



Section 2

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2.1 Unenclosed Land

Heathland

Total Area: 156 ha	0.06%	Av. Polygon: 17.3 ha
Polygons: 9	0.05%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Other Commons

Total Area: 34 ha	0.01%	Av. Polygon: 6.8 ha
Polygons: 5	0.03%	Occurrence: Very Rare

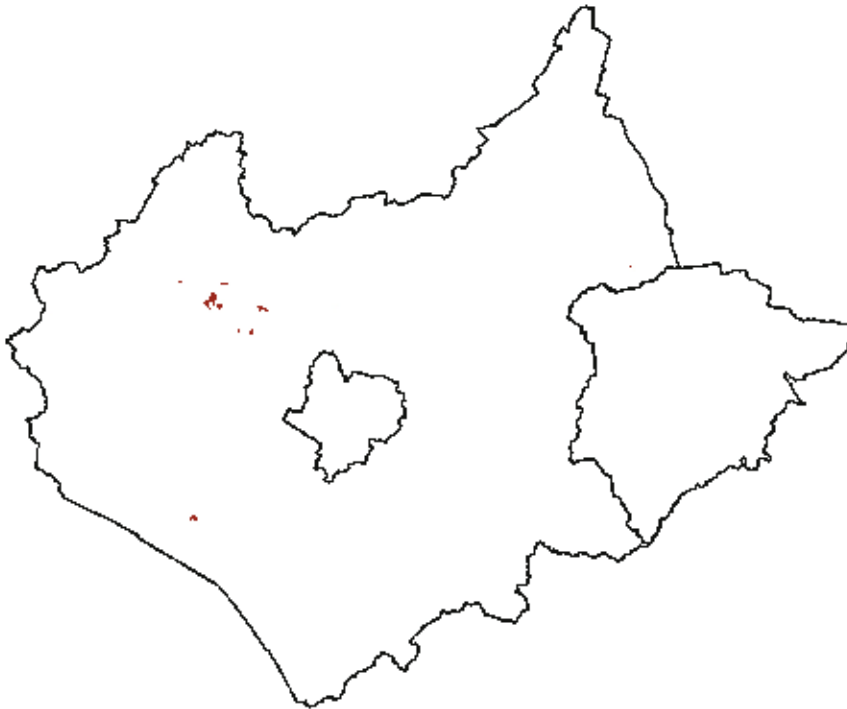


Figure 25. Distribution of Unenclosed Land

- Description.** Heathland comprises land generally below 244m OD which has been identified by Natural England's Lowland Heathland Inventory. Lowland heath, in some cases, has its origins in the Mesolithic, although more commonly the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Woodland clearance by hunter-gatherers and early farming communities allowed land to be farmed either for tillage or grazing. Only fragmentary examples of this character type have been identified though HLC nearly all of which are located in Charnwood Forest. During the medieval period Charnwood was a *chace* composed of wastes under the control of the surrounding manorial lords. This was low quality land typically used for rough grazing and as a source of stone, wood and timber for the local population. Two other small blocks have also been characterised as Other Commons: Burbage Common on the eastern edge of Hinckley and a block just east of Wymondham in Melton.

- **Period: Medieval/Post Medieval.** This HLC type is often indicative of encroachment onto common land in the post-medieval or industrial periods.
- **Factors influencing change:** Change to modern agricultural use, secondary woodland regeneration.
- **Biodiversity potential: High.** Although remaining examples of the HLC type have not been assessed it is likely that they will contain areas of acid grassland, relict heathland, scrub and species-rich grassland. The landscape often has much small-scale diversity of structure and land-use, and this will tend to indicate high biodiversity potential, with many habitat niches for a wide variety of flora and fauna. These areas may also have been under pasture for a considerable period and consequently potentially contain species rich grassland.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium .** The below ground archaeological potential will depend upon previous land use.
- **Management:** Care needs to be taken not to allow secondary woodland regeneration to take hold. Rough grazing of sheep can help to maintain ground cover. Where bracken becomes a problem a programme of clearance may be considered desirable.
- **Research Potential:** These are fragments of what was, during the Middle Ages, a much wider landscape. Further work needs to be done to reveal the full extent of past heathland landscapes, and also into who had tenure over the land.
- **Amenity Value: High.** Within the study area landscapes of this type, although rare, have high amenity value. In the case of Burbage Common or Wymondham they are open spaces that can be used for recreational purposes by the local populations. The other examples are all within Charnwood Forest which is popular with a large number of tourists and locals alike. The open spaces created by these HLC Types form an important visual component for those visiting the area.

2.2 Fields and Enclosed Land

Irregular Squatter Enclosure

Total Area: 10 ha 0.004%

Polygons: 5 0.03%

Av. Polygon: 2 ha

Occurrence: Very Rare

Rectilinear Squatter Enclosure

Total Area: 6ha 0.02%

Polygons: 2 0.01%

Av. Polygon: 3 ha

Occurrence: Very Rare

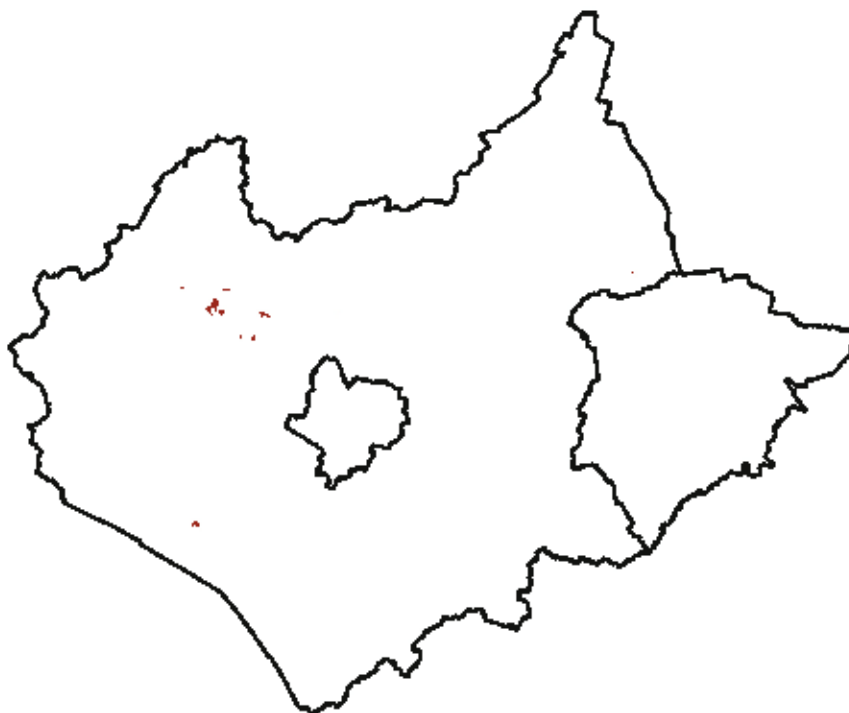


Figure 26. Distribution of Squatter Enclosure

- Description.** These two HLC types have similar origins and are characterised either by small irregular fields with boundaries dominated by a sinuous or curvilinear morphology or as small rectilinear fields with straight boundaries. Both types are often associated with networks of lanes, access tracks or small cottages. Irregular Squatter Enclosure will comprise field systems with an unordered appearance. Rectilinear Squatter Enclosure will have a more planned appearance. Both systems may be associated with quarries, mining or other industrial activity. The only identified examples of these HLC types within the project area are in the neighbouring parishes of Swannington and Coleorton in North West Leicestershire. Swannington is a former mining village with the enclosures located on what was formerly Swannington Common. The fragment of Rectilinear Squatter Enclosure remaining in Coleorton was probably associated with Cole Orton Colliery and is on the edge of land marked on the 1st ed. OS as Cole Orton Moor.

- **Period: Post Medieval/Late Post Medieval.** This HLC type is often indicative of encroachment onto common land in the post-medieval or industrial periods.
- **Factors influencing change:** Changes to or loss of field boundaries. Changes from pasture to arable farming. Built development.
- **Biodiversity potential: Medium/High.** Although remaining examples of the HLC type have not been assessed it is likely that they will contain species diverse hedgerows. These enclosures may also have been under pasture for a considerable period and consequently may also have species rich grassland. In general landscapes with a pattern of small and irregular fields and a diversity of land-use are better for biodiversity than areas with large regular fields, because they are more likely to have higher habitat diversity and more habitat niches available for a wider range of flora and fauna.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium/High.** There is a potential for areas falling within this HLC type to contain industrial and settlement remains.
- **Management:** Regular maintenance to the form and shape of the field boundaries is crucial for preserving the integrity of this HLC type.
- **Research Potential:** Further research into the origins of these enclosures, though either desk based assessment, fieldwork or a combination of both.
- **Amenity Value: High.** Enclosures of this type are a locally important and rare HLC type and form an important component of the landscape history of Swannington parish.

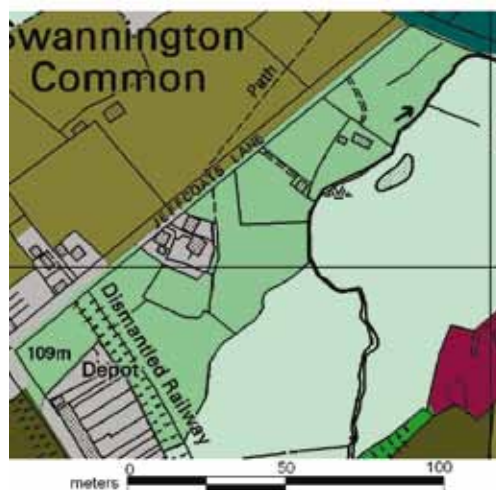


Figure 27. Irregular Squatter Enclosure at Swannington

Further Reading

Rackham, O. *The History of the Countryside: The Classic History of Britain's Landscape, Flora and Fauna*, Phoenix Press, London, 1986.

Taylor, C. *Fields in the English Landscape*, Sutton Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2000.

2.2 Fields and Enclosed Land

Paddocks and Closes

Total Area: 795 ha

0.4%

Av. Polygon: 2.9ha

Polygons: 278

1.5%

Occurrence: Rare

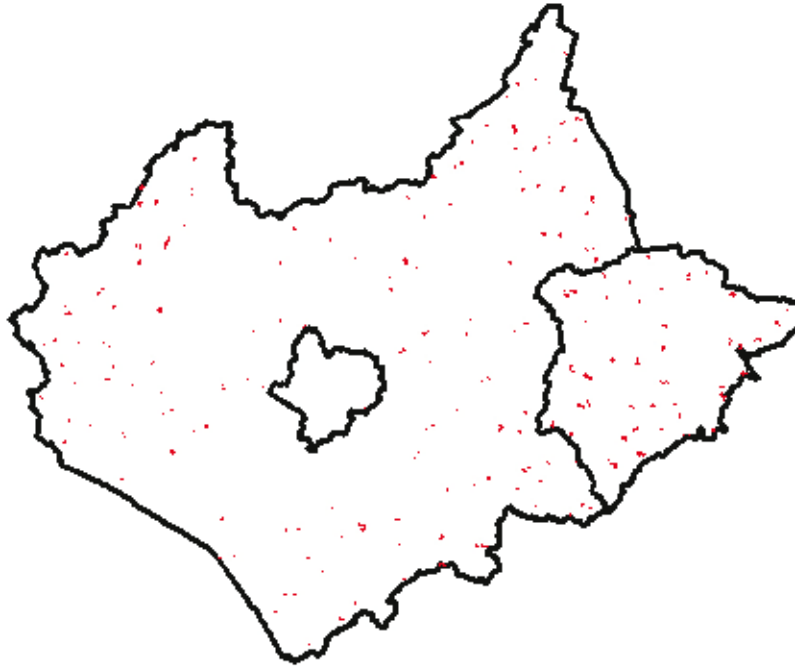


Figure 28. Distribution of Paddocks and Closes

- **Description.** This HLC type is characterised as small irregular fields. These are distinguished from the Other Small Irregular Fields character type by their location close to the edges of settlement settlements. In many instances they will represent small meadows and paddocks. There is a fairly even distribution of this field type across much of the study area. This HLC Type closely correlates with the distribution of Historic Settlement Cores across the study area.
- **Period: Medieval/Post Medieval.** The process of dividing open fields into closes
- **Factors influencing change:** Changes to or loss of field boundaries. Changes from pasture to arable farming. Subdivision of fields for the creation of modern horse paddocks and training areas. Built development.
- **Biodiversity potential: Medium/High.** Although remaining examples of the HLC type have not been assessed it is likely that they will contain species diverse hedgerows. These enclosures may also have been under pasture for a considerable period and consequently may also have species rich grassland.

- **Archaeological potential: Medium/High.** There is a potential for areas falling within this HLC type to contain settlement remains. Any field or group of fields over 1ha will, by reason of size, be considered to have an archaeological potential
- **Management:** Regular maintenance to the form and shape of the field boundaries is crucial for preserving the integrity of this HLC type.
- **Research Potential:** Further research into the origins of these enclosures, though either desk based assessment, fieldwork or a combination of both.
- **Amenity Value: High.** Enclosures of this type are a locally important and rare HLC type and form an important component of the landscape history of a parish.

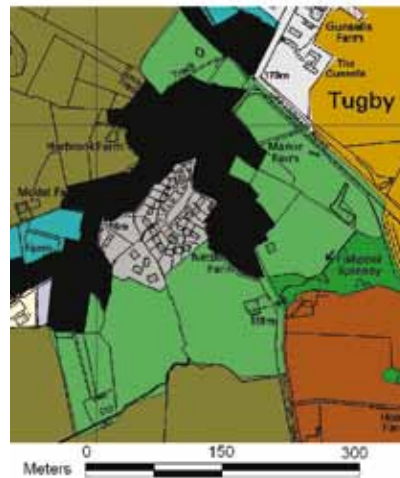


Figure 29. Paddocks and Closes HLC Type at Tugby

Further Reading

Rackham, O. *The History of the Countryside: The Classic History of Britain's Landscape, Flora and Fauna*, Phoenix Press, London, 1986.

Taylor, C. *Fields in the English Landscape*, Sutton Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2000.

2.2 Fields and Enclosed Land

Small Assarts

Total Area: 949 ha

0.5%

Av. Polygon: 53.4ha

Polygons: 49

0.3%

Occurrence: Very Rare

 Legend

Large Assarts with Sinuous Boundaries

Total Area: 1175 ha

0.4%

Av. Polygon: 19.4ha

Polygons: 22

0.3%

Occurrence: Very Rare

 Legend

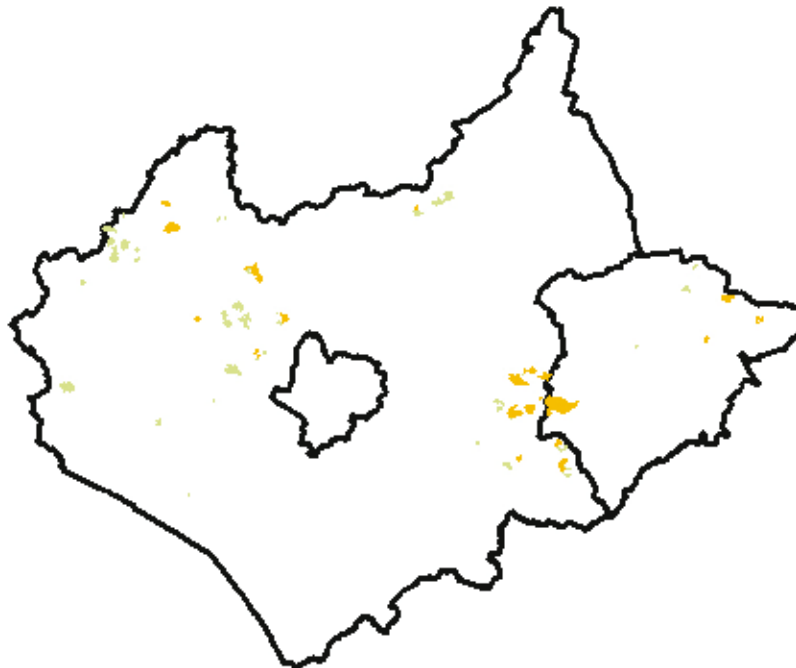


Figure 30. Distribution of All Assarts

- Description.** Small Assarts are characterised as small irregular or rectilinear fields which appear to have been created through woodland clearance. Large Assarts with Sinuous Boundaries are characterised as large irregular or rectilinear fields also created through woodland clearance. Large Assarts with Sinuous boundaries may include, though not exclusively, fields which have been created through the post-1880s amalgamation of small assarts. Both character types will often border or occur in close proximity to areas of ancient woodland. One of the main concentrations for these HLC types is located in the Leighfield Forest area on the Leicestershire/Rutland border. Here of the two types Large Assarts with Sinuous Boundaries is the more dominant. Other significant concentrations occur within the National Forest boundaries notably in and around the parish of Ulverscroft and to the north of Ashby-de-la-Zouch.
- Period: Medieval/Post Medieval.** The process of woodland assartment is likely to have been underway during the 12th and 13th

centuries although some examples may have much later, possibly 16th century origins.

- **Factors influencing change:** Changes to or loss of field boundaries. Changes from pasture to arable farming. Subdivision of fields for the creation of modern horse paddocks and training areas. Deliberate expansion or non maintenance of adjacent woodlands. Built development.
- **Biodiversity potential: High.** This HLC type was formed through woodland clearance and there is a potential for hedges to contain species such as dog's mercury and herb paris which are recognised as indicators of old woodland. A recent habitat survey of the Leighfied Forest area has emphasised that this is an area containing many species rich habitats.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium/High.** The form and date of these field patterns are in themselves of archaeological interest. The potential for below ground archaeology is dependent upon previous land use. Any field or group of fields over 1ha will, by reason of size, be considered to have an archaeological potential
- **Management:** Regular maintenance to the form and shape of the field boundaries is crucial for preserving the integrity of this HLC type. Where field boundaries are adjacent to woodland, maintenance is essential to prevent encroachment onto the fields.
- **Research Potential:** Further research into the origins of these enclosures, though either desk based assessment, fieldwork or a combination of both.
- **Amenity Value: High.** Enclosures of this type are a locally important and rare HLC type and form an important component of the landscape history of a parish.

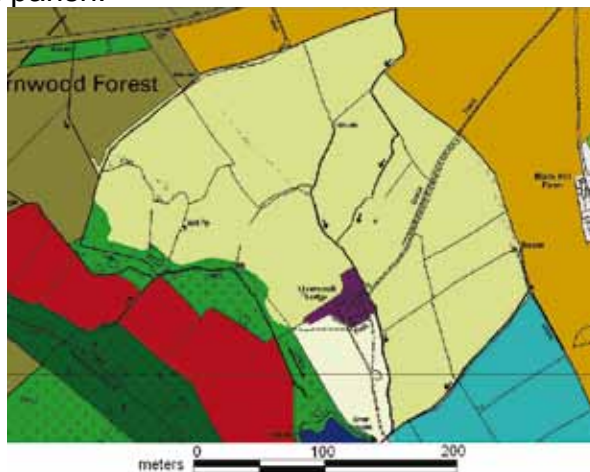


Figure 31. Small Assarts HLC Type at Ulverscroft

Further Reading

Rackham, O. *The History of the Countryside: The Classic History of Britain's Landscape, Flora and Fauna*, Phoenix Press, London, 1986.

Taylor, C. *Fields in the English Landscape*, Sutton Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2000.

2.2 Fields and Enclosed Land

Planned Woodland Clearance

Total Area: 1501 ha
Polygons: 56

0.6%
0.3%

Av. Polygon: 26.8ha
Occurrence: Very Rare

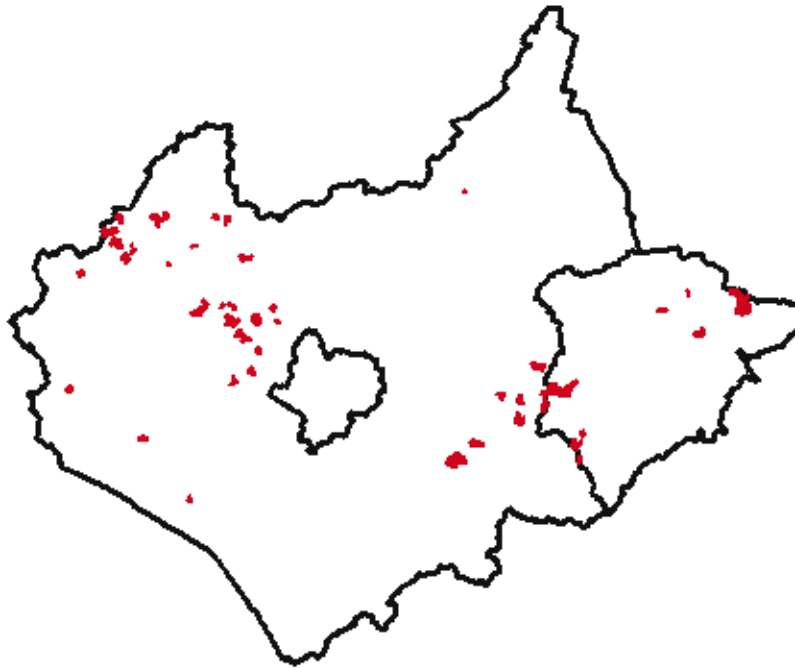


Figure 32. Distribution of Planned Woodland Clearance

- **Description.** This HLC type is characterised as small and large, rectilinear or irregular field patterns typically having straight boundaries which appear to have been created through woodland clearance. These will either border or occur in close proximity to areas of ancient woodland. Distribution of this HLC type is broadly similar to that of Small Assart and Large Assarts with Sinuous Boundaries. Concentrations can be seen in the Leighfield Forest area and across much of the National Forest area in the west of the county. A further concentration of this HLC type occurs to the north-east of Charnwood Forest.
- **Period: Post Medieval/Late Post Medieval.** This HLC type typically occurs from the late 17th to the late 19th centuries.
- **Factors influencing change:** Changes to or loss of field boundaries. Changes from pasture to arable farming. Deliberate expansion or non-maintenance of adjacent woodlands. Built development.
- **Biodiversity potential: Medium:** This HLC type was formed through woodland clearance and there is a potential for hedges to contain species such as dog's mercury and herb paris which are recognised as indicators of old woodland. However since this type was formed through a wholesale clearance of woodland and a deliberate planned

laying out of new field systems the potential may not be as high as for older forms of woodland assartment.

- **Archaeological potential: Medium/High.** The potential for below ground archaeology is dependent upon previous land use and the agricultural regimes employed on the land since woodland clearance. Where fields have remained in permanent pasture potential is likely to be higher. Any field or group of fields over 1ha will, for reasons of size, be considered to have an archaeological potential.
- **Management:** Regular maintenance to the form and shape of the field boundaries is crucial for preserving the integrity of this HLC type. Where field boundaries are adjacent to woodland maintenance is essential to prevent encroachment onto the fields.
- **Research Potential:** Further research into the origins of these enclosures, through either desk based assessment, fieldwork or a combination of both. This field type has the potential to produce good results from systematic field walking.
- **Amenity Value: Medium.** The amenity value of this landscape type will be highest when associated with other landscape types. Amenity value also increases where there is good public access.



Figure 33. Planned Woodland Clearance HLC Type at Ulverscroft

Further Reading

Rackham, O. 1986, *The History of the Countryside: The Classic History of Britain's Landscape, Flora and Fauna*, Phoenix Press, London.

Taylor, C. 2000, *Fields in the English Landscape*, Sutton Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

2.2 Fields and Enclosed Land

Small Irregular Fields

Total Area: 1429 ha

0.6%

Av. Polygon: 7.1ha

Polygons: 200

1.0%

Occurrence: Rare

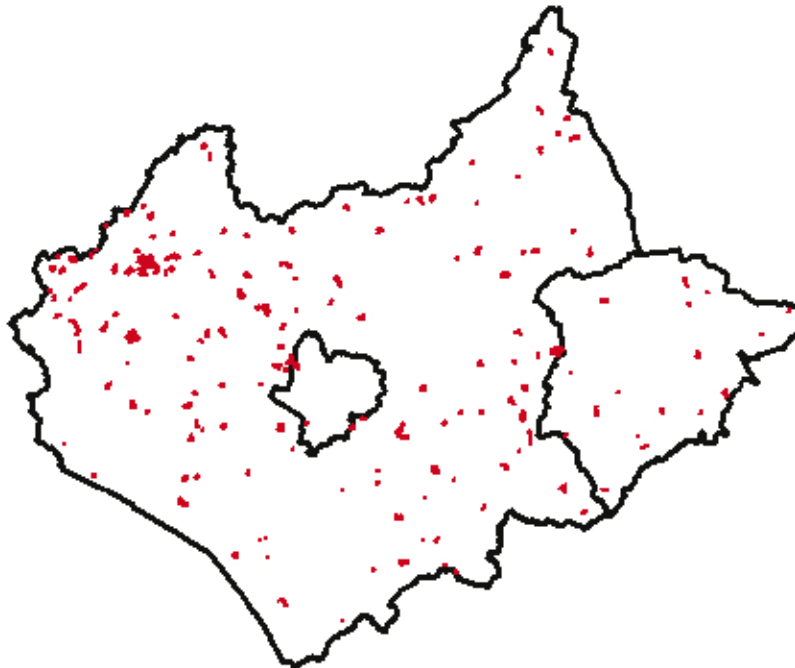


Figure 34. Distribution of Small Irregular Fields

- **Description.** Areas of Small Irregular Fields not assigned to one of the other historic landscape character types. These will include small meadows and closes not occurring next to settlement boundaries. This HLC type has a fairly wide distribution across much of the study area, but is less dense in Rutland and Melton, reflecting the late and highly planned nature of enclosure in these areas. This HLC type will include fields with both sinuous and straight boundaries. Where straight boundaries dominate fields are likely to be later in date. There is a particularly dense concentration of Small Irregular Fields in the Coleorton and Swannington area. Here, with origins in the 13th century, a dispersed pattern of settlement developed in association with small scale mining, a dense network of footpaths and small fields. The field pattern here is unique within Leicestershire and its strong sense of intimacy may be considered highly sensitive to change. Other examples of this HLC type may not be as extensive or quite as significant but, nonetheless, do represent generally older field patterns with origins in the post medieval and possibly medieval periods. In some cases Small Irregular Fields may be associated with woodland clearance or assartment. However the lack of adjacent woodland or woodland in close proximity makes it difficult to assign with a high enough degree of certainty an assart HLC type.

- **Period: Medieval/Post-Medieval.** Examples of this HLC type may date from as early as the 13th century although other examples are likely to have a later date, possibly as late as the 16th century.
- **Factors influencing change:** Changes to or loss of field boundaries. Changes from pasture to arable farming. Built development.
- **Biodiversity potential: Medium:** This HLC type comprises many older field boundaries. Where soil conditions are favourable and the agricultural regime employed is not detrimental hedges can have a significant biodiversity potential. On heavy soils particularly where origins are associated with woodland clearance conditions are likely to prove favourable to herb varieties such as primrose and dog's mercury.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium/High.** The potential for below ground archaeology is dependent upon previous land use and agricultural regimes employed since enclosure. Potential may be higher where fields have remained in permanent pasture for a significant period. Any area over 1ha will be considered to have an archaeological potential.
- **Management:** Regular maintenance to the form and shape of the field boundaries is crucial for preserving the integrity of this HLC type. Avoid encroachment of any adjacent woodland onto the fields.
- **Research Potential:** Further research into the origins of these enclosures, through desk based assessment or fieldwork. Where under arable cultivation this type has the potential to produce significant results from systematic field walking.
- **Amenity Value: Medium.** The amenity value of this landscape type is highest when associated with other landscape types. Amenity value also increases where there is good public access.

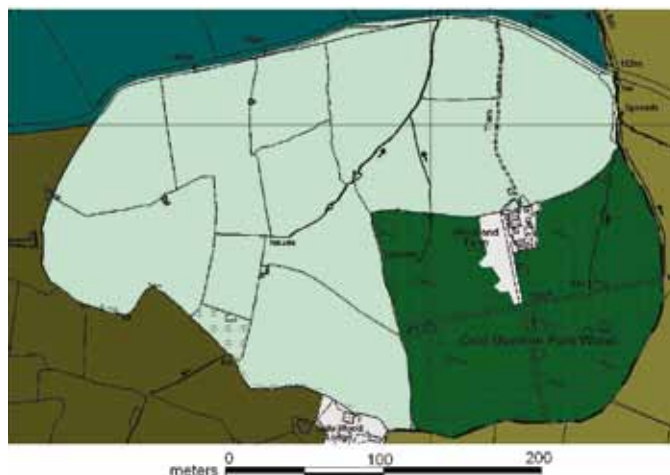


Figure 35. Small Irregular Fields HLC Type: Cold Overton

Further Reading

Rackham, O. *The History of the Countryside: The Classic History of Britain's Landscape, Flora and Fauna*, Phoenix Press, London, 1986.

Taylor, C. *Fields in the English Landscape*, Sutton Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2000.

2.2 Fields and Enclosed Land

Piecemeal Enclosure

Total Area: 14631 ha

5.7%

Av. Polygon: 40.3ha

Polygons: 363

1.9%

Occurrence: Occasional

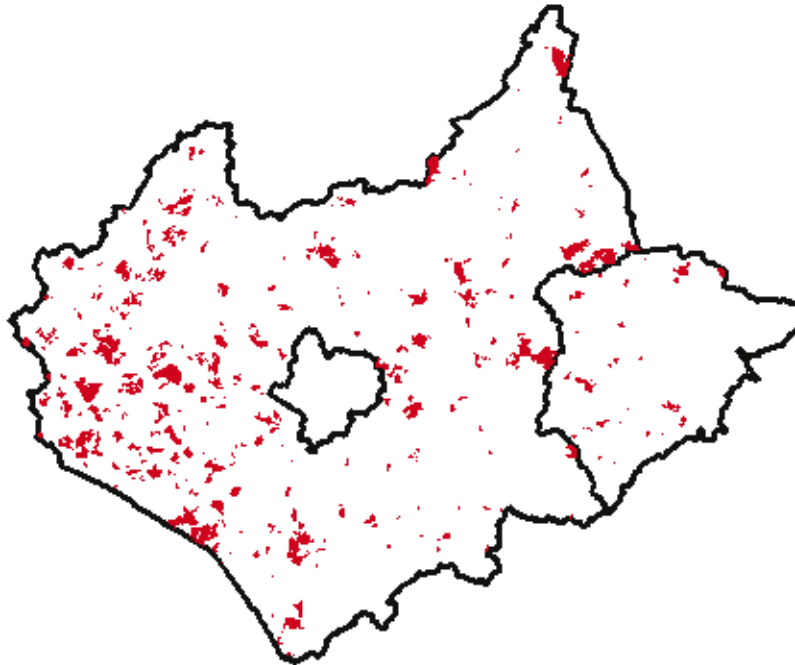


Figure 36. Distribution of Piecemeal Enclosure

- **Description:** This character type can be defined as field systems created out of the medieval open fields by means of informal, verbal agreements between farmers wishing to consolidate their holdings. This process appears to have been underway in Leicestershire around the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Enclosure within this category will be characterised by small to medium sized irregular fields with at least two boundaries exhibiting a reverse 's-curve' or 'dog-leg' morphology indicating that they are following the boundaries of former strip fields.
- **Period: Post-Medieval.** In Leicestershire this HLC type will typically date from the late 16th and early 17th centuries.
- **Factors influencing change:** Changes to or loss of field boundaries. Changes from pasture to arable farming. Built development.
- **Biodiversity potential: Medium:** This HLC type comprises many of the older field boundaries in the county. Where soil conditions are favourable and the agricultural regime employed within the enclosure is not detrimental hedges may have a significant biodiversity potential. Where this type is found on heavy soils and particularly where origins may be associated with woodland clearance conditions are likely to prove favourable to herb varieties such as primrose and dog's mercury. Where this type has remained in long term pasture biodiversity potential is also improved particularly where ridge and furrow is present

since soil and water retention conditions will vary providing opportunities for a variety of plant and fungi species to thrive.

