Landscape Character Assessment

December 2021

Winchester City Council

terrafirma
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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Contents

Appendices

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Chapter 1 - Introduction

This Landscape Character Assessment of Winchester District, 2021 (hereafter called the 2021 LCA) is an update of the 2004 Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). The 2021 LCA was commissioned by Winchester City Council (WCC) to ensure it includes the latest guidance and takes account of significant changes within the district (including new development and the removal of the South Downs National Park (SDNP) area of the district which accounts for approx. 40%). Refer to Figure 1 2021 LCA boundary at the end of this chapter.

The 2004 LCA covered the whole of the district, including the area within what was then the East Hampshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and was published to guide Local Plan policy and replace the previous Areas of Special Landscape Quality (ASLQ) designations.

Approach to the update

The 2021 LCA builds on the 2004 LCA and is carried out in accordance with Natural England's 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014), introducing the identification of valued landscape, features and characteristics. These are aspects introduced into the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in recent years. The methodology is detailed in Appendix One.

The structure and level of detail is retained and mapping updated to reflect the exclusion of the SDNP. Field surveys have been carried out and representative photographs have been updated. A number of boundary changes have been made due to the removal of the SDNP:

- A small part of LCA 8 North Itchen Downs at Worthy Park, east of Kings Worthy has been removed.
- Much of LCA 9 Upper Itchen Valley has been removed, leaving the areas around Alresford and Northington Down and 2 small separated areas at Abbotts Barton and between Winchester and Kings Worthy.
- Most of LCA 11 Bramdean Woodlands is within the SDNP with an area south and south-east of Alresford remaining.
- Most of LCA 12 East Winchester Downs is within the SDNP, leaving a small area at Bar End and a linear strip with the M3 motorway east of Winchester.
- Much of LCA 13 Lower Itchen Valley has been incorporated into the SDNP, leaving an area south-west of Colden Common, a fragment north of Colden Common, a slither at Shawford Down and east of Shawford. Four fragments remain on the south-eastern side of Winchester, at St Cross, Winchester College, College Walk and Kingsgate.
- LCA 15 South Winchester Downs has mostly been incorporated into the SDNP, leaving 4 small areas; 2 are east of Colden Common, one is north-east of Bishop's Waltham, and one is north-east of Swanmore.
- All but a small fragment north of Soberton Heath remains of LCA 16 Upper Meon Valley outside the SDNP.
- Most of LCA 17 Hambledon Downs has been removed, leaving 2 small areas north and north-west of Denmead.
- An area in the west of LCA 18 Forest of Bere Lowlands at West Walk and a small area north of Anthill Common have been removed from the boundary.
- The north-eastern part of LCA 20 Lower Meon Valley has been removed, leaving the southern part of the LCA plus a fragment between Mislingford and Shirrell Heath.
- A small part of LCA 22 Shedfield Heathlands south-east of Swanmore has been removed.
- The northern edge of LCA 23 Durley Claylands has been incorporated into the

SDNP leaving 2 separate areas; south and east of Colden Common and south and west of Bishop's Waltham.

The main stages are:

Desk-based familiarisation of the district, the 2004 LCA, including a review of relevant reports, data and mapped information and use of map overlays to review 'landscape types', update settlement boundaries, heritage and ecological designations, and take account of recent major developments and other changes which have occurred since 2004.

Field surveys to review the landscape character areas, noting any changes and in particular noting key characteristics of value and those which are detractors. Review interfaces with the SDNP, including key views identified in the document 'South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis'.

Community participation carried out to inform the 2004 LCA is described overleaf. For the 2021 LCA update, parish councillors were invited to a presentation of the draft document held via video link due to the coronavirus pandemic. The presentation included a description of landscape character assessment and its uses, the key changes to the study (additional aspects assessed, boundary changes, key changes to character). Questions were raised by participants before and during the presentation. Concerns raised were TO BE COMPLETED

The report includes the provision of strategies for the conservation and enhancement of the character of landscape and built form and guidance on how to achieve them. The 2021 LCA also considers future potential sources of influence/forces for change upon the landscape for each Landscape Character Area.

Structure of the report

The structure of the report is broadly the same as the 2004 LCA.

Volume 1:

- **Chapter 1 Introduction**. This section describes the structure of the report, the objectives of the assessment, and a statement of public consultation which informed the 2004 LCA.
- **Chapter 2 Formative influences on the landscape**. This section describes the principal forces that have shaped the landscape in the District. This includes a summary of the planning context, key points from the various levels of published landscape character assessments, descriptions and mapping of the physical characteristics of the District, such as its geology, drainage, and landform, as well as its historic and cultural developments
- **Chapter 3 Landscape and settlement types**. This section identifies and describes the characteristics of the landscape and settlement types that can be found throughout the District. It also describes issues that particularly affect each landscape type.
- **Chapter 4 Landscape character areas**. This section divides the landscape into different local 'Landscape Character Areas' and highlights the key characteristics of the landscapes and settlements in each area, identifying key valued characteristics and sensitivities and key issues as well as providing a more detailed description of the landscape and settlement character and their formative influences. It also recommends strategies for the conservation and enhancement of the landscape and built form of each character area.
- **Chapter 5 The way forward: implementing the strategies**. This section outlines the key factors that pose a threat to the District's landscape and provides

guidelines for achieving the strategies that have been set out in Chapter Four.

Volume 2 Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Methodology
- Appendix 2 Historic landscape character assessment
- Appendix 3 Ecological assessment

Objectives of the Assessment

The need for an LCA reflects the importance of Winchester's landscape both locally and nationally, and the pressures that are being placed upon it. LCAs are central to understanding the character of the landscape and what is important and valued so that the landscape can be properly considered as part of decision making.

The aims of this assessment are the same as for the 2004 LCA; to enable the planning system to help conserve, restore and enhance the character of the District's landscape and the settings of its settlements. It also aims to highlight trends and issues that are threatening the character of the landscape, and to provide strategies for improvements and land management.

In particular, its main objectives, which remain largely the same for the 2021 LCA, are:

- To outline how the landscape of the District has evolved, in terms of physical forces and human influences;
- To classify the landscape of the District into distinct 'Landscape Types' summarising the characteristics of the landscape and the key issues affecting each type
- To classify the settlements of the District into distinct 'Settlement Types' summarising the characteristics of their form and building types and their setting within the landscape;
- To map and describe the current landscape of the District into distinct 'Landscape Character Areas', identifying their key characteristics, distinguishing between key valued characteristics and key detractors
- To map and describe 'Historic Landscape Character Areas'
- To clarify and explain the evidence for time-depth within the landscape and the process of historic change
- To identify changes taking place in the landscape and anticipated threats.
- To suggest strategies for the conservation and enhancement of the landscape and built form for each Landscape Character Area
- To characterise the historic townscape of Alresford, Bishops Waltham, Wickham and Denmead.

Statement of Public Consultation for the 2004 LCA

The 2004 Landscape Character Assessment was the subject of formal and informal consultations carried out by the City Council in 2002 / 2003. Details of the consultations and stakeholder workshop are described in Appendix 1 of the Landscape Character Assessment and reports on the progress of this work were presented to the relevant Council Committee at the time.

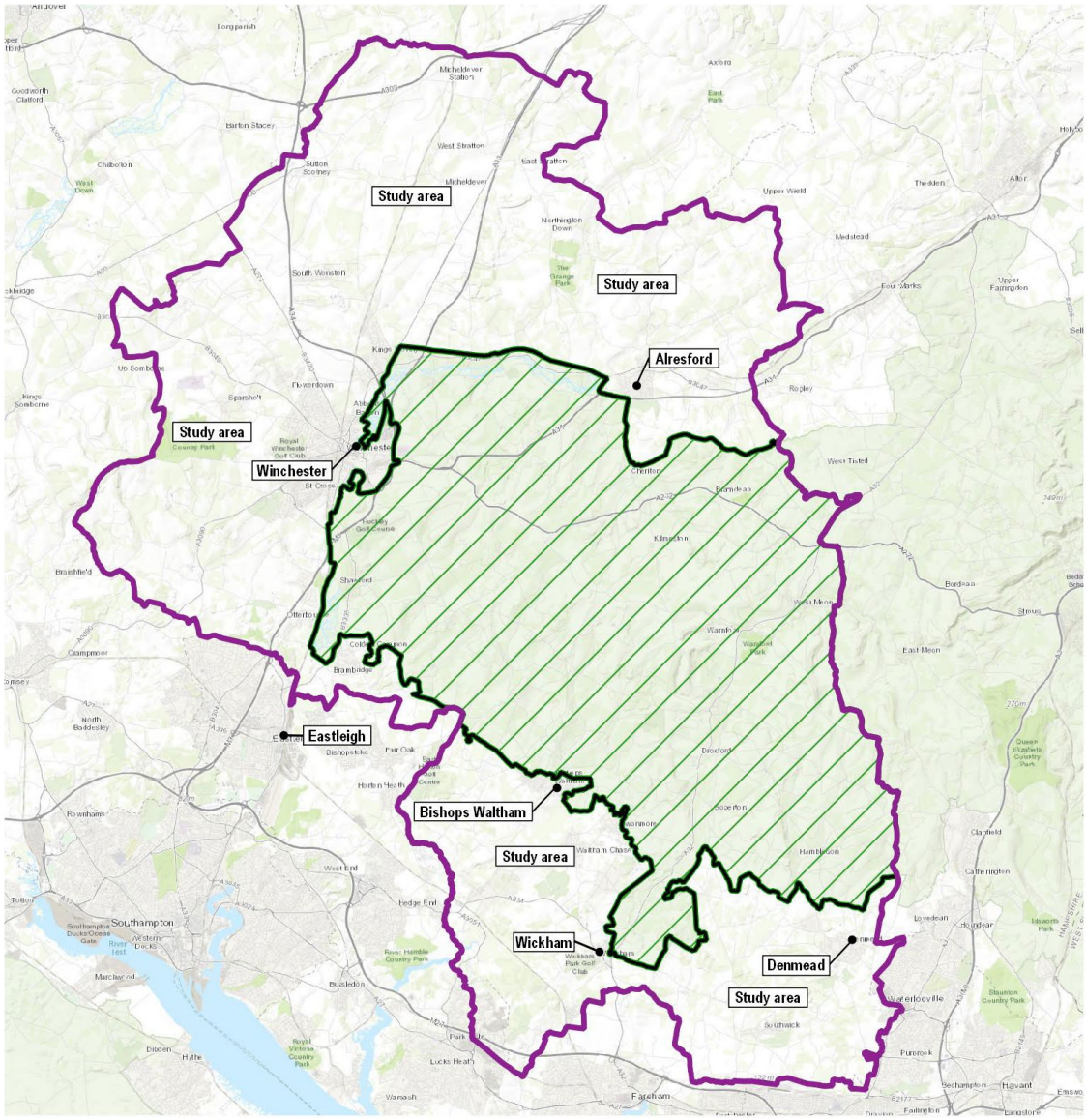
The draft Landscape Character Assessment was published on 9th May 2003 with a six week period of consultation that concluded on the 23rd June 2003. The 'Key Characteristics' and 'Landscape and Built Form Strategies' were appended to the Revised Deposit Local Plan Review and were therefore subject to formal consultation as part of the Local Plan process. During this period the council sought the views of Parish Councils, WCC Councillors, GOSE, Neighbouring Authorities and the Winchester Landscape Alliance, to whom copies of the Landscape Character Assessment were sent. In addition Hampshire County Council, National bodies, other Hampshire bodies and Local Organisations were sent copies of the Revised Deposit Local Plan Background Documents CD,

including the Landscape Assessment. All those on the Local Plan Newsletter mailing list (nearly 3,000) were informed of the publication of the Landscape Character Assessment through the April 2003 Newsletter and notified that comments were to be invited.

In response to the consultation, the City Council received two representations relating to the Landscape Character Assessment and a number of representations relating to Appendix 2 of the Local Plan (containing extracts from the Landscape Character Assessment). A detailed summary of the responses and the changes made as a result can be found on the City Council web site and within Committee report WDLP 37 dated 20th November 2003.

On 7th January 2004 the Council adopted the Landscape Character Assessment as Supplementary Planning Guidance to the Winchester District Local Plan 1998 (Proposals C.1, C.2, C.7, EN.5, EN.7, EN.10) at a meeting of the full Council, and as a background document to the Revised Deposit Winchester District Local Plan.

Figure 1 - Study Area



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- South Downs National Park
- Study Area

north 0 2.5 5 7.5 10 12.5 km

Chapter 2 - Formative influences on the landscape

Winchester district lies centrally within Hampshire, extending towards Basingstoke in the north and Portsmouth in the south. It is a predominantly rural district, covering a total (including the area which falls within the SDNP) of over 250 square miles of diverse countryside, including chalk downs, large arable fields, extensive woodland, river valleys, heath remnants, historic parks and clay lowland pastures. The district also contains over 50 rural settlements as well as the city of Winchester itself. These settlements also tend to have strong, distinctive characters, based on their landscape setting, form and vernacular architecture and materials, which include flint, thatch, timber frame, brick and clay tiles. The study area for the 2021 LCA, which does not include the SDNP, comprises much of the northern and southern parts of the district as well as the district west of Winchester (see Figure 1, chapter 1).

This chapter gives a broad description of the physical and human influences that have contributed to these variations in the district's landscape

Planning Policy and Regulatory Background

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) sets out the government's planning policies for England.

Paragraph 8 sets out overarching objectives of the planning system. These include an environmental objective to 'contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment…'.

Paragraph 9 states that 'These objectives should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and the application of the policies in this Framework; they are not criteria against which every decision can or should be judged. Planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but in doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area'.

Paragraph 170 states that 'planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by' (among other things):

- Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan)

Paragraph 127 states that policies and decisions should ensure the developments (among other things) 'are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting…'

Paragraph 172 states that 'Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues'.

The above indicates that government policy gives considerable weight to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and statutory designated and non-designated valued landscapes in particular; and to recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside.

A summary of the key relevant points in the government's 25 Year Environment Plan and likely impacts of Brexit are set out below.

25 Year Environment Plan (2018)

In January 2018, the Government published 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' . This Environment Plan contains a mix of confirmed policies and longer-term aims such as the Agriculture Bill, new farming rules for water, and a Tree Health Resilience Strategy.

The overarching aim of the Environment Plan is: 'To help the natural world regain and retain good health … deliver cleaner air and water in our cities and rural landscapes, protect threatened species and provide richer wildlife habitats'

More specific 25-year goals are to provide:

- Clean air
- Clean and plentiful water
- Thriving plants and wildlife (including increasing woodland in England in line with the aspiration of 12% cover by 2060: this would involve planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042)
- A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought
- Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently
- Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

Of particular relevance to landscape, the Plan pledges to conserve and enhance the beauty of our natural environment, and make sure it can be enjoyed, used by and cared for by everyone and improving its environmental value while being sensitive to considerations of its heritage. This includes making sure that there are high quality, accessible, natural spaces close to where people live and work, particularly in urban areas, encouraging more people to spend time in them to benefit their health and wellbeing and focusing on increasing action to improve the environment from all sectors of society.

In addition, the Plan sets out a framework aimed at managing pressures on the environment by: mitigating and adapting to climate change, minimising waste, managing exposure to chemicals and enhancing biosecurity.

In pursuit of the broad goals, 6 chapters set out more detailed policies:

- Using and managing land sustainably, including increasing the number of homes built to 300,000 per year by 2025 – with net gain of environmental improvements, including stronger new standards for green infrastructure and ensuring new development happens in the right places.
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes.
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing.
- Increasing resource efficiency, and reducing pollution and waste.
- Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans.
- Protecting and improving the global environment.

The UK's exit from the European Union (EU), voted for by referendum in 2016, means that agriculture will be operating outside of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Currently, CAP subsidies can make up anywhere from 50-80% of a UK farmer's income and farming practices will be sensitive to fluctuations in support or change of direction or priorities in this support. CAP support is set to continue until around 2024, after which the Environment Plan sets out how a new environmental land management system, based on providing public money for public goods (such as habitat enhancement), is proposed to replace current direct payments to farmers in England. Proposals will be developed through the new Agriculture Bill which will set out post-Brexit support arrangements for farmers. There will be greater emphasis on paying farmers public money in return for public goods, in line with the overall environmental goals, and building on previous

countryside stewardship and agri-environment schemes. The government has already started making changes to its approach with a simplified Countryside Stewardship scheme for 2018, as per the commitment in the Plan, and all landowners making a valid application are guaranteed funding.

Environment Bill

The Environment Bill, introduced to the House of Commons in January 2020, is one of the key vehicles for delivering the vision set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan. The Environment Bill has been prepared through consultations with the public on a range of measures, including: environmental governance; the clean air strategy; biodiversity net gain; trees; conservation covenants; extended producer responsibility for packaging; recycling; a deposit return scheme for drinks containers and water. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, the Bill's passage through parliament is delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic and ministers having insufficient time to fully scrutinise the details. When it becomes law, the resultant Act will include clauses relating to:

- Environmental governance
- Resources and waste management
- Improving the air we breathe
- Delivering sustainable water resources
- Restoring and enhancing nature and green spaces
- Chemicals regulation
- Delivering at a local level

Environmental Land Management

The Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme will provide the mechanism for achieving the goals of the 25 Year Environment Plan and commitment to net zero emissions by 2050, while supporting the rural economy. The scheme means farmers and other land managers may be paid for delivering the public goods identified above. As part of the 'Tests and Trials' work being undertaken to inform the details of the ELM scheme, a number of trials are under way exploring the role of a convener, who would lead the prioritisation process at county scale and one of these convener trials is taking place in Hampshire.

Winchester District Local Plan Part 1:Joint Core Strategy – Adopted March 2013:

Policy CP20 – Heritage and Landscape Character

This is the key policy which confirms that the District's distinctive landscape character, derived from a combination of natural and man-made assets, contributes to its special qualities. The importance of the landscape as identified in the Winchester District Landscape Character Assessment and the Winchester City and its Setting study, highlight the necessity for these special qualities to be retained and respected in planning for growth and change.

The policy sets out that particular emphasis is given to conserving:

- recognised built form and designed or natural landscapes that include features and elements of natural beauty, cultural or historic importance;
- local distinctiveness, especially in terms of characteristic materials, trees, built form and layout, tranquillity, sense of place and setting.

Landscape Character Context

National Character Areas

According to Natural England's National Character Area profiles map[1], the landscape of the district can be broadly divided into three distinct areas. The majority of the district is strongly influenced by the underlying chalk, giving rise to two different areas of downland. The 'Hampshire Downs' landscape character area, lying to the north and east of Winchester is a broad belt of strongly rolling chalk downs with scarps, hilltops and valleys, with an overall exposed character. The 'South Downs' landscape character area, running through the centre of the district (and mostly outside of the study area apart from a small area around Denmead) is associated with the east-west chalk ridge running towards Eastbourne. This is a more elevated landscape, combining rolling arable fields interspersed with scattered settlements, parkland and woodlands. To the south of the district meanwhile, the varied clays and gravels of the 'South Hampshire Lowlands' provide a contrastingly diverse enclosed and small-scale landscape, consisting of lower lying mixed farmland and woodland. Refer to Figure 2.

Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment (2010)

Landscape character areas are also shown in Figure 2 overlaid on the national character areas and as would be expected, the Hampshire character areas are more detailed but broadly fall within related national character areas. In the north, and east are the downland character areas, with lowland character areas in the south. Four river valley character areas are within the study area; the Test in the north, the Itchen to the west, the Meon to the south, and a small section of the Hamble in the south-west.

The 2010 Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment[2] has informed the Winchester 2021 LCA, with particular reference to positive characteristics and forces for change.

South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (2020) and View Characterisation and Analysis (2015)

Parts of the study area form the setting of the SDNP and therefore have an important role in conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the SDNP[3] .The relationship with the SDNP has been considered in the update of the 2021 LCA (Winchester).

The South Downs Landscape Character Assessment (SDLCA)[4] (updated in 2020) has been referred to, in particular relating to the following adjacent landscape character areas, with the closest Winchester character area given for reference.

SDLCA landscape character areas are mapped in Figure 3, overlaid on the Winchester character areas.

1 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles

2 https://www.hants.gov.uk/en/landplanningandenvironment/environment/landscape/integratedcharacterassessment

3 http://southdowns.gov.uk/discover/why-are-we-anational-park/sdnp-special-qualities

4 https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/landscape-design-conservation/south-downs-landscape-character-assessment/south-downs-landscape-character-assessment-2020

SDLCA character area	Closest WCC character area
A5 East Winchester Open Downs	12 East Winchester Downs
D1a South Winchester Downland Mosaic (Enclosed)	22 Shedfield Heathlands, 23 Durley Claylands
D2a Hambledon to Clanfield Downland Mosaic (Enclosed)	17 Hambledon Downs 18 Forest of Bere Lowlands
D3a Bramdean and Cheriton Mosaic (Enclosed)	11 Bramdean Woodlands
F5 Itchen Floodplain	1 Hursley Scarplands 9 Upper Itchen Valley
G5 Itchen Valley Sides	8 North Itchen Downs
Q1 West Walk – Rookesbury Park	18 Forest of Bere Lowlands

The View Characterisation and Analysis (VCA)[1] comprises the mapping and analysis of views to, from, and within the SDNP. A number of these views are relevant to the 2021 LCA for Winchester:

- View 5 Old Winchester Hill; elevated viewpoint with views in all directions.
- View 8 Butser Hill; elevated viewpoint with views across the Meon and Rother Valleys.
- View 14 Cheesefoot Head; elevated viewpoint with views across open downland and the Itchen Valley.
- View 15 St Catherine's Hill; elevated viewpoint with views along the Itchen Valley and over Winchester.
- View 35 Salt Hill; prominent point with views along the scarp to Butser and over the Meon Valley.
- View 62 Itchen Valley; views over the water meadows.

In addition, the SDNP's dark skies mapping and tranquillity mapping[2] have formed part of the reference material informing perceptual qualities.

Physical Influences

Geology

The different strata of bedrock underlying the district have had an important influence on the evolution of the indigenous vegetation and subsequent agricultural use. See Figure 4 for a simplified map of the geology of the Winchester district. The geology of the district has also influenced where settlements have evolved and the types of building materials used. The geological range is sedimentary and the deposits are generally younger towards the south of the district.

The northern part of the district is dominated by the chalk series of the Cretaceous period and forms part of the Hampshire Downlands. Upper Chalk is the youngest of the series and is the most common outcrop. Middle and Lower Chalk emerge to the south east of Winchester, through St Catherine's Hill, Magdalen Hill and towards Farley Down. The other main area of Middle and Lower Chalk occurs to the east of the district around Meonstoke, Warnford and Old Winchester Hill. Many areas of the chalk are thinly covered by clay.

Some significant areas of superficial deposits mask the solid geology. In particular, clay-with-flints can be found overlying the chalk in some areas. This is a product of the decomposition of the chalk and the disintegration of overlying Eocene deposits. These can be found in a belt from West Stratton in the north, south through the Upper Itchen Valley, Tichbourne, Cheriton,

1 https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Viewshed-Study-Report.pdf
2 https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/south-downs-local-plan/policies-map/landscape-character-map

Hinton Ampner and West Meon.

In the Lower Hampshire Lowlands, to the south of the district, the geological structure is a combination of sands, silts and clay deposits of the Tertiary period and form the Reading Beds, London Clay, Bagshot Sands and Bracklesham Beds. Portsdown Hill to the far south however, represents an outcrop of Upper Chalk and the northern part of the sandy clay trench. Further areas of clay-with-flint deposits can be found in the chalk running parallel to the Reading Beds.

Soils and Agricultural Land Quality

The existing geological materials influence the formation and characteristics of the main soil types within the district, which in turn influence the capability of the land to support agriculture and woodland. The soils on chalk tend to be shallow and well drained and are generally Grade 3 agricultural land. Within these general soil characteristics, the three different chalk series have different soil types. Upper Chalk has Brown Rendzina soil that is often intensively farmed, while Middle Chalk has Grey Rendzinas, and Lower Chalk has Brown Calcareous Earth.

Where drift deposits accumulate over chalk, such as the areas of clay-with-flints, the soil type is Brown Earths. Here the deeper soils are more fertile and tend to give rise to woodland, especially oak woods

To the south of the district there are areas of Grade 2 agricultural land which generally coincide with areas of Bagshot Sands, giving rise to areas of fertile horticultural land. Generally however the superficial sands and gravels over Tertiary Clay result in surface water gleys varying in fertility, reducing agricultural capacity to Grade 4 and 5, and resulting in some seasonal waterlogging. Landscape characteristics of these areas vary but typically include woodland and wet lowland heath. Where river valleys intercept the district, alkaline, earthy peat soils prevail.

Landform and Hydrology

The topography of the district has been directly influenced by the resistance of the underlying geology and by climatic change. The resultant landform and drainage pattern is illustrated in Fig 5 and Fig 6 respectively

Although the ice advances during the glacial periods of the Ice Age never reached the southern part of the country, the severe climates meant that most of the ground in this region was permanently frozen. Glacial material (loess) from the north was blown over much of the chalk in the region. As the climate warmed during the interglacial periods, large amounts of water were released from the previously frozen ground. Subsequent erosion dramatically sculpted the topography of the chalk upland plateau, to produce the characteristic rolling downland. Steep valleys and scarp hangers were formed, and the erosion of the loess created dry valleys.

The porous nature of chalk results in a landscape that has very little surface water, although it has important water storing qualities. There are three principal rivers within the district (and study area); the Dever, the Itchen and the Meon. These all rise in the chalk uplands and eventually flow south, their valleys dissecting the chalk plateau, before entering the clay lowland area and eventually the Solent. The River Itchen and its tributaries; the Candover Stream, the River Arle and the Cheriton Stream; is the most dominant river system in the district, as well as the most populated, although the Meon valley has also had an important impact on the topography to the east of the district. The Hamble and Wallington and their tributaries are also important in the south of the district.

The characteristic hard, alkaline, clear water of the streams results from the slow dissolution of the chalk. It provides an important source of drinking water as well as supporting fishing and watercress farms, particularly in the upper reaches. The floodplains of loamy alluvium, peat and laminated gravel support a mosaic of habitats, including water meadows, unimproved

grassland, fen carr and wet woodland.

Large amounts of water also collect in underground aquifers and springs emerge where the chalk meets an impervious layer of clay. These feed the lowland rivers such as the Hamble and settlements, such as Bishop's Waltham, have arisen around such spring line locations. Boreholes also provide domestic and commercial water supplies for much of south Hampshire. High demand and prolonged dry seasons have led to a lowering of the water table, causing many springs to dry up.

Climate

Given its location near the south coast of England, maritime influences have contributed to the district's temperate climate. Consequently a wide range of temperate plants are able to grow in the area. Extreme weather conditions are rare, but have been destructive in the past. The gales of 1987 and 1990 for example, destroyed a substantial amount of tree cover, although much of this was over-mature or poorly developed, and highlighted poor management.

A series of microclimates can be found throughout the area, with the elevated areas of the chalk downlands to the north being exposed and often windy due to their topography and lack of hedgerow and tree cover. This contributes to the problem of soil erosion. To the south of the district however, where clay soils prevail, additional tree cover and lower altitudes provide a more sheltered microclimate, making such areas more suitable for less hardy crops and pasture.

Ecology and Vegetation

The indigenous vegetation and associated habitats of the district have evolved since the last Ice Age, having been influenced by soils, aspect, changing climate, and human activity. Whilst the chalk downs have pockets of important species-rich calcareous grassland, areas where clay predominates are more likely to be wooded. The clear spring water of the rivers provides another important habitat, together with associated pasture and wet woodland. All of these important ecological features have been threatened over recent centuries by development, agriculture and forestry. Woodland has been cleared to create arable and pasture fields for example and open downland grazing has been converted to arable cultivation.

In response to these threats, many areas of the district's landscape have now been recognised through international, national or local designations, including a candidate Special Area of Conservation, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, National Nature Reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and Local Nature Reserves. These designations are mapped in Figure 7.

Ecological input to the 2004 LCA was provided by consultants, Ecological Planning and Research. This gave detailed listings of ecological designations for each Landscape Character Area (see Appendix Four). The consultants also highlighted ecological change and threats, and suggested ecological strategies for each area. This information is provided within the individual Landscape Character Area descriptions (see Chapter 4).

Woodland

Trees first colonised Hampshire about 12,000 years ago. This natural forest survives only in very small pockets where it has always been too difficult to farm, such as steep slopes. This primary woodland is very rare, but secondary ancient woodland which developed before 1700 CE on previously cleared land, occurs more frequently (also see Fig 7). Unfortunately ancient woodland was lost at an alarming rate over the 20th century due to both clearance and neglect. The future of ancient woodland is dependant on good husbandry, in particular the Hampshire tradition of coppicing most species, which ensures a diverse ground flora. Since the 2004 LCA the quantum of ancient woodland appears

to have remained fairly constant. Ash Dieback disease is predicted to have a devastating effect on the ash population over the coming years which will significantly affect character.

The Winchester district as a whole is particularly fortunate in having 16% woodland cover, more than double the national average, and much of this is ancient in origin. In particular, ancient woodland and replanted ancient woodland can be found to the north of the district, in the parish of Micheldever, where clayey soils over the chalk coincide with woodland such as Black Wood, Micheldever Wood and Shroner Wood for example. Similarly to the far south of the district, the clayey soils associated with the South Hampshire Lowlands have resulted in many areas of ancient woodland, associated with the Forest of Bere, including Botley Wood.

The underlying soil of an area is also an important influence on the types of species as well as the predominance of woodland and this is summarised in the table below, along with notes where the ash population which is under severe threat from Ash Dieback could be significantly lost resulting in great changes to landscape character through loss of woodland:

Plantations, often planted with non-indigenous conifers, are a feature of limited areas of the district. These are relatively recent in origin, being mainly for timber production and game cover Due to their monoculture character and dense evergreen canopies, these areas of forest offer comparatively little wildlife value. Their harsh lines often seem in conflict with the rolling nature of most of the district's countryside and given that they ultimately are the subject of clear felling, their loss also has a very sudden impact upon the environment.

Hedgerows

The structure and pattern of hedgerows has a strong visual influence on the landscape as well as providing invaluable wildlife habitats and corridors. Many hedgerows have been lost over the past century due to increased farm mechanisation. However, many of those remaining date back to Anglo-Saxon boundary charters. These older hedges traditionally contain timber trees, pollards and old coppice stools as well as a greater variety of species, which can be used as a broad indicator of antiquity. These ancient hedges, with their wavy, unsurveyed boundaries are especially found to the south of the district, where woodlands were assarted to provide fields. In areas that were subject to later, parliamentary type enclosure, on the chalk downs and around the heath-associated villages of Waltham Chase, Shirrell Heath and Curdridge for example, hedgerows tend to be straighter and often clipped, predominantly consisting of thorn species.

Species	Soil	Notes
Ash, Maple, Wych Elm	chalk	Conserved by coppicing; Ash Dieback poses a severe threat to the ash population
Beech	chalk	Conserved by coppicing
Yew, Whitebeam, Wild Cherry	chalk	Subdominant species
Ash, Hazel, Oak	both chalk and clay	The most common woodland throughout the District but are the most threatened as they occur on the best soils. In addition, the ash population is under severe threat from Ash Dieback
Hazel	both chalk and clay	Most important understorey shrub. Coppiced.
Lime	Rare	Some of best surviving examples are in the Meon Valley (Holywell), Waltham Chase (Swanmore and the Bishop's Enclosure) and the Forest of Bere (Hipley Copse)

Chalk Downland

The chalk downs were the first areas to be cleared by humans, beginning around 6000 years ago, as they were the easiest to tackle using primitive tools. These areas were developed as sheepwalks from the 6th to the 9th Centuries and retained an open structure with few hedges. The grazing by sheep and later rabbits (introduced by the Normans) removed the potential for recolonisation by scrub and woodland and resulted in a close cropped sward of very diverse flora. This pasture can be very colourful, being rich in flowers, and providing a habitat for a range of invertebrates including rare species of butterflies.

Comparatively small areas of this downland are now left within the study area, including at Teg Down and Worthy Down. Chalk downland is generally susceptible to scrub invasion due to lack of management, and soil erosion as these areas are popular for recreational purposes including walking, motor bike scrambling, hangliding and golf.

Indicators of such ancient grassland include:

- Colour differences: Brownish-green in winter and dull green in summer (modern grasslands are bright green for much of the year)
- Lack of uniformity. Lack of modern treatments mean that there is a variation in sward height, wetness, topography, colour, vegetation
- The presence of anthills, which haven't been destroyed by tractors or long vegetation. The more numerous and larger in size, the older the grassland.
- Numerous colourful flowers in spring and summer, especially with pink and yellow flowers. (unless they are heavily grazed or cut for hay)

(from Colebourne and Gibbons,1990)

Heathland

Heathland evolved following the clearance of woodland in the Bronze Age on agriculturally impoverished land in the south of the district. It is important for the range of plants, animals and insects which it supports but it is vulnerable to scrub and woodland invasion (usually birch, pine and oak) unless managed. Very little heathland

now remains in the district, although there are examples of species-rich heathland at Shedfield and Wickham Commons. At Farley Mount there is also an example of rare chalk heathland, where acid clay directly overlies chalk, resulting in typical chalk vegetation mixed with heath and dwarf gorse.

Perceptual qualities

Perceptual qualities have taken on increased importance since the 2004 LCA and online mapping of dark skies is available[1]. This mapping shows that, not surprisingly, a large area around Winchester has the brightest night skies within the study area, with Whiteley in the south and west of Waterlooville in the east also having significant bright spots. North of the SDNP, the South Wonston area, Micheldever, and the M3 services are also bright, with Alresford less so. In the south, Bishops Waltham and Otterbourne have some light pollution, as has Hursley in the west. The areas least affected by light pollution are the areas of countryside around the settlements north of Winchester and the SDNP as well as the countryside west of Winchester.

The SDNPA's 2017 Tranquillity Study[2] sets out criteria for assessing the relative levels of tranquillity in Appendix 2 and these have been used as a general guide to the assessment of relative tranquillity in this 2021 LCA. The map provided in Appendix 1 of the Tranquillity Study shows that the areas around Winchester, Alresford, Colden Common, Bishops Waltham and Waterlooville have the lowest levels of relative tranquillity. There is a greater degree of tranquillity along or close to the edge of the SDNP north of Bishops Waltham.

The most detailed assessment of tranquillity is mapped as Figure 9.3 of the Hampshire County Integrated Character Assessment[3]. This map is insufficiently detailed to draw a fine level of conclusion so fieldwork is used to inform the 2021 LCA.

Human Influences

Although the physical structure of the landscape is important in defining its characteristics, the influence of humans is also significant. Through time, patterns of land use, including agriculture, settlements and routes, have evolved and elements are preserved in the modern landscape. The technique of analysing evidence for these historic events and processes in the landscape is known as time depth analysis.

Figure 8 shows four time-depth maps of the district, based on the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment (HCC, 1999). These illustrate the successive layers of historic development across the district; the white areas indicate areas where recent land use has obscured the historic landscape pattern beneath. These indicate that the oldest landscapes of the district are to be found in the wooded southern Hampshire Basin area. Much of the South Downs area has changed little since the 18th Century, by which time many of the existing field patterns had been formed through assarting and informal enclosure. The chalk downs to the north of the district changed significantly in the 19th Century, when they were enclosed predominantly by formal agreement. Few areas of the district saw significant landscape change in the 20th Century, although a number of major developments have taken place since the 2004 LCA and these are mapped on Figure 9 along with settlement boundaries.

1 https://www.nightblight.cpre.org.uk/maps
2 https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/13-04-17-South-Downs-National-Park-Tranquillity-Study.pdf
3 https://documents.hants.gov.uk/landscape/HICAAnOverviewoftheHampshireLandscape-March2010.pdf

This time-depth analysis was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology as part of an Historic Landscape Character Assessment of Winchester district, that was carried out in parallel with the 2004 LCA. The objectives of this historic landscape assessment were to identify any necessary amendments or refinements of the Historic Landscape Type boundaries in the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment (1999); to produce an historic landscape character assessment of the district; to characterise the townscape of the larger rural settlements; to clarify and explain the evidence for time-depth within the landscape; and to contribute to the identification and description of significant threats or opportunities for vulnerable areas of the historic landscape. The full Winchester district Historic Landscape Character Assessment is presented in Appendix Three.

The Prehistoric Landscape (up to 43 CE)

The earliest inhabitants of the district would have existed during the Palaeolithic period, although probably in low numbers given the harsh climate of the Ice Age. There is no lasting evidence in the landscape of their existence. As the climate warmed and the ice retreated, there would have been a gradual spread of forest throughout the area.

During the Mesolithic period (10,000BCE - 4,000 BCE) the landscape would have been covered by wild wood, which was hardly affected by the nomadic lifestyle of the inhabitants, whose only means of clearance were stone tools and fire. Although individually the forest clearings made by Mesolithic people were small, its cumulative effect led to the development of heathland in areas of sandy soil. Again, there is no evidence in the landscape of the settlement of the Mesolithic people, as the population moved around, hunting and gathering food. Some archaeological finds, however do show that certain areas of the district were favoured for repeated visits or longer occupation

The Neolithic period (4000 BCE – 1800 BCE) marks the first major human influence in the process of landscape change. The population became more settled and as tools improved activities focused upon the clearance of areas of woodland to support temporary arable and pastoral farms. During this period sheep were introduced and cattle and pigs were domesticated. In particular the lighter soils of the chalk downlands appear to have been the preferred locations for occupation. Where there was a high density of grazing animals, the woodland did not regenerate and sites were gradually colonised by grassland plants that could withstand grazing. During this time, wheat was also introduced and the first evidence of ploughing was found. Consequently the landscape became much more open. Pollarding and coppicing were also practised. Evidence from the period includes long barrows (funeral monuments) on the downlands, flint implements, pottery fragments, and indications of settlements at Corhampton and at Winnall Down.

The Bronze Age (1800 BCE – 600 BCE) brought about recognisable landscape change. Pollen evidence suggests that woodlands were cleared for agricultural expansion, particularly on the chalk uplands where the soil was thinner. This practice would also have led to the gradual spread of heathland as poor soils failed to regenerate. Pasture was widespread and the countryside became more open as great sheep and cattle ranches were created. By the middle Bronze Age, most field systems were definitely related to recognisable hamlets or farmsteads, now seen as clusters of small irregular paddocks within the rectilinear field systems. Round Barrows, which are often sited prominently on chalk ridges (such as those at Magdalen Hill Down), are characteristic of the period. Although advances in agricultural technology over the ages have meant that such relics are vulnerable to destruction, many good examples within the district have survived and are protected as Scheduled Monuments (see landscape character area descriptions in Chapter Four).

The Iron Age (CE 600 – CE 43) saw the use

of stronger tools, which enabled the clearance of the heavier soils. This led to the greatest destruction of the wild wood as fixed agricultural systems became fully established and it is likely that the farmscape was intensively managed. Coppicing would have been widespread, as wood would have been the main construction material. Enclosed field systems and small villages became more frequent. Long term occupation of settlements is indicated in the archaeological record, and the district has many sites, including Winchester itself, which probably developed for reasons of trade rather than purely farming. A tribal structure appears to have become well established by the Iron Age and defence was therefore also important, resulting in the construction of hill forts such as those at Old Winchester Hill and St Catherine's Hill.

The Roman Landscape (43- 410 CE)

The Romans introduced greater organisation to farming and woodland management, as well as providing the potential for a vast export market for cereals and wool. They also introduced technological improvements, in the form of a wide range of iron tools and the heavy plough. This meant that all but the poorest land could be farmed and consequently agriculture expanded even further onto the clays. Timber was required for domestic and industrial purposes, such as iron smelting in the Forest of Bere and pottery at Bishop's Waltham, Shedfield, Wickham and consequently much woodland was managed as coppice, to ensure a constant source. Sweet Chestnut was also introduced by the Romans for this purpose. By the end of the Roman period, 70% of the wild wood had gone, having become farmland or deteriorated to heathland.

At its height, the Romano-British period was one of great stability and prosperity in the south and this resulted in the urbanisation of Winchester, which became the capital of the area. Small market towns such as Wickham, were established and many rural villas and their associated estates were built, such as those at Sparsholt, Twyford and Bramdean (the latter 2 outside of the study area).

