



Disused railway line used as an informal public footpath and cycleway to Rudyard Reservoir

Small scale well structured landscape with strong vegetated field boundaries

Remnants of parkland landscape

Strong vegetation along field boundaries and woodland belts

Strong vegetation along streamlines

Open area with little vegetation

Open area

Vegetation along streamlines

Open area

Important open spaces

Open area

Strong planting blocks on eastern banks of River Churnet

Large woodland belt on western banks of River Churnet

Remnants of small scale well structured parkland landscape

Important open spaces / tree cover

Important open spaces / tree cover

Strong field

Large fields with poor defining vegetation

Disused railway vegetated in parts

Golf course with tree planting

Open landscape with little vegetation

Open landscape with little vegetation

- Significant public footpaths
- Staffordshire Way
- Cycleway
- Railway
- Remnant historic landscape
- Important landscape setting to settlement
- Rocky outcrops
- Ridgeline
- Strong edge to settlement
- Canal
- Planting to strengthen edge of settlement or for mitigation
- Significant views
- IE02 Visual open space - suitable
- × IE00 Visual open space - not suitable

Client				
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council				
Project				
Landscape & Settlement Character Assessment				
Drawing Title				
Leek Setting				
Drawn by	Scale	Date		
ST10553-3b	1:10 000 at A1	August 2008		
Drawn by	Checked by	Approved by		
MAB	BJ	CAH		
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- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Ancient Woodland
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Sites of Biological Interest
- Nature Reserves
- Visual Open Space
- Conservation Areas
- Environmentally Sensitive Area
- Floodzone
- Main Road Network
- Staffs Moorland DC Boundary
- Contours (20m interval)

CLIENT																			
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PROJECT																			
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DRAWING TITLE																			
Leek Constraints Plan																			
DRG NO:	SCALE:	DATE:	JULY 2008																
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Wardell Armstrong Engineering & Environmental Solutions																			

Leek Settlement Description

- Leek is a large market and industrial town that lies within four character areas, the main areas being the Dissected Sandstone Cloughs and Valleys to the south and Gristone Highland Fringe to the north.
- The town lies hidden within a valley basin north east of the River Churnet, bounded by watercourses on all sides except the northeast.
- The original settlement is compact and is contained by the conservation area. The traditional buildings are mainly of red brick with blue tiles, interspersed with some local gritstone buildings. There are several black and white structures but these have later designed additions. More recent developments are mainly of brick construction.
- The town has expanded with residential development. Industrial estates are largely concentrated around the edges of the town.
- Towards the edges of the town important open spaces break up the development e.g. allotments, recreation grounds, playing fields, cemetery.
- Staffordshire Way follows the line of the River Churnet to the west of the town connecting Leek with Longsdon.
- A disused railway line vegetated in parts, runs into Leek through a tunnel to the south west of the town. The disused railway line is used as an informal public footpath and cycleway linking Leek to Rudyard Reservoir to the northwest, and southwest to Longsdon.
- The Leek Branch of the Caldon Canal links with the south of the town with footpaths connecting to surrounding development.
- Golf courses are important open areas with ribbons of vegetation to the south and west of the town that contribute to the landscape setting.
- Tittesworth Reservoir, north of Leek, is connected to Leek by a number of public footpaths.
- There is a remnant parkland to the north of the town based around the Abbey remains at Abbey Green. This combines with the landscape that abuts the northern edge of the town to form the landscape setting.
- Important landscape settings to the south east extend up into the town as green wedges.
- Cheddleton heath to the south is also part of the landscape setting.
- The landscape setting is important to the town, where more open landscapes north and west of the town contrast with the strong vegetation along field boundaries and streamlines to the south and east of Leek.

Visual Open Spaces

LE01 / Horsecroft Crescent, Haregate

Suitable

- Flat, grassed, full public access. Could be improved.

LE02 / Westwood Road Recreation Ground

Suitable

- Flat, grassed, fully accessible all the way round – no gates / fencing, mature trees around edge. Could benefit from a more varied layout/internal planting.

LE03 / Glebeville (part playground)**Not Suitable**

- Equipped play area - grass, walled perimeter, restricted access from Glebeville – a little untidy.

DOES NOT SATISFY CRITERIA FOR VISUAL OPEN SPACE

LE04 / Off Wallbridge Drive**Suitable**

- Woodland, rises from road to reach a peak in central area. Unmanaged site – no formal pathways, fully accessible to public, not fenced off.

LE05 / Off Wallbridge Drive - Westwood Park Drive**Suitable**

- Wooded, slopes up from east to west, full public access. Unmanaged, no formal pathways.