- **Archaeological potential: Medium/High.** The potential for below ground archaeology is dependent upon previous land use and the agricultural regimes employed on the land since enclosure. Where fields have remained in permanent pasture for a significant period potential is likely to be higher with ridge and furrow potentially overlaying earlier buried remains. Any field or group of fields over 1ha will, for reasons of size, be considered to have an archaeological potential.
- **Management:** Regular maintenance to the form and shape of the field boundaries is crucial for preserving the integrity of this HLC type. Where ridge and furrow is present this HLC type should remain under pasture.
- **Research Potential:** Further research into the origins of these enclosures, through either desk based assessment, fieldwork or a combination of both will help to refine our understanding of when enclosure in individual cases took place. Although there should be a presumption in favour of retaining ridge and furrow, as important archaeological features in their own right, there is the potential for earlier archaeological remains to be present beneath. Where under arable cultivation this field type has the potential to produce significant results from systematic field walking.
- **Amenity Value: Medium.** Where integrity is preserved this HLC Type can provide an important visual amenity and be of significant historical interest. Where present as isolated fragments amenity is likely to be lower.

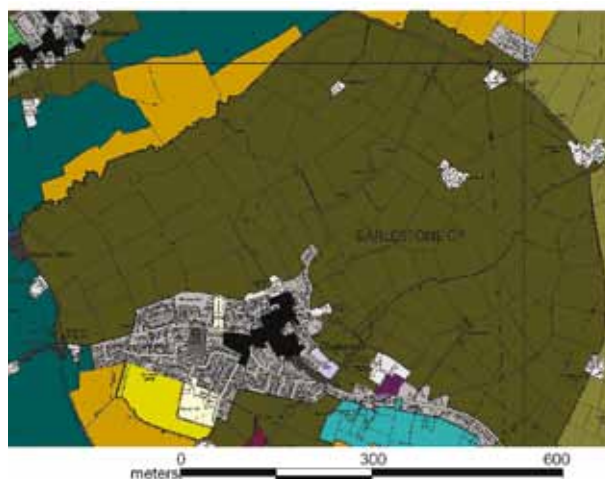


Figure 37. Piecemeal Enclosure HLC Type: Belton

Further Reading

Rackham, O. 1986, *The History of the Countryside: The Classic History of Britain's Landscape, Flora and Fauna*, Phoenix Press, London.

Taylor, C. 2000, *Fields in the English Landscape*, Sutton Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

2.2 Fields and Enclosed Land

Re-organised Piecemeal Enclosure

Total Area: 46100 ha

18.1%

Av. Polygon: 86.3ha

Polygons: 534

2.8%

Occurrence: Common

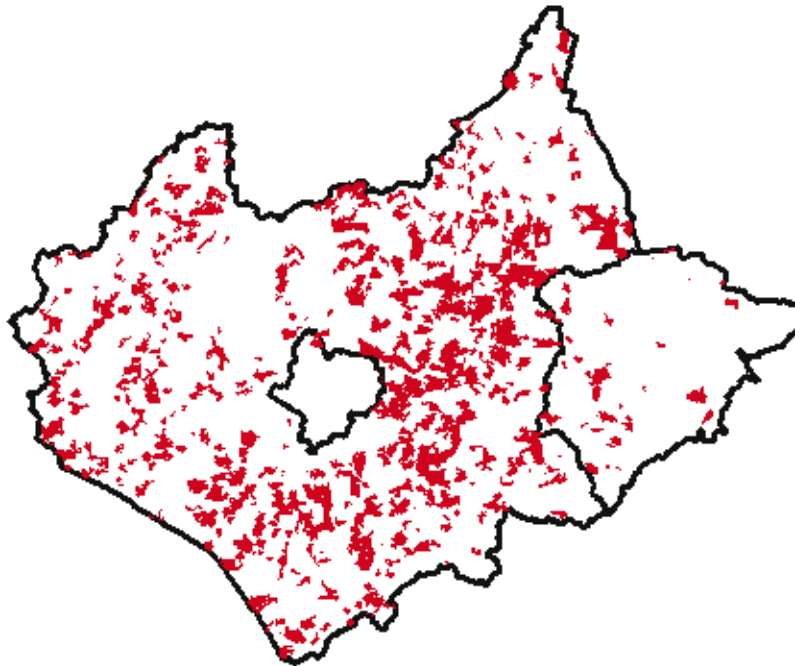


Figure 38. Distribution of Re-organised Piecemeal Enclosure

- Description:** This HLC Type will be characterised by small irregular or rectilinear fields that have lost 10% or more of their field boundaries since the 1st edition 6" OS map, or areas of large irregular or rectilinear fields. In both cases at least two field boundaries will have an 's-curve' or 'dog-leg' morphology. These enclosure patterns have developed through a process of amalgamation of fields created through piecemeal enclosure. This process in many cases, although by no means entirely, will have occurred since the publication of the 1st edition 6" OS map. This HLC type is most densely concentrated in the south and east of Leicestershire with a slightly less dense distribution along the western side of the county. Immediately to the north and west of Leicester, representing much of the area covered by Charnwood and Leicester Forests this HLC type has a low representation. The representation of this field type is also particularly low across much of Rutland and in the north east of Leicestershire reflecting the fact that these are areas where the dominant field types are Planned Enclosure and Very Large Post-War Fields.
- Period: Late-Post-Medieval/Modern.** This HLC Type has been formed primarily through changes in agricultural practice which begin during the late 19th century and continue through much of the 20th. This HLC type does however contain within it elements, primarily fields

with an 's-curve' or 'dog-leg' morphology, which although fragmentary allude to earlier medieval and post-medieval farming practices.

- **Factors influencing change:** Continued loss of field boundaries. Changes from pasture to arable farming. The insertion of new paddocks for livestock and horses. Built development particularly as a consequence of the expansion of existing settlement.
- **Biodiversity potential: Low/Medium:** This HLC type is dominated by a mixture of arable, unimproved/improved grasslands which tend to have a low biodiversity potential. Whilst some older field boundaries will have been retained many will have been removed, straightened or be fairly fragmentary in nature and as such will be of limited ecological significance.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium.** The potential for below ground archaeology is dependent upon previous land use and the agricultural regimes employed on the land since enclosure. In many cases these fields will have been under modern arable cultivation which will have removed any surface remains. Any field or group of fields over 1ha will, where development is proposed, be considered to have a potential for below ground archaeology.
- **Management:** Regular maintenance to the form and shape of the field boundaries.
- **Research Potential:** Where under arable cultivation this field type has the potential to produce results from systematic field walking.
- **Amenity Value: Medium.** Although perhaps not considered aesthetically to be of a high amenity value many fields falling within this HLC type will have public footpaths running across them which are in regular use.

Further Reading

Rackham, O. *The History of the Countryside: The Classic History of Britain's Landscape, Flora and Fauna*, Phoenix Press, London, 1986.

Taylor, C. *Fields in the English Landscape*, Sutton Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2000.

2.2 Fields and Enclosed Land

Drained Wetlands

Total Area: 468 ha

0.2%

Av. Polygon: 22.9ha

Polygons: 21

0.1%

Occurrence: Very Rare

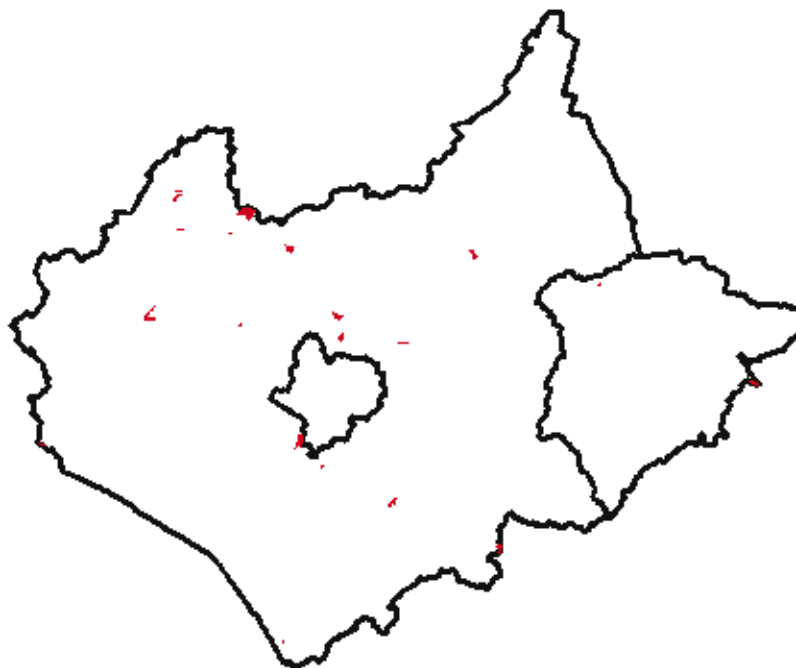


Figure 39. Distribution of Drained Wetlands

- **Description:** This character type includes small or large, irregular or rectilinear fields. Most of the boundaries will be defined by the course of drainage ditches, some boundaries may also follow water courses.
- **Period: Late-Post-Medieval/Modern.** Landscapes within this HLC Type will in most instances have been formed through agricultural improvements carried out during the late 18th and 19th centuries.
- **Factors influencing change:** Changes in agricultural practices.
- **Biodiversity potential: Low/Medium:** This HLC type is dominated by a mixture of arable, unimproved/improved grasslands which tend to have a low biodiversity potential. Drainage ditches can provide habitats that are of great value for invertebrates.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium.** The potential for below ground archaeology is dependent upon previous land use and the agricultural regimes employed on the land since enclosure. In many cases these fields will have been under modern arable cultivation which will have removed any surface remains. Any field or group of fields over 1ha will, where development is proposed, be considered to have a potential for below ground archaeology.
- **Management:** Regular maintenance to the form and shape of the field boundaries. Clearance and ditch maintenance.

- **Research Potential:** Where under arable cultivation this field type has the potential to produce results from systematic field walking.
- **Amenity Value: Medium.** Although perhaps not considered aesthetically to be of a high amenity value many fields falling within this HLC type will have public footpaths running across them which are in regular use.

Further Reading

Rackham, O. *The History of the Countryside: The Classic History of Britain's Landscape, Flora and Fauna*, Phoenix Press, London, 1986.

Taylor, C. *Fields in the English Landscape*, Sutton Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2000.

2.2 Fields and Enclosed Land

Planned Enclosure

Total Area: 62,449 ha

24.5%

Av. Polygon: 68.3ha

Polygons: 915

4.8%

Occurrence: Common

Planned Enclosure Containing Ridge and Furrow

Total Area: 8,702 ha

4.5%

Av. Polygon: 25ha

Polygons: 348

1.8%

Occurrence: Rare

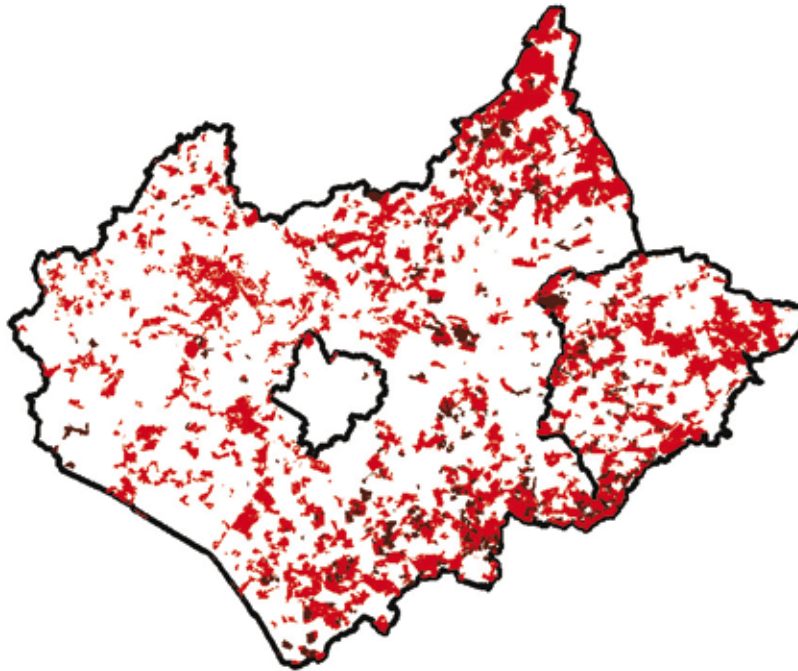


Figure 40. Distribution of All Planned Enclosure

- Description:** Planned Enclosure includes small or large fields with boundaries showing a geometric planned appearance. Laid out by surveyors this HLC Type is the result of later enclosure dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. This type includes commons enclosed by Act of Parliament. Planned Enclosure Containing Ridge and Furrow comprises fields exhibiting the same characteristics as Planned Enclosure but also contains ridge and furrow earthwork remains visible on the GIS air photo layer. Planned Enclosure dominates along the south-eastern and north-eastern borders of the project area. On the western side of Leicestershire this type is less frequent; however a significant block is found in the southern part of Shepshed parish and in Charley. This pattern appears to reflect the planned enclosure of former heath and common land.
- Period: Late-Post-Medieval.** These fields were deliberately laid out during the 18th and 19th centuries. However the ridge and furrow was created through open-field or strip cultivation dating from the early medieval period.

- **Factors influencing change:** Changes to or loss of field boundaries. Changes from pasture to arable farming. Built development.
- **Biodiversity potential: Medium:** This HLC type comprises more recent field boundaries typically laid out during the 18th and 19th centuries. Later hedgerows are generally felt not to have high biodiversity potential, although soil conditions and the species used to create the hedgerow will be an important factor. Hedges and trees within them provide an important food source and refuge for birds and act as 'corridors' for small mammals moving from one woodland to another. When kept under long term pasture, rather than arable, biodiversity potential is also improved particularly where ridge and furrow is present since soil and water retention conditions will vary providing opportunities for a variety of plant and fungi species to thrive. Where hedgerows associated with planned enclosure are next to roads the verges are often fairly wide. Grassland verges can hold valuable communities of plants and animals. In many areas verges may represent the last remaining examples of unimproved neutral or calcareous grassland.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium/High.** The potential for below ground archaeology is dependent upon previous land use and the agricultural regimes employed on the land since enclosure. Where fields have remained in permanent pasture for a significant period potential is likely to be higher. Fields over 1ha will, for reasons of size, be considered to have an archaeological potential.
- **Management:** Regular maintenance to the form and shape of the field boundaries is crucial for preserving the integrity of this HLC type. Avoid ploughing where ridge and furrow is present.
- **Research Potential:** Documentary research can aid our understanding of the date of specific enclosures. Work is required to chart the recent loss of ridge and furrow earthworks. Where under arable cultivation fields can produce positive results from fieldwalking.
- **Amenity Value: Medium.** Amenity value is highest when associated with other landscape types. Amenity value increases where there is good public access.



Fig. 41 Planned Enclosure Containing Ridge and Furrow at Thorpe by Water, Rutland

Further Reading

Rackham, O. *The History of the Countryside: The Classic History of Britain's Landscape, Flora and Fauna*, Phoenix Press, London, 1986.

Taylor, C. *Fields in the English Landscape*, Sutton Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2000.

2.2 Fields and Enclosed Land

Other Small Rectilinear Fields

Total Area: 3,453 ha	1.4%	Av. Polygon: 6.3 ha
Polygons: 545	2.9%	Rare

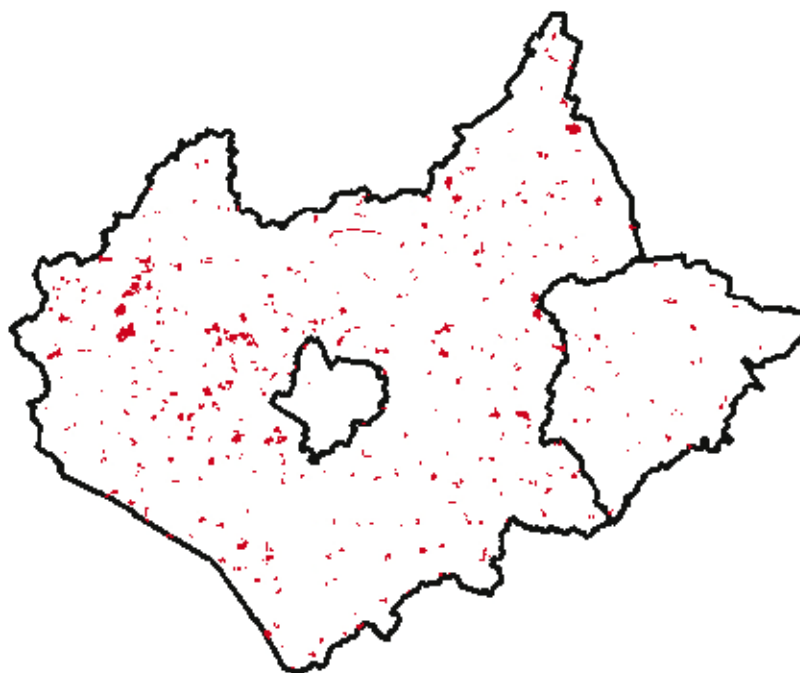


Figure 42. Distribution of Other Small Rectilinear Fields

- **Description:** These areas comprise small rectilinear fields which do not fall into one of the other character types. Included in this group will be small meadows and closes not occurring next to settlement boundaries. There is a fairly even distribution of this HLC Type across much of Leicestershire although a discernibly denser pattern can be seen in the north western part of the county. In Rutland this field pattern appears to be less common. There also appears to be some correlation between the distribution of this HLC Type and areas defined as Historic Settlement Core.
- **Period: Post-Medieval/Modern.** Examples of this HLC type are likely to have a post medieval date although this group also includes modern fields that fit into the same morphological description.
- **Factors influencing change:** Changes to or loss of field boundaries. Changes from pasture to arable farming. Built development.
- **Biodiversity potential: Medium:** This HLC type comprises many of the older field boundaries in the county. Where soil conditions are favourable and the agricultural regime employed within the enclosure is not detrimental hedges may have a significant biodiversity potential. Where this type is found on heavy soils, and particularly where origins may be associated with woodland clearance, conditions are likely to prove favourable to herb varieties such as primrose and dog's mercury.

Hedges and hedgerow trees can provide an important habitat resource for birds and small mammals.

- **Archaeological potential: Medium/High.** The potential for below ground archaeology is dependent upon previous land use and the agricultural regimes employed on the land since enclosure. Where fields have remained in permanent pasture for a significant period potential is likely to be higher. Any field or group of fields over 1ha will, where development is proposed, be considered to have an archaeological potential.
- **Management:** Regular maintenance to the form and shape of the field boundaries is crucial for preserving the integrity of this HLC type. This is perhaps more important for older fields pre-dating the 1st edition OS 6" map.
- **Research Potential:** Further research into the origins of these enclosures, through either desk based assessment, fieldwork or a combination of both. Most of these fields are likely to be under permanent pasture and have a potential for containing earthwork remains. Where under arable cultivation this field type has some potential to produce results from a systematic programme of field walking.
- **Amenity Value: Medium.** The amenity value of this HLC type will be highest when associated with a variety of other HLC types. Amenity value also increases where there is good public access.

Further Reading

Rackham, O. *The History of the Countryside: The Classic History of Britain's Landscape, Flora and Fauna*, Phoenix Press, London, 1986.

Taylor, C. *Fields in the English Landscape*, Sutton Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2000.

2.2 Fields and Enclosed Land

Other Large Rectilinear Fields

Total Area: 5,589 ha	2.2%	Av. Polygon: 41.4 ha
Polygons: 135	0.7%	Rare

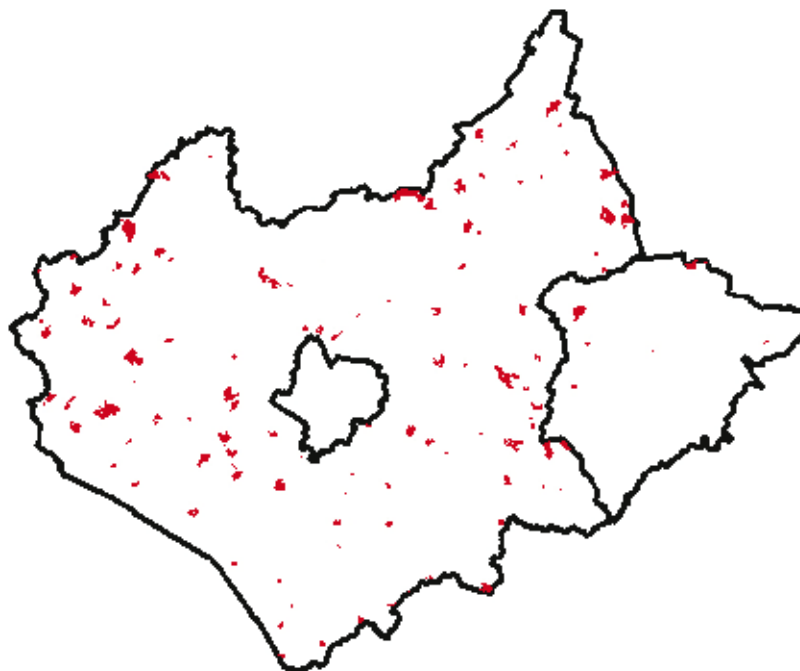


Figure 43. Distribution of Other Large Rectilinear Fields

- **Description:** Included in this HLC type are large rectilinear fields which exhibit a significant number of sinuous boundaries, which cannot be assigned to one of the other character types. This group will include enclosure patterns created through the amalgamation of fields since the publication of the 1st edition 6" OS map.
- **Period: Late-Post-Medieval/Modern.** This HLC Type has been formed primarily through changes in agricultural practice which begin during the late 19th century and continue through much of the 20th. Examples of this HLC type may be the product of large estate land management practices.
- **Factors influencing change:** Continued loss of field boundaries. Changes from pasture to arable farming. The insertion of new paddocks for livestock and horses. Built development particularly as a consequence of the expansion of existing adjacent settlement.
- **Biodiversity potential: Low/Medium:** This HLC type will be dominated by a mixture of arable, unimproved/improved grasslands. These tend to have a low biodiversity potential. Whilst some older field boundaries will have been retained many will have been removed, straightened or be fairly fragmentary in nature and as such are likely to be of limited ecological significance.

- **Archaeological potential: Medium.** The potential for below ground archaeology is dependent upon previous land use and the agricultural regimes employed on the land since enclosure. In many cases these fields will have been under modern arable cultivation which will have removed any surface remains. Any field or group of fields over 1ha will, where development is proposed, be considered to have a potential to contain below ground archaeological remains.
- **Management:** Regular maintenance to the form and shape of the field boundaries.
- **Research Potential:** Where under arable cultivation this field type has the potential to produce results from a systematic programme of field walking.
- **Amenity Value: Medium.** Although perhaps not considered aesthetically to be of a high amenity value many fields falling within this HLC type will have public footpaths running across them which are in regular use.

Further Reading

Rackham, O. *The History of the Countryside: The Classic History of Britain's Landscape, Flora and Fauna*, Phoenix Press, London, 1986.

Taylor, C. *Fields in the English Landscape*, Sutton Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2000.

2.2 Fields and Enclosed Land

Large Irregular Fields

Total Area: 8,331 ha
Polygons: 227

3.3%
1.2%

Av. Polygon: 36.7 ha
Rare

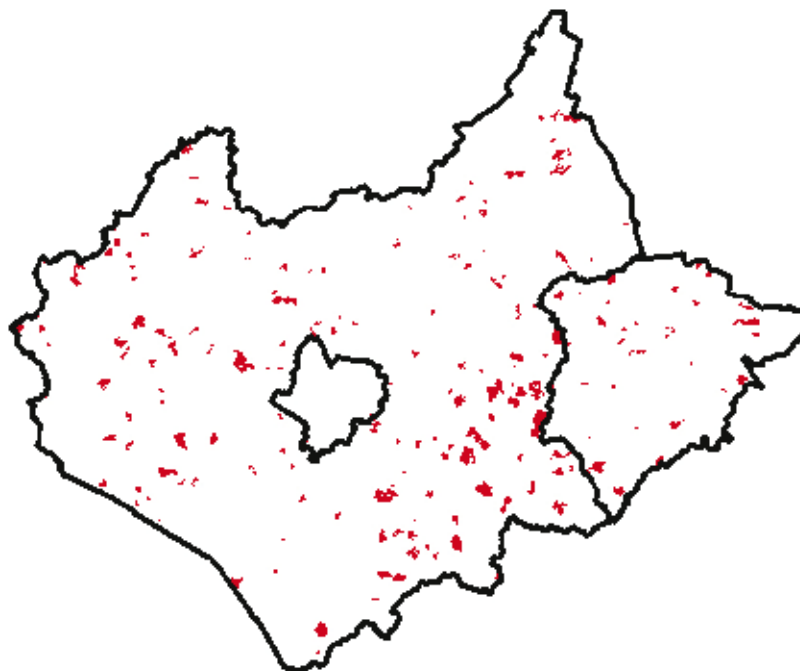


Figure 44. Distribution of Large Irregular Fields

- **Description:** This grouping is made up of Large Irregular Fields exhibiting a significant number of sinuous boundaries, which cannot be assigned to one of the other character types. This group will include enclosure patterns created through the amalgamation of fields since the publication of the 1st edition 6" OS map.
- **Period: Late-Post-Medieval/Modern.** This HLC Type has been formed primarily through changes in agricultural practice which begin during the late 19th century and continue through much of the 20th. Some blocks of fields that fall within this HLC Type are likely to be the product of the land management practices of larger estates
- **Factors influencing change:** Continued loss of field boundaries. Changes from pasture to arable farming. The insertion of new paddocks for livestock and horses. Built development particularly as a consequence of the expansion of existing settlement.
- **Biodiversity potential: Low/Medium:** This HLC type is dominated by a mixture of arable, unimproved/improved grasslands which tend to have a low biodiversity potential. Whilst some older field boundaries will have been retained many will have been removed,

straightened or be fairly fragmentary in nature and as such will be of limited ecological significance.

- **Archaeological potential: Medium.** The potential for below ground archaeology is dependent upon previous land use and the agricultural regimes employed on the land since enclosure. In many cases these fields will have been under modern arable cultivation which will have removed any surface remains. Any field or group of fields over 1ha will, where development is proposed, be considered to have a potential for below ground archaeology.
- **Management:** Regular maintenance to the form and shape of the field boundaries.
- **Research Potential:** Where under arable cultivation this field type has the potential to produce results from systematic field walking.
- **Amenity Value: Medium.** Although perhaps not considered aesthetically to be of a high amenity value many fields falling within this HLC type will have public footpaths running across them which are in regular use.

Further Reading

Rackham, O. 1986, *The History of the Countryside: The Classic History of Britain's Landscape, Flora and Fauna*, Phoenix Press, London.

Taylor, C. 2000. *Fields in the English Landscape*, Sutton Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

2.2 Fields and Enclosed Land

Very Large Post-War Fields

Total Area: 39,495 ha	15.5%	Av. Polygon: 80.9ha
Polygons: 488	2.6%	Occurrence: Common

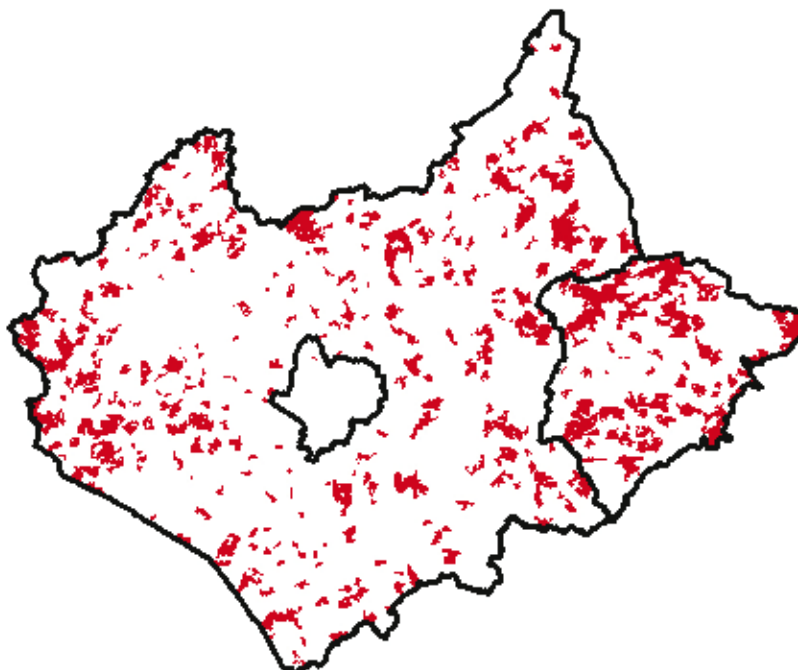


Figure 45. Distribution of Very Large Post-War Fields

- **Description:** This HLC Type is characterised by very large fields, over 8.1 ha and often significantly larger which have been created since the publication of the 1st edition 6" OS map. In most cases this will be the result of Post-War agricultural improvements intended to meet the requirements of intensive arable cultivation. This character type is distributed across much of the study area with particularly high concentrations along the southern and northern borders of Rutland, and the eastern and western borders of Leicestershire.
- **Period: Modern.** The agricultural practices associated with this HLC Type start to be implemented after the Second World War with the introduction of new more powerful farm machinery. Under the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy financial incentives were linked to production; this provided the motivation for the removal of a large number of hedgerows during the later part of the 20th century.
- **Factors influencing change:** Changes to or loss of field boundaries. Changes from pasture to arable farming. Built development.
- **Biodiversity potential: Medium:** This HLC type, for the most part comprises more recent field boundaries typically laid out during the 18th and 19th centuries. Later hedgerows are generally felt not to have high biodiversity potential, although soil conditions and the species used to create the hedgerow will be an important factor. Hedges, along with any trees within them, can provide an important food source and refuge

for birds as well as act as 'corridors' for small mammals moving from one woodland habitat to another. Where this type has remained under long term pasture, rather than arable, biodiversity potential is also improved particularly where ridge and furrow is present since soil and water retention conditions will vary providing opportunities for a variety of plant and fungi species to thrive. Where the hedgerows associated with planned enclosure occur next to roads the verges are often fairly wide. Grassland verges can hold valuable communities of plants and animals. In many areas verges may represent the last remaining examples of unimproved neutral or calcareous grassland.

- **Archaeological potential: Medium/High.** The potential for below ground archaeology is dependent upon previous land use and the agricultural regimes employed on the land since enclosure. Where fields have remained in permanent pasture for a significant period potential is likely to be higher. Any field or group of fields over 1ha will, for reasons of size, be considered to have an archaeological potential.
- **Management:** Regular maintenance to the form and shape of the field boundaries is crucial for preserving the integrity of this HLC type.
- **Research Potential:** Documentary research can aid our understanding of the date of specific enclosures. Work is required to chart the loss over recent years of ridge and furrow earthworks. Where sites are under arable cultivation recently ploughed fields will have the potential to produce positive results from systematic fieldwalking.
- **Amenity Value: Medium.** The amenity value of this HLC type will be highest when associated with other HLC types. Where present as isolated fragments the amenity value will be of lower potential. Amenity value also increases where there is good public access.



Figure 46. Very Large Post-War Fields: Cold Overton

Further Reading

Rackham, O. 1986., *The History of the Countryside: The Classic History of Britain's Landscape, Flora and Fauna*, Phoenix Press, London.