The Roman invasion was accompanied by the rapid construction of a network of roads and this has had an important impact on the landscape of Winchester district. These characteristically straight roads can be seen at Morestead, East Stratton and Kings Worthy for example. In a few cases the road causeway and flanking ditches survive as visible earthworks, and many modern roads follow, at least in part, the same course

The Anglo-Saxon Landscape (410-1066 CE)

The loss of the Roman export markets during this period, meant that arable fields fell into disuse and scrub and woodland developed in a pattern which can still be seen today. During the Saxon period it is estimated that 50% of woodland was cleared and it was necessary to introduce protective legislation. Much of the present pattern of isolated woods and copses dates from this time and represents what is generally considered to be the traditional woodland heritage. Where this has survived, it is due to continued careful husbandry.

There is much documented reference to woodland, including the hangers on steep slopes and trees that marked boundaries. The Domesday survey confirms that the chalk was much less wooded than the lowland clay. There was a Saxon "haga" (hunting park) in the Forest of Bere.

The early Saxon landscape would have been peppered with small hamlets and farmsteads. Saxon estates were often based on valley settlements and these can be particularly seen along the Meon, which stretched up the valley sides to woods on unfarmable land.

Early Saxon settlements also reused Roman sites and in some took their name from a nearby Roman road such as East Stratton (stratton meaning the 'farmstead near the street').

The distribution of this hamlet and villages pattern forms the basis of modern day settlement patterns and during the mid to late Saxon period, the modern system of parishes was established

with many of the boundaries still surviving today. Very little evidence of early or middle Saxon settlement remains however, although cemeteries of this period have been found at Worthy Park, Kings Worthy, Winnall, Droxford and Meonstoke. Churches became established and some, such as Corhampton, Headbourne Worthy and Boarhunt still remain. Monasteries were also constructed and, under Alfred the Great, Winchester assumed importance as the capital of Wessex.

By the late Saxon period, many of the district's present-day settlements had formed, and were referred to in the Domesday Book. Many place names also indicate their Saxon origins as well as identifying how the land was used. Ley, for example, (as in Durley), refers to either an area of woodland or an area cleared to make a farm, while place names including ham, (such as Wickham) indicate the siting of major Saxon estates or settlements. Similarly, ton (as in Soberton) was used from Saxon times through to the Middle Ages to, indicate an enclosed farm

The Medieval Landscape (1066-1499)

During the Norman and Medieval Periods the present pattern of settlements and communications was consolidated, although there were less dramatic changes to the landscape then than in previous times. Medieval management of land, which had its roots in the Saxon period, continued to mould the landscape and establish many of the features, which we consider to be characteristic of the District's countryside. Woodland, for example, was managed in two ways:

Coppiced Woods: Coppiced hazel understorey was often maintained with standards (forest canopy trees), grown for timber. Standards were usually oak, but also included sweet chestnut, ash, maple, beech and hornbeam. Such woodland was often enclosed ('encoppiced'), to protect it from grazing.

Pasture/woodland: In these areas, trees were often grown as pollards, to allow stock grazing beneath. There were three main categories:

- Wooded commons. These allowed Commoners rights to pasture and fuel, e.g. Bramdean Common
- Forests. These included a mixture of woodland and wooded common or heathland, which were managed for hunting but allowed grazing rights to commoners. Very little of these areas now remain except in place names. The Forest of Bere was a Royal Forest and as such controlled by the King and subject to Forest Law, while chases, such as Waltham Chase, were similar, but not subject to Forest Law. The Bishop of Winchester had control over them and relics still exist such as Close Wood (Meon Valley) and Bishop's Wood.
- Parks. Deer parks, also used for grazing other stock, were widely established during medieval times. Their enclosure was granted only by licence from the King and achieved by the construction of earthen banks, surmounted by a park pale fence, inside which was a ditch. Examples of such can be found at Bishop's Waltham, Bramdean and Hursley

During the 13th - 15th Centuries the process of 'assarting' created small irregular parcels of land for grazing or arable as the edges of woodland were cleared forming small-scale, irregular 'open-field' systems, many of which are still visible today

The wealth generated by successful agriculture promoted the further expansion of farmsteads during the 12th and 13th Centuries. During the 13th and 14th Centuries this was associated with moated manor houses, such as Marwell Manor. Monastic farms were also associated with this period, often recognisable by their title 'Grange', such as Hunton Grange Farm.

Royal castles and palaces were also constructed during this period, including the Great Hall in Winchester and the smaller Bishop's residences of Bishop's Waltham Palace, Wolvesey Castle

(Winchester) and Merdon Castle (Hursley). During this time the wool market became buoyant, and pasture for sheep grazing became a more important feature of the downlands, whilst the clear water of the River Meon was used for washing and dyeing.

Many small villages and hamlets that had originated during late Saxon times consequently evolved during the medieval period along the bottom and lower slopes of the Meon, as well as along the Itchen and Dever valleys and along the spring lines where the chalk downs met the clay lowland. These still form the nucleus of many present-day settlements. During the 14th and 15th Centuries however, poor weather conditions led to a severe decline in arable farming, which was exacerbated by outbreaks of Black Death. Many settlements were deserted at this time or dramatically shrank, but traces of strip ploughing, earthworks and foundations can be seen beneath the turf, as at Lomer and Abbotstone.

Typical landscape features associated with this period are particularly common to the south of the district and along the river valleys. These include:

- networks of old twisting and sunken lanes and numerous public footpaths;
- patterns of tiny hamlets and occasional small towns;
- dispersed ancient farmsteads sheltering in hollows, often near streams, with names like Church -, Manor -, Hall -, and Court Farm;
- many small ancient woods with irregular boundaries;
- remnants of heath and commons;
- fields of varying sizes, with curving or rambling boundaries;
- thick hedgerows, often on banks, rich in shrubs and old coppice stools of maple, oak or ash, and full of woodland plants;
- Saxon place names suggesting late clearance of woodland
- ditches, ponds and mill-streams.

(from Colebourne and Gibbons,1990)

The Post-Medieval and Early Modern Landscape (1500 - 1914)

During this period, the landscape of the district saw large-scale change with several movements towards the creation of larger and more regular field systems. Field enclosure, associated with the Agricultural Revolution, was extensive during this period, as common open fields and forests were divided into larger privately owned fields. Such enclosure was undertaken either by Acts of Parliament or through less formal legal agreements throughout the 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries leading to the widespread surveying and planning of the land, resulting in straightened field boundaries, roads and streams. The need for new field boundaries also resulted in the mass planting of hawthorn hedges, with oak and ash trees for timber. Fields in the chalk uplands remained the largest, partly due to their traditional use as sheep walks.

Agricultural improvements in the 16th and 17th Centuries also resulted in the creation of 'water meadows', as the practice of flooding ('drowning') meadows in the late winter onwards with the relatively warm alkaline spring waters of the rivers, became a common means of improving the productivity of the valley pastures. A complex system of sluices, channels, ridges and furrows, enabled the production of early grass for sheep and cattle, followed by the harvesting of hay crops in the summer. These were most frequently found along the chalk rivers and there are many traces such as old irrigation channels still visible along the Itchen, Meon and Dever. The enclosure of the ancient down pastures at this time also enabled manure to be used on the arable land.

Between the 14th-16th Centuries most land was owned by the Church and lay lords. With the

dissolution of the monasteries however, land was transferred to Tudor knights and courtiers. Estates and country houses were consequently established with associated parkland, often located within the river valleys and lower slopes. These had an impact on the wider landscape and were influenced by the formality of the Dutch and French designers. These parklands were often redesigned in the late 18th Century as the English Landscape Movement developed an informal, 'naturalistic' approach to design. The redesign of estates often involved the loss of existing villages and other features, where they compromised the design. There are numerous examples of this in the Winchester district, including Warnford Park (Brown) and Stratton Park (Repton).

Changes in woodland were also occurring during this period. Some forests such as Waltham Chase, were enclosed during the 19th Century, to be replaced by farmland, whilst elsewhere in this century, the development of commercial forestry also began to have an impact, with the planting of conifer plantations and shelterbelts.

The industrial revolution had a limited impact on the rural landscape of Winchester district. Several railway lines were however, constructed throughout the district:

- along the Meon Valley (now dismantled and used as a footpath)
- along the Itchen Valley (Winchester-Alresford, now disused) and on to Alton (still functioning as The Watercress Line steam railway)
- Botley - Bishop's Waltham (now dismantled and partly used as a footpath)
- the Southampton – Newbury- Didcot line (with stations at Sutton Scotney, Worthy Down Halt, Kings Worthy, Chesil and Winchester, (now disused)
- the Southampton-Waterloo main line, which runs north-south through the district, stopping at Shawford, Winchester and Micheldever Station.
- The Portsmouth line through Botley and Knowle

As well as the visual impact of their embankments and cuttings, these railway lines also contributed to the growth of adjacent rural industries, in particular transporting fruit from the Shedfield area and watercress from the River Itchen to a wider market. They also allowed the transportation of the products from the brick making industries of Colden Common and Bishop's Waltham as well as the transportation of other building materials such as Welsh slate into the area, thus diluting the use of locally sourced materials.

As the population grew, the Victorian period also saw the beginnings of change to the built environment, as Winchester and villages such as Bishop's Waltham and Alresford, gradually began to develop Victorian suburbs, commencing a period of growth that such rural settlements had, until then, been unused to.

Indicators of 'planned' areas of countryside, which developed their character during this period, are most common in the chalk downland areas of the district. These include:

- Few roads. These are often ruler-straight with wide verges and are not sunken
- Large villages, one per parish
- Any isolated farms are eighteenth or nineteenth century, of Georgian or Victorian design, with names like 'New Farm'
- Ancient woodlands are either few or absent, but square coverts or linear shelter beds are present
- Most, or all hedges are straight and thin, lacking coppice stools. Standard trees may be present. Few woodland flowers
- Heaths and commons are rarer

(from Colebourne and Gibbons,1990)

The Modern Landscape (1915 – Present day)

The 20th century saw the fastest period of change occurring to the district's landscape, as developments in agriculture and transport resulted in a loss of traditional landscape features.

During and following World War II, maximising agricultural output became a priority and this, together with technological advances, resulted in increased agricultural mechanisation. To remain profitable, both field and farm sizes grew, resulting in the loss of landscape features such as hedgerows and trees, as well as traditional farm buildings becoming increasingly redundant. These changes also resulted in the increased use of large metal framed and clad sheds. Traditional farm buildings meanwhile, have been converted to new uses with varying degrees of success and both trends have had an impact on the setting of farmsteads in the countryside

Financial incentives to produce arable crops in the middle and end of the 20th Century resulted in a dramatic loss of downland grazing in the district, with most of the chalk downs being converted to cereal production. Fertilisers and pesticides use also increased dramatically during the 20th Century and wetlands have been drained to maximise areas suitable for production. There are however, still dairy and sheep farms scattered throughout the district, together with watercress beds along the river valleys and horticultural production where areas of rich loamy soils allow intensive production.

During the latter years of the 20th Century, surplus produce and greater environmental awareness resulted in a change of emphasis. There is no longer the incentive to over-produce, and alternative farming practices, crop variation and diversification and measures to improve biodiversity are actively being encouraged by the government, both in the form of controls such as the Hedgerow Regulations and Forestry Commission Felling Licenses and in the form of grants such as the various strands of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme such as the Woodland Creation Grant scheme and the Hedgerows and Boundaries Grant scheme. These measures are described further in Chapter Five.

Major development

The 20th and early 21st centuries have seen the fastest occurring changes in the built infrastructure of the district. The increased use of the car and heavy goods vehicles resulted in road construction and widening schemes, most notably those of the A34 and M3; as well as the abandonment of the Meon Valley, Itchen Valley and Bishops Waltham-Botley railways. Many areas of the district still retain their remote, rural character however, with lanes that have remained largely unchanged through the centuries.

Perhaps the most notable change to the district over the past 100 years has been the expansion of settlements. The 20th century and early 21st century have seen settlements such as Winchester, Kings Worthy, Colden Common, Bishop's Waltham, Denmead, and New Alresford grow significantly, as well as the development of some entirely new settlements, such as South Wonston and Whiteley. This pattern will be continued with the completion of a number of major developments, illustrated in Figure 10. These include Barton Farm, Knowle, North Whiteley, and West of Waterlooville.

Many of the smaller rural villages in the district have changed little during the past century though and due to their historic and architectural importance are now protected by conservation area and listed building regulations. The pressure to develop is still great though, given the demand for housing in the county, but there is evidence that the controls associated with the Town and Country Planning Acts from the middle of the 20th Century, are helping to manage this.

Designations in Winchester District (refer to figure 7)

The following section describes the various protective landscape and ecological designations that apply to areas of the district. The specific areas are listed in the relevant landscape character area descriptions in Chapter Four.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) were introduced in 1986 by the Ministry of Agriculture to help safeguard areas where the landscape, wildlife or historic interest is of national importance as it was recognised that damage and loss was occurring through agricultural 'improvement'. ESA designations therefore encourage traditional farming methods. They have no planning status however, and therefore cannot be used as a reason for refusing planning applications.

Two ESAs fall partially into the Winchester district; the South Downs ESA and the Test Valley ESA, along the River Dever. ESAs were replaced by the Environmental Stewardship Scheme in 2005 which was a land management scheme providing funding to farmers and other land managers in England to deliver effective environmental management of their land. Many landowners have agreements within this scheme.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are designated for their ecological or geological interest by English Nature under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. An SSSI is given certain protection against damaging operations, and any such operations must in theory be authorised by the designating body.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) strengthened the powers given to the designating body to refuse consent for damaging operations, and to take action where damage is being caused through neglect or inappropriate management and to enter into management agreements. Local Authorities and other public institutions now also have a statutory duty to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs both in carrying out their operations, and in exercising their decision making functions, which includes planning decisions.

There are 20 SSSIs within the Winchester district, most of which are outside of the study area. The largest SSSI within the study area, (also the largest in the district), covers Botley Wood and Everetts Mushes Copses, an area of 350 hectares in the south. SSSIs within the study area are listed under their appropriate Landscape Character Description (see Chapter Four).

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are statutory designations of European importance formerly covered by the EC's Habitats Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of flora and fauna (1992) which are now protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). They are considered to be important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to the conservation of the habitats and species identified in the Directive as being most in need of conservation at a European level.

Areas subject to these designations have the highest nature conservation importance, and are effectively irreplaceable. Consequently SACs in England are covered by The Conservation (Natural Habitats, andc) Regulations 1994 and are protected through Proposal CP16 of the Local Plan.

Small sections of the River Itchen SAC at Highbridge and the Solent Maritime SAC near Botley lie within the study area.

Local Nature Reserves

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are statutory designations made by local authorities or local

naturalist's trusts under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, as being of local wildlife importance. Local Nature Reserves can also be an SSSI or have other designations, although they cannot also be a National Nature Reserve. LNRs are given protection against damaging operations in policy Proposal CP15 of the Local Plan.

Local Nature Reserves are almost always owned by local authorities, although their management is often passed on to County Wildlife Trusts. There is no legal necessity to manage an LNR to any set standard however, but management agreements often exist. They often have good public access and facilities. There are nine LNRs designated within the district, most within the SDNP and therefore outside of the study area

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) are sites of particular importance within Hampshire according to criteria jointly agreed by HCC, Natural England and the Hampshire Wildlife Trust. They are considered to be of local conservation interest and are protected against development that would have an adverse impact on them, unless the need for the development outweighs that impact.

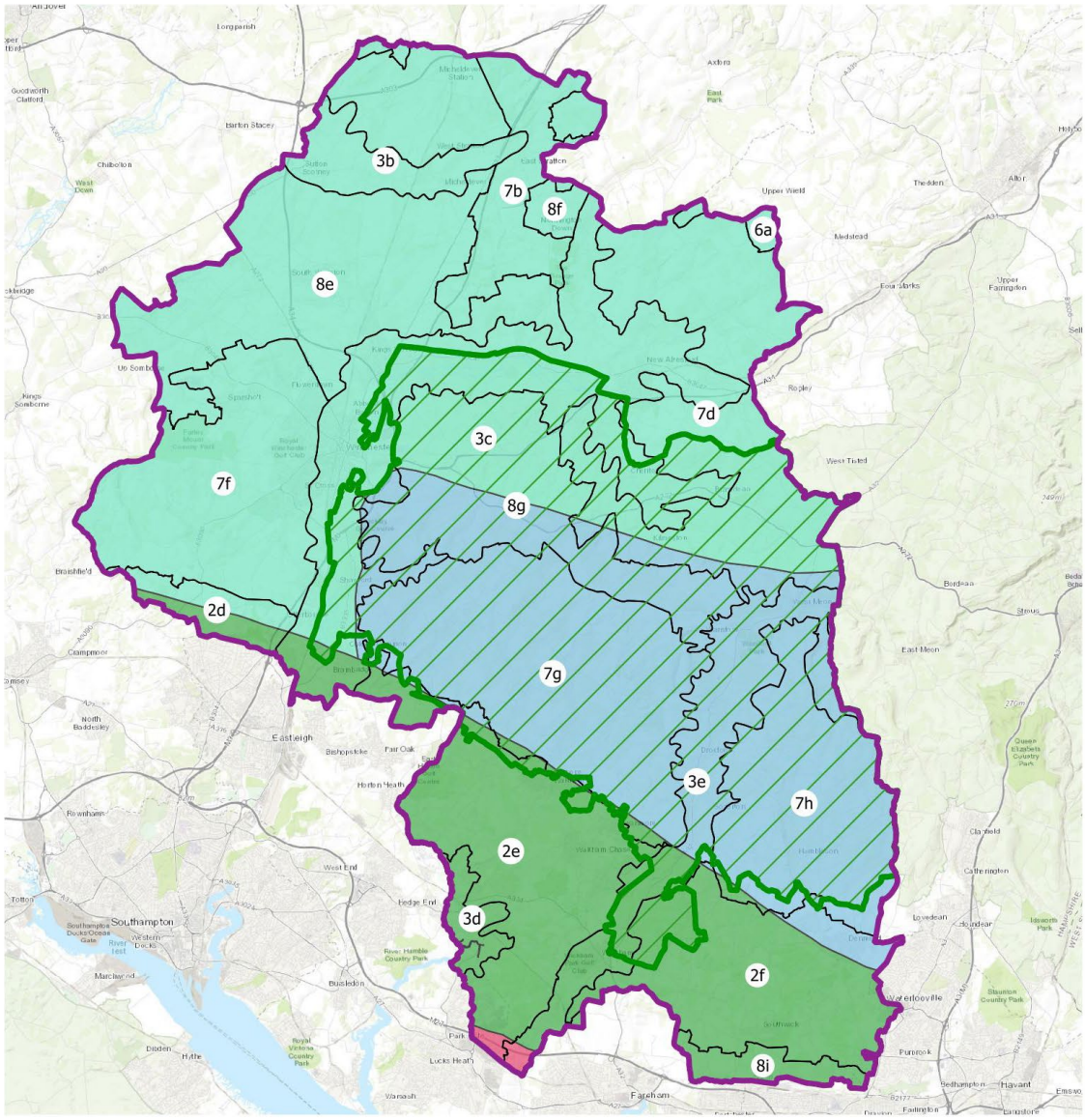
SINCs include areas of ancient woodland, ancient meadows and species-rich grassland. The distribution of sites is generally focused in the area south of Winchester where the impact of modern agricultural technology is less evident than in the far north of the district.

Historic Parks and Gardens

Policy CP20 of the Local Plan offers protection to gardens and parks included in Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest and Hampshire County Council's Register of Parks and Gardens. Development that is likely to have an adverse impact on these areas will not be permitted unless the local planning authority is satisfied that the need for the development outweighs that impact.

Historic parks that are listed by Historic England and Hampshire County Council are listed under the relevant Landscape Character Area description. Gardens are not listed in this document, however, generally having less impact on the landscape as a whole.

Figure 2 - HCC and national LCA Boundaries



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- South Downs National Park

National Character Areas

- Hampshire Downs
- South Coast Plain
- South Downs
- South Hampshire Lowlands

Hampshire County Council - Landscape Character Areas

2d. Romsey to Eastleigh Wooded Lowland Mosaic
2e. Forest of Bere West
2f. Forest of Bere East
3b. Test Valley
3c. Itchen Valley
3d. Hamble Valley
3e. Meon Valley
6a. East Hampshire Wooded Downland Plateau
7b. Hannington and Dummer Downs
7d. Bighton and Bramdean Downs
7f. West Winchester Downs
7g. Owslebury and Corhampton Downs
7h. South East Hampshire Downs
8e. Mid Hampshire Open Downs
8f. Candover Valley Open Downs
8g. East Winchester Open Downs
8i. Portsdown Hill Open Downs
9e. Chilling Brownwich and Locks Heath Coastal Plain
9f. Gosport and Fareham Coastal Plain

north 0 2.5 5 7.5 10 12.5 km

HCC Integrated Landscape Character Assessment:
https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/landscape/integratedcharacterassessment

Figure 3 - WDC and SDLCA Boundaries

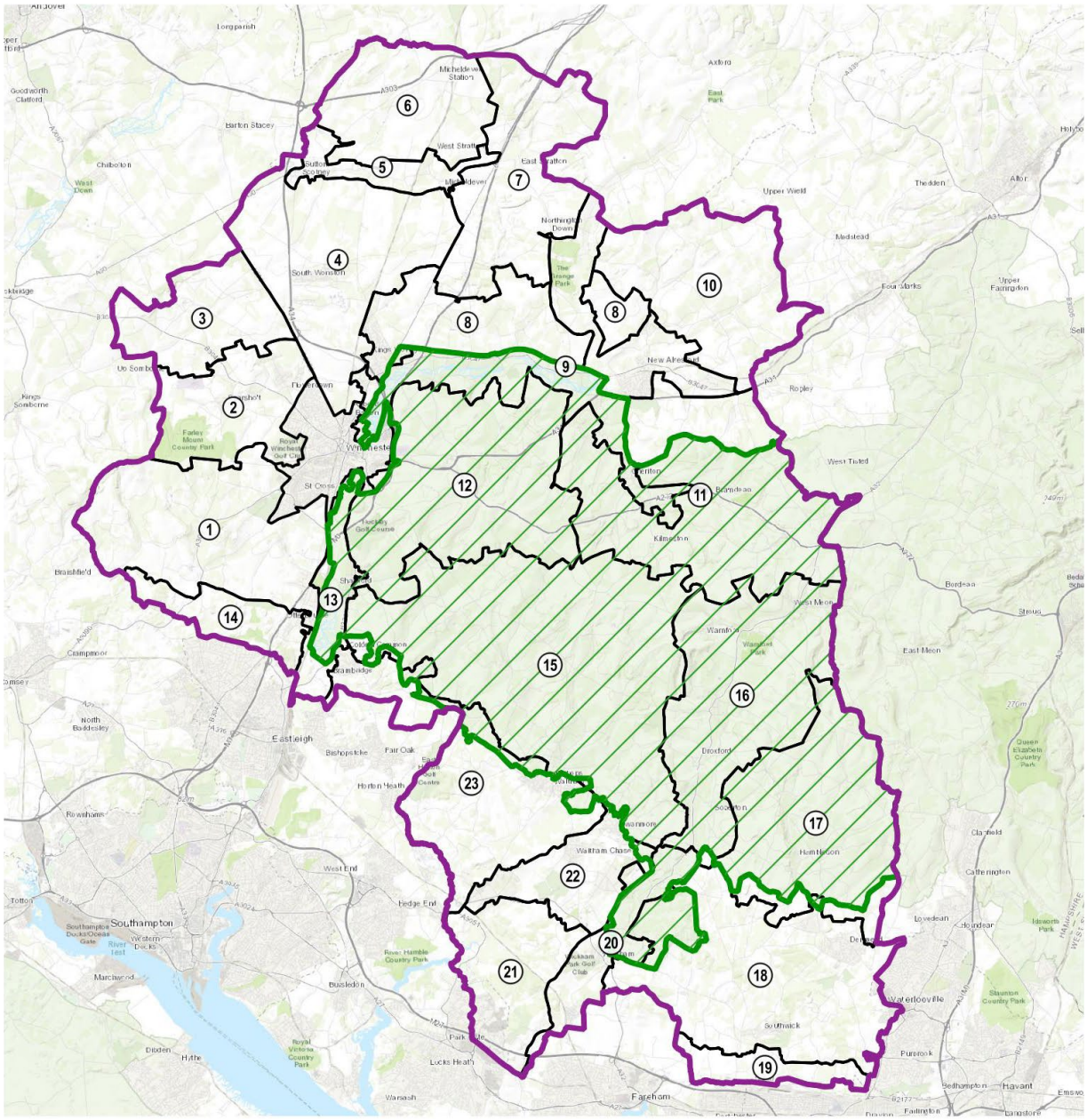
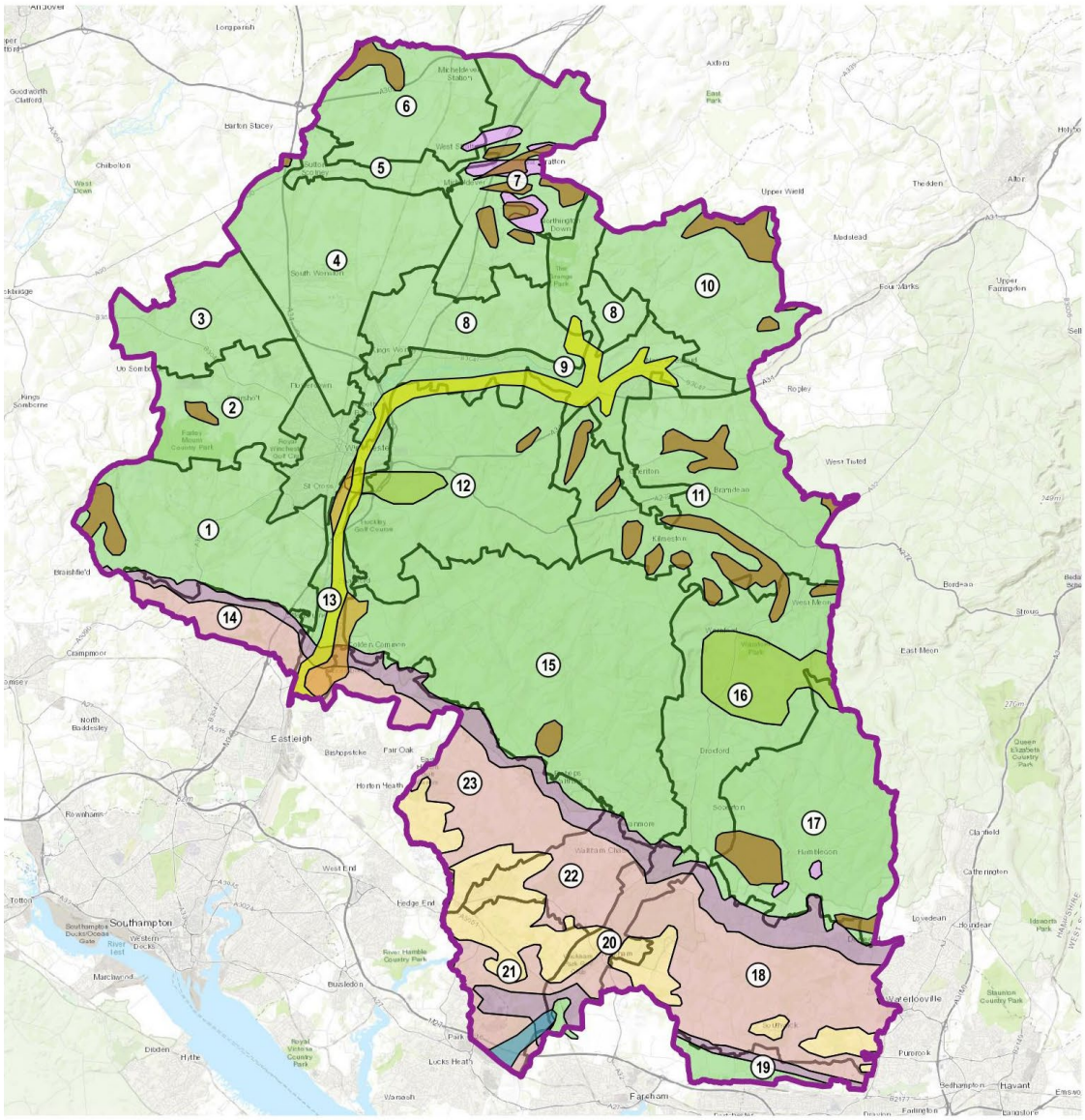


Figure 4 - Simplified Geology of the Winchester District



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- Winchester District LCA boundaries

Geology

- Alluvium River Valley Gravels
- Plateau Gravel
- River terrace deposite
- Clay with flints
- Reading Beds
- London Clay
- Lower Chalk
- Bracklesham Beds
- Woolwich & Reading Beds

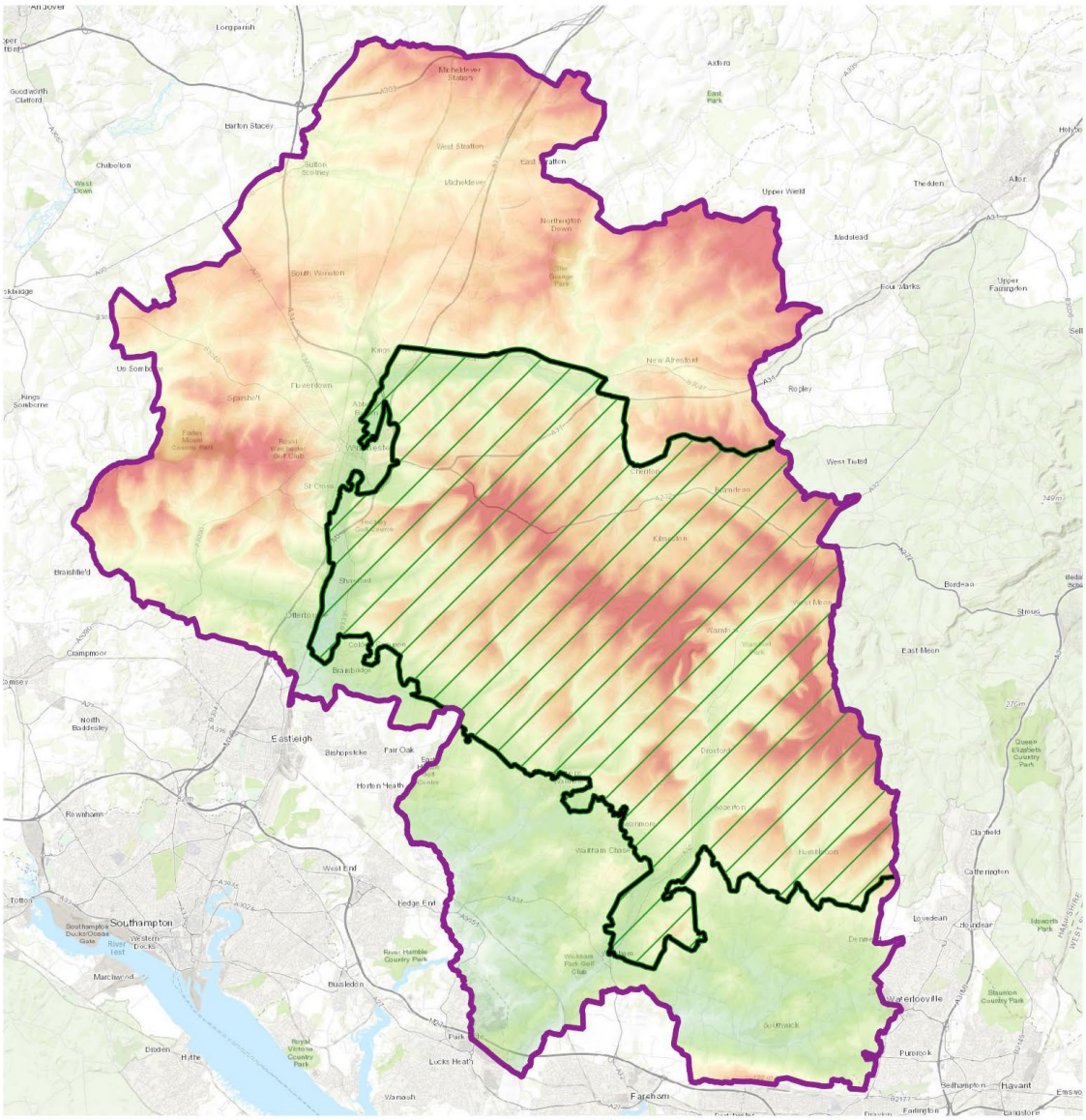
Geological datasets and information from British Geological Survey website: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/

north 0 2.5 5 7.5 10 12.5 km

Winchester Landscape Character Areas

1. Hursley Scarplands
2. Sparsholt Wooodlands
3. Crawley Downs
4. Wonston Downs
5. Dever Valley
6. North Dever Downs
7. Stratton Woodlands
8. North Itchen Downs
9. Upper Itchen Valley
10. Bighton Woodlands
11. Bramdean Woodlands
12. East Winchester Downs
13. Lower Itchen Valley
14. Cranbury Woodlands
15. South Winchester Downs
16. Upper Meon Valley
17. Hambledon Downs
18. Forest of Bere Lowlands
19. Portsdown Hill
20. Lower Meon Valley
21. Whiteley Woodlands
22. Shedfield Heathlands
23. Durley Claylands

Figure 5 - Topographical Plan



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- South Downs National Park boundary
- Study Area

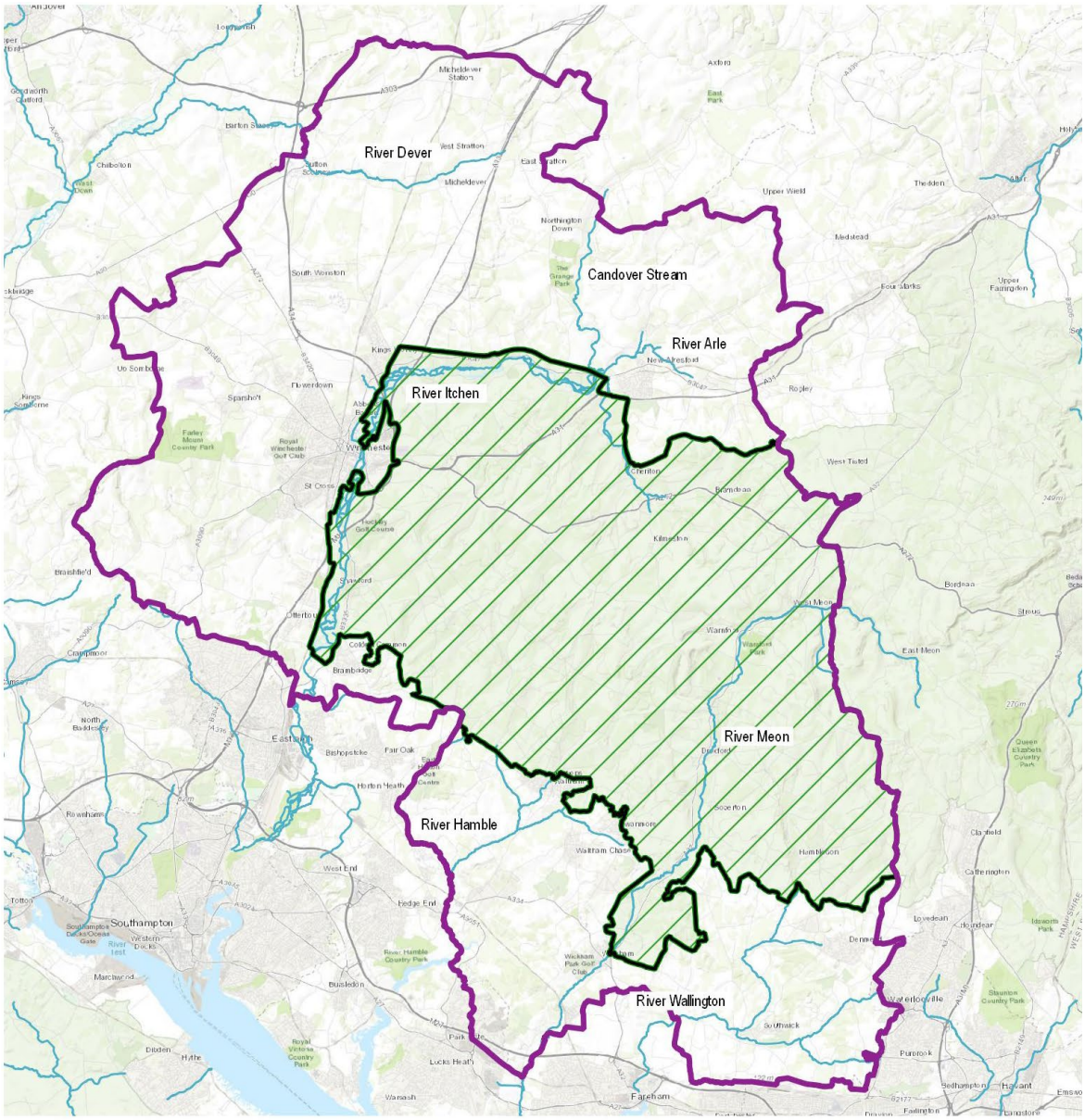
Topography

- 0
- 0-35m
- 35-110m
- 110-145m
- 145m+

north

0 2.5 5 7.5 10 12.5 km

Figure 6 - Winchester District Hydrology

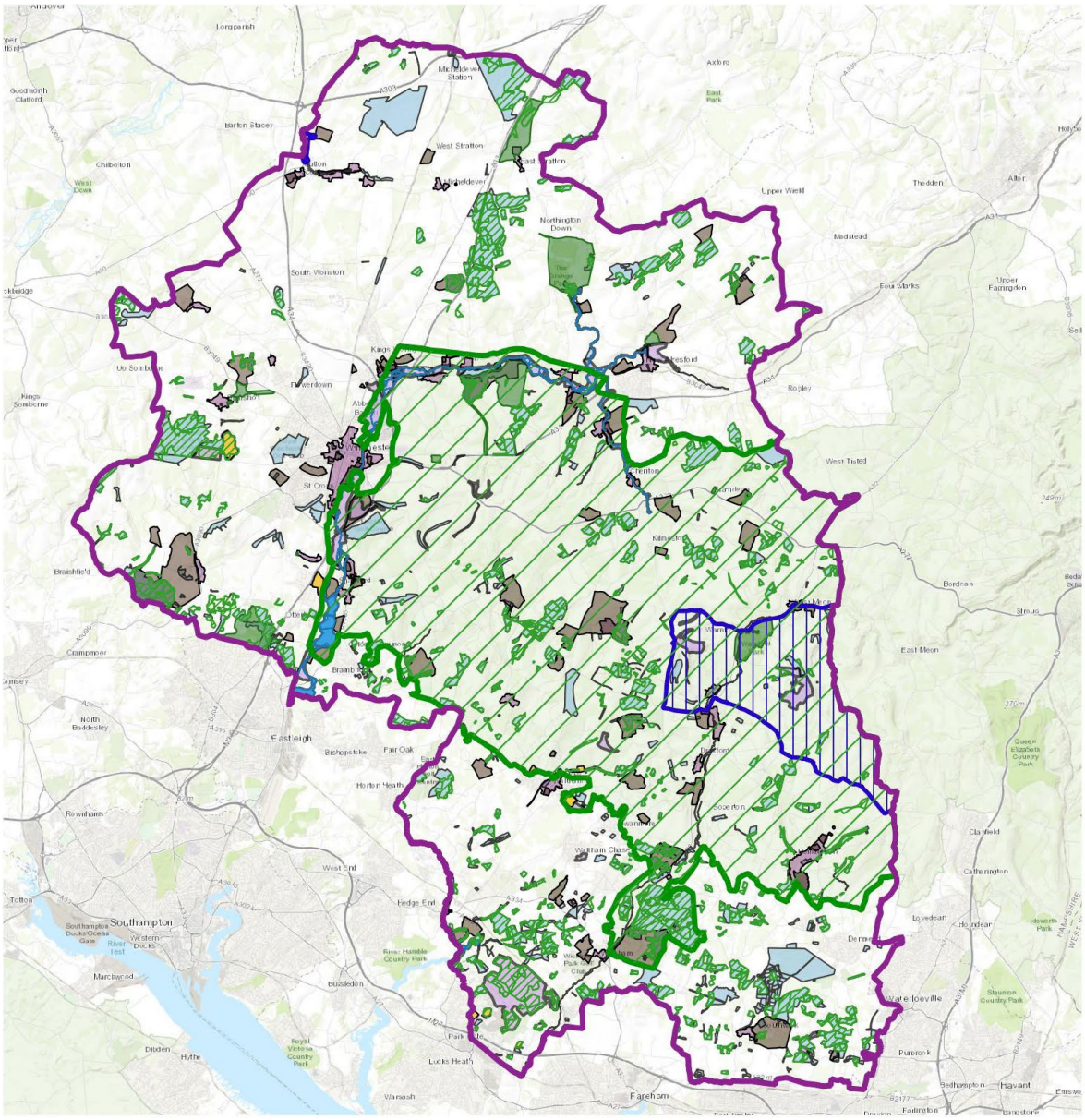


Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- Study Area
- Rivers
- South Downs National Park