LE06 / Birch Gardens (off Buxton Road)**Suitable**

- Access through the main gate, topography – flat, vegetation – mature and non-mature trees, borders with flowers and shrubs, central lawned area – well maintained. Set at a slightly lower level than Prince Street (east), iron fencing around perimeter.

LE07 / Junction of Southbank Street and Fynney Street**Suitable**

- Site slopes down from Fynney Street to eastern end of All Saints' Church, 2 garages, site used as garden for vegetable growing. Fencing / hedgerow around perimeter – also mature trees.

LE08 / Brough Park/ Ball Haye Gardens**Suitable**

- The park is elevated around the northern, eastern and southern sides falling to a much lower level in its centre. It is a designed landscape with vegetation consisting predominantly of grass, shrubbery and mature trees. Access to the park can be gained through the main entrance (east) and access points of other sides.

LE09 / Haregate Road – Ball Haye Green Recreation Ground**Suitable**

- Flat, grassland, full public access, play equipment.

LE10 / Campbell Avenue**Suitable**

- District council owned. Grass / mature trees and hedges around perimeter – some scrub. Access from Campbell Avenue up pathway land elevated to north, lower to south (Campbell Avenue End)

LE11 / Pickwood Recreation Ground**Suitable**

- Grassed, relatively flat, some mature trees and hedgerow full public access from Mill Town Way.

Leek

GENERAL CHARACTER / LANDSCAPE	Regional (Joint) Character Area	64 Potteries & Churnet Valley
	Landscape Character Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gritstone Highland Fringe • Ancient Slope and Valley Farmland • Dissected Sandstone Cloughs and Valleys • Dissected Sandstone Uplands
	Historic Landscape Classification	Leek is described as consisting mainly of settlement, with some areas of ornamental, parkland and recreational land distributed throughout. Some industrial/extractive land to far N and S of settlement. Some woodland present on outskirts.
	Geology	<p>Solid Geology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of Triassic sandstones – Sherwood sandstone deposits (particularly in W of town). • E part of this rock is Millstone Grit sandstone. <p>Drift Geology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boulder Clay overlying rock in Ball Haye Green area. • Alluvium along the Churnet (particularly those sections flowing N & S of the town). <p>Soil:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil mostly loam, with sandy soil S of Leek.
	Minerals	Leek identified in the Staffordshire Minerals Core Strategy Draft Background Paper (2007) as a ‘Strategic Site for Aggregates’ due to its sand and gravel Sherwood sandstone deposits. Although no specific site proposals for mineral extraction were submitted for the area.
	Topography	<p>Town of Leek:</p> <p>Settlement slopes upwards from the valley of the River Churnet in west and Leek Brook in the south (both around 152m), to around 244m on the eastern boundary around Kniveden, with fairly steep slope down towards the River Churnet along the northern settlement edge.</p> <p>Westwood (W Leek) is fairly flat but again having steep slopes down to the Churnet on the N, W and S. The ground rises to a small hill in the centre of the settlement on which stands the medieval part of the town. The highest point of the town is St. Edward’s church (198m) sloping steeply on the N down to Ball Haye Brook. Main streets and market</p>

		<p>place occupy gentler slopes running S and SE to a small valley which includes Brook Street.</p> <p>Area to N of Leek: Shallow upland valley with reservoir in middle – pinching to steep sided narrow valley at southern dam end, and then down to Abbey and Leek.</p> <p>Area to E of Leek: Generally rising landform with strong incised valleys going up through area.</p> <p>Area to S of Leek: Incised Churnet Valley and tributaries with steep side slopes and flatter land on plateaux.</p> <p>Area to W of Leek: Smooth, gently rolling, with flatter areas associated with valleys and plateaux. Steep landform associated with Rudyard and Upper Churnet Valley.</p>
	Contour Range	150m (SW Leek, Westwood Golf Course, Wallbridge Park) – 245m (eastern edge Leek settlement)
SPECIFIC LANDSCAPE FEATURES	<p>Significant Vegetation</p> <p>(e.g. trees, woodland, heathland, marshes, commons, parkland)</p>	<p>Lowland Heath:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheephouse Farm (SJ985542, 8.91 ha), located 200 m SE of Birchall, just S of the golf course. • Cheddleton Heath (SJ986534, 21.43 ha), located just S of Leekbrook / Basford Lane Industrial Estate. <p>Ancient Woodland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longsdon Wood ‘1’ (SJ964556, 6 ha) & Longsdon Wood ‘2’ (SJ967552, 12 ha), located approx. 350-400m W of Leek, running alongside the canal feeder for approx. 2.5km. • West Wood (SJ964561, 4 ha), located to the W of Hall Farm, approx. 300 m from the western edge of Leek development boundary. • Soils Wood (SJ980540, 6 ha), located approx. 800 m SW of Birchall, SW of the sewage works. • Ballington Wood (SJ989554, 8 ha), located in S Leek, adjacent to the settlement development boundary, NE of Birchall. • Birchall Wood (SJ991545, 8 ha), located in S Leek, just SE of Birchall. • Edge End & Solomon’s Wood (SJ997582, 7 ha), located just 200-300m N of Haregate

