

# Landscapes of Worcestershire

## Landscape Type Information Sheet

# Sandstone Estatelands

### Landscape Type Description

An open, rolling landscape characterised by an ordered pattern of large, arable fields, straight roads and estate plantations. Fields are typically defined by straight thorn hedges, reflecting the late enclosure of much of this landscape from woodland and waste. This historic land use pattern is also reflected in the occurrence of isolated brick farmsteads and clusters of way-side dwellings, interspersed with occasional small villages. Despite the fact that this is a functional landscape, the consistent geometric pattern can convey a strong sense of visual unity.



### Primary

- Arable land use
- Hedgerow boundaries to fields
- Planned enclosure pattern—straight roads and field boundaries

### Key Characteristics

### Secondary

- Discrete pattern of woodland blocks
- Planned woodland character—estate plantations and groups of trees
- Large-scale landscape with wide views over open farmland
- Impoverished soils with relic heathy vegetation
- Dispersed pattern of isolated farm-



### Tertiary

- Rolling topography with occasional low escarpments

This is an ordered landscape in which

tree belts and linear tree cover along watercourses, in an open landscape, the tree cover providing a framing effect, creating a sense of enclosure and blocking views.

ornamental planting, together with estate villages, are characteristic of these landscapes.

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These are landscapes of arable dominance in which the hedgerows have largely lost their function. Hedgerow loss and deterioration is already apparent in places to the detriment of landscape scale and character. The deterioration and reduced size of parklands is often evident, with parkland trees now located in areas of arable cultivation. These are landscapes that have a particularly distinctive natural vegetation of heathy/gorse communities which is seldom expressed, being too often suppressed by management, particularly in such non-farmed locations as roadside verges.

The Sandstone Estatelands have the capacity to accommodate considerable areas of new woodland planting. With the decline and fragmentation of the hedgerow pattern, the development of a cohesive woodland structure, with woodland shape reflecting the pronounced regular landscape pattern, would

For more information visit our website [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lca](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lca) or contact the Worcestershire County Council Environmental Policy Team on 01905 766038