north 0 2.5 5 7.5 10 12.5 km

Figure 7 - Designations



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- South Downs National Park

Designations

- Ancient Woodland
- SACs
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Local Nature Reserves
- SSSIs
- Registered Parks & Gardens
- Locally Registered Parks & Gardens
- Conservation areas
- SINCS

north 0 2.5 5 7.5 10 12.5 km

Figure 8 - Time-depth analysis

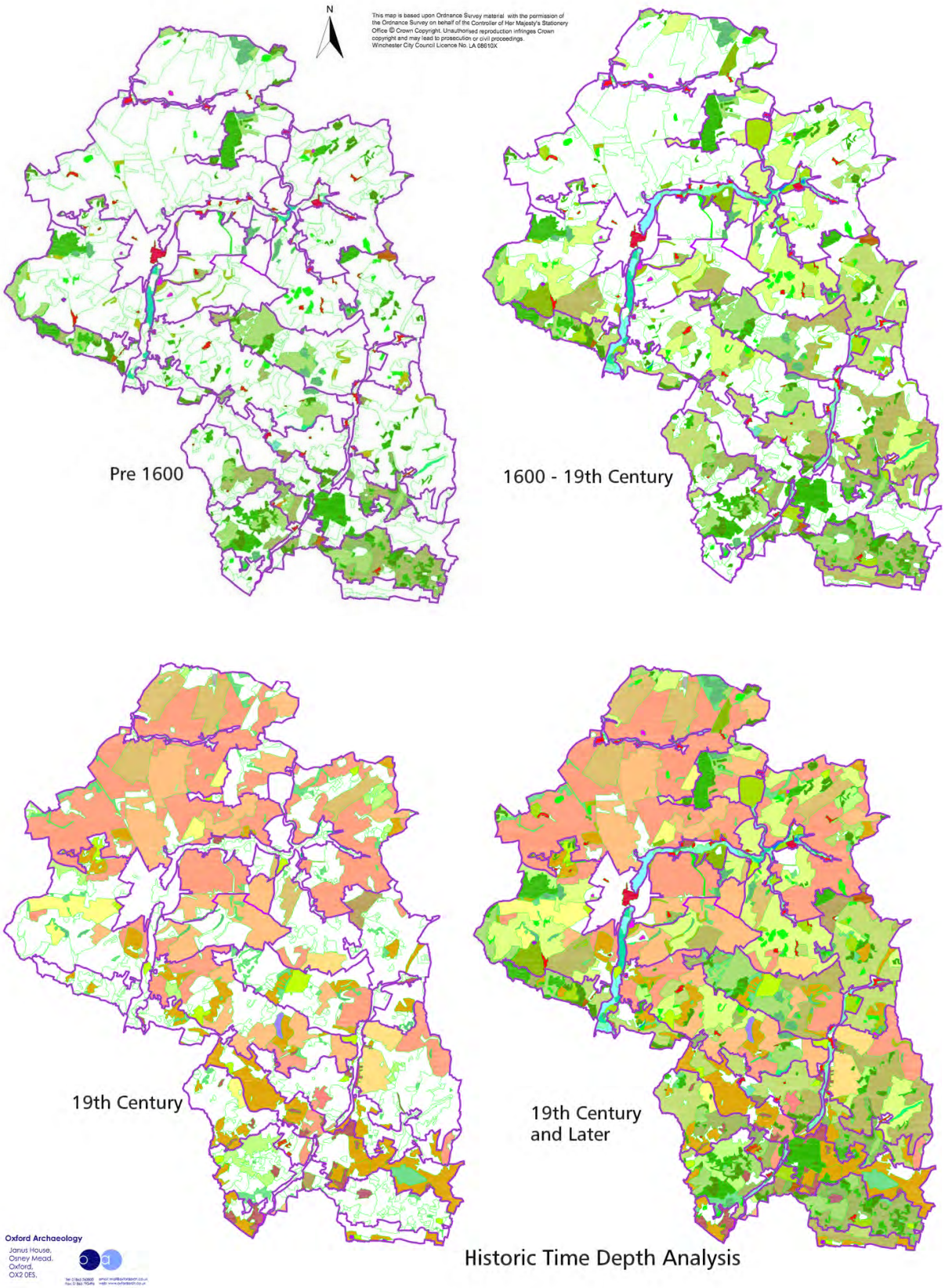


Figure 9 - Settlement boundaries

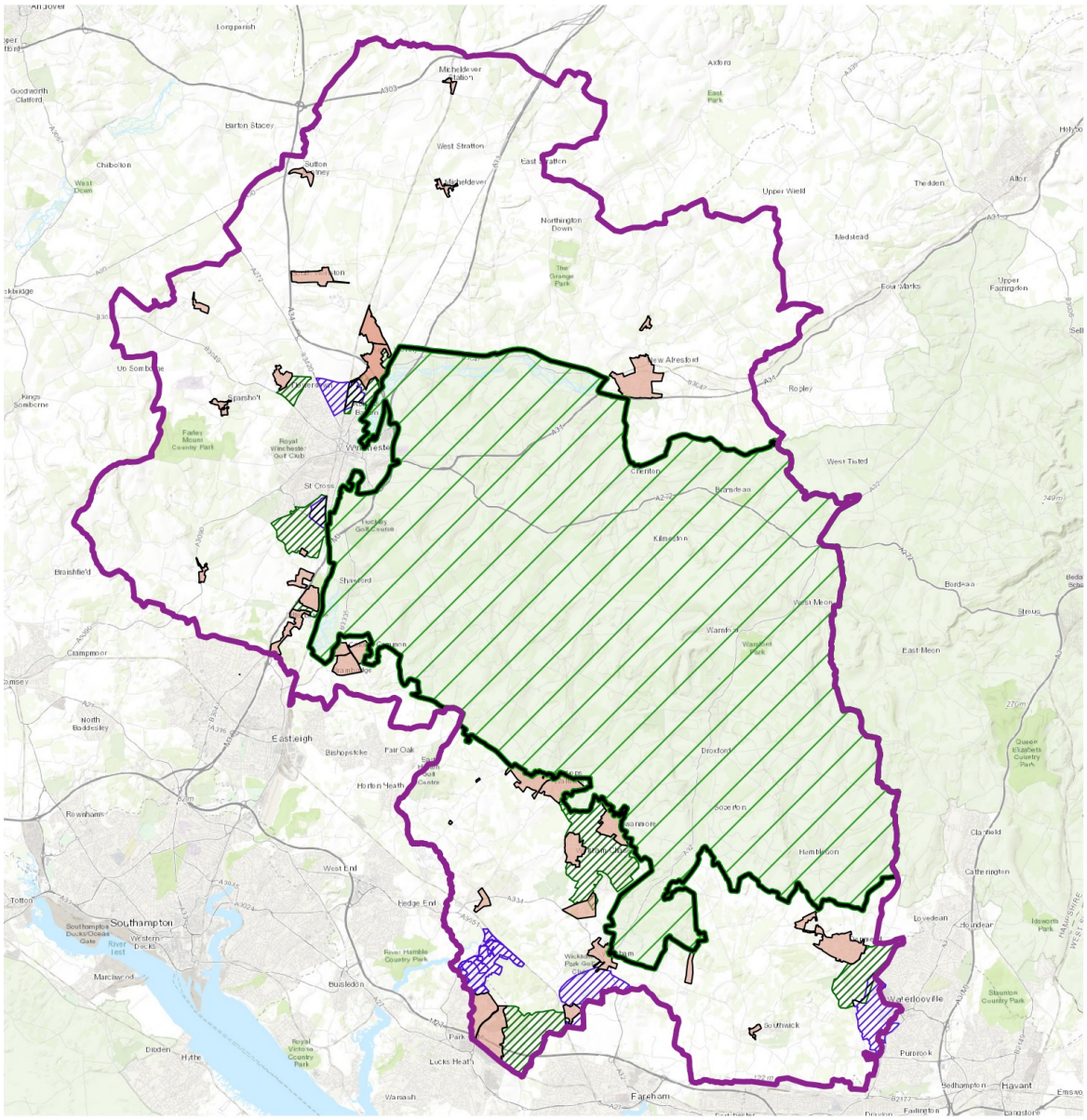


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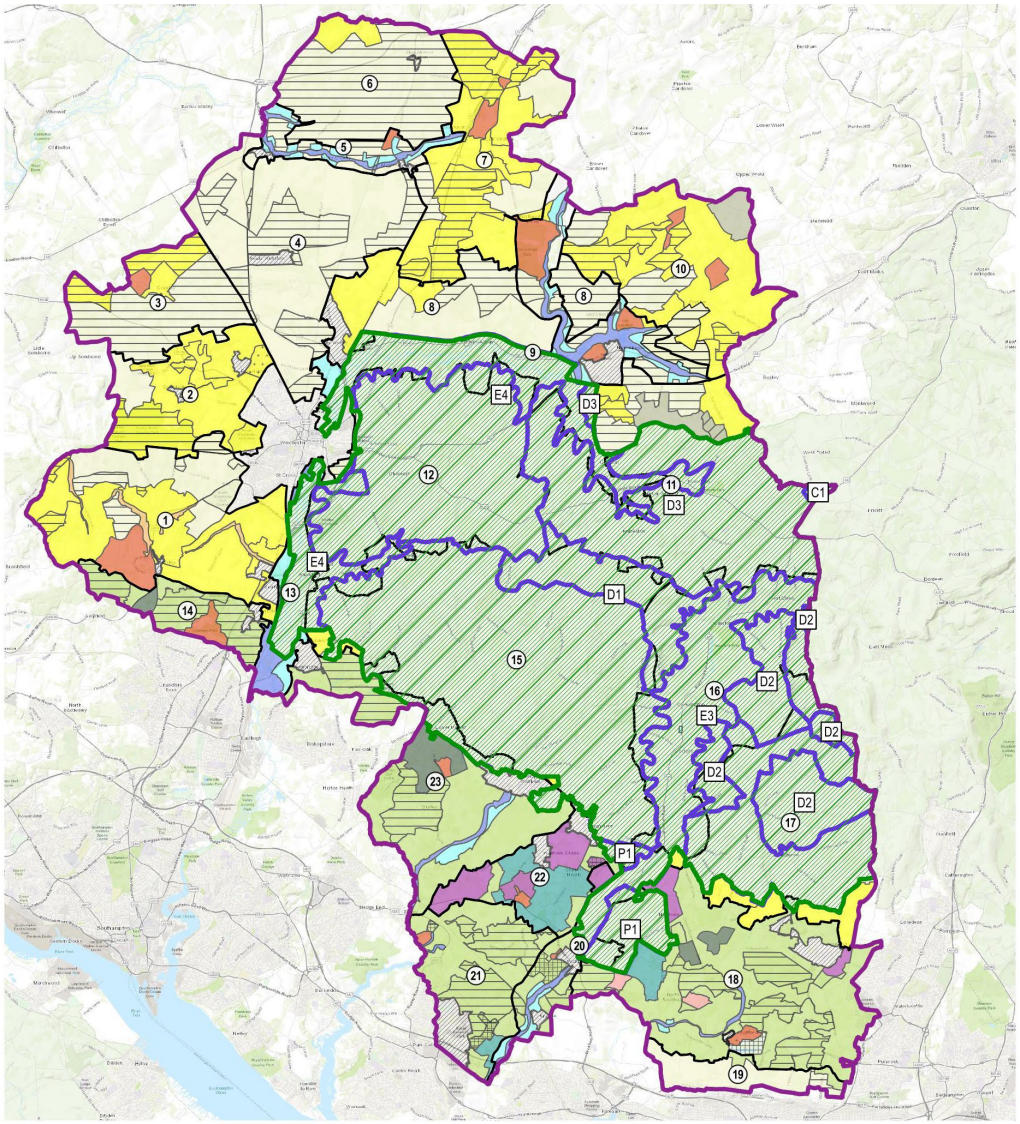
Figure 10 - LCT boundaries



Winchester District Landscape Character Assessment
Landscape Character Areas & Types

Landscape Character Areas

1. Hursley Scarplands
2. Sparsholt Wooodlands
3. Crawley Downs
4. Wonston Downs
5. Dever Valley
6. North Dever Downs
7. Stratton Woodlands
8. North Itchen Downs
9. Upper Itchen Valley
10. Bighton Woodlands
11. Bramdean Woodlands
12. East Winchester Downs
13. Lower Itchen Valley
14. Cranbury Woodlands
15. South Winchester Downs
16. Upper Meon Valley
17. Hambledon Downs
18. Forest of Bere Lowlands
19. Portsdown Hill
20. Lower Meon Valley
21. Whiteley Woodlands
22. Shedfield Heathlands
23. Durley Claylands

South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Areas

B2. Queen Elizabeth Forest to East Dean Wooded Estate Dov
C1. Froxfield Clay Plateau
D1. South Winchester Downland Mosaic
D2. Hambledon to Clanfield Downland Mosaic
D3. Bramdean & Cheriton Downland Mosaic
D4. Newton Valence Downland Mosaic
E2. Emms Valley Chalk Valley Systems
E3. Meon Valley Chalk Valley Systems
E4. Itchen Vally Chalk Valley Systems
H4. Buriton to Arun Scarp
H5. Saltdown to Butser Hill Scarp
H6. Selbourne Hangers to East Meon Scarp
J1. East Hampshire Greensand Terrace
J2. East Meon to Bury Greensand Terrace
K1. Rother Valley Mixed Farmland and Woodland Vales
P1. West Walk - Rookesbury Park Wooded Claylands

Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- South Downs National Park boundary
- South Downs Integrated LCAs
- Winchester District LCA boundaries

LCT

WDC LCT boundaries
- Chalk and Clay Farmland
- Chalk and Clay Woodland
- Clay Plateau enclosed
- Clay Plateau Open
- Golf Courses
- Heathland
- Hort and Small holdings
- Miliary base
- Mixed Farmland and Woodland
- Mixed Farmland Woodland Enclosed
- Open Arable
- Open Arable Exposed
- Parkland
- Pasture Woodland Heath Associated
- Pastureon Clay
- River Valley Floor
- River Valley Side
- Scarp Downland and Grassland
- Urban Areas

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Chapter 3 - Landscape and settlement types

Introduction

According to Natural England (2014), 'Landscape Types' are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature, in that they may occur in different areas of the country but, wherever they occur, they share similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historical land use and settlement pattern. This chapter maps and describes the landscape types relevant to the Winchester District.

The landscape of the District was subdivided into landscape types based on those designated in The Hampshire Landscape (HCC, 1993). There is a general predominance of 'Open Arable' and 'Chalk and Clay' in the northern chalk downland of the District, together with small areas of 'Clay Plateau' and 'Scarps: Downland'. To the far south of the District 'Mixed Farmland and Woodland' predominates, together with scattered areas of 'Pasture on Clay', 'Horticulture and Smallholdings' and 'Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated'.

Parts of the Winchester District landscape immediately surrounding Winchester were characterised in Winchester City and its Setting (HCC et al, 1998), and this was also used to inform the 2004 LCA. To the south of the District, the assessment undertaken as part of the Forest of Bere Strategy was used.

The refined Landscape Type map for the District undertaken as part of, and largely unchanged from, the 2004 LCA is shown in Figure 10. It used the Landscape Types described by HCC (1993), subdividing some of them according to their degree of enclosure and woodland. It also used a new Landscape Type, 'Historic Parkland' and showed some small areas of 'Heathland' and 'Heathland Plantation' not previously identified. The boundaries of these landscape types were refined, generally adhering to field boundaries where possible. A high-level review of LCTs has been carried out as part of the 2021 LCA and the following changes have been made:

- An area of LCT Open Arable Exposed remaining in LCA 17 south-west of Hambledon was changed to Chalk and Clay Farmland as a continuation of that LCT to the north-west of Anthill. This is due to the area not being exposed or particularly open, and with a high proportion of pasture. The underlying geology is chalk with a bit of clay – the same as the Chalk and Clay Farmland adjacent to the east and the field pattern is also very similar .
- An area north of Kingsworthy In LCA 8 which was LCT Open Arable was changed to Chalk and Clay Farmland as it was found to be mainly pasture .
- An area to the south-west of Sutton Scotney in LCA 5 which was formerly Open Arable Exposed was corrected to be Parkland.

This chapter describes in detail the characteristics of each Landscape Type. It covers the distribution of the areas and describes their typical soils and geology, topography, archaeological and historic features and field patterns, vegetation, land use, settlement pattern, building materials, routes and degree of tranquillity. Each section also outlines the key issues affecting the landscape features typical of the area, particularly focussing on woodlands, hedgerows, agriculture, grassland and the broader visual landscape.

As well as subdividing the landscape of the Winchester District into types, this chapter also highlights patterns in settlement form, and describes a series of 'Settlement Types'. There are distinct similarities between the settlement characteristics and, like the landscape types, these generally relate to their location within the District. The chalk areas are characterised by

'Chalk Downland: Hill Top' and 'Chalk Downland: Dry Valley' settlements, together with 'Chalk River Valley' settlements, while to the south of the District, the predominantly clay geology is typified by 'Chalk-clay Spring Line' settlements, 'Scattered Clay Lowland' settlements and 'Heath Associated' settlements, together with a 'Clay River Valley' settlement. Three settlement types are not restricted to certain types of the District, being more associated with certain historic functions, namely 'Estate Villages', 'Victorian Railway' settlements and '20th Century' settlements. The City of Winchester is excluded from this analysis, given its detailed coverage in the document Winchester City and its Setting.

This chapter describes each settlement type in terms of its origins, setting, form and street patterns, building types and plot patterns, building materials and edge character. The table at Figure 11 indicates the settlement types of each village in the District, although it has not been possible to include all of the smallest settlements in the district.

Open Arable Landscape Type

These are the extensive, large-scale and open arable landscapes that are characteristic of the most intensively farmed chalkland areas, where the influence of the chalk geology is not masked by deposits of clay with flints. There are two sub-types, mainly reflecting differences in the frequency of hedgerows and trees; 'Exposed Open Arable' and 'Open Arable.'

Type a: Open Arable (Exposed)

This landscape type has very large-scale, arable fields with virtually no structure of hedgerows, trees or woodlands. The landscape is simple with few features. These landscapes are visually exposed, with a sense of elevation and extensive panoramic views. Blocks or belts of plantation woodland may be present, but are generally infrequent. The settlement pattern is scattered, and dominated by large farms. Typical areas can be found to the south of the Dever Valley and at Pitt Down.

South of Stoke Charity

East of Pigeon House Farm

Type b: Open Arable

Similar in character to the Open Arable (Exposed) Type, this landscape type is distinguished by a greater frequency of hedgerows defining field boundaries. However, hedgerows are still often low and fragmented with few trees, and there is still a low incidence of woodland cover. Settlements are also scattered and infrequent on this landscape type, but occur more often than in the Exposed Arable landscape type. Typical areas can be found to the north of the Dever Valley and east of Crawley.

East of Crawley

North-east from Old Stoke Road

Location:

These areas are found on the chalk downs in the northern half of the District, and are especially found to the north of Winchester, extending to Micheldever Station.

Soils and Geology:

The soils of this landscape type tend to be shallow, well-drained calcareous brown earth with rendzinas, over Middle and Upper Chalk. Deeper fine silty calcareous soils are found in valley bottoms and hollows. Although more clayey soils occur in places, generally the shallow chalky soils are characteristically white after ploughing, especially on the steeper slopes. The areas of Upper Chalk are softer and have more flints than areas of Middle Chalk. Scarps tend to be formed from Middle Chalk.

Most of the agricultural land is grade 3.

Topography:

The landform is characteristically rolling, or of an even gentle gradient. The altitude tends to be between 50 and 100m although areas such as Teglease Down and Pitt Down rise above this to about 200m. Essentially there is an absence of surface water except where there is a high water table.

Archaeological and Historical Features and Field Patterns:

There is evidence of archaeological remains throughout these areas, especially barrows and remnants of ancient field systems. Hill top copses also mark archaeological sites and the presence of ancient drove roads, and boundary earthworks also demonstrate the historic importance of this landscape.

There is evidence of 'Ladder' field patterns in these areas, probably resulting from informal enclosure of the downland in medieval times. These are formed where s traight cross boundaries link long wavy parallel boundaries, which are often tracks or footpaths. Elsewhere post-medieval informal enclosure has resulted in more irregular fields, bounded by roads, tracks and paths. Both of these field patterns are predominantly found on the chalk uplands.

There is also evidence of the late 18th and 19th century parliamentary enclosure of fields in Open Arable areas. These fields are typically medium to large in size, with straight boundaries. Such field patterns are also characteristic of the chalk uplands, where the old open field systems were prevalent until they were enclosed by Acts of Parliament. Subsequent loss of hedgerows due to agricultural mechanisation has also given rise to expansive 'prairie' landscapes in areas such as Pitt Down and Gander Down.

Vegetation:

Historically, there has been extensive woodland clearance in these areas, which has left sparse clusters of deciduous semi-natural ancient woodland. Those hedgerows that have not been removed form a well- spaced, regular pattern of large or very large fields, echoing the network of typically straight roads, lanes and tracks. Although hedges are occasionally thick at the base and up to three metres in height, hedgerows are generally very low, heavily trimmed and often fragmented. They tend to consist of thorn species, with few hedgerow trees, although some older hedgerows do have greater species diversity. There is a noticeable absence of oak in most areas due to the thin calcareous nature of the soils and hedgerow trees tend to be ash, beech, holly or yew.

The biodiversity of this landscape is relatively low; with the richest habitats confined to small pockets of ancient woodland and remnant downland, ancient drove roads and parish boundary hedgerows. However, open arable landscapes provide one of the richest areas of arable weed flora in England as well as a habitat for declining and vulnerable birds such as the

corn bunting, tree sparrow, linnet and skylark.

Woodlands generally comprise game spinneys, and coniferous plantations or shelterbelts, which provide functional windbreaks. Chalky field margins can also provide a habitat for uncommon field margins species, many of which have declined significantly as a result of widespread herbicide use. There are also isolated, but locally significant escarpments which support some valuable areas of unimproved grassland as well as areas of encroaching scrub and woodland where grazing is absent. Open Arable landscapes also provide habitats for fauna such as the brown hare and skylark, particularly if there is some cover available from trees or shelterbelts.

Typical Woody species: (HCC, 2000)

Major species throughout:	Ash,Hawthorn
Major species locally:	Beech
Minor species throughout:	Blackthorn, Elder, Field Maple, Dog Rose
Minor species locally:	Purging Buckthorn, Wild Cherry, Crab Apple, Dogwood, Common Elm, Hazel, Holly, Pedunculate Oak, Wild Privet, Spindle, Wayfaring Tree, Whitebeam, Yew

Land Use:

These landscapes primarily consists of intensive arable farmland together with some short-term ley/improved pasture, and occasional escarpments, valley sides and remnants of unimproved pasture/downland, such as Worthy Down. Large rectilinear fields are predominant, resulting from the amalgamation of smaller fields for modern agricultural practices, as well as the retention of large unfenced tracts of land historically associated with sheep walks.

Settlement Patterns:

This landscape type is notably unpopulated. Generally, settlement consists of isolated clusters of farm buildings, the only settlements being Micheldever Station and South Wonston.

Building Materials:

Typical building materials within these areas include flint, long straw thatch, clay plain tiles, and red brick. Slate is also used on Victorian buildings or for reroofing older ones. Modern farm buildings are also evident.

Transport Routes:

Very few major roads actually traverse these areas. A widely spaced network of small straight roads, lanes and tracks provides access to the farms together with a limited rights of way system and public access. Roman Roads are legible in the landscape, as are former railways and drove roads.

Seclusion and Tranquillity:

These areas tend to have an openness and space due to the infrequent hedgerows and elevated location and do not therefore tend to feel secluded. Impressive long, panoramic views can be gained across the gently undulating landscape. Landscapes can feel windswept and are generally tranquil away from busy roads.

Key Issues:

Landscape:

The potential visual intrusion of built elements in the open landscape, such as large ancillary buildings and structures associated with farm complexes, pylons, wind turbines and telecommunication/ transmission towers, particularly if sited on the more prominent crests

Woodland:

The rectilinear form of many existing and recently established woodland blocks and shelterbelts, which conflict with the flowing form of the undulating landform

The lack of or inappropriate management of woodland cover, including conifers, within new areas of planting

Lack of management regeneration of wood pasture

Loss of broadleaf woodlands

Hedgerow:

Over-management of hedgerows and damage from spray drift

Failure to retain tree saplings in hedgerows.

Inappropriate planting of hedges and tree belts, using non-indigenous species, with low potential biodiversity value.

Identification and management of hedgerows of historic significance

Agriculture:

Increased risk of soil erosion resulting form exposed shallow soils and prolonged periods of arable cultivation

The effects of run-off from agricultural pollutants including nitrate leaching, and negative impact on aquifer characteristics and water quality

Predominance of autumn cropping and loss of winter stubble in arable land

Under-grazing and lack of stock resulting in reversion of remnants of unimproved grassland to rank grassland and scrub invasion, particularly on steeper slopes and isolated escarpments.

Limited management or loss of potentially important field margins

Low biodiversity value of land through widespread use of fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides and loss of hedgerow and tree cover.

Potential issue with introduction of new crops

Neglected farm ponds

Grassland:

Loss and fragmentation of remaining pockets of unimproved permanent grassland, due to conversion to arable land

Other:

The loss or damage of valuable archaeological features and their settings as a result of inappropriate farming methods, or lack of concern or understanding of the need for their protection and conservation

Limited public access

Chalk and Clay Landscape Type

These landscapes share some of the characteristics of the open arable landscapes but have a greater incidence of woodland, hedgerows and tree cover. This closely relates to the presence of clay overlying chalk on the ridges and hilltops, and its absence in the valleys. Two sub-divisions of this type have been identified in this assessment on the basis of the degree of enclosure created by the extent of woodland and hedgerow cover.

Type a: Chalk and Clay (Farmland)

This landscape type consists predominantly of large and medium scale arable fields, with some smaller fields adjacent to settlements and some areas of pasture. It is closely associated with woodland and generally has a hedgerow structure that is more intact than found in Open Arable landscape types. There is some visual containment and enclosure, created by the vegetation and landform, but the scale of the field patterns allows more distant views and creates a semi-enclosed character. This landscape type is closely associated with the Scarp Landscape Type. It has a denser settlement pattern than found on Open Arable landscapes, with scattered hamlets and villages linked by a moderately dense network of generally winding lanes. Typical areas can be found around Upham and Upper Swanmore.

North of Westley Lane

Road alongside Embley Wood

Type b: Chalk and Clay (Woodland)

This landscape type shares many of the characteristics indicated above, but consists predominantly of woodland and associated assarted fields. Such areas often correspond with areas of clay with flints, including Micheldever Wood.

South towards West Wood

Bushy Copse and Crawley Forest

Location

This landscape can be found throughout the chalk downs landscape, interspersed with the Open Arable Landscape Type. It becomes the dominant landscape type to the southern and eastern areas of the chalk downlands to where they abut the Reading Beds to the south. It also includes large areas of woodland to the north-east, such as Micheldever and Black Wood

Soils and Geology:

This landscape type is found on the Upper Chalk areas of the District, especially where the chalk is capped with clay, often with flints. It has more variable soils than the Open Arable landscapes, resulting in a wider range of vegetation types and a greater diversity. Shallow well drained calcareous and silty soils predominate on the valley sides and isolated steep escarpments, but elsewhere there is a variable mix of well drained calcareous clayey and fine silty clayey soils, with deeper alluvial or flinty calcareous/fine flinty soils in the valley bottoms, notably at Bramdean. This variable soil type has resulted in a wider range of vegetation types and a greater diversity in the land use than found in Open Arable areas.

Topography:

This landscape type covers a wide topographical range from 50m to 200m in places. It has a more undulating topography than that of Open Arable, with some parts exhibiting ridge-and-valley landforms, dry valleys, coombs and scarps within the overall undulating, rolling landscape. Very long views are possible from the highest ground but, with the varied topography and the degree of enclosure, views are generally more limited. This landscape type is associated with escarpments, (see Scarps Landscape Type) such as those at Beacon Hill, Soberton Down, Yew

Hill and Juniper Bank and Old Winchester Hill. Essentially a dry landscape except where the water table is high.

Archaeological and Historic Features and Field Patterns

Many of the District's historic parks, gardens and avenues are associated with this type of landscape, such as Stratton Park, Preshaw and Hursley Park. There are also numerous archaeological remains throughout the area, including tumuli, long barrows, old field systems, strip lynchets and deserted villages such as Lomer Village to the north west of Beacon Hill. There is also evidence of Roman Occupation such as the Roman Villa in West Wood and many of the straight roads are aligned on Roman roads.

There is evidence that some fields have been formed from the late 19th/20th Century clearance of woodland, although predominantly fields date from their informal enclosure from the late medieval to 18th Century period or of parliamentary type enclosure of the 18th and 19th Centuries.

Vegetation:

The presence of clay in these areas means that there is a greater proportion of woodland cover and many more tree belts and mixed-species hedges than in areas of the Open Arable Landscape Type. The presence of clay on the ridges and hilltops, and its absence in the valleys, often determines the distribution of woodland and farmland, as well as the character of the hedgerows.

The woodlands vary from small copses and game spinneys to shelterbelts and larger woodlands such as Crab Wood, some including semi-natural ancient woodland. Significant areas of ancient woodland have been replanted with deciduous or coniferous species, causing an overall loss of biodiversity. Most of the ancient semi-natural woodlands are dominated by ash or oak, with a hazel coppice understorey. Oak is more frequent on the more acid clay areas and is the principal hedgerow tree along clay-capped ridgelines, while beech is seldom present. In many of the valleys however, both trees are present. Yew, holly, whitebeam and ash are all more prevalent

on the thinner, chalky soils.

Small pockets of downland occur on steeper slopes and escarpments and are of significant nature conservation value, supporting areas of unimproved grassland as well as encroaching scrub and woodland. Most are not receiving active management and development of rank grassland and scrub is a threat. Larger scarps within the Chalk and Clay areas are defined as 'Scarp' landscape types. There are small areas of marshy grassland around the source of the River Itchen at Cheriton

Typical Woody species: Chalk and Clay (HCC, 2000)

Major species throughout:	Ash,Hawthorn, Pedunculate Oak
Major species locally:	Beech
Minor species throughout:	Blackthorn, Crab Apple, Dogwood, Elder, Holly, Field Maple, Dog Rose, Spindle, Wayfaring Tree, Whitebeam
Minor species locally:	Downy Birch, Silver Birch, Purging Buckthorn, Wild Cherry, Common Elm, Gorse, Guelder Rose, Sessile Oak, Wild Privet, Goat Willow, Yew
Ancient Woodland indicators	Aspen, Wych Elm, Hornbeam

Land Use:

These areas are predominantly given over to arable production and woodland, although the hills and slopes are more likely to be pasture, resulting in a very varied landscape. The rich texture of the landscape type is also contributed to by the varying size and regularity of fields, with the majority being medium to large in size.

Settlement Pattern:

The landscape is sparsely populated, consisting of small villages, hamlets, and individual scattered cottages, together with an even distribution of farms relating to water sources (springs, winter bournes and wells). In places these remain remote from busy through-routes and are valued for their quietness.

Building Materials:

Characteristic building materials include brick, and the widespread use of flint. Timber-framed buildings are typical and long straw thatch, later superseded by clay plain tiles and then slate, are characteristic roofing materials.

Transport Routes:

There is a strong network of routes throughout this landscape, including sections of the A272 and A32. The smaller roads tend to be winding, narrow and indirect, often with wide verges and hedgerows and occasionally with steep hedgebanks, although straight roads associated with Parliamentary Enclosure also occur. There are numerous public footpaths and bridleways throughout this landscape, a typical characteristic of an 'ancient' landscape.

Seclusion and Tranquillity:

Where remote from major routes, these areas are valued for their quietness. Visually, enclosure is variable, dependent on topography and vegetation, with Chalk and Clay (Woodland) offering a greater degree of seclusion than Chalk and Clay (Farmland).

Key Issues:

Landscape:

Neglect of landscape features such as avenues, coppices and hedgerows, together with 20th Century golf course developments, are eroding the historical, rural and wooded aspects which contribute most to its distinctiveness.

Increase in scale and openness of landscape due to loss of hedgerows for agricultural purposes

Rectilinear woodland planting, conflicting with the fluid lines of the undulating landform

Woodland:

Poor woodland management of ancient semi-natural woodlands including hazel coppice woods

Poor management of over-mature mainly coniferous shelter belts

The choice of species and spacing of any new trees planting and management, is generally determined by commercial or game management considerations.

Non-indigenous woodland planting, especially in semi-natural ancient woodlands and on alkaline soils

Lack of management of ancient semi-natural woodland, where specialist techniques are required to sustain the balance and longevity of the species mix, (especially areas of oak and hazel coppice)

Hedgerow:

Removal or fragmentation of hedgerows for agricultural purposes resulting in gappy sections or single lines of former hedgerow trees, lack of young hedgerow trees and low biodiversity value

Declining population of hedgerow trees through senescence, felling and lack of replacement

Poor hedgerow management including too frequent or badly timed cutting, and application of herbicides and pesticides up to the base of hedgerows

Loss and fragmentation of isolated unimproved calcareous grassland either through improvement of grassland through fertiliser and herbicide use, or under- grazing resulting in scrub colonisation.

Agriculture:

Low biodiversity levels due to intensive farming

Decline of winter stubble and spring sown crops

Lack of permanent grass field margins, including uncultivated buffer strips next to rivers and other sensitive wildlife habitats

Insufficient use of conservation headlands

Neglected farm ponds

Grassland :

Loss, fragmentation and lack of management of unimproved chalk grassland

Lack of appropriate cutting of road verges and hedge banks, and damage from scrub encroachment, road improvements and agrochemicals from adjacent farmland.

Other:

Loss or damage of valuable archaeological features as a result of inappropriate farming and woodland management methods, due to a lack of concern or understanding of the need for their protection and conservation.

Clay Plateau Landscape Type

Generally remote from major routes, clay plateau areas typically consist of a landscape of farmland, woodland, hedgerows and little used lanes. Occasional very long views emphasise the sense of remoteness. They are landscapes that typically occur on areas of higher ground underlain by extensive, sometimes almost continuous, deposits of clay with flints. The soils influence the land use and vegetation pattern. A denser pattern of vegetation distinguishes these areas from the adjacent chalk uplands, having a high overall cover of woodland (typically semi-natural broad-leaved) and strong structure of dense mixed species hedgerows with oak as a predominant tree species. Within Winchester District there are two subdivisions of clay plateau: Clay Plateau (Open) and Clay Plateau (Enclosed).

Type a: Clay Plateau (Open)

The Clay Plateau (Open) landscape type is characterised by larger and more open fields with a predominance of arable land and occasional areas of woodland. These areas are centred around Newmer Farm and Cheriton Lane in the north-east of the District.

West of Cheriton Lane

Badsheaf Lane

Type b: Clay Plateau (Enclosed)

The Clay Plateau (Enclosed) landscape type has a more intimate scale with smaller fields, a stronger network of hedgerows, copses and larger areas of woodland, set within a more undulating and enclosed landform associated with valley systems. This landscape type is only found in the Cheriton Wood area in ther east of the District.

North of Breach Plain House

Old Park Wood

Soils and Geology:

In these high areas the chalk is capped by a shallow, but virtually continuous deposit of clay, often with flints. These areas generally have predominantly Grade 3 agricultural land.

Topography:

These areas are not plateaux in the purest sense: the higher areas are broadly domed, sloping and undulating gradually towards shallow valleys. The areas are visually bounded by dropping topography or enclosed by tree-belts and form some of the highest areas in the District, ranging from 100 to 190m OD in altitude.

Archaeological and Historic Features and Field Patterns:

These areas have examples of commons and surviving wood pastures, along with many ancient semi-natural woodlands. Field patterns are often typical of the chalk uplands. Post-medieval to 17th/18th century informal enclosure has resulted in irregular fields, bounded by rights of way, as well as regular fields with wavy boundaries, predating the period when boundaries were carefully surveyed. Other fields typified by straight boundaries are likely to have resulted from the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts from the early 18th to the 19th Centuries. 20th century hedgerow loss has resulted in some areas having a distinctly exposed feel.

Vegetation:

The range of species in these areas is generally more limited than found in areas of a Chalk and Clay Landscape Type. The strong influence of clayey soils has led to a dominance of oak in the hedgerows and woodlands and the fairly infrequent occurrence of beech. Hedgerows have varying amounts of bracken and range from low and trimmed to high and overgrown. Ash is present throughout and Holly is also present, sometimes as large specimens. Birch, sweet chestnut, gorse and bracken occur with beech on some of the former commons. Woodland occurs on the steeper slopes; particularly where the plateau areas abut exposed chalk. The commons, wood pasture and ancient semi-natural woodlands are of significant nature conservation interest.

Typical Woody species: (HCC, 2000)

Major species throughout:	Ash, Hawthorn, Hazel, Pedunculate Oak
Minor species throughout:	Blackthorn, Crab Apple, Dogwood, Elder, Holly, Field Maple, Dog Rose, Spindle, Wayfaring Tree
Minor species locally:	Beech, Downy Birch, Silver Birch, Alder Buckthorn, Wild Cherry, Common Elm, Gorse, Guelder Rose, Wild Privet, Whitebeam, Goat Willow, Yew
Ancient Woodland indicators	Aspen, Wych Elm, Hornbeam

Clay Plateau

Land Use:

These areas are dominated by arable farming, particularly in the more open areas. Historically however, such areas of heavy clay would not have been favoured for crops and would have been more wooded. Medium to large fields are defined by woodland and hedgerows. A number of commons and surviving wood pastures are present, along with many ancient semi-natural woodlands.

Settlement Pattern:

These areas are sparsely populated with occasional hamlets and scattered farms and cottages, widely dispersed throughout a complex network of narrow and indirect lanes.

Building Materials:

Building materials in these areas are traditionally brick, with clay plain tiles or slate.

Transport Routes:

Routes are characteristically narrow, often with wide verges, ditches and with hedgebanks or fenced field boundaries, marked by individual trees.

Seclusion and Tranquillity:

Where remote from major routes, these areas are secluded and valued for their quietness. Visually enclosure is variable.

Key Issues:

Landscape:

- Increase in scale and openness of the landscape mainly through loss of hedgerows to create larger more economic field sizes

Woodland:

- Lack of or inappropriate management of woodland where specialist and sensitive management techniques are required to sustain the balance and longevity of mix e.g. oak and hazel coppice.
- High proportions of conifers in ancient semi-natural woodlands and on alkaline soils
- Lack of management of over-mature mainly coniferous shelterbelts
- Loss of broadleaved woodlands
- The locations and tree species of new woodlands
- Replacement of semi-natural woodland and plantation woodland
- Lack of management of old trees including absence of traditional pollarding and inappropriate removal of dead wood
- Poor age structure of trees i.e. old trees and young trees present but few of intermediate age

Hedgerow:

- Loss of hedgerows
- Fragmented isolated and remnant hedgerows and the unity of the hedgerow network
- Lack of hedgerow management
- Failure to retain tree saplings in hedgerows
- Over-management of hedgerows and damage from spray drift
- Identification and management of hedgerows of historic significance

Agriculture:

- Areas of intensive farming with low biodiversity levels
- Decline of winter stubble and spring sown crops
- Lack of permanent grass field margins, including uncultivated buffer strips next to rivers, streams and other sensitive wildlife habitats
- Insufficient use of conservation headlands
- Neglected farm ponds
- Over intensive management of field margins including ploughing too close to hedgerows and hedgerow trees, resulting in root disturbance.
- Effect of run-off from agricultural pollutants including nitrate leaching, and negative impact on aquifer characteristics and water quality.