		<p>in NE Leek.</p> <p>Other areas of ancient woodland located slightly further away from Leek, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of woodland located to W of Cheddleton Park Farm, S of Longsdon. • Area of woodland located to S of Hollinhay Wood, Longsdon • Hollinhay Wood, Longsdon (SJ968538, 15 ha) • Various woodland located within or adjacent to the Combes Valley (approx. 3-4 km from Leek), including The Ridge, Mill Wood, Low Wood, Spiritholes Wood, Whitehough Wood. • Various woodland located 650 m – 2 km N of Leek, N of River Churnet, including Abbey Wood, Back Hills Wood, Hind’s Clough Wood, South Hills Wood and The Coppice (E of Tittesworth Reservoir). <p>Registered Commons None</p> <p>Parkland Pickwood Hall East of Abbey Green around Abbey remains Remains of Westwood Hall (largely redeveloped)</p>
	<p>Historic Parkland <i>(1st Edn. OS Map)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pickwood Hall • East of Abbey Green around Abbey remains • Possible remains of Westwood Hall though largely re developed • Some large farmsteads present on the 1st edn. OS still remain e.g. Ridgehay & Lowe Hill Farm.
	<p>Water Bodies / Water Courses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tittesworth Reservoir (surface area 76 ha) located approximately 900m north of NE Leek (Haregate). Used to regulate flow of River Churnet and acts as source of water for Leek. • River Churnet flows through Tittesworth Reservoir and down towards Leek, skirting around the western edge of the settlement, before continuing south towards Cheddleton. • Caldon Canal ends in S Leek (just S of Barnfields) and runs S towards Stoke-on-Trent. • Several small streams/brooks flow from Tittesworth Reservoir in the N, around the eastern edges (Knivenden Brook) and southern edges (Endon Brook & Leek

		Brook) of the settlement, eventually rejoining the River Churnet.
	Floodplains	Floodplain (1 in 100 yr or greater) along banks of River Churnet and stream which feeds into canal along western edge of settlement. Floodplain widens near Bridge End (NW Leek).
	Major Routes (e.g. roads, railways, canals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A53 – passes through centre of Leek from SW (Stoke-on-Trent) to NE (Buxton) • A523 – passes through centre of Leek from NW (Macclesfield) to SE (Waterhouses & Ashbourne) • A520 – exits Leek to S (Cheddleton & Stoke-on-Trent) • Caldon Canal flows south from a confluence with the River Churnet south of Leek (Barnfields) towards Stoke-on-Trent • Disused railway dissects western side of settlement, curving from NW to S where it joins with another section of disused railway coming in from the E just S of Leek. This E-W section of railway line is protected.
	Significant Visual Features / Landmarks / Viewpoints (e.g. hedgerows, stone walls, significant architectural features)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tittesworth Reservoir to N (important habitat for birds & other wildlife, important destination for tourists) • Churnet Valley Railway which continues S from Leek Brook Junction (W of Leekbrook Industrial Estate) towards Kingsley & Froghall • Churnet Valley which skirts the western edge of Leek and is lined on the western bank by trees forming Longsdon Wood • Combes Valley RSPB Nature Reserve (SE of Leek)
	Other Significant Landscape Features (e.g. mineral workings)	<p>Fairly dense development in centre of settlement, with larger amounts of open space towards edges of Leek e.g. allotments, recreation grounds, playing fields, cemetery, golf courses and Brough Park (N Leek).</p> <p>Surrounding landscape consists mainly of fields and small farmsteads, particularly to the N and W, with small dispersed residential and industrial areas to the S.</p> <p>Topography undulating, sloping more steeply along valleys formed by River Churnet, streams/brooks and valley containing disused railway.</p>