Taylor, C. 2000, *Fields in the English Landscape*, Sutton Publishing, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

2.3 Orchards and Allotments

Post-1880s Orchards

Total Area: 23 ha	0.01%	Av. Polygon: 2.3 ha
Polygons: 4	0.02%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Pre-War Allotments

Total Area: 240 ha	0.09%	Av. Polygon: 2.3 ha
Polygons: 105	0.6%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Post-War Allotments

Total Area: 119 ha	0.05%	Av. Polygon: 1.3 ha
Polygons: 92	0.5%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Pre-1880s Nursery/Horticulture

Total Area: 9 ha	0.004%	Av. Polygon: 2.3 ha
Polygons: 5	0.03%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Post-1880s Nursery/Horticulture

Total Area: 231 ha	0.05%	Av. Polygon: 3.7 ha
Polygons: 62	0.33%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Total

Total Area: 622 ha	0.2%	Av. Polygon: 2.3 ha
Polygons: 268	1.4%	Occurrence: Very Rare

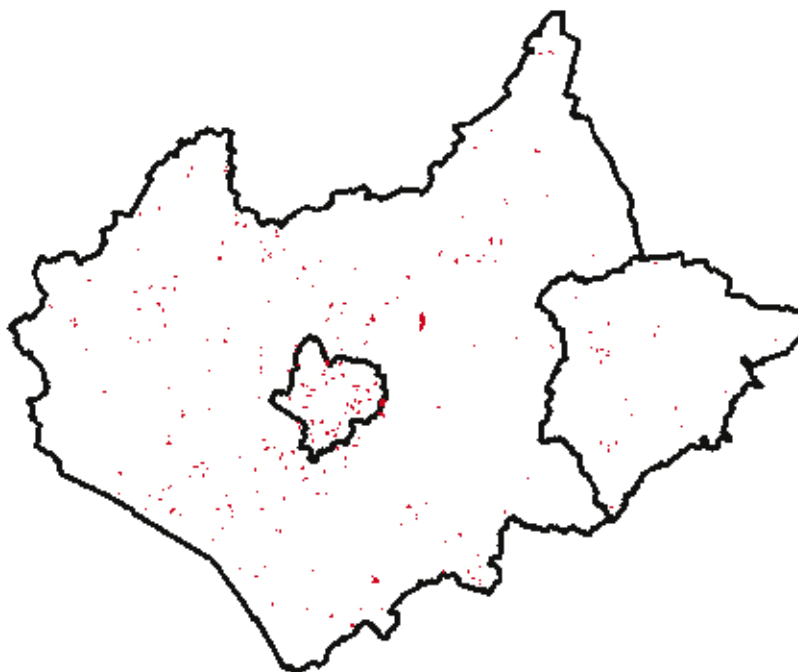


Figure 47. Distribution of Orchards and Allotments Broad Type

- **Description.** This group includes all orchards; Pre and Post-War Allotments; all nurseries and horticultural sites. With the exception of some larger horticultural operations, areas falling into these categories tend to be within or close to and associated with settlement areas. Consequently many of these sites should be viewed within an urban context. Allotments are small parcels of land, usually under local authority ownership, and rented by individuals usually for the purposes of growing crops. This category will also include areas that may originally have been laid out in the 18th century as ‘pleasure gardens’. These would have generally been ornamental and acted as detached gardens for private family use. Large scale horticultural operations tend to be in more rural locations and typically involve the growing of produce under glass or in polytunnels. Nurseries will include commercial plant growers and garden centres.
- **Period: Late Post Medieval/Modern.** Allotments as we might recognise them today derive from 18th and 19th century enclosure legislation. The 1845 General Enclosure Act required provision to be made for the landless poor in the form of ‘field gardens’. Victorian social improvers promoted allotments as a way of halting or reversing degeneracy amongst the working classes. Both the First and Second World Wars proved to be a stimulus to allotment gardening in the face of food shortages and rationing. Despite many sites being abandoned since the Second World War allotment gardening has continued to remain popular and periodically goes through upsurges in popularity.
- **Factors influencing change:** Many allotments are located within or on the edges of urban areas and as such are often regarded as prime residential or business development sites. Nurseries/Horticultural sites tend to be commercial operations and perhaps under less development pressure, particularly in a more rural context.
- **Biodiversity potential: Medium.** If these sites are intensively managed, the use of pesticides or fertilisers will reduce biodiversity opportunity. Wild plants and fauna are often regarded as undesirable weeds or pest species. However, the structural complexity of many allotment sites, especially those with vacant or undermanaged plots, means that allotment sites are often of high biodiversity value for a number of commoner species. Vacant plots will rapidly revert to scrub and unmanaged grassland. Sites may support old or rare varieties of fruit trees which have cultural value as well as high biodiversity value. The perimeter areas of allotment sites also have the potential to contain a variety of undisturbed habitats including fruit trees and mature hedgerows. Some sites continue to remain designated as allotments despite being abandoned and can act as important areas of green space.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium.**
- **Management:** Allotment sites are, in most cases, managed by local authorities who will maintain and promote the use of these sites. Tenants will be obliged to abide by certain conditions mostly relating to the maintenance of their plots.

- **Research Potential:** These sites have a good potential for local history researchers. The sites themselves are one element that can be used to illustrate the nature and pattern of urban expansion.
- **Amenity Value: High.** Allotments have a particularly high amenity value. Whilst some people may not regard these sites as having much, if any, aesthetic value they should be regarded as important cultural assets. They provide many people with the opportunity to grow their own produce and will have an important social function often with close knit communities and clubs associated with them. These sites can provide symbols of continuity and a sense of place for residents and represent an important aspect in the development of a settlement.

2.4 Woodland

Broadleaved Ancient Woodland

Total Area: 1617 ha

0.65%

Av. Polygon: 15.11 ha

Polygons: 107

0.56%

Occurrence: Very Rare

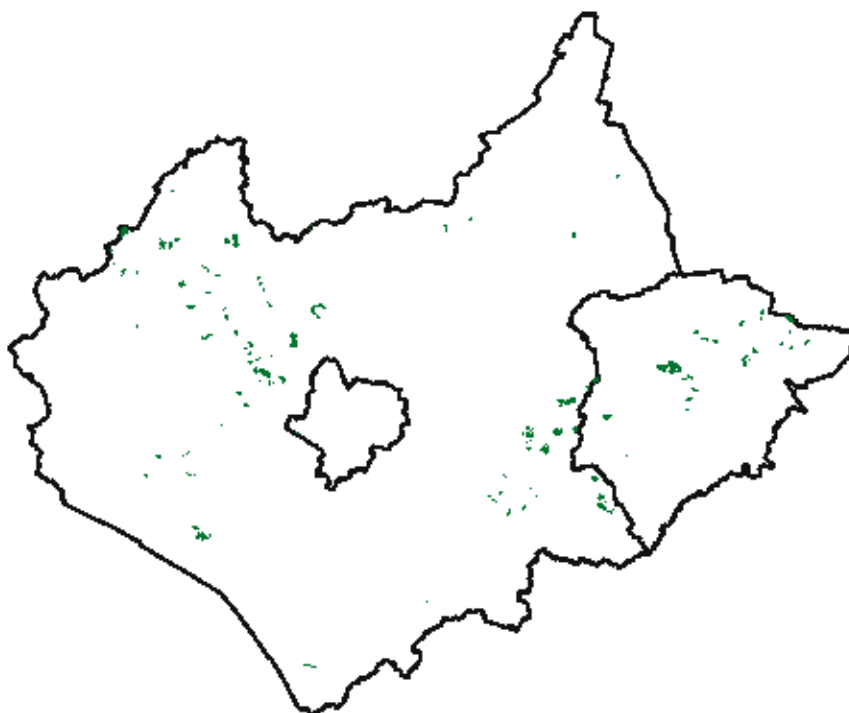


Figure 48. Distribution of Broadleaved Ancient Woodland

- Description.** Areas characterised as Broadleaved Ancient Woodland are equivalent to woodlands defined by the Forestry Commission as being broadleaved and designated by Natural England as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. Ancient semi-natural woodland sites are defined by Natural England as sites which have had continuous woodland cover since at least the beginning of the 17th century. These sites retain native tree and shrub cover that has not been planted, although they may have been managed by coppicing or felling and allowed to naturally regenerate. The distribution of Broadleaved Ancient Woodland within the study area is generally restricted to areas where there are heavy clays or poor soils. There are four main concentrations of Ancient Broadleaved Woodland identified within the study area. The first forms a band running from the west of Leicester through Charnwood Forest to the Derbyshire border just north of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, most of which is contained within the Leicestershire section of the National Forest. Another smaller block, which includes Burbage and Sheepy Woods on the eastern fringe of Hinckley, appears to have been held subject to common rights as early as the mid-thirteenth century. To the east along the Leicestershire-Rutland border from just south of Owston forming a band to the south west to around Noseley are further pockets of Ancient Broadleaved

Woodland. A fourth concentration of this HLC type can be identified in Rutland running from Oakham, just north of Rutland Water eastward to the Rutland-Lincolnshire border.

- **Period: Medieval/15th to 17th century.** The category is derived from woods identified by the Forestry Commission as being broadleaved and designated by English Nature (now Natural England) as 'Ancient Semi-Natural'. 'Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland' is defined as woodland that has been continuously wooded for at least 400 years. This category will include the project area's oldest woods some of which are likely to date to at least the medieval period.
- **Factors influencing Change:** Although relatively stable there are a number of recognised threats and significant factors influencing change on this HLC type. These include climate change, excessive browsing and grazing by deer and livestock, invasive and problem species such as planted conifers and Rhododendron, as well as the fungus-like pathogens *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Phytophthora kernoviae* which can cause serious damage to a wide range of ornamental and native plants. Also recognised as a threat to this landscape type is 'diffuse pollution' as agricultural fertilisers and wider atmospheric pollution contributes to rises in nutrient levels in soils and groundwater which can have an adverse affect upon woodland flora. This HLC type can still be threatened by development and gradual attrition at woodland boundaries. Where the woodland itself is protected it may still be seriously impacted upon by development such as houses or roads when they are built right up to the margins.
- **Biodiversity potential: High.** Broadleaved Ancient Woodland supports nationally important woodland plant and animal species. The character type includes species that are potentially the lineal descendants of Britain's primeval woodland. Management regimes, both past and present, will have a direct effect upon associated flora and fauna which is typically very rich.
- **Archaeological potential: High.** Broadleaved Ancient Woodlands represent an important archaeological resource which has the potential to preserve medieval, Roman and prehistoric remains. These remains are often in the form of earthworks such as woodbanks and ditches probably relating to previous woodland management regimes. Palaeoenvironmental material recovered from waterlogged deposits or covered soils can provide evidence of past forest clearances and regrowth.
- **Management:** There is a need to ensure that all ancient semi-natural woodland is protected by the planning policies of the relevant local planning authorities and any woodland management plans should stress the importance of conserving historic woodland features.
- **Research Potential:** In order for us to more fully understand the origins and evolution of these woodlands further research is required.
- **Amenity Value: High.** Woodlands of this type can be shown to provide benefits far beyond their direct economic value as a source for timber and other wood products. Woodlands are important recreational and educational resources which can also be a stimulus for tourism and be indirectly of significant economic value to the local economy.



Figure 49. Swithland Wood

Further Reading

Squires, A. and Jeeves, J. *Leicestershire and Rutland Woodlands Past and Present*, Kairos Press, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire, 1994.

2.4 Woodland

Replanted Ancient Woodlands

Total Area: 1112 ha

0.45%

Av. Polygon: 17.93 ha

Polygons: 62

0.33%

Occurrence: Very Rare

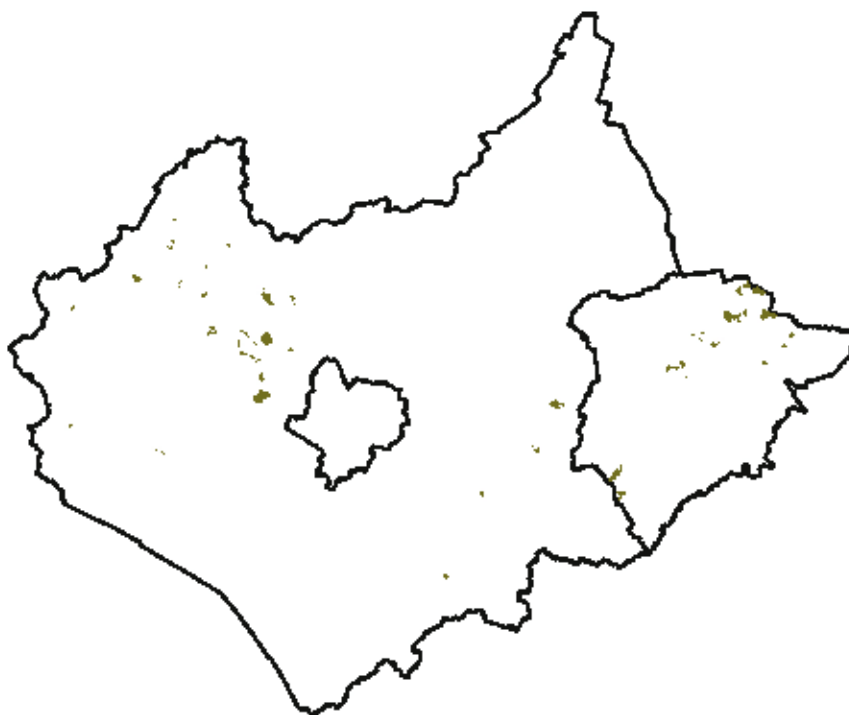


Figure 50. Distribution of Replanted Ancient Woodlands

- Description.** Areas characterised as Replanted Ancient Woodland are equivalent to woodlands designated by Natural England as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland but identified by the Forestry Commission as comprising conifers or young trees. It follows that these areas represent woods likely to have been cleared/felled and replanted during the 19th or 20th century. In most cases woodland boundary extents will remain the same but many of the older broadleaved species are replaced by softwood. Often new internal forest tracks are created as a measure to improve access and to act as fire breaks. The distribution of Replanted Ancient Woodland is similar to the Ancient Broadleaved Woodland identified within the study area. A band runs from the western edge of Leicester through Charnwood Forest to the Derbyshire border just north of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, much of which is contained within the Leicestershire section of the National Forest. A second smaller band runs along the southern section of the Leicestershire-Rutland border. This HLC type can be identified in Rutland running from Oakham, just north of Rutland Water, eastward to the Rutland-Lincolnshire border.
- Period: Modern.** This character type is the result of deliberate planting and is a modern forestry practice.

- **Factors influencing Change:** Across the study area, but particularly within the National Forest boundaries, pressure to increase intensive conifer production has eased with the introduction of planting schemes strongly favouring broadleaf species.
- **Biodiversity potential: Medium/Low** Where coniferous tree species dominate there has long been a tendency to regard such landscapes as having a low or adverse affect upon the biodiversity potential of an area. However woodland rides and glades can be important for invertebrates and vascular plants (e.g. ferns, clubmosses, flowering plants, conifers and other gymnosperms).
- **Archaeological potential: Medium:** Replanted Ancient Woodlands have a limited potential to preserve medieval and earlier remains. In addition there is also the possibility that they may contain earlier remains from periods of forest clearance. This potential may, however, have been compromised by industrial scale plantation.
- **Management:** Where circumstances allow the reversion to broadleaf woodland should be encouraged. Further damage to any earthwork features should be avoided.
- **Research Potential:** In order for us to more fully understand the origins and evolution of these woodlands further research is required. This HLC type would benefit from structured appraisal and investigation to assess the survival of earthwork features.
- **Amenity Value: High.** Woodlands of this type can be shown to provide benefits far beyond their direct economic value as a source for timber and other wood products. Woodlands are important recreational and educational resources which can also be a stimulus for tourism and be indirectly of significant economic value to the local economy.

Further Reading

Squires, A. and Jeeves, J. *Leicestershire and Rutland Woodlands Past and Present*, Kairos Press, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire, 1994.

2.4 Woodland

Broadleaved Woods with Sinuous Boundaries

Total Area: 277 ha	0.45%	Av. Polygon: 6.44 ha
Polygons: 43	0.23%	Occurrence: Very Rare

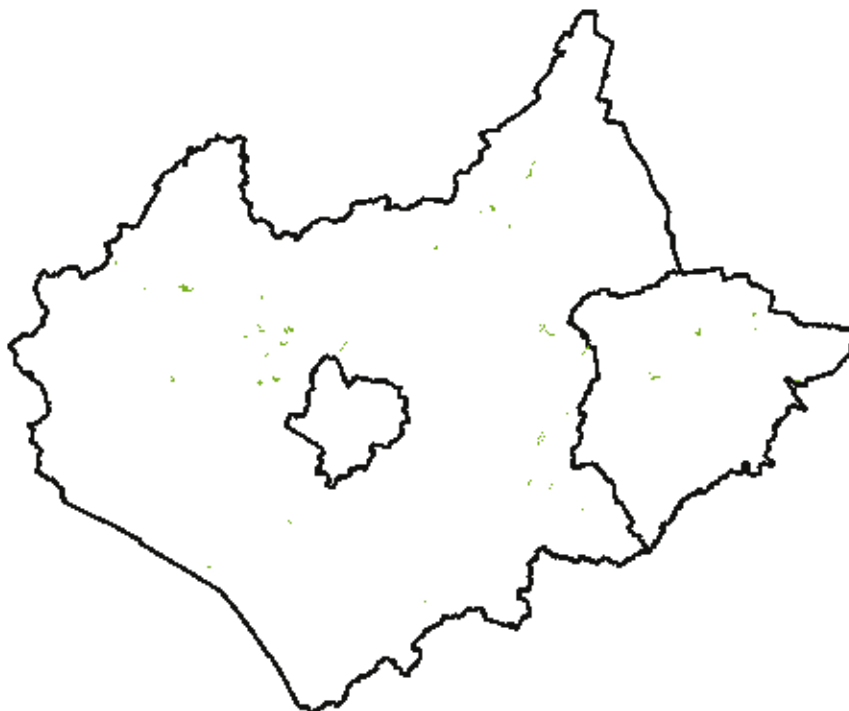


Figure 51. Distribution of Broadleaved Woods with Sinuous Boundaries

- **Description.** Areas characterised as Broadleaved Woods with Sinuous Boundaries are woods identified by the Forestry Commission as having a predominantly broadleaved component and which have boundaries with a sinuous morphology. Although not designated as ‘Ancient Semi-Natural’ these areas have the potential to contain fragments of older managed woodlands and possibly any associated archaeological remains. This character type will include secondary woodland, which is a term often given to woodlands that have grown on abandoned or neglected ground. Most secondary woodland comes about as a result of the natural processes of colonisation and succession although some may also have been planted. This category will also include managed woodlands. The presence of boundaries that are sinuous indicates the possibility that in some cases these woodlands could be medieval or post-medieval in origin. Other examples of this HLC type may also be the result of the influence of foxhunting in Leicestershire and Rutland.
- **Period: Modern.** This character type is the result of deliberate planting and is a modern forestry practice.
- **Factors influencing Change:** Across the study area, but particularly within the National Forest boundaries, pressure to increase intensive

conifer production has eased with the introduction of planting schemes strongly favouring broadleaf species.

- **Biodiversity potential: Medium/High:** Site history and the nature of previous planting regimes are likely to be a significant factor influencing the biodiversity potential for this HLC type. Generally broadleaf woodlands can be rich in flora and fauna although the range of species present will not be as rich as for ancient woodlands. In Leicestershire Broadleaved Woods with Sinuous Boundaries generally tend to occur in the same areas as Ancient Woodlands. Where woodlands of this type occur in close proximity to Ancient Woodlands there is the potential for them to act as sites for migration and colonisation by species more commonly associated with the older woods.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium:** The archaeological potential of this HLC type will depend upon previous landscape use. Broadleaved Woods with Sinuous Boundaries have the potential to contain medieval, Roman and prehistoric remains. In addition there is also the possibility that they may contain earlier remains from periods of forest clearance. This potential can however, have been compromised where intensive industrial scale plantation techniques have been employed.
- **Management:** Further damage to any earthwork features should be avoided.
- **Research Potential:** Although any research potential will generally relate to features that pre-date the woodlands deliberate plantation as, for example, elements of a hunting landscape can be of interest.
- **Amenity Value: High.** Woodlands of this type can be shown to provide benefits far beyond any direct economic value as a source for timber and other wood products. Woodlands are important recreational and educational resources which can also be a stimulus for tourism and be indirectly of significant economic value to the local economy. Where woodlands develop on the fringes of and within urban areas they will often be used as an informal recreational resource.

Further Reading

Squires, A. and Jeeves, J. *Leicestershire and Rutland Woodlands Past and Present*, Kairos Press, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire, 1994.

2.4 Woodland

Mixed Woods with Sinuous Boundaries

Total Area: 20 ha

0.001%

Av. Polygon: 4 ha

Polygons: 5

0.03%

Occurrence: Very Rare

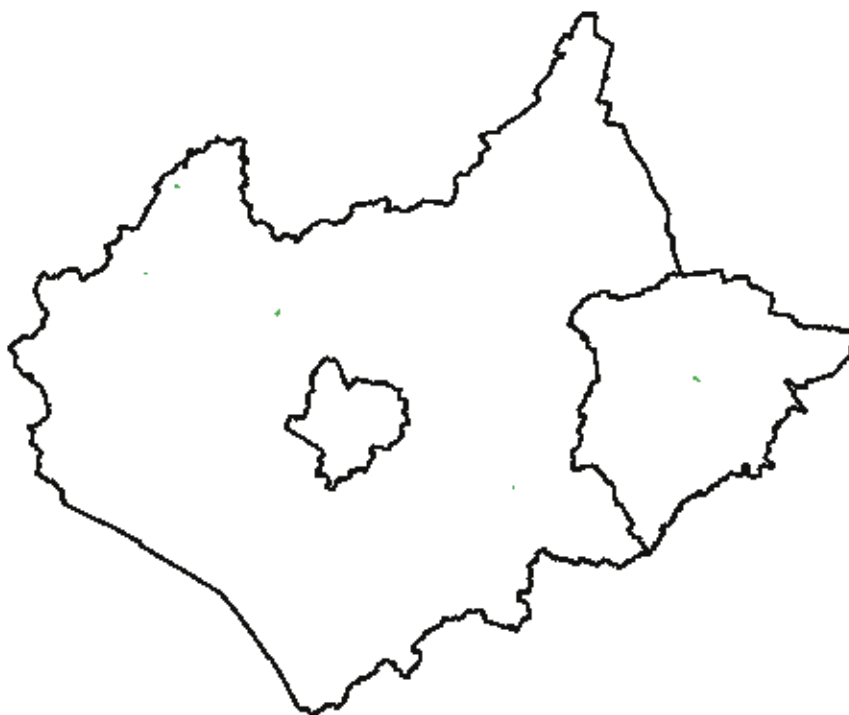


Figure 52. Distribution of Mixed Woods with Sinuous Boundaries

- **Description.** Areas characterised as Mixed Woods with Sinuous Boundaries are woods identified by the Forestry Commission as being mixed in composition and having boundaries with a sinuous morphology. These areas may represent stands of older woodland colonised by or partially planted with conifers. These sites have an, albeit limited, potential to contain fragments of older managed woodlands and associated archaeological remains. Generally this HLC type will consist of managed woodlands. The presence of boundaries that are sinuous indicates the possibility that in some cases these woodlands could be medieval or post-medieval in origin.
- **Period: Modern.** Where coniferous species dominate this character type will be the result of deliberate planting and is a modern forestry practice.
- **Factors influencing Change:** Pressure to increase intensive conifer production has eased with the introduction of planting schemes strongly favouring broadleaf species.
- **Biodiversity potential: Low/Medium:** Site history and the nature of previous planting regimes are likely to be a significant factor influencing the biodiversity potential for this HLC type. Where this HLC type is dominated by coniferous species the biodiversity potential is likely to be

limited, however glades and rides may produce valuable habitat sites for both flora and fauna.

- **Archaeological potential: Medium:** The archaeological potential of this HLC type will depend upon previous landscape use. Mixed Woods with Sinuous Boundaries have some, limited, potential to contain medieval and earlier remains. In addition there is also the possibility that they may contain earlier remains from periods of forest clearance. Where woodlands have undergone a process of intensive industrial scale plantation techniques this potential may be compromised.
- **Management:** Further damage to any earthwork features should be avoided and where such features are recognised their presence should be reflected in any planting regime.
- **Research Potential:** Research potential will generally relate to features that pre-date the woodland. However deliberate plantations can, for example, be recognised as elements of a wider hunting landscape or they may contain earthworks relating to previous management practice. Such features can, in their own right, be of interest.
- **Amenity Value: High.** Woodlands of this type can be shown to provide benefits far beyond any direct economic value as a source for timber and other wood products. Woodlands are important recreational and educational resources which can also be a stimulus for tourism and be indirectly of significant economic value to the local economy. Where woodlands develop on the fringes of and within urban areas and access possible they will often be used as an informal recreational resource.

Further Reading

Squires, A. and Jeeves, J. *Leicestershire and Rutland Woodlands Past and Present*, Kairos Press, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire, 1994.

2.4 Woodland

Coniferous Woods with Sinuous Boundaries

Total Area: 56 ha

0.02%

Av. Polygon: 14 ha

Polygons: 4

0.02%

Occurrence: Very Rare

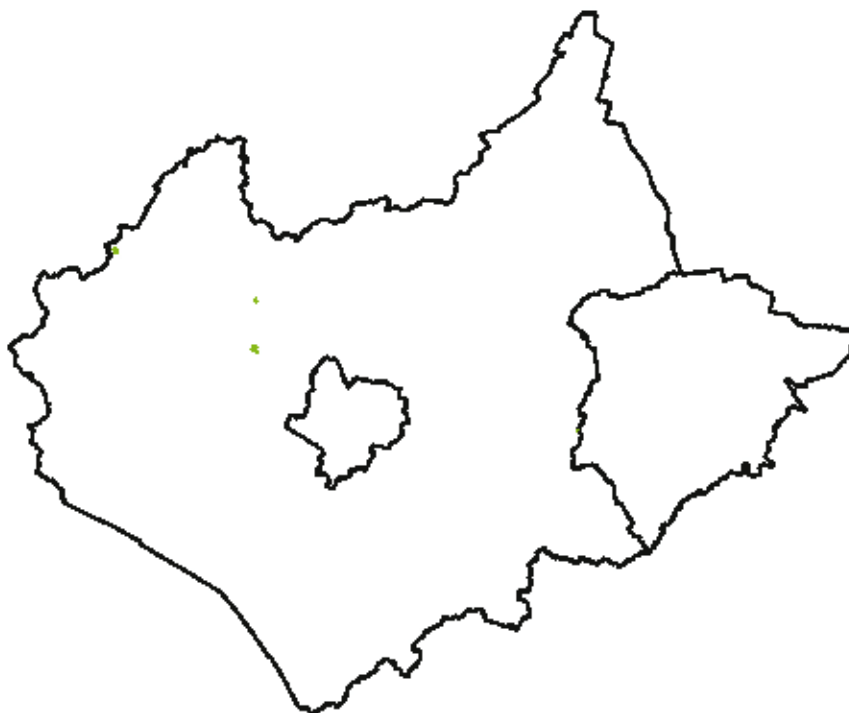


Figure. 53. Distribution of Coniferous Woods with Sinuous Boundaries

- **Description.** Coniferous Woods with Sinuous Boundaries are woods identified by the Forestry Commission as being coniferous in composition and having boundaries with a sinuous morphology. In most cases these are likely to represent plantations. The fact that they have a sinuous boundary morphology suggests the possibility that this character types may have had a previous character of Broadleaved Woodland. Generally this HLC type will consist of managed woodlands.
- **Period: Modern.** Where coniferous species dominate this character type will be the result of deliberate planting and is a modern forestry practice.
- **Factors influencing Change:** Pressure to increase intensive conifer production has eased with the introduction of planting schemes strongly favouring broadleaf species. These are managed woodlands grown to provide timber and consequently will be felled as a matter of course.
- **Biodiversity potential: Low/Medium:** Conifer plantation tends to consist of blocks of even age crop trees and will cast dense shadow throughout the year. Prolonged heavy shading will ultimately kill off

even the most shade tolerant of woodland plants resulting in a limited biodiversity potential for this HLC type.

- **Archaeological potential: Medium:** The archaeological potential of this HLC type will depend upon previous landscape use. Although earthwork features may be present within this type, industrialised plantation is likely to have damaged or destroyed any archaeological remains.
- **Management:** Where earthwork features have been identified within this HLC type further damage should be avoided and where possible their presence should be reflected in any planting regime.
- **Research Potential:** Research potential will generally relate to features that pre-date the woodland. However deliberate plantations can, for example, be recognised as elements of a wider hunting landscape or they may contain earthworks relating to previous management practice. Such features can, in their own right, be of interest.
- **Amenity Value: Medium.** This HLC type may be considered to provide a lower amenity value than woods with a broadleaved composition. They are less popular as a recreational resource and access tends to be more limited. That said they are often prominent local landscape features and may also be utilised as a resource to help in the rearing of game birds.

Further Reading

Rackham, O. 1986, *The History of the Countryside: The Classic History of Britain's Landscape, Flora and Fauna*, Phoenix Press, London.

Squires, A. and Jeeves, J. *Leicestershire and Rutland Woodlands Past and Present*, Kairos Press, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire, 1994.

2.4 Woodland

Other Woods with Sinuous Boundaries

Total Area: 73 ha	0.03%	Av. Polygon: 2.4 ha
Polygons: 30	0.16%	Occurrence: Rare

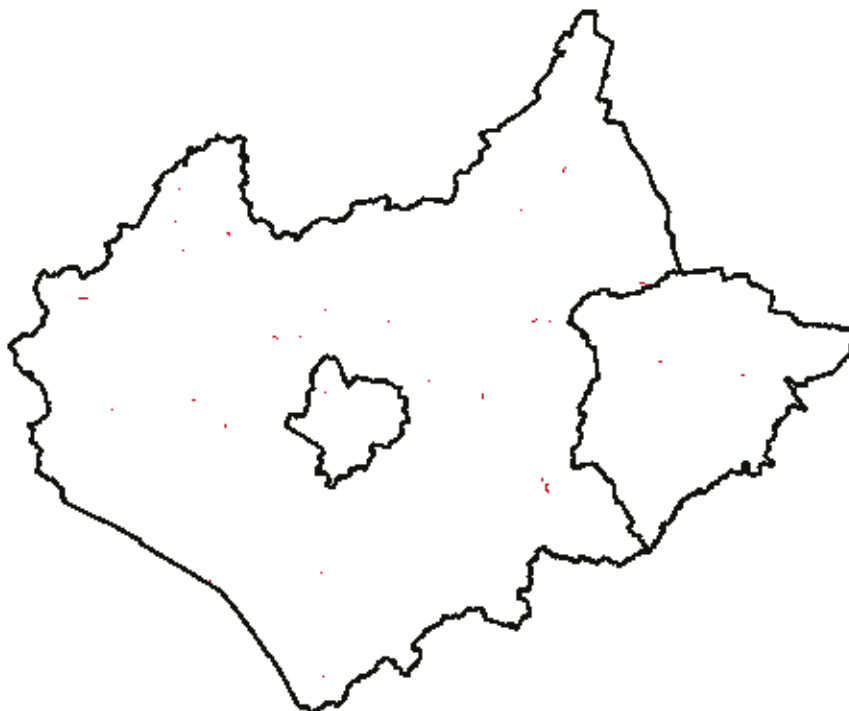


Figure 54. Distribution of Other Woods with Sinuous Boundaries

- **Description.** This HLC type comprises woods with no Forestry Commission designation. In many cases this is because they are less than 2 ha in size or have been identified as being felled or containing young trees. The boundaries of these areas will have a predominantly sinuous morphology. Where woods of this type are marked on the 1st ed. 6" OS map the presence of boundaries with a sinuous morphology suggests the potential for medieval origins. In some cases it is possible that these blocks represent what is left of larger blocks of woodland. Examination of HLC classifications for the surrounding field patterns can also assist in suggesting potential origins for these woodlands. Generally however woodlands in this category will be managed.
- **Period: Late Post-medieval.** These woodlands tend to be managed and do not generally contain stands of any great age. However where sinuous boundaries occur and historic mapping indicates a continuity in the presence of a woodland HLC type this can be suggestive of woodland for the previous character of the HLC polygon.
- **Factors influencing Change:** Where these woodlands are being actively managed as timber sources it is likely that they will be felled and possibly replanted as a matter of course. Woodland could also

possible be threatened by a desire to increase field size and crop yields.

- **Biodiversity potential: Low/Medium:** Where conifers dominate in this HLC type then biodiversity potential will not be high. However where these woodlands comprise mainly broadleaf species there is the potential for them to be rich in flora and fauna although the range of species present will not be as rich as for ancient woodlands. Where woodlands of this type occur in close proximity to Ancient Woodlands there is the potential for them to act as sites for migration and colonisation by species more commonly associated with the older woods.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium:** The archaeological potential of this HLC type will depend upon previous landscape use. Although earthwork features may be present within this type where intensive plantation has occurred archaeological remains are likely to have been severely damaged or destroyed.
- **Management:** Where earthwork features have been identified within this HLC type further damage should be avoided and where possible their presence should be reflected in any planting regime.
- **Research Potential:** Where concentrations of this HLC type occur or are in close proximity to Ancient Woodlands and evidence for woodland clearance then such types may provide evidence into the extent of previous wider woodland landscapes. Some woodlands falling within the category will be as a result of deliberate plantation and may represent elements of a wider hunting landscape.
- **Amenity Value: Medium.** Where this HLC type occurs in close proximity to settlement then, where access is available, they are likely to be regarded locally as having an important local recreational resource. This may be less so where the type is more isolated and further away from population centres. Woodlands of this HLC type are often prominent local landscape features and may also be utilised as a resource to help in the rearing of game birds.

