



Open Land Designations Study

Appendix B - Settlement Setting Assessment

Preston City Council, South Ribble Borough Council and Chorley Council

Final report

Prepared by LUC

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Contents

Appendix B 5 Settlement setting assessment

Abbey Village	6
Adlington	9
Bamber Bridge	12
Barton	15
Bilsborrow	19
Bretherton	22
Brindle	26
Brinscall / Withnell	30
Broughton	33
Charnock Richard	37
Chorley	41
Clayton Brook/Green	45
Clayton-le-Woods	48
Coppull	51
Coupe Green	54
Croston	58
Eccleston	61
Euxton/Buckshaw Village	65
Gib Lane	69
Goosnargh/Whittingham	72
Great Knowley	76
Gregson Lane	79
Grimsargh	83
Heath Charnock	87
Higher Walton	90
Higher Wheelton	94
Hoghton	98

Open Land Designations Study	3
------------------------------	---

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

Horwich	102
Hutton	106
Knowley/Little Knowley	110
Lea Town	115
Leyland/Farrington	118
Longridge	122
Longton	125
Lostock Hall	129
Mawdesley	133
Mellor Brook	137
Much Hoole	140
New Longton	144
Penworthan	147
Preston	151
Rufford	158
Samlesbury	161
Tarleton with Hesketh Bank	165
Walmer Bridge	169
Walton-le-Dale	173
Wheelton	177
Withnell Fold	181
Whittle-le-Woods	184
Woodplumpton	188

Appendix B

Settlement setting assessment

Abbey Village



Abbey Village

-  Central Lancashire boundary
- Absolute constraints**
 -  Site of Special Scientific Interest
 -  Ancient Woodland
 -  Open access land (CRoW Act)
- Other constraints**
 -  Biological Heritage Site
 -  Local Nature Reserve
 -  Conservation Area
 -  Public Right of Way
 -  Grade II* Listed building
 -  Grade II Listed building



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Abbey Village is located north-east of Chorley on Bolton Road (A675) between Preston and Bolton. The historic settlement pattern comprised linear development along Bolton Road with some industrial development (Abbey Mill, now a Grade II listed building) to the west of this. The historic linear development form has been largely retained, albeit with a small area of residential development added to the north of Abbey Mill in the late 20th century. Some of the earlier built form along Bolton Road survives, and this area is designated as Abbey Village Conservation Area; however, the village contains no listed buildings.

The Goit, a canal used to transport drinking water from the Rake Brook and Lower Roddlesworth reservoirs to the east, has constrained development to the south. The disused railway cutting, now the Withnell Local Nature Reserve, has also constrained the settlement to the north-west.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The West Pennine Moors, including Withnell Moor and Darwen Moor (SSSI and CROW Open Access Land)) forms a dramatic backdrop to views to the south and south-east, although from parts of the main Bolton Road views to the moors are more limited due to intervening buildings and woodland. Withnell Moor and woodland on the foothills also forms a backdrop in views towards the village from the north, including on the approach along Bolton Road. This, along with the open farmland around the village provides a rural setting to Abbey Village. There are also longer views back towards Abbey Village from the higher ground, including Norcross Brow, within which the Abbey Mill appears prominent in the rolling farmland. The valley of the River Roddlesworth, Roddlesworth and Rake Brook reservoirs, and associated woodland cover (designated as a Biological Heritage Site) provide scenic value to the south and east of Abbey Village.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

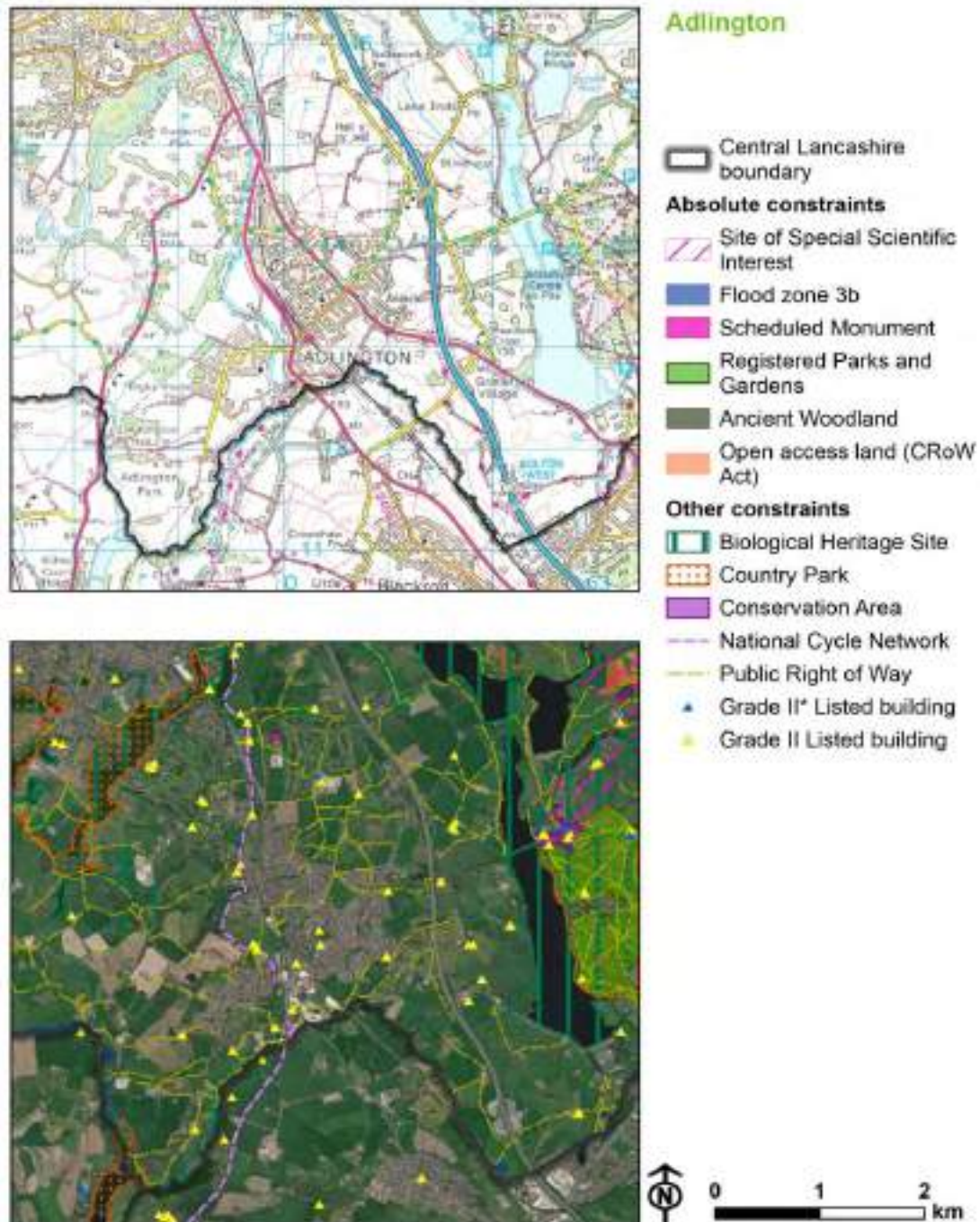
The Withnell Local Nature Reserve, which is formed of a former railway cutting, provides wooded access between Abbey Village and Withnell to the west. A series of Public Rights of Way, including the Witton Weavers Way long distance path link the village with the surrounding landscape (including beyond the Central Lancashire boundary). The valley of the River Roddlesworth, including the two reservoirs, provide recreational value to the south and east of Abbey Village.

Conclusion on level of contribution

The landscape setting makes a **particularly important** contribution to the character of Abbey Village. Key areas/ elements are:

- The surrounding open agricultural land, which provides a rural setting to the village.
- Withnell Moor and Darwen Moor to the south and south-east provide a dramatic backdrop to Abbey Village.
- Views towards the settlement from the higher ground to the south and south-west, within which the Abbey Mill appears prominent in the rolling farmland.
- Recreational value provided by the Withnell Local Nature Reserve, Witton Weavers Way, reservoirs and other public rights of way.

Adlington



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Adlington is a village located to the south of Chorley. The village was located where two roads meet – that from Manchester via Blackrod to Chorley and Preston (Bolton Road and Chorley Road); and that from Wigan to Rivington (Market Street, Railway Road and Babylon Lane). The settlement grew with the arrival of the cotton and coal mining industries in the 19th century, as well as the construction of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the railway from Bolton to Preston which both run through the village. In this period ribbon development was introduced along roads, with concentrations around Market Street and Adlington Station, and around the junction of Railway Road, Chorley Road, Bolton Road and Babylon Lane. Suburban residential development was later introduced in the 20th century, which has altered the historic settlement form. This is particularly the case for development in the Anderton area to the north and north-east of the village, which has effectively merged with Heath Charnock to the north; the only notable feature between the two settlements is the Eller Brook.

Development has been constrained to the south by the River Douglas and its associated valley form. In addition, development has been constrained by several historic parklands associated with now demolished halls: to the south-west by Adlington Park (associated with Adlington Hall), to the north-west by Ellerbeck Park (associated with Ellerbeck Hall), and to the north-west by Anderton Park (associated with Anderton Hall).

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

There are generally views from the settlement edge across adjacent agricultural land, which provides some sense of rurality. This is particularly the case to the south and west, with views across the open land adjacent to the River Douglas and Leeds and Liverpool Canal; and to the north-west and south-west where

the remnant parklands and their associated woodlands provide scenic value adjacent to the village. The West Pennine Moors are also visible in the distance to the east from certain areas of the settlement, including parts of Park Road and Sutton Lane. This provides a visual backdrop to the village from these locations, whilst from others intervening built form restricts the visual relationship.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

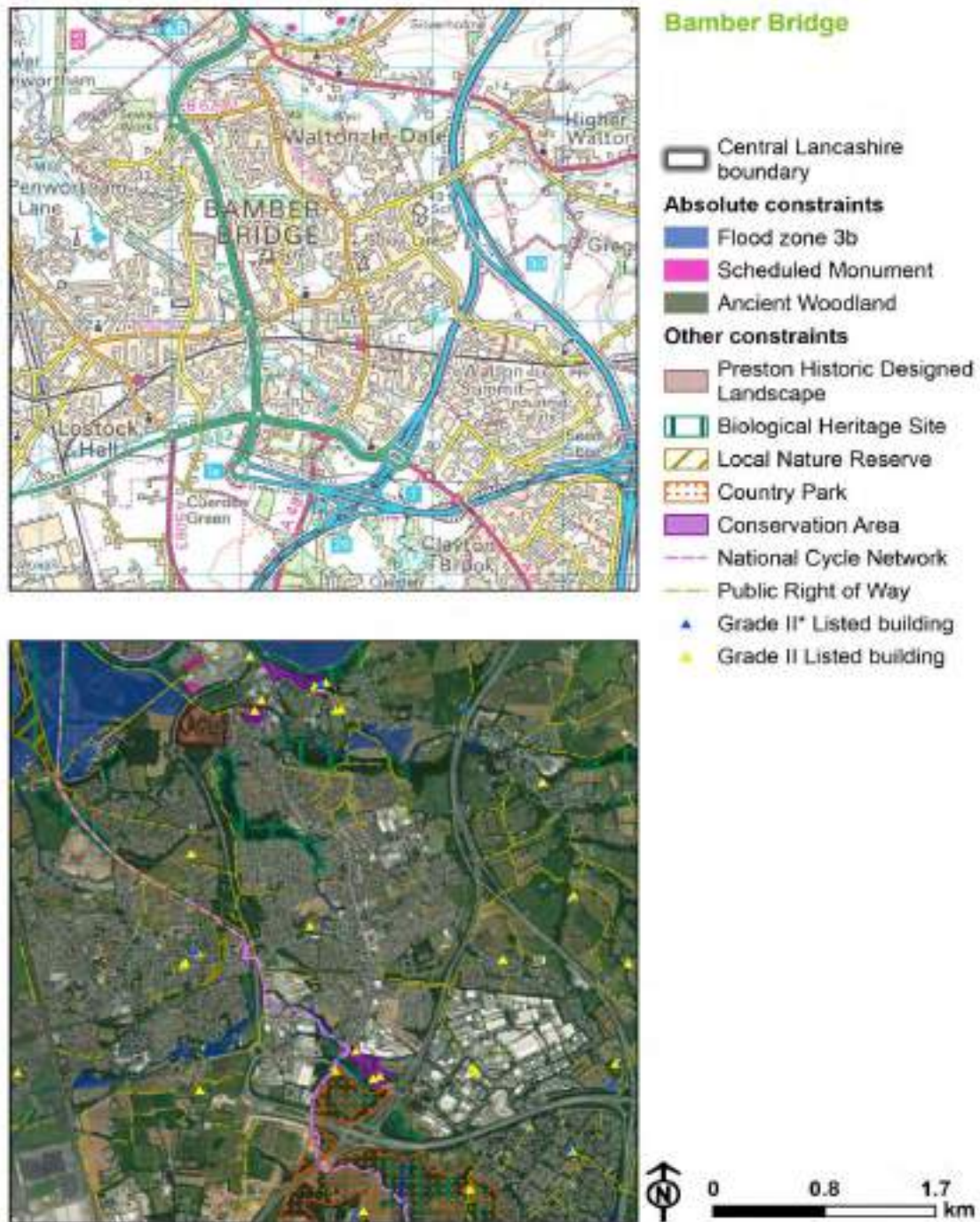
Whilst there is limited intervisibility between the village and the core of the adjacent remnant parklands, footpaths and bridleways provide direct access, allowing these landscapes to be appreciated. These routes are part of a wider network of Public Rights of Way around Adlington, including the Rotary Way promoted route and footpaths along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the River Douglas.

Conclusion on level of contribution

The landscape setting makes a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of the settlement. Key areas/ elements are:

- The wooded course of the River Douglas, which has constrained development to the south and provides some scenic value.
- Views across adjacent agricultural land, including the remnant historic parklands at Adlington Park and Ellerbeck Park, which provides an open rural landscape setting and some scenic value adjacent to the village.
- Distant views to the West Pennine Moors, which provides a visual backdrop from some areas of the village.
- The wider network of Public Rights of Way around Adlington, including the Rotary Way promoted route and footpaths along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the River Douglas, which provide access to the surrounding landscape.

Bamber Bridge



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Bamber Bridge is located to the north-east of Leyland and forms part of the South Ribble Urban Area (as defined within the South Ribble Local Plan, 2015). The original settlement formed from an accumulation of hamlets along the Preston to Wigan Road (Station Road). One area of early development was sited to the north of the River Lostock, and is marked by Church Road Conservation Area today. The settlement has subsequently expanded substantially, with ribbon development along Station Road in the 19th century followed by the introduction of extensive suburban residential estates in the 20th century. This outward expansion of the settlement has dwarfed the historic areas and has resulted in there being little physical distinction between Bamber Bridge and adjacent settlements, including Walton-le-Dale to north, Lostock Hall to the west and Walton Summit to the south-east.

The River Lostock valley and an historic parkland associated with Cuerden Hall (now designated as Cuerden Valley Country Park) historically constrained settlement growth to the south. Elsewhere, the settlement was not constrained by the landscape, reflected in its outward expansion. However, today modern road infrastructure generally dominates the edges Bamber Bridge and constrains further settlement expansion (the M6 and M61 slip roads to the east; and the A6 the south and west).

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The wider surrounding landscape comprises low-lying agricultural land and therefore does not provide a backdrop to the settlement. The visual relationship with the surrounding landscape is further restricted by the modern road infrastructure and its associated planting on the settlement edge. However, the River Lostock and Cuerden Valley Country Park to the south provide scenic value, including an important wooded visual setting to historic parts of the

settlement. Church Road Conservation Area Appraisal (2013) notes that Church Road Park (part of Cuerden Valley Country Park) provides a wooded setting in views of St. Saviour's Church and an attractive densely wooded backdrop to Church Road.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

Much of the wider surrounding landscape is identified as ancient enclosure (pre-AD1600) within the Lancashire HLC (2002) and therefore displays some time-depth. However, this makes little to no contribution to the settlement's character, which is for the most part dominated by later 20th century suburban residential development. Cuerden Valley Country Park provides an important recreational resource to the south of Bamber Bridge. The park also contains a number of Public Rights of Way and a National Cycle Network route 55 which provide access to the landscape and the wider setting to be appreciated.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of limited parts of Bamber Bridge to the south. The key areas/elements are:

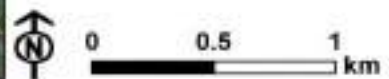
- The River Lostock and Cuerden Valley Country Park, which adjoin the settlement to the south and provide recreational and scenic value, including an important wooded visual setting to historic parts of the settlement at Church Road Conservation Area .

Barton



Barton

-  Central Lancashire boundary
- Other constraints**
-  Preston Historic Designed Landscape
-  Biological Heritage Site
-  Local Nature Reserve
-  Public Right of Way
-  Grade II* Listed building
-  Grade II Listed building



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Barton is a village located to the north of Preston City on the boundary of Preston District and Wyre District; only land to the east and south of the settlement falls within the Central Lancashire Area. The historic settlement pattern comprised linear development along Garstang Road, to the west of Barton Brook. Some of this early development survives, although the only listed building in the village (other than two milestones) is the Grade II listed Church of St Lawrence. Whilst the village retains its overall linear form, the introduction of residential estates from the mid-20th century through to the early 21st century has altered this. Development to the north-east of the village (south of Jepps Lane) in particular has expanded the village away from Garstang Road. A further area of 20th and 21st century ribbon development to the south of Barton on Garstang Road and Station Lane form an extension to the hamlet of Newsham. Whilst this was historically a separate settlement, it is now physically and perceptually linked to Barton by ribbon development. The signage for Barton is positioned where Garstang Road crosses Barton Brook to the south of Newsham.

The village is set within the context of a key north-south transport corridor that includes Garstang Road (A6), the M6 motorway and the West Coast Main Line railway. This has influenced the linear form of the settlement and, in the case of the railway line, presents an immediate constraint on development to the west. To the east there are no immediate natural development constraints; Barton Brook and its associated floodplain are located over 400m from the settlement edge at its closest point. This has resulted in some expansion of the settlement to the north-east (as described).

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The majority of the eastern settlement edge has a relatively abrupt boundary with the adjacent farmland and is not well integrated by landscape features. This results in a visual relationship between the settlement and the immediate surrounding landscape. In addition, there are some distant views from the settlement towards the Bowland Fells in the distance to the north-east. In contrast to the south-east the settlement edge (Newsham) is well-integrated by Black Fir Wood and vegetation along Barton Brook. This mature vegetation also provides scenic value and helps maintain a sense of rurality by reducing the influence of the M6. This is experienced, along with the adjacent farmland, on approach along Garstang Road from the south. There is a sense of arrival when crossing Cradwell Bridge (over the Barton Brook) to enter the settlement.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The agricultural land to the east and south-east of Barton, between the village and the M6, comprises a number of small-scale fields that are in pastoral use and contain several field ponds. This is identified as 'ancient enclosure' within the Lancashire HLC (2002) and is characteristic of lowland farmland landscapes in the area. This landscape comprises the remnant historic parkland associated with Barton Hall (designated as a 'Preston Historic Designed Landscape') and provides a sense of time-depth. This adds to the rural setting and character, including that experienced in the vicinity of the Church of St Lawrence and on approach along Garstang Road from the south.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Barton. Key areas/ elements are: Barton. Key areas/ elements are:

- The agricultural land and remnant historic parkland associated with Barton Hall to the east and south-east, which provides scenic value, some sense of time-depth and adds to the rural setting and character of the village.
- Black Fir Wood and vegetation along Barton Brook to the south and south-east of the settlement, which provides a well-integrated settlement edge and provides scenic value and helps maintain a sense of rurality.
- A sense of arrival when approaching along Garstang Road from the south to a rural setting experienced on approach along Garstang Road from the south.

Bilsborrow



Bilsborrow

- Central Lancashire boundary
- Other constraints**
- Biological Heritage Site
- Public Right of Way
- Grade II Listed building



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Bilsborrow is a village located to the north of Preston within Wyre District. Only land to the south-east of the settlement falls within the Central Lancashire Area. The historic settlement comprised dispersed development along Garstang Road, Preston Lancaster Road and Bilsborrow Lane predominantly to the south of the River Brock. Built form was concentrated at road junctions and around bridges over the Bull Brook, River Brock and Lancaster Canal. Some of this early development survives, although there are only a few Grade II listed buildings within the settlement. The only notable example being the Methodist Church on Bilsborrow Lane to the south-east. The introduction of small residential estates and a caravan park off Garstang Road during the 20th century has altered the historic dispersed settlement form. The latter development has breached the Lancaster Canal which previously formed a boundary to the east.

The Bacchus Brook (which defines the boundary between Preston District and Wyre District) and its shallow valley forms a natural constraint to development to the south-east, with development along Bilsborrow Lane located to the north of this. The M6 motorway defines the eastern boundary of the settlement today. The West Coast Main Line railway passes through the village, although development extends along Bilsborrow Lane either side of this.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

Despite some perceptual influence of the West Coast Main Line railway and the M6, this landscape plays an important role in providing a rural setting for development of Bilsborrow Lane, including in the vicinity of the Methodist Church. There are numerous breaks in the built development along Bilsborrow Lane which creates a visual relationship between the settlement and the immediate surrounding landscape to the south. In addition, there are some

distant views from the settlement towards the Forest of Bowland fells in the distance to the north-east, which further enhance the wider rural setting of the settlement.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

To the south-east of the settlement the landscape is composed of large scale irregular fields, most of which is identified as 'ancient enclosure' within the Lancashire HLC (2002). Fields are defined by hedgerows, fences and drainage ditches flanked by occasional mature trees. This area is more characteristic of the open, flat coastal plain landscape to the west than the more intricate and enclosed undulating lowland farmland landscape to the east. Whilst the Lancaster Canal is a key feature in the setting of Bilsborrow, it is located to the west of the village outwith the Central Lancashire area.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of landscape setting (within the Central Lancashire Area) of Bilsborrow make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of the village. Key areas/ elements are:

- The containing role of the Bacchus Brook and associated vegetation.
- Open, agricultural land to the south of Bilsborrow Lane, which provides a rural setting to this area of the settlement.
- Long distance views to the Forest of Bowland, which add to the wider rural setting for the settlement.

Bretherton



Bretherton

-  Central Lancashire boundary
- Absolute constraints**
 -  Flood zone 3b
 -  Scheduled Monument
- Other constraints**
 -  Biological Heritage Site
 -  Conservation Area
 -  National Cycle Network
 -  Public Right of Way
 -  Grade II* Listed building
 -  Grade II Listed building



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Bretherton is a small village located to the south-west of Leyland within Chorley District. The village is situated on the edge of the coastal plain landscape, adjacent to lower-lying mossland landscapes located to the south and north-east. The historic settlement was focussed primarily along South Road, with dispersed development along Pompian Brow, North Road and Marl Cop. Subsequent infill development along South Road and Pompian Brow has made these roads the focus of the settlement today. The historic parts of the village are indicated by several Grade II listed buildings, with a particular concentration on South Road to the south (including the Church of St John The Baptist) located within Bretherton Conservation Area.

Development within the village is generally restricted to areas of higher ground that rise very slightly above a surrounding flat, low lying mossland landscape. To the south, west and north-east low-lying areas of mossland restrict development, whilst to the south-east the shallow valley of the Wymott Brook and River Lostock present a similar constraint. To the south-west development is also constrained by the presence of remnant historic parkland associated with Bank Hall (Grade II* listed building). To the north, there are no notable natural or cultural constraints to development, reflected in the introduction of further development along Pompian Brow and North Road.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The surrounding landscape does not provide a backdrop to the settlement, owing to the surrounding low-lying flat topography. However, due to the linear and/or dispersed nature of development, much of the village has direct views across the adjacent farmland, which contributes to an overall rural character. This includes views from key recreational amenities such as Bretherton Playground, Bretherton Cricket Club and the graveyard of the Grade II Church

of St John the Baptist. There are also some distant views available towards the West Pennine Moors to the east. To the south-west, woodland cover along Carr House Lane and within the remnant parkland of Bank Hall tends to restrict views out of the village, although this integrates the settlement edges and provides some scenic and historic value.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The surrounding Land to the north-east and south of the village, comprises a distinctive open, flat, low-lying landscape divided by a geometric pattern of ditches and low hedgerows that is identified as 'post-medieval enclosure' (from moss) within the Lancashire HLC (2002). The reclaimed mosslands landscape character type are a distinctive regional landscape. Bretherton Moss to the north-east is closely associated with the village (as indicated by its name) and therefore plays an important role in its setting. There is an extensive network of Public Rights of Way around the settlement which provides access to the wider landscape and allows the setting of the settlement to be appreciated. In addition, National Cycle Network Route 62 passes directly through the village and connects with the surrounding landscape to the south and north-east.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting of Bretherton make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of the village. Key areas/elements are:

- The proximity of and visual relationship with the distinctive Mossland landscape to the south and north-east, including Bretherton Moss which is closely associated with the village.
- The wooded setting and scenic value provided by the remnant historic parkland and woodland at Bank Hall to the south-west.
- The frequency of views across surrounding adjacent farmland from the settlement, which contributes to an overall rural character.

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- A good network of Public Rights of Way and the National Cycle Network Route 62 which provide access to the wider landscape and allow the rural landscape setting to be appreciated.

Brindle



Brindle

-  Central Lancashire boundary
- Absolute constraints**
-  Ancient Woodland
- Other constraints**
-  Biological Heritage Site
-  Local Nature Reserve
-  Conservation Area
-  Public Right of Way
-  Grade II* Listed building
-  Grade II Listed building



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Brindle is a village located to the east of Clayton Brook/Green within Chorley District. Historically development was located to the north of Slack Brook along Sandy Lane, concentrated around its junctions with Water Street and Smithy Lane. The settlement has retained its clustered form, albeit with the addition of small residential estates in the later 20th century. The village core is designated as a Brindle Conservation Area and contains three Grade II listed buildings, including the Parish Church of St James.

The village is situated on gradually rising land to the north of Slack Brook, occupying the eastern slopes of a small hill (133m AOD) over which Sandy Lane passes. The higher ground to the west has limited historic development; this is the site of an historic cross. Slack Brook has only partially limited development to the south, as some development is found on its southern valley side. Other than that, there are no obvious physical or cultural features which have influenced the form of Brindle.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

From within the village there are glimpsed views of the surrounding landscape between built form and from public spaces (as noted within Brindle Conservation Area Appraisal, October 2010). However, from the edges of the settlement there is a stronger visual relationship with the surrounding landscape, particularly to the south, east and north. Views south are across an undulating, rural landscape, scattered with stone farmsteads. Higher ground to the south (Hough Hill and Top O' Th' Lane) and south-east (Withell Fold) forms a low backdrop. Beyond this to the south-east the West Pennine Moors are visible in the distance, upon which Darwen Tower forms a landmark on the horizon. These views of the wider rural context strongly influence the rural character of the village. To the north-west of the village views are more

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

enclosed owing to rising topography and presence of woodland belts, which tends to reduce the influence of the M6 and M61 motorways despite their proximity . A line of overhead pylons run parallel to the M65 north of the village, and these are detracting elements in views to the north.

Views back towards the village are also available from the surrounding landscape, including on approach from the west along Sandy Lane, from the south along Water Street, and from the north-east along Stony Bank (these views are noted as being 'Important Views' in the Brindle Conservation Area Appraisal). Within these views the Parish Church of St James is a notable feature marking the centre of the village.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The compact clustered form of the village creates a strong distinction between the settlement and surrounding landscape, and this heightens the sense of arrival on entering the village. There is a good network lack of Public Rights of Way to the north, east and south of the village, including across the higher ground to the south and south-east. This provides a recreational resource in proximity to the settlement and allows the wider setting to be appreciated.

Conclusion on level of contribution

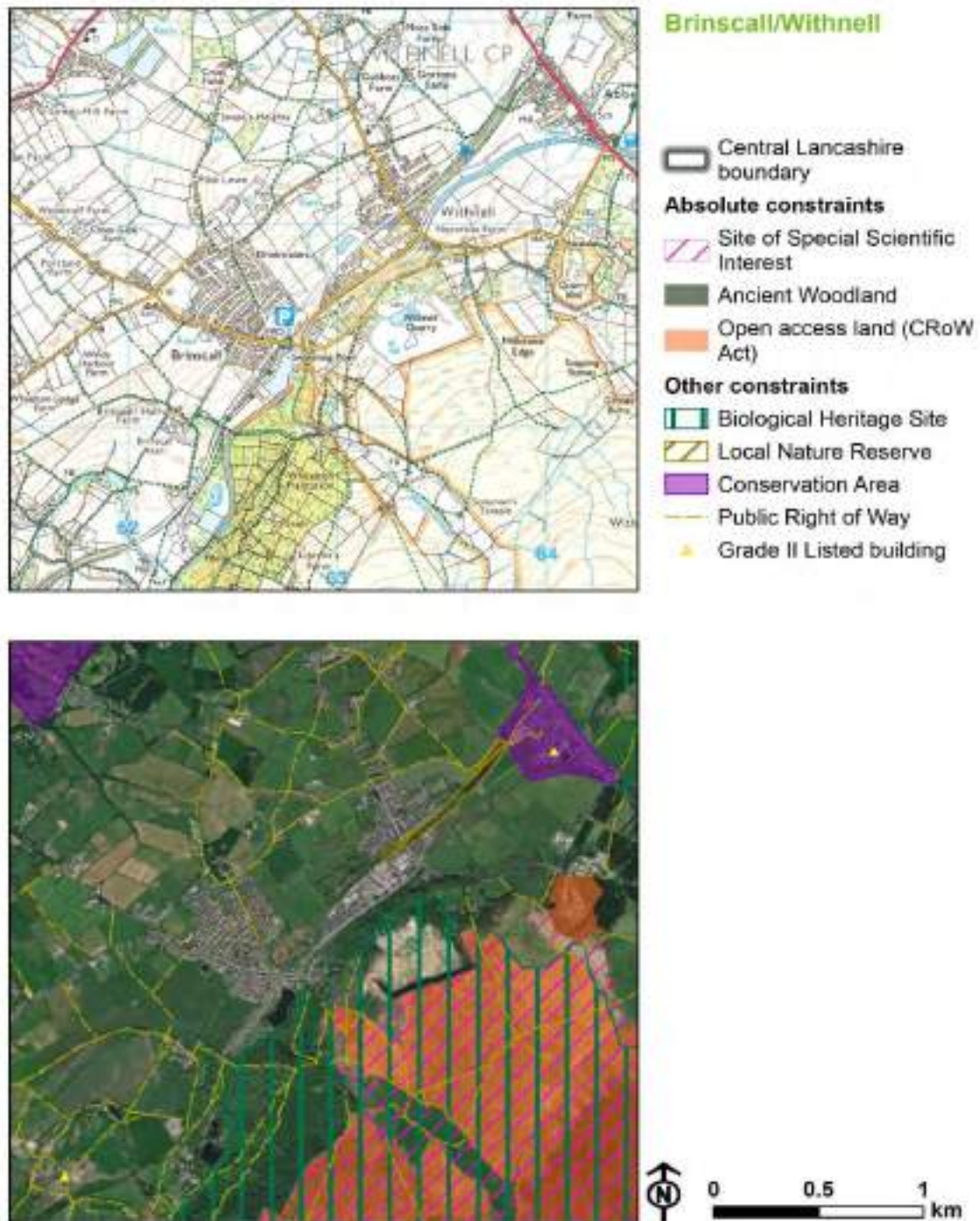
The landscape setting makes a **particularly important** contribution to the character of Brindle. The key areas/elements are:

- Intervisibility between the village and the wider surrounding rural landscape.
- Views towards a low backdrop formed by Hough Hill and Top O' Th' Lane to the south and Withnell Fold to the south-east, with the West Pennine Moors visible in the distance to the south-east.

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- Views back towards the village from the surrounding landscape, including on approach from the west along Sandy Lane, from the south along Water Street, and from the north-east along Stony Bank.
- The compact clustered form of the village creates a strong distinction between the settlement and surrounding landscape and heightens the sense of arrival on entering the village.

Brinscall / Withnell



Influence of landscape on settlement form

The villages of Brinscall and Withnell were originally small farming communities, but grew in the 19th century with the arrival of the cotton industry and the operation of nearby Withnell Quarry. In the 19th century development in Brinscall was concentrated along School Lane and that in Withnell along Bury Lane. However, the early linear form of both settlements has been altered by the introduction of 20th century residential estates. The two separate settlements are also now connected by residential and industrial development along Railway Road (originally focussed along a now dismantled railway line). Neither settlement contains any listed buildings or other heritage designations.

The villages are located within the West Pennine Foothills, on the transitional slopes leading to the West Pennine Fringe and the West Pennine Moors, which lie to the south and south-east. The steeply rising topography of the moorland fringe and West Pennine moors has constrained development in these directions. Much of moorland and moorland fringe is designated as Open Access Land (CRoW), SSSI and a Biological Heritage Site; and Wheelton Plantation is identified as priority habitat deciduous woodland.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

Withnell Moor, part of the West Pennine Moors, has a strong visual connection with Withnell and Brinscall. This forms a dramatic backdrop to views south and south-east from the settlements. Views are also available back down towards the settlements from the moorland and moorland fringe. The landscape to the north, west and east of Brinscall and Withnell is lower-lying and gently rolling, comprising agricultural land with scattered areas of woodland. There are some views out from the settlement across this lower lying ground, towards the Forest of Bowland Fells in the distance. This provides a rural setting to the villages. The settlement edge along Railway Road, which connects the two settlements, and Lodge Bank (Brinscall) are well contained by the steeply rising topography

and Wheelton Plantation. . This provides a strong sense of enclosure to the south-eastern edge of the settlement.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

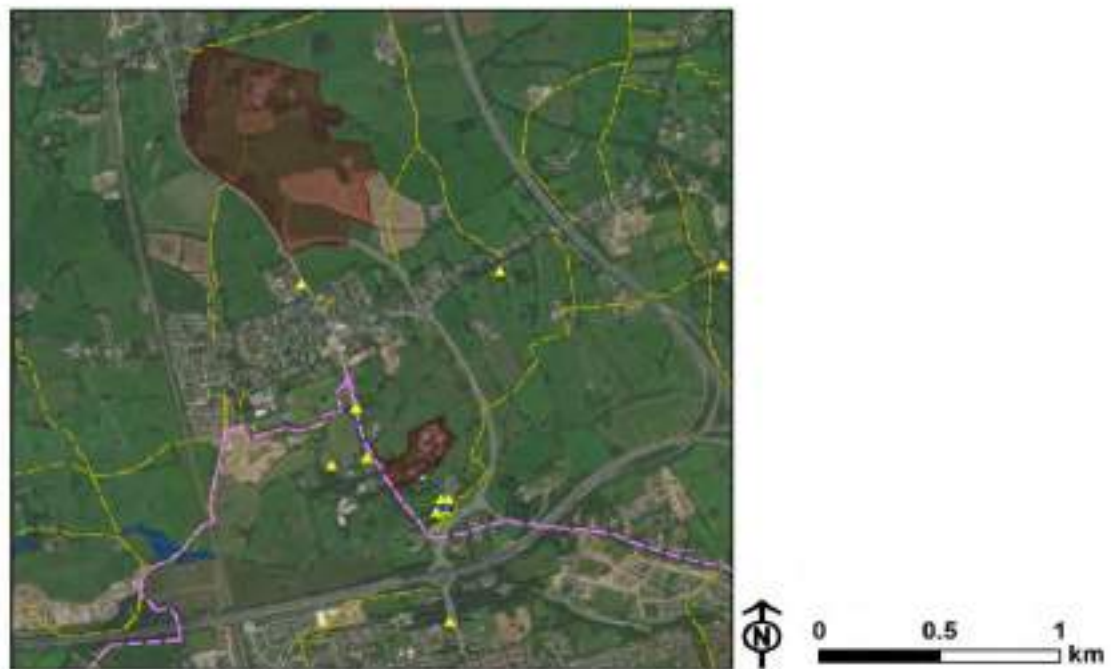
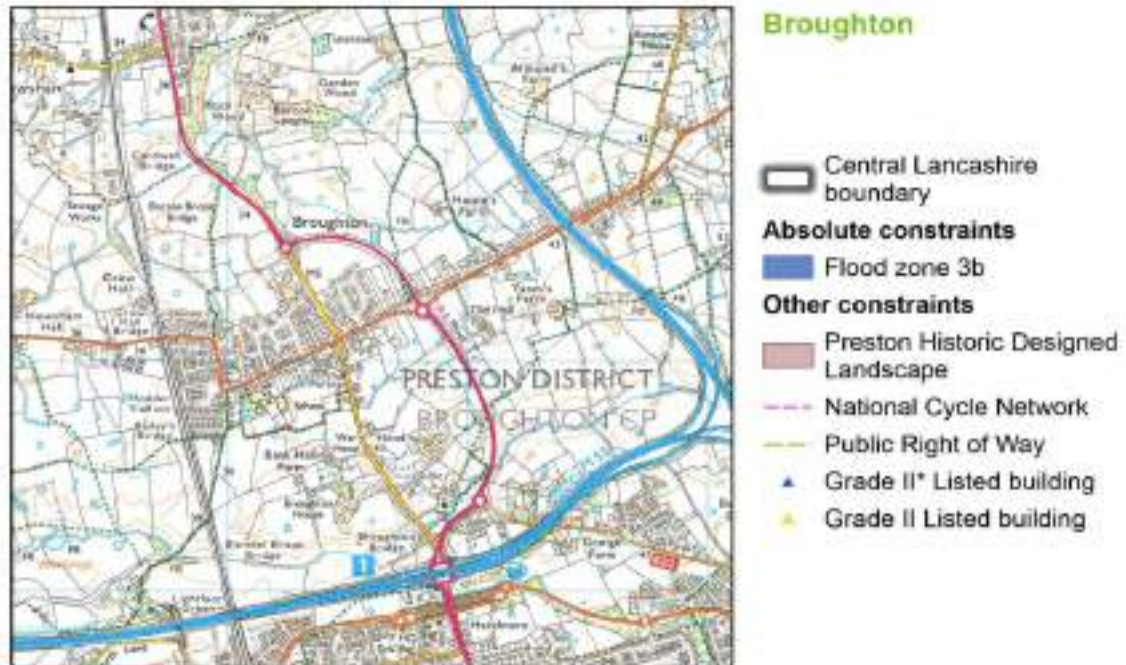
There is an extensive public rights of way network leading from Brinscall and Withnell up to the nearby moorland, which is designated as an area of Open Access Land (CRoW). This provides an important recreational resource and allows the setting of the settlements to be appreciated. The landscape to the south-west of Brinscall is identified as 'ancient enclosure' within the Lancashire HLC (2002). This comprises an irregular medium and large-scale field pattern that displays some sense of time-depth.