DESIGNATED AREAS	<p>Green Belt / Special Landscape Area</p>	<p>Green Belt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land located to the NW, W and SW (west of dismantled railway line) of Leek is designated Green Belt. <p>Special Landscape Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Settlement is contained by the Special Landscape Area
	<p>Designated Areas of Ecological Significance</p> <p>(e.g. SSSIs / SPAs / Nature Reserves / SBIs / SACs)</p> <p>www.magic.gov.uk/Staffordshire <i>Moorlands Local Plan</i>)</p>	<p>Nature Reserves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brough Park Fields (Local Nature Reserve) (6.32 ha), located just N of Ball Haye Green, S of River Churnet. Eastern section of this site is disused tip. Ladderedge Country Park (Local Nature Reserve) (23.29 ha), located SW of Leek, just S of Wallbridge Park golf course and Longsdon Wood. Rod Wood (Nature Reserve) Combes Valley (Nature Reserve) <p>SSSIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combes Valley (SK005525, 112.8 ha), located 2150 m SE of southernmost settlement boundary (Birchall) <p>BAS (Biodiversity Alert Site)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low Hill BAS, located 500 m SE of Leek settlement development boundary, just SE of Padwick Farm Bradnop (north of) BAS, located 1.3 km E of Leek settlement development boundary, just S of Bankside Farm <p>SBIs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anzio Training Camp, 1650m NE of Leek Back Hills & Abbey Woods, 850m N of Leek Stare Wood, 200m N of Horsecroft Farm, NE of Haregate Edge End Wood, N of Haregate Edge End Farm (north of), N of Haregate Thornccliffe (west of), NE of Haregate Brough Park Fields Country Park, just N of Brough Park Knivenden Hall (east of), approx. 500m E of settlement development boundary Wormlow (north west of), approx. 1km E of Haregate Ladydale, Ladydale Wood Pasture & Ballington Wood, located S of Leek, between Recreation Ground, Newton House & A523 Longsdon Wood & Cowhay Wood, 700m W of Woodcroft & Wallbridge Park in western

		<p>Leek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revedge Farm (north of), located over 2km SE of Leek • Caldon Canal, S of Hollinhay, located W of Leekbrook Ind. Estate • Cheddleton Heath, located S of Leekbrook Ind. Estate, 650m S of Birchall • Caldon Canal SBI • Ringehay Grassland, 850m S of Basford Lane Ind. Estate • Ferny Hill, approx. 1km SE of Basford Lane Ind. Estate • Upper Fernyhill Farm (SE of), 1600m SE of Basford Lane Ind. Estate • Mosslee Mill Farm (E of), located within Combes Valley
	<p>Nature Conservation Sites <i>(Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twinney Wood (SE of Basford Lane Ind. Estate) • Cheddleton Heath (S of Leekbrook Ind. Estate) • Hollinhay Wood (N of Caldon Canal) • Area S of Hollinhay Wood and R. Churnet • Part of Longsdon Wood (W of Wallbridge Park) • Birchall Wood (SE of Birchall) • Ballington Wood (E of Newton House) • Field to E of Lowe Hill (350m SE of Leek development boundary) • West Wood (W of Leek, nr. Hall Farm) • Land 350m N of West Wood • Hangate Wood & Edge End Wood (NE of Leek development boundary) • Abbey Wood (N of Leek) • Land between junction of NS and EW disused railways • Tittesworth Reservoir
	<p>Scheduled Ancient Monuments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remains of Dieu-la-cres Abbey, located 600 m N of settlement development boundary. • Brindley's Mill, located on A523 next to the museum heading towards the town centre in NE Leek. • Two Saxon cross shafts in churchyard S & SE of parish church on Church Street in town centre (SJ983567) • Old Market Cross (SJ984558), Sheep Market, Leek town centre.
<p>BUILT ENVIRONMENT</p>	<p>Proposed/recent development <i>(Staffordshire Moorlands Local</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent residential development located off Milltown Way (Mulberry Way), SE corner of Leek. • Residential development consisting of 50

	<i>Plan (1998)/ Aerial photos)</i>	<p>houses recently completed off Ashenhurst Way & Ladydale II.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed employment site located on vacant land just north of Churnet Valley Farm (NW Leek). • Proposed employment site located on vacant land off Sandon Street (N of Birchall Playing Fields, S Leek).
	<p>Conservation Areas <i>(Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan (1998))</i></p>	<p>Leek Conservation Area incorporating historic town centre</p>
	<p>Other</p>	<p>Appears that settlement was originally fairly nucleated, with the central historic region now covered by the conservation area. Settlement sprawled outwards from this central area, with the creation of a number of residential developments, including those at Haregate (NE Leek), Woodcroft (W Leek) and Birchall (S Leek). With residential development also S of Longsdon Wood. Industrial developments are located towards the edges of the settlement, including areas in the NW, S (Barnfields Industrial Estate) and far S (Leekbrook Industrial Estate).</p> <p>Leek town is bounded by various watercourses on all sides except the NE; the Churnet on the NW and W, Leek Brook on the S, Knivenden Brook on the E, and Ball Haye Brook (now culverted) on the N.</p>

