

Withypool



Natural Factors

A moorland village within the Barle Valley. Set within Landscape Character Type (G) Incised Wooded Valleys and surrounded by (F) Enclosed Farmed Hills with Commons and (D) Open Moorland to the south west.

Cultural Factors

This is predominantly a livestock farming landscape, a matrix of fields and hedgerows, woodland on the steeper slopes. There is a commonality in the land management regimes and hedgerow management that gives the landscape cohesion. Strong visual links to Withypool Common to the south.

Aesthetic Factors

The settlement is a loose collection of cottages and former farmsteads, with late 20th century infill and extension to the south. Significant 20th century development maximising overlooking moorland views.

Landscape Character Sensitivity - MODERATE

There is a commonality in the land management regimes and hedgerow management that gives the landscape cohesion. The buildings and their boundaries are made from a limited palette and further reinforce unity. The late 20th century development towards the south of the settlement weakens the strength of character.

Visual Sensitivity - MODERATE / HIGH

Seen from open country / moorland and well visited. Some mitigation potential in wooded combs.

Landscape/Settlement Value - HIGH

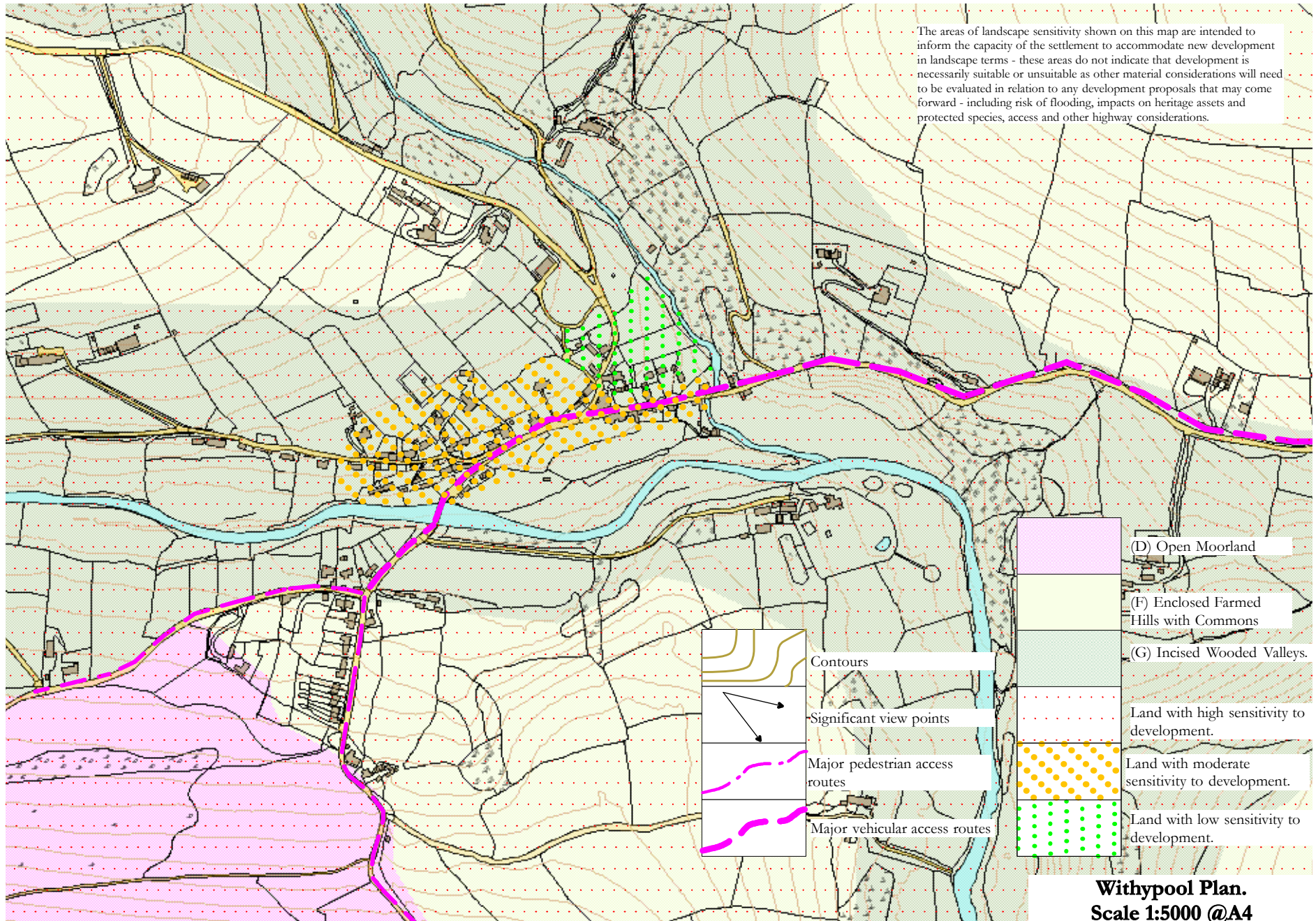
A settlement valued for its tranquility and close proximity to the hills and commons and with strong cultural associations reinforced by the Royal Oak Inn. Very attractive in parts. The open riverside setting is popular with visitors and local residents.