Conclusion on level of contribution

The landscape setting makes a **particularly important** contribution to the character of Brinscall/Withnell . Key areas/elements are:

- The containing role of the rising moorland fringes to the south and south-east.
- The scenic value and dramatic backdrop to views from the villages provided by the West Pennine Moors and the moorland fringe.
- The scenic value of Wheelton Plantation, and enclosure it provides to Railway Road and Lodge Bank.
- The rural setting provided by the gently rolling agricultural landscape to the north, east and west; views are available across this lower-lying land towards the Forest of Bowland Fells in the distance.

Broughton



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Broughton is a village located to the north of Preston within Preston District. The historic settlement pattern comprised dispersed development along Garstang Road to the south, and more concentrated development around the junction of Garstang Road and Whittingham Lane/Woodplumpton Lane (B5269) to the north. The south of the settlement was dominated by three stately homes and their associated parklands: Broughton House, Broughton Park and Brooklands. This historic part of the village is indicated today by the listing of several of these buildings, including the Grade II* Parish Church of St John The Baptist. Subsequent 20th century residential development has focussed to the north of the settlement, along the east-west axis of Whittingham Lane/Woodplumpton Lane (the B5269), and this forms the main area/centre of the village today. This later more dense development contrasts strongly with the dispersed development to the south and has dwarfed the historic parts of the settlement, altering the settlement form substantially.

Blundel Brook has historically constrained development to the south of Broughton, forming a natural boundary to the settlement. The historic parkland associated with Broughton Park (now designated as a Preston Historic Designed landscape) has also constrained development to the south. To the north, land falls gradually towards the shallow valley of Dean Brook and Barton Brook which constrains development in this direction. To the north-west the landscape around Barton Hall is also designated as a Preston Historic Designed landscape. Development is also constrained to the west by the West Coast Main Line railway, however to the east, despite the presence of the M6 motorway, there is a long continuous stretch of ribbon development, extending as far as Dean Brook.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The dispersed development to the south is set within a context of agricultural fields and well-wooded remnant historic parkland. The historic parkland landscapes and the valley of the Blundel Brook feature a high proportion of mature trees, which creates a strong landscape structure and sense of enclosure. This tends to reduce the visual relationship with the surrounding landscape from this area. However, the M55, A6 and M6 are visible in places and this detracts somewhat from a sense of rural character in places.

The majority of the more dense areas of development to the north of Broughton have a relatively abrupt boundary with the adjacent farmland and are not well integrated by landscape features. This relatively open aspect results in a visual relationship between the settlement and the immediate surrounding landscape, although this makes a limited contribution to the character of this area of the settlement. Additionally, the presence of the A6 (including James Towers Way) and M6 in these views detracts somewhat from rural character.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

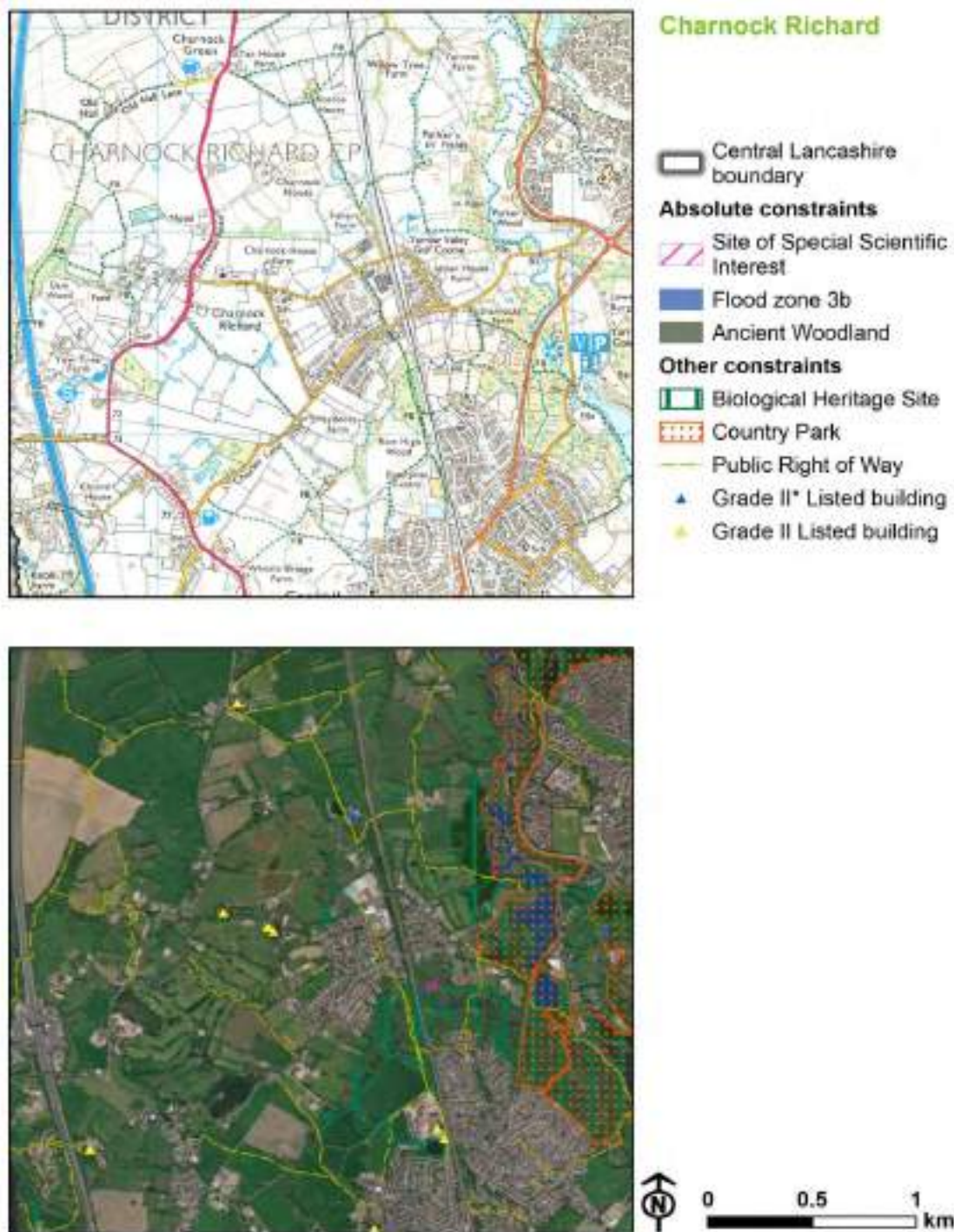
The area to the east of Church Lane and Broughton Park has been identified as 'ancient enclosure' within the Lancashire HLC (2002). The small scale field pattern and scattered ponds here is characteristic of the Fylde landscape, providing a sense of distinctiveness. This creates a rural landscape setting which makes a strong contribution to the character of the settlement here. This rural setting to the historic parts of the settlement, including the cluster of listed buildings on Church Lane and Broughton Park, is also experienced when approaching the settlement along a PRow that follows Blundel Brook from the east and along Garstang Road from the south.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of limited parts of Broughton. Key elements for the latter location include:

- Blundel Brook, which constrains development to the south.
- The rural landscape setting of agricultural fields and well-wooded historic parkland which surrounds the historic parts of the settlement to the south.

Charnock Richard



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Charnock Richard is a small village located to the south-west of Chorley within Chorley District. The early settlement form comprised dispersed development along Church Lane, Charter Lane and Chorley Lane to the west of the River Yarrow. Suburban residential development was gradually introduced over the course of the 20th century either side of the West Coast Main Line (which passes through the centre of the village), resulting in the clustered settlement form evident today. Development is today predominantly contained within Chorley Lane, Charter Lane and Church Lane. The relatively late development of the settlement is reflected in there being few heritage designations, limited to three Grade II listed buildings on Church Road to the north-west (including the Christ Church and Charnock Richard School).

Historically, development in Charnock Richard was generally unconstrained by land to the north and west, which comprises relatively flat open agricultural land. However, the natural topography of the River Yarrow Valley to the east and a Clancutt Brook valley to the south has constrained development to some extent in these directions. The latter provides a clear sense of separation between Charnock Richard and Coppull to the south. Today, development in the east is further constrained by the Yarrow Valley Golf Course and to the south by the presence of Charnock Richard Pasture SSSI.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The Yarrow Valley Country Park and the valley of the Clancutt Brook form a wooded setting to the east and south of the settlement. Whilst this does not play a strong role in defining the character of the immediately adjacent area of Charnock Richard, which largely comprises later 20th century residential housing of sub-urban character, it does provide some scenic value. Much of these areas is designated as Biological Heritage Sites and Parker's Wood to the

east is identified as Ancient Woodland. Due to the relatively flat topography to the north and west, intervisibility between the landscape and settlement is mostly appreciated from the edges of the settlement. From these locations views are available across open agricultural land, albeit with longer range views generally limited by dense hedgerow belts and vegetation. There are also distant views to the West Pennine Moors from certain parts of the settlement, and when approaching from the south-east along Chorley Lane they form a distant backdrop to views.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The majority of the wider landscape surrounding Charnock Richard is identified as 'ancient enclosure' (pre AD 1600) within the Lancashire HLC (2002), and there are areas of Ancient Woodland within the River Yarrow Valley to the east. This creates a sense of time depth within the landscape and enhances the wider rural setting of the village. There is only a limited network of Public Rights of Way around the village, but the Yarrow Valley Country Park provides an important recreational resource to the east. These features provide direct access between the village and the surrounding landscape and allows its rural setting to be appreciated and enjoyed. The rural setting is also experienced on approach to the village, including from the east along Dob Brow, from the south-west along Chorley Lane and from the north-west along Preston Road and Church Lane. On the approach from the north-west the Grade II listed Christ Church is a landmark on the north-western edge of the village.

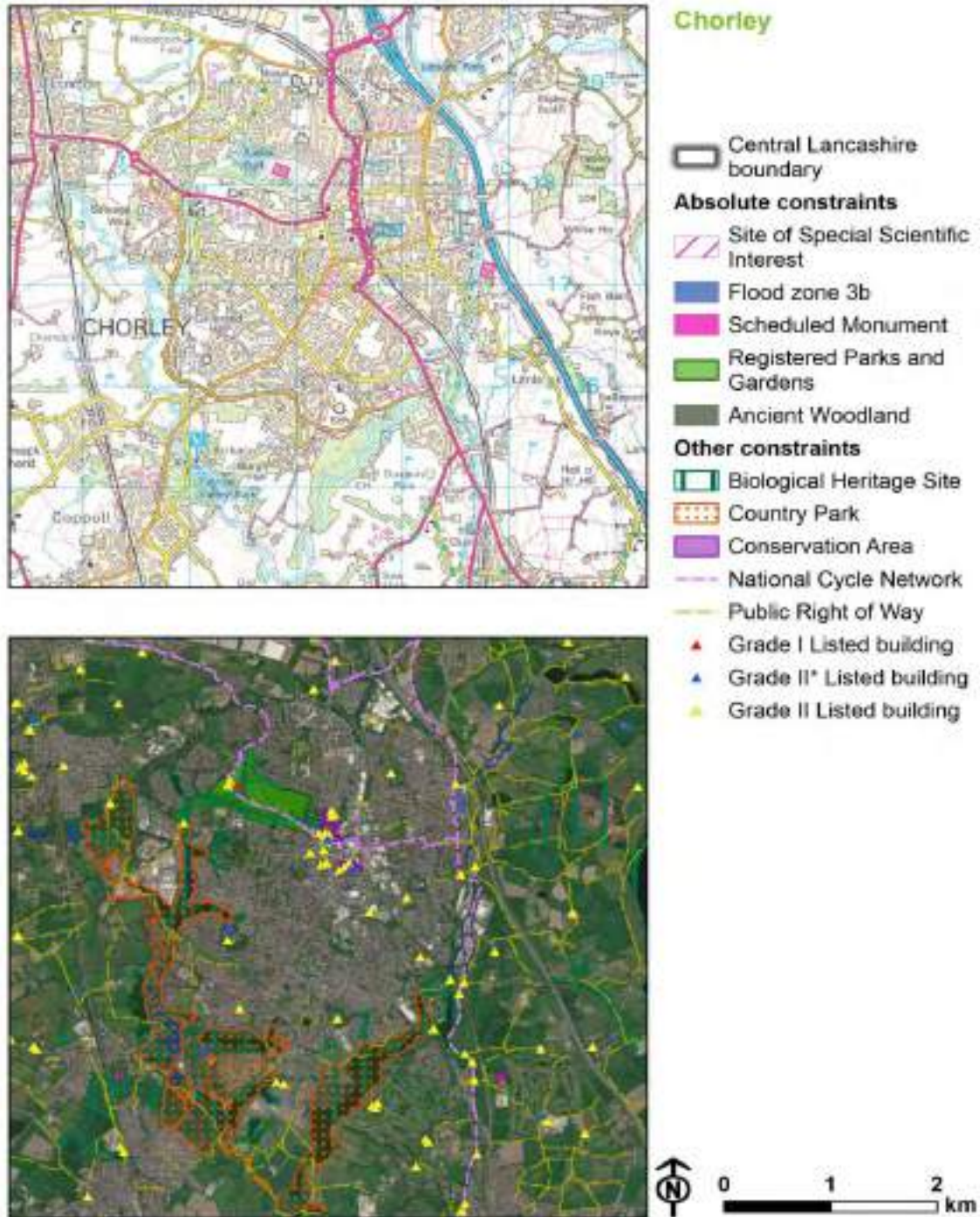
Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Charnock Richard. The key areas/elements are:

- The Yarrow Valley Country Park to the east, which provides a wooded setting and scenic and recreational value.
- Clancutt Brook valley, which provides a wooded setting to the south.

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- The rural setting and views across open farmland, including towards the more historic parts of the village, as experienced on approach from the north-west.

Chorley



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Chorley is a town within Chorley District to the south-east of the Central Lancashire Area. Historic development was concentrated mainly along Market Street. This area now contains St Laurence's Conservation Area and St George's Conservation Area and several listed buildings, including the Grade II* Church of St Laurence and Grade II* Church of St George. Chorley expanded substantially in the 19th century following the arrival of the cotton industry, with growth particularly southwards along Pall Mall and Bolton Street. This was followed in the 20th century by the introduction of suburban residential estates on the edge of the town, which resulted in the town's outward expansion. This has altered the historic settlement form and has dwarfed the historic core.

Historically development was constrained to the south-west and west by the presence of historic parklands associated with Gillibrand Hall (Grade II* listed building) and Astley Hall (Grade I listed building) respectively. Astley Hall (Astley Park) is today designated as a Grade II RPG but has been largely surrounded by later development (including that at Astley Village to the north-west); and Gillibrand Park has been developed, albeit with remnant woodland retained in places. The settlement has expanded as far as the wooded valley of the River Yarrow to the south and west, which constrains further development in these directions. Much of the woodland along the river is identified as Ancient Woodland and is designated as a Biological Heritage Site, and to the west and south-west land forms part of the Yarrow Valley Country Park. South of the River Yarrow, Duxbury Hall and its associated parkland present a further constraint to development. The settlement has expanded as far as the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the M61, which today largely define the eastern edge of Chorley; and transport infrastructure – the A6 and the Euxton to Adlington railway - defines the northern edge of the settlement. Beyond this to the north a limited area of open land maintains Chorley's distinction from Whittle-le-Woods.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

Chorley is located within the industrial foothills and valleys to the west of the West Pennine Moors. There is a visual connection with the upland moorland areas to the east, particularly from the eastern edge of the settlement. The settlement is overlooked by Healey Nab, a hill that forms part of the foothills of the West Pennine Moors. Views are also available down towards Chorley from Healey Nab which allows the wider setting of the town within the industrial valleys to be appreciated. To the south and west woodland cover along the River Yarrow (including Ancient Woodland) creates a sense of scenic value by providing a wooded backdrop to views out of the town. This also tends to restrict inter-visibility between the settlement and the surrounding landscape.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

Much of the landscape surrounding Chorley is identified as 'ancient enclosure' (pre-AD1600) within the Lancashire the HLC (2002). The sense of time-depth and historic character this provides is enhanced by the presence of Astley Hall RPG and remnant historic parkland and parkland features at Duxbury Hall and Gillibrand Hall. The wooded River Chor links Astley Hall RPG with the wider landscape in the Yarrow Valley Country Park, enhancing the contribution of the landscape to the settlement character in this part of Chorley.

Conclusion on level of contribution

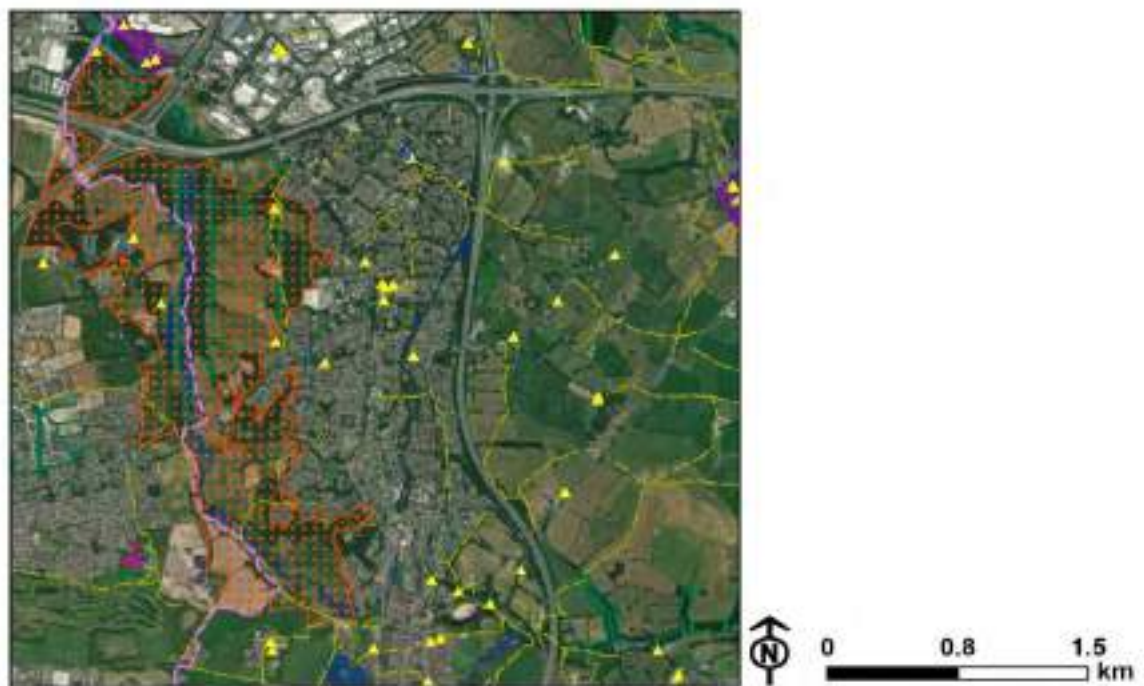
Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Chorley. Key areas/ elements are:

- Visual connection with the West Pennine Moors to the east, in particular with Healey Nab which overlooks the town.

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- Astley Hall (Astley Park) to the west, which has constrained the settlement form and provides scenic and recreational value and a sense of time-depth.
- Yarrow Valley Country Park to the south-west and west, which provides scenic value and recreational value.
- The wooded course of the River Yarrow, which provides some scenic value to the south and west.
- The wooded course of the Shaw Brook, which provides some scenic value to the south-east.

Clayton Brook/Green



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Clayton Brook/Green is a village located to the south of Bamber Bridge within Chorley District. Historic settlement was located at Clayton Green, at the junction of Preston Road, Radburn Brow and Sheep Hill Lane. This historic part of the settlement is indicated today by a small cluster of Grade II listed buildings, including the Church of St Bede. The settlement has since been substantially altered with the introduction of extensive areas of 20th century suburban residential development, including the large residential estate at Clayton Brook to the north, which dominates historic parts of the settlement. To the north and south the settlement has no appreciable distinction from the neighbouring settlements of Walton Summit and Whittle-le Woods respectively.

To the west the valley of the River Lostock and an historic parkland associated with Cuerden Hall (now designated as Cuerden Valley Country Park) constrains settlement growth in this direction. The M6 motorway forms the settlement boundary to the east, creating a physical barrier between the settlement and its eastern rural context.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The M61 is elevated on embankment and this, along with dense belts of associated woodland, curtails the visual relationship between the east of the settlement and the landscape to the east. From the higher ground in the centre of the settlement, (in particular from the main street of Preston Road) the M61 is screened from view and there are direct views of the prominent Hough Hill to the east. The wooded nature of Cuerden Valley Country Park generally curtails views to the west. However, the woodland integrates the settlement edge within the landscape and provides scenic value.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

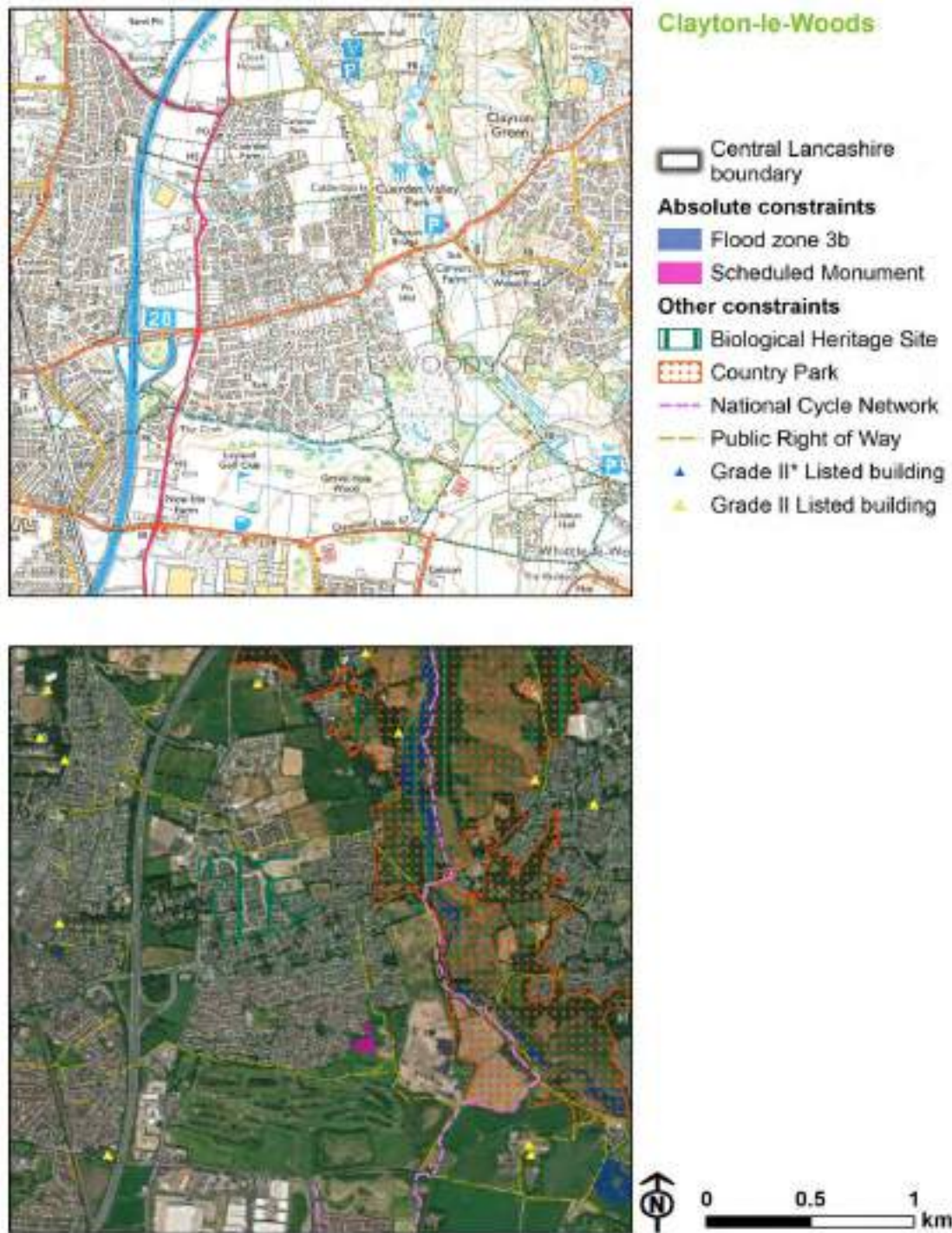
Much of the wider surrounding landscape to the east and west is identified as 'ancient enclosure' (pre-AD1600) within the Lancashire HLC (2002) and therefore displays some time-depth. However, this makes little to no contribution to the settlement's character which is for the most part dominated by later 20th century suburban residential development. Despite the M61 presenting a barrier to the east of the settlement, a limited number of bridges and underpasses connect to the Public Rights of Way network within the adjoining landscape which allows this wider setting to be appreciated. Cuerden Valley Country Park provides a recreational resource in close proximity to the settlement and also contains a number of Public Rights of Way and a National Cycle Network route 55. The park also creates a strong sense of separation between Clayton Green and Clayton-le-Woods to the west, and provides a sense of arrival when approaching from the west along Town Brow/Sheep Hill Lane.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Clayton Brook/Green. Key areas/ elements are:

- The River Lostock valley and Cuerden Valley Country Park, which provide recreational and scenic value, and a sense of arrival from the west.
- The rural landscape to the east, which despite having a limited visual connection with the settlement, provides a some sense of distinctiveness and an important recreational resource in close proximity to the settlement.

Clayton-le-Woods



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Clayton-le-Woods is a large village located to the east of Leyland that straddles Chorley District and South Ribble District. Early development in the area comprised scattered farms and properties along Wigan. From the early to mid-20th century ribbon development was introduced along Wigan Road (A49) and Lancaster lane (B5256), followed by more substantial residential estates in the late 20th and early 21st centuries to the east of Wigan Road and to the north and south of Lancaster Lane. The predominantly late development of the settlement is reflected in it containing no listed buildings or conservation areas; the only heritage designation nearby is the moated site at Clayton Hall (Scheduled Monument) to the south-east, which reflects an earlier dispersed settlement pattern unrelated to that of the modern settlement.

Development within Clayton-le-Woods has extended as far east and north as the historic Cuerden Hall Park (associated with the Grade II* listed Cuerden Hall), which today forms part of Cuerden Valley Country Park. The wooded context of Clayton Hall Scheduled Monument has also constrained development to the south-east. To the west of the settlement the M6 and Junction 28 form a physical barrier that, along with a strip of open farmland, provides a sense of separation between the village and Leyland. Leyland Golf Club adjoins the southern boundary of the settlement and the open fairways and tree belts provide a sense of separation between it and Buckshaw Village

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The surrounding landscape does not provide a backdrop to the settlement, owing to the low-lying flat topography. However, in places woodland cover around the settlement edges provides a wooded backdrop to views and some sense of scenic value. This includes Cuerden Valley Country Park to the east, the wooded context of Clayton Hall to the south-east (including Bluebell Woods), and woodland belts within Leyland Golf Club to the south. However,

this plays a limited role in defining the character of much of the settlement, which comprises later 20th century suburban development.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

To the north-west and east of Clayton-le-Woods, the landscape is identified as 'ancient enclosure' (pre-AD1600) within the Lancashire HLC (2002), creating some sense of time-depth. The Public Rights of Way around Clayton-le-Woods are fairly sparse; those to the west are predominantly within the Cuerden Valley Park, which provides an important recreational resource in proximity to the village.

Conclusion on level of contribution

The landscape setting makes a **limited** contribution to the character of Clayton-le-Brook. However, the following areas/elements provide some landscape value: Key areas/ elements are:

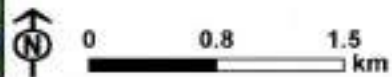
- Cuerden Valley Country Park to the east, which provides scenic and recreational value.
- Clayton Hall Scheduled Monument and its wooded context (including Bluebell Woods) to the south-east, which provides a sense of time-depth and scenic value.

Coppull



Coppull

-  Central Lancashire boundary
- Absolute constraints**
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest
-  Flood zone 3b
-  Ancient Woodland
- Other constraints**
-  Biological Heritage Site
-  Local Nature Reserve
-  Country Park
-  Public Right of Way
-  Grade II* Listed building
-  Grade II Listed building



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Coppull is a village located to the south-west of Chorley within Chorley District. The settlement grew with the arrival of the cotton and coal mining industries. The early settlement pattern was linear, comprising 19th century ribbon development along Spendmore Lane to the west of the River Yarrow. The settlement expanded through the 20th century with the addition of suburban residential development, particularly to the north-east, which has substantially altered the historic settlement form. Whilst some of the early built form survives, the settlement does not contain any conservation areas and contains few listed buildings; the Grade II Church of St John The Divine and Coppull Ring Mill are the only notable examples on the north-western edge of the settlement.

Historically, development was constrained to the west, north-west and north by the presence of the Whittle, Tanyard and Clancutt Brooks. The latter provides a clear sense of separation between Coppull and Charnock Richard to the north. The River Yarrow constrained development to the east and north-east, and today the Yarrow Valley Country Park continues to constrain development in this direction. Development predominantly lies on lower-lying ground to the south of the more elevated Coppull Moor.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The Yarrow Valley Country Park and valley of Clancutt Brook form a wooded setting to the east, north-east and north of the settlement. Whilst this does not play a strong role in defining the character of the immediately adjacent area of Coppull, which comprises later 20th century residential housing of sub-urban character, it does provide some scenic value. To the west and north-west there are views (such as from PRow, Preston Road and Chorley Lane) across open farmland towards the settlement edge of Coppull, within which the Church of St John the Divine and Coppull Ring Mill are visible landmarks on the north-

western edge of the settlement, albeit views are filtered in places by intervening vegetation along the Clancutt and Tanyard Brooks. In these views, as well as views out from the settlement, the West Pennine Moors form a backdrop in the distance to the east; and the rising topography of Coppull Moor forms a low backdrop to the south.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

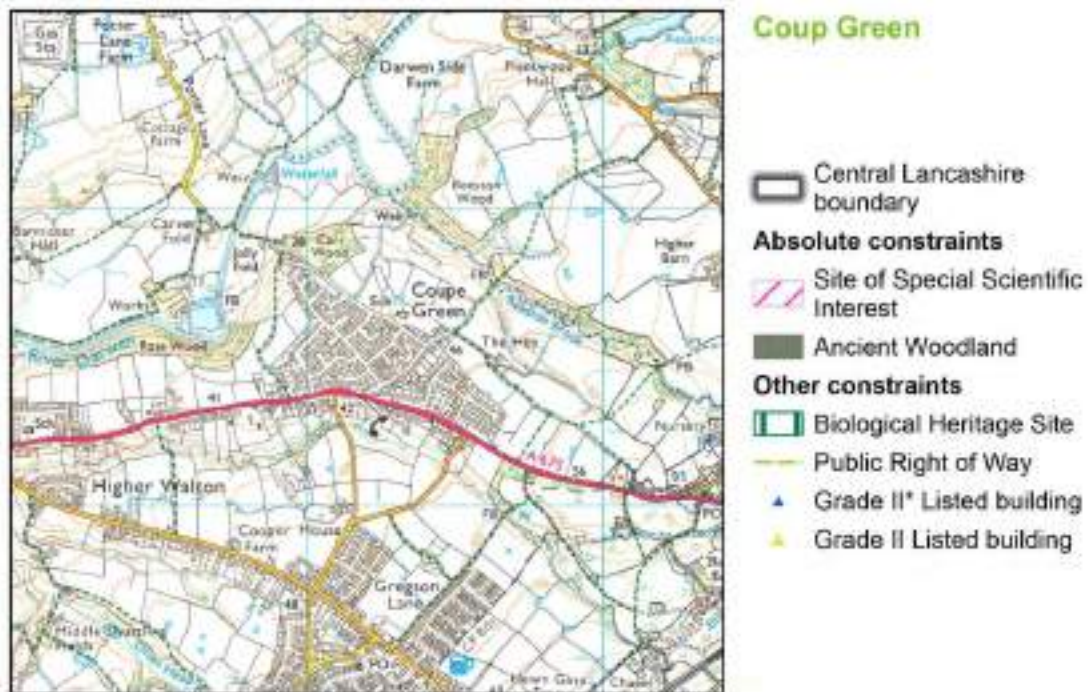
The majority of land immediately surrounding the settlement is identified as 'ancient enclosure' (pre AD 1600) within the Lancashire HLC (2002). This creates a sense of time depth within the landscape and enhances the rural setting of the village. There are a number of Public Rights of Way to the south, west, north-west and south-east of Coppull, and the Yarrow Valley Country Park provides an important recreational resource to the east and north-east. This provides direct access between the village and the surrounding landscape and allows its rural setting to be appreciated. This is also experienced on approach to the village, including from the north-east along New Road and Birkacre Brow, from the north-west along Preston Road, and from the south-east along Chapel Lane.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Coppull. The key areas/elements are:

- The Yarrow Valley Country Park to the east and north-east, which provides a wooded setting and scenic and recreational value.
- Views from the north and the north-west across open farmland around Clancutt and Tanyard Brooks towards the settlement edge of Coppull, marked by the Church of St John the Divine and Coppull Ring Mill. The rising topography of Coppull Moor to the south, which has containing role and some visual relationship with the settlement.
- Distant views to the West Pennine Moors to the east.

Coupe Green



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Coupe Green is a village located to the east of Bamber Bridge within South Ribble District. The historic settlement pattern comprised scattered linear development along Hoghton Lane, Fox Lane and Coupe Green. Some of this early built form survives, albeit the village contains no listed buildings or conservation area designations. The historic settlement form has been altered subsequently by the introduction of residential development between Hoghton Lane and Coupe Green in the mid and late 20th century.

The north and north-west river bluffs rising above the floodplain of the River Darwen have constrained development. The settlement is situated on higher ground between the River Darwen and a series of its tributaries which, along with their floodplains, incised topography and/or associated woodland, have also constrained the settlement's growth. To the south the wooded course of the Black Brook runs parallel to Hoghton Lane and to the north is Beeston Brook. Additionally, Carr, Rass and Beeston Woods along the River Darwen and Beeston Brook are identified as Ancient Woodland, and much of these wooded valleys are designated as a Biological Heritage Sites; and Beeston Brook Pasture south of the Beeston Brook is designated as a SSSI. These features further constrain development. However, there is some scope for expansion to the north of Coupe Green before these constraints are met, as indicated by recent development on Fox Lane.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The well-wooded nature of the surrounding landscape generally integrates the settlement edges and provides scenic value. This also tends to reduce the visual relationship between the settlement and the wider surrounding landscape. However, there are some longer views available across the pastoral valley of the River Darwen to the north-west from the edge of the settlement

(such as from Grange Drive and the Public Right of Way between Carr Wood and Rass Wood). The views across the adjacent agricultural land and towards a wooded backdrop contributes to an overall rural character.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The immediate agricultural land surrounding the settlement is identified as 'ancient enclosure' within the Lancashire HLC (2002). This includes the remnant historic parkland associated with Brindle Lodge (Grade II* listed building) to the east. In conjunction with the Ancient Woodland to the north of Coupe Green, this creates a sense of time-depth within the landscape. The fields and woodland to the north, the wooded Beeston Brook, and a nearby waterfall on the River Darwen in particular create a distinctive landscape setting which enhances the character of Coupe Green.

