

Stapleford and Great Shelford Landscape Character Assessment Addendum

September 2024

This addendum amends the boundary of landscape character area G1 Shelford Rugby Club which was shown extending over two areas which should have been recorded as part of B1 West Shelford Arable Lowland. This amendment applies to two areas:

1. An area north of the rugby club which is part of Rectory Farm's arable fields B1 west Shelford arable lowland and is typically part of that landscape character area.
2. Two arable fields either side of the Shelford Rugby Club drive, which although arable, are separated from the rest of B1, the west Shelford arable lowland, both visually and physically by housing development along Stone Hill Road and Red Hill Close and the Rugby Club grounds, surrounding hedgerows and vegetation, buildings and car parking. This is now designated as B1a, a subsection of B1 but with some differing characteristics and sensitivities.

The Landscape Character Areas Map has been amended to reflect this.

Sub section B1a West Shelford Arable Lowland



Before the advent of development along the Cambridge/Shelford Road, this parcel of land would have been part of the west Shelford arable land. Housing development along Cambridge Road, Stone Hill Road and Red Hill Close now surround this land on three sides with the Rugby club and its surrounding mature hedgerows and vegetation, buildings, and car parking the west separating it from the extensive rolling landscape of the west Shelford arable lowland that stretches down to the water meadows along the River Cam/Granta.

This area is both visually and physically separate from the rest of the west Shelford arable lowland. It is enclosed by houses to the north, east and south and the Rugby Club with its trees and hedgerows, the clubhouse, carparking area and floodlighting. Consequently, there are no long views, unlike the majority of the West Shelford Arable Lowland. Consequently, B1a does not contribute to the setting of the edge of

Cambridge or to the separation between the villages of Great Shelford, Hauxton, Trumpington and Harston.

The Inner Green Belt Review 2015 identified this land within sub area 8.2, and concluded that, it played a limited role in the Green Belt due to its enclosed nature and its close relationship with the existing built form along Cambridge/Shelford Road.

Under Implications for Green Belt release the report noted the differing sensitivities between the two areas;

“It is unlikely that any development within sub area 8.1 [Character Area B1 West Shelford Arable Lowland] could be accommodated without substantial harm to Green Belt purposes. Any form of development within this sub area [8.1] would reduce the distinctive separation between the edge of the city and the M11 and would affect the well designed and distinctive gateway to the city that is being created at Glebe Farm/ Trumpington Meadows. It would also significantly encroach on the separation between Cambridge and the necklace villages of Great Shelford, Hauxton and Little Shelford. No Green Belt release should be contemplated in sub area 8.1.

Sub area 8.2 [B1a] currently makes minimal contribution to the performance of Green Belt purposes, and development within it could be undertaken without harm to the Green Belt, provided the following parameters are complied with to avoid any increase in urbanising influences on sub area 8.1.”

Suggested Landscape Planning Guidelines

As previously stated within the 2019 LCA, any development proposals for the two fields behind Cambridge Road should take account of the Inner Green Belt Review 2015 Parameters for Green Belt release:

- *Any new development should be similar in height and grain to the existing ribbon development along Cambridge/Shelford Road. Medium-low density housing is likely to be most appropriate.*
- *New development should be designed to create a robust, permanent edge to the city. The new edge should be planted to enhance the soft green edge already present along Cambridge/ Shelford Road, to help integrate the built form and to minimise the urbanising effects of development on the countryside.*
- *Existing vegetation around the adjacent Shelford Rugby Club should, if possible, be retained to help integrate any development into the urban edge.*

Stapleford and Great Shelford Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Character Types and Areas September 2024 Amendment

- A - Arable hills**
 A1 Great Shelford arable hills
 A2 Stapleford arable hills
- B - Arable lowland**
 B1/B1a West Shelford arable lowland
 B2 Hobsons Brook and Ninewells arable lowland
 B3 Mingle Lane and Hinton Way arable lowland
 B4 Bury Farm arable lowland
- C Golf courses**
 C1 Gog Magog Golf Course
- D Historic country parks**
 D1 Wandlebury Historic country park
 D2 Gog Magog Down Historic country park
- E Settled hilltop estates**
 E1 Fox Hill settled hilltop estate
 E2 Clarke's Hill settled hilltop estate
 E3 White Hill settled hilltop estate
- F Enclosed farmland pastures**
 F1 Greenhedge Farm
 F2 Granham's Farm
 F3 De Freville Farm and Trinity House
 F4 Cambridge Road
 F5 The Grange Fields
- G Sports fields**
 G1 Shelford Rugby Club
 G2 Great Shelford Recreation Ground
 G3 Stapleford Recreation Ground
- H Woodlands**
 H1 The Beechwoods
 H2 Nine Wells
- I Campsites**
 I1 Great Shelford Campsite
- J The Granta, Water meadows and riverside pastures**
 J1 Shelford meadows and riverside pastures
 J2 Kings Mill and the Hermitage meadows and riverside
 J3 Stapleford Bridge meadows and riverside pastures
 J4 Bury Farm meadows and riverside pastures

