

## DECISION 'RULES' FOR THEME MAPS VERSION 2

Authority	Landscape	Biodiversity	Cultural Heritage	Access
Herefordshire	<p>If settlement pattern = nucleated and landcover type = arable or pastoral (i.e. not wooded) Or if settlement pattern = wildland (i.e. not settled) or if landcover type = open/unenclosed, then <b>sensitive</b></p> <p>Else if landcover type = ancient wooded or = secondary wooded or = trees and woodlands, then <b>preferred</b></p> <p>Else <b>neutral</b></p> <p>(Note –the fine detail of individual authorities' rules may differ)</p>	<p>Drawn from MOHL work:</p> <p><b>Preferred</b>-areas where semi-natural broadleaved woodland is a primary, secondary or tertiary characteristic in the landscape and the proposed treatment is A-D (maintain, restore, recreate/create, create)</p> <p><b>Sensitive</b>- areas where woodland is an uncharacteristic feature and the proposed treatment is E-F (review, none)</p>	<p><b>Preferred:</b> Areas where the creation of new woodland on a significant scale would be most advantageous, and would bring local benefits. As the available datasets for the historic environment do not allow this judgement to be made, the definition needs refining to include areas where there will be no discernible impact on the historic landscape character.</p> <p><b>Sensitive:</b> Areas where the creation of new woodland on any appreciable scale would not be appropriate because of their present value with respect to other factors.</p> <p><b>Neutral:</b> Remaining areas that do not fall within either of these categories. A further 2 categories of sensitivity were added: Urban: Where the urban development precludes the creation of new woodlands on a significant scale. Woodland: Where the presence of existing woodland precludes the creation of new woodlands on a significant scale.</p>	<p>Using WT Space4People 2ha new woodland data, (based on the Woodland Access Standard which aspires that that no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size) mapped against LDUs after excluding areas under CROW open access land that was 'mountain, moor and heath' (eg Cannock Chase) and within either the West Midlands or Stoke on Trent conurbations:</p> <p><b>Most preferred</b>-LDUs where S4P 2ha polygons covered more than 60% of the LDU area</p> <p><b>Preferred</b>-LDUS where S4P polygons covered more than 17% but less than 60% of the LDU area</p> <p><b>Neutral</b>-other non-urban areas</p>

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<b>Shropshire</b>	<p>Based on the revised LDU framework for Shropshire,</p> <p>Sensitivity weightings were produced by comparing the character of woodland cover with the overall sensitivity of the landscape (as determined through field assessment of the nature of tree cover, type of landform, coherence of the cultural pattern and degree of continuity (eg time depth)).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>Sensitive</b> – unwooded areas with a high to moderate overall sensitivity OR areas with an intermediate wooded character and high overall sensitivity</li> <li>◆ <b>Neutral</b> – unwooded areas with moderate overall sensitivity OR areas with an intermediate wooded character and moderate overall sensitivity OR wooded areas with a high overall sensitivity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Preferred</b> - areas with an intermediate wooded character and low overall sensitivity OR wooded areas with a moderate to low overall sensitivity.</p>	<p>Constructed by comparing the frequency of indicators for good quality woodland against indicators of good quality open habitats (e.g. heathland, species-rich grasslands etc). Plant species indicative of open water habitats were excluded from the comparison as these habitats are unlikely to be an option for woodland planting. The resulting map shows four categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Complex</b> – high numbers of indicators for <b>both</b> woodland and open habitats,</li> <li>• <b>Preferred</b> – high numbers of woodland indicators but low numbers of open habitat indicators,</li> <li>• <b>Sensitive</b> – high numbers of open habitat indicators, low numbers of woodland ones,</li> <li>• <b>Neutral</b> – low numbers of both woodland and open habitat indicator species.</li> </ul>	<p>Sensitivity weightings were assigned to each HLC type by making a judgement based upon the degree of 'time depth' they exhibit and their likely Sensitivity to woodland planting (see Table 1). The key assumptions that underlie these judgements are as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Most HLC types within 'unimproved land' category are likely to be sensitive, except where they are the product of recent change.</li> <li>· Ancient field patterns are likely to be sensitive to woodland planting; more recent ones less so. Exceptions are likely to exist, however, where a field pattern is a product of recent change.</li> <li>· Woodland types are likely to be preferred, particularly recent plantations. Some site specific sensitivities may exist, however, in relation to ancient woodlands, which often contain archaeological earthworks of varying dates.</li> <li>· Wetlands and floodplain fields in the 'Water and valley floor' HLC types are likely to be sensitive. Those involving open water are unlikely to attract applications for planting schemes and are therefore neutral.</li> <li>· 'Industrial' HLC types are likely to be either preferred or, in the case of those of greater historic interest, neutral.</li> <li>· Sensitivities may exist for Military HLC types because of their historic interest, although they originated in the 20th century. They have, therefore, been assigned to the neutral category.</li> <li>· Historic parks and gardens are likely to be sensitive, whilst more recent 'ornamental, parkland and recreational' types less so.</li> <li>· Because planting applications are unlikely to be forthcoming for sites occupied by residential or retail buildings the settlement HLC types are neutral.</li> <li>· Older orchards are likely to be sensitive, more recent ones less so</li> </ul>	<p>As above-revised LDUs</p>

