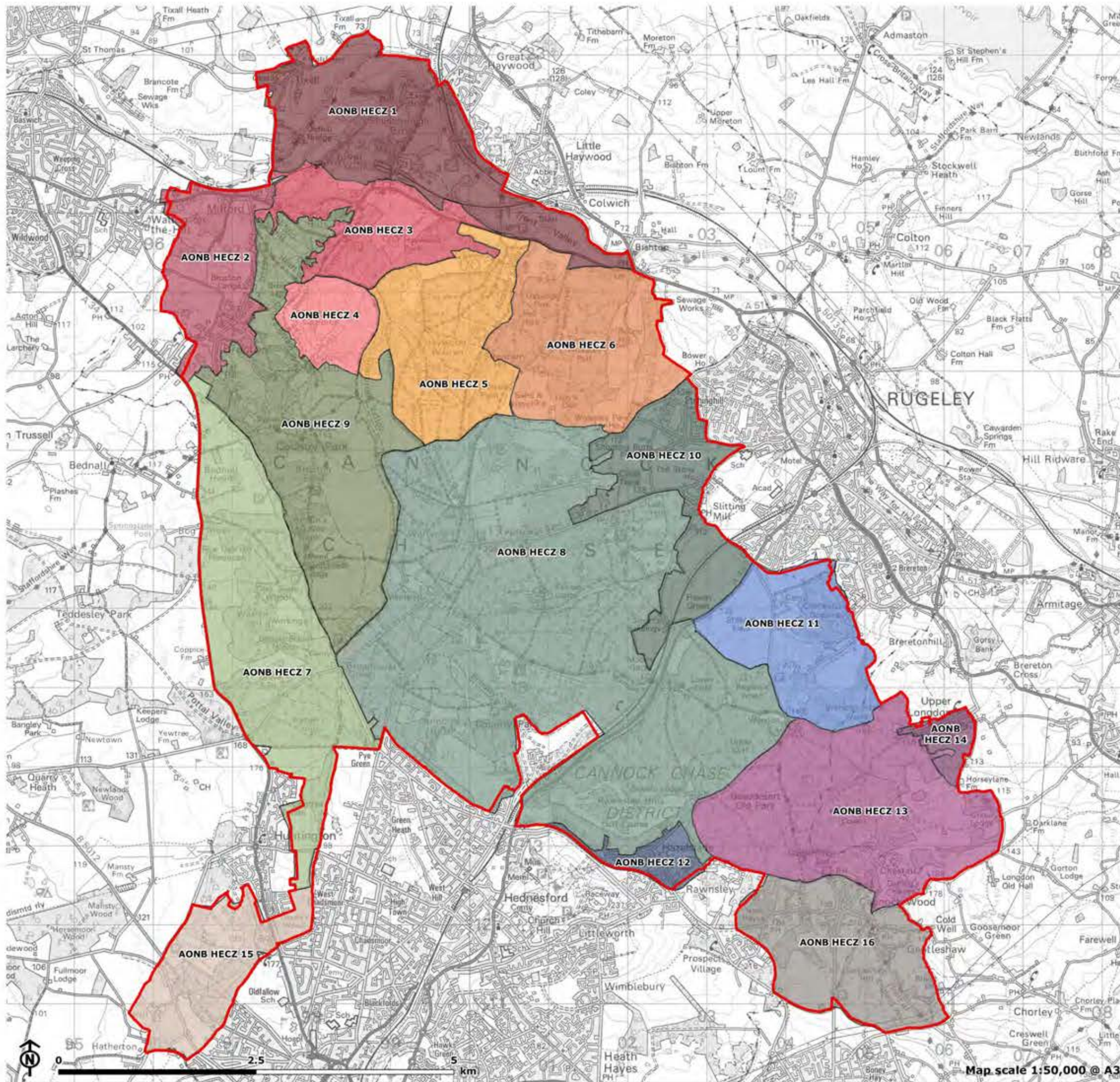


Figure 2.4: Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Historic Environment Character Zones

- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Historic Environment Character Zones**
- AONB HECZ 1: Shugborough and the Trent Valley
- AONB HECZ 2: Brocton and Milford
- AONB HECZ 3: Haywood Park and Satnall Hills
- AONB HECZ 4: Brocton Coppice
- AONB HECZ 5: Haywood Warren and Wolseley Plain
- AONB HECZ 6: Wolseley and Oakedge
- AONB HECZ 7: Teddesley Hay
- AONB HECZ 8: Brindley Heath and Birches Valley
- AONB HECZ 9: Sherbrook Valley and Brocton Field
- AONB HECZ 10: Etching Hill and Slitting Mill
- AONB HECZ 11: Stilecop and Chetwynd's Coppice
- AONB HECZ 12: Hazelslade
- AONB HECZ 13: Beaudesert Park
- AONB HECZ 14: Upper Longdon
- AONB HECZ 15: Shoal Hill and Hatherton
- AONB HECZ 16: Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw

Views and visual relationships

The prominent domed landform which characterises the AONB affords excellent views into and across the surrounding landscape. The prevalence of these views is highlighted within published conservation area appraisals and landscape character assessments. Key views which affect the setting of the AONB, as identified within these studies are noted below and displayed on **Figure 2.5**.

Key Views noted in conservation area appraisals

The **Great Haywood and Shugborough Conservation Area Appraisal**²¹ notes that the towpath of the Trent and Mersey Canal offers unspoilt views of the River Trent and Shugborough Hall, with distant views afforded to the wider AONB. Views and vistas are also available within Shugborough Estate itself. This includes an outlook from the eastern façade of the house, offering long ranging views across Shugborough Park. The view looking west also exhibits a rural scene, featuring the River Sow and a cast iron footbridge set within a pastoral land use. The unspoilt views looking south towards Shugborough Park from Greater Haywood are highlighted in the **Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area Appraisal**²². Where the canal passes through the Shugborough Estate, views westwards are afforded towards the parkland and the rising wooded slopes beyond. The document also notes that views are available towards the AONB from a scheduled monument to the south west of Colwich.

The extensive openness and availability of long reaching views across the floodplains of the Sow and Penk characterise the landscape of **Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area**, as noted within its conservation area appraisal²³. Within the **Colwich and Little Haywood Conservation Area Appraisal**²⁴, views from the churchyard towards the AONB are noted for providing a visual connection between the village and the wider natural landscape. The **Main Road, Brereton Conservation Area Appraisal**²⁵ emphasizes that the AONB provides a natural backdrop to the historic centre of the village. The view looking north east from The Village in Walton on the Hill is noted as a 'significant' view within the **Walton-on-the Hill Conservation Area Appraisal**²⁶.

Tixall Conservation Area Appraisal²⁷ recognises that its wider parkland setting plays an important role in providing picturesque views. Distant views of the AONB are highlighted as features which accentuate this setting.

Key Views noted within the landscape character assessments

The Cannock Chase AONB *Review of AONB Landscape Character Framework*¹⁶ provides 'Landscape Guidelines' which relate to view setting. Guidance of relevance to the AONB is noted below:

- Within the Sandstone Estatelands LCT, the importance of retaining and enhancing views from the Staffordshire Way across the AONB is emphasized; and
- Views into the River Meadowlands LCT and Forest Heathlands LCTs from the AONB should be retained and conserved.

The *Review of Landscape Character Assessment for Cannock Chase*¹⁸ states that the summits above 150 m within Sandstone Hills and Heaths LCT provide extensive views over the adjoining rolling lowland countryside. This includes the site of Castle Ring near Cannock Wood. Views afforded to the edge of Rugeley from high ground at Stile Cop field as well as locally valued long views over the Trent Valley from Etching Hill are also emphasized. In addition, within Coalfield Farmlands LCT and Planned Coalfield Farmlands LCT, undulating landform rising to Hednesford offers wide views to the adjoining lower land. The locally distinctive domed landform provides the AONB with a strong rural character with views also available out to the west at Hatherton.

The *Update of Landscape Character Assessment*¹⁹ for Lichfield District underlines the long views available towards the elevated plateau of the AONB from Wooded Estatelands LCT. The Ancient Settled Farmlands LCT provides views looking south towards Lichfield Cathedral. The document recognises eight 'key views' towards the city. Although all these views are outwith the AONB, it is important to acknowledge the value of these views as Lichfield City has a particularly distinctive skyline featuring the spires of Lichfield Cathedral, St Mary's church and St Michael's church. However, views looking south towards Lichfield from the AONB are limited as the settlement is generally contained by landform.

²¹ Stafford Borough Council (2013) *Great Haywood and Shugborough Conservation Area Appraisal*

²² Stafford Borough Council (2014) *Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area Appraisal*

²³ Stafford Borough Council (2015) *Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area Appraisal*

²⁴ Stafford Borough Council (2013) *Colwich and Little Haywood Conservation Area Appraisal*

²⁵ Cannock Chase District Council (2009) *Main Road, Brereton Conservation Area Appraisal*

²⁶ Stafford Borough Council (2017) *Walton-on-the-Hill Conservation Area Appraisal*

²⁷ Stafford Borough Council (2015) *Tixall Conservation Area Appraisal*

Figure 2.5: Views of relevance to the AONB included within published conservation area appraisals



'Positive views' identified in the Tixall CA Appraisal

1. Uninterrupted vistas to the south east towards the Tixall Broad section of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal.
2. An iconic linear view is provided by the avenue of Lime trees off Tixall Road.
- 3 Views towards the Tixall Gatehouse, Tixall Court and Bottle Lodge.



'Important Views' identified in the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal CA Appraisal

4. Views east and west from Stoneford Bridge
5. View over The Broad Water to Tixall Gatehouse
6. View over meadows
7. View to Tixall Farm



'Positive Views' identified in the Trent and Mersey Canal CA Appraisal

8. Views over the aqueduct
9. Views to Haywood Mill from the canal and towpath
10. Views north and south along the canal



'Positive Views' identified in the Colwich and Little Haywood CA Appraisal

11. View south along Meadow Lane
12. Views to the AONB from Colwich



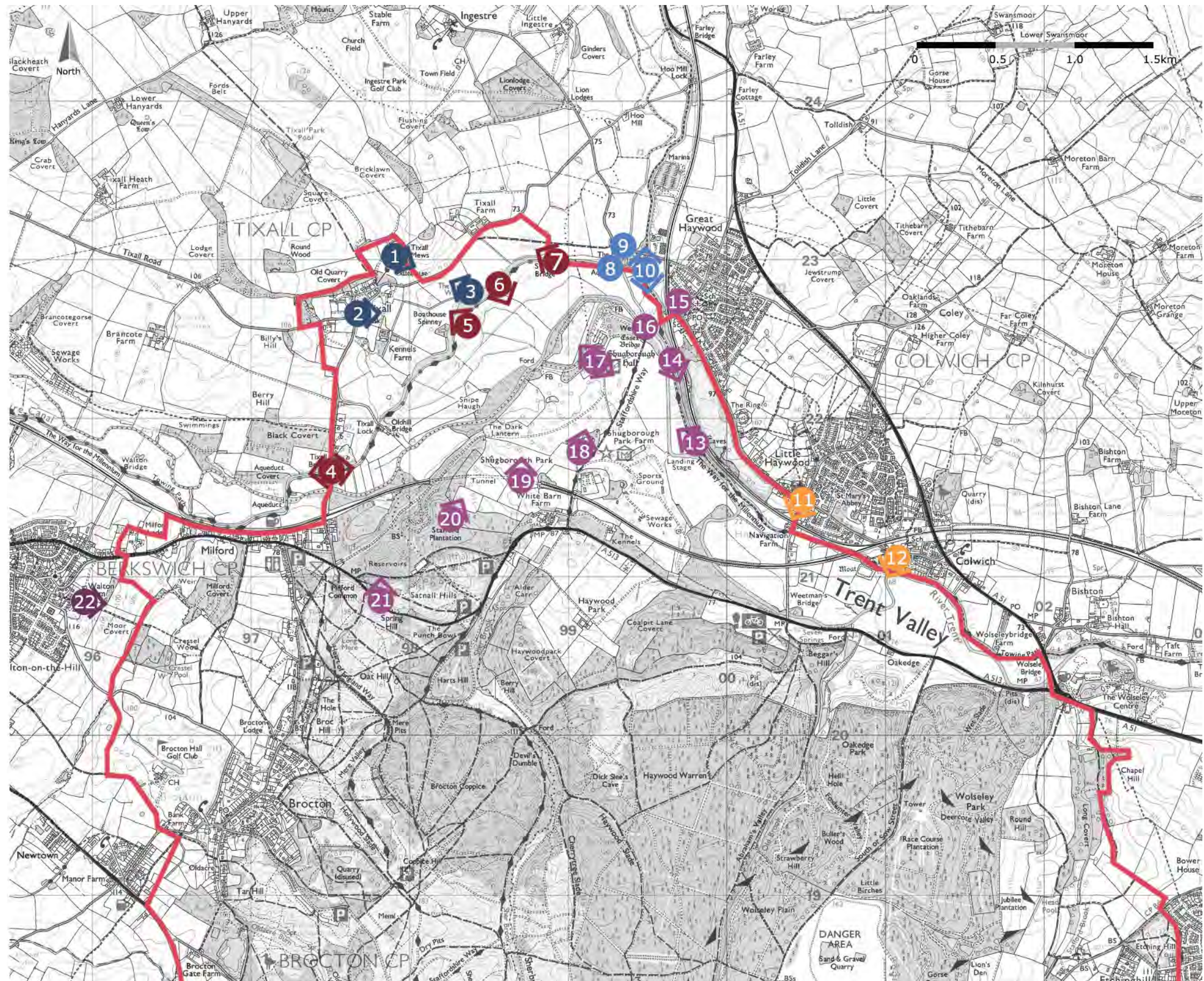
'Positive Views' identified in the Great Haywood and Shugborough CA Appraisal

13. Long, extensive views of the River Trent, Shugborough Hall, parkland and Cannock Chase
14. Sequential views along the canal
15. Sequential views along Trent Lane to Shugborough Estate and Essex Bridge
16. Sequential views of the Trent and Mersey Canal open out to expansive views of the River Trent
17. Vistas from Shugborough Hall over parkland, the ruin, river Sow and countryside beyond
18. View to Shugborough Hall
19. View from the Triumphal Arch
20. Vista from historic woodland path
21. Vista to the north from Stafford Drive approach



'Significant View' from Walton-on-the-Hill CA Appraisal

22. View looking east from The Village



© Crown copyright and database rights 2020 Ordnance Survey 100019422

Natural character

The AONB contains extensive semi-natural habitats of international, national and local importance, as indicated on **Figure 2.6**. Comprising 18.1% of the total area of the AONB, heathland designated as a Special Area for Conservation is internationally designated under the European Habitats Directive. The AONB also encompasses five Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and three Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). Forming non-statutory designations used by Staffordshire County Council to protect locally valued sites of biological importance, the AONB also comprises a number of Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs) / County Wildlife Sites.

The Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan 2019-2024¹ recognises landscape quality, including the semi-natural land cover and sense of historical and spatial continuity of scale, as a special quality of the AONB. The AONB contains extensive semi-natural habitats, including the largest surviving area of lowland heathland in the Midlands. These features exhibit a semi-wilderness character and form characteristic features in views within the landscape. Dense wooded backdrops are often created by mixed and coniferous forestry, forming defining features of the AONB. The spatial extent of various Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Inventory Habitat within the AONB, including large swaths of deciduous woodland and lowland heathland, are shown in **Figure 2.7**. The AONB also comprises a network of grazing marsh bordering the Trent and Sow floodplains.

Figure 2.6: Designated nature conservation sites within the AONB

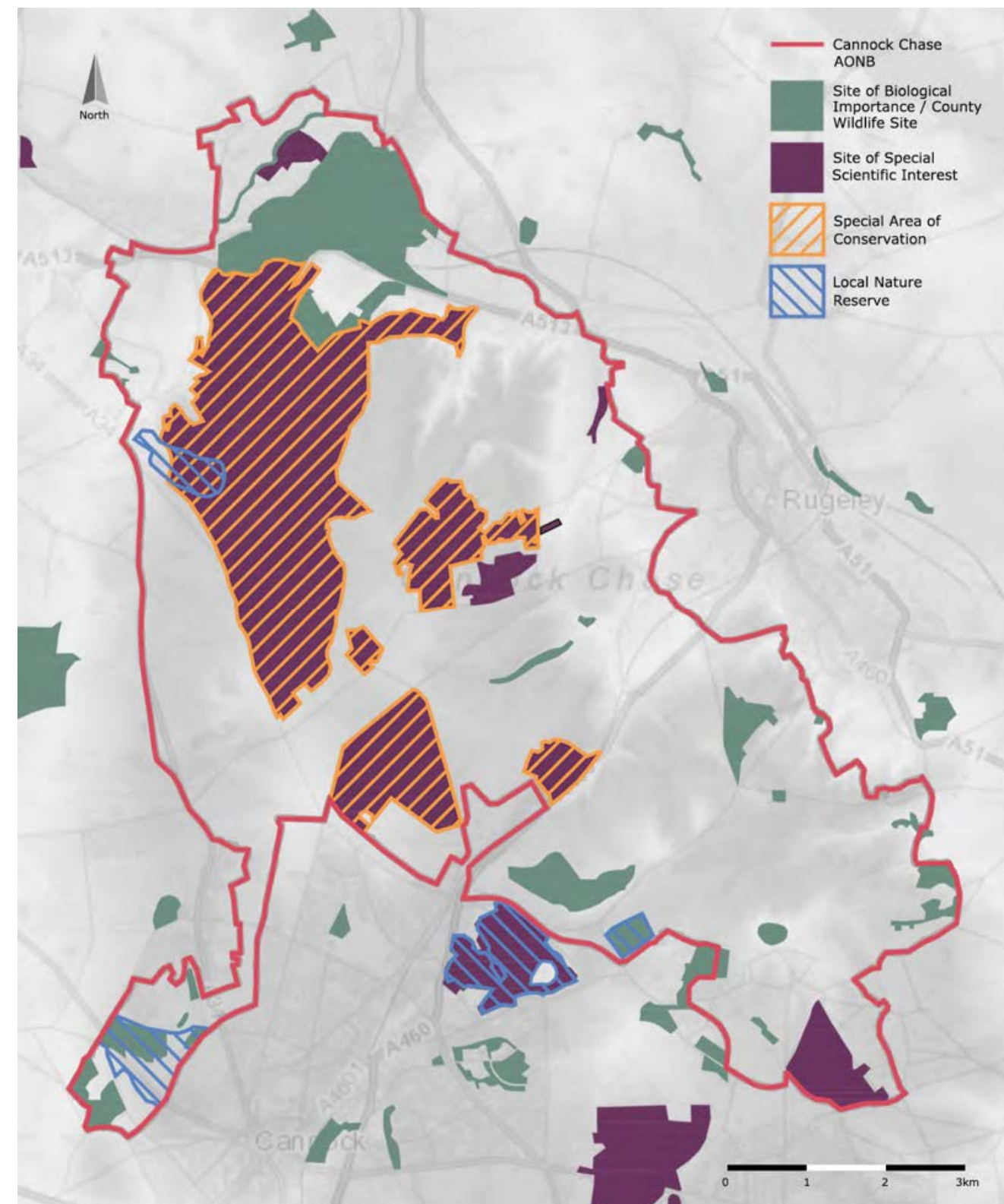
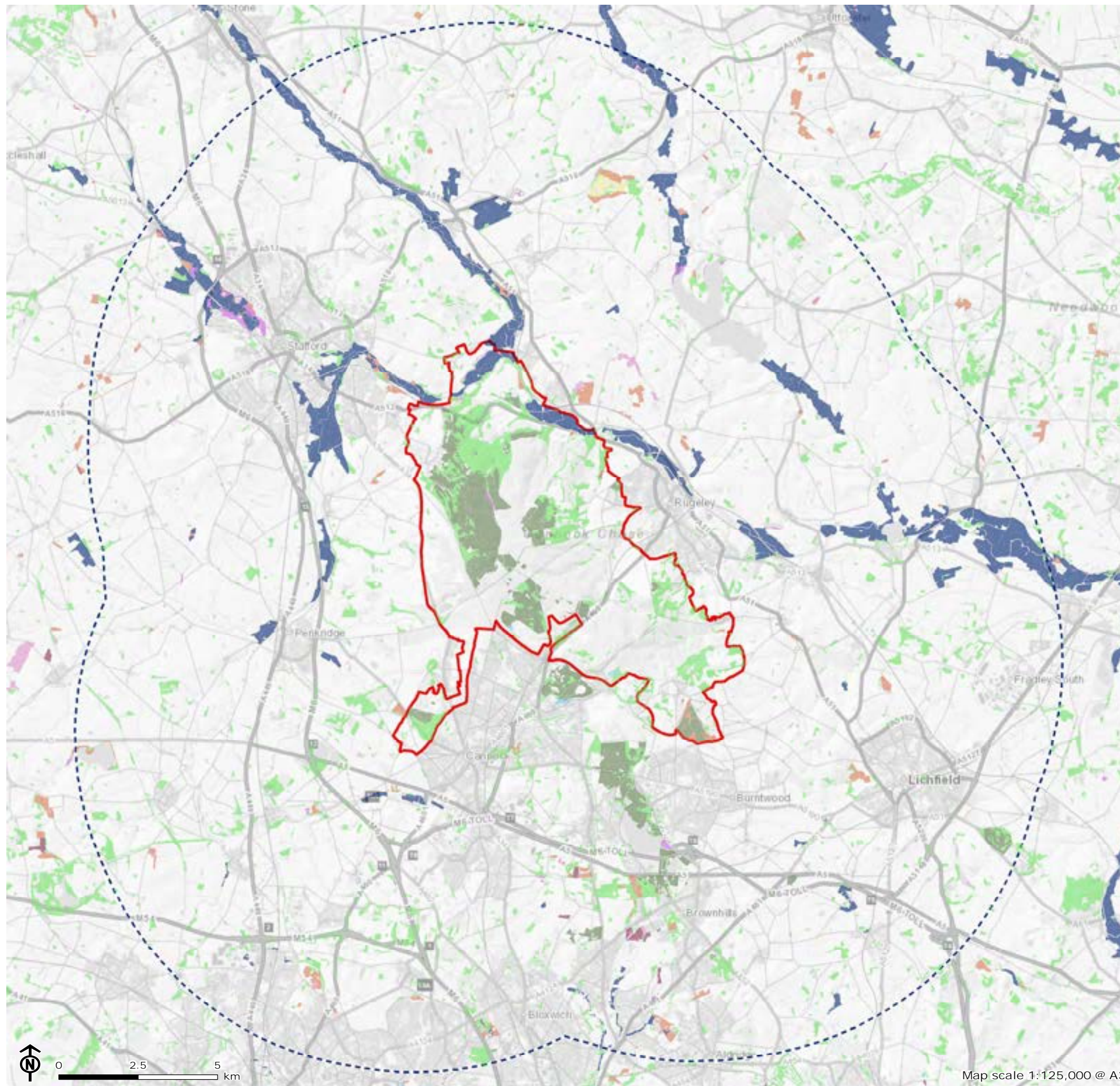
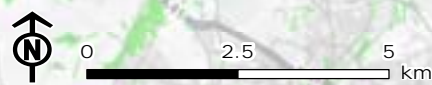


Figure 2.7: Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Priority Inventory Habitat



- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Cannock Chase AONB - 10km buffer
- Priority Habitat Inventory - main habitat
- Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
- Deciduous woodland
- Good quality semi-improved grassland
- Lowland dry acid grassland
- Lowland fens
- Lowland heathland
- Lowland meadows
- Lowland raised bog
- Purple moor grass and rush pastures
- Reedbeds
- Traditional orchard



Map scale 1:125,000 @ A3

Chapter 3: Selection of Representative Views



Characteristic heathland at Brindley Heath

Chapter 3

Selection of Representative Views

Approach to viewpoint selection

A process was undertaken to define 20 representative viewpoints for inclusion within the study. Potential locations were identified based on a review of the following materials:

- OS mapping;
- published landscape character assessments; and
- published conservation area appraisals.

Ensuring a broad geographical distribution across the study area, 20 representative views were identified based on the classification listed below:

- views from specific viewpoints that illustrate the special character and qualities of the AONB;
- sequential views e.g. view out from long distance footpaths / notably scenic roads; and
- landmark views focussed on specific features in the 'setting'.

The viewpoints were identified to act as representative views in the preparation of the guide and refined following stakeholder feedback. **Table 3.1** details the justification for inclusion of each viewpoint within the study as well as commentary on the significance of the view in relation to the setting of the AONB. The 20 locations identified (refer to **Figure 3.1**) are by no means an exhaustive list of the important views within the setting of the AONB but have been used to demonstrate how the guide may be applied to specific views within the landscape.



Pastoral land use with woodland tracts forming the background view

Table 3.1: Rationale for selection of representative viewpoints

Viewpoint location	Relationship to the AONB	Significance of the view to the setting of the AONB and justification for inclusion of the view within the study
Representative Viewpoint 1: View looking south east from Tixall Road, Tixall	View looking towards the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Availability of south easterly views towards the northern extent of the AONB, characterised by the parkland setting of Shugborough Grade 1 Registered Park or Garden; and ■ The view affords long distance views towards the Trent Valley and illustrates the relationship between this landscape and the Shugborough Estate, including its wider influence on the setting of the AONB.
Representative Viewpoint 2: View looking north east from the Triumphal Arch at the Shugborough Estate	View looking from the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Availability of panoramic views towards the floodplain of the wider Trent Valley from a Grade I listed monument within the setting of Shugborough Estate (Grade 1 Registered Park or Garden); and ■ The Triumphal Arch forms a prominent monument on high ground within the designed landscape of Shugborough, a key feature of the northern extent of the AONB.
Representative Viewpoint 3: View looking north west from Great Haywood Cliffs, Great Haywood	View looking from the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Representative of views from Shugborough Hall (Grade I listed building) towards the Trent Valley – the major building within the designed landscape. The pale colour of Shugborough Hall contrasts with the dark wooded backdrop resulting in a significant local landmark; and ■ Availability of extensive views of the River Trent parkland and Shugborough Hall to the north east – noted as a ‘Positive View’ within the Great Haywood and Shugborough Conservation Area Appraisal.
Representative Viewpoint 4: View looking south west from the towpath of Trent and Mersey Canal, Hoo Mill Lock	View looking from the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Representative of users on the Trent and Mersey Canal / The Way for the Millennium within the Trent Valley. The view is illustrative of the close visual relationship between the Trent Valley and the Shugborough Estate. ■ Availability of views across the floodplain of the River Trent towards the northern extent of the AONB.
Representative Viewpoint 5: View looking south west from the Staffordshire Way, Bellamour Way, Colton	View looking towards the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Availability of south westerly views towards the AONB, beyond intervening built form at the settlement edge of Rugeley.
Representative Viewpoint 6: View looking north west from the junction of Bridleways Rugeley Town 0.177 / 0.209 and Rugeley Town 0.178 / 0.206, Etchinghill	View looking from the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Availability of panoramic views to the AONB and the wider Trent Valley from the fringes of Etchinghill. The settlement lies on the eastern boundary of the AONB.
Representative Viewpoint 7: View looking east from Slitting Mill Road, Slitting Mill	View looking from the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Availability of long distance views towards Rugeley from the eastern extent of the AONB. The viewpoint demonstrates the intervisibility between this settlement and the AONB boundary.
Representative Viewpoint 8: View looking north west at Stile Cop Field, Stile Cop Road, Flaxley Green	View looking from the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Glimpsed views available to the valley landscape at the south western fringes of Rugeley and the boundary of the AONB.
Representative Viewpoint 9: View looking north east from Byway Longdon 0.411 at Castle Ring scheduled monument	View looking from the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Forming a locally elevated vantage point, the Castle Ring Scheduled Monument affords long distance views towards the north east beyond the boundary of the AONB. The viewpoint demonstrates the intervisibility between Rugeley and the AONB boundary.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The <i>Review of Landscape Character Assessment for Cannock Chase District</i>¹⁸ states that the summits above 150 m within Sandstone Hills and Heaths LCA provide many fine views over the adjoining rolling lowland countryside.
Representative Viewpoint 10: View looking south from Bridleway Longdon 10, Gentleshaw Hill	View looking from the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Availability of long distance views towards Cannock Wood and Burntwood from PRoW at Gentleshaw Common. The viewpoint demonstrates the intervisibility between these settlements and the AONB boundary.
Representative Viewpoint 11: View looking north east from Rugeley Road, Chase Terrace	View looking towards the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Expansive views afforded to the characteristic heathland landscape at Gentleshaw Common and the wider AONB from the settlement edge of Cannock Wood. The view plays a role in providing a visual gateway into the AONB from the settlement edge of Chase Terrace.
Representative Viewpoint 12: View looking south west from Rugeley Road, Hazelslade	View looking from the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Availability of south westerly views towards the settlement edge of Rawnsley and Hednesford from the southern fringes of Cannock Chase AONB. The viewpoint demonstrates the intervisibility between these settlements and the AONB boundary.
Representative Viewpoint 13: View looking north east from Public Footpath Hednesford 17, Hednesford Hills	View looking towards the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Availability of views towards the southern fringes of Cannock Chase AONB, including Hazelslade and Cannock Wood Industrial Estate.
Representative Viewpoint 14: View looking south east from open access land at Brindley Heath	View looking from the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Availability of south easterly views across characteristic heathland towards built form at Cannock Chase Enterprise Centre. The extent of tree cover at Brindley Heath and Badger's Hills restricts the availability of open views towards Hednesford and Pye Green.
Representative Viewpoint 15: View looking north west from Bridleway Hatherton 0.955 / 0.967 at Shoal Hill.	View looking from the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Locally elevated view across a characteristic heathland setting within the AONB, looking towards the wider Staffordshire Plain.
Representative Viewpoint 16: View looking north west from Huntington Mound, Huntington	View looking from land within close proximity to the AONB boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Availability of long distance views to the north west from a locally elevated vantage point and prominent landmark within close proximity to the AONB. The view demonstrates the intervisibility available with the Staffordshire Plain.
Representative Viewpoint 17: View looking east from the Staffordshire Way, Cock Lane, south of Bednall	View looking towards the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Availability of north easterly views towards the characteristic domed upland plateau of the AONB from the Staffordshire Plain.
Representative Viewpoint 18: View looking west from the Staffordshire Way, west of Camp Road	View looking from the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Panoramic views looking west across the Staffordshire Plain from the western extent of the AONB. Located on Staffordshire Way, the location forms a strategic view looking towards the AONB. ■ The Landscape Guidelines within Sandstone Estatelands LCA (<i>Cannock Chase AONB Review of AONB Landscape Character Framework</i> (2017)) recommends that the views from the Staffordshire Way long distance path are maintained and enhanced throughout this landscape.
Representative Viewpoint 19: View looking north west from open access land to the south east of Brocton	View looking from the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Availability of north easterly views towards Brocton within the setting of the AONB. The view is representative of views looking north west towards Brocton and the wider urban edge of Stafford. The viewpoint demonstrates the intervisibility between this settlement and the AONB boundary.
Representative Viewpoint 20: View looking north east from Public Footpath Berkswich 10, Walton-on-the-Hill	View looking towards the AONB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Availability of views towards Cannock Chase AONB from the settlement edge of Walton-on-the-Hill. ■ View looking north east from The Village, Walton on the Hill is noted as a 'significant view' within the Walton on the Hill Conservation Area Appraisal.

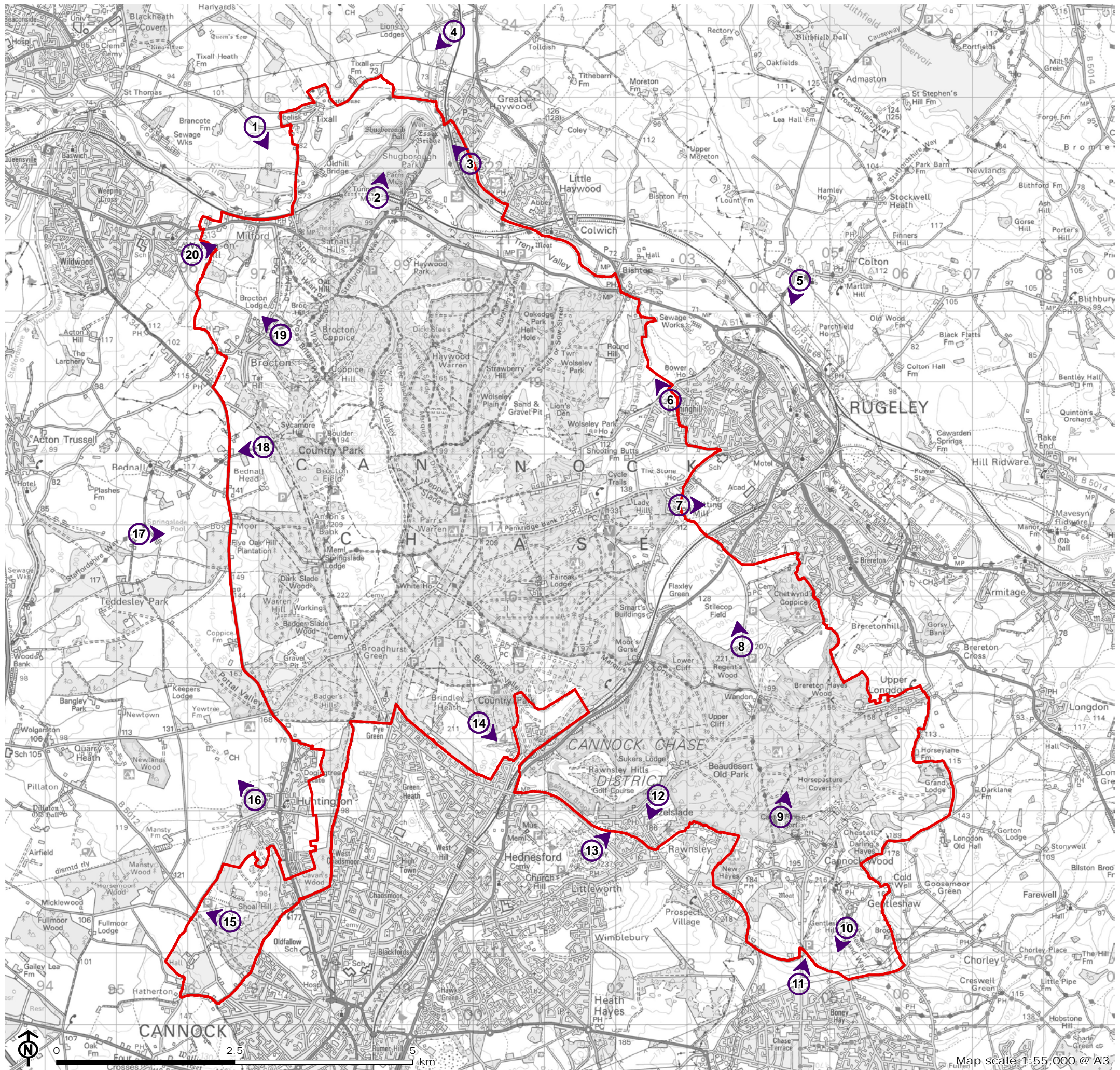
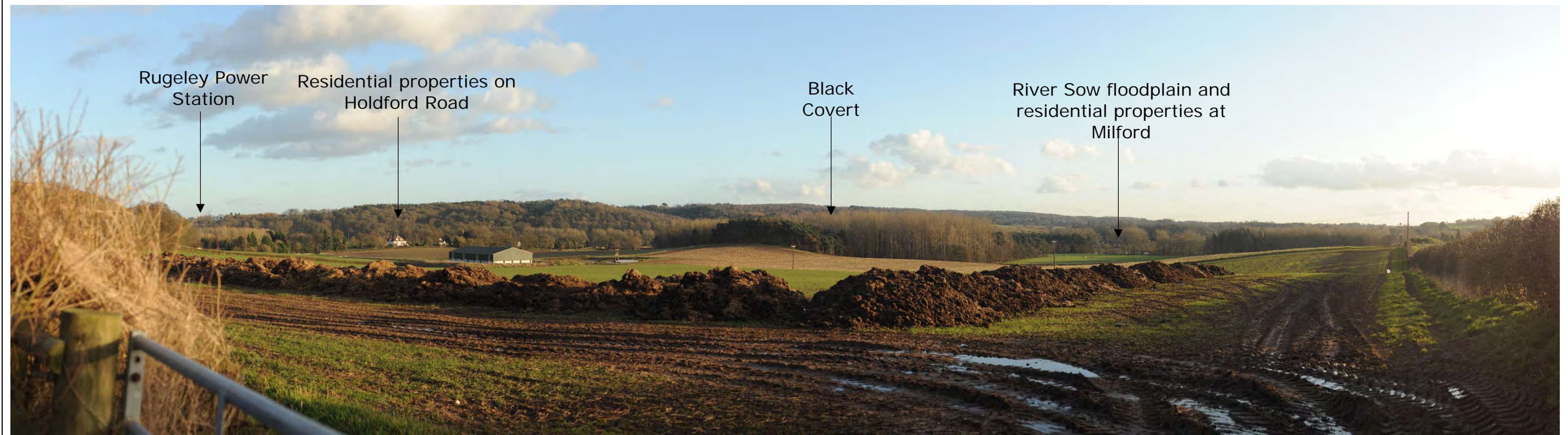


Figure 3.1: Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Viewpoint Locations

- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Viewpoint

Viewpoint 1: View looking south east from Tixall Road, Tixall



Grid reference: SJ 96947 22579

Elevation: 105 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD)

Receptor type

Located on Tixall Road, the view offers south easterly views across the floodplain of the River Sow towards the AONB. Receptors include road users along Tixall Road, although long distance views are foreshortened by the extent of vegetation parallel to the river corridor. Woodland tracts at Shugborough Estate also form a wooded backdrop. The view is representative of views from residential properties within the settlement of Tixall and has been selected as it provides a vista looking towards the northern boundary of the AONB.

Description of the view

Pastoral land use predominates in the immediate foreground, sloping towards the unnamed tributary of the River Penk. Vegetation bordering this water course visually coalesces with the tracts of vegetation at Milford Covert and Cressel Wood to provide a wooded middle ground. Glimpsed views are afforded to the series of ponds to the west of Milford and residential properties centred on the A513. The skyline in the central frame is interrupted by a wind turbine and electricity pylons which form vertical visual detractors visible against the skyline. The densely wooded plateau of the AONB forms a prominent backdrop.



Viewpoint 2: View looking north from the Triumphal Arch at the Shugborough Estate



Grid reference: SJ 98660 21594

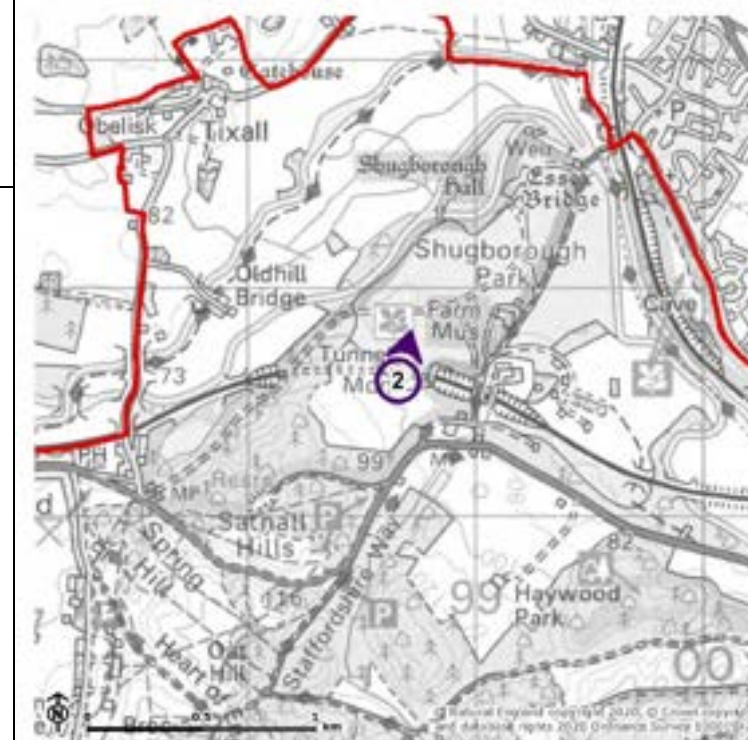
Elevation: 101 m AOD

Receptor type

Located on National Trust land at Shugborough Estate, the viewpoint offers panoramic views across the landscape north east of the AONB and beyond. The key receptors for this view include recreational users visiting the Shugborough Estate and is representative of views from a locally elevated position adjacent the Triumphal Arch. This view has been included in the study due to the availability of panoramic views towards the floodplain of the wider Trent Valley from a Grade I listed monument within the designed parkland setting of Shugborough Estate.

Description of the view

Parkland characterises the immediate foreground of this view, comprising predominantly pastoral land with scattered trees. A network of desire lines and footpaths dissect this land use, gently sloping towards the low-lying Trent-Sow floodplain. A copse of trees in the right hand frame of the view delineates the location where the London to Crewe rail line is accommodated in tunnel to the north of White Barn Farm, passing beneath the Shugborough Estate. Buildings associated with the Shugborough Estate are perceptible in the middle ground, including the distinctive red stables and tower of Shugborough Park Farm and Shugborough Hall itself. Glimpsed views of the River Trent and Great Haywood are also available in the middle ground, filtered by the extent of intervening vegetation. The background view comprises rolling hills with distinctive blocks of vegetation forming a wooded backdrop. A small chimney at the industrial estate in Pasturefields and wind turbine at Manor Farm in Newton are visible against the skyline. A network of electricity pylons is also visible, albeit forming a minor component of the overall viewpoint panorama.



Viewpoint 3: View looking north west from Great Haywood Cliffs, Great Haywood



Grid reference: SJ 99962 22067

Elevation: 107 m AOD

Receptor type

This view is located on open access land at Great Haywood Cliffs, at the settlement edge of Great Haywood. Key receptors of this view include recreational users of the landscape, forming a portion of the wider Shugborough Estate. Residential properties on Main Road are also afforded north westerly views, albeit partially screened by the extent of intervening vegetation parallel to the carriageway. This view has been included in the study as it offers representative views of the AONB from Great Haywood and across Shugborough Estate.

Description of the view

The foreground of the view comprises open access land to the south west of Great Haywood where unimproved grassland and mature trees provide a rural outlook. Flooding associated with the River Trent is visible in the left hand frame of the view, although this is temporary and not representative of the view all year round. Shugborough Estate is visible in the middle ground with distinctive buildings including Shugborough Park Farm, the Triumphal Arch and Shugborough Hall prominent within the wooded context. The left hand frame of the view also offers glimpsed views to a residential property on Meadow Lane. A wooded skyline comprises the background view, with glimpsed views available to the settlement edge of Tixall. Two wind turbines at Hanyards Lane and a network of electricity pylons protrude above this wooded horizon in the background view.



Viewpoint 4: View looking south west from the towpath of Trent and Mersey Canal, Hoo Mill Lock



Grid reference: SJ 99737 23916

Elevation: 73 m AOD

Receptor type

Located on the towpath parallel the Trent and Mersey Canal near Hoo Mill Lock, the view is representative of walkers and canal boat users along this route. This view has been included within the study as it offers views across the floodplain of the River Trent towards the northern extent of the AONB.

Description of the view

The foreground of the view comprises pastoral farmland divided by post and wire fencing, forming the floodplain of the River Trent. The channel of the river itself is just perceptible at the left hand frame of the view where partially intact hedgerows filter views towards residential properties associated with Hoo Mill. The pastoral land use extends to the middle ground, where telegraph poles run broadly north to south across the floodplain. A network of electricity pylons form vertical visual detractors within the background view, punctuating the skyline. Gently rolling wooded hills provide a wooded backdrop in views. The extent of this woodland coverage when combined with the landform precludes the availability of long distance open views from this location.



Viewpoint 5: View looking south west from the Staffordshire Way, Bellamour Way, Colton



Grid reference: SK 04589 20430

Elevation: 75 m AOD

Receptor type

The view lies on the route of the Staffordshire Way, south of Bellamour Way within the village of Colton. Key receptors include users of the Staffordshire Way as well as residential occupants within Colton itself. The viewpoint is characterised by views across the Trent-Sow floodplain and is representative of a westerly outlook towards the AONB and settlement edge of Rugeley.

Description of the view

Low-lying, large scale arable farmland dominates the foreground of this view, providing an open outlook towards the settlement of Rugeley. The route of the Staffordshire Way also dissects the immediate foreground. The left hand frame of the view is characterised by vegetation parallel to Moreton Brook as well as the built form of Rugeley Power Station, which is prominent on the skyline from this location. A network of electricity pylons provide further visual detractors in the view, protruding above the wooded horizon where the settlement edge of Rugeley is just apparent. A hedgerow bordering the B5013 and woodland block at Boathouse Spinney characterise the right hand frame of the view, although glimpsed views of traffic along this route detract from localised tranquillity. Bellamour Lodge Farm is also just perceptible at this location, albeit partially screened by vegetation. The wooded extent of the distinctive upland plateau forming the AONB is evident in the background view.



Viewpoint 6: View looking north west at the junction of Bridleways Rugeley Town 0.1770.209 and Rugeley Town 0.178/0.206, Etchinghill



Grid reference: SK 02772 18755

Elevation: 127 m AOD

Receptor type

The viewpoint affords panoramic views from open access land at Etching Hill at the western edge of Etchinghill. Lying on the eastern boundary of the AONB, the viewpoint is representative of recreational users. Transport receptors on Bower Lane are also provided with views, albeit broadly perpendicular to the direction of travel and less expansive than from Etching Hill itself. The view has been selected for inclusion within this study as it provides panoramic views across the AONB from the settlement edge of Etchinghill.

Description of the view

The foreground of the view is dominated by the scrubby and wooded slopes of Etching Hill, with residential properties within Etchinghill partially screened by the extent of this vegetation. Although scrub clearance would open up views in the central frame, a tract of dense vegetation currently obscures views to the middle and background view at this location. A mosaic of pastoral agricultural land and woodland coverage comprise the gently rolling slopes of Wolseley Park in the middle ground. This vegetation foreshortens the view and provides a wooded horizon. However, the upper extent of Pye Green BT Tower is visible against the skyline at the left hand frame of the view. The viewpoint also affords an outlook across the relatively flat and low-lying land of the River Trent floodplain. Large scale agricultural fields characterise the middle ground, where the view extends across the gently undulating topography around Coley and Hamley Heath. A wind turbine, network of electricity pylons and the London to Crewe rail line interrupt the irregular pattern of the landscape but do not detract from the predominantly rural quality of the view.



Viewpoint 7: View looking east from Slitting Mill Road, Slitting Mill



Grid reference: SK 02898 17284

Elevation: 115 m AOD

Receptor type

This view is located on Slitting Mill Road, at the eastern boundary of the AONB. Residential properties within Slitting Mill form the primary receptor from this location. Although framed views are also available along the carriageway, these are largely obscured by hedgerows and appear generally perpendicular to the direction of travel. This view has been included within the study as it is representative of views from the fringes of the AONB towards Rugeley.

Description of the view

The immediate foreground of the view is dominated by the road frontage of Slitting Mill Road; including residential properties, a bus stop and hedgerow. The view looks east across a narrow panorama, framed by intervening built form parallel to the carriageway. Gently rolling agricultural fields divided by hedgerow field boundary treatments characterise the fore and middle ground of the view, separating the settlements of Slitting Mill and Rugeley. Rugeley Power Station dominates the view, visible above intervening tree coverage associated with Rising Brook in the middle ground. However, the rising slopes evident in the background view afford open views towards the settlement edge of Rugeley where the church spire of St Etheldreda Church protrudes against the skyline. The wind turbine at Manor Farm in Newton is also just perceptible above the horizon.



Viewpoint 8: View looking north west at Stile Cop Field, Stile Cop Road, Flaxley Green



Grid reference: SK 03774 15292

Elevation: 203 m AOD

Receptor type

The view affords north westerly views across the valley landscape at the south western fringes of Rugeley. Located at a gated field access on Stile Cop Road, the view is representative of transport receptors and equestrian users of Stile Cop Field. However, the extent of vegetation parallel to the carriageway restricts open views from this route. This view is included in the study as it is representative of a glimpsed outlook available towards the south western fringes of Rugeley from the AONB.

Description of the view

Land use associated with the equestrian facility at Stile Cop Field dominates the immediate foreground of the view, although the rising topography of the left hand frame foreshortens the view. The landform of the middle ground gently falls towards the valley of Rising Brook where the linear transport corridors of the A460 and the Chase rail line cross the valley floor, detracting from the rural quality of the foreground. The settlement edge of Rugeley is apparent in the middle ground, beyond a copse of trees occupying the foreground. The landform of the middle ground rises to form a wooded backdrop associated with the wider upland plateau of the AONB. Glimpsed views of Slitting Mill and dwellings at Flaxley Green are visible on these wooded slopes, albeit partially screened by vegetation.



Viewpoint 9: View looking north east from Byway Longdon 0.411 at Castle Ring (scheduled monument)



Grid reference: SK 04352 12946

Elevation: 236 m AOD

Receptor type

The view is publicly accessible and representative of recreational users of Byway Longdon 0.411, forming a section of a broadly circuitous route at Castle Ring (scheduled monument). Accessed via Holly Hill Road, the site lies to the north of Cannock Wood and offers panoramic views across the landscape of the AONB and beyond. The view has been selected for inclusion within this study as it forms the highest point within the AONB and is recognised as an important historic and recreational asset.

Description of the view

The foreground of the view is characterised by the route of Byway Longdon 0.411, accommodated on perimeter earthworks within Castle Ring Iron Age hill fort. Vegetation within Stonepit Green, forming a wider component of Beaudesert Old Park, preclude open views to the north where the view is foreshortened. The extent of this vegetation, when combined with tree cover in the immediate foreground, restricts the availability of direct views towards Rugeley Power Station and the Amazon Fulfilment Centre from this location. However, glimpsed views are afforded towards these features from wider sections of the locally elevated route at Castle Ring due to gaps in the continuity of tree cover. Direct views towards the settlement edge of Rugeley are also concealed due to the proliferation of vegetation in the central frame. The view exhibits a rural quality with the right hand frame of the view framed by tracts of tree cover at Beaudesert New Park. Long distance views are afforded to Upper Longdon, located within a patchwork of gently rolling agricultural land where the ridge line associated with Needwood Forest forms the horizon.



Viewpoint 10: View looking south from Bridleway Longdon 10, Gentleshaw Hill



Grid reference: SK 05245 11350

Elevation: 197 m AOD

Receptor type

Located on open access land at Gentleshaw Common, the view is representative of recreational receptors using the network of PRow which dissect Gentleshaw Hill. The view is located to the west of Common Side, divided by a belt of vegetation parallel to the roadside. The view has been selected for this study as it offers long distance views towards the developed context to the south, comprising Chase Terrace with Burntwood and the wider West Midlands conurbation forming the background view.

Description of the view

The view offers a locally elevated vantage point looking south from Gentleshaw Common, where tracts of lowland heathland dominate the foreground. The topography falls in the central frame, affording views towards the settlement edges of Chase Terrace and Burntwood in the middle ground. The rising landform of the right and left hand frames provide framed views across the wider viewpoint panorama where built form located within the wider West Midlands conurbation forms the horizon. A network of electricity pylons punctuate the skyline, running east to west at the southern extent of Gentleshaw Common, marking a transition from the semi-natural heathland character to residential land use within Chase Terrace.



Viewpoint 11: View looking north east from Rugeley Road, Chase Terrace



Grid reference: SK 04567 10571

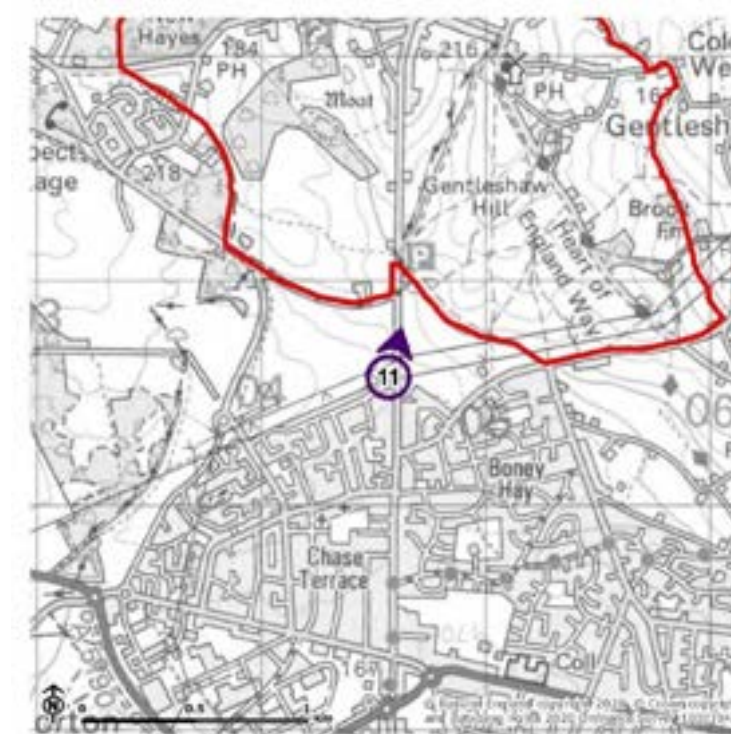
Elevation: 183 m AOD

Receptor type

This view looks north east across the lowland heathland context of Gentleshaw Common from a public open space at the northern extent of Chase Terrace. The outlook is representative of residential occupants within the settlement as well as road users on Rugeley Road where the view lies broadly in the direction of travel. The view has been included in the study as the long linear alignment of the carriageway at this location acts as a gateway approach, providing panoramic views into the AONB from the developed settlement edge.

Description of the view

The foreground of this view comprises amenity grassland within the public open space, divided from the adjoining pastoral land use by a timber post and rail fence. A network of electricity pylons is prominent in the central frame, with the extensive lowland heathland habitat at Gentleshaw Common visible in the background view. The carriageway of Rugeley Road, bordered by hedgerows, stretches from the foreground at the right hand frame towards Hayfield Hill in the background view. This route divides the heathland character of Gentleshaw Common from the pastoral farmland characteristic of the left hand frame. The settlement fringes of Cannock Wood are visible beneath the horizon. The AONB forms a wooded backdrop, punctuated only by a mast at Chestall, at the northern extent of Gentleshaw village.



Viewpoint 12: View looking south west from Rugeley Road, Hazelslade



Grid reference: SK 02599 13210

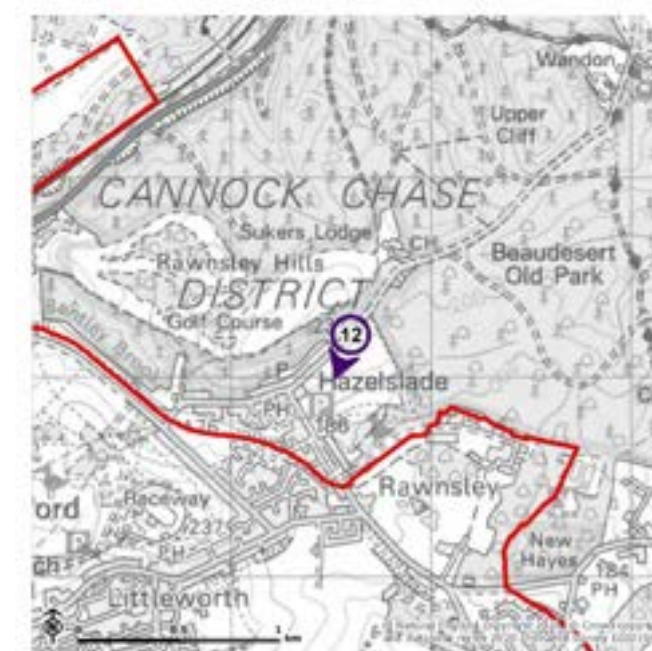
Elevation: 207 m AOD

Receptor type

The view looks south west towards the settlement edge of Hazelslade, with background views afforded to Prospect Village and Cannock Wood Industrial Estate. Representative of road users on Rugeley Road, views are partially filtered by vegetation running parallel the carriageway. The route of Public Footpath Cannock Town 29, connecting Rugeley Road and Cannock Wood Industrial Estate, also lies within close proximity to this viewpoint.

Description of the view

The foreground of the view is comprised largely of rough grassland and scrub which contrasts with the dense belt of woodland comprising the middle ground. The carriageway of Rugeley Road occupies the right hand frame of the view, bordered by a post and wire fence and section of a remnant hedgerow. Glimpsed views are afforded towards Cannock Wood Industrial Estate where a network of electricity pylons is also discernible against the skyline. The roof lines of residential properties at the settlement edge of Hazelslade are visible at the right hand frame of the view, filtered somewhat by the extent of intervening vegetation. The skyline comprises rolling hills and scattered woodland within Wimblebury, where the distinctive raised topography of Hednesford Hills are also apparent.



