

DECISION 'RULES' FOR THEME MAPS VERSION 1

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

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

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Telford & Wrekin	As above	<p>Urban Telford with non-woodland BAP priority habitats and established woodland west of Telford (the Wrekin, Ercall and Limekiln Wood sites) are sensitive</p> <p>Areas around these sites where planting would contribute to a landscape scale response to biodiversity issues are preferred</p> <p>Rural areas as intensive agriculture are neutral or 'positive/ neutral'</p>	No theme map available	As above

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Warwickshire	As above	<p>Derived from mapping Flora of Warks tetrad data onto LDUs, based on M.perennis map primarily, with some reference to other species (these are less widespread):</p> <p>where for woodland, hedgerow/scrub, grassland, roadsides/ waste places M.perennis shows as present (rare or abundant) across >50% of LDU, then preferred</p> <p>where for any category, M.perennis (rare or abundant) shows as present across <50% LDU (or is absent) then neutral</p> <p>(Note no sensitive category on the basis of discussion with key Warks biodiversity stakeholders September 05)</p>	No theme map available	As above

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