Grassland:

- Lack of appropriate management of sensitive areas of high biodiversity value or interest, notably relict commons and former areas of wood pasture, including loss of grazing leading to scrub encroachment
- Importance of appropriate management of species rich road verges and hedgebanks

Other:

- Loss or damage of valuable archaeological features as a result of inappropriate farming methods, or lack of concern or understanding of the need for their protection and conservation.

Scarps Landscape Type

Throughout the chalkland, steep scarp slopes remain as unenclosed downland and woodland, due to their lack of opportunities for agriculture. These dramatic sculptural landforms often form prominent ridgelines and therefore have few roads and settlements associated with them. They do however, provide popular viewpoints and include valuable ecological habitats such as unimproved chalk grassland and semi-natural ancient woodland.

Dores Lane, Upper Slackstead

Yew Hill, Oliver's Battery

Location:

Within Winchester District scarps are generally located in a band to the east and west of Winchester City, and are absent from the downs to the north. Examples include Yew Hill (Oliver's Battery) and Berry Down.

Soils and Geology:

This landscape type typically occurs where the Middle Chalk is exposed at higher altitudes. On the steep slopes, the calcareous silty soils are particularly shallow and well drained.

Topography:

This landscape type is defined by its marked topography with its prominent dome shaped elevated ridgelines and sloping summit areas. The escarpments are generally very steep and encircle valleys or overlook more extensive vales.The tops and toes of the slopes are abrupt, with a marked change in gradient.

Archaeological and Historic Fe atures and Field Patterns:

The larger scarps have areas of generally unimproved downland, which was historically sheep pasture. These have historical importance, originating from late medieval times but possibly earlier. Likewise other scarps have areas of historically important semi- natural ancient woodland. Smaller areas of scarp have been influenced by the history of the surrounding field pattern, and have been informally enclosed at various times.

The elevated nature of many scarps means they have functioned as important defensive sites in the past. Examples of visible archaeology are consequently numerous in these areas.

Vegetation:

Woodland and Trees

Woodland is characteristic of the steeper slopes, as well as forming prominent hilltop copses. Yew and whitebeam are a particular feature in some areas and other woodlands typically include ash, field maple, oak and beech.

Occasionally plantations can develop a rich flora which may include rare orchids. Other typical woodland ground flora species in scarp woodlands include bluebell, dog's mercury, sweet woodruff, sanicle and yellow archangel. There are also a number of uncommon ground flora species including white helleborine, fly orchid, bird's-nest orchid and Solomon's seal.

Grassland

Remnant areas of species-rich unimproved calcareous grassland are characteristic of scarps often managed by grazing. These areas have great conservation value, and a number of scarps have protective designations, such as SINCs (Yew Hill).

The grassland found varies both in species composition and structure, according to factors such as topography, aspect, and grazing pressure. Sheep's Fescue, upright broom and salad burnet are the dominant species, occurring with other chalk-loving herbs such as chalk milkwort, squinancy wort, horseshoe vetch, clustered bellflower, kidney vetch and autumn gentian. A wide range of orchids also occurs on these chalk grasslands together with rarer species such as bastard toadflax, early Gentian, field fleawort, and round-headed rampion. Ant-hills are a feature of old grassland, indicating that the grassland has not been ploughed, fertilised or cut for hay for a long time.

Scrub

Areas of species-rich chalk scrub have developed in areas where the chalk grass is being allowed to regenerate. Hawthorn is the predominant species in this scrub, with blackthorn, wayfaring tree, dogwood, dog rose and juniper also present. In limited localities, species including buckthorn, guelder rose, hazel, elder, holly, and wild privet are also present. These species are important for insects, nesting birds and the rare Duke of Burgundy butterfly.

Of particular importance are juniper colonies which support a number of nationally scarce insects, many of which are exclusively associated with this species. Chalk heath can also be found at Farley Down, where clay-with-flint overlies the chalk. This has allowed calcifuge species such as gorse and heather to grow in close proximity to chalk-loving species.

Typical Woody Species - Downland Scarps: (HCC, 2000)

Major species throughout:	Hawthorn
Major species locally:	Yew
Minor species throughout:	Blackthorn, Dogwood, Field Maple, Dog Rose, Wayfaring Tree
Minor species locally:	Ash, Beech, Purging Buckthorn, Wild Cherry, Crab Apple, Elder, Guelder Rose, Hazel, Holly, Juniper, Wild Privet, Spindle, Whitebeam
Ancient Woodland Indicators	Wych Elm

Typical Woody Species - Woodland Scarps: (HCC, 2000)

Major species throughout:	Ash, Beech
Minor species throughout:	Elder, Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly, Field Maple, Yew
Minor species locally:	Ash, Beech, Purging Buckthorn, Wild Cherry, Crab Apple, Elder, Guelder Rose, Hazel, Holly, Juniper, Wild Privet, Spindle, Whitebeam
Ancient Woodland Indicators	Wych Elm, Small-leaved Lime

Land Use:

Recreation is popular in these areas, due to the dramatic landscape and opportunity to gain panoramic views. Their steep topography makes arable farming difficult so most commonly they are either grazed by sheep or are left to develop as woodland.

Settlement Pattern:

There is a general absence of settlement within this landscape type, due to the steep topography, however settlements are often located at the base of scarps taking advantage of the shelter they provide and are typically linear in form, for example Compton. Evidence of historic fortified settlements can be found at the top of slopes due to their defensive location.

Building Materials:

Not applicable.

Transport Routes:

Due to the steep nature of scarps, routes usually follow the base or top of the scarp feature and occasionally traverse them in the form of very steep, often sunken, narrow lanes, locally sometimes known as dongas.

Seclusion and Tranquillity:

Due to the general lack of roads and settlement in these areas they often remain tranquil, although the M3 at the western end of the South Downs is an exception to this. Certain sites are also very popular with visitors however, which may reduce such tranquillity.

Key Issues:

Landscape:

- Reduction of open downland character due to loss and fragmentation of areas of species rich calcareous grassland
- Reduction of 'downland associated' character due to conversion of improved pasture to arable crops, especially on ridges and at the transition to adjacent arable downs.
- Erosion caused by visitor pressure to these popular recreational areas
- Visual impact of prominent structures on skyline

Woodland:

- Coniferous, rectilinear plantations within the coombes and upper slopes detract from the 'natural' and 'ancient' appearance of the slopes. These can be visually prominent from a wide area.
- Lack of appropriate management of ancient semi- natural woodlands including hazel coppice woods

Agriculture and Grassland:

- Scrub and tree encroachment through under- grazing and lack of stock, threatening species-rich chalk grassland.
- Overgrazing and increased arable agricultural land can result in permanent loss or fragmentation of species-rich grassland
- Maintenance of balance between species rich grassland and important areas of calcareous scrub
- Requirement of adequate and continued levels of funding to protect and effectively manage ecologically valuable areas, including controlled grazing to maintain areas of species rich grassland within open summit areas
- Balance of encouraging public access and managing impact on and potential damage to ecologically sensitive areas.

Other:

- Visitor pressure at peak holiday times at popular elevated locations,
- Possible conflict of visitor uses on accessible summit areas between quiet walking and noisy or visually disruptive sports such as model aeroplane flying or mountain biking.
- Localised erosion of summit paths through pressure of visitor use.
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Heathland Landscape Type

Heathland is a relic of both prehistoric and historic farming practices. Although the areas, which lie within Winchester District are small and fragmented and have limited management, they are of significant nature conservation value. A fundamental aspect of this landscape is its unenclosed nature.

This landscape type is subdivided into Heathland and Heathland Plantation.

Type a: Heathland

The heathland areas are remnant heathlands, which include heather, acid grassland and regenerating woodland.

Shedfield Common

Wickham Common

Type b: Heathland Plantation (no photo possible)

This landscape type consists of forestry plantation that has existed on heathland since the 19th century.

Location:

This landscape type is found as remnant, isolated areas of heathland associated with a band of sandy soil that lies within the lowland area to the south. The areas of heathland are limited to Shedfield Common and Wickham Common while the area of heathland plantation lies between North Boarhunt and Southwick, at Walton Heath.

Soils and Geology:

This landscape type is situated in located over Lower Bagshot Sand. These underlying sands and gravel have given rise to light soils with slight natural acidity and permeability, which have been leached of nutrients.

They are therefore suitable only for acid tolerant species.

Topography:

The landform of these areas is either flat or gently undulating, sometimes on plateaux. Areas of heathland are generally open, but contained by wooded edges,

Archaeological and Historic Features and Field Patterns:

These areas are examples of old, unenclosed ancient grassland, typically with commoners' rights and are therefore historic features in their own right. In some areas these characteristics have now been denuded however, through shrub and woodland colonisation, pasture improvements and loss of commoners rights.

Vegetation:

A mosaic of heather, heath, bracken, gorse and regenerating birch and pine. Acid tolerant species such as heath and heather occur but where left ungrazed encroachment by acid tolerant shrub and tree species has occurred, in particular by gorse and birch. Therefore continued grazing is important.

Typical Woody Species - Heathland and Heathland Plantations: (HCC, 2000)

Major species throughout:	None
Major species locally:	Beech, Silver Birch, Gorse, Holly, Oak, Scots Pine
Minor species throughout:	Blackthorn, Dogwood, Field Maple, Dog Rose, Wayfaring Tree
Minor species locally:	Ash, Yew, Goat Willow, Whitebeam, Dog Rose, Mountain Ash, Field Maple, Hazel, Hawthorn, Guelder Rose, Elder, Crab Apple, Wild Cherry, Alder Buckthorn, Broom, Blackthorn, Downy Birch
Ancient Woodland Indicators	Aspen

Land Use:

These areas consist of a mosaic of heaths, grassland, bogs, ponds and encroaching scrub. They are therefore of significant nature conservation value, as well as providing important areas for recreation. Traditionally commoners' ponies and cattle had the freedom to roam and graze, however they are now more usually public open space.

The mix of heathland habitats gently merge and are continually changing. Regenerating birch, pine and often oak tend to lead to the encroachment of the woodland fringe on the heath and grassland. This advance and retreat is mainly dependent on the numbers of grazing stock or cutting regime. Controlled burning can also used to limit woodland encroachment, and stimulate fresh growth of grasses and heather for grazing.

Settlement Pattern:

Settlement historically occurs in narrow bands around the edge of the heathland, distinguished by its proximity and close relationship to the common. The settlement to the south and east of Wickham Common and around Shedfield Common is a typical example.

Building Materials:

Traditional building materials in these areas include red brick, clay plain tiles and slate.

Transport Routes:

Routes in these areas tend to be limited. They are generally straight and often unfenced

Seclusion and Tranquillity:

These areas tend to have a secluded feel due to their variety of enclosure and vegetation. Their proximity to settlements and roads and their use as a recreational facility means that their tranquillity is often eroded.

Key Issues:

- Need for continuity of traditional management of grazed heathland
- Scrub encroachment due to low grazing pressure or inappropriate mechanical cutting
- Loss, fragmentation and lack of heathland and former heathland areas
- Lack of cutting of road verges and hedge banks, and damage from scrub encroachment, road improvement and agrochemicals from adjacent farmland.
- Erosion due to recreation
- Creeping suburbanisation.
- Lack of appropriate pond management

Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated Landscape Type

This landscape type has a gently undulating landform, occurring on a varying geological formation based on sands and gravels. This results in a variety of landscape features and land uses, focussed on a small-scale, intimate mosaic of grazing land and woodland. These areas are often located in areas of former heathland or wood pasture, and a heathy character is indicated by the presence of species such as bracken, gorse, oak, birch and pine.

Kitnocks Hill, Curdridge

Forest Road, east of Waltham Chase

Location:

Heath Associated Pasture and Woodland occurs in the south of the District, around Curdridge, Waltham Chase and Soberton Heath.

Soils and Geology:

This landscape typically occurs on a varied geology of sands, sandy clays and gravels. These geological types include the Bracklesham Beds (sand and loam), Reading Beds (mottled clay and sand) and London Clay. The acidic former heathland soils and a range of mainly poor, light or slowly permeable soils are a major influence on the land uses found in the area, resulting in a predominance of pasture. Arable land only occurs in small areas of more fertile loamy soils.

Topography:

This landscape type is found in the lower lying southern areas of the District, rising to altitudes of 70m. The landform is flat in some areas and undulating in others.

Archaeological and Historical Features and Field Patterns:

Historically many of these areas would once have been heathland, although the heathland characteristics have been denuded through agricultural development and suburban expansion. Throughout the rest of Hampshire these areas have changed little in the past few centuries and still show the 'ancient' irregular boundaries and routes associated with informal enclosure. In the Winchester District however, the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the 18th and 19th centuries have resulted in small to medium-sized fields with regular, straight boundaries. Although this structure still remains, 20th century developments such as roadside housing, market gardening, garden centres and livery stables have further eroded this historic character.

Vegetation:

Much of this landscape is closely linked to, or has been, former heathland. This is indicated by the presence of oak, birch, bracken, gorse and pine for example, within woodlands, hedgerows, field margins and verges. The distribution of these species is variable however, reflecting the

complex geology, soils and land use history of the area.

Many areas within this Landscape Type have been historically cleared of woodland. Here, the light sandy soils have been leached of nutrients, resulting in very acidic soils where only certain tolerant species can survive. Where occasional areas of heathland remain, the landscape has a very distinctive open and rough quality, dominated by gorse and regenerating birch areas. On many other areas of former heathland, woodland has developed again. Elsewhere, ancient semi-natural woodlands are still present, as are occasional streams.

The resulting landscape is a mosaic of low quality pasture, woodlands and heath, linked by hedges and tree-belts. Habitat types are varied and often provide important ecological habitats. However, the suburbanised nature of this landscape type has also resulted in the widespread planting of non-native evergreen shrubs, such as laurel and rhododendron.

Typical Woody Species - Pasture Woodland Heath Associated: (HCC, 2000)

Major species throughout:	Hawthorn, Oak
Major species locally:	Blackthorn, Elder, Gorse, Holly, Dog Rose
Minor species throughout:	Alder, Ash, Beech, Silver birch, Hazel
Minor species locally:	Downy Birch, Broom, Alder Buckthorn, Wild Cherry, Crab Apple, Dog wood, Common Elm, Guelder Rose, Field Maple, Mountain Ash, Sessile Oak, Osier, Wild Privet, Spindle, Whitebeam, Crack Willow, Goat Willow, Yew
Ancient Woodland Indicators	Aspen, Wych Elm, Hornbeam, Small-leaved Lime, Wild Service Tree

Land Use:

This is primarily a landscape of unintensively farmed pasture on former heathland. The fields were typically formed by the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the late 18th–19th centurie sor are probably contemporary with them, forming a patchwork of small to medium sized fields. These are now predominantly used for horse grazing, and some are subdivided by various ranch-type fencing to form paddocks. Arable farmland is only found on the restricted areas of more loamy soils.

Recreation activities are popular in these areas, including walking and horse riding.

Settlement Pattern:

This landscape type is characterised by roadside settlements. These tend to consist of suburban-style dwellings built within large plots, often associated with a network of small paddocks.

Building Materials:

Traditionally red brick and clay plain tiles are found in this area, together with slate on Victorian buildings. However, the majority of dwellings are 20th Century, using modern materials.

Transport Routes:

Routes throughout this landscape tend to be straight, following parliamentary enclosure.

Seclusion and Tranquillity:

In the majority of these areas the 'natural' and 'rural' aspects of this landscape are being undermined by suburbanisation, and the presence of dwellings and fairly busy roads has reduced the tranquillity of these areas.

Key Issues:

Landscape:

- Impact of 'horsiculture' with small scale paddocks and associated post and wire or ranch style fencing, particularly within and adjacent to built-up areas
- Pressure for development in ribbon style along roads

Woodland:

- Lack of appropriate management of ancient semi-natural woodlands including hazel coppice
- High proportions of conifers in ancient semi-natural woodlands and on alkaline soils
- Locations and tree species of new woodlands
- Loss of wood pasture

Hedgerow:

- Loss of hedgerows
- Fragmented, isolated and remnant hedgerows and the unity of the hedgerow network
- Lack of hedgerow management
- Failure to retain tree saplings in hedgerows
- Over management of hedgerows and damage from spray drift
- Identification and management of hedgerows of historic significance
- Impact of exotic and non-native species such as rhododendron and laurel on biodiversity

Agriculture:

- The effects of run-off from agricultural pollutants including nitrate leaching and negative impact on aquifer characteristics, water quality and biodiversity

Grassland:

- Lack of appropriate management of unimproved neutral grassland
- Lack of appropriate cutting of road verges and hedge banks, and damage from scrub encroachment,
- Loss of heathland.

Mixed Farmland and Woodland Landscape Type

This Landscape type covers a large extent of the southern part of the District within the lowland mosaic. The landform ranges from undulating higher land, to flatter lower lying ground, and its varied geology is reflected in the nature and intensity of the land use. The high proportion of woodland cover is a notable element of this landscape, including semi- natural and ancient woods, forestry plantations, tree-belts and hedgerows. Both arable and pasture farming can be found here, with fields that vary in size and pattern.

a. Mixed Farmland and Woodland (Open)

These areas have a medium to large-scale pattern of arable farmland and some woodland. They have a moderate degree of enclosure. Typical areas can be seen at Curbridge, Clewers Hill, Waltham Chase and around Southwick.

West of Waltham Chase

West from Biddenfield Lane

b Mixed Farmland and Woodland (Enclosed)

This Landscape type has a far more wooded character than Open Mixed Farmland and Woodland. Ancient semi- natural woodlands, hedgerows with hedgebanks and hedgerow trees provide a strong sense of enclosure. A mosaic of agricultural land uses often relate to the undulating terrain, with mixed arable on drier ridges and pasture in clayey hollows. Fields are often small or medium and irregularly shaped, and include some ancient field systems. The complex pattern of small scale valleys which cross this area add to its diversity and enclosure. Typical areas can be seen in the vicinity of Durley, Botley Wood and Creech Wood.

Ampfield Wood

East of Biddenfield Lane

Location:

This landscape type covers a large extent of the southern part of the District, south of Denmead, Swanmore, Bishop's Waltham and Hursley.

Soils and Geology:

These areas predominantly fall on Reading Beds, London Clay, Bracklesham Beds and some Lower Bagshot Beds. This means that there is a varied geology of clays, sands, clayey sands and gravels underlying a variety of loamy or clayey soils. In places these soils may be seasonally waterlogged due to the dense drainage network of tributaries running through this landscape type. Elsewhere, heath associated species indicate the presence of more acidic soils.

Topography:

This landscape forms most of the boundary with the chalklands to the north. This junction forms a spring line, which is often associated with habitats of significant ecological interest, as well as the development of settlements. The landscape is lower lying than the chalklands, reaching up to 100m OD m in altitude at its highest points north of Hundred Acres. The topography is mildly undulating, traversed by numerous streams, as well as the rivers Meon, Hamble and Wallington.

Archaeological and Historical Features:

The field patterns evident within these areas reflect a long history of change. Large areas of small fields with rectilinear boundaries date from late medieval to 17th/18th Century informal enclosure, while similar fields with straight boundaries were probably formed by the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the 18th and 19th Centuries or are contemporary with them. Other enclosures are assarts, probably formed by the clearance of woodland and scrub from medieval times through to the 19th Century and representing some of the oldest landscapes within the District.

Vegetation:

This landscape type is associated with a diverse range of habitats providing much ecological interest. Given that this is generally an 'ancient' landscape, there are many woodlands (including semi-natural ancient woodland), hedgerows with hedge banks and large oak trees. Other habitats include streams, meadows, commons and ancient field systems. Unfortunately, in some areas however, biodiversity has been reduced by the removal of woodland and hedgerows to increase field size.

The majority of species found in these areas are typical of neutral or calcareous soils, including oak, ash, and field maple. On the more acid soils of the higher ground a wider range of species occurs and bracken is frequent in many hedgerows. Beech occurs occasionally, while shelter belts of fast growing trees such as pine or poplars are often planted. Forestry plantations of mixed and coniferous species also occur throughout this landscape. Historically, wood pasture would have been a feature of this landscape, but this is no longer evident.

Typical Woody species: (HCC, 2000)

Major species throughout:	Major species Ash,Hawthorn, Hazel, Pedunculate Oak
Major species locally:	Alder
Minor species throughout:	Blackthorn, Crab Apple, Dogwood, Elder, Guelder Rose, Holly, Field Maple, Dog Rose
Minor species locally:	Beech, Downy Birch, Silver Birch, Broom, Alder Buckthorn, Purging Buckthorn, Wild Cherry, Common Elm, Gorse, Mountain Ash, Sessile Oak, Osier, Wild Privet, Spindle, Wayfaring Tree, Whitebeam, Crack Willow, Goat Willow, White Willow, Yew, Sweet Chestnut, Scots Pine
Ancient woodland indicators:	Aspen, Wych Elm, Hornbeam, Small-leaved Lime, Wild Service Tree.

Land Use:

Given the varied nature of the soils in these areas, grazing is as common as arable use. The heavier, lower lying ground associated with clays, watercourses and streams is predominantly used as grazing land, as are the more acidic soils of former heathland areas, which include many paddocks. The higher and generally drier ridges and slopes are often suitable for arable crops and more intensive farming, however given the predominance of grades 4 and 5 agricultural land the proportion of arable is lower in these areas than in other parts of Hampshire. In places solar farms have been introduced.

Settlement Patterns:

The settlement pattern of the area is typified by small shrunken hamlets and farms (such as Boarhunt), together with sprawling, low-density settlements, stretching out along a main road (such as Durley and North Boarhunt). These are generally scattered throughout an area at a low density, although at a greater frequency than found in the chalklands. Larger, nucleated villages are also present on the chalk-clay spring-line (such as Bishop's Waltham, Denmead and Colden Common). Major development currently being constructed at North Whiteley will extend into an area of open mixed farmland and woodland, significantly reducing the open gap between Whiteley and Botley.

Building Materials:

A wide range of materials are found, including longstraw thatch, however red brick and clay plain tiles are the more typical traditional materials used throughout the area, as well as modern mass- produced products.

Transport Routes:

Routes within this area generally form a network of narrow winding roads and lanes with few major through-routes.

Seclusion and Tranquillity:

This is generally a small-scale, enclosed landscape with a great variety and contrast. The numerous woodlands and hedgerows limit views giving a secluded character in the Mixed Farmland and Woodland (Enclosed) areas, although the chalklands are visible from areas of higher ground. Many areas also remain remote from busy through-routes, and are valued for their tranquility.

Key Issues:

Landscape:

- Inappropriate materials in relation to new built development – along roads and around settlements
- The erosion of the 'patchwork' character of the landscape due to the loss of woodlands and hedgerows

Woodland:

- Lack of appropriate management of ancient semi- natural woodlands including hazel coppice woods
- Non-indigenous and coniferous woodland planting, especially in semi-natural ancient woodlands and on alkaline soils
- Fragmentation of woodlands, resulting in the reduced overall 'connectivity' value of the woodland/hedgerow network for wildlife.
- Poor management of over mature, mainly coniferous shelter belts
- Loss of broadleaf woodlands
- Locations and tree species of new woodlands

Hedgerow:

- Loss of hedgerows
- Fragmented, isolated and remnant hedgerows and the loss of unity of the hedgerow network
- Lack of hedgerow management, especially resulting in loss of hedgerow oaks and failure to retain tree saplings in hedgerows
- Over-management of hedgerows and damage from spray drift
- Identification and management of hedgerows of significant historical importance
- Non-native hedgerow boundaries

Agriculture:

- Low biodiversity levels due to intensive farming
- Lack of permanent grass field margins, including uncultivated buffer strips next to rivers and other sensitive wildlife habitats
- Insufficient use of conservation headlands
- Decline of winter stubble and spring sown crops
- Neglected farm ponds

Grassland:

- Lack of appropriate management of unimproved neutral grassland
- Lack of appropriate cutting of road verges and hedge banks, and damage from scrub encroachment, road improvements and agrochemicals from adjacent farmland

Pasture on Clay Landscape Type

Pasture on Clay is a landscape of distinctive identity and unity. Its individuality lies in its structure of small regular field pattern and intact hedgerow network of trimmed hedgerows and oak standards, which create a strong sense of place. It is found in limited areas within the clay-dominated area to the south of the District.

South-east of Goathouse Farm

West of Bunns Lane

Location:

This Landscape Type is found in distinct areas in within the Lowland mosaic to the south of the District, including the Wintershill area of Durley, south of Newtown, east of Denmead and east of Bishops Waltham.

Soils and Geology:

Seasonally waterlogged heavy clayey soils, forming part of the London Clay.

Topography:

These areas are generally low lying, from 25m to 75m OD in altitude. The topography of the area is gently undulating. Many watercourses run through the area, which feed the tributaries of the major South Hampshire Rivers.

Archaeological and Historical Features and Field Pattern:

This Landscape Type is typified by small or medium size fields with straight regular boundaries, which were created by the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the late 18th and 19th Centuries.

Vegetation:

The areas are typified by fields of lush pasture enclosed by low trimmed hedgerows with numerous hedgerow oaks plus some ash and field maple on higher ground. Many of the ageing oak are of similar age and the hedgerow management technique has allowed few sapling trees to remain as eventual replacements.

Typical Woody species: Pasture on Clay (HCC, 2000)

Major species throughout:	Hawthorn, Pedunculate Oak
Major species locally:	None
Minor species throughout:	Blackthorn, Holly, Dog Rose
Minor species locally:	Alder, Ash, Crab Apple, Dogwood, Elder, Common Elm, Guelder Rose, Hazel, Field Maple, Goat Willow
Ancient woodland indicators:	Aspen

Land Use:

Formerly wood pasture covered many parts of the area. Typically now the landscape consists of a patchwork of small fields too clayey for arable cultivation. Consequently there has been less hedgerow removal in these areas, and hedges have been regularly trimmed to contain livestock.

Settlement Pattern:

Farms are scattered throughout these small areas, but there are no settlements. These landscape types are in close proximity to lowland settlements such as Durley, Bishop's Waltham and Denmead though.

Building Materials:

Building materials typically consist of red brick and clay plain tiles.

Transport Routes:

Roads and lanes are generally straight, with wide grass verges

Seclusion and Tranquillity:

The low hedgerows allow views across the grassed well-treed landscape. From areas of higher ground, views over the clay are possible to the large arable fields or the chalklands to the north. Some visual intrusion from pylons.

Key Issues:

Landscape:

- Many parts of this landscape are vulnerable to pressures associated with nearby urban areas, including the increasing traffic and demand for recreational uses.

Woodland:

- Lack of appropriate management of ancient semi- natural woodlands including hazel coppice.

Hedgerow:

- Loss of hedgerows
- Fragmented, isolated and remnant hedgerows, and the unity of the hedgerow network
- Lack of hedgerow management
- Failure to retain tree saplings in hedgerows and plant replacement oaks
- Over-management of hedgerows
- Identification and management of hedgerows of historic significance

Agriculture:

- Continuation of grazing
- Lack of appropriate cutting of road verges and hedgebanks

Note:

Within the low-lying grazing land of the London Clay belt, between Durley and Waterlooville, many other areas are characterised by a similar regular field pattern and low trimmed hedgerows. These areas bear a resemblance to the 'pasture on clay' landscape but differ significantly in two respects: the fields are significantly larger, and there are limited numbers of hedgerow oak trees. These areas are included within the 'Mixed Farmland and Woodland' classification, where many low-lying areas have similar characteristics (HCC, 1993).

Horticulture and Smallholdings Landscape Type

This is a landscape of unique character and variety but little rural identity. It consists of small areas of intensive horticultural uses, which occur within the broad framework of other surrounding landscapes. Typically occurring on well-drained loamy soils, these horticultural areas and their associated settlements developed in the 19th Century with the expansion of the railways which provided links to markets particularly in London.

Black Horse Lane, Shirrell Heath

Fontley Road, Titchfield

Location:

The geology and soils partly explain the distribution of these areas in South Hampshire. Typical areas can be found at Shirrell Heath, Hundred Acres and Curdridge Lane.

Soils and Geology:

This landscape type is predominantly found in relation to the band of Lower Bagshot sand, where light well-drained sands and sandy clays are overlaid by productive loamy soils.

Topography:

The topography is either gently undulating or flat. It is found generally on higher areas within the lowland mosaic to the south of the District with altitudes rising to 100m OD.

Archaeological and Historical Features and Field Patterns:

The character of much of these areas has been influenced by relatively recent enclosure and development. There is some evidence of early medieval to early post-medieval small irregular assarts where woodland and scrub was cleared and later (19th to 20th Century) assarts with straight boundaries. Generally, however the current field pattern was either created by the 18th and 19th Century parliamentary enclosure acts or subsequent 19th and 20th Century housing and paddock development.

Vegetation:

Oak and Ash still occur in the fragmented hedgerow network, amongst occasional shelterbelts of pine, cypress, poplar and alder. Ornamental garden species can be found around the settlements.

Typical Woody species: Horticulture and Smallholdings (HCC, 2000)

Major species throughout:	Hawthorn, Hazel, Oak
Major species locally:	Ash
Minor species throughout:	Blackthorn, Elder, Dog Rose
Minor species locally:	Beech, Dogwood, Gorse, Holly, Field Maple, Goat Willow
Ancient woodland indicators:	None

Land Use:

Areas of intensive horticultural uses occur in small areas within the broad framework of woodland, pasture and settlement. In places these fields are unfenced and un-hedged and typically consist of plots and linear strips growing a wide variety of crops. Where the soils are less productive, horticultural uses are accompanied by garden centres, nurseries and smallholdings, with a range of uses.

Settlement Patterns:

This landscape is characterised by a predominantly linear pattern of settlements and productive land. The small and medium sized fields occur in an undulating setting of randomly distributed houses and bungalows, storage buildings and structures, glass houses and polythene tunnels.

Building Materials:

The 19th and 20th Century expansion of settlements within these areas has resulted in the widespread use of red brick and slate together with pre-fabricated housing and mass-produced modern materials. Hundred Acres expresses individual detailing with its cast iron diamond pattern windows.

Transport Routes:

Although main roads pass through this landscape, the road networks generally consists of minor roads and narrow lanes. In places these are straight, having formed in association with parliamentary enclosure, while elsewhere they are more winding, reflecting a longer history.

Seclusion and Tranquillity:

This is generally a small-scale landscape, partly enclosed by the undulating landform, although some longer views are possible from the higher ground.

Key Issues:

Landscape:

- Soil erosion
- Prominent structures/urbanisation

Woodland:

- Non-native shelterbelt trees

Hedgerow:

- Loss of hedgerows
- Fragmented, isolated and remnant hedgerows, and the unity of the hedgerow network
- Lack of, or poor, hedgerow management
- Failure to retain tree saplings in hedgerows
- Over-management of hedgerows and damage from spray drift
- Identification and management of hedgerows of historic significance

Agriculture:

- Lack of permanent field margins
- Neglected farm ponds
- Increased risk of soil erosion resulting from exposed shallow soils and prolonged period of cultivation
- The effects of run-off from agricultural pollutants including nitrate leaching, and negative impact on aquifer characteristics and water quality
- Low biodiversity value of land through widespread use of fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides and loss of hedgerow and tree cover.

Grassland:

- Lack of appropriate cutting of road verges and hedgebanks, and damage from scrub encroachment, road improvements and agrochemicals from adjacent farmland.

River Valley Landscape Type

The river valleys have significant landscape and nature conservation value. Those in Winchester District primarily run through chalk areas, and have clear, nutrient rich waters. The character of these valleys is variable, with the broader rivers, such as the River Meon, having wide, flat plains and steep valley sides, while in a gently undulating landform, such as the River Dever and the lower Itchen valley, the floodplain can merge with the surrounding open farmland. Two landscape types have thus been identified, River Valley Floor and River Valley Side to cover this varying topography.

Type a: River Valley Floor

The River Valley Floor landscape type consists of the river and its immediate floodplain and related flat valley bottom. It is a characteristically flat, low-lying area. The landscape is typically pastoral with pastures and other wetland habitats bordering a meandering river. The river may also support watercress beds and fish farms, which are another typical feature of this landscape type. These areas frequently contain a linear pattern of roads and settlements, which benefit from the low-lying, sheltered topography.

There is often no obvious field pattern on the valley floor and former water meadows are typically interspersed with isolated single trees and small woodlands. These flood plains typically have a looser, less structured hedgerow network than the intensively grazed landscapes outside the valley.

Church of St Michael at Stoke Charity

Thatched cottages at Hunton

Type b: River Valley Side

River valley sides are closely associated with the River Valley Floor landscape type. They are characterised by sloping land, which visually encloses the valley floor. The vegetation of the River Valley Side is directly related to the presence of the river and the topography of the valley, being either pasture or woodland. The overall character of this landscape type ranges from enclosed to open, depending on the degree of vegetation present, and the nature of the topography and geology.

N.B. Any valley sides that take on the characteristics of adjacent arable land are included in the appropriate agricultural landscape type, such as Open Arable or Chalk and Clay.

Hunton Lane

View across to Northington

Location:

The rivers of the Itchen, Meon, Dever, Hamble, Candover, Alre and Wallington flow through Winchester District, together with their tributaries. They all flow in an east-west direction before then flowing southwards.

Soils and Geology:

Soils and geology are directly related to the presence of the river, with alluvium and valley gravel and sand. Many areas consist of Grade 4 agricultural land. Valley sides vary according to the geology of the wider area, although often benefit from loamy soils.

Topography:

River valleys are characterised by flat floodplains adjacent to the river enclosed by valley sides. The size of the floodplain and the steepness of the valley sides vary throughout the District. The Hamble, the lower Itchen and the lower Meon are low lying, at an altitude of 0 to 50m OD while the upper reaches of the Itchen rises to 75m OD altitude and the Upper Meon to about 200m OD.

Archaeological and Historical Features and Field Patterns:

River valleys have had economic importance historically, and there is evidence of mills and water meadows dating from the 17th Century, with remnant mechanisms such as sluices still visible. Many other meadows have since been ploughed, or enclosed for paddocks.

Vegetation:

Rivers are often bordered by a fringe of semi-natural vegetation of varying width, comprising reed beds, marsh, and luxuriant riverine species. The adjacent rough grassland, meadows and former water meadows are typically interspersed with isolated single trees, such as willow, alder and poplar, although oak, ash and hawthorn are also seen. Trees and shrubs can also be more continuous, creating a network of small, partly enclosed meadows. The valley floor can also support small copses, sallow and alder carr and poplar plantations. The clear alkaline spring waters of the rivers running through the chalk downs are also favoured by the watercress industry, and beds can be found on all of these rivers.

Typical Woody species: River Valley (HCC, 2000)

Chalk river:	Ranunculus penicillatus ssp pseudofluitans community
Alder Carr	Alnus glutinosa- Carex paniculata woodland
Ash-Hazel woodland with Beech and Yew	Fraxinus exelsior – Acer campestre- Mercurialis perennis woodland
Major species throughout:	Ash, Hawthorn, Pedunculate Oak
Major species locally:	Alder, Hazel, Osier, Crack Willow, White Willow
Minor species throughout:	Blackthorn, Elder, Guelder Rose, Dog Rose, Goat Willow
Minor species locally:	Downy Birch, Alder Buckthorn, Wild Cherry, Crab Apple, Dogwood, Common Elm, Holly, Field Maple, Wild Privet, Goat Willow
Ancient Woodland indicators	Aspen, Black Poplar

Land Use

River valleys are typically a farmed landscape, with pasture and woodland on both the valley side and valley floor. Watercress beds, occasional fish farms and trout lakes are also characteristic. Villages and hamlets are also characteristically found along the valley bottom or lower valley sides. River banks managed by riparian owners for recreational fishing.

Settlement Patterns:

Settlements, often of medieval origin, tend to be linear, strung out along the valley roads just above the valley floor, or nucleated centred on a river crossing point, or clustered at the head of the valley, often around a pond or spring.

Building Materials:

Characteristic building materials include brick and flint, with some examples of lime washed plaster over timber wattle. Roofing materials include long straw thatch and combed wheat reed thatch, later superseded by clay tiles and slate. Timber framed buildings are also common.

Transport Routes:

Roads, such as the A32, and railways, such as the disused Meon Valley line, run along the valley sides, generally above the flood level and at the toe of valley slope. Smaller lanes cross the river valleys to link the sides, via small bridges and fords.

Seclusion and Tranquillity

The river valleys are associated with a tranquil pastoral quality away from major settlements, although given their scenic quality and flat topography, they are often popular for informal recreation such as fishing, rambling, horse-riding and cycling. The location of railway lines and local roads within valleys can disturb this tranquility in places though, as well as the proximity of major trunk roads such as the A32 and M3

Key Issues:

Landscape:

- Detracting impact of water control works or associated monitoring apparatus
- Loss of locally significant river features such as meanders and pool/riffle sequences

Woodland:

- Management of floodplain trees and wet woodlands
- Lack of appropriate management of ancient semi- natural woodlands including hazel coppice woods
- Loss of broadleaf woodlands
- Locations and tree species of new woodlands

Hedgerow:

- Fragmented, isolated hedgerows, and the unity of the hedgerow network due to neglect
- Lack of hedgerow management
- Failure to retain tree saplings in hedgerows
- Identification and management of hedgerows of historic importance

Agriculture:

- Inadequate control of livestock and ineffective fencing resulting in some localised erosion of river bank edges due to trampling
- Agricultural improvements involving land drainage systems
- Visual and ecological impact of set-aside
- The effects of run-off from agricultural pollutants including nitrate leaching and negative impact on aquifer characteristics and water quality
- Pollution from existing fish farms and water-cress beds

Grassland

- Lack of appropriate management of unimproved neutral grassland, water meadows and wetlands to maintain the high biodiversity value
- Reduction in extent of riverside land and wetlands which provide a valuable wildlife refuge and corridor, and a visual buffer between the river and agricultural land
- Deleterious effect of diffuse agricultural pollutants, on biodiversity
- Loss of habitats of biodiversity value through removal of bank edge vegetation
- Scrub encroachment arising form uncontrolled or inadequate management of semi-natural habitats, notably bank edge vegetation and adjacent areas of woodland

Other:

- Pressure to create further trout and fish farms, together with associated development, and potential impact on the valley
- Flood control through minimisation of floodplain development
- Limited continuous public access along river edges
- Reduction of river flow by leakage through river beds when groundwater levels are low, exacerbated by abstraction particularly in upper reaches and in periods of dry weather
- Water abstraction
- Appropriate management of river banks required to avoid erosion and destruction of wildlife habitats

Historic Parkland Landscape Type

Parkland landscapes are typically associated with large historic country houses and estates. They are designed landscapes, often taking advantage of good views and riverside locations. Often including estate farms and woodland as well as ornamental gardens, such areas can be quite substantial. Other areas however, have lost much of their parkland characteristics, with just small areas remaining.

The historic parks which fall within Winchester District are listed within the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens (2000), where they are subdivided into Deer Parks, Pre 1810 Parks and Post 1810 Parks. The best examples also appear on the Historic England Register.

Cranbury Park

Armsworth Park

Soils and Geology:

Parkland can be found in a variety of geological circumstances throughout the District, but particularly favours the fertile soils found on river flood plains for example. Historic Parkland in the District is predominantly found on Grade 3 agricultural land.

Topography:

Parkland covers a variety of topographic areas, from elevated (but not exposed) positions, such as Crawley Court, to low-lying river flood plains. The majority however, are found on lower ground and valley sides, usually south facing for aspect and views.

Archaeological and Historical Features:

Parkland is typically a historic feature in its own right and can date back as far as the medieval period. Particular historical features within an area of parkland include avenues, walled gardens, railings, lakes, boathouses, ha-has and icehouses.

The oldest parkland in the District was originally deer park, the private hunting ground of the king, bishop and landed aristocracy. Generally these are late 12th – 14th century in origin although may have been subsequently modified by later designed landscapes. Often they were enclosed from within Royal Forest under licences to empark. Deer Parks can often be recognised by the presence of park palings and wood pasture and are typically found in more wooded areas. Typical examples include Bishops Waltham Deer Park, Hursley Park, Stratton Park, Marwell Deer Park and Southwick Park.

A large proportion of parks were created in the eighteenth century, when the construction of large country houses was associated with a designed landscape setting. These are generally located on lower ground and valley sides and can be associated with settlements. Typical examples include Ovington House and Park, Arlebury Park, Northington Grange, Old Alresford

House and Lainston House.