Viewpoint 13: View looking north east from Public Footpath Hednesford 17, Hednesford Hills



Grid reference: SK 01673 12442

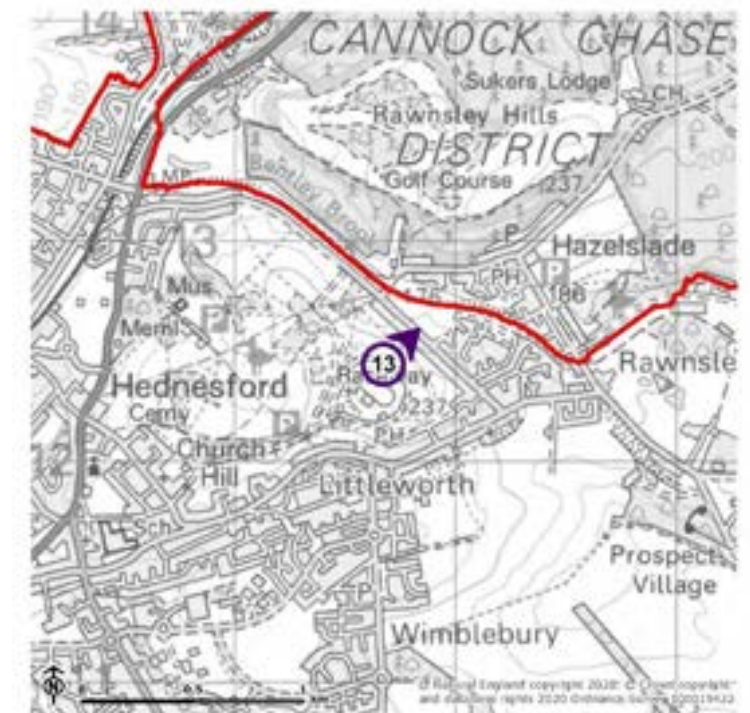
Elevation: 216 m AOD

Receptor type

Located at a locally elevated location within Hednesford Hills Local Nature Reserve (LNR), the view offers north easterly views towards the AONB. The view is representative of recreational receptors within the open access land at Hednesford Hills. This view has been included in the study due to the availability of views towards the southern fringes of the AONB, including Hazelslade and Cannock Wood Industrial Estate.

Description of the view

Views towards the settlement of Hazelslade are partially obscured due to the extent of vegetation forming the immediate foreground. However, these views would be potentially opened up by a programme of scrub clearance on the rising slopes of the immediate foreground. Landform at the right and left hand frames also foreshorten the view, resulting in a narrow panorama. The middle ground is dominated by residential dwellings within the settlement of Hazelslade, with land use at Rawnsley Hills visible in the background view. The tracts of woodland forming Beaudesert Old Park and the wider AONB provide a wooded backdrop in the view. However, the Pye Green BT Tower protrudes above this wooded skyline. Built form at Cannock Wood Industrial Estate forms a visual detractor and disrupts the continuity of woodland coverage in the background view.



Viewpoint 14: View looking south east from open access land at Brindley Heath



Grid reference: SK 00075 14229

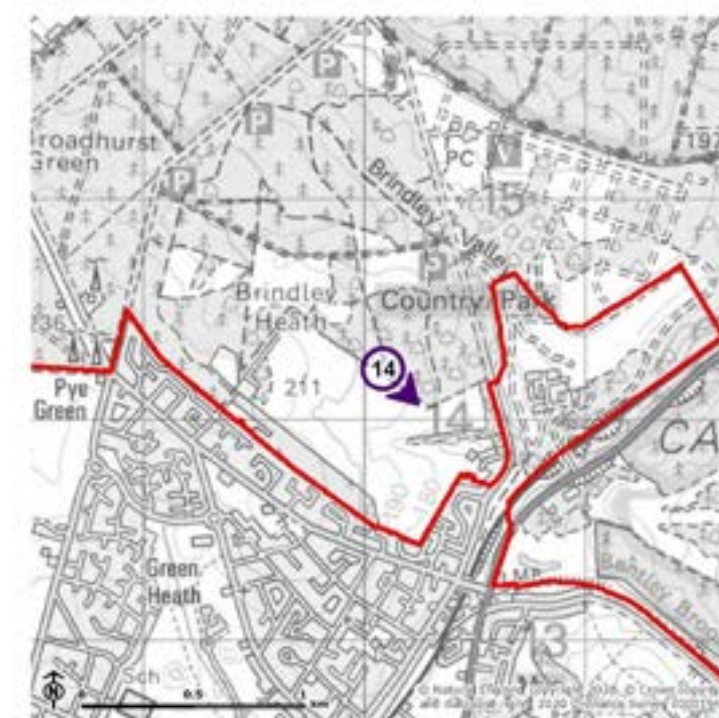
Elevation: 198 m AOD

Receptor type

Representative of recreational users of the open access land at Brindley Heath, the view offers south easterly views across iconic lowland heathland habitat within close proximity to the settlement edge. The combination of intervening topography and vegetation precludes views towards Hednesford and Pye Green from this location.

Description of the view

The lowland heathland land use at Brindley Heath dominates the fore and middle ground of the view, characterised by undulating landform crossed by a network of footpaths. The extent of vegetation at the right hand frame of the view restricts views looking south towards Hednesford and Pye Green, although a programme of scrub clearance would potentially open up views at this location. However, built form at Cannock Chase Enterprise Centre is visible among the belt of vegetation in the background view, which detracts somewhat from the rurality of the view. Tree coverage at the left hand frame of the view filters views towards the distinctive wooded horizon.



Viewpoint 15: View looking north west from Bridleway Hatherton 0.955/0.967



Grid reference: SJ 96597 11444

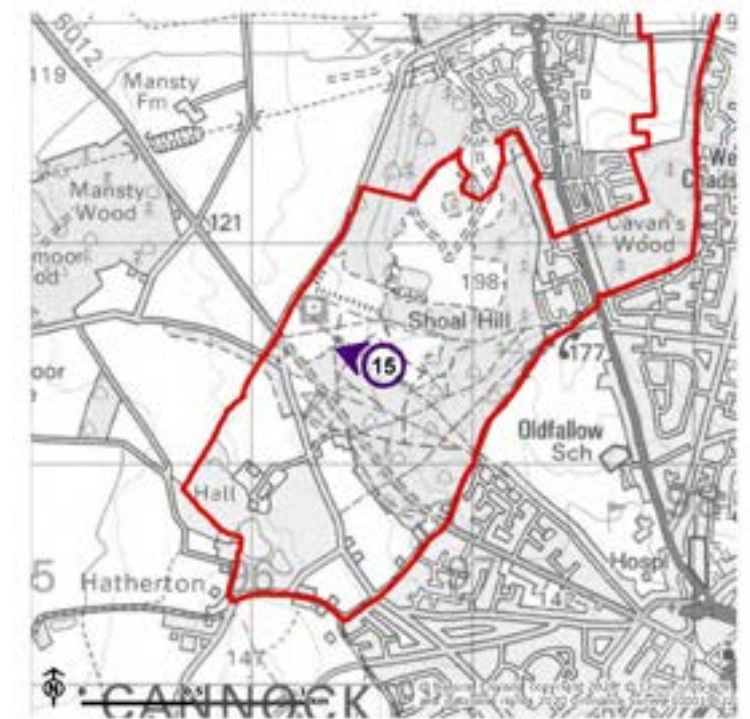
Elevation: 158 m AOD

Receptor type

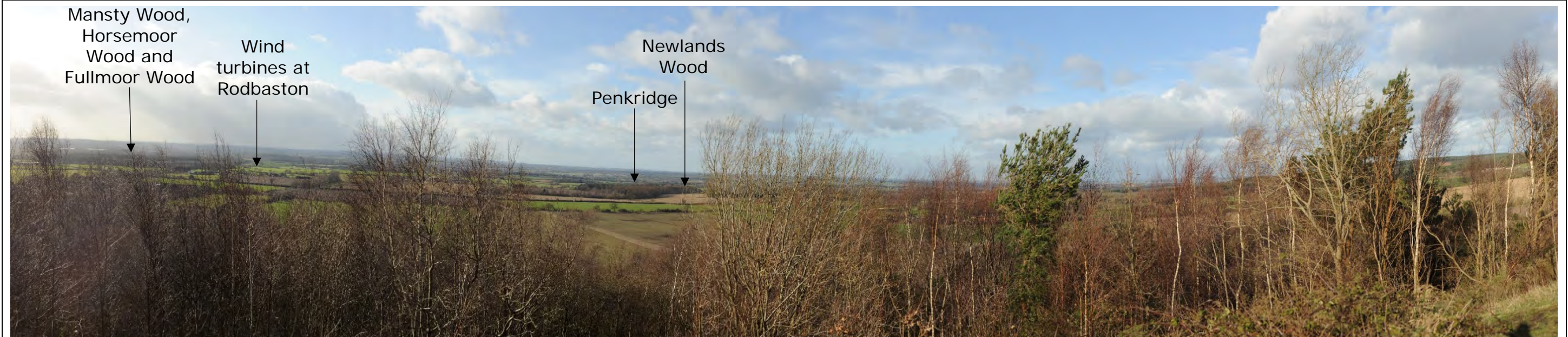
Located on Bridleway Hatherton 0.955/0.967 at Shoal Hill, the viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the open access land at this location. Lying on land separating the settlements of Huntington and Cannock, Shoal Hill Common forms an accessible open space at the settlement edge. This view has been included in the study as it represents a locally elevated view across a characteristic heathland, with views afforded to the wider Staffordshire Plain.

Description of the view

Heathland habitat at Shoal Hill Common forms the predominant land use in the foreground of the view. Characterised by scrub and isolated trees, the landscape is crossed by a dense network of PRoW. The view exhibits a rural quality and provides expansive views to the west across the Staffordshire Plain where woodland belts in the middle ground visually coalesce to restrict background views. Vertical features in the view are limited to the two wind turbines at Rodbaston College which protrude above the skyline in the left hand frame. The movement of vehicles on Cocksparrow Lane is also apparent, albeit partially screened by vegetation. The background view comprises low-lying, undulating landform typical of the Staffordshire Plain although the urban edge of Stafford is just perceptible.



Viewpoint 16: View looking north west from Huntington Mound, Huntington



Grid reference: SJ 96940 13149

Elevation: 180 m AOD

Receptor type

The viewpoint is located at the peak of Huntington Mound, a legacy of the former Littleton Colliery. The view offers panoramic views, albeit partially obscured by vegetation forming the wooded slopes. The site is promoted as a public open space and is representative of recreational receptors. This viewpoint has been included in the study as it forms a prominent landmark and demonstrates the long distance views available to the north west from a locally elevated vantage point within close proximity to the AONB.

Description of the view

The proliferation of vegetation forming the wooded slopes of Huntington Mound characterise the immediate foreground, restricting direct views to the north west. Although a programme of scrub clearance would open up the vista at this location, glimpsed views are afforded to the middle ground where arable land use predominates across the Staffordshire Plain. The tracts of woodland at Mansty Wood, Horsemoor Wood and Fullmoor Wood are evident in the left hand frame of the view. However, the views are foreshortened in the right hand frame due to the elevated wooded slopes which form the western edge of the AONB. The gently undulating topography of the Staffordshire Plain continues into the background view and is generally more wooded in character, rising to form gentle peaks further east. The distinctive peak of the Wrekin is just discernible on the skyline.



Viewpoint 17: View looking north east from the Staffordshire Way, Cock Lane, south of Bednall



Grid reference: SJ 95318 16878

Elevation: 106 m AOD

Receptor type

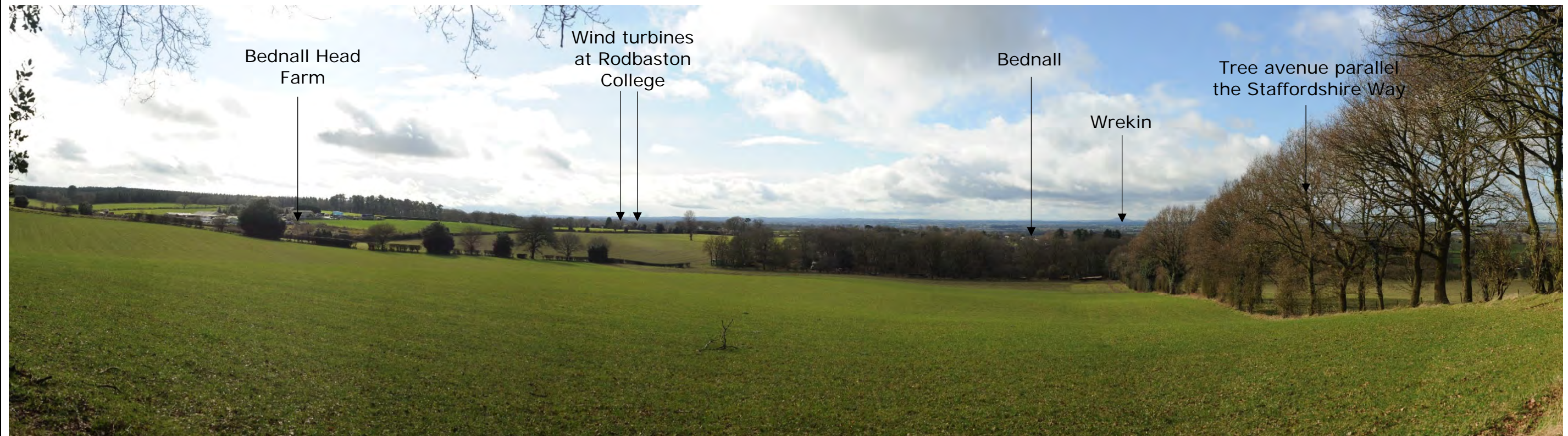
Located on Cock Lane, the viewpoint forms a section of the wider Staffordshire Way long distance footpath. The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of this route, as well as residential receptors in nearby Bednall. The view was selected for inclusion in the study as it demonstrates the availability of views from the Staffordshire Plain towards the upland plateau of the AONB.

Description of the view

The viewpoint exhibits a rural quality and is characterised by horse grazed paddocks divided by post and rail fencing in the immediate foreground. The low-lying nature of the topography in this location contrasts with the elevation provided by the wooded plateau rising from the Staffordshire Plain. The middle-ground is typified by a proliferation of tree cover; including Moors Covert and Grenville's Wood. However, vegetation within Wellington Belt foreshortens the view in the right hand frame. Residential properties at Gypsy Green are evident in the central frame, partially screened by intervening vegetation. Coniferous woodland on the upland plateau dominates in the background view, contributing to the prominence and distinctiveness of the AONB from this location.



Viewpoint 18: View looking west from the Staffordshire Way, west of Camp Road



Grid reference: SJ 97073 18113

Elevation: 173m AOD

Receptor type

The view is publicly accessible and representative of recreational users on the Staffordshire Way long distance footpath, crossing the gently rolling lowland landscape of the Staffordshire Plain. Located to the west of Camp Road, views from road users are broadly perpendicular to the direction of travel and generally obscured by the extent of roadside vegetation forming Bednall Belt Plantation. The view has been selected for inclusion within this study as it provides panoramic westerly views across the Staffordshire Plain and forms a section of the Staffordshire Way, a long distance footpath spanning the length of the county.

Description of the view

The foreground of the view is characterised by gently rolling pastoral land use falling towards sections of partially intact hedgerow field boundaries and the corridor of the A34. The view exhibits a rural quality with the right hand frame of the view framed by a double avenue of trees running parallel the route of the Staffordshire Way. Intensive agriculture dominates the land use of the panorama, typified by an irregular pattern of hedged fields. Built form at Bednall Head Farm is visible in the view. Direct views towards Bednall Head and Bednall are also partially concealed due to the proliferation of vegetation in the central frame, although views towards passing vehicles on the A34 are discernible in the middle-ground. The view is foreshortened at the left hand frame of the view by the combination of rising topography and vegetation coverage at Bog Moor, offering a significant wooded backdrop. This vegetation visually coalesces to restrict background views. The low-lying nature of the landform affords open views across the Staffordshire Plain, with the Wrekin and the two wind turbines at Rodbaston College perceptible against the skyline in the background view.



Viewpoint 19: View looking north west from open access land to the south east of Brocton



Grid reference: SJ 97300 19669

Elevation: 131 m AOD

Receptor type

Representative of recreational users, the viewpoint is located within open access land to the east of Brocton. Lying within the boundary of the AONB, the viewpoint offers north westerly views towards the settlement edge of Brocton and the south easterly fringes of Stafford.

Description of the view

The foreground of this view comprises heathland and scattered trees associated with Broc Hill. An informal access route connects the settlement edge of Brocton with the wider heathland context. Intervening vegetation in the middle ground partially screens some of these residential properties although the locally elevated vantage point offers long distance views. The settlement edges of Walton-on-the-Hill, Weeping Cross and Stafford are visible within the left hand frame of the view; including the spire of St Thomas' Church at Walton-on-the-Hill and the large scale industrial estate at Creswell. Partially screened by vegetation in the right hand frame of the view, glimpsed views are afforded to the wind turbine at Manor Farm, Newton and the Industrial Park at Pasturefields. The background is characterised by predominantly rolling wooded landform forming the Staffordshire Plain.



Viewpoint 20: View looking north east from Public Footpath Berkswich 10, Walton-on-the-Hill



Grid reference: SJ 96066 20792

Elevation: 108 m AOD

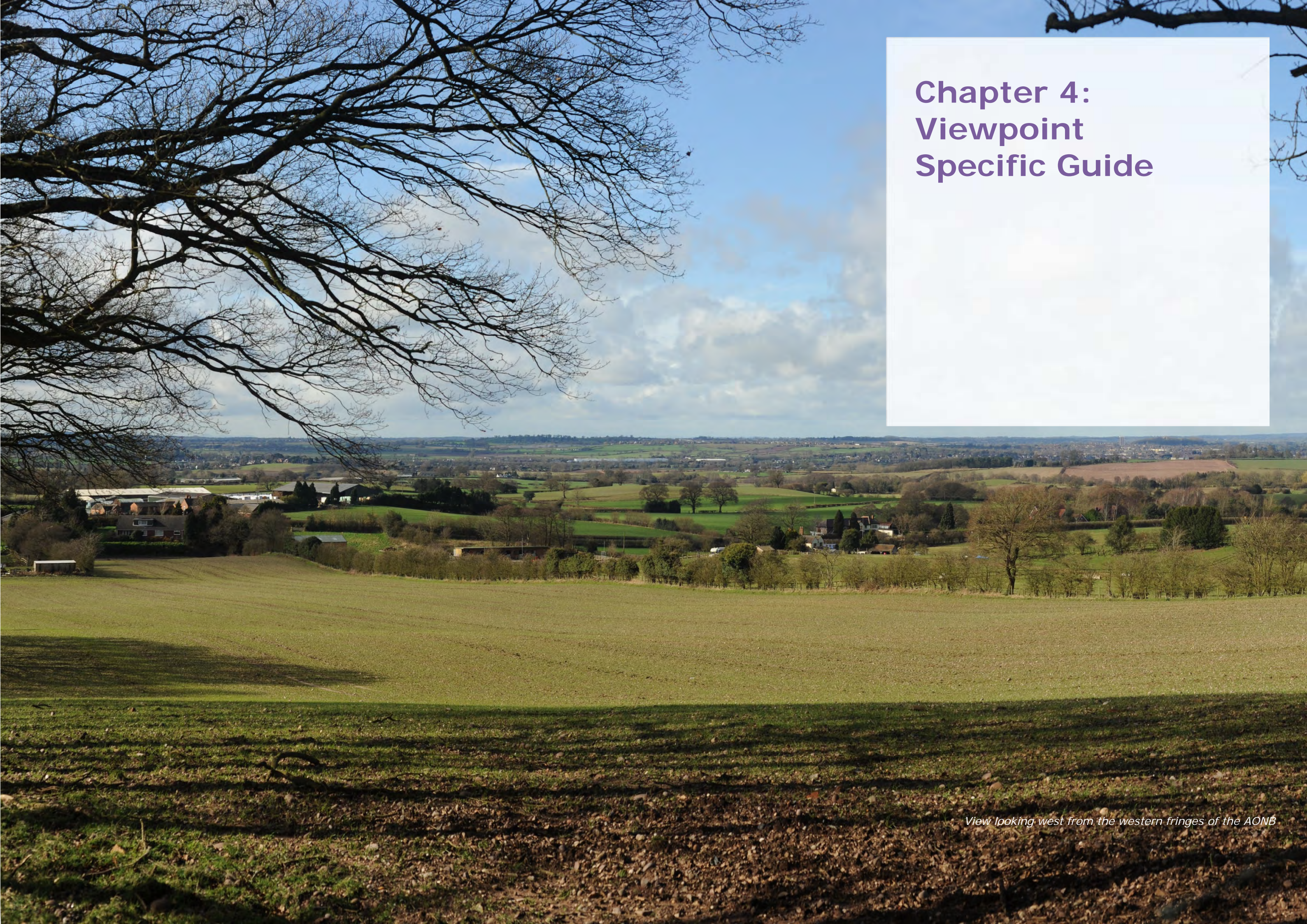
Receptor type

Located on Public Footpath Berkswich 10, the route emerges from the settlement edge of Walton-on-the-Hill and provides north easterly views towards the boundary of the AONB and beyond. The view is representative of both recreational and residential receptors on the eastern edge of Walton-on-the-Hill. The view has been included within the study as it demonstrates views towards the AONB from the residential context of Walton-on-the-Hill.

Description of the view

Pastoral land use predominates in the immediate foreground, sloping towards the unnamed tributary of the River Penk. Vegetation bordering this water course visually coalesces with the tracts of vegetation at Milford Covert and Cressel Wood to provide a wooded middle ground. Glimpsed views are afforded to the series of ponds to the west of Milford and residential properties centred on the A513. The skyline in the central frame is interrupted by a wind turbine and electricity pylons which form vertical visual detractors visible against the skyline. The densely wooded plateau of the AONB forms a prominent backdrop.





Chapter 4: Viewpoint Specific Guide

View looking west from the western fringes of the AONB

Chapter 4

Viewpoint Specific Guide

A guide to the management of the AONB's setting in order to conserve and enhance its special qualities is provided in the following section. The document establishes key considerations for the assessment of impacts and guidance on likely acceptability in an attempt to minimise detrimental effects on the AONB. Following on from the description and articulation of key sensitivities within the view, guiding principles have been developed based on the 20 representative views identified within Chapter 3. These views have been identified to demonstrate how the guide may be applied to specific views within the landscape and does not provide an exhaustive list of all the potentially sensitive views to/from the AONB. The guide for each representative viewpoint is structured as set out below:

- ZTV illustrating a 360° viewshed within the 10km study area extent;
- ZTV superimposed on OS 1:25,000 mapping; and
- annotated image illustrating management principles for each viewpoint. The guidelines cross-reference the spatial guide contained within Chapter 5.

Interpretation of the ZTV

The ZTV for each representative viewpoint provides a strategic guide or tool to help in managing change. Existing vegetation and built form (2m Digital Surface Model (DSM)) are included within the ZTV output to provide a comprehensive representation of visibility. However, this is 'theoretical' based on the best available data. The ZTV provides an estimation of visual barriers, providing an indication of visibility from the representative location. It is not intended to represent actual visibility precisely due to the limitations of modelling used, however it is useful as a tool to inform of potential visibility and help develop recommendations.

Guidance on the interpretation of natural and man-made obstructions in the landscape is provided on pages 54-56. It is also not possible for the ZTV output to illustrate the effects of partial screening (e.g. by winter vegetation) and this should form a consideration in the assessment of development proposals. Onsite survey and assessment will therefore be required in relation to any proposed future change. LPAs should request that development applications include an assessment of impacts on the AONB as part of a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). Preparation of a more detailed and specific ZTV may therefore be required at this stage.

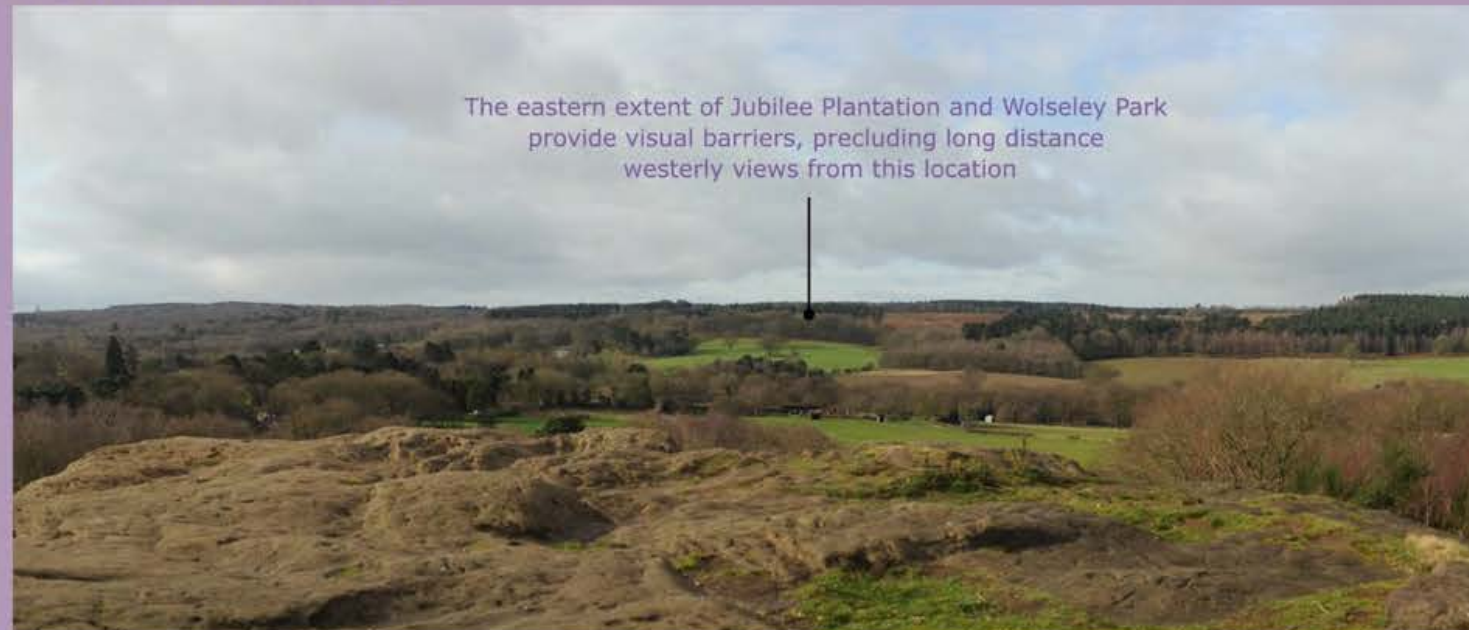
The guide should be read in conjunction with the AONB Design Guide².



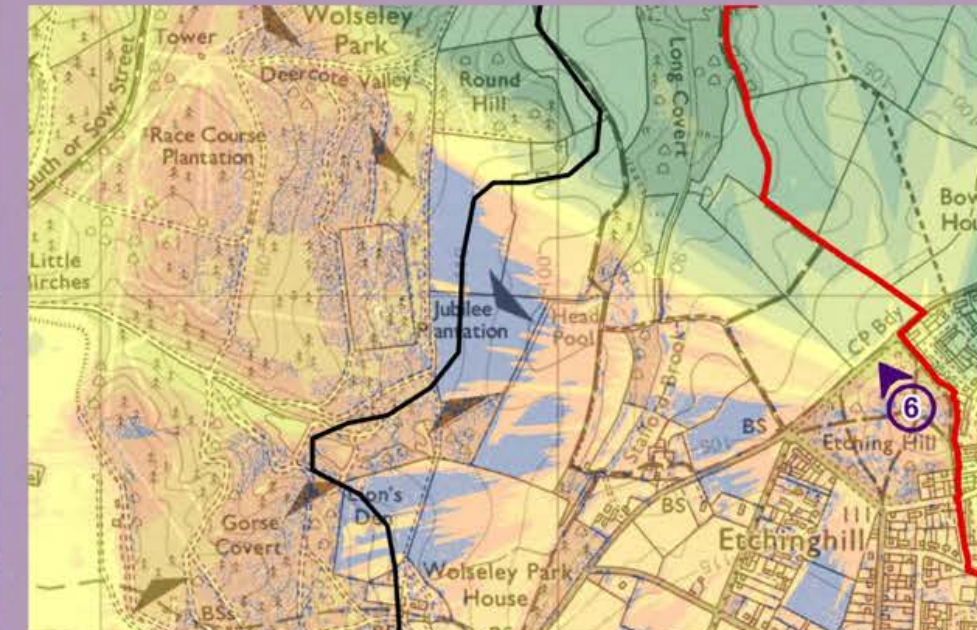
View looking east from Castle Ring (scheduled monument)

INTERPRETATION OF THE ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY (ZTV)

WOODLAND TRACTS



Representative Viewpoint 6: View looking north west from the junction of Bridleways Rugeley Town 0.177 / 0.209 and Rugeley Town 0.178 / 0.206, Etchinghill



The inclusion of vegetation within the model provides a representation of actual visibility based on current woodland coverage. However, vegetation may be felled, coppiced or new areas created, which would change visibility and potentially open up further views.

PARKLAND TREES



Representative Viewpoint 3: View looking north west from Great Haywood Cliffs, Great Haywood



The presence of scattered trees result in obstructions to the ZTV output, which may not accurately represent the pattern of actual visibility. Loss of parkland trees or planting of new trees would also change visibility.

INTERPRETATION OF THE ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY (ZTV)

BUILT FORM - SETTLEMENT EDGE



Representative Viewpoint 10: View looking south from Bridleway Longdon 10, Gentleshaw Hill

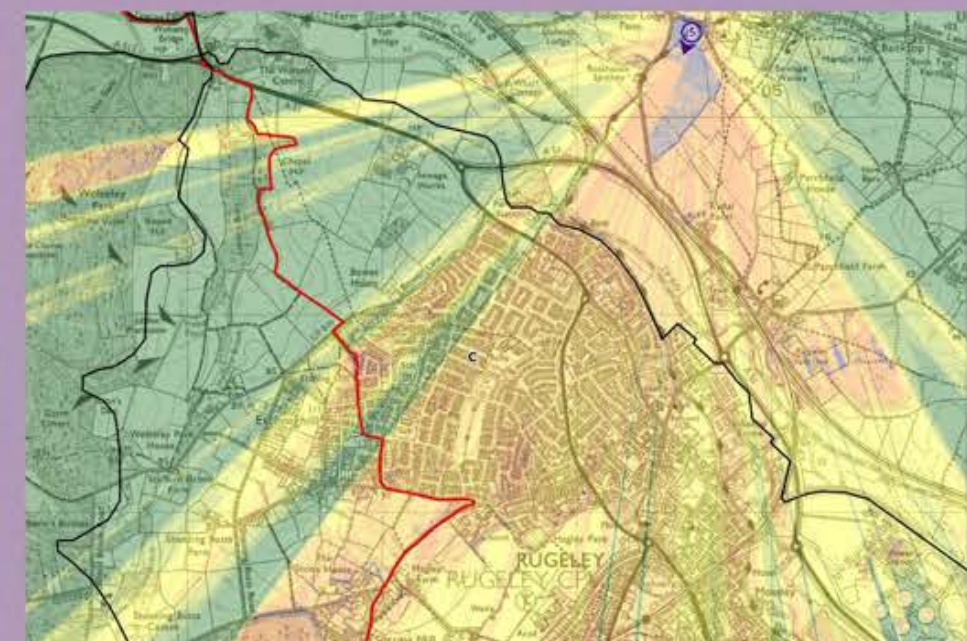


The integration of DSM data within the model delivers a more accurate impression of visibility due to the extent of residential land use at the settlement edge.

BUILT FORM - TALL STRUCTURES



Representative Viewpoint 5: View looking south west from the Staffordshire Way, Bellamour Way, Colton



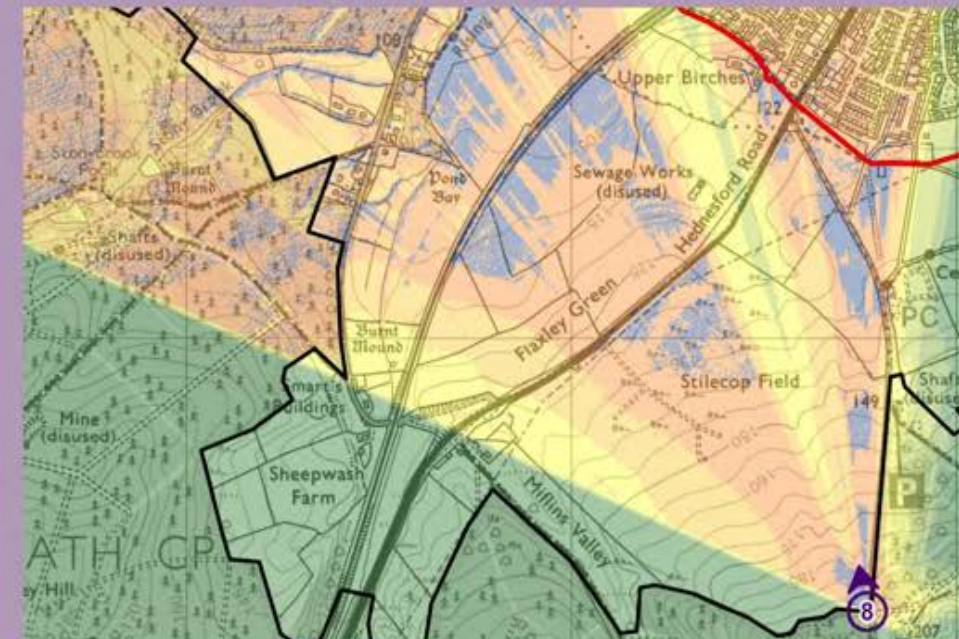
The presence of tall structures within the landscape results in a 'shadowing' effect within the ZTV output, blocking views beyond Rugeley Power Station in this example.

INTERPRETATION OF THE ZONE OF THEORETICAL VISIBILITY (ZTV)

INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDORS



Representative Viewpoint 8: View looking north west at Stile Cop Field, Stile Cop Road, Flaxley Green



The carriageway of Hednesford Road and the Chase Rail Line provide linear obstructions to visibility, as indicated by the ZTV output. However, this does not dictate that development along infrastructure corridors would be acceptable in visual terms.

ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION TOWER / PYLON

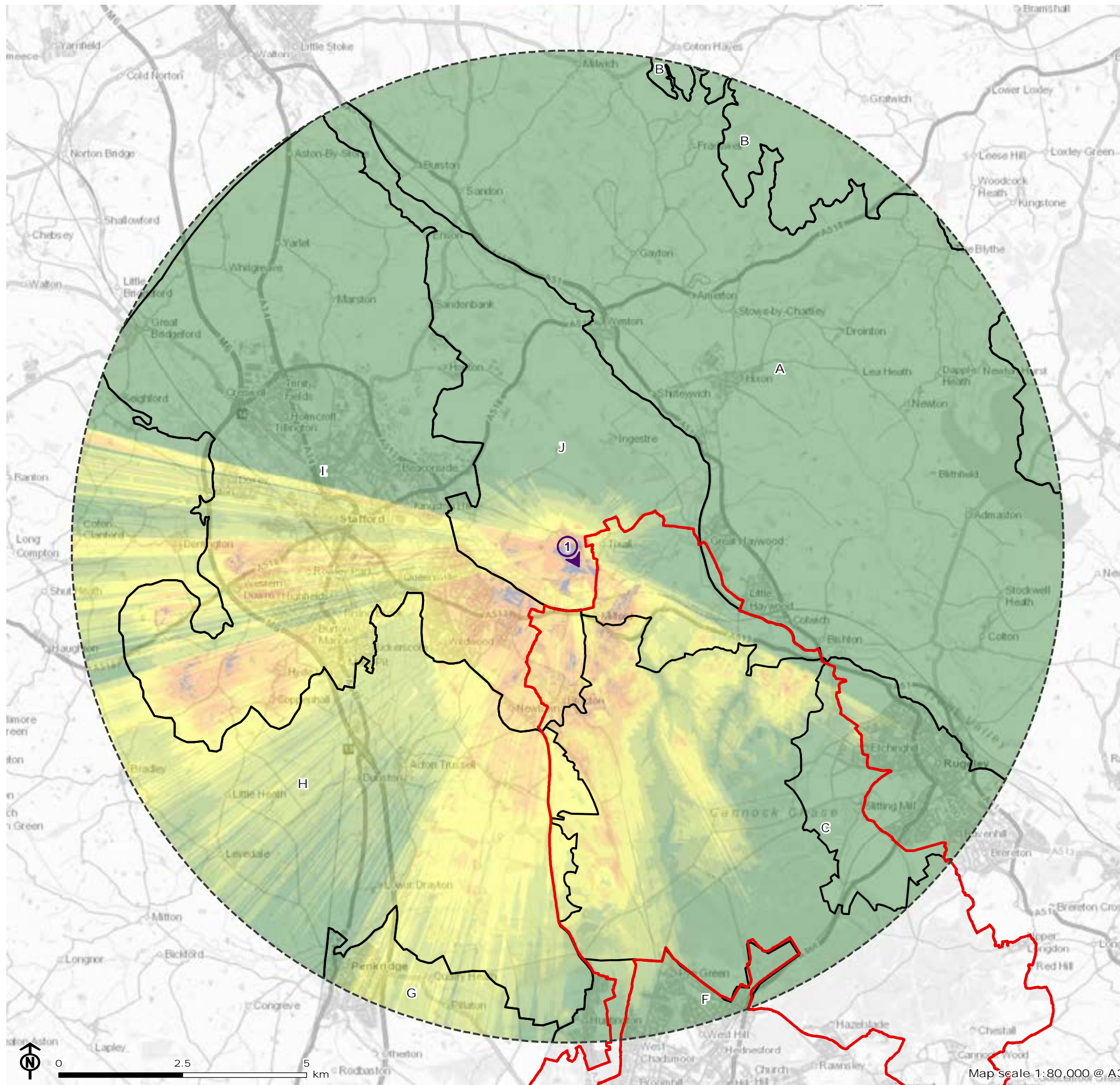


Representative Viewpoint 11: View looking north east from Rugeley Road, Chase Terrace

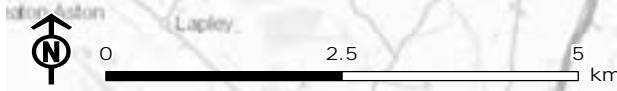


The electricity transmission tower / pylon is represented as a solid visual barrier within the ZTV output, detracting from the data's objectivity.

Figure 4.1: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 1 and Setting Zones



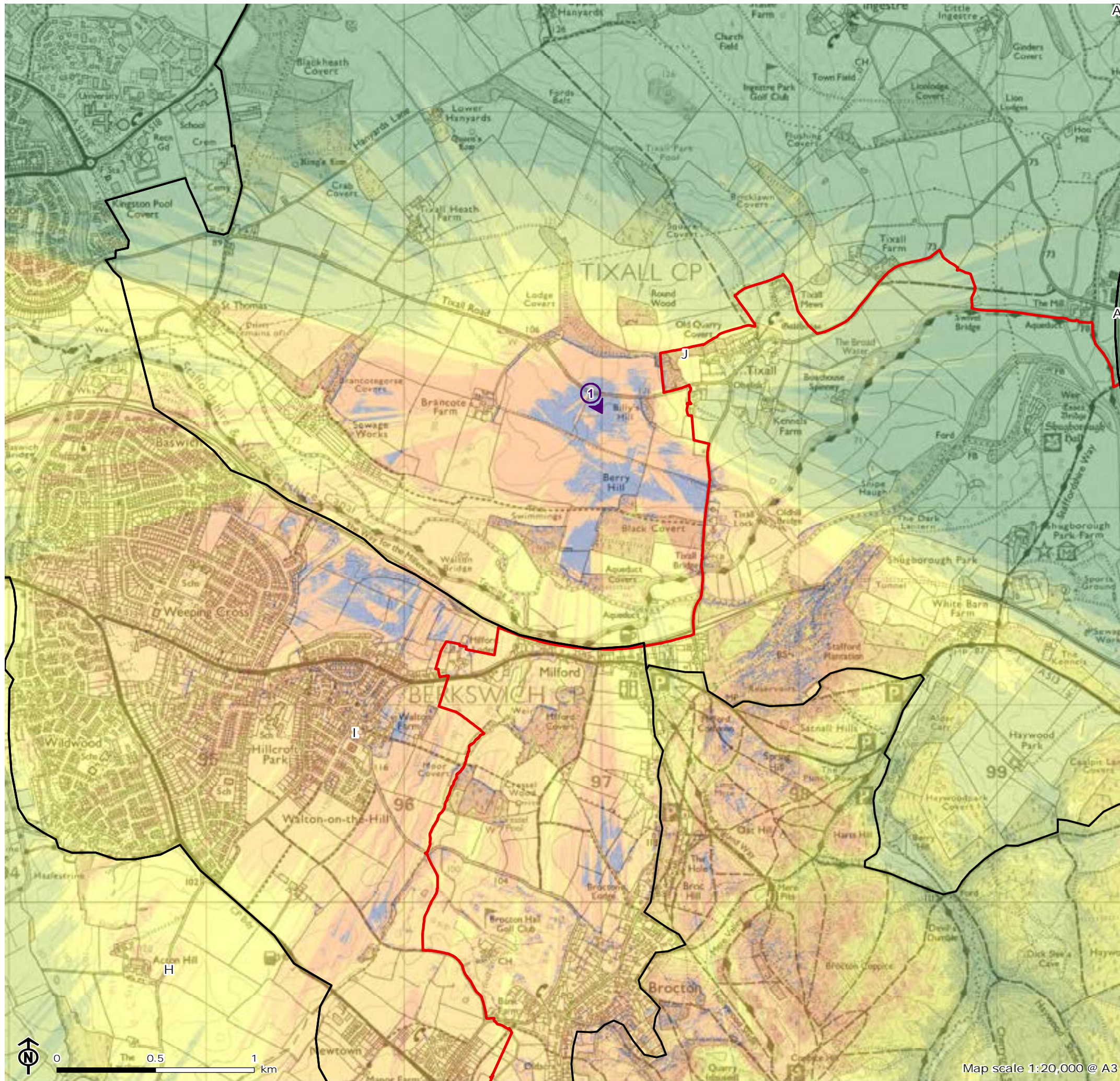
Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:80,000 @ A3

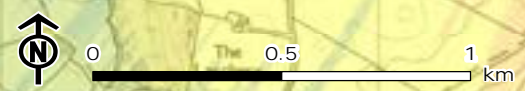


Figure 4.2: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 1 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
 - Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Setting Zone
 - A: Needwood Farmlands
 - H: Staffordshire Plain
 - I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe
 - J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands
- Height at which objects become visible
- 0m (visible)
 - 0 - 10m
 - 10 - 25m
 - 25 - 50m
 - 50 - 75m
 - 75 - 100m
 - >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:20,000 @ A3

Figure 4.3: Representative Viewpoint 1: View looking south east from Tixall Road, Tixall

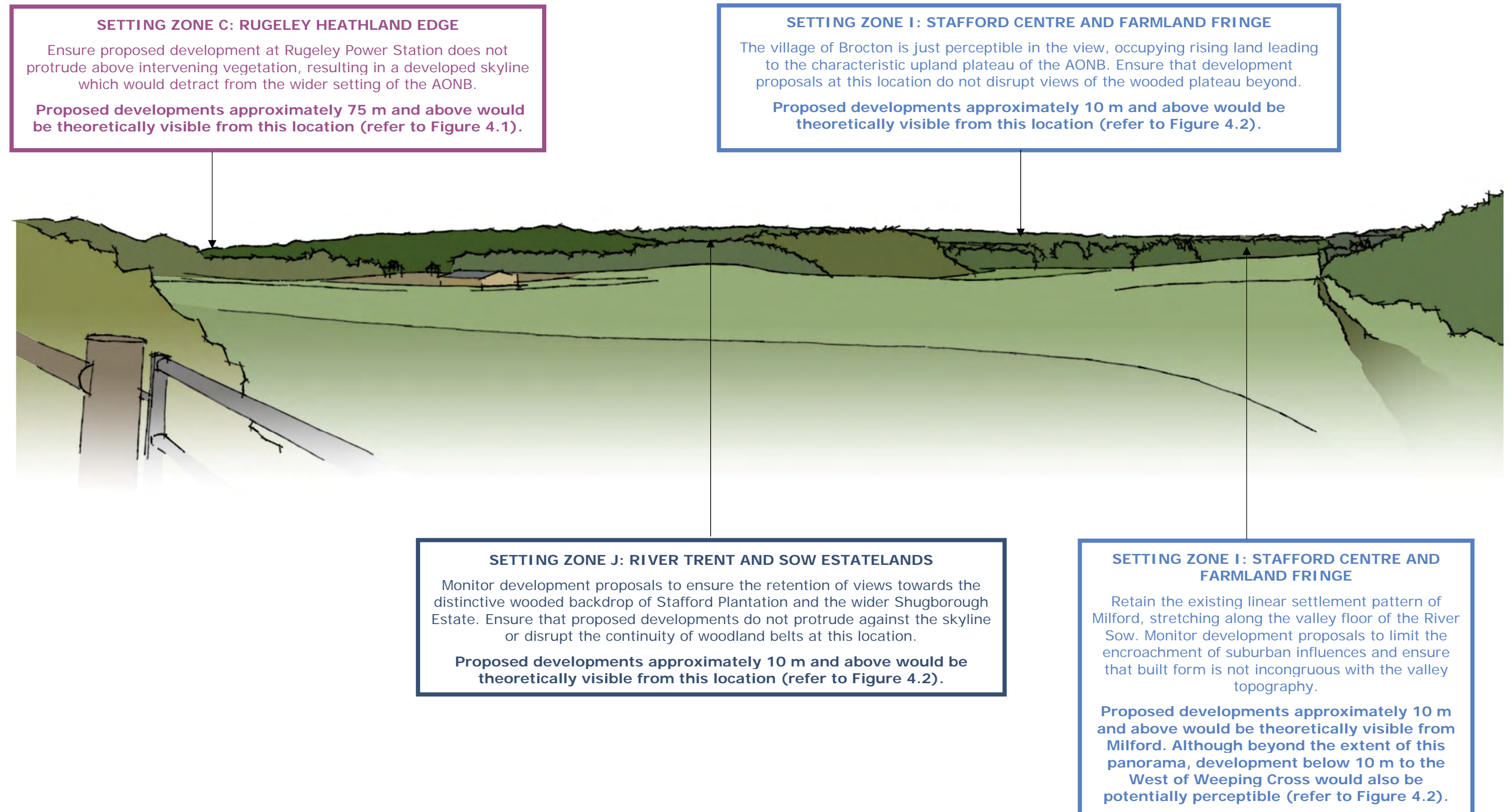
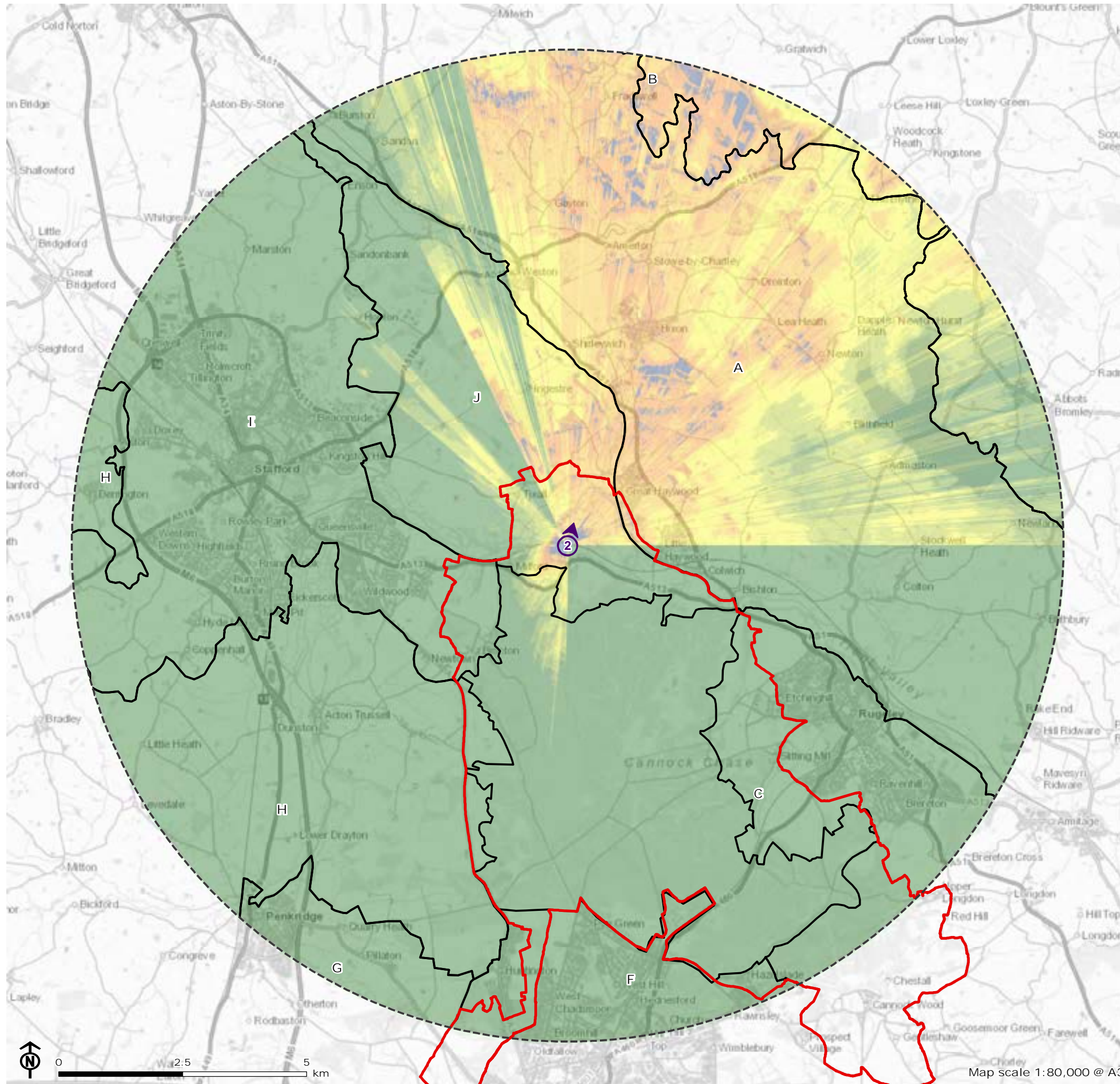
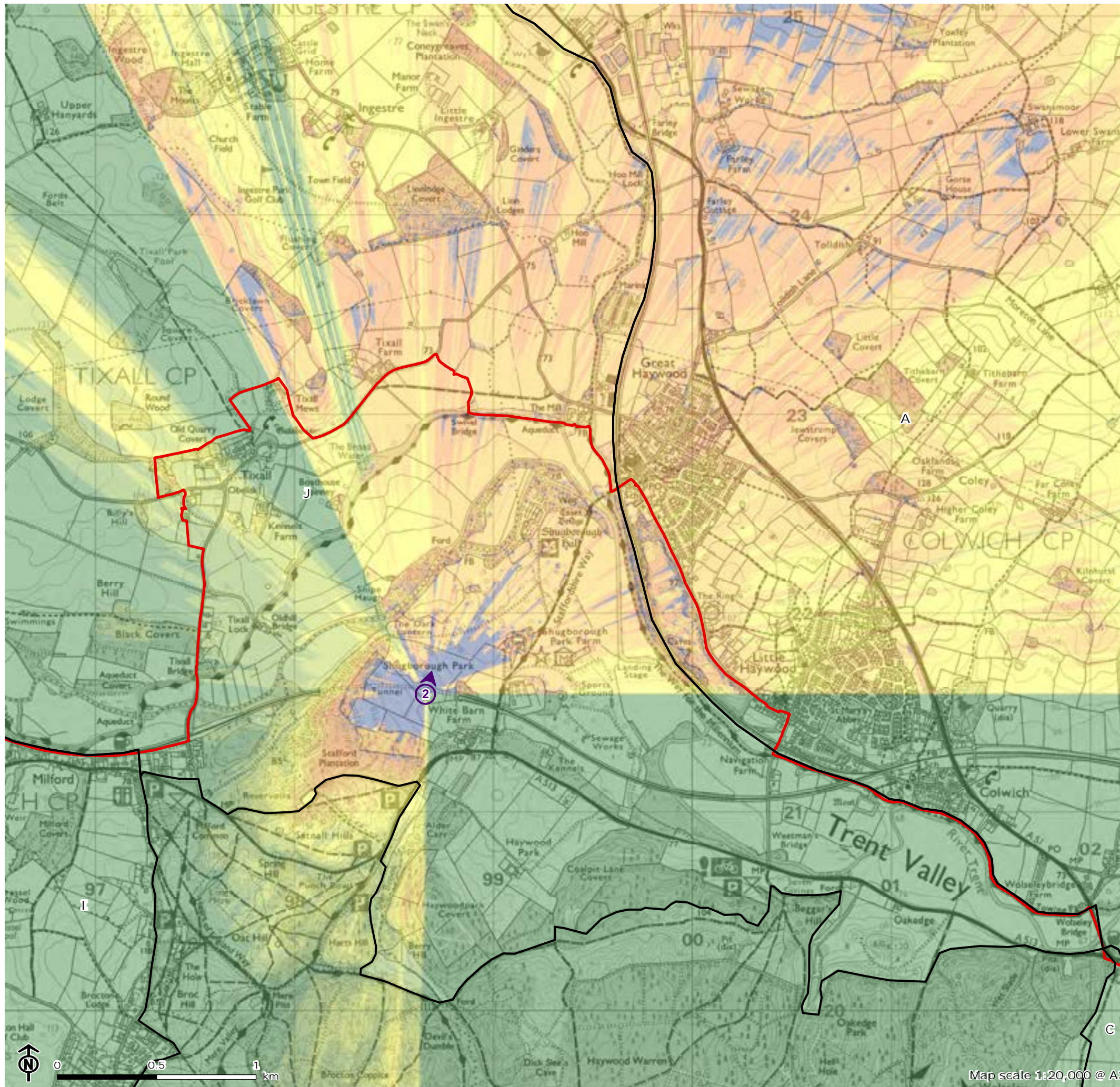


Figure 4.4: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 2 and Setting Zones



Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Figure 4.5: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 2 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
 - Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Setting Zone
 - A: Needwood Farmlands
 - C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
 - I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe
 - J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands
- Height at which objects become visible
- 0m (visible)
 - 0 - 10m
 - 10 - 25m
 - 25 - 50m
 - 50 - 75m
 - 75 - 100m
 - >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:20,000 @ A3

Figure 4.6: Representative Viewpoint 2: View looking north east from the Triumphal Arch at the Shugborough Estate