Further Reading

Rackham, O. 1986, *The History of the Countryside: The Classic History of Britain's Landscape, Flora and Fauna*, Phoenix Press, London.

Squires, A. and Jeeves, J. *Leicestershire and Rutland Woodlands Past and Present*, Kairos Press, Newtown Linford, Leicestershire, 1994.

2.4 Woodland

Broadleaved Plantation

Total Area: 3,604 ha

1.4%

Av. Polygon: 15 ha

Polygons: 624

3.3%

Occurrence: Rare

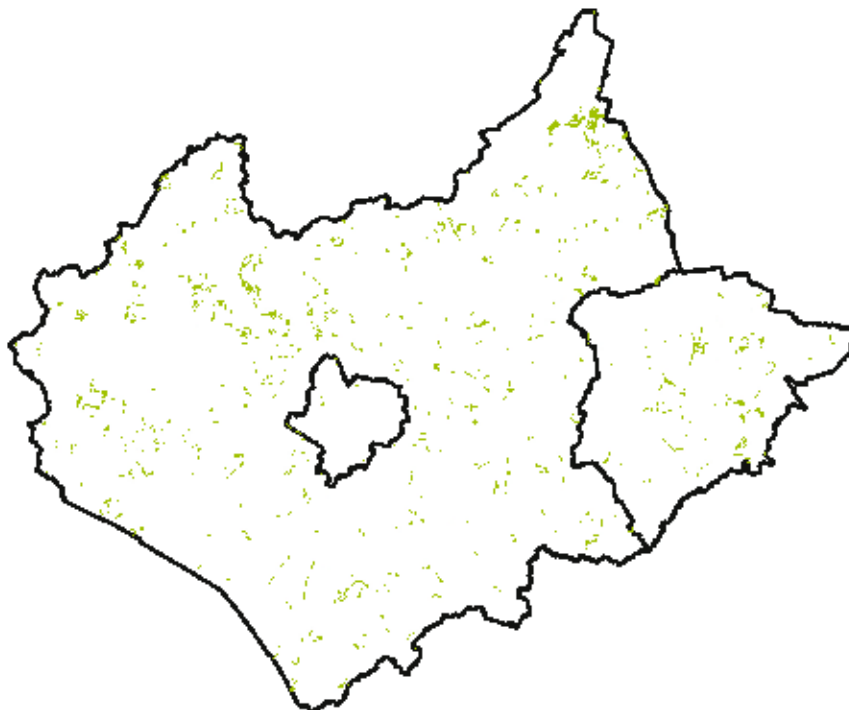


Figure 55. Distribution of Broadleaved Plantation

- **Description.** This HLC type represents woods identified by the Forestry Commission as broadleaved. In this case a straight boundary morphology or the wood's name will suggest plantation at some point during the 19th or 20th century. This HLC type will typically be placed under a management regime that will see woodland thinned or felled wholesale on a regular basis. Faster growing species such as beech and wild cherry will be harvested at around 50 to 60 years. Oak may be as old 150 years when felled. Following the final harvest the woodland will be replanted. The management of woodland plantation from the mid 19th century bears little resemblance to the traditional practices that had long been employed prior to this.
- **Period: Modern.** Woodland plantation in Leicestershire is rarely earlier than 19th century in date.
- **Factors influencing Change:** The main factor that will influence change in this HLC type is felling.
- **Biodiversity potential: Medium:** Where plantation within this category is at its most intensive then biodiversity potential may be limited. High density woodland cover will result in shade inhibiting the growth of other plants. However within the National Forest where much of the most recent Broadleaf Plantation has occurred there has been an emphasis in promoting good new woodland design. The National Forest's own Biodiversity Action Plan seeks to "enhance the

conservation value of existing plantation woodland and ensure appropriate management for wildlife in the planning of new woodland”.

- **Archaeological potential: Medium:** The archaeological potential of this HLC type will depend upon previous landscape use. Although earthwork features may be present within this type where intensive plantation has occurred archaeological remains are likely to have been severely damaged or destroyed.
- **Management:** Where earthwork features have been identified within this HLC type further damage should be avoided and where possible their presence should be reflected in any planting regime.
- **Research Potential:** Where concentrations of this HLC type occur or are in close proximity to Ancient Woodlands and evidence for woodland clearance then such types may provide evidence into the extent of previous wider woodland landscapes. Some woodlands falling within the category will be as a result of deliberate plantation and may represent elements of a wider hunting landscape.
- **Amenity Value: High.** Where this HLC type occurs in close proximity to settlement then, where access is available, they are likely to be regarded locally as having an important local recreational resource. The National Forest recognises the high amenity value of woodland and actively seeks to promote and indeed funds schemes that will improve or enable access to woodland. This HLC type is often prominent as a local landscape feature with older examples in particular being associated with fox hunting.

2.4 Woodland

Mixed Plantation

Total Area: 715 ha

0.3%

Av. Polygon: 6 ha

Polygons: 117

0.6%

Occurrence: Very Rare

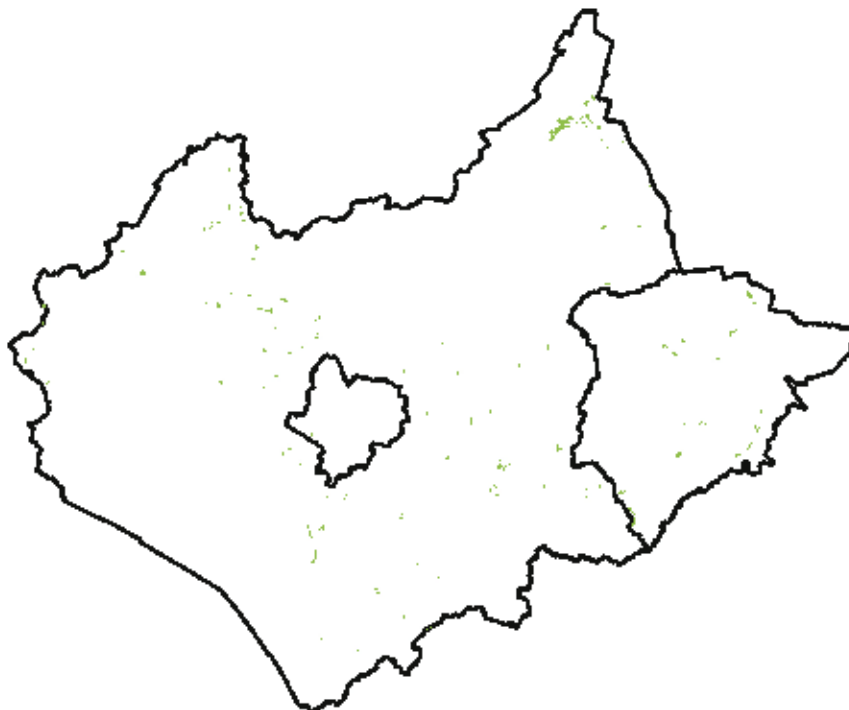


Figure 56. Distribution of Mixed Plantation

- **Description.** This HLC type includes woods that have been identified by the Forestry Commission as having tree cover with a mixed composition. Here straight boundary morphology or the wood's name will suggest plantation, most commonly, at some point during the 19th or 20th century. Very often this type of woodland will consist of a deciduous timber tree such as ash which will be grown amongst a faster growing spruce or pine crop. Other examples may comprise coniferous forest trees which have been planted amongst natural broadleaved woodland. This practice was popular during the 1950s and 60s but is increasingly regarded as having a negative environmental effect and is consequently being reversed.
- **Period: Modern.** Woodland plantation in Leicestershire is rarely earlier than 19th century in date.
- **Factors influencing Change:** The main factor that will influence change in this HLC type is felling, although changes in forestry management practice will also have an effect.
- **Biodiversity potential: Low/Medium:** Where plantation within this category is at its most intensive then biodiversity potential will be limited. High density woodland cover will result in shade inhibiting the growth of other plants
- **Archaeological potential: Medium:** The archaeological potential of this HLC type will depend upon previous landscape use. Although

earthwork features may be present within this type where intensive plantation has occurred archaeological remains are likely to have been severely damaged or destroyed.

- **Management:** Where earthwork features have been identified within this HLC type further damage should be avoided and where possible their presence should be reflected in any planting regime.
- **Research Potential:** This HLC type will have limited research potential and will be dependent on previous land use. Some woodlands falling within the category will be as a result of deliberate plantation and may represent elements of a wider hunting landscape into which more research needs to be done.
- **Amenity Value: High.** Where this HLC type occurs in close proximity to settlement then, where access is available, they are likely to be regarded locally as having an important local recreational resource. This HLC type is often prominent as a local landscape feature with older examples in particular possibly being associated with fox hunting.

2.4 Woodland

Coniferous Plantation

Total Area: 305 ha

0.1%

Av. Polygon: 5 ha

Polygons: 66

0.3%

Occurrence: Very Rare

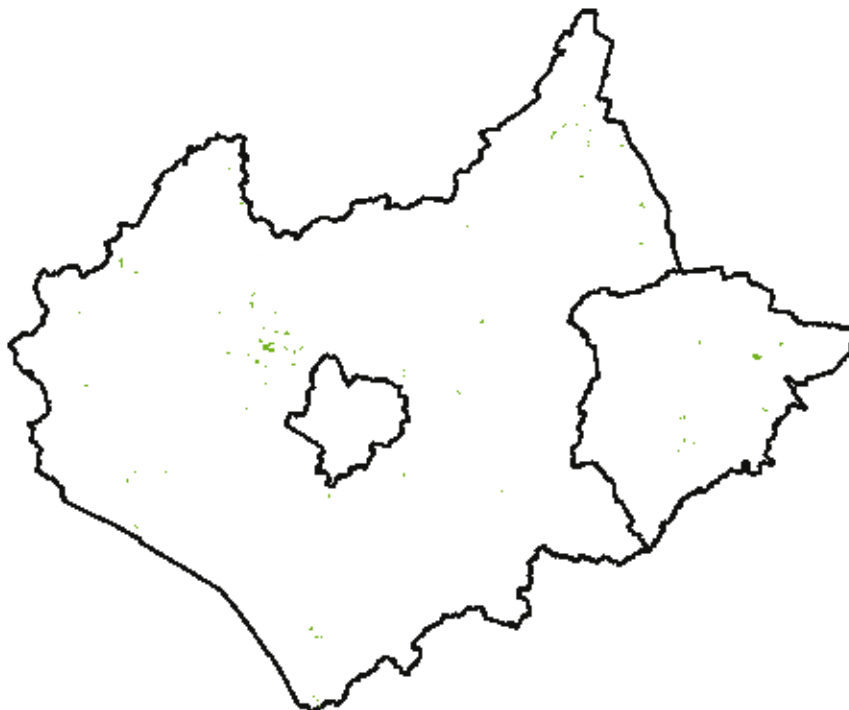


Figure 57. Distribution of Coniferous Plantation

- **Description:** This HLC type consists of woods identified by the Forestry Commission as coniferous. Straight boundary morphology or the wood's name will suggest plantation at some point during the 19th or 20th century. In Leicestershire most coniferous woodland will consist of non-native species planted in blocks at the same time with the objective of producing crop trees.
- **Period: Modern.** Woodland plantation in Leicestershire is rarely earlier than 19th century in date.
- **Factors influencing Change:** The main factor that will influence change in this HLC type is felling although changes in forestry management practice will also have an effect.
- **Biodiversity potential: Low:** Coniferous plantation is often fairly intensive in nature resulting in dense shade all year round. This severely limits the biodiversity for this HLC type.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium:** The archaeological potential of this HLC type will depend upon previous landscape use. Although earthwork features may be present within this type where intensive plantation has occurred archaeological remains are likely to have been severely damaged or destroyed.
- **Management:** Where earthwork features have been identified within this HLC type further damage should be avoided and where possible their presence should be reflected in any planting regime.

- **Research Potential:** This HLC type will have limited research potential and will be dependent on previous land use. Some woodlands falling within the category will be as a result of deliberate plantation and may represent elements of a wider hunting landscape into which more research needs to be done.
- **Amenity Value: Low.** This type of woodland cover has a much lower amenity value than others within the Broad Type.

2.4 Woodland

Other Plantation

Total Area: 3498 ha

1.4%

Av. Polygon: 3 ha

Polygons: 1160

6.1%

Occurrence: Rare

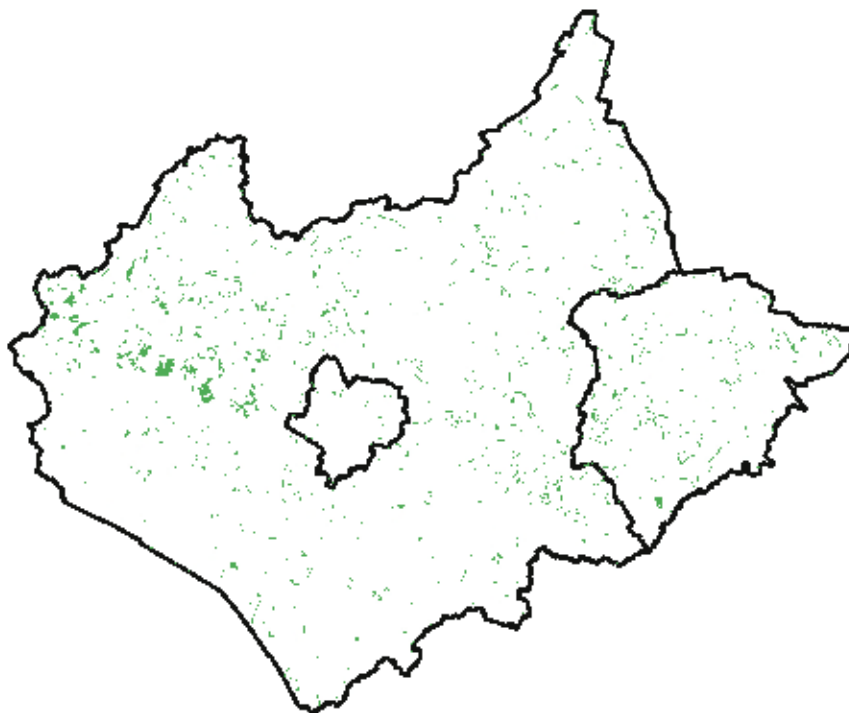


Figure 58. Distribution of Other Plantation

- Description:** This HLC type consists of woodland that has no Forestry Commission designation. In most cases this is because the woodland is less than 2 ha in size or identified as having been either felled or containing young trees. With examples of this HLC type a straight boundary morphology or the wood's name will suggest plantation at some point during the 19th or 20th century. Across much of the study area there is a fairly even distribution of this HLC type. However within the area of the National Forest the number and density of this woodland type is markedly greater. Although there are many recognised benefits associated with the plantation of new woodlands which can include improved public access, restoration of former industrial land and reversing the fragmentation of ancient woodland, it is important that expansion of woodland does not adversely affect the distinctiveness of the local landscape or damage existing important habitats.
- Period: Modern.** Woodland plantation in Leicestershire is rarely earlier than 19th. With the establishment of the National Forest in 1995 a significant proportion of woodland falling within this HLC type will have been planted after this date.

- **Factors influencing Change:** The main factor that will influence change in this HLC type is felling although changes in forestry management practice will also have an effect.
- **Biodiversity potential: Medium:** The biodiversity potential of this HLC type will depend upon the tree species planted. High density coniferous plantation will have a fairly low potential, whereas many of the schemes put in place within the National Forest will involve the planting of native broadleaf species and aim to enhance the biodiversity potential of an area.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium:** The archaeological potential of this HLC type will depend upon previous landscape use. Most recent plantation of itself will have little archaeological potential. With older plantations earthwork features may survive within this type, however, where intensive plantation has occurred archaeological remains are likely to have been severely damaged or destroyed.
- **Management:** Where earthwork features have been identified within this HLC type further damage should be avoided and where possible their presence should be reflected in any planting regime.
- **Research Potential:** This HLC type will have limited research potential and will be dependent on previous land use. Some woodlands falling within the category will be as a result of deliberate plantation and may represent elements of a wider hunting landscape into which more research needs to be done.
- **Amenity Value: Medium.** In the National Forest recent plantation schemes that have good public access are favoured and the quality of design is often high to the point where they provide an important recreational, educational and economic resource. In other parts of Leicestershire and Rutland much plantation will be more intensive in nature and where conifers dominate it is likely the amenity value will be considerably lower.

2.5 Industrial

All Industrial Types Combined

Total Area: 3,600 ha

1.4%

Av. Polygon: 5.4 ha

Polygons: 666

3.5%

Occurrence: Very Rare

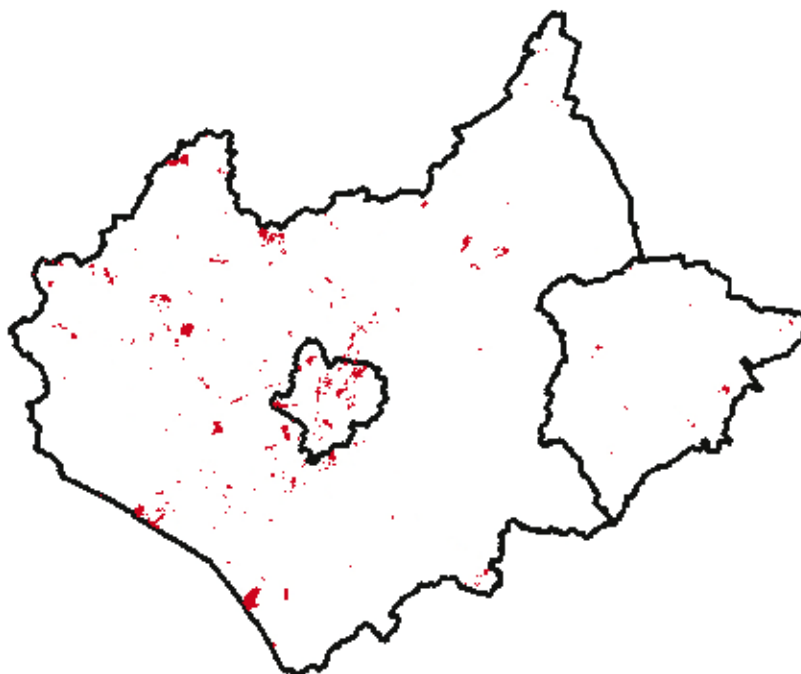


Figure 59. Distribution of Industrial HLC Broad Type

- Description.** This group comprises all HLC Types that are characterised as belonging to the Industrial Broad Type category. This group includes Post-1880s Industrial Complexes, Pre-1880s Industrial Complexes, Derelict Industrial Land, Other Works, Engineering and Metal Working and Textile, Boot & Shoe and Associated Industries. Post-1880 Industrial Complexes are defined as industrial complexes type unidentified. Included in this HLC Type are industrial estates and large factories which appear after the publication of the OS 1st edition 6" maps. Most areas in this category will date from the second half of the 20th century. The Pre-1880s Industrial Complex Type is made up of industrial complexes and buildings which are marked on the OS 1st Edition 6" map. Derelict Industrial Land is defined as former industrial sites which have been cleared and had no subsequent development. Other Works include utility sites such as water treatment plants, sewage plants, power stations and sub-power stations. Engineering and Metal Working defines complexes and factories identified by OS mapping as being associated with these activities. The Textiles, Boot and Shoe and Associated Industries Type identifies complexes and factories associated with these industries and includes hosiery and lace making, dyeing and associated warehousing. Areas characterised as belonging to this Broad Type tend to be located within an urban context with many of the larger Post-1880s Industrial Estates being found on settlement fringes. By far the highest concentrations of these

HLC Types are found in Leicester and the western parts of the project area. Although framework knitting machines were introduced in Hinckley in 1640 the economy of the project area was overwhelmingly agriculture based until the beginning of the 18th century as expanding markets and favourable economic circumstances saw many producers of machine knitted goods relocating to the East Midlands towns of Leicester, Nottingham and Derby since these represented areas of relatively cheap labour. The development of framework knitting and the hosiery industry was rapid and by the late 18th and early 19th centuries between a third and a half of workers in Leicester were employed in the hosiery industry. By the mid-1960s industry in the Leicester region was dominated by engineering, textiles and clothing and footwear. Although the textiles industry remained important it was engineering that was to become and remains a more dominant economic force in the region

- **Period: Late Post-medieval/Modern.** Most areas characterised as belonging to these HLC Types will date from the 20th century although some buildings may have a 19th century date.
- **Factors influencing change:** Demolition and subsequent redevelopment. Sustained periods of economic downturn will have a similar effect.
- **Biodiversity potential: Low.** The biodiversity potential for this HLC Type will generally be low when sites are in active use. However where sites have been abandoned and left to become derelict species-rich habitats of especial value for invertebrates and plants often develop, and post-industrial sites can support large populations of rare species. Derelict land, although often having high concentrations of waste products such as heavy metals, can contain widely diverse soil types ranging from acidic to alkaline, dry to damp, and are often nutrient-poor. These factors can create habitats of great diversity and value to wildlife. The roof-eaves of older buildings particularly are often used by birds such as house martins and swallows, whilst kestrels and peregrine falcons are known to nest on ledges. Some older buildings may also be used as roosting sites for bats.
- **Archaeological potential: Low/Medium.** In most cases the below ground archaeology of this HLC Type will be low with archaeological remains likely to have been completely destroyed or, at best, significantly truncated. Older industrial buildings can represent important components of the industrial heritage of a town and its surrounding area and may be listed or historically significant. Where there are to be significant alterations to a building or the development process involves demolition of buildings a programme of recording prior to change is often desirable. Where this HLC Type occurs within a town's historic core there will be a recognised potential for the survival of below ground archaeology. Over recent years many urban 'brownfield' sites have been targeted for redevelopment. These are often sites of historic or locally traditional industries, the importance of which has become more widely recognised in recent years and is being increasingly accommodated through the planning process.

- **Management:** Most buildings in these HLC Types will be maintained by the owner or leaseholder. Some buildings will be listed and require listed building consent prior to alterations. Towns are dynamic places often subject to rapid change. It is vital that any new commercial or retail development within the historic areas of towns should seek to preserve and enhance its surroundings. English Heritage's advice to planners states that the "historic environment itself will set a benchmark for quality, whether for building design, ground plan or surface treatments" (English Heritage 2005). It is important that at an early stage, when changes are being considered to the fabric or setting of these buildings, the advice of heritage specialists (both for historic buildings and archaeology) is sought.
- **Research Potential:** Individually most modern industrial sites will offer little in terms of research potential with many modern industrial units being large structures of limited architectural interest. Areas characterised as belonging to this HLC Type should be viewed within the wider context of a settlement's historic and economic development. An Extensive Urban Survey would provide an analysis of the origins and development of the towns of Leicestershire and Rutland through the examination of their principal plan components and existing standing structures.
- **Amenity Value: Low.** This HLC Type has a low amenity value. Industrial sites are functional spaces generally designed for the production of goods or processing of materials. These spaces are places of work and will tend to have little if any recreational value.



Figure 60. Magna Park 1995 (a section of Bitteswell Airfield still remains at this time)

Further Reading

English Heritage. 2005, *Retail Development in Historic Areas*, English Heritage.

English Heritage. 2006, *Science for Historic Industries: Guidelines for the Investigation of 17th- to 19th-Century Industries*, English Heritage.

Palmer, P. and Neaverson, P. 1992, *Industrial Landscape of the East Midlands*, Phillimore & Co. Ltd., Chichester.

2.6 Extractive and Landfill

Clay Extraction

Total Area: 205 ha	0.08%	Av. Polygon: 11.4 ha
Polygons: 18	0.09%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Gypsum Extraction

Total Area: 21 ha	0.008%	Av. Polygon: 21 ha
Polygons: 1	0.005%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Open Cast Mines

Total Area: 172 ha	0.07%	Av. Polygon: 443 ha
Polygons: 4	0.02%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Sand and Gravel Quarries

Total Area: 291 ha	0.1%	Av. Polygon: 22.4 ha
Polygons: 13	0.07%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Stone Quarries

Total Area: 958 ha	0.4%	Av. Polygon: 33 ha
Polygons: 29	0.2%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Landfill

Total Area: 52 ha	0.02%	Av. Polygon: 7.4 ha
Polygons: 7	0.04%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Total

Total Area: 1,699 ha	0.7%	Av. Polygon: 23.6 ha
Polygons: 72	0.5%	Occurrence: Very Rare

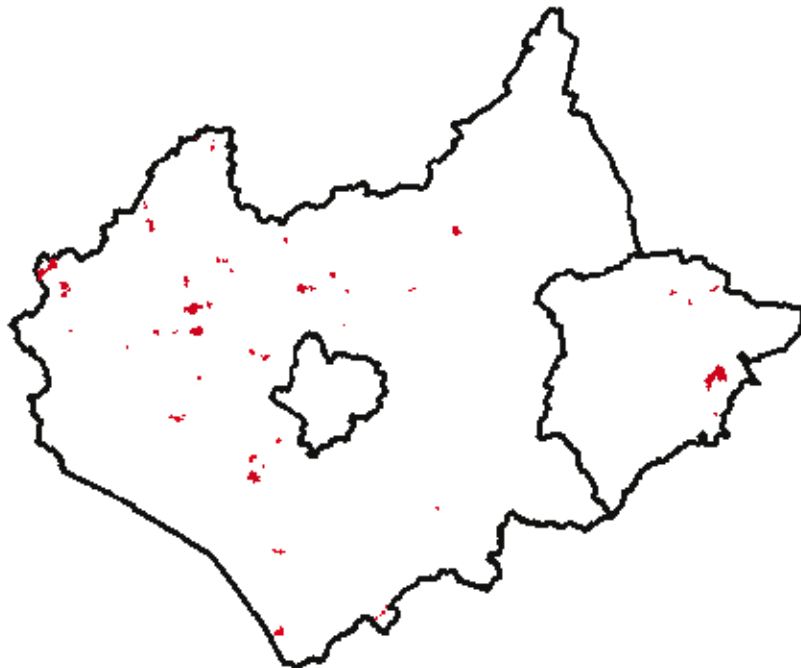


Figure 61. Distribution of Active Extractive and Landfill HLC Types

- **Description:** These HLC types include coal and minerals extraction sites currently active which will have been identified either through Leicestershire County Council's Minerals and Waste GIS data or Modern Ordnance Survey maps. The distribution of this HLC Type is determined by the underlying geology. Leicestershire is one of the country's principal producers of minerals, particularly igneous rock. Resources are concentrated in the west of the project area. Extraction of igneous rock is mostly confined to four main sites; Bardon; Cliffe Hill; Croft and Mountsorrel. Carboniferous limestone is currently being worked at Breedon Hill and Cloud Hill. The valleys of the Rivers Trent, Soar and Wreake combined with isolated glacial deposits south of Leicester provide important sand and gravel resources. Brickclay resources are quite extensive in north western parts of Leicestershire mostly associated with the Middle Coal Measures of the area. Both surface and concealed coal deposits occur in north-west Leicestershire with opencast operations currently being carried out between Ravenstone and Normanton-le-Heath. In eastern Leicestershire and in Rutland younger Jurassic limestones, such as those quarried at Ketton, predominate and are a source for pale stone used both for building and cement. Coal and other mineral resources have played and continue to play an important role in the economy of the county and are industries that have had a significant influence upon settlement development in north-west Leicestershire.
- **Period: Modern.** All active mineral sites are modern. Some of the older sites classified within this HLC type may have origin in the late 18th or 19th centuries but any traces of workings from this period are not likely to survive.
- **Factors influencing change:** Closure as a consequence of exhaustion of resource or no longer being economically viable. When the extraction process has been completed government guidance requires that an appropriate programme of aftercare be enacted. This will typically require land being brought up to the required standard for agriculture, forestry or as an amenity resource.
- **Biodiversity Potential: High.** There is very little biodiversity potential on the parts of mineral sites that are actively worked, but mineral sites rapidly develop biodiversity value if they are not being worked, and some of the most important wildlife sites in the two counties are former mineral workings. Protected species such as Great Crested Newts and White-clawed Crayfish are found on many former minerals sites in the two counties, and a significant amount of our calcareous grassland habitat is associated with limestone quarrying. Flooded gravel extraction sites are extremely important sites for birds. Active mineral extraction sites can also be of value if part of the site is temporarily unused. Landfill sites however are rarely of high biodiversity value once infilled.
- **Archaeological potential: High.** Many mineral sites will have a significant potential to contain important archaeological remains, often these will be prehistoric. It is not uncommon for Palaeolithic archaeological remains to be found in sand and gravel deposits along with remains from earlier mineral workings. These remains will be

destroyed once extraction commences. As well as the impact from within the footprint of extraction the appreciation of historic sites may be significantly affected by the surface disposal of mineral-working waste deposits.

- **Management:** *Minerals Policy Statement 1: Planning and Minerals* stresses the importance of having a mineral provision policy that is in accordance with the principles of sustainable development in terms of minerals supply. Social, environmental and economic factors should all be taken into consideration and, where practicable, there is a requirement to attempt to secure an indigenous minerals supply. As mineral sites are expanded it is important an appropriate mitigation programme is put in place to deal with the archaeology of an area. Many mineral sites are within areas that might be considered to be of high landscape value. It is important that even when in operation appropriate landscaping measures are put in place.
- **Research potential: Low:** Modern mineral extraction sites have very little to offer in terms of research potential.
- **Amenity value: Low.** This HLC Type offers little, if any, amenity value.



Figure 62. Bardon Quarry

Further Reading

DCLG. 2006, *Minerals Policy Statement 1: Planning and Minerals*, Communities and Local Government, London.

English Heritage. 2008, *Mineral Extraction and the Historic Environment*, English Heritage.

2.6 Extractive and Landfill

Abandoned/Restored Clay Extraction

Total Area: 9 ha	0.004%	Av. Polygon: 4.5 ha
Polygons: 2	0.01%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Abandoned/Restored Deep Coal Mines

Total Area: 71 ha	0.03%	Av. Polygon: 10.1 ha
Polygons: 7	0.03%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Abandoned/Restored Open Cast Coal Mines

Total Area: 43 ha	0.02%	Av. Polygon: 8.6 ha
Polygons: 5	0.03%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Abandoned/Restored Sand and Gravel Quarries

Total Area: 35 ha	0.01%	Av. Polygon: 35 ha
Polygons: 1	0.005%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Abandoned/Restored Stone Quarries

Total Area: 140 ha	0.09%	Av. Polygon: 7.8 ha
Polygons: 18	0.06%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Total

Total Area: 369 ha	0.15%	Av. Polygon: 9.2 ha
Polygons: 40	0.14%	Occurrence: Very Rare

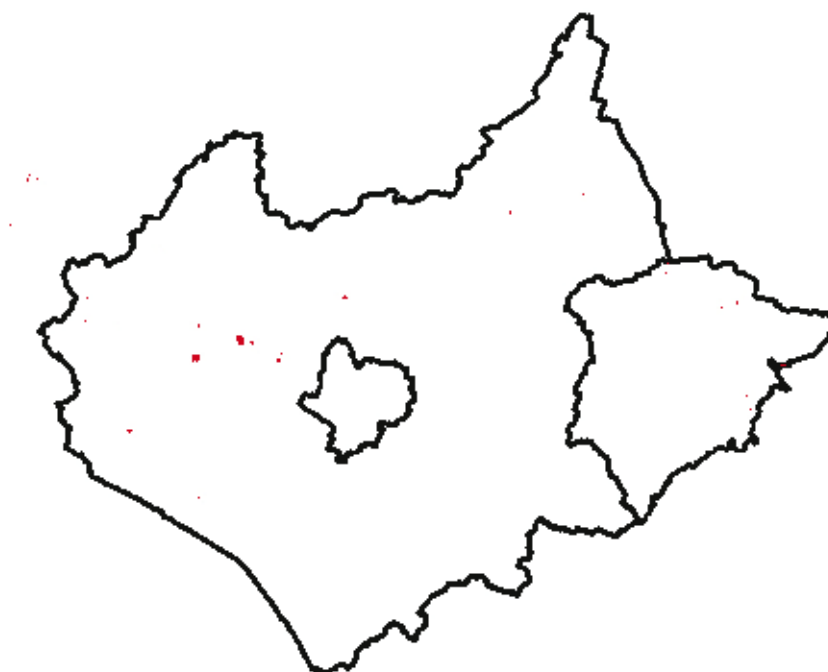


Figure 63. Distribution of Abandoned and Restored Extractive and Landfill HLC Types

- **Description:** These HLC types include former coal and minerals extraction sites. Many of these will have undergone or are in the process of undergoing a process of restoration. These sites will have been identified either through Leicestershire County Council's Minerals and Waste GIS data or Modern Ordnance Survey maps. Distribution of this HLC Type is determined by the underlying geology and shows a

broadly similar distribution pattern to current minerals extraction with activity concentrated in the north-west of Leicestershire. Coal and other mineral resources have and continue to play an important role in the economy of the county and are industries that have had a significant influence upon settlement development in north-west Leicestershire.

