

# Porlock



**Natural Factors** - The village of Porlock sits at the edge of the Porlock Vale extending into the wooded combes and looking out over the marsh to the Bristol Channel. The settlement straddles the Landscape Character Types (B) High Wooded Coast Combes & Cleaves, (C) Low farmed Coast & Marsh and (E) Farmed and Settled Vale.

**Cultural Factors** - Historic settlement with medieval core, prominent historic buildings and remnants of designed landscapes.

**Aesthetic Factors** - A relatively nucleated settlement in 3 distinct character areas:

- Historic settlement core, plus organic 19th and 20th century expansion that nestles in the landscape. Comprising small buildings; terraced or clustered in small plots, abutting the highway or with small front gardens. Inward looking, short views.
- 20th century Arts and Crafts detached villas, set in large grounds, well vegetated sitting on high ground. Outward looking with long views.
- Late 20th century planned development, with uniform buildings laid out in a regimented uniform pattern and not defined by natural features.

## **Landscape Character Sensitivity - MODERATE**

Strong landform and landscape character, land management at the edge of the settlement is weakening character.

## **Visual Sensitivity - MODERATE**

Porlock is surrounded by high ground on three sides and can be easily seen from the surrounding countryside. The “receiving” landscape is visually sensitive, particularly the open access areas of Selworthy Beacon. The area is well visited by tourists and there are some important views from the approach roads along the A39.

Wooded slopes provide a backdrop and bring the wild countryside close to the settlement. In places development on these lower slopes is visually prominent and easily seen from within the village.