Coupe Green can be approached from the north via a series Public Rights of Ways which cross the River Darwen and Beeston Brook. Passing through woodland and across these watercourses creates a strong sense of arrival into the settlement. These paths and others to the east provide a means of appreciating the wider landscape setting. Entering Coupe Green along Daub Hall Lane and Bells Lane from the south also involves crossing the Black Brook and passing through a belt of woodland which provide a physical boundary to the settlement and creates a sense of arrival. This also creates a clear sense of separation between Coupe Green and Gregson Lane to south.

Conclusion on level of contribution

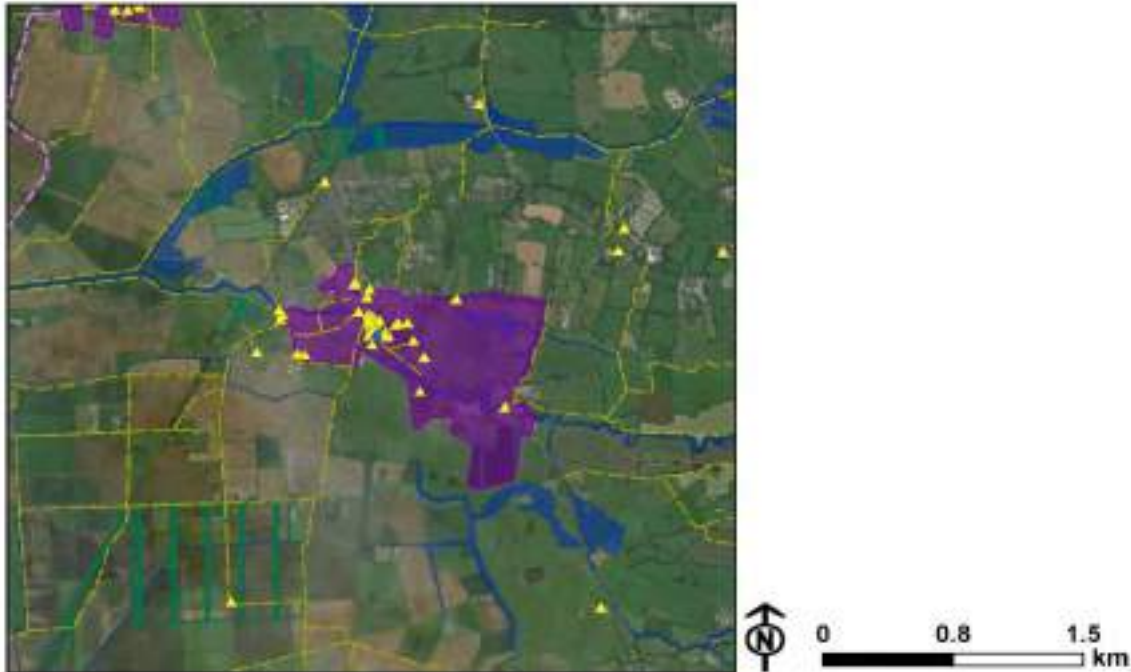
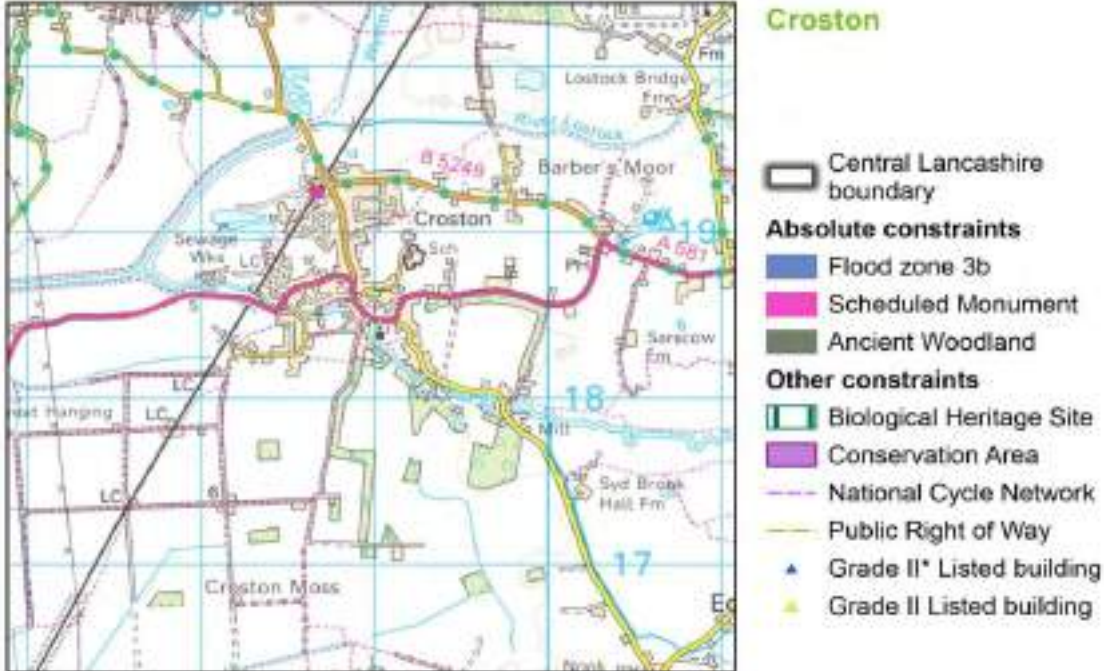
The landscape setting makes a **particularly important** contribution to the character of Coupe Green. The key areas/elements are:

- The surrounding well-wooded agricultural landscape, which provides scenic value and contributes to an overall rural character.

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- The River Darwen and Beeston Brook which have constrained settlement growth, provide scenic value and contribute to a sense of arrival from the north.
- Carr, Rass and Beeston Woods which provide a scenic wooded backdrop to the settlement and contribute to a sense of time-depth within the landscape.
- Black Brook and its associated woodland, which help create a distinction between Coupe Green and Gregson Lane and contribute to a sense of arrival from the south .
- Public Rights of Way to the north, east and west which provide direct access from the settlement and allow an appreciation of the wider landscape setting.
- The landscape of 'ancient enclosure', including the historic parkland of Brindle Lodge, which provides a sense of time depth

Croston



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Croston is a village in the west of Chorley District, which represents an area of historic settlement on the fringes of Croston Moss. The historic settlement pattern comprised clustered development along Town Road adjacent to the River Yarrow and Croston Town Bridge. The historic core is marked by Croston Conservation Area, a Scheduled Monument (Croston Town Bridge) and several Listed Buildings, including the Grade II* Church of St Michael. The historic settlement pattern has been altered by the introduction of 20th century development, including ribbon development along several roads and residential estates to the north (off Station Road and Moor Road) and west (off Westhead Road). To the west, the railway line forms a boundary to this more recent residential development.

The River Yarrow flows through and along the southern edge of the settlement today, and this has influenced the settlement form, with development predominantly located to the north of it. Development has also been constrained to the south-east by North Park/Croston Park, an historic parkland associated with Croston Hall (now demolished).

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The settlement edges to the south and south-east are well integrated by woodland cover, which provides some scenic and historic value. This includes Croston Big Wood (within Croston Park) which is identified as Ancient Woodland. Elsewhere, the settlement edges are less well-integrated and have a more abrupt boundary with the adjacent farmland. This results in some visual relationship between the settlement and the immediate surrounding landscape. Parts of Croston Moss to the south and south-west have a visual relationship with the village's historic core. There are extremely long views across this open

landscape back towards the village, within which the Grade II* Church of St Michael forms a landmark.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

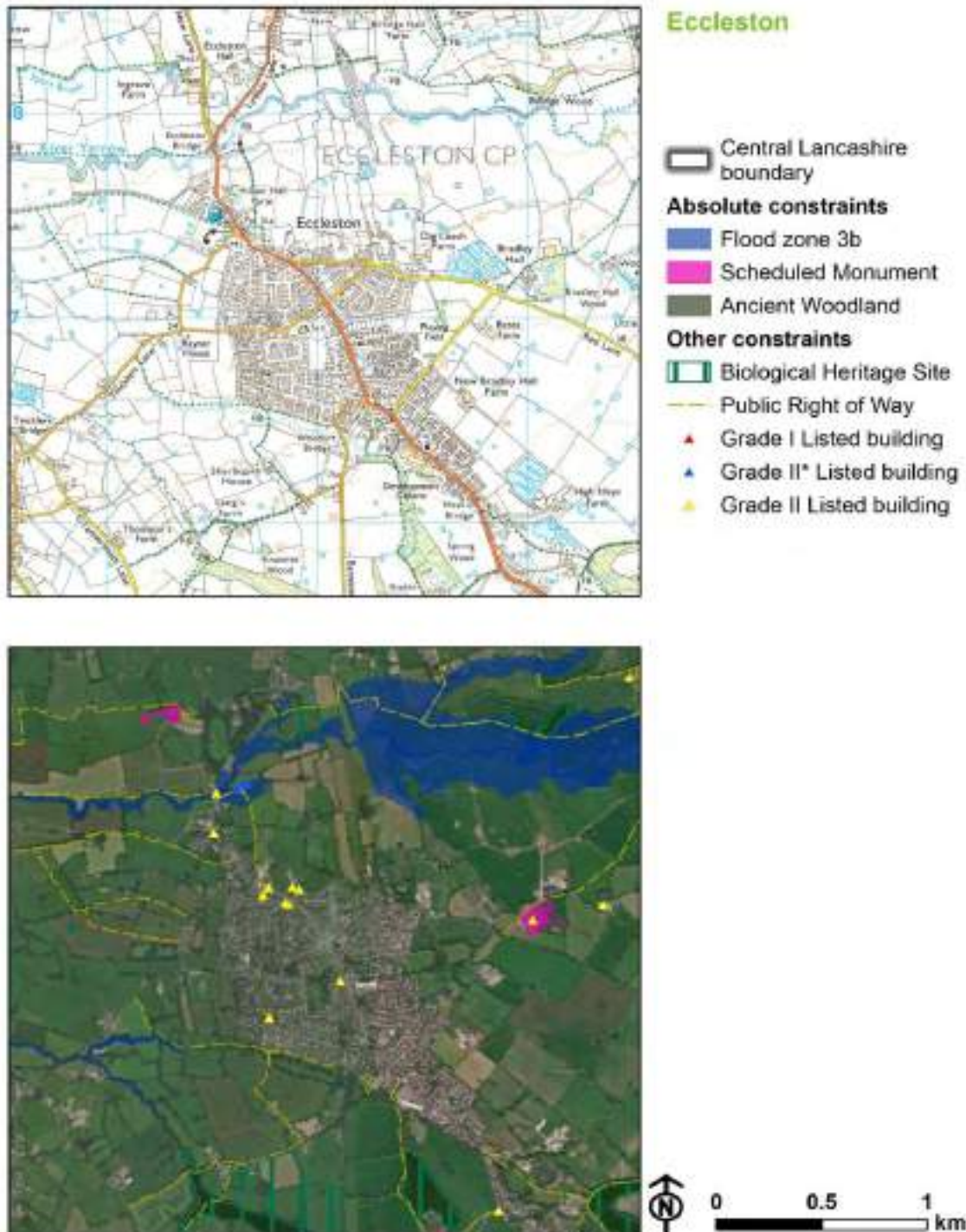
Croston Moss, to the south and south-west of the village, is a distinctive open, flat, low-lying landscape divided by a geometric pattern of ditches and low hedgerows that is identified as 'post-medieval enclosure from moss' within the Lancashire HLC (2002). This landscape is closely associated with the village (as indicated by its name) and therefore plays an important role in its setting. This area features an extensive network of PRow and lanes which provide access to the landscape and allow the setting of the settlement to be appreciated. Including on approach to the village along Moss Lane, Carr Lane and Turflands.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Croston. Key areas/ elements are:

- The containing role of the River Yarrow to the south and south-west of the historic core.
- The scenic and historic value of woodland along the River Yarrow and within North Park/Croston Park to the south and south-east of the historic core.
- Inter-visibility across the open landscape of Croston Moss to the south and south-west of the historic core.

Eccleston



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Eccleston is a village located to the south-west of Chorley District. The early form of the settlement comprised dispersed development along Towngate and Parr Lane, with a small concentration around the junction of the two roads (marked today by a cluster of Grade II listed buildings). The Church of The Blessed Virgin Mary (Grade II* listed building) is located separate from this to the north adjacent to Eccleston Bridge (Grade II listed building) and the River Yarrow. Later ribbon development occurred along Town Gate, Parr Lane and The Green in the 19th century, with that along The Green effectively merging Eccleston with a formerly separate hamlet of Eccleston Green to the south (now considered as part of Eccleston). This was followed in the late 20th century by further suburban residential development to the east and west of Town Gate and The Green.

The River Yarrow flows along the northern edge of the settlement. The river and associated shallow valley have influenced the form of Eccleston, with development located largely to the south of this. The Syd Brook is a similar natural constraint to the south of the village, and beyond this the historic parkland associated with Heskin Hall (Grade I listed building) presented a further historic constraint to development. There are no notable natural or cultural constraints to the east or west, reflected in the fact that the settlement has generally expanded in these directions.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

Mature woodland cover along the Syd Brook integrates the settlement edge to the south and provides scenic value, with views available across the river valley. Beyond the brook to the south the remnant historic parkland of Heskin Hall (Grade I listed building), open farmland and blocks of Ancient Woodland (including Spring Wood and Knowles Wood) are visible, which provides further

scenic and historic value. This is also experienced from an extensive network of PRow to the south. To the north there are views from the settlement edge across the valley of the River Yarrow and towards the Church of The Blessed Virgin Mary, which also provides scenic and historic value. The edges of the settlement to the east and west have a relatively abrupt boundary with the adjacent farmland and are not generally well integrated by landscape features. This results in a visual relationship between the settlement and the immediate surrounding farmland, although this is not important to the character of these later areas of suburban development.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The immediate landscape around Ecclestone is identified as 'ancient enclosure' within the Lancashire HLC (2002). This comprises an irregular small and medium-scale field pattern that displays a strong sense of time-depth. The historic character of the landscape is added to by the presence of a moated site to the east (Bradley Hall) and a manor house (Heskin Hall) and associated parkland to the south. The adjacent farmland provides a strong rural setting to the settlement, in particular the more historic parts to the north. This is experienced on approach to the village along New Lane and Towngate/Lydiat Lane from the north, and along PRow that follow the River Yarrow from the west. There is a strong sense of arrival into the settlement when crossing Ecclestone Bridge from the north, due to the distinctive landform of the river valley and views towards the Church of The Blessed Virgin Mary.

Conclusion on level of contribution

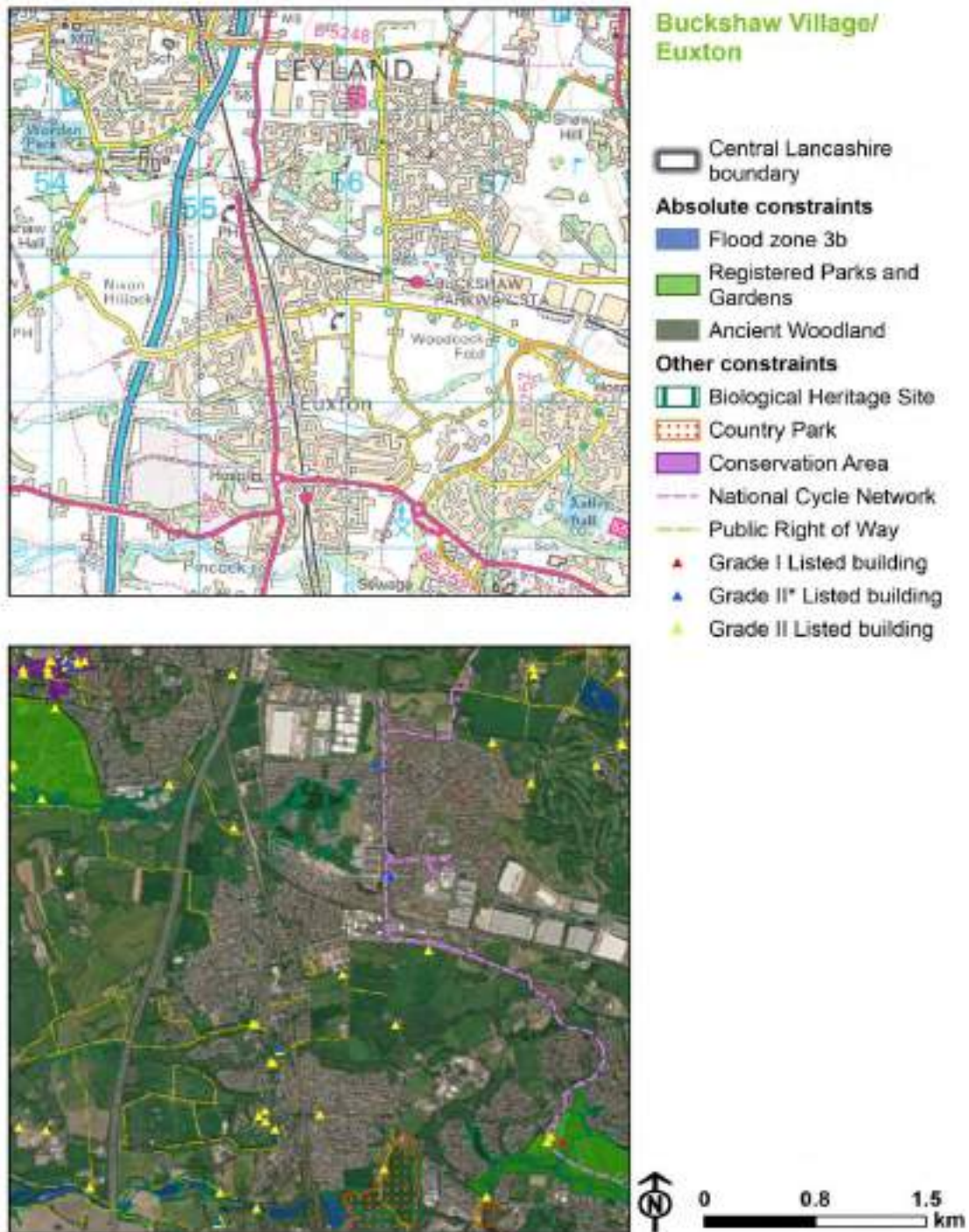
Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Ecclestone. Key areas/ elements are:

- The River Yarrow and associated valley form, which has constrained development and which provides a sense of arrival from the north.

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- Views from settlement edge north across the valley of the River Yarrow and towards the Church of The Blessed Virgin Mary, which provides scenic value.
- The Syd Brook and associated mature woodland, which integrate the settlement edge and provides scenic value to the south.
- Historic parkland, open farmland and ancient woodland to the south of Syd Brook, which provide scenic and historic value.

Euxton/Buckshaw Village



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Euxton is a village located between Chorley and Leyland within Chorley District. The historic settlement pattern comprised development along Wigan Road (A49), with a focus at the crossing point over the River Yarrow to the south and around Chapel Brook further north. These areas are indicated today by small clusters of listed buildings, including the Grade II* Bolton Green Farmhouse and the Grade II* Euxton Parish Church respectively. The settlement expanded substantially in the 20th century with the construction of suburban residential estates to the east off Balshaw Lane and to the north off Runshaw Lane and Euxton Lane. Buckshaw Village is a residential and industrial area located to the north-east of Euxton. This was newly created in the early 21st century on the former site of the Royal Ordnance Factory Chorley.

The River Yarrow and its associated shallow valley form has constrained development to the south of Euxton, with development almost entirely located to the north of this. Part of the river valley is designated as Yarrow Valley Country Park, and this further constrains development to the south-east. Euxton Park, historic parkland associated with the Grade II Euxton Hall, also constrained settlement growth to the west; and Worden Brook and the adjacent Worden Wood and Buckshaw Wood (Nature Reserve and Preston Biological Heritage Site) have partially constrained development to the north of Euxton and south-west of Buckshaw Village. Elsewhere around the settlement, there are no notable natural or cultural constraints in the landscape, resulting in expansion in these directions. This is particularly the case to the north-east, with the development of Buckshaw Village. The M6 lies close to the north-western edge of Euxton and western edge of Buckshaw Village (albeit with some intervening open land), and this feature provides some sense of separation from Leyland. .

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The surrounding landscape does not provide a backdrop to the settlement, owing to the low-lying flat topography. However, woodland cover around the settlement edges in places provides a wooded backdrop to views and sense of scenic value. This includes the wooded valleys of the River Yarrow and Chapel Brook, woodland cover within Euxton Park to the south-west, Yarrow Valley Country Park to the south-east, woodland within Shaw Hill Golf Course to the north-east (including remnant woodland from the historic parkland associated with Shaw Hill, a Grade II listed building) and Worden Brook (including Worden Wood and Buckshaw Wood) to the north. Elsewhere, views from the settlement edges are more open and are across adjacent farmland, which provides some sense of rurality. Within some views from the western edge of the settlement the West Pennine Moors are visible in the distance to the east. However, this plays a limited role in defining the character of much of the settlement, which largely comprises later 20th century suburban development.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

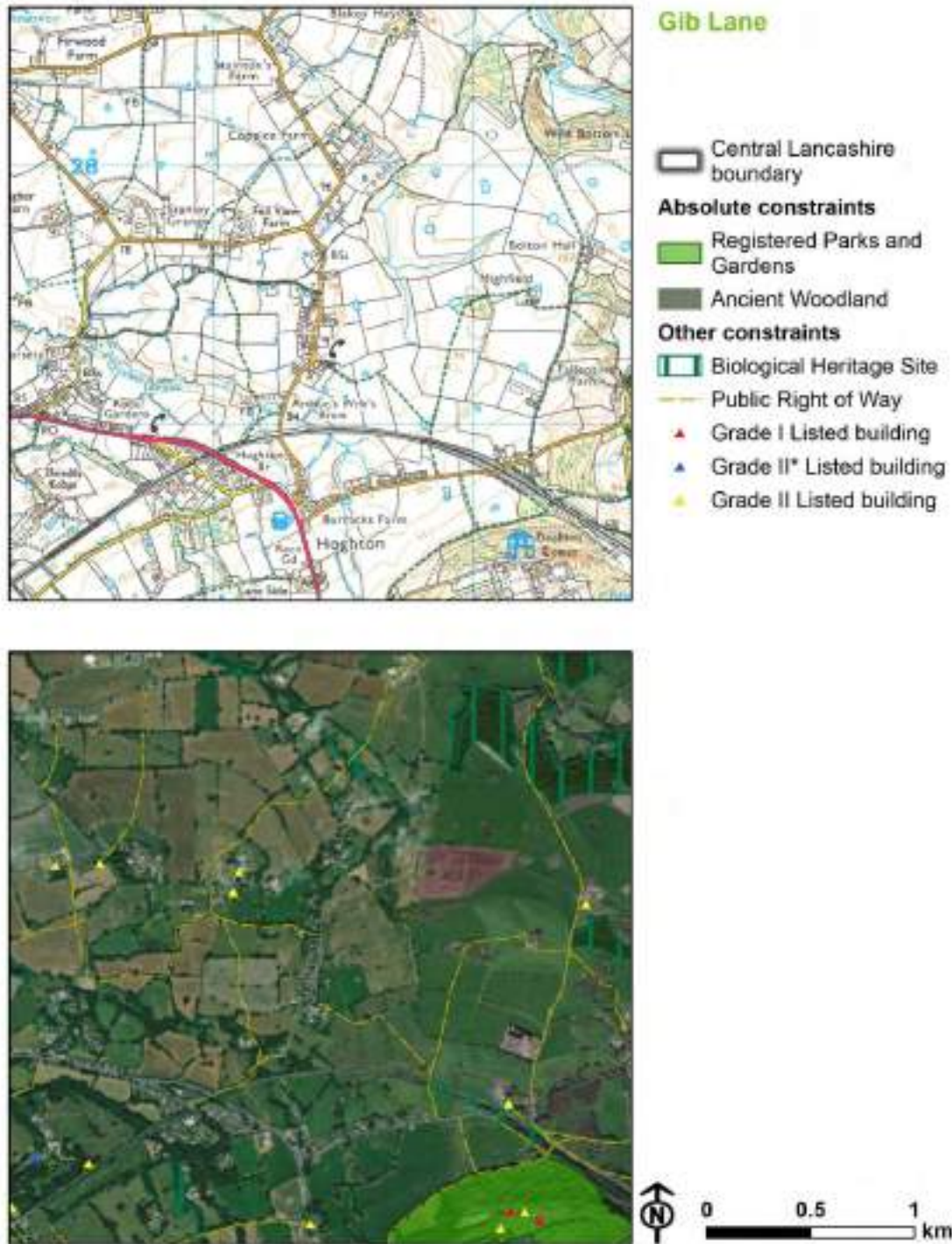
The majority of the surrounding landscape is identified as ‘ancient enclosure’ (pre-AD1600) within the Lancashire HLC (2002), with land to the north-east identified as ‘Post Medieval Enclosure’. This, along with the presence of remnant historic parkland at Euxton Park to the south-west, provides a sense of time-depth and distinctiveness. The River Yarrow and wooded valley creates a clear sense of arrival when crossing the river on approach along Wigan Road from the south.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of limited parts of Euxton/Buckshaw Village. Key areas/ elements are:

- The River Yarrow and its associated shallow valley to the south, which has constrained the settlement form and provides scenic value and a sense of arrival from the south.
- Euxton Park to the south-west, which has constrained settlement form and provides scenic and recreational value and a sense of time-depth.
- Yarrow Valley Country Park to the south-east, which provides scenic value and recreational value.
- Shaw Hill Golf Course (including remnant woodland from the historic parkland associated with Shaw Hill, a Grade II listed building), provides a wooded backdrop to views and sense of scenic value to the north-east.

Gib Lane



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Gib Lane is a small hamlet located to the north of Hoghton within Chorley District. Historically, the settlement comprised very few scattered properties along Gib Lane on gradually rising land to the north of Quaker Brook. Incremental infill development during the 20th century has resulted in the linear and low density settlement form evident today. Infill development is mainly confined to the west side of Gib Lane, leaving the eastern side predominantly open. The settlement contains no heritage designations.

Development within the settlement is located almost entirely to the north of Quaker Brook. The brook and its associated shallow valley form provide a constraint to development to the south. There are no other notable natural or cultural constraints which have limited the expansion of the settlement. However, the hamlet has seen relatively little expansion, which is likely due to a lack development pressure rather than any constraints.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The dispersed nature of the built form, particularly to the east of the settlement, means that open agricultural land directly abuts Gib Lane. This results in there being open views across the surrounding farmland from the settlement. As a result, the surrounding landscape is important to the rural character of the settlement.

Due to the relative elevation of the settlement, it also benefits from more long-ranging views of the wider landscape. To the east views are across the valley of the River Darwen towards higher ground formed by Woodcote Hill, Hunters Hill and Billinge Hill, and to the south-east the wooded hill of Hoghton Tower is a notable feature in views. The latter forms part of Grade II Hoghton Tower

Registered Park and Garden. Views west from within the settlement are more restricted by development along the western side of Gib Lane.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

Much of the wider surrounding landscape comprises a small scale and irregular field, and is identified as 'ancient enclosure' within the Lancashire HLC (2002). To the east the field pattern is larger and more regular, and this area has been identified as an area of post-medieval enclosure (Lancashire HLC, 2002). This, along with a number of brooks and small ponds (potentially flooded marl pits) scattered across the landscape, provides a sense time-depth and distinctiveness. There is a sense of arrival when approaching the settlement from the south along Gib Lane, as a result of passing across Quaker Brook and its shallow valley form.

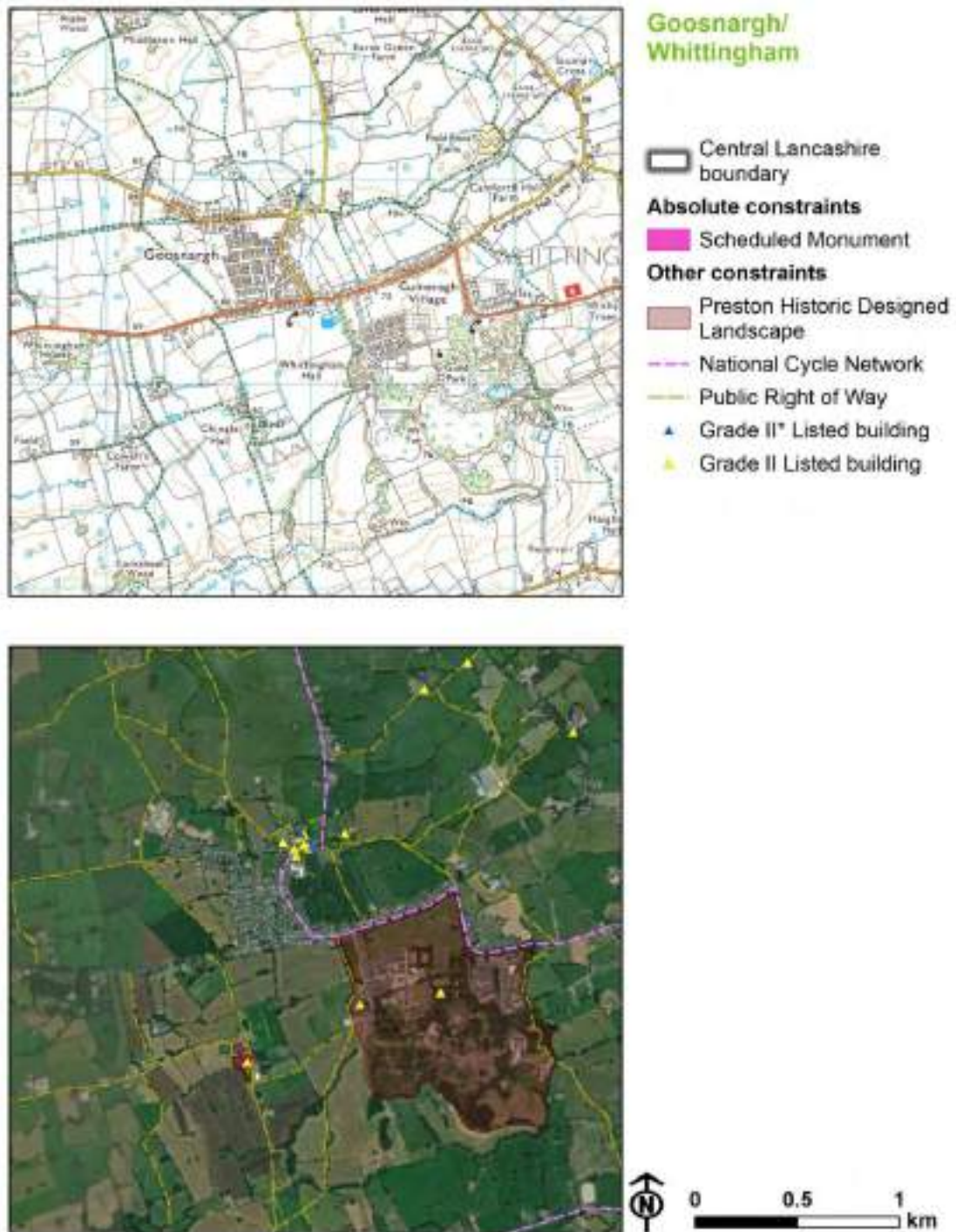
There are two Public Rights of Way that connect Gib Lane to the surrounding landscape to the west and east. Although the Public Right of Way network is not extensive in this area, it does provide access to the wider landscape. In particular, the path to the east provides access to the River Darwen Valley.

Conclusion on level of contribution

The landscape setting makes a **particularly important** contribution to the character of Gib Lane. The key areas/elements are:

- Open views of the immediate surrounding landscape, which is important to the rural character of the settlement.
- Long-ranging views west across the valley of the River Darwen towards the higher ground of Woodcote Hill, Hunters Hill and Billinge Hill; and views of the wooded hill of Hoghton Tower to the south-east.
- Sense of arrival when approaching from the south, as a result of passing across Quaker Brook and its shallow valley form.

Goosnargh/Whittingham



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Goosnargh/Whittingham is a village that lies the north-east of Preston City. Goosnargh began as a small clustered hamlet around the junction of Church Lane, Mill Lane and Goosnargh Lane. This historic part of the village contains several listed buildings, including the Church of St Mary and Bushells Hospital (both Grade II*). The historic settlement form has subsequently been altered, firstly by ribbon development along Church Lane, Goosnargh Lane and Whittingham Lane in the 19th century, and then by the introduction of a residential estate to the south-west in the late 20th century. Development in Whittingham to the south-east of Goosnargh began with the construction of Whittingham Hospital and associated workers housing off Cumeragh Lane in the 19th century. This was followed by ribbon development along Whittingham Lane in the mid-20th century which essentially joined the two areas of settlement. More recently further residential development has occurred on and around the site of the now demolished hospital. The grounds of Whittingham Hospital are identified as a Preston Historic Designed Landscape.

A small stream and associated valley form lies immediately to the north, north-east and east of the village and this has constrained development in these directions. The former Whittingham Hospital is now designated as Preston Designed Historic Landscape, and this presents a cultural constraint to the south-east. There are no other physical or cultural heritage features that have influenced the settlement form, reflected in its expansion in other directions (as described).

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The surrounding farmland forms the immediate setting of the village, and is apparent in numerous views from the settlement edge. There is a clear visual relationship between the historic parts of the village and the surrounding

farmland, particularly to the north, north-east, and east . Open agricultural fields directly abut the edge of the historic core and this makes an important contribution to the rural setting and character of the village. To the south-east, the grounds of Whittingham Hospital contain a number of mature tree belts and woodlands. Whilst this tends to limit the visual relationship between the settlement and adjacent farmland, it integrates the settlement edge and provides scenic value.

There are also a distant views towards upland landscapes to the east which allows an appreciation of the village's location within a transitional landscape between the upland landscape of the Bowland Fells and the agricultural Amounderness Plain. This further enhances the rural character and setting of the village.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The village is surrounded by an undulating lowland farmland landscape, much which is identified as 'ancient enclosure' within the Lancashire HLC (2002) and therefore displays some time-depth. This rural setting can be clearly appreciated on approach to the historic core along Mill Lane from the north and several Public Rights of Way from the north, north-east, east and south-east. This enhances the rural setting of the village.

Conclusion on level of contribution

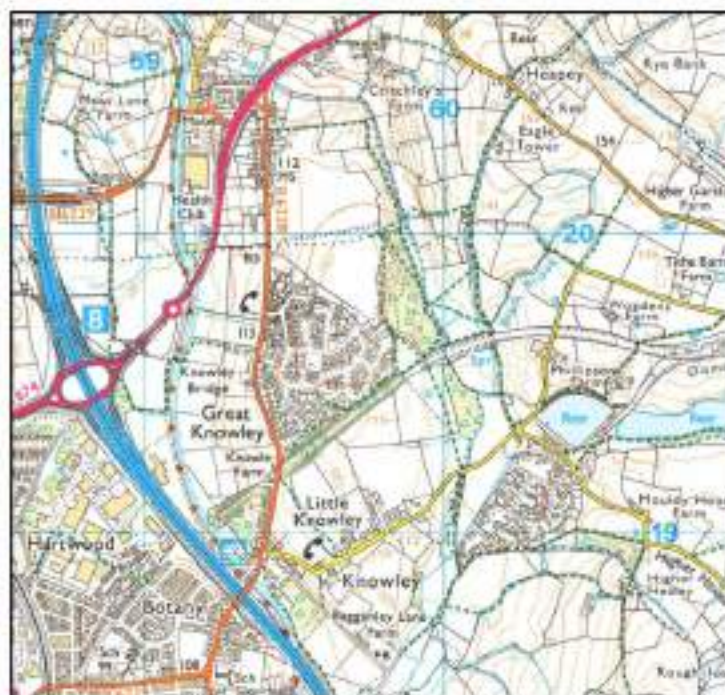
Parts of the landscape setting make a **particularly important** contribution to the character of Goosnargh/Whittingham. Key areas/ elements are:

- The surrounding farmland that forms the immediate setting of the historic parts of the village to the north, north-east, east and south-east.
- The small stream and associated valley form which have constrained development to the north, north-east and east of the historic core.









Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- The approach to the village along Mill Lane from the north and several PRow from the north, east and south-east.
- The grounds of the former Whittingham Hospital, which integrates the settlement edge and provides scenic value.
- distant views towards upland landscapes of the Bowland Fells.

Great Knowley



Great Knowley

-  Central Lancashire boundary
- Absolute constraints**
-  Flood zone 3b
-  Ancient Woodland
- Other constraints**
-  Biological Heritage Site
-  National Cycle Network
-  Public Right of Way
-  Grade II* Listed building
-  Grade II Listed building



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Great Knowley is a village located to the east of Chorley and to the north of Knowley/Little Knowley within Chorley District. The village began as a small isolated collection of properties on Blackburn Road between Little Knowley and Wheelton. Ribbon development was introduced in the early 20th century followed by the construction of a large residential estate to the east of Blackburn Road in the later 20th century. This later development dominates the settlement today and has substantially altered its historic form. The relatively recent nature of the settlement is reflected in an absence of any heritage designations.

The settlement is defined by the B6228 (Blackburn Brow) to the west and to the south and south-east by the cutting the dismantled Chorley to Blackburn railway . To the north and north-east a former area of gravel extraction is marked today by an area of open mosaic habitat.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

Great Knowley sits on a slight ridge with open, elevated views available to the west across open farmland towards the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and M6 Motorway. Views towards the urban edge of Chorley are present, with Preston England Temple particularly prominent in the view. From the more elevated parts of the settlement to in the east, there are also glimpsed views towards the West Pennine Moors in the distance to the south-east. The settlement's visual relationship with the wider surrounding landscape reinforces the perception of being within a transitional landscape between undulating lowland farmland to the west and the West Pennine Moors to the east. However, this does not strongly influence the character of the settlement, which is dominated by late 20th century suburban residential development.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

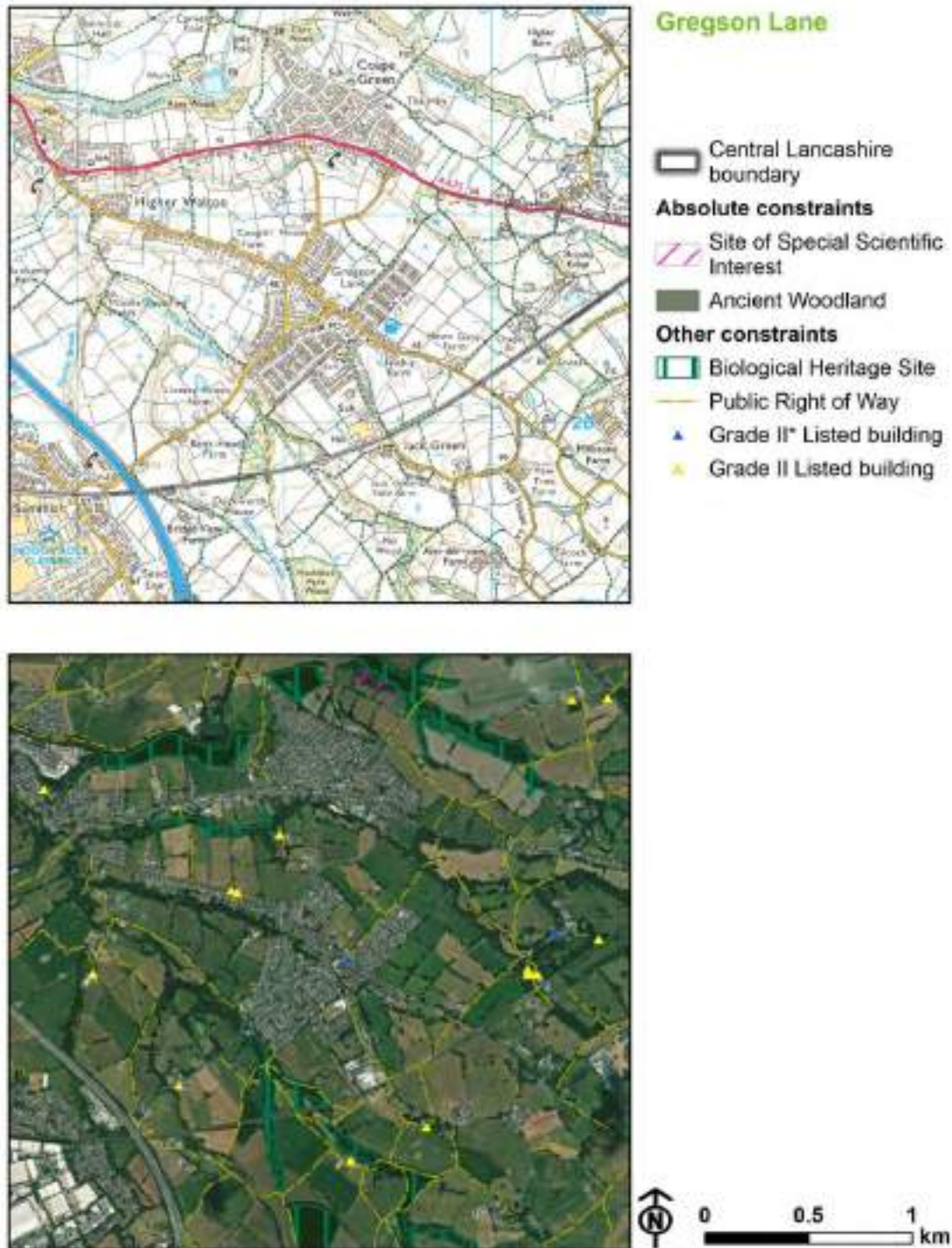
There is a good network of public rights of way to the east of Great Knowley, which provides direct access from the settlement to the landscape to the east, including the areas of higher ground (such as Eagle Tower), which allows an appreciation of the wider setting of the village.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Overall, the landscape setting makes a **limited** contribution to the character of Great Knowley. However, the following areas/elements provide some landscape value:

- Glimpsed distant views towards the West Pennine Moors to the south-east from the more elevated parts of the settlement to the east.
- A good network of public rights of way to the east, which provide an direct access to the landscape to the east, including the areas of higher ground (such as Eagle Tower).
- Open farmland between the settlement and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal provides a rural setting.

Gregson Lane



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Gregson Lane is a village situated to the east of Bamber Bridge within South Ribble District. The historic settlement pattern comprised scattered linear development along Gregson Lane and Alma Row in proximity to Many Brooks. Some of this early built form survives, including the Grade II* listed Arrowsmith House and the Grade II Cooper House Farmhouse. However, the historic settlement form has been altered significantly by the subsequent introduction of residential development to the north and south of Gregson Lane and by ribbon development along Gregson Lane to the west on in the mid and late 20th century.

The key constraint on settlement expansion has been the presence of adjacent watercourses. The Drum Head Brook and its steep sided valley has constrained settlement to the south and south-west. Many Brooks flows east to west through the settlement and parallel with Gregson Lane (road), before eventually joining Drum Head Brook. To the west this brook and its associated woodland forms a further barrier to development south of Gregson Lane. In addition Black Brook to the north, while at some distance from the settlement edge and not a constraint on development, has maintained a distinction between Gregson Lane and Coupe Green to the north. There are no notable natural or cultural constraints to development to the east, reflected in the settlement expansion in this directions. Additionally, ribbon development has been able to stretch along Gregson Lane (north of Many Brooks) and has effectively joined with Higher Walton to the north-west.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The woodland associated with Drum Head Brook (much of which is designated as a Biological Heritage Site) and Many Brooks integrates the settlement within the landscape and provides a scenic value. This also tends to reduce the visual

relationship between the settlement and the wider surrounding landscape. However, elsewhere views are generally attainable from the edge of the settlement across the adjacent farmland which contributes to an overall rural character. This includes views north from Gregson Lane and west from Daub Hall Lane across Protected Open Land (South Ribble Local Plan, 2015).

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The immediate agricultural land surrounding the settlement is identified as 'ancient enclosure' within the Lancashire HLC (2002). This includes the remnant historic parkland associated with Brindle Lodge (Grade II* listed building) to the east and creates a sense of time depth within the landscape. There are a number of Public Rights of Way to the north-east, which provide access to this remnant historic parkland and allow an appreciation of the landscape setting. A footpath also passes along the valley of Drum Head Brook. Entering Gregson Lane along Bank Head Lane from the south involves crossing the Drum Head Brook and its associated valley, passing through its associated woodland. This provides a physical boundary to the settlement and creates a sense of arrival.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting makes a **particularly important** contribution to the character of Gregson Lane. The key areas/elements are:

- The surrounding well-wooded agricultural landscape, which provides scenic value and contributes to an overall rural character.
- The woodland associated with Drum Head Brook and Many Brooks, which integrates the settlement within the landscape and provides a scenic value.
- The valley and woodland of Drum Head Brook, which has constrained development to the south and provides a sense of arrival from the south.

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

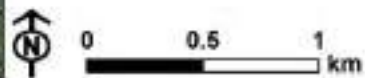
- The Beeston Brook and associated woodland to the north, which has maintained a distinction between Gregson Lane and Coupe Green.
- The landscape of 'ancient enclosure', including the historic parkland of Brindle Lodge, which provides a sense of time depth .

Grimsargh



Grimsargh

-  Central Lancashire boundary
- Absolute constraints**
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest
-  Ancient Woodland
- Other constraints**
-  Preston Historic Designed Landscape
-  Biological Heritage Site
-  Local Nature Reserve
-  National Cycle Network
-  Public Right of Way
-  Grade II Listed building



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Grimsargh is a village that is located between Preston and Longridge. The original settlement form consisted of development concentrated around the junction of Preston Road and Whittingham Lane. The settlement form has been subsequently altered, first by the introduction of early to mid-20th century residential development around Grimsargh Station (on the Preston to Longridge railway line, which is now dismantled) and along Preston Road to the east and south, followed by the construction of residential estates to the south-east of the dismantled railway in the late 20th and early 21st century. There is only one listed building within the village – the Parish Church of St Michael (Grade II) – although some older surviving buildings indicate the historic parts of the village.

The settlement is situated on higher ground lying between two incised valleys associated with the Savick Brook to the west and the Tun Brook to the south-east. Tun Brook Woodlands are identified as Ancient Woodland and, in combination with Red Scar Woodland to the south, are designated as a SSSI. The village has expanded south-eastwards as far as the valley of the Tun Brook, which forms a physical constraint to further development. Grimsargh Reservoir/Wetlands has similarly constrained development to the north-east and these are now designated as a Biological Heritage Site. As there is no physical or cultural constraints to the south and east, the settlement has expanded in these directions along Preston Road. Today there is only a very narrow gap between the settlement and the eastern edge of Preston (Red Scar Business Park and ribbon development on Longridge Road).

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The mature Tun Brook Woodlands forms a well-integrated edge to the south-east of Grimsargh. This also provides scenic value and reduces the visual relationship of the settlement with the wider landscape to the south-east. Other

edges of the settlement are more abrupt and less well integrated with landscape features, resulting in some visual relationship between the settlement and the immediate surrounding landscape. In particular open land (farmland and a recreation ground) directly abuts Preston Road and Whittingham Lane to the west and north-west of the village, providing an open rural setting that is experienced in the vicinity of the Parish Church of St Michael and on approach along Whittingham Lane from the north-west.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

There is a sense of arrival when approaching along Elston Lane from the south-east as the road crosses Tun Brook. The valley form and associated woodland cover along Savick Brook provide a similar scenic quality and sense of arrival along Whittingham Lane from the north-west, albeit this is further from the edge of Grimsargh. A network of Public Rights of Way connect the settlement to the surrounding landscape and allow an appreciation of the wider rural setting, including those passing along the course of the dismantled railway and through and around the wetlands to the north-east. The landscape south and south-west of Grimsargh has been identified as ‘ancient enclosure’ within the Lancashire HLC (2002). These areas comprise intricate field patterns with extensive hedgerows featuring mature trees and display some time-depth. As a result the landscape setting to the south is more distinctive and is characteristic of the surrounding undulating lowland farmland. Land to the south-west is influenced by the adjacent large-scale commercial/industrial development at Red Scar Business Park.

Conclusion on level of contribution

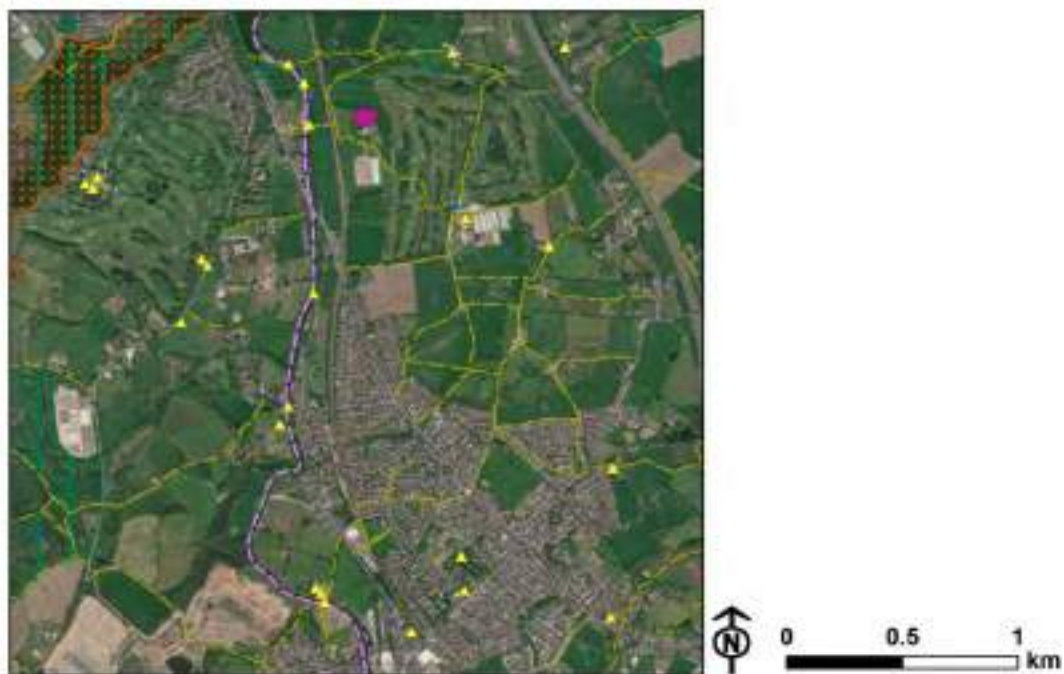
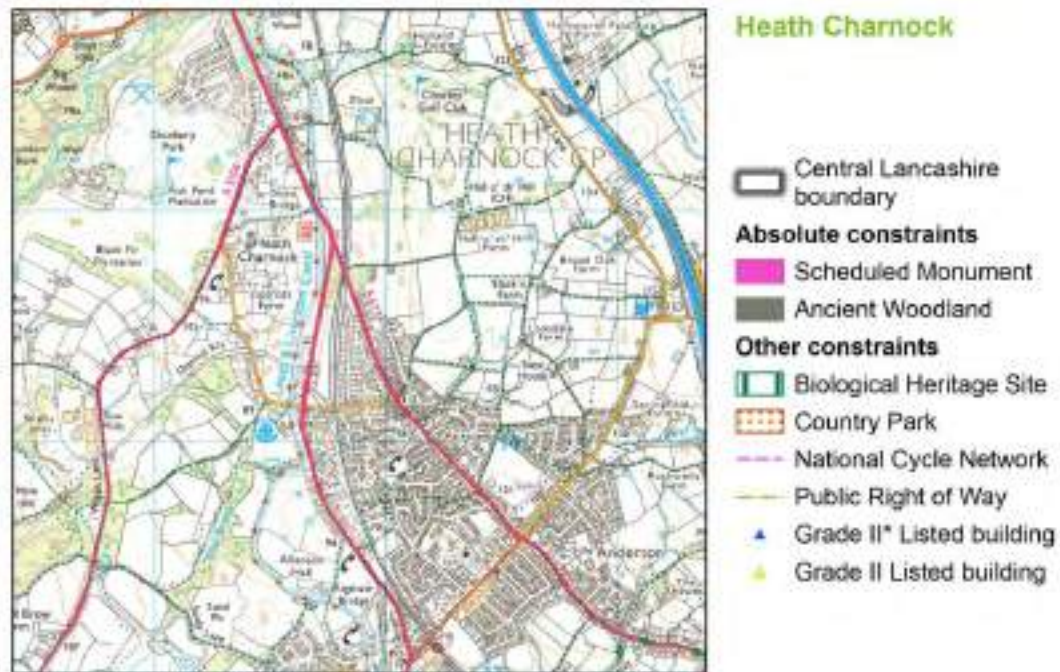
Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Grimsargh. Key areas/ elements are:

- The distinctive landform and woodland associated with Tun Brook (ancient woodland and SSSI), which has constrained development and provides scenic value and sense of arrival from the south-east.

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- Open land to the west and north-west which provides an open rural setting experienced in the vicinity of the Parish Church of St Michael and on approach from the north-west.
- Historic and distinctive landscape pattern to the south and south-west of Grimsargh.
- An extensive network of PRow, providing access to and allowing appreciation of the settlements rural setting.

Heath Charnock



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Heath Charnock is a small village located immediately north of Adlington within Chorley District. The early settlement pattern comprised 19th century ribbon development along Chorley Road (A673), with a concentration around the junction with Rawlinson Lane adjacent to the Eller Brook. Further ribbon development was introduced along Rawlinson Lane to the east in the 20th century, followed by suburban residential development off Chorley Road in the late 20th century. This later development largely dominates the settlement today and has effectively merged the settlement with the Anderton area of Adlington to the south; the only notable feature between the two settlements is the Eller Brook. Whilst some of the early built form survives, the settlement is not designated as a conservation area and contains no listed buildings.

Historically, development was constrained by two historic parklands associated with Ellerbeck Hall to the south-west and Duxbury Hall to the north-west respectively. A railway line and cutting (previously part of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bolton to Preston line) now forms a barrier to development along the western edge of the main part of the settlement off Chorley Road (albeit the development on Rawlinson Lane is further west than this). The railway line and Chorley Road converge to form the northern extent of the settlement. Rising topography has also restricted development to the west of Chorley Road.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

Heath Charnock is located predominantly within the rolling foothills of the West Pennine Moors, which lie to the east of the settlement. The landscape immediately surrounding the village is undulating, forming rising ground to the east of the Yarrow River Valley. Rising topography to the east of the village provides some sense of containment and forms a low backdrop to limited views

east from the settlement. Intervisibility between the settlement and the West Pennine Moors is generally restricted by the intervening landform.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

An extensive network of Public Rights of Way to the east and northeast of the settlement provides access to the higher ground. Views are available west from here across the lower-lying river valley with the settlement visible in the foreground, allowing some appreciation of the wider setting of the village. There is also a greater visual relationship with the West Pennine Moors from the higher ground, which strengthens the link between the settlement and the wider landscape setting to the east.

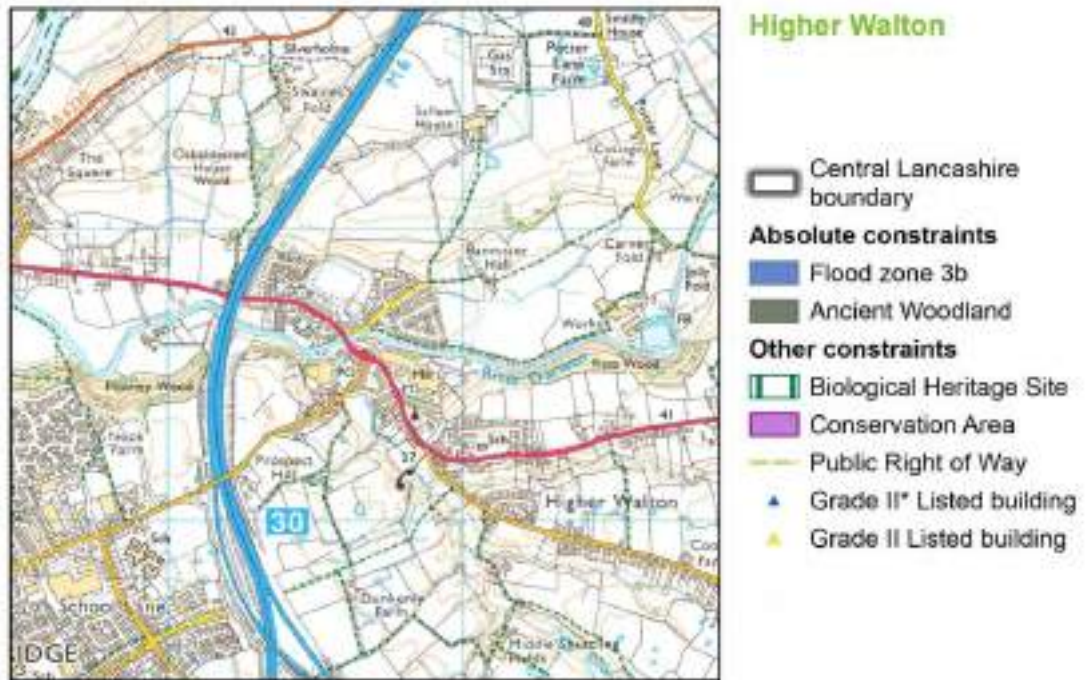
The remnant historic Ellerbeck and Duxbury parklands, along with their associated woodlands, provide an open rural landscape setting and scenic value in relative proximity to the village. However, the canal and railway line lie between the parklands and main area of the settlement which creates some sense of separation from these areas.

Conclusion on level of contribution

The landscape setting makes a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Heath Charnock. Key areas/elements are:

- The containing role and backdrop provided by higher ground to the east.
- Public Rights of Way on higher ground to the east, which offer wide views towards the West Pennine Moors to the east and across the lower-lying river valley with the settlement visible in the foreground to the west. The remnant historic parklands at Duxbury Park and Ellerbeck Park , which provide an open rural landscape setting and scenic value in relative proximity to the village.

Higher Walton



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Higher Walton is a village located to the east of Bamber Bridge within South Ribble District. The village developed in the 19th century around Moons Mill Iron Foundry and Higher Walton Mill which were sited along the River Darwen. Historic settlement was concentrated along Blackburn Road and High Walton Road around Cann Bridge, with dispersed development along roads leading out of the village. The settlement expanded slightly in the 20th century and early 21st century with the introduction of residential development to the north off Higher Walton Road and Blackburn Road, and to the south-east on Hoghton Lane and Gregson Lane. The village contains only one Grade II listed building – the Church of All Saints on Blackburn Road. In addition the Grade II* Osbaldeston House is located to the north-west, although this is now separated from the settlement by the M6.

The majority of the settlement is located on lower lying ground associated with the River Darwen and Many Brooks, enclosed by steep bluffs and valley sides. This has presented a natural constraint to development, although to the south-east where the topography is less marked development has extended up the valley sides along Hoghton Lane. To the west, the M6 broadly delineates the settlement edge, although Higher Walton Road passes under the motorway and there is some pre-existing development to the west.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

Along with the surrounding topography, the settlement is well contained by woodland related to the River Darwen and Many Brooks, including Rass Wood to the east which is identified as Ancient Woodland and designated as a South Ribble Biological Heritage Site. As a result, the settlement is generally visually contained, with wooded higher ground forming a backdrop to views out of the settlement (for example along Bridge Street and Brook Street). However, there

are some more open views available from the residential development north of Blackburn Road (off Bannister Hall Lane) where the adjacent flat pastoral landscape of the valley floor is visible to the east. There are also views back towards the valley floor and settlement from the surrounding areas of higher ground and from the more open areas of the valley floor to the east, within which the Church of All Saints and Higher Walton Mill are notable landmarks.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

There is a good network of Public Rights of Way to the south of the village, and a more limited network of footpaths to the north, including that which follows the north bank of the River Darwen. This provides a recreational resource in proximity to the settlement and allows the wider setting to be appreciated. From the south-east and south-west respectively, several footpaths and Hoghton Lane/Blackburn Road and Kittingbourne Brow descend towards the valley floor. On approach along these routes views are available from the higher ground towards the historic centre of the settlement, with Higher Walton Mill in particular visible adjacent to the River Darwen. The Church of All Saints is also a notable landmark on approach along Hoghton Lane/Blackburn Road. This creates a strong sense of arrival, and views of the riverside mill in particular enhances the historic character of the settlement.

Conclusion on level of contribution

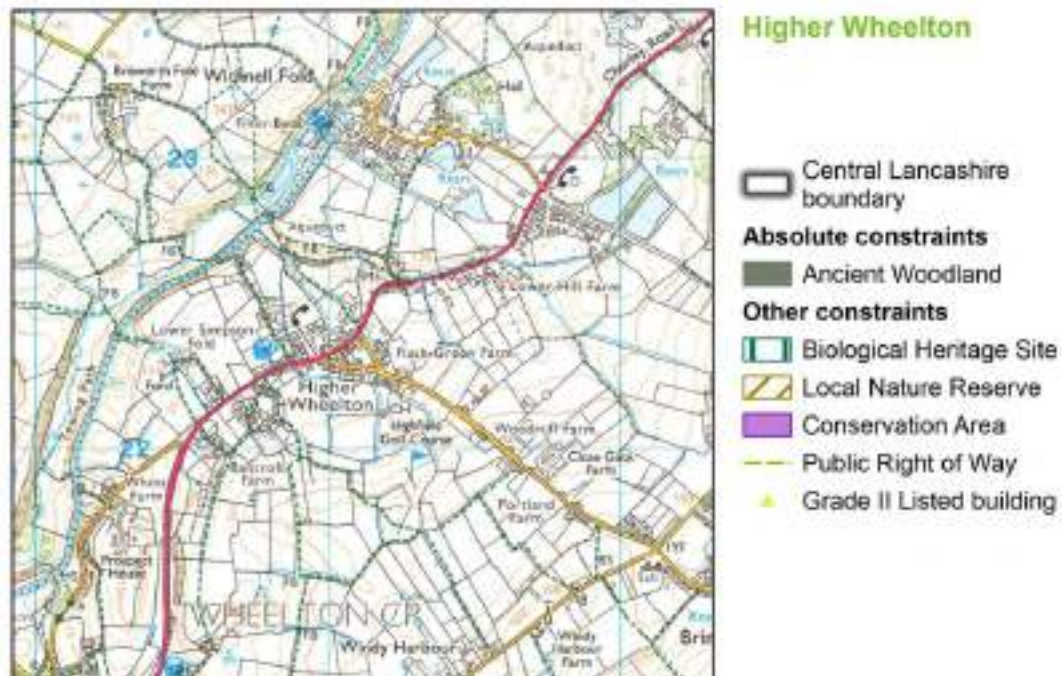
The landscape setting makes a **particularly important** contribution to the character of Higher Walton. The key areas/elements are:

- The settlement's position on the valley floor and its focus on the River Darwen which played an important functional role in the settlements development.
- The wooded valley sides and bluffs which create a sense of enclosure and forms the backdrop to views out of the village.

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- Views back towards the settlement from areas of higher ground and the more open areas of the valley floor to the east, within which the Church of All Saints and Higher Walton Mill are notable landmarks.
- Sense of arrival from the higher ground along Hoghton Lane/Blackburn Road and Kittingbourne Brow to the south-east and south-west respectively.

Higher Wheelton



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Higher Wheelton is a village located to the north-east of Wheelton within Chorley District. The historic settlement pattern comprised development along Blackburn Road, with a concentration around the junction with Bett Lane and Jenny Lane. The historic clustered settlement form is largely retained, albeit with some later 20th century ribbon development along roads and a small residential estate added to the north of Blackburn Road on Lawton Close. Despite the survival of some older built form, the village contains only two Grade II listed buildings to the east.

The River Lostock valley to the north-west, within which the Leeds and Liverpool Canal was later constructed, has constrained development in that direction. The shallow wooded valley of an unnamed brook presents a similar natural constraint to the north. Woodland along the canal, river (including Ancient Woodland) and the unnamed brook is also designated as a Local Nature Reserve and Biological Heritage Site which provides a further constraint. Higher ground to the south and east of the village has constrained development in these directions. There are no obvious natural or cultural constraints to the north-east, and ribbon development extends along on the A674 Chorley Road in this direction. This diminishes the sense of physical separation between Higher Wheelton and development on Oakmere Avenue and Thirlmere Drive.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The village is located within the rolling foothills of the West Pennine Moors, which lie to the south-east of the settlement. The landscape immediately surrounding the village is undulating, forming higher ground to the south-east of the River Lostock Valley. Higher ground to the south and east of the village provide some sense of containment and form an immediate backdrop to views from the settlement. This includes Windy Harbour to the south and Pike Lowe to

the east. Views are also available back towards Higher Wheelton from these areas of higher ground, which allows an appreciation of the wider setting of the village. The village lies in the foreground of these views with the Bowland Fells visible in the distance beyond the River Lostock valley. Woodland along the canal, river (including Ancient Woodland) and the unnamed brook provides scenic value and contributes to the rural setting of Higher Wheelton.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The agricultural land surrounding the settlement comprises small to medium irregular fields. This is identified as 'ancient enclosure' to the north and 'post-Medieval enclosure' to the south within the Lancashire HLC (2002). Fields are defined by hedgerows, stone walls and post and rail fencing, with a number of mature trees. This provides a rural setting immediately adjacent to the village, including on approach along the A674 from the north-east and south-west. There is a good network of public rights of way around Higher Wheelton, which is particularly extensive around Windy Harbour to the south and around the river to the north and north-west.

Conclusion on level of contribution

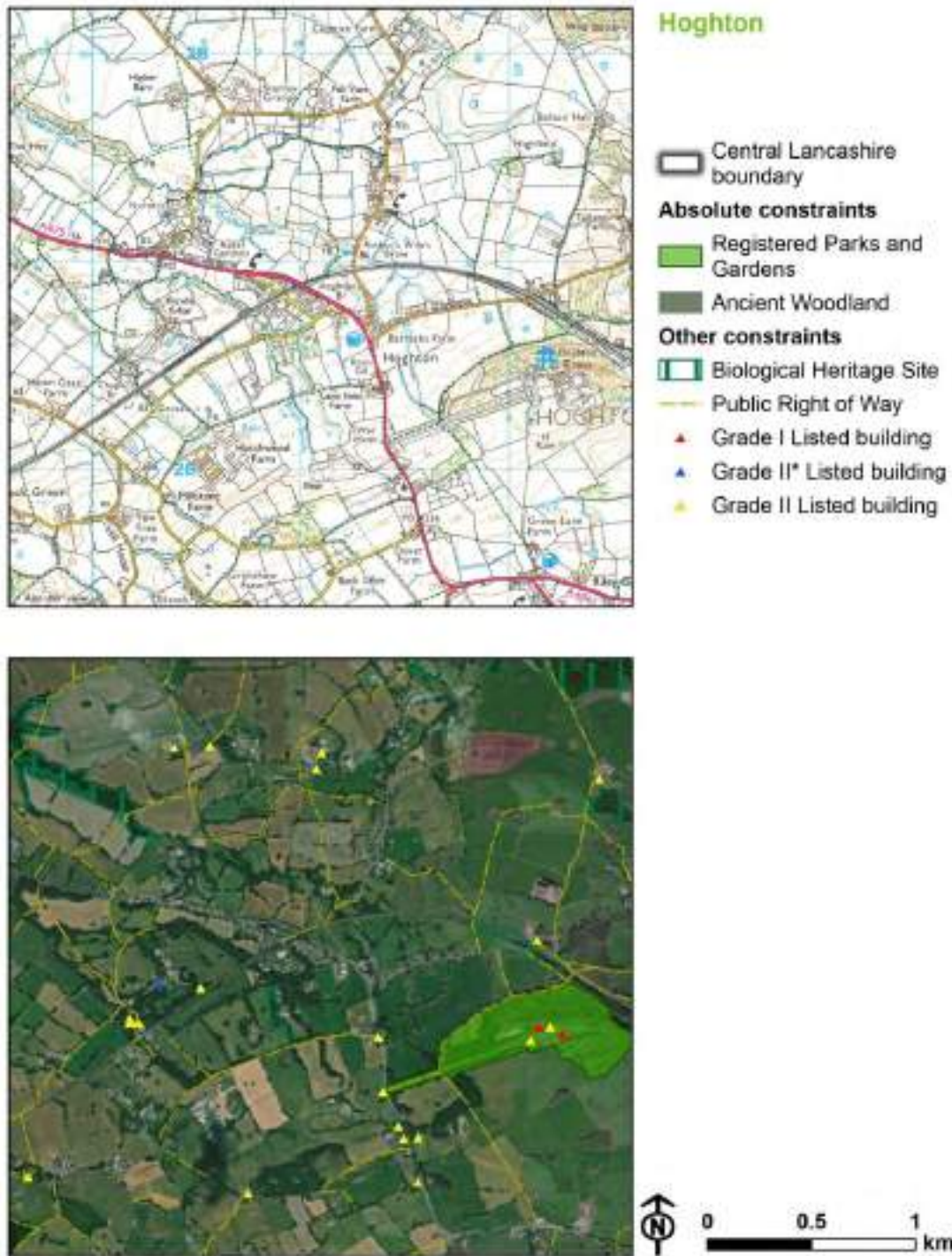
The landscape setting makes a **particularly important** contribution to the character of Higher Wheelton. The key areas/elements are:

- The containing role and backdrop provided by the wooded River Lostock valley, and woodland associated with the river and Leeds and Liverpool Canal to the north-west.
- Views of Higher Wheelton from areas of higher ground to the south and east across the River Lostock valley towards the Bowland Fells in the distance.
- Extensive network of PRow which provide direct access between the village and its surrounding rural landscape.

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- The scenic value and rural setting provided by woodland along the canal, river and the unnamed brook to the north-west and north of Higher Wheelton.
- Agricultural land surrounding the village, which provides a rural setting, including on approach along the A674 from the north-east and south-west.

Hoghton



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Hoghton is a village located to the south-east of Preston within Chorley District. The historic settlement form comprised dispersed areas of development along Blackburn Old Road, The Straits, Chapel Lane and Gib Lane. Later development in the 20th century was largely to the north of the village, with ribbon development along Blackburn Old Road and The Strait, and residential development concentrated around Hoghton Station (now closed) on Station Road. As a result of this later development, the northern area forms the core of the village today. However, the historic dispersed settlement pattern is retained to the south and this area contains several scattered listed buildings, including the Grade II Church Of The Holy Trinity and Holy Trinity School on Blackburn Old Road. The village was historically connected with Hoghton Tower, a Grade I Listed mansion house with associated parkland (Grade II RPG), sit on an escarpment rising above the River Darwen to the south east of the village. The village is also located adjacent to an area of remnant historic parkland to the west which is associated with Brindle Lodge, a Grade II* listed building.

The growth of the village has been constrained to the north and south-west by two watercourses and their associated wooded valleys, namely Quaker Brook and Black Brook. The historic parkland at Bridle Lodge to the west also acts as an additional cultural constraint in this direction, principally limiting further ribbon to the south of The Strait and Hoghton Lane (A675). To the south-east of the village the historic parkland at Hoghton Tower constrains development, reflected in the retained historic dispersed settlement pattern here. Ribbon development along Chapel Lane has been confined to the northern side of the road, with the open pastoral landscape around Hoghton Tower retained .