Landscape / Settlement Capacity - LOW

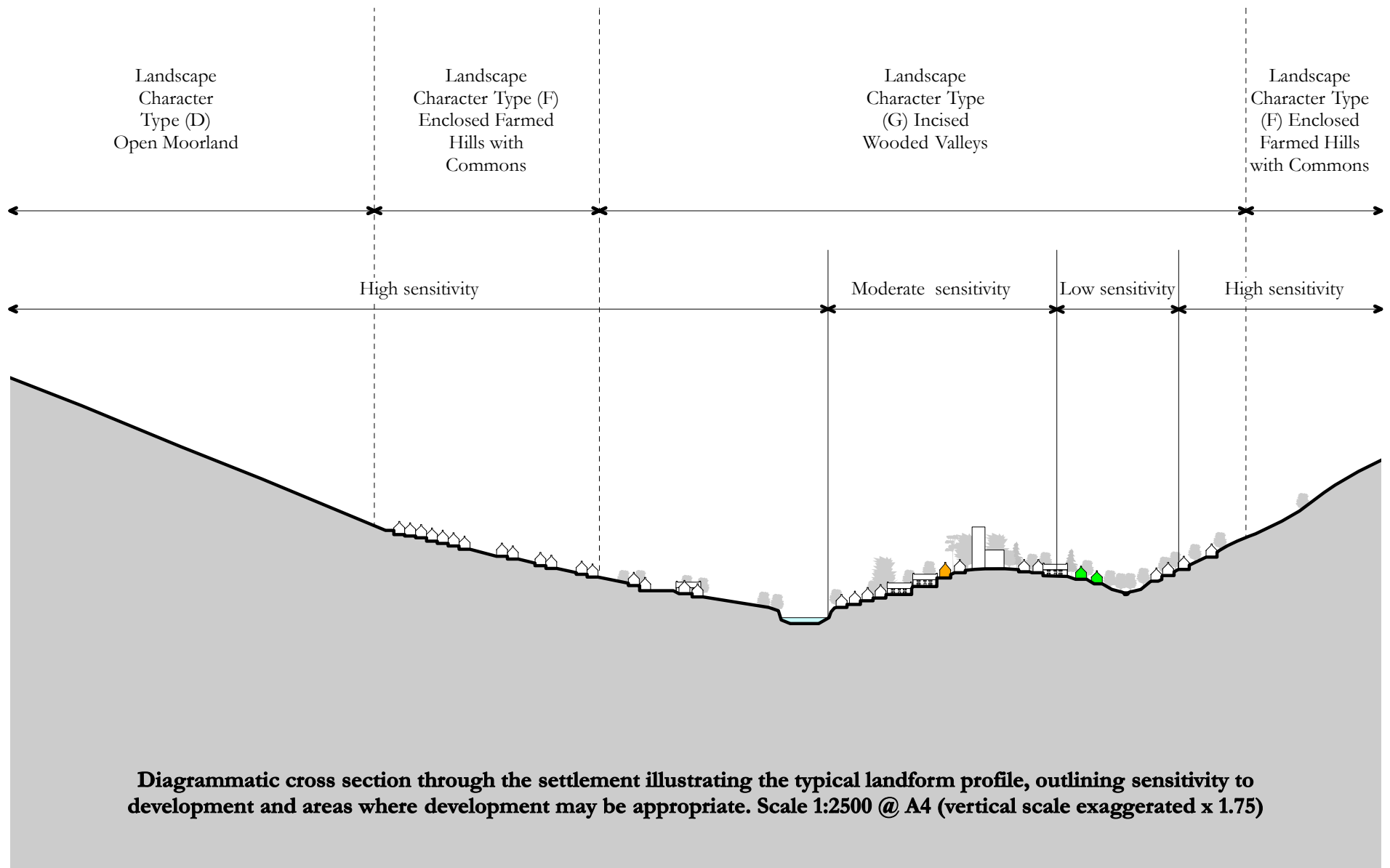
There are few practical locations, close to the settlement, where further development could take place.



The areas of landscape sensitivity shown on this map are intended to inform the capacity of the settlement to accommodate new development in landscape terms - these areas do not indicate that development is necessarily suitable or unsuitable as other material considerations will need to be evaluated in relation to any development proposals that may come forward - including risk of flooding, impacts on heritage assets and protected species, access and other highway considerations.



Withypool Plan.
Scale 1:5000 @A4



Land with Low Sensitivity to Development.

Land with low sensitivity to development exists close to the settlement core within the Incised Wooded Valleys Landscape Character Area. These areas are in locations not easily seen from the wider landscape or used by large numbers of receptors. Suitable locations would need to be places where tree planting, to ameliorate development, would be appropriate to the landscape character.