Staffordshire Moorlands Visual Open Space Assessment

LE01

Date of Reassessment: 19.06.2008

Settlement:	Leek	
VOS number / Site:	LE01 / Horsecroft Crescent, Haregate	
Brief Description: Topography, vegetation, access etc.	Flat, grassed, full public access. Could be improved.	
Criteria		Notes
Character Does the site contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood / settlement?	✓	Featureless large central green within post-war local authority residential partly developed with O.A.P bungalows. Provides open area within an otherwise densely developed area.
Amenity Value Is the site of amenity value to the public while not requiring public access to the site itself?	✓	Area of public open space – could increase visual amenity, by adding benches, and impact on O.A.P bungalows by increasing planting, trees and shrub beds.
External Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant external views across the open area (i.e. views from surrounding area into VOS)?	✓	From housing all around site on to it.
Internal Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant internal views across the open area (i.e. views within the VOS)?	✗	Featureless – nothing significant.
Break Between Development Does the site form a significant break between development within a settlement?	✓	Like a village green – surrounded by housing.
Ecological Value Is the site of local ecological value?	✗	
Cultural or Historical Association Does the site have significant, proven local cultural or historical association?	✗	
Recommendation:	Suitable as VOS The site has amenity value and provides a break within the dense residential development.	



View from Ramshaw View to the south



View from Queens Drive at roundabout to south east



View from Ramshaw View to south west

Staffordshire Moorlands Visual Open Space Assessment

LE02

Date of Reassessment: 19.06.2008

Settlement:	Leek	
VOS number / Site:	LE02 / Westwood Road Recreation Ground	
Brief Description: Topography, vegetation, access etc.	Flat, grassed, fully accessible all the way round – no gates / fencing, mature trees around edge. Could benefit from a more varied layout/internal planting.	
Criteria		Notes
Character Does the site contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood / settlement?	✓	Large elongated open area in contrast with the surrounding urban area surrounded by mature trees.
Amenity Value Is the site of amenity value to the public while not requiring public access to the site itself?	✓	Fully accessible to public, high amenity value – crossed by former railway line in tunnel.
External Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant external views across the open area (i.e. views from surrounding area into VOS)?	✓	Extensive from West Street, Westwood Road, Spring Gardens.
Internal Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant internal views across the open area (i.e. views within the VOS)?	✓	Long range views east to west and vice-versa.
Break Between Development Does the site form a significant break between development within a settlement?	✓	High density development around the site, it provides significant relief.
Ecological Value Is the site of local ecological value?	✓	Mature trees – shown on OS 1 st Edition.
Cultural or Historical Association Does the site have significant, proven local cultural or historical association?	✓	Land parcels shown on OS 1 st Edition – including part surrounding trees.
Recommendation:	Suitable as VOS The site is a formal open space of significant local amenity value. It is also significant in providing a break between development in this built up area of Leek.	



View to west along path parallel to Spring Gardens



View across recreation ground to Westwood Road north

Staffordshire Moorlands Visual Open Space Assessment

LE03

Date of Reassessment: 19.06.2008

Settlement:	Leek	
VOS number / Site::	LE03 / Glebeville (part playground)	
Brief Description: Topography, vegetation, access etc.	Equipped play area - grass, walled perimeter, restricted access from Glebeville – a little untidy. Is elevated with superb views. Land slopes very steeply down beyond VOS to properties on Sandon Street and Britannia Head Quarters therefore views this site enjoys are not obscured by adjacent development.	
Criteria		Notes
Character Does the site contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood / settlement?	✓	Elevated grass area enclosing a public play area (to the rear of properties) with restricted access. Enjoying superb long views to south and west sides of Leek. No vegetation, a little untidy.
Amenity Value Is the site of amenity value to the public while not requiring public access to the site itself?	✗	Limited only to local residents as an enclosed play area. Could make more of the site in terms of amenity to encourage increased usage and enjoyment of views.
External Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant external views across the open area (i.e. views from surrounding area into VOS)?	✓	Land is elevated and enjoys superb panoramic views to south and west of Leek. Important to maintain the long distance views.
Internal Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant internal views across the open area (i.e. views within the VOS)?	✗	Limited from surrounding dwellings.
Break Between Development Does the site form a significant break between development within a settlement?	✗	On edge of a residential area.
Ecological Value Is the site of local ecological value?	✓	Old hedgerow along the eastern boundary.
Cultural or Historical Association Does the site have significant, proven local cultural or historical association?	✓	Field boundary along the eastern edge is identifiable on OS 1 st Edition.
Recommendation:	Not suitable as VOS Site is not significant in size or visual amenity. It also does not form a significant break between development.	