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The woodland along the Quaker Brook and that along Black Brook and around Brindle Lodge provides scenic value to the north, west and south-west of the settlement. To the south-east of the village rising landform and the dispersed nature of the built form mean there is a strong visual relationship with the surrounding rural landscape. There are long distance views available over the surrounding low-lying agricultural landscape to the south-west and west of the village, with the city of Preston distantly visible through intervening vegetation. Hoghton Tower Woods on the rising escarpment provides a wooded backdrop to the south-east. This creates a sense of rurality and contributes to an overall rural character.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

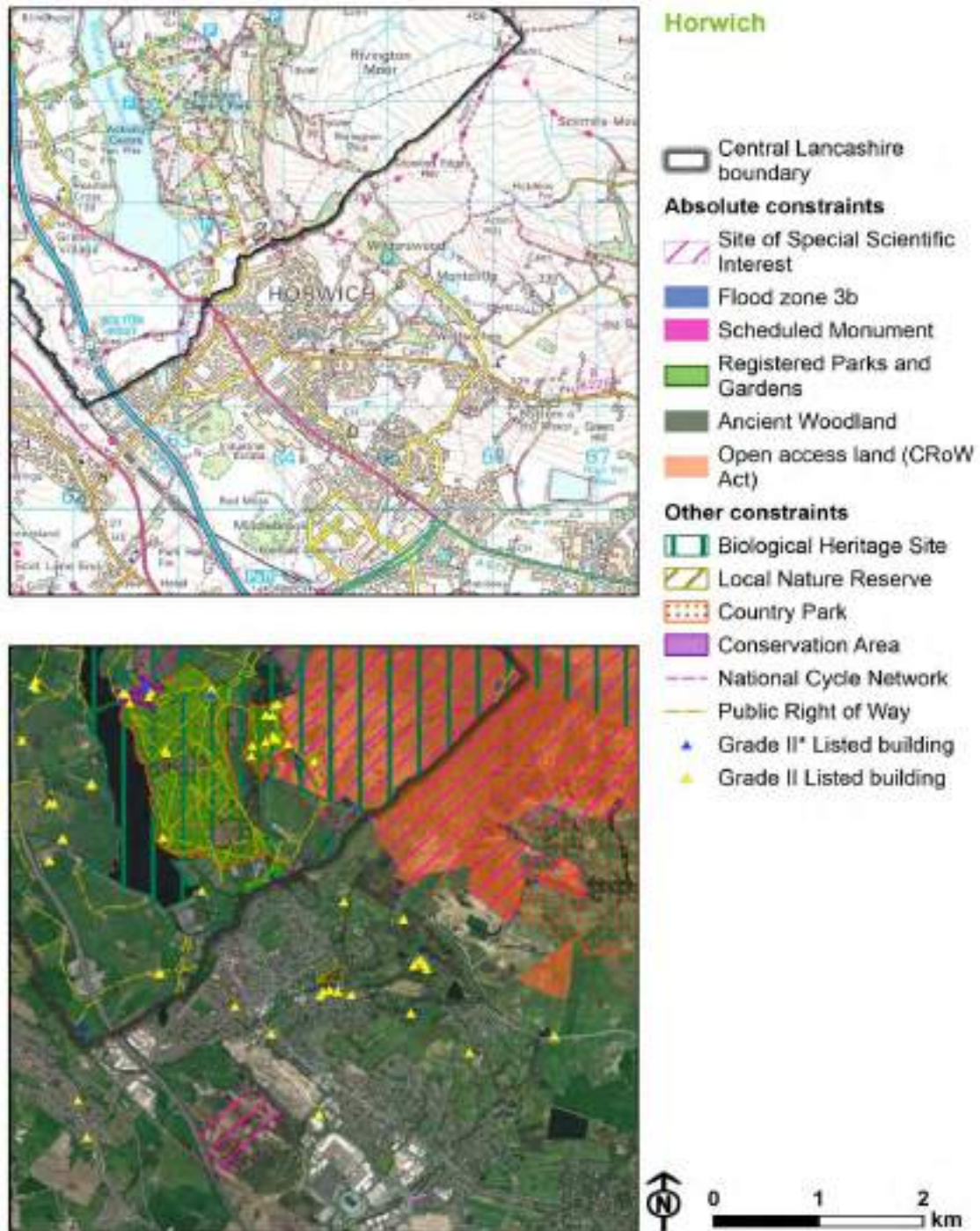
The setting to the south-east is added to by the presence of historic parkland at Hoghton Tower, including views of its main entrance and avenue approach towards the Grade I listed building; and the presence of several Grade II listed buildings, including Church Of The Holy Trinity which forms a notable landmark on approach. The historic parklands associated with both Hoghton Tower and Brindle Lodge creates a very strong sense of time depth in the landscape and this contributes strongly to the character of the village. On approach to the village from the south along Hoghton Lane (A675), views across open agricultural fields towards Hoghton Tower Woods create a sense of arrival. The majority of the Hoghton Tower RPG is not publicly accessible without an admission fee, although a Public Right of Way runs part-way along the avenue approach. There is also a good network of Public Rights of Way to the north of the village and across the remnant historic parkland of Brindle Lodge to the west. This provides access to the surrounding landscape and allows an appreciation the immediate rural surroundings.

Conclusion on level of contribution

The landscape setting makes a **particularly important** contribution to the character of Hoghton . Key areas/elements are:

- A strong sense of time depth and distinctiveness as a result of the presence of historic features, including historic parkland at Hoghton Tower to the south-east and Brindle Lodge to the west. These features have also presented cultural constraints on the village's development.
- A strong visual relationship with the surrounding wooded agricultural landscape, which contributes to an overall rural character.
- Views across open agricultural fields towards Hoghton Tower Woods, which create a sense of arrival on approach to the village from the south along Hoghton Lane (A675).
- The wooded valleys of the Black Brook and Quaker Brook, which have constrained the expansion of the village to the south-west and north and provide scenic value.
- A good network of Public Rights of Way to the north and west of the village, which provides access to the surrounding landscape and allows an appreciation the immediate rural surroundings.

Horwich



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Horwich is a town located to the south-east of Chorley within the Metropolitan Borough of Bolton. Only land to the north and north-west of the settlement lies within the Central Lancashire Area. The town began as a hunting chase, but in the 19th century the settlement became a centre for the cotton and bleaching industries. This, and the arrival of the railway works in 1884, led to the rapid expansion of the town. In the 19th century development was largely focused along Chorley New Road, Lee Lane and Church Road, although during the 20th century the town expanded to the north-east, south-west and south-east. In the early 21st Century the town has seen some urban regeneration, including at Middlebrook to the south-east. The more historic areas of the town are indicated by two conservation areas: 'Horwich Town Centre' and 'Horwich Locomotive Works'; and a number of Grade II listed buildings, including the Church of Holy Trinity and the former Wallsuches Bleach Works. Lever Park to the north is also designated as a Grade II RPG.

Rising ground of the West Pennine Moorlands to the north and north-east has influenced the form of Horwich, with development located on the lower slopes and valley of the Middle Brook. The River Douglas also runs along the northern boundary of Horwich, and is heavily wooded, creating an additional natural constraint. Development to the north is also constrained by Lever Park, a Grade II Registered Park and Garden, laid out in the early 20th century as a public park.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

Horwich lies on the southern edge of the West Pennine Moors, and the landscape to the north is dominated by Winter Hill and Rivington Pike. These features have a strong visual connection with the town, overlooking it and providing a strong visual backdrop. This is reflected in the Town Centre

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

Conservation Area Appraisal, which states that the moors provide “*an imposing backdrop to the north ... side streets provide glimpses and attractive views to the north up to Rivington Pike*”. Views are also available back down towards the town from the moorland. The rising topography, particularly in eastern areas of the town, also affords some distant views over the lower lying industrial foothills and valleys to the north-west. To the north, woodland on the edge of the Lever Park means there is limited visibility between the town and the main parts of the country park. There is a visual relationship between the north-western edge of the town and the immediate surrounding farmland, however this is not important to the character of the immediately adjacent later suburban development. The M61 runs through this area, and is an intrusive modern element in the landscape, as is Bolton West service station which can be seen in views from the north-western settlement edge.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

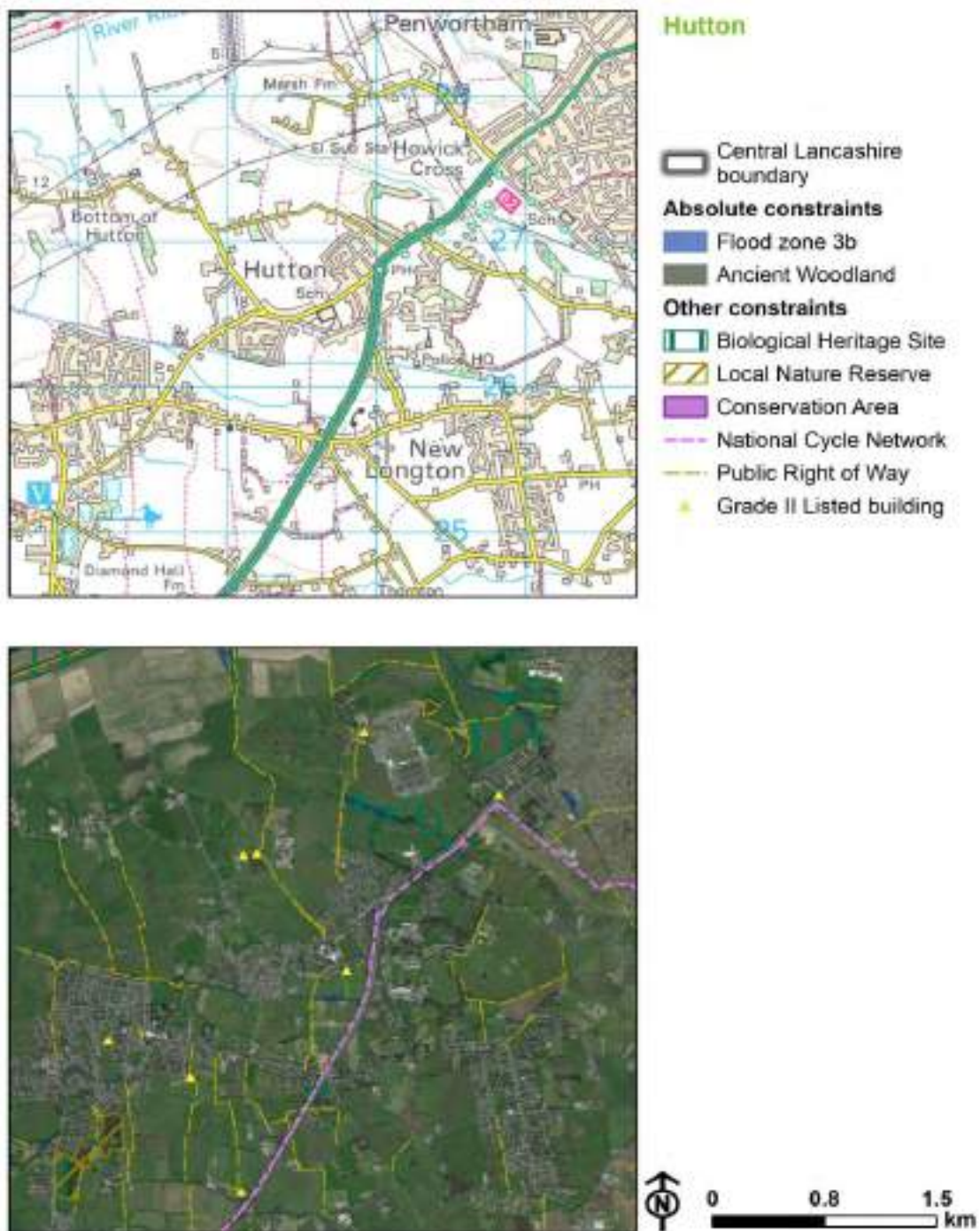
Footpaths lead from the north-eastern edge of Horwich, including the Rotary Way long distance path, and provide connections to the wider countryside of Central Lancashire. Many of these lead to the moors which are designated as Open Access Land and provide an important recreational resource allowing the setting of the settlement to be appreciated. There is also a good networks of footpaths that connect Horwich to Lever Park in the north, providing an important recreational resource in proximity to the town. The landscape to the north-west of Horwich is lower-lying and flatter, and in use as pasture. This area, along with the landscape to the immediate north-east of the town, is identified as ‘ancient enclosure’ within the Lancashire HLC (2002). This comprises an irregular medium and large-scale field pattern that displays some sense of time-depth.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting (within the Central Lancashire Area) make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Horwich. Key areas/elements are:

- The backdrop to the town provided by the West Pennine Moors to the north, in particular Rivington Pike and Winter Hill, which contributes to the scenic qualities of the town. This is particularly prominent in the north-west of the settlement.
- Historic parkland and woodland of Lever Park, which provide scenic, recreational and historic value.
- The network of Public Rights of Way to the north, which provide connections to the wider countryside and provide an important recreational resource in proximity to the town.

Hutton



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Hutton is a village located to the north-west of Leyland and west of Penworthan within South Ribble District. The village is located on the edge of the coastal plain landscape, adjacent to coastal marshes to the north. Historically development was dispersed along Liverpool Road, however today the settlement form has altered significantly following the introduction of residential estates in the 20th and early 21st centuries to the south-west and north. Whilst some early built form survives, the town does not contain any conservation area designations and only one Grade II listed building (Hutton Manor). Hutton Hall and its associated parkland was located to the east of the village. The Hall has now been demolished, but the some of the parkland remains , although now contains the Lancashire Constabulary Headquarters and Police Training School.

To the south of Hutton, Longton Brook has constrained the expansion of residential estates, and now defines the southern edge of the village. This feature has also ensured that a degree of distinction between Hutton and Longton to the south-west is retained. Although situated slightly further from Hutton to the north and north-east, Mill Brook has similarly helped to maintain distinction between Hutton and Penwortham. Woodland along the Mill Brook, along with woodland belts within the remnant parkland of Hutton Hall, further distinguish the two urban areas. There are no notable natural or cultural constraints to the south-west or north, reflected in the expansion of the settlement in these directions. This includes a recently developed site at Walton Gardens, which was a housing allocation site within the South Ribble Local Plan (2015).

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The surrounding landscape does not provide a backdrop to the settlement, owing to the low-lying flat topography. However, views are generally attainable from the edge of the settlement across the adjacent farmland which contributes to an overall rural character. This is particularly noticeable from sections of Liverpool road to the north and north-west of the village, including across Protected Open Land (South Ribble Local Plan, 2015) at Schoolhouse Farm. To the north-east and east, the woodland belts along Mill Brook (designated as a South Ribble Biological Heritage Site) and within the remnant parkland tends to restricts views out of the village, although this provides some scenic value and integrates the settlement edges. From a few limited locations, the Forest of Bowland high fells are distantly visible on the horizon.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

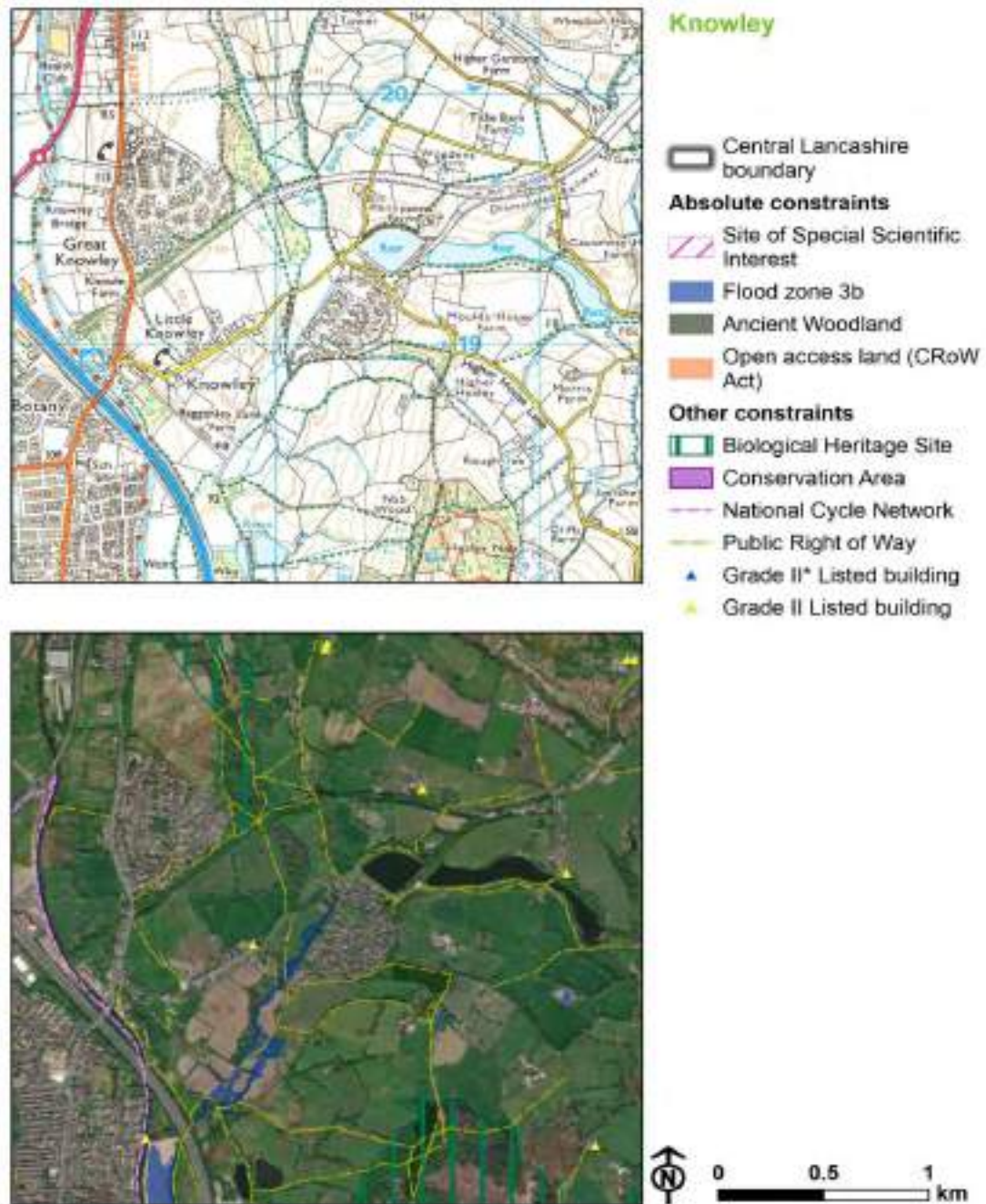
The majority of the surrounding landscape is identified as ‘ancient enclosure’ (pre-AD1600) within the Lancashire HLC (2002) and therefore displays some time-depth and distinctiveness. To the north-west of the village Hutton Marsh, a large area of marshland lying at the confluence of the River Douglas and River Ribble, contains the Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site and SPA and Ribble Estuary SSSI. This is a distinctive and scenic landscape which provides a sense of tranquillity and remoteness. Whilst located at some distance from the village, it is connected to it via Grange Lane and Public Rights of Way. This landscape is closely associated with the village (as indicated by its name) and therefore plays an important role in its wider setting. The village is also connected to the River Ribble to the north by a network of lanes and Public Rights of Way, and the National Cycle Network Route 62 passes through the village on the A59.

Conclusion on level of contribution

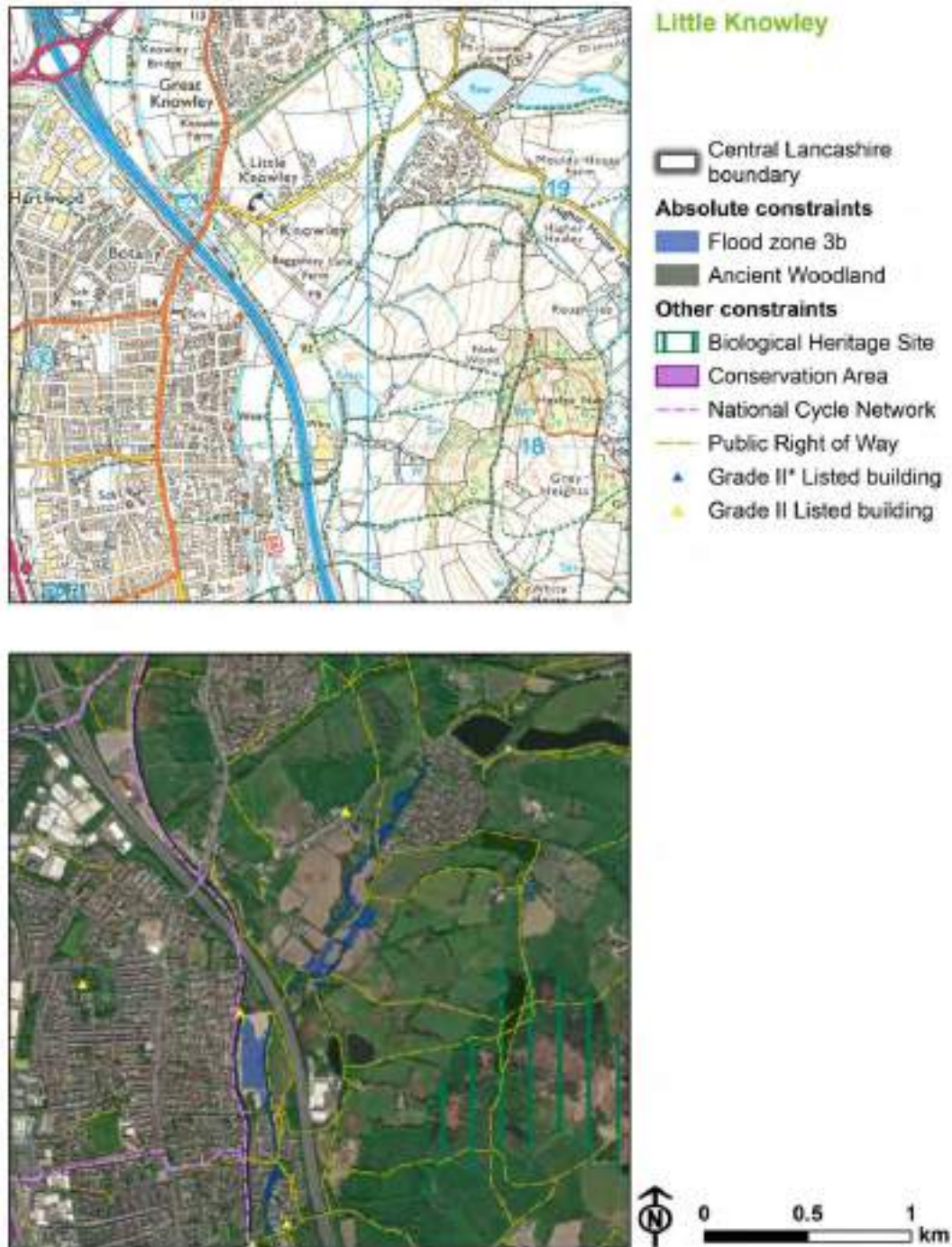
Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Hutton. Key areas/ elements are:

- Blocks of woodland and remnants of a historic parkland landscape to the north and east which integrate the settlement edges and provide scenic value and a sense of separation between Hutton and Penwortham to the north-east.
- Views from the edge of the settlement across the adjacent farmland, which creates a sense of rurality and contributes to an overall rural character.
- The scenic, perceptual and recreational value provided by Hutton Marsh to the north-west of the village

Knowley/Little Knowley



Appendix B Settlement setting assessment



B.1

Influence of landscape on settlement form

Knowley/Little Knowley is a village located to the east of Chorley within Chorley District. Historically development in Knowley was along Heapey Road, to the west of the Black Brook; whilst that in Little Knowley was further to the west, focussed around the junction of Blackburn Brow, Knowley Brow and Bagganley Lane. Healey Bleach Works were located to the east of Black Brook, off Heapey Road. The village has retained its linear form, although a large residential estate was built in the later 20th century on the site of the bleach works. The village contains only one Grade II listed building.

Steeper landform to the south-east of Heapey Road has restricted development in Knowley, which lies almost exclusively along the north-western edge of this road. Little Knowley follows the B6228, constrained to the west and south-west by topography sloping down to the valley bottom within which the Leeds and Liverpool canal is located. A railway line to the north, now dismantled, also constrained development along Blackburn Brow to the north. This provides a separating feature between the village and Great Knowley. The settlement has retained its historic pattern as a linear ribbon development, notwithstanding the more recent development on the former bleach works site which forms a new and separate area of Knowley.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

Development along Heapey Road in Knowley overlooks the valley of the Black Brook, offering clear views east across the valley towards Grey Heights hill. Beyond this the West Pennine Moors form a broad backdrop to the views in this direction. Due to its prominent position on the hillside, Knowley is also visible from elevated positions to the east and south-east, including from the West Pennine Moors and Healey Nab. This intervisibility with the surrounding

landscape allows its wider setting to be appreciated and enjoyed. Little Knowley sits on a slight ridge with some elevated views available to the west across the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and M6 Motorway towards Chorley. However, these views are towards the urban edge of Chorley and the M61 and are partially filtered through intervening woodland on the south-western and western settlement edge. There are generally views from the settlement edge across adjacent agricultural land, which contributes to an over-riding rural character. This is particularly the case to from Knowley Brow/Heapey Road between the two distinct areas of settlement. The development at the former bleach works site is generally more contained, including by rising topography and Temple Wood to east and embankments associated with reservoirs to the north. This tends to limit views both into and out of this part of the settlement.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

Knowley/Little Knowley is a village located to the east of Chorley within Chorley District. Historically development in Knowley was along Heapey Road, to the west of the Black Brook; whilst that in Little Knowley was further to the west, focussed around the junction of Blackburn Brow, Knowley Brow and Bagganley Lane. Healey Bleach Works were located to the east of Black Brook, off Heapey Road. The village has retained its linear form, although a large residential estate was built in the later 20th century on the site of the bleach works. The village contains only one Grade II listed building.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting make a **particularly important** contribution to the character of Knowley/Little Knowley. Key areas/ elements are:

- Steeper landform to the south-east of Heapey Road, which has restricted development in Knowley and affords views over the valley of the Black Brook.

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

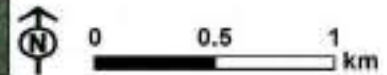
- Intervisibility with the more elevated landscape to the east and south-east, including the West Pennine Moors and Healey Nab.
- Views across adjacent agricultural land, including from Knowley Brow/Heapey Road, which contributes to an over-riding rural character.

Lea Town



Lea Town

-  Central Lancashire boundary
- Absolute constraints**
-  Flood zone 3b
- Other constraints**
-  Preston Historic Designed Landscape
-  Biological Heritage Site
-  Local Nature Reserve
-  National Cycle Network
-  Public Right of Way
-  Grade I Listed building
-  Grade II Listed building



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Lea Town is a village located to the west of Preston within Preston District. The historic settlement form comprised dispersed linear development along Darkinson Lane and Lea Lane to the north of the River Ribble. There has been some more recent introduction of residential development along these routes, although the historic linear settlement pattern is largely retained. The historic parts of the settlement on Lea Lane are indicated by two Grade II listed buildings. In the mid-20th century a large nuclear fuel production complex was constructed immediately to the west of the village in Salwick (Westinghouse Springfields Fuels).

There are no obvious physical or cultural constraints inhibiting the growth of Lea Town. Historically, the low lying land to the south of the settlement in proximity to the River Ribble and Savick Brook remained undeveloped. However, the immediate context of Lea Town does not fall within any flood zone today.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The landscape surrounding Lea Town is relatively low-lying, rising gradually northwards away from the River Ribble. This, and the presence of mature vegetation within field boundaries, tends to limit longer distance views to and from the settlement. Views out of the village are also more limited at the western end of Darkinson Lane, where built form lines either side of the road; whilst to the east views are more open, being across immediately adjacent open fields. These views across the adjacent farmland provide a rural setting to the village. Views west are also foreshortened by woodland associated with the Westinghouse Springfields Fuels, which largely restricts views of the large-scale industrial structures within. The rural setting is impaired by the visual prominence of a series of four overhead power lines to the south and east, and industrial structures to the north visible from the east of the village.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

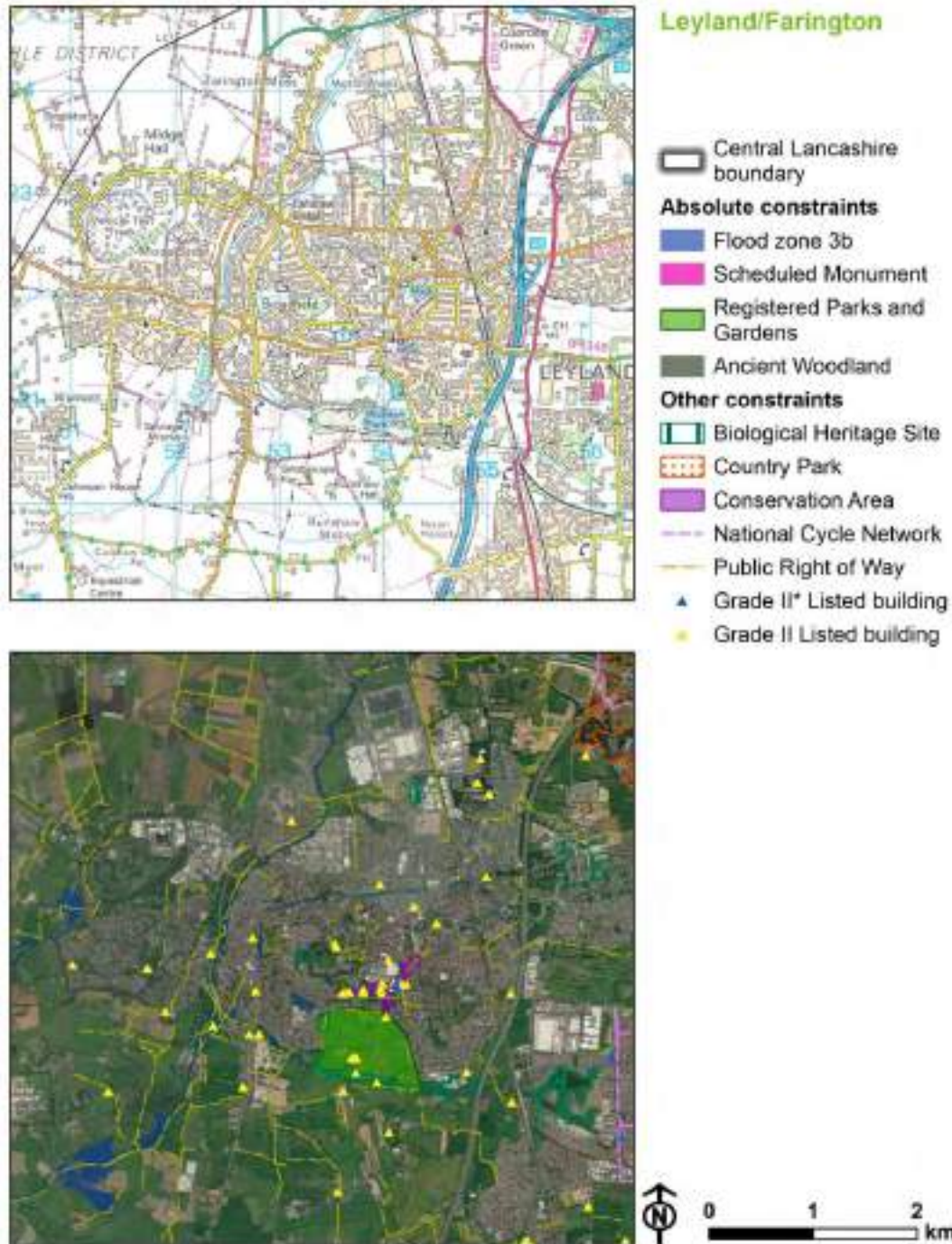
The landscape to the south of the settlement is identified as ‘ancient enclosure’ within the Lancashire HLC (2002). The distinctive pattern of strip fields here provides a strong landscape structure, further strengthened by some dense and generally well-maintained hedgerows. The field pattern to the north of the settlement is identified as ‘post-medieval enclosure’ and is more open with less mature hedgerow vegetation. The immediately surrounding landscape provides a sense of time-depth and distinctiveness, particularly that to the south, and enhances the rural setting of the village. A network of Public Rights of Way, including the Millennium Ribble Link, Guild Wheel and that along the Lancaster Canal, and lanes connect the settlement to the surrounding farmland which allows the landscape setting to be appreciated. The rural setting is also appreciated on approach to the settlement along Lea Lane from the north, and along Darkinson Lane from the south and north-east.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Lea Town. Key areas/ elements are:

- Sense of time depth and rurality provided by the surrounding landscape, particularly the distinctive strip fields to the south of the settlement.
- Relatively open views from the settlement across open farmland immediately to the north of the settlement.
- A network of Public Rights of Way which connects the settlement with the surrounding rural landscape setting.

Leyland/Farrington



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Leyland is a town located within South Ribble District. The old village of Leyland was centred around the Village Cross, and includes parts of Towngate, Fox Lane, Worden Lane, Sandy Lane and Church Road. This area marks the historic core of the settlement and contains two conservation areas - 'Leyland Cross Conservation Area' and 'Sandy Lane Conservation Area' – and several listed buildings, including the Grade II* Church of St Andrew. In the late 18th century Leyland became a centre for the bleaching and finishing industry and began to expand through the 19th century, with the construction of mills, warehouses and workers housing. Further expansion has occurred during the 20th and early 21st centuries with the construction of several residential estates. The outward expansion has substantially altered the historic settlement form, dwarfing the historic core. In particular, residential estates introduced in the Moss Side area of the town have extended development to the west beyond the River Lostock.

Historically, settlement growth was constrained to the south by Shaw Brook and the historic parkland associated with Worden Hall (now designated as a Grade II RPG). A lack of constraints to the north, east and west is reflected in expansion in these directions and has resulted in some former separate villages being subsumed as part of Leyland, including Earnshaw Bridge to the north-west and Farrington to the north-east. Today, the eastern settlement edge is defined by the M6, which provides a sense of separation between Clayton-le-Woods to the east and Euxton/Buckshaw Village to the south-east.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

Due to the presence of road infrastructure and other urban areas, only land to the south, west and north of the settlement is open. This comprises relatively flat agricultural land, meaning it does not provide a backdrop to the settlement.

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

However, some views are attainable from the edge of the settlement across the adjacent farmland, which provides some sense of rurality. Views are also available towards the settlement from parts of the surrounding landscape, particularly to the north and west where the settlement edge is generally more open. From here, the settlement is backdropped by the West Pennine Moors in the distance. In places woodland cover around the settlement edges creates a sense of scenic value, by providing a wooded backdrop to views out of the town. This includes Worden Park to the south, the wooded course of Shaw Brook to the south-east, and the wooded course of the River Lostock to the north-west and south-west. The wooded corridor of the River Lostock also creates a sense of separation between the main part of Leyland and Moss Side to the west.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

To the south the historic parkland at Worden Hall provides an open landscape setting in relative proximity to the historic parts of the settlement. This is noted (along with Leyland Crickets and Sports Grounds) within the Leyland Cross Conservation Area Appraisal (2013) as being “*very important areas of public open spaces*” which “*provide invaluable areas of green spaces for both informal and formal recreational pursuits*”. The historic character and wooded setting of the park also contributes to a sense of arrival into Leyland when approaching from the south along Worden Lane and several Public Rights of Way. More recently development has taken place around Worden Park to the east and west, giving the impression of the landscape intruding into the urban area. This increases the importance of the park in providing an open landscape setting in proximity to the town.

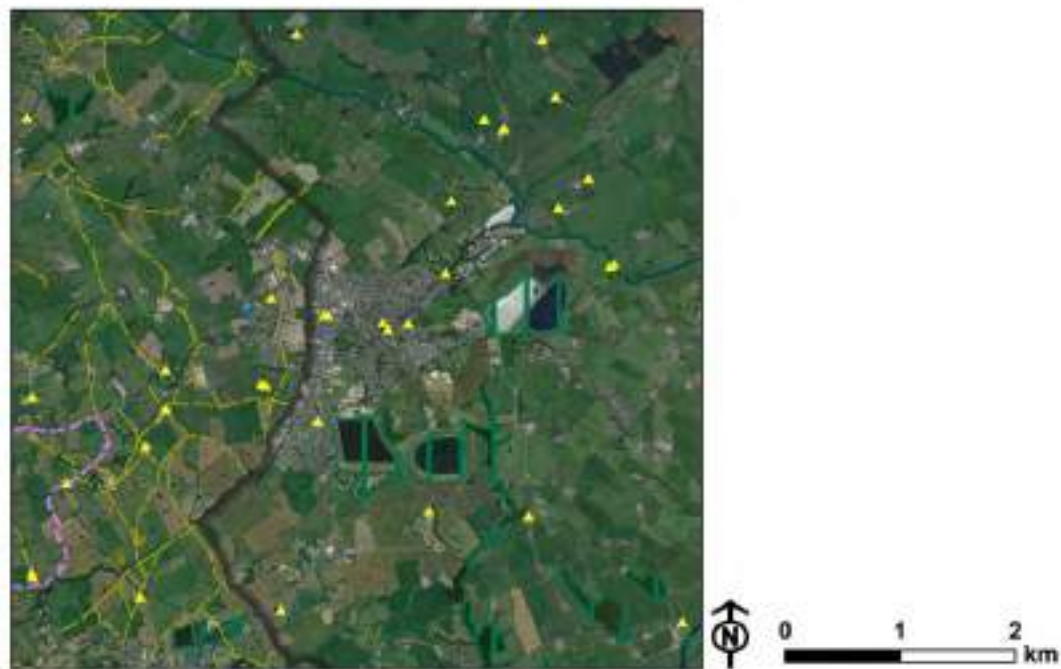
Elsewhere around the settlement there is a comprehensive Public Rights of Way network, which allows views of the wider rural landscape setting to be appreciated and enjoyed. The wider landscape to the south is identified as ‘ancient enclosure’ (pre-AD1600) within the Lancashire HLC (2002). The distinctive sense of time-depth associated with this is enhanced by the adjoining Worden Hall RPG.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of limited parts of Leyland/Farington. Key areas/ elements are:

- the historic parkland at Worden Hall, which provides an open landscape setting in relative proximity to the historic parts of the settlement, provides scenic and recreational value and contributes to a sense of arrival when approaching from the south.
- The wooded course of the River Lostock, which provides some scenic value to the south-west and north-west.
- The wooded course of the Shaw Brook, which provides some scenic value to the south-east.

