

**Appendix A : Landscape Character Sensitivity**

**M1 JUNCTION 19 IMPROVEMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT VOLUME 2  
CHAPTER 4 LANDSCAPE**



**CAPACITY AND SENSITIVITY METHODOLOGY  
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER SENSITIVITY WORKSHEET**

FACTOR	DESCRIPTION	RARITY	IMPORTANCE	SUBSTITUTABILITY	SENSITIVITY
NATURAL FACTORS (BIODIVERSITY)	The improvement scheme is in an agricultural area, where the existing species diversity is generally low. The majority of existing habitat in the direct vicinity of the junction includes plantation woodland, semi-improved and improved grassland, species poor hedges, scrub and drainage ditches.	Commonplace	Local	All habitats in the direct vicinity of the junction are readily substituted aside from mature woodland which is substitutable over a 30 – 50 year cycle.  Much older hedgerows and trees could not be readily substituted.	Low / Medium
	Some existing habitat in the vicinity of the junction provides for or has excellent potential for use by otter, great crested newt, badger, bat and reptiles. In addition to those listed above, such habitats include mature trees, an area of broad leaved woodland, mature or diverse woodland, field ponds, important or species-rich hedges, tributary drains, brooks and the River Avon. A number of these habitats are designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).	Relatively Common	Local / International	In addition to those habitats described above, specific mitigation as habitat creation would substitute most forms of habitat.  Species-rich hedgerows are substitutable within 10 – 15 year cycle.  Important hedgerows are not readily substitutable within a 30 year life cycle.	
	SSSI sites, not directly affected by the junction, are at Cave's Inn Pits (Neutral Marsh) and Stanford Park (Old Parkland).	Rare	National	These SSSI sites cannot be readily substituted.	

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CULTURAL FACTORS (CULTURAL)	<p>The study area provides the setting for several features of cultural importance. Lilbourne Motte Bailey, a Scheduled Monument (SM) and the adjacent All Saints Church (Grade 1 listed) combine to provide an attractive feature in the Avon valley close to the M1 Embankment. Conservation areas at Swinford and Catthorpe with several listed buildings are part of the landscape setting for the junction. In terms of Historic Landscape Character there is evidence of historic field systems. Several areas of permanent pasture display ridge and furrow. Other field systems close to the junction have been enlarged by post war hedge removal. Wooded parkland around Stanford Hall, listed on the National Parks and Gardens register contribute to the value of the landscape east of Swinford.</p>	<p>These features are of special note, but they are not particularly rare.</p> <p>Other sites Relatively Common</p>	<p>Scheduled Monuments National</p> <p>Remaining sites Regional &amp; Local</p>	<p>Cultural features cannot be substituted.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
CULTURAL FACTORS (LANDCOVER)	<p>Settlement in the vicinity of the junction includes the villages of Lilbourne, Catthorpe, Swinford and Shawell with farm residences and associated buildings scattered amongst the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Land use surrounding the junction is a mix of pasture and arable farming largely comprising oil seed rape and cereals.</p> <p>The landscape is largely enclosed by a field pattern of hedgerows scattered with mature and semi-mature trees. Field sizes vary with relatively large scale pattern around the majority of the junction aside from the north-east, around the village of Swinford, where a much smaller scale field pattern has been retained.</p> <p>Mature trees are scattered throughout many fields, mainly to the west of the M1 around Catthorpe and to the south-east of Shawell within larger field patterns.</p> <p>A number of large mature woodlands exist which further add to the sense of enclosure, again, largely to the west of the M1 and including mature planting along the motorway boundaries.</p> <p>The Woodlands in and around the junction make an important contribution to its setting and scale and local skylines. Hedgerows have a significant influence on the degree of containment scale and quality of the landscape, particularly where well treed. They define the character of the LRN and</p>	<p>Commonplace</p>	<p>Important on a local scale as set out under 'Pattern' below.</p>	<p>More recent roadside planting and hedgerows are substitutable but over a 30 or 50 year cycle to replicate the existing scale and maturity.</p> <p>Older hedgerows and field trees cannot be substituted readily.</p>	<p>Medium</p>

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	also contribute to the maturity of landscape surrounding the major roads.				
AESTHETIC FACTORS (PATTERN)	Gently rolling and undulating farmland. The existing motorway junction and major roads are a significant element but established planting within the highway and bordering semi mature woodlands helps to integrate them into the landscape, screen the traffic and provide an important local feature. In particular the planting combines with Catthorpe Hill to screen views towards the junction from the south-west and to provide a backdrop dominating the skyline for views from the north-east. Other detractors include electricity pylons and Rugby Radio Station masts. Hedgerows with trees create the field pattern. When these are most numerous the landscape is more enclosed, smaller in scale and more attractive e.g. south and west of Swinford and east of Shawell. Landscapes to the north-west and south-east of the junction are more open. In addition to the roadside planting, there is woodland associated with Stanford Hall and Catthorpe Manor.	Commonplace	The combination of planting and topography is particularly important at a local level because it helps to protect nearby communities and provides a setting to integrate the large junction and major roads.  The hedgerow pattern is also important on a local scale in defining the overall character of the junction setting and screening views particularly from Swinford.	Roadside planting and adjacent woodlands are substitutable over a 30 – 50 year cycle.  Much older hedgerows and trees could not be readily substituted.	Medium
SUMMARY (SUMMARY)	An area already affected and disturbed by major roads, but where the surrounding landscape and nearby communities are afforded protection by mature vegetation which integrates the junction into the surrounding landscape and provides screening. The character of the surrounding landscape is dependant upon the pattern of hedges and trees which, in some areas, such as south-west of Swinford, create a smaller scale more attractive landscape and help to screen the highways. There are some important habitat and cultural elements.	Generally commonplace	Generally important at a local scale with some regional and national elements.	Many elements likely to be affected can be readily substituted but time is an issue which will be important to local people.  Planting is only substitutable over a 30 or 50 year cycle to replicate the existing scale and maturity.	Medium