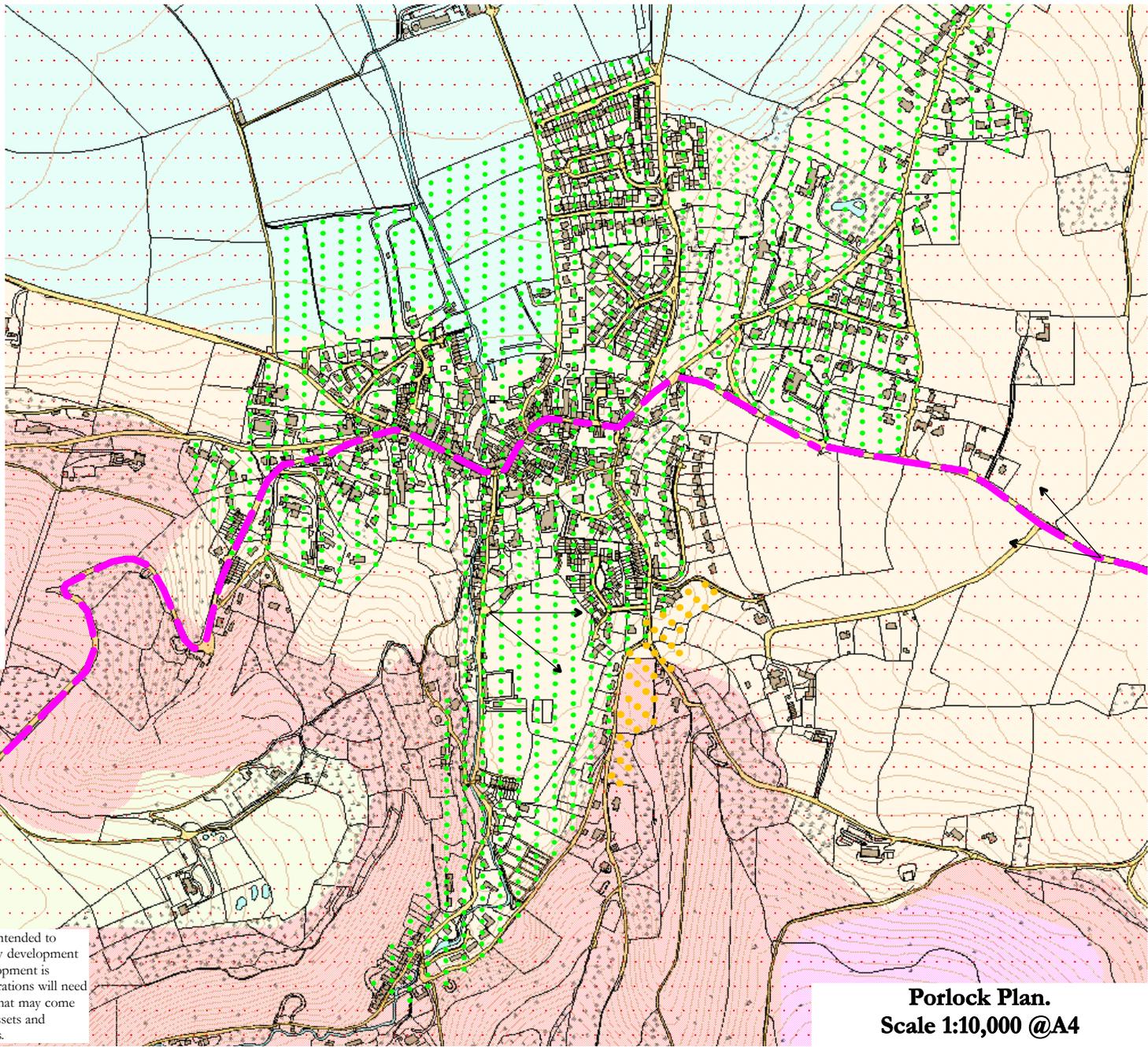
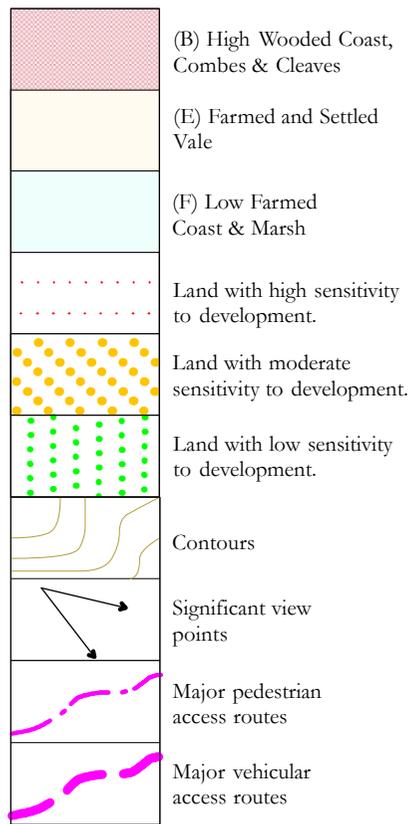
Parts of the settlement, particularly the low lying flatter parts, are hidden by existing development and vegetation and are not easily seen from the wider countryside. Hedges, orchards, gardens and woodland are characteristic of area and provide mitigation potential

## **Landscape/Settlement Value - HIGH**

Significant to the character of Exmoor National Park, well visited, photographed and admired. The location has high residential appeal with attractive views.