The creation of parks has continued throughout the 19th century to the present day, albeit at a slower rate. These more recent designed landscapes, also contain a large house and may include landscaped features such as specimen trees or avenues. They are generally located on lower ground, but often not in prime valley locations.

Vegetation:

Parkland is typified by the formal use of trees as specimens, in clumps and avenues. Such landscapes frequently also have mature woods and shelter-belts, with frequent copses and game coverts. Wood pasture is also present in areas of historic deer park. Although native trees are present, ornamental tree species such as cedars introduced by plant explorers of the period are also often seen, as are ancient pollarded trees, a remnant of wood pasture.

Land Use:

Parkland is typically characterised by pasture although many areas have now been turned to arable use. Historically some areas have been used as deer parks, although this function has now ceased in the District. Areas of woodland are also common and typically parks are enclosed by it. Ownership of historic parks and houses tends to be varied and includes schools, hoteliers, the National Trust, or private householders.

Settlement Patterns:

Parkland is often associated with a settlement although not always. Parks typically have a large house and associated dwellings and outbuildings such as stable blocks within them, and often gate lodges at their perimeter. Some, such as Lainston also contain chapels and churches within their grounds. Parkland is also often associated with adjacent model farms.

Building Materials:

Buildings within parkland are typically associated with large country estates. The main residence tends to be of a more formal design than associated outbuildings and cottages. Typical materials for the main residence include brick or render with slate and some stone. Associated buildings tend to be more vernacular in style, using thatch and clay plain tiles as well as brick and flint. Estates usually also have distinctive boundaries, of railings or brick or flint walls.

Transport Routes:

Public roads run adjacent to some parkland perimeters although some minor roads run through large areas of estate owned land. Few public rights of way give access to parkland close to historic houses, unless they are publicly managed. Private drives are typical within areas of parkland, often giving formal access and vistas to the main house through avenues of trees.

Seclusion and Tranquillity:

Parkland is typically tranquil and secluded, with public roads confined to its outer boundaries or estate owned farms.

Key Issues:

Landscape:

- Decline in condition/lack of appropriate management of parkland
- Conservation of views and vistas into and out of parkland
- Loss of traditional parkland features including avenues and clumps of trees
- Lack of restoration programmes to ensure longevity of features
- Sub-division into multiple ownership or coversion into schools, offices, hotels etc. with unsympathetic modern extensions.
- Loss of parkland to arable farmland
- Loss of pasture to arable land use

Woodland:

- Conservation of wood-pasture, a rare land-use
- Protection of veteran trees
- Poor tree management,including traditional techniques such as pollarding

Other:

- Alterations to entrances and over-development of lodges
- Conservation of traditional management techniques such as pollarding
- Loss of historic ornamental gardens
- Management of lakes

Figure 11 - Table of settlement types

Settlement	Character area	Chalk River Valley	Chalk-Clay Spring Line	Chalk Downland Hill Top	Chalk Downland Dry Valley	Estate Village	Scattered Clay Lowland	Clay River Valley	Heath Associated	Victorian Railway	20th Century
Abbotstone	9			■							
Bighton	10				■						
Bishops Sutton	9	■									
Bishops Waltham	23		■								
Colden Common	23		■								
Compton Down	1										■
Compton Street	1				■						
Crawley	3				■						
Curdridge	22								■		
Denmead	18		■								
Durley	23						■				
Durley Street	23						■				
East Stratton	7					■					
Gundleton	10										■
Headbourne Worthy	8	■									
Hundred Acres	18					■					
Hunton	5	■									
Hursley	1					■					
Kings Worthy	8	■									
Knowle	20										■
Littleton	2				■						
Micheldever	5	■									
Micheldever Station	6									■	
New Alresford	9	■									
Newtown	18						■				
North Boarhunt	18						■				
Northbrook	5	■									
Northington	9	■									
Old Alresford	9	■									
Otterbourne	14		■								
Shawford	13									■	
Shedfield	22								■		
Shirrell Heath	22								■		
Soberton Heath	18								■		
South Wonston	4										■
South Down	1										■
Southwick	18					■					
Sparsholt	2			■							

Settlement	Character area	Chalk River Valley	Chalk-Clay Spring Line	Chalk Downland Hill Top	Chalk Downland Dry Valley	Estate Village	Scattered Clay Lowland	Clay River Valley	Heath Associated	Victorian Railway	20th Century
Stoke Charity	5	■									
Sutton Scotney	5	■									
Swanmore	22		■								
Swarraton	9	■									
Waltham Chase	22								■		
Weston Colley	5	■									
West Stratton	5					■					
Whiteley	21										■
Wickham	20							■			
Wonston	5	■									
Woodmancott	7			■							

Chalk Downland: Dry Valley Settlement Type

Typical Settlements

- Bighton
- Compton Street
- Crawley
- Littleton (old village)

Settlement Origins:

These settlements tend to be Anglo-Saxon or older in origin, although the existing buildings predominantly date from the 17th to 19th centuries.

Settlement Setting:

These villages are all distinctly restricted to the floor of the numerous dry valleys that can be found within the chalk downs. They have a rural setting, which generally consists of arable fields with well-treed hedgerows.

Settlement Form and Street Patterns:

These settlements are generally linear, their development being restricted to the sheltered, flatter location provided by a chalk dry valley or the foot of an escarpment. Such examples include Crawley and Bighton. In some places, where several dry valleys or escarpments meet, villages have developed out in several directions. Street patterns are therefore also simple and linear, generally retaining a historic narrow character with few side streets or recent developments.

Building Types and Plot Patterns:

The villages predominantly consist of two storey houses and cottages set within small plots. Some have small front gardens but others, open directly onto the street, giving the village a more urban character.

Only Compton Street supports a primary school, and some villages are not even able to support both a church and a pub. Similarly, few of the villages have local shops. Other than agricultural workers, most residents now commute elsewhere for employment.

Building Materials:

These settlements are typified by traditional Hampshire materials and construction methods, including long straw and combed wheat reed thatch, flint, clay plain tiles, red brick and painted brick.

Views and Edge Character:

These villages are generally well integrated into the landscape, both through their sheltered topographical location, the presence of mature hedgerow trees and the colours and textures of their traditional building materials. However they are still often visible from higher land and should be protected from visually intrusive development.

Although their valley floor location prevents long panoramic views, these settlements often benefit from views of higher ground and intimate shorter views, which often contrast with the more exposed farmland on the surrounding hills.

Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type

Typical Settlements

- Sparsholt
- Abbotstone (deserted medieval village)
- Woodmancott

Settlement Origins:

Most of these villages are Anglo-Saxon or older in origin, although the existing buildings predominantly date from the 17th to 19th centuries.

Settlement Setting:

These settlements are situated at relative high points on the chalk downlands. They are surrounded by arable agricultural land, but generally benefit from thick hedges and a relatively high proportion of mature trees.

Settlement Form and Street Patterns:

The settlements are either linear or loosely nucleated, such as Sparsholt. Their form has evolved according to the surrounding topography, with the broader areas of upland allowing the settlement to spread more. Sparsholt is based around a triangular road pattern. Where villages are located on ridgelines however, they tend to follow just one main street, with occasional small cul-de-sacs leading from it.

None of the Hill Top settlements have shown much expansion, due to their relatively remote nature and topographical limitations. Routes to the villages are generally winding, to minimise the climb in gradient, and have remained narrow. The villages have no pavements and generally remain rural in character.

Building Types and Plot Patterns:

Whilst the villages themselves are predominantly dormitories, most are large enough to support a parish church and pub. Only Sparsholt has a village shop and school though, and generally the villages consist mainly of dwellings. Two storey cottages are the predominant building type, either detached or semi-detached. Most have small front gardens and larger back gardens.

Building Materials:

These settlements are typified by the use of traditional Hampshire materials and construction methods, including long straw and combed wheat reed thatch, flint, clay plain tiles, red brick and painted brick.

Views and Edge Character:

These villages have a rural setting generally consisting of fields with well-treed hedgerows. Consequently the buildings are often relatively well integrated with the landscape and are generally not visible from long distances. Due to the prominent locations of these settlements geographically, careful consideration should be given to any proposed buildings that would be visually intrusive and to the treatment of boundaries on the edge of the settlement.

All villages benefit from both glimpsed and panoramic rural views out into the surrounding countryside and these should be protected.

Chalk River Valley Settlement Type

Typical Settlements

- Bishop's Sutton
- Headbourne Worthy
- Hunton
- Kings Worthy
- Micheldever
- New Alresford
- Northbrook
- Northington
- Old Alresford
- Stoke Charity
- Sutton Scotney
- Swarraton
- Weston Colley
- Wonston

Settlement Origins:

The villages generally have Anglo-Saxon origins, although the existing buildings predominantly date from the 17th to 19th centuries, with little recent expansion. Villages, such as New Alresford and Kings Worthy, are an exception to this having also experienced significant 20th century development.

Settlement Setting:

These settlements are concentrated along the river valleys found in the chalk downlands. These rivers would have provided an important source of water, fish, energy and more recently, watercress, and consequently form a local focus for settlement.

The villages are likely to have originated on the valley floor and the small number of buildings in these locations tend to be among the oldest, having taken advantage of river crossing points and suitable sites for water powered mills. The majority of buildings are, however, located on the sheltered sides of relatively narrow chalk valleys, away from the risk of flood, and especially favouring the south-facing slopes.

Typically these settlements would have been associated with the pasture farming on adjacent water meadows and chalk downland. To an extent this still exists, although arable farmland has become more prevalent, both on the valley sides and adjacent downs.

Settlement Form and Street Patterns:

These are often small villages consisting of a loose cluster of dwellings on a valley-side road, with a further short lane running perpendicular to this down to a river crossing. Such villages were also connected by drove roads to the higher ground beyond.

The expansion of such villages is strongly influenced by topography. While some villages, have not expanded since the 18th century, others have expanded along a valley side road, or back away from the river along dry valleys, such as Northbrook and Kings Worthy. Where slopes are gentler, villages have expanded out in a stronger more nucleated form, including Micheldever. Often a central open space adjacent to the river forms an important feature within these nucleated villages, as seen at Old Alresford.

The development of New Alresford has resulted

in this settlement taking on a different character however. In the 13th century, the town was planned as a new market town, resulting in the creation of Broad Street. During the latter part of the 20th century the town saw further major changes as it expanded to the south.

Building Types and Plot Patterns:

Buildings tend to be two storey. Most are traditional rural buildings, such as cottages and farmhouses with the occasional pub and church. Other buildings such as village schools, post offices and forges are still present in the larger villages, but in smaller ones have often been converted to domestic use. In Alresford, the medieval burgage plots are still present in the historic core of the town.

The majority of dwellings are either detached or semi- detached with small front and back gardens. Some early to mid 20th century plots are more generous, with large gardens to front and rear, although this trend is not apparent in more recent developments and terraced properties in the larger settlements.

Building Materials:

These settlements are typified by traditional Hampshire materials and construction methods, including flint, brick, clay plain tiles and long straw and combed wheat reed thatch.

Views and Edge Character:

These settlements are generally well treed, due to their long history of settlement and alluvial soils. Their valley side and valley floor location means that views out of the settlements are more limited but from valley side locations views across the valley can be had showing how well the valley buildings are integrated with the surrounding rural landscape. Views in valleys can be long and panoramic and it is important to ensure that these are protected, through the protection of existing trees and control over highly visible development on open slopes and ridgelines.

Chalk-Clay Spring Line Settlement Type

Typical Settlements

- Bishop's Waltham
- Colden Common
- Denmead
- Otterbourne
- Swanmore

Settlement Origins:

The Chalk-Clay spring line settlements appear to originate between 900CE and 1200CE, at which time first records of place names appeared. It is likely that all of the settlements originated at these locations to take advantage of the water sources provided by the springs in these areas, although their growth was also related to other functions. Bishops Waltham for example, is of late Saxon origin, forming part of the 'Hundred of Bishops Waltham', a royal woodland estate belonging to the Bishop of Winchester, providing a site for the Bishop's Palace and associated ponds.

The majority of the villages, such as Colden Common, Swanmore and Denmead predominantly developed in the 19th Century, in association with the brick making industry that utilised the clay deposits in the area for example. Bishops Waltham particularly, grew with the introduction of the now disused railway line, which once connected the village to the London to Southampton line, via Botley.

Settlement Setting:

Each of the Chalk-Clay Spring Line settlements lie at the junction where the chalk downlands meet the clay lowlands, giving rise to springs and ponds where the ground water from the porous chalk emerges as it reaches the impervious clay. The springs at Bishops Waltham are the most noteworthy, which along with those at Swanmore feed into the River Hamble. The springs at Otterbourne and Colden Common meanwhile, feed into the River Itchen and those at Denmead into the River Wallington.

The settlements lie between 30 and 50 m OD, at the base of the chalk downlands, and therefore are characterised by rising land to the north, often with narrow winding roads reaching them in a north-south direction. To the south, the land is generally lower lying and flatter, the exception being Otterbourne, where the land rises to Otterbourne Wood.

Generally the surrounding land-use is typified by larger scale more undulating arable fields to the north and to the south by lower lying more intimate fields of pasture or arable farmland with a stronger pattern of hedgerows, trees, woodland and more settlements. Colden Common, unlike the others, also displays some features more in common with heath associated type settlements, including heathy vegetation and poor soils.

Settlement Form and Street Patterns:

Each of the settlements appear to originally have had a linear form, either orientated east-west (Colden Common, Swanmore and Denmead) or north-south (Otterbourne and Bishops Waltham) centred along a main road or high street, and this generally forms the most dense part of the village. All were enlarged in the Victorian era along roads at right angles to the main street, typically as semi-detached frontage type development. The most significant expansion came in the 20th century with a more winding, less dense, cul-de-sac form of development. Expansion generally occurs to the south of the villages on the lower

clay based soils rather than on the chalk to the north.

Building Types and Plot Patterns:

Bishops Waltham retains its 12th century church and palace ruins and its earliest dwellings date from the 16th century in Bank Street, High Street and St Peter's Street. Here, plot sizes are small and dense and based on a medieval grid pattern. Buildings are generally two storeys high and form a terrace of differing buildings along the street. Elsewhere in Bishop's Waltham, Victorian suburbs such as Newtown consist of semi-detached villas and terraces. 20th century council estates such as Ridgemead are lower density, containing 2 storey terraces and bungalows based around open-plan front gardens. More recent estates consist of typical late 20th century cul-de-sac layouts with detached and terraced dwellings.

Colden Common, Swanmore and Otterbourne contain some 17th and 18th century dwellings, but are now dominated by Victorian frontage dwellings and 20th century dwellings as infill, back-land and peripheral development.

Building Materials:

The older 16th and 17th century buildings are often timber-framed with brick infill panels, often painted. Georgian buildings traditionally use red or painted brick sometimes with grey brick ornamentation, together with clay plain tiles. Victorian buildings are also typically constructed of red brick, which may be rendered or painted, together with slate roofing. In Otterbourne the occasional use of flint is found, though this is not typical of Chalk-Clay spring line settlements, which were largely influenced by the brick making industry. Given that many of these settlements developed in the 20th century, the majority of building materials consist of mass produced bricks and concrete tiles.

Views and Edge Character:

Generally these settlements have more in common with lowland type settlements rather than chalk downland settlement types, being larger, more numerous, low lying and more enclosed by tree cover.

Due to the fact that chalk-clay spring line villages tend to be low lying, long views from within the settlements are limited. The exception appears to be from the areas of later 19th and 20th century development built on higher land around the periphery of Bishops Waltham and Denmead, where the occasional long views over the village and the lowlands to the south can be gained. Occasionally there are glimpses of the villages from the higher winding roads on the chalk downs to the north.

Otterbourne and Colden Common have a contained feel, due to the strong sense of enclosure created by areas of woodland, which lie to the edge of the villages. However parts of the edges of Denmead, Swanmore and Bishops Waltham, particularly the 19th and 20th century areas of development, are more prominent within the landscape and do not benefit from a well-treed edge.

Clay River Valley Settlement Type

Typical Settlement

- Wickham

Settlement Origins:

Wickham is the only settlement within the District that belongs to the Clay River Valley Settlement Type. Unlike the chalk river valley settlements which originated in Anglo-Saxon times, Wickham originated in the 1st century CE, as a small Roman town or villa complex on the junction of two Roman roads. In Saxon/early Medieval times the village was located to the east of the river, adjacent to church and remains of the manor house.

In the clay lowlands there is not the same important association of settlement with river valley locations that there is in the chalk uplands, due to the abundance of springs and streams throughout the lowlands. As a result, settlements tend to be more evenly dispersed throughout the area.

Settlement Setting:

This settlement is topographically low-lying (about 25m OD) and based originally to the west side of the River Meon, slightly elevated above the valley floor area. This contrasts to the Chalk River Valley Settlement Types, which largely lie along the sides of the river valleys.

The valley sides that enclose the town are a mix of woodland and farmland and rise to a height of about 65m OD.

The settlement of Wickham lies on a varied geology of river valley alluvium with a band of valley gravel to either side. To the east is London Clay and to the west the sand and loam of the Bracklesham Beds on which the outskirts of the town lie.

Settlement Form and Street Patterns:

Wickham is much larger and more nucleated than other Meon valley settlements that lie within the chalk downs. The planned central 'square' is believed to date from the 13th century and lies on an alignment parallel with the river, and roads tend to radiate out from the centre. The centre has a contained urban character.

The original town centre of Wickham has expanded in the 20th century, to the north west, to the north and to the south east on the eastern side of the river, in a less compact form. These areas have less dense and more suburban characteristics.

Building Types and Plot Patterns:

Within its core Wickham comprises a mixture of business, residential and commercial buildings and a number of medieval houses still exist. In the 13th century the land on either side of the 'square' was divided into burgage plots each 25 metres wide, with buildings fronting the square and workshops to the rear, with long rear gardens down to the river. These plots are still clearly evident today. The majority of the dwellings are now 19th and 20th century. The settlement generally contains two storey buildings, with the exception of a few of three storeys to the north- eastern end of the square, the Mill areas adjacent to the river and Winchester Road.

Building Materials:

As with the majority of other clay lowland settlement types, building materials are typically red or brown brick with blue or grey brick, but it also has some flint detailing. Decorative brickwork is a distinctive feature, with clay tiles predominantly used on pre-19th century buildings and slate used from the mid 19th century.

Views and Edge Character:

Views are restricted from within the area because of the tight plan form of the central square and valley setting. The disused railway bridge over Bridge Street allows limited views east along the B2177 and views of the church which lies on the east side of the river. Views into or over the town are likewise equally restricted.

Scattered Clay Lowland Settlement Type

Typical Settlement

- Durley
- Durley Street
- Newtown
- North Boarhunt

Settlement Origins:

Although Durley has Anglo-Saxon origins, most of the dispersed villages of the Scattered Clay Lowland settlement type have developed only since the late 19th century.

Settlement Setting:

These settlements are located in the 'lowland mosaic' area of the District where the underlying geology includes clays, sands, gravels and loams. The relatively poor drainage in these areas is due to the presence of the clays and results in numerous water sources, such as springs and streams and there is therefore less reason for settlements to cluster in a defined area as they do in chalk areas.

The topography of the lowland areas ranges from gently undulating to fairly flat, again allowing development over a wide area. The numerous areas of woodland that thrive on these soils also have provided shelter, fuel and food for early settlers and in places still form an important visual backdrop. In many areas this woodland has been assarted to provide pasture fields and these still form an important setting for the villages, with small to medium sized fields interspersed amongst the dwellings.

Settlement Form and Street Patterns:

These settlements do not have a strong form and instead consist of a series of loosely connected dwellings and farms, scattered over a relatively large area.

None of the settlements have a clear focus, with a central church or shop for example, although older settlements such as Durley do have a nucleated historic core. Rather than expanding concentrically though, development in the area has occurred sporadically along neighbouring lanes. Such settlements are also supplemented by small outlying clusters of dwellings, often associated with farms and mills such as Durley Mill. The historic origins of these areas is reflected in their meandering, random street patterns.

More recent settlements such as Durley Street, North Boarhunt and Newtown are focused particularly along one main road, although clusters of dwellings have also developed at crossroads. The enclosure of fields by parliamentary acts in these areas has resulted in straighter field boundaries and straighter roads.

Building Types and Plot Patterns:

The dispersed, rural nature of these settlements has meant that plot sizes are often relatively large, with small front gardens and large rear gardens. The older properties, which were developed more densely in the core of villages such as Durley are more likely to have smaller plots.

Buildings within these settlements are varied in age, but are all generally two storey residential dwellings. These tend to be relatively small and modest in scale, particularly those of the 19th century. Bungalows are also common. Farms and their associated buildings also form an integral part of the settlements.

Building Materials:

Building materials in these settlements are varied, reflecting the ages of the buildings. Buildings from the C16th are often timber-framed, with brick or wattle and daub infill. Brick is common in these areas and is generally red, but may be painted or vitrified. Roofing generally consists of clay plain tiles although some thatched cottages are present in Durley. Victorian housing is generally roofed with slate. Occasional buildings in Durley are also roofed with corrugated iron. Buildings dating from the 20th century are generally constructed of mass-produced brick and concrete tiles.

Views and Edge Character:

These settlements are well integrated with the surrounding countryside, and hedgerows and woodlands form characteristic boundaries and backdrops to the villages.Large oak trees are common to the area and form important landmarks. In the more recent settlements, characterised by parliamentary enclosure, straight clipped hedgerows are typical and allow longer views across the fields whilst providing visual and wildlife links.

Heath Associated Settlement Type

Typical Settlement

- Curdridge
- Shedfield
- Shirrell Heath
- Soberton Heath
- Waltham Chase

Settlement Origins:

These settlements tend to have originated more recently than others in the District and although some existed in Medieval times, the majority only expanded in the 19th and 20th centuries. At this time, the proximity of the new railway stations at Botley and Wickham, combined with the enclosure of the heaths, wood pasture and woodland by parliamentary enclosure acts enabled the growth of horticulture and market gardening in the area.

Settlement Setting:

The high proportion of sands and gravels in these areas give rise to the remnant heath and the heathy vegetation found in the hedgerows and the relatively poor soils, which are predominantly used as pony paddocks. However, the presence of London clays and areas of loamy soil has also been responsible for scattered areas of horticulture and market gardens. The close relationship of these small-scale, intensive land uses and the adjacent dwellings has therefore resulted in settlements that are surrounded by smallholdings.

The topography of these settlements is low lying and gently undulating in comparison to the chalk uplands. Shirrell Heath is located at the top of 'Gravel Hill', while Curdridge, as its name suggests, is located along a ridge. Shedfield meanwhile, slopes gently from east to west

Settlement Form and Street Patterns:

Due to the impact of parliamentary enclosure on these areas the majority of routes are straight and direct, giving the settlements perhaps their most characteristic feature. In the majority of the settlements the road network covers a relatively large area, having no obvious historic core or centre. Between these roads with their regular rows of detached houses and bungalows, there are areas of paddocks. These roads also form an edge to areas of remnant heathland such as Shedfield Common and Turkey Island.

Exceptions to the above are at Waltham Chase, where 20th century infill development has resulted in a more nucleated and less dispersed settlement form. Elsewhere some lanes, such as Black Horse Lane (Shirrell Heath) have retained their historic narrow winding character and are fronted by a larger proportion of fields or a golf course (Sandy Lane, Shedfield).

Building Type and Plot Patterns:

The relatively recent expansion of these settlements has resulted in their containing a high proportion of Victorian and Edwardian dwellings as well as a large number of post World War II bungalows and houses. Housing designs and boundaries have become increasingly suburban, with a high proportion of two storey detached houses and evergreen hedging. Plot sizes vary from relatively small cottages to larger smallholdings.

The villages are now predominantly residential, although some market gardens are still operating in the area. Most villages have a church and pub, although these are dispersed and often located away from the main concentration of dwellings.

Only one of these settlements (Waltham Chase) has a state primary school, although most have post offices.

Building Materials:

The brick making industry in the area reflecting the proximity of clay deposits in these areas has resulted in many buildings being constructed of red brick, clay plain tiles and slate. Thatch and flint are much less common than in the chalk areas of the District. The high proportion of 20th century buildings means that mass-produced bricks, concrete tiles and render are also predominant in these areas.

Views and Edge Character:

The close integration of paddocks, dwellings, lanes and boundaries in these settlements, combined with an undulating topography means that views into and out of the settlements are generally limited by the varied, enclosed character with its scattered trees. Occasional glimpses of longer distance panoramas can be found from parts of Curdridge over the Hamble Valley and from Blackhorse Lane, Shirrell Heath

Victorian Railway Settlement Type

Typical Settlement

- Micheldever Station
- Shawford

Settlement Origins:

The settlements of Micheldever Station and Shawford both came about due to the creation of a railway station at these locations, on the London to Southampton railway line which runs in a north/south direction through them. They were built at the height of the railway building industry in the Victorian era (Micheldever Station in 1840 and Shawford Station in 1882), although Shawford does have early medieval origins due to its river crossing location. Consequently both settlements have a predominantly Victorian character.

Settlement Setting:

The setting of the two settlements within this type is closely related to the mainline railway, although in Shawford this is carried on an embankment, while at Micheldever Station it is in a cutting. The two settlements also have very different wider settings. Shawford is located on a chalk valley side of the River Itchen, 30-60m OD, and therefore the settlement itself lies on rising land, while Micheldever Station is located fairly high on the Chalk downs at about 120m OD, on relatively flat land.

Settlement Form and Street Patterns:

At both Micheldever Station and Shawford the original Victorian development has a roughly linear form, of frontage development, which follows either the railway line itself, or the main through road, which runs at right angles to the railway line, crossing over it (Micheldever Station) or under it (Shawford). Both settlements are relatively compact, with Victorian dwellings built at a medium density, with low-density infill and back land 20th century development.

Building Types and Plot Patterns:

The buildings within this settlement type are predominantly Victorian, with largely semi-detached dwellings, with some 20th century infill frontage development. This gives the settlements a rural or semi-suburban character. Other buildings include those associated with railway station industry and distribution, such as the Mill at Micheldever Station (storage of grain and agri-chemicals) and the Bishops Waltham Mill Site.

Building Materials:

Buildings within these settlements are constructed of either traditional local materials such as red brick and clay plain tiles, but also include materials associated with the post-railway period such as slate, and later mass-produced 20th century materials.

Views and Edge Character:

Views into and out of both of these settlements are restricted by the numerous mature trees that have been planted in association with the railway line, as well as the clusters of housing. It is important that these trees are retained and managed. Both settlements also have glimpses of longer views out to the wider countryside; such as downland (Micheldever Station) or river valley (Shawford).

Estate Village Settlement Type

Typical Settlement

- East Stratton
- Hundred Acres
- Hursley
- Southwick
- West Stratton

Settlement Origins:

These villages are often located on the site of an earlier settlement, but developed their current character at the time the associated park was established, usually in the 18th century. In some instances the original dwellings may have been removed at the time the park was laid out, as at East Stratton. The dwellings would have been built to house workers on the estate and remained in the ownership of the park. Many dwellings have now been sold on in relatively recent times, although some still remain in the ownership of the larger estate. Consequently, such dwellings have generally retained some of the original features and similarities that have been lost elsewhere.

Settlement Setting:

The villages could be associated with any underlying geology, although all of those in the Winchester district, except Hundred Acres and Southwick, lie on chalk. Topographically, such estate villages can also vary, with locations including dry valleys (Hursley) and assarted woodland (Hundred Acres). All however, occupy sheltered rural locations within close proximity to their associated historic park. Consequently, these villages may be set within a variety of rural land uses, including water meadows, pasture parkland, arable farmland and park associated woodland.

Settlement Form and Street Patterns:

Estate villages are generally small and simple in form, usually containing just one or two short straight roads. The villages tend to be located on the boundary of the park, close to its main gates, although some, such as Hundred Acres, are located some distance from the sight of the house and its gate lodges. Village greens, recreation grounds and green verges are common features.

Building Types and Plot Patterns:

Buildings are generally traditional two storey rural dwellings, such as cottages and farmhouses, with a church and the occasional pub. Other buildings, such as village schools, post offices and forges have generally now been converted to domestic use, although estate offices often remain.

Building Materials:

Building materials and designs are often uniform, if originally developed and managed by the associated estate, with details distinctive to that village eg barge boards, metal work, fencing and hedging. Many of the buildings will also have been constructed at around the same time, although usually associated with older buildings as well as more recent development.

Views and Edge Character:

Views into and out of the villages vary according to their setting, but are often semi-enclosed by an adjacent park boundary as well as their sheltered topographical location. Views of the settlements are often screened by mature parkland trees. Views from the village of gate lodges, boundary walls, parkland and the main house itself are also typical.

20th Century Settlement Type

Typical Settlement

- Compton Down
- Gundleton
- Knowle
- South Down
- South Wonston
- Whiteley
- Extensions at Kings Worthy, Denmead, Colden Common, New Alresford

Settlement Origins:

Settlements have developed in the 20th century for a number of reasons.

South Wonston originated as a stopping over place for gypsies on the drove road between the hop fields at Alton and Salisbury, although there is evidence of prehistoric occupation with several Neolithic long barrows at the eastern end of the village. However, it only developed as a permanent settlement in the early 20th century when the land was sold off into plots.

A number of settlements, such as Gundleton, Compton Down and South Down have also developed due to the requirement for additional housing during the 20th century. The most recent example is Knowle, a village that developed from the conversion of a Victorian Hospital.

Settlement Setting:

The settlements within this type all lie on relatively high land underlain by chalk, indicating that modern settlements are no longer reliant on a close natural water source.

South Wonston lies on an Upper Chalk ridge at over 100m, surrounded by large-scale open arable fields. It differs from typical Chalk Downland Hill Top settlements in origin and form. Being on thin chalk soils the presence of trees is limited and largely contained along the main roads and within gardens, therefore buildings in parts of the village are quite prominent from a distance.

Gundleton also lies on high downland, but here, the Upper Chalk at 115m is overlain by fairly clayey soils on a valley side. These soils gives rise to a greater presence of woodland, which helps to enclose the village and integrate it into the landscape.

Knowle lies on an area of Plateau Gravel overlying chalk, which is the western extent of the Portsdown Hill escarpment. It lies in fairly close proximity to the river Meon and is therefore relatively low. However, since the land falls quite steeply to the south and west it feels fairly elevated.

South Down and Compton Down both lie on the south facing dip slope of a chalk scarp, which is overlain with Clay with Flints. Compton Down lies at 85 m OD at the highest point and South Down lies further south, on land which gently falls to meet the lowland clay mosaic landscape (to about 50m OD). They both benefit from a strong structure of hedgerows and trees.

Settlement Form and Street Patterns:

Due to the fact that settlements within this type have varying origins and settings, they do not conform in terms of settlement form and street pattern. Knowle, for example, has a nucleated, relatively dense settlement pattern, largely dictated by the retention of the hospital buildings,

whereas South Wonston has a low density and distinctly linear form. South Down and Compton Down also have very similar fairly low density but dispersed forms which follow fairly wide winding roads and cul-de-sacs. Gundleton, however, has a looser, low-density structure, with a cluster of dwellings at western end of Goscombs Lane at the junction of three roads, together with further dwellings scattered along narrow winding roads in the area.

Building Types and Plot Patterns:

Each of the settlements is predominantly residential, with relatively regular building plot sizes and patterns.

Knowle is unique in that it is largely a conversion of a Victorian hospital building of mainly two and three storeys. In addition, the village contains new two and three storey 20th Century terraces, semi-detached and detached houses in a relatively dense pattern largely dictated by the existing buildings. Plot sizes are relatively small.

The layout of South Wonston was dictated by the way the landowner divided and sold the land in one-acre plots, creating a distinctive linear grid system centred on the main road. Housing here consists of bungalows and two storey dwellings.

Compton Down and South Down are characterised by detached dwellings set within fairly spacious well- treed plots in a loose grid pattern, largely determined by the road layout.

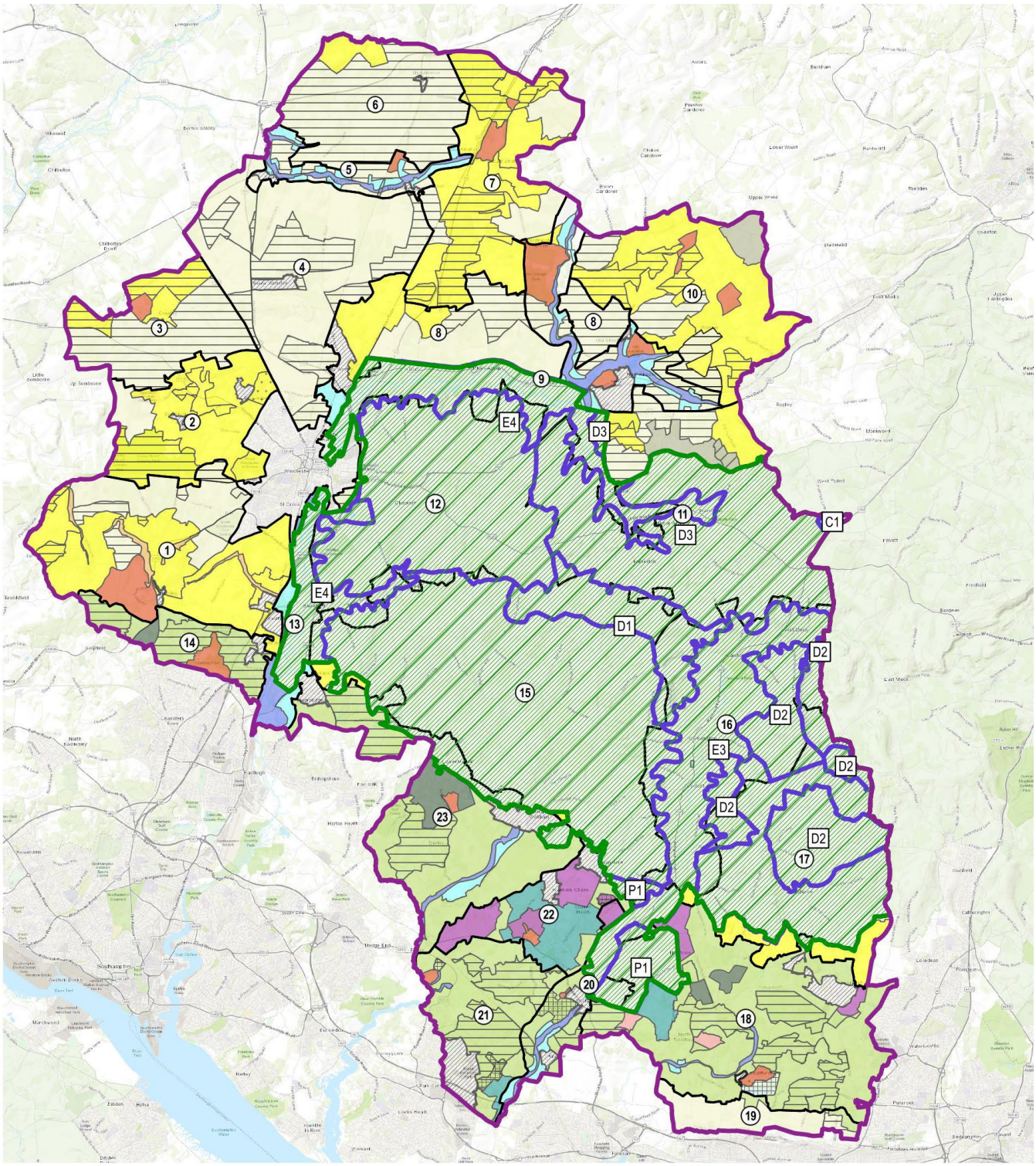
Building Materials:

Building materials and architectural styles in these settlements are varied, reflecting technological change and improvements in transportation. Knowle is the only village to contain historic (Victorian) buildings, which include red brick, clay tiles and slate. The new buildings at Knowle, like those in the other villages, use of a variety of mass-produced 20th century materials, including brick, render, and tiles, as well as slate.

Views and Edge Character:

Due to the elevated position of these settlements there are often long views to be gained across the adjacent countryside from village edge locations, though within the villages views are generally contained by buildings, vegetation or landform. Knowle is largely contained by mature parkland type trees, but some views are gained to and from the south. South Wonston benefits from views to the south and north. At the eastern edge of South Down, long views can be gained over the Itchen Valley but at Compton Down views are largely contained by trees.

Figure 12 - WDC LCA & LCT Boundaries



Winchester District Landscape Character Assessment
Landscape Character Areas & Types

Landscape Character Areas

1. Hursley Scarplands
2. Sparsholt Wooodlands
3. Crawley Downs
4. Wonston Downs
5. Dever Valley
6. North Dever Downs
7. Stratton Woodlands
8. North Itchen Downs
9. Upper Itchen Valley
10. Bighton Woodlands
11. Bramdean Woodlands
12. East Winchester Downs
13. Lower Itchen Valley
14. Cranbury Woodlands
15. South Winchester Downs
16. Upper Meon Valley
17. Hambledon Downs
18. Forest of Bere Lowlands
19. Portsdown Hill
20. Lower Meon Valley
21. Whiteley Woodlands
22. Shedfield Heathlands
23. Durley Claylands

South Downs Integrated Landscape Character Areas

B2. Queen Elizabeth Forest to East Dean Wooded Estate Downland
C1. Froxfield Clay Plateau
D1. South Winchester Downland Mosaic
D2. Hambledon to Clanfield Downland Mosaic
D3. Bramdean & Cheriton Downland Mosaic
D4. Newton Valence Downland Mosaic
E2. Emms Valley Chalk Valley Systems
E3. Meon Valley Chalk Valley Systems
E4. Itchen Vally Chalk Valley Systems
H4. Buriton to Arun Scarp
H5. Saltdown to Butser Hill Scarp
H6. Selbourne Hangers to East Meon Scarp
J1. East Hampshire Greensand Terrace
J2. East Meon to Bury Greensand Terrace
K1. Rother Valley Mixed Farmland and Woodland Vales
P1. West Walk - Rookesbury Park Wooded Claylands

Key

Winchester District Boundary
South Downs National Park boundary
South Downs Integrated LCAs
Winchester District LCA boundaries

LCT

WDC LCT boundaries
Chalk and Clay Farmland
Chalk and Clay Woodland
Clay Plateau enclosed
Clay Plateau Open
Golf Courses
Heathland
Hort and Small holdings
Miliary base
Mixed Farmland and Woodland
Mixed Farmland Woodland Enclosed
Open Arable
Open Arable Exposed
Parkland
Pasture Woodland Heath Associated
Pastureon Clay
River Valley Floor
River Valley Side
Scarp Downland and Grassland
Urban Areas

Chapter 4 - Landscape Character Areas

Introduction

Landscape Character Areas are defined by the Countryside Agency (2002) as single unique areas and are the discrete geographical areas of particular landscape types. Each Landscape Character Area has its own individual character and identity, even though it shares the same generic characteristics with other areas of the same landscape type. This distinction is reflected in the names of Landscape Character Areas, which take on the names of specific places such as 'Durley Claylands' and 'North Dever Downs'

This chapter describes the distinct character of the Landscape Character Areas within the study area. These are shown in Fig 10. These reflect the patterns set by the Hampshire Landscape: A Strategy for the Future (HCC 2000), which subdivides the district into five Landscape Character Areas based on downland, lowland and heath and river valleys (see Fig 2). They were also informed by the Historic Landscape Character Areas shown in the assessment of the district undertaken by Oxford Archaeology. The full assessment is provided in Appendix Three of this document. These Historic Landscape Character Areas were mapped according to typical historic field patterns and land uses, based on the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment (HCC, 1998).

For each of the District's Landscape Character Areas, a set of Key Characteristics is described. These are the most important constituents of the identity of the area, based on its geology, topography, drainage, land use, historic field patterns, historic features, ecology, views, transport routes and settlement distribution and structure.

This is followed by more detailed descriptions of the Location and Boundaries, Key Characteristics, Formative Influences and Landscape and Settlements of the character area, with Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities set out in bold. Key Issues affecting each area are then highlighted, based on threats to its characteristic features. In response to the issues affecting the area, a set of Landscape Strategies and Built Form Strategies are suggested to conserve, enhance and restore the character of its landscape and built form.

