



GREAT BARTON
LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

11 December 2020

DRAFT

PRELIMINARY REPORT - FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

SCARP LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

GREAT BARTON

LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

Scarp Landscape Architecture (SLA) have been commissioned as part of a wider multidisciplinary team to explore the development potential of land to the east of School Road, Great Barton. The following report explores the context of the site and illustrates an analysis of the site in landscape and visual terms in order to assist in the creation of a development proposal for the site.



Figure 1. Site Location map (Image source: Google maps)

2.1 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Great Barton and the surrounding countryside lies in the Plateau Estate Farmlands LCA, as defined by the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment. This LCA is a “gently rolling or flat plateau” landscape and “a rather open landscape with regularly shaped fields bounded by straight hedge lines”. Key characteristics are:

- > Flat landscape of light loams and sandy soils
- > Large scale rectilinear field pattern
- > Network of tree belts and coverts
- > 18th- 19th & 20th century landscape parks
- > Clustered villages with a scattering of farmsteads around them
- > Vernacular architecture is often 19th century estate type of brick and tile

Development guidelines, as identified in the county assessment, include:

Settlement form and expansion: In respect of visual impact the regular nature of this landscape means that it does have more potential capacity, to accept significant settlement expansion than the ancient countryside of the claylands. The Plateau Farmland with its simpler and more modern land cover pattern and extensive regular pattern of tree cover can be adapted to accept larger growth.

Unlike the Estate Sandlands this landscape does have a history of settlement. Therefore there is some capacity, in terms of landscape character, for the tightly clustered settlements to expand. However, it is important to integrate the settlement edge into the surrounding rural and sparsely settled countryside to minimise the impact on the character of the wider countryside.

One of the land management guidelines, as identified in the county assessment, is “Restore, maintain and enhance the network of tree belts and pattern of small plantations found across much of this landscape type.”

2.2 GREAT BARTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2019-41

(SUBMISSION DRAFT)

The Environment Objective of the Neighbourhood Plan include:

- > To preserve and enhance the character of the area
- > To protect and enhance important open green spaces and wooded areas within the parish
- > To ensure development is well designed and complements the diverse character of the parish
- > To maintain the distinctive views and visual connectivity with the surrounding countryside from within the built-up area and protect the agricultural landscape
- > To protect the identity of the present village and prevent coalescence with the future Severals,
- > To protect and enhance biodiversity
- >

2.3 DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

These include a need for:

- > Green corridors to provide walking and cycling links;
- > Retention of the existing pond within the site;
- > Protection of community woodland areas adjoining A143;
- > Retention and enhancement of existing hedgerow along School Road;
- > Provision of new screen planting along Mill Road;
- > Additional planting within the site to reflect the significant tree canopy found elsewhere across the village and to soften the transition to the open countryside;
- > Retention of long-range view through site from School Road to beyond Mill Road.

2.4 SITE LOCATION

The site lies at the eastern end of Great Barton and is surrounded by Mill Road to the north, The A413 to the southeast and School Road to the west.



Figure 2. View from public footpath south of A143



Figure 3. View from bridleway between Mill Road and Vicarage Farm



Figure 4. Location plan (Image source: Google Maps)

2.5 SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Figure 5. View North West onto site from the A143



Figure 6. View North East showing existing trail Eastern edge of site



Figure 7. View North East along the A143



Figure 8. View West along Mill Road



Figure 9. View South onto site from Mill Road



Figure 10. View onto site from North Western corner of site



Figure 14. Location map (Image Source: Google Maps)



Figure 11. View South along School road.



Figure 12. View North East onto site from School road



Figure 13. View South East onto site from School road

3.1 CONNECTIVITY, PROW AND LANFORM

3.1.1. CONNECTIVITY AND PROW:

There are sections of bridleway extending northwards from Mill Road, south-eastwards from the A413 and approximately 800m northeast of Mill Road. An informal footpath passes through Elms Wood. A byway open to all traffic (formerly a road leading to Barton Hall) passes through the well treed area known as The Park.