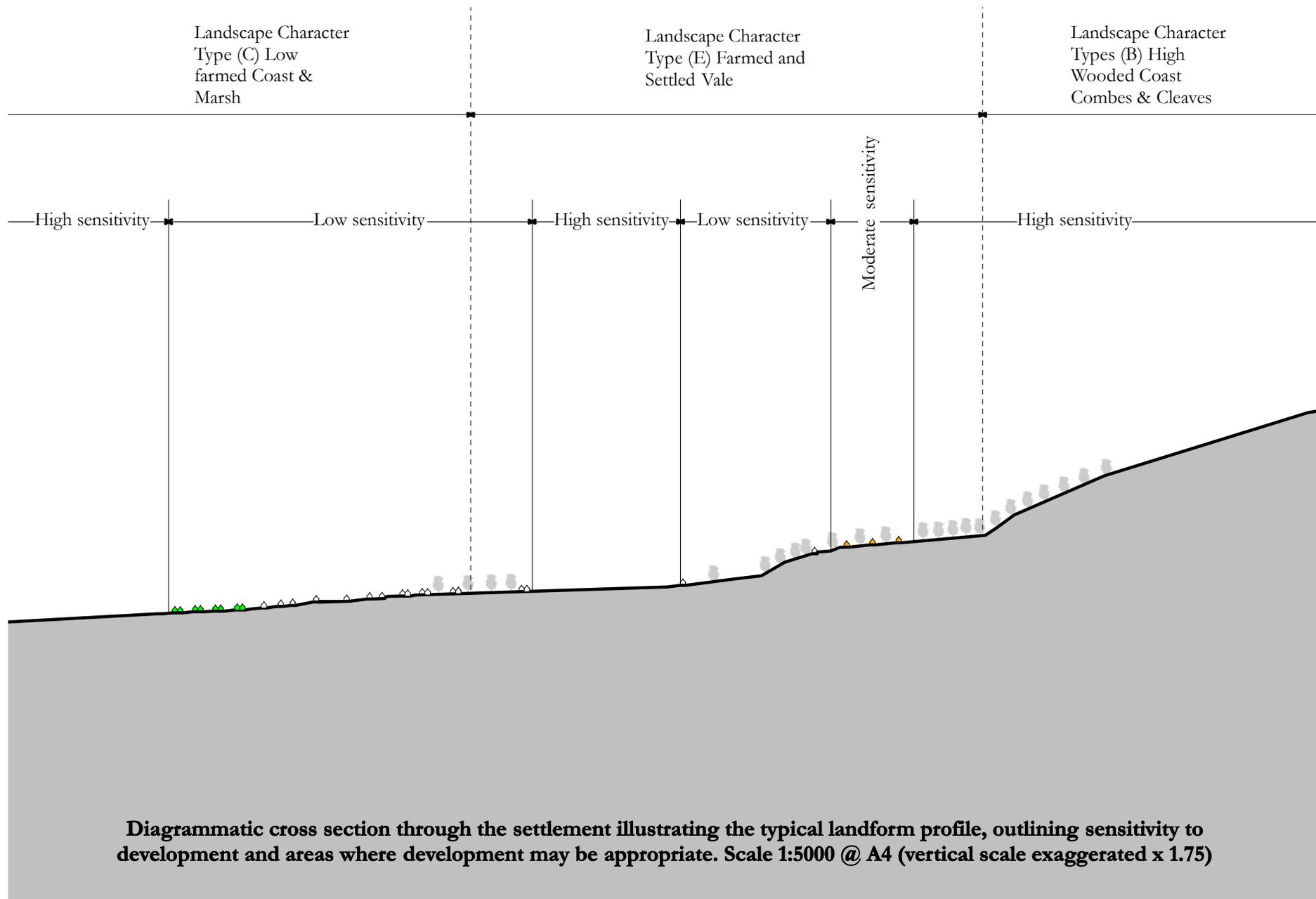
## **Landscape / Settlement Capacity - MODERATE**





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.

**Porlock Plan.**  
**Scale 1:10,000 @A4**



### **Land with Low Sensitivity to Development.**

Land with low sensitivity to development includes the relatively flat land incorporating and immediately surrounding the historic settlement of Porlock and contained within high land to the south, east and west.

However, the playing field that sits within this area, an important open space for amenity and recreation, is not included in terms of assessing capacity for future development.

Low Sensitivity land to the north of the existing settlement within the Low Farmed Coast and Marsh Landscape Character Area offers potential for innovative, modern design, possibly using glass, timber, shallow pitched or flat roofs and landscape led layout. A new planned pattern and character could emerge through phased development. Screening using hedges and lines of trees would be appropriate using species such as poplar or willow. Planting within the development would ameliorate any impact from the wider landscape. Fruit tree species may be appropriate.