Longridge



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Longridge is a town located to the north-east of Preston at the western end of Longridge Fell within the Ribble Valley District; Only land to the west of the settlement is within the Central Lancashire Area. It began as a market town but began to expand in the 19th century when cotton mills and local stone quarries became important to the town's development. The historic form of the settlement was focussed on three main roads – Inglewhite Road, Berry Lane and Preston Road/Derby Road – which today retain examples of good quality 19th century stone buildings, including terraces and workers cottages. Further expansion occurred from the 20th century, much of it in the 1960s and 1970s, through to the early 21st century.

To the south-west Savick Brook and associated woodland has defined the edge of Longridge, confining the Shay Lane Industrial Estate into a narrow corridor. West of Savick Brook, Green Nook House Grade II Listed Building and associated small scale parkland has also constrained development. Tree belts surrounding this property create a clear boundary between development off Cumeragh Lane and the surrounding farmland.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

Tree belts in the vicinity of Green Nook House and woodland along Savick Brook integrate the settlement edge and provide scenic value to the south-west. This, also serves to screens views of development in views back towards the settlement from the surrounding landscape, which helps maintain a rural character. Longridge Conservation Area and several Grade II listed buildings mark the historic core of the town today. The Longridge Conservation Area is essentially urban in character with the three principal streets being lined with buildings, which tends to restrict views out to the surrounding landscape setting. However, there tends to be stronger visual connection with the surrounding landscape from the settlement edges to the north-west. From Half Penny Lane

there are views available across the adjacent pastoral landscape to the west, north-west and north, with the Forest of Bowland fells forming a distant backdrop.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

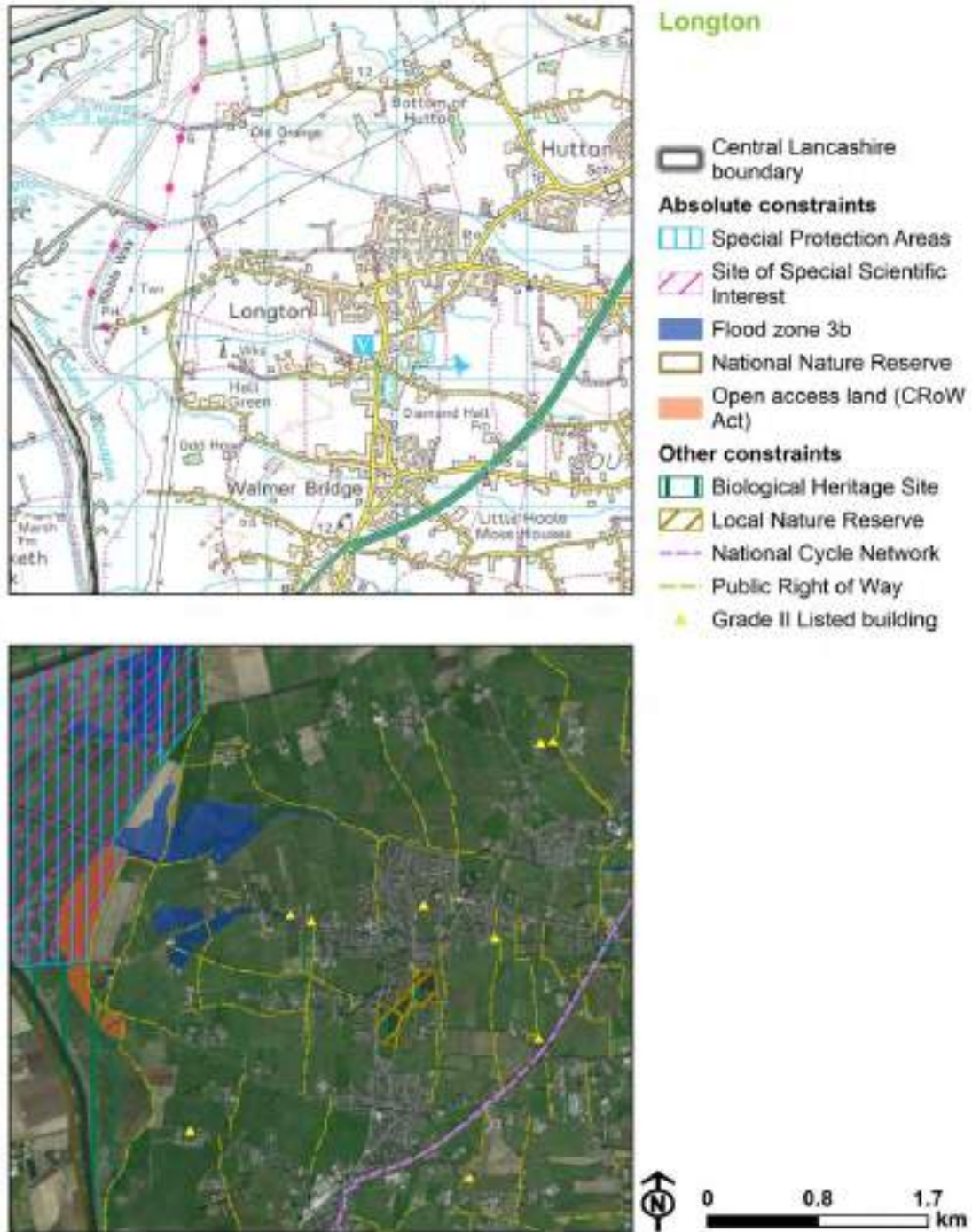
The landscape to the west of the town comprises an intricate historic landscape pattern, defined by hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees and a network of winding tracks and lanes. Much of this landscape is identified as 'ancient enclosure' within the Lancashire HLC (2002), which provides some sense of time-depth. There is an extensive network of Public Rights of Way that connect the town to the surrounding landscape and allow the wider setting to be appreciated.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting (within the Central Lancashire Area) make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Longridge. Key areas/elements are:

- Savick Brook and the area and planting associated with Green Nook House, which constrains development and creates an integrated settlement edge to the south-west.
- Strong visual connection from half penny lane with the open pastoral landscape setting to the west.
- Views, towards the Forest of Bowland AONB to the north-east, which forms a distant backdrop to views from the settlement edge.

Longton



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Longton is a large village located to the north-west of Leyland and south-west of Penworthan within South Ribble District. The village is located on the edge of the coastal plain landscape, adjacent to coastal marshes to the north and west. The historic settlement pattern comprised linear east-west development along Marsh Lane, Liverpool Road and Chapel Lane. Whilst the original east-west axis of development is still apparent, the introduction of residential estates to the north and south in the mid to late 20th century has altered its historic form. Whilst some of the older built form survives, the settlement contains only a few Grade II listed buildings and no conservation area designations.

The growth of the village has been constrained to north by Longton Brook and, to a lesser extent, to the south by Tarra Carr Gutter. However, development along Liverpool Road has extended beyond the latter with only a small area of open land separating Longton from development on the northern edge of Walmer Bridge. To the west and north-west of the village the topography descends gradually down to coastal marshes and the floodplain of the River Douglas, which has constrained growth in this direction. The former Longton Brick Pits (now flooded to create a series of ponds and designated as a Local Nature Reserve and South Ribble Biological Heritage Site) has constrained development to the south east. The ponds and surrounding woodland cover also helps maintain a degree of distinction between the village of Walmer bridge to the south. To the east there are no notable natural or cultural constraints and development has extended in this direction along Chapel Lane. Whilst there are some gaps between built form in proximity to New Longton, there is little perceived distinction between Longton and New Longton when travelling along Chapel Lane. Further development has also recently occurred (such as Fieldings Close) or is planned to the west of the village, with two housing allocations sites located south of Chapel Lane – ‘Land at Longton Hall’ and ‘Rear of Chapel Meadow, Longton’.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The surrounding landscape does not provide a backdrop to the settlement, owing to the low-lying flat topography. However, views are generally attainable from the edge of the settlement across the adjacent farmland which creates a sense of rurality and contributes to an overall rural character. This is particularly noticeable from sections of Chapel Lane to the east of the village, including views south across an area of Protected Open Land (South Ribble Local Plan, 2015). To the north-east and south-east vegetation along Longton Brook and woodland at Longton Brick Pits tends to restricts views out of the village, although this provides some scenic value and integrates the settlement edges.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

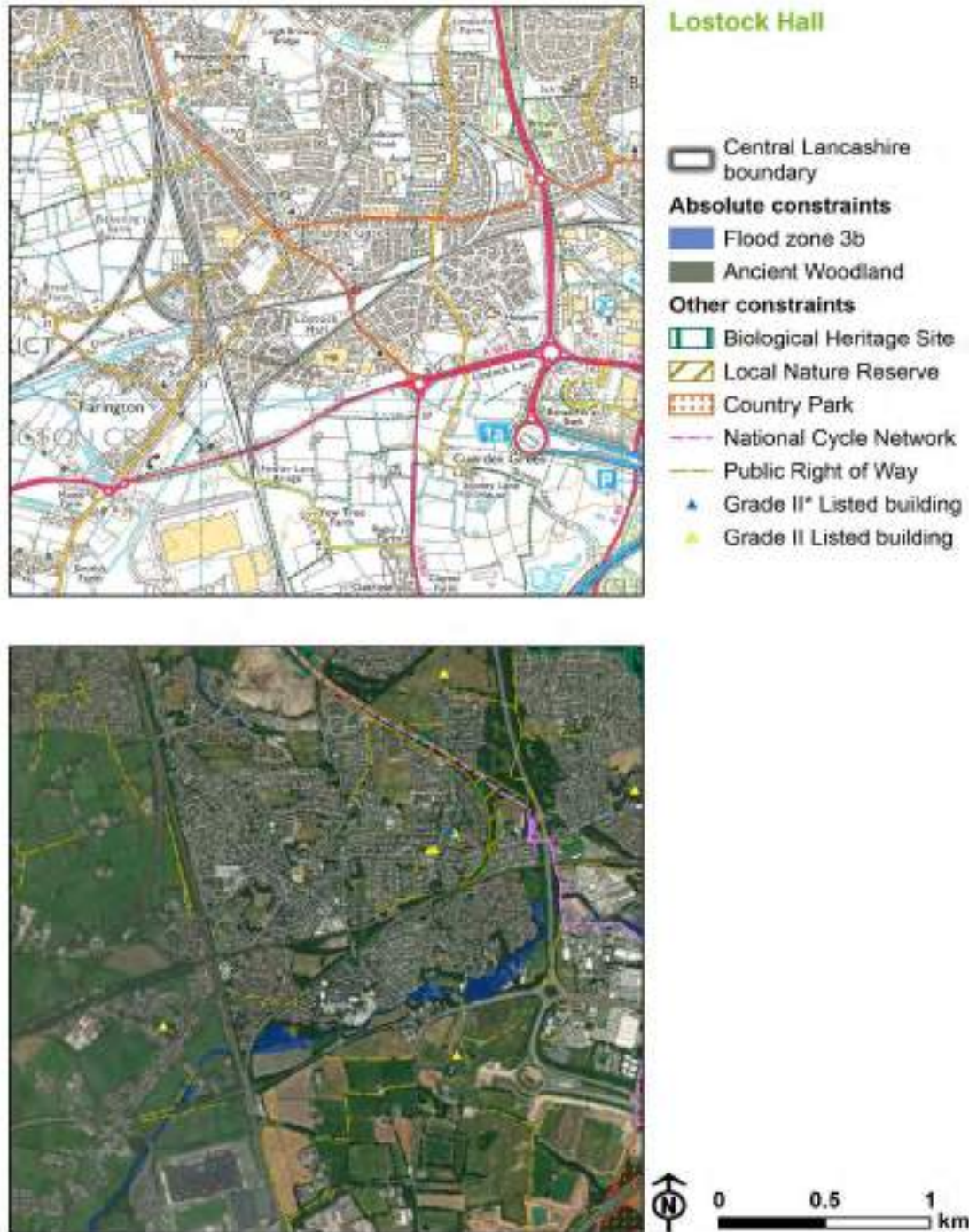
The majority of the surrounding landscape is identified as 'ancient enclosure' (pre-AD1600) within the Lancashire HLC (2002) and therefore displays some time-depth and distinctiveness. Much of this comprises remnants of a Medieval open-field system of elongated fields running at right angles to the settlement edges (particularly evident along Chapel Lane, Marsh Lane and Hall Lane). To the west and north west of Longton Marsh, a large area of marshland lying at the confluence of the River Douglas and River Ribble, contains the Ribble and Alt Estuaries Ramsar Site and SPA; Ribble Estuary SSSI; and Longton Out Marsh Registered Common Land. It is a distinctive and scenic landscape which provides a sense of tranquillity and remoteness. An extensive network of lanes and footpaths, including Hall Lane and Marsh Lane and the Ribble Way long distance path, provide access to this landscape for walkers and cyclists. This landscape is closely associated with the village (as indicated by its name) and therefore plays an important role in its setting.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting of Longton make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of the settlement. Key areas/ elements are:

- Views from the edge of the settlement across the adjacent historic farmland, which creates a sense of rurality and contributes to an overall rural character.
- The scenic, perceptual and recreational value provided by Longton Marsh to the west of the village.
- Vegetation along Longton Brook and woodland cover at Longton Brickcroft Nature Reserve, which provides some scenic value and integrates the settlement edges.
- An extensive network of Public Rights of Way which provide access to the surrounding landscape, including the Longton Marsh to the west.

Lostock Hall



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Lostock Hall is located to the north of Leyland and forms part of the South Ribble Urban Area (as defined within the South Ribble Local Plan, 2015). The original settlement began to the north of the River Lostock around the Medieval Lostock's Hall, from where it derived its name. The settlement form was originally dispersed, with some early development surviving (such as the Grade II* listed Todd Hall). The settlement began to expand in the 19th century with the construction of several cotton mills. Development at this time was concentrated mainly along Watkin Lane, including at Tardy Gate. Development continued through the 20th and early 21st centuries with the introduction of several residential estates, including the Walton Park area to the north. The outward expansion of the settlement has dwarfed the historic areas and has resulted in there being very little physical distinction between Lostock Hall and adjacent settlements, including Walton-le-Dale to north-east, Bamber Bridge to the east and Penwortham to the north-west.

Lostock Hall has grown radially along the various roads leading to/from the historic core of the settlement. However, its growth was constrained historically to the south, east, north-east and west by the 19th Century railway network, which included the West Coast Mainline to the west and local branches of the Lancashire and Yorkshire railway further south and to the northeast. More recently, settlement has expanded beyond some of these features to the south, east and north-east, and today the settlement is contained by the A6 to the east, and the A582 to the south. The A6 and West Coast Mainline in particular create some sense of perceived separation between Lostock Hall and Bamber Bridge to the east and Penwortham (Kingsfold) in the west. The railway line along the north-eastern edge of the settlement is now dismantled, but woodland belts along its course still play a role in separating Lostock Hall from Bamber Bridge. This is designated as a LNR and South Ribble Biological Heritage Site.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The majority of the land surrounding Lostock Hall comprises urban development. Only land to the south, south-west and west is undeveloped. This comprises predominantly flat agricultural land, meaning it does not provide a backdrop to the settlement. The visual connection between the settlement and its surrounding landscape is further weakened by the presence of the West Coast Main Line along the eastern edge of the settlement and A582 to the south. However, in places woodland cover around the settlement edges provides a wooded backdrop to views and some sense of scenic value. This includes the wooded course of the dismantled railway to the north-east and woodland along the River Lostock to the south.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The landscape to the south of Lostock Hall is identified as ‘ancient enclosure’ (pre-AD1600) within the Lancashire HLC (2002). Whilst this displays some sense of time-depth, the distinctiveness of the landscape is limited due to the influence nearby of transport corridors, large-scale industrial parks and suburban development. The landscape to the south and west of the settlement contains a fairly sparse network of Public Rights of Way. . In the northwest of the settlement, National Cycle Route 55 runs along the dismantled railway. For much of this route, the cycle path is in a cutting and vegetation screens views into Lostock Hall.

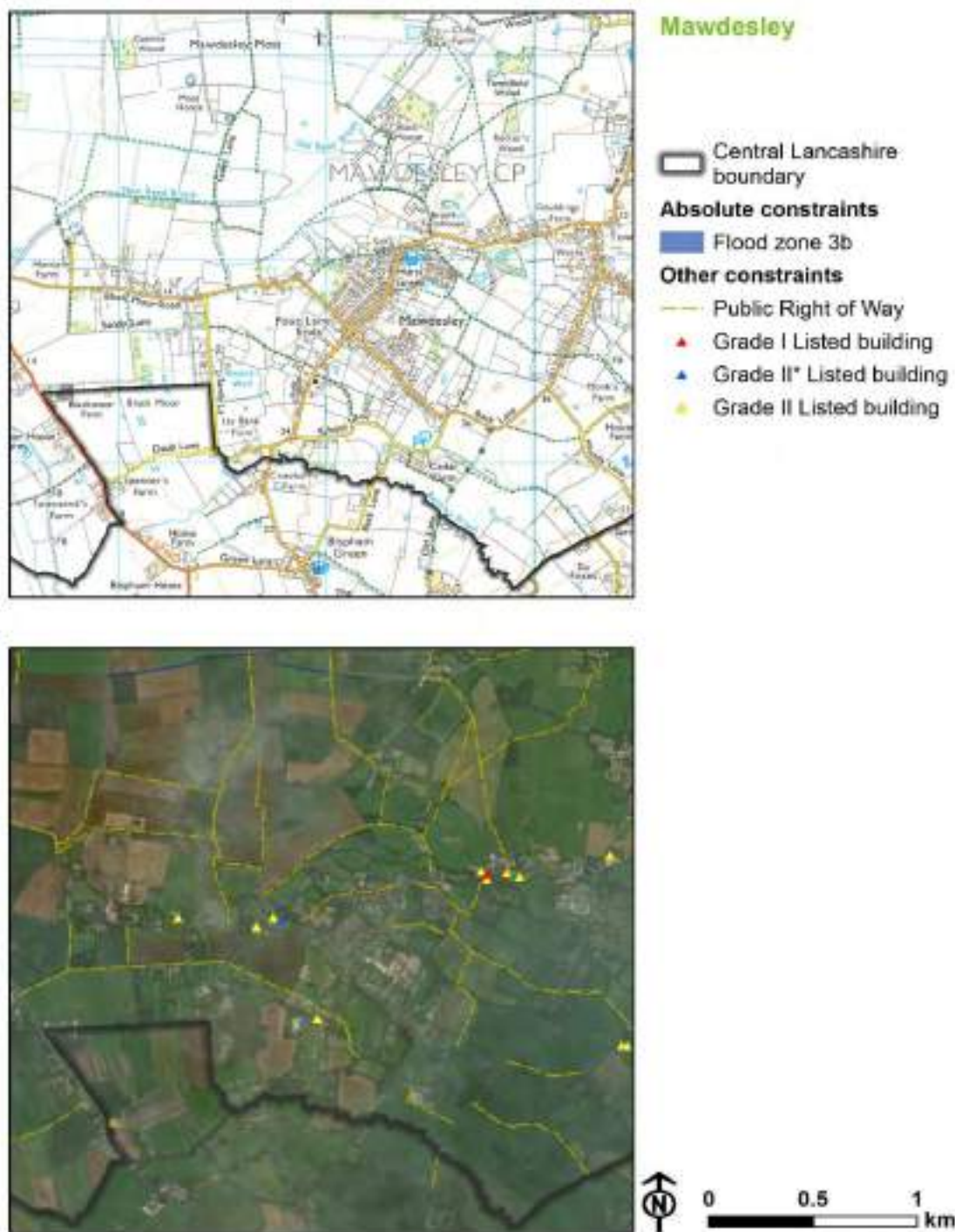
Conclusion on level of contribution

The landscape setting of Lostock Hall makes a **limited** contribution to the character of the settlement. However, the following areas/elements provide some landscape value:

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- The wooded course of the River Lostock, which provides some scenic value to the south.
- The dismantled railway line (Preston Junction) to the north-east, which provides scenic and recreational value.

Mawdesley



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Mawdesley is a village located in the south-west of Chorley District. Historic mapping shows several dispersed areas of settlement/hamlets along Hall Lane, Dark Lane, New Street, Gorse Lane, High Street, Smithy Lane and Black Moor Road. Those at Hall Lane and Black Moor Road are marked today by small clusters of listed buildings (the former includes the Grade I Mawdesley Hall and the latter the Grade II* Lane Ends House) and that on High Street contains the Grade II St Peter's Church. The historic settlement pattern has been altered to some extent by the introduction late 20th century residential development to the west of New Street and ribbon development along Dark Lane and Bradshaw Lane to the east. Whilst the more recent development west of New Street forms the main focus of the village today, overall a dispersed settlement pattern largely remains.

The village lies on the edge of a coastal plain landscape, which rises gradually above the mossland landscape to the north and west. The lower-lying mosslands have constrained growth, with development limited to the slightly higher ground of the coastal plain. The land drains towards the lower ground and two small unnamed brooks (tributaries of New Reed Brook) run through the settlement. These natural features have constrained development, with the result that the historic areas on Hall Lane to the east, Black Moor Road to the west and High Street to the south-west have retained separate identities from the main area of the settlement. This contributes to maintaining the dispersed settlement pattern.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

There is some visual relationship between the village and the lower-lying Mawdesley Moss and Black Moor to the north and west, with some long views across this open landscape back towards the settlement. The spire of St Peter's

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

Church is apparent in some views from the west (such as from parts of Rufford Road (B5246), Daud Lane and Sandy lane). The village does not have a strong visual connection with the surrounding landscape to the east and south, owing to the flat to gently undulating topography and more well-wooded nature of the landscape here. Mature vegetation along the two watercourses, along with several small wooded areas, helps to integrate the settlement edges and provides some scenic value. However, due to the dispersed nature of development, views are generally attainable from the edge of the settlement across the immediately adjacent farmland, which contributes to an over-riding rural character .

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The immediate landscape around Mawdesley is predominantly identified as 'ancient enclosure' within the Lancashire HLC (2002). This comprises an irregular small and medium-scale field pattern that displays a strong sense of time-depth. The adjacent historic farmland adds to the rural setting, and in particular is important in contributing to the rural hamlet character of the historic areas of development on Hall Lane, Black Moor Road and High Street. Further to the north and west Mawdesley Moss is a distinctive open, flat, low-lying landscape divided by a geometric pattern of ditches and low hedgerows that is identified as 'post-medieval enclosure from moss' within the Lancashire HLC. This landscape is closely associated with the village (as indicated by its name) and therefore plays an important role in its setting. There is dense network of PRow that connects the settlement to the surrounding landscape meaning that its wider landscape setting can be appreciated, in particular on approach from Mawdesley Moss to the north and north-west.

Conclusion on level of contribution

The landscape setting makes a **particularly important** contribution to the character of Mawdesley. Key areas/ elements are:

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- The scenic, perceptual and recreational value provided by Mawdesley Moss and Black Moor to the north and west of the village; the former is closely associated with the village.
- The immediately adjacent farmland, which provides a strong rural setting to the settlement, and in particular the rural hamlet character of more historic areas on Hall Lane to the east, Black Moor Road to the west and High Street to the south-west.
- The two brooks flowing through the settlement, which have constrained development and help retain a sense of separation between areas of development to the east, west and south.
- Mature vegetation along the two brooks, which integrates the settlement edges and provides scenic value.

Mellor Brook



Mellor Brook

-  Central Lancashire boundary
- Absolute constraints**
-  Registered Parks and Gardens
-  Ancient Woodland
- Other constraints**
-  Biological Heritage Site
-  Public Right of Way
-  Grade II* Listed building
-  Grade II Listed building



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Mellor Brook is a small village located to the east of Preston, straddling the districts of South Ribble and Ribble Valley. Only land to the west and south-west of the village lies within the Central Lancashire Area. Historic settlement form comprised clustered development at the junction of Whalley Road, Mellor Brow and Branch Road. This was altered by 19th and 20th century ribbon development along Mellor Brow and Branch Road. Some of the early built form survives, albeit the village contains no conservation areas and only one Grade II Listed Building, the Grade II Intack Cottage on Intack Lane to the south-west of the village.

There are no obvious natural or cultural constraints to development within the Central Lancashire Area to the west of the village, reflected in the later development to the south-west of the village on Mellor Brow and Branch Road. The only notable natural constraint to development is outwith the Central Lancashire Area. The Mellor Brook curves around the northern and eastern edges of the settlement, forming a natural constraint to development. This is designated as a Local Nature Reserve and a Biological Heritage Site.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The village is situated on land that gradually rises up from the valley of the River Ribble in the north-west. As a result of this higher elevation, views are available across open agricultural land to the west of the village, which directly abuts Branch Road. This provides some sense of rurality, although the rural quality of views is reduced by the partial visibility of industrial units at Samlesbury Aerodrome. Long distance views can also be gained from parts of the village (such as views north along Branch Road) towards the Forest of Bowland to the north which provides an attractive backdrop to the settlement. The Mellor Ridge and the elevated settlement of Mellor form the backdrop of views looking east,

in which the Grade II Church of St Mary in Mellor forms a distinctive element on the skyline.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

There is only a limited network of footpaths to the south-west of the village and land to the west is largely inaccessible to the public. The area to the south and west of the village have a more extensive network of Public Rights of Way . Whilst outside of the Central Lancashire Area, these routes traverse higher ground and allow Mellor Brook to be appreciated in its wider setting .

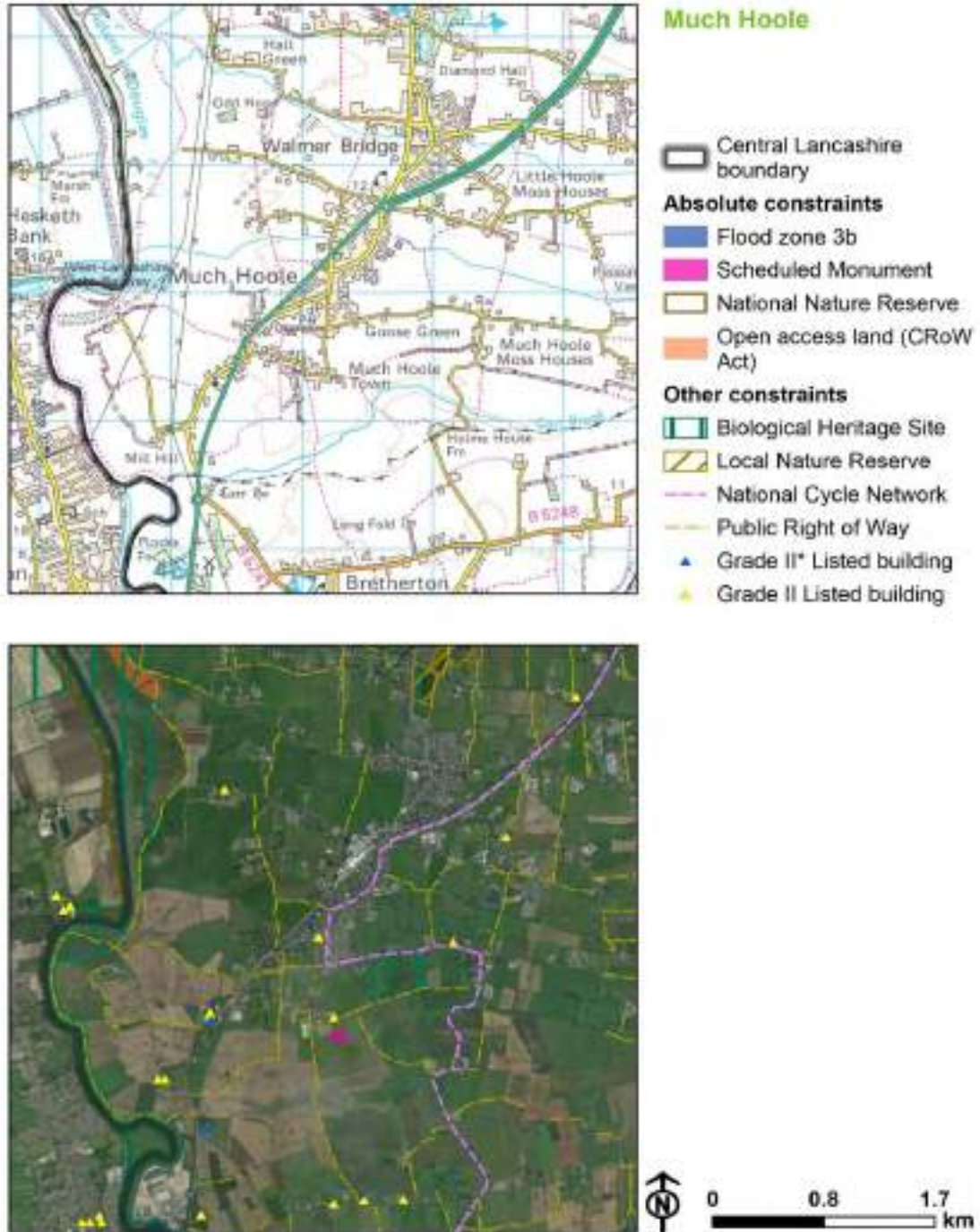
Much of the wider surrounding landscape is identified as 'ancient enclosure' (pre-AD1600) within the Lancashire HLC (2002) and therefore displays some time-depth and distinctiveness. However, this makes little to no contribution to the settlement's character which is for the most part dominated by later 20th century suburban residential development.

Conclusion on level of contribution

The landscape setting (within the Central Lancashire Area) makes a **limited** contribution to the overall character of Mellor Brook. However, the following areas/elements provide some landscape value:

- The open agricultural land to the west, which provides some sense of rurality.
- The scenic value of long distance views towards the Forest of Bowland in the north.

Much Hoole



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Much Hoole is a village located to the west of Leyland within South Ribble District. The village lies within the coastal plain landscape, in relative proximity to coastal marshes to the west. The historic settlement pattern comprised linear development along Liverpool Old Road, with some dispersed development on Town Lane, Smithy lane and Moss House Lane. Despite the survival of some earlier built form the village contains no conservation area designations and few listed buildings; the Grade II* Church of St Michael is the only notable example on Liverpool Old Road to the south-west. Earlier settlement is indicated by the presence of a moated site at Manor Farm (Scheduled Monument) to the south-east. The construction of Liverpool Road (A59) and the introduction of suburban residential development during the 20th century has altered the historic settlement form, particularly that to the north which has effectively merged Much Hoole with Walmer Bridge to the north.

To the west of the village, the topography descends gently to the coastal marshes around the River Douglas, constraining development in this direction. To the south Carr Brook and its shallow valley form have also constrained development. A lack of physical or cultural constraints to the north and east has led to village's growth in these directions. Development to the north effectively merges with the southern edge of Walmer Bridge, with only the A59 corridor lying between the two settlements.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The surrounding landscape does not provide a backdrop to the settlement, owing to the low-lying flat topography. However, views are generally attainable from the edge of the settlement across the adjacent farmland, which provides some sense of rurality. This is particularly noticeable to the east of the village where the settlement edge is generally open with few landscape elements to

integrate it. The landscape to the south and west of the village is more open in character, comprising a series of larger fields defined by ditches and/or low hedgerows. This means that some longer-range views are available, including from sections of Liverpool Old Road in the vicinity of the Church of St Michael to the south-west. To the west and north-west Liverpool Road (A59) creates a physical and visual barrier between the settlement edge and the landscape to the west (although views are visible from Liverpool Road itself).

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The majority of the immediately surrounding landscape is identified as 'ancient enclosure' (pre-AD1600) within the Lancashire HLC (2002) and therefore displays some time-depth. To the east of the village lies Much Hoole Moss, a distinctive open, flat, low-lying landscape divided by a geometric pattern of ditches and low hedgerows that is largely identified as 'post-medieval enclosure' within the Lancashire HLC (2002). This landscape is closely associated with the village (as indicated by its name) and therefore plays an important role in its setting. To the west is the open coastal marsh landscape around the River Douglas. This area is a distinctive and scenic landscape which provides a sense of tranquillity and remoteness. Whilst this is relatively distant from Much Hoole, a network of footpaths and lanes, including Station Road, provide access to this landscape for walkers and cyclists.

Conclusion on level of contribution

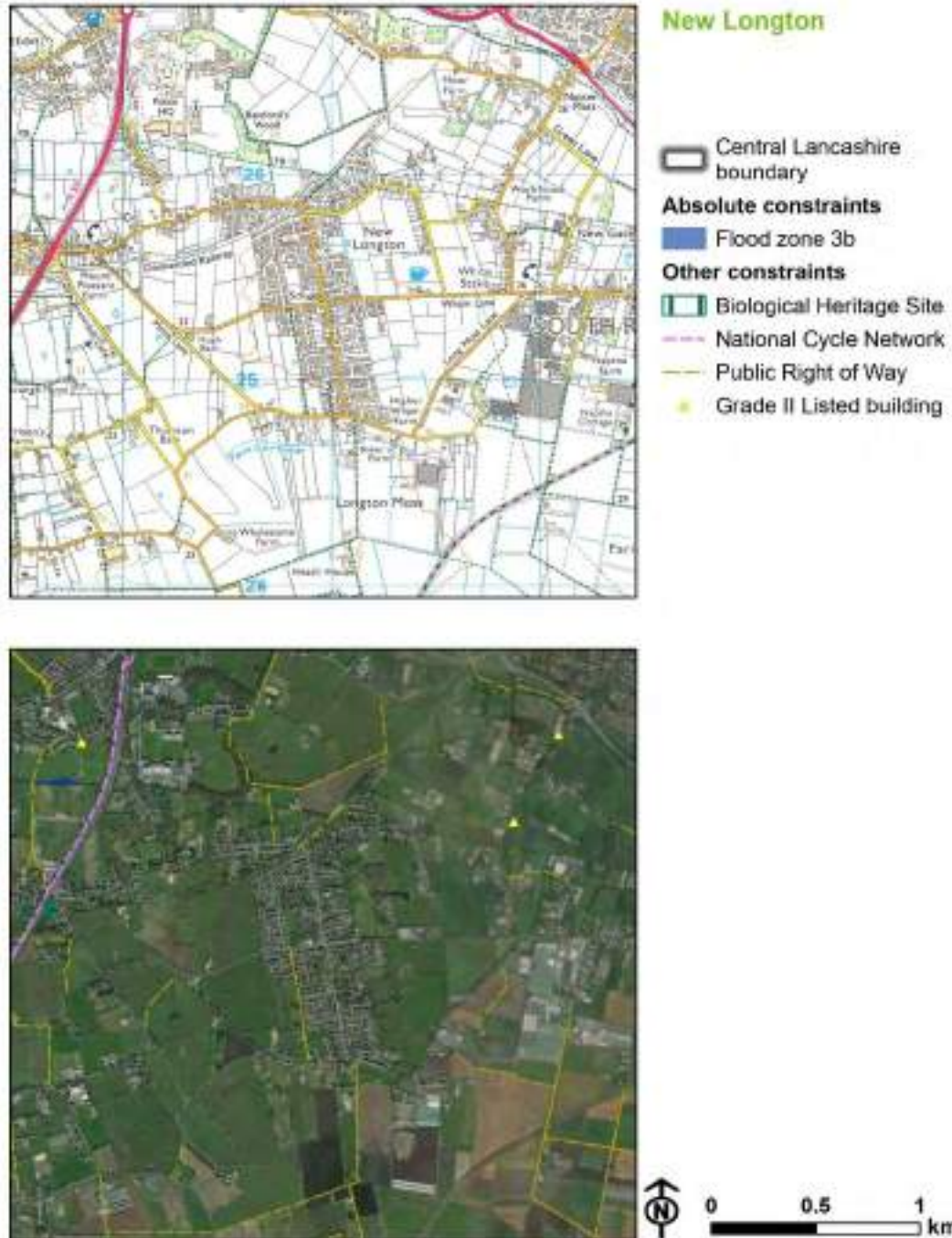
Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Much Hoole. The key areas/elements are:

- The open farmland to the south and south-west of the village, which is important in defining a rural character and provides an attractive scenic setting to the Church of St Michael.
- Much Hoole Moss to the east of the village, which is closely associated with the village.

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- The scenic, perceptual and recreational value provided by the coastal marsh landscape along the River Douglas to the west of the village.