3.1.2. LANDFORM:

The site forms part of a wider gently rolling landscape, which slopes gently from northwest to southeast.



Figure 15. Connectivity map (Image Source: OS Mapping)

KEY

- Site Boundary
- A Roads
- B Roads
- Minor roads
- Bridleways (PROW)
- Pathway/Trail (PROW)

3.2 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

There is a fair presence of lines of mature trees, tree belts and small woods in the wider landscape, including a deciduous woodland (The Heath) opposite Mill Road/A143 junction. A belt of woodland (Elms Wood) lies along the south-eastern site boundary. The northern edge of Mill Road is lined by well-spaced individual trees whilst a well-trees hedgerow defines the western site boundary. There is a notable presence of trees and small woods within the built up area of the village.

KEY






-  Site boundary
-  Woodland/Copse
-  Avenue trees
-  Hedgerows
-  Roads



Figure 16. Green infrastructure diagram

3.3 BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

- KEY
- Site boundary
 - Waterways
 - Ditches
 - Pond

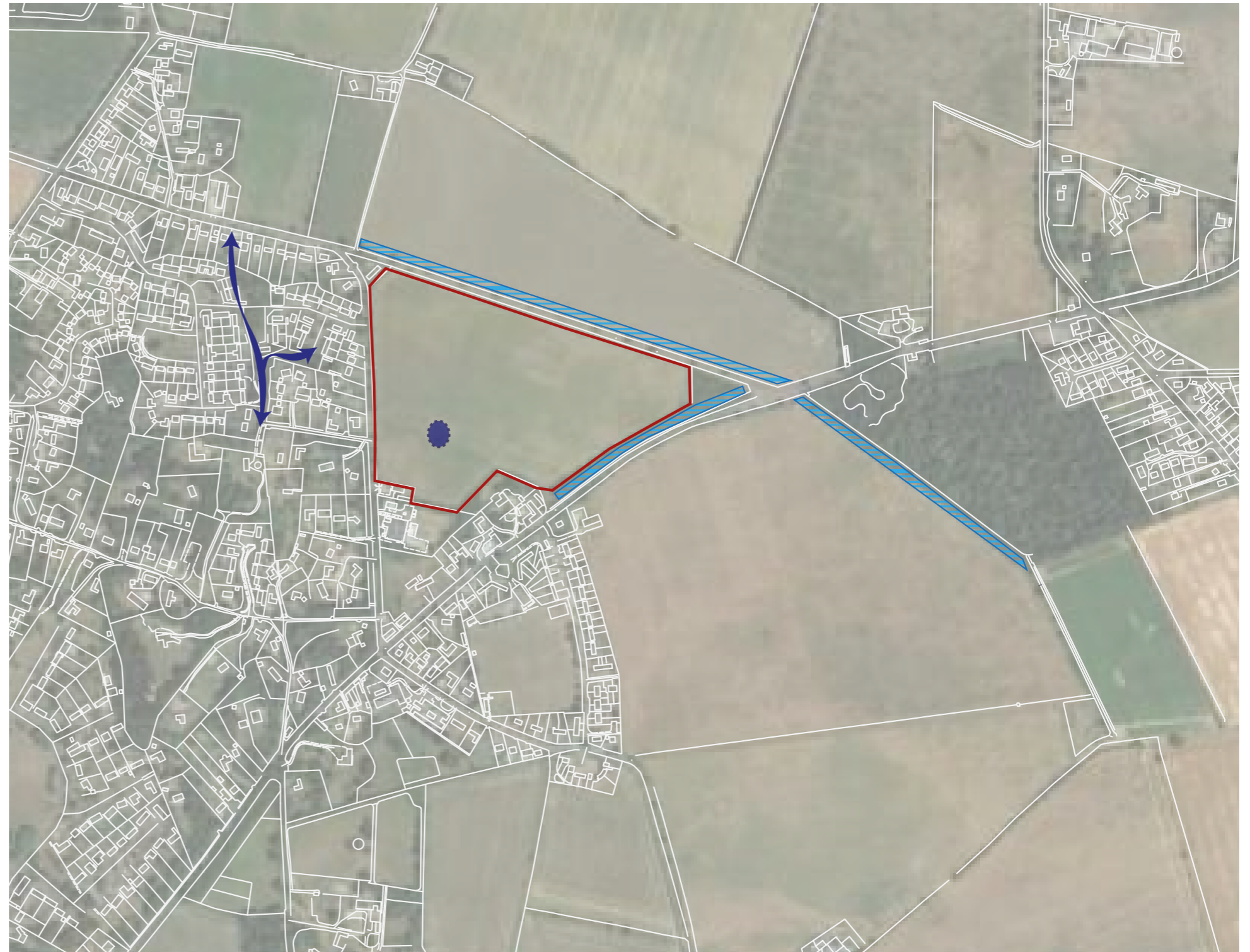










Figure 17. Blue infrastructure diagram

3.4 CHARACTER AREAS

KEY

-  Site boundary
-  The Coppice and Conyers Way area
-  The Park area
-  The Street area
-  East Barton Road/Cox Lane area
-  Hall Park area
-  Conyers Green area
-  Existing woodland

