

APPENDIX III

LANDSCAPE VALUE APPRAISAL

View from New Road between Draycott and Priddy

INTRODUCTION

Previous landscape assessments undertaken within the Mendip Area have identified the Mendip Hills and edge of the Cranborne Chase areas as of exceptional landscape quality. Other assessment work also identified the smaller areas of Special Landscape Features within the district area. As part of the study brief for this assessment a question was raised on the point that, with the policy focus on the AONB areas and specific landscape features, are other landscape areas potentially being overlooked in plan and decision making. To assist with consideration of the value of the landscape across the wider district, Section 7 of the main study set out the general approach to landscape value assessment and highlighted 8 special landscape qualities of the district as a whole.

As set out within Section 7, following on from the character assessment work, it was considered useful to draw together a set of qualities that relate to the range of landscapes across the district. These were identified at the end of the process and were thought to be consistent considerations across the district. They were also thought to be represented at least in part within each of the main landscape types of the area.

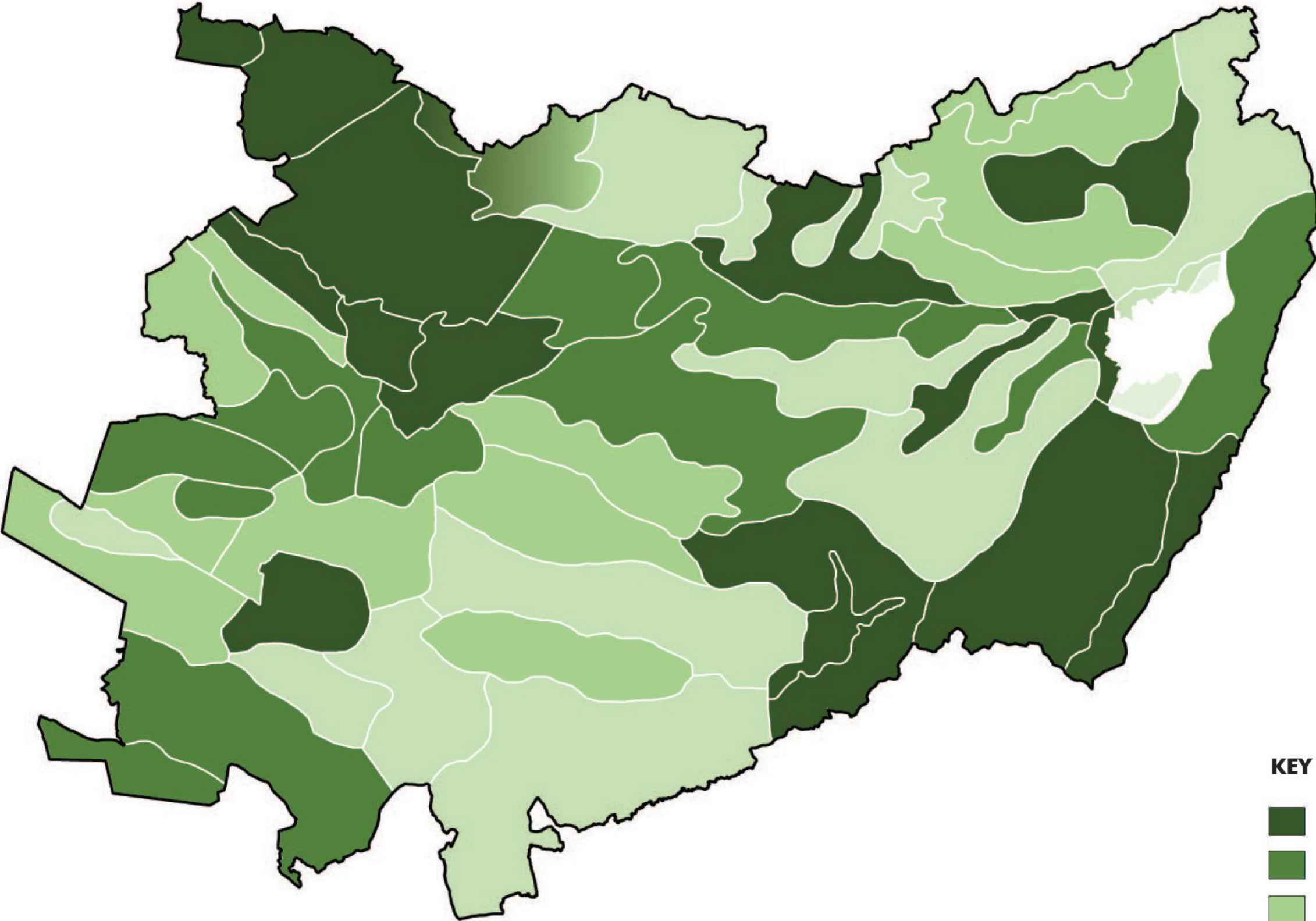
As considerations of landscape value and quality will involve a degree of subjective opinion, it helps if there is consensus on the attributes that may be seen as important. The first draft of these qualities was discussed with MDC Officers and then the list was put forward as a key part of the consultation process for the study. On the basis of a generally supportive, albeit modest number of consultation responses, the list suggested has not been changed in this final version of the study.

This Appendix provides an assessment on the general degree to which each of these landscape qualities are judged to relate to the individual character areas, in a simple scale of not applicable/poor up to exceptional. The judgements were applied across the district generally at the scale of the individual character areas. For the larger character area of the Mendip Plateau this was subdivided into West, Middle and East.

Once each area was considered in relation to each of the main headings set out, the combined conclusions were mapped across the district as illustrated in the Figures at the end of this appendix.

It should be noted this is an overview of the relative distribution of the landscape qualities and represents a broad-brush view of the relative landscape values. As most of the landscapes and local circumstances vary considerably, even within the character areas, these assessments will include areas where the landscape value is significantly higher or lower than the general assessment of the wider whole. While this exercise may well assist with a view over relative values, detailed policy and site specific project decisions may well need to develop more specific assessments. Where appropriate or practicable the landscape qualities headings used here would be expected to form the basis of future assessments.

LANDSCAPE VALUE APPRAISAL



KEY

-  **Very High Value**
-  **High Value**
-  **Moderate Value**
-  **Low Value**
-  **Not Applicable**

LANDSCAPE VALUE APPRAISAL & CHARACTER AREAS