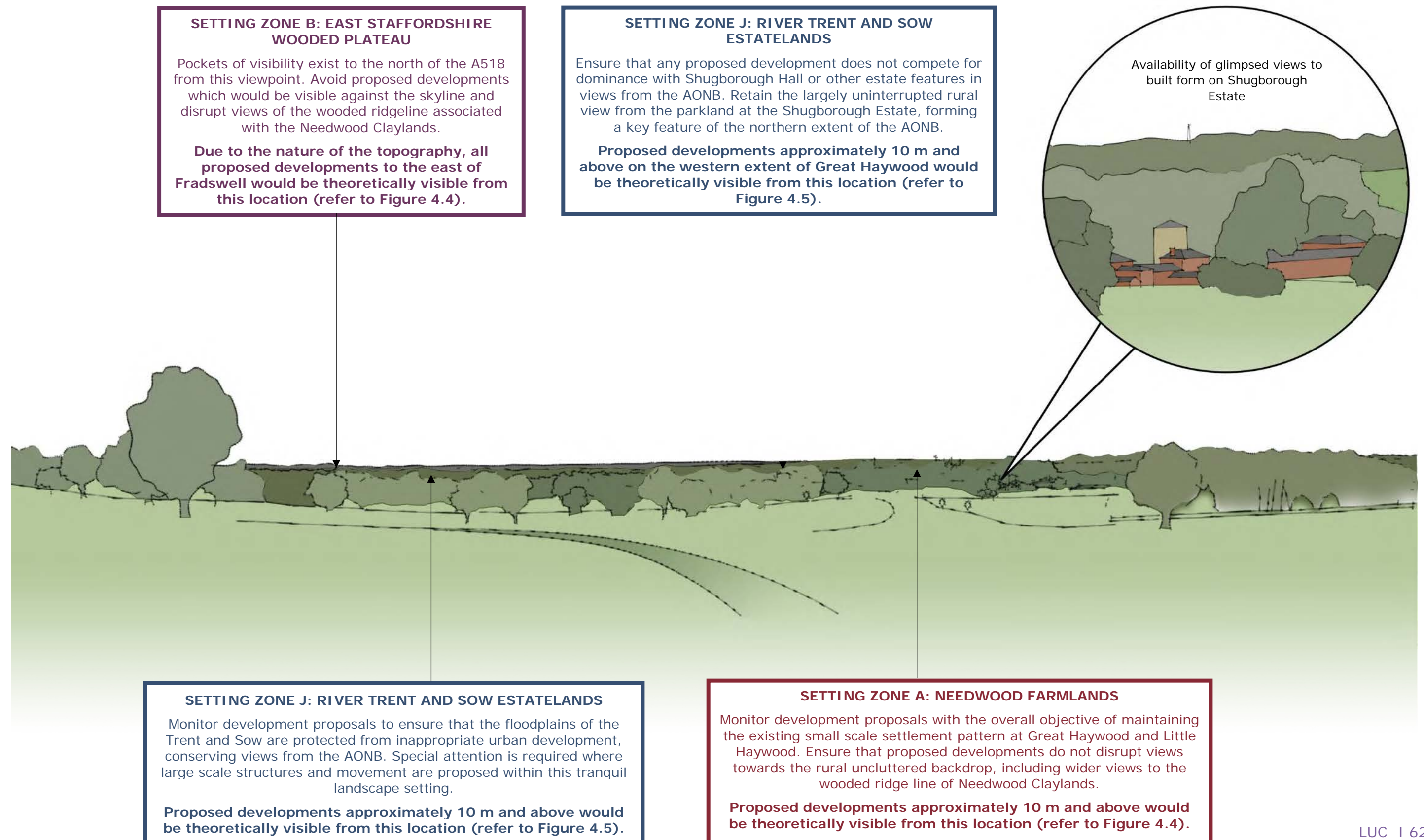
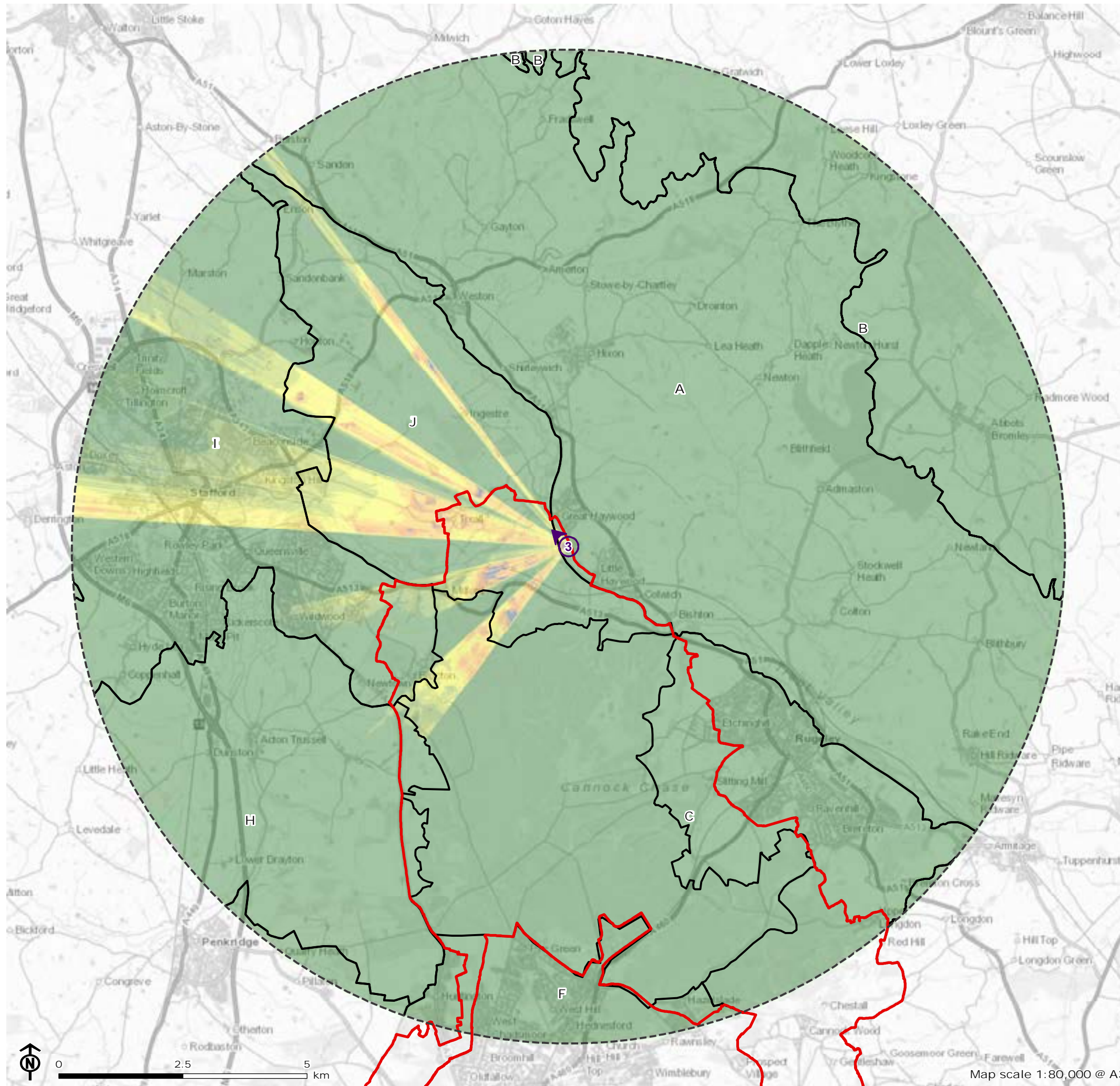


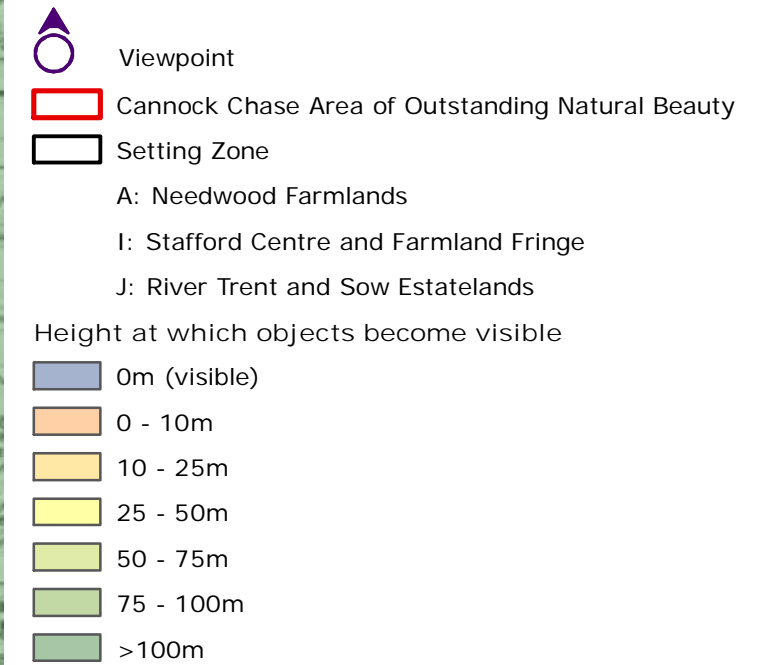
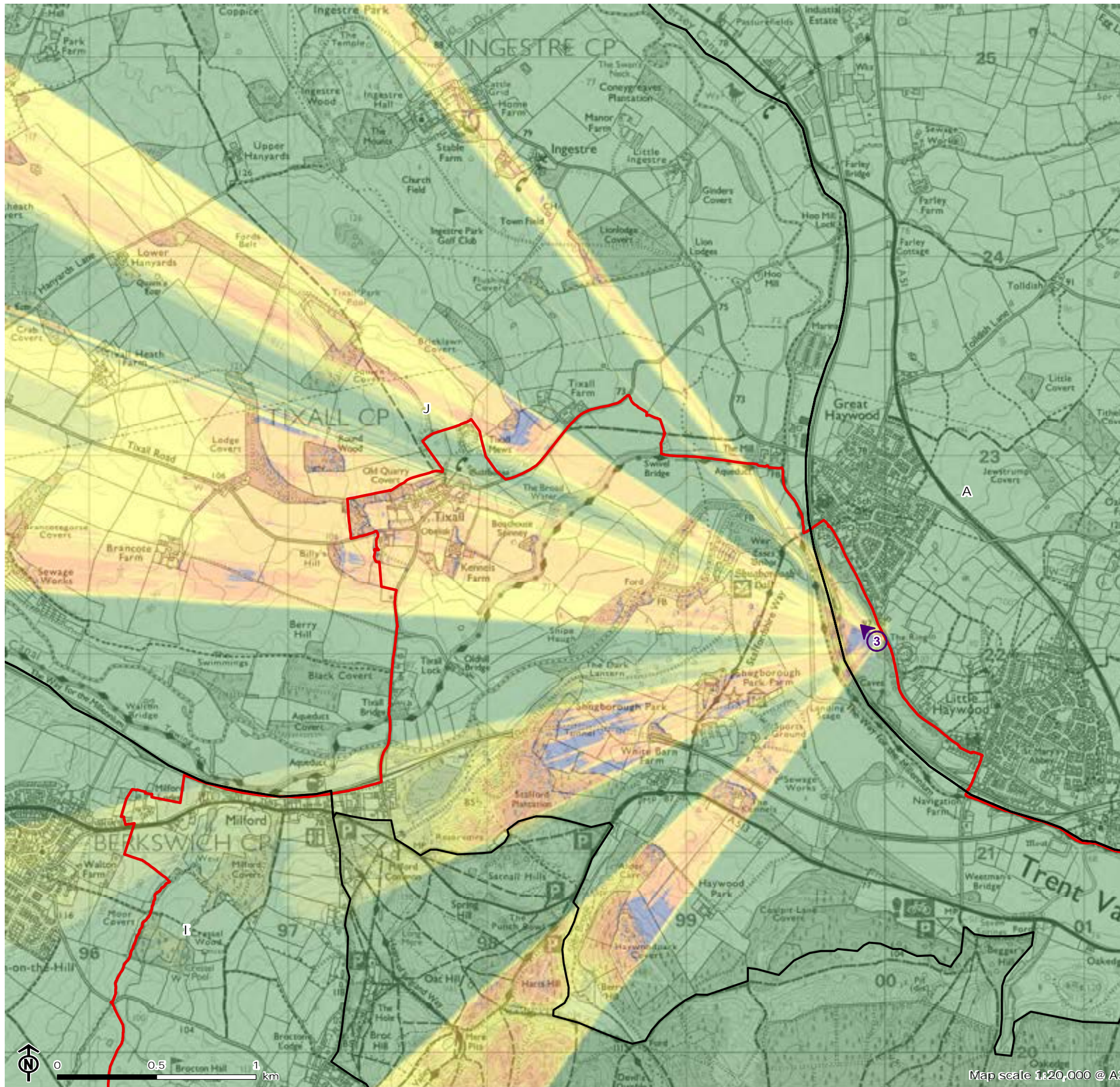
Figure 4.7: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 3 and Setting Zones



Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Map scale 1:80,000 @ A3

Figure 4.8: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 3 and Setting Zones



Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:20,000 @ A3

Figure 4.9: Representative Viewpoint 3: View looking north west from Great Haywood Cliffs, Great Haywood

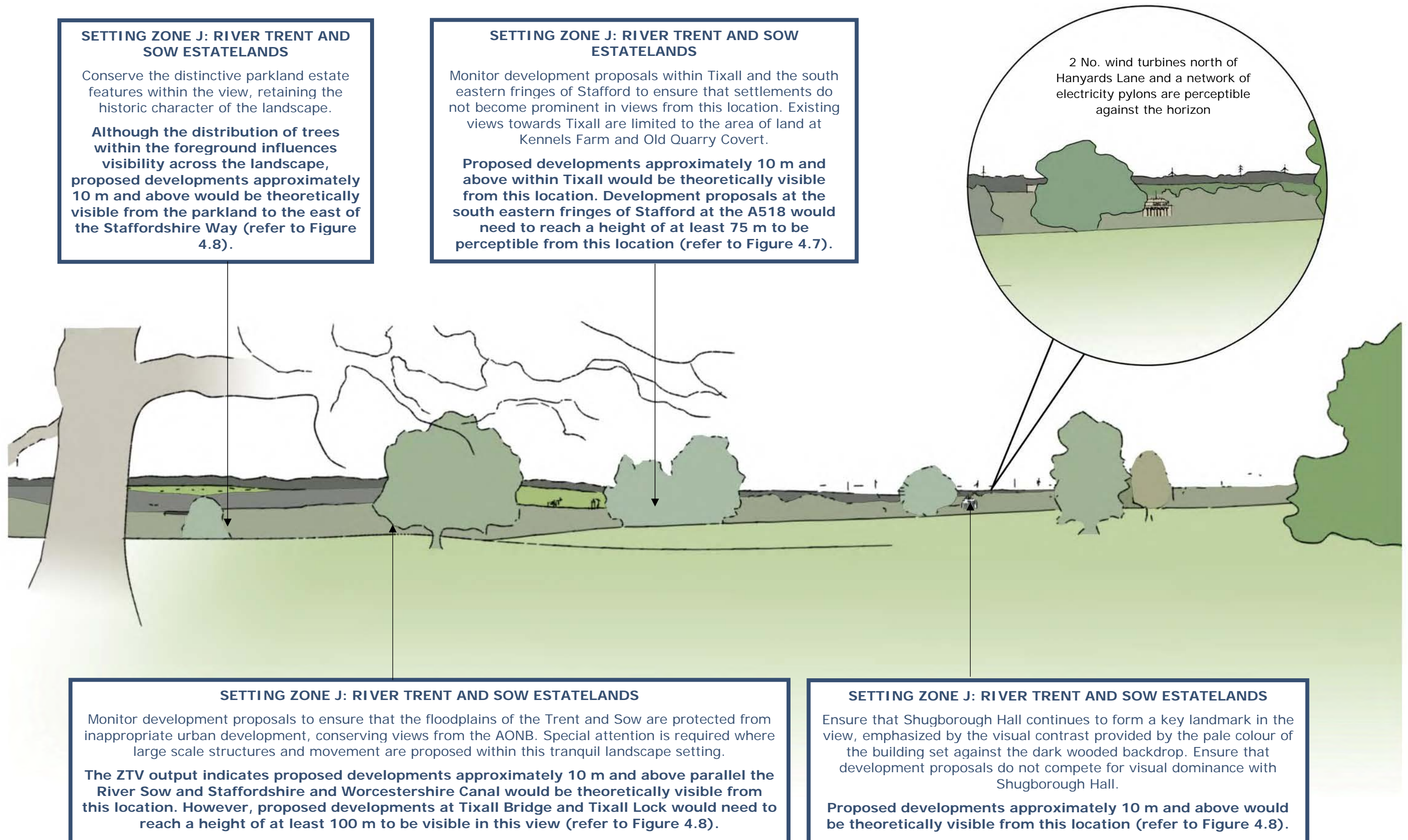
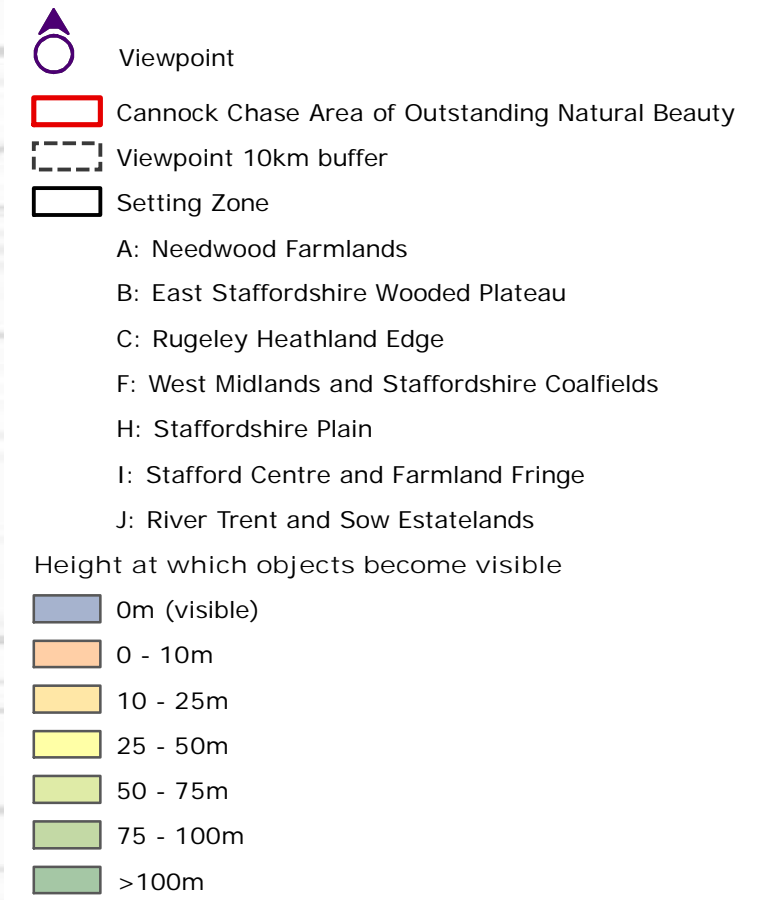
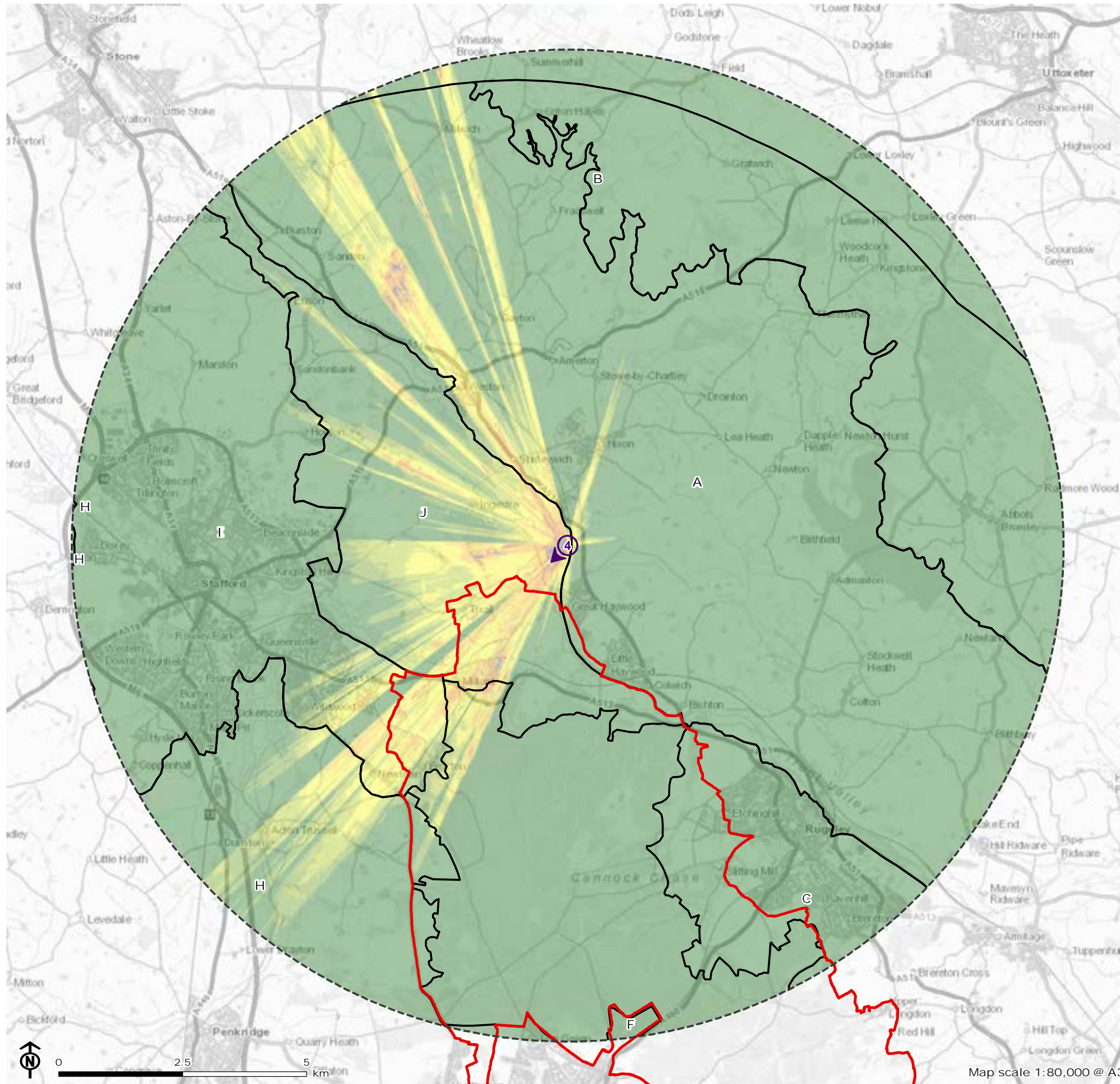
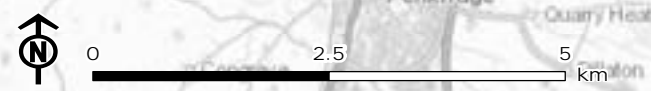


Figure 4.10: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 4 and Setting Zones

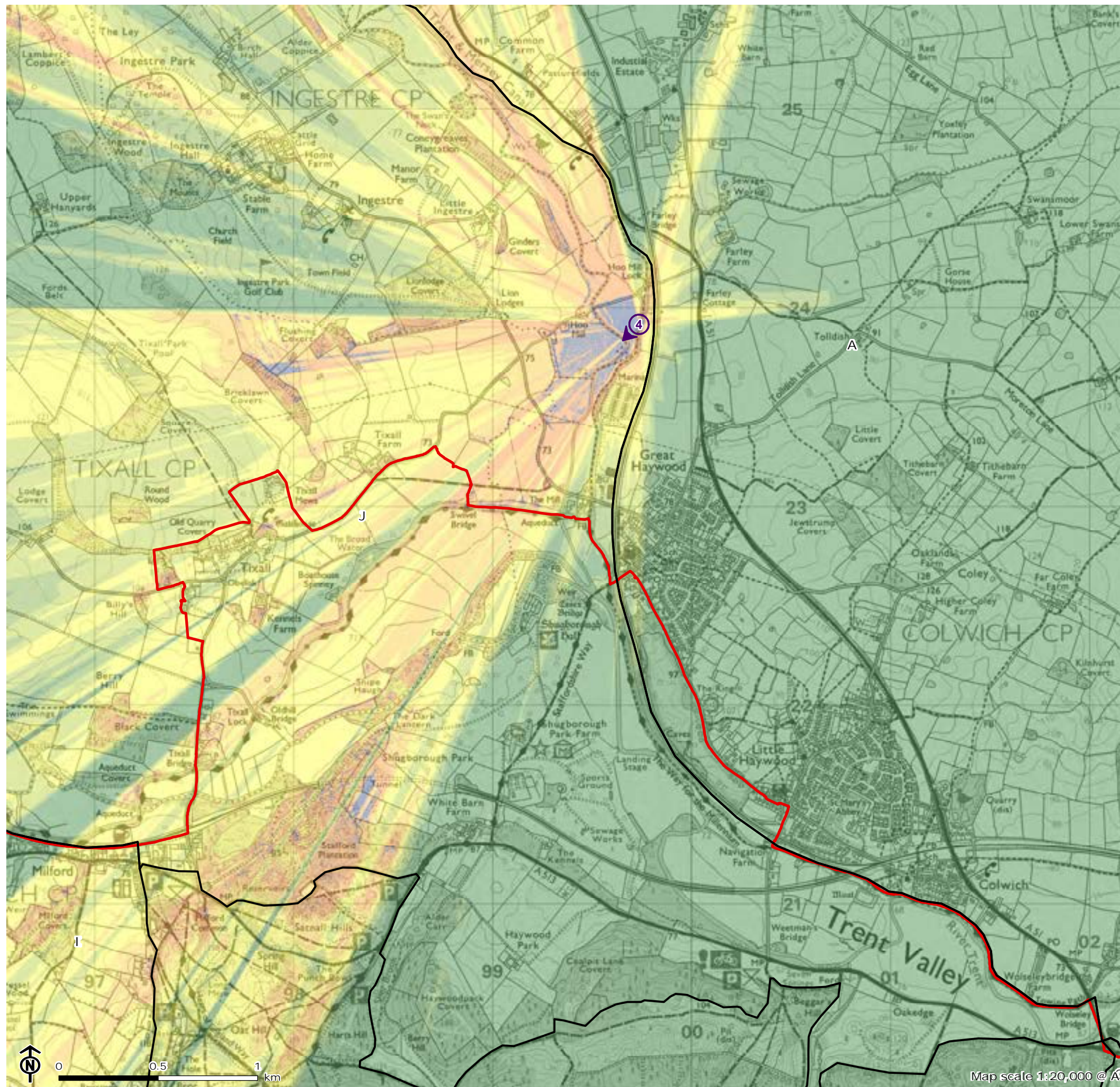


Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:80,000 @ A3

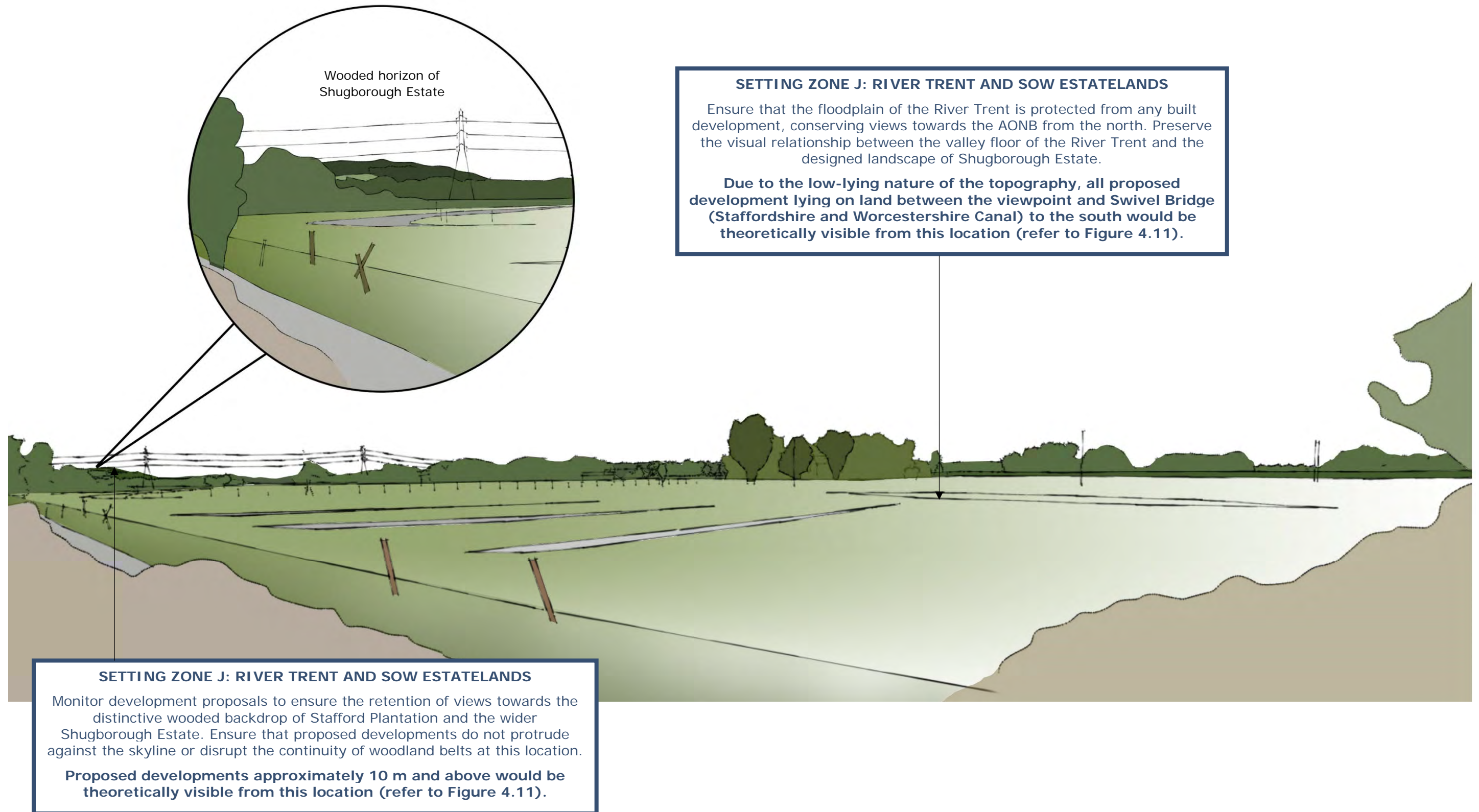
Figure 4.11: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 4 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Setting Zone
 - A: Needwood Farmlands
 - C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
 - I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe
 - J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands
- Height at which objects become visible
 - 0m (visible)
 - 0 - 10m
 - 10 - 25m
 - 25 - 50m
 - 50 - 75m
 - 75 - 100m
 - >100m color swatch"/> >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Figure 4.12: Representative Viewpoint 4: View looking south west from the towpath of Trent and Mersey Canal, Hoo Mill Lock



SETTING ZONE J: RIVER TRENT AND SOW ESTATELANDS

Ensure that the floodplain of the River Trent is protected from any built development, conserving views towards the AONB from the north. Preserve the visual relationship between the valley floor of the River Trent and the designed landscape of Shugborough Estate.

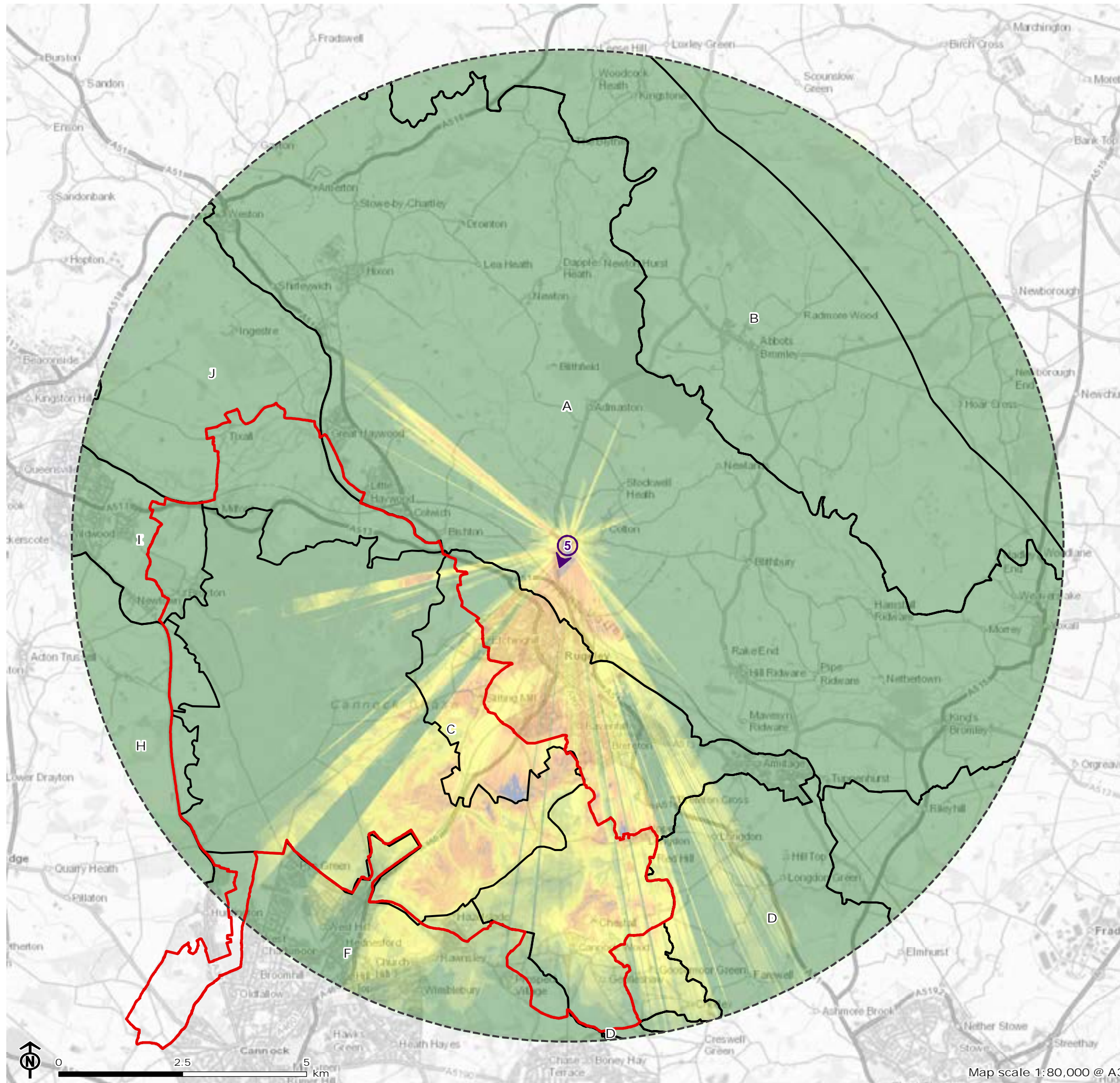
Due to the low-lying nature of the topography, all proposed development lying on land between the viewpoint and Swivel Bridge (Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal) to the south would be theoretically visible from this location (refer to Figure 4.11).

SETTING ZONE J: RIVER TRENT AND SOW ESTATELANDS

Monitor development proposals to ensure the retention of views towards the distinctive wooded backdrop of Stafford Plantation and the wider Shugborough Estate. Ensure that proposed developments do not protrude against the skyline or disrupt the continuity of woodland belts at this location.

Proposed developments approximately 10 m and above would be theoretically visible from this location (refer to Figure 4.11).

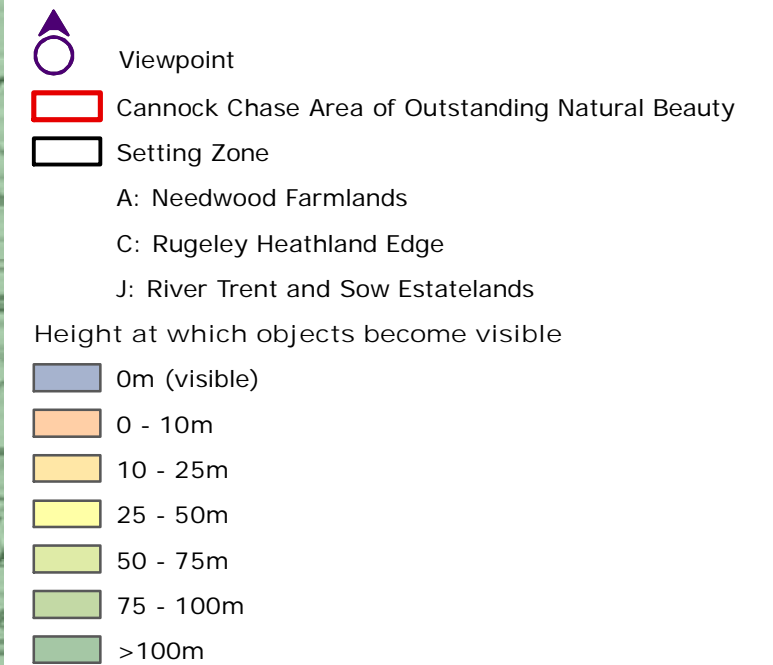
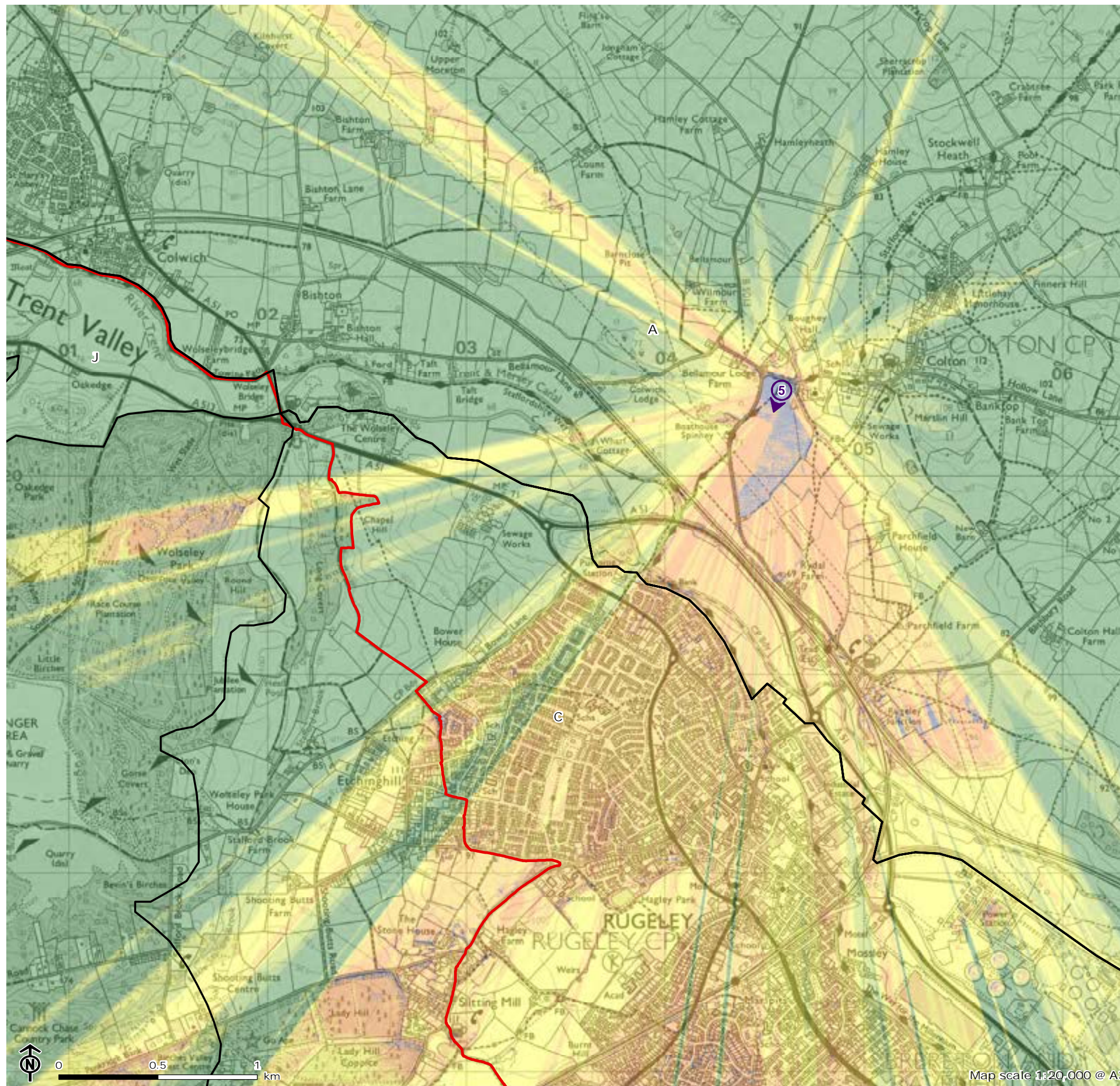
Figure 4.13: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 5 and Setting Zones



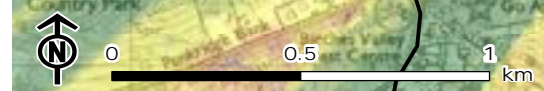
- Viewpoint
 - Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Viewpoint 10km buffer
 - Setting Zone
 - A: Needwood Farmlands
 - B: East Staffordshire Wooded Plateau
 - C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
 - D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands
 - E: Lichfield Centre and Heathland Fringe
 - F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
 - H: Staffordshire Plain
 - I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe
 - J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands
- Height at which objects become visible
- 0m (visible)
 - 0 - 10m
 - 10 - 25m
 - 25 - 50m
 - 50 - 75m
 - 75 - 100m
 - >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Figure 4.14: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 5 and Setting Zones



Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:20,000 @ A3

Figure 4.15: Representative Viewpoint 5: View looking south west from the Staffordshire Way, Bellamour Way, Colton

SETTING ZONE C: RUGELEY HEATHLAND EDGE

Ensure proposed development at Rugeley Power Station does not visually intrude on the skyline which would detract from the wider setting of the AONB.

Proposed developments at Rugeley Power Station would be theoretically visible from this location (refer to Figure 4.14).

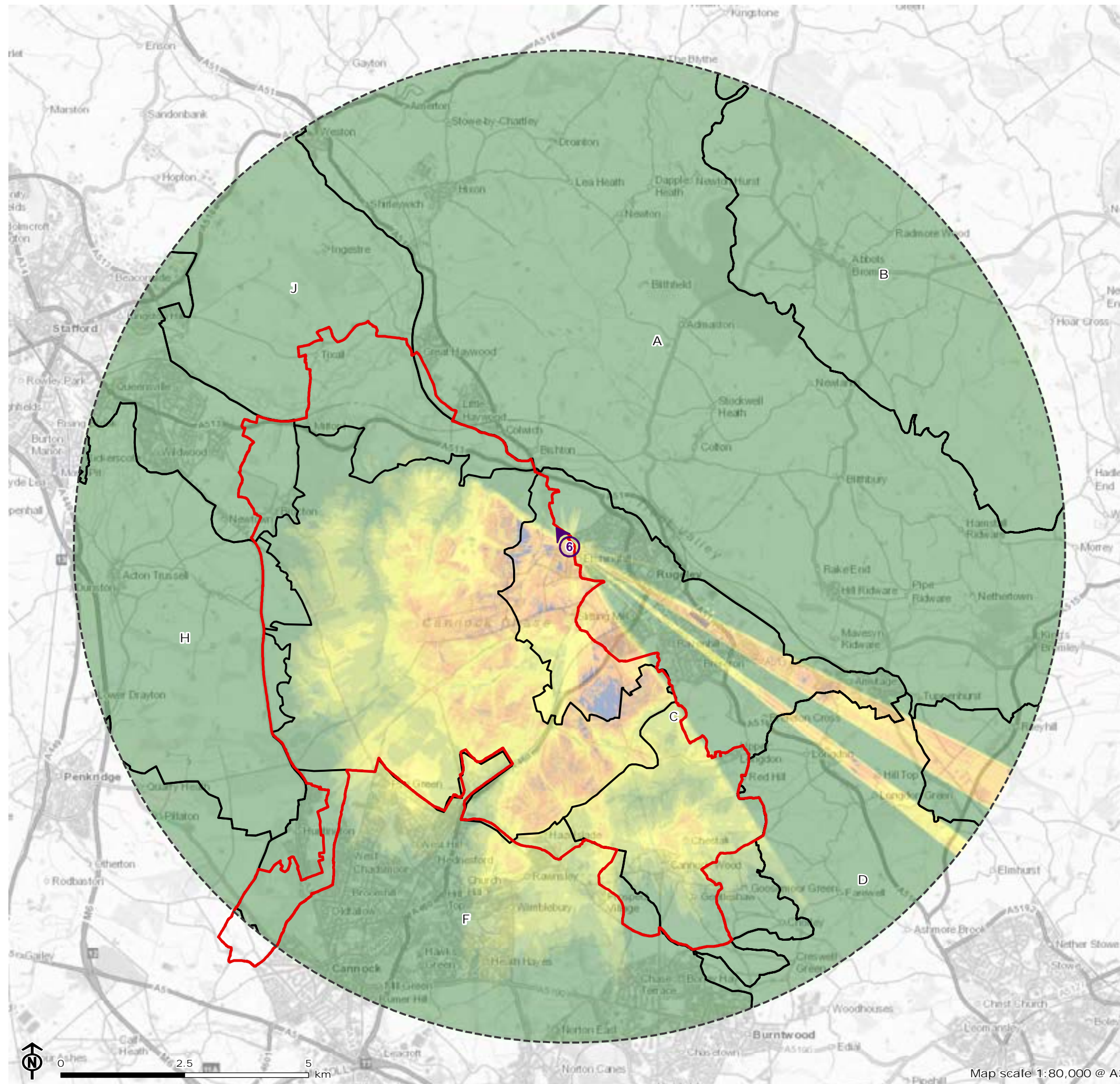


SETTING ZONE A: NEEDWOOD FARMLANDS

Consider the effect of proposed development within the valley floor of the River Trent which would appear incongruous in the view. The introduction of tall development within Rugeley and the surrounding urban edge should also be avoided to prevent the disruption of views towards the AONB. Ensure the retention of views towards the iconic wooded plateau of the AONB, comprised of tracts of vegetation at Regent's Wood and Stile Cop at this location.

Although pockets of variation exist, proposed developments approximately 10 m and above in Rugeley would be theoretically visible from this location. However, proposed developments on land to the east of Slitting Mill would need to reach a height of at least 25 m to be perceptible (refer to Figure 4.14).

Figure 4.16: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 6 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Viewpoint 10km buffer
- Setting Zone

- A: Needwood Farmlands
- B: East Staffordshire Wooded Plateau
- C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
- D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands
- E: Lichfield Centre and Heathland Fringe
- F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
- G: West Cannock Settled Heathlands
- H: Staffordshire Plain
- I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe
- J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands

Height at which objects become visible

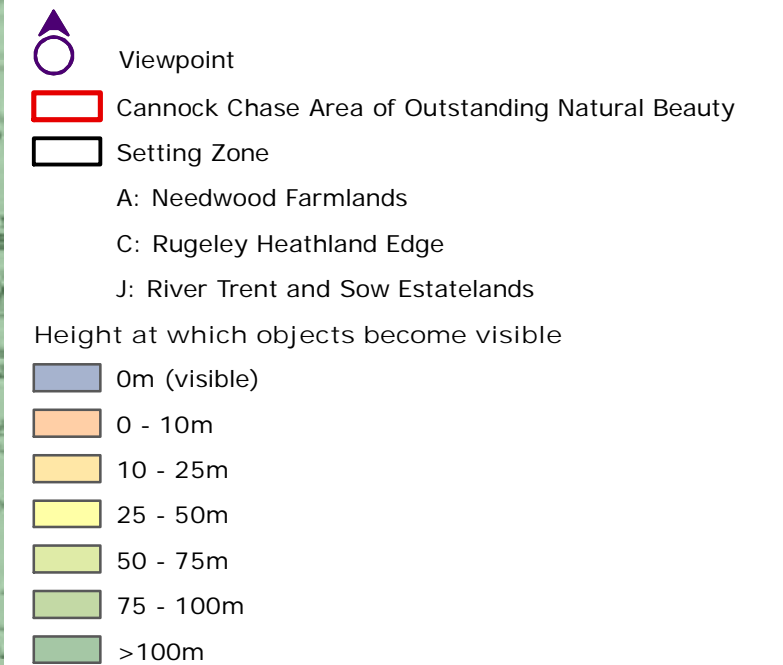
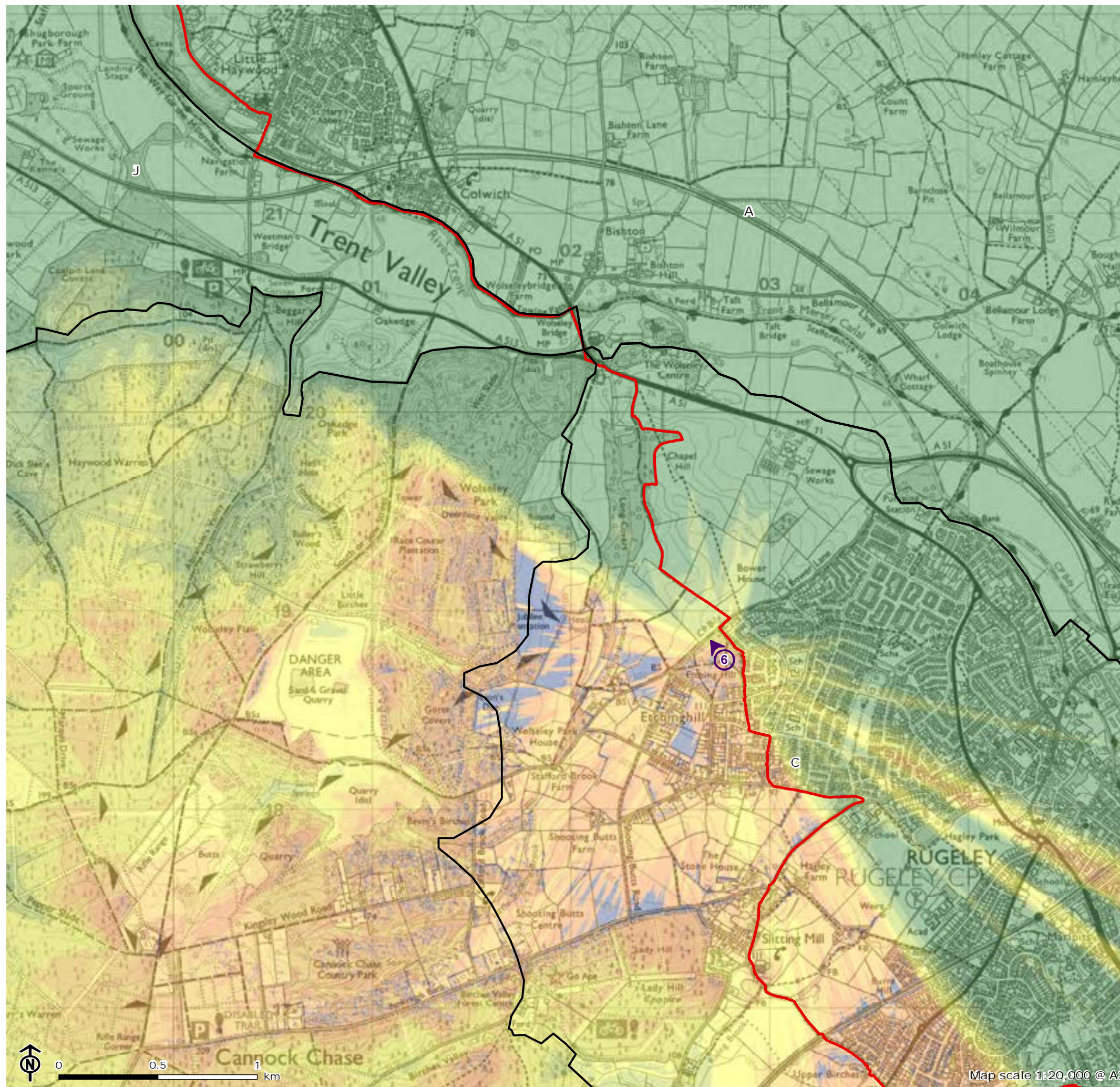
- 0m (visible)
- 0 - 10m
- 10 - 25m
- 25 - 50m
- 50 - 75m
- 75 - 100m
- >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:80,000 @ A3

Figure 4.17: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 6 and Setting Zones



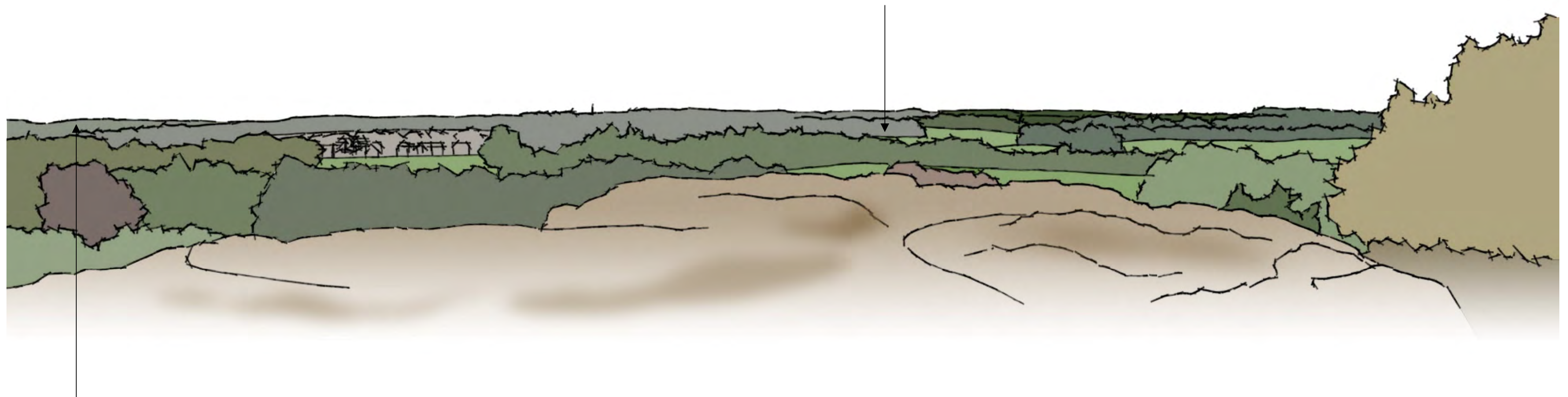
Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Figure 4.18: Representative Viewpoint 6: View looking north west from the junction of Bridleways Rugeley Town 0.177 / 0.209 and Rugeley Town 0.178 / 0.206, Etchinghill

SETTING ZONE C: RUGELEY HEATHLAND EDGE

Ensure proposed development at the settlement fringes of Etchinghill and Rugeley does not disrupt views towards the undeveloped heathland and wider wooded plateau of the AONB. Monitor development proposals to avoid the creation of a stark settlement edge and seek to integrate through appropriate planting. Consideration should be given to the reintegration of existing built form through the use of vegetation where possible.

Although pockets of variation exist, all proposed development within Etchinghill would theoretically be visible from this location. However, the ZTV output indicates that land to the immediate north of Etchinghill would need to reach a height of 50 m to be perceptible (refer to Figure 4.17).

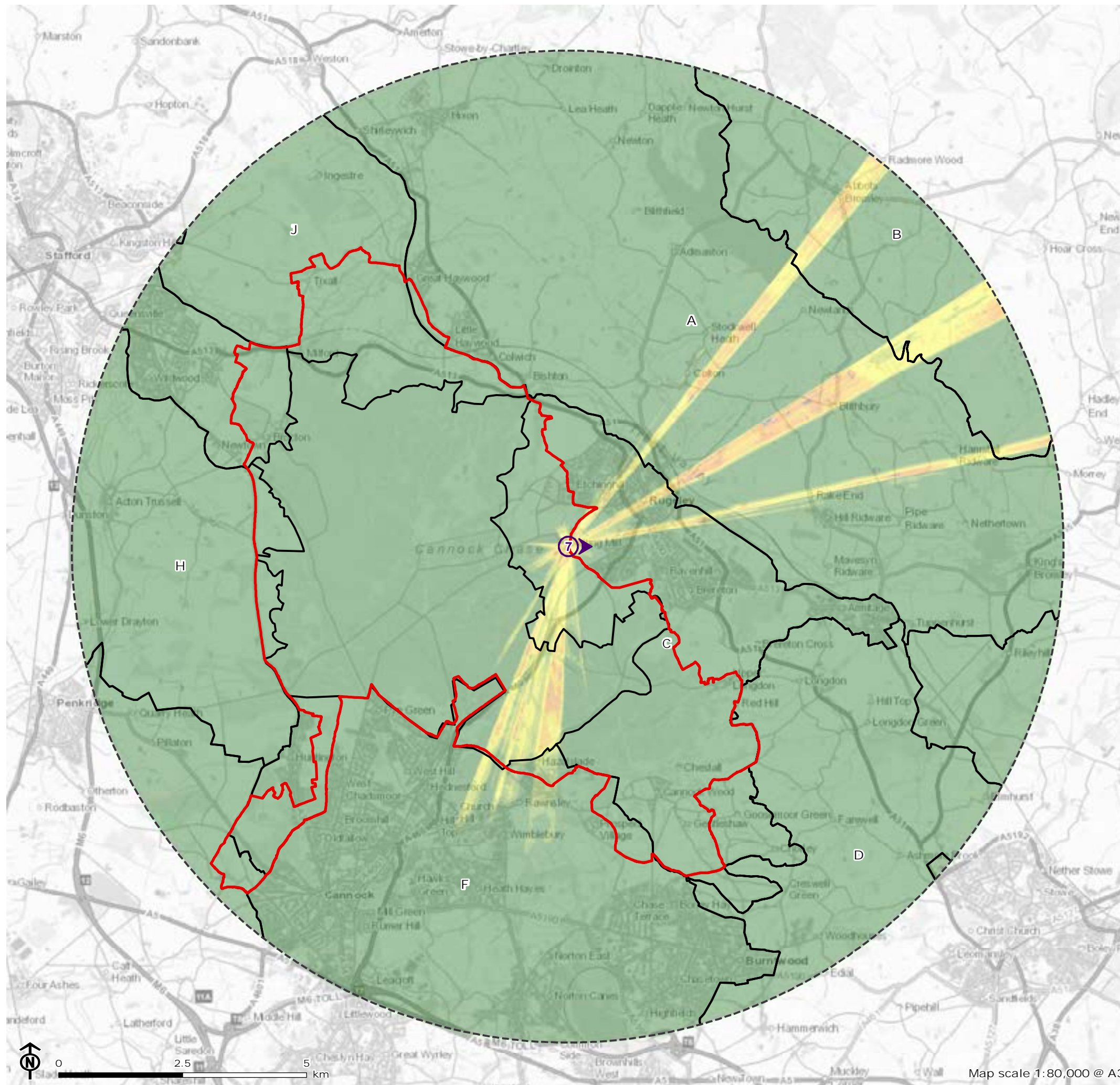


SETTING ZONE F: WEST MIDLANDS AND STAFFORDSHIRE COALFIELDS

Although not visible at the left hand extent of this panorama, ensure proposed developments within the settlement edges of Huntington and Cannock do not protrude above intervening vegetation. This would result in a developed skyline which would detract from the wider setting of the AONB.

Proposed developments approximately 25 m and above within Huntington and Cannock would be theoretically visible from this location (refer to Figure 4.16).