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Staffordshire	Derived from landscape character assessment and professional judgement informed by a range of environmental information	Derived from landscape character assessment and professional judgement informed by a range of environmental information	<p><b>Preferred</b>= broadly unenclosed ground, Very large Post-War fields, woodland, extractive industry areas, Major road junction, Golf course</p> <p><b>Neutral</b>= water bodies/features Industrial complex, Historic settlement core, settlement, Service station, Train station /siding, Other commons, Planned clearance /assartment, Other large rectilinear fields, Large irregular fields, Former ordnance depot now used for other purposes, Barracks, Sports fields, Other parkland, Post-1880s orchards, Derelict industrial land, Abandoned ordnance depot, Other military</p> <p><b>Sensitive</b>= Moorland, Unenclosed open hill pasture Unimproved enclosed hill Pasture, Heathland, Drained wetlands, Moss/raised bog, Parks and gardens, Pre-1880s orchards, squatter enclosure, Paddocks/closes, assarts, Small irregular fields, Piecemeal enclosure, Re-organised piecemeal enclosure, Planned enclosure, Other small rectilinear fields, Miscellaneous floodplain fields</p>	As above

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Solihull (part)			See below – part included within Warwickshire	
Telford & Wrekin	As above-revised LDUs	See above – as Shrops	See above – as Shrops	As above

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Warwickshire	As above	<p>Derived from mapping Flora of Warks tetrad data onto LDUs, based on M.perennis map primarily, with some reference to other species (these are less widespread):</p> <p>where for woodland, hedgerow/scrub, grassland, roadsides/ waste places M.perennis shows as present (rare or abundant) across &gt;50% of LDU, then <b>preferred</b></p> <p>where for any category, M.perennis (rare or abundant) shows as present across &lt;50% LDU (or is absent) then <b>neutral</b></p> <p>(Note no <b>sensitive</b> category on the basis of discussion with key Warks biodiversity stakeholders September 05)</p>	<p>Using several data sources an assessment was made about its historic environment potential according to the three levels (Preferred, Neutral or Sensitive).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Preferred</b> is seen as where minimal heritage constraints would apply.</li> <li>• <b>Sensitive</b> is where there is high heritage sensitivity where significant constrains would apply upon planting, this could either be due to particular heritage sites or the character of the historic landscape itself.</li> <li>• <b>Neutral</b> is where often an assessment of the historic environment as either Preferred or Sensitive can not be made, predominantly due to vast size of polygon and/or diversity in historic environment in a particular area. This does not make the area not sensitive but more likely potentially sensitive in parts of the area.</li> </ul>	As above

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Worcestershire	As above	<p><b>Preferred</b> are LDUs with the strongest links to a woodland landscape as indicated by their current woodland biodiversity (new woodland likely to give the greatest benefit for local woodland biodiversity conservation- usually areas most heavily wooded at the start of the Anglo-Saxon period)</p> <p><b>Neutral</b> are LDUs where the links to ancient woodland biodiversity have been severed and there are few likely conflicts with extant sites of wildlife interest (few good opportunities for "ancient" woodland restoration- usually areas largely cleared by the Romano-British period)</p> <p><b>Sensitive</b> are LDUs supporting a high proportion of land on which woodland planting would be detrimental to current biodiversity or which have a high potential for restoration to habitats other than woodland. [These may include LDUs that currently support a high ancient woodland cover.]                      i)"wetland" LDUs, mainly those on the alluvial flood plains, ii) heath or potential heathland LDUs, iii) unenclosed commons. iv) the hill systems and scarp slopes with a high proportion of grassland interest v) LDUs within forest areas which support a high proportion of neutral grasslands of high ecological value, vi) LDUs with a high proportion of traditional orchards</p>	<p>Where existing historic features or historic landscapes that would be compromised by new planting then <b>sensitive</b></p> <p>Where formerly wooded landscapes or historic features or historic landscapes largely absent and where new planting would be seen as a positive enhancement are <b>preferred</b></p> <p>Where complex or wide-ranging variations in the criteria have been identified, then <b>complex</b> – treated as <b>sensitive</b> on the WOM</p>	As above

## DECISION 'RULES' FOR PRIORITY MAPS VERSION 2

Priority map	Priority description	Decision Rule	Comments
Woodland Creation	Priority 1 (dark green)	Based on scoring system using the sensitivity classification for each polygon and theme and scored in relation to sensitivity as follows: Preferred = +10 Sensitive = -10 Neutral = 0 Complex = 0 Access > 16.9% = +10 Urban, Forest of Mercia and National Forest were all left as 0.	High priority for creation (high preference)
	Priority 2 (light green)		Priority for creation (lower preference)
	Low priority (no colour)		Low priority for creation (lowest preference)
Ancient Woodland	AW Landscapes (green)	LDUs with ASNW & PAWS greater or equal to 3% land cover	Regional concentrations of ASNW & PAWS greater or equal to 3% land cover where maintenance/ expansion highest priority
	AW Restoration Areas (purple hatch)	LDUs with PAWS greater or equal to 3% land cover	Regional concentrations of PAWS greater or equal to 3% land cover where restoration highest priority