- **Period: Late Post-medieval/Modern.** All sites that have undergone a process of restoration are likely to date from the mid 20th century onwards. Where workings have been left exposed these are likely to represent older mineral extraction sites.
- **Factors influencing change:** Reinstatement of former mineral sites.
- **Biodiversity Potential: Low/Medium.** Recently reinstated sites are not likely to be of any great ecological interest. However mineral sites are often reinstated as an amenity resource and as nature reserves. Where this is the case biodiversity potential is likely to increase in the long run. Sites that have been turned into water bodies are likely to provide a habitat resource for wading birds.
- **Archaeological potential: Low.** Where extraction has taken place there is little if any potential for archaeological remains to be present. Fragmentary remains may survive at the edges of these sites.
- **Management:** During the initial period following restoration (normally a minimum of five years) aftercare measures are required to ensure that the restoration is sustained and the site is returned to beneficial use.
- **Research potential: Low:** Modern mineral extraction sites have very little to offer in terms of research potential.
- **Amenity value: Low/Medium.** Where reinstatement results in land becoming publicly accessible, a nature reserve for example, these sites will have the potential to provide a valuable amenity resource.



Figure 64. Donisthorpe Woodland Park: Reclaimed Colliery

Further Reading

DCLG. 2006, *Minerals Policy Statement 1: Planning and Minerals*, Communities and Local Government, London.

English Heritage. 2008, *Mineral Extraction and the Historic Environment*, English Heritage.

2.7 Military

Abandoned Ordnance Depot

Total Area: 8 ha	0.003%	Av. Polygon: 8 ha
Polygons: 1	0.005%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Barracks/Training Ground

Total Area: 81 ha	0.03%	Av. Polygon: 11.6 ha
Polygons: 7	0.04%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Former Ordnance Depot Now Used For Other Purposes

Total Area: 1 ha	0.0004%	Av. Polygon: 1 ha
Polygons: 1	0.005%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Total

Total Area: 90 ha	0.0334%	Av. Polygon: 10 ha
Polygons: 9	0.05%	Occurrence: Very Rare

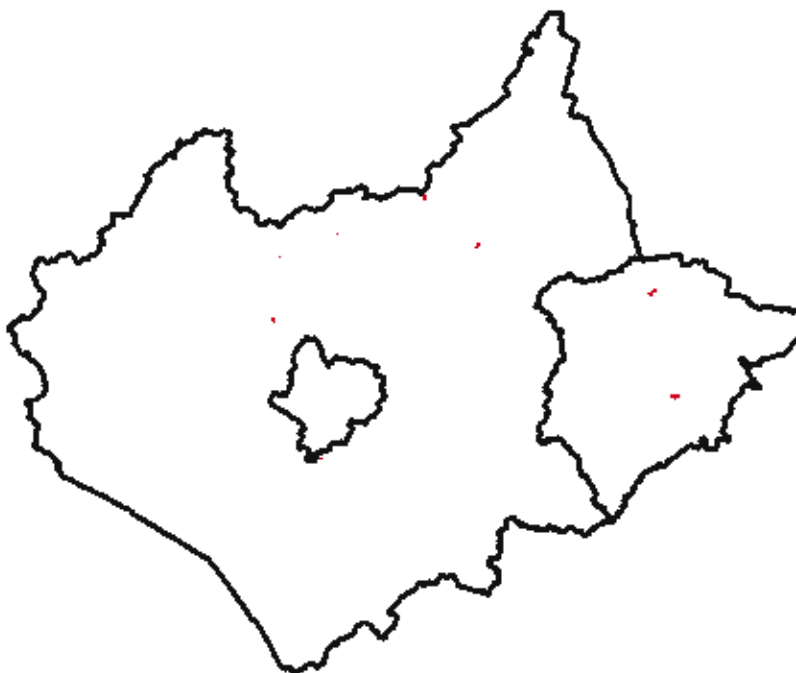


Figure 65. Distribution of Active and Abandoned Military Sites (not Airfields)

- **Description.** Abandoned Ordnance Depots are areas characterised as having been used for munitions storage, typically during the Second World War, which have now been abandoned but continue to form the dominant HLC type. Former Ordnance Depots Now Used For Other Purposes will also have been used for munitions storage but are currently used for other purposes such as industrial units or storage. Here the military architecture will continue to form the dominant HLC type. Barracks/Training Grounds comprise current military bases identified from the modern OS map base.
- **Period: Modern.** Areas characterised as belonging to these HLC Types will date from the 20th century.

- **Factors influencing change:** Demolition and subsequent redevelopment.
- **Biodiversity potential: Low.** The biodiversity potential for this HLC Type will generally be low, however where sites have been abandoned and left to become derelict there is the possibility that some opportunistic plant species will begin to colonise.
- **Archaeological potential: Low/Medium.** Although dependent upon previous land use and extent of military development, the below ground archaeology of this HLC Type is likely to be low with remains likely to have been truncated or completely destroyed. Since the late 20th century there has been an increased recognition of the importance and value of 20th century military monuments.
- **Management:** Where abandoned, areas falling into one of these types are unlikely to be actively managed. Where still in use areas are likely to have programmes of maintenance in place for buildings and associated infrastructure. Where buildings and infrastructure are to be changed or demolished a suitable scheme of recording prior to change should be put in place.
- **Research Potential:** Further work is required to assess the nature and condition of surviving military monuments.
- **Amenity Value: Low.** Generally this HLC Type will not be considered to have a high amenity value although it may be of some interest to military enthusiasts and historians.

Further Reading

Lowry, B. *20th Century Defences in Britain: An Introductory Guide*, Council for British Archaeology, York, 1998.

Osborne, M. *20th Century Defences In The East Midlands*, Concrete Publications, Market Deeping, Lincolnshire, 2003

Schofield, J. et al. *Modern Military Matters: Studying and managing the twentieth-century defence heritage in Britain*, Council for British Archaeology, York, 2004.

2.7 Military

Military Airfield

Total Area: 312 ha
Polygons: 1

0.1%
0.005%

Av. Polygon: 312 ha
Occurrence: Very Rare



Military Airfield Abandoned

Total Area: 1,113 ha
Polygons: 8

0.44%
0.04%

Av. Polygon: 139.1 ha
Occurrence: Very Rare



Total

Total Area: 1,425 ha
Polygons: 9

0.54%
0.045%

Av. Polygon: 158 ha
Occurrence: Very Rare

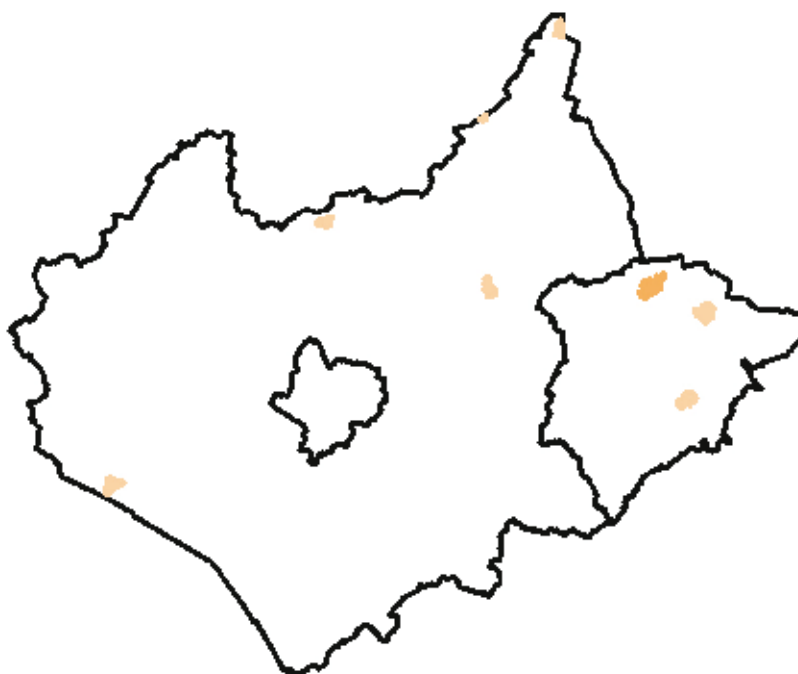


Figure 66. Distribution of Active and Abandoned Military Airfields

- Description.** This HLC Type includes areas identified from the modern OS map base as active military airbases and areas given over as military airfields, probably constructed during the Second World War which have since been abandoned but retain runways and other features identifying them as airfields. RAF Cottesmore in Rutland is currently the only active military airbase in the study area, although proposed for closure under the 2009 defence spending cuts. RAF Cottesmore has formed the core component of the Joint Harrier Force and the four operational Harrier Squadrons: 1(Fighter) Squadron, IV (Army Cooperation) Squadron, 800 Naval Air Squadron and 801 Naval Air Squadron are based here along with 504 (County of Nottingham)

Squadron, Auxillary Air Force. The station opened in 1938 and was initially mainly used for training until 1943 when it was taken over by the United States Army Air Force flying troop transport aircraft. There are seven areas characterised as abandoned military airfields; RAF North Luffenham (operational 1940-1998, initially a heavy bomber base used by 5 Group of Bomber Command), Woolfox Lodge (operational as an airfield 1940-1945, later used to house Bloodhound I missiles), RAF Bottesford (operational as an air base 1941-1948), RAF Langar (under military use 1942-1963 subsequently base for the British Parachute Schools and mostly in Nottinghamshire), RAF Melton Mowbray (as an operational airfield 1943-1946 and as a Thor missile site 1956-1963), RAF Wymeswold (as a bomber and fighter base 1942-1957, currently used for motorsport), RAF Nuneaton (a training airfield 1943-1945 and used by the Motor Industry Research Association as a vehicle proving ground since 1946). With the exception of Nuneaton, these airfields are located either in Rutland or the north-east of Leicestershire.

- **Period: Modern.** Areas characterised as belonging to these HLC Types will date from the 20th century.
- **Factors influencing change:** Redevelopment and destruction of remaining military structures, removal of fabric and reversion to agricultural use.
- **Biodiversity potential: Low/Medium.** Generally the biodiversity potential for this HLC Type will not be high, particularly at RAF Cottesmore which is an operational RAF base. At other sites there are a number of disused upstanding buildings which could potentially be used by bats for roosting and hibernation and also a variety of bird species such as house martins, swallows and within a rural context barn owls. Disused buildings may also be used by spiders and other invertebrate species including overwintering tortoiseshell butterflies and green lacewing flies. Runways and perimeter tracks will have a low potential as will areas between which tend to be either under arable cultivation or improved grassland.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium/High.** Since the late 1980s there has been an increased recognition of the importance of 20th century military monuments and remains. 20th century military sites need to be recognised as cultural assets in their own right and of archaeological interest. The archaeological potential for earlier periods will depend on previous land use and the extent to which remain have been deposited or truncated during the construction of the airfields. Airfields cover a significant area of land and where large scale redevelopment is proposed there will be a recognition that the site has a significant archaeological potential.
- **Management:** Where possible maintenance and repair of buildings and associated structures, preservation of runway layout. Where coherent groups of historic buildings survive the scale and density of the original development should be maintained.
- **Research Potential:** Airfields along with other military monuments have a significant research potential notably for those carrying out local studies and they offer opportunities for community archaeology to

engage with local history groups and schools. Such engagement can feed into a regional agenda. For example in Lincolnshire an historic airfields trail has been published to address a growing demand for information on this subject. Following on from this, a ‘bomber landscape’ project was suggested for the county to assess the impact on both the landscape and its inhabitants by the military presence.

- **Amenity Value: Medium.** Generally this HLC Type will not be considered to have a high amenity value although it may be of some interest to military enthusiasts and historians. It is possible to visit RAF Cottesmore, although only by appointment, and it does hold a number of open days.



Figure 67. Melton Airfield

Further Reading

Cartwright, T.C. 2002, *Bird's Eye Wartime Leicestershire 1939-1945*, T.C.C Publications, Wigston, Leicestershire.

Chorlton, M. 2003, *Leicestershire & Rutland Airfields in the Second World War*, Countryside Books, Newbury, Berkshire.

Lowry, B. 1998, *20th Century Defences in Britain: An Introductory Guide*, Council for British Archaeology, York.

Osborne, M. 2003, *20th Century Defences In The East Midlands*, Concrete Publications, Market Deeping, Lincolnshire.

Schofield, J. et al. 2004, *Modern Military Matters: Studying and managing the twentieth-century defence heritage in Britain*, Council for British Archaeology, York.

2.8 Ornamental, Parkland and Recreational

Cemeteries

Total Area: 160 ha
Polygons: 85

0.06%
0.5%

Av. Polygon: 1.9 ha
Occurrence: Very Rare

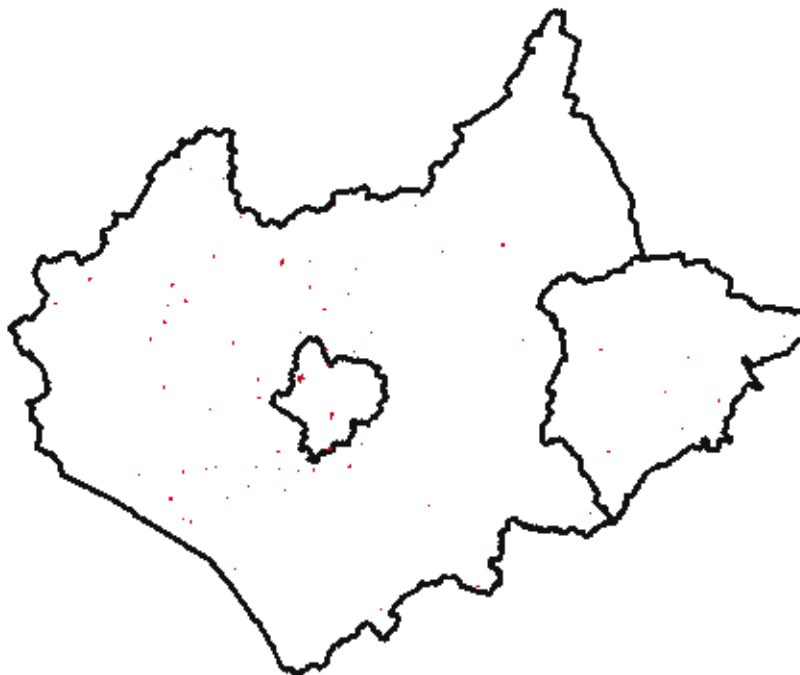


Figure 68. Distribution of Cemeteries

- Description:** This category comprises areas identified from the modern OS map base as formally laid out cemeteries. Until the mid 17th century nearly all of the dead were buried in churchyards. However as urban centres became more densely populated and churchyards full to overflowing the creation of new burial grounds outside the main population centres increasingly came to be viewed as a matter of necessity on public health grounds. The oldest municipal cemetery in Leicester and probably the whole study area is the Welford Road Cemetery, opened in 1849, which is still in use today and receives a Grade 2 listing in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens. The urban burial grounds of the 19th century were in addition to their functional purpose seen as providing the role of public open spaces. Unsurprisingly the distribution of this HLC Type closely matches that of settlement in the study area.
- Period: Late Post medieval/Modern.** In Leicestershire and Rutland the earliest examples of this HLC Type will date from the mid 19th century. The establishment of later cemeteries continued through the 20th century with extensions and the creation of further sites of this type being an ongoing process.
- Factors influencing change:** As historic cemeteries reach full capacity and receive a declining income in the form of burial fees there is a danger that many will become neglected and fall into disrepair.

Pressure from development is not normally a significant threat to this HLC Type.

- **Biodiversity Potential: Medium/High.** Cemeteries and large mature parks, particularly in an urban context, will often provide an important habitat resource for wildlife. Many have important collections of veteran trees, which have particular wildlife significance. Larger parks and cemeteries have the potential to play an important role within the wildlife network and often contain a wide diversity of flora and associated fauna.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium/High.** The below ground archaeological potential of most areas within this HLC is likely to be low although this will also depend on previous land use. Many cemeteries will contain buildings and funerary monuments of architectural and historic interest, many of which will be listed. Cemeteries are designed landscapes and, as with Welford Road in Leicester, may appear on the Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England.
- **Management:** The ecological and amenity value of cemeteries can be greatly enhanced through sensitive management and interpretation. Appropriate programmes of maintenance for structures, monuments and landscape features should be established.
- **Research potential: High:** This HLC type has a high potential for research into landscape garden design, local and social history.
- **Amenity value: High.** Cemeteries have a high amenity value. Part of their function is to provide a place of reflection for people. Particularly in busy urban centres they can offer an outdoor place of quiet seclusion. Cemeteries are an important local history resource and are an important element in providing a sense of place for communities.



Figure 68. Welford Road Cemetery

2.8 Ornamental, Parkland and Recreational

Golf Course

Total Area: 1,758 ha

0.7%

Av. Polygon: 35.1 ha

Polygons: 50

0.3%

Occurrence: Very Rare

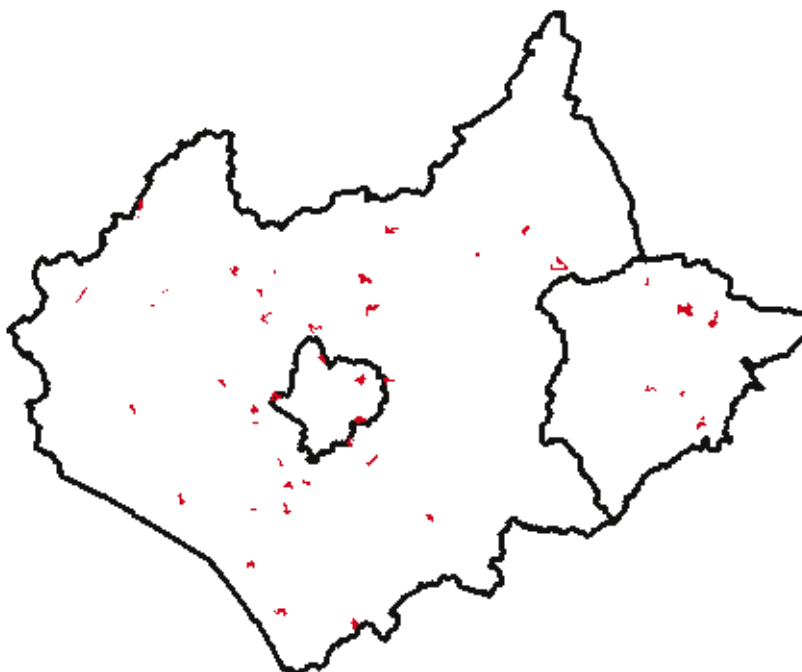


Figure 69. Distribution of Golf Courses

- **Description:** This category comprises areas identified from the modern OS map base as golf courses.
- **Period: Late Post Medieval/Modern.** Most golf courses in the study area are likely to date from the second half of the 20th century onwards although there are some examples which appear on the 1st edition 6" OS map layer. The majority of golf courses in the study area are located in the western part of Leicestershire and around Leicester City. A further concentration can be identified in Rutland with several courses appearing on both the north and south sides of Rutland Water.
- **Factors influencing change:** Redesign of golf course layout, development pressure.
- **Biodiversity Potential: Low/Medium.** The biodiversity of golf courses will vary considerably depending on the management regime. Many courses will rely heavily upon the use of pesticides and fertilisers with most of the grass kept short. However many courses will also contain woodlands and ponds that can provide a habitat resource for woodland and aquatic species.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium.** The below ground archaeological potential for this HLC type will depend upon previous land use and the extent of landscaping involved in making the course. Since November 1990 and the introduction of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* archaeology on any development site, including golf courses, has been a material consideration. Any golf courses built since this time should

have been assessed for potential archaeology and been dealt with appropriately through the planning system. As with all development sites where significant archaeological remains are present the preferred option is that they should remain *in situ*.

- **Management:** As commercial operations golf courses will have their own landscape management programmes in place. These should include avoiding damage to archaeological earthwork features and significant habitats.
- **Research potential: Low:** The research potential for this HLC type will generally be low.
- **Amenity value: High.** Golf courses are in themselves an important amenity resource. They are an outdoor leisure facility providing health benefits to many people. Although some courses will place restrictions on public access others may be accessible via public footpaths. In an urban context or where located on the edge of towns their designation often means that the land has been saved from built development.

Further Reading

English Heritage, 2007, *Golf in Historic Parks and Landscapes: The Planning System and Related Guidance*, English Heritage.

2.8 Ornamental, Parkland and Recreational

Other Parkland

Total Area: 2,126 ha

0.8%

Av. Polygon: 5 ha

Polygons: 424

2.2%

Occurrence: Very Rare

Village Greens

Total Area: 8 ha

0.003%

Av. Polygon: 0.9 ha

Polygons: 9

0.04%

Occurrence: Very Rare

Total

Total Area: 2,134 ha

0.803%

Av. Polygon: 4.9 ha

Polygons: 433

2.24%

Occurrence: Very Rare

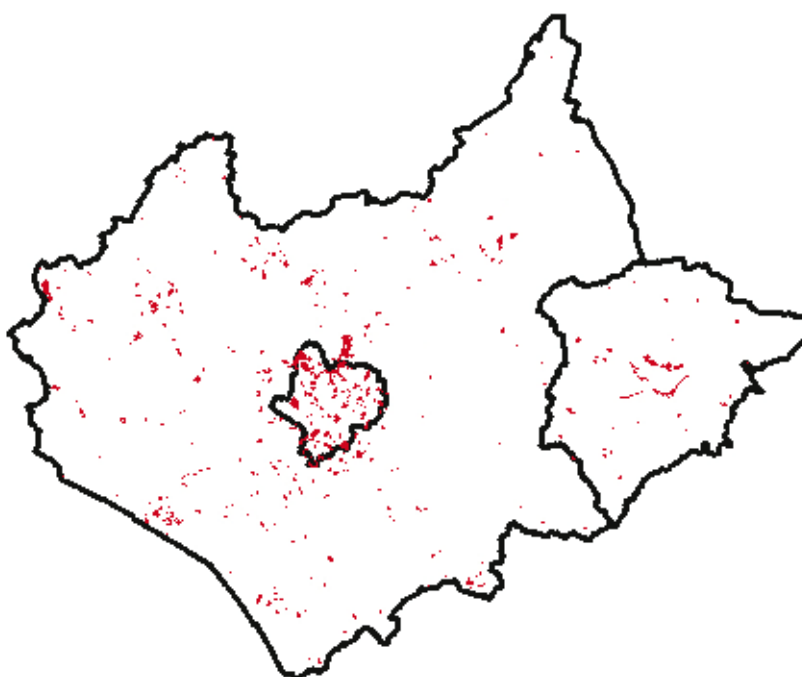


Figure 70. Distribution of Other Parkland and Village Greens

- Description:** The Other Parkland category includes those forms of parkland, recreational or ornamental landscapes which don't fall into any of the other categories in this Broad Type. This HLC type also includes playing fields and caravan parks. Village Greens comprises areas present on the current OS mapping which are also identified on the OS 1st edition 6" map layer as such. Both of these HLC types are predominantly set within an urban context and so mirror the settlement pattern across the study area.
- Period: Late Post Medieval/Modern.** Most of the areas falling within the Other Parkland category will date from the mid 20th century onwards although some parks and recreation grounds are marked on the 1st edition 6" OS map layer. Village Greens are likely to be older, with possible medieval origins where located within or on the edge of the Historic Settlement Core

- **Factors influencing change:** Pressure from built development. Lack of appropriate maintenance with sites and features within them being allowed to fall into disrepair.
- **Biodiversity Potential: Medium/High.** Many older parks will contain a range of different habitats which can include both mown and long grass, hedges, shrubberies, herbaceous borders and flower beds. These sites may also contain mature trees or newer plantations or both. This variety of habitats is likely to prove beneficial to wildlife.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium.** Factors influencing the archaeological potential of areas falling within this HLC Type will include previous land use and the amount of landscaping involved in creating the current parkland. Some examples of this HLC Type may occur within or close to Historic Settlement Cores which will increase the potential for below ground archaeological remains to be present. Some older parkland in this category may contain earthwork remains.
- **Management:** Parklands falling within this group will typically be managed by the relevant local authority. Where known archaeological features are present appropriate management programmes need to be put in place to prevent further damage. Where practicable and appropriate managers of this HLC type should seek to improve interpretation of archaeological features. The presence of earthwork features such as ridge and furrow, hollow ways and medieval settlement remains can provide a valuable opportunity for explaining local landscape and settlement history and will have the potential to help local people come to a more informed understanding as to how the modern landscape has evolved to appear as it does.
- **Research potential: Medium:** For many of the more recent examples this HLC Type will generally have a low research potential. However these sites can be regarded as important landscape elements set within an urban context and as such be significant for research into the development of a settlement. Other examples may have research potential in landscape design studies.
- **Amenity value: High.** Parks have a very high amenity value. They are open spaces that provide recreational opportunities for people of all ages. Parks provide an important role for people to enjoy outdoor leisure pursuits and have the potential to enhance civic pride and a sense of place.



Figure 71. Anstey Village Green

2.8 Ornamental, Parkland and Recreational

Parks and Gardens

Total Area: 2.332 ha
Polygons: 131

0.9%
0.7%

Av. Polygon: 17.8 ha
Occurrence: Very Rare

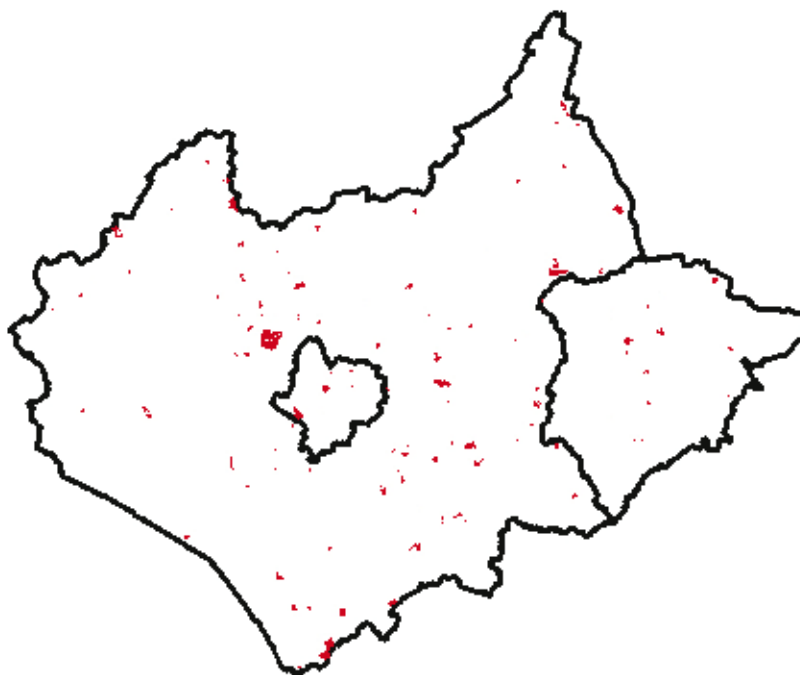


Figure 72. Distribution of Parks and Gardens

- **Description:** This HLC Type comprises parks and gardens identified from the Leicestershire HER, the Historic Parks and Gardens Register and Cantor and Squires' study of Leicestershire and Rutland's parks and gardens. Also included in this category are parklands and ornamental landscapes present on the 1st edition 6" OS maps and which can also be identified from the modern mapping or air photo coverage.
- **Period: Post Medieval/Late Post Medieval.** In most cases this HLC Type will be the result of post-medieval or 19th century emparkment although elements of earlier medieval parkland may also be included.
- **Factors influencing change:** Development pressure, change from ornamental/designed landscape to agriculture, woodland plantation, sub-division of parkland with new fences and boundaries. Change of use to golf course.
- **Biodiversity Potential: Medium/High.** Parks and Gardens are likely to have a reasonably high biodiversity potential. Many parks will have within them a variety of landscape elements including, ancient and plantation woodlands, a variety of permanent grasslands and lakes and ponds. Many landscapes characterised as Parks and Gardens will have the potential to play an important role within the wildlife network and often contain a wide diversity of flora and associated fauna.

- **Archaeological potential: Medium/High.** Parklands should be regarded, in their own right, as landscapes of high archaeological potential. They will typically contain many designed landscape features including carefully sited plantations, avenues of trees water bodies, paths, ha-has and other boundaries. Many Parks and Gardens will also contain important historic buildings. Many landscapes falling into this HLC Type will contain ridge and furrow and earthwork settlement remains which predate the parkland. There is a good potential for below ground archaeology to be present on a significant number of sites since these will not have been under arable cultivation for a significant period, if indeed they ever had been. The below ground archaeological potential of most areas within this HLC is likely to be low although this will also depend on previous land use.
- **Management:** If an appropriate management strategy is to be adopted for areas categorised within this HLC Type then a thorough understanding of the park's historical development will be required. Such knowledge will allow for the formulation of a management programme to identify what matters and why and what is the appropriate approach for conservation. The production of a management plan will be an essential tool to aid in timetabling short and long term programmes of work. This HLC Type will include parkland included on the *Register of parks and gardens of special historic interest in England* and although the register has no statutory powers or consent scheme it is a material consideration in the determination of planning application.
- **Research potential: High:** This HLC type has a high potential for research into landscape garden design, local and social history.
- **Amenity value: High.** Parks and Gardens have a high amenity value, they can be regarded as integral elements of the English countryside and are seen as making an important contribution to its character and biodiversity. Many parks provide public access and are important as tourism and leisure business assets.

Further Reading

Cantor, L. and Squires, 1997, A. *The Historic Parks and Gardens of Leicestershire and Rutland*, Kairos Press, Newton Linford, Leicestershire.

2.8 Ornamental, Parkland and Recreational

Public Open Space

Total Area: 727 ha

0.3%

Av. Polygon: 2.9 ha

Polygons: 252

1.3%

Occurrence: Very Rare

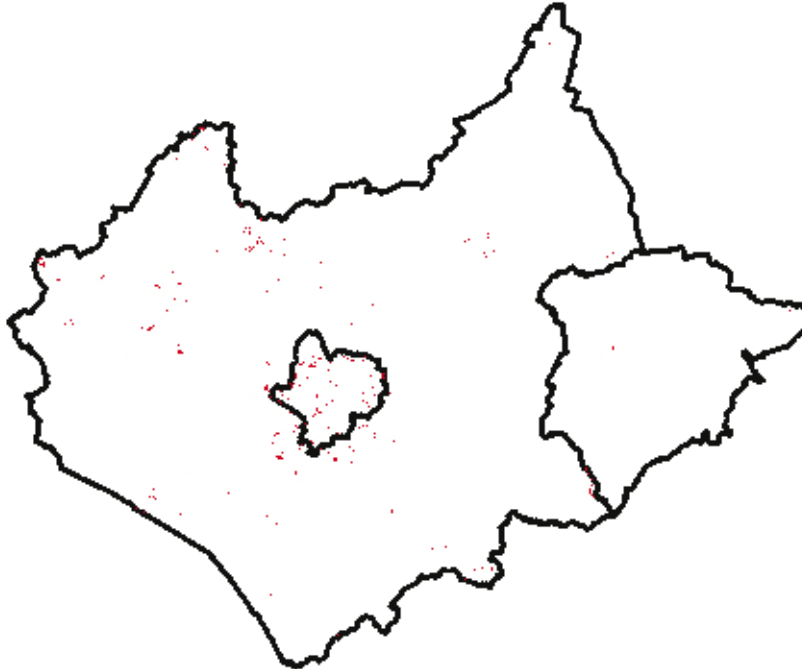


Figure 73. Distribution of Public Open Space

- **Description:** This category comprises areas of land accessible to the public, most commonly in an urban context, and which are likely to be the product of “soft” landscaping. This category consists of most of the open spaces found in urban areas that do not fit easily into the Other Parkland or Sports Fields HLC Types and will include a significant number of wide roadside verges. The distribution of Public Open Space corresponds particularly with the pattern of larger settlements in the study area.
- **Period: Modern.** This HLC type is predominantly modern.
- **Factors influencing change:** Pressure from built development. Changes in road layout.
- **Biodiversity Potential: Low/Medium.** Most areas characterised as Public Open Space will have a fairly low biodiversity potential due to the fact that these will tend to be short cut grassland. That said this HLC type does provide green open spaces in an urban context and where a less stringent management regime is in place opportunities for species to establish themselves may arise.
- **Archaeological potential: Low.** In most cases this HLC Type will have a low archaeological potential although this will depend upon site history.
- **Management:** This HLC type will typically be under local authority management which is likely to include a grass cutting programme along with planting of flowers and management of any trees or hedges.