It is considered that there is capacity for detached units with gardens referencing the late 20th century development at Higher Mead (see photo, bottom right) – this provides a good example of appropriate building character, however the site planning (juxtaposition of units, levels, curtilage and boundary treatment) is not be an appropriate model to follow - better site planning would ensure that the buildings should sit low into the landscape and be orientated to sit parallel with the contours. Curtilages should be screened using hedgebanks and the slope of the land. Planting character should reference cottage gardens and wild planting with strong boundaries in the form of either walls or hedges, screening curtilages from the public realm.

Land with Moderate Sensitivity to Development.

Land with moderate sensitivity to development exists close to the settlement core within the Incised wooded valleys Landscape Character Area, in locations easily seen from the wider landscape and from locations used by large numbers of receptors from within the settlement.

Land with High Sensitivity to Development.

Land with high sensitivity to development is outside the Incised wooded valleys Landscape Character Area and is in locations visually detached from the settlement core, particularly along the roadsides. It is also in locations easily seen from the wider landscape and from locations used by large numbers of receptors from within the settlement.

Examples of the Characteristics that Influence Character and Local Identity and Provide Models that could be referenced in Future Development.



Vernacular small-scale cottage, rendered, with slate roof, abutting the highway with strong boundary and sitting in the landscape.



Higher Mead, late 20th century development. Buildings sit on top of the site, rather than within it, have weak boundaries and a suburban curtilage - elements that weaken the settlement's character. Low level screening from the highway would help.

Settlement Name	Withypool			
Surveyor	Paul Bryan	Date	3 rd June 2011	
Landscape Character Sensitivity (based on LCA & verified in the field)				
Natural Factors	Rivers	Cliff	Coast	Landscape Character Types. Set within (G) Incised Wooded Valleys and surrounded by (F) Enclosed Farmed Hills with Commons and (D) Open Moorland.
	Slopes	Scrub	Stream	
	Moorland	Woodland	Pond/wetland	
	Unimproved grassland	Hedges	Bracken	
Landform	Plateau	River Valley	Harbour	
	Rolling	Combe	Other	
Cultural Factors	Parkland	Gardens	Veteran trees	Moorland village.
	Prominent Archaeology	Designed landscapes	Farmland	
	Orchards	Specimen trees	Distinct enclosure patterns	
Settlement type	Hamlet	Village	Local rural centre	
Quality / Condition	Low	Moderate	High	
Aesthetic factors (Pattern, shape, scale, form enclosure)	Large scale	Small scale	Enclosed	Medium scale.
	Planned	Organic	Open	
	Nucleated	Fragmented	Linear	
	Outward-looking	Inward-looking	Other	
Position	Hill top	Valley	Coast	
	On side of hill	River side	Aspect (describe) s/se/sw	
Settlement setting	Landscape dominates	Settlement nestles in landscape	Settlement dominates landscape	Poor transition in places through keeping of horses.
Settlement edge (How does the settlement abut the landscape?)	Abrupt change to agriculture	Transition gardens	Transition wild	
			Poor transition	
Animation	Quiet	Busy	Neither quiet nor busy	
Design Elements and Materials (Describe)	Slate roofs. Stone (Morte Slate) and render (predominantly off white). Stone boundary walls. Dormer windows. No thatch apparent.			
Overall Landscape Character Sensitivity	Low	Moderate	High	Character weakened from much inappropriate development – siting and design. Strong and dominant landscape setting.

Visual Sensitivity				
General visibility	Low (Hidden from most view points)	Moderate (Partially seen in open country)	High (Seen in open country from most view points)	
Mitigation potential	High	Moderate	Low	In parts. Low on moorland edge / in views from common.
Presence of tourist	Low	Moderate	High	
Sensitivity of the receiving landscape	Low	Moderate	High	
Overall Visual Sensitivity	Low	Moderate	High	
Landscape Value				
Presence of historic / landmark buildings.	None	Some	Many	
Designed Landscapes	No		Yes	
Important trees	None/Few	Some	Many	
Cultural identity / associations	Weak	Moderate	Strong	
Tourism value	Low	Moderate	High	
Tranquillity	Not tranquil	Noted for its tranquillity	Extremely tranquil.	
Remoteness	Not remote		Remote	
Wildness	Urban	Rural	Wild	
Scenic beauty	Low	Moderate	High	
Significance to National Park character Does the settlement enhance the landscape?	Low significance	Significant	Very significant	
Wildlife value	Low	Some	High	
Other (describe)				
Overall landscape value	Low	Moderate	High	
Overall Capacity	High	Moderate	Low	
Total number of units	Capacity within areas of low sensitivity: 6 units.			
Notes: Capacity for small-scale development close to settlement, in a relatively hidden combe. Many areas, within and around the settlement appear over developed. Development on visually prominent land south of river erodes character.				