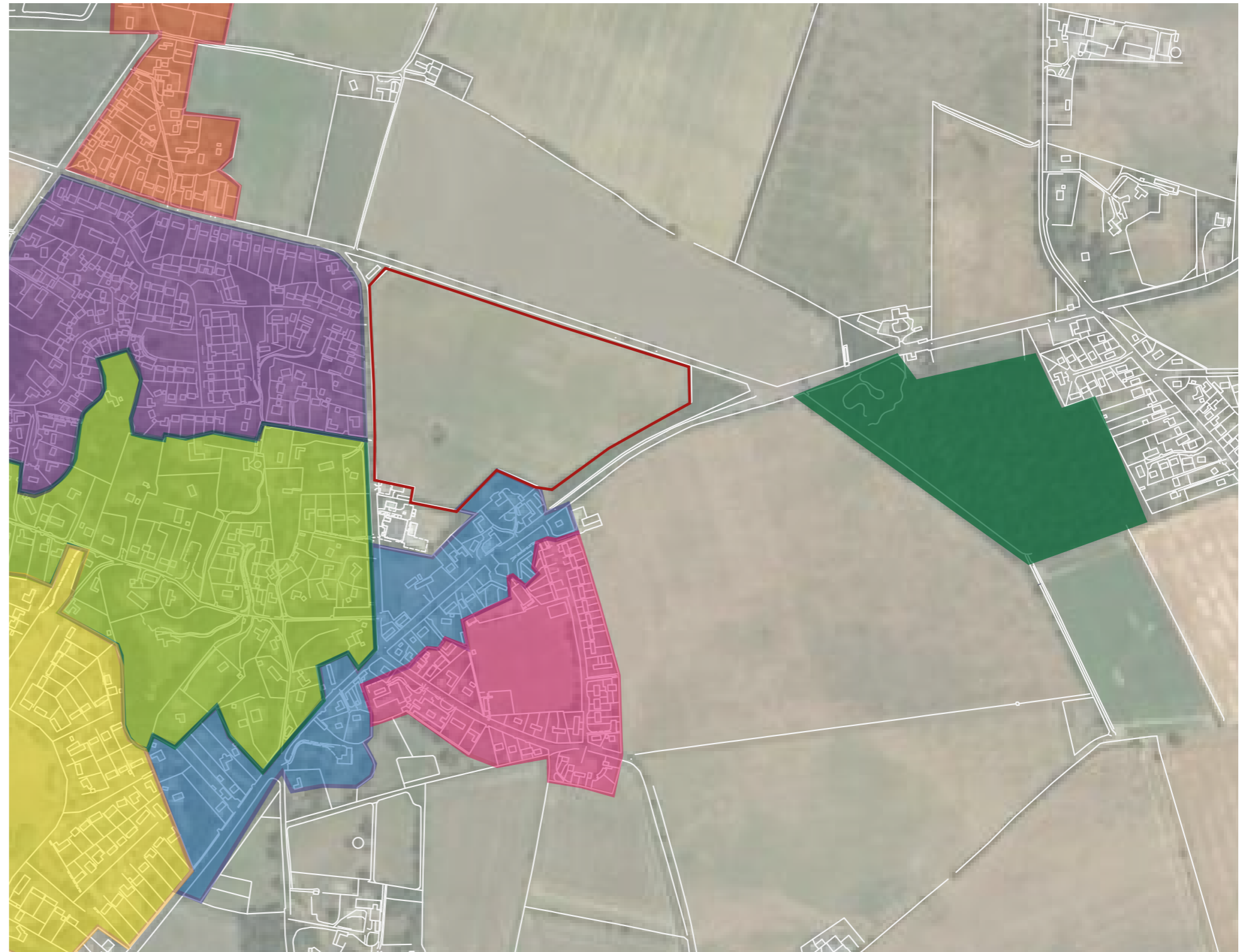










Figure 18. Character areas diagram

3.5 VISUAL ANALYSIS

KEY

-  Site Boundary
-  Short range views
-  Long range views
-  Glimpsed views from Bridleway leading to Vicarage Farm
-  Middle distance views towards site
-  Near distance views into site
-  Visual buffers
-  Roads