View to south east corner from within the site



View to south from within the site towards rear of property on Sandon Street and Britannia Head Quarters



View to west from Glebeville on edge of site



View to south west from within site



View to south east from Glebeville



View to western corner of site at Glebeville



View to east from Glebeville towards play area

Staffordshire Moorlands Visual Open Space Assessment

LE04

Date of Reassessment: 19.06.2008

Settlement:	Leek	
VOS number / Site :	LE04 / Off Wallbridge Drive	
Brief Description: Topography, vegetation, access etc.	Woodland, rises from road to reach a peak in central area. Unmanaged site – no formal pathways, fully accessible to public, not fenced off.	
Criteria		Notes
Character Does the site contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood / settlement?	✓	A sloping wood in the centre of a suburban housing estate. Natural vegetated character of the site contrasts well with the surrounding built up area.
Amenity Value Is the site of amenity value to the public while not requiring public access to the site itself?	✓	In terms of woodland views, contributes to street scene, nature conservation and as an informal recreational area. Full public access to the site.
External Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant external views across the open area (i.e. views from surrounding area into VOS)?	✓	Site is elevated – can be viewed from many nearby houses and roads.
Internal Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant internal views across the open area (i.e. views within the VOS)?	✓	East towards Wallbridge Park and West.
Break Between Development Does the site form a significant break between development within a settlement?	✓	Yes – enclosed by development, seen in conjunction with a second woodland further along Wallbridge Drive/Westwood Park Drive.
Ecological Value Is the site of local ecological value?	✓	Potentially high due to the number of mature trees on site and appears unmanaged.
Cultural or Historical Association Does the site have significant, proven local cultural or historical association?	✓	Woodland originally part of the Westwood Hall historic parkland – trees are shown on OS 1 st Edition.
Recommendation:	Suitable as VOS The site has amenity value while providing a break in development in a residential area of Leek. It also has historical value in combination with an additional VOS further along Wallbridge Drive.	



View to east from Coopers Close



View to south from Edgehill Road adjacent to site

Staffordshire Moorlands Visual Open Space Assessment

LE05

Date of Reassessment: 19.06.2008

Settlement:	Leek	
VOS number / Site::	LE05 / Off Wallbridge Drive - Westwood Park Drive	
Brief Description: Topography, vegetation, access etc.	Wooded, slopes up from east to west, full public access. Unmanaged, no formal pathways.	
Criteria		Notes
Character Does the site contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood / settlement?	✓	Elevated mature wooded area on the edge of the residential area.
Amenity Value Is the site of amenity value to the public while not requiring public access to the site itself?	✓	High – views, nature value, informal recreational area. Natural vegetated character which contrasts with surrounding area, Woodland contributes to street scene. Full public access.
External Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant external views across the open area (i.e. views from surrounding area into VOS)?	✓	Yes from surrounding properties and roads.
Internal Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant internal views across the open area (i.e. views within the VOS)?	✓	Treed with some views out to north as land is elevated and from east to west.
Break Between Development Does the site form a significant break between development within a settlement?	✓	Yes – enclosed by development. Bounded by roads – seen in conjunction with a second woodland further along Wallbridge Drive.
Ecological Value Is the site of local ecological value?	✓	Potentially high due to the number of mature trees on the site and it appears unmanaged.
Cultural or Historical Association Does the site have significant, proven local cultural or historical association?	✓	Woodland originally part of Westwood Hall historic parkland – trees shown on OS 1 st Edition.
Recommendation:	Suitable as VOS The site has amenity value while providing a break in development in a residential area of Leek.	