New Longton



Influence of landscape on settlement form

New Longton is a village located east of Longton and to the north-west of Leyland within South Ribble District. The settlement developed following the construction of New Longton and Hutton Station on the West Lancashire Railway (now dismantled) in the 19th century. Early development was concentrated on Chapel Lane around the station to the north and dispersed along Station Road and Sheephill Road further south. Since the mid-20th century residential development has been introduced incrementally either side of Station Road/Sheephill Road, resulting in the north-south geometric settlement form evident today. The relatively late development of the village is reflected in a lack of heritage designations.

The Longton Brook to the north-west has partially restricted development, and this boundary is reinforced by Bamford's wood which formed part of the historic parkland associated with Hutton Hall. The Tarra Carr Gutter runs along the southern edge of the settlement and has restricted development further south. The village has grown through the incremental development of rectangular strip fields that characterise the surrounding landscape. This has resulted in the geometric form of the settlement, which reflects the underlying distinctive landscape structure.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The surrounding landscape does not provide a backdrop to the settlement, owing to the low-lying flat topography. However, there is a slightly stronger visual relationship with the lower lying area of Longton Moss to the south, with some longer-range views available from the southern edge of the settlement (such as from Moss Lane). In addition, views are generally attainable from the other edges of the settlement across the adjacent farmland. Whilst this provides a rural landscape setting, it has a limited influence on the character of the

settlement, as it is largely defined by 20th century residential development. However,

Distinctiveness and recreational value

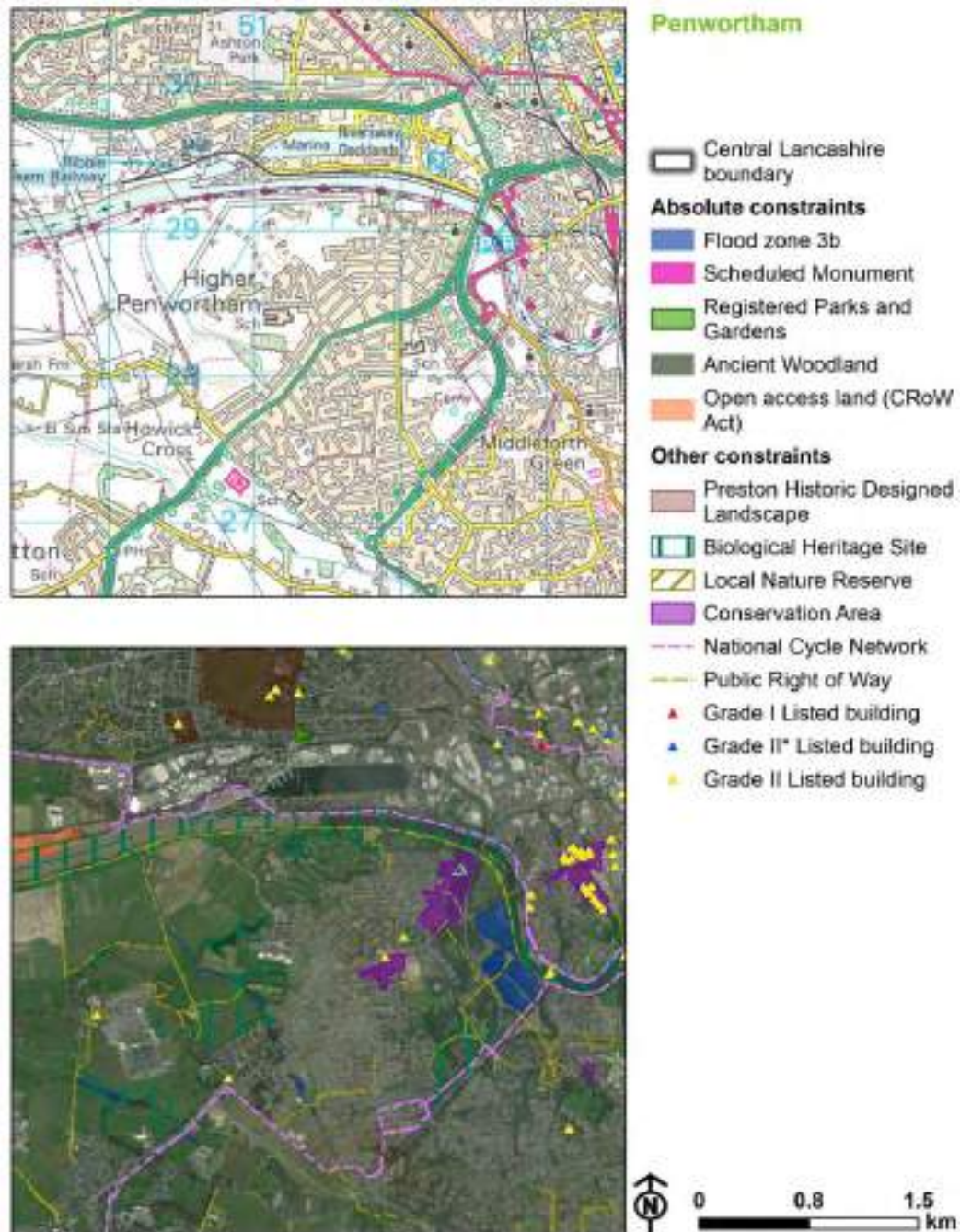
Longton Moss, to the south of the village, is a distinctive open, flat, low-lying landscape divided by a geometric pattern of ditches and low hedgerows that is largely identified as 'post-medieval enclosure' within the Lancashire HLC (2002). There is a network of lanes and Public Rights of Way which provide access to this landscape and allow the setting of the settlement to be appreciated. Elsewhere, the village is not generally well connected by Public Rights of Way and has no key publicly accessible areas from which the setting of the settlement can be appreciated.

Conclusion on level of contribution

The landscape setting makes a **limited** contribution to the character of New Longton. However, the following areas/elements provide some landscape value:

- The small scale waterways to the north-west and south of the village which have partially limited the expansion of the village.
- The distinctive landscape of Longton Moss to the south, has a visual relationship with the village and provides a recreational resource.

Penwortham



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Penwortham is a town located on the south bank of the River Ribble opposite the city of Preston, and which forms part of the South Ribble Main Urban Area (as defined within the South Ribble Local Plan, 2015). Early settlement was located in the north-west of the present-day settlement, adjacent to the river. This historic area of settlement is marked by the St Marys Conservation Area; the Grade II* Church of St Mary; and Castle Hill motte Scheduled Monument, a Norman motte-and-bailey castle built to overlook a river fording point. This area was also once the site of a Benedictine Priory. In the 19th century development was introduced along Liverpool Road and Copp Lane in Higher Penwortham (an area marked by Penwortham Conservation Area) and in Lower Penwortham along Leyland Road south of Penwortham Old Bridge (Scheduled Monument and Grade II listed building). The settlement expanded substantially to the south, south-west, south-east and east from the early 20th century onwards, particularly with the construction of several housing estates in the later 20th century. This included at Howick Cross, Kingsfold, Middleforth Green and Penwortham Lane. This later development has dwarfed the historic areas of the town and has substantially altered the settlement form.

The form of Penwortham has been strongly influenced by physical features within the surrounding landscape. In particular, to the north the River Ribble and its floodplain have defined the settlement edge. The settlement has expanded eastwards as far as the West Coast Main Line railway which now forms an abrupt settlement boundary. To the south, the Mill Brook and woodland associated with it forms a natural constraint to development; today the Penwortham bypass runs to the north of the brook and defines the southern edge of the town. To the west, there are no notable natural or cultural constraints, and the settlement has expanded incrementally to the point where it is approaching areas of steep topography that drops suddenly to flat low-lying areas of enclosed coastal marsh along the River Ribble.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

Despite the relatively elevated position of the western areas of the town, views over the open low-lying areas of enclosed coastal marsh to the west are generally restricted by woodland cover (including that associated with Penwortham Golf Club, Blashaw Woods and Four Acre Woods). This woodland helps integrate the settlement edges and, along with the woodland around Castle Hill, provides scenic value. However, despite this the National Grid Substation Penwortham is an intrusive feature to the south-west. To the south and east, road and rail infrastructure define the settlement edges and separate the town from its landscape setting. The character of the outskirts of Penwortham is dominated by large 20th century residential estates, and the landscape plays little to no role in defining its character.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

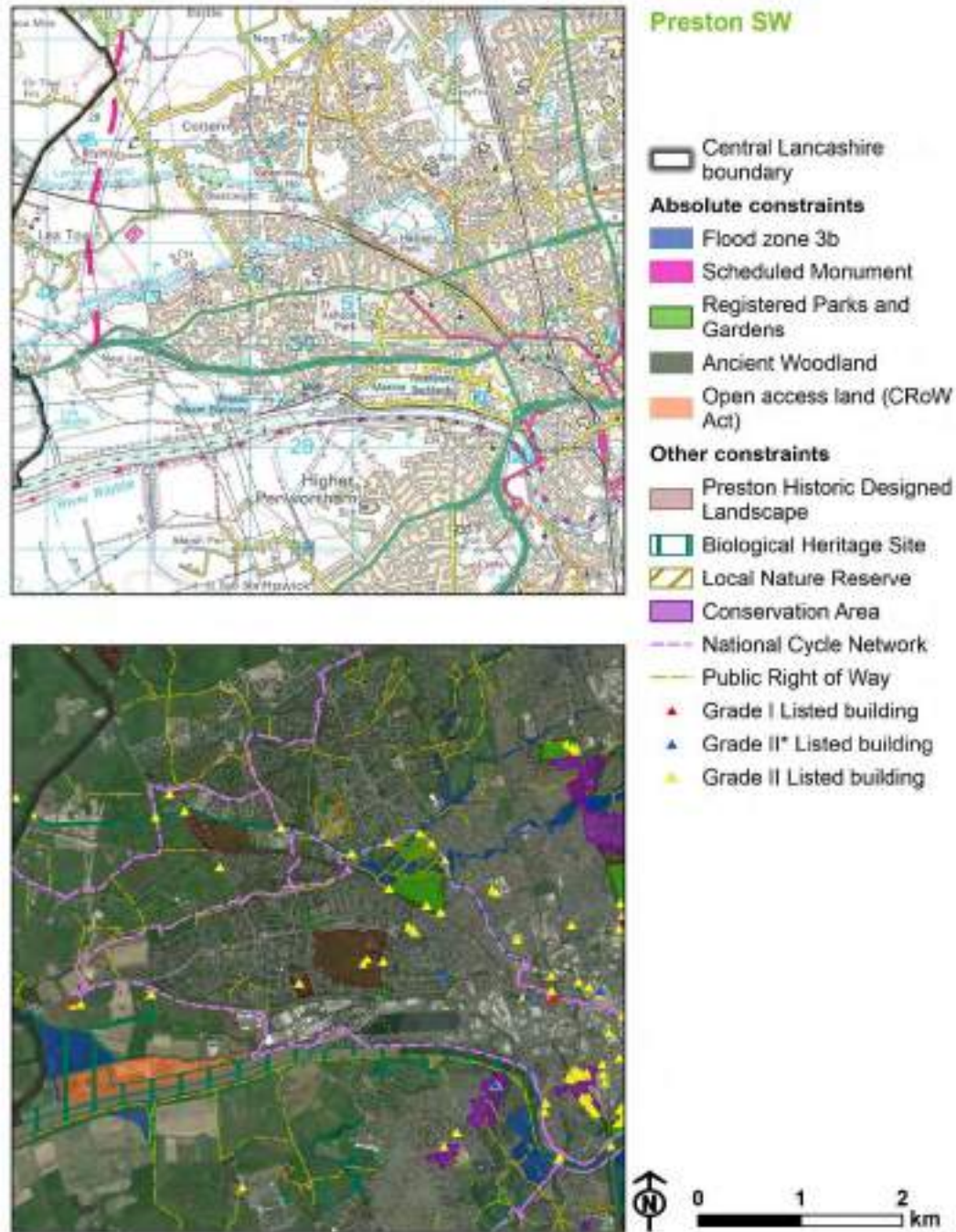
The River Ribble to the north is the key feature which strengthens and enhances the character of the settlement. The presence of Castle Hill and Penwortham Old Bridge (both Scheduled Monuments) reflect the historic strategic and functional importance of the river and provide a sense of time depth. The river setting and dense woodland cover around Castle Hill also creates a clear sense of arrival when crossing the river on approach along Liverpool Road and the A59. A similar sense of arrival is experienced when entering the town from the north over Penwortham Old Bridge. There are a number of publicly accessible sites on the southern bank of the River Ribble from which its scenic quality can be appreciated. These include parks, play areas and allotment sites. The river bank has nearly continuous Public Rights of Way running along it, including a section of the River Ribble long distance footpath.

Conclusion on level of contribution

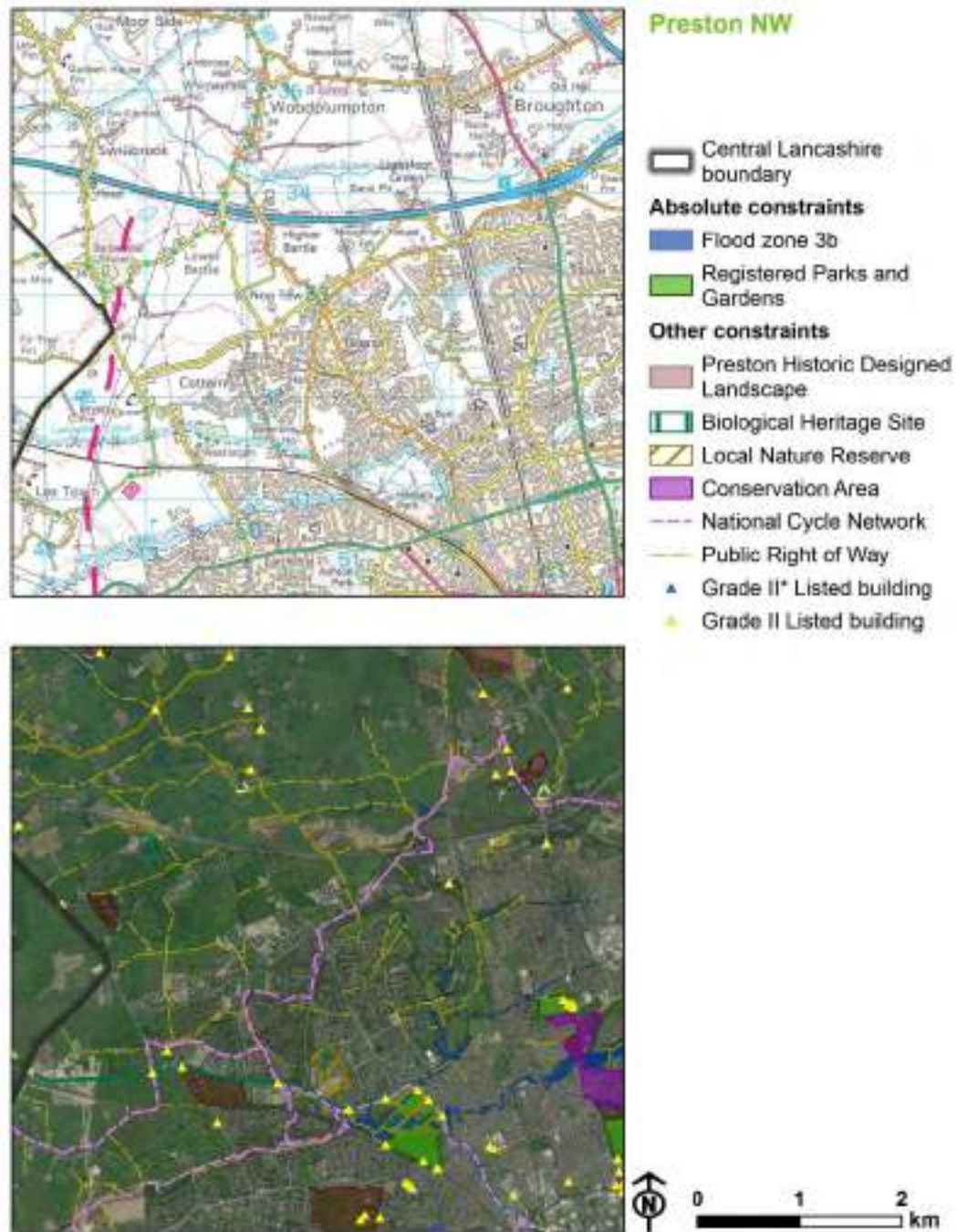
Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Penworthan. Key areas/ elements are:

- The River Ribble and its floodplain, which have helped define the settlement form, provide scenic and recreational value, and create a clear sense of arrival when approaching from the north.
- Woodland cover to the west and north-west (including at Castle Hill), which helps integrate the settlement edges and provides scenic value

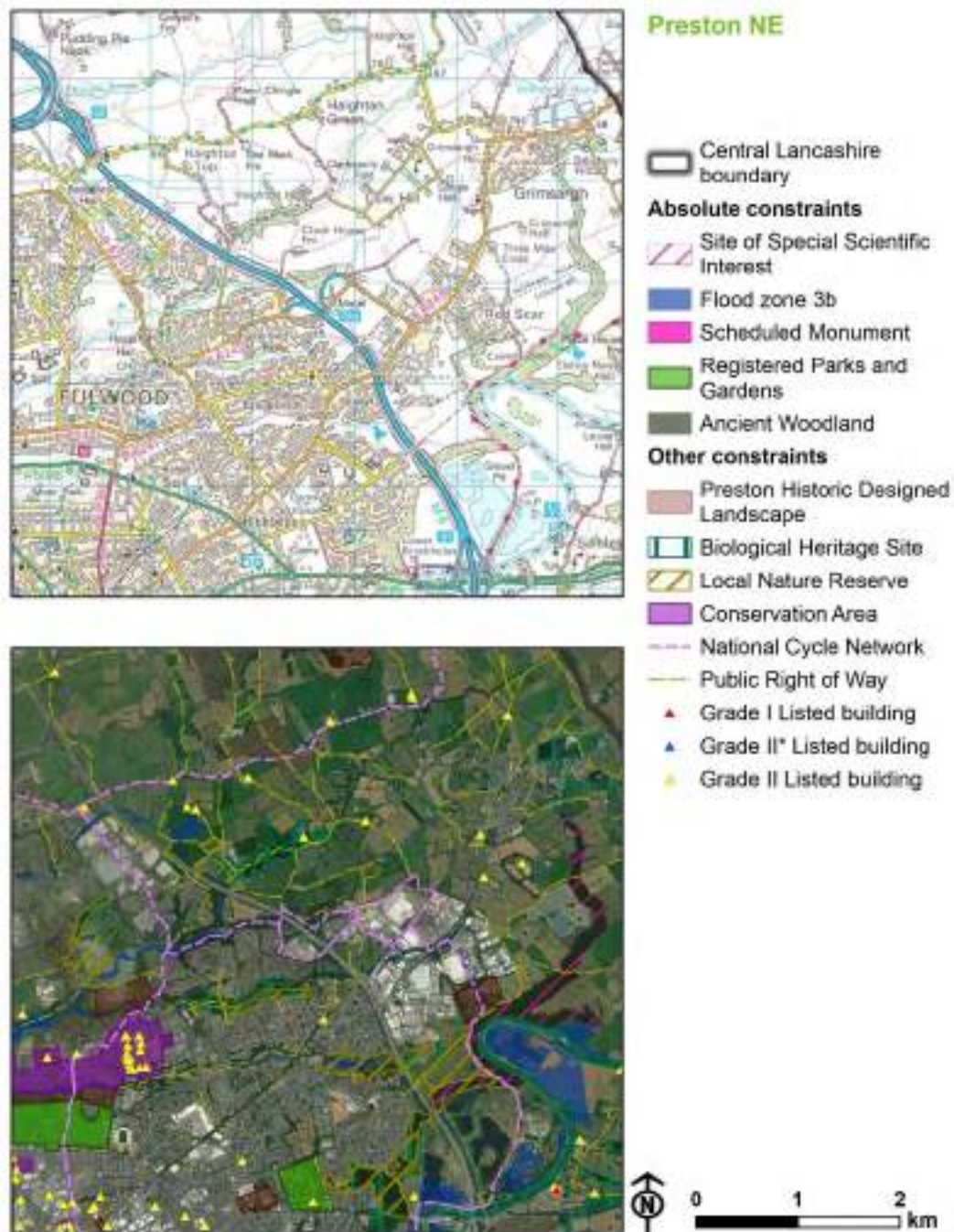
Preston



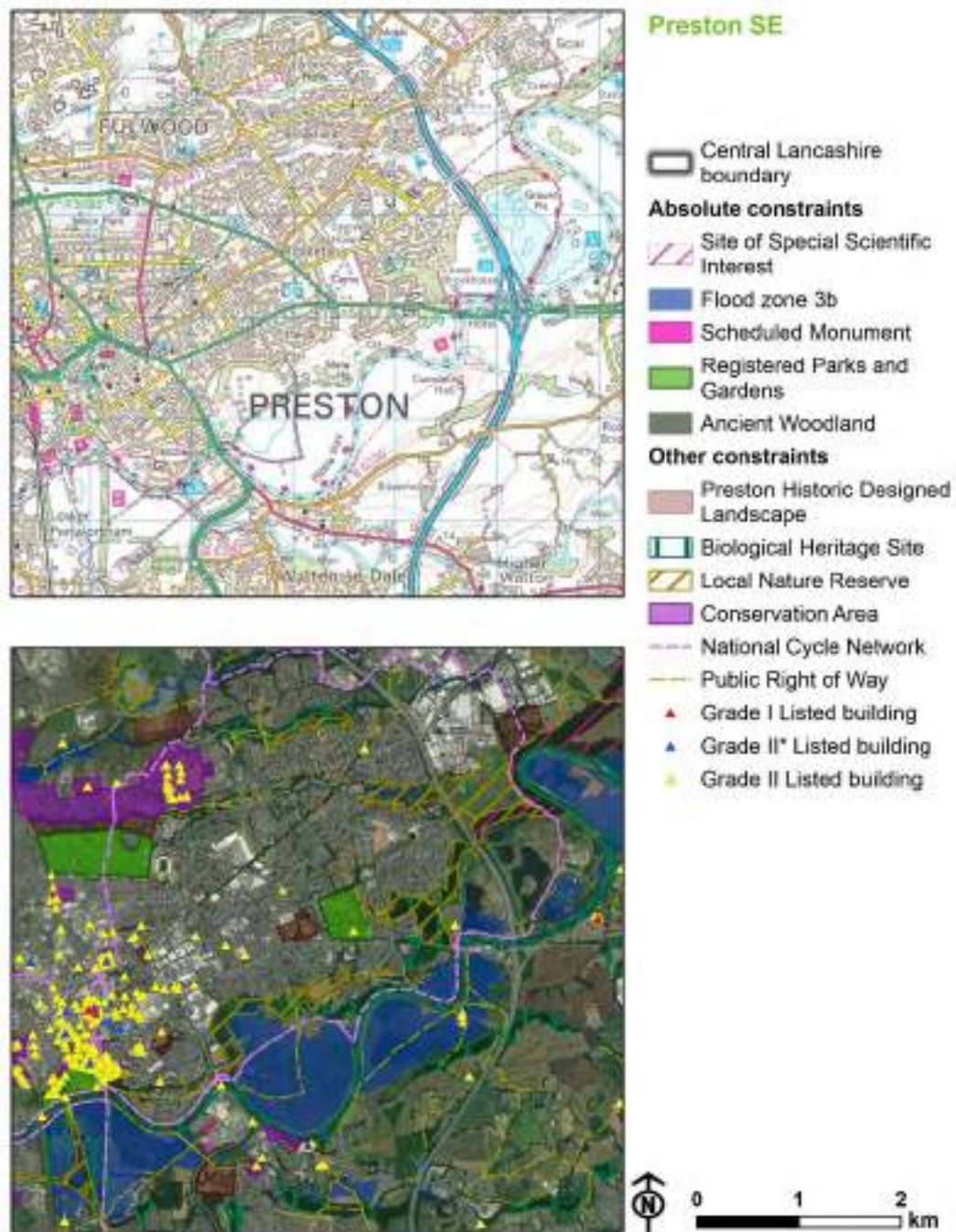
Appendix B Settlement setting assessment



Appendix B Settlement setting assessment



Appendix B Settlement setting assessment



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Preston is a city located on the north bank of the River Ribble within Preston District. The settlement's most rapid period of development coincided with the Industrial Revolution, when it developed from a market town to a densely populated textile manufacturing centre. The historic core of the city contains several conservation area designations and a large concentration of listed buildings that are testament to this period of growth. Subsequent development occurred throughout the 19th, 20th and early 21st centuries. This generally began with ribbon development along arterial routes leading out of the settlement in the late 19th and early 20th century, followed by the introduction of substantial areas of suburban residential development around this from the mid-20th century onwards. This later development dwarfs and largely surrounds the historic core of the settlement, separating it from much of the surrounding landscape.

The River Ribble and associated floodplain and steep river bluffs have historically constrained growth to the south, meaning the city has expanded to the west, north and east. To the south-east, Local Nature Reserves, Ancient Woodland and a SSSI (Red Scar and Tun Brook Woods) further constrain growth in this direction. The M55 and M6 Motorways largely define the northern, north-eastern and eastern edges of Preston today. To the west, there are no notable natural or cultural constraints meaning that the city boundary is more diffuse with a less abrupt boundary between developed and undeveloped land. The green corridors along the River Ribble, Lancaster Canal, Sharoe Brook and Savick Brook penetrate the city, dividing the distinct areas of the urban area.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The city lies in a transitional region between low-lying coastal plains to the west and gently rising undulating lowland farmland to the east. To the east, north-

east and north the earthworks and woodland planting associated with the M6 and M55 tend to screen views to and from the immediate surrounding landscape, resulting in a limited visual connection. To the west, the more diffuse settlement edge has some visual connection with the adjacent landscape, although this makes little contribution to the character of these sub-urban residential areas.

To the south-west of Preston enclosed coastal marshlands provide an open landscape setting, with some visual connection with the settlement edges. To the south-east the valley floodplain of the Lower Ribble Valley is relatively well-wooded and this provides a well-integrated settlement edge with reduced visual connection. Further to the north-east upland moorlands of the Forest of Bowland rise above Preston, forming a backdrop to views from certain locations within the city, and in views towards the city from areas to the south.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

Crossing the river creates a sense of arrival into Preston from the south and east. This is particularly marked on approach along the A59 from the east, due to the well-wooded context. The pastoral floodplain to the south-east is undeveloped and has retained a sense of rurality and tranquillity. The Ribble Way Long Distance walking route, National Cycle Network Route and Public Rights of Ways which run through it make this a valuable recreational resource in close proximity to the urban area. The coastal marshlands to the south-west provides similar recreational opportunities, including along the River Ribble and an area of CROW Access Land. However, industrial elements such as overhead power lines and nearby business parks are intrusive and reduce the scenic quality of this area.

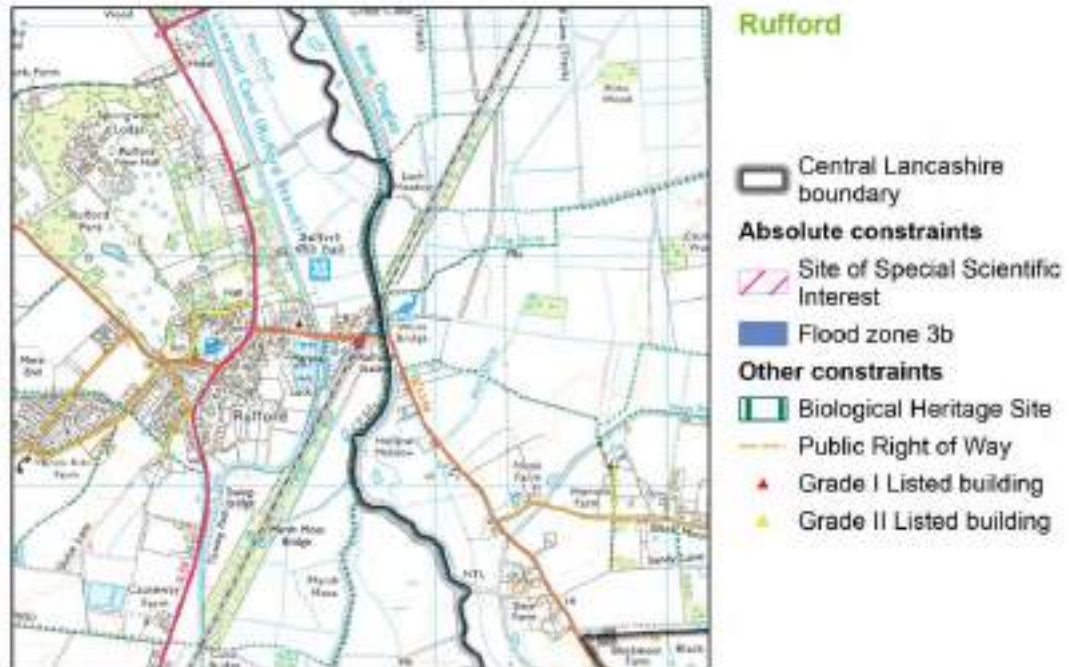
Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of limited parts of Preston. Key areas/ elements are:

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- The River Ribble and its valley floodplain to the south-east, which provide an important recreational resource and scenic and ecological value.
- The enclosed coastal marshlands along the River Ribble to the south-west, which provide recreational resources and scenic value.
- The Forest of Bowland which provides a distinctive backdrop in views to and from Preston.

Rufford



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Rufford is a village in West Lancashire, located adjacent to the western boundary of Chorley District; only land to the east of the village falls within the Central Lancashire Area. Early settlement is indicated by Rufford moated site (Scheduled Monument) and Rufford Old Hall (Grade I listed building). Later development in the 19th century was concentrated further to the south along Liverpool Road and Church Road, with some dispersed settlement on roads leading out of the village. In the late 20th century small residential estates were constructed to the south and south-west of the village, altering its historic linear form. The core of the village is marked today by several Grade II listed buildings, including the Church of St Mary The Virgin, and (along with historic parkland associated with the both Rufford Old Hall and the Grade II listed Rufford New Hall to the north-west) is designated as a Rufford Park Conservation Area. Rufford Old Hall is also a National Trust Property.

The village lies on the edge of a coastal plain landscape and occupies a low ridge that rises slightly above the low-lying mossland landscape to the east. The River Douglas flows along the eastern edge of the settlement, and has influenced the settlement form, with development located to the west of this. This natural constraint was added to by the construction of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal (Rufford Branch) and a railway line in the later 18th century.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The edges of the settlement to the east are generally well integrated with mature vegetation, including that within Rufford Park and that lining the canal and railway line. This, along with the embankments along either side of the River Douglas, tends to reduce and visual relationship between the settlement and the lower-lying landscape to the east.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

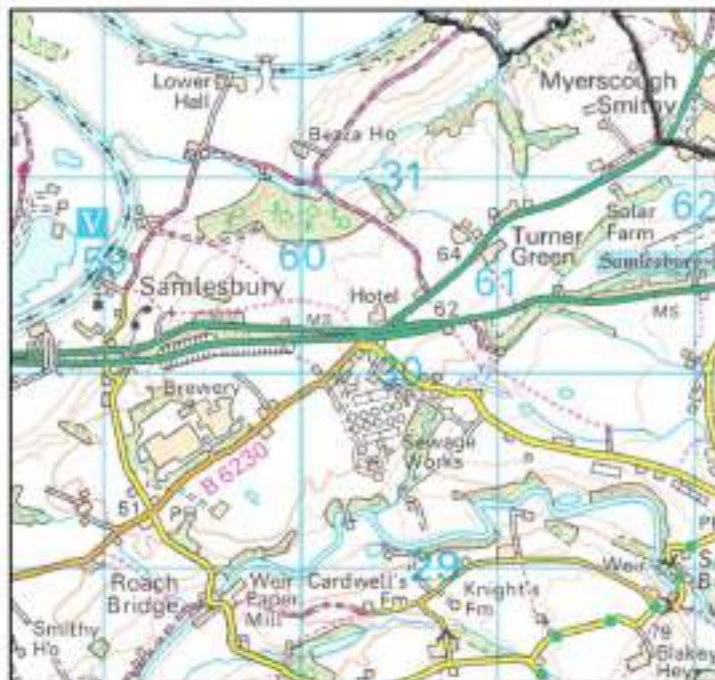
Croston Moss and Mawdesley Moss lie to the east of Rufford. This is a distinctive open, flat, low-lying landscape divided by a geometric pattern of ditches and low hedgerows that is identified as 'post-medieval enclosure from moss' within the Lancashire HLC (2002). Whilst there is a limited direct visual relationship between this landscape and Rufford, an extensive network of PRow and lanes provide access to the landscape and allow the wider setting of the settlement to be appreciated.

Conclusion on level of contribution

The landscape setting (within the Central Lancashire Area) makes a **limited** contribution to the overall character of Rufford. However, the following areas/elements provide some landscape value:

- Croston Moss and Mawdesley Moss to the east, which is a distinctive landscape forming the wider setting of the village.
- An extensive network of PRow which provide access to the landscape to the east and allow the wider setting of the settlement to be appreciated.

Samlesbury



Samlesbury

-  Central Lancashire boundary
- Absolute constraints**
 -  Site of Special Scientific Interest
 -  Flood zone 3b
 -  Ancient Woodland
- Other constraints**
 -  Biological Heritage Site
 -  National Cycle Network
 -  Public Right of Way
 -  Grade I Listed building
 -  Grade II Listed building



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Samlesbury is a village located to the east of Preston within South Ribble District. Historically it comprised a small clustered hamlet adjacent to the River Ribble on Potter Lane. This is indicated today by a cluster of listed buildings, including the Grade I Church of St Leonard The Less. Samlesbury Hall, a manor house dating from as early as the 14th Century, was located further to the east on Preston New Road (A677). This is designated as a Grade I listed building. In the early to mid-20th century further development was introduced around Samlesbury, resulting in the dispersed settlement pattern apparent today. Ribbon development was introduced along Preston New Road in proximity to Samlesbury Hall, followed in the later 20th century by the construction of a large engineering facility (currently managed by BAE) and a solar farm on the site of a Samlesbury Aerodrome to the north of Samlesbury Hall. The extensive Samlesbury Brewery and Blackburn Wastewater Treatment Works south of Preston New Road were built in the 1960s and 1970s.

The hamlet of Samlesbury has generally been confined to the valley floor of the River Ribble, enclosed between the river to the west and the rising bluffs and valley sides to the east and south. Development to the north and north-east of this has been constrained by the river floodplain and by several blocks of woodland on the valley sides, many of which are identified as Ancient Woodland and designated as South Ribble Biological Heritage Sites. There are no obvious natural or cultural constraints to the south or east of the hamlet, reflected in the fact that later development has largely occurred in these directions. The detached area of ribbon development on Preston New Road to the east is largely contained to the north by Huntley Brook.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The River Ribble provides an important part of the setting of the hamlet on Potter Lane. However, despite the proximity to the River, there are limited direct views of it from this part of the settlement due to the densely wooded nature of the surroundings. However, the woodland cover provides a scenic value to the settlement. In particular, the lane approaching the Grade I Church of St Leonard The Less features a avenue of mature Lime trees. This frames the churchyard entrance and enhances the church's contribution to the character of the hamlet. The wooded context also screens views of the surrounding transport corridors, (albeit they remain audible), maintaining some sense of being in a rural hamlet.