It should be noted that much of this area is subject to flooding and that any development would need to address this problem. As a result of this, overall capacity may be reduced.

### **Land with Moderate Sensitivity to Development.**

Land with moderate sensitivity to development includes areas at the edge of the existing settlement on slightly higher and more visually prominent land. Development would need to avoid the skyline. An appropriate character would be in the form of terraced or irregularly laid out cottages. Buildings would need to be well spaced to permit vegetation between units. Appropriate planting would include conifers and large evergreen trees.

### **Land with High Sensitivity to Development.**

Land with high sensitivity to development includes sloping ground at the perimeter of the existing settlement to the south and west. To the east of the settlement, further development should not extend beyond the break of slope. Development close to this boundary should avoid the skyline. To the north, the land that extends out beyond the indicative settlement boundary, defined by late 20<sup>th</sup> Century housing, out towards the coast is

highly sensitive to development. Development here would erode the character of Porlock as a closely clustered settlement set within extensive wild and agricultural land.

**Examples of the characteristics that reinforce character and local identity and provide models that could be referenced in future development.**



Small-scale units, with slate roofs and slate hanging, abut

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the highway.



Small-scale roadside cottages, showing a good balance between unity and variety.



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Examples of building using timber, glass and modern design that could be suitable design elements/approach for areas within the Low farmed Coast & Marsh Landscape Character Area adjoining the settlement.

<b>Settlement Name</b>	<b>Porlock</b>			
<b>Surveyor</b>	Paul Bryan	<b>Date</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> May 2011	
<b>Landscape Character Sensitivity (based on LCA &amp; verified in the field)</b>				
<b>Natural Factors</b>	Rivers	Cliff	Coast	<b>Landscape Character Types.</b>  Straddles (B) High Wooded Coast Combes & Cleaves, (C) Low farmed Coast & Marsh and (E) Farmed and Settled Vale.
	Slopes	Scrub	Stream	
	Moorland	Woodland	Pond/wetland	
	Unimproved grassland	Hedges	Bracken	
Landform	Plateau	River Valley	Harbour	
	Rolling	Combe	Other	
<b>Cultural Factors</b>	Parkland	Gardens	Veteran trees	
	Prominent Archaeology	Designed landscapes	Farmland	
	Orchards	Specimen trees	Distinct enclosure patterns	
Settlement type	Hamlet	Village	Local rural centre	
<b>Quality / Condition</b>	Low	Moderate	High	
<b>Aesthetic factors</b> (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) South	
Settlement setting	Landscape dominates	Settlement nestles in landscape	Settlement dominates landscape	Parts nestle, parts dominate landscape.
Settlement edge (How does the settlement abut the landscape?)	Abrupt change to agriculture	Transition gardens	Transition wild	Poor transition in boundaries to south.
			Poor transition	
Animation	Quiet	Busy	Depending on season	
Design Elements and Materials (Describe)	Slate and clay pantile roofs. Stone (Devonian red sandstone) and render. Red brick, clay paving. Three distinct development phases/ styles/ genres. These include (a) Old small-scale cottages and farm houses, nestling at foot of hills, (b) 20 <sup>th</sup> century Arts and Crafts villas on high ground and (c) regimented high density 20 <sup>th</sup> century social housing.			
<b>Overall Landscape Character Sensitivity</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>	Strong landscape setting, plus varied development ages and genres, provide robust landscape character.

<b>Visual Sensitivity</b>				
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	
Presence of tourist	Low	Moderate	High	
Sensitivity of the receiving landscape	Low	Moderate	High	
<b>Overall Visual Sensitivity</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>	
<b>Landscape Value</b>				
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)				
<b>Overall landscape value</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>	
<b>Overall Capacity</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Low</b>	
<b>Total number of units</b>	–Capacity within areas of low sensitivity: 40 units. –Capacity within areas of moderate sensitivity: 7 units.			