- **Research potential: Low.** This HLC type will generally have a low research potential.
- **Amenity value: Medium.** Areas characterised as this HLC Type may be considered to offer some amenity value since they provide, in an urban context, open spaces and breaks in the built development. Many of the areas within this HLC will include paths and may be viewed as green open space allowing pedestrians and cyclists to move easily within and around settlements.



Figure 74. Public Open Space: Loughborough

2.8 Ornamental, Parkland and Recreational

Racecourse

Total Area: 69 ha

0.01%

Av. Polygon: 34.5 ha

Polygons: 2

0.03%

Occurrence: Very Rare

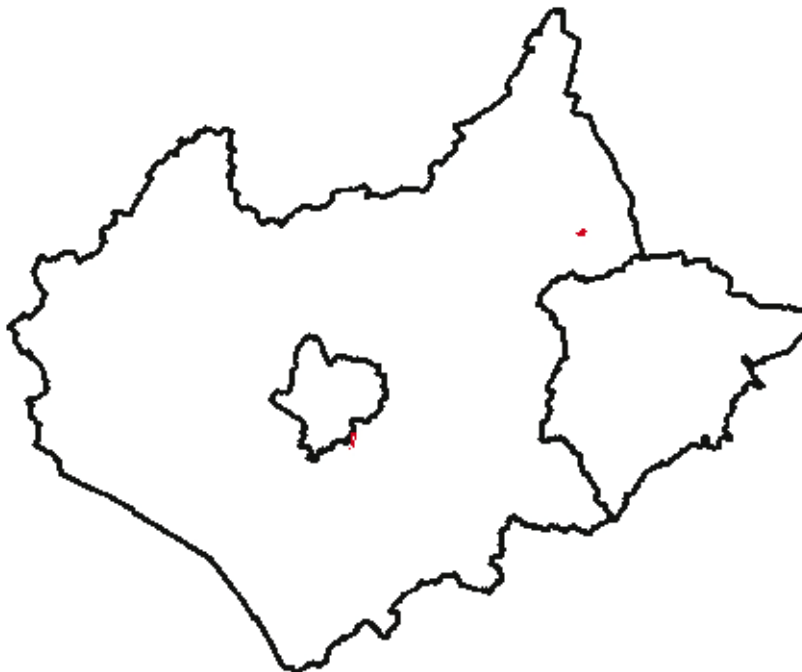


Figure 75. Distribution of Racecourses

- **Description:** This category comprises areas marked as horse racing tracks on current OS mapping.
- **Period: Late Post Medieval/Modern.** Two racecourses are identified, Leicester and Garthorpe. Leicester Racecourse is in Oadby and Wigston District, on the border with Leicester City and is marked on the 1st edition 6" OS map. Garthorpe, in Melton District, is a modern point to point track.
- **Factors influencing change:** Pressure from built development.
- **Biodiversity Potential: Medium.** In both cases biodiversity potential is likely to be limited with grass tracks being intensively managed with the probable use of weed killers and pesticides and the grass kept short. The area enclosed by Leicester Racecourse is used as a golf course with apparently little in terms of rough or tree cover. The area enclosed by Garthorpe Racecourse contains ridge and furrow, indicating that it has been under pasture for a considerable period and consequently may be of slightly more ecological interest.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium.** The racecourses represent areas covering around 30 to 40 ha. As they are both large sites, were development proposed, then they would be considered to have significant archaeological potential. In the case of Garthorpe the ridge and furrow enclosed by the track is in itself of interest and would have the potential to overlie earlier remains. The western edge of Garthorpe overlies the edge of the historic core of the village, as marked on the Historic Environment Record, and Garthorpe Castle, a possible motte

and ditch defensive structure. These features would both indicate a significant archaeological potential.

- **Management:** Both courses will have their own management regimes in place. In the case of Garthorpe care should be taken to avoid damage to earthwork remains.
- **Research potential: Low/Medium:** This HLC type has limited research potential.
- **Amenity value: High.** This HLC Type is of high amenity value and represents important recreational assets.

2.8 Ornamental, Parkland and Recreational

Sports Fields

Total Area: 1,697 ha

0.7%

Av. Polygon: 4.4 ha

Polygons: 383

2.0%

Occurrence: Very Rare

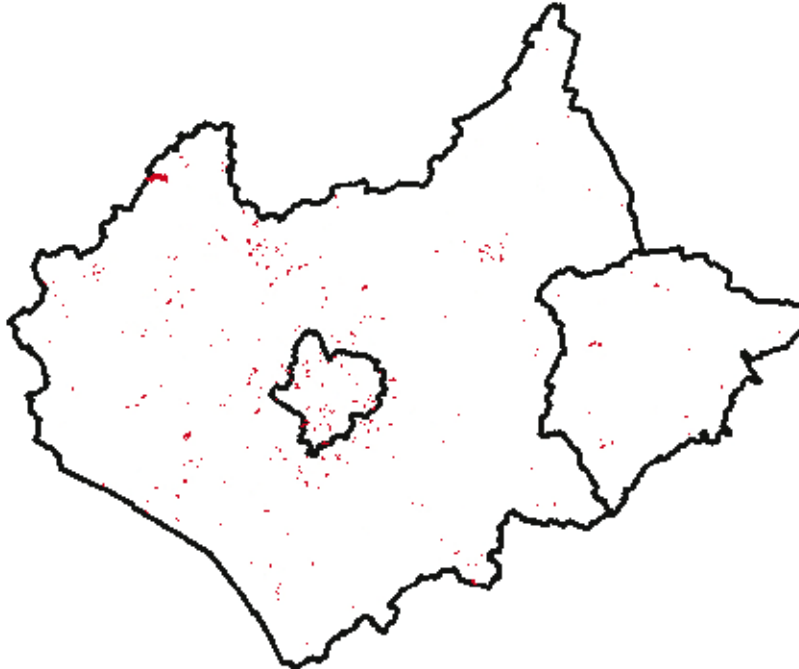


Figure 76. Distribution of Sports Fields

- **Description:** This category comprises areas identified as sports fields and stadia from the current OS map layer. This is an HLC Type that will normally be set within an urban context and the distribution closely follows the pattern of settlement across the study area.
- **Period: Late Post Medieval/Modern.** The vast majority of sports fields will be modern although there are a small number of playing fields marked on the 1st edition 6" OS map layer.
- **Factors influencing change:** Pressure from built development.
- **Biodiversity Potential: Low.** The predominant characteristic of this HLC Type is of closely cut grass and has limited biodiversity potential.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium.** Archaeological potential will depend upon previous land use. Where this HLC type is set within or close to the historic core of a settlement there will be an increased potential for below ground archaeological remains to be present.
- **Management:** Sports Fields will typically have an appropriate management regime in place.
- **Research potential: Low/Medium:** This HLC type has limited research potential but may best be viewed in the overall context of a more general study of a settlement's development.

- **Amenity value: High.** This HLC Type is of high amenity value and represents important recreational assets.



Figure 77. Cricket Pitch: Newtown Linford

2.9 Settlement

Historic Settlement Core

Total Area: 2,506 ha
Polygons: 496

1%
2.6%

Av. Polygon: 5 ha
Occurrence: Rare

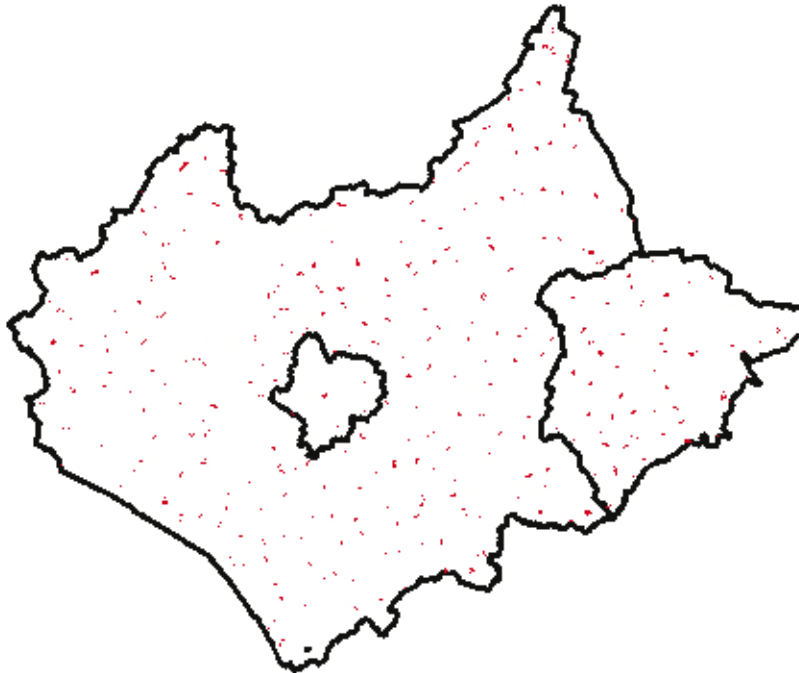


Figure 78. Distribution of Historic Settlement Cores

- Description:** Historic Settlement Cores will be defined by morphology or by data held within the Historic Environment Record. In most cases this will represent the extent of the settlement either by the end of the medieval period or by the beginning of the 19th century. Those areas characterised as Historic Settlement Cores are an attempt to define the current landscape and includes street patterns and buildings marked on the 1st edition 6" OS map layer. It is recognised that the full medieval extent of these cores may have been greater but have in many instances will have undergone subsequent phases of redevelopment. Where appropriate the extent of Historic Settlement Cores that have been through redevelopment is defined within the Previous Historic Landscape Character type.
- Period: Medieval/Post Medieval/Late Post Medieval.** Most settlement in Leicestershire will have origins dating from the 8th to the 13th centuries. Analysis of Domesday, compiled in 1086, indicates the pattern of settlement in Leicestershire, as a result of Anglo-Saxon and Danish colonisation, to be most densely concentrated to the south and east of the county. West of the River Soar settlement appears to have been more widely scattered and the impression is that villages were smaller and poorer than those to the east. In the east and south of the study area, although there has been modest expansion, most notably in the market towns, over the last 150 years the pattern remains one of

scattered nucleated villages sitting within the context of a predominantly rural landscape. A less dense settlement distribution is certainly discernable when looking at the distribution of Historic Settlement Cores identified through HLC in the north-western part of the project area. This area, along with the Leicester City itself, has undergone by far the greatest level of urban expansion over the past 150 years. The most easterly third of Rutland is also an area with a notably sparse distribution of Historic Settlement Cores.

- **Factors influencing change:** The greatest pressure, particularly in the larger market towns and Leicester City, comes predominantly from new development. Many of the Historic Settlement Cores are also the commercial and shopping districts of towns where modern signage and building refurbishment can also have a detrimental effect upon the historic character of an area. Where towns are significantly affected during periods of economic slowdown or decline there is danger that properties may become vacant and fall into disrepair. Where this is the case the will to pay for repairs can be lacking and the perceived economic viability of a building or set of buildings may be questioned. In many of the more rural villages however, although there may have been a limited amount of infill development, settlement expansion, most notably in the east and west, has not been significant.
- **Biodiversity Potential Medium.** Within the most highly urbanised centres there is very limited biodiversity potential. However, some buildings, including modern housing, will support bats. Many modern gardens are small, and the use of pesticides, modern fertilisers, decking and close cutting of grass will limit their biodiversity value. However, large mature gardens, neglected gardens and groups of long gardens are important for a number of UK BAP species. Many garden features such as ponds, ornamental shrubs, fruit trees, etc provide a valuable habitat resource for many species, especially amphibians and birds.
- **Archaeological potential: High.** The historic settlement core of a town or village will contain above ground archaeology in the form of buildings and other historic structures. These areas will also have a significant potential to contain below ground archaeology. The historic cores of towns will often contain some of our most complex and valuable historic remains. The buried deposits, structures and plan-form of towns are not only important for the study of the past, they provide a tangible link to that past and provide context for us when attempting to understand our surroundings.
- **Management:** Historic Settlement Cores typically contain a significant proportion of the study area's historic buildings and structures. Many, because they are either listed or within conservation areas, will be afforded a level of statutory protection. Highways departments and utility operators should take care to consult with conservation officers and planning archaeologists to ensure that any programme of works will not have a detrimental effect upon a town's historic fabric or archaeological deposits. Where damage is shown to be unavoidable an appropriate programme of mitigation needs to be put in place and carried out.

- **Research potential:** Both national and regional research agendas are in place for the study of our historic urban centres. In Leicestershire the requirement for an extensive urban survey has long been recognised. Such a survey will provide high quality data about the archaeological potential of the towns of Leicestershire and Rutland as well as charting their historical development.
- **Amenity value: High.** Historic Settlement Cores offer a high amenity value. In many cases they will be the commercial and retail sector of a town providing both employment and access to shops and services. The historic cores of a town can also be important in attracting tourism to an area. These areas will also contain the greatest concentration of designated heritage assets.



Figure 79. Melton Mowbray Town Centre

Further Reading

Hindle, B. P. 2002, *Medieval Town Plans*, Shire Publications Ltd, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire.

2.9 Settlement

Pre-1880s Settlement Terraced

Total Area: 238 ha	0.1%	Av. Polygon: 1 ha
Polygons: 225	1.2%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Pre-1880s Settlement Semi Detached

Total Area: 41 ha	0.02%	Av. Polygon: 1 ha
Polygons: 49	0.3%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Pre-1880s Settlement Detached

Total Area: 424 ha	0.2%	Av. Polygon: 1 ha
Polygons: 417	2.2%	Occurrence: Very Rare

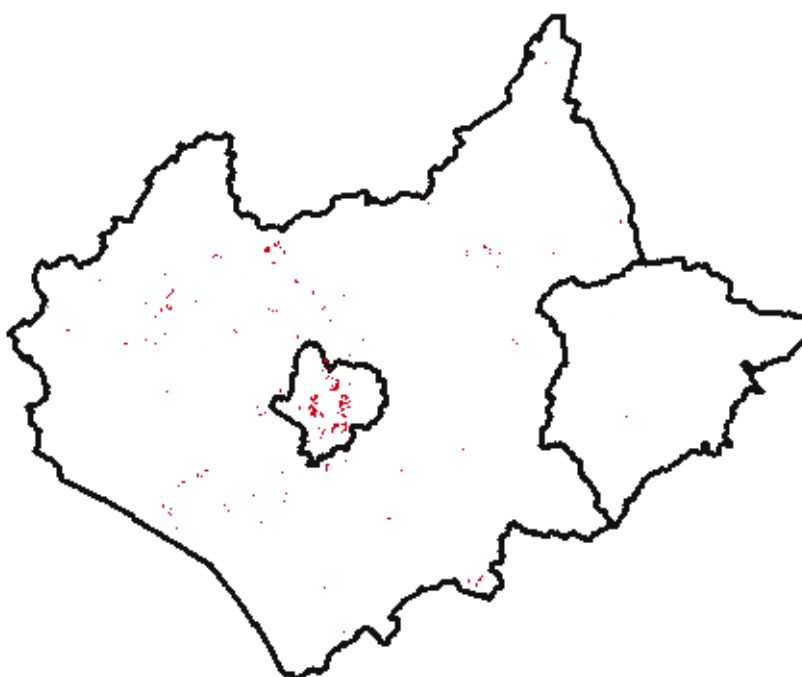


Figure 80. Distribution of All Pre-1880s Settlement Other than Historic Settlement Cores

- Description:** This group of HLC types defines the extent of terraced, semi detached and detached settlement as marked on the 1st edition 6" Ordnance Survey map. This category provides a measure of settlement growth since the period defined by the historic core. This group will identify isolated blocks of settlement predating the 1st edition, often in a rural context which doesn't easily fit within the Historic Settlement Core category. The distribution of these categories is interesting in that they show what appears to be a marked shift in settlement distribution and population density within the project area. The greatest densities for these HLC types are found at Leicester, Loughborough and Coalville with significant representations at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Hinckley and Market Harborough. These concentrations are significant in that they mirror 19th century economic development in Leicestershire. To an extent this is linked with 19th century population growth, but the main driving force in settlement expansion in Leicester

and the western parts of Leicestershire was an expansion in coal and minerals extraction along with the development of other industries, principally knitting and hosiery and boot and shoe manufacture. The expansion of settlement in the west of the project area was also facilitated by its communications network which included the building of new roads such as what is now the route of the modern A6, linking Market Harborough in the south with Leicester and on to Loughborough in the north. By 1778 the Soar was made navigable for barges as far as Loughborough. The building of the railways also had its effect upon settlement expansion. The Midlands Counties Railway, completed in 1840, improved links between London and the North. This route which ran out of the London and Birmingham line at Rugby passed through Leicester and on to Derby.

- **Period: Late Post Medieval.** Most settlement falling within these categories will date to the 19th century
- **Factors influencing change:** The greatest pressure, particularly in the larger market towns and Leicester City, comes predominantly from new development.
- **Biodiversity Potential: Low/Medium.** Within the most highly urbanised centres there is very limited biodiversity potential. Older buildings do however have the potential to provide refuge for bats. Many modern gardens because of a reliance on pesticides, modern fertilisers, the use of decking and close cutting of grass will have a limited biodiversity potential. However urban gardens can provide a valuable habitat resource for amphibians and birds.
- **Archaeological potential: High.** This HLC type will often include buildings within or on the edge of the known historic core and as such will have a potential for containing below ground archaeology. Many of the buildings and structures within this type will, in their own right, be of archaeological, architectural and historic interest. The buried deposits, structures and plan-form of towns are not only important for the study of the past, they provide a tangible link to that past and provide context for us when attempting to understand our surroundings.
- **Management:** This HLC type is likely to contain some buildings that are listed or fall within conservation areas. Where this is the case they will be afforded a statutory level of protection. However a significant proportion although being of historic interest, will not benefit from such protection. Where this is the case appropriate conditions should be implemented. This might typically include recording elements of a building prior to any change. Highways departments and utility operators should take care to consult with conservation officers and planning archaeologists to ensure that any programme of works will not have a detrimental effect upon a town's historic fabric or archaeological deposits. Where damage is shown to be unavoidable an appropriate programme of mitigation needs to be put in place and carried out.
- **Research potential:** Both national and regional research agendas are in place for the study of our historic urban centres. In Leicestershire the requirement for an extensive urban survey has long been recognised. Such a survey will provide high quality data about the

archaeological potential of the towns of Leicestershire and Rutland as well as charting their historical development.

- **Amenity value: High.** This HLC Type will include some of the older parts of the project area's towns and villages and as such offer a high amenity value. In many cases they will be in the commercial and retail sector of a town providing both employment and access to shops and services.



Figure 81. Pre-1880s Terrace Housing: Loughborough

2.9 Settlement

Settlement 1st-2nd ed Terraced

Total Area: 505 ha 0.2%
Polygons: 250 1.3%

Av. Polygon: 2 ha
Occurrence: Very Rare

Settlement 1st-2nd ed Semi Detached

Total Area: 55 ha 0.02%
Polygons: 49 0.3%

Av. Polygon: 1 ha
Occurrence: Very Rare

Settlement 1st-2nd ed Detached

Total Area: 123 ha 0.05%
Polygons: 81 0.4%

Av. Polygon: 1.5 ha
Occurrence: Very Rare

Total

Total Area: 683 ha 0.27%
Polygons: 380 2%

Av. Polygon: 1.8 ha
Occurrence: Very Rare

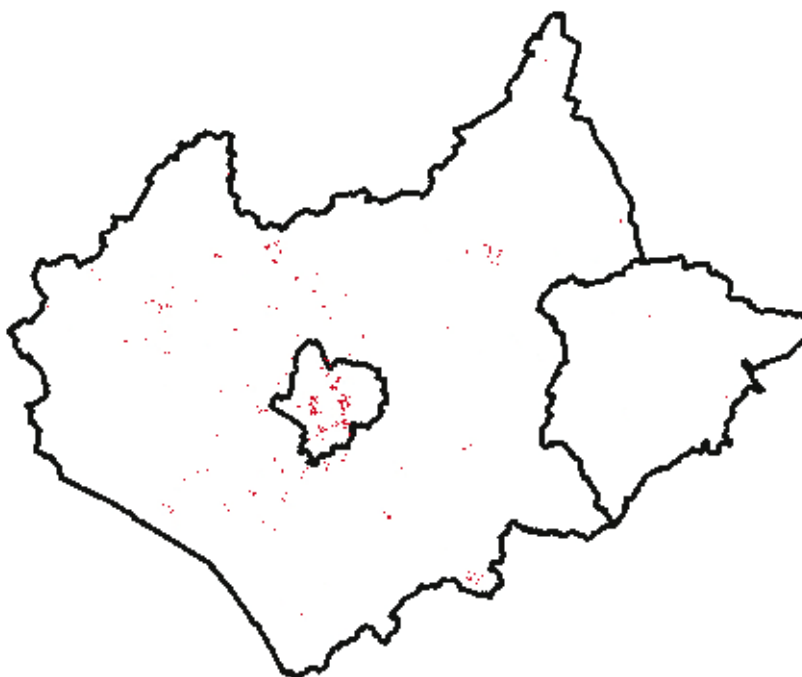


Figure 82. Distribution of 1st-2nd ed. OS Settlement

- Description:** This group of HLC types defines the extent of terraced, semi detached and detached settlement built after the publication of the 1st edition OS and which first appear on the 2nd edition OS. The 2nd edition mapping in Leicestershire generally dates from between 1900 to 1905. Consequently settlement appearing in these categories is likely to post date the 1st edition but be no later than 1905. This category provides a measure of settlement growth since the period defined by the historic core. The distribution of these categories reflects the continued rapid expansion of Leicester and the main urban settlements in the west of the county, at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. Significant expansion is occurring at

this time at Coalville, Hinckley and Loughborough and notably along the Soar Valley. Settlement expansion is also notable in Leicester City.

- **Period: Late Post Medieval/Modern.** Most settlement falling within these categories will date from the late 19th or early 20th century.
- **Factors influencing change:** The greatest pressure, particularly in the larger market towns and Leicester City, comes predominantly from new development.
- **Biodiversity Potential: Low/Medium.** Within the most highly urbanised centres there is very limited biodiversity potential. Older buildings do however have the potential to provide refuge for bats. Many modern gardens because of a reliance on pesticides, modern fertilisers, the use of decking and close cutting of grass will have a limited biodiversity potential. However urban gardens can provide a valuable habitat resource for amphibians and birds.
- **Archaeological potential: High.** This HLC type will often include buildings within or on the edge of the known historic core and as such will have a potential for containing below ground archaeology. Many of the buildings and structures within this type will, in their own right, be of archaeological, architectural and historic interest. The buried deposits, structures and plan-form of towns are not only important for the study of the past, they provide a tangible link to that past and provide context for us when attempting to understand our surrounding.
- **Management:** This HLC type is likely to contain some buildings that are listed or fall within conservation areas. Where this is the case they will be afforded a statutory level of protection. However a significant proportion although being of historic interest, will not benefit from such protection. Where this is the case appropriate conditions should be implemented. This might typically include recording elements of a building prior to any change. Highways departments and utility operators should take care to consult with conservation officers and planning archaeologists to ensure that any programme of works will not have a detrimental effect upon a town's historic fabric or archaeological deposits. Where damage is shown to be unavoidable and appropriate programme of mitigation needs to be put in place and carried out.
- **Research potential:** Both national and regional research agendas are in place for the study of our historic urban centres. In Leicestershire the requirement for an extensive urban survey has long been recognised. Such a survey will provide high quality data about the archaeological potential of the towns of Leicestershire and Rutland as well as charting their historical development.

- **Amenity value: High.** . This HLC Type will include some of the older parts of the project area's towns and villages and as such offer a high amenity value. In many cases they will be in the commercial and retail sector of a town providing both employment and access to shops and services.



Figure 83. 1st-2nd ed. OS Terrace Housing: Loughborough

2.9 Settlement

Settlement 2nd-3rd ed Terraced

Total Area: 246 ha 0.1%
 Polygons: 191 1%

Av. Polygon: 1.3 ha
 Occurrence: Very Rare

Settlement 2nd-3rd ed Semi Detached

Total Area: 678 ha 0.3%
 Polygons: 256 1.3%

Av. Polygon: 2.6 ha
 Occurrence: Very Rare

Settlement 2nd-3rd ed Detached

Total Area: 542 ha 0.2%
 Polygons: 191 1%

Av. Polygon: 2.8 ha
 Occurrence: Very Rare

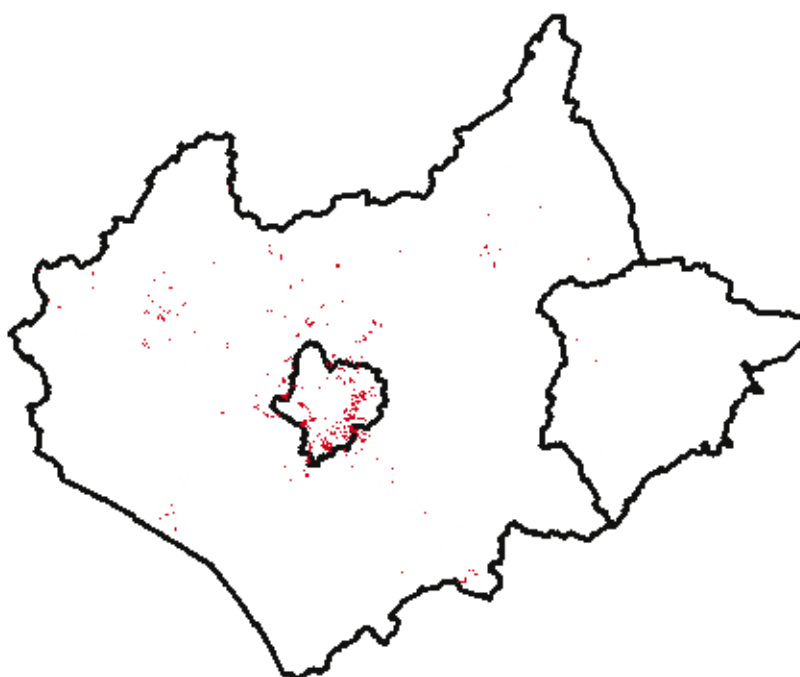


Figure 84. Distribution of 2nd-3rd ed. OS Settlement

- **Description:** This group of HLC types defines the extent of terraced, semi detached and detached settlement built after the publication of the 2nd edition OS and which first appears on the 3rd edition OS. The 3rd edition mapping in Leicestershire generally dates from between 1921 to 1931. Consequently settlement appearing in these categories is likely to date between from about 1900 to 1931. This category provides a measure of settlement growth since the period defined by the historic core. The distribution of these categories reflects the continued rapid expansion of Leicester and the main urban settlements in the west of the county, during the early 20th century. Significant expansion is occurring at this time at Coalville, Hinckley and Loughborough and notably along the Soar Valley.
- **Period: Modern.** Settlement falling within these categories will date to the early 20th century

- **Factors influencing change:** The greatest pressure, particularly in the larger market towns and Leicester City, comes predominantly from new development.
- **Biodiversity Potential: Low/Medium.** Within the most highly urbanised centres there is very limited biodiversity potential. Older buildings do however have the potential to provide refuge for bats. Many modern gardens because of a reliance on pesticides, modern fertilisers, the use of decking and close cutting of grass will have a limited biodiversity potential. However urban gardens can provide a valuable habitat resource for amphibians and birds.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium/Low.** This HLC type may include buildings within or on the edge of the known historic settlement core and as such will have a potential for containing below ground archaeology. Some of the buildings and structures within this type will, in their own right, be of archaeological, architectural and historic interest.
- **Management:** This HLC type will contain some buildings that are listed or fall within conservation areas. Where this is the case they will be afforded a statutory level of protection. However a significant proportion, although being of historic interest, will not benefit from such protection. Where this is the case appropriate conditions should be implemented. This might typically include recording elements of a building prior to any change. Highways departments and utility operators should take care to consult with conservation officers and planning archaeologists to ensure that any programme of works will not have a detrimental effect upon a town's historic fabric or archaeological deposits. Where damage is shown to be unavoidable and appropriate programme of mitigation needs to be put in place and carried out.
- **Research potential:** Both national and regional research agendas are in place for the study of our historic urban centres. In Leicestershire the requirement for an extensive urban survey has long been recognised. Such a survey will provide high quality data about the archaeological potential of the towns of Leicestershire and Rutland as well as charting their historical development.
- **Amenity value: High.** This HLC Type will for some of the older parts of the project areas towns and villages and as such offer a high amenity value. In many cases they will be the commercial and retail sector of a town providing both employment and access to shops and services

2.9 Settlement

Settlement 3rd-4th ed Terraced

Total Area: 184 ha 0.1%
Polygons: 117 1%

Av. Polygon: 1.6 ha
Occurrence: Very Rare

Settlement 3rd-4th ed Semi Detached

Total Area: 1,065 ha 0.4%
Polygons: 290 1.5%

Av. Polygon: 3.6 ha
Occurrence: Very Rare

Settlement 3rd-4th ed Detached

Total Area: 337 ha 0.1%
Polygons: 159 0.8%

Av. Polygon: 2.1 ha
Occurrence: Very Rare

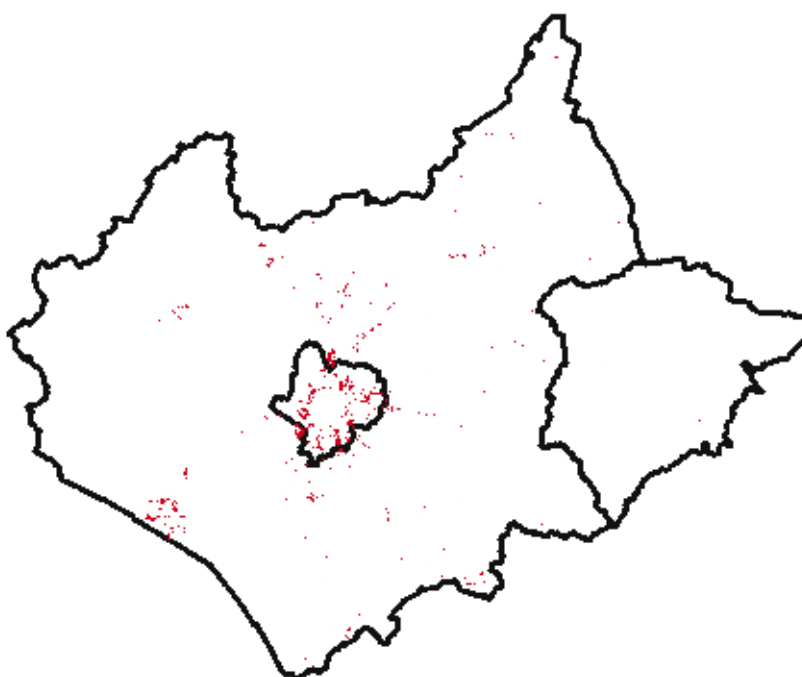


Figure 85. Distribution of 3rd-4th ed. OS Settlement

- **Description:** This group of HLC types defines the extent of terraced, semi detached and detached settlement built after the publication of the 3rd edition OS and which first appears on the 4th edition OS. The 4th edition mapping in Leicestershire generally dates from between 1938 to 1952. Consequently settlement appearing in these categories is likely to date between from about 1931 to 1952 at the latest. The distribution of these categories reflects the continued expansion of Leicester and the main urban settlements in the west of the county, during the first half of the 20th century. Significant expansion is occurring at this time at Coalville, Hinckley and Loughborough and notably along the Soar Valley.
- **Period: Modern.** Settlement falling within these categories will date from the 1930s to the 1950s.
- **Factors influencing change:** The greatest pressure, particularly in the larger market towns and Leicester City, comes predominantly from new development.