The woodland along Huntley Brook and that around Samlesbury Hall generally screens views of the aerodrome and solar park to the north and integrates the built form within the landscape. In contrast, more open views are available to the south across a series of flat agricultural fields bordered by hedgerows and interspersed with mature field trees. The distinctive outline of Hoghton Tower hill is partially visible through the trees. These views are intermittently screened by vegetation and the very busy A677 in the foreground detracts from their quality.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

A network of footpaths and lanes provide access between the settlement and the river valley to the north, which is an important recreational resource that allows the river valley setting to be appreciated. However, this is more limited around eastern areas of the settlement. Much of the landscape around Samlesbury is identified within the Lancashire HLC (2002) as 'ancient enclosure' and this, in combination with numerous blocks of Ancient Woodland, creates a degree of time depth in the landscape. However, the industrial development at Samlesbury Brewery, Blackburn Wastewater Treatment Works and Samlesbury Aerodrome engineering complex have eroded the landscape

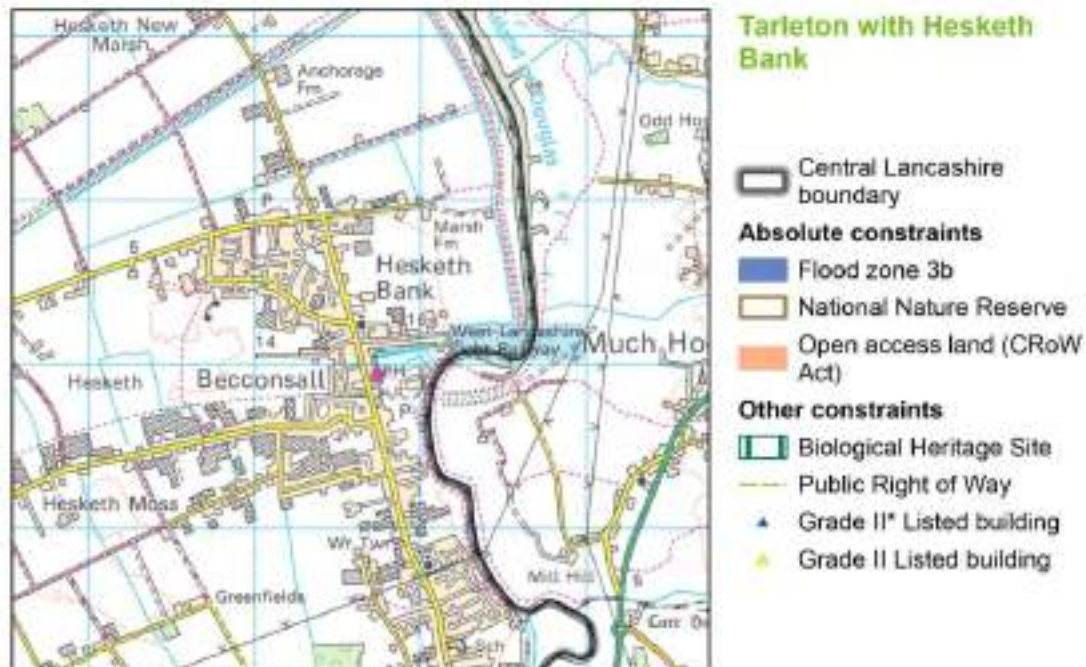
structure and detract considerably from the character of the wider settlement setting.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Samlesbury. Key areas/ elements are:

- The River Ribble and its associated valley, which played an important functional role in the siting of Samlesbury hamlet and provides an important part of its immediate setting.
- The network of footpaths and lanes that provide access to the river valley to the north, allowing the wider landscape setting to be appreciated and enjoyed.
- Woodland cover surrounding Potter Lane, in particular the Lime avenue approaching the Grade I Church of St Leonard The Less.
- Woodland along Huntley Brook, which integrates properties on Preston New Road into the landscape and provides a sense of enclosure and scenic value (including for the Grade I listed Samlesbury Hall).

Tarleton with Hesketh Bank



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Tarleton and Hesketh Bank are villages located within West Lancashire District to the west of Leyland. Only land to the east of the village the River Douglas lies within the Central Lancashire Area. The settlement occupies a low ridge that rises slightly above the wider surrounding low-lying marshlands. Historically Tarleton to the south and Hesketh Bank to the north were distinct villages, however 20th century north-south ribbon development along Hesketh Lane and Station Road has effectively merged them into one larger linear settlement. Further ribbon development has also occurred east-west along several roads, including Moss Lane which forms the Beconshall area of the settlement. Plox Brow Conservation Area and a cluster of Grade II listed buildings mark the historic parts of Tarleton, and the Brow Conservation Area and scattered listed buildings mark the historic parts of Hesketh Bank.

Development within the village is generally restricted to the ridge of higher ground which rises slightly above lower lying ground associated with the River Douglas and adjacent Much Hoole Marsh. To the north-east Little Hoole Marsh and the River Douglas present a similar constraint on development. The Douglas Navigation (which later formed part of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal), constructed in the late 18th century, presents an additional constraint to the east. There are no notable natural or cultural constraints to development to the north, south and west, reflected in the growth of the settlement in these directions.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

As the settlement occupies a low ridge, it has some visual connection with the flat lower-lying land to the east. From the edge of the settlement to the east (including from footpaths along the River Douglas and Leeds and Liverpool Canal) there are views across the River Douglas and Much Hoole Marsh and

from north-eastern parts of the settlement (including parts of Marsh Road and Becconsall Lane) views are available across Little Hoole Marsh. However, from the core of settlement views to the surrounding landscape are generally limited due to intervening built form (as noted within the Plox Brow Conservation Area Appraisal, 2000). There are views back towards the settlement from the landscape to the east, including areas around Haunders Lane from where the Holy Trinity Church forms a notable landmark. To the south-east, woodland cover within the remnant parkland at Bank Hall (Grade II* listed building), tends to restrict views from the village. However, this integrates the settlement edges and provides some scenic value, including in the vicinity of the Grade II* Church of St Mary. Industrial scale development at Plock's Farm forms an intrusive element in some views to the south-east.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The majority of the immediately surrounding landscape to the east of the settlement is identified as 'ancient enclosure' (pre-AD1600) within the Lancashire HLC (2002), with Much Hoole Marsh and Little Hoole Marsh identified as 'post-medieval enclosure'. Much Hoole Marsh to the east comprises a distinctive open, flat, low-lying landscapes divided by a geometric pattern of ditches and low hedgerows; whilst the open coastal marshes of Little Hoole Marsh retain a more naturalistic appearance, providing a sense of tranquillity and remoteness. The landscape therefore displays distinctiveness and time-depth, added to by the presence of the canal and several associated Grade II listed buildings (including bridges and the Bank Bridge Warehouse). There is a sense of arrival when entering the village from the south-east along the A59, created by crossing the River Douglas and the canal.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting (within the Central Lancashire Area) make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Tarleton with Hesketh Bank. The key areas/elements which lie within the study area are:

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

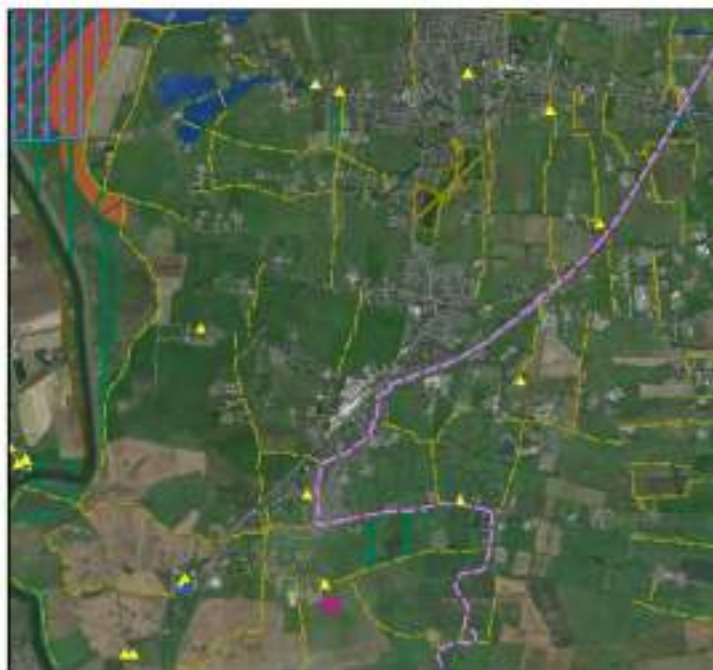
- The River Douglas and adjacent marshlands, which have constrained settlement growth, provide a sense of distinctiveness and have some visual connection with the settlement edge.
- The open fields and woodland cover to the south-east, which integrates the settlement edges and provides some scenic value.

Walmer Bridge



Walmer Bridge

- Central Lancashire boundary
- Absolute constraints**
- Special Protection Areas
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Flood zone 3b
- Scheduled Monument
- National Nature Reserve
- Open access land (CRoW Act)
- Other constraints**
- Biological Heritage Site
- Local Nature Reserve
- National Cycle Network
- Public Right of Way
- Grade II* Listed building
- Grade II Listed building



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Walmer Bridge is a village located to the south of Longton in South Ribble District. The village lies within the coastal plain landscape, in relative proximity to coastal marshes to the west. The historic settlement pattern comprised clustered development around Walmer Bridge (which crosses a branch of Tarra Carr Gutter) on Liverpool Old Road, Dob Lane, Gil Lane and Hall Carr Lane, with some dispersed development along Hall Carr Lane. Whilst some of the older built development survives, the settlement contains no listed buildings or conservation area designations. The construction of Liverpool New Road to the west and the Longton Bypass (A59) to the south-east and the introduction of sub-urban residential development between these two roads during the 20th and early 21st centuries has altered the historic settlement form.

To the west of the village the topography descends gently to the coastal marshes around the River Douglas, constraining further development in this direction. To the south-west Tarra Carr Gutter and its floodplain have also constrained development, leaving this area close to the centre of the village largely open. The growth of the village has been constrained to north to some extent by a separate branch of Tarra Carr Gutter. However, some development along Liverpool Road has extended beyond this, leaving only a small area of intervening open land between the village from the southern edge of Longton. There are no notable physical or cultural constraints to development to the east or south, resulting in the village's expansion in these directions. Development to the south effectively merges with the northern edge of Much Hoole, with only the A59 corridor lying between the two settlements (albeit open land to the south-west of the village provides some sense of separation when travelling between the two along Liverpool New Road). The Longton Bypass (A59) forms a boundary to more recent residential development on south-eastern edge of the settlement today.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The surrounding landscape does not provide a backdrop to the settlement, owing to the low-lying flat topography. However, views are generally attainable from the edge of the settlement across the adjacent farmland, which provides some sense of rurality. This is particularly noticeable to the south-west of the village, with views available west from Liverpool New Road (although views are partially restricted by dense hedgerow vegetation lining the road) and south from Hall Carr Lane. To the south-east the A59 creates a physical and visual barrier between the settlement and the landscape to the east and south-east.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The majority of the immediately surrounding landscape is identified as 'ancient enclosure' (pre-AD1600) within the Lancashire HLC (2002) and therefore displays some time-depth and distinctiveness. To the west of the village is the open coastal marsh landscape around the River Douglas. This area contains the Longton Out Marsh Registered Common Land and is a distinctive and scenic landscape which provides a sense of tranquillity and remoteness. Whilst this is relatively distant from the core of the village, an extensive network of footpaths and lanes, including Hall Carr Lane and Station Road, provide access to this landscape for walkers and cyclists. From Hall Carr Lane the beginning of the River Ribble long distance footpath can also be accessed.

Conclusion on level of contribution

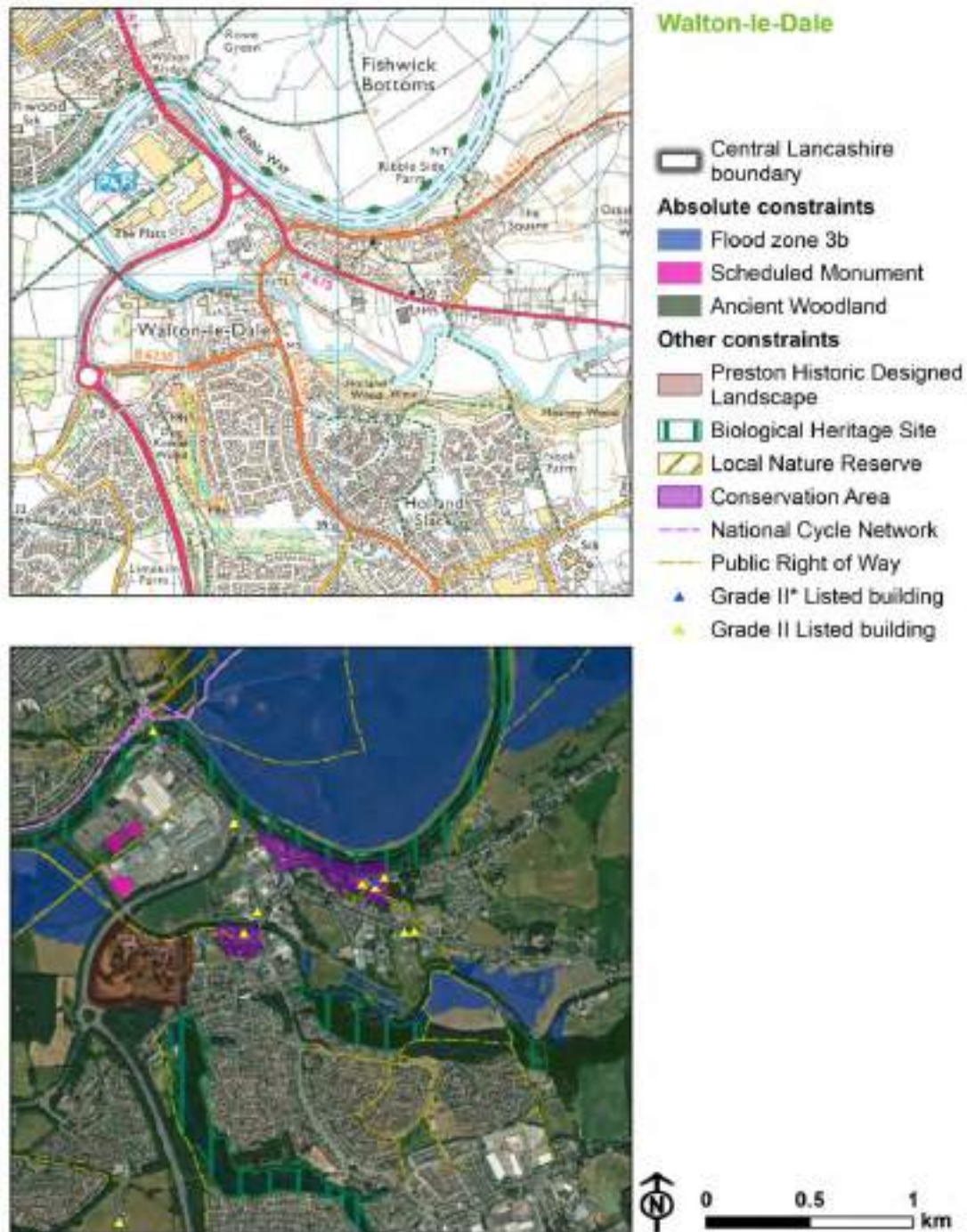
Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Walmer Bridge. Key areas/ elements are:

- Open land around Tarra Carr Gutter to the south-west, which provides an open rural setting to the west of Liverpool Road and south of Hall Carr Lane.

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- The scenic, perceptual and recreational value provided by the coastal marsh landscape along the River Douglas to the west of the village.

Walton-le-Dale



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Walton-le-Dale is a large village within South Ribble District that is located on the south bank of the River Ribble, opposite Preston. The historic settlement was clustered along Higher Walton Road, Church Brow, Chorley Road and Victoria Road between the River Ribble to the north and River Darwen to the south. The historic core of the settlement is indicated today by Church Brow Conservation Area and a cluster of listed buildings, including the Grade II* Church of St Leonard. Some early development was also sited along Chorley Lane south of the River Darwen and this area is marked today by Walton Green Conservation Area and two listed buildings.

From the 18th century the settlement began to expand with the arrival of the textile industry. A number of cotton mills were built along the rivers in the late 18th century, followed by further urbanisation in the mid-19th century. Further development occurred in the 20th century, including industrial development at South Ribble Enterprise Park to the west and suburban residential development to the south of the River Darwen. This has dwarfed the historic core of the village and the southwards expansion has resulted in there being little to no physical distinction between Walton-le-Dale and Bamber Bridge. The historic importance of this position on the River Ribble is provided by the presence of the remains of a Roman settlement (Scheduled Monument) to the north-west.

The River Ribble has dictated the location and form of Walton-le-Dale and limited its expansion to the north. The River Darwen to the south also presented a historic constraint, but extensive 20th century suburban development has extended south of the river effectively merging the village with Bamber Bridge. There are no clear constraints to the east, which has resulted in ribbon development along the B6230. The southern section of Walton-le-Dale south of the River Darwen is contained by belts of woodland along Hannel Brook, including Dog Kennel, Cockshott and Holland Woods, much of which is identified as Ancient Woodland.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

There is a strong visual connection between the open floodplain north of the River Ribble and the north of Walton-le-Dale, from where expansive views of the undeveloped pastoral floodplain are available (including from dedicated viewing points on Victoria Road). Views from the Church Brow Conservation Area are partially screened by woodland on the banks of the river, although the river and open floodplain still make a strong positive contribution to the character of this designated area. The Walton Green area of the settlement has a strong physical and visual relationship with the River Darwen which enhances the historic character of this area. Woodland cover along Hennel Brook

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The Church of St Leonard occupies an elevated position at the top of the river bluff or 'brow' overlooking the River Ribble and its floodplain. It is therefore the most prominent building in the village (as noted with the Church Brow Conservation Area Appraisal), which can be seen from parts of the floodplain landscape to the north along with the ribbon development along B6230 . Entering the settlement from the east on Cuerdale Lane and Church Brow, there are striking, elevated views over the floodplain to the skyline of Preston, which provides a sense of distinctiveness. The Ribble Way long distance walking route, National Cycle Network Route and Public Rights of Ways provide access to the floodplain to the north. Whilst this is a valuable recreational resource and allows the wider setting of the village to be appreciated, the direct links from the village are limited to the London Road bridge to the north-west.

Conclusion on level of contribution

The landscape setting makes a **particularly important** contribution to the character of Walton-le-dale. The key areas/elements are:

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- The River Ribble and its floodplain, which has dictated the location and form of Walton-le-Dale and has a strong visual connection with the north of the settlement.
- The River Darwen which provides scenic value and enhances the historic character of the Walton Green area.
- Ancient Woodland at Dog Kennel, Cockshott and Holland Woods, which has constrained development south of the River Darwen and provide some scenic value.

Wheelton



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Wheelton is a village located to the north-east of Chorley with Chorley District. The historic settlement pattern comprised development along Blackburn Road, with a concentration around the junction with Victoria Street and Kenyon Lane. The historic clustered settlement form is largely retained, albeit with some later 20th century residential development added to the south of Victoria Street. The historic parts of the settlement are indicated by the presence of several Grade II listed buildings.

The valley form of the River Lostock to the north-west, within which the Leeds and Liverpool Canal was later constructed, has constrained development in that direction. The shallow wooded valley of Kenyon Brook presents a similar natural constraint to the north. This area is also designated as a Local Nature Reserve and Biological Heritage Site.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

Wheelton is located within the rolling foothills of the West Pennine Moors, which lie to the south-east of the settlement. The landscape immediately surrounding the village is undulating and a number of locally prominent hills adjacent to the village provide some sense of containment and form an immediate backdrop to views from the settlement. This includes South Hill to the south-west, Eagle Tower to the south, Windy Harbour to the east, and higher ground east of Whins Lane to the north. Views are also available back towards Wheelton from these areas of higher ground, which allows an appreciation of the wider setting of the village. Of note is a viewing point at Eagle Tower that provides views north-west across the West Lancashire Plain to the Fylde, Blackpool and the Irish Sea with Wheelton visible in the foreground. There are also views of the canal and the wooded valley sides (including Ancient Woodland) of the River Lostock and Kenyon Brook (such as from Kenyon Lane) to the north-west and

north, and these form a rural setting and provide some scenic value to Wheelton.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The agricultural land surrounding the settlement comprises small to medium irregular fields, and is identified as 'Ancient Enclosure' within the Lancashire HLC (2002). Fields are defined by hedgerows, stone walls and post and rail fencing, with a number of mature trees. This provides a rural setting immediately adjacent to the village, although the mature hedgerow trees tend to prevent long views to and from Wheelton on areas of lower ground, including on approach from the south along the A674. The Leeds and Liverpool Canal with associated stone bridges and vegetation also makes a positive contribution on the approach to the village from the north-west along Kenyon Lane and Birchin Lane. There is a good network of public rights of way around Wheelton, which is particularly extensive across the higher ground to the east, south-east and south.

Conclusion on level of contribution

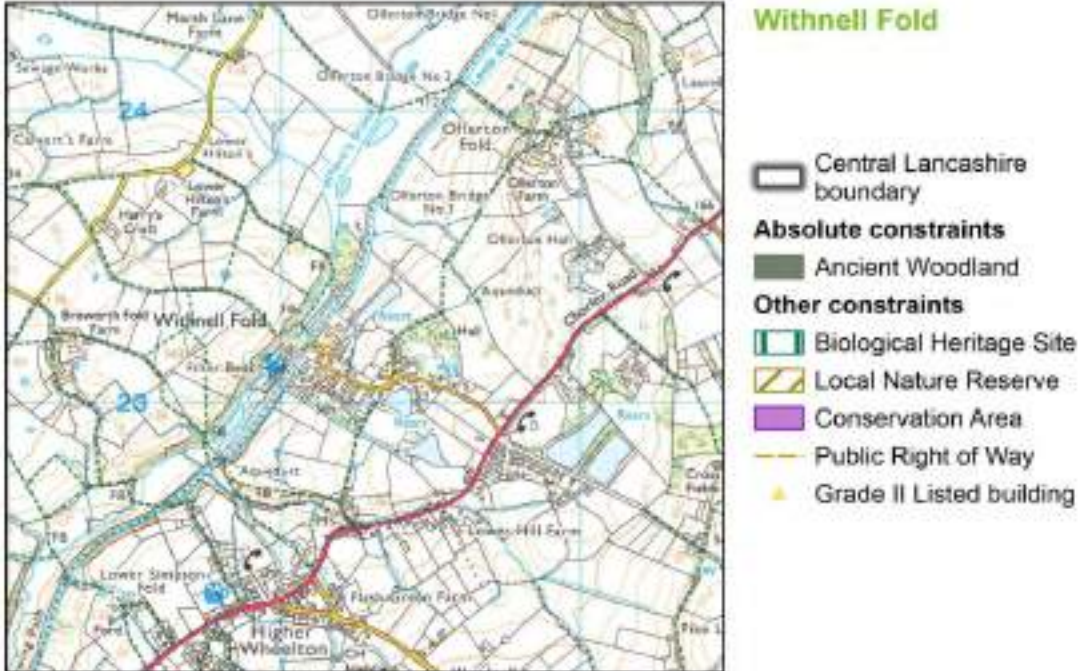
The landscape setting makes a **particularly important** contribution to the character of Wheelton. The key areas/elements are:

- The containing role and backdrop provided by the higher ground immediately adjacent to the village to the south-west, south, east, and north, as well as the River Lostock valley to the north-west.
- The positive contribution made by stone bridges and vegetation associated with the Leeds and Liverpool Canal on approach from to the north-west.
- Extensive network of PRoW which provide direct access between the village and its surrounding rural landscape.

Appendix B Settlement setting assessment

- Views towards Wheelton from areas of higher ground to the south, south-east and east, including from the viewing point at Eagle Tower.
- The scenic value and rural setting provided by the wooded valley sides of the River Lostock and Kenyon Brook to the north-west and north of Wheelton.

Withnell Fold



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Withnell Fold is a village located to the north-east of Chorley within Chorley District. The settlement was constructed on a green field site in 1843 as a model village and paper mill. The mills were mainly sited to the west of the village adjacent to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the associated residential development was sited to the east along Withnell Fold road and Mill Wood Close. The historic settlement pattern has been largely retained, albeit a detached area of residential development was introduced in the 20th century off Oakmere Avenue and Chorley Road to the east of the village. The historic areas of the settlement are marked today by Withnell Fold Conservation Area and four Grade II listed buildings.

The Leeds and Liverpool Canal defines the western edge of the settlement; the canal-side location, provides a historic functional setting for the mills and associated settlement. The village lies on the more gently rising eastern valley side of the River Lostock; Steeply rising topography of the western valley side beyond the canal constrains development to the west. Reservoirs to the north and south-east present a further constraint to development today..

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The western valley-side of the River Lostock is well-wooded and includes areas of Ancient Woodland (Ramsbotham Wood and Miller Wood) and Withnell Fold LNR and Biological Heritage Site. This provides a naturalistic backdrop to the settlement to the west and complements the scenic qualities of the historic parts of the settlement. From within the settlement Gaps between areas of development along Withnell Fold road to the east also provides opportunities for views out to the surrounding landscape to the north and south. Vegetation along Withnell Fold road often frames these views, creating a sense of intimacy within the settlement. From the west, including the higher ground at Withnell Fold and

the towing path along the canal, there are some views back views towards the settlement. The visual relationship between the village and its surroundings allows the wider setting of the village to be appreciated

Distinctiveness and recreational value

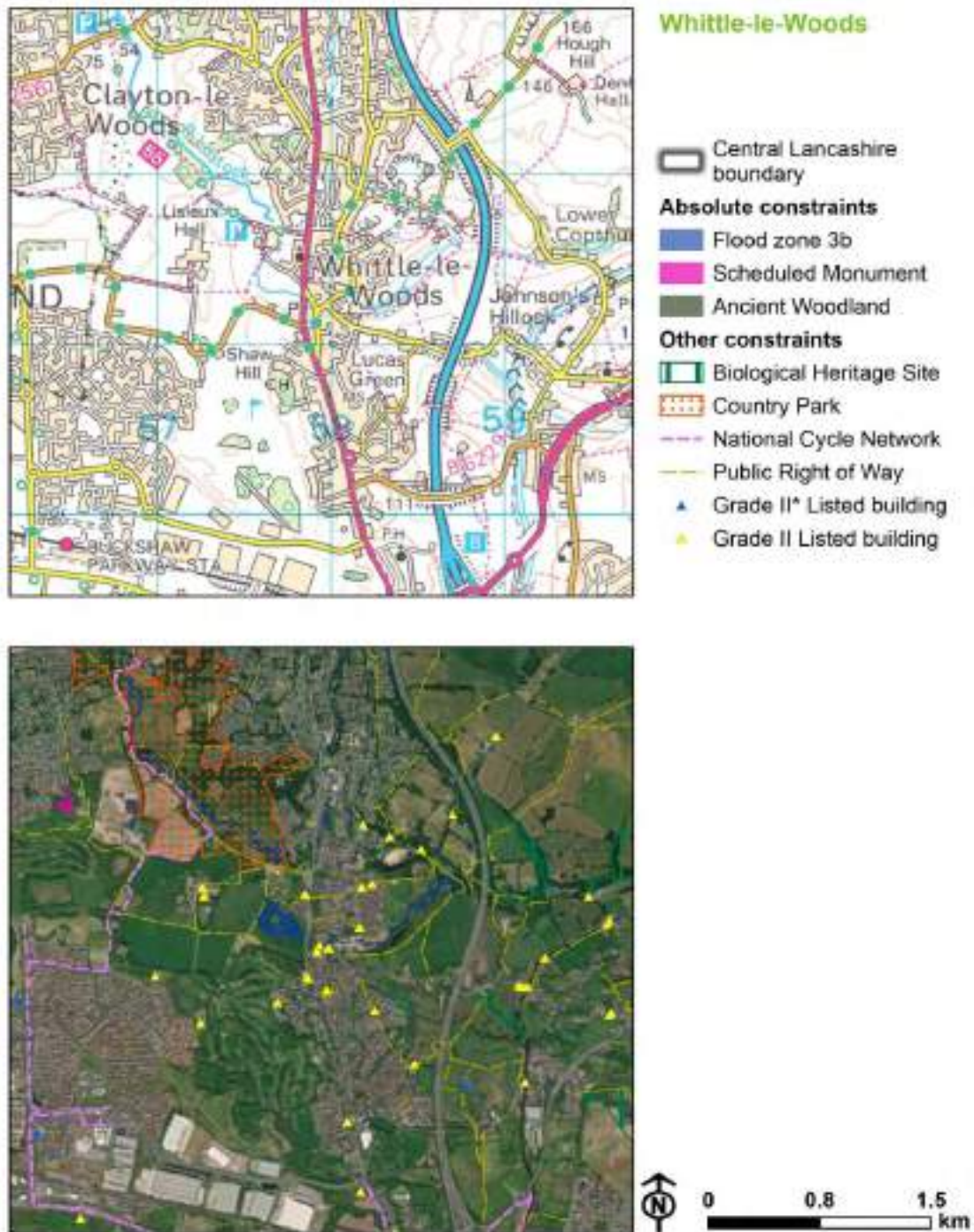
Much of this surrounding landscape is identified as 'ancient enclosure' (pre AD 1600) within the Lancashire HLC (2002). This creates a sense of time depth and within the landscape and enhances the rural setting of the village. Footpaths also provide connectivity into the wider landscape to the north and the south, which allows the wider setting of the village to be appreciated.

Conclusion on level of contribution

The landscape setting make a **particularly important** contribution to the character of Withnell Fold. Key areas/ elements are:

- The western valley-side of the River Lostock which provides a wooded backdrop and a containing role to the village.
- The Leeds and Liverpool Canal, which provides an historic functional setting for the mills and associated settlement.
- The visual relationship between the village and the rolling, pastoral landscape to the north and south.

Whittle-le-Woods



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Whittle-le-Woods is a village located to the north of Chorley within Chorley District. The historic settlement was sited adjacent to the River Lostock around Waterhouse Green, with early development concentrated along Chorley Old Road, Shaw Brow, Town Lane. There was also development along the road north to Brindle, although this was more dispersed in nature. The historic parts of the village are indicated today by the presence of several Grade II listed buildings, including the Roebuck on Shaw Brow and the Church of St John the Evangelist on Preston Road (A6) further to the north-west. The village expanded in the 20th century with substantial amounts of suburban residential development focussed along the A6 to the north and south. This later development has dwarfed the historic centre of the village, and that to the north has resulted in there being little physical and perceived distinction between Whittle-le-Woods and Clayton Green/Brook. To the south a limited area of open land maintains the village's distinction from Chorley.

The settlement form has been constrained to the east by steep topography rising towards Hough Hill and 'Top O' Th' Lane' (Little Quarry and Whittle Hill Quarry were located in this area); to the north-west by the River Lostock and its floodplain (now designated as Cuerden Valley Country Park); and to the south-west by historic parkland associated with Shaw Hill (a Grade II listed building) which is now in use as a golf course. This has resulted in a linear north-south development pattern apparent today. To the north-east and south-east the M61 corridor defines the settlement edges and prevents further expansion in these directions.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The valley and floodplain of the River Lostock, including Cuerden Valley Park, provides an open wooded setting to the west and north-west. Open land along

the river extends all the way to the A6 in proximity to the historic centre of the village, with views available to and from the settlement edge albeit filtered through vegetation in places. The Church of St John the Evangelist is a notable landmark on the western edge of the settlement. Shaw Hill Golf Course, including remnant woodland from the historic parkland, provides a wooded setting to the south-west. The steeply rising topography and wooded areas, including around the former Little Quarry and Whittle Hill Quarry, form a backdrop and sense of enclosure to the east. This is apparent in certain views from within the settlement, as well as views towards the settlement from the west. There is a limited visual connection between the north-eastern and south-eastern parts of the village and the surrounding landscape, due to the M61 forming a physical and visual barrier.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The open setting created by the valley of the River Lostock and Shaw Hill Golf Course creates a strong sense of separation between Whittle-le-woods and Buckshaw Village and Euxton to the west. The open river valley also provides a sense of arrival when approaching the settlement from the west, along Dawson Lane and a number of public rights of way. When approaching the village from the east along Town Lane, the road descends from the higher ground down through a semi-enclosed rural landscape before immediately entering the historic centre of the settlement. This creates a sense of arrival and enhances the historic character of this part of the settlement.

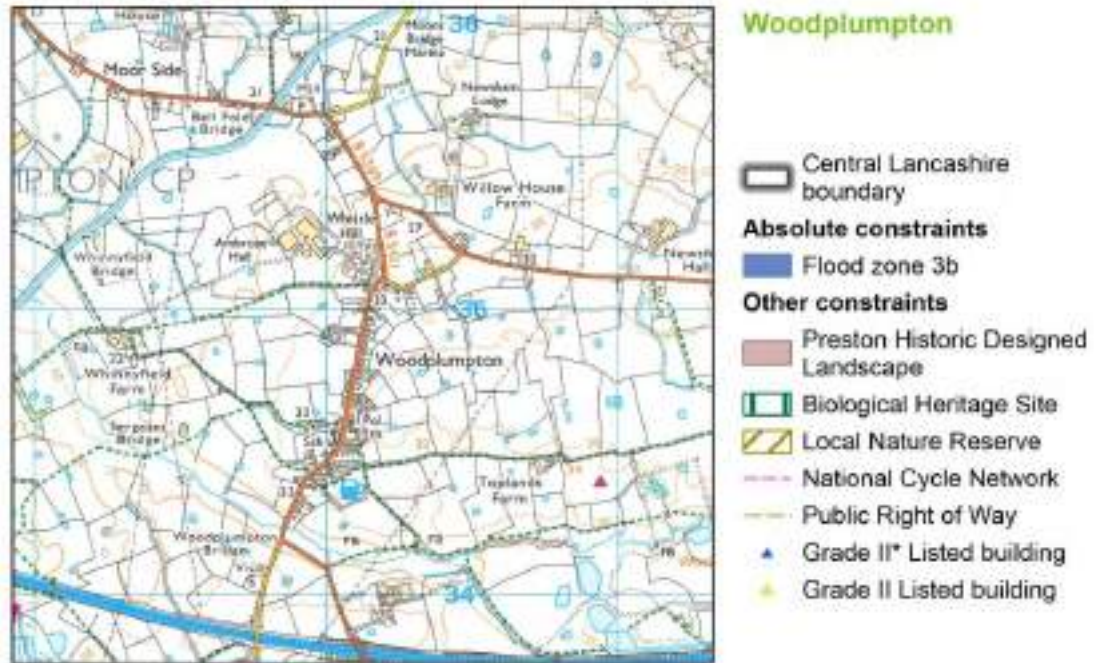
There is a strong network of public rights of way to the north-west of the settlement which, along with Cuerden Valley Country Park and National Cycle Network route 55, provides an important recreational resource in proximity to the settlement. A number of public rights of way also provide access to the land to the east of the village.

Conclusion on level of contribution

Parts of the landscape setting make a **reasonably important** contribution to the character of Whittle-le-Woods. Key areas/ elements are:

- The valley of the River Lostock , which has constrained development to the west and north-west, provides an open wooded landscape setting (including in proximity to the historic centre of the village), scenic value and a sense of arrival when approaching the village from the west along Dawson Lane.
- Shaw Hill and remnant elements of the historic parkland, which provide a wooded setting and scenic value to the south-west.
- The steep, rising topography to the east, which has constrained development and, along with associated woodland cover, provides a backdrop to views. This also contributes to a sense of arrival when approaching the village from the east along Town Road.
- The network of Public Rights of Way, Cuerden Valley Country Park and National Cycle Network route 55, which provide an important recreational resource in proximity to the settlement.

Woodplumpton



Influence of landscape on settlement form

Woodplumpton is a small village located to the north-west of Preston within Preston District. The historic settlement pattern comprised dispersed linear development along Woodplumpton Road to the north of Woodplumpton Bridge, with some clustered development around the Church of St Anne to the south. Whilst there has been some later infill development along the eastern side of Woodplumpton Road and the introduction of a small residential estate at Whittle Green to the north, the village largely retains its historic linear form. The more historic part of the village to the south is marked by a cluster of listed buildings, including the Grade II* Church of St Anne.

Development has been constrained to the south by Woodplumpton Brook and its associated valley form. There are no other notable natural or cultural constraints around the settlement, but on the eastern side of Woodplumpton road development has comprised incremental development of fields that has largely respected the historic field pattern. As a result development is generally integrated by the traditional hedgerows into the historic landscape pattern.

Visual relationship between the settlement and surrounding landscape

The linear form of the village gives it a strong visual relationship with the surrounding agricultural landscape, with open views of the adjacent fields and field boundaries that directly abut Woodplumpton Road. This is particularly apparent to the south and north-east of the village, and along the western side of Woodplumpton Road where sections of the road remain free of development. To the north of the village there are also some distant partial views towards the fells of the Forest of Bowland. This provides a rural setting to the village. However, overhead power lines and pylons to the east and west of the settlement detract slightly from the rural character of the views.

Distinctiveness and recreational value

The landscape surrounding Woodplumpton is identified as 'ancient enclosure' within the Lancashire HLC (2002). This comprises irregular fields, numerous mature hedgerow trees and distinctive scattered field ponds (flooded marl pits), which provides a sense of 'time depth' and contributes to a strong rural settlement character. The rural landscape setting of the historic part of the village, including the Grade II* Church of St Anne, is experienced on approach to the settlement along a number of PRoW from the east and west and along Woodplumpton Road from the south. There is a clear sense of arrival when entering the village across Woodplumpton Bridge from the south.

Conclusion on level of contribution

The landscape setting makes a **particularly important** contribution to the character of Woodplumpton. Key areas/ elements are:

- Woodplumpton Brook, which constrains development and contributes to a sense of arrival from the south.
- Historic field boundaries which help integrate the settlement edge into the establish landscape pattern.
- Strong visual connection between the village and the surrounding agricultural landscape, particularly to the south and north-east of the village and along the western side of Woodplumpton Road.

The rural landscape setting of the historic parts of the settlement, experienced in particular on approach from the east, west and south.

Report produced by LUC

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