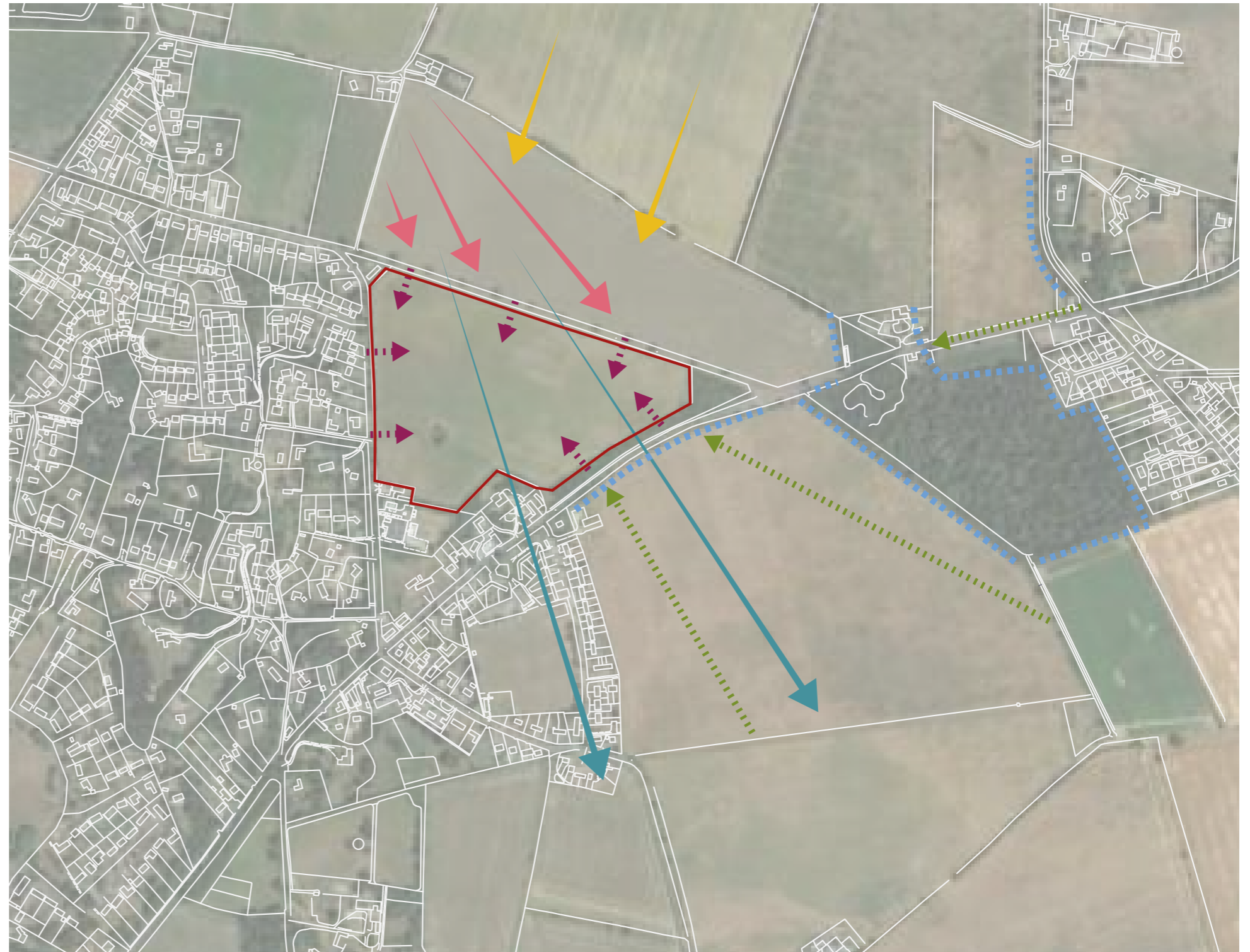


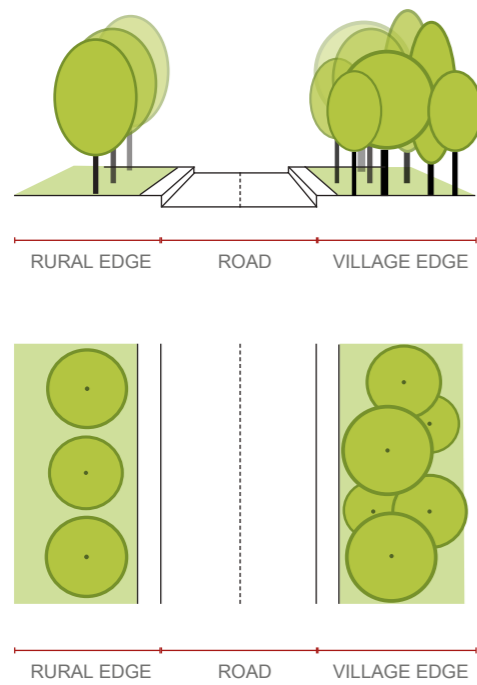
Figure 19. Visual visibility diagram

3.6 EDGE CONSIDERATION

The eastern part of Great Barton has a particular edge typology being:

- > Avenues of trees to the external edges
- > Natural assemblage of trees to the internal edges

We would wish to keep this arrangement and have a natural arrangement of trees on the northern edge to filter views from the north.



