

Wyre Forest Local Plan Publication Version Representations

By Stop Lea Castle Farm Quarry Action Group

Wyre Forest Local Plan (pre-Submission)

The Wyre Forest Local Plan contains many policies to protect the general landscape and historic landscape. The plan however needs to recognise that the district contains landscapes and historic landscapes that have particular value and should be recognised and protected as such.

The last revision to NPPF amended the protection afforded valued landscapes such that protection is in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan. There is a need therefore for development plans to specifically identify valued landscapes for that protection.

In addition to protection due to being Valued Landscape areas also have a significant value for their heritage value.

NPPF (para184) states that

“Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance... These assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.”

And (para 185)

“Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. This strategy should take into account:

- a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;*
- b) the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;*
- c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and*
- d) opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.”*

And (para194)

“Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional.”

Below are relevant extracts from the Wyre Forest Local Plan (pre-Submission) which highlight the importance of landscapes in the district.

Landscape

The Wyre Forest Local Plan considers the environment of Wyre Forest District to be made unique by the valleys of the River Severn and River Stour and by the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal. Wyre Forest District Council has an overall vision to protect, improve and enhance the built and natural environment in order to provide an accessible, attractive, enjoyable and healthy place to be. The quality of the District's historic environment is one of its most valuable assets and includes a diverse collection of heritage assets, sensitive habitats and attractive landscapes.

The Plan Objectives are to promote the historic environment and landscape and conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations.

In order to achieve a sustainable end result, the Plan needs to perform a number of roles including an environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing Wyre Forest's unique natural, built and historic environment by:

- Making effective use of land.
- Helping to improve biodiversity.
- Using natural resources prudently.
- Minimising waste and pollution.
- Safeguarding and enhancing landscape character.
- Protecting significant historic buildings, monuments, sites of archaeological significance and the integrity of local planning designations.
- Protecting and enhancing green infrastructure.
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change and flood risk, including moving to a low carbon economy and reducing flood risk and wastewater through water management.

Policy 11A - Quality Design and Local Distinctiveness

"B. Creating and Reinforcing Local Distinctiveness

Wyre Forest District has an existing character that is determined by the qualities of the existing buildings and landscape. New development should respond to these existing qualities and ensure that it represents a positive addition to the streetscape or landscape. Where the existing context is weak or negative, it is important that new development demonstrates an improvement in the quality of the area."

The District's villages and hamlets are mostly of medieval or earlier origin. Many of them have surviving medieval assets, such as the parish church, ponds and earthworks. To the east of the River Severn nucleated villages are set within a landscape that is characterised by diverse and important historic field systems, punctuated by small areas of ancient and semi-natural woodlands and remnants of historic parklands. To the west

of the River Severn, the farmsteads and settlements are more dispersed and to the north west of the District the Wyre Forest itself remains a dominant feature

Policy 11B - Historic Environment

“Development proposals should protect, conserve and enhance all heritage assets and their settings, including assets of potential archaeological interest, subject to the provisions of Policy 26A (Safeguarding the Historic Environment). Their contribution to the character of the landscape or townscape should be safeguarded and protected in order to sustain the historic quality, sense of place, environmental quality and economic vibrancy of Wyre Forest District.

In particular this applies to:

- I. Designated heritage assets; i.e. listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens and registered battlefields; also non-designated heritage assets (including those identified on the District’s Local Heritage List or for which a Historic Environment Record exists), and their settings.*
- II. The historic landscape, including locally distinctive settlement patterns, field systems, woodlands and commons and historic farmsteads, smallholdings and their settings.*
- III. Designed landscapes, including parkland, gardens, cemeteries, churchyards, public parks, urban open spaces and industrial, military or institutional landscapes, and their settings.*
- IV. Archaeological remains of all periods.*
- V. Historic transportation networks and infrastructure including roads and track-ways, canals, river navigations, railways and their associated industries, and their settings.*
- IX The rural villages within the District, including their associated Conservation Areas and buildings, along with their settings and historic views to and from the surrounding countryside.”*

Policy 26 - Safeguarding the Historic Environment

“Proposals likely to affect the significance of a heritage asset (including the contribution made by its setting or any important vistas or views) should be accompanied by a description of its significance in sufficient detail to allow the potential impacts to be adequately assessed by a qualified and/or experienced heritage professional. This will usually be in the form of a Heritage Statement. Where there is potential for heritage assets with archaeological interest to be affected, this description should be informed by available evidence, desk-based assessment and, where appropriate, field evaluation to establish the significance of known or potential heritage assets.