Figure 4.19: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 7 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Viewpoint 10km buffer
- Setting Zone

- A: Needwood Farmlands
- B: East Staffordshire Wooded Plateau
- C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
- D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands
- E: Lichfield Centre and Heathland Fringe
- F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
- G: West Cannock Settled Heathlands
- H: Staffordshire Plain
- I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe
- J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands

Height at which objects become visible

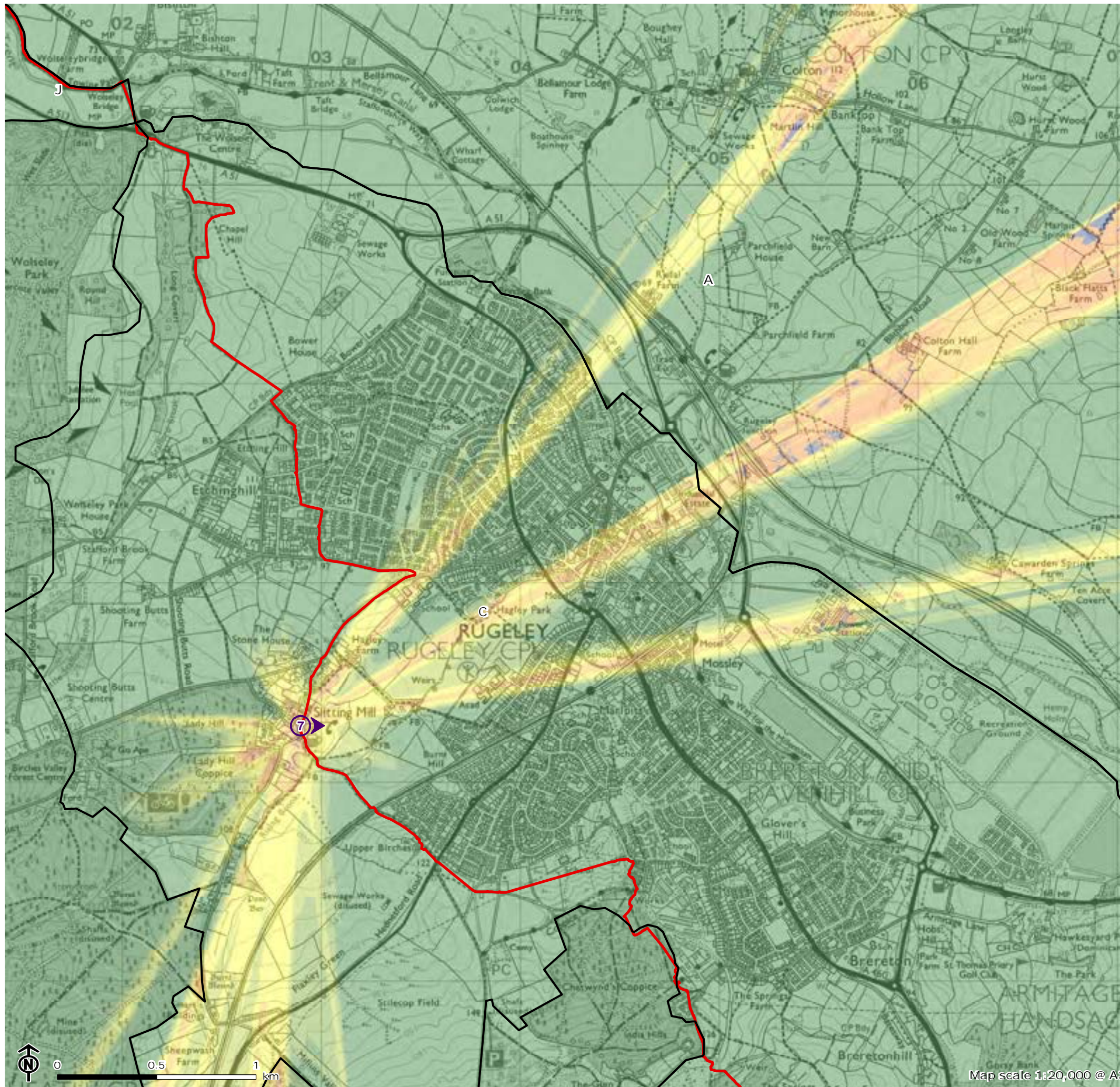
- 0m (visible)
- 0 - 10m
- 10 - 25m
- 25 - 50m
- 50 - 75m
- 75 - 100m
- >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 5m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



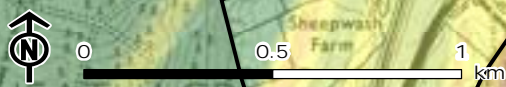
Map scale 1:80,000 @ A3

Figure 4.20: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 7 and Setting Zones



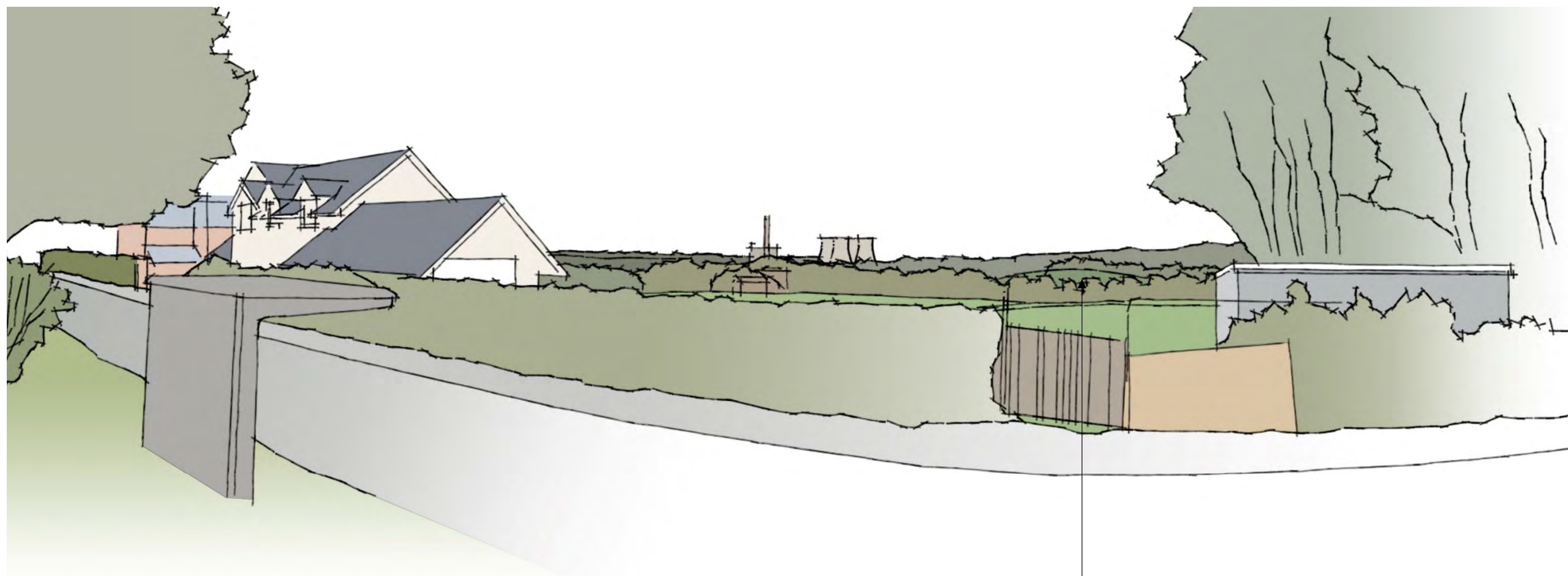
- Viewpoint
 - Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Setting Zone
 - A: Needwood Farmlands
 - C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
 - J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands
- Height at which objects become visible
- 0m (visible)
 - 0 - 10m
 - 10 - 25m
 - 25 - 50m
 - 50 - 75m
 - 75 - 100m
 - >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 5m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:20,000 @ A3

Figure 4.21: Representative Viewpoint 7: View looking east from Slitting Mill Road, Slitting Mill

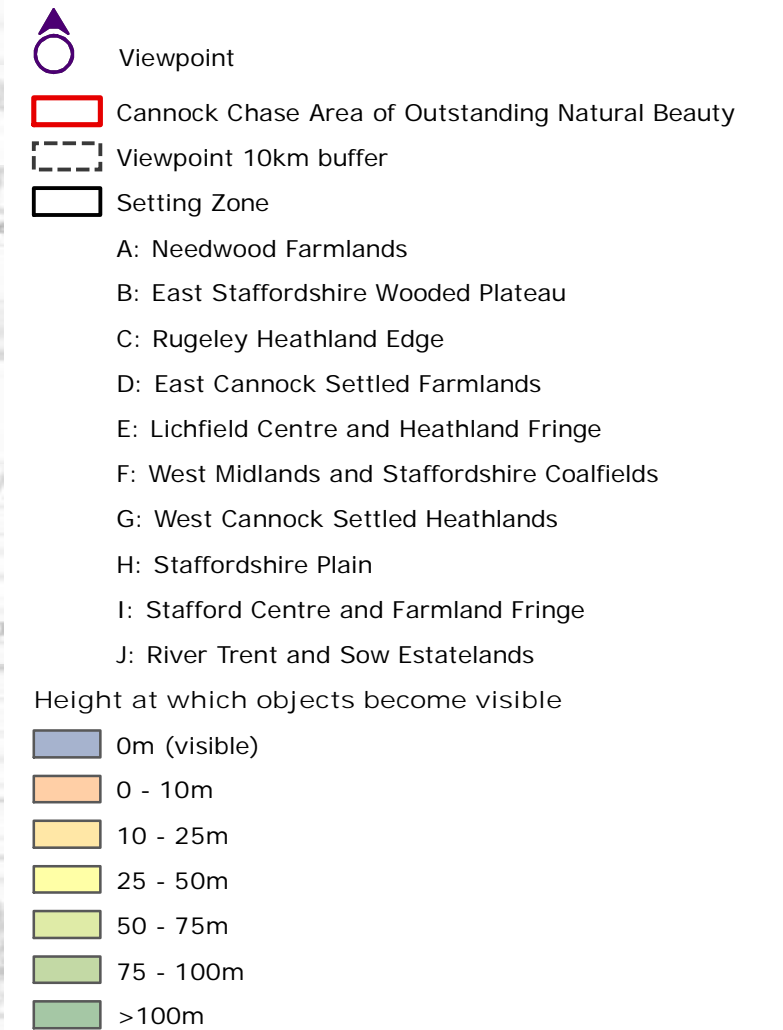
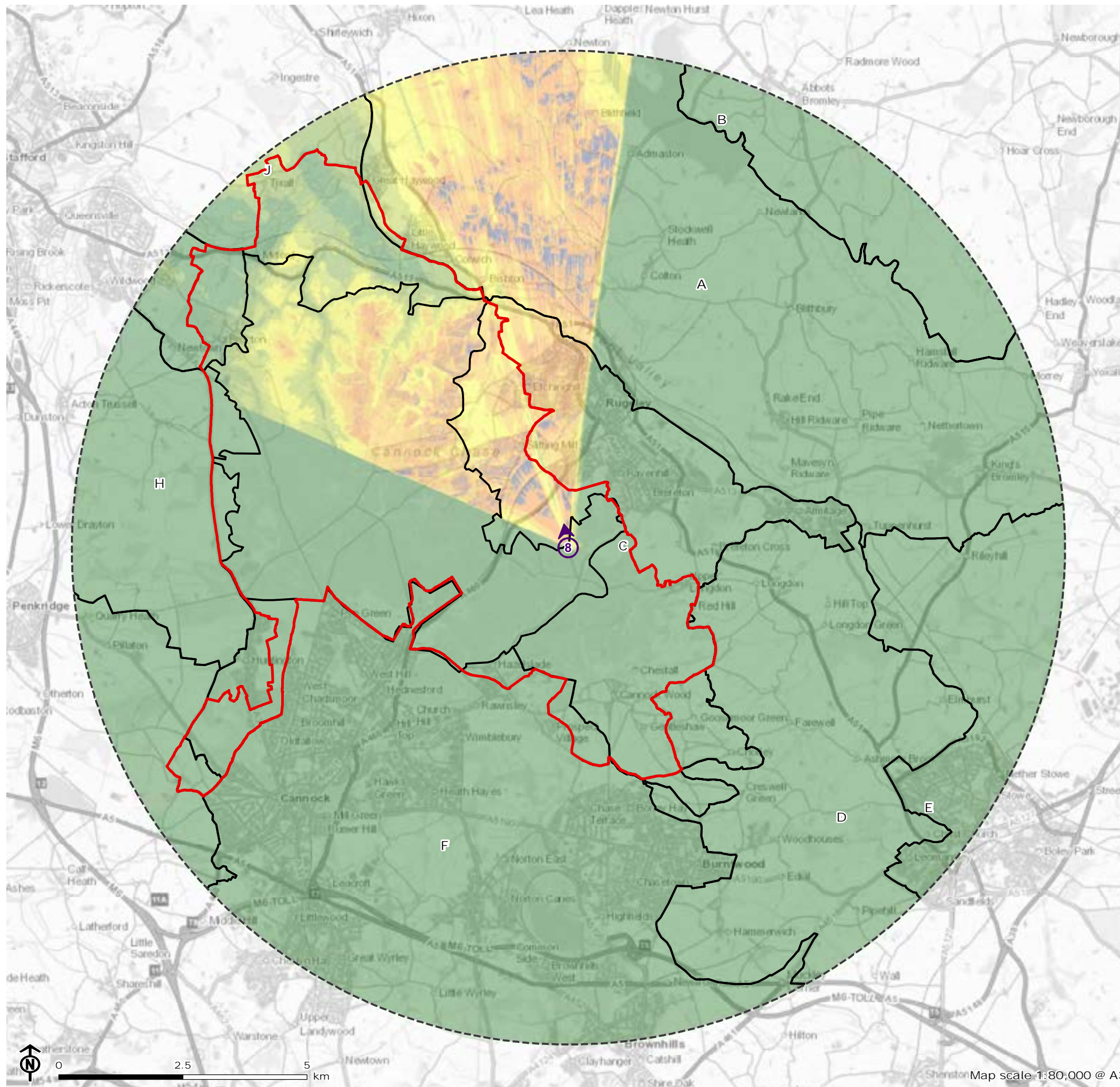


SETTING ZONE C: RUGELEY HEATHLAND EDGE

Avoid proposed development which will exacerbate the stark urban edge of Rugeley and developed skyline in views from the AONB. Monitor development of the rising landform and encourage the sensitive reintegration of the settlement edge in views from the AONB through the use of vegetation.

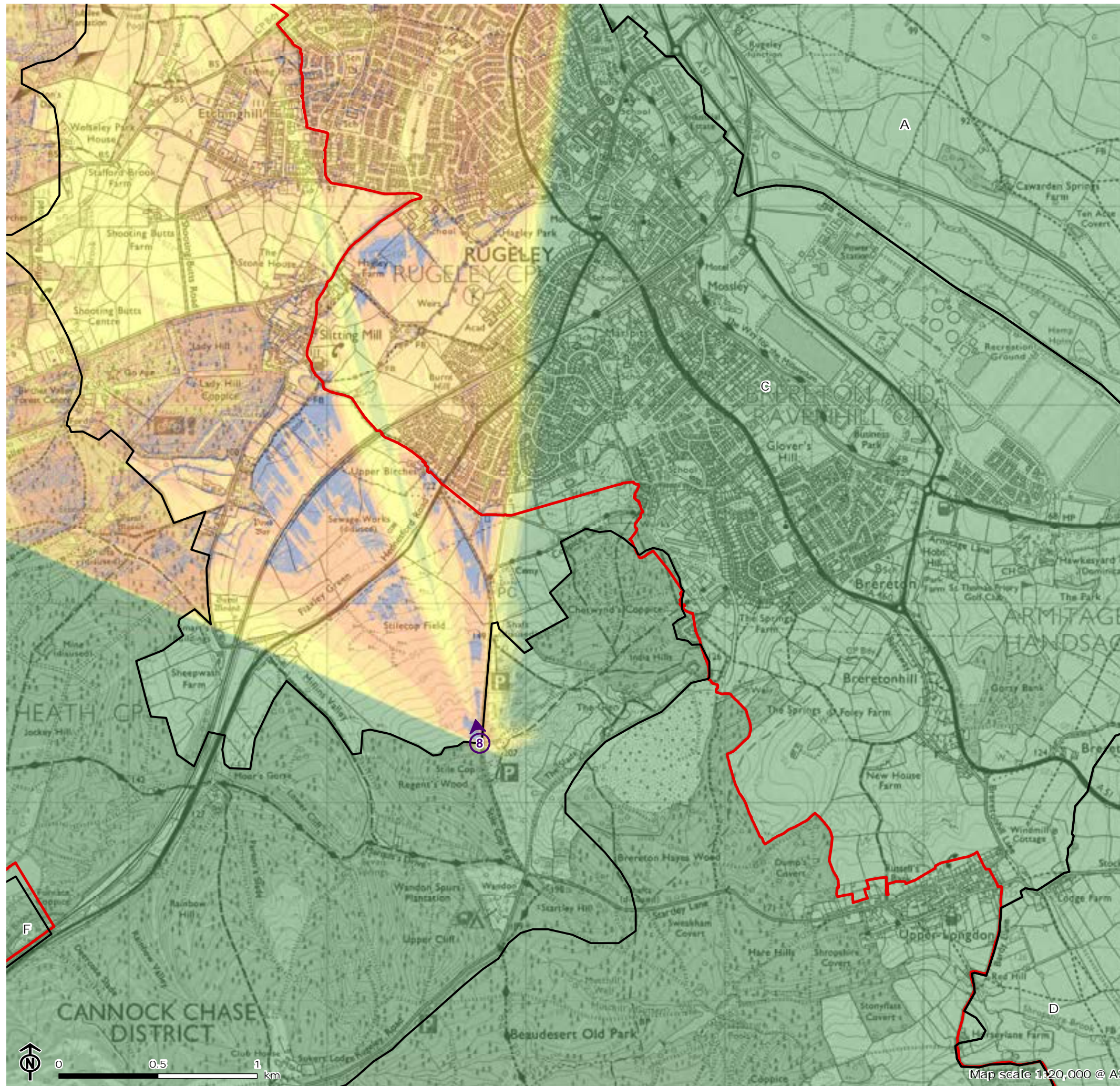
The ZTV output indicates pockets of visibility within Etchinghill and Rugeley whereby development proposals would need to reach a height of 10 m to become theoretically visible from this location.

Figure 4.22: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 8 and Setting Zones



Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Figure 4.23: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 8 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
 - Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Setting Zone
 - A: Needwood Farmlands
 - C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
 - D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands
 - F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
- Height at which objects become visible
- 0m (visible)
 - 0 - 10m
 - 10 - 25m
 - 25 - 50m
 - 50 - 75m
 - 75 - 100m
 - >100m color swatch"/> >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Figure 4.24: Representative Viewpoint 8: View looking north west at Stile Cop Field, Stile Cop Road, Flaxley Green

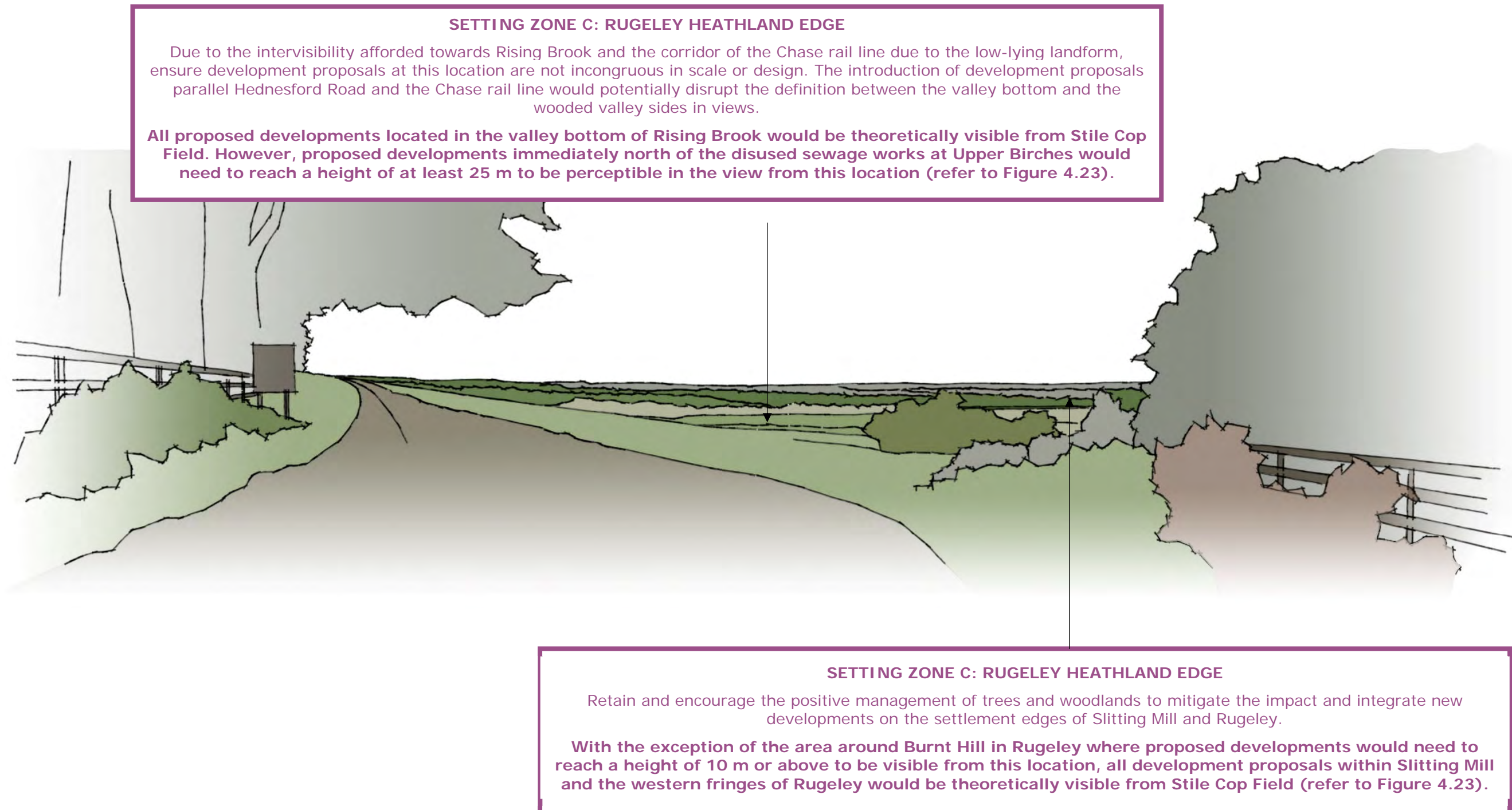
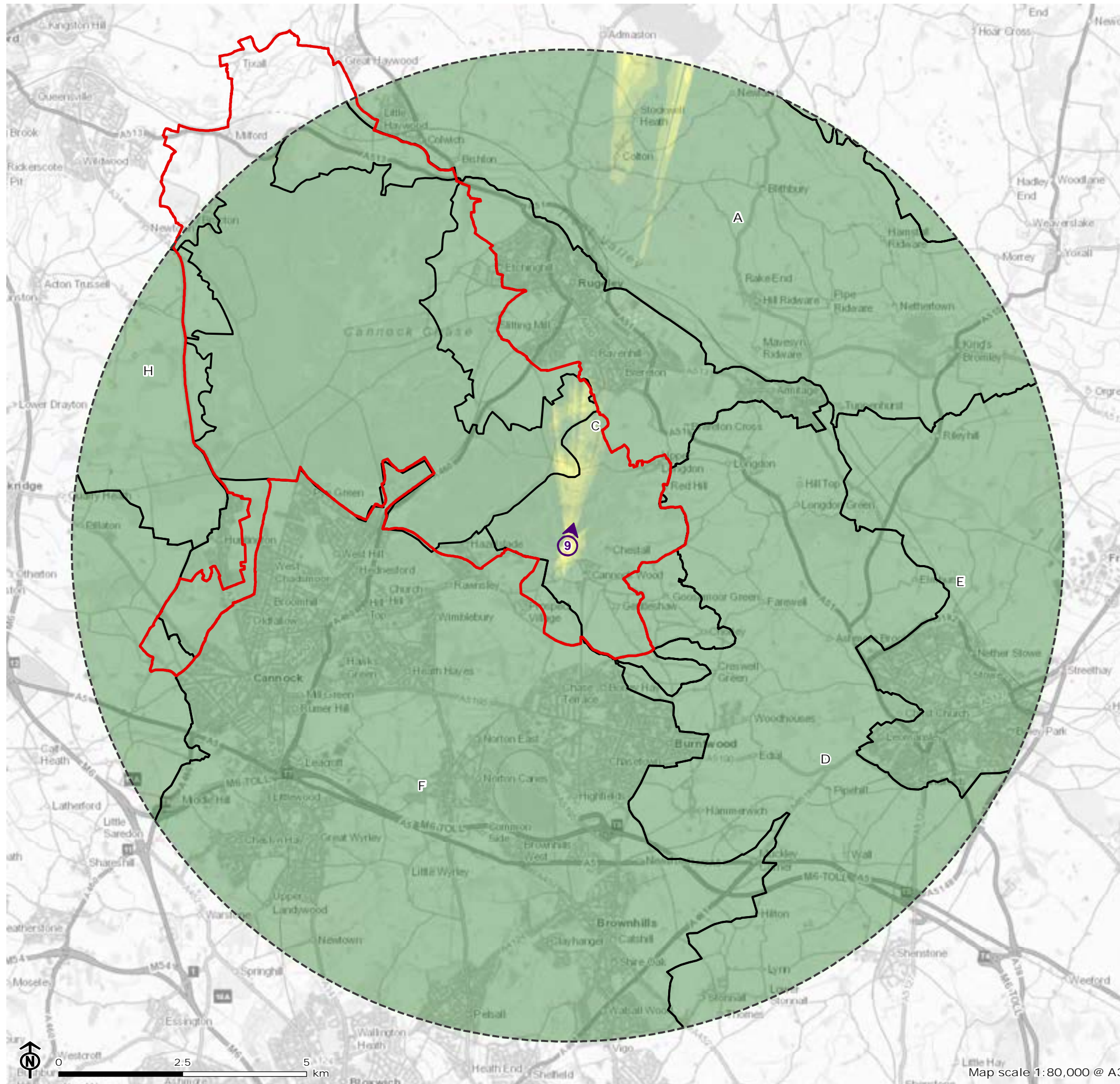


Figure 4.25: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 9 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Viewpoint 10km buffer
- Setting Zone

- A: Needwood Farmlands
- B: East Staffordshire Wooded Plateau
- C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
- D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands
- E: Lichfield Centre and Heathland Fringe
- F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
- G: West Cannock Settled Heathlands
- H: Staffordshire Plain
- I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe
- J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands

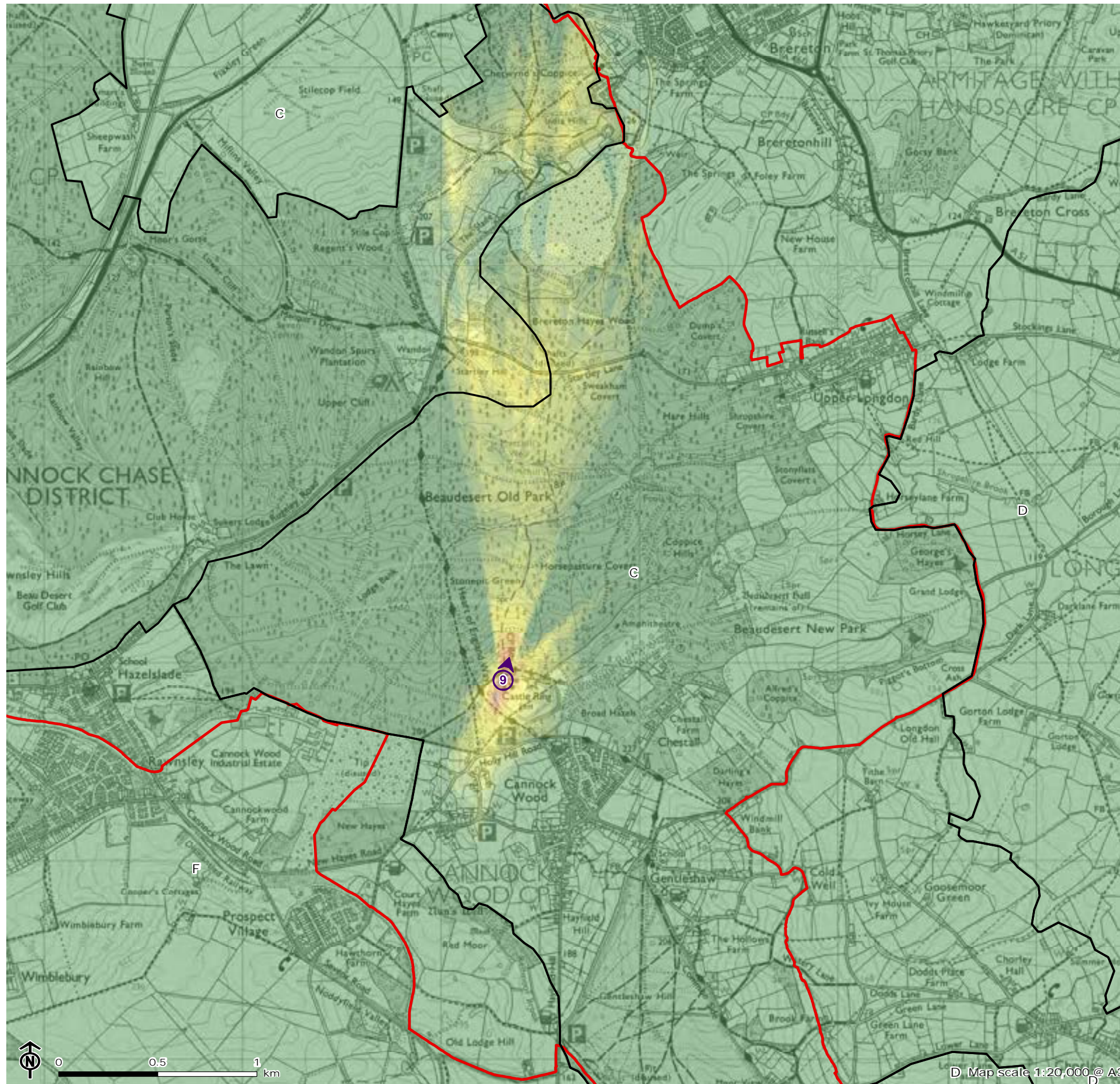
Height at which objects become visible

- 0m (visible)
- 0 - 10m
- 10 - 25m
- 25 - 50m
- 50 - 75m
- 75 - 100m
- >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Map scale 1:80,000 @ A3

Figure 4.26: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 9 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
 - Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Setting Zone
 - C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
 - D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands
 - F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
- Height at which objects become visible
- 0m (visible)
 - 0 - 10m
 - 10 - 25m
 - 25 - 50m
 - 50 - 75m
 - 75 - 100m
 - >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Figure 4.27: Representative Viewpoint 9: View looking north east from Byway Longdon 0.411 at Castle Ring scheduled monument

SETTING ZONE C: RUGELEY HEATHLAND EDGE

Although currently concealed by intervening vegetation in the immediate foreground, a programme of scrub clearance would potentially open up views due to the locally elevated nature of this viewpoint. Ensure proposed development at the southern edges of Rugeley does not protrude above intervening vegetation, resulting in a developed skyline which would detract from the scheduled monument and wider setting of the AONB.

Proposed developments approximately 25 m and above at the southern fringes of Rugeley would be theoretically visible from this location (refer to Figure 4.25).

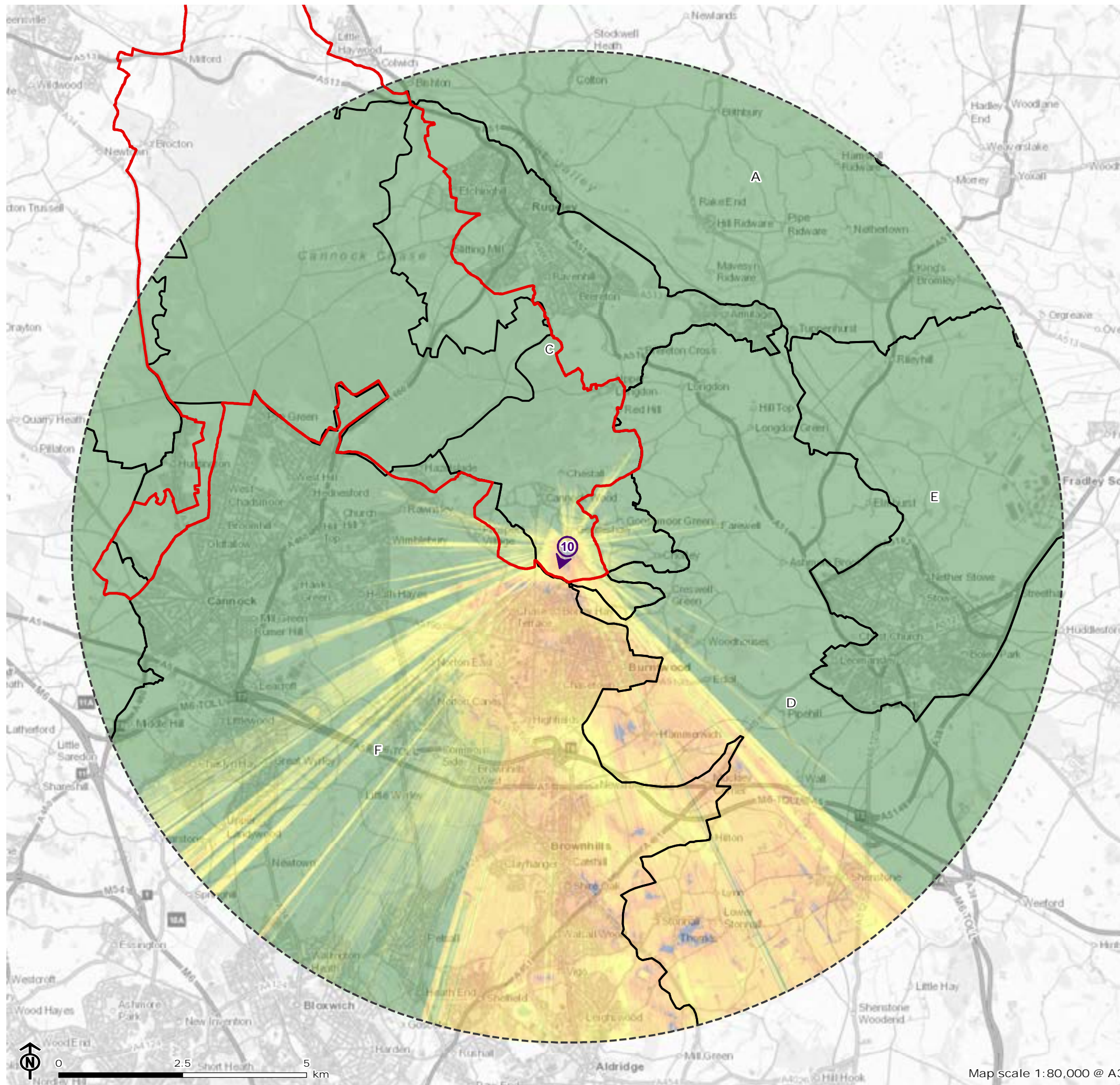


SETTING ZONE A: NEEDWOOD FARMLANDS

Conserve the function of the area as a rural uncluttered backdrop by avoiding the introduction of development proposals which would disrupt the patchwork field pattern in views from the AONB.

The ZTV output indicates pockets of visibility at Colton and Stockwell Heath, where proposed developments approximately 25 m and above would be theoretically visible from this location (refer to Figure 4.25).

Figure 4.28: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 10 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Viewpoint 10km buffer
- Setting Zone

- A: Needwood Farmlands
- B: East Staffordshire Wooded Plateau
- C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
- D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands
- E: Lichfield Centre and Heathland Fringe
- F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
- G: West Cannock Settled Heathlands
- H: Staffordshire Plain
- J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands

Height at which objects become visible

- 0m (visible)
- 0 - 10m
- 10 - 25m
- 25 - 50m
- 50 - 75m
- 75 - 100m
- >100m color swatch"/> >100m

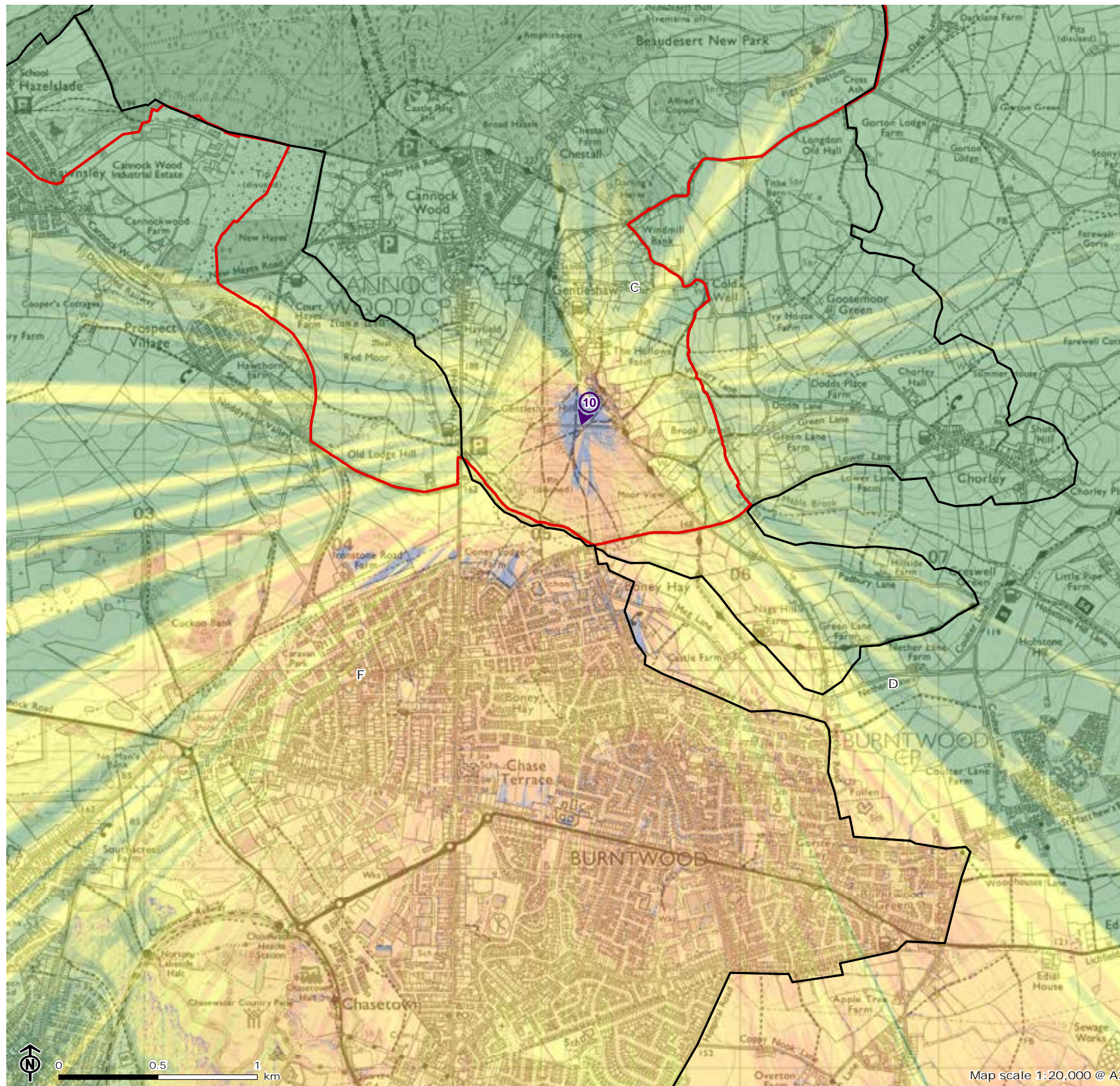
Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.













Map scale 1:80,000 @ A3

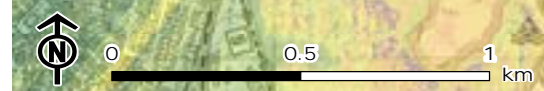


Figure 4.29: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 10 and Setting Zones



-  Viewpoint
 -  Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 -  Setting Zone
 - C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
 - D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands
 - F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
- Height at which objects become visible
-  0m (visible)
 -  0 - 10m
 -  10 - 25m
 -  25 - 50m
 -  50 - 75m
 -  75 - 100m
 -  >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:20,000 @ A3

Figure 4.30: Representative Viewpoint 10: View looking south from Bridleway Longdon 10, Gentleshaw Hill

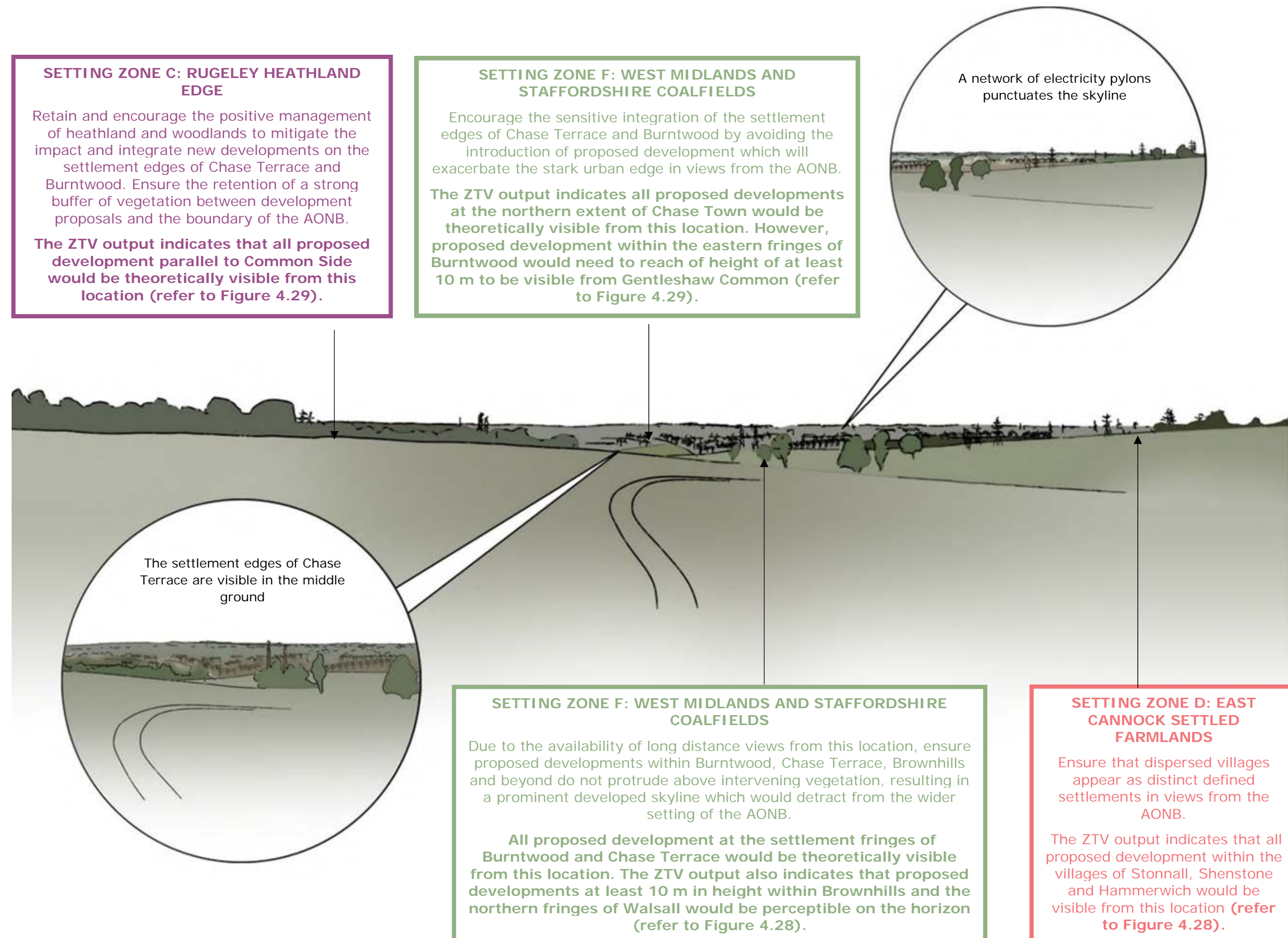
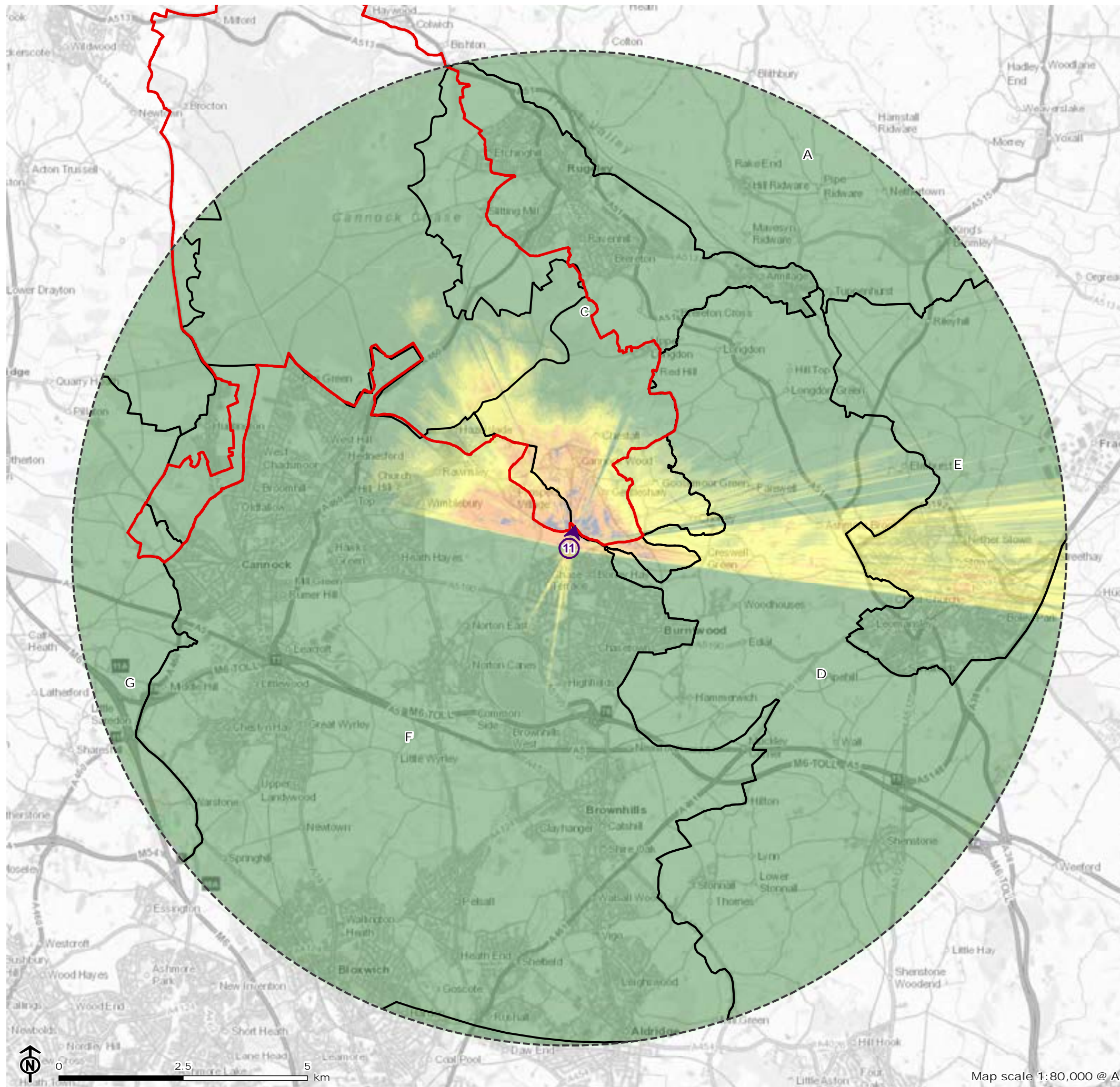


Figure 4.31: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 11 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Viewpoint 10km buffer
- Setting Zone

- A: Needwood Farmlands
- C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
- D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands
- E: Lichfield Centre and Heathland Fringe
- F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
- G: West Cannock Settled Heathlands
- H: Staffordshire Plain

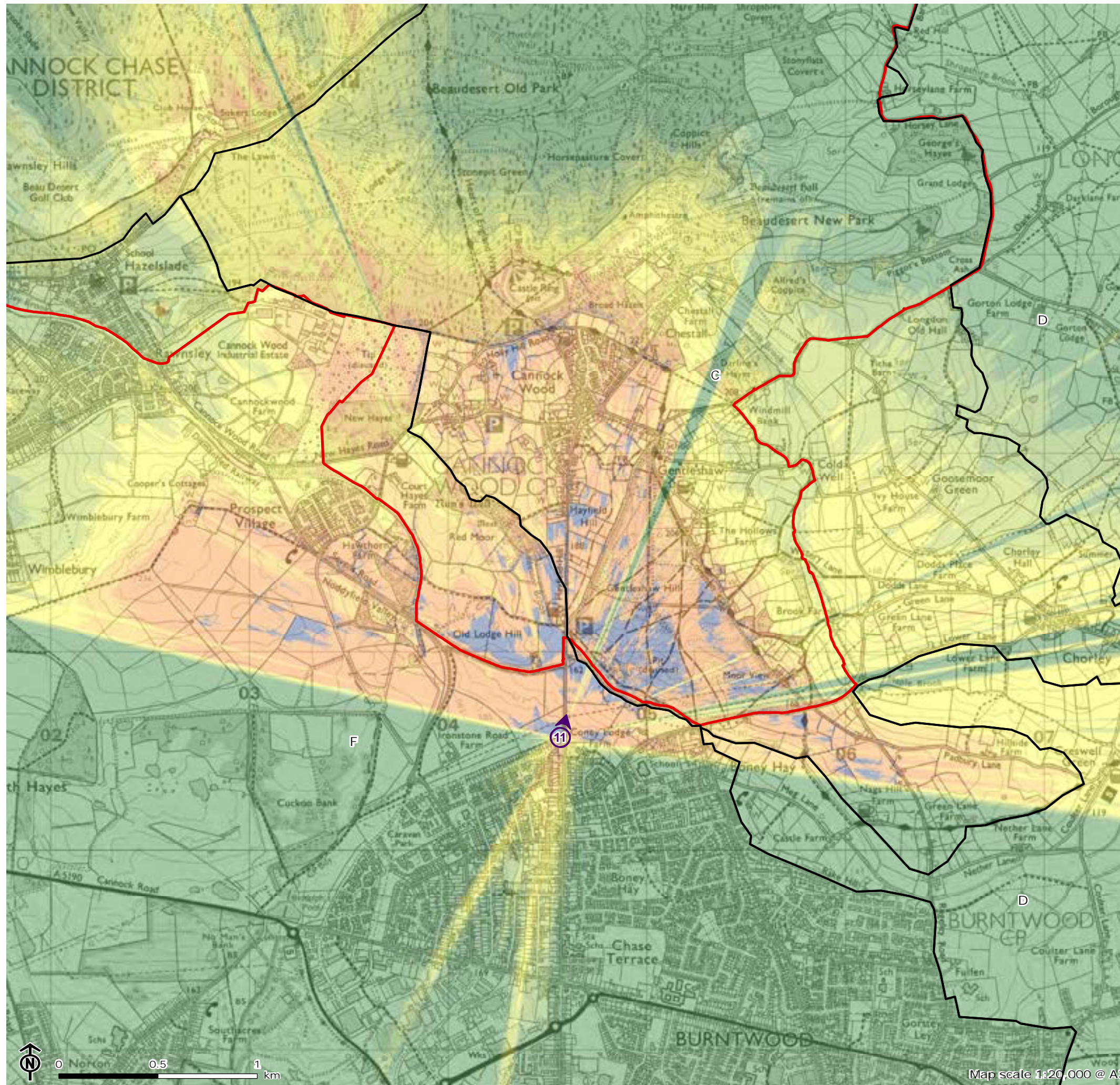
Height at which objects become visible

- 0m (visible)
- 0 - 10m
- 10 - 25m
- 25 - 50m
- 50 - 75m
- 75 - 100m
- >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Map scale 1:80,000 @ A3

Figure 4.32: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 11 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Setting Zone
- C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
- D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands
- F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields

Height at which objects become visible

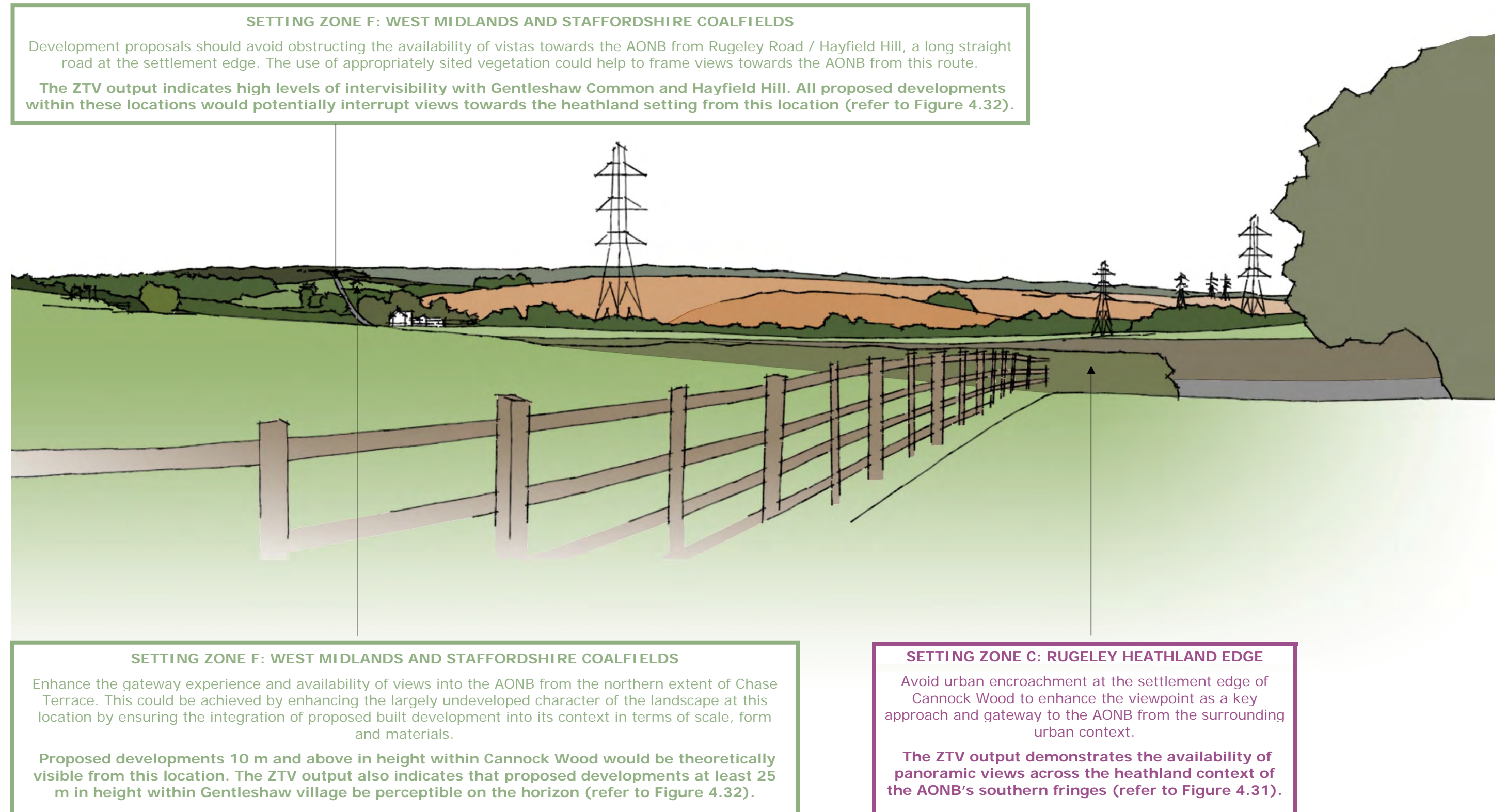
- 0m (visible)
- 0 - 10m
- 10 - 25m
- 25 - 50m
- 50 - 75m
- 75 - 100m
- >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:20,000 @ A3

Figure 4.33: Representative Viewpoint 11: View looking north east from Rugeley Road, Chase Terrace



SETTING ZONE F: WEST MIDLANDS AND STAFFORDSHIRE COALFIELDS

Development proposals should avoid obstructing the availability of vistas towards the AONB from Rugeley Road / Hayfield Hill, a long straight road at the settlement edge. The use of appropriately sited vegetation could help to frame views towards the AONB from this route.

The ZTV output indicates high levels of intervisibility with Gentleshaw Common and Hayfield Hill. All proposed developments within these locations would potentially interrupt views towards the heathland setting from this location (refer to Figure 4.32).

SETTING ZONE F: WEST MIDLANDS AND STAFFORDSHIRE COALFIELDS

Enhance the gateway experience and availability of views into the AONB from the northern extent of Chase Terrace. This could be achieved by enhancing the largely undeveloped character of the landscape at this location by ensuring the integration of proposed built development into its context in terms of scale, form and materials.