KEY

- Site boundary
- Existing hedgerows/trees
- Avenue trees

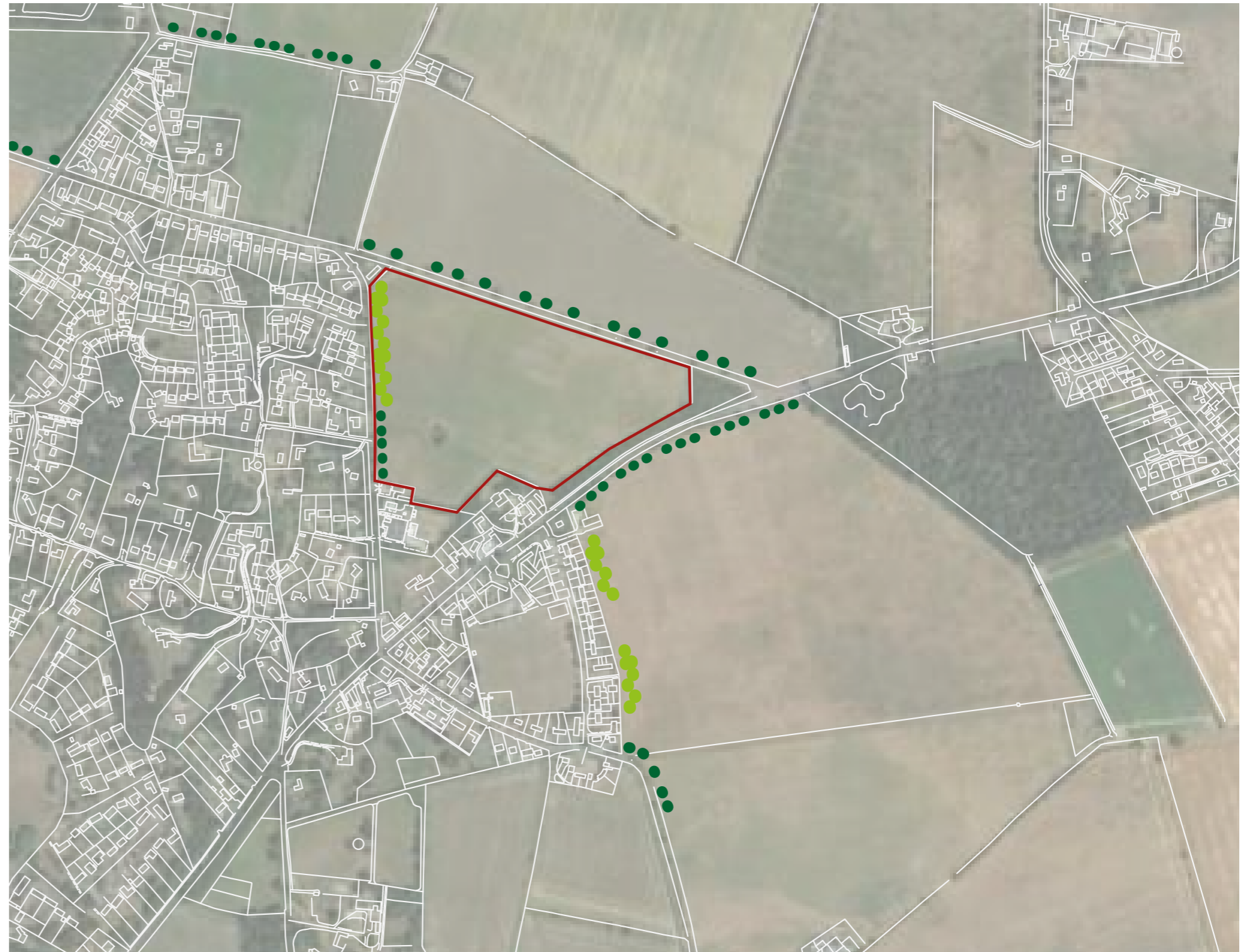


Figure 20. Edges diagram

4.1 SITE OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS

KEY



















-  Site Boundary
-  Area of development with lesser visual sensitivity
-  Area of development with greater visual sensitivity
-  Tree/shrub belt to filter views from north
-  Land retained for school expansion
-  Existing community woodland
-  Existing pond with offset area
-  Potential connection
-  Potential cycle connection
-  Existing Trail
-  Vegetative buffer (off site)
-  Well treed hedgerows
-  BI/SUDS connectivity
-  Longer views from bridleway
-  Filtered views from the North
-  Potential pedestrian routes
-  Conserve notable view (identified in policy GB12)
-  Potential crossing point



Figure 21. Opportunities and constraints diagram



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