Any development proposal causing harm or loss of significance to a heritage asset will be resisted unless clear and convincing justification is provided, to permit assessment against the NPPF criteria, relevant legislation and published local and national guidance.

Development proposals should avoid harm to or loss of heritage assets wherever possible. The highest level of harm should require very robust justification, including the demonstrable consideration of alternatives.

Substantial harm to a designated heritage asset should only be allowed in exceptional circumstances.”

Conservation of heritage assets must reflect a sufficient understanding of their significance, including both their setting and their wider context in the landscape/townscape. It is recognised that many heritage assets, in particular archaeological remains, are currently unidentified and thus their significance is unknown. Appropriate information, where necessary from a field evaluation of significance, is the key to well-informed decision-making.

A high-quality environment can have numerous benefits for an area. Businesses are more likely to locate in areas where the built and natural environment is attractive. The natural, historic, and built environment of the District is also attractive to tourists and can create a strong sense of place, helping to retain residents within the District.

Policy 11C - Landscape Character

“New development must protect and where possible enhance the unique character of the landscape including individual settlements or hamlets located within it. Opportunities for landscape gain will be sought alongside all new development, in order that landscape character is strengthened and enhanced.”

The Worcestershire County Council Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Guidance and Historic Landscape Characterisation will be used when determining applications for development within the rural areas. The WCCLCASG refers to the landscape around Lea Castle as,

“Parkland features and associated ornamental planting, together with estate villages, can all contribute to the diversity of these landscapes.

Landscape Guidelines

- *conserve and restore the distinctive hedgerow pattern with priority given to primary hedgerows*
- *identify opportunities for further large scale planting of woodlands and tree belts to strengthen the regular patterns of the landscape*
- *conserve and restore parklands*
- *conserve and enhance tree cover along watercourses*
- *conserve the integrity of estate villages*
- *promote the creation and appropriate management of natural vegetation communities along highways and other non-farmed areas*
- *promote the development of wide field margins for wildlife benefit.”*

LCA determines the sensitivity of the landscape which may be used at a strategic level to help guide new development to the most appropriate areas. Areas of high landscape sensitivity are those which are least able to accommodate changes without damage to their character.

One of the core principles in the NPPF is that planning should recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. Local plans should include strategic policies for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including landscape. This includes designated landscapes but also the wider countryside.

Rural Economy

Policy 6F - Role of the villages and rural areas

"The Rural Economy

The rural economy will be supported by promoting development which contributes to rural employment sectors as well as encouraging appropriate farm diversification schemes. Development proposals will not be permitted where they would be likely to have direct and significant impact on the District's best and most versatile agricultural land. Historic farmsteads will be protected from inappropriate development."

Equestrian activities are also prominent uses in rural areas. Commercial equestrian development in particular, can contribute significantly to the rural economy and provide employment for local people. However, equine related development will need to be balanced with the potential impact on the landscape and character of the rural environment and the continued need to preserve the best and most versatile agricultural land to enable localised food production in the future.

Tourism

Wyre Forest District has an attractive and diverse landscape character, which has contributed to growing tourism in the area. Within the District are many visitor and tourist attractions, a number of them are of regional significance such as Severn Valley Railway and West Midland Safari Park. The District has many more "natural" tourist/visitor attractions such as The Wyre Forest itself, Habberley Valley, Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites, the River Severn and Stourport Riverside as well as Brinton Park.

