

## 8 Summary and Conclusions

- 8.1 **Table 8.1** provides a summary of the overall landscape sensitivity results for wind energy development across LCUs. The full assessment matrices provided in Chapter 7 (which contain specific information relating to different sensitivities within the LCUs) should always be referred to when interpreting the summary tables.
- 8.2 These overall results are also mapped in **Figures 8.1-8.5**. The aim of the maps is to show visually the results of the landscape sensitivity assessment at the LCU level.

### Interpretation of the landscape sensitivity assessment results

- 8.3 LCUs often contain areas of higher and lower sensitivity within them, which should be borne in mind when using the overall sensitivity results maps and tables. It is therefore very important to take note of the content of the specific LCU sensitivity assessments and guidance in Chapter 7, as well as the generic guidance on siting and design in Chapter 6.

### Overall findings

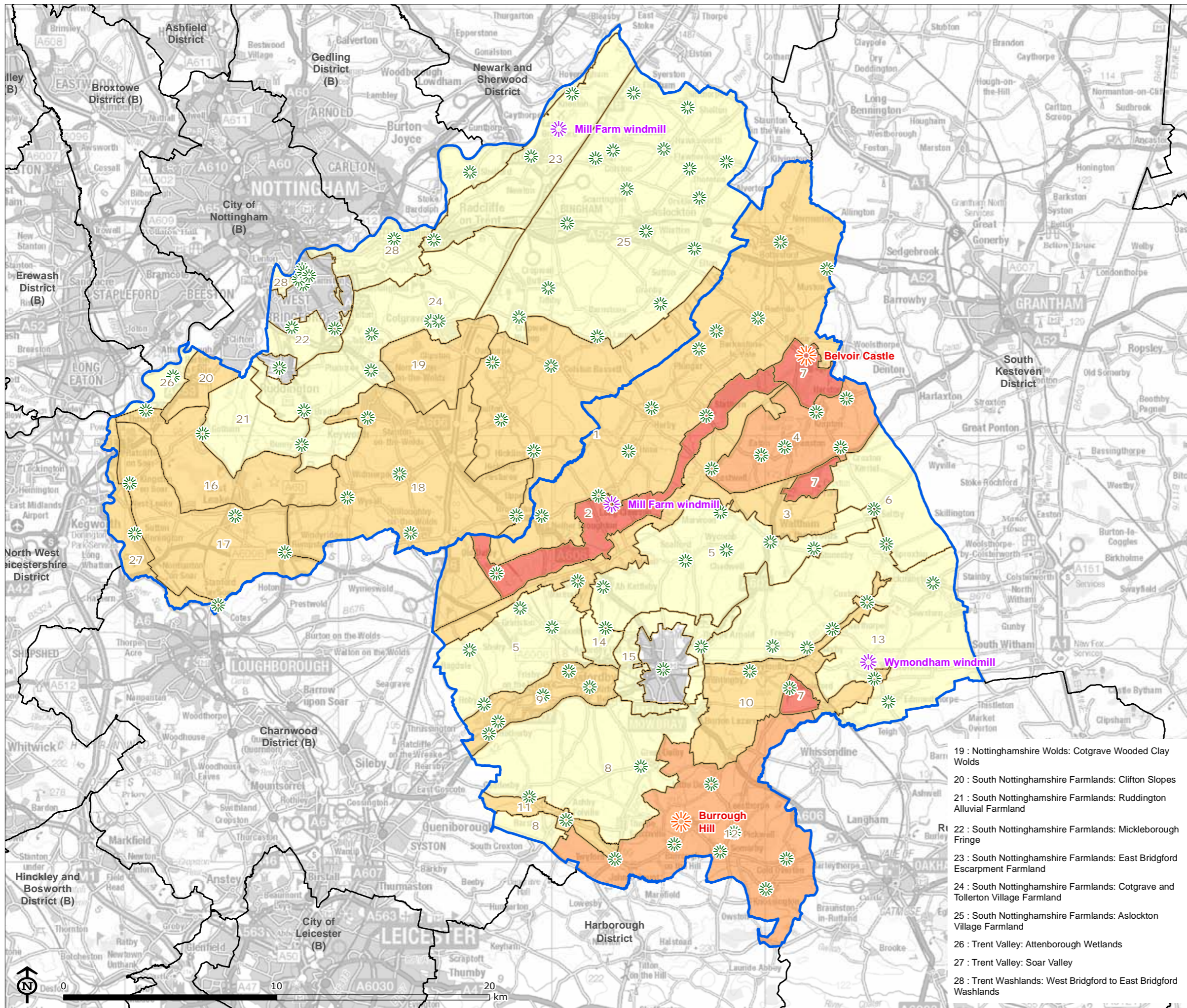
- 8.4 Landform scale varies across the study area, and can be relatively large on the extensive undulating landscapes of the Vales and Wolds. However, the overlying landscape pattern, presence of hedgerows with hedgerow trees and frequency of historic villages punctuated by churches (which are important local landmarks) mean that the sensitivity of the landscape becomes progressively higher as you progress through the different sizes and scales of development, as indicated in **Figures 8.1 to 8.5** and in **Table 8.1**.
- 8.5 Reflecting the scale of the landscapes across the two Boroughs, the assessment has found that all of the Landscape Character Units assessed are of either 'moderate-high' or 'high' sensitivity to wind turbine developments of over 75m to blade tip, and all but one of the Landscape Character Units have a 'high' sensitivity to turbines of over 110m to blade tip.