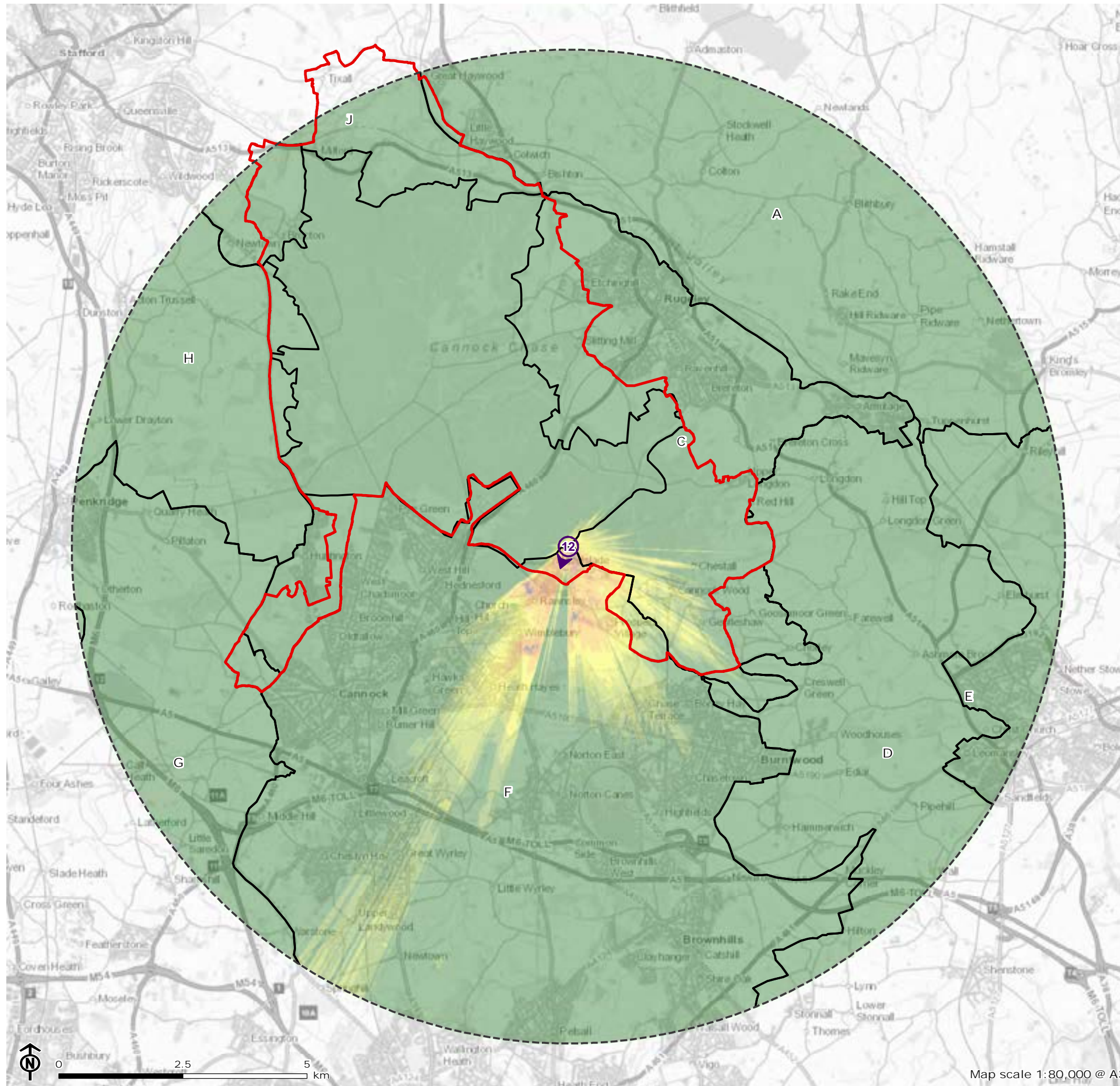
Proposed developments 10 m and above in height within Cannock Wood would be theoretically visible from this location. The ZTV output also indicates that proposed developments at least 25 m in height within Gentleshaw village be perceptible on the horizon (refer to Figure 4.32).

SETTING ZONE C: RUGELEY HEATHLAND EDGE

Avoid urban encroachment at the settlement edge of Cannock Wood to enhance the viewpoint as a key approach and gateway to the AONB from the surrounding urban context.

The ZTV output demonstrates the availability of panoramic views across the heathland context of the AONB's southern fringes (refer to Figure 4.31).

Figure 4.34: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 12 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Viewpoint 10km buffer
- Setting Zone

- A: Needwood Farmlands
- C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
- D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands
- E: Lichfield Centre and Heathland Fringe
- F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
- G: West Cannock Settled Heathlands
- H: Staffordshire Plain
- I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe
- J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands

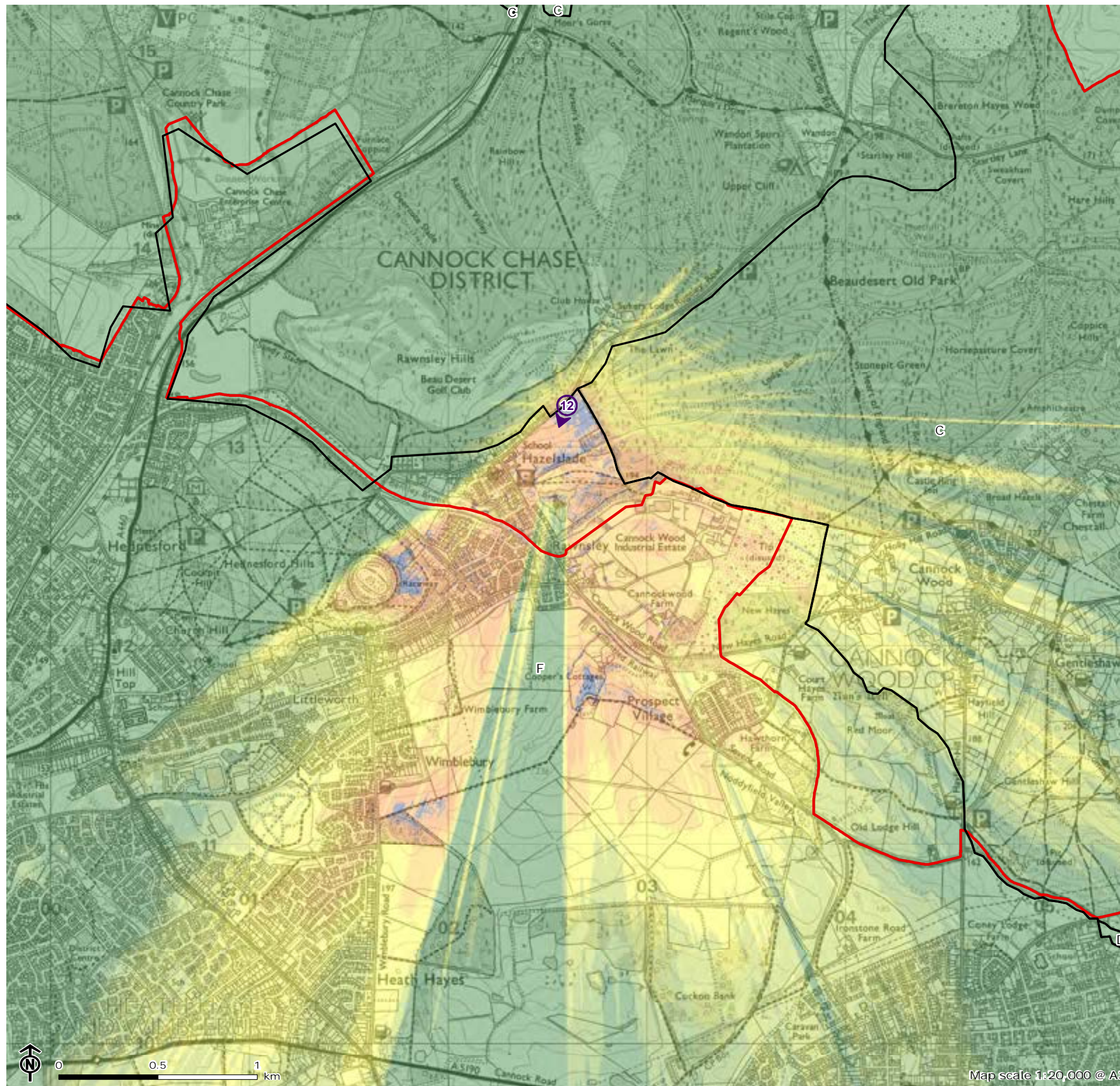
Height at which objects become visible

- 0m (visible)
- 0 - 10m
- 10 - 25m
- 25 - 50m
- 50 - 75m
- 75 - 100m
- >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

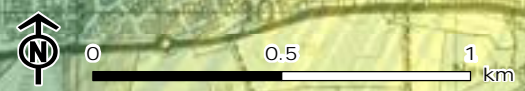
Map scale 1:80,000 @ A3

Figure 4.35: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 12 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
 - Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Setting Zone
 - C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
 - D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands
 - F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
- Height at which objects become visible
- 0m (visible)
 - 0 - 10m
 - 10 - 25m
 - 25 - 50m
 - 50 - 75m
 - 75 - 100m
 - >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:20,000 @ A3

Figure 4.36: Representative Viewpoint 12: View looking south west from Rugeley Road, Hazelslade

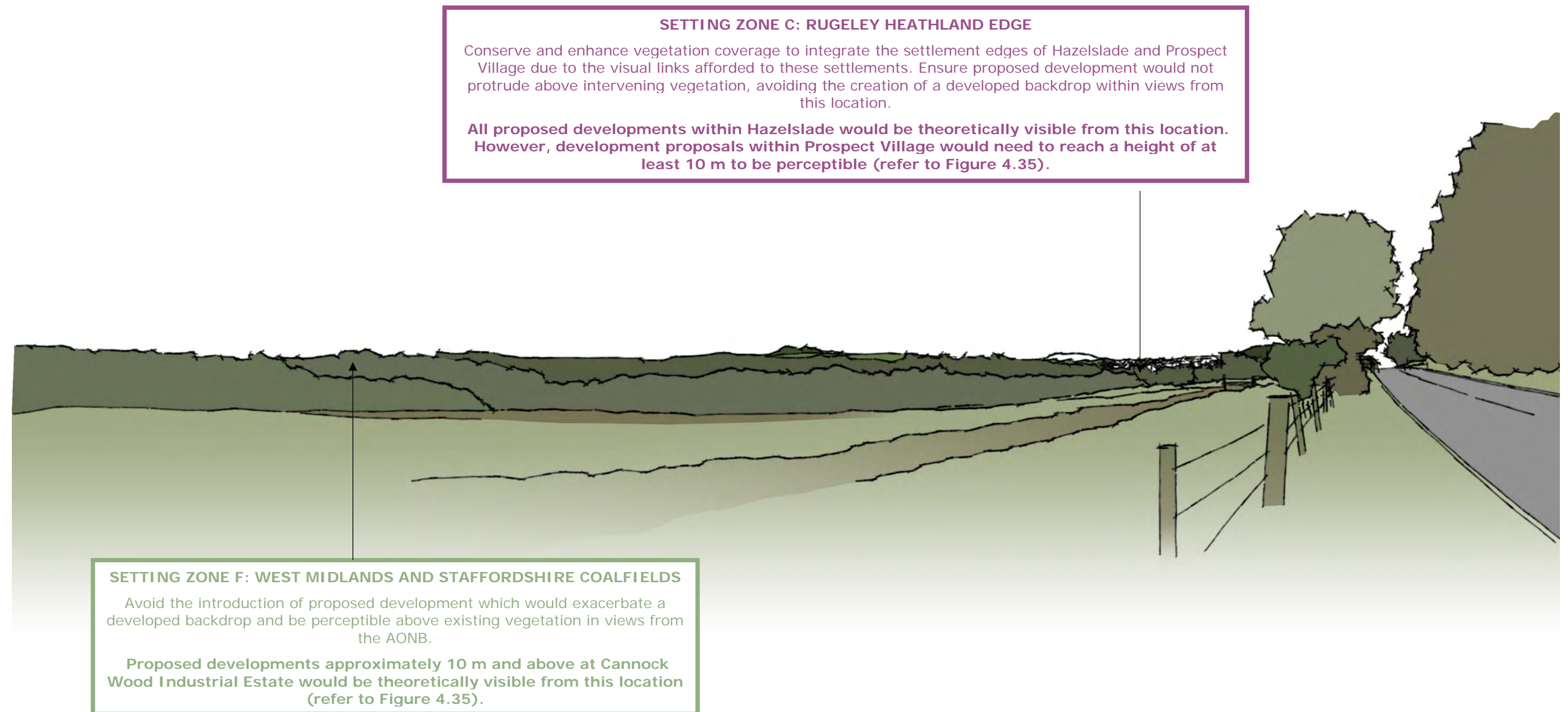
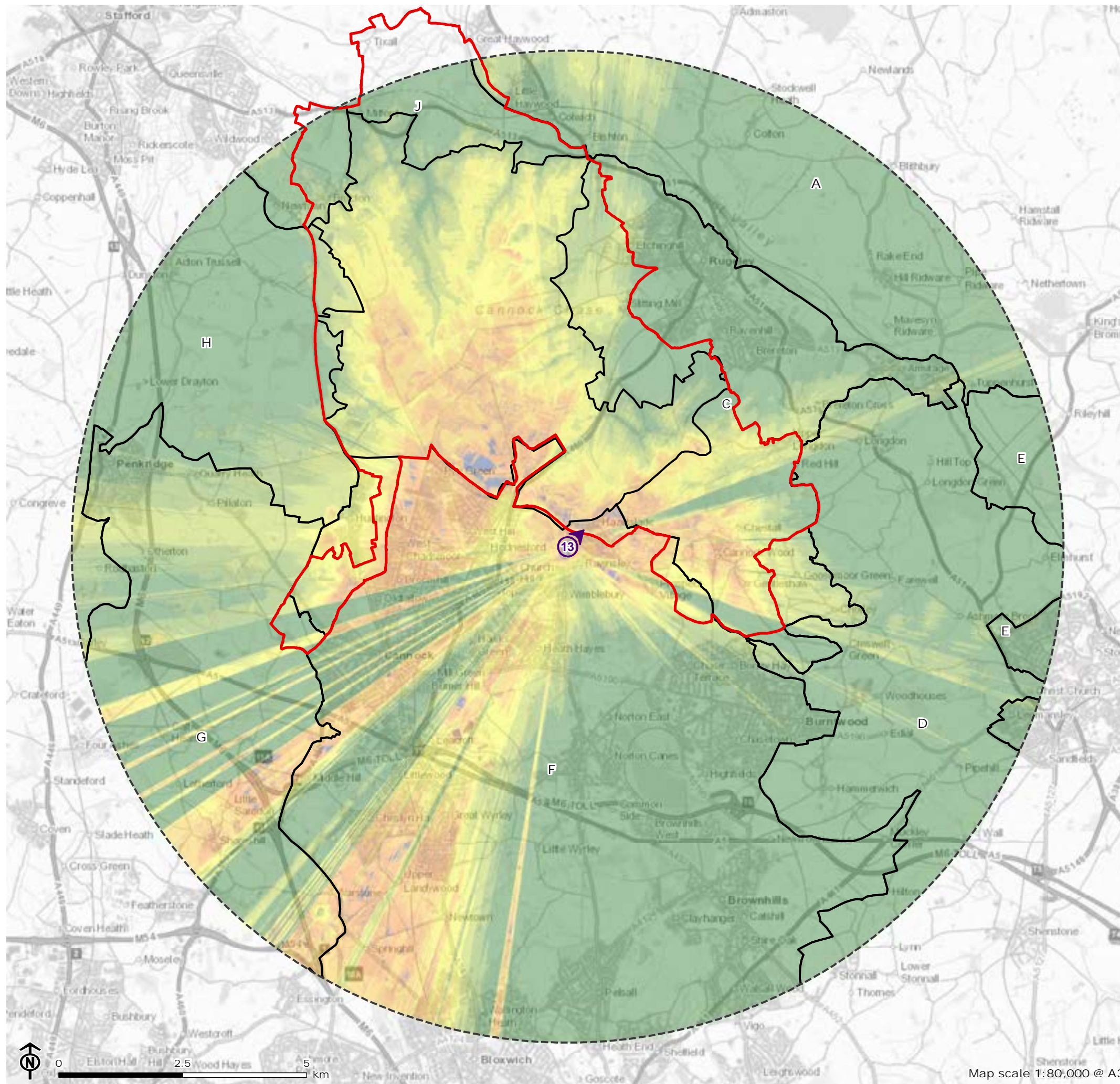


Figure 4.37: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 13 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Viewpoint 10km buffer
- Setting Zone

- A: Needwood Farmlands
- C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
- D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands
- E: Lichfield Centre and Heathland Fringe
- F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
- G: West Cannock Settled Heathlands
- H: Staffordshire Plain
- I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe
- J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands

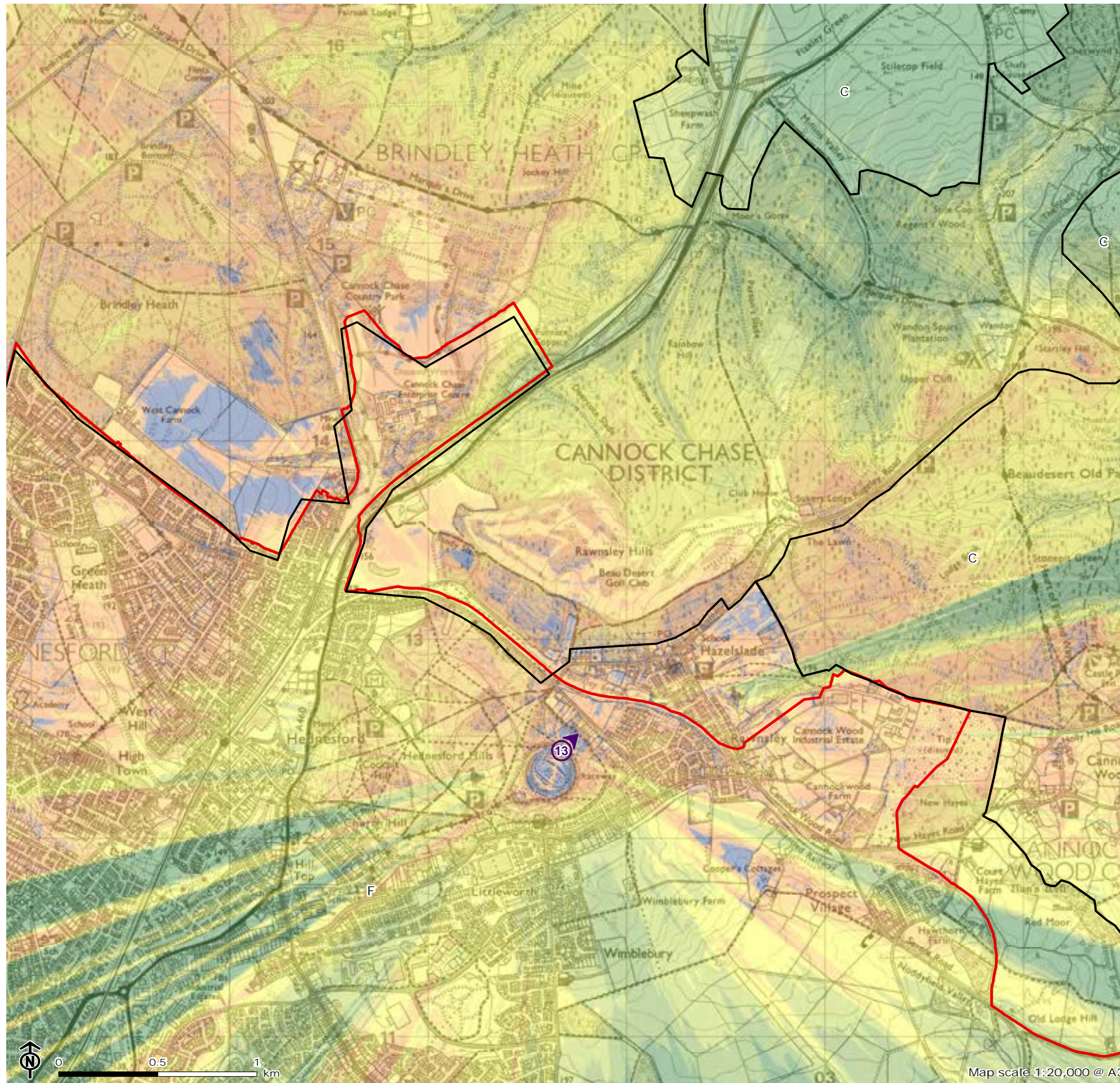
Height at which objects become visible

- 0m (visible)
- 0 - 10m
- 10 - 25m
- 25 - 50m
- 50 - 75m
- 75 - 100m
- >100m color swatch"/> >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Map scale 1:80,000 @ A3

Figure 4.38: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 13 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
 - Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Setting Zone
 - C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
 - F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
- Height at which objects become visible
- 0m (visible)
 - 0 - 10m
 - 10 - 25m
 - 25 - 50m
 - 50 - 75m
 - 75 - 100m
 - >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:20,000 @ A3

Figure 4.39: Representative Viewpoint 13: View looking north east from Public Footpath Hednesford 17, Hednesford Hills

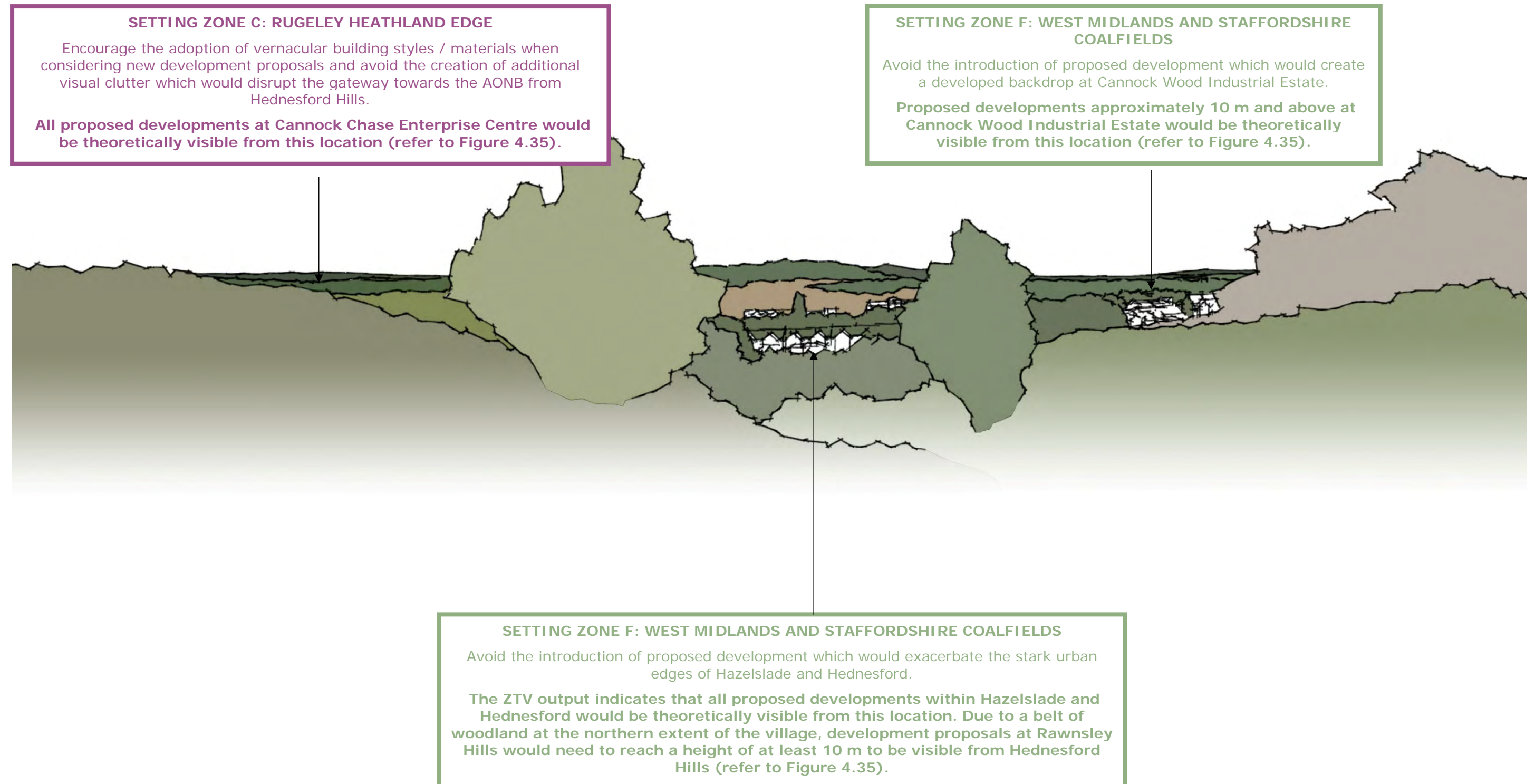
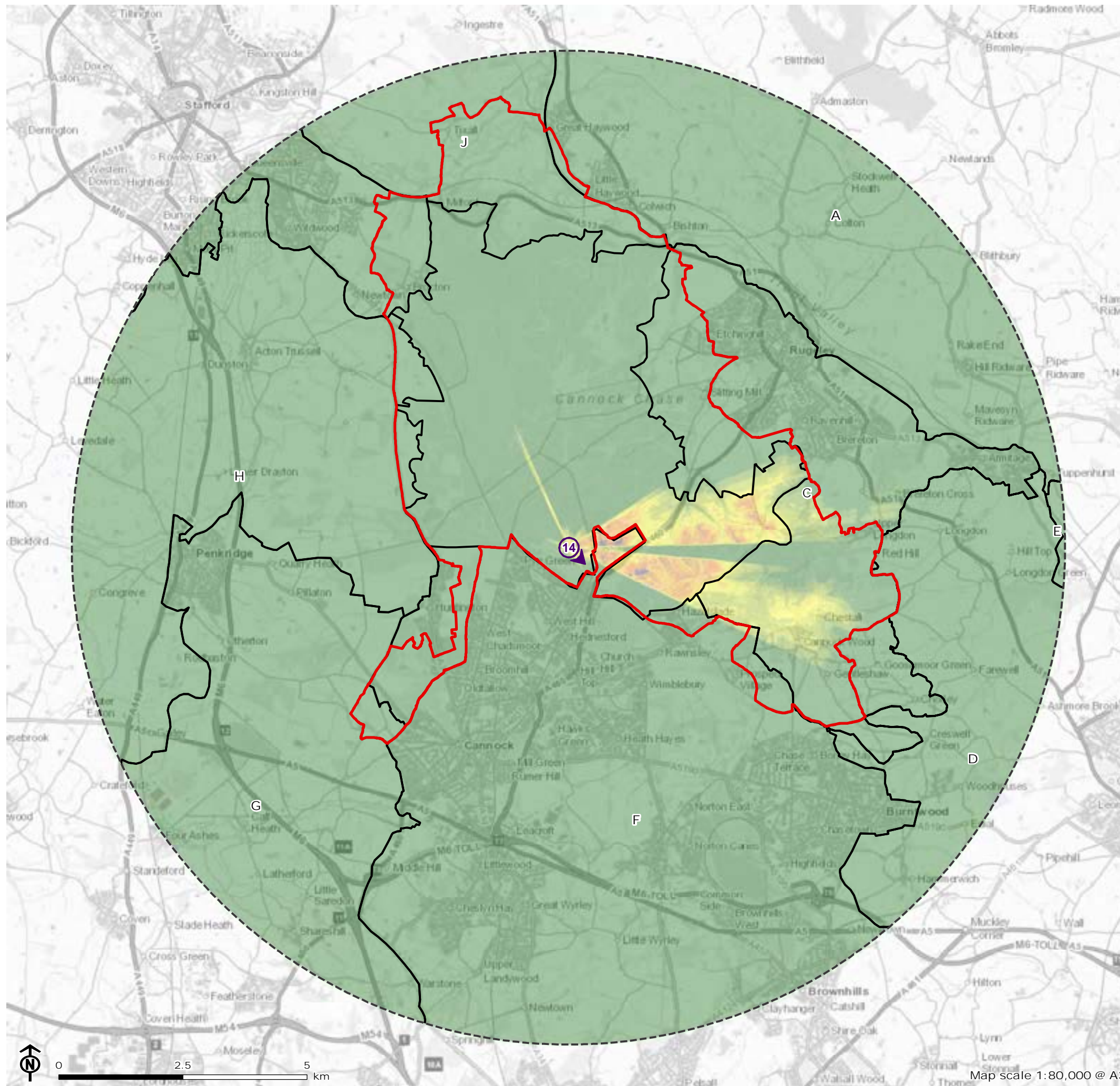
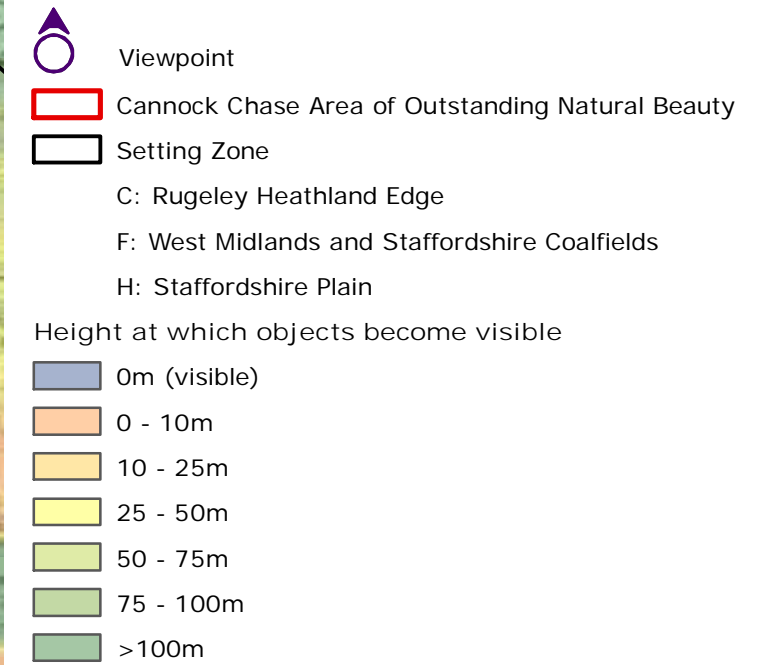
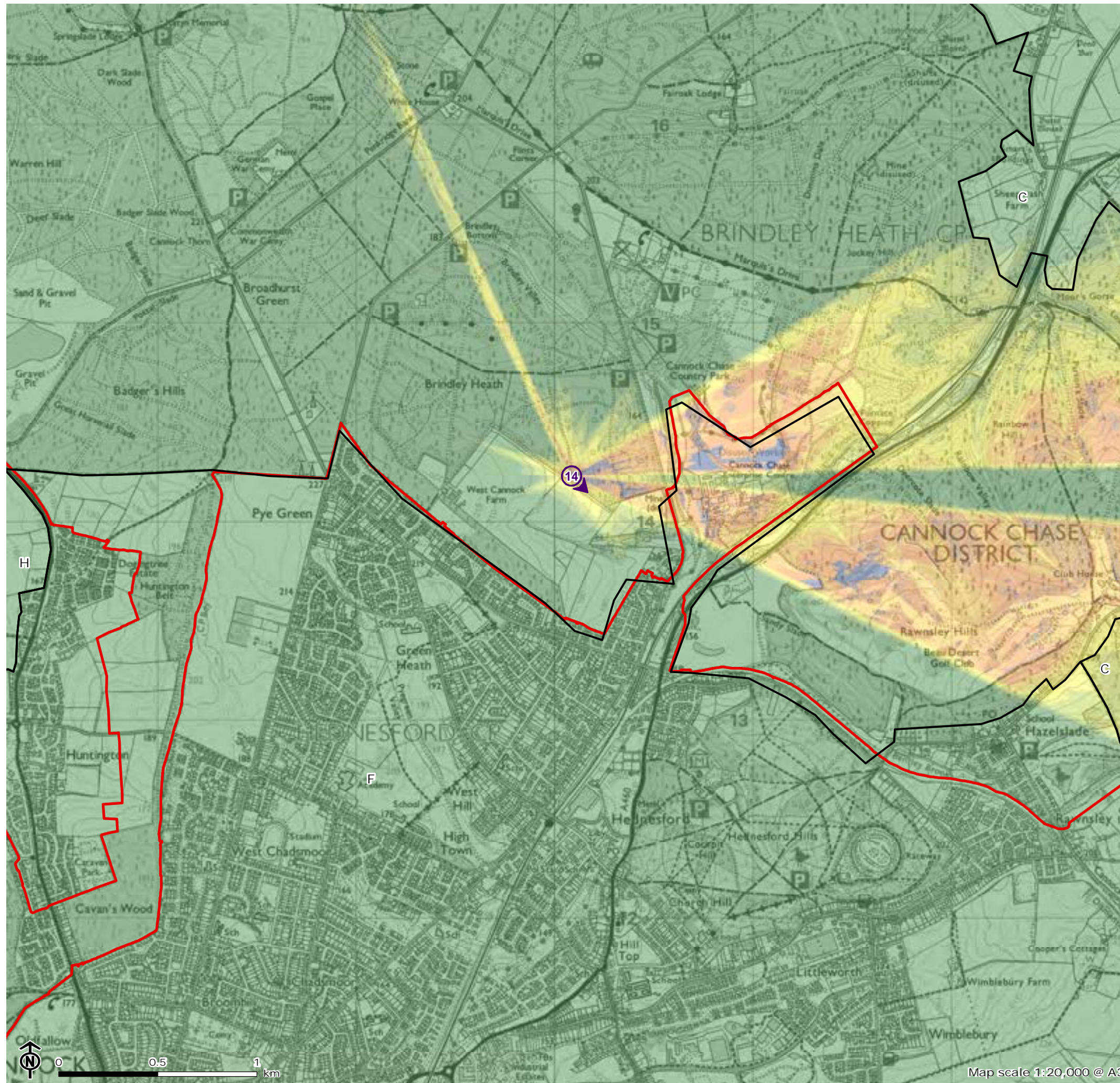


Figure 4.40: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 14 and Setting Zones



Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Figure 4.41: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 14 and Setting Zones



Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Figure 4.42: Representative Viewpoint 14: View looking south east from open access land at Brindley Heath

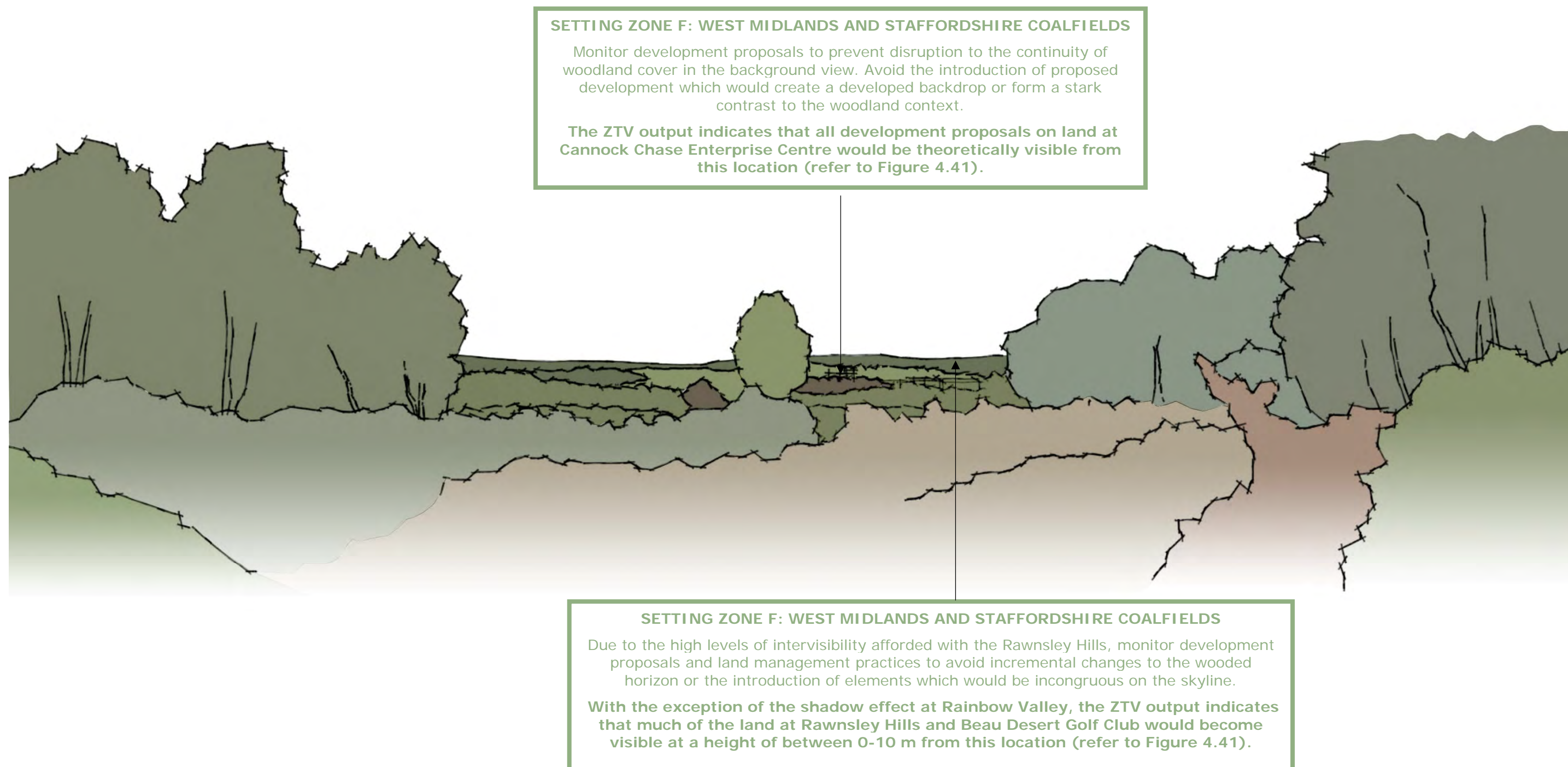
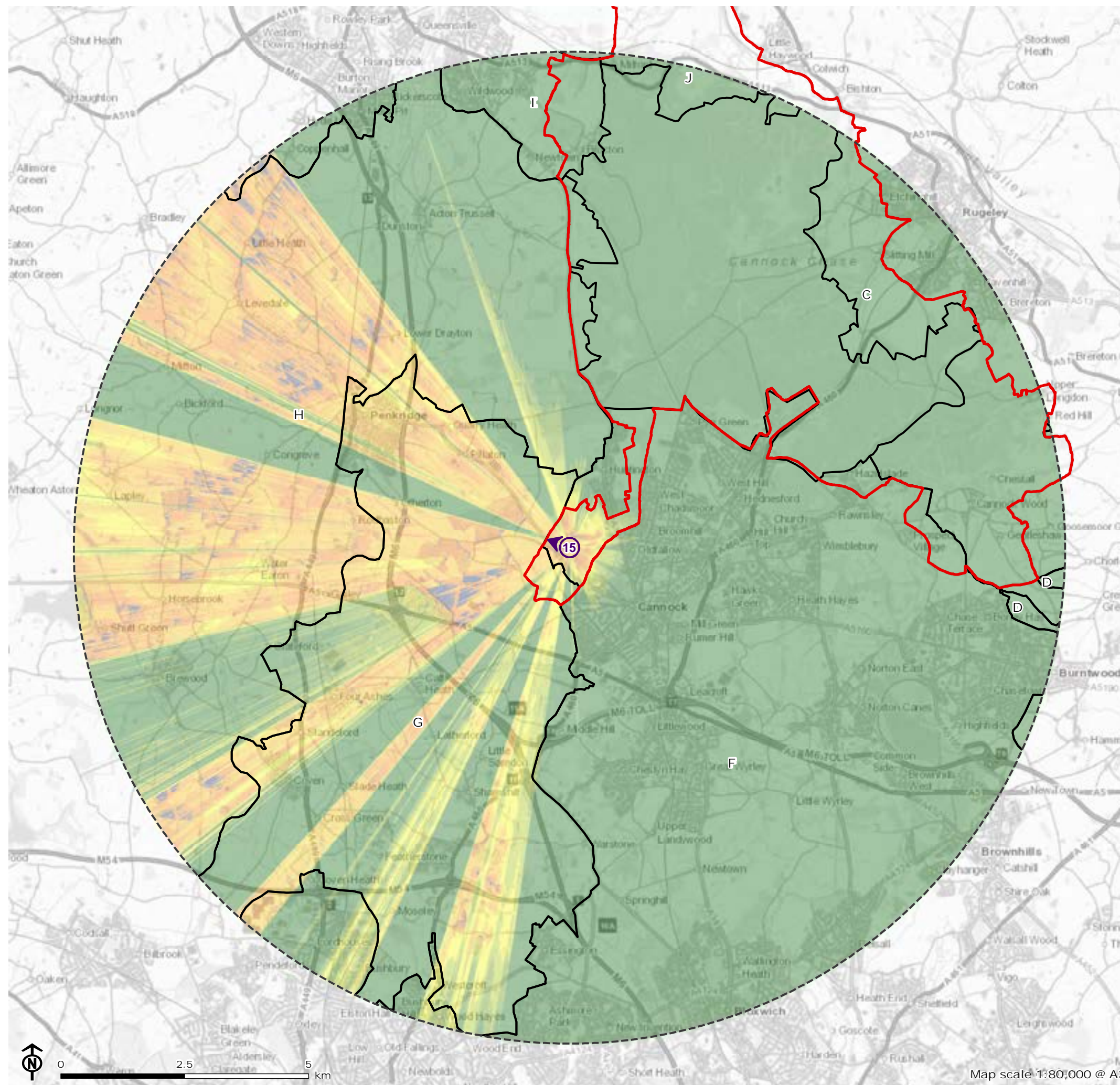
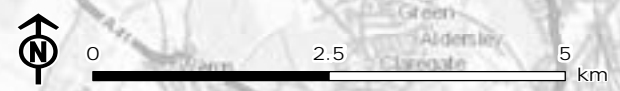


Figure 4.43: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 15 and Setting Zones

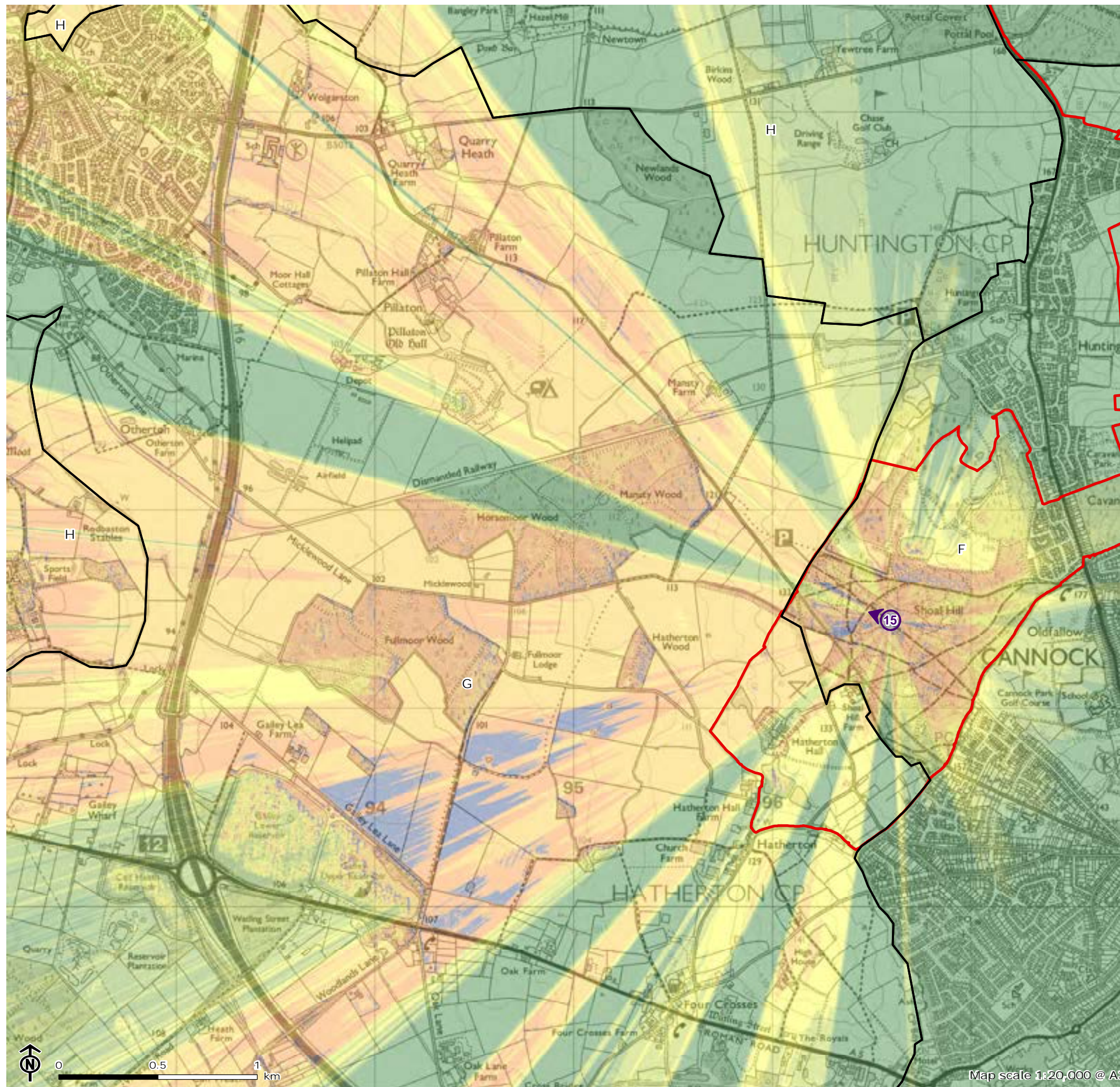


Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:80,000 @ A3

Figure 4.44: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 15 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Setting Zone
 - F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
 - G: West Cannock Settled Heathlands
 - H: Staffordshire Plain
- Height at which objects become visible
 - 0m (visible)
 - 0 - 10m
 - 10 - 25m
 - 25 - 50m
 - 50 - 75m
 - 75 - 100m
 - >100m color swatch"/> >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Figure 4.45: Representative Viewpoint 15: View looking north west from Bridleway Hatherton 0.955 / 0.967 at Shoal Hill.

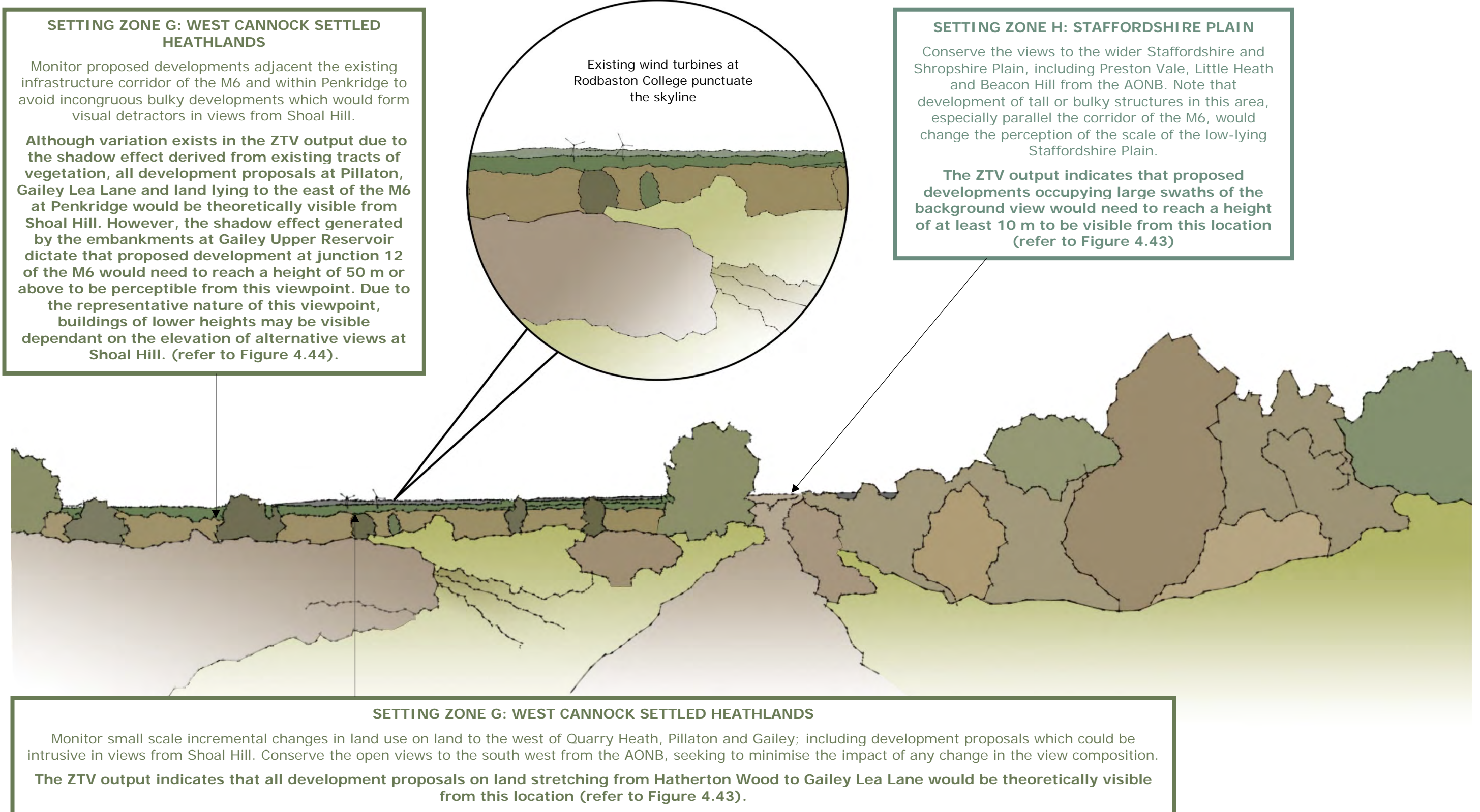
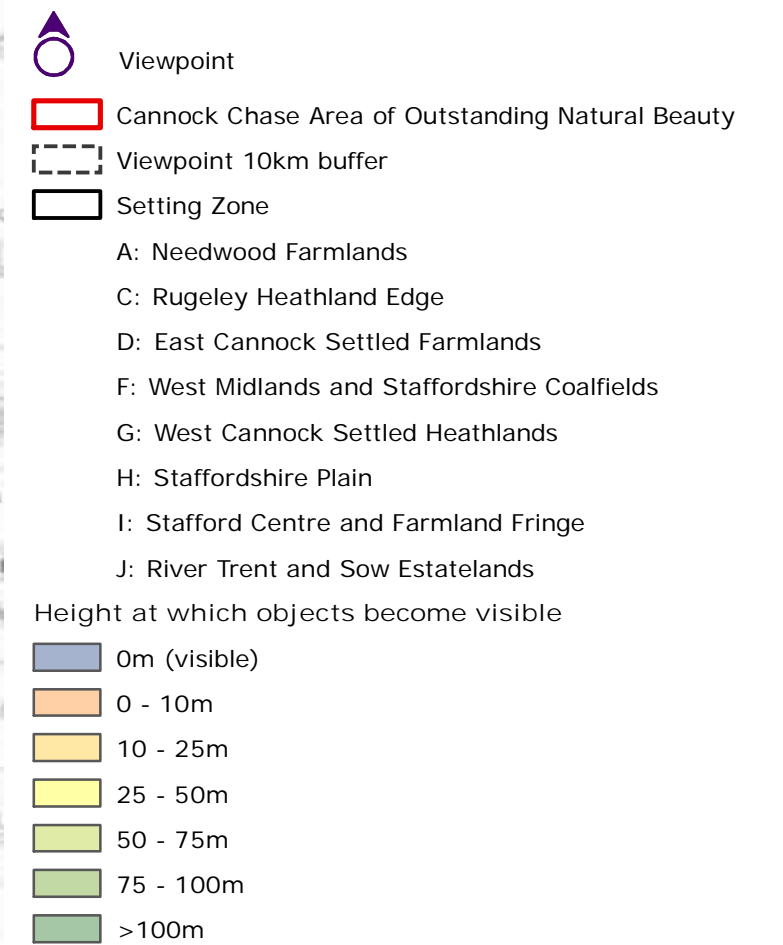
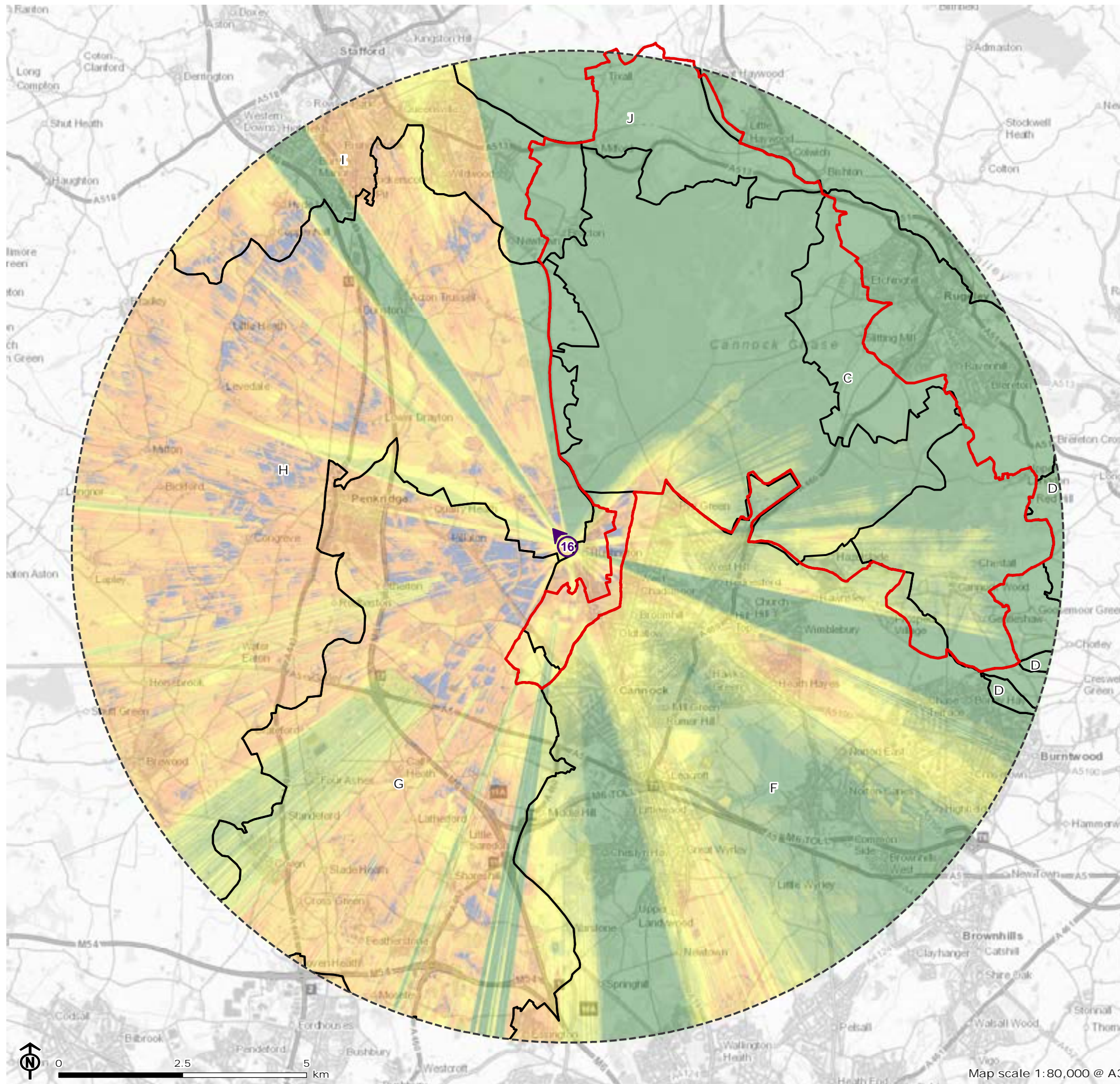


Figure 4.46: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 16 and Setting Zones

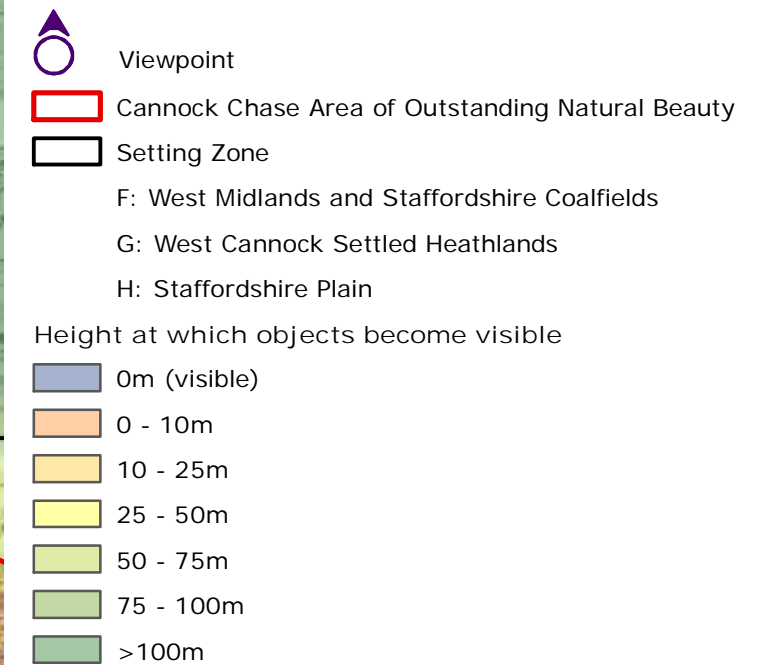
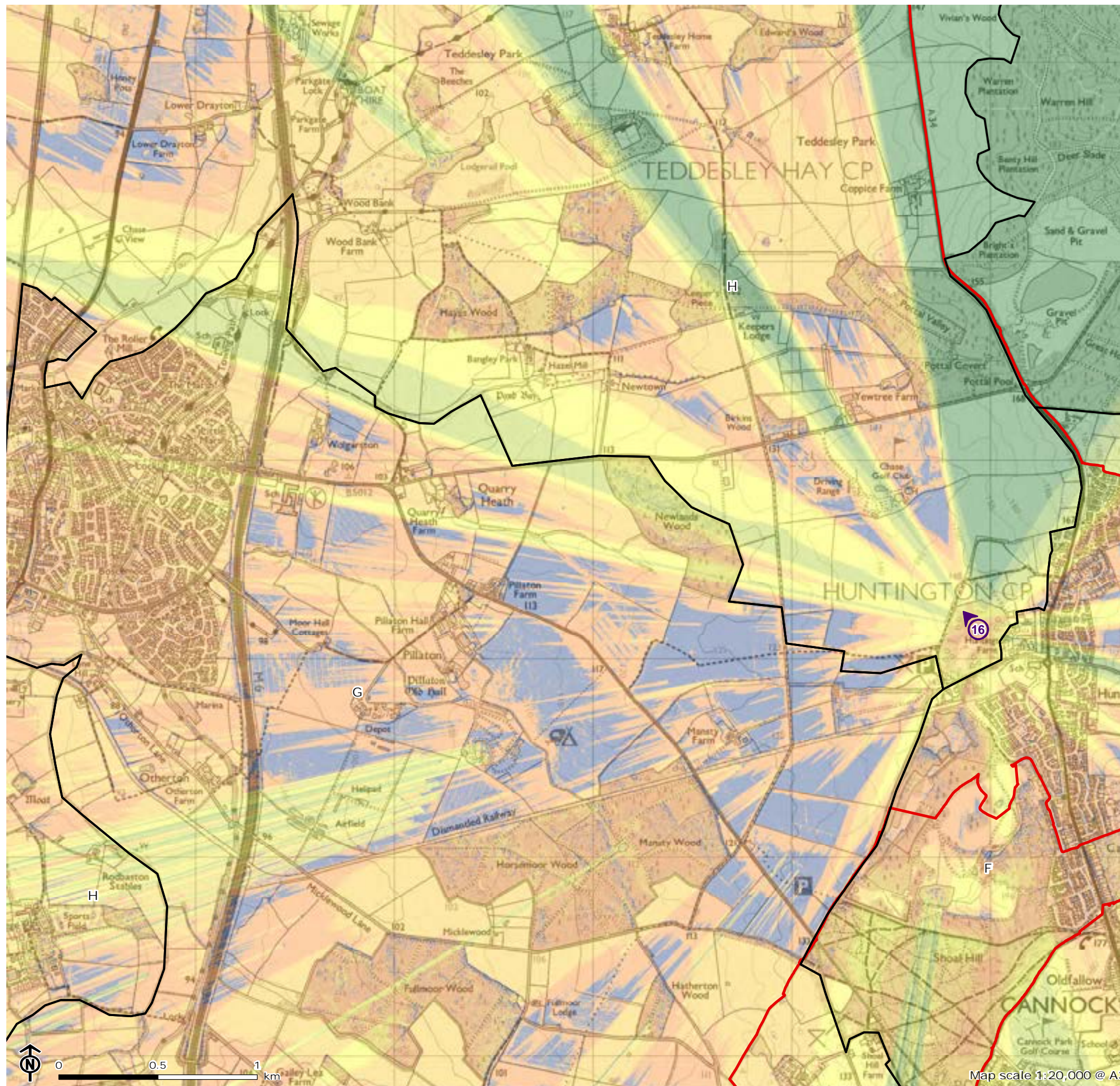


Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

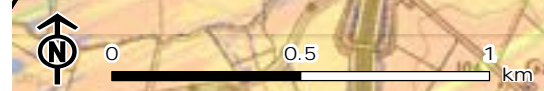


Map scale 1:80,000 @ A3

Figure 4.47: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 16 and Setting Zones



Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:20,000 @ A3

Figure 4.48: Representative Viewpoint 16: View looking north west from Huntington Mound, Huntington

SETTING ZONE H: STAFFORDSHIRE PLAIN

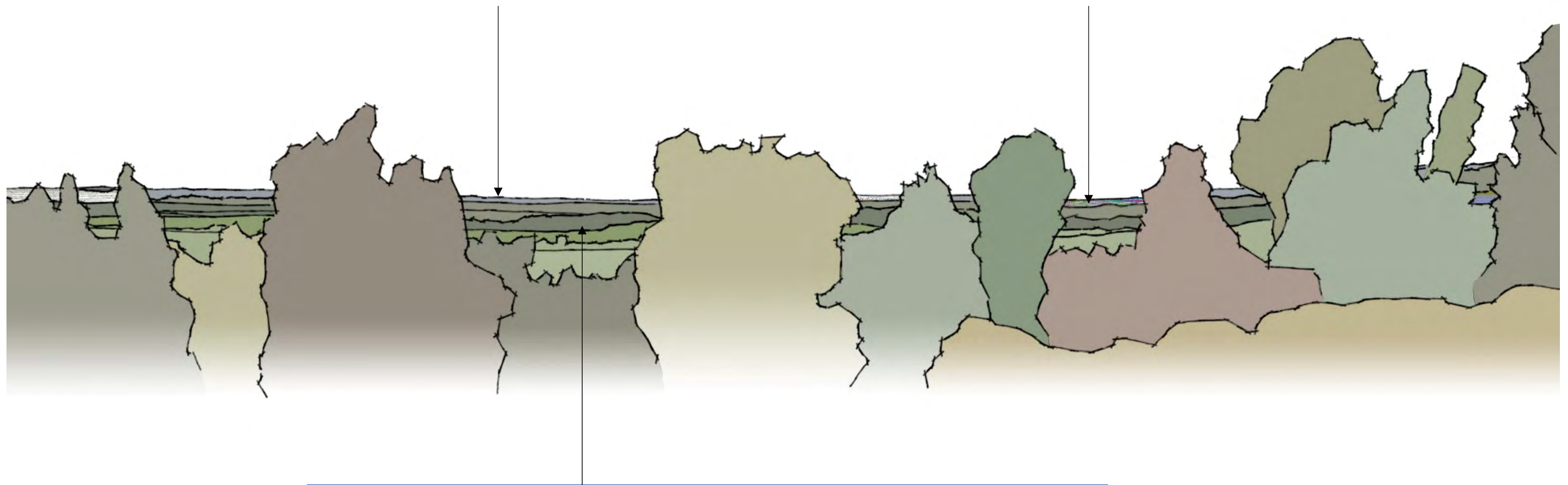
Conserve views to the wider Staffordshire and Shropshire Plain. Note that development of tall or bulky structures in this area, especially parallel the corridor of the M6, would change the perception of the scale of the low-lying Staffordshire Plain. Ensure that any built development is integrated into its landscape context through the retention and protection of woodlands such as Newlands Wood and Horsemoor Wood which form defined natural boundaries.