- **Biodiversity Potential: Low/Medium.** Within the most highly urbanised centres there is very limited biodiversity potential. Older buildings do however have the potential to provide refuge for bats. Many modern gardens because of a reliance on pesticides, modern fertilisers, the use of decking and close cutting of grass will have a limited biodiversity potential. However urban gardens can provide a valuable habitat resource for amphibians and birds.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium/Low.** This HLC type may include buildings within or on the edge of the known historic settlement core and as such will have a potential for containing below ground archaeology. Some of the buildings and structures within this type will, in their own right, be of archaeological, architectural and historic interest.
- **Management:** This HLC type will contain some buildings that are listed or fall within conservation areas. Where this is the case they will be afforded a statutory level of protection. However a significant proportion, although being of historic interest, will not benefit from such protection. Where this is the case appropriate conditions should be implemented. This might typically include recording elements of a building prior to any change. Highways departments and utility operators should take care to consult with conservation officers and planning archaeologists to ensure that any programme of works will not have a detrimental effect upon a town's historic fabric or archaeological deposits. Where damage is shown to be unavoidable and appropriate programme of mitigation needs to be put in place and carried out.
- **Research potential:** Both national and regional research agendas are in place for the study of our historic urban centres. In Leicestershire the requirement for an extensive urban survey has long been recognised. Such a survey will provide high quality data about the archaeological potential of the towns of Leicestershire and Rutland as well as charting their historical development.
- **Amenity value: High.** This HLC Type represents a significant segment of the project area's housing stock and forms areas where people carry out much of their daily lives. Many people will form a close attachment to the neighbourhood in which they live with many containing well established and tightly knit communities.

2.9 Settlement

Settlement Pre-1970 Terraced

Total Area: 466 ha 0.2%
 Polygons: 216 1.1%

Av. Polygon: 2.2 ha
 Occurrence: Very Rare

Settlement Pre-1970s Semi Detached

Total Area: 2,982 ha 1.2%
 Polygons: 694 3.7%

Av. Polygon: 4.3 ha
 Occurrence: Rare

Settlement Pre-1970s Detached

Total Area: 2,305 ha 0.9%
 Polygons: 933 4.9%

Av. Polygon: 2.5 ha
 Occurrence: Very Rare

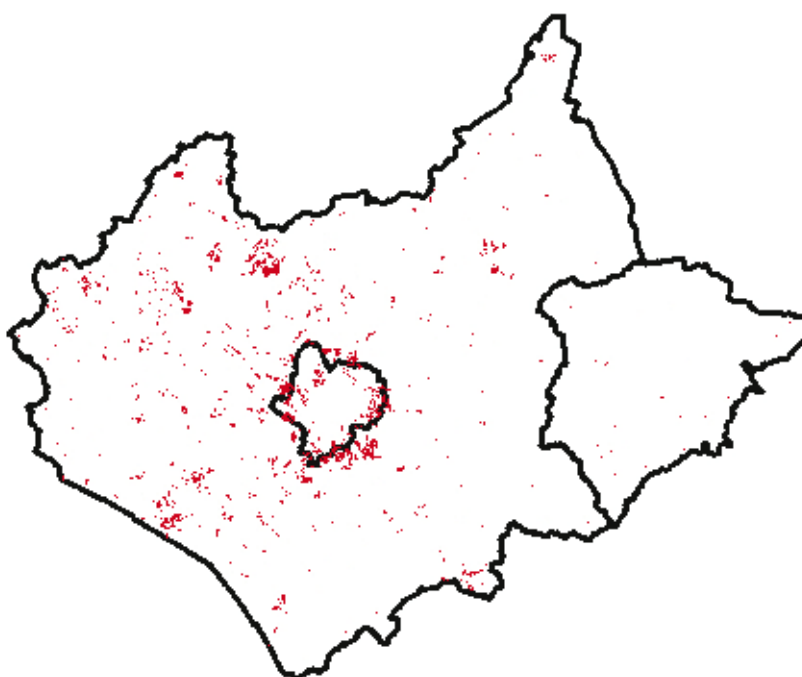


Figure 86. Distribution of Pre-1970s Settlement

- **Description:** This group of HLC types defines the extent of terraced, semi detached and detached settlement built after the publication of the 4th edition OS and which first appear on OS maps published from the mid 1950s to the late 1960s. Generally the pattern of settlement expansion continues to be concentrated in the same areas as earlier 20th century development, most notably Coalville and Hinckley. Loughborough, in particular, appears to be going through a phase of considerable expansion at this time as are those areas increasingly serving as dormitories for Leicester such as Oadby and Wigston. In the eastern Leicestershire limited expansion also seems to be occurring at Market Harborough and Melton Mowbray.
- **Period: Modern.** Settlement falling within these categories will date from the mid 1950s to the late 1960s.
- **Factors influencing change:** These HLC Types are not currently under any significant pressure for change although redevelopment and

regeneration schemes may in some cases be a factor, particularly where the housing stock is considered to be of lower quality.

- **Biodiversity Potential: Low/Medium.** Within the most highly urbanised centres there is limited biodiversity potential. Older buildings may have the potential to provide refuge for bats. Many modern gardens because of a reliance on pesticides, modern fertilisers, use of decking and close cutting of grass will have a limited biodiversity potential. However some urban gardens can provide a valuable habitat resource for amphibians and birds.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium/Low.** This HLC type may include buildings within or on the edge of the known historic settlement core; where this is the case they may have a limited potential for containing below ground archaeology. In most cases however areas characterised as belonging to this type will be considered as having a low archaeological potential.
- **Management:** This HLC type will generally consist of modern housing and require very little management from an historic environment perspective.
- **Research potential:** Both national and regional research agendas are in place for the study of our historic urban centres. In Leicestershire the requirement for an extensive urban survey has long been recognised. Such a survey will provide high quality data about the archaeological potential of the towns of Leicestershire and Rutland as well as charting their historical development.
- **Amenity value: High.** This HLC Type represents a significant segment of the project area's housing stock and forms areas where people carry out much of their daily lives. Many people will form a close attachment to the neighbourhood in which they live with many containing well established and tightly knit communities.



Figure 87. Pre 1970s, Terraced Housing in Loughborough

2.9 Settlement

Post 1970s Residential Development

Total Area: 6,145 ha

2.4%

Av. Polygon: 3.5 ha

Polygons: 1,777

9.3%

Occurrence: Rare

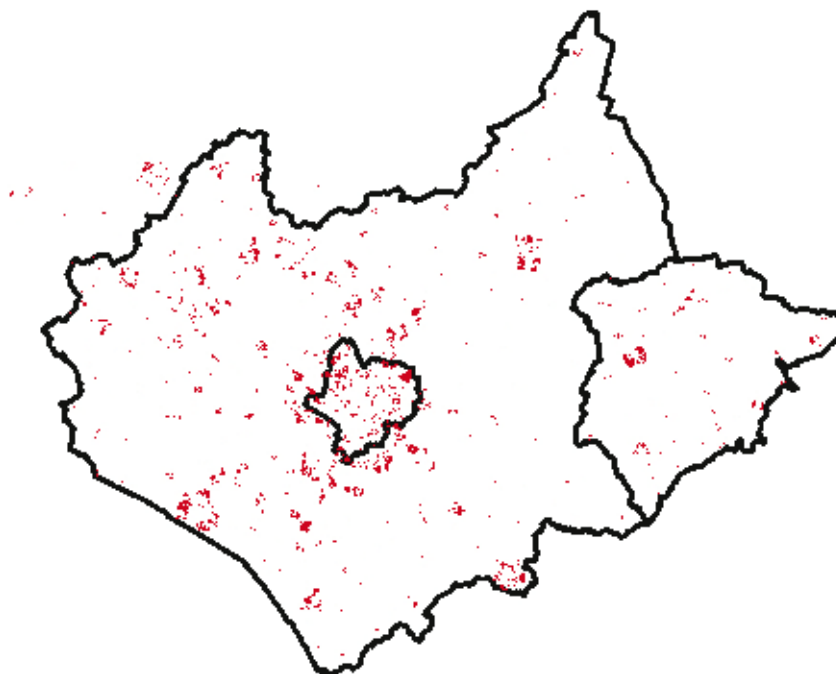


Figure 88. Distribution of Post 1970s Residential Development

- **Description:** This group of HLC types defines the extent of terraced, semi detached and detached settlement that only appears on the more recent editions of the OS maps used for the HLC project. Any settlement not marked on the mid 1950s to late 1960s maps but appearing on current editions will fall within this grouping. Generally the pattern of settlement expansion continues to be concentrated in the same areas as earlier 20th century development, most notably Coalville and Hinckley. The areas serving as dormitories for Leicester such as Oadby and Wigston continue to grow. In eastern Leicestershire limited expansion also seems to be occurring at Market Harborough and Melton Mowbray. In Rutland, Oakham also appears to have expanded rapidly in recent years.
- **Period: Modern.** Settlement falling within these categories will date from the 1970s to the present day.
- **Factors influencing change:** This HLC Type is not currently under any significant pressure for change although redevelopment and regeneration schemes may in some cases be a factor, particularly where the housing stock is considered to be of lower quality.
- **Biodiversity Potential: Low.** Within the most highly urbanised centres there is very limited biodiversity potential. Many modern gardens because of a reliance on pesticides, modern fertilisers, use of decking and close cutting of grass will have a limited biodiversity potential. However some urban gardens may provide a valuable habitat resource for amphibians and birds.

- **Archaeological potential: Low.** This HLC type is made up of buildings dating from the late 20th century onwards and in most cases the archaeological potential will be low. Since the early 1990s and the introduction of PPG 16 any development on land with a potential to contain archaeology should have been dealt with appropriately. If as a result of archaeological investigation carried out through the planning process remains are known to still be present in the ground this will be recorded on the Historic Environment Record.
- **Management:** This HLC type will generally consist of modern housing and require very little management from an historic environment perspective.
- **Research potential:** Both national and regional research agendas are in place for the study of our historic urban centres. In Leicestershire the requirement for an extensive urban survey has long been recognised. Such a survey will provide high quality data about the archaeological potential of the towns of Leicestershire and Rutland as well as charting their historical development.
- **Amenity value: High.** This HLC Type represents a significant segment of the project area's housing stock and forms areas where people carry out much of their daily lives. Many people will form a close attachment to the neighbourhood in which they live with many containing well established and tightly knit communities.



Figure 89. Post 1970s Residential Development: Loughborough

2.9 Settlement

Country House

Total Area: 359 ha
Polygons: 198

0.1%
1%

Av. Polygon: 1.8 ha
Occurrence: Very Rare

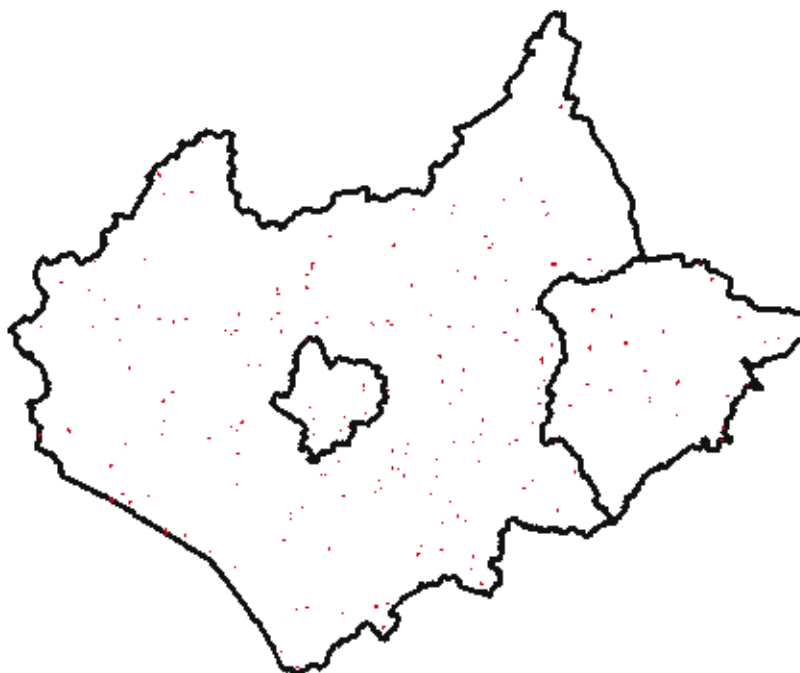


Figure 90. Distribution of Country Houses

- **Description:** This HLC type defines the extent of larger houses, and associated outbuildings together with adjacent garden areas. In a significant number of cases this type will be associated with surrounding parkland or designed landscapes. These tend to be high status buildings many of which are listed.
- **Period: Late Post Medieval.** Settlement falling within this category will usually date from the 18th or 19th century.
- **Factors influencing change:** Long term neglect can prove to be seriously detrimental to the fabric of a building as can inappropriate repairs and unsympathetic restoration. These tend to be large buildings which, if not in private single ownership, may be converted to apartments, offices or hotels. Conversions such as these can, when not carried out in an appropriate manner, have a negative affect upon the historic integrity of a building.
- **Biodiversity Potential: Medium.** These are older buildings which can have the potential to contain bats. Some bird species including starlings, tits and house martins may be able to take advantage of spaces under the eaves of buildings. Some outbuildings may also provide a suitable habitat for barn owls and swallows.
- **Archaeological potential: High.** This HLC type will contain a significant number of buildings considered to be of archaeological, historic and architectural interest. It is not uncommon for buildings

falling within this category to be replacements for earlier houses or lie close to or over medieval settlement sites; where this is the case there will be a high potential for buried archaeological remains to be present.

- **Management:** Where buildings are listed they will receive appropriate statutory protection and any alterations will require listed building consent. English Heritage will in exceptional cases provide grants for repairs to listed buildings, usually grade I or II* and local authorities also have powers to give grants. Where alterations to buildings fall within the planning process it will be reasonable for the archaeological advisors to the planning authority to request a recording of the building prior to change.
- **Research potential:** These buildings offer a significant research potential. This could include surveys to record and investigate the social context, roles and influence of country houses and estates.
- **Amenity value: High.** This HLC Type includes many important buildings contained within the HLC project area which will in many cases have had an influence upon the surrounding landscape. Some buildings or their grounds will also be open to the public and will serve as an important focus for recreation.



Figure 91. Newbold Verdon Hall

Further Reading

Cantor, L, 1998, *The Historic Country Houses of Leicestershire and Rutland*, Kairos Press, Newtown Linford, Leicester.

2.9 Settlement

Farm Complex

Total Area: 1872 ha

0.7%

Av. Polygon: 1.3 ha

Polygons: 1478

7.8%

Occurrence: Very Rare

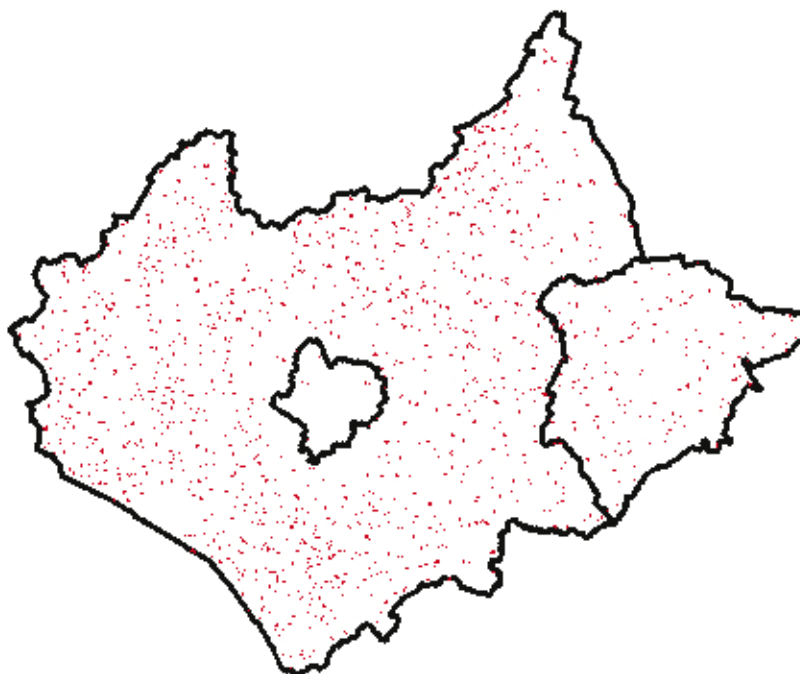


Figure 92. Distribution of Farm Complexes

- Description:** This HLC type defines areas covered by farm houses and associated outbuildings. Many of the areas falling into this category are isolated farmsteads which in Leicestershire are likely to have been built as a response to enclosure. Some farm complexes remain within villages but these are often hard to define within the context of project and in many cases are likely to have been included within the Historic Settlement Core Type. This HLC type also includes modern farm complexes and more industrialised agricultural units such as poultry farms.
- Period: Late Post Medieval-Modern:** Most areas falling into this category are likely to date from the 18th or 19th centuries although a significant number will be modern.
- Factors influencing change:** Older farm buildings may become unsuitable for modern machinery or other agricultural requirements and fall into disuse and disrepair. Farm buildings considered to be obsolete may also be at risk of demolition. The character of many farm buildings can also be dramatically and often adversely affected by conversion to residential use.
- Biodiversity Potential: Medium/High.** Many older farm buildings will have a potential for providing shelter to a number including bats and some bird species including starlings, tits and house martins. It is not uncommon for outbuildings to provide a shelter for barn owls and swallows

- **Archaeological potential: Medium/High.** Historic farm buildings should be considered as a vital element in defining the character of the countryside and should be considered as a finite historical and archaeological asset.
- **Management:** Where buildings are listed they will receive appropriate statutory protection and any alterations will require listed building consent. English Heritage will in exceptional cases provide grants for repairs to listed buildings, usually grade I or II* and local authorities also have powers to give grants. Agri-environment schemes administered by English Nature also provide help with advice on grants for environmental land management and building conservation. Where alterations to buildings fall within the planning process it will be reasonable for the archaeological advisors to the planning authority to request a recording of the building prior to change.
- **Research potential:** This HLC Type offers a significant research potential for fieldwork and evaluation to assess the relationship between planned farms, enclosure, land ownership and the adoption of new methods of farming. Surveys and evaluation of the distribution of farmsteads and estate buildings.
- **Amenity value: High.** Traditional farm buildings are viewed as being fundamental to the diversity and attractiveness of the countryside. These buildings encapsulate much of the history of English agriculture and are as important to the character of the countryside as the field patterns and boundaries associated with them.

2.10 Civic and Commercial

Commercial and Retail

Total Area: 1,025 ha	0.4%	Av. Polygon: 2.0 ha
Polygons: 503	2.7%	Occurrence: Rare

Educational

Total Area: 429 ha	0.4%	Av. Polygon: 2.1 ha
Polygons: 905	2.3%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Hospitals

Total Area: 162 ha	0.06%	Av. Polygon: 2.0 ha
Polygons: 80	0.4%	Occurrence: Very Rare

Municipal and Civic

Total Area: 351 ha	0.1%	Av. Polygon: 1.5 ha
Polygons: 228	1.2%	Occurrence: Very Rare

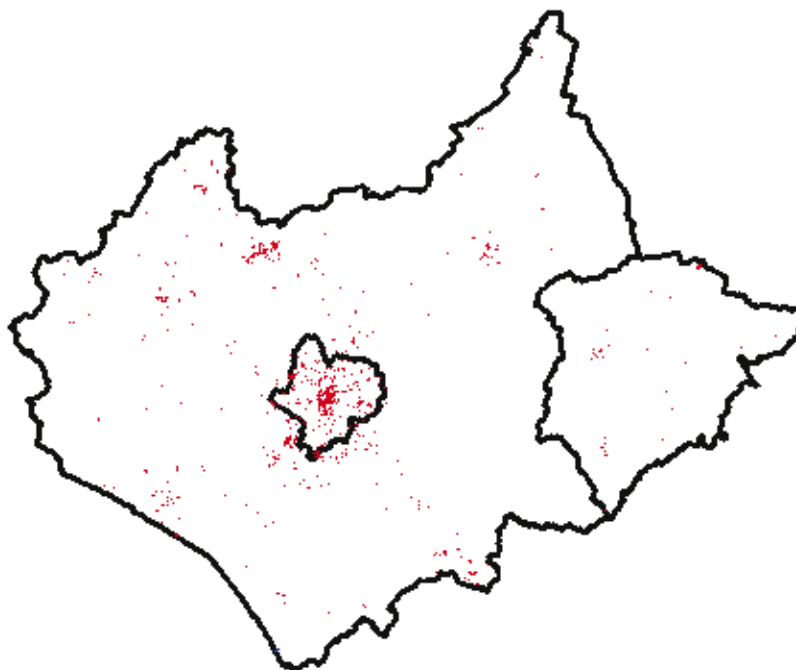


Figure 94. Distribution of Civic and Commercial Broad Types

- Description.** This group of HLC Types generally includes buildings or groups of buildings that perform a civic or commercial function. The Municipal and Civic Type includes areas defined by the presence of large civic buildings such as libraries, museums and town halls. Also within this category will be complexes performing similar functions at out of town or urban fringe locations. The Educational HLC Type includes colleges, schools and universities. The Hospitals Type includes hospital complexes, hospices and care homes. The Commercial and Retail HLC Type defines large stores, commercial districts and retail parks identified from the current OS map base. This Type will also include car parking associated with retail outlets.

- **Period: Late Post-Medieval/Modern.** Most areas characterised as belonging to these HLC Types will date from the 20th century although some civic buildings and shops will have a 19th century date.
- **Factors influencing change:** Demolition and subsequent redevelopment. Falling rolls can result in school closures. Likewise changes in health priorities can often lead to the closure of smaller hospitals. New retail developments can often have the consequence of older retail districts experiencing significant drops in trade and closure of businesses. Sustained periods of economic downturn will have a similar effect.
- **Biodiversity potential: Low.** The biodiversity potential for this HLC Type will generally be low, however where sites have been abandoned and left to become derelict, species-rich habitats of value for some species of plants and invertebrates often develop. Also, some buildings may provide roosting and nesting places for birds such as house martins, swallows, kestrels and peregrine falcons. Some buildings may also be important as roosting sites for bats.
- **Archaeological potential: Low/Medium.** In most cases the below ground archaeology of this HLC Type will be low with archaeological remains likely to have been completely destroyed or, at best, significantly truncated. The older commercial and retail sectors are, however, often located in the historic cores of towns and where this is the case there will be a recognised potential for the survival of below ground archaeology.
- **Management:** Most buildings in these HLC Types will be maintained by the owner or leaseholder. Some buildings will be listed and require listed building consent prior to alterations. Towns are dynamic places often subject to rapid change. It is vital that any new commercial or retail development within the historic areas of towns should seek to preserve and enhance its surroundings. English Heritage's advice to planners states that the "historic environment itself will set a benchmark for quality, whether for building design, ground plan or surface treatments" (English Heritage 2005). Many older school buildings are listed, eligible for listing or within conservation areas. Others, maintained by the local authority, will be included on a 'local list' of historic buildings. It is important that, at an early stage, when changes are being considered to the fabric or setting of these buildings the advice of heritage specialists (both for historic buildings and archaeology) is sought.
- **Research Potential:** Many commercial and retail districts will be located in the oldest part of a settlement and will represent an important aspect of a town's economic and social history. An Extensive Urban Survey would provide an analysis of the origins and development of the towns of Leicestershire and Rutland through the examination of their principal plan components and existing standing structures.
- **Amenity Value: High.** This HLC Type has a high amenity value in the sense that people use town centres and out of town shopping centres on a routine basis both recreationally and to do the business of shopping. Town centres can be a focal point for the wider community

and become areas rich in cultural activity for both performance and visual art. Schools colleges and universities will also have a high amenity value since their core function is as an educational resource. Many of these sites will also be used by the wider community, schools in particular provide an important focal point for many settlements and contribute significantly in providing communities with a sense of identity and social cohesion. Sites within the Educational HLC Type can be an important resource for many different groups with sites being used for evening classes, local societies and clubs. Hospitals also play a crucial role in maintaining the physical and mental health of communities.



Figure 94. Asfordby Primary School



Figure 95. North West Leicestershire District Council Offices, Coalville

Further Reading

English Heritage. 2005, *Retail Development in Historic Areas*, English Heritage.

English Heritage and The Department for Education and Skills, 2005, *The Future of Historic School Buildings*, English Heritage.

2.10 Civic and Commercial

Religious

Total Area: 149 ha

0.06%

Av. Polygon: 0.5 ha

Polygons: .328

1.7%

Occurrence: Very Rare

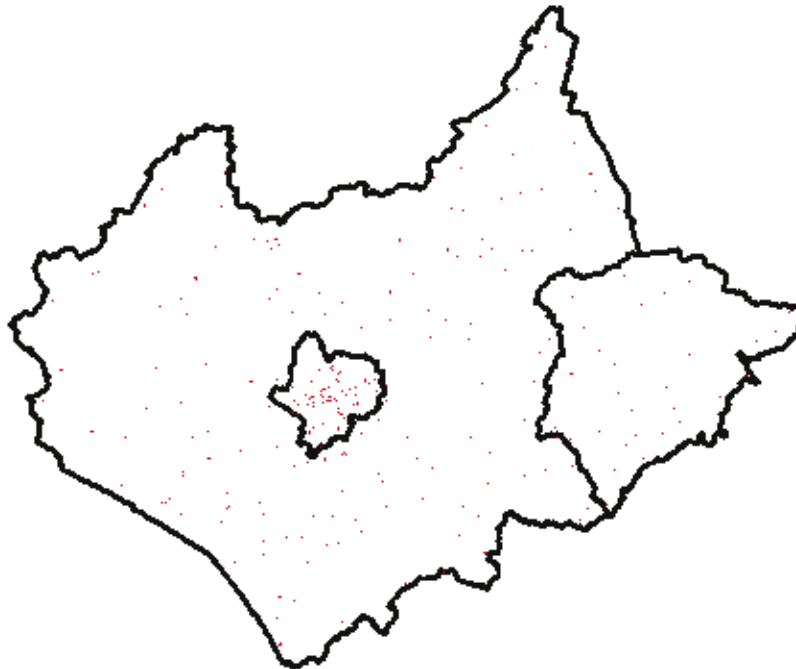


Figure 96. Distribution of Religious HLC Types

- Description.** This group of HLC Types includes building complexes and associated grounds which serve a religious function and includes churches, temples, synagogues and mosques where they have been identified through the modern OS mapping. Most common within this group are Christian churches with the Church of England responsible for the largest proportion. This HLC type has an even spread across the study area with most settlements having at least one place of worship.
- Period: Medieval/Late-Post Medieval/Modern.** The church will often be the oldest building in a settlement. Within the study area most pre-Conquest churches date from the second half of the 10th century onwards, following the arrival of Benedictine monks from mainland Europe and the establishment of minsters at Breedon-on-the-Hill, Leicester, Misterton and Buckminster. Churches having origins in or dating from the Anglo-Saxon period include St. Mary and St. Hardulph, Breedon-on-the-Hill and St. Nicholas' Church, Leicester. At the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Market Overton a tower arch is the only notable example of Anglo-Saxon architecture in Rutland. It was not until the early 12th century, once Norman control had been firmly established, that post-Conquest churches started to be built in great numbers. There are churches dating from all subsequent periods up to the 20th century and beyond. Non-Christian purpose built places of worship are likely to have a late 20th century date.

- **Factors influencing change:** Falling congregations can result in the closure and deconsecration of a church. This may result in subsequent conversion for other purposes such as housing, demolition or abandonment. Development around a church can have the effect of dramatically altering its setting to the extent that it appears to be out of context with the surrounding area.
- **Biodiversity potential: Medium.** Many churches together with their churchyards will have a reasonable biodiversity potential. Church buildings often provide roosting opportunities for bats and birds. Churches and their graveyards can also provide important habitats for a variety of flora including ferns, mosses, liverworts and lichens which can occur on gravestones. Churchyards also have the potential to contain fragments of relic grasslands and, particularly in an urban context, are valuable areas open green space.
- **Archaeological potential: High.** Historic churches represent a significant proportion of this country's oldest buildings and are archaeologically, architecturally and historically important. Graveyards will contain funerary monuments and curtilage structures of historic and archaeological value. Occasionally the disturbance of human remains proves to be unavoidable. Where this is the case and particularly when a significant assemblage of individuals is being considered, analysis of remains can reveal important evidence for demography, health, diet, genetic relationships and burial practice.
- **Management:** In most cases areas characterised as belonging to the Religious HLC Type will be managed by the governing body of the appropriate religious organisation. Although a large proportion of churches are listed, many are not subject to the usual controls over listed buildings. Six Christian denominations; the Church of England, the Church in Wales, the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church and the Baptist Union, although exempt from listed building controls, do operate their own controls in line with a Government Code of Practice. An internal system to control works to church buildings has been set up by each of these denominations. All other denominations and faiths require listed building consent from the relevant secular planning authority. All places of worship fall within the planning system in the same way as secular buildings and planning permission is required for new building work and substantial alterations and extensions. Many churches are on land considered to be archaeologically important. As well as human burials, churchyards may contain foundations and other below ground remains. When assessing proposals factors such as these should be taken into account.
- **Research Potential:** Included in this HLC Type are many of the oldest buildings within the study area. There are many potential opportunities for research for churches which will include investigation into materials used and methods of construction, either on an individual basis or as a comparative study across the project area. The study of the form of ornamental features and of inscriptions on gravestones could also form the basis for potential research projects.

- **Amenity Value: High.** The core purpose of this HLC Type is to provide a place of worship for the local community which, in itself, should be considered as an important amenity function. Churches are also often the most important buildings in a settlement. They provide a focal point particularly for many villages where they can act as a social hub and a centre for much community activity. Churches and other places of worship also bring communities together for births, weddings, funerals and other religious ceremonies. Many places of worship will be considered as archeologically, architecturally and historically important and also be regarded a places of interest by visitors to an area. Places of worship provide symbols of continuity within communities and can play a vital role in reinforcing a sense of place.



Figure 97. St. Mary's Church Melton Mowbray

Further Reading

Cantor. L, 2000. *The Historic Parish Churches of Leicestershire and Rutland*, Kairos Press, Newtown Linford, Leicester.

English Heritage, 2005, *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*, English Heritage.

2.11 Transportation

Canal Lock/Basin

Total Area: 57 ha

0.02%

Av. Polygon: 2.9 ha

Polygons: 20

0.1%

Occurrence: Very Rare

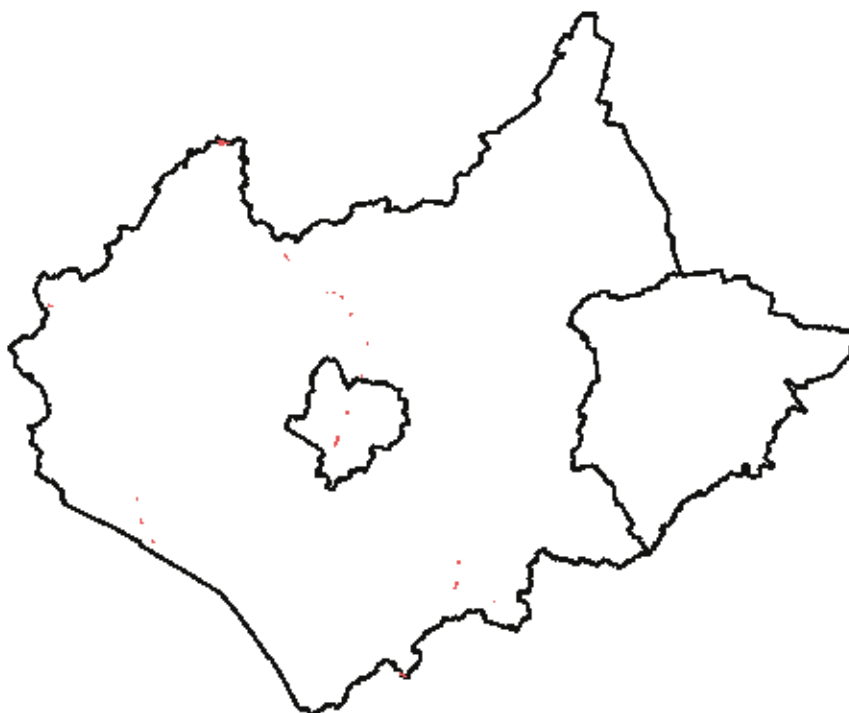


Figure 98. Distribution of Canal Locks/Basins

- **Description.** This HLC Type includes the larger flights of canal locks, canal basins and wharfs that are marked on modern OS maps. Included in this category will be modern marinas. These sites generally relate either to the canal network or the Soar navigation.
- **Period: Late Post-Medieval/Modern.** Modern marinas will date to the late 20th century. Most areas falling into this HLC Type will have an 18th or 19th century date.
- **Factors influencing change:** Waterside development, drainage of waterways, neglect of infrastructure.
- **Biodiversity potential: High.** Generally canals will have a high biodiversity potential; some have been designated as important wildlife sites either locally or nationally. Protected species such as Otter, Water Vole and White-clawed Crayfish are present in some sections of canal. Canals also form important wildlife corridors, linking wildlife sites along their length. Canal locks and basins may, however, be considered pinch points and will typically be the busiest sections both for water traffic and sightseers and walkers. As a consequence these sections will be the least favoured for many species.
- **Archaeological potential: High.** Although earlier archaeological features will have been destroyed by their construction, Canal Locks

and Basins are important archaeological features in their own right. Where alterations to the fabric are to be made an appropriate programme of investigation and recording prior to change should be agreed upon.