### Guidance for wind energy development

- 8.6 For wind energy, the guidance included for each LCU suggests that, in general, single or small clusters of 2-3 turbines will be most appropriate (rising to 4-5 in larger scale area subject to other constraints).
- 8.7 Within the same LCU wind energy developments should be of a similar scale and design (in terms of siting, layout, scale, form and relationship to key characteristics) to maintain a simple image and reinforce links between landscape characteristics and design response within the LCU.
- 8.8 In many LCUs there may be opportunities for very small or small scale turbines associated with farm buildings (aiming for consistent scale and design of on-farm turbines) as well as occasional larger single turbines or, in larger scale landscapes, small groups of larger turbines, maintaining a distinct hierarchy between these two scales of turbine.
- 8.9 In some of the larger scale landscapes it may be preferable to have fewer larger wind turbines than many small ones to avoid significant cumulative impacts and visual confusion. The overall aim should be to make sure that wind energy developments do not become a key characteristic of the landscape of the LCU or have a defining influence on the overall experience of the landscapes of the two Boroughs.

MBC and RBC  
Landscape Sensitivity and  
Capacity Study

Figure 8.1:  
Landscape Sensitivity to  
Turbines Up To 25m



- Melton and Rushcliffe Borough Councils
  - Surrounding authorities
  - ★ Primary landmark
  - ★ Secondary landmark
  - ★ Secondary landmark (Church spires & towers)
- Sensitivity
- Low
  - Low-Medium
  - Medium
  - Medium-High
  - High

Landscape Character Assessment Unit

- 1 : Vale of Belvoir
- 2 : The Leicestershire Wolds: Belvoir Scarp
- 3 : The Leicestershire Wolds: Dalby to Belvoir Wolds
- 4 : The Leicestershire Wolds: Knipton Bowl
- 5 : The Leicestershire Wolds: Ragdale to Saltby Wolds
- 6 : Kesteven Uplands: Saltby and Sproxtton Limestone Edge
- 7 : The Leicestershire Wolds: Belvoir, Stapleford and Croxton Parkland
- 8 : High Leicestershire Hills: Great Dalby and Gaddesby Pastoral Farmland
- 9 : The Leicestershire Wolds: Wreake Valley
- 10 : The Leicestershire Wolds: Eye Valley
- 11 : High Leicestershire Hills: Gaddesby Valley
- 12 : High Leicestershire Hills: Burrough Hills
- 13 : The Leicestershire Wolds: Freeby, Buckminster and Wymondham Farmland
- 14 : The Leicestershire Wolds: Asfordby Quarry
- 15 : The Leicestershire Wolds: Melton Farmland Fringe
- 16 : Nottinghamshire Wolds: Gotham and West Leake Wooded Hills and Scarps
- 17 : Nottinghamshire Wolds: East Leake Rolling Farmland
- 18 : Nottinghamshire Wolds: Widmerpool Clay Wolds

Map Scale @ A3: 1:175,000