The ZTV output indicates that all proposed developments parallel to the M6 corridor to the east of Penkrige and at Lower Drayton would be theoretically visible from this location (refer to Figure 4.47).

SETTING ZONE H: STAFFORDSHIRE PLAIN

Due to the low lying nature of the topography in the middle and background view, ensure any proposed built development does not appear prominent within the wider landscape and maintain the largely undeveloped rural character of the skyline in views from the AONB.

The ZTV output indicates the availability of long distance views towards the settlement of Penkrige and beyond from Huntington Mound. With the exception of a corridor of land lying to the north of both Quarry Heath and Penkrige where proposed development would need to reach a height of 25 m to be visible in the view, all development proposals occupying large swaths of the landscape stretching west towards the M6 would be visible from this location (refer to Figure 4.47).

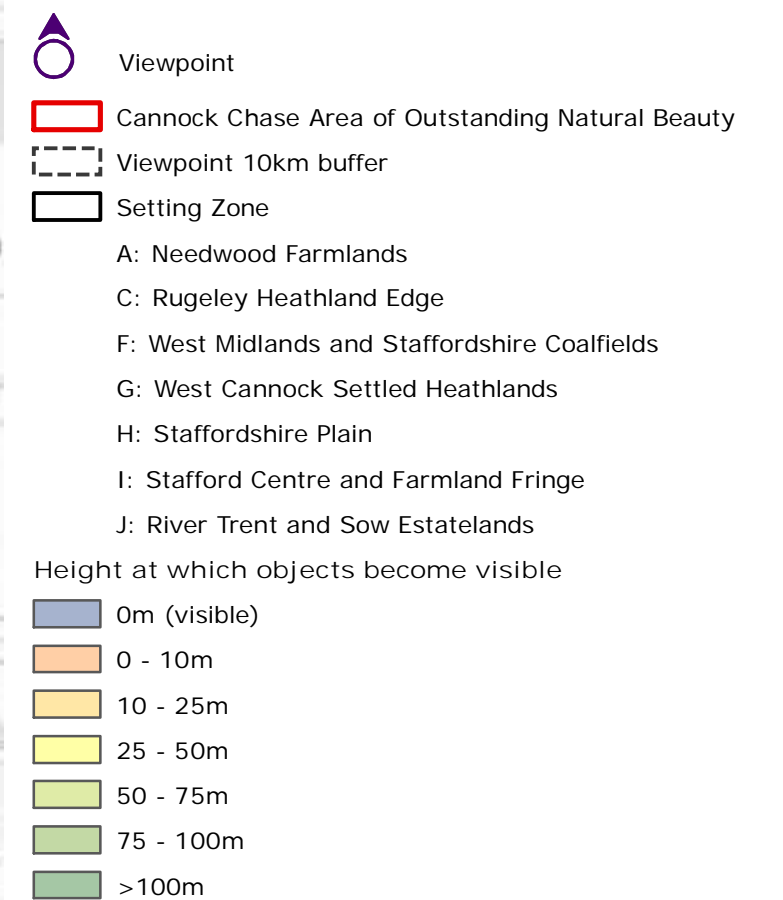
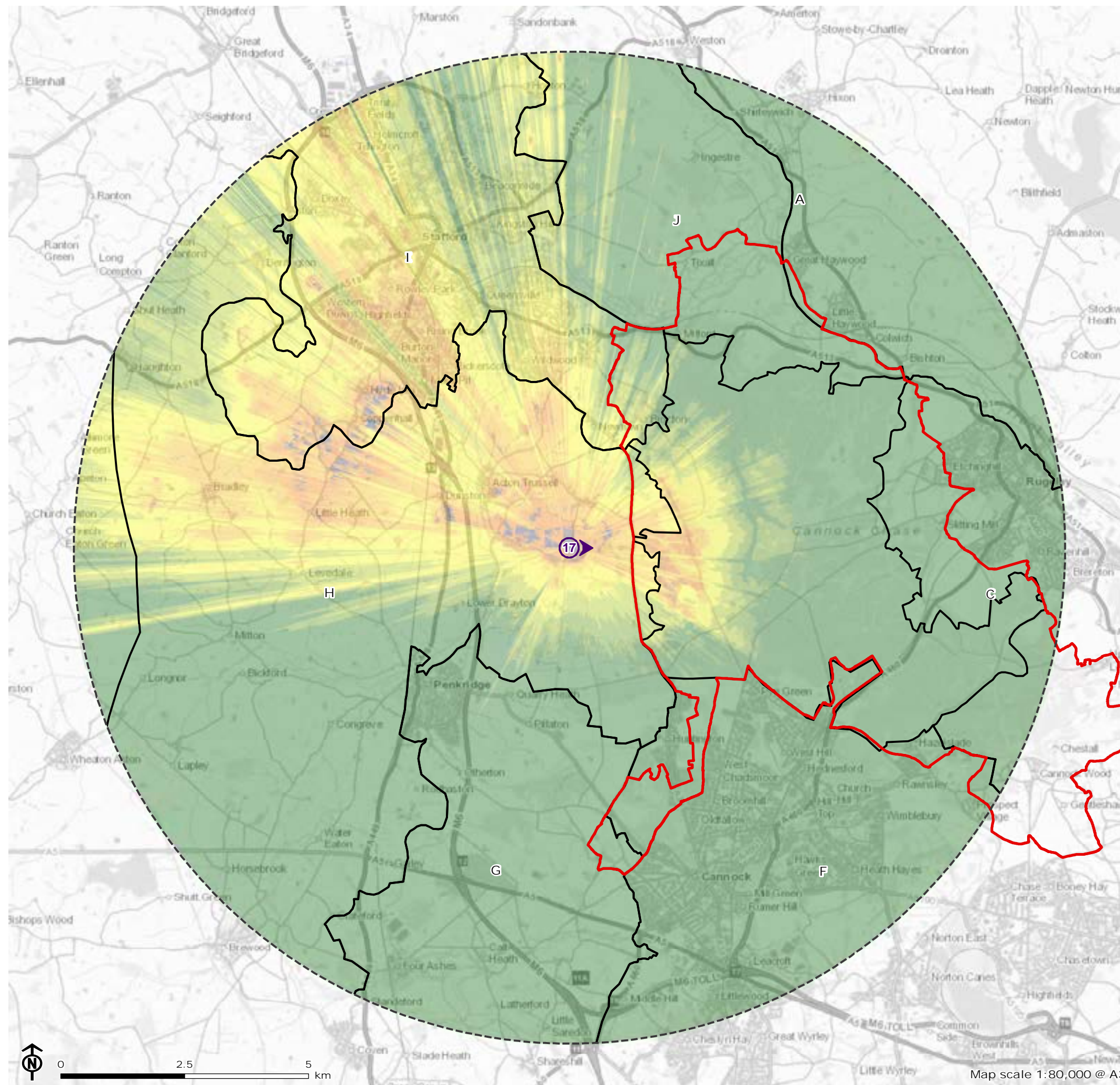


SETTING ZONE I: STAFFORD CENTRE AND FARMLAND FRINGE

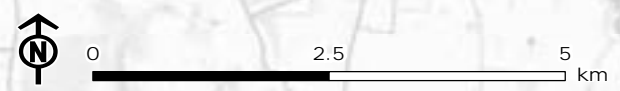
Due to the availability of long distance views towards the southern fringes of Stafford, encourage the adoption of vernacular building styles when considering new development proposals within this location and avoid the creation of visual clutter on the horizon line.

The ZTV output indicates that all proposed developments within Coppenhall, Hyde Lea and Burton Manor would be theoretically visible from this location (refer to Figure 4.46).

Figure 4.49: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 17 and Setting Zones

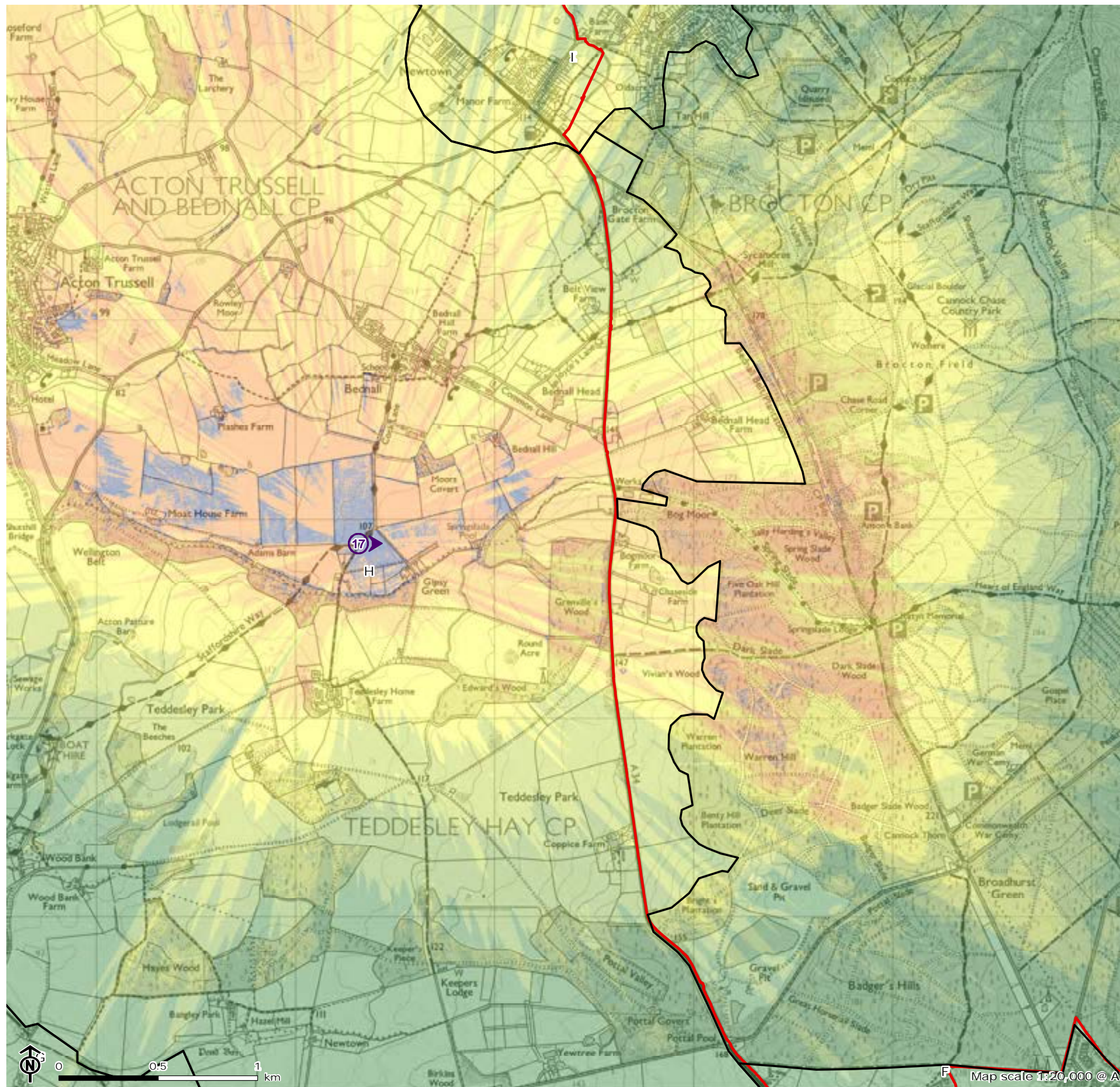


Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



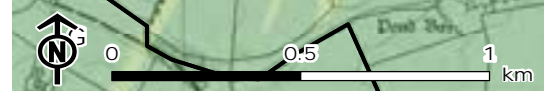
Map scale 1:80,000 @ A3

Figure 4.50: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 17 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
 - Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Setting Zone
 - F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
 - G: West Cannock Settled Heathlands
 - H: Staffordshire Plain
 - I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe
- Height at which objects become visible
- 0m (visible)
 - 0 - 10m
 - 10 - 25m
 - 25 - 50m
 - 50 - 75m
 - 75 - 100m
 - >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:20,000 @ A3

Figure 4.51: Representative Viewpoint 17: View looking east from the Staffordshire Way, Cock Lane, south of Bednall

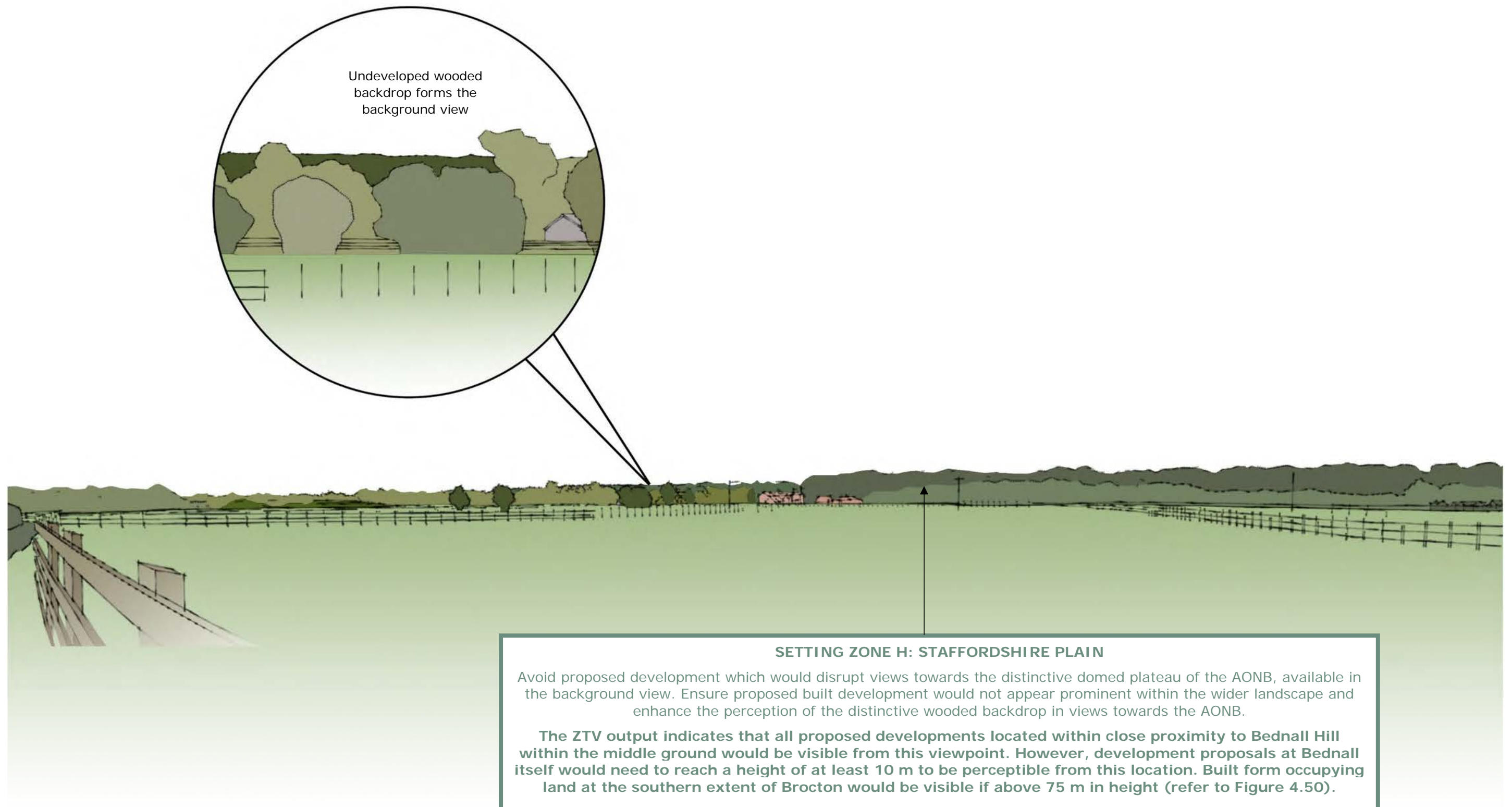
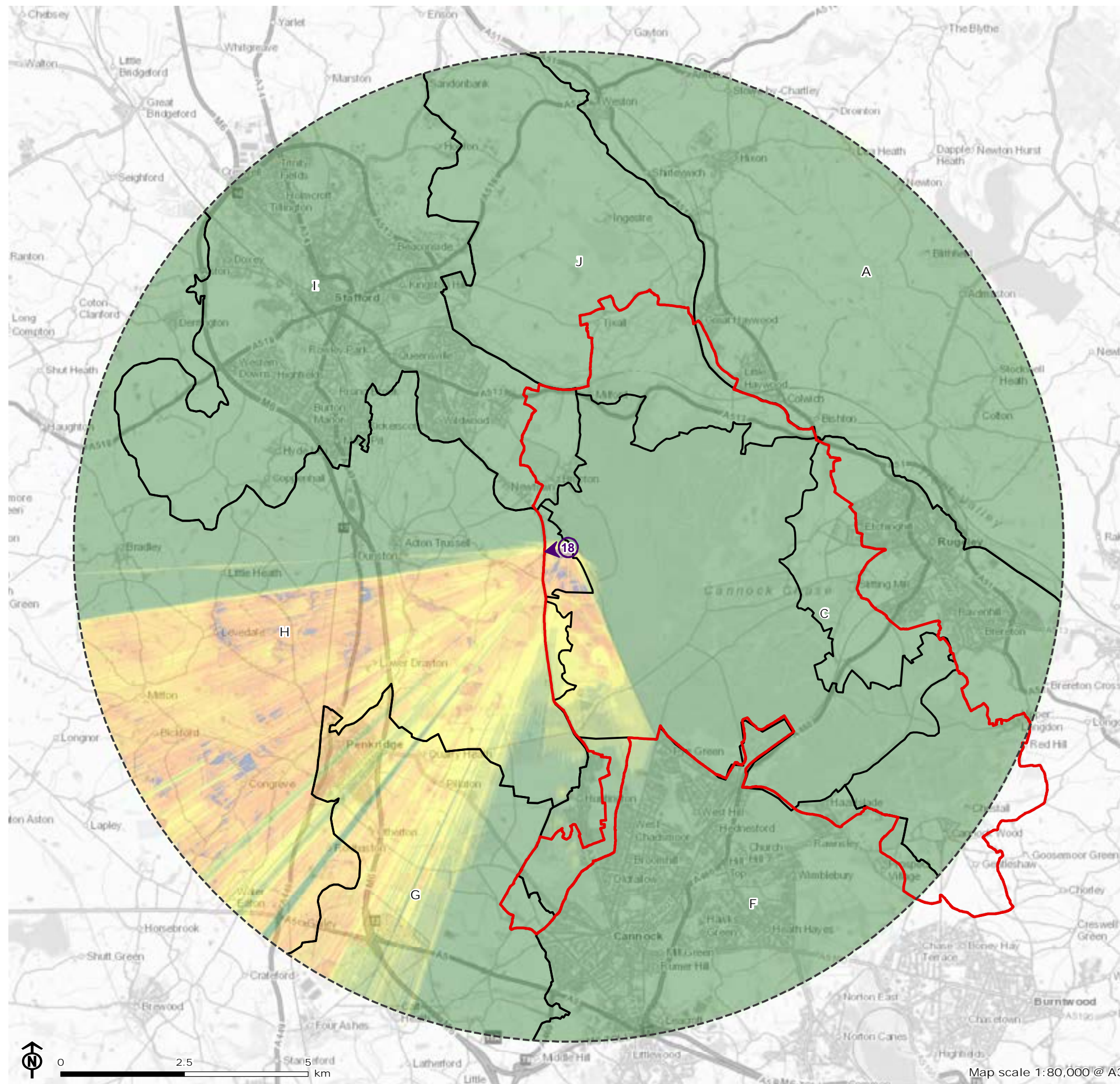


Figure 4.52: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 18 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
 - Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Viewpoint 10km buffer
 - Setting Zone
 - A: Needwood Farmlands
 - C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
 - D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands
 - F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
 - G: West Cannock Settled Heathlands
 - H: Staffordshire Plain
 - I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe
 - J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands
- Height at which objects become visible
- 0m (visible)
 - 0 - 10m
 - 10 - 25m
 - 25 - 50m
 - 50 - 75m
 - 75 - 100m
 - >100m

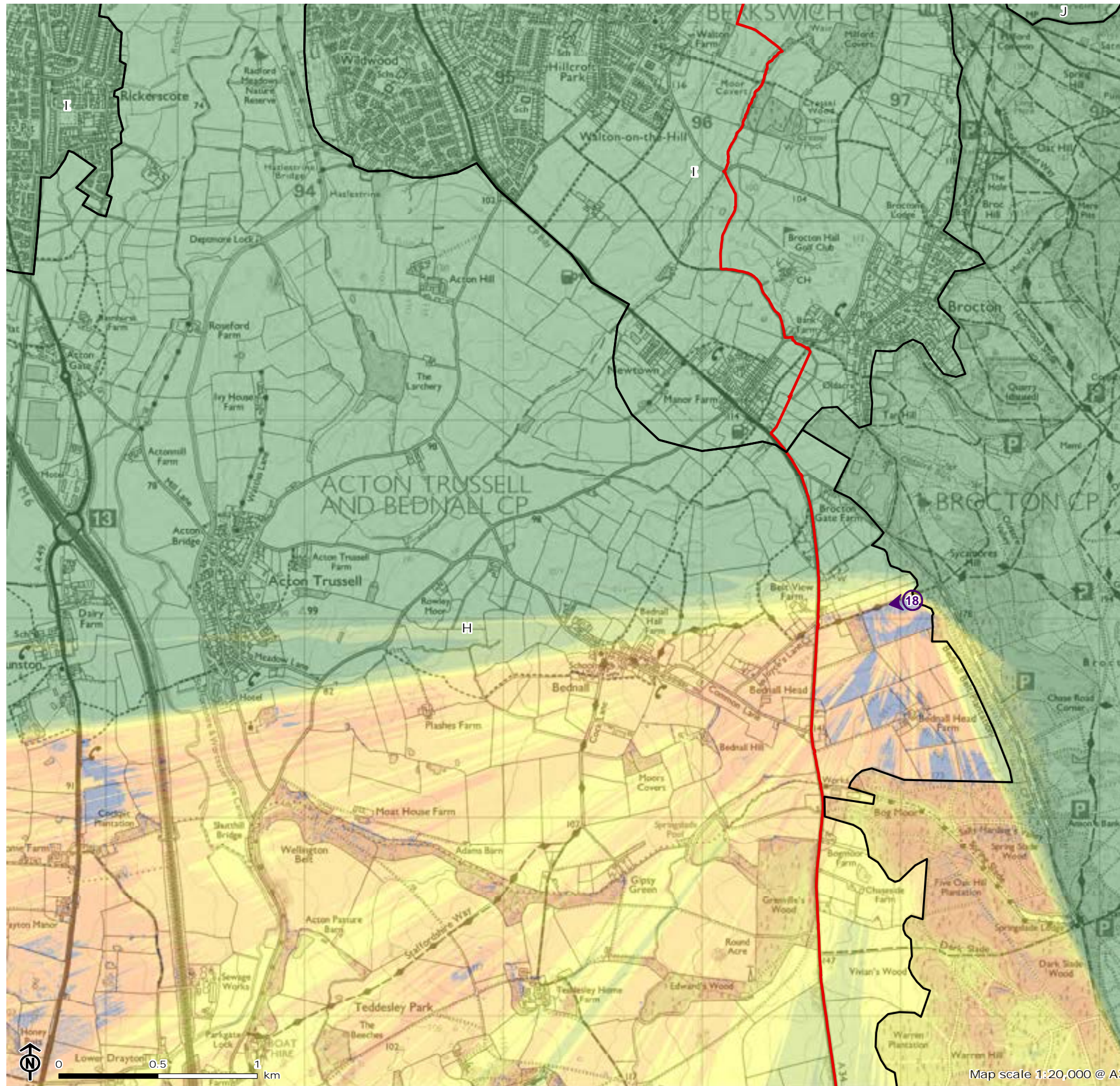
Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



0 2.5 5 km

Map scale 1:80,000 @ A3

Figure 4.53: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 18 and Setting Zones



- Viewpoint
- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Setting Zone
 - H: Staffordshire Plain
 - I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe
 - J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands
- Height at which objects become visible
 - 0m (visible)
 - 0 - 10m
 - 10 - 25m
 - 25 - 50m
 - 50 - 75m
 - 75 - 100m
 - >100m color swatch"/> >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Figure 4.54: Representative Viewpoint 18: View looking west from the Staffordshire Way, west of Camp Road

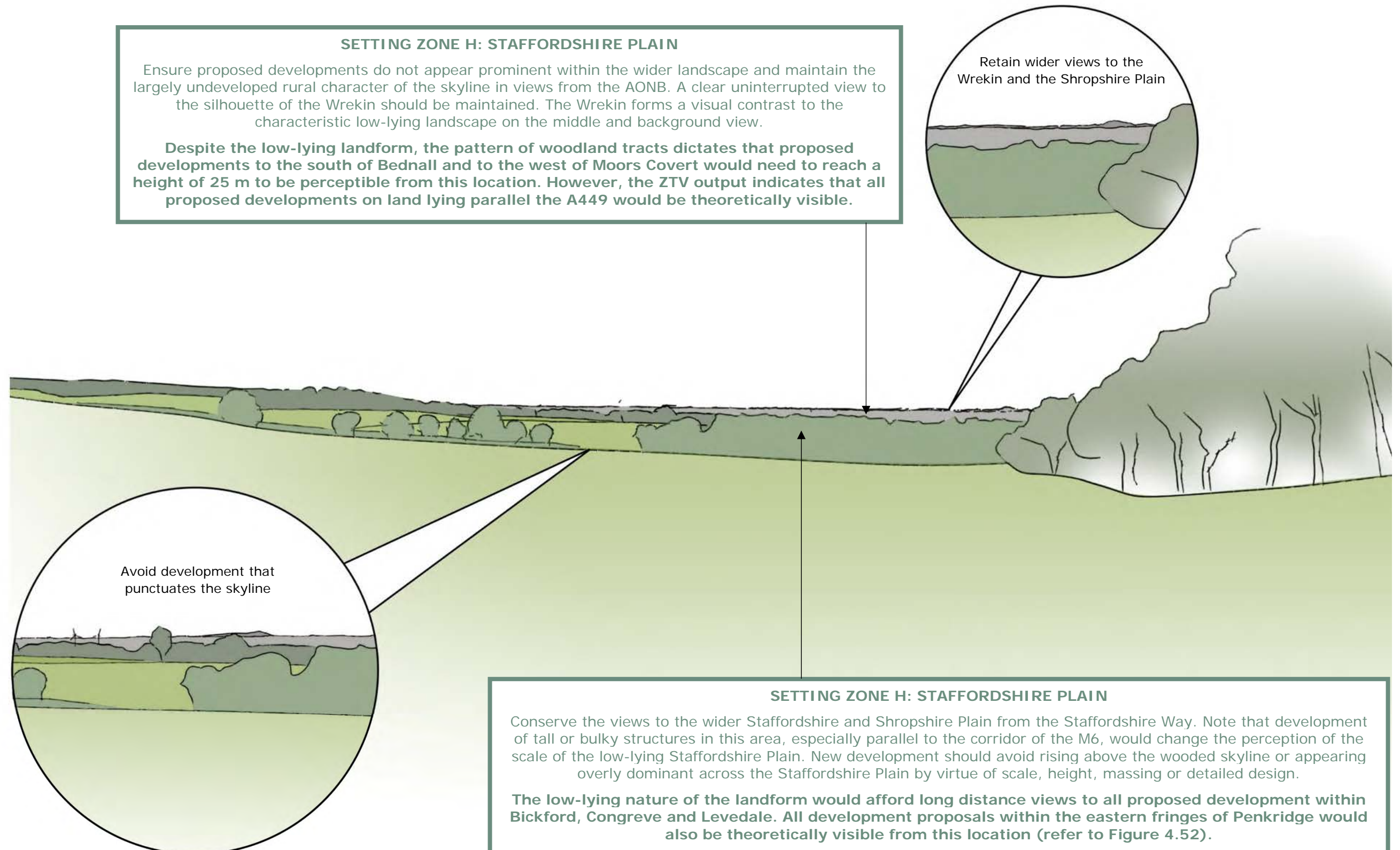
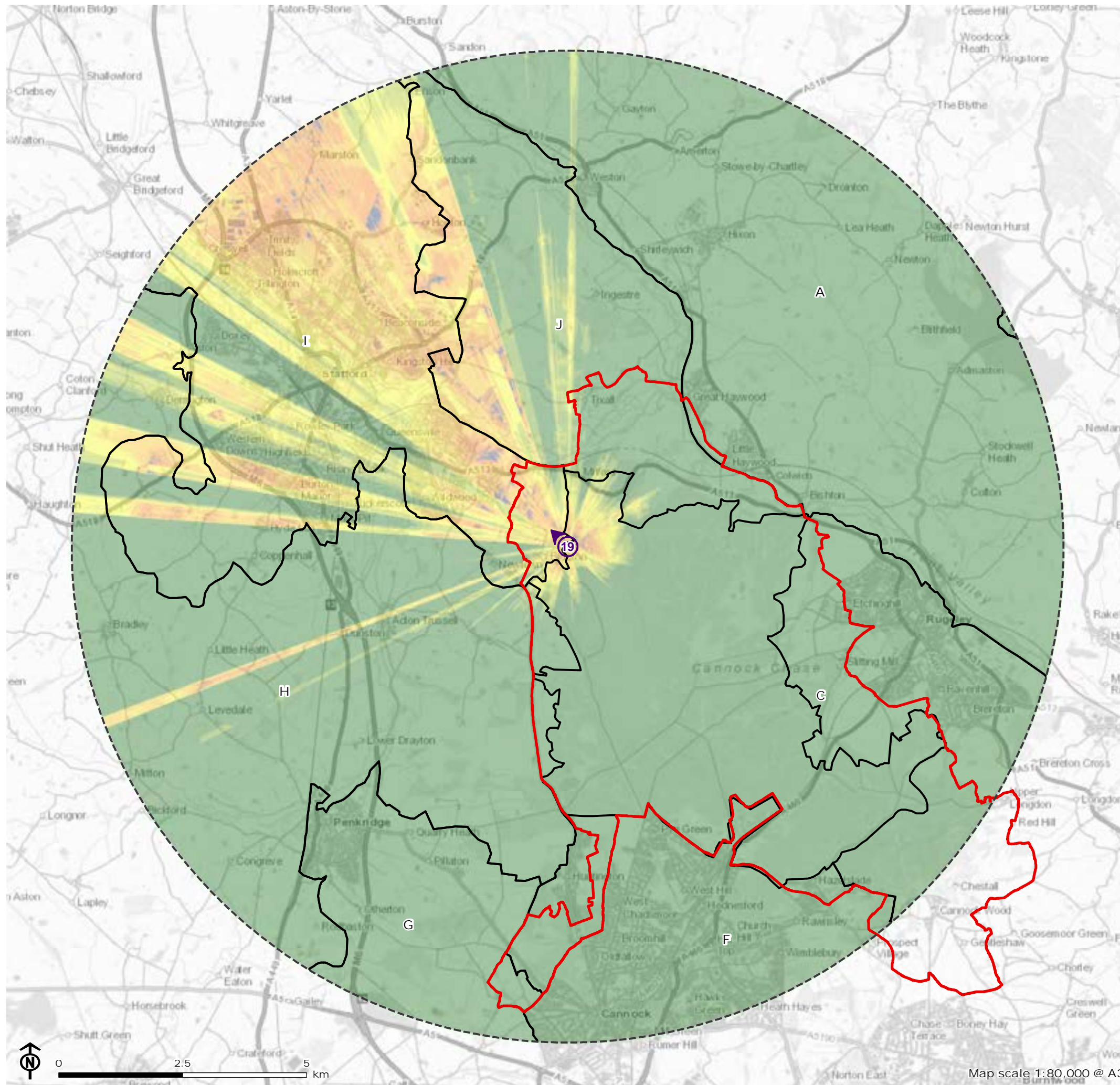


Figure 4.55: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 19 and Setting Zones



Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:80,000 @ A3

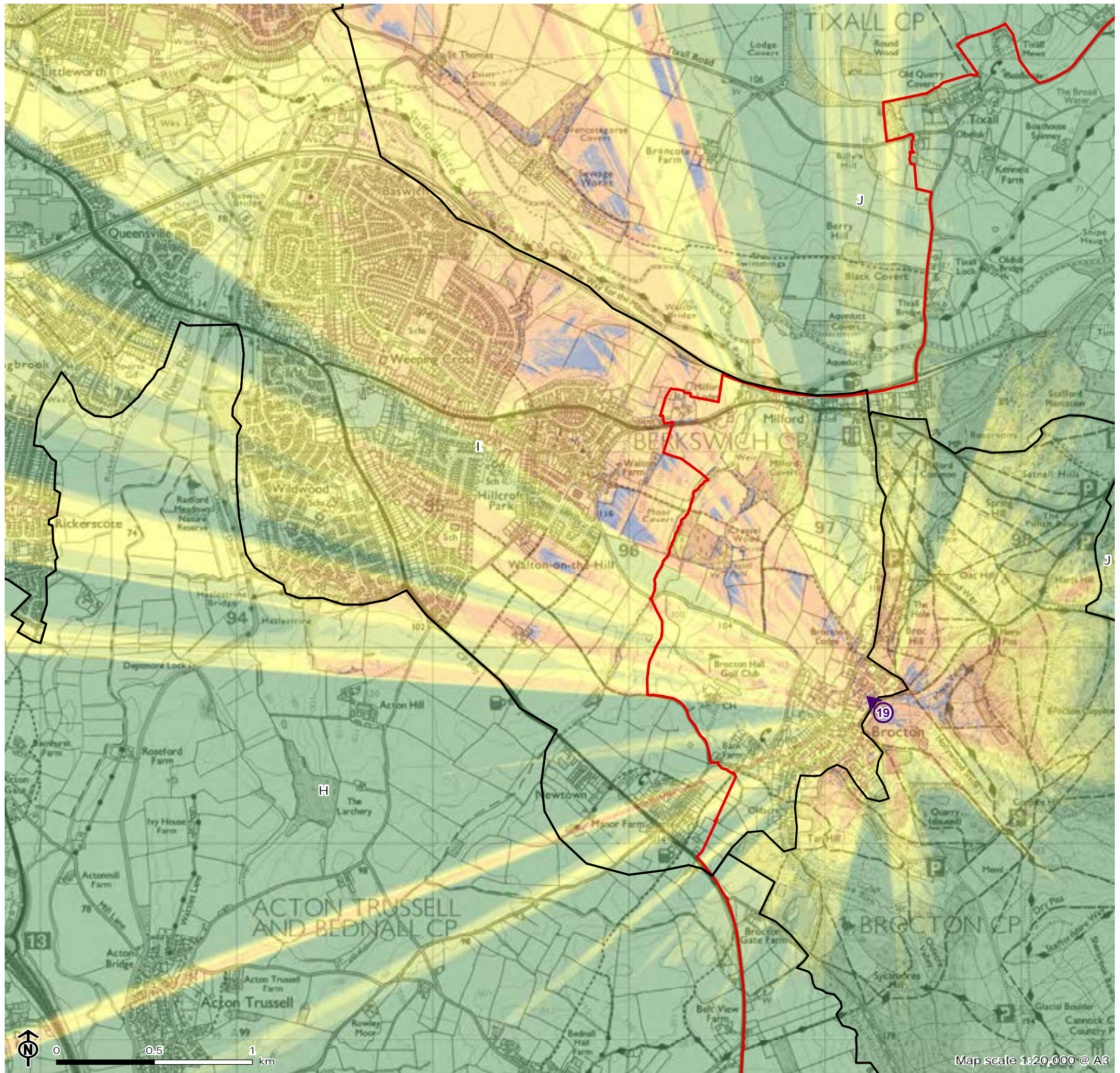


Figure 4.56: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 19 and Setting Zones

- Viewpoint
 - Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Setting Zone
 - H: Staffordshire Plain
 - I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe
 - J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands
- Height at which objects become visible
- 0m (visible)
 - 0 - 10m
 - 10 - 25m
 - 25 - 50m
 - 50 - 75m
 - 75 - 100m
 - >100m

Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Figure 4.57: Representative Viewpoint 19: View looking north west from open access land to the south east of Brocton

SETTING ZONE I: STAFFORD CENTRE AND FARMLAND FRINGE

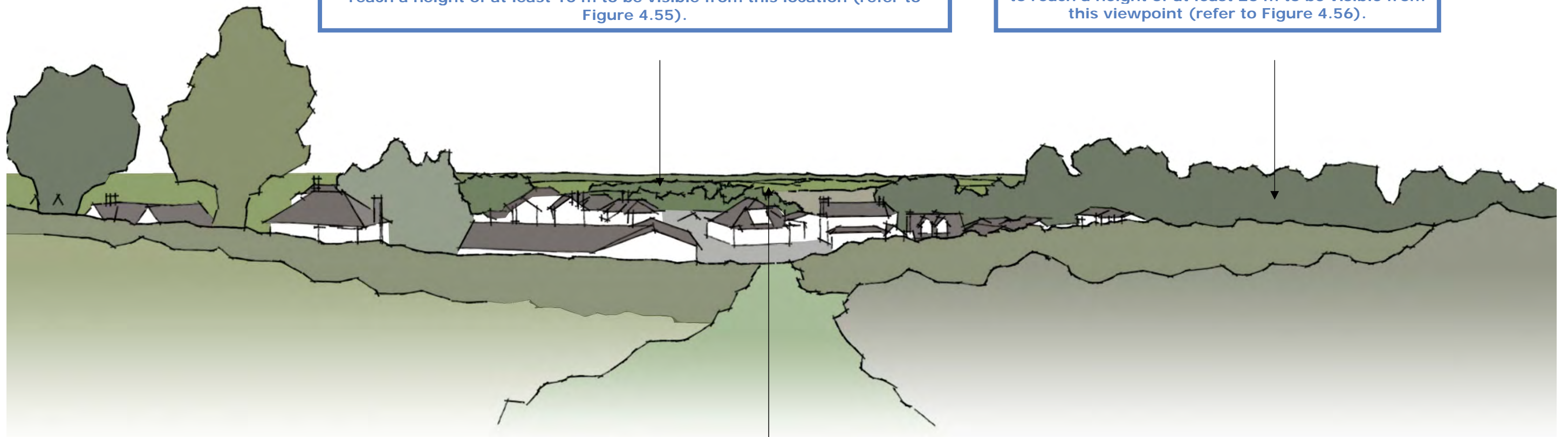
Retain Brocton's clustered settlement pattern, with existing built form largely contained in views from the AONB by the nature of the localised topography. Due to the nature of this landform, avoid development proposals that would protrude above the skyline in fore and middle ground view, disrupting the availability of long range views towards the southern fringes of Stafford. Development proposals located on the rising topography immediately east of the village should also be monitored to ensure built form does not disrupt views to and from the AONB.

All proposed developments from Pool Lane towards Brocton Lodge in the fore and middle ground would be theoretically visible from this location. However, the visual containment provided by the landform in this location dictates that development proposals towards Broc Hill would need to reach a height of at least 10 m to be visible from this location (refer to Figure 4.55).

SETTING ZONE I: STAFFORD CENTRE AND FARMLAND FRINGE

Ensure that development proposals enhance the arrangement of interspersed vegetation and heathland at the settlement edge of Brocton, avoiding the creation of a stark settlement edge and disruption to the setting of the AONB.

The combination of intervening landform and vegetation at this location results in limited availability of views to the southern extents of Brocton. The ZTV indicates that development proposals on sections of Walton Lane would need to reach a height of at least 25 m to be visible from this viewpoint (refer to Figure 4.56).

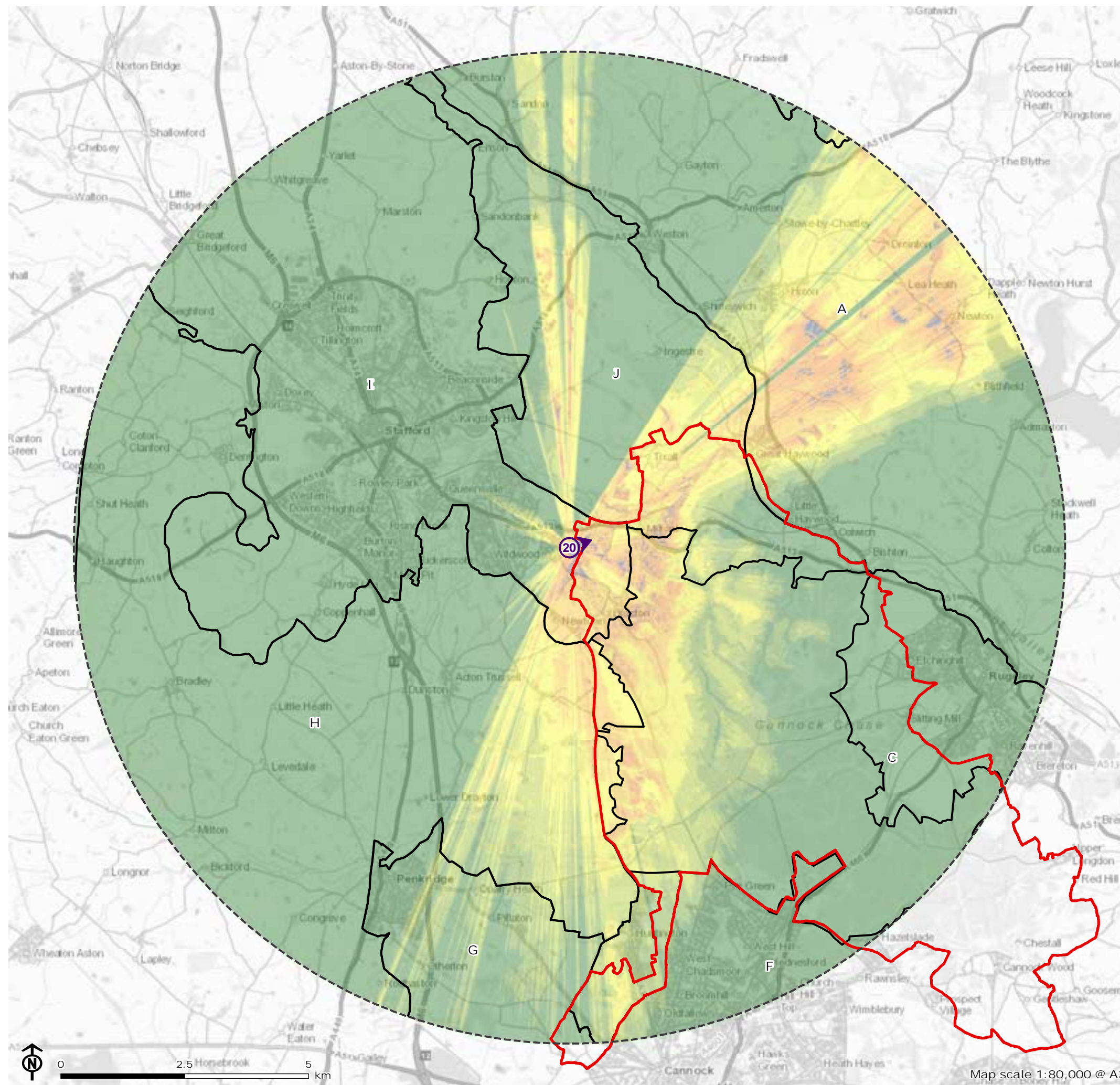


ZONE I: STAFFORD CENTRE AND FARMLAND FRINGE

Ensure the availability of long distance views towards Walton-on-the-Hill and the south easterly settlement fringes of Stafford. Due to the locally elevated vantage point afforded by the viewpoint, avoid development proposals that would appear bulky and incongruous on the skyline.

The ZTV output indicates that all proposed developments on the eastern extent of Walton-on-the-Hill are theoretically visible from this location, with the exception of a short section of land on Brocton Lane. An area of undeveloped agricultural land contained to the west by Weeping Cross and to the south by Walton-on-the-Hill is also currently visible in the view. However, development proposals at Wildwood would need to reach a height of at least 25 m to be perceptible (refer to Figure 4.56).

Figure 4.58: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 20 and Setting Zones



Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.



Map scale 1:80,000 @ A3

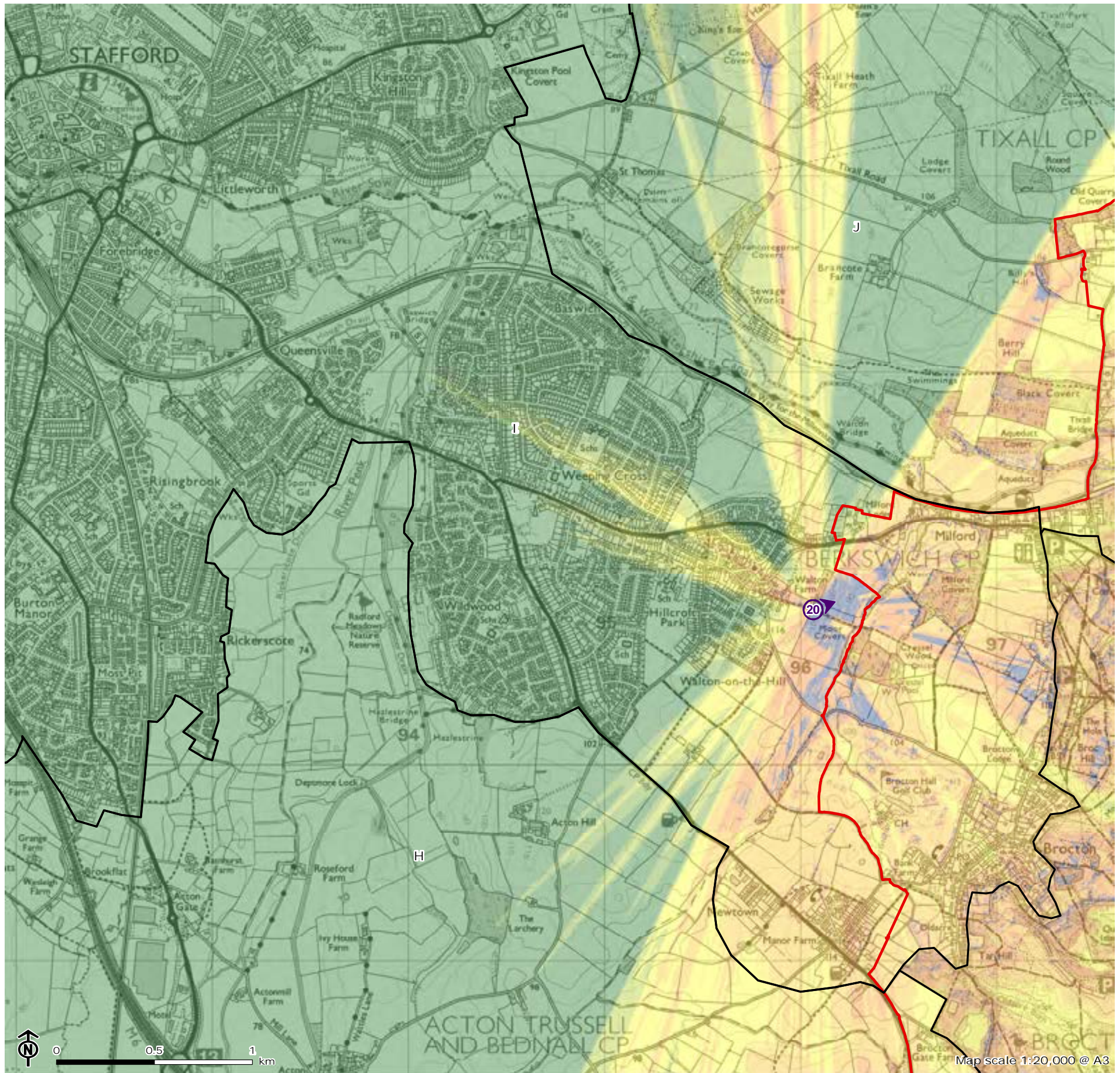


Figure 4.59: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for Viewpoint 20 and Setting Zones

- Viewpoint
 - Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Setting Zone
 - H: Staffordshire Plain
 - I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe
 - J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands
- Height at which objects become visible
- 0m (visible)
 - 0 - 10m
 - 10 - 25m
 - 25 - 50m
 - 50 - 75m
 - 75 - 100m
 - >100m

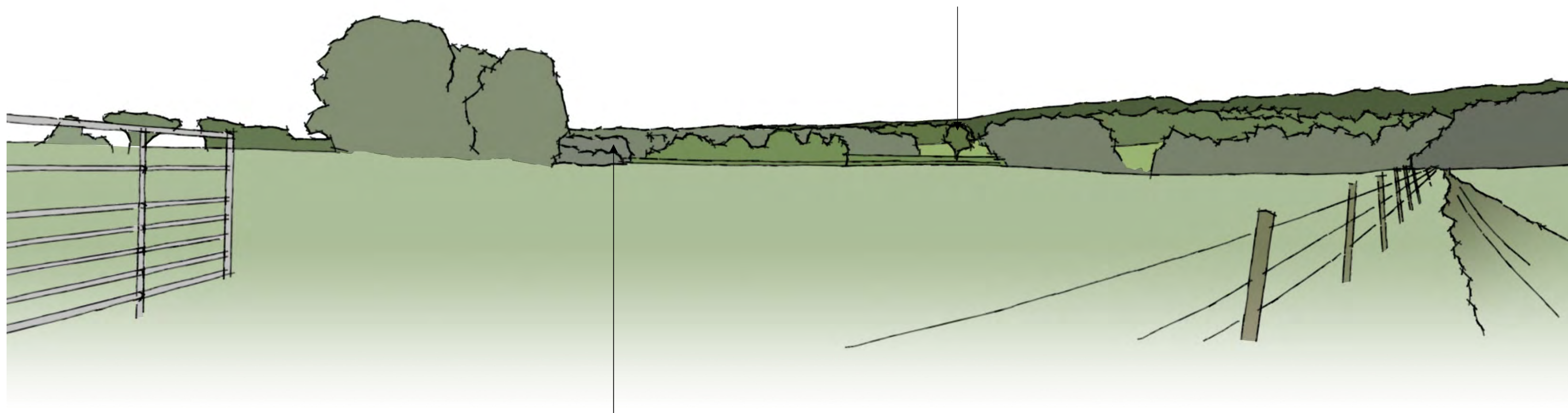
Note: The ZTV/HOBV is calculated from an observer height of 2m above ground level using APGB 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.5.1 software.