Tourism is an important element within the overall economy of the area. Each year more than 119 million visits are made to the region, generating over £121 million to the local economy and offers employment to more than 2,100. During 2014 2.5 million trips were undertaken to Wyre Forest District comprising 2.3million day trips and 0.2 million overnight visitors. £64 million was spent by day visitors and £23 million by overnight visitors. The local visitor economy supports 2,138 jobs within the area. It is recognised that the Historic Environment is a strong contributor to the economic benefits of the District resulting from Heritage Tourism.

The visitor economy creates new and additional services that can lead to the creation and growth of businesses in the area. Tourism also helps to support the high level of employment that is found in the region.

Policy 23B – Supporting Tourist Attractions

"Proposals for the development of other tourism related developments within Wyre Forest District will be permitted where the following criteria have been met:

- *Heritage assets and their setting should be conserved and, where appropriate, enhanced to encourage heritage tourism within the District.*
- *The natural environment and landscape should be enhanced and safeguarded.”*

Objections to Plan

To help meet these Plan Objectives and Policies, the Local Plan should specifically identify the former Lea Castle Parkland as an area of unique, historic and special locally valued landscape.

Valued Landscape

NPPF (old and new) states,

“Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils.”

Lea Castle Parkland is a valued landscape and planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing this valued landscape. The Local Plan should formally recognise this landscape as such.

The site, defined generally by the estate wall, has many demonstrable physical attributes and fulfils functions which elevates it above the ordinary. This value is not just its popularity and is more than being appreciated. This elevates the site above the ordinary in terms of impact from development and warranting protection.

While there is clear existing evidence on landscape value, an assessment can be made based on the criteria/ factors based on the guidance in GLVIA3 Box 5.1.

- *Landscape quality (condition): A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the landscapes and the condition of individual elements.*
- *Scenic quality: The term used to describe landscapes that appeal primarily to the senses (primarily but not wholly the visual senses).*
- *Rarity: The presence of rare elements or features in the landscape or the presence of a rare Landscape Character Type.*
- *Representativeness: Whether the landscape has a particular character and/or features or elements which are considered particularly important examples.*
- *Conservation interests: The presence of features of wildlife, earth science or archaeological or historical and cultural interest can add to the value of the landscape as well as having value in their own right.*
- *Recreation value: Evidence that the landscape is valued for recreational activity where experience of the landscape is important.*
- *Perceptual aspects: A landscape may be valued for its perceptual qualities, notably wildness and/or tranquillity.*

- *Associations: Some landscapes are associated with particular people, such as artists or writers, or events in history that contribute to perceptions of the natural beauty of the area.*

The statutory consultees for the Lea Castle Farm EIA Scoping Opinion confirmed features of the land addressed in guidance that add to its status as valued landscape.

Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service

- There are archaeological interest within the area, being the former World War II grass landing strip,
- the presence of unrecorded, as yet unknown, below-ground heritage assets (archaeological remains) cannot be discounted and stray finds of archaeological material including a silver denarius of Vitellius (AD 69-69) have been made in the area
- the setting of designated heritage assets in the vicinity of the area include, but not limited to, the Grade II listed Sion Hill Court (NHLE 1100640) to the south and the Grade II Listed North Lodges (NHLE 1296589) to the northeast.

Environment Agency

- The estate is located on a Principle Aquifer of the Wildmoor Sandstone Formation within Source Protection Zone 3 of the Cookley Public Water Supply. The hydrogeological setting at this location is sensitive

Parish Council

- An ancient wall borders the estate, this is a local landmark
- This is a biodiverse area where many animals and fungi are likely to be affected
- The estate contains a number of (TPO'd) trees.
- The land is described as "acid sand" which provides a unique habitat for various flora and fauna.

Wolverley and Cookley Historical Society

- This is a historical site
- The neo-gothic castle was built by the Knights, an important family in the Parish during the 18th and 19th century.
- The house was surrounded by parkland.
- It is suggested that the laying out of the grounds could have been in the picturesque taste (Survey of Parks and Gardens: Lockett 1997).
- The area is defined as "former parkland".
- there remains a 19th C. wall that defines the boundary of the estate
- The wall has served as a focus for community races etc in the recent past
- lodges serving as entrances at the end of long straight driveways; at the North East, Grade II listed and at the South, on the Local List.
- These structures help to characterise the heritage of the two villages and should be viewed in context with the whole parkland.
- There are well used public footpaths along the driveways and between the areas enjoyed by local people and walking groups.
- The paths are shown as early as on the tithe map of 1837.