View from Wallbridge Drive towards the site to the west



View from within the site looking north



View from within the site looking west

Date of Reassessment: 19.06.2008

Settlement:	Leek	
VOS number / Site:	LE06 / Birch Gardens (off Buxton Road)	
Brief Description: Topography, vegetation, access etc.	Access through the main gate, topography – flat, vegetation – mature and non-mature trees, borders with flowers and shrubs, central lawned area – well maintained. Set at a slightly lower level than Prince Street (east), iron fencing around perimeter.	
Criteria		Notes
Character Does the site contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood / settlement?	✓	Formal public gardens with pathways around, central seating / shelter area public toilets. Gardens are relatively small. Pleasant, well-maintained environment.
Amenity Value Is the site of amenity value to the public while not requiring public access to the site itself?	✓	Open to the public who can walk around the gardens and / or use the seating to enjoy the gardens. Benches, seasonal bedding displays.
External Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant external views across the open area (i.e. views from surrounding area into VOS)?	✓	Views from surrounding built up area into the gardens– slightly obscured by iron fencing and mature trees surrounding the site.
Internal Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant internal views across the open area (i.e. views within the VOS)?	✓	Pleasant views from the corners of the gardens looking across.
Break Between Development Does the site form a significant break between development within a settlement?	✓	Provides relief in an otherwise built up area (houses to east, offices / industrial uses to west). Area of high aesthetic value, acts as a buffer.
Ecological Value Is the site of local ecological value?	✓	Some ecological value due to presence of trees and shrubs.
Cultural or Historical Association Does the site have significant, proven local cultural or historical association?	✓	Open to public in Jubilee Reign of King George V and Queen May – 1935.
Recommendation:	Suitable as VOS The site has important historical significance, amenity and ecological value while allowing public access to the site.	



View of Birch Gardens from Prince Street

Date of Reassessment: 19.06.2008

Settlement:	Leek	
VOS number / Site:	LE07 / Junction of Southbank Street and Fynney Street	
Brief Description: Topography, vegetation, access etc.	Site slopes down from Fynney Street to eastern end of All Saints' Church, 2 garages, site used as garden for vegetable growing. Fencing / hedgerow around perimeter – also mature trees.	
Criteria		Notes
Character Does the site contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood / settlement?	✓	Land itself has no particular value – is untidy but views and sloping nature of site significant. Most important – openness. Important in the setting of the church.
Amenity Value Is the site of amenity value to the public while not requiring public access to the site itself?	✓	Private land – no public access but requires maintenance to increase quality of site.
External Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant external views across the open area (i.e. views from surrounding area into VOS)?	✓	Very significant views of church (Grade I listed) from site (east to west) provides open setting for church. North side of Southbank Street towards church. Mature trees can be seen from the adjacent roads. Glimpsed views into the site from gateway on corner of Fynney Street.
Internal Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant internal views across the open area (i.e. views within the VOS)?	✓	Views of church and surrounding historic buildings – difficult to access as site is locked.
Break Between Development Does the site form a significant break between development within a settlement?	✓	Important for setting of the church.
Ecological Value Is the site of local ecological value?	✓	Site is currently unmanaged – potential wildlife habitats.
Cultural or Historical Association Does the site have significant, proven local cultural or historical association?	✓	With the church – is part of setting of the Grade I Listed building.
Recommendation:	Suitable as VOS The site significantly adds to the setting of the church while providing a break between development and ecological value.	



View to south west from Southbank Street adjacent to site



Staffordshire Moorlands Visual Open Space Assessment

LE08

Date of Reassessment: 19.06.2008

Settlement:	Leek	
VOS number / Site::	LE08 / Brough Park/ Ball Haye Gardens	
Brief Description: Topography, vegetation, access etc.	The park is elevated around the northern, eastern and southern sides falling to a much lower level in its centre. It is a designed landscape with vegetation consisting predominantly of grass, shrubbery and mature trees. Access to the park can be gained through the main entrance (east) and access points of other sides.	
Criteria		Notes
Character Does the site contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood / settlement?	✓	A large traditional Victorian urban park set in an undulating landform with leisure facilities – bowling green, tennis courts, leisure centre adjacent. A band stand. Varied and attractive views throughout.
Amenity Value Is the site of amenity value to the public while not requiring public access to the site itself?	✓	High amenity value in contrast to other areas of public open space..
External Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant external views across the open area (i.e. views from surrounding area into VOS)?	✓	Many significant views (from path adjacent to Church Lane, properties to the west etc).
Internal Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant internal views across the open area (i.e. views within the VOS)?	✓	Many significant views – most notable from band stand all around park – can see top of church (St Edwards) houses on western side of Leek, leisure centre.
Break Between Development Does the site form a significant break between development within a settlement?	✓	Significant break between development on the western and southern sides.
Ecological Value Is the site of local ecological value?	✓	Mature trees, pond and general environmental Help to sustain wildlife and habitats.
Cultural or Historical Association Does the site have significant, proven local cultural or historical association?	✓	Historic/ Cultural – Victorian park
Recommendation:	Suitable as VOS The site has significantly high amenity value for the public with a network of pathways and recreational areas. It serves as an important break between development on the northern edge of Leek.	