Figure 4.60: Representative Viewpoint 20: View looking north east from Public Footpath Berkswich 10, Walton-on-the-Hill

SETTING ZONE A: NEEDWOOD FARMLANDS

Conserve the function of the area as a rural uncluttered backdrop by avoiding the introduction of development proposals which would disrupt the patchwork field pattern in views towards the AONB.

The ZTV output indicates pockets of visibility at Drinton, Lea Heath, Newton and land to the south of Hixon, where all proposed developments would be theoretically visible from this location (refer to Figure 4.58).



SETTING ZONE I: STAFFORD CENTRE AND FARMLAND FRINGE

Monitor development proposals to retain views towards a largely undeveloped skyline to enhance the gateway approach to the AONB from this location. Views should be retained towards the characteristic wooded plateau of the AONB, ensuring development proposals do not disrupt the skyline.

The ZTV output indicates that all development proposals on sections of Brocton Road would be theoretically visible from this location. However, development proposals within Milford would need to reach a height of at least 10 m to be perceptible. Proposed developments to the south of Brocton Lodge would be partially screened by intervening vegetation at Cressel Wood but would be visible if constructed to a height of at least 25 m. (refer to Figure 4.59).

Chapter 5: Spatial Guide



Heathland land use to the north of Pye Green

Chapter 5

Spatial Guide

Management principles have been prepared to help ensure that the AONB and its wider setting are managed and developed in a way that conserves and enhances significance and special qualities. This section adopts a spatial strategy, involving the subdivision of the landscape forming the 10km study area into ten 'setting zones' (see **Figure 5.1**). The extents of these 'setting zones' have been derived largely from the LCT boundaries included within the published landscape character assessment for the AONB¹⁸. The ten 'setting zones' are listed below:

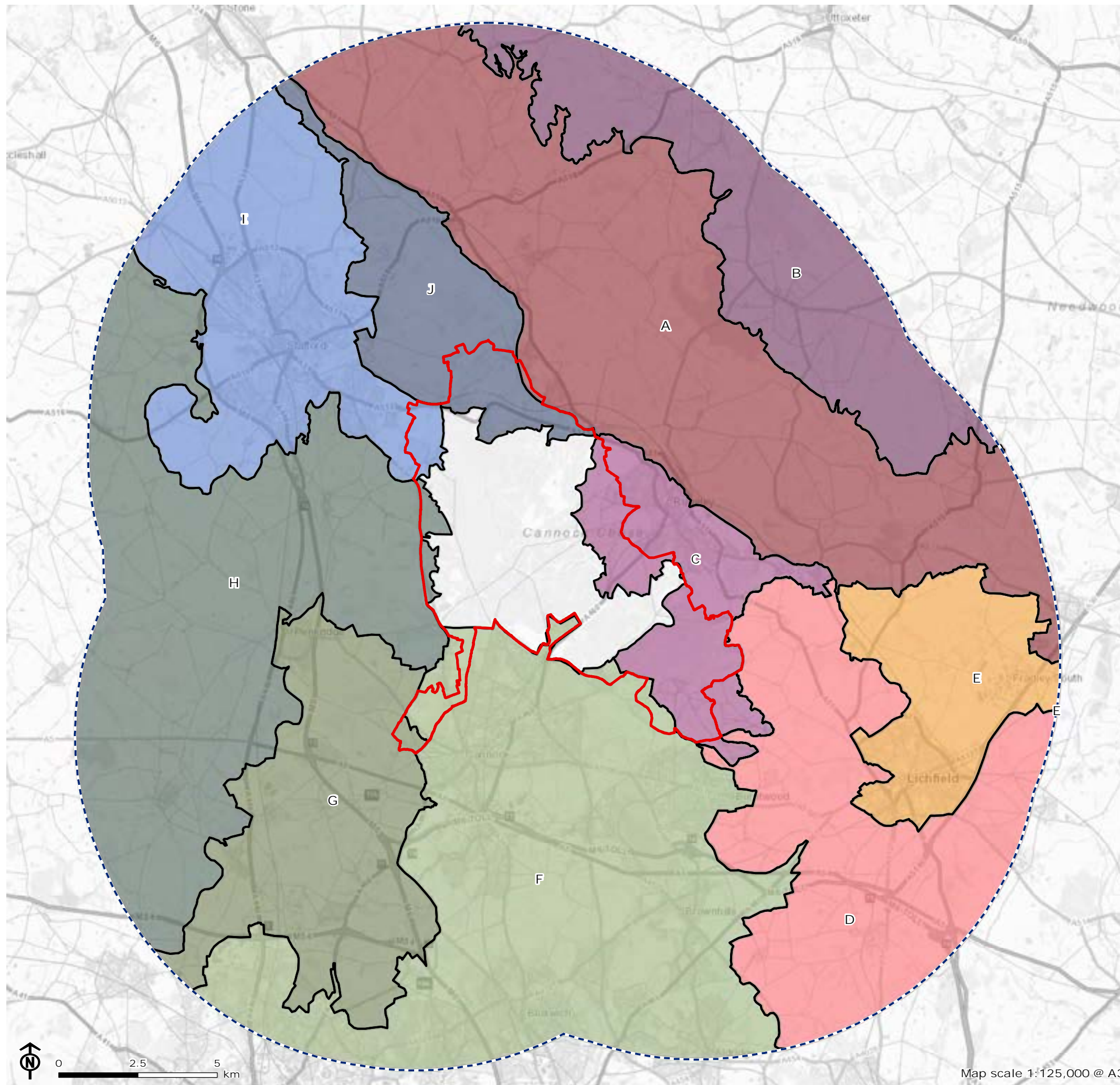
- Setting Zone A: Needwood Farmlands;
- Setting Zone B: East Staffordshire Wooded Plateau;
- Setting Zone C: Rugeley Heathland Edge;
- Setting Zone D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands;
- Setting Zone E: Lichfield Centre and Heathland Fringe;
- Setting Zone F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields;
- Setting Zone G: West Cannock Settled Heathlands;
- Setting Zone H: Staffordshire Plain;
- Setting Zone I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe; and
- Setting Zone J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands.

This guide should be read in conjunction with the AONB Design Guide².



Habitat mosaics (coniferous woodland, rough grassland and pasture)

Figure 5.1: Setting Zone Boundaries



- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Cannock Chase AONB - 10km buffer
- Setting Zone
- A: Needwood Farmlands
 - B: East Staffordshire Wooded Plateau
 - C: Rugeley Heathland Edge
 - D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands
 - E: Lichfield Centre and Heathland Fringe
 - F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields
 - G: West Cannock Settled Heathlands
 - H: Staffordshire Plain
 - I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe
 - J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands

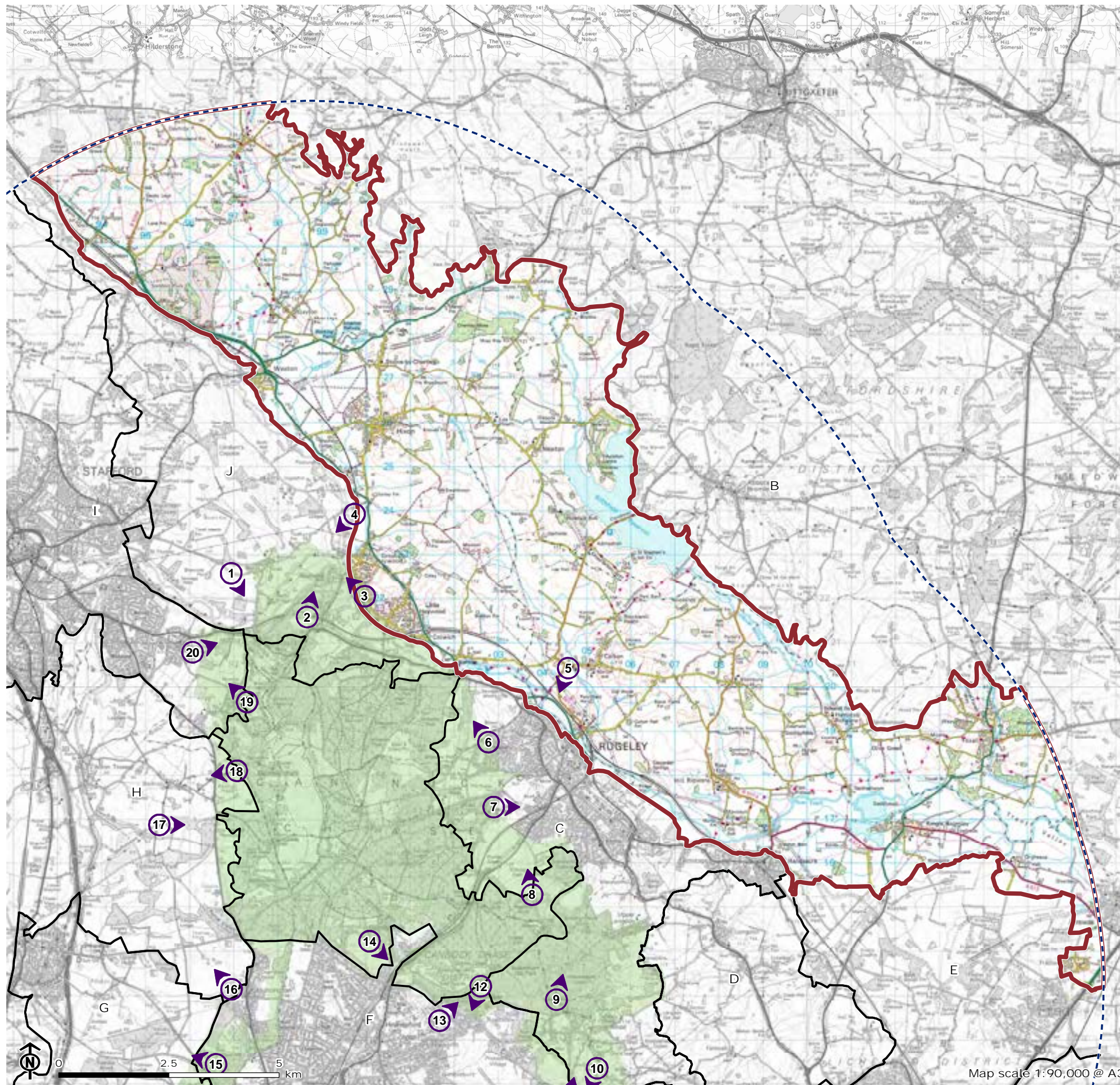


Map scale 1:125,000 @ A3

**Setting Zone A:
Needwood
Farmlands**

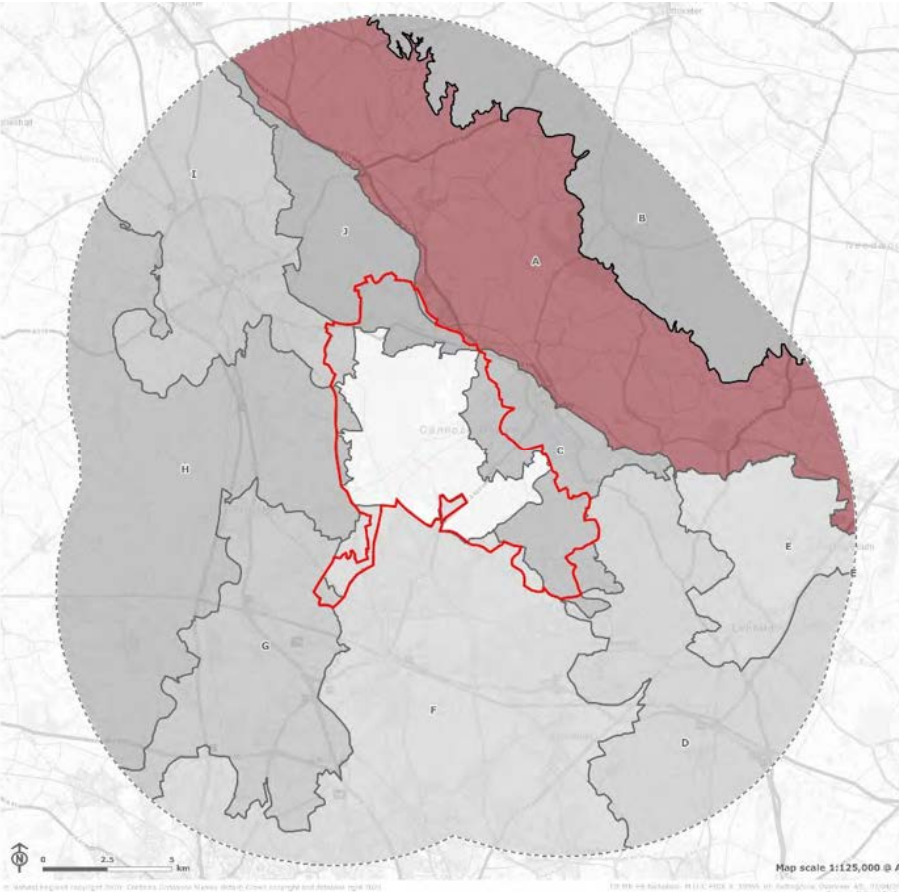


Figure 5.2: Needwood Farmlands Setting Zone



- Viewpoint
- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Cannock Chase AONB - 10km buffer
- Setting Zone
- A: Needwood Farmlands

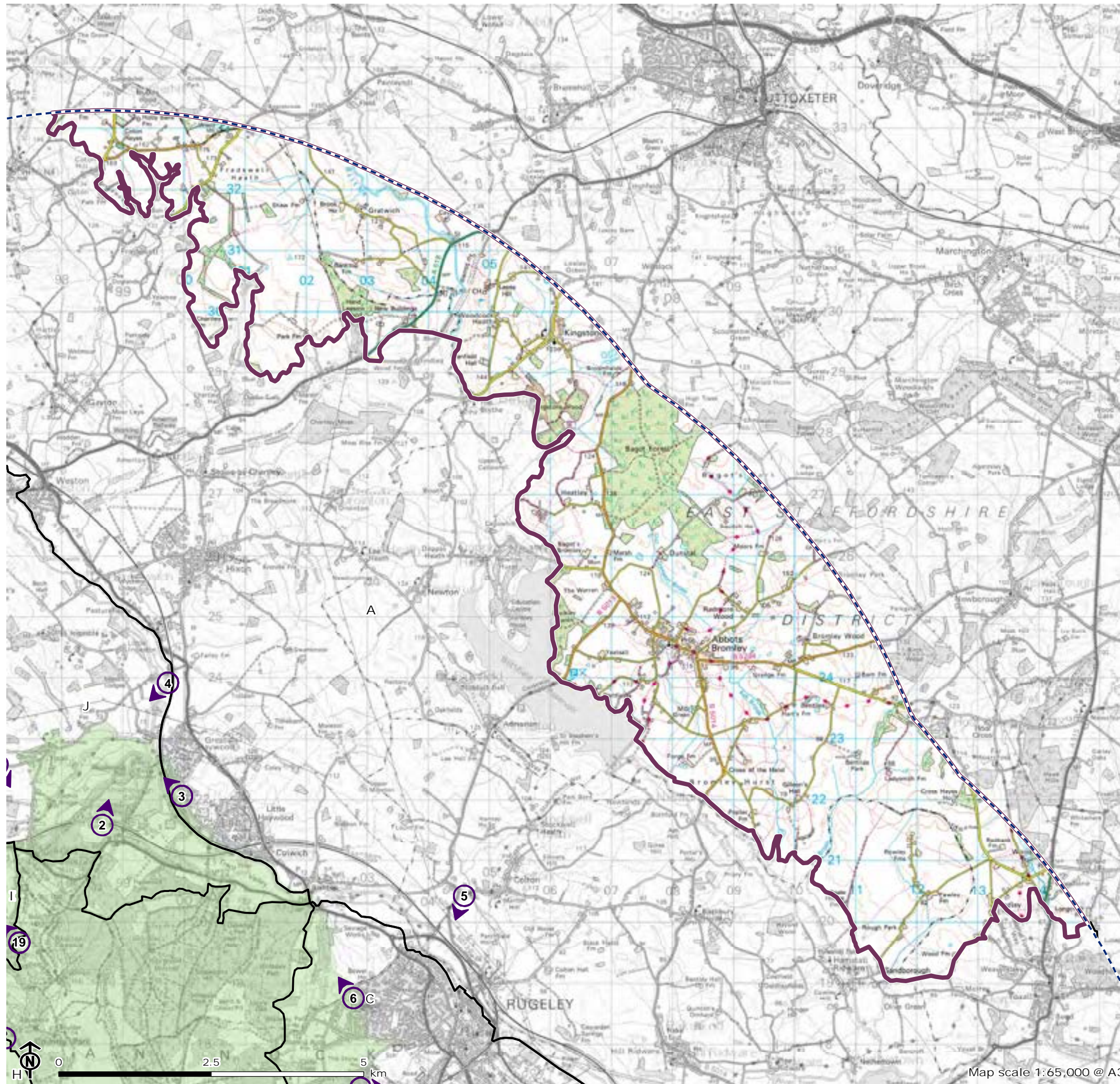
Table 5.1: Setting Zone A: Spatial Guide

Setting Zone A: Needwood Farmlands	LCTs encompassed within Setting Zone A: Needwood Farmlands	Geographical location
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Settled Farmlands LCT;</i> • <i>River Meadowlands LCT;</i> and • <i>Lowland Village Farmlands LCT.</i> 	<p>Comprising a belt of land forming the transition between the valley floor of the River Trent and the wooded ridge line of Needwood Forest, the area is characterised by a patchwork of gently rolling agricultural fields with a clustered settlement pattern.</p>
	<p>Issues / Threats to the AONB</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion of built character and incremental suburbanisation within the larger villages such as Hixon, Little Haywood and Great Haywood - including changes to the distinctive clustered settlement pattern which would be visible in views from higher ground within the AONB. • Small scale incremental change in the landscape, such as disruption of the well-defined field patterns, which would alter views towards the patchwork landscape from the AONB. • Introduction of severance and intrusion associated with the construction and operation of HS2, including the presence of cuttings (Moreton, Blithbury and Stockwell Heath) and embankments (Trent South, Moreton North, Pipe Ridware and Stockwell Heath). The scheme will result in localised changes to existing undulating landscape character, the loss of field boundary vegetation and the disruption of views towards the AONB. • Pressure to develop agricultural land for housing close to existing village settlements including the potential expansion of the urban area of Rugeley. • Land at Hixon Airfield is subject to garden settlement proposals, as advised by Stafford BC. • The landscape around Colton has been recently subject to development proposals for a large solar Photo Voltaic (PV) farm. • The close relationship between Little Haywood and Great Haywood with the AONB boundary is described as a 'Sensitive Edge' within the AONB Design Guide. 	
<p>Management Guidelines (relating to views in and out of Cannock Chase AONB)</p>		
<p>Views from the AONB</p>		
<p>Representative Viewpoints 2, 7, 8 and 9 – Refer to Chapter 4: Viewpoint Specific Guide</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the function of the area as a predominantly rural uncluttered backdrop by retaining views to the patchwork field pattern in views from the AONB. The ZTV output for Representative Viewpoint 9 demonstrates the role Setting Zone A plays in providing an agricultural backdrop in views from Castle Ring, where pockets of visibility are afforded towards Colton and Stockwell Heath. • Monitor development proposals with the overall objective of maintaining the existing small scale settlement pattern at Great Haywood and Little Haywood in views from the AONB. The strong estate character of the villages due to the associations with the Shugborough Estate should also be conserved. Ensure that proposed developments do not disrupt views towards the background view, including views to the wider wooded ridge line of Needwood Claylands. The ZTV output for Representative Viewpoint 2 indicates that all proposed development within sections of Great Haywood, Little Haywood, Hixon, Gayton, Stowe-by-Chartley, Drointon, Lea Heath and Newton would be theoretically visible from the Shugborough Estate. The use of vernacular building styles / materials for new development within the landscape of the setting zone should therefore be promoted, where appropriate. Explore opportunities to enhance tree cover and reinstate hedgerow boundaries to soften stark settlement edges around in views from the AONB. This is especially relevant to the north and east of Rugeley. Landscape schemes associated with development proposals should also consider opportunities for the mitigation of view interruption as well as the creation of framed vistas where possible. With the exception of shadow effects in the ZTV output associated with Rugeley Power Station and the settlements of Great Haywood, Little Haywood and Rugeley; proposed developments 25 m in height or above within Setting Zone A would be theoretically visible from Representative Viewpoint 8. • Seek to retain views and provide a visual link from the AONB to the undeveloped ridge line occupying the remnants of Needwood Forest (Setting Zone B). 		
<p>Views towards the AONB</p>		
<p>Representative Viewpoints 3, 4 and 5 – Refer to Chapter 4: Viewpoint Specific Guide</p>		
<p>Contribution to the significance of Cannock Chase AONB</p> <p>The characteristic farmland vales and patchwork landscape of this setting zone provide the rural backdrop in views from the high ground of the eastern flank of the AONB, contributing to its tranquil character. The setting zone plays an important role in maintaining long distance views to the wooded ridge line associated with the Needwood Claylands (Setting Zone B) in views from the AONB.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the effect of proposed tall development within Rugeley and the surrounding urban edge to avoid the disruption of views towards the characteristic wooded plateau of the AONB. Despite the relatively low-lying nature of the landform at the settlement edge, proposed built form within Rugeley would need to reach a height of at least 10 m to be theoretically visible in views towards the AONB from Representative Viewpoint 4. • Ensure the visual integration of infrastructure features associated with HS2 through the introduction of landscape mitigation proposals, avoiding any detrimental effects on views towards the AONB itself. Maintain views towards Shugborough Estate as a key heritage asset which forms a distinctive and characteristic feature of the adjoining Setting Zone J. 	

**Setting Zone B:
East Staffordshire
Wooded Plateau**



Figure 5.3: East Staffordshire Wooded Plateau Setting Zone








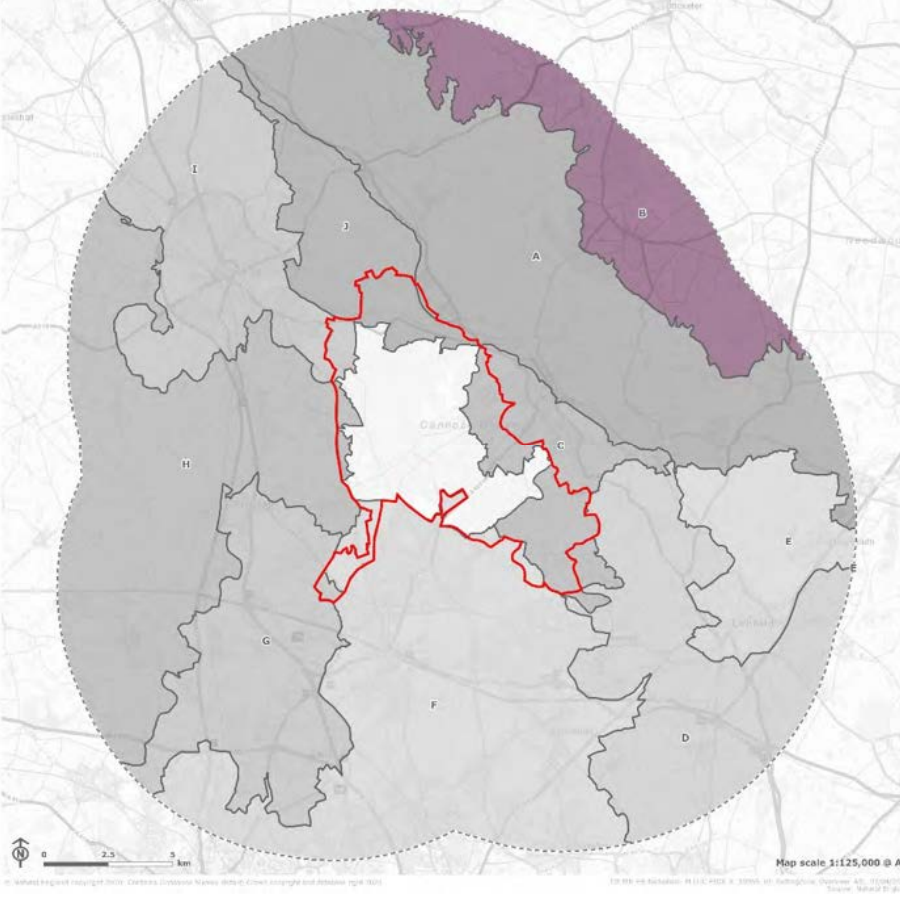
-  Viewpoint
-  Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Cannock Chase AONB - 10km buffer
-  Setting Zone
-  B: East Staffordshire Wooded Plateau

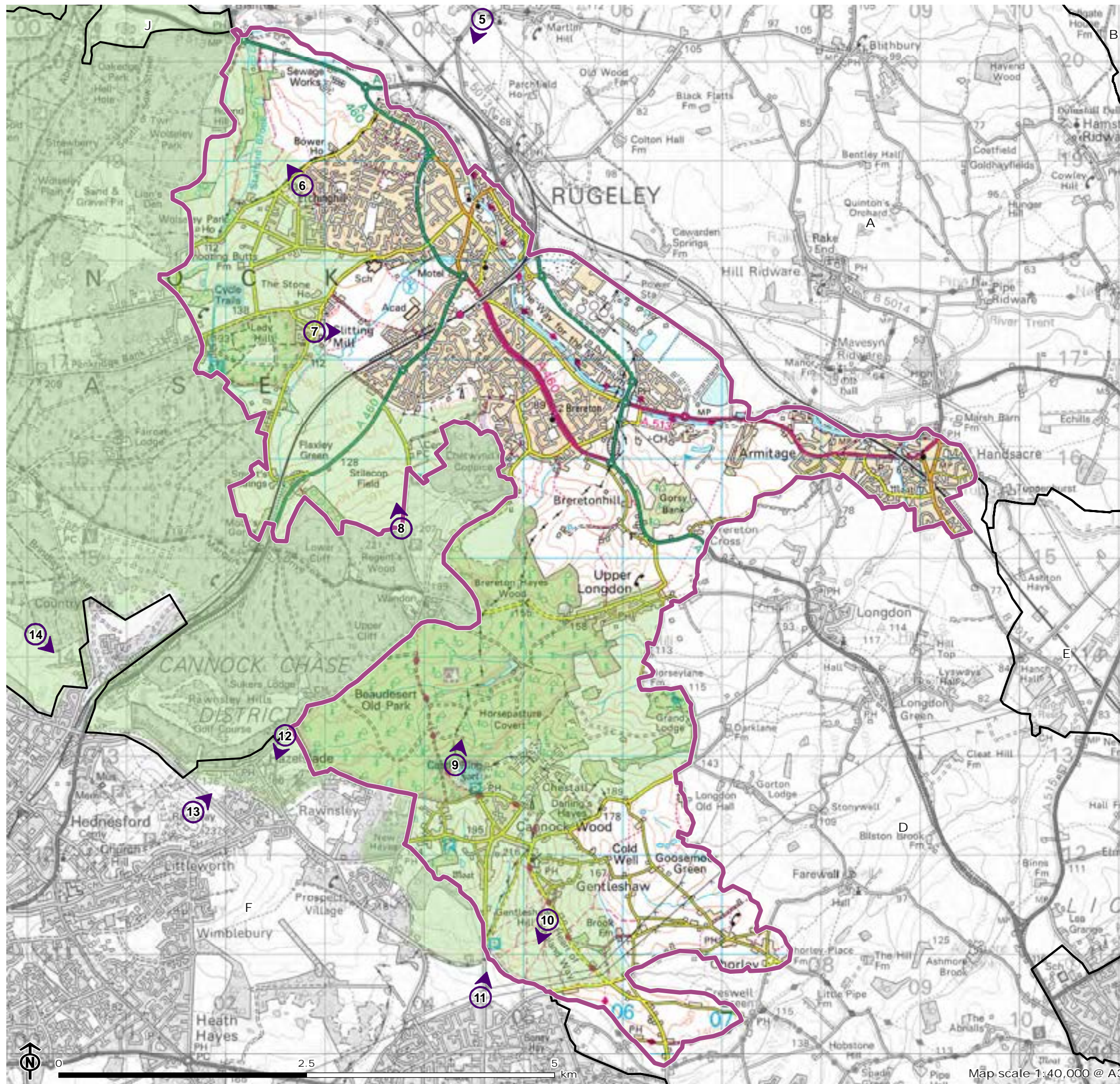
Table 5.2: Setting Zone B: Spatial Guide

Setting Zone B: East Staffordshire Wooded Plateau	LCTs encompassed within Setting Zone B: East Staffordshire Wooded Plateau	Geographical location
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Settled Plateau Farmlands LCT;</i> • <i>Settled Farmlands LCT;</i> • <i>River Meadowlands LCT;</i> • <i>Wooded Estatelands LCT;</i> and • Land classified as <i>Urban</i>. 	<p>The setting zone is characterised by a wooded ridge line associated with the Needwood Claylands, located primarily within East Staffordshire District and forming a remnant of the former Needwood Forest. The village of Abbots Bromley forms the largest settlement in the setting zone, centred on the B5014.</p>
	<p>Issues / Threats to the AONB</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption to the setting of the AONB due to proposed developments that would protrude above and interrupt the wooded skyline forming the background of views from the AONB. • The introduction of built form within the landscape which would change the composition and character of westerly views towards the AONB. Existing views towards the AONB from Setting Zone B are currently characterised by the intervening agricultural landscape and river valley landform of Setting Zone A. 	
<p>Management Guidelines (relating to views in and out of Cannock Chase AONB)</p>		
<p>Views from the AONB</p>		
<p>Representative Viewpoints 2, 7, 8 and 9 – Refer to Chapter 4: Viewpoint Specific Guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid proposed developments that would be visible against the skyline and disrupt views of the wooded ridgeline associated with the Needwood Claylands in views from the AONB. The ZTV output for Representative Viewpoint 2 indicates the availability of long distance views to Setting Zone B. With the exception of pockets to the north of the A518 and Fradswell, all proposed developments at the northern extent of the setting zone would be theoretically visible from this location. 		
<p>Contribution to the significance of Cannock Chase AONB</p>	<p>Views towards the AONB</p>	
<p>The ridge line comprising this setting zone provides a distinctive wooded backdrop in views from the AONB, visible beyond the valley landscape of the River Trent and intervening farmland vales of Setting Zone A. The setting zone offers high intervisibility with the elevated plateau of the AONB.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the appearance of the AONB as a wooded backdrop and domed plateau in long range views from the setting zone. • Ensure that the intervening agricultural patchwork of Setting Zone A and the valley landscapes of the Trent and Sow continue to appear as distinct landscapes within long range views towards the AONB. • Avoid proposed development which would detract from the distinct valley of the River Trent and appear incongruous with the associated low-lying topography of the middle-ground. 	

**Setting Zone C:
Rugeley Heathland
Edge**

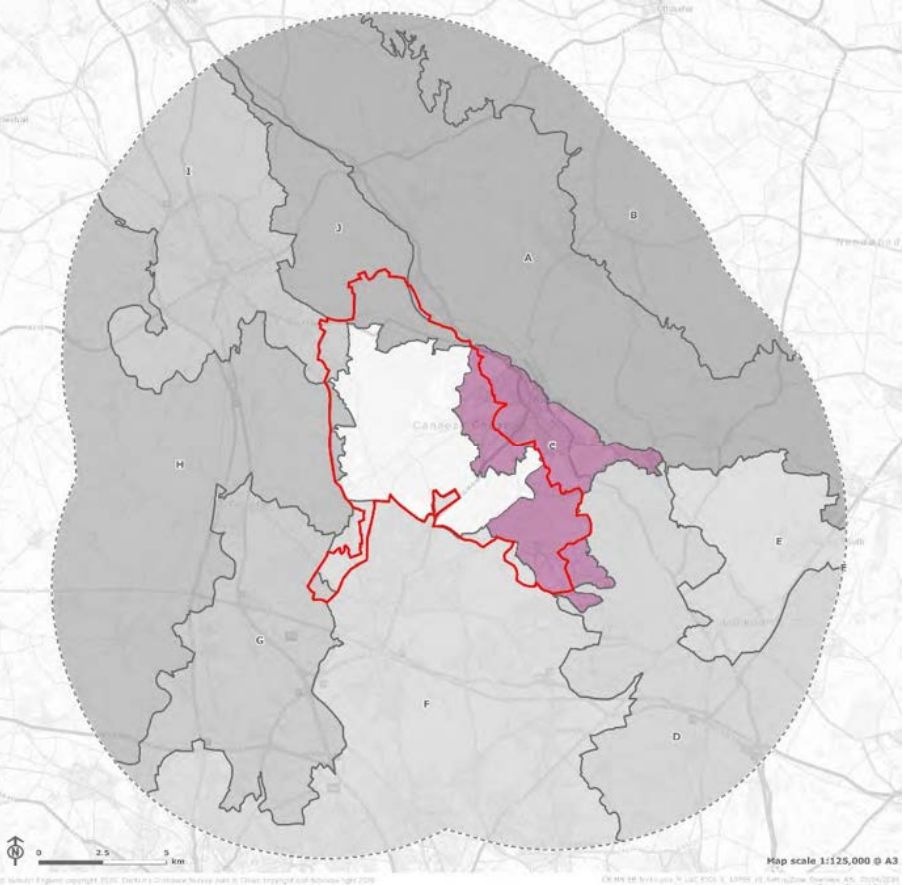


Figure 5.4: Rugeley Heathland Edge Setting Zone



- Viewpoint
- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Cannock Chase AONB - 10km buffer
- Setting Zone
- C: Rugeley Heathland Edge

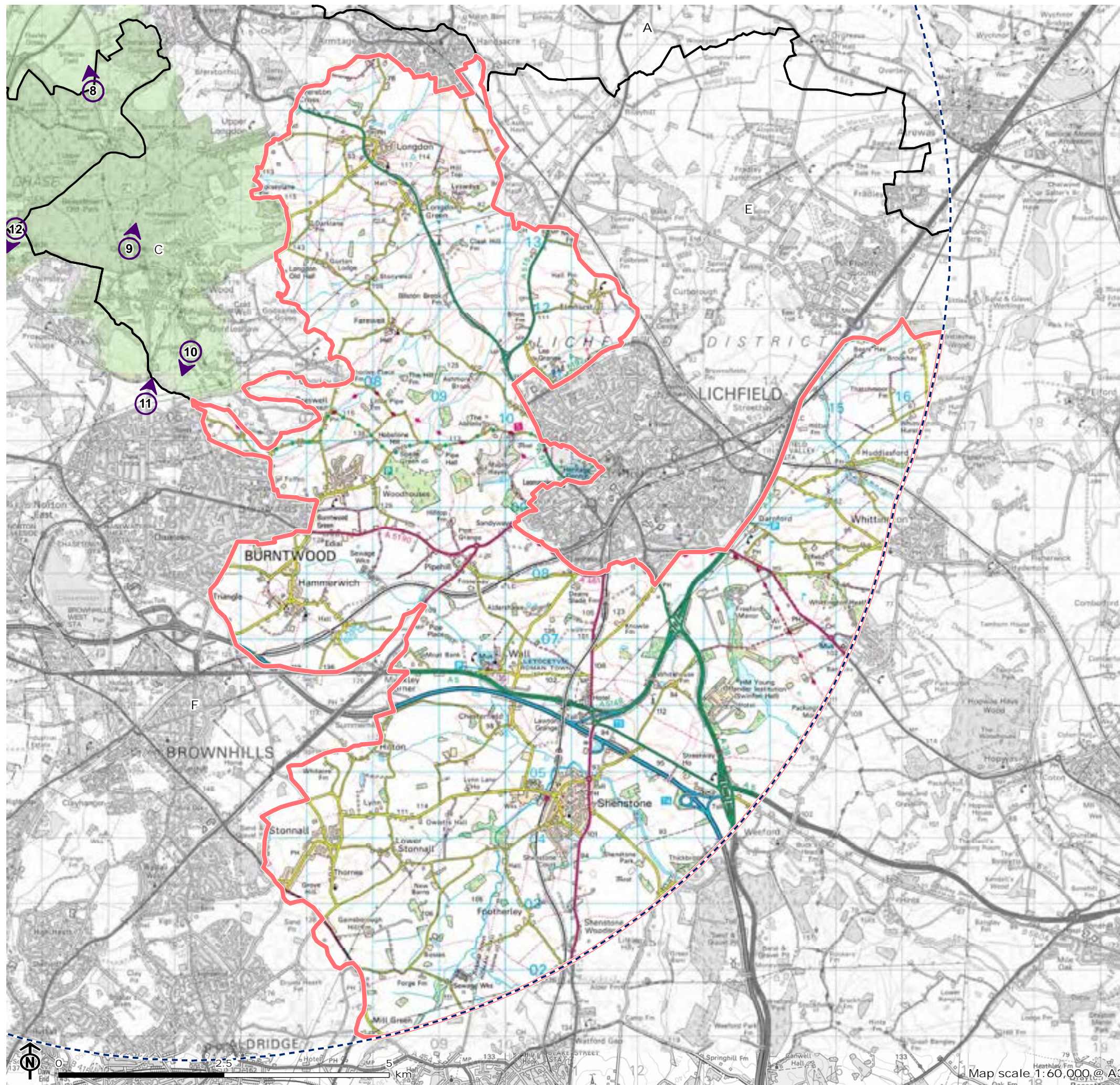
Table 5.3: Setting Zone C: Spatial Guide

Setting Zone C: Rugeley Heathland Edge	LCTs encompassed within Setting Zone C: Rugeley Heathland Edge	Geographical location
 <p>The map shows the Cannock Chase AONB boundary as a dashed line. Setting Zone C is highlighted in a light purple color, covering the eastern fringes of the AONB and the wider urban setting of Rugeley. The map includes a scale bar (0 to 5 km) and a north arrow.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandstone Hills and Heaths LCT; • Settled Heathlands LCT / Forest Heathlands LCT; • Settled Farmlands LCT / Settled Plateau Farmlands LCT; and • Land classified as <i>Urban</i>. 	<p>The setting zone encompasses the eastern fringes of the AONB and the wider urban setting of Rugeley. The landscape to the south east of the setting zone incorporates the historic wooded character of Beaudesert Old Park and the heathland setting of Gentleshaw Common.</p>
	Issues / Threats to the AONB	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrusive new development associated with the urban context of Rugeley, including residential pressures at the settlement edge. • Redevelopment of the Rugeley Power Station site. An application for residential dwellings, employment land, mixed use development and ground mounted solar panels was approved by Cannock Chase District Council in January 2020. • Proposed developments that affect views towards the iconic heathland habitat, particularly to the south east of the setting zone where heathland edge plays a role in separating the AONB from the settlement edge of Burntwood. • Residential development pressures on land at Slitting Mill, west of Rugeley. These issues are also prevalent within the corridor of land lying to the south of Cannock Wood and north of Burntwood. • The western extent and south western fringes of the area lie within the boundary of the AONB itself, resulting in a degree of protection from adverse change. • Potential light pollution at the eastern fringes of the AONB due to the proximity of the high density settlement edge of Rugeley. • Indirect effects on landscape character due to the proximity of construction activity associated with HS2, passing to the north east of Rugeley. Land to the north of Etchinghill as well as the area where Slitting Mill adjoins the AONB boundary are described as ‘Sensitive Edges’ within the AONB Design Guide. 	
Management Guidelines (relating to views in and out of Cannock Chase AONB)		
Views from the AONB		
Representative Viewpoints 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 – Refer to Chapter 4: Viewpoint Specific Guide		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain views towards the undeveloped heathland and wider wooded plateau which provides a contrast with the stark settlement edge around Brownhills, Rugeley and Etchinghill. • Retain and encourage the positive management of trees and woodlands to mitigate the impact of new developments on the settlement edges of Slitting Mill, Chase Terrace, Burntwood, Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw. The intervisibility afforded from the AONB towards settlements such as Prospect Village and Rawnsley dictate that proposed developments within these settlements should also be monitored. Existing vegetation should also be retained to ensure a strong buffer between urban development and the AONB (reference should be made to the analysis and ‘special characteristics’ of the Informal Settlement Type as detailed within the Cannock Chase AONB Design Guide when considering development proposals within Cannock Wood, Gentleshaw, Etchinghill, Slitting Mill and Upper Longdon). With the exception of the area around Burnt Hill in Rugeley where proposed developments would need to reach a height of 10 m or above to be visible from this location, the ZTV output for Representative Viewpoint 8 illustrates that all development proposals within Slitting Mill and the western fringes of Rugeley would be theoretically visible from Stile Cop Field. • Ensure proposed development would not protrude above intervening vegetation, avoiding the creation of a continuous developed backdrop from views within the AONB. This is particularly relevant to the site of the former Rugeley Station where the ZTV output for Representative Viewpoint 9 indicates that proposed developments at this site would be theoretically visible from Castle Ring. Emphasis should be placed on the importance of non-reflective material selection to ensure an appropriate palette of colours are specified due to the role the site plays in forming the wider setting to the AONB. 		
Contribution to the significance of Cannock Chase AONB		
<p>The Setting zone forms the gateway to the heathland setting of the AONB from the urban contexts of Burntwood, Cannock Wood and Rugeley. Dramatic views are afforded from the settlement edge towards the iconic lowland heathlands which forms a key feature of the AONB. The availability of these panoramic views contrast with the enclosed woodlands and small valleys within the western extent of Setting Zone C which drain to the lowland areas to the west / south. The setting zone also demonstrates the local geology and the characteristic raised plateau landform of the AONB, which contrasts with Rugeley and its low-lying eastern fringes.</p>	Views towards the AONB	
Representative Viewpoints 1, 5, 11 and 13 – Refer to Chapter 4: Viewpoint Specific Guide		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid urban encroachment at the settlement edges of Cannock Wood, Hednesford and Rugeley to enhance the role of the areas as key approaches and gateways to the AONB from the surrounding urban context. Conserve the woodland belts and heathland which frame the view towards the AONB. The ZTV output for Representative Viewpoint 11 demonstrates the availability of panoramic views across the heathland context of the AONB’s southern fringes. Evaluate development proposals within Rugeley, Etchinghill, Brereton and Cannock Wood to assess the potential impact of light pollution on the visual and perceptual qualities of the AONB. • Due to the intervisibility afforded between Rugeley and Setting Zones A, B and J; monitor development proposals to ensure built form does not protrude above existing vegetation and detract from the setting of the AONB. • Encourage the adoption of vernacular building styles / materials when considering new development proposals and avoid the creation of additional visual clutter which would disrupt the gateway approaches to the AONB from Hazelslade, Rawnsley and Cannock Wood. 		

**Setting Zone D:
East Cannock
Settled Farmlands**



Figure 5.5: East Cannock Settled Farmlands Setting Zone








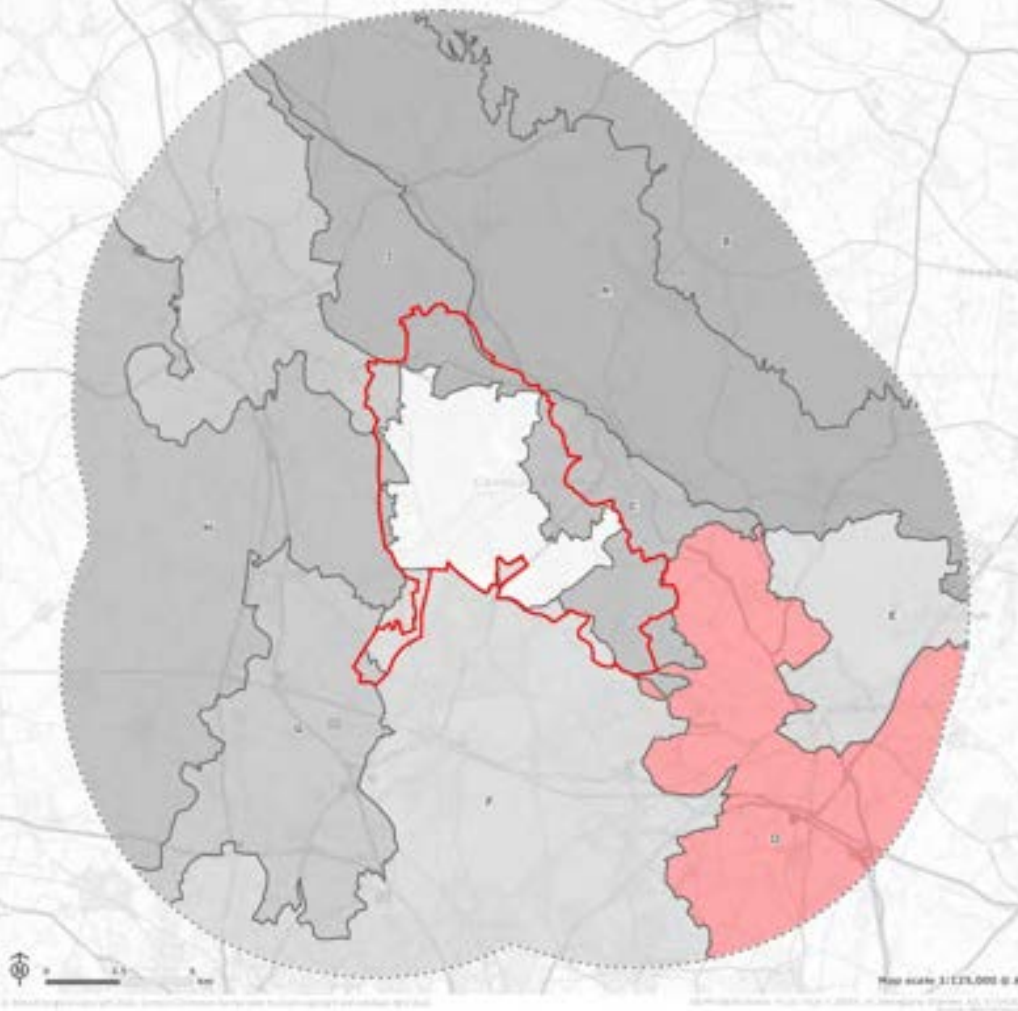
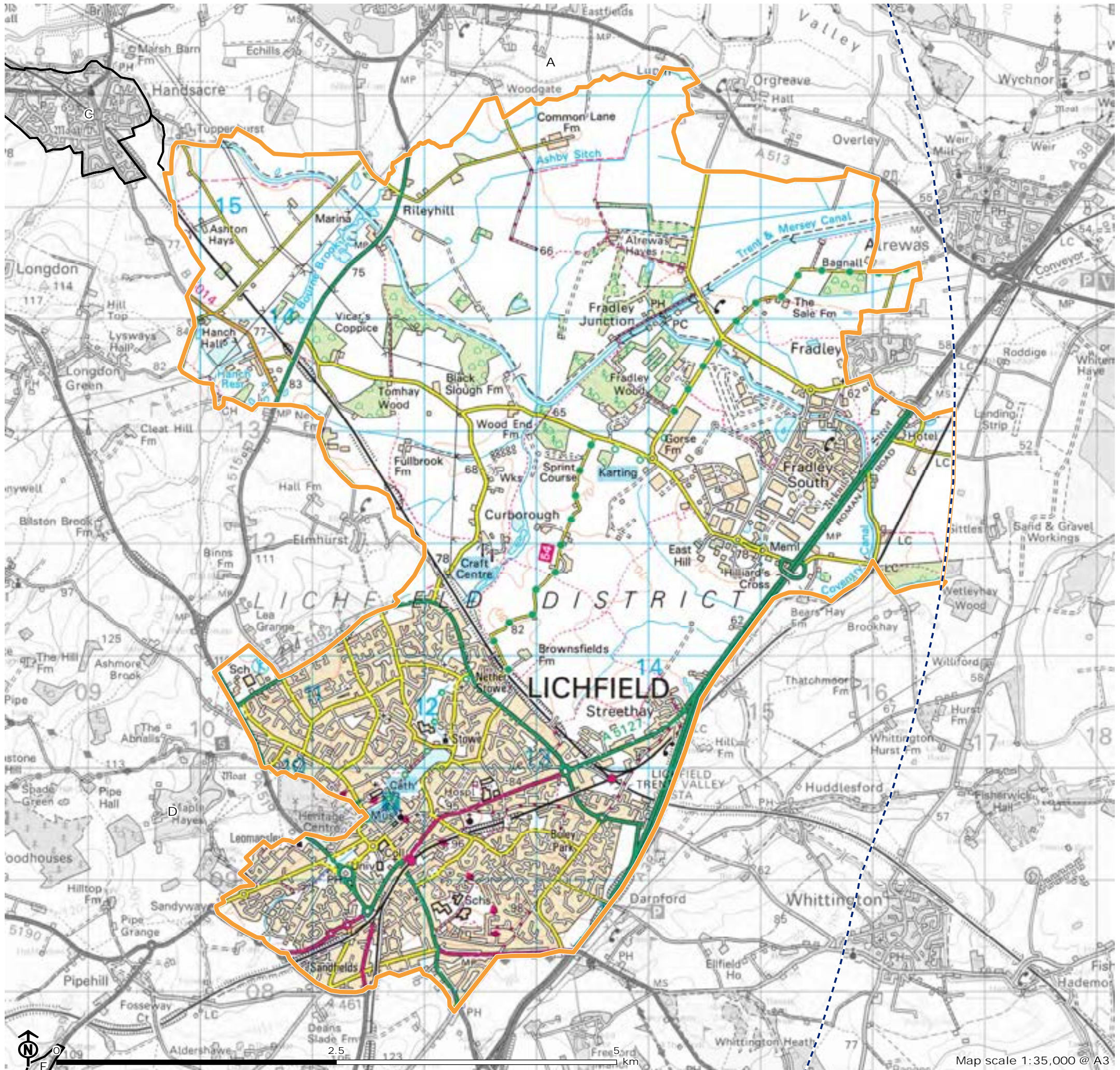
-  Viewpoint
-  Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Cannock Chase AONB - 10km buffer
-  Setting Zone
-  D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands

Table 5.4: Setting Zone D: Spatial Guide

Setting Zone D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands	LCTs encompassed within Setting Zone D: East Cannock Settled Farmlands	Geographical location
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sandstone Estatelands LCT</i>; • <i>Settled Farmlands LCT</i>; and • Land classified as <i>Urban</i>. 	<p>The setting zone encompasses the heathland fringe and agricultural landscape dividing the settlements of Rugeley, Burntwood and Lichfield. Major infrastructure corridors; including the A5, A38, A51 and M6 Toll, dissect the landscape of the setting zone, offering wider connections between these settlements.</p>
	<p>Issues / Threats to the AONB</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incremental extension of the settlement edges of Burntwood and Lichfield resulting in the perception of settlement coalescence in views and the appearance of a continuous urban skyline in views from the AONB. • Urbanisation of agricultural land parallel the major infrastructure corridors which dissect the setting zone, resulting in changes to the composition of views from the AONB. • Changes that affect views towards the iconic habitats of the AONB or disrupt the scale and shape of field patterns due to the proximity of the urban areas of Burntwood and Lichfield. 	
	<p>Management Guidelines (relating to views in and out of Cannock Chase AONB)</p>	
<p>Views from the AONB</p>		
<p>Representative Viewpoint 10 – Refer to Chapter 4: Viewpoint Specific Guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid incremental extension of the settlement edges of Burntwood and Lichfield to ensure that the settlements appear as distinct urban areas within views from the AONB. • Maintain the intervening heathland and agricultural land of Setting Zone D to avoid the development of a continuous urban skyline in views from the AONB. • Ensure that dispersed villages appear as distinct defined settlements in views from the AONB. The ZTV output for Representative Viewpoint 10 indicates that all proposed development within the villages of Stonnall, Shenstone and Hammerwich be theoretically visible from Gentleshaw Common. • Avoid development proposals that will disrupt the dispersed settlement pattern of the setting zone, ensuring the absence of overt impacts on long distance views from the AONB. 		
<p>Contribution to the significance of Cannock Chase AONB</p>	<p>Views towards the AONB</p>	
<p>The setting zone forms a belt of transitional landscape between the urban settings of Cannock, Burntwood and Lichfield. It provides a rural landscape setting preventing the coalescence of settlements in views from the AONB. Views are afforded to the scenic and varied landscape of heathland and woodland which forms a characteristic feature of the AONB.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid urban encroachment at the settlement edges of Burntwood and Cannock Wood to enhance the sense of transition from the urban context of Burntwood to the AONB. 	