Finally, a list of the Key Designations for each character area is presented. These include Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Parks on the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. It should be noted however that these are representative of the time when this document was drafted (August 2002) and the accuracy of them cannot be guaranteed. For the definitive documentation and clarification of the boundaries and locations of these areas the relevant designating body should be contacted.

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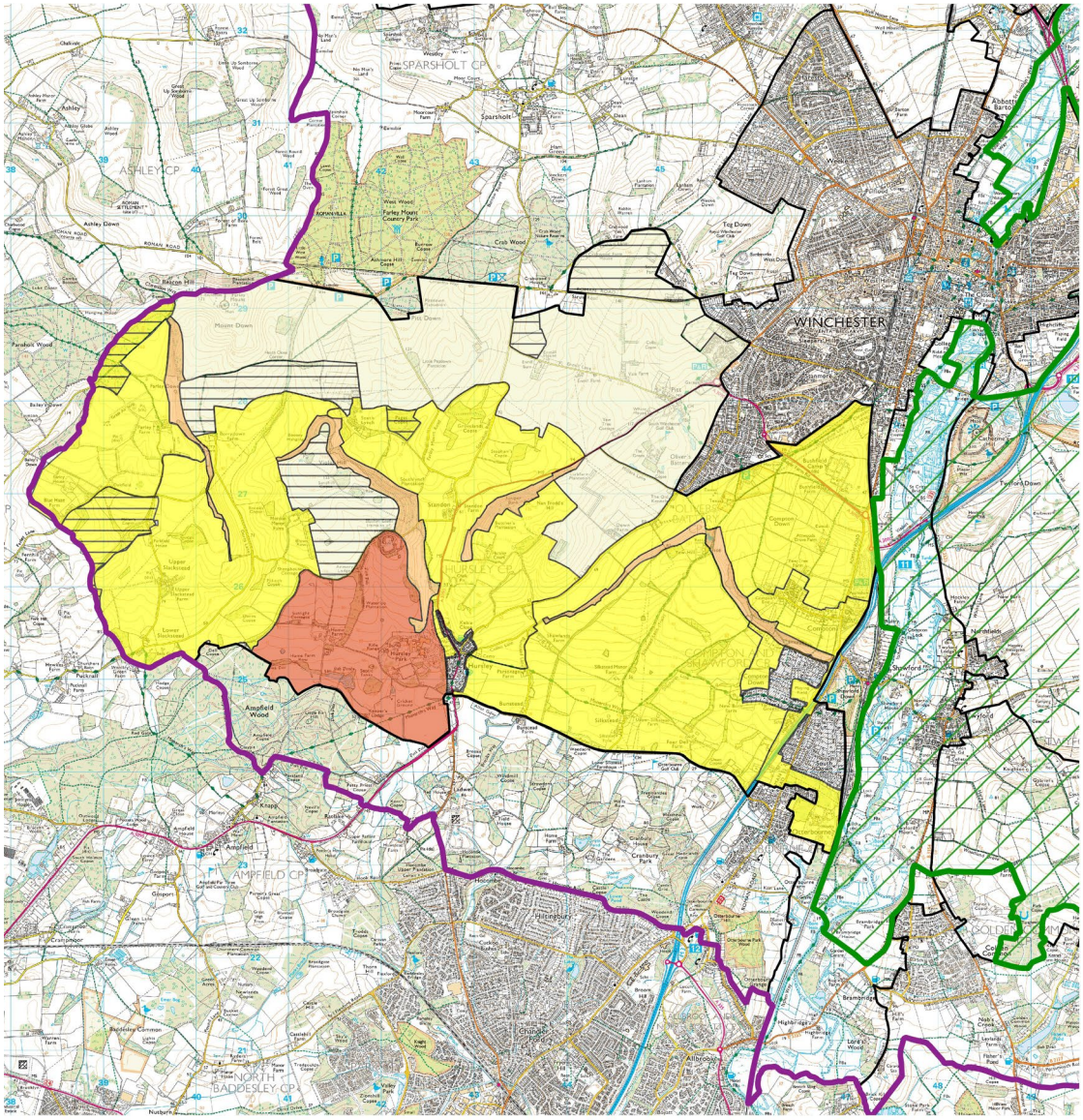
Figure 13 - LCA1 Hursley Scarplands



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- Landscape Character Areas
- South Downs National Park

LCT boundaries - LCA 1: Hursley Scarplands

- Chalk and Clay Farmland
- Chalk and Clay Woodland
- Open Arable
- Open Arable Exposed
- Parkland
- Scarp Downland and Grassland
- Urban Areas (Local Plan Policy Boundary)

north 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

LCA1 - Hursley Scarplands Landscape Character Area

Compton End

Juniper Bank, Hursley

Location and Boundaries:

The Hursley Scarplands Landscape Character Area is located to the south-east of Winchester city. Its western boundary is formed by the district boundary with Test Valley Borough. The northern boundary is defined by West Wood and Crab Wood, which fall within the Sparsholt Woodlands Landscape Character Area. The southern boundary of the character area is defined by Poles Lane and the southern boundary of Hursley Park, where the geological transition from chalk to clay is marked by a change in topography and increase in woodland cover. The eastern boundary is defined by the change in topography and land use, relating to the valley of the River Itchen and the settlement edge of Winchester.

Key Characteristics:

- Distinctive topographical variation ranging from an east-west ridge in the north reaching 178m at Farley Mount, falling to lower lying land in the south. In between there are a number of ridges, scarps and valleys creatina topographically complex landscape.
- Very undulating landscape often with far reaching views over adjoining downs and lowland landscapes, but also more visually enclosed landscapes in dry valleys and woodland.
- Strong time-depth, including prehistoric barrows on open downland, a range of enclosure processes and drove routes reflecting historical corn-sheep farming practises.
- Upper Chalk geology, giving rise to thin calcareous soils, particularly to the north. To the south and west it is overlain by some areas of clay with flints particularly on dip slopes where there is a greater presence of tree cover.
- Predominance of arable fields influenced by informal enclosure of the 17th and 18th centuries with some parliamentary type enclosure of the18th and 19th centuries situated around villages such as Compton and Shawford. Some later boundary loss in the 20th century has also resulted in ‘prairie’ type fields at Pitt Down.
- Strong landscape structure provided by numerous small areas of ancient woodland, plantation woodland, tree belts, hangers and hedgerows.
- Wooded beech and yew scarps and beech shelterbelts.
- Numerous historic features including Hursley Park, a medieval deer park (with its associated estate type village of Hursley), Merdon Castle and Farley Mount.
- Important ecological habitats include calcareous grassland and juniper scrub associated with scarps and numerous

semi-natural ancient woodlands, many of which are designated SINCs, including the butterfly reserve at Yew Hill.

- Network of narrow winding and often sunken lanes to the south, lending an historical character to the area.
- Varied visual enclosure, ranging from the distinctive open fields to the north, to the more enclosed, treed, undulating landscape of the south, all with a backdrop of woodland.
- Settlements concentrated close to main transport routes; the Hursley Road and the Otterbourne Road. Other routes tend to be narrow and winding with the exception of Roman roads, for example Sarum Road to the North.
- Panoramic rural views from Farley Mount, Farley church, Merdon castle. Views from Compton Down to Winchester Cathedral.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Chalk and Clay (Farmland)/ Chalk and Clay (Woodland)
- Open Arable / Open Arable (Exposed)
- Scarps / Historic Parkland
- Golf Courses

Settlement Types within the Area:

- Estate Village
- 20th/21st Century
- Chalk Downland: Dry Valley

Formative Influences:

The complex landform of this area is derived from the underlying soft Upper Chalk, with frequent deposits of clay with flints particularly to the south and west of the character area. This has resulted in the formation of scarps, ridges and dry valleys on a broadly north-south alignment.

This varied topography has influenced the land use of the area, with areas of downland and hangers on the steep scarps. Elsewhere, the rolling downland has allowed the enclosure of medium to large fields. The majority of these have wavy boundaries resulting from their relatively early enclosure, from late medieval times to the 18th century. To the north of the area later enclosure, in the 18th or 19th centuries, followed by 20th century boundary loss, has resulted in even larger arable fields.

The area has a long history of settlement and is archaeologically rich, including the Scheduled Monuments of Merdon Castle, Farley Mount and the Park Pale at Hursley Park.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

The undulating landform and the scarps are the key features of the landscape and though woodland is by no means the dominant land use, the woodland and the hedgerow network forms a strong landscape structure particularly to the south, enclosing the fairly large fields. To the north, the high topography and hedgerow loss have resulted in an exposed landscape characterised by large tracts of undulating arable farmland, often set against a backdrop of woodland. Throughout the character area woodland features fairly prominently in views to the south and relates most commonly to the scarps and footpaths or tracks. Further west, these views extend over Ampfield wood within the adjacent Cranbury Woodlands Character Area.

In areas that have not been agriculturally improved, this chalk upland provides some important ecological habitats, including calcareous grassland (such as Farley Down and Yew Hill), juniper scrub and 19th century woodland plantation on steep scarp slopes (South Lynch, Boosey Hanging, Juniper Bank) and pockets of ancient semi-natural woodland (such as Pages Copse, Grovelands Copse and Millers Copse).

The character area has an ancient character

and a strong rural appearance, particularly to the south and west with the enclosed fields and the winding, often sunken lanes. To the north there is a sense of tranquillity, but the landscape is more exposed and windswept.

The main settlement, Hursley, is an estate village lying to the south of the character area. It probably originated to service Merdon Castle, but gained its current character with the development of Hursley Park from the 18th century. It has a linear form, relating to its valley setting. This pattern has remained unchanged, merely expanding lengthways along the main route from Winchester to Romsey, yet confined between the northern and southern lodges of Hursley Park House and the Park Pale to the west. Significant tree belts clearly define the northern and southern extremities of the village, adding to its well-treed character. The buildings are predominantly two storey residential properties, with a church, pub and shops; many with steeply pitched clay tiled roofs and gabled dormer windows. They encompass a wide range of ages and architectural character, from 16th century cottages through to post-war housing estates. The Tudor estate cottages are particularly distinctive.

Compton Street similarly has a linear form due to its location in a dry-valley at the foot of a scarp. Here too, the buildings are predominantly residential in character, two storey and constructed of locally traditional materials including flint, clay plain tiles, red brick and thatch, plus slate. Pitt, though smaller, also lies in a valley and has a similar linear form.

In contrast, Compton Down and South Down have developed on the relatively high land of dip slopes. These have developed predominantly in the 20th Century and have a fairly dispersed form, characterised by detached dwellings set within comparatively spacious and well-treed plots.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- Strong rural character
- Frequent far-reaching views but also more visually enclosed landscapes.
- Prehistoric downland barrows, drove routes and a range on enclosure processes give a strong sense of history.
- Numerous historic features including 18th century deer park, park pale and estate village at Hursley, Merdon Castle and Farley Mount. Hursley Park was much painted.
- Narrow winding and sunken lanes contrast with straight Roman roads.
- Strong landscape structure provided by numerous small areas of ancient woodland, plantation woodland, tree belts, hangers and hedgerows.
- Wooded beech and yew scarps and beech shelterbelts.
- Stone curlew nesting within arable fields.
- Important ecological habitats and SINCs including chalk grassland, juniper scrub, semi-natural ancient woodlands, 19th century plantation and Yew Hill butterfly reserve.
- Panoramic views from Farley Mount, Farley church and Merdon castle. Views of Winchester Cathedral and St Cross from Compton Down.

- Views from Bushfield uniquely feature the city's three major medieval building groups seemingly isolated amongst mature trees.
- The chalk downland of Oliver's Battery, Badger Farm and Bushfield form an important backdrop to views of St Cross from St Catherine's Hill.
- The scarp-and-valley features with the backdrop of Farley Down, Mount Down and Pittdown form a specfic landscape contained by woodland.
- Sense of tranquility in the north
- Built form of locally traditional materials including flint, plain clay tiles, red brick, thatch and slate.

Key Issues:

- Field amalgamation and hedgerow removal leading to 'prairie' type fields and intensive farming.
- Intrusive modern farm buildings within open arable landscape
- Field subdivision with post and wire fencing.
- Introduction of non-native coniferous and evergreen hedges and close-board fences which are suburbanising features.
- Loss of parkland characteristics at Hursley Park
- Scrub encroachment and woodland plantation on scarps, loss of important habitat.
- Loss of chalk grassland.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape
- Declining farmland bird populations.
- Noise from motorway impacts tranquility in the east.
- Derelict army base at Bushfield Camp.
- Cumulative effects of sustainable energy and infrastructure developments

Landscape Strategies:

Conserve and enhance downland pockets.

Conserve and enhance juniper scrub. Survey and monitor regeneration rates.

Conserve and enhance the structure and condition of woodlands, through appropriate traditional woodland management, such as thinning, coppicing, replanting, ride and edge management and the restoration of plantations on ancient woodland sites to semi-natural communities.

Restore and replant fragmented hedgerows in areas where there is a strong hedgerow network, particularly to the southern and western parts of the area.

Create and appropriately manage substantial expanses of permanent chalk grassland to reduce threat to farmland birds, including the stone curlew, particularly to the north of the area.

Restore and enhance the biodiversity of arable farmland by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow fields.

Monitor distinctive key species of chalk grassland (e.g. Juniper and butterflies) and declining farmland birds to measure success of biodiversity strategy;

Manage roadside verges which support chalk grassland appropriately,.

Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices, to minimise fertiliser and soil run-off for example, which could lead to the pollution of watercourses and the chalk aquifer.

Conserve and enhance historic archaeological sites and their setting, such as Farley Mount, Merdon Castle and Hursley Park.

Conserve and restore the landscape and built features of Hursley Park as appropriate, in particular through continued replacement tree planting, woodland management and the restoration of pasture.

Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons and 'fracking' rigs are carefully situated to minimise visual intrusion.

Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc.

Conserve important long views to Winchester Cathedral, and other long views from high points.

Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.

Built Form Strategies:

Resist visually intrusive development on elevated ridges, including large-scale farm structures and telecommunications masts.

Plant locally indigenous species to minimise the impact of visually intrusive buildings.

Conserve local building materials such as red brick, white colour-washed brick, flint, clay tiles and thatch, and promote their use in any new development.

Conserve the distinct form and architectural character of Hursley in relation to the Hursley Park Estate.

New development should respect the existing building character in terms of materials and architectural detail.

Conserve the well-treed rural setting of villages

New development should respect the traditional location of settlements within valleys and along and the base of scarps.

New development should respect the historic linear form of existing settlements.

Key Designations:

Conservation areas:

- Hursley
- Compton Street

Scheduled Monuments:

- Park Pale to the north, west and south west of Hursley Park (Mon. No. 34132)
- Merdon Castle, Hursley (Mon. No. 34131) Two bowl barrows 120m NW of Texas,
- Oliver's Battery (Mon. No.12145)
- Two bowl barrows 200m N of Attwoods
- Drove Farm, Compton (Mon. No. 12121)
- Hilltop enclosure 190m NW of Farley Mount (Mon. No. 34130)

SSSIs:

- None

SINCs:

- Pages Copse; Grovelands Copse; Orchard Copse; Ampfield Wood (part); Miller's Copse; Gudge Copse; Hursley Park Wood; Yew Hill (Reservoir); Bushfield Camp A., Oakwood Copse; Sparrowgrove Copse; Farley Mount (small part); Hursley Park; Farley Down; Juniper Hill / Nan Trodd's Hill; Yew Hill (also a Butterfly Conservation Trust Reserve); Nan Trodd's Down.

Historic England Register:

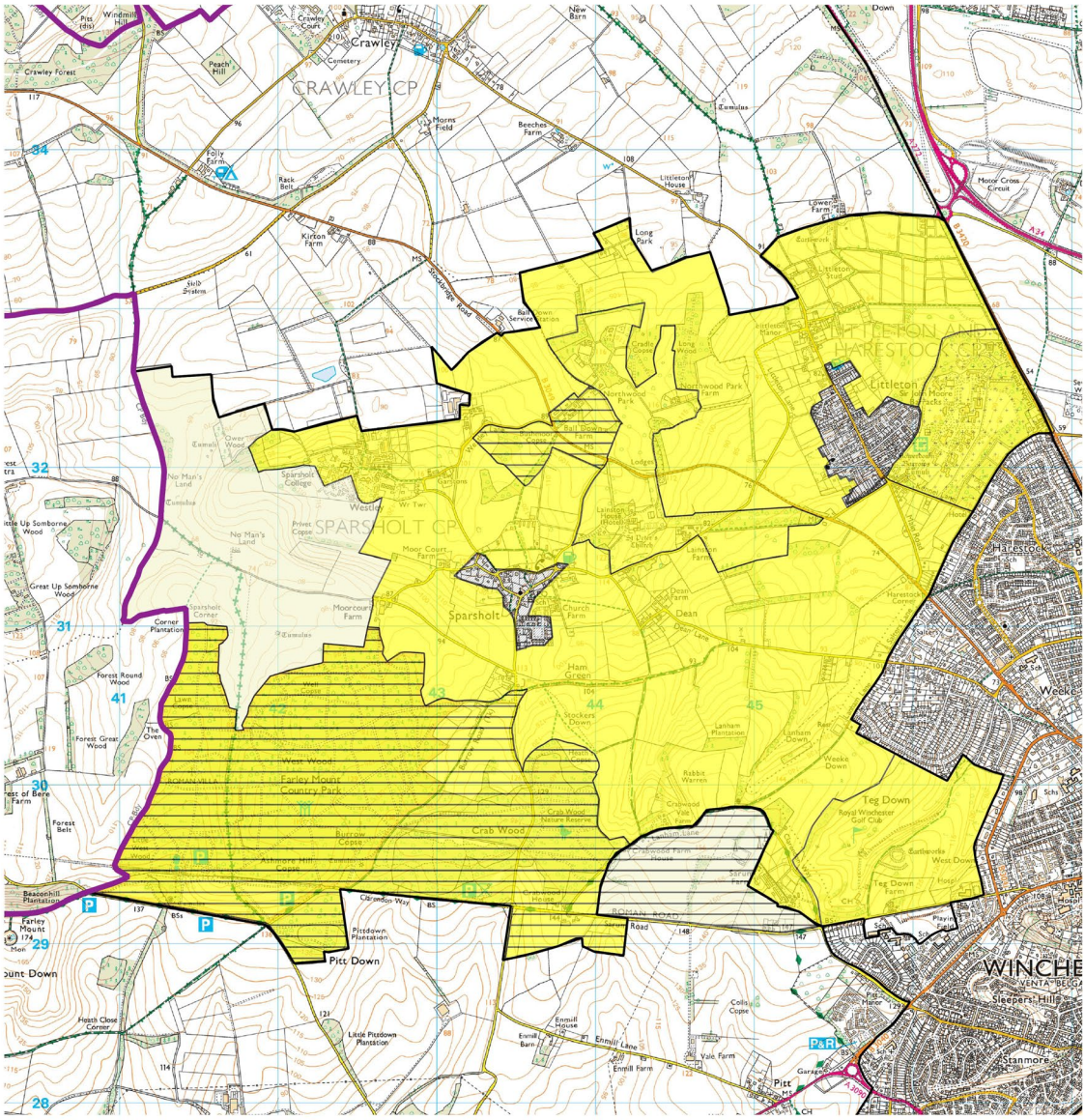
- Compton End

Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens:

- Hursley Park, (Site No. 1437) 18th C Deer Park.
- Farley House and Parnholt Wood (Site No.1534) Pre 1810 park.
- Farley Mount (Site No. 1535) 1930-40

monument to a horse.

Figure 14 - LCA2 Sparsholt Woodlands



LCA2 - Sparsholt Woodlands Landscape Character Area

Ham Green

Lainston Park

Location and Boundaries:

This character area lies to the north-west of Winchester, and is defined to the west by the Test Valley District boundary, to the south by the outer ege of West Wood and Crab Wood, which coincides with the ridge along Sarum Road. The built edge of Winchester defines the eastern boundary and the northern boundary is largely defined, topographically, by the higher landform and greater presence of woodland, before the landscape falls away to the north to the open arable valley landscape of the Crawley Downs.

Key Characteristics:

- High ridge to the south with land generally falling to the north-west (towards the Test Valley) and to the north-east (to the Itchen Valley).
- A landscape of mixed downland scale, dominated by the main west – east South Downs chalk ridge, with small escarpments and dry valley spurs off this feature.
- Undulating well-drained chalkland landscape to the north-west of Winchester, forming part of the setting of the City.
- Very undulating landscape often with far reaching views over adjoining downs and lowland landscapes, but also more visually enclosed landscapes in dry valleys and woodland.
- Medium-scale arable landscape with a strong hedgerow network.
- Strong rural character, dominated by woodlands, in particular Crab Wood and West Wood (Farley Mount Country Park).
- Medium-sized fields with straight boundaries to the north of the area created by formal agreement at the time of parliamentary enclosures of the late
- 18th and 19th centuries. Fields to the south have less regular boundaries, associated with enclosure from the late medieval period and 18th century.
- Influence of parkland landscape visually evident within central part of character area, dominated by Lainston House
- Important ecological habitats include a large block of mixed woodland including Crab Wood (SSSI), with hazel coppice, rich ground flora, woodbanks and remnants of wood pasture with old pollarded beech. Other woodland SINCs including smaller ancient woodlands are found throughout the northern part of the character area.
- Substantial tracts of interconnecting ancient and semi-natural woodland blocks which are located on higher and steeper ground as small hangers to the north and west.
- A large area of calcareous grassland at Teg Down (SINC), now the Royal Winchester Golf Course, including some species-rich

areas on the scarp slope in the middle of the golf course.

- Fairly visually enclosed landscape due to the strong woodland and hedgerow structure.
- Littleton Stud, with its small enclosed paddocks; the dominant military character of Sir John Moore Barracks and Teg Down golf course to the east of the character area have all modified a proportion of the landscape in this area.
- Network of footpaths and narrow winding, often sunken, lanes lends an historical character to the area.
- Numerous historical features, including Lainston Park and the ruins of St. Peters Church within its grounds; Northwood Park; a roman villa in West Wood and numerous tumuli, many of which are Scheduled Monuments.
- Strong time-depth, including prehistoric barrows on open downland, a range of enclosure processes and drove routes reflecting historical corn-sheep farming practises.
- Valley side settlements, nucleated villages and dispersed farmsteads.
- The two main settlements at Sparsholt and Littleton are Saxon in origin and nucleated in form, although the 20th century development in Littleton is more linear.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Chalk and Clay (Farmland) / Chalk and Clay (Woodland)
- Open Arable (Exposed) / Scarps Historic Parkland

Settlement Types within the Area:

- Chalk Downland: Hill Top

Formative Influences:

The geology and landscape of this area is dominated by Upper Chalk with infrequent deposits of clay with flints. The majority of the woodland is on chalk rather than clay, and consists largely of beech with oak, hazel and yew. The highest land is to the south of the character area and generally falls to the north and east.

The arable landscape seen today has been influenced by late 18th and 19th century parliamentary type enclosure of former grazing land, creating medium-sized fields with straight boundaries. The exception is an area to the south enclosed in the 17th and 18th Centuries, where the fields characteristically have wavy boundaries.

The majority of Crab Wood and West Wood, though ancient, have been subject to replanting. However, many smaller areas of ancient woodland in the character area, particularly those associated with Northwood Park, are ancient semi-natural woodland that have not been subject to replanting.

Much of theopen arable landscape west of Moorcourt Farm derives from enclosures formed by the 19th and 20th century clearance of West Wood to form arable land and, therefore, has a strong physical and visual link with the remainder of this wood.

In the 19th century, Littleton became a centre for training racehorses, which exercised on Worthy Down and Flowerdown (now Sir John Moore Barracks). This tradition still continues with Littleton Stud, resulting in the pattern of small scale enclosed fields. The stud, the barracks and Teg Down golf course and to some extent the Sparsholt Agricultural College have all influenced/modified the local landscape in parts of the character area.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

Woodland and mature hedgerows feature

strongly within the character area and, as such, are its unifying features. The Crab Wood and West Wood complex covers a large proportion of the character area and provides an important wildlife and amenity facility. Part of Crab Wood is designated as an SSSI.

The arable landscape, though consisting of medium to large-scale fields, maintains a fairly enclosed character due to the presence of woodland and woodland belts, many of which are associated with parkland settings and well-treed hedgerows. The wooded parkland landscape associated with both Lainston House and Northwood Park contributes much to the distinctiveness of the character area, with avenues and ancient boundary woodland. In addition the horse chestnut avenue along part of the Stockbridge Road also forms a strong feature within the character area.

Teg Down golf course contains some important ecological areas of calcareous grassland, particularly on the scarp slope.

The key settlements are Sparsholt and Littleton. Both are thought to be Saxon in origin. The village of Sparsholt has a strong link with the landscape, lying on high ground on a clay cap within a strong treed structure. It loosely nucleates around the 12th Century church, which acts as a focal point. The majority of Littleton has developed within the 20th century in a linear form along the Crawley Road, although original village lies to the north, slightly separated on higher land. Both Sparsolt and the old part of Littleton have retained a low-density rural appearance.

The majority of the older dwellings within Sparsholt are 17th century, other buildings date from the 19th century, but many have also been built in the 20th century. The village includes a variety of building styles and materials, and is particularly characterised by steeply pitched roofs with clay tiles. The older part of Littleton contains a number of timber-framed 16th and 17th century buildings, while the majority of the village was developed in the 20th century and has a more suburban character. Boundaries in both Sparsholt and Littleton are largely banked and hedged.

Many of the minor roads within the character area radiate out from Sparsholt and are often narrow, winding, steeply-banked and wooded. The busier roads within the character area radiate out from Winchester, on routes to Stockbridge, Crawley and Andover. Some of these are aligned on Roman roads and are typically straight, direct and often tree-lined.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- Forms part of the setting of Winchester
- Far-reaching views over adjoining downs and lowland landscapes contrast with enclosure due to strong woodland and hedgerow structure.
- Strong rural character, dominated by woodlands and with a strong hedgerow network.
- Fields in the south have greater time-depth and are associated with enclosure from late medieval period to 18th century.
- Central part of character area is dominated by parkland, in particular Lainston House.
- Important ecological habitats including SSSI and SINCs. Chalk grassland of Teg Down (SINC) within Royal Winchester Golf Course.
- Substantial interconnecting ancient and semi-natural woodlands and hangers.
- Many historical features including Lainston Park and associated ruins of St Peter's Church; Northwood Park; roman villa at West Wood and numerous tumuli, including Scheduled Monuments. Drove roads reflect historic farming practices.

Key Issues:

- Influence of modern non-agricultural land uses on the character of the area, for example the barracks, the college, the stud and the golf course.
- Pressure for urban fringe related activities and recreational pressures on open access and country park/countryside service sites.
- Introduction of non-native coniferous and evergreen hedges and close-board fences which are suburbanising features.
- Increased artificial light on tranquil rural quality.
- Low biodiversity value of large areas of coniferous woodland.
- Management of historic parkland and loss of pasture to arable.
- Ancient woodland and hedgerow/hedgerow tree management.
- Management of important ecological habitats.
- New small scale development within and on the fringes of Winchester.
- Farm conversion to residential farmstead enlargement
- Climate change; storm and winterbourne frequency and intensity.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape
- Intrusive and cumulative effects of infrastructure development and vertical elements such as wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons, and rigs associated with hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') which can be visible over long distances.

Landscape Strategies:

- Conserve and enhance the structure and condition of woodlands and wood pasture, through appropriate traditional woodland management, such as thinning, coppicing, replanting, ride and edge management, in order to conserve key species.
- Restore locally appropriate semi-natural communities through the replacement or enhancement of plantations on ancient woodland sites.
- Restore and enhance hedgerow structures through replanting and appropriate management, using locally indigenous species, to link existing semi- natural habitats.
- Monitor and minimise the impacts of modern non-agricultural land uses on the landscape and enhance through appropriate siting and planting.
- Monitor key ancient woodland and woodland ride species to measure the success of the biodiversity strategy;
- Conserve and enhance Historic Park landscapes through appropriate management plans, returning arable to pasture and resisting inappropriate development.
- Restore and enhance the biodiversity of golf courses and arable farmland, by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow fields.
- Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons and 'fracking' rigs are carefully situated to

minimise visual intrusion.

- Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc
- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices to reduce potential for adverse effects on the underlying aquifer and the River Itchen and River Test.

Built Form Strategies:

- Conserve and respect the rural hill top locations of settlements in the area, set within their structure of mature trees.
- Conserve and respect the nucleated form of Sparsholt and the linear form of Littleton.
- Integrate new development into the surrounding landscape through the use of locally indigenous planting and appropriate siting and detailing.
- Conserve and promote the use of local building materials such as red brick, white colour-washed brick, flint, clay plain tiles and long straw thatch.
- Conserve and promote the use of traditional garden and parkland boundaries such as brick and flint walls, palisade fencing, railings and non-coniferous hedging.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover

Key Designations:

Conservation areas:

- Sparsholt
- Littleton

Scheduled Ancient Monuments:

- Bowl barrow 1km E of Farley Mount (Mon. No. 12139)
- Roman villa in Cow Down Copse (Mon. No. 163HA)
- St Peter's Church, Lainston House (Mon. No. 165HA)
- Romano-British farmstead and associated field system on Teg Down (Mon. No. 21902)
- Three round barrows 500m WNW of Flowerdown House (Mon. No. 26702)

SINCs:

- Northwood Park Woods; Strowden's Copse Belt; Garston's Woods; Privet Copse; Ower Wood; West Wood / Crab Wood Complex; Pitt Down; Little West Wood; Crabwood Farm Woodland; Royal Winchester Golf Course (Teg Down).

SSSIs:

- Crab Wood

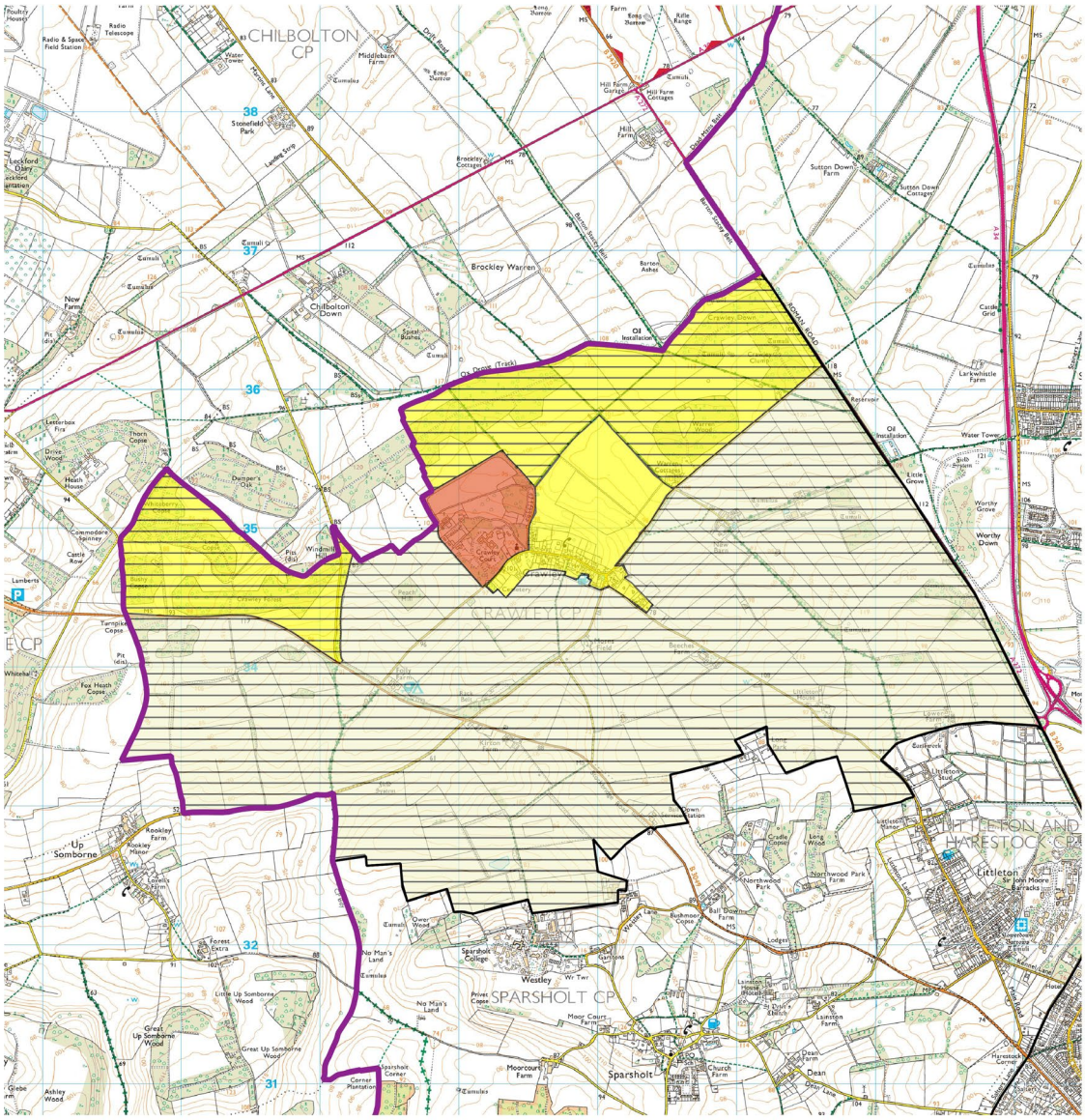
Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens:

- Sparsholt Manor (site 1570),
- Lainston House (site1572 Historic England
- Grade II* Listed Park), Pre 1810 Park

Local Nature Reserves:

- Crab Wood

Figure 15 - LCA3 Crawley Downs



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- Landscape Character Areas
- LCT boundaries - LCA 3: Crawley Downs
- Chalk and Clay Farmland
- Chalk and Clay Woodland
- Open Arable
- Parkland

north 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

LCA3 - Crawley Downs Landscape Character Area

North from Sparsholt College

East of Crawley

Location and Boundaries:

Crawley Downs Character Area is located to the north west corner of Winchester District. It is bounded to the south by the Sparsholt Woodlands Landscape Character Area and to the north by the rising land and by Crawley Forest and Crawley Clump plantations. Trees along the Andover Road (A272), create a strong visual boundary to the east. To the west, the District boundary identifies the character area boundary, however the visual envelope continues into the adjacent district of Test Valley.

Key Characteristics:

- A wide, open, gently rolling dry valley on a west- east alignment and forming part of catchment area of a tributary of the River Test
- Largely shallow, well-drained calcareous soils with a dry valley associated with gravel.
- Predominantly medium to large-scale arable fields with straight boundaries of low trimmed hedges. Historically this was an area of downland that was enclosed by formal agreement at the time of parliamentary enclosure in the 18th and 19th centuries, followed by boundary loss in the 20th century.
- Woodland confined to the northern edge of the district, consisting largely of 19th century plantations (including Crawley Forest) and roadside shelterbelts.
- Historic 18th century park of Crawley Court lies at the north-western extremity of the village of Crawley.
- Key ecological habitats of nature conservation concern; declining farming birds, arable field margins and a small group of semi-natural ancient woods in the west of the area, centred on Whiteberry Copse.
- Visually contained to the north and south by the generally higher topography and higher proportion of trees and woodland.
- Visually exposed landscape, with much of the area particularly visible from Sparsholt College.
- Distinctive straight roads with direct routes, such as the A272, which follows the course of a Roman road.
- Crawley is the only settlement within the character area. The only other buildings are farmsteads and associated cottages.
- Crawley is situated in a sheltered dry valley and consequently has a linear form. It has a rural character with the majority of buildings constructed using traditional construction methods and materials such as flint, brick and long-straw thatch.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Open Arable
- Open Arable (Exposed)
- Chalk and Clay (Woodland)
- Chalk and Clay (Farmland)

Historic Parkland Settlement Types within the Area:

- Chalk Downland: Dry Valley

Formative Influences:

Soils here over-lie Upper Chalk, and tend to be shallow and well drained, with deeper fine silty calcareous soils in the dry valley. To the north and south of the character area the landscape is generally more treed, corresponding with the more clayey soils associated with adjacent areas of Clay with Flints.

Historically the area was used for sheep rearing, using an old open field system but typically arable has now become the dominant form of agriculture. The landscape pattern is strongly influenced by the parliamentary enclosure acts of the late 18th and 19th Centuries, with rectangular fields with straight surveyed boundaries. More recently field rationalisation, associated with the increased mechanisation of agriculture, has resulted in hedgerow loss and the creation of some larger fields.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

Woods tend to be small and isolated and are largely contained to the northern part of the character area. They are mostly 19th century plantations, the largest being Crawley Forest. There are a few semi-natural ancient woodlands such as Bushy Copse and Long Copse, which have been assarted.

Crawley is the only village in the character area. It has developed along a single street, which has formed along a dry chalk valley. The manor (Crawley Court) which was demolished and redeveloped in the late 19th century and subsequently redeveloped as a campus office site is situated at the upper end of the village, while the village pond forms an important landmark at the eastern end. The village has a strong rural character, consisting of detached cottages constructed using traditional local building materials and techniques. These include flint, brick, timber-frames, long straw and combed wheat reed thatch and clay plain tiles. Other forms of settlement in the area consist of farmsteads and their associated workers cottages, for example, New Barn.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- Visually contained to the north and south by the generally higher topography and higher proportion of trees and woodland which contrasts with more visually exposed landscape, with much of the area particularly visible from Sparsholt College.
- Group of semi-natural ancient woodlands centred on Whiteberry Copse.
- Historic 18th century park of Crawley Court lies at the north-western extremity of the village of Crawley and associated conservation area.
- Opportunities for restoration of species rich chalk grassland

Key Issues:

- Declining farmland birds and species-rich field margins
- Loss and fragmentation of hedgerows through lack of appropriate management, during the second half of the 20th century
- Potential pollution of the aquifer and the Test from agricultural chemicals.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape
- Cumulative effects of infrastructure development and intrusive vertical elements such as wind farms, solar farms, communication masts, flues, pylons, and rigs associated with hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') which can be visible over long distances.

Landscape Strategies:

- Extend and reconnect links between existing isolatedwoodland and hedgerows, whilst retaining the open character of the downland.
- Manage over-trimmed hedgerows and neglected leggy hedgerows appropriately and replant gaps with locally indigenous species. Encourage the planting of new hedgerow trees and retention of self-sown hedgerow saplings.
- Conserve and enhance the structure and condition of ancient semi-natural woodlands, through appropriate traditional woodland management, such as thinning, coppicing, replanting, ride and edge management.
- Restore and enhance the biodiversity of arable farmland, by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow fields.
- Restore over-mature shelter-belts.
- Create new broad-leaved woodlands on lower grades of agricultural land using locally indigenous tree and shrub species.
- Create and appropriately manage substantial areas of permanent chalk grassland to reduce threat to farmland birds, including the stone curlew. Monitor declining farmland birds to measure the success of the biodiversity strategy.
- Manage, appropriate, roadside verges which support chalk grassland.
- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices, to minimise fertiliser and soil run-off for example, which could lead to the pollution of watercourses and the chalk aquifer.
- Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons and 'fracking' rigs are carefully situated to minimise visual intrusion.
- Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc.

Built Form Strategies:

- Conserve the open rural character of the landscape by locating agricultural buildings close to existing farm groups and on lower lying land avoiding skylines.
- Reduce the impact of modern agricultural buildings by using traditional materials or dark colours and careful siting.
- Conserve the sheltered linear form of Crawley by encouraging residential

dwellings to respond to local character in terms of location, materials, built form and detailing.

- Local building materials such as red brick, white colour-washed brick, flint, clay tiles and long straw thatch should be conserved, and their use promoted in new development.
- Traditional garden and parkland boundaries such as brick and flint walls, palisade fencing, railings and non-coniferous hedging should be conserved, and promoted in any new development.
- Conserve the intimate rural character of the narrow winding lanes and tracks by ensuring they are not altered through inappropriate road improvements. Conserve the soft road verges.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.