- Medieval documents refer to a settlement at The Lea. Although its exact position is vague it was undoubtedly in the area of Lea Castle.

Worcestershire Countryside Access Mapping Officer

- Public rights of way as recorded on the Definitive Map: Wolverley and Cookley footpaths WC-622 and WC-624 and Bridleways WC-625 and WC-626 cross the estate

CPRE

- The estate is the former park of Lea Castle, a gentlemen's park largely only indicated by being surrounded by a brick wall having two lodges. These may deserve to be listed.

Worcestershire County Council Ecology

- the proximity to sites of local (i.e. county) importance, including the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal and River Stour Local Wildlife Sites and Grassland Inventory sites including Cookley Rough,
- the proximity of this site to the Wyre Forest Biodiversity Delivery Area

Historic England

- The designated heritage assets include but are not limited to the Wolverley and Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Areas to the west and northwest as well as several grade II listed buildings.
- non-designated features of historic, architectural, archaeological or artistic interest can be of national importance and make an important contribution to the character and local distinctives of an area and its sense of place

Worcestershire County Council Landscape

- The estate is contained within the broad landscape character type Sandstone Estate lands.
- the setting of the estate is located within a transitional landscape that moves from a more typical Sandstone Estate lands character, east of the site, toward a post-medieval historic landscape character of mixed irregular fields, meadows and woodland, influenced in part, by the Stour Valley.
- In addition, the site is within an area of former post-medieval designed landscape, which adds another layer of inherited character and includes distinctive structural features and historic buildings
- the Stour and Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal corridor is a strategic Green Infrastructure link

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

- the estate falls within open agricultural countryside and that it contains some semi-natural habitats that may be of value, both in their own right and in terms of the species they may hold.
- the estate is bordered and contains woodland and is close to wetlands that have Local Wildlife Site Status (River Stour and Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal).

Wyre Forest Countryside Manager

- the estate is in proximity to a couple of SSSI and other wildlife site

- Dormice are known to be in proximity to this site
- Bats species are known to exist in area

Wyre Forest Conservation

- Lea Castle estate had remained undisturbed by the expansion of Kidderminster into the early-20th century as recorded (as a park) on the 1st edition of the OS 6 inch.
- Much of the area defined then as park is still green.
- An avenue connected the house with the south lodge.
- The house at Cookley is noticed on Isaac Taylor's 1772 map.
- The early 19th century house was demolished in 1945. This house was a neo-gothic castle which suggests that a picturesque taste would have been applied to the laying-out of the grounds, but details cannot be made out from early or mid-19th century printed maps
- The mid-19th century castellated lodges and the brick boundary wall survive.
- Although the park is still legible 20th century encroachment and a variety of uses has reduced its aesthetic and historic values somewhat, although overall significance is low/medium.
- WSM 17233 Wolverley Camp General Hospital: Hospital built in 1942 accommodation for 500 patients used by US Servicemen until the end of the war.
- Former Military Grass Landing Strip WSM29266:
- Lea Castle Farm Wolverley WSM30493 comprises a partially extant C18 farmstead with buildings now converted to residential use.
- Originally the brick pierced barns were used for threshing.
- 1 and 2 South Lodges ref: LLWC55 and LLWC56 Lodge Houses originally serving Lea Castle (which was pulled down in 1945). Dating to c.1818, both Lodges served as the entrance from Wolverley. Square building, red brick construction, with castellated parapet to roof, buttresses to each corner, hood moulds to windows and doors. Extension to rear.
- These are included on the Local list for their architectural and historic values contributing to a medium significance.
- The adjacent Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area within its woodland setting. This is a site highly sensitive to development due to its intact rural parkland character, topography and impact on mature woodland which form the setting for the Conservation Area.