- **Management:** Regular maintenance of fabric and associated structures. The Grand Union Canal and Ashby Canal are conservation areas and as such it is desirable that the character and appearance of these areas be preserved or enhanced.
- **Research Potential:** Non-intensive survey of the extent of transport features and structures in this HLC Type and of the wider canal and waterway system would serve in enhancing the Historic Environment Record. Research to establish the nature of the development of these transport systems and their influence upon the surrounding landscape, settlement pattern and industry.
- **Amenity Value: High.** Waterways and associated structures have a high amenity value. They have a high tourist potential and are used regularly by walkers and have the potential to provide important wildlife habitats.



Figure 99. Foxton Locks

Further Reading

Palmer, M. & Neaverson, P. *Industrial Landscapes of the East Midlands*, Phillimore & Co. Ltd, Chichester, Sussex, 1992.

2.11 Transportation

Civil Airports/Airfields

Total Area: 949 ha	0.4%	Av. Polygon: 189.8 ha
Polygons: 5	0.02%	Occurrence: Very Rare

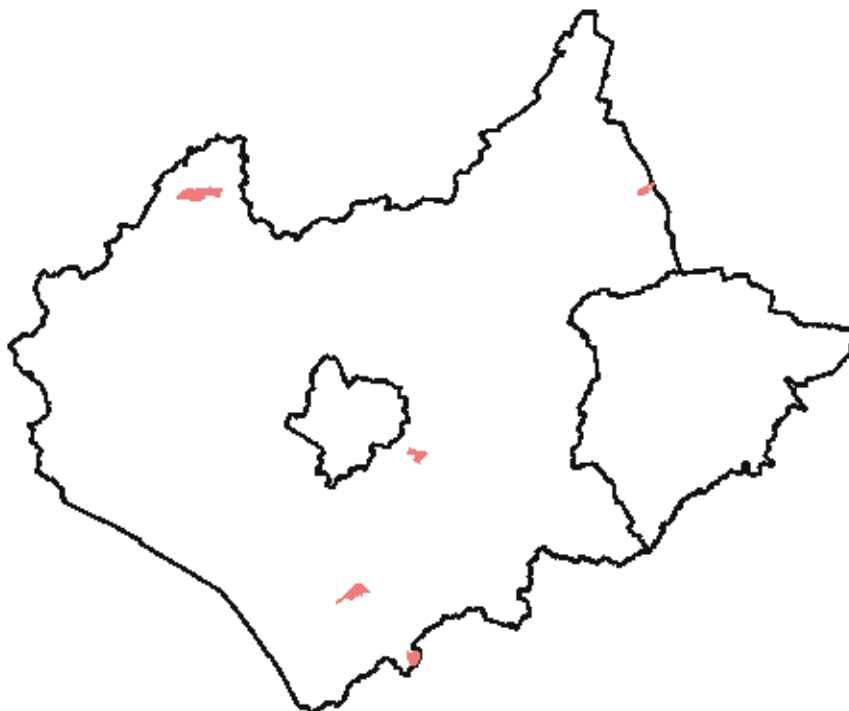


Figure 100. Distribution of Civil Airports/Airfields

- **Description.** This HLC Type comprises airports and airfields in civil use. All of the areas falling into this HLT type have military origins. Nottingham East Midlands is the largest and most important to the local economy being an international airport with regular and charter airlines operating out of the terminal. The airport is also the second largest freight airport in the United Kingdom after Heathrow. Originally known as Castle Donington Airfield, bombers operated out of the site from 1942-1946. Civil flights began in 1964. Leicester Airport is about 4 miles south-east of Leicester and saw military operations from 1943-1945 and then was used for military storage until 1948. Since 1950 it has been home to the Leicester Aero Club. Bruningthorpe Airfield operated as an RAF base from 1943 to 1965. In 1972 it became privately owned and is now used as a vehicle proving ground and aerodrome.
- **Period: Modern.** All examples of this HLC Type will have a 20th century date.
- **Factors influencing change:** Change of use to large scale residential or industrial development.
- **Biodiversity potential: Low.** Nottingham East Midlands Airport is a busy international air terminal and not likely to support a wide diversity

of habitats. For other airfields the biodiversity potential may be slightly, but not significantly, better, particularly around the site perimeters. Areas between runways and hard standings are typically close cut grass or in agricultural use.

- **Archaeological potential: Medium.** Archaeological potential will depend upon previous land use and the disturbance caused by the construction of the airfield and associated structures. All of these sites have a military history dating back to the Second World War and with the possible exception of Nottingham East Midlands will have structures, runway layouts and service roads dating to this period.
- **Management:** Nottingham East Midlands is managed as a modern commercial international air terminal. The other airfields are run on a much smaller scale but are more likely to have buildings and associated fabric that is of historic interest. Original structures should be appropriately maintained.
- **Research Potential:** All operational airfields in Leicestershire have military origins and most retain some original buildings and associated fabric. This being the case they are likely to have a significant research potential notably for those carrying out local studies and they offer opportunities for community archaeology to engage with local history groups and schools. Such engagement can feed into a regional agenda.
- **Amenity Value: Medium.** As an operational airport Nottingham East Midlands is used by a significant number of travellers every day with passenger traffic increased even more during the summer holiday period. The airport is also likely to be visited regularly by civil air enthusiasts. Other airfields are used by a number of light aircraft, glider and parachute clubs.

Further Reading

Palmer, M. & Neaverson, P. *Industrial Landscapes of the East Midlands*, Phillimore & Co. Ltd, Chichester, Sussex, 1992.

2.11 Transportation

Major Road Junction

Total Area: 363 ha

0.1%

Av. Polygon: 9.8 ha

Polygons: 37

0.2%

Occurrence: Very Rare

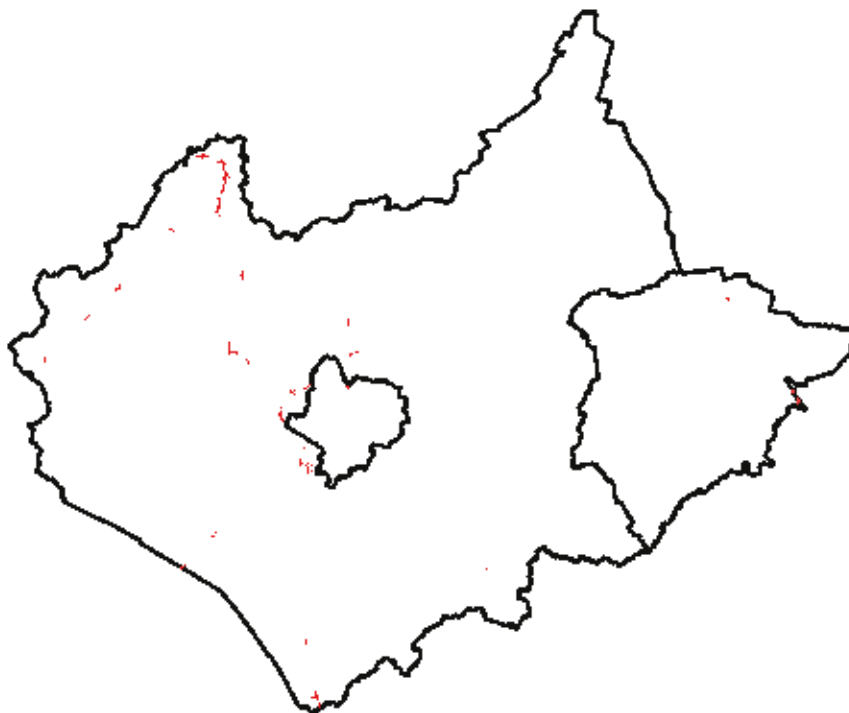


Figure 101. Distribution of Major Road Junctions

- **Description.** This HLC Type includes major road junctions and roundabouts generally over 1ha in size. These will generally be along the routes of major trunk roads and motorways.
- **Period: Modern.** All areas in this HLC type will date from the second half of the 20th or the early 21st century
- **Factors influencing change:** Road widening or re-routing.
- **Biodiversity potential: Low.** These areas are dominated by tarmac. Balancing ponds linked to drainage systems, unkempt verges and central areas of roundabouts can offer some limited biodiversity potential for some opportunistic species
- **Archaeological potential: Low.** Any archaeology is likely to have been destroyed during the construction process.
- **Management:** These areas will be managed either by the local highways authority or the Highways Agency.
- **Research Potential:** Areas belonging to this HLC Type offer little in terms of research potential.
- **Amenity Value: Low.** These are functional areas designed to facilitate the easy movement of traffic.

2.11 Transportation

Service Station

Total Area: 27 ha

0.01%

Av. Polygon: 6.7 ha

Polygons: 4

0.02%

Occurrence: Very Rare

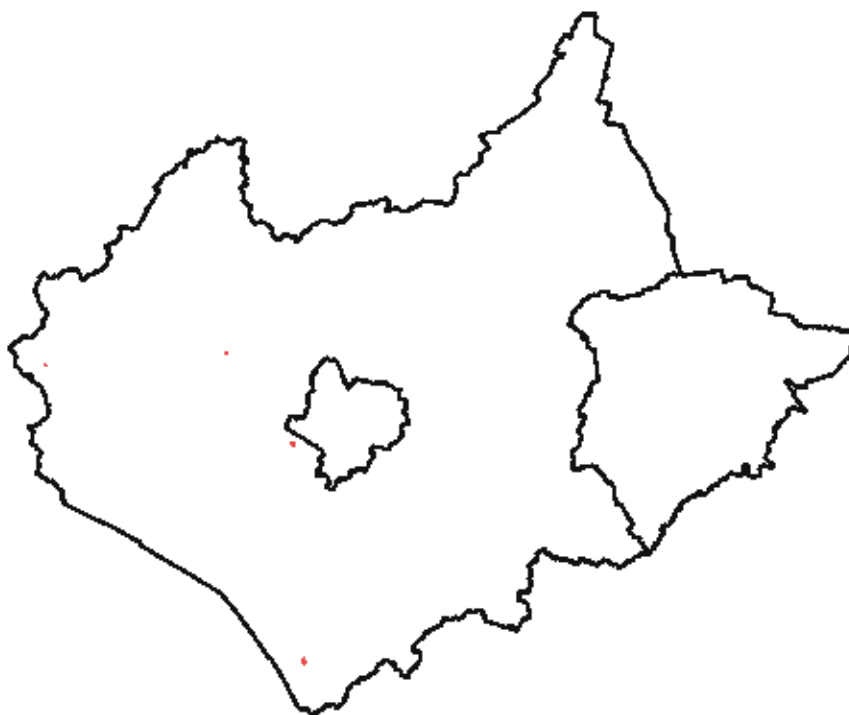


Figure 102. Distribution of Service Stations

- **Description.** This HLC Type typically includes service areas associated with motorways and larger trunk roads and which are marked on the modern OS map.
- **Period: Modern.** All areas in this HLC type will date from the second half of the 20th or the early 21st century
- **Factors influencing change:** Road widening or re-routing.
- **Biodiversity potential: Low.** These areas are predominantly under tarmac or modern buildings and will be a poor habitat resource.
- **Archaeological potential: Low.** Any archaeology is likely to have been destroyed during the construction process.
- **Management:** Regular maintenance will be carried out by the operators of these sites.
- **Research Potential:** Areas belonging to this HLC Type offer little in terms of research potential.

- **Amenity Value: Medium.** These areas are in constant use by travellers wishing to take a break from driving.



Figure 103. Leicester Forest East Services

2.11 Transportation

Train Stations/Sidings/Cuttings

Total Area: 89 ha

0.03%

Av. Polygon: 3.1 ha

Polygons: 28

0.1%

Occurrence: Very Rare

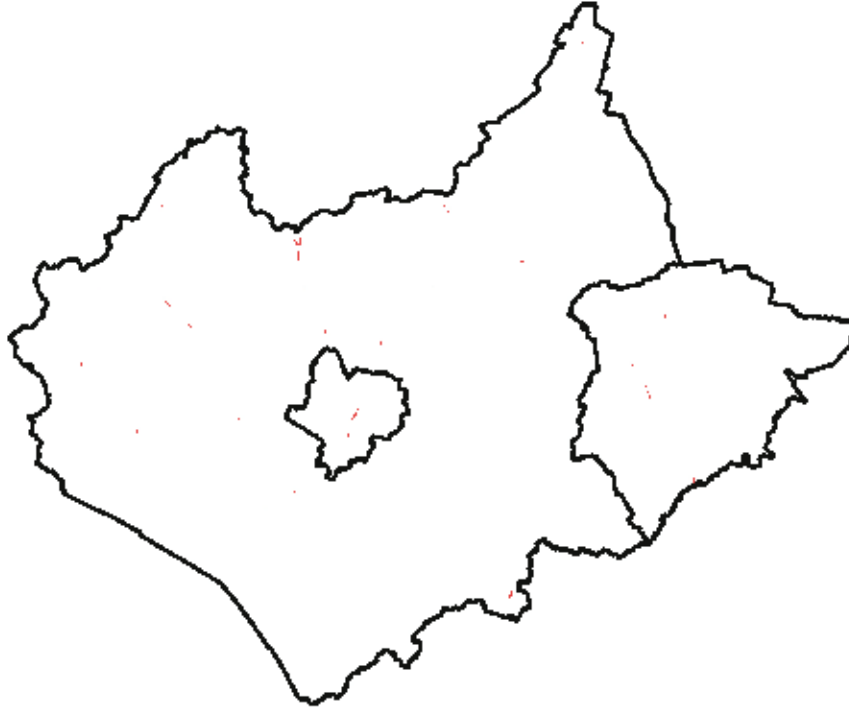


Figure 104. Distribution of Train Stations/Sidings/Cuttings

- **Description.** This category defines train stations, large sidings and cuttings as marked on the current OS map. These areas relate directly to the rail network across the project area
- **Period: Late Post Medieval/Modern.** The rail network began to develop across the project area from around 1832 with the opening of the Leicester and Swannington Railway which was the first mechanically operated public railway.
- **Factors influencing change:** Closure of lines, sidings or stations. Clearance or scrub along track sides.
- **Biodiversity potential: Low/Medium.** The biodiversity potential of areas in this HLC Type is likely to be low. Stations themselves offer little potential. Areas around the margins of sidings, along tracks and on cuttings are often allowed to develop areas with habitats favourable to a variety of plant and animal species. The areas along train lines and associated land are often set within intensively farmed land or densely populated areas and offer the potential to act as “natural” wildlife corridors.
- **Archaeological potential: Medium.** Any archaeology predating these sites is likely to have been destroyed. Railways and their associated infrastructure will often merit interest from an industrial archaeological perspective.

- **Management:** Network Rail maintains Britain's tracks, bridges and signalling network and has its own management programmes for which safety is the first consideration. Stations are typically owned by rail operators. A biodiversity action plan is in place for land maintained by Network Rail. Historic structures should be appropriately maintained, and where changes are to be made to listed structures these will need to be carried out in accordance with current planning guidance. Alterations to or removal of other structures of historic interest should be recorded prior to any change.
- **Research Potential:** Non-intensive survey of the extent of transport features and structures in this HLC Type and of the wider canal and waterway system would serve in enhancing the Historic Environment Record. Research to establish the nature of the development of these transport systems and their influence upon the surrounding landscape, settlement pattern and industry.
- **Amenity Value: Medium/High.** The rail network is a vital part of our communications infrastructure and is used by millions of passengers across the country. Train stations and the rail network generally is of particular interest to a large number of rail and industrial heritage enthusiasts. Many train stations are of architectural or historic significance and will often provide a level of continuity within a changing urban landscape.



Figure 105. Train Sidings: Coalville

Further Reading

Palmer, M. & Neaverson, P. *Industrial Landscapes of the East Midlands*, Phillimore & Co. Ltd, Chichester, Sussex, 1992.

Simmons, J. 1972 'Communications and Transport' in N.Pye (ed) *Leicester and its Region*, Leicester University Press, pp 311-324.

2.12 Water Valley Floor

Artificial Lake/Pond

Total Area: 630 ha

0.8%

Av. Polygon: 4.0 ha

Polygons: 154

0.2%

Occurrence: Very Rare

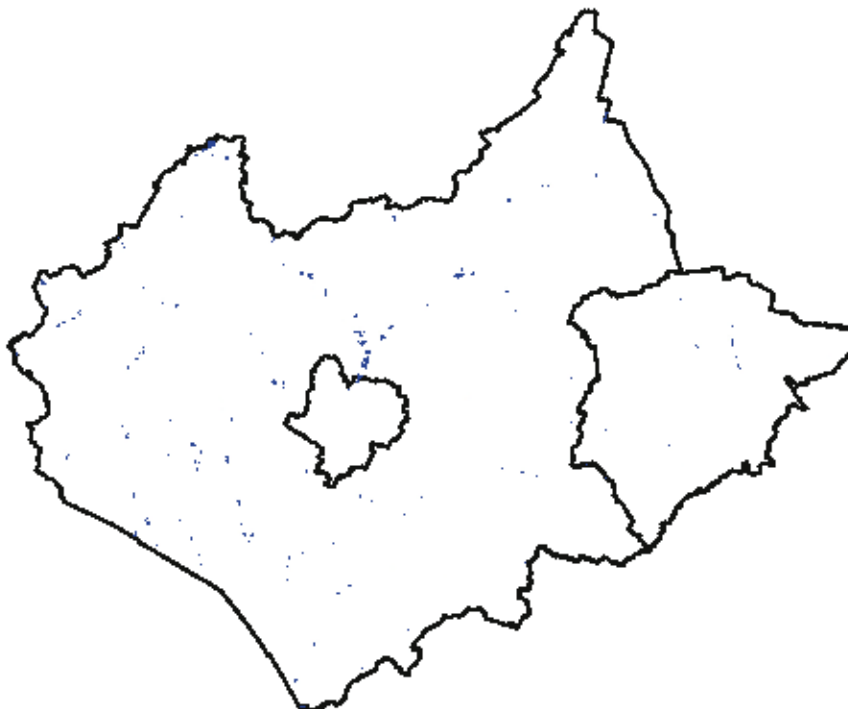


Figure 106. Distribution of Artificial Lakes/Ponds

- **Description:** This category comprises lakes or ponds which can be recognised as artificial through the presence of retaining earthworks and/or dams. Included in this HLC Type are ornamental lakes, recreational facilities such as modern fish ponds, flooded quarries and ponds associated with former industrial activity. Examples of this Type occur across the study area with the western side showing a more dense concentration. This higher concentration in the west reflects the fact that this area has seen more intensive mineral extraction with quarries being flooded once they have ceased operating and also subsidence flashes in mining areas.
- **Period: Late Post-Medieval/Modern.** In most cases areas categorised as Artificial Lake/Pond will have a late post-medieval or modern date. Many early examples are likely to be landscape features associated with the Parks and Gardens HLC Type and are likely to date from the 18th and 19th centuries. A small number of areas falling into this HLC type may have medieval origins, possibly as fish ponds. The majority of areas described as Artificial Lake/Pond will be modern.
- **Factors influencing change:** Drainage of sites, neglect of sites allowing them to silt up, increased recreational use, filling in.
- **Biodiversity Potential: High.** Artificial Lakes/Ponds will have a fairly good biodiversity potential, attracting wildfowl, providing habitats for aquatic plants, dragonflies and damselflies, amphibian species and invertebrates associated with ponds and lakes.

- **Archaeological potential: Medium.** The archaeological potential of this Type varies according to age and origins. Ponds and lakes created during the 20th and 21st centuries as a result of flooding former quarries, the creation of modern fish ponds or as recreational features will have a low archaeological potential. Ponds and lakes created as ornamental features during the 18th and 19th centuries will themselves be of interest to landscape historians. Ponds with medieval origins will also be of archaeological interest with their shape form and purpose being of interest. Ponds with medieval origins have the potential to contain waterlogged deposits such as leather or wood, as well as other environmental information including insect, mollusc, seed and pollen remains. These data can be valuable in the reconstruction of the environments of past societies.
- **Management:** Prevention of silting up and excessive scrub development on margins. Promotion of buffer strips and less intensive land use around water bodies. Protect and enhance all eutrophic standing water. With 18th and 19th century ponds and lakes and ponds that have medieval origins it is desirable that programmes be put in place that will protect and enhance these features. Where ponds are likely to be medieval in origin, care dredging should be avoided unless under archaeological supervision.
- **Research potential: Medium:** The research potential for modern lakes and ponds is low. Ornamental examples of this type dating from the 18th or 19th centuries may be of significance for research into the evolution of parks and gardens. Ponds with a probable medieval date offer considerable research potential through the study of their form, their place in the landscape and the role they played in the local economy as a source of fresh fish. Ponds from this period have the potential to hold important information for research into past environmental conditions.
- **Amenity value: High.** Water bodies can have a high amenity value with many modern ponds being created for fishing or other recreational uses, such as sailing. Where access permits this HLC Type can be a popular attraction for walkers or those just wishing to relax near to the water. Ornamental lakes and ponds will often have been carefully landscaped with the purpose in mind of providing a visual amenity.



Figure 107. Watermead Country Park

2.12 Water and Valley Floor

Marsh

Total Area: 32 ha

0.01%

Av. Polygon: 17.8 ha

Polygons: 8

0.04%

Occurrence: Very Rare



Figure 109. Distribution of Marshes

- **Description:** This category comprises areas identified from the modern OS map base as marsh. The largest area of marsh is located on the eastern banks of Rutland Water close to Egleton and owes its existence to the creation of the reservoir. The two other areas characterised as marsh, one at Hugglescote in North West Leicestershire, the other at Kimcote in Harborough District, both appear to have been created through modern drainage.
- **Period: Modern.** In Leicestershire and Rutland the areas characterised as marsh appear to be modern.
- **Factors influencing change:** Changes to drainage systems, drought.
- **Biodiversity Potential: High.** The area at Egleton characterised as marsh forms part of an important nature reserve that is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a Ramsar site and a European Special Protection Area. The reserve is an important habitat for resident and migrant wildfowl. A large reedbed planted during the creation of the reserve contains a large number of specialist species associated with this habitat.
- **Archaeological potential: Low.** Many marshlands and other wetlands are generally considered to have a high archaeological potential, often containing well preserved environmental data and waterlogged deposits. However the examples identified within the

project area appear to be relatively recent and are not likely to have a significant archaeological potential.

- **Management:** A complex management regime is in place for the nature reserve which aims to provide optimum conditions for the many flora and fauna species found on the site.
- **Research potential: Low:** From an archaeological perspective the potential for this HLC Type is low.
- **Amenity value: High.** The area of marsh forming part of the nature reserve has a high amenity value and receives a large number of visitors who come principally to watch the birds and other wildlife. The reserve is also an important educational resource.

2.12 Water and Valley Floor

Miscellaneous Floodplain Fields

Total Area: 4,033 ha
Polygons: 241

1.6%
1.3%

Av. Polygon: 16.7 ha
Occurrence: Rare

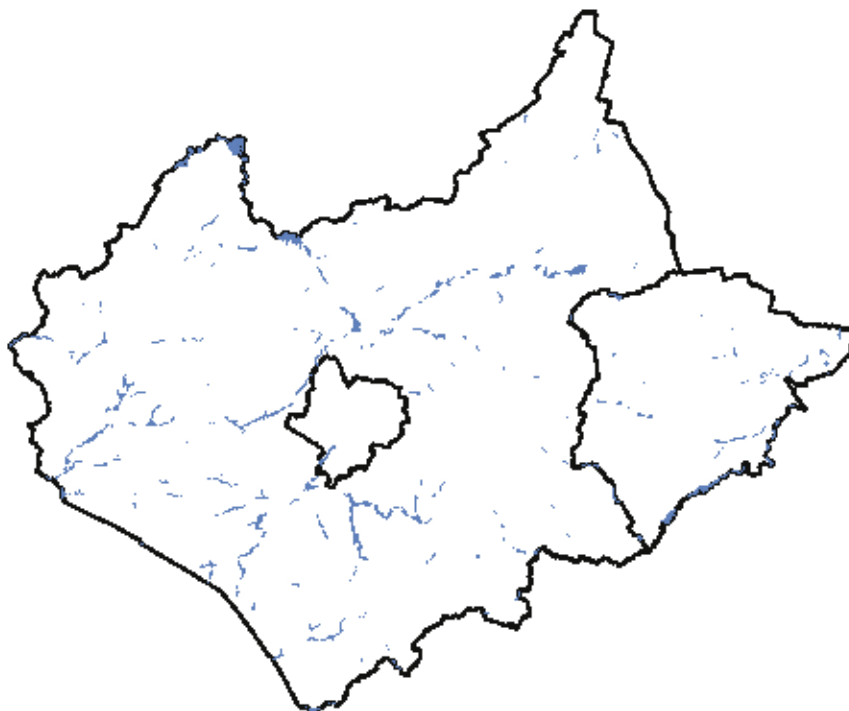


Figure 109. Distribution of Miscellaneous Floodplain Fields

- **Description:** This category comprises areas of enclosure on river floodplain that do not fall into any of the Fields and Enclosed Land character types. Many of these fields will have been traditionally been used as meadows. Areas falling into this category have a potential for containing the preserved earthwork remains of water meadows. The distribution of this character type follows the river network.
- **Period: Post Medieval/Late Post Medieval.** In most cases enclosure is likely to date from 18th and 19th centuries, although there are likely to be earlier examples dating from possibly as early as the 16th century.
- **Factors influencing change:** Changes to or loss of field boundaries. In recent years there has been a marked increase in the levels of built development on floodplain land.
- **Biodiversity Potential: Medium/High.** Fields that are characterised as this HLC type will, particularly during the winter months, be periodically flooded. This provides good quality habitat for wintering wildfowl. In spring these floods recede leaving wet grassland that is good for breeding waders.
- **Archaeological potential: High.** Areas falling within this category will have a good potential for containing earthwork remains of water meadows. This character type will probably contain alluvial deposits. These deposits may be used for the provenancing of sediments, a

range of landscape studies and for examining the past environments of river valleys. In addition, since river valleys have been amongst the most densely populated landscapes, there is a high potential for them to contain information about previous human settlement.

- **Management:** Most areas within this category will be under pasture. Grazing on poorly drained or waterlogged sites can result in damage to the soil and vegetation, known as poaching, the run off from which can cause pollution if the area drains to a watercourse. When the soil dries out it can become compacted and need re-seeding. Defra advise that where hoof marks from cattle are deeper than 50 mm, stock should be moved away from at risk sites. This policy will also help reduce damage to any earthwork features. Maintain or improve drainage to keep soils drier where this is considered to be a natural and historic environment conservation objective.
- **Research potential: High:** This HLC Type will have high research potentials for both geoarchaeological investigation and for landscape studies, notably into watermeadows.
- **Amenity value: Medium.** The amenity value of this HLC Type will depend largely upon access. Within this HLC Type are many of the study area's principal rivers which are regularly used by anglers and walkers enjoying the countryside.



Figure 110. Wreake Valley Floodplain Fields

Further Reading

Cook, H. and Williamson, T. 2007, *Water Meadows: History, Ecology and Conservation*, Windgather Press, Macclesfield.

Rackham, O. *The History of the Countryside: The Classic History of Britain's Landscape, Flora and Fauna*, Phoenix Press, London, 1986.

2.12 Water and Valley Floor

Reservoir

Total Area: 1,670 ha

0.7%

Av. Polygon: 59.6 ha

Polygons: 28

0.1%

Occurrence: Very Rare

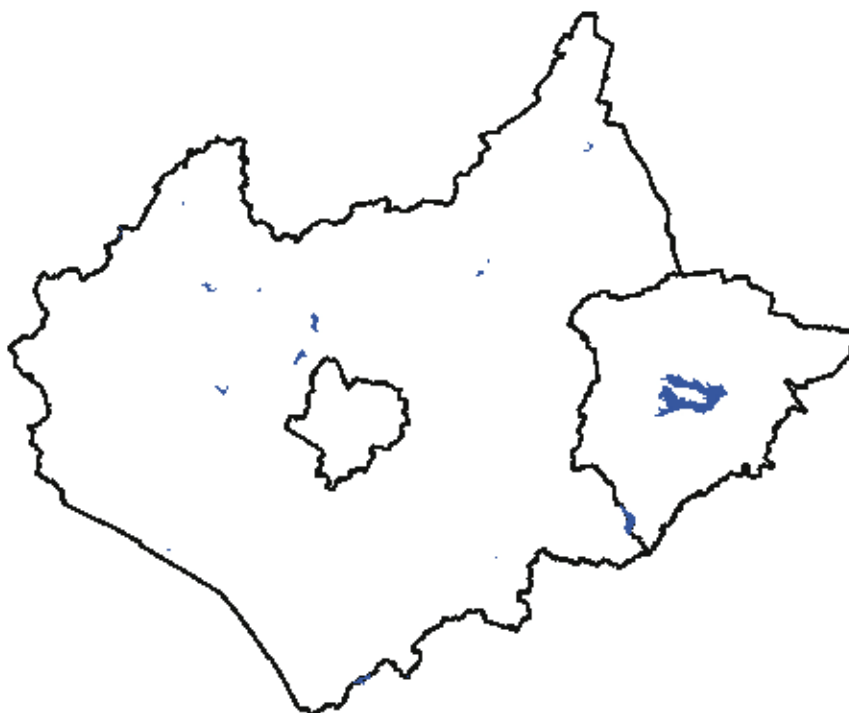


Figure 111. Distribution of Reservoirs

- **Description:** This category comprises bodies of water created specifically for the purposes of water supply and which are marked on the current OS maps. Included in this HLC type is Rutland Water which is, by surface area, the largest reservoir in England.
- **Period: Late Post-Medieval/Modern.** The earliest examples of this HLC Type will date from the late 18th century with most dating from either the 19th or 20th century.
- **Factors influencing change:** Drainage of sites, increased recreational use, periods of prolonged drought.
- **Biodiversity Potential: Medium/High.** Reservoirs will have a fairly good biodiversity potential, attracting wildfowl, providing habitats for aquatic plants, dragonflies and damselflies, amphibian species, wetland beetles and other invertebrates. Reservoirs can provide habitats for a range of aquatic plants such as shining pondweed, *Poamgeton lucens*, thread-leaved water-crowfoot *Ranunculus trichophyllus* and pond water-crowfoot *Ranunculus peltatus*. Reservoirs may also have the potential to support swamp and wet willow woodland. Within the project area Blackbrook, Cropston, Dimminsdale, Eye Brook, Rutland, Saddington and Swithland Reservoirs have SSSI status.

- **Archaeological potential: Medium.** The process of flooding to create a reservoir is likely to have destroyed much archaeology at these sites. Where archaeological remains are not destroyed there would in any case be little, if any, prospect of gaining access to establish their extent. With older reservoirs the fabric and associated structures may be of architectural or historic interest.
- **Management:** Reservoirs will have their own management programmes in place which will include regular maintenance of fabric and associated structures. Management of these sites should also take a sympathetic approach to ecology and aim to maintain and improve habitats.
- **Research potential: Low:** Reservoirs will offer few opportunities for archaeological research or indeed any form of access since they are covered by water.
- **Amenity value: High.** Reservoirs can have a high amenity value. In addition to their water storage function they will have recreational uses they can include fishing or and sailing. Where access permits this HLC Type can be a popular attraction for walkers or those just wishing to relax near to the water. This HLC type will typically be popular with birdwatchers and other nature enthusiasts.



Figure 112. Cropston Reservoir