Key Designations:

Conservation Areas:

- Crawley

Scheduled Monuments:

- Settlement site at Brockley Warren (Mon. No. 518HA)
- Two round barrows on Crawley Down, 830m NNE of Warren House (Mon. No. 149HA)
- Crawley Clump round barrows, Crawley Down (Mon. No. 148HA)
- Round barrow 1600m NNW of Littleton (Mon. No. 150HA)

SSSIs:

- None

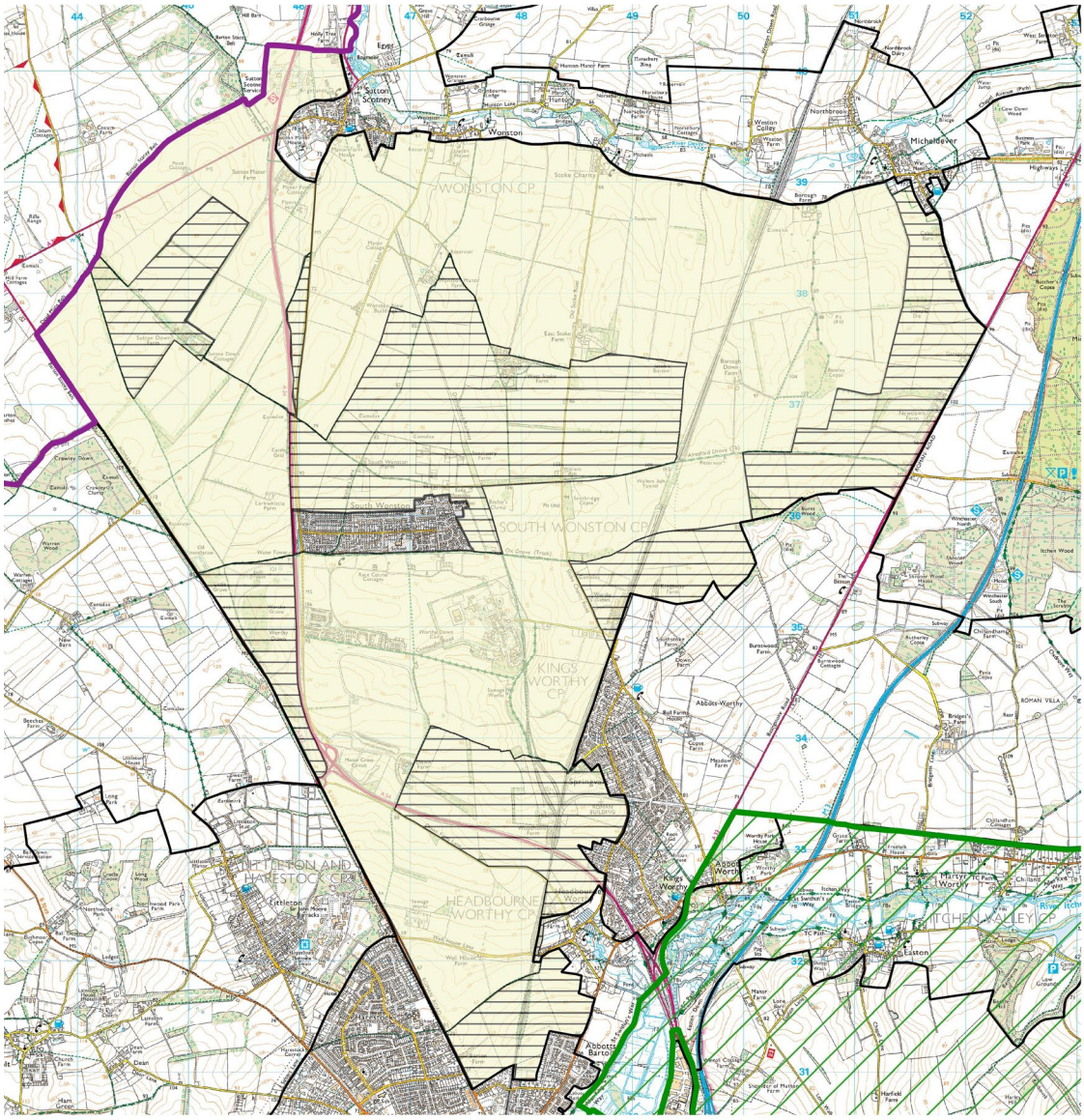
SINCs:

- Worthy Copse; Hoopshavers Copse; Whiteberry Copse; Long Copse; Bushy Copse and Turnpike Copse.

Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens:

- Crawley Court (site 1512) Pre-1810 Park

Figure 16 - LCA4 Wonston Downs



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- Landscape Character Areas
- South Downs National Park

LCT boundaries - LCA 4: Wonston Downs

- Open Arable
- Open Arable Exposed
- Urban Areas (Local Plan Policy Boundary)

north 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

LCA4 - Wonston Downs Landscape Character Area

North-east from Old Stoke Road

North-west from Old Stoke Road

Location and Boundaries:

The Wonston Downs Landscape Character Area is located to the north of the Winchester and encompasses a large area of the upper chalk downs.

Its northern boundary abuts the Dever Valley Landscape Character Area, where the arable landscape abruptly changes to the distinctly riverine well-treed landscape of the river valley. This northern boundary then follows the District boundary with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. The western boundary follows the Andover Road to the outskirts of Winchester, to the south. The southern boundary is defined by the built up of Winchester. The eastern edge of the Landscape Character Area is defined by the boundary of Kings Worthy and further north by the clay-influenced landscape of the Stratton Woodlands Landscape Character Area.

Key Characteristics:

- Gently sloping and undulating topography, forming a relatively low-lying area of downland (50-110m OD).
- Well-drained upper chalk geology, with minor deposits of clay with flints.
- Arable farmland predominates within the area, consisting of medium to large fields, many with straight boundaries enclosed by formal agreement in the 18th and 19th centuries, followed by 20th century boundary loss. These field patterns also include an area of regular ladder fields south of Sutton Scotney.
- The habitats and species of greatest importance in this character area are associated with the arable farmland, including the stone curlew.
- Woodland within the landscape character area is sparse and largely consists of 19th century plantation and shelterbelts, except for Bazeley Copse which is semi-natural ancient woodland, typically consisting mainly of oak, ash, hazel and field maple.
- The remnant downland at Worthy Down, south west of South Wonston is diverse calcareous grassland, supporting a distinctive vegetation community.
- A visually open and expansive landscape with long, panoramic views over the downs. Key views are towards Winchester and over the Dever Valley.
- The South Wonston water tower is a key landmark within the character area.
- A widely spaced network of straight roads, lanes and tracks providing access to the farms, together with a limited rights of way system and public access. Some busy routes pass through the area, including the Andover Road and the A34, originally Roman roads, and the railway.

- The area itself is relatively sparsely populated; the main settlement being South Wonston. However, the influence of Winchester and Kings Worthy to the south and the intrusion of the main roads create a more populated feel.
- South Wonston has a strong linear structure originating from the turn of the 20th Century, when the local farmland was sold for development in one-acre plots. Other settlements consist mainly of farmsteads and associated cottages.
- The most notable historic features of this character area are the drove roads, which predominantly run in an east west direction and connected Salisbury with Alresford and Alton, for moving animals and more latterly as a route for gypsy hop-pickers. Also, numerous pre-historic barrows are characteristic of the area.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Open Arable (Exposed) Open Arable

Settlement Types within the Area:

- 20th / 21st century

Formative Influences:

The landscape is strongly influenced by the geology of soft Upper Chalk, giving rise to a gently sloping but very open landscape, with a central east-west ridge referred to as Worthy Down. Other more minor ridges include Down Farm ridge and Barton Farm ridge. To the north of Worthy Down the landscape gently falls to the River Dever. To the south of Worthy Down the landscape is more undulating but generally falls in height towards the River Itchen.

The landscape was originally wooded but extensively cleared in prehistoric times for arable agriculture and grazing. There is evidence of prehistoric activity in the area, including several Neolithic long barrows at the east end of South Wonston and elsewhere in the LCA, which is a rich arhcelogocal landscape, and the site of a Roman building to the west of Kings Worthy. During medieval times the area would have consisted of large areas of calcareous grassland managed as open sheep pasture with relatively few trees and hedges. During the late 18th and 19th centuries parliamentary enclosure had a strong influence on the landscape, creating medium to large fields with straight surveyed boundaries. During the late 20th century, hedgerow loss and the intensification of arable production has resulted in areas of larger and more exposed fields. Much of the hedgerow network is intact, and these hedgerows enclose a regular pattern of large fields, echoing the network of typically straight roads, lanes and tracks e.g. to the south of Stoke Charity.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

The landscape is strongly influenced by the gently sloping but very open landform, giving rise to long and expansive views from high points within the character area, for example on Worthy Down.

The character area almost entirely comprises arable landscape with very little tree/woodland cover. Where woodland occurs it consists predominantly of 19th Century shelterbelts. Where these are less frequent the landscape has a distinctly exposed feel to it, for example on Worthy Down. Bazeley Copse is the only surviving semi-natural ancient woodland in the character area. There is also a remnant but important area of calcareous grassland at Worthy Down to the west of South Wonston.

Hedgerows are generally low, heavily trimmed and often fragmented, but are usually higher along roads. They consist largely of blackthorn, with few hedgerow trees. In more diverse hedges, wild plum, spindle and wayfaring tree are also present. Shelterbelts, containing beech or coniferous species, are often associated with drove roads and tracks, a typical example is at Wallers Ash. Given the lack of hedges in this area, these belts provide important movement corridors, shelter and food for many species.

The verge along Andover Road supports remnants of calcareous grassland, including common knapweed, lady's bedstraw, and burnet saxifrage. The largest remaining block of this community in the Wonston Downs Landscape Character Area occurs on Worthy Down. In addition to the species mentioned, yellow oat-grass, devil's-bit scabious and dropwort are distinctive components of this community. This area is also potentially very rich in invertebrates.

Although there is a long history of settlement within the area, the village of South Wonston, the main settlement in the area, did not establish itself until the turn of the 20th century. It originated as a stopping over place for gypsies on the drove road between the hopfields at Alton and Salisbury. At the turn of the 19th century the farmland was divided and sold in one-acre plots, thus the linear plot pattern of the village was introduced. The arrival of the Royal Flying Corps during the 1st World War encouraged further settlement in the area at Worthy Down Camp when Worthy Down was used as an airfield. The majority of buildings within the character area are 20th century, consisting of single and two storey dwellings, utilising modern mass-produced building materials.

Routes within the character area are influenced by Roman occupation and are generally straight and direct and, apart from the main through route, still maintain a rural character, with high hedges and without verges or kerbs.

Major development is planned at Kings Barton and a large solar farm is planned at Three Maids Hill.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- Habitats and species of greatest importance in this character area associated with the arable farmland, including the stone curlew.
- Bazeley Copse which is the only semi-natural ancient woodland in the LCA.
- Chalk downland at Worthy Down.
- Bazeley Copse semi-natural ancient woodland.
- 19th century shelterbelts.
- Panoramic views over the downs and towards Winchester and the Dever Valley.
- South Wonston water tower is a key landmark.
- Historic drove roads and pre-historic barrows.
- Opportunities for restoration of species rich chalk grassland on agricultural land

Key Issues:

- Intrusive modern large scale farm buildings
- Use of non-indigenous species within shelterbelts
- Reduction of biodiversity through intensive agricultural practices
- Pollution of River Dever and Itchen from agricultural chemicals
- Degradation of remaining semi-natural grassland at Worthy Down due to under-grazing.
- Degradation of grassland on roadside verges during road works or through regular mis-management.
- Poly-tunnels and solar farms which can be particularly noticeable due to their colour and reflective qualities.
- Cumulative effects of sustainable energy and infrastructure developments
- Increased urbanisation
- Intrusion from main roads.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape.

Landscape Strategies:

- Conserve the large and generally regular field pattern and wide panoramic views.
- Restore biodiversity throughout the extensive areas of intensive arable farming, for example by returning some areas to calcareous downland, and planting indigenous species in shelterbelts.
- Conserve the structure and condition of the hedgerows and isolated woodlands and trees, which contribute to the biodiversity and character of the landscape, through the use of indigenous tree and shrub species and appropriate management.
- Conserve and enhance the isolated areas of ecological importance through appropriate management plans, in particular Worthy Down chalk grassland and Bazeley Copse ancient woodland and the surrounding land.
- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices, to minimise use of fertiliser, for example, which could lead to the pollution of watercourses and the chalk aquifer.
- Restore and enhance the biodiversity of arable farmland, by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow fields, in particular to encourage arable fields and restore populations of declining farmland birds.
- Restore areas of arable farmland to permanent chalk grassland, to achieve major biodiversity benefits.
- Manage semi-natural roadside verges to maximise biodiversity.
- Conserve the historic drove roads.
- Conserve archaeological sites and their settings, from damage by ploughing.
- Monitor presence of distinctive key species in semi- natural grassland and farmland birds to measure success of biodiversity strategy.
- Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and

residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc.

- Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons and 'fracking' rigs are carefully situated to minimise visual intrusion.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.

Built Form Strategies:

- Enhance views within the area through careful siting and use of appropriate materials for modern farm buildings.
- Conserve the historic rural character of lanes, footpaths and drove roads throughout the area by resisting any road improvements which would threaten these features.
- Retain the linear and compact form of South Wonston and integrate its edges where it is open to the landscape, by planting with indigenous tree and hedge planting.
- Conserve the sparse scattered pattern of rural farm settlement.
- Conserve and promote the use of traditional garden boundaries such as non-coniferous hedging.

Key Designations:

Conservation Areas:

- None

Scheduled Ancient Monuments:

- Earthwork 810m NW of Larkwhistle Farm (Mon. No. 161HA)
- Long barrow 1km S of Larkwhistle Farm (Mon. No 12093)
- Worthy Down ditch (Mon. No 162 HA) Settlement W of West Stoke Farm (Mon. No 513HA)
- Long barrow 500m NW of Sanctuary Farm (Mon. No 12112)
- Long barrow 500m SW of Sanctuary Farm (Mon. No 12082)
- Long barrow 400m S of Sanctuary Farm (Mon. No 12092)
- Iron Age field system, banjo enclosure and RB villa 500m E of Woodham Farm (Mon. No 12049)
- Settlement site W of Bazeley Copse (Mon. No 525HA)

SSSIs:

- None

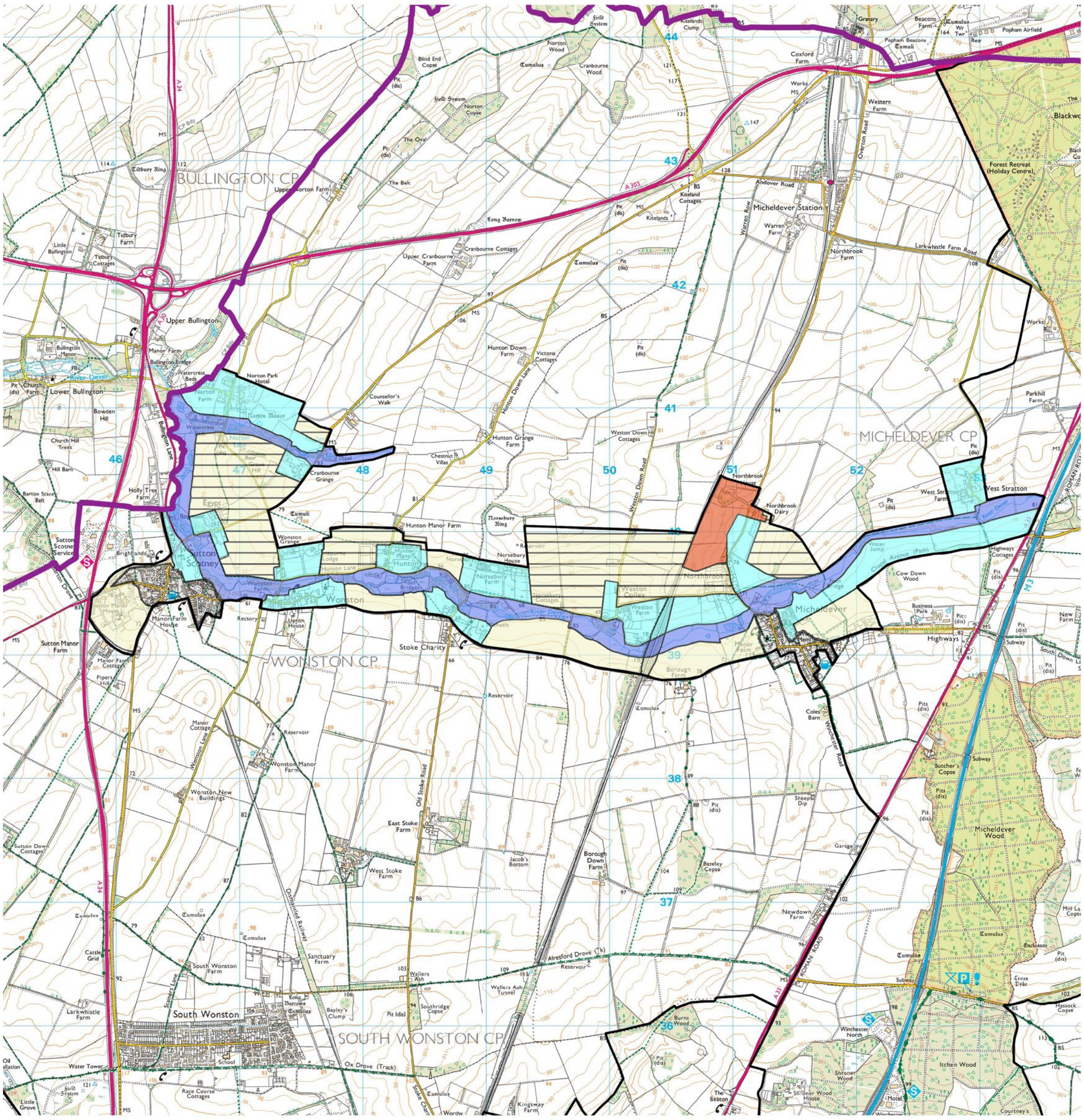
SINCs:

- Bazeley Copse, Wallers Ash Railway Tunnel, The Gallops, Worthy Down, Worthy Grove Kingsworthy Cutting

Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens:

- None

Figure 17 - LCA5 Dever Valley



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- Landscape Character Areas

LCT boundaries - LCA 5: Dever Valley

- Open Arable
- Open Arable Exposed
- Parkland
- River Valley Floor
- River Valley Side
- Urban Areas (Local Plan Policy Boundary)

north

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

LCA5 - Dever Valley Landscape Character Area

River Dever, Stoke Charity

Watercress beds, Stoke Charity

Location and Boundaries:

The Dever Valley Landscape Character Area is located to the north of Winchester, and follows the course of the River Dever in an east-west direction. It includes both the valley floor and surrounding visual envelope of the valley. To both the north and south it is bounded by open arable downlands. At its eastern end, the A33 coincides with the source of the river, forming its boundary, while at the west, the river itself forms part of the Winchester District boundary with Test Valley and thus the western end of the character area.

Key Characteristics:

- Distinctive enclosed valley topography, with sloping valley sides and relatively narrow valley floor, located in a chalk downland setting.
- Alluvium and valley sand and gravel along valley floor, with loamy soil and upper chalk on valley sides and beyond.
- Meandering watercourse in narrow, often braided channels, with associated ponds, watercress beds and ephemeral headwaters.
- Valley floor generally consists of small pasture fields, with occasional remnants of historic water meadows and a high proportion of woodland.
- Arable fields along upper valley sides, contiguous with surrounding arable downs.
- A number of small historic parks and associated houses on the south-facing valley side at the western end of the Landscape Character Area. These are particularly associated with pasture and ornamental tree species.
- The rivers rise in chalk with clear spring water supporting rich aquatic flora and fauna. Rich and diverse habitats along floodplains including fen/carr/swamp/ reedbed, and unimproved neutral grassland/fen. Commercial watercress beds are evident.
- Open river valley landscape with views out over open arable landscape and views of the river from the valley sides, including either the watercourse or its associated vegetation.
- Valley-side lanes to north and south of river with regular cross-valley lanes. Footpaths connect settlements.
- A well-treed railway embankment bisects the character area, carrying regular trains between London and Southampton.
- Remote, tranquil character to the centre of the character area, although this is reduced by the A34 at its western end and the A33 and M3 at its western end.
- A relatively high concentration of small villages along the southern valley side,

having developed at river crossing points, often Anglo-Saxon in origin. Some, such as Wonston have developed in a linear form, while others such as Sutton Scotney are nucleated. All villages retain a rural historic character.

- Scattered hamlets, historic parks and their associated farms are characteristic along the northern valley side.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- River Valley Side River
- Valley Floor
- Open Arable
- Open Arable (Exposed)
- Historic Parkland

Settlement Types within the Area:

- Chalk River Valley

Formative Influences:

The predominant influence on the area, is the River Dever, which has formed a relatively narrow river valley through the surrounding chalk downland. The permeability of the chalk has also allowed the river to form meanders and braided channels along its length, although generally the valley follows a fairly straight east-west route until it changes course at Sutton Scotney, and heads north, before continuing west and flowing into the River Test. As well as influencing the topography of the area, the river flood plain also provides a distinct diversity of flora and fauna, with numerous riparian and valley floor habitats.

Due to its sheltered position and clear, shallow source of water, the valley has a long history of settlement. The majority of the numerous villages and hamlets generally developed at river crossing points and are often Anglo-Saxon in origin. The continued occupancy of the valley had been promoted by its agricultural importance, providing a suitable location for corn mills, grazing meadows (including water meadows), watercress beds and trout fishing. By the 18th Century, the river valley location was also becoming a favoured place of residence by the landed gentry and contains three historic parks at its western end. As the downs are now mostly in arable production, the meadows in the valley are no longer needed to provide additional fodder for livestock. In many cases they have now become over-grown with scrub and secondary woodland, or have been planted with poplars or willow.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

The area is characterised by the relatively narrow, chalk valley and associated tributary of the River Test, the River Dever. The river channel itself is also relatively narrow and shallow and generally little more than a stream in places. In other parts it has been widened to form watercress beds (Hunton), and fish ponds (Norton Manor and Stoke Charity). There is also evidence of post-medieval water meadows, although these are no longer traditionally managed.

The river valleys are generally typified by agricultural use, with pasture and scattered areas of wet woodland on the valley bottom and arable fields on the valley sides, leading up to the arable downland of the surrounding area. There are no areas of ancient woodland present, although the valley bottom is now well treed in places, predominantly consisting of wet woodlands of alder, willow, ash and poplar together with overgrown hedgerows of hawthorn and hazel, for example. Areas of wet grassland and tall swamp vegetation are also characteristic of the area. Consequently, there is a wide range of flora and fauna in the area. Important species likely to use the river and its associated habitats include Atlantic salmon, brown trout, water rail, otters, water voles and kingfishers. The RSPB is monitoring declining farmland birds in this area.

On the valley sides, the arable farmland is open and generally lacks trees, but is defined by clipped hedgerows predominantly consisting of hawthorn and blackthorn, typical of recent

enclosure. In places however, these hedges have been removed or become fragmented. These fields would originally have been chalk downland associated with sheep rearing, but were probably enclosed by formal agreement in the 18th and 19th Centuries. Historic parks are also characteristic of the valley sides, at the western end of the character area. Generally, these retain their ornamental tree species and historic character, although this has been eroded in parts, through additional recent development and construction of horse jumps for example.

There is a relatively large concentration of small villages and hamlets in the area, in comparison to the surrounding sparsely populated downland. The settlements of Upper Bullington, Wonston, Hunton, Stoke Charity, Weston Colley, Northbrook and West Stratton form a distinctive linear pattern along the valley. Many are designated as conservation areas, and all have generally retained their historic, traditional character, with very little recent expansion. Some, such as Hunton have even reduced in size since Victorian times. Sutton Scotney and Micheldever have developed a more nucleated structure, accommodating some additional development in recent years. The main settlements are characterised by a small church, often dating back to the 12th or 13th Century or earlier.

Many buildings are constructed using vernacular materials and construction methods. A high proportion of the buildings in the area are timber-framed with brick infill, often with a white colour-wash, as seen at Micheldever. Also typical are red brick, wattle and daub, rendered and colour washed cob, flint, slate, clay tiles and long straw and combed wheat reed thatch.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- Priority Habitats include: Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Lowland fens, Lowland Calcareous Grassland, Good Quality semi improved grassland and Deciduous Woodland.
- The area is rich in historic features and listed buildings with villages having a high number of listed small cottages/buildings which enhance rural character. Larger properties for example Norton Manor have been redeveloped as a hotel.
- Important concentration of remnant water meadows which were part of the sheep corn system. The system involved sheep being grazed on the water meadows by day and at night being driven up to the arable fields above the valleys where they were folded to manure and improve the poor chalk soils.
- Discreet bridging points, marked by hump in road.
- Limited views on valley floor, inward looking and intimate in character. These contrast with the valley sides where the views are more open, down and across the valley.
- Good accessibility with a network of footpaths, bridleways and lanes.
- The western part of the River Dever from Wonston forms part of the River Test SSSI.
- Long views to undeveloped valley sides, characterized by a patchwork of small to medium size fields. Mature trees and woodlands feature on skyline.

- Wet woodland on valley floor contrasts in character to drier valley sides and arable farmland providing high scenic quality.
- Roadside banks and tall hedgerows enclose narrow lanes and restrict views. Mature roadside trees further create tunnel effect.
- Small Irregular shaped hedged fields often with field trees.
- Traditional walls i.e flint and brick and the use of hedgerows as garden boundaries enhance rural character. Five bar wooden gates mark property gateways.
- Views to church spires above tree line as from Sloe Lane and Hunton Lane at Stoke Charity, mark village location within river valley. Simple small churches, often located away from the village center, with simple boundary fencing and surrounded by open grassland enhance their rural character.
- The valley was the setting for several mediaeval manor houses, some having disappeared, as at Stoke Charity where it occupied the site between the church and the river known as 'Pretty Meadow'.
- Historic buildings fronting and visible from adjacent road and public domain i.e Hunston Manor enhance historic character.
- Good levels of tranquility away from the A34 to the west.
- Train line well screened by adjacent tree and woodland planting.
- The Dever Valley has inspired writers and poets.

Key Issues:

- Pollution of river water from agricultural chemicals including the watercress industry.
- Decline of watercress beds and industry and subsequent replacement landuses which might be inappropriate for this rural location.
- Expansion of watercress sites, with inappropriate out of character buildings, gateways and boundary fencing which can erode historic character and rural tranquility.
- Loss of hedgerows and replacement with post and rail fencing for horse grazing.
- Fragmentation and neglect of hedgerows and wet woodlands. Lack of permanent grass field margins.
- Expansion of built development and gardens onto valley floor and on valley sides and skyline, including light pollution.
- Close boarded timber fencing used for residential boundary treatment in visible public locations and adjacent roadside. Poor quality garden boundary treatment fronting valley floor and River Dever.
- Non-native hedgerows (i.e., leylandii) visible as part of open countryside.
- Increased artificial light on tranquil rural quality.
- Visual prominence of caravan site/motorhomes/shepherds huts/pods etc can detract from rural visual quality and tranquility.

- Loss of rural character, settlement character and public views with the extension of gardens, parkland and residential curtilage.
- Formal amenity areas on land traditionally supporting pasture management.
- Manicuring or gardening of the landscape adjacent the River Dever detract from tranquility, rural quality and ecological value.
- Pylons, telephone lines also detract from scenic rural quality. Cumulative effects of sustainable energy and infrastructure developments
- Protection of historic character of settlements with modern facilities. The poor siting and location for car parking can result in cars detracting from historic character of villages and buildings. Problems of visitor car parking with over running on grass verges.
- Noise from the A34 and train affect levels of tranquility.
- The decline in active management of the meadows is of significance to those species which rely on animal dung for their invertebrate prey, such as the stone curlew.
- Under-management of historic parkland trees and loss of parkland pasture.
- Pollution of river water from agricultural chemicals, watercress industry and silt run-off.
- Continued flow of river, with low groundwater levels with polluted run off may have a greater impact if dilution capacity is reduced.
- Protection of open views.
- Modern farms, with large buildings, wide entrances, large expanses of hard surfacing can seem out of context within this small-scale intimate landscape. Development of prominent large agricultural buildings, especially seen against skyline
- Intrusive vertical elements such as wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons, and rigs associated with hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') which can be visible over long distances.
- Poly-tunnels and solar farms which can be particularly noticeable due to their colour and reflective qualities
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape

Landscape Strategies:

- Conserve and restore the loose structure of trees and woodland in the area, through appropriate management, such as thinning, coppicing and replanting. Replanting should use locally indigenous species, such as ash, willow and poplar on the valley floor, and oak and beech on the valley side. This would also be an area suitable for the reintroduction of native black poplar, Populus nigra.
- Restore the field network through appropriate management and replanting of hedgerows. Replanting should use locally indigenous species such as hawthorn, blackthorn and hazel.
- Encourage the retention and traditional management of watercress beds, to ensure that they remain a characteristic feature of this area.
- Conserve the predominantly remote and quiet rural character of the parts of the area away from the A34 and A33.
- New gardens, parkland and other residential curtilage should take into account surrounding vegetation pattern, rural character and existing public views.
- Conserve the varied nature of views throughout the area including semi-enclosed views of the river as well as long views out to the surrounding downs.
- Conserve and restore the landscape and built features of the historic landscape as appropriate, in particular through continued replacement tree planting and the restoration of pasture.
- Conserve the rich bio-diversity associated with the clear spring water.
- Restore and appropriately manage areas of neutral and calcareous grassland/wetland, to enhance biodiversity.
- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices, to minimise chemical fertiliser and soil run-off for example, which could lead to the pollution of the River Dever and the chalk aquifer.
- Restore and enhance the biodiversity of arable farmland, by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow fields.
- Improve public access to River Dever.
- Restore areas of arable farmland to permanent chalk grassland, which could achieve significant biodiversity gains.
- Restore the use of the valley for livestock farming to provide the mixed farming necessary for many species.
- Improve opportunities for public access to the riverside for activities such as walking and fishing.
- Conserve the open and glimpsed views into and out of the valley through appropriate vegetation planting and clearance.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.

Built Form Strategies:

- Resist road improvements which would threaten the historic narrow valley-side and cross-valley rural lanes which characterise this area.
- Resist new car parking areas which will be overly visible and detract from historic and rural quality of settlements and the open landscape.
- Reduce and avoid increasing lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc.
- Conserve and respect the traditional forms

and scales of settlement in this area which are generally small, linear and strongly relate to the river and valley.

- Promote the use of local building materials such as red brick, white colour-washed brick, flint, clay tiles and thatch, in any new development.
- Promote the use of traditional garden and parkland boundaries such as brick and flint walls, palisade fencing, and non-coniferous hedging in any new development.
- Integrate new development with the surrounding treed landscape, through the use of native planting and careful siting.
- Reduce the visibility and prominence of existing modern farm buildings within the landscape. Introduce tree planting and appropriate hedgerow boundaries around periphery to reduce their visual dominance. Avoid new farm buildings in prominent locations, especially when visible against skyline.
- Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons and 'fracking' rigs are carefully situated to minimise visual intrusion.

Key Designations:

Conservation Areas:

- Micheldever Sutton Scotney Wonston Hunton
- Stoke Charity

Scheduled Monuments:

- None

SSSIs:

- River Test

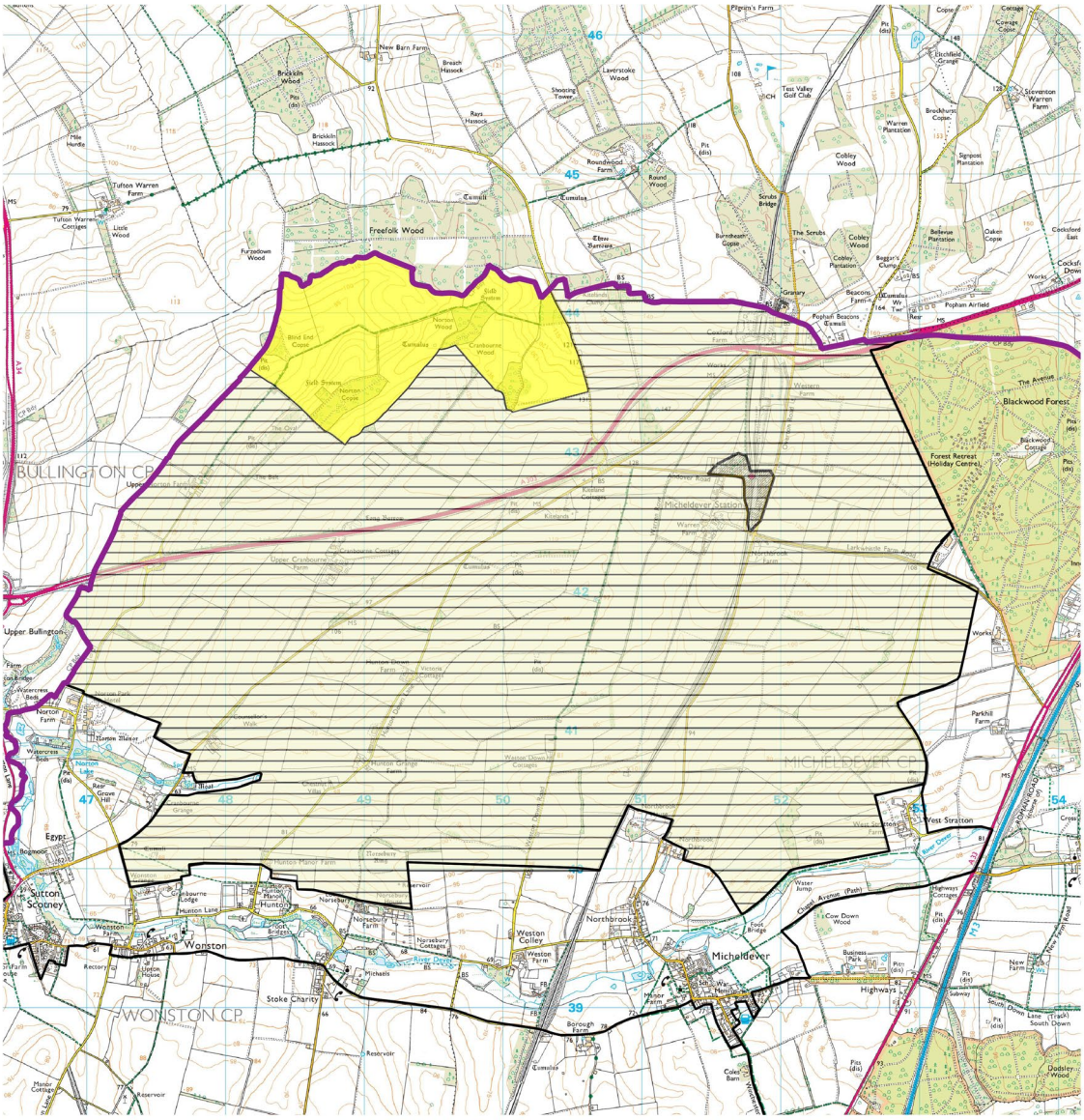
SINCs:

- Old House Meadow

Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens:

- Norton Manor (site 1425) Post 1810 Park (early 20th century)
- Northbrook House (site 1551) Post 1810 Park
- Sutton Manor (site 1424)

Figure 18 - LCA6 North Dever Downs



LCA6 - North Dever Downs Landscape Character Area

Fields, Hunton Down Lane

Hunton Down Lane

Key Characteristics:

- Rolling, relatively low lying, chalk downland, rising from levels of 80 m in the south to 140 m OD to the north.
- Well-drained open farmland with dry valleys, forming part of the catchment basin of the River Dever to the south.
- Predominantly arable farmland together with some cattle and pig pasture farms. Historically an area of sheep rearing.
- Small number of small assarted semi-natural ancient woodlands to the north.
- Good populations of declining farmland birds.
- Rare field margin species and calcareous grassland plants on Micheldever Spoil Heaps and railway embankment.
- Relatively large fields with straight, surveyed boundaries predominantly associated with enclosure by formal agreements in the 18th and19th Centuries followed by further boundary loss through 20th Century field rationalisation. Includes examples of 'ladder fields' extending from the Dever up onto the chalk. Evidence of pre-historic field systems to north.
- Strong field boundaries, with tall, thick hedges and a relatively high proportion of hedgerow trees in places, giving a degree of visual enclosure.
- Long panoramic views of open farmland, contained by distant woodland to the east and north.
- A well spaced network of straight minor rural roads and lanes, together with the A303 trunk road.
- Historic drove roads running in a north-south direction, often lined with yew trees.
- Concentration of shelter belts in the east.
- Dark soils contrast with chalk and flint creating speckled effect in fields after ploughing.
- Well-treed railway embankment running in a north-south direction, carrying regular trains between London and Southampton, which provides an important ecological habitat and a visually prominent feature within the area.
- Remote, rural character, although the A303 and railway detract from this to the north of the area.
- Sparsely settled, with one small village, Micheldever Station and scattered farms.
- Evidence of a long history of settlement, including the site of an Iron Age camp at Norsebury Ring, Bronze Age tumuli and Celtic field systems.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Open Arable
- Chalk and Clay (Farmland)

Settlement Types within the Area:

- Victorian Railway

Location and Boundaries:

The North Dever Downs Landscape Character Area stretches between the River Dever valley and the northern boundary of the district, where it abuts the area administered by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. Its western boundary is also formed by a district boundary, that of Test Valley District Council. To the east, the boundary of the character area is formed by the distinct change in geology and land use formed by the clay of the Stratton Woodlands Landscape Character Area.

Formative Influences:

The geology of the area consists entirely of Upper Chalk, together with some areas of loamy soil. The permeable nature of this geology has resulted in an undulating well-drained topography, associated with dry valleys and the absence of a surface drainage network.

The formation of the present landscape was probably initiated as long ago as the early prehistoric period, when most of the original forest cover was probably cleared for arable agriculture and grazing. There is much evidence of prehistoric activity in the area including Stone Age and Bronze Age barrows and an Iron Age hillfort, all to the immediate north of the Dever Valley, as well as Iron Age Celtic field systems to the north of the character area.

During medieval times, the area consisted of large areas of calcareous grassland,

managed as open sheep pasture with relatively few trees and hedges. This is shown by the presence of 'ladder' fields extending up from the Dever, with straight 'rungs' that would have been formed by early post-medieval enclosure. From post medieval times, further enclosure would have taken place, some associated with the assarting of the woodland to the north of the area, and the majority by the enclosure of open fields, by formal agreement and parliamentary acts, predominantly in the 18th and 19th Centuries. Throughout this time, the land would have remained as calcareous grassland, used for grazing sheep.

The 20th Century saw major changes to the landscape of the area, as farming became predominantly arable. In the latter half of the century, increasing mechanisation meant that this was accompanied by field rationalisation, with the consequent loss of hedgerows and increase in field sizes.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

This is an area with a strong rural character, with a gently rolling landform to the south that becomes slightly more undulating to the north. The area is almost entirely given over to arable agriculture. Micheldever Spoil Heaps SSSI supports particularly diverse flora. The area also contains occasional areas of pasture, small game spinneys and coniferous plantations and to the north of the area there are also some small pieces of assarted semi-natural ancient woodland. The area also benefits from small areas of calcareous grassland generally in narrow strips along roads and between fields. The open landscape is also supporting good populations of declining farmland birds such as stone curlews, and this is being monitored by the RSPB.

The rolling nature of the topography and the large field sizes allows for long, open panoramic views. However, the North Dever Downs character area is far less exposed than other local areas of downland. Fields are generally enclosed by strong boundaries consisting of tall hedges and numerous hedgerow trees. To the centre of the area, a railway embankment

also forms a strong wooded visual boundary. Similarly, to the far east, the boundary of Black Wood, in the Stratton Woodlands Landscape Character Area provides an important enclosing element. Although there are no historic parks in the area, it does benefit from an avenue of lime trees on Larkwhistle Farm Road, possibly planted in association with Stratton Park.

The rural, remote character of the area is also due to its limited amount of settlement. Micheldever Station is the only village in the area and, forming a stop on the London-Southampton rail route. The village developed in conjunction with the railway station and is generally Victorian in character. Buildings there are constructed mainly of brick and slate, although some flint is also seen. The only other settlement consists of several scattered farms and farm workers cottages to the west of the area.