Heritage Value

The value of the landscape is also notable due to the heritage assets on the site including the Grade II listed Gatehouse and lodges. While locally listed the connected estate wall and Wolverley Lodge should be seen as structures which are ancillary to the listed building, built at the same time and as such should also be covered by the listing. The remaining avenue of trees referred to in the Worcestershire HER linking the gatehouses to the site of the main house are covered by Tree Protection Orders as are other trees within the Parkland. The Parkland also has a relationship with the Wolverley Conservation Area and Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area. Lea Castle Parkland has a number of references in the Worcestershire HER.

The wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring should also be recognised. Lea Castle also has great historical association with the villages of Cookley and Wolverley and the Parish. The history of the Castle, to a great extent, defines the evolution and identity of the local villages. The wealth of the estate was largely founded on two mills; Cookley and Wolverley Lower Mill. Lea Castle lies between these two mills and the gatehouses link the house to the two mills.

The Castle, by design, sits between the two villages and related iron works. While linking the two villages the parkland provides a vital green gap between them. While Wolverley is a washed over settlement and Cookley is inset the estate allows the villages to maintain their distinct identity.

Since the 1400's land at Wolverley had been owned by the Jewkes family. Samuel Jewkes surrendered in 1747 his properties in Wolverley to Edward Knight. In the early 1660's various corn mills around Wolverley were converted into forges and iron mills and new ones built including Cookley Mill and Wolverley Lower Forge which was purchased by the Knights in 1792.

Richard Knight (1659-1745), of Downton Hall, in the parish of Downton on the Rock in Herefordshire, was a wealthy ironmaster who operated the Bringewood Ironworks, on the Downton estate, and founded a large fortune and family dynasty. In 1731 Richard Knight purchased Wolverley.

Edward Knight was baptised 17 Dec 1699 at Burrington, Hereford the third son of Richard Knight and his wife Elizabeth Payne. Edward Knight was living in Wolverley as early as 1743 and so must have inherited this place in his father's will. Edward is referred to as an ironmaster by 1758.

The Cookley Ironworks were founded in the late 1600s and the town quickly became the centre of the local iron and tinsplate industry. The mill at Cookley was originally a corn mill but by 1706 it had been taken over by the new industry. Another local mill, Wolverley Lower Mill and Forge was built in 1669. These two mills were originally leased by the Knight family and by 1750 they had purchased them outright.

The mills generally produced iron bar which was moved up the Stour to the Black Country to produce nails supplying the British Navy.

Edward Knight owned the mills for thirty years until his death in 1780. It was Edward, with the wealth generated from the iron works, who had Lea Castle built in the then fashionable neo-Gothic style in 1762. Situated on an outcrop, the house was a large, brick-built castellated mansion which was described in 1848 as:

"...a noble mansion surrounded by 550 acres of land enriched with plantations of oak and other timber."

On Edward's death the house and business passed to his son, John Knight. However, in 1823, he sold the house to John Brown who is said to have greatly improved it. On his death the house passed to his daughter and then, by marriage, into the Westhead family.

In 1848 it was owned by Joshua Proctor Brown-Westhead, a former local MP and chairman of the Inventors Society.

The Knight's estate at Lea Castle is further woven into the fabric of the parish as the fifth child of Edward and Elizabeth was Sarah Knight baptised at Wolverley 7 Feb 1743. On 15 May 1766 she married John Sebright. John Sebright being the nephew of William Sebright who founded the primary and secondary schools in Wolverley.



Worcestershire Archery Society mtg, Lea Castle, Wolverley, Kidderminster, 1858

In 1913 it was the residence of Mr. George Montagu Brown-Westhead, B.A., LL.M. Whatever the wealth was which had enabled the Brown family to purchase the house, it had evidently gone by the twentieth century. Maud Westhead-Brown inherited the estate aged just 16. She later married but by 1933 the decision had been taken to sell off the estate. The auction was held in the Lion Hotel in Kidderminster with many of the lots being sold to individuals.