View from pathway within Ball Haye Gardens



View from pathway within Ball Haye Gardens



View adjacent to fish pond in Ball Haye Gardens



View to west within Brough Park adjacent to bowling greens

Staffordshire Moorlands Visual Open Space Assessment

LE09

Date of Reassessment: 19.06.2008

Settlement:	Leek	
VOS number / Site:	LE09 / Haregate Road – Ball Haye Green Recreation Ground	
Brief Description: Topography, vegetation, access etc.	Flat, grassland, full public access, play equipment.	
Criteria		Notes
Character Does the site contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood / settlement?	✓	Flat equipped playing field. Small site with approximately 50% hard surface comprising of play areas with areas of maintained grassland. Some hedgerows/ trees along the western boundary.
Amenity Value Is the site of amenity value to the public while not requiring public access to the site itself?	✓	Recreational amenity, open views from the street, limited vegetation.
External Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant external views across the open area (i.e. views from surrounding area into VOS)?	✓	Minimal views from east to west from Haregate Road. Views from properties on Tittesworth Avenue on the edge of the site.
Internal Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant internal views across the open area (i.e. views within the VOS)?	✓	Open as no vegetation and the site is flat – full views out.
Break Between Development Does the site form a significant break between development within a settlement?	✓	Yes – acts as a buffer between housing to the east and industry to the west (old and new) bounded all around perimeter with fencing.
Ecological Value Is the site of local ecological value?	✗	
Cultural or Historical Association Does the site have significant, proven local cultural or historical association?	✗	Possible previous historic context indicated by remaining gate pillars
Recommendation:	Suitable as VOS The site has local amenity value while providing a significant break between residential development and industrial units on Haregate Road.	



View to north from south western corner of site



View to north from south western corner of site



View to west from edge of site

Staffordshire Moorlands Visual Open Space Assessment

LE10

Date of Reassessment: 19.06.2008

Settlement:	Leek	
VOS number / Site:	LE10 / Campbell Avenue	
Brief Description: Topography, vegetation, access etc.	District council owned. Grass / mature trees and hedges around perimeter – some scrub. Access from Campbell Avenue up pathway land elevated to north, lower to south (Campbell Avenue End)	
Criteria		Notes
Character Does the site contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood / settlement?	✓	Elevated overgrown green space used by public. Site slopes south to north with mature trees.
Amenity Value Is the site of amenity value to the public while not requiring public access to the site itself?	✓	Openness, views, recreational value. Many informal footpaths through area.
External Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant external views across the open area (i.e. views from surrounding area into VOS)?	✓	From surrounding residential area (Campbell Avenue to the south) and allotments.
Internal Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant internal views across the open area (i.e. views within the VOS)?	✓	From top of VOS (looking north) – panoramic views through trees due to elevated position – views all around Leek. From top (looking south) – long views to countryside.
Break Between Development Does the site form a significant break between development within a settlement?	✓	Forms part of larger open area with allotments which separates residential areas to the north-east and south-west.
Ecological Value Is the site of local ecological value?	✓	Numerous mature trees and long grass.
Cultural or Historical Association Does the site have significant, proven local cultural or historical association?	✗	
Recommendation:	Suitable as VOS The site has ecological value while being visually significant and providing local amenity value.	



View of western treelined boundary from public footpath adjacent to Campbell Avenue



View to south from within the site



View to south from within the site



View to north from within the site

Staffordshire Moorlands Visual Open Space Assessment

LE11

Date of Reassessment: 19.06.2008

Settlement:	Leek	
VOS number / Site::	LE11 / Pickwood Recreation Ground	
Brief Description: Topography, vegetation, access etc.	Grassed, relatively flat, some mature trees and hedgerow full public access from Milltown Way and Grosvenor Street.	
Criteria		Notes
Character Does the site contribute to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood / settlement?	✓	Large recreation ground with perimeter path used by the residents of the adjoining housing estate.
Amenity Value Is the site of amenity value to the public while not requiring public access to the site itself?	✓	Featureless public open space other than views out. Recreational value including play area.
External Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant external views across the open area (i.e. views from surrounding area into VOS)?	✓	From surrounding properties from pathway to north.
Internal Views Does the site allow the public to enjoy significant internal views across the open area (i.e. views within the VOS)?	✓	To north-west long views to Leek – (panoramic) (church and library building can be seen) and countryside beyond and west to north east.
Break Between Development Does the site form a significant break between development within a settlement?	✓	On edge of new development backing onto open countryside.
Ecological Value Is the site of local ecological value?	✓	Limited – mature trees and hedgerow on western boundary.
Cultural or Historical Association Does the site have significant, proven local cultural or historical association?	✗	
Recommendation:	Suitable as VOS The site has is a valuable recreational ground providing a development buffer on the edge of a recent development.	



View towards houses on Milltown Way east from within recreation area



View towards houses on Milltown Way east from within recreation area



View to west from within recreation area