**Setting Zone E:
Lichfield Centre
and Heathland
Fringe**





Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Views and Setting Guidance
for Cannock Chase AONB



Figure 5.6: Lichfield Centre and Heathland Fringe Setting Zone






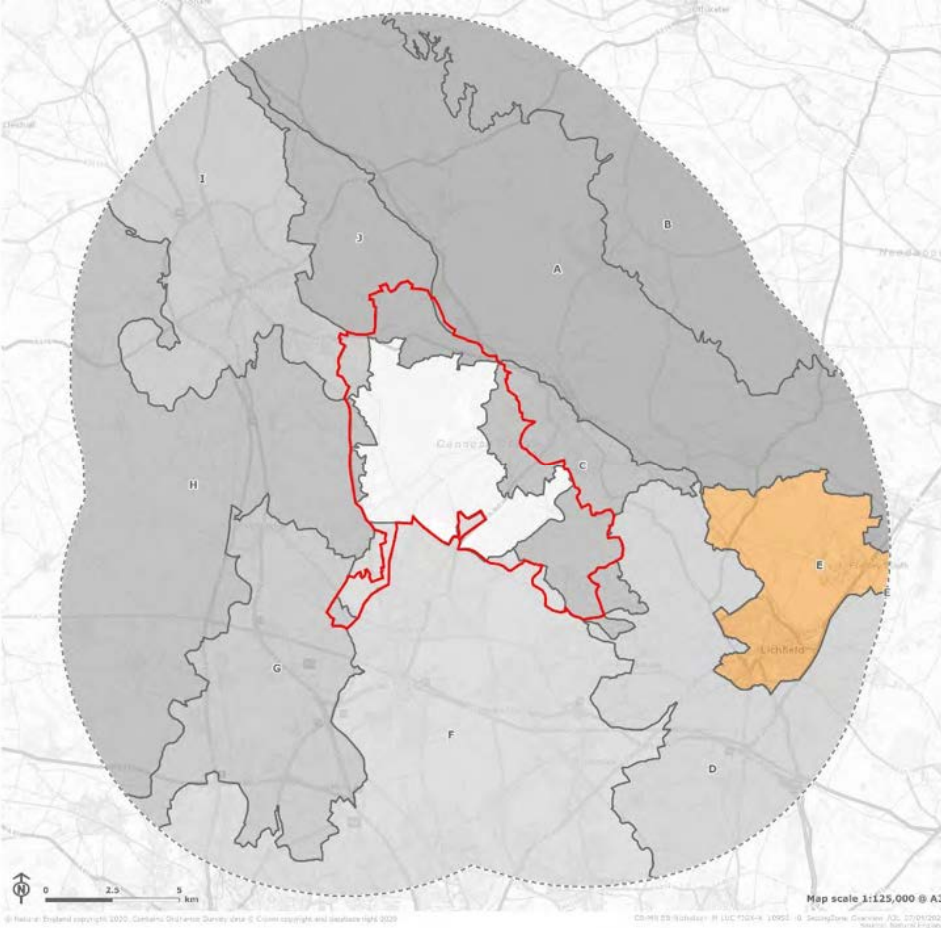
-  Viewpoint
-  Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Cannock Chase AONB - 10km buffer
-  Setting Zone
-  E: Lichfield Centre and Heathland Fringe

Table 5.5: Setting Zone E: Spatial Guide

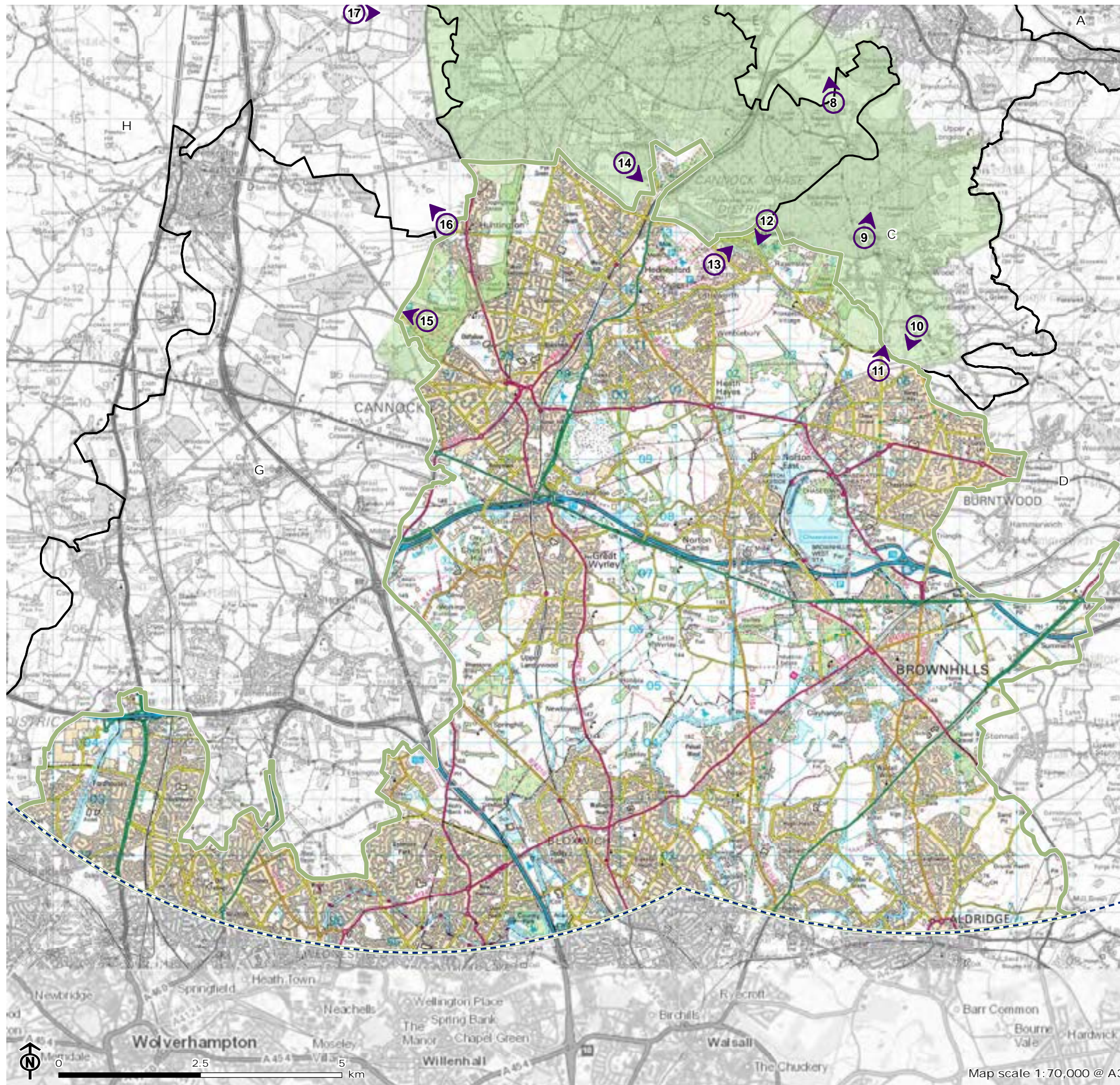
Setting Zone E: Lichfield Centre and Heathland Fringe	LCTs encompassed within Setting Zone E: Lichfield Centre and Heathland Fringe	Geographical location
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Settled Farmlands LCT</i>; • <i>Settled Heathlands LCT</i>; • <i>River Terrace Farmlands LCT</i>; and • Land classified as <i>Urban</i>. 	<p>This setting zone is characterised by the clustered settlement pattern of Lichfield and the predominantly commercial land use at Fradley South. The Coventry Canal runs through the setting zone and merges with the Trent and Mersey Canal at Fradley Junction.</p>
	<p>Issues / Threats to the AONB</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruption of views towards the spires of Lichfield Cathedral, which forms a prominent local landmark within the setting zone. • Construction activity associated with the construction of HS2 (convergence of Phases 1 and 2a at Fradley Junction), including the Pyford Brook viaduct and associated embankments. The introduction of these features will result in severance within the low lying landscape, localised changes to landscape character and the disruption of views towards the AONB. Intrusive new development which disrupts the skyline of Lichfield from long distance views within the AONB. Lying within a shallow bowl, the topography of Lichfield City dictates that views are afforded to the settlement from the surrounding elevated landscape of the AONB. The limited spread of the settlement due to the containment of this landform has resulted in an intact historic skyline, visible from the AONB. • Incremental urbanisation of the northern boundary of Lichfield resulting in a potential settlement coalescence effect whereby Lichfield and Fradley appear as a continuous settlement from views within the AONB. • Land at Curborough within Setting Zone E is currently subject to development proposals for a large urban extension. 	
	<p>Management Guidelines (relating to views in and out of Cannock Chase AONB)</p>	
<p>Views from the AONB</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with the recommendations within the Lichfield City Conservation Area Appraisal²⁸, special care should be taken when considering development proposals to maintain long distance views and intervisibility into Lichfield from the AONB, including unspoilt views to the cathedral, from the higher ground of the AONB. • Avoid new development that would disrupt the historic skyline of Lichfield city centre in long distance views from the AONB. 		
<p>Contribution to the significance of Cannock Chase AONB</p>		
<p>The setting zone offers intervisibility with Lichfield from the AONB, contributing a distinct historic skyline which includes the spires of Lichfield Cathedral.</p>	<p>Views towards the AONB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid development proposals within Lichfield or Fradley that would prejudice the setting of the AONB by obscuring long distance views towards the domed wooded plateau. • Ensure the visual integration of infrastructure features associated with HS2 through the introduction of landscape mitigation proposals, avoiding any detrimental effects on views towards the AONB itself. 	

²⁸ Lichfield District Council (2008) *Lichfield City Conservation Area Appraisal*

**Setting Zone F:
West Midlands and
Staffordshire
Coalfields**



Figure 5.7: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields Setting Zone







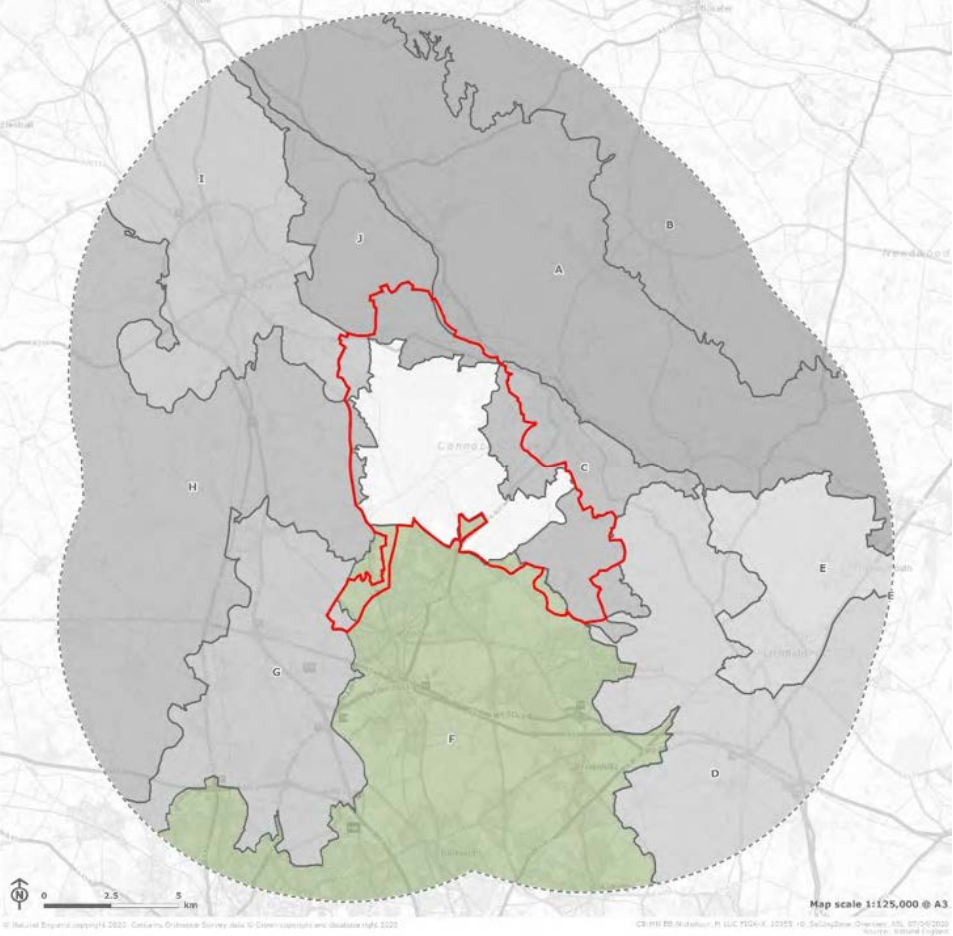
-  Viewpoint
-  Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Cannock Chase AONB - 10km buffer Setting Zone
-  F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields

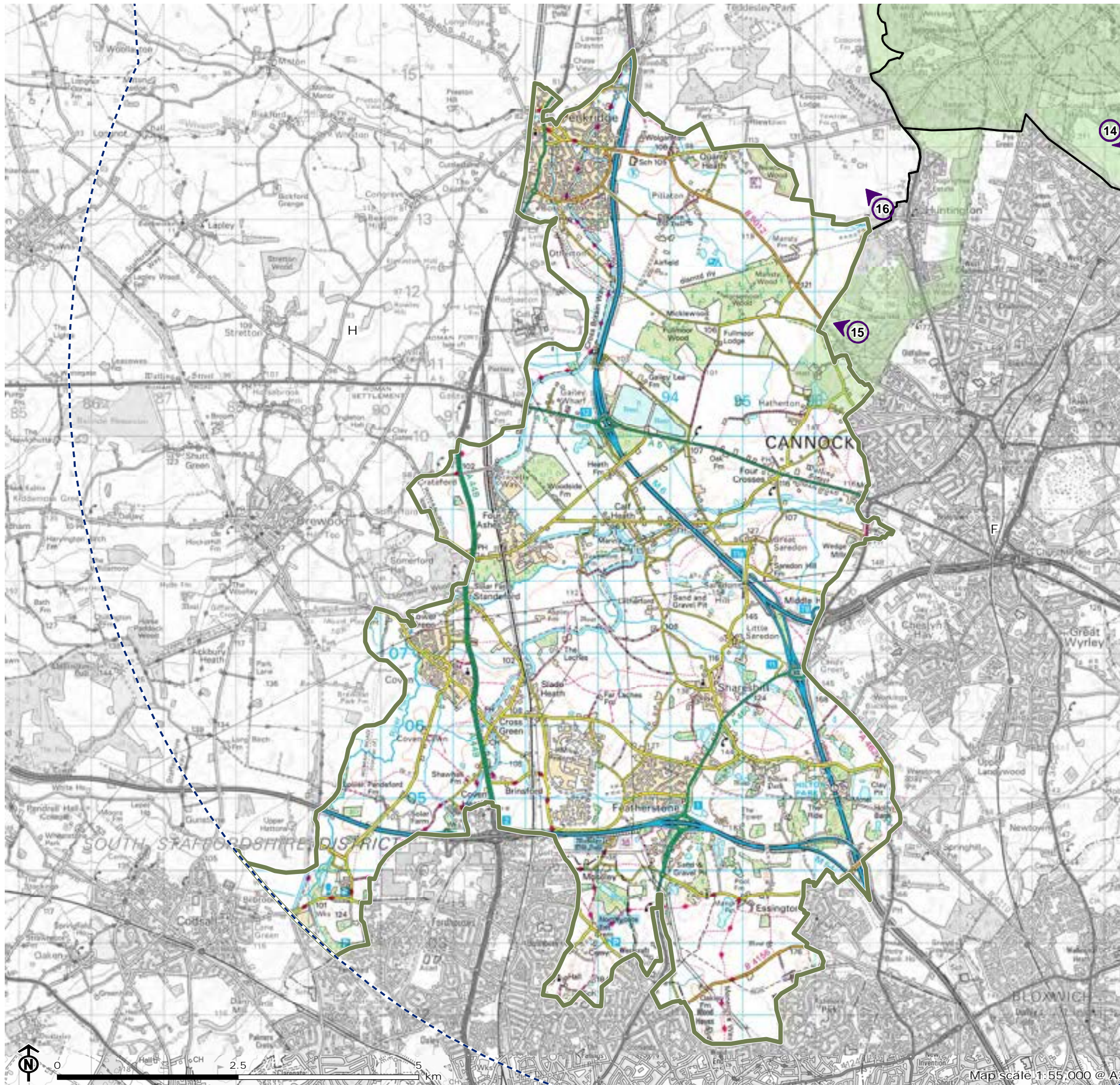
Table 5.6: Setting Zone F: Spatial Guide

Setting Zone F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields	LCTs encompassed within Setting Zone F: West Midlands and Staffordshire Coalfields	Geographical location
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Settled Heathlands LCT;</i> • <i>Sandstone Hills and Heaths;</i> • <i>Coalfield Farmlands;</i> • <i>Forest Heathlands LCT;</i> and • Land classified as <i>Urban.</i> 	<p>Characterised by the continuous urban area of Cannock, Hednesford and Great Wyrley, the setting zone stretches south towards Wolverhampton and Walsall within the wider West Midlands conurbation. An area of varied settled / industrial landscape of former mining villages and farmland separates these settlements from Burntwood and Brownhills towards the east of the setting zone.</p>
	Issues / Threats to the AONB	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential disruption of views towards the AONB due to encroachment of the urban edges around Cannock, Hednesford and Burntwood. • Intrusive new developments on the settlement edges of Cannock, Hednesford and Burntwood which may affect views towards the AONB, resulting in further suburbanisation of the AONB boundary to the south. • Residential development pressure on the corridor of land at Huntington within the AONB, stretching from Badger's Hills to Shoal Hill. • High levels of intervisibility and visual connections exist between settlements located within the AONB boundary (e.g. Hazelslade) and urban areas outside of the AONB boundary (e.g. Rawnsley). The potential therefore exists for views to and from the AONB to be detrimentally affected by development outside the AONB. • Potential light pollution at the southern fringes of the AONB due to the proximity of the high density settlement edge of Cannock. • Large sections of the northern perimeter of this setting zone are described as a 'Sensitive Edges' within the AONB Design Guide. This includes the area to the north of Chase Terrace as well as land at Cannock Wood Industrial Estate and Cannock Chase Enterprise Centre. The northern extent of Hednesford is also included as well as the western edge of Huntington. 	
	Management Guidelines (relating to views in and out of Cannock Chase AONB)	
Views from the AONB		
Representative Viewpoints 6, 10, 12 and 14 – Refer to Chapter 4: Viewpoint Specific Guide <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forming the immediate setting of the AONB, encourage sensitive integration and reintegration of the settlement edges of Cannock, Hednesford, Huntington, Chase Terrace and Burntwood with the boundary of the AONB. Ensure that proposed developments on the settlement edge do not protrude against the skyline and explore the potential to soften the clear delineation between the settlement edge of Cannock and the adjacent AONB (reference should be made to the analysis and 'special characteristics' of the Mining Villages Settlement Type as detailed within the Cannock Chase AONB Design Guide when considering development proposals within Huntington and Hazelslade). • Avoid proposed development which will exacerbate the stark urban edge in views from the AONB, especially relevant around the settlements of Pye Green and Hednesford. The ZTV output for Representative Viewpoint 12 indicates that proposed developments reaching 10 m in height or above at Cannock Wood Industrial Estate would be theoretically visible from this location. • Due to the availability of views to the urban areas of Brownhills and Burntwood, monitor development within these towns to ensure proposals would not appear incongruous on the skyline in views from the AONB. However, the ZTV output for Representative Viewpoint 12 indicates that proposed developments within Burntwood would need to reach a height of 25 m to be theoretically visible from Hazelslade, located within the boundary of the AONB. 		
Contribution to the significance of Cannock Chase AONB		
<p>The setting zone forms a gateway to the AONB from the south, affording views from Cannock and its surrounding urban context towards the scenic and varied landscape of heathland and woodland which is characteristic of the AONB. The AONB also plays a role in separating the urban area of Cannock, Hednesford and Heath Hayes from Rugeley and Brereton (Setting Zone C) and has a close visual relationship with the adjacent agricultural and former mining landscape.</p>	Views towards the AONB <p>Representative Viewpoints 11 and 13 – Refer to Chapter 4: Viewpoint Specific Guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the high intervisibility with the AONB boundary, enhance the gateway experience and availability of views into the AONB from the northern fringes of Cannock, Hednesford and Huntington. This could be achieved by enhancing the undeveloped character of the landscape at the fringes of the AONB and by integrating proposed built development into its context in terms of scale, form and materials. The ZTV output for Representative Viewpoint 13 demonstrates that all proposed development within Hazelslade, Pye Green and Huntington would be potentially visible from this location. • Development proposals should not obstruct the availability of vistas towards the AONB from long straight roads which are characteristic of the northern extent of the setting zone e.g. Pye Green Road and Hayfield Hill at Chase Terrace. The use of appropriately sited vegetation could help to frame views along these routes into the AONB. • Consider utilising native woodland or heathland habitat at Huntington and Hednesford to enhance existing views and minimise visibility of new development. • Evaluate development proposals within Cannock, Hednesford and Huntington to assess the potential impact of light pollution on the visual and perceptual qualities of the AONB. 	

**Setting Zone G:
West Cannock
Settled Heathlands**



Figure 5.8: West Cannock Settled Heathlands Setting Zone







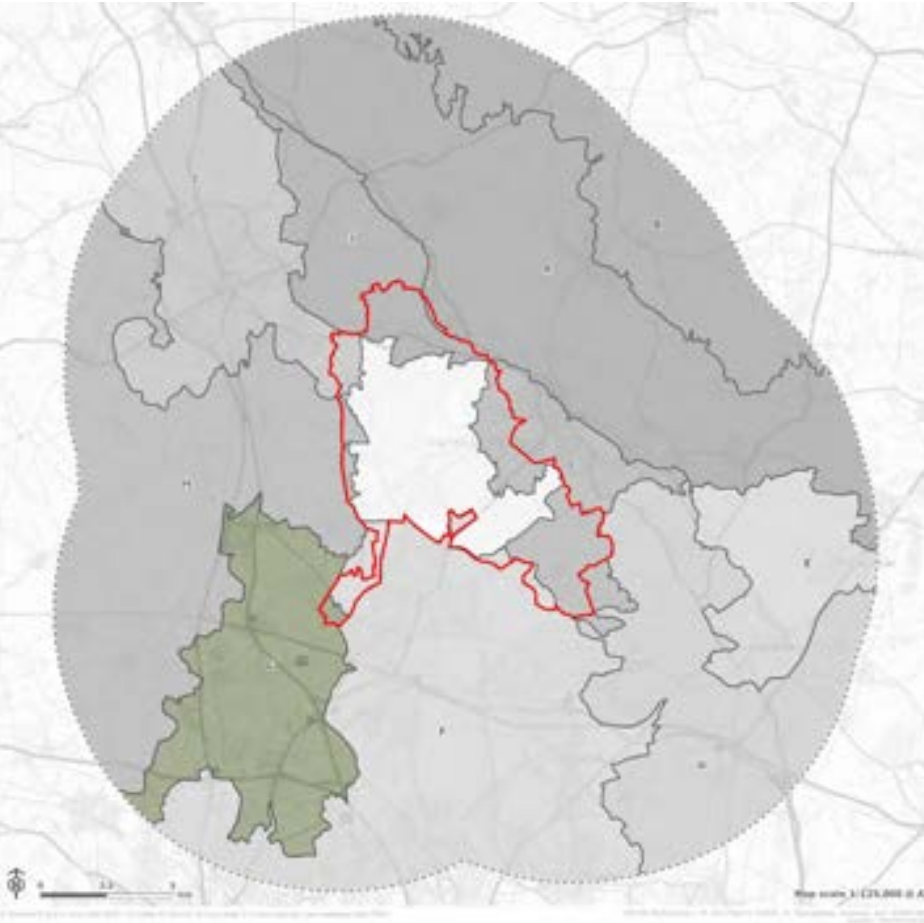
-  Viewpoint
-  Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Cannock Chase AONB - 10km buffer
-  G: West Cannock Settled Heathlands



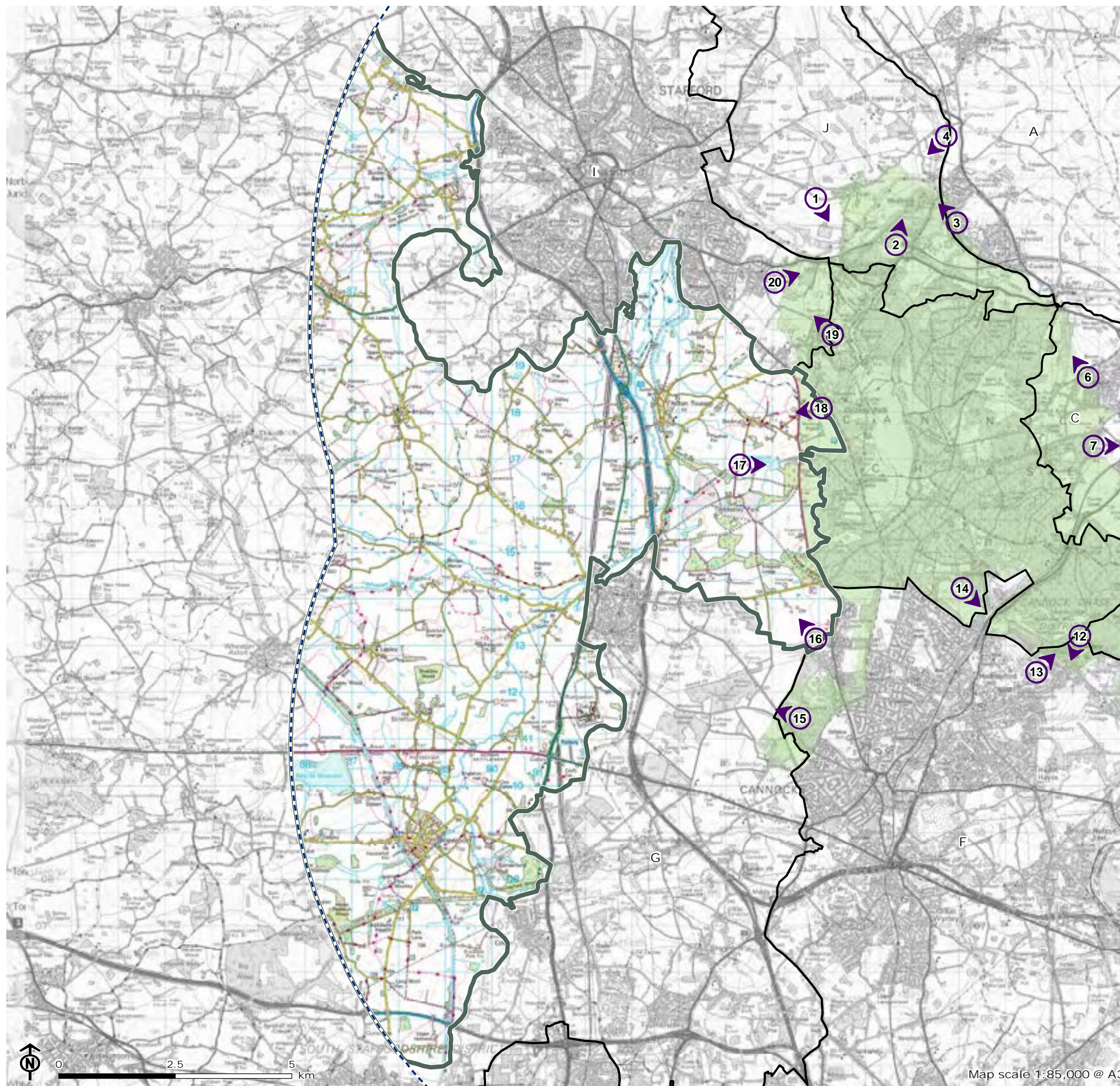
Table 5.7: Setting Zone G: Spatial Guide

Setting Zone G: West Cannock Settled Heathlands	LCTs encompassed within Setting Zone G: West Cannock Settled Heathlands	Geographical location
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Settled Plateau Farmlands LCT;</i> • <i>Settled Farmlands LCT;</i> • <i>Sandstone Estatelands LCT;</i> • <i>Ancient Clay Farmlands LCT;</i> • <i>Sandstone Hills and Heaths LCT;</i> • <i>Settled Heathlands LCT;</i> and • Land classified as <i>Urban</i>. 	<p>Adjoining the wider West Midlands conurbation to the south, the area is characterised by agricultural land use and heathland dissected by a network of major infrastructure corridors.</p>
	<p>Issues / Threats to the AONB</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area is under pressure from commercial and transport development associated with the existing infrastructure corridors of the A5, A449, A460, M6 and M54. • Due to the nature of the landform, large scale tall development associated with road corridors or associated urban influences would potentially disrupt views from the AONB. • Pressures from residential development exist around Penkrige and within the corridor bound to the east by the A449 and to the west by the West Coast Main Line. • The corridor of land running northwards parallel to the M6 from Gailey Wharf at junction 12 of the M6 towards Penkrige is subject to commercial and residential development pressures. A Development Consent Order (DCO) application comprising strategic rail freight infrastructure (West Midlands Interchange) is proposed at junction 12 of the M6, within close proximity to Shoal Hill. • Sustainable urban extensions are being promoted to the north of Wolverhampton and Walsall. 	
	<p>Management Guidelines (relating to views in and out of Cannock Chase AONB)</p>	
<p>Views from the AONB</p>		
<p>Representative Viewpoints 15 and 16 – Refer to Chapter 4: Viewpoint Specific Guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Particular attention should be paid to proposed development adjacent the existing infrastructure corridors which dissect the setting zone. Incongruous bulky developments which would potentially form visual detractors in views from the AONB should be avoided. Due to the low-lying nature of the topography accommodating these routes, the ZTV output for Representative Viewpoint 15 indicates that all development proposals at Pillaton, Gailey Lea Lane and land lying to the east of the M6 at Penkrige would be theoretically visible from Shoal Hill. However, the shadow effect generated by the embankments at Gailey Upper Reservoir dictate that proposed development at junction 12 of the M6 would need to reach a height of 50 m or above to be theoretically visible from this viewpoint. However, this panorama is only representative of views from Shoal Hill and other views would be potentially available from higher elevations. Views towards proposed development less than 50 m in height would therefore be potentially available from alternative locations at Shoal Hill. • Monitor small scale incremental changes in land use which could be intrusive in views from the AONB. This is particularly relevant within villages such as Quarry Heath, Pillaton and Gailey which lie to the east of the M6 due to the visual links afforded from the AONB. Conserve the open views to the south west from the AONB, seeking to minimise the impact of any change in the view composition. Ensure that development does not detract from the rural farmland patchwork setting to the AONB. • Mitigate the impact of any new development on open farmland around the edge of the AONB by encouraging new native broadleaved woodland planting or the restoration of heathland to provide links with the existing vegetation pattern. 		
<p>Contribution to the significance of Cannock Chase AONB</p>		
<p>The setting zone affords inspiring views both to the elevated plateau of the AONB. The continuity of views encompassing intact lowland heathland habitat also forms a key feature of this setting zone.</p>	<p>Views towards the AONB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain views towards the distinctive heathland habitats that characterise the landscape of Setting Zone G and the south western extent of the AONB at Shoal Hill. 	

**Setting Zone H:
Staffordshire Plain**

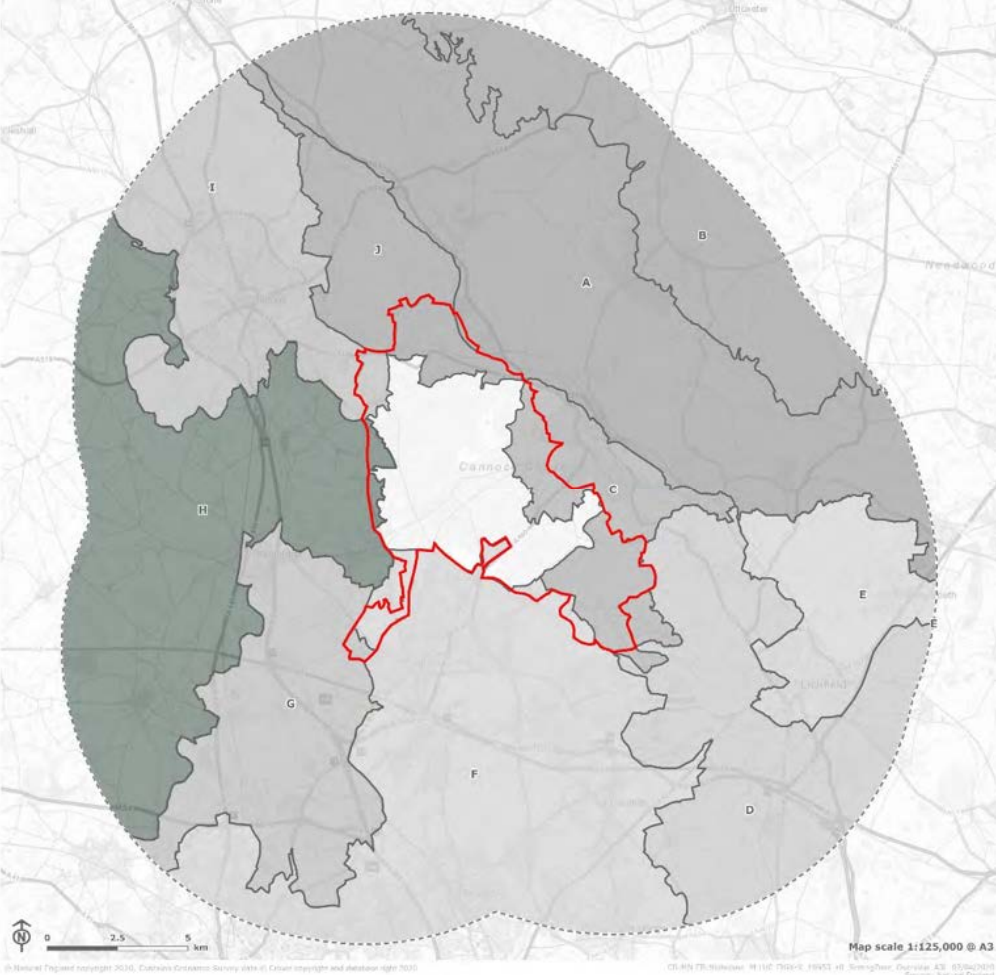


Figure 5.9: Staffordshire Plain Setting Zone



- Viewpoint
- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Cannock Chase AONB - 10km buffer
- Setting Zone
- H: Staffordshire Plain

Table 5.8: Setting Zone H: Spatial Guide

Setting Zone H: Staffordshire Plain	LCTs encompassed within Setting Zone H: Staffordshire Plain:	Geographical location
 <p>The map shows the Staffordshire Plain landscape with various LCTs labeled A through J. A red outline indicates the AONB boundary. A scale bar at the bottom left shows 0, 2.5, and 5 km. The map scale is 1:125,000 @ A3.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ancient Clay Farmlands LCT / Settled Farmlands LCT;</i> • <i>Sandstone Hills and Heaths LCT;</i> • <i>Sandstone Estatelands LCT;</i> • <i>River Meadowlands LCT;</i> and • Land classified as <i>Urban</i>. 	<p>A gently rolling pastoral landscape and wider valley sides of the River Penk, forming the transition between the AONB and the wider Staffordshire / Shropshire Plain.</p>
	<p>Issues / Threats to the AONB</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running broadly parallel the corridor of West Coast Main Line and the M6, the land connecting Penkridge and Stafford is subject to residential development pressure. • Large scale or bulky development would interrupt the transition from the flat plain to the wider valley sides, changing perceptions of this landscape in views from the AONB. • Development of tall structures would interrupt long distance views towards the Wrekin and the Staffordshire / Shropshire Plain as well as the wider backdrop of the Shropshire Hills AONB. • Small scale incremental change would potentially alter the patchwork pattern of the agricultural landscape. • Pressures from residential development to the north of Penkridge and within the corridor bound to the east by the A449 and to the west by the West Coast Main Line. • Lying on the boundary between Setting Zones H and I, Seighford Airfield is currently subject to development proposals. • Land to the south east of Stafford (parallel the A34) is subject to residential development pressures. As defined within the South Staffordshire Landscape Sensitivity Assessment²⁹, the area has a high landscape sensitivity to residential development due to the visual prominence of this farmed landscape and its strongly rural character which provides an attractive backdrop and separation to the surrounding settlements. The area of the setting zone which abuts the southern fringes of Stafford also provides strong inter-visibility with the AONB itself. 	
<p>Management Guidelines (relating to views in and out of Cannock Chase AONB)</p>		
<p>Views from the AONB</p>		
<p>Representative Viewpoints 15, 16 and 18 – Refer to Chapter 4: Viewpoint Specific Guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure proposed built developments do not appear prominent within the wider landscape, maintain the largely undeveloped rural character of the skyline in views from the AONB. A clear uninterrupted view to the silhouette of the Wrekin should be retained. New development should avoid rising above the wooded skyline or appearing overly dominant across the Staffordshire Plain by virtue of scale, height, massing or detailed design. • Conserve the views to the wider Staffordshire and Shropshire Plain from the AONB; including Preston Vale, Little Heath and Beacon Hill. Note that development of tall or bulky structures in this area, especially parallel the corridor of the M6, would change the perception of the scale of the low-lying Staffordshire Plain. The ZTV output from Representative Viewpoint 16 indicates high levels of intervisibility with the landscape to the west of the AONB. Views would be theoretically available to all proposed developments within Bickford, Mitton and Longnor, lying within close proximity to the 10km study area boundary. • Maintain the open character of the landscape and availability of long distance views from the western extent of the AONB, with framed views to wooded edges in the Staffordshire Plain. The ZTV output from Representative Viewpoint 18 demonstrates that large swaths of the landscape to the west of the AONB would afford views to proposed development from this location; including all proposed development within the eastern fringes of Acton Trussell, Dunston and Penkridge. • Ensure that built development is integrated into its landscape context through the retention and protection of woodlands and parklands which form defined natural boundaries. Manage and restore hedgerows to soften stark edges to development, conserving the characteristic small to medium scale field pattern of the landscape of Staffordshire Plain. 		
<p>Contribution to the significance of Cannock Chase AONB</p>		
<p>The setting zone contributes to views across the Staffordshire Plain and provides intervisibility with the Shropshire Hills AONB from the AONB. Inspiring views towards the elevated plateau of the AONB are also characteristic from within this setting zone.</p>	<p>Views towards the AONB</p> <p>Representative Viewpoint 17 – Refer to Chapter 4: Viewpoint Specific Guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid proposed development which would disrupt views towards the distinctive domed plateau of the AONB from agricultural land to the west. The ZTV output for Representative Viewpoint 17 illustrates the screening potential of this landform, whereby proposed development beyond Brocton Field would need to reach a height of approximately 25 m to be visible in views from the Staffordshire Plain. 	

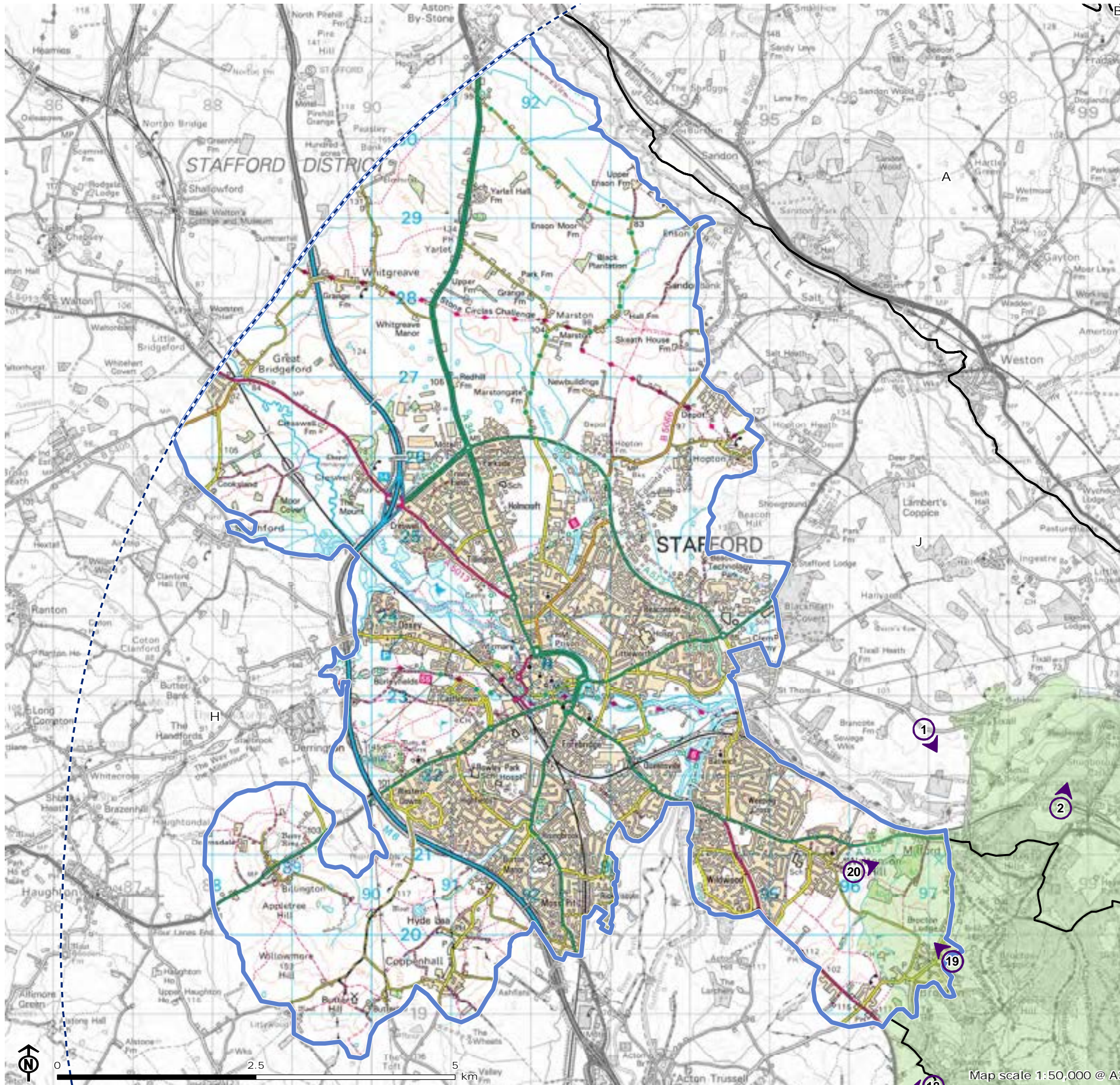
²⁹ South Staffordshire Council (2019) *South Staffordshire Landscape Sensitivity Assessment*

**Setting Zone I:
Stafford Centre and
Farmland Fringe**





Figure 5.10: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe Setting Zone







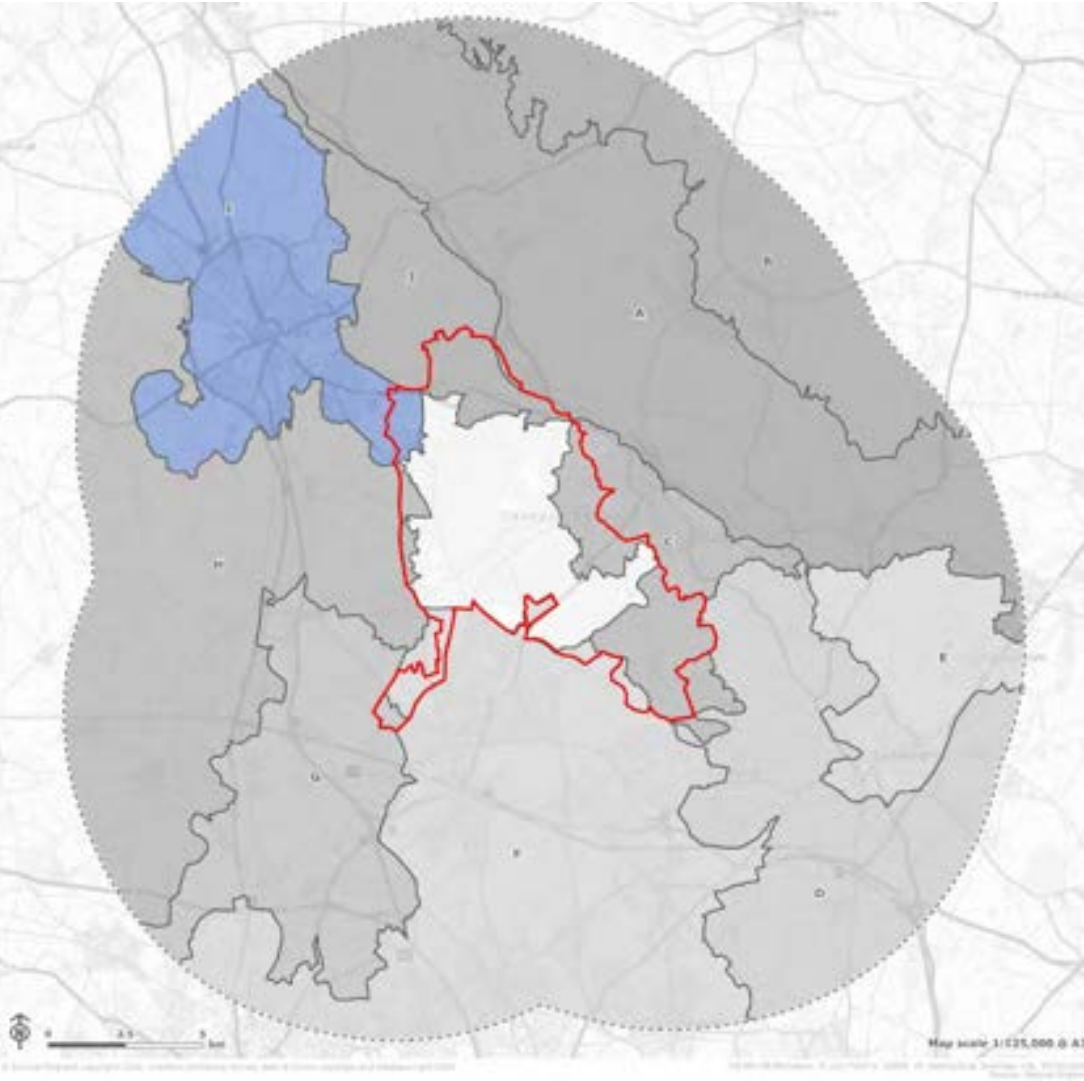
-  Viewpoint
-  Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Cannock Chase AONB - 10km buffer
-  I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe Setting Zone

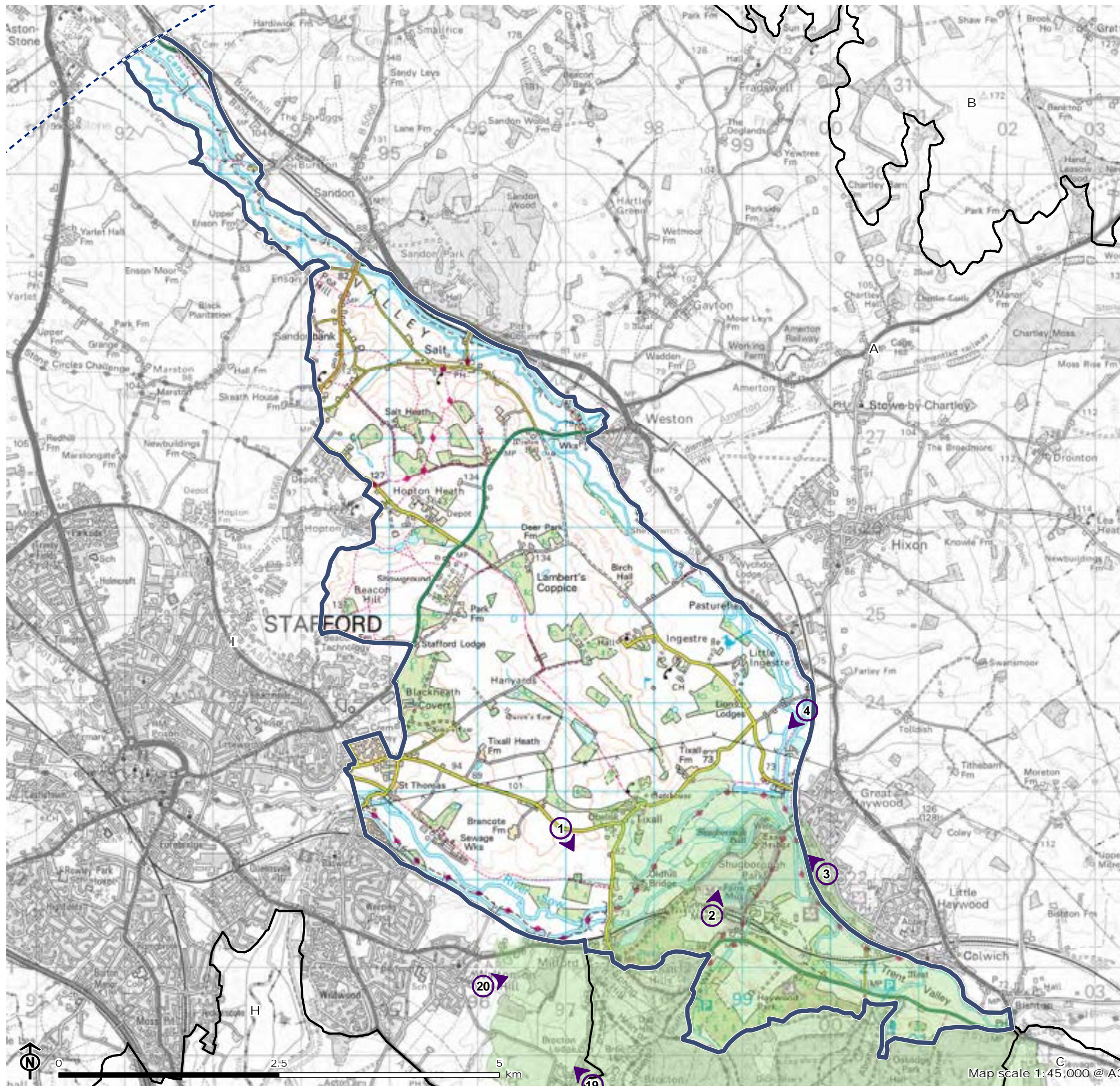
Table 5.9: Setting Zone I: Spatial Guide

Setting Zone I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe	LCTs encompassed within Setting Zone I: Stafford Centre and Farmland Fringe:	Geographical location
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Settled Farmlands LCT</i>; • <i>River Meadowlands LCT</i>; and • Land classified as <i>Urban</i> 	<p>The boundary of this area broadly coincides with the urban footprint of Stafford and wider agricultural land use bordering the corridor of the M6. The south eastern fringes of the setting zone encompass land to the east of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal at Walton on the Hill as well as the village of Brocton which lies within the boundary of the AONB.</p>
	<p>Issues / Threats to the AONB</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small scale incremental change at the settlement fringe due to residential development pressures at Brocton and Walton on the Hill. The south eastern extent of the area is encompassed within the boundary of the AONB, affording it a degree of protection from adverse change. • Lying on the boundary between Setting Zones H and I, Seighford Airfield is currently subject to redevelopment proposals. • Potential light pollution at the northern extent of the AONB due to the proximity of the south easterly fringes of Stafford. 	
<p>Management Guidelines (relating to views in and out of Cannock Chase AONB)</p>		
<p>Views from the AONB</p>		
<p>Representative Viewpoint 16 and 19 – Refer to Chapter 4: Viewpoint Specific Guide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the existing settlement pattern of Brocton, with existing built form largely contained in views from the AONB by the nature of the localised topography. Development proposals located on the rising topography immediately east of Brocton should be monitored to ensure that built form does not disrupt views from the AONB. • Ensure that development proposals enhance the arrangement of interspersed vegetation around Brocton, avoiding the creation of a stark settlement edge and disruption to the setting of the AONB. Ensure that Brocton maintains its wooded approaches which generally constrain the view of the settlement extents from the AONB. • Retain the existing settlement patterns of Walton-on-the Hill and Milford in order to limit the encroachment of suburban influences within the AONB. • Monitor small scale incremental changes in land use which could be incongruous in views from the AONB, particularly around Brocton, Walton-on-the Hill and Weeping Cross which would lead to the suburbanisation of the immediate setting of the AONB boundary. • Consider the adoption of vernacular building styles / materials when considering new development proposals, where appropriate. Avoid the creation of additional visual clutter at the AONB boundary by carefully considering the positioning and design of development within Brocton (reference should be made to the analysis and ‘special characteristics’ of the Formal / Cluster Settlement Type as detailed within the Cannock Chase AONB Design Guide when considering development proposals within Brocton and Milford). • Retain visual links and ensure the availability of long distance views towards the south easterly settlement fringes of Stafford from the AONB. 		
<p>Views towards the AONB</p>		
<p>Contribution to the significance of Cannock Chase AONB</p>	<p>Representative Viewpoints 1 and 20 – Refer to Chapter 4: Viewpoint Specific Guide</p>	
<p>The setting zone acts as a gateway to the AONB from the settlement fringes of Stafford, visible as an upland plateau landform as a backdrop in views.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encompassing the corridors of the A513 and the A34, the setting zone plays a role as a key approach to the AONB from Stafford. Development should ensure the retention and enhancement of the experience of arrival and the sense of rurality that this engenders. The ZTV output for Representative Viewpoint 20 illustrates the need to ensure the careful siting of proposed development at Brocton and Milford due to the potential visibility of built form from these locations. • Located on the rising topography, ensure that development proposals at Brocton do not disrupt views of the distinctive wooded plateau of the AONB beyond. • Due to the proximity of the south easterly fringes of Stafford, evaluate development proposals to assess the potential impact of light pollution on the visual and perceptual qualities of the AONB. 	

**Setting Zone J:
River Trent and
Sow Estatelands**

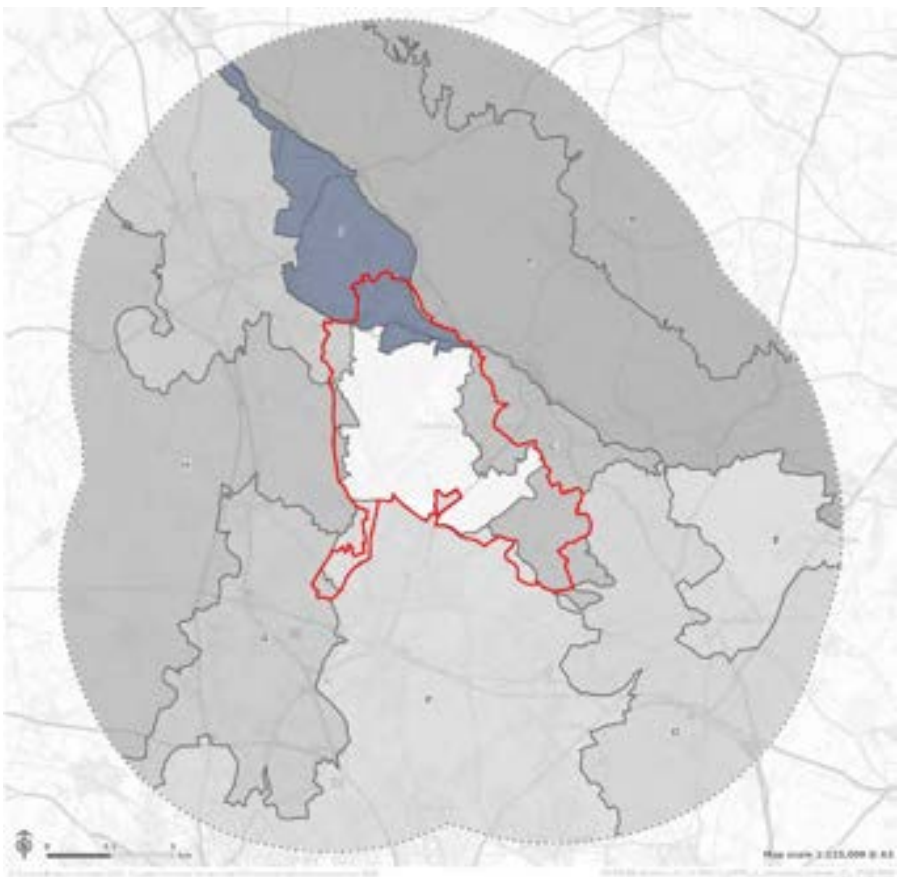


Figure 5.11: River Trent and Sow Estatelands Setting Zone



- Viewpoint
- Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Cannock Chase AONB - 10km buffer
- Setting Zone
- J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands

Table 5.10: Setting Zone J: Spatial Guide

Setting Zone J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands	LCTs encompassed within Setting Zone J: River Trent and Sow Estatelands	Geographical location
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandstone Hills and Heaths LCT; • Sandstone Estatelands LCT; and • River Meadowlands LCT. 	<p>The area comprises the designed parklands of Shugborough and Ingestre, set within the wider floodplains of the Rivers Trent and Sow. The Shugborough Estate is listed on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, with Grade 1 status.</p>
	<p>Geographical location</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area comprises the designed parklands of Shugborough and Ingestre, set within the wider floodplains of the Rivers Trent and Sow. The Shugborough Estate is listed on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, with Grade 1 status. 	
	<p>Issues / Threats to the AONB</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The area is under development pressure from incremental urban encroachment due to the proximity of the settlements of Stafford and Great Haywood. • HS2 will introduce large scale embankment earthworks and disruption associated with the construction of the Great Haywood viaduct as it crosses the Trent Valley. The proposed route will result in land severance and changes to the historic landscape pattern which will interrupt the quiet, tranquil parkland setting. Views towards the AONB itself would also be potentially disrupted. Development of tall or prominent structures within the area would potentially detract from the wider parkland setting. • Changes that affect the wetland habitats associated with the setting zone, including implications of climate change. • The southern extent of the area lies within the boundary of the AONB and is also under National Trust ownership and, as such, is largely protected from development that would impact on its setting. 	
<p>Management Guidelines (relating to views in and out of Cannock Chase AONB)</p>		
<p>Views from the AONB</p>		
<p>Representative Viewpoints 2 and 3 – Refer to Chapter 4: Viewpoint Specific Guide</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that proposed developments are not able to compete for dominance with Shugborough Hall in views, maintaining the rich cultural setting and sense of time depth in views from the AONB. Recognise the importance and conserve the distinctive estate features within views from the AONB. The ZTV output for Representative Viewpoint 2 indicates that proposed development on the western extent of Great Haywood would need to reach a height of at least 10 m in height to be visible in the panorama. • Retain the largely uninterrupted rural view from the parkland at the Shugborough Estate, forming a key feature of the northern extent of the AONB. Ensure that any built development is integrated into the landscape context through the protection of the intact estate character of the area. • Monitor development proposals within Tixall and the south eastern fringes of Stafford to ensure that the village does not become prominent in views from the northern extent of the AONB and the clustered settlement pattern is retained (reference should be made to the analysis and ‘special characteristics’ of the Formal / Cluster Settlement Type as detailed within the Cannock Chase AONB Design Guide when considering development proposals within Tixall). The ZTV output indicates that proposed developments in Tixall reaching 10 m in height and above would be theoretically visible from Shugborough Estate. • Ensure that the floodplains are protected from inappropriate urban development, conserving views from the AONB. The ZTV output indicates proposed developments parallel the River Sow and the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal would need to reach a height of 10 m and above to be theoretically visible from Shugborough Estate. • Conserve the rural character of the river valleys, limiting encroachment of suburban influences from Little Haywood and Great Haywood into views from the AONB. Special attention is required where large scale structures and movement are proposed within this tranquil landscape setting. 		
<p>Contribution to the significance of Cannock Chase AONB</p>		
<p>Characterised by the floodplain of the Rivers Trent and Sow, this setting zone provides a contrast to the characteristic domed plateau of landform of the AONB. The landscape exhibits historical continuity in the form of parklands at Shugborough and Ingestre, contributing to the cultural significance of the AONB and its setting. The setting zone demonstrates the tranquillity of the AONB due to the lack of intrusive development and strong sense of place associated with the floodplains. The conserved historic features in the form of Shugborough and Ingestre parklands also contribute to the cultural value of the AONB.</p>	<p>Views towards the AONB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve the strong pattern of existing woodland belts associated with the estate landscape of Shugborough and Ingestre, ensuring that proposed developments do not protrude against the skyline. Consider the establishment of new native woodland planting which link in with existing estate woodlands as a mechanism to mitigate the impact of new development within the landscape. • Ensure the visual integration of infrastructure features associated with HS2 through the introduction of landscape mitigation proposals, avoiding any detrimental effects on views towards the AONB itself. Reference should be made to the general and detailed principles included within the guidance document produced on behalf of Trent Sow Parklands and Cannock Chase AONB HS2 Group³⁰. These principles should be used to inform the detail design of the scheme and the mitigation of above ground impacts resulting from a 7.2 km section of the scheme. The preservation of open long views, maintaining the contrast and visual connection between the valley bottom and wooded hills of the AONB, is noted as a general design principle. • Preserve the visual relationship between the valley floor of the River Trent and the Shugborough Estate, contributing to the setting of the AONB. The ZTV output for Representative Viewpoint 4 demonstrates the extent of intervisibility available between Shugborough Estate and the River Trent. Proposed developments at least 10 m in height would be theoretically visible from this location. 	

³⁰ Trent-Sow Parklands and Cannock Chase AONB HS2 Group (2020) *Trent-Sow Parklands and Cannock Chase AONB: Design Principles for HS2*