Little further information exists about the house from this period. One can assume that as the estate was being sold there were financial issues and that the house was unlikely to have been well-cared for. In 1939 the local council investigated whether it would be suitable for housing refugees but already the house was in such a state of disrepair that the idea was abandoned. Lea Castle was eventually demolished in 1945. The remains of the house can still be identified with some walls and floors remaining, the workshops and boiler for the gardens remains along with the parkland, tree lined avenues, the long boundary wall and imposing gatehouses.

“The fine park and a campsite at Wolverley are all that mark the passing of the imposing mock castle which once dominated the estate” Lost Heritage

“Lea Castle was an early 19th-century house in the picturesque castellated style, now demolished. The framework of its landscape park survives.” Parks and gardens

In 1922, the Syracuse University College of Medicine was authorized to organize and staff the 52nd General Hospital. It was organized in 1941 during World War II and called to active duty on September 1st, 1942 for basic training at Camp Livingston, Louisiana. The unit was then briefly transferred to Camp Kilmer near Brunswick, New Jersey before embarking on January 2nd, 1943 on the Queen Elizabeth with 18,000 troops. On January 8th, it disembarked at Grenoch and was taken by train to Taunton, England. It remained at Camp Norton until March 1st, when they were transferred to the permanent hospital at Wolverley, near Kidderminster, England. The unit treated casualties from the D-Day invasions and the Battle of the Bulge and was most active during its last year and a half before its dissolution on June 14th, 1945.



Bob Hope at Wolverley Camp, the former US Army hospital used during WW2. The hospital became one of the top military hospitals in the European Theatre of Operations. Of the 10,000 battle casualties treated at the hospital, only four died.

Wyre Forest Conservation record a WWII grass landing strip on the Lea Castle Farm, probably associated with the D-Day medical evacuation. The HER records this as being within the field west of the Wolverley Drive above the Brown Westhead Playing fields where the hospital was located.

Rural Economic Value

The Parkland supports a number of business which maintains the landscape through stewardship. There are a number of equestrian activities which contribute significantly to the rural economy and provide employment for local people. The equine related development blends within the landscape and character of the rural environment.

Tourism Value

The Parkland adds to the tourist attraction within Cookley and Wolverley and along the River Stour and Canal. The Parkland footpaths and walks attract a great number of people for the stunning views and history and leisure activity.

Conclusion

The Lea Castle Parkland, generally defined by the Castle Wall, is a valued landscape and an historic landscape.

The Parkland has many demonstrable physical attributes and fulfils functions which elevates it above the ordinary. This value is not just its popularity and is more than being appreciated. This elevates the site above the ordinary in terms of impact from development and warranting protection.

The value of the landscape is also notable due to the heritage assets on the site including the Grade II listed Gatehouse and lodges. While locally listed the connected estate wall and Wolverley Lodge should be seen as structures which are ancillary to the listed building, built at the same time and as such should also be covered by the listing. The remaining avenue of trees linking the gatehouses to the site of the main house are covered by Tree Protection Orders as are other trees within the Parkland. The Parkland also has a relationship with the Wolverley Conservation Area and Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Conservation Area.

The Parkland should be recognised in the Local Plan as Valued Landscape.

The Parkland should additional be protected from any development that detracts from its natural or historic landscape.

In respect of soundness of the Plan,

Positively prepared – policies do not meet the need to adequately protect landscapes of local and historical importance;

Justified – the Plan does not follow an appropriate strategy of identifying Valued Landscapes to afford them special protection;

Effective – the existing policies will fail to protect valued landscapes and landscapes of historic importance; and

Consistent with national policy – the NPPF refers to valued landscapes being protected and enhanced in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan. This additional text from the 2019 NPPF is not addressed in the Plan which was prepared prior to this.

Suggested Policy Change

Policy 11C - Landscape Character

A. Landscape Character

New development must protect and where possible enhance the unique character of the landscape including individual settlements or hamlets located within it. Opportunities for landscape gain will be sought alongside all new development, in order that landscape character is strengthened and enhanced.

Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils.

Valued Landscapes include;

- Lea Castle Parkland
- .
- .

Lea Castle Parkland should be protected from any development that detracts from its natural or historic landscape.