Despite its lack of settlement and rural character, the tranquility of the area is unfortunately reduced by the presence of the A303, which bisects its northern part. This dual carriageway also has a visual presence, forming embankments and cuttings and forcing minor lanes under bridges. Regular trains passing through the character area also reduce its tranquility and feeling of remoteness.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- An area with a remote rural character, with a gently rolling landform with long, open panoramic views to semi wooded horizons.
- Small number of small assarted semi-natural Ancient woodlands to the north.
- Sparsely settled landscape with one small village.
- Small number of landscape component including fields, woodlands, hedgerows and the occasional field tree unifies character.
- Open views out to surrounding countryside from the A303.
- A network of minor roads and historic Drove roads with wide grass verges, enclosed by hedgerows.
- Well treed railway embankment
- Dark skies
- Historic sites, including the site of the Iron Age Camp at Norsebury Ring, Bronze Age tumli and Celtic field systems.
- Tall hedgerows. Yew trees are a feature of the hedgerows.
- Historic field patterns including ladder fields (post-medieval enclosure).

Key Issues:

- Continuing improvements to habitats for declining farmland birds.
- Impact of any proposed hedgerow / woodland planting on declining farmland birds to be considered.
- Loss of historic field pattern through loss of hedgerows and amalgamation of fields.
- Game cover detracting from rural views, introducing areas of planting out of context and non-native plants.
- Potential pollution of aquifer and River Test and River Dever from agricultural chemicals.
- Visual impact of coniferous plantations and disconnected new woodland planting.
- Loss of rural character and public views with the extension of gardens, parkland and residential curtilage.
- Poorly managed Ancient woodland.
- Loss of Ash trees through Ash dieback (Chalara).
- Game cover detracting from rural views, introducing areas of planting out of context and non-native plants.
- Noise pollution from A303.
- Increased artificial light on tranquil rural quality.
- Cumulative effects of infrastructure development and intrusive vertical elements such as wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons, and rigs associated with hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') which can be visible over long distances.
- Poly-tunnels and solar farms which can be particularly noticeable due to their colour and reflective qualities.
- Visually intrusive farm buildings, agri-chemical plans and rail depot storage buildings.
- Protection of archaeological remains, especially tumuli, ancient field systems, barrows and Norsebury Ring hill fort.
- Development of prominent large agricultural buildings.
- New smaller farms with associated new buildings and infrastructure eroding remote rural character. Equine development/horsey culture and general smaller farms with poor quality field boundaries i.e., post and rail, poorly sited shelters etc and subdivision of large fields.
- New uses for redundant agricultural buildings.
- Potential for significant biodiversity gains from arable reversion to permanent pasture.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape.

Landscape Strategies:

- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of ancient woodlands, through appropriate traditional woodland management, such as thinning, coppicing, replanting, ride and edge management and the removal of alien species.
- Incorporate features such as grassland strips into arable landscape that conserves soils, provides ecological connectivity,

provides wildlife habitat, filter pollutants in run off and increasing carbon equestrian. Avoid producing new hedgerows across the downs which could have a negative impact on the open character of the downs.

- Conserve and enhance the existing hedgerow network to maximise biodiversity, restore ecological networks and provide visual enclosure. Conserve, enhance and restore historical field patterns, in particular the ladder fields. The impacts of any proposed new hedgerow planting on declining farmland birds should be discussed with the RSPB prior to provision of grants.
- In the north of this LCA, establish more woodland, linking existing woodlands and creating a more resilient network of woodland habitats.
- Game cover should conserve vegetation and historic field patterns and not include non-native plants species.
- New gardens, parkland and other residential curtilage should take into account surrounding vegetation pattern, rural character and existing public views.
- Conserve and enhance areas of mature trees through appropriate management and replanting as appropriate. These include the avenue of lime trees and other trees along Larkwhistle Farm Road, and the wooded railway embankment.
- Protect the setting and routes of historic drove roads and replant specimen yew and pine trees along their length as they become over-mature. Manage the wide grassland verges of the Drove roads to encourage native wildflowers.
- Restore and enhance the biodiversity of arable farmland, by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow fields, to sustain important arable weed flora and seed-eating birds, and especially halt the rapid decline of the stone curlew.
- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices, to minimise fertiliser and soil run-off for example, which could lead to the pollution of the River Dever and River Test SSSI and the chalk aquifer, and to sustain important arable weed flora and seed-eating birds, and especially halt the rapid decline of the stone curlew.
- Seek opportunities for the restoration of arable farmland to permanent chalk grassland.
- Conserve the open panoramic views throughout the area.
- Protect from ploughing and enhance the setting of, prehistoric sites such as Norsebury Ring, through improved agricultural practices for example.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.
- Improve rights of way network.

Built Form Strategies:

- Conserve and respect the visually remote character of the area through sensitive location and design of new development.
- Reduce and avoid increasing lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc.
- New smaller farms should respect historic and local vegetation pattern and character and avoid proposing new buildings and infrastructure in visible locations.
- Conserve and promote the use of local building materials such as red brick, flint and slate in any new development.
- Integrate new development into its

rural setting with appropriately located indigenous planting.

- Carefully position new agricultural buildings to avoid prominent locations.
- Resist road improvements which would threaten the narrow and rural character of the lanes in this area and the loss of the wide grass verges.
- Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons and 'fracking' rigs are carefully situated to minimise visual intrusion.

Key Designations:

Conservation Areas:

- None

Scheduled Monuments:

- Long barrow, 250m NE of Upper Cranbourne Farm (Mon. No. 12104) List Entry 1013005
- Norsebury Ring Hillfort (Mon No. 34140) List entry Number 1020317
- Bell Barrow and Bowl barrow at Kitson's Clumps List Entry Number 1020318

SSSIs:

- Micheldever Spoil Heaps

SINCs:

- Upper Cranbourne and Hunton Down Farms; Micheldever Oil Terminal; Freefolk Beech Brake; Cranbourne Wood; Norton Wood; Norton Copse; Blind End Copse

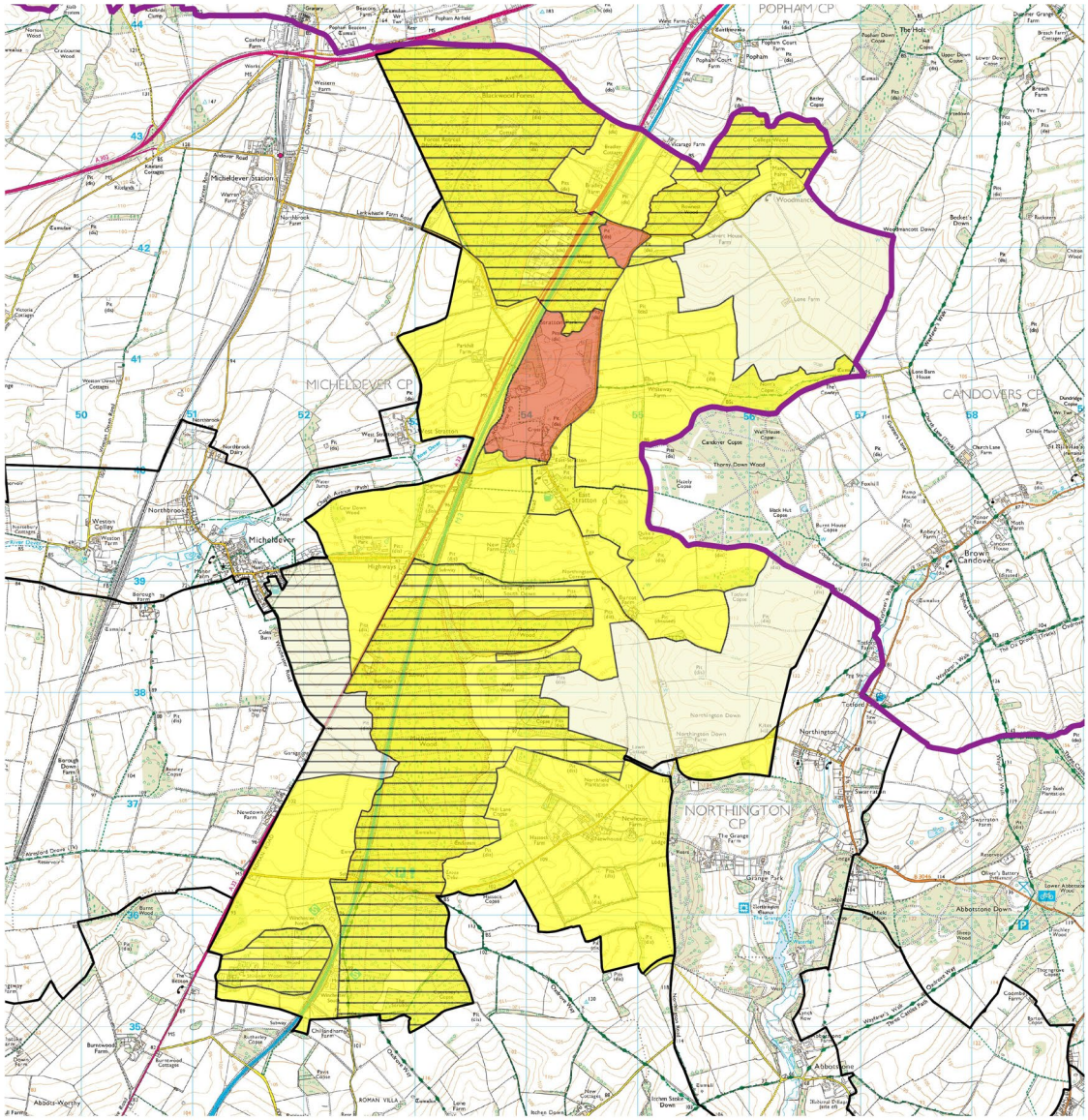
Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens:

- None

Local Nature Reserves:

- Micheldever Spoil Heaps

Figure 19 - LCA7 Stratton Woodlands



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- Landscape Character Areas
- LCT boundaries - LCA 7: Stratton Woodlands
- Chalk and Clay Farmland
- Chalk and Clay Woodland
- Open Arable
- Open Arable Exposed
- Parkland

north

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

LCA7 - Stratton Woodlands Landscape Character Area

Rownest Wood

Stratton Park

Location and Boundaries:

The Stratton Woodlands Landscape Character Area is situated in the north-east corner of the district and both its northern and eastern boundaries are formed by the boundary of Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council. The southern boundary of the character area is defined by the edge of Itchen Wood where the topography and farmland is increasingly influenced by the chalk downlands to the north of the River Itchen (North Itchen Downs Landscape Character Area). The woodland enclosing Northington Grange and the steep valley sides of the upper reaches of the Itchen Valley define the south-eastern boundary of the character area.

To the west of the character the clay soils have given rise to areas of continuous woodland and areas of farmland characterised by well treed, largely unmanaged, boundaries. The main woodlands include Black Wood in the North, Micheldever Wood and Itchen Wood further south, which provide a clearly identifiable edge to the western boundary of the character area.

Key Characteristics:

- Strong presence of assarted woodland cover, associated with clay deposits. These include Micheldever Wood (replanted ancient woodland, formerly part of Pamber Forest) Black Wood, Itchen Wood, Dodsley Wood, Rownest Wood, Shroner Wood (ancient semi-natural and replanted woodland), College Wood, Embley Wood, Biddles Wood and part of Thorny Down Wood.
- High biodiversity value of woodland; especially associated with ancient woodland. Part of Micheldever Wood is a wildlife reserve.
- Medium to large assarted fields, that are predominantly used for arable production, are particularly found in the north-east of the character area.
- Variety of topography (altitudes range from 80-145m OD).
- Variety of enclosure from heavily wooded to fairly exposed.
- Visually very rural, but M3 noise affects perception of tranquillity.
- Rural roads are generally quite narrow, one exception being the avenue at Cowdown.
- Archaeological remains, including barrows and Iron Age settlement
- Presence of the extended (12th-14th Century) historic deer park at Stratton Park and its influence on the formation of East Stratton, which was partially relocated to make way for the estate.
- East Stratton is a good example of an ‘estate’ village, with many Grade II Listed buildings.

- Woodmancott is an isolated settlement with a small business park based on converted traditional farm buildings.
- Characteristic buildings include 19th Century brick and thatch estate cottages and 17th Century timber framed thatched cottages within East Stratton, together with a flint church with clay tile roof. The majority of other dwellings are brick with clay tiles.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Open Arable (Exposed)
- Chalk and Clay (Farmland)
- Chalk and Clay
- Historic Parkland (Woodland)

Settlement Types within the Area:

- Estate Village

Formative Influences:

There is a wide variety in the landscape of the character area, derived mainly from the varied topography underlying geology, combining chalk with overlying clay soils, and the diverse topography of the area. The presence of large areas of clay is reflected by the predominance of woodland including Black Wood to the north and Micheldever Wood to the south. It contains large areas of beech and oak planted about 60 years ago. This large woodland complex of Micheldever and Itchen Woods has prehistoric settlements and field systems within it, demonstrating that much of the woodland is Roman or post-Roman regeneration, which has then been assarted. There is also evidence of post 1800 assarting at the north-east end of Micheldever Wood.

There is a long history of settlement in the area, particularly associated with Stratton Park that dates back to around CE900. Associated with the park is the village of East Stratton which has developed over four centuries. This once extended further north into Stratton Park, but was partially demolished to make way for the park improvements in about 1850.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

To the eastern edge of the landscape character area, mainly on areas of high ground, the influence of the upper chalk gives rise to more open areas with large arable fields, with clipped and fragmented hedgerows and few hedgerow trees. In places this open landscape directly abuts the woodlands, while in other places there is a more gradual transition.

The sense of enclosure varies enormously, from the low-lying enclosed woodland areas to the fairly high areas of the exposed arable fields. However, the unifying feature of this character area is the presence of woodland both locally and as a backdrop to longer or wider views. In particular, in views west from Lone Farm over the character area, the woodland appears as a major component of the character area. These woodlands vary in character including ancient woodland particularly renowned for bluebell cover in the spring, such as Rownest Wood and Shroner Wood, as well as more recent plantations. The edges of much of this woodland have been assarted to provide agricultural fields.

Stratton Woodlands is predominantly rural in character. East Stratton is the only village within the character area, which lies fairly centrally with Micheldever Wood to the South and Embley Wood to the North. East Stratton is closely associated with Stratton Park. It has a north/south linear pattern with the park situated to the northern end. It contains a number of 19th Century brick and thatch estate cottages and some 17th and 18th Century timber framed buildings. Other buildings in the character area include scattered farmhouses and associated workers cottages and yards, typically brick with clay tiles.

Historically a deer park, Stratton Park is located on the valley gravel and sands of the dry upper reaches of the Dever Valley. The park has fallen into decline, with the loss of the main house and

the neglect of the mature parkland trees.

Routes within the character area are typically fairly straight and direct, but rural and narrow in character, with clipped hedges and no kerb lines or pavements. The presence of the A33 and M3 roads however, which run adjacent to and through the western edge of Micheldever and Itchen Woods, has resulted in a loss of tranquillity in the western parts of the character area. The northbound Motorway Service Area at Shroner Wood also provides some added noise and light pollution.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- The village of East Stratton a good example of an estate village; with its small thatched cottages, simple garden boundary treatment of hedgerows, low brick and flint walls and picket fencing with a few pedestrian pavements enhance its rural character. Views out to the surrounding open countryside enhance its rural setting.
- Large areas of Ancient woodland and replanted Ancient woodland. The extensive areas of woodland create a successful buffer to the M3 which straddles this LCA.
- Dark skies.
- Historic parkland, with trees in open grassland visible from public roads.
- Elevated locations allow extensive long views south to the South Downs National Park with no visual detractors.
- Narrow roads and lanes. Rough tracks enhance rural character.
- Open boundaries on roads through woodlands allow uninhibited views.
- A range of views across a well intact rural landscape, with good levels of tranquility away from the M3.

Key Issues:

- Traffic noise from the M3 degrades adjacent tranquility levels.
- Poor quality development, treatment of boundaries, signage and gateways adjacent M3 and A3 can detract from visual character of this rural area.
- Impact of new small farms and associated infrastructure.
- Impact of increased size of gardens/parkland on wider landscape with light pollution as isolated houses are upgraded/redesigned.
- Suburbanized fringe character with assorted horse paddocks and sub division of fields with post and wire fencing to form further paddocks. New smaller farms with associated new buildings and infrastructure eroding remote and rural character.
- Game cover detracting from rural views, introducing areas of planting out of context and non-native plants.

- Decline of Stratton Parkland including over mature trees and boundary features. Impact of M3 on tranquility of parkland.
- Increased artificial light on tranquil rural quality.
- Overall decline of traditional boundary walls including flint and brick, replacement with in appropriate high walls, fences and hedges.
- Visual prominence of modern farm buildings, open yards, loss of adjacent hedgerow boundaries with large areas of manicured mown lawn can detract from rural character. New uses for farm buildings with suburban design solutions for gateways, boundary fencing and building also detract from rural character.
- Over development, loss of woodland character and pressure for urban fringe related activities on country parks, holiday parks and wider area.
- Fly tipping, blocking of access points with poor quality solutions (concrete blocks) and security fencing visible from public domain with barbed wire all detract from rural character.
- Loss of Ancient woodland and character due to increased visitor use of area and over development of visitor facilities.
- Isolated woodlands surrounded by intensive agriculture.
- Potential for restoration of non-native plantations in ancient woodland sites to native woodland, thereby increasing biodiversity.
- Potential for improved management of existing hedgerows and for planting new hedges to improve network in open arable areas, providing there is no adverse impact on important populations of declining farmland birds.
- Cumulative effects of infrastructure development and intrusive vertical elements such as wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons, and rigs associated with hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') which can be visible over long distances.
- Poly-tunnels and solar farms which can be particularly noticeable due to their colour and reflective qualities.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape.

Landscape Strategies:

- Conserve the generally high degree of enclosure and seclusion created by the numerous woodlands and hedgerows within chalk and clay areas.
- Restore and enhance the biodiversity of arable farmland, by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow fields.
- Encourage hedgerow infill and hedgerow tree planting on open arable areas, providing there is no adverse impact on declining farmland birds. Conserve, enhance and restore and manage the hedgerow network which forms part of a coherent historical field pattern. Take advice from RSPB before giving grants for hedgerow planting to avoid potential adverse effects on declining farmland birds.
- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of the woodlands and hedgerows, which contributes to the bio-diversity and character of the landscape, through

appropriate management such as thinning, coppicing, replanting, ride and edge management and the removal of alien species. Replanting should use locally indigenous species, including oak, beech, hazel, ash and field maple.

- Establish more woodland, linking existing woodland and creating a more resilient network of woodland habitats
- Game cover should conserve vegetation and historic field patterns and not include non-native plants species
- Conserve and improve public access to the woodlands. Although be cautious to areas which have Ancient woodland status and the impact of visitor numbers and dogs on wildlife plant species
- Encourage take up of Forest Authority grants for the restoration of non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites to native trees and shrubs.
- Conserve the character of various archaeological sites within the woodland and historic field patterns
- Restore Stratton Park, using an appropriate strategy. Maintain the open views across the parkland from adjacent public highways including Public Rights of Way.
- Conserve the lime tree avenue along Larkhill Road.
- Encourage new tree/woodland planting to connect isolated woodlands.
- Increase tree/woodland planting around isolated and farm complexes to reduce their visual presence.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.
- Explore measures to reduce the visual and acoustic impact of the M3 through sensitive woodland and screen planting.

Built Form Strategies:

- Conserve the rural character and pattern of East Stratton and Woodmancott, especially the adjacent small fields which enhance their setting. Avoid urban solutions i.e., high close boarded fencing or high brick walls and pedestrian pavements, paved driveways and elaborate gateways.
- New development should respect the traditional built form and materials typical of the character area.
- Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc.
- New gardens, parkland and other residential curtilage should take into account surrounding vegetation pattern, rural character and existing public views.
- Conserve the rural character of the lanes and tracks. Avoid upgrading by tarmacking and widening the rough tracks, especially the ones which are also Public Rights of Way to retain their rural character.
- New smaller farms should respect historic and local vegetation pattern and character and avoid proposing new buildings and infrastructure in visible locations.
- Conserve the form and character of isolated dwellings associated with farm complexes.
- Respect the small-scale nature of existing dwellings.
- Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons and ‘fracking’ rigs are carefully situated to minimize visual intrusion.

Key Designations:

Conservation areas:

- East Stratton

Scheduled Monuments:

- Iron Age settlement (Mon. No. 512 HA) list UID 1001815
- Multi period site within Micheldever Wood round barrows and earthworks in Micheldever List UID 1021320
- Multi period site in Itchen Woods (Mon. No, 588 HA) List UID 1021319

SSSIs:

- None

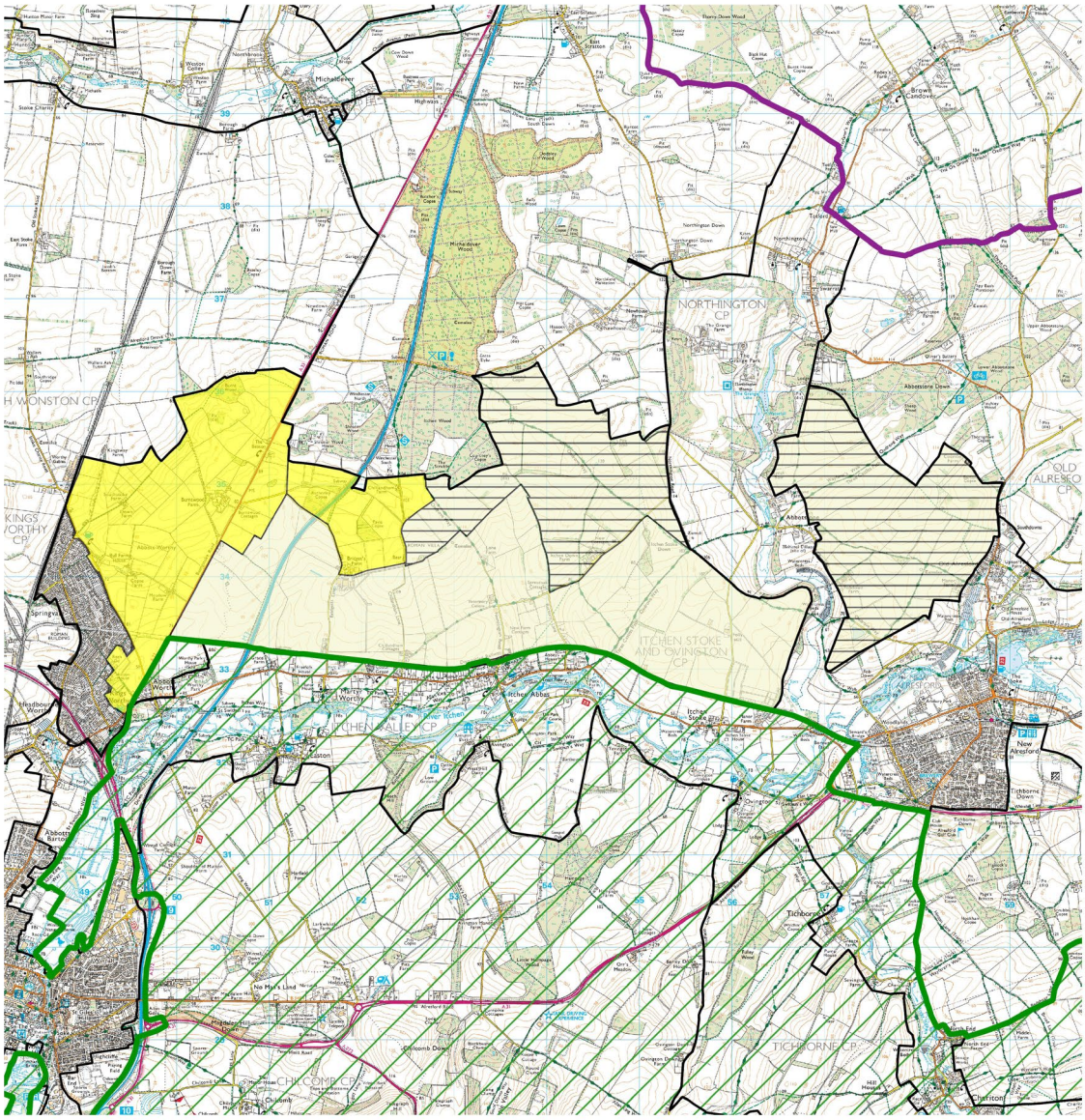
SINCs:

- Black Wood; College Wood; Norn's Copse;
- Cow Down Copse; Duke's Copse; Totford Copse; Dodsley Wood; The Lawn, Micheldever;
- Dodsley and Lawn Copses; Folly Wood; Micheldever Wood; Mill Lane Copses; Hassocks Copse; Itchen Wood;
- Shroner Wood; College Wood.

Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens:

- Stratton Park: 1660's Deer Park, Park and Garden Grade II Site No. 1552, Historic England List UID 1000867

Figure 20 - LCA8 North Itchen Downs



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- Landscape Character Areas
- South Downs National Park
- Open Arable
- Open Arable Exposed
- Urban Areas (Local Plan Policy Boundary)

LCT boundaries - LCA 8: North Itchen Downs

- Chalk and Clay Farmland

north 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

LCA8 - North Itchen Downs Landscape Character Area

Fields, Northington Road

Northington Road

Location and Boundaries:

This Landscape Character Area contains two parts. The first stretches from and includes Kings Worthy to New Alresford. It is bounded by the lower valley sides of the River Itchen to its south (marked by the disused railway line) and by the woods and heavily treed farmland of the Stratton Woodlands Landscape Character Areas to the north. The second area at the eastern end beyond the Itchen Valley Landscape Character Area continues to the east up to the landscape Character Area: Bighton Woodlands and to the south east Old Alreford.

Key Characteristics:

- Stretch of well-drained rolling chalk downland running in an east-west direction and forming the upper slopes of the northern side of the Itchen Valley between Winchester and Alresford.
- Medium and large regular fields with straight surveyed boundaries, enclosed during the 18th and 19th Centuries by formal agreements, followed by further boundary loss through 20th Century field rationalisation. Predominantly arable, with some pasture to the west.
- Clipped, often-fragmented hedgerows with few hedgerow trees.
- Small, sparsely scattered areas of woodland, including some ancient semi-natural woodland.
- Open, often-exposed feel, giving panoramic views across the Itchen valley and beyond, from heights of up to 125m OD.
- Well distributed network of minor narrow lanes and drove roads together with a short stretch of the M3 motorway.
- Evidence of long history of settlement, with tumuli, and the sites of Iron Age settlements and a Roman Villa.
- Sparsely settled, containing just one main settlement, Kings Worthy, and scattered farms. Kings Worthy originated in association with the river but has expanded northwards into the downs.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Chalk and Clay (Farmland)
- Open Arable (Exposed) Open Arable

Settlement Types within the Area:

- Chalk River Valley

Formative Influences:

The geology of the area consists entirely of Upper Chalk, together with some small areas of overlying Clay with Flints and areas of loamy soil. The permeable nature of this geology has resulted in a rolling well-drained topography that

falls generally from north to south, towards the Itchen Valley.

The formation of the present landscape was probably initiated as long ago as the early prehistoric period, when most of the original forest cover was probably cleared for arable agriculture and grazing. Evidence of prehistoric activity in the area includes Bronze Age barrows and Iron Age enclosures and settlement. There is also the site of a Roman villa in the area.

During medieval times, the area would have consisted of large areas of calcareous grassland, managed as open sheep pasture with relatively few trees and hedges. There is some evidence of early informal enclosure of these open field systems, although generally enclosure occurred by formal agreement in the 18th and 19th Centuries. The 20th Century saw major changes to the landscape of the area, as farming became predominantly arable. In the latter half of the century, increasing mechanisation meant that this was accompanied by field rationalisation, with the consequent loss of hedgerows and increase in field size.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

This is an area with a strong rural agricultural character, with a gently rolling landform, which slopes down towards the Itchen Valley along its southern boundary. The area is almost entirely given over to arable agriculture. The main biodiversity potential lies in the arable weed flora (mid/north Hampshire is one of the richest arable weed areas in England) as well as a habitat for declining and vulnerable birds such as the corn bunting, tree sparrow and linnet.

The area also contains limited areas of pasture to the north of Kings Worthy and occasional shelter belts and small copses, some of which are ancient semi-natural woodland, namely Burnt Wood, Pavis Copse, and Rutherly Copse. This is generally not a well-treed area although it has a few hedgerow trees or tall hedgerows and old avenue planting.

The rolling nature of the topography and the large size of the fields allows for long, open panoramic views, particularly from the higher points to the north of the area towards Winchester and the Itchen Valley. In places, the elevated nature of the land combined with the lack of trees, give it an exposed feel.

Roads in this area are narrow and rural in character, forming a relatively sparse network, supplemented by a number of historic ox droves, which are wider and characterized by wide grass verges. Settlement is generally confined to a relatively dense pattern of farms. However, Kings Worthy to the west is a large village, the centre of which was originally associated with the River Itchen but is now cut off from it by the busy A33. The village has predominantly expanded in the 20th Century, developing northwards up the ‘Springvale’ valley.

Despite the generally rural character and lack of settlement in this landscape character area, the tranquillity of the western half of the area is reduced by the presence of the A33 and the M3 motorway although, since it generally runs in a cutting, its visual impact is minimal. The southbound Motorway Service Area at Shroner Wood also provides some noise and light pollution. Elsewhere the area generally has a visually and aurally remote feel.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- Long open exposed panoramic views across the Itchen Valley and beyond.
- Good network of minor narrow lanes. Drove roads are hedged with wide grass verges.
- Sparsely settled with one settlement and a scattering of farmsteads.
- Areas of woodland including Ancient and semi-ancient.
- Dark skies
- Evidence of long history of mans activity, with tumuli, and the sites of Iron age settlements and Roman villa.
- Good network of Public Rights of Way including long distant footpaths: Oxdrove Way, Wayfarers Walk and The Castles Path. Also the Kim Bishop footpath along the dismantled railway line.
- Kings Worthy retains an attractive historic character with traditional buildings, complimentary garden boundaries of low flint walls, low picket fencing and hedgerows all contribute positively to the character of the area. Mature trees are also a feature of the village centre.
- Dismantled railway line aligns the southern boundary of this LCA.
- Mainly arable, with a large area of pasture north of Kings Worthy.

Key Issues:

- Impact of intensive agricultural practices on aquifer and water courses, species-rich field margins and declining farmland birds.
- Hedgerow and woodland neglect during the second half of the 20th Century.
- Noise pollution from A33 and M3 affects tranquility of adjacent areas.
- Increased artificial light on tranquil rural quality.
- Lack of public access from Kings Worthy to the north and the adjacent area of open countryside. The A33 forms an abrupt barrier for access from Kings Worthy to the River Itchen.
- Loss of rural character and public views with the extension of gardens, parkland and residential curtilage.
- New smaller farms with associated new buildings and infrastructure eroding remote and rural character. Impact of horsiculture, including sub division of fields to form paddocks with post and rail fencing.
- Game cover detracting from rural views, introducing areas of planting out of context and non-native plants.
- Intrusive farm buildings. Development of prominent large agricultural buildings.
- New uses for redundant agriculture buildings, boundary treatment and gateways and signage.

- Protection of archaeological remains from ploughing.
- Potential biodiversity benefits arising from restoration of arable land to chalk Downland.
- Intrusive settlement edge treatment of Kings Worthy against open areas of countryside.
- Impact of wine industry and associated infrastructure on landscape.
- Cumulative effects of infrastructure development and intrusive vertical elements such as wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons, and rigs associated with hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') which can be visible over long distances.
- Poly-tunnels and solar farms which can be particularly noticeable due to their colour and reflective qualities
- Ash dieback within area resulting in loss of mature trees and tree cover.

Landscape Strategies:

- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of woodlands through appropriate management such as thinning, coppicing, replanting and removal of alien species.
- Encourage replanting of neglected hedgerows to connect habitats, whilst respecting the historic open downland character of the area. Take advice from RSPB regarding potential impacts on farmland birds before giving hedgerow planting grants.
- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices, to minimise fertiliser and soil run-off, which could lead to the pollution of the River Itchen SSSI and the chalk aquifer, and to promote the growth of species-rich field margins and habitats for declining farmland birds.
- Conserve the open, unenclosed nature of the area.
- Restore and enhance the biodiversity of arable farmland, by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow fields, to sustain important arable weed flora and declining farmland birds.
- Seek opportunities for the restoration of arable to chalk downland.
- Conserve the historic routes of the ox droves from agricultural change and development. Manage the roadside grass verges to optimize native wildflowers and grasses.
- Within Kings Worthy, retain the mature trees and other trees, replant to retain treed character of area.
- Retain and enhance intact countryside setting to the north east of Kings Worthy. Avoid non-native and evergreen species within this area which would detract from its rural character. Also avoid upgrading the lanes and tracks which could also suburbanize the area.
- Seek opportunities for public access with new footpaths from King Worthy out to the open countryside to the north east.
- Conserve the open panoramic views throughout the area through the appropriate management of hedgerows and avoiding inappropriately located woodland planting.
- Conserve, enhance and retain the historic field pattern with new hedgerows
- Game cover should conserve vegetation and historic field patterns and not include non-native plants species.

- Conserve archaeological sites and their settings, from damage by ploughing
- Monitor declining farmland birds to measure success of biodiversity strategy.
- New gardens, parkland and other residential curtilage should take into account surrounding vegetation pattern, rural character and existing public views.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.

Built Form Strategies:

- Conserve the visually remote settlement character within the area by avoiding inappropriately located or prominent buildings.
- Retain the historic village character of Kings Worthy
- Integrate new development and existing into the landscape with appropriate native planting.
- Retain and repair flint walls with the same materials. Avoid replacement and new garden boundaries with high close boarded fencing or other suburban style fencing which would be out of character with this rural area.
- Minimise the impact of intrusive structures such as telecommunications masts and new agricultural buildings through sensitive siting and screening.
- New smaller farms should respect historic and local vegetation pattern and character and avoid proposing new buildings and infrastructure in visible locations.
- Conserve the narrow, rural character of lanes and the wide grassland character of the Drove roads.
- Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc.
- Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons and 'fracking' rigs are carefully situated to minimise visual intrusion.

Key Designations:

Conservation Areas:

- Kings Worthy

Scheduled Monument:

- Late Iron Age settlement N of Grace's Farm (Mon. No. 527 HA) List UID 1001825
- Roman villa and earlier prehistoric settlement 400m W of Lone Farm (Mon. No. 26705) List UID 1012693
- Two round barrows 100m NE of Itchen Abbas List UID 1012692
- Roman villa (Mon. No. 26704)
- 'Banjo type' native settlement (Mon. No. 510 HA) List UID 1001814

SSSIs:

- None

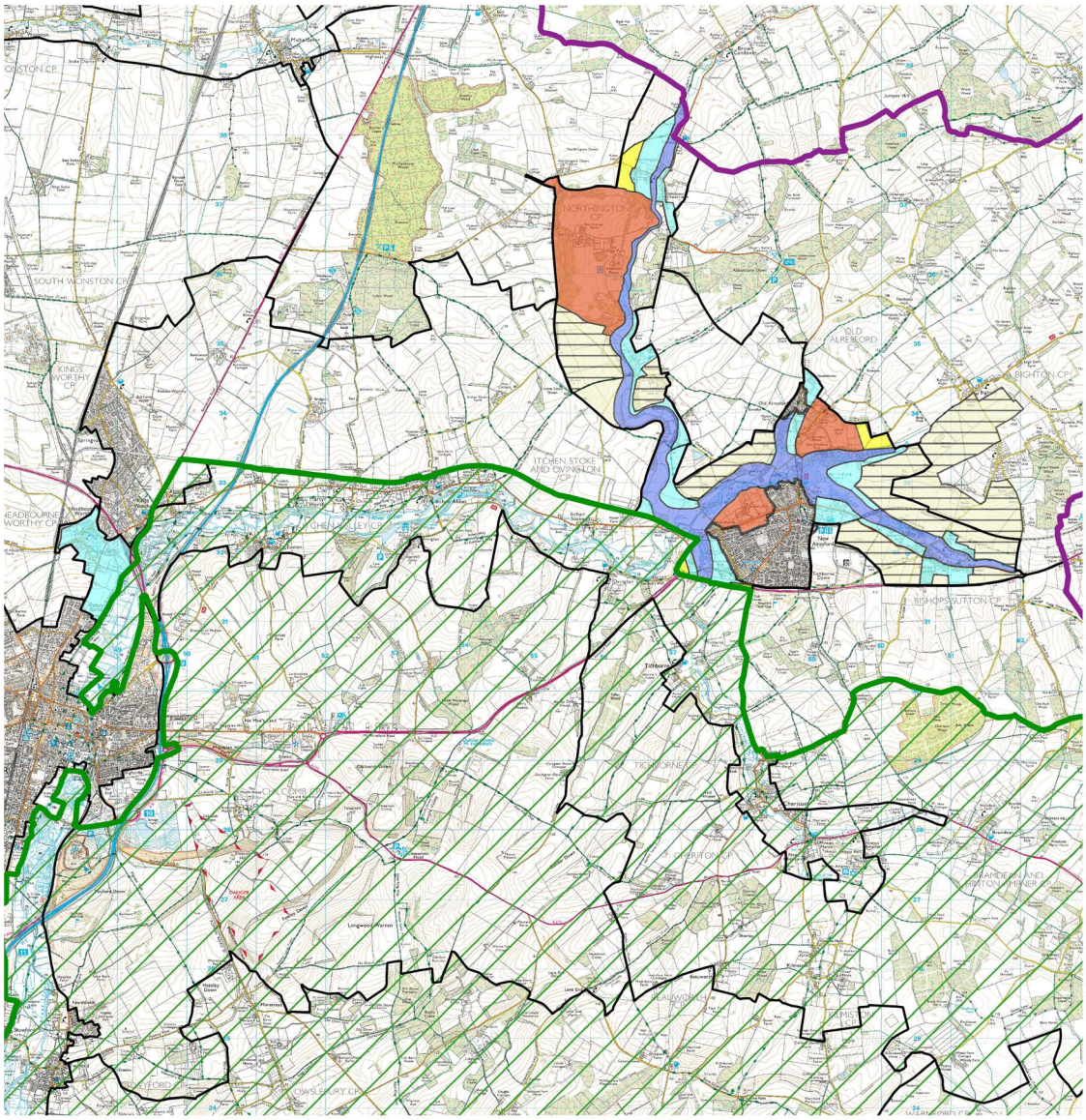
SINCs:

- Burnt Wood, Rutherely Copse

Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens:

- None

Figure 21 - LCA9 Upper Itchen Valley



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- Landscape Character Areas
- South Downs National Park
- LCT boundaries - LCA 9: Upper Itchen Valley
- Chalk and Clay Farmland
- Open Arable
- Open Arable Exposed
- Parkland
- River Valley Floor
- River Valley Side
- Urban Areas (Local Plan Policy Boundary)

north 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

LCA9 - Upper Itchen Valley Landscape Character Area

Abbotsone Road, looking east

The ford, Bishops Sutton

Location and Boundaries:

The Upper Itchen Valley Landscape Character Area borders the South Downs National Park and includes three disconnected areas; the smallest two areas are on the northern side of Winchester with the substantially larger area including New Alresford to the east.

The first smaller area on the northern side of Winchester, includes an area to the north of Abbotts Barton, across to the western bank of the River Itchen and to the north: Headbourne Worthy and then across to west and the railway. The second area includes a smaller area with the western boundary marked by Nun's Walk extending across to the east to the River Itchen, and then extending as far as Abbotts Barton.

The main part of this LCA extends north east of the River Itchen from the South Downs National Park boundary; where the area includes New Alresford, the Candover stream which extend northwards to Old Alresford and up to Totford and to the east the River Aire including the settlement of Bishops Sutton.

As well as including the valley floor, the Landscape Character Area also includes the areas of the valley sides generally making up the visual envelope of the rivers.

Key Characteristics:

- Distinctive river valley topography with sloping valley sides and relatively narrow valley floor, located in a chalk downland setting.
- Alluvium and valley sand and gravel along valley bottoms with loamy soil and upper chalk on valley sides and beyond.
- Clear alkaline spring water in meandering narrow channels, which are often braided, together with associated lakes, ponds, mill chases, springs and ephemeral headwaters and supporting a thriving watercress industry.
- Commercial fish farms characterized by small ponds and lakes on the periphery of New Alresford.
- Valley floor generally consists of small pasture fields, with occasional remnants of historic water meadows. Valley sides generally consist of medium fields used for arable production following informal parliamentary type enclosure.
- Northington Grange an historic house with extensive mid C18 landscape park (Grade II listed), woodland, with smaller areas identified as Ancient woodland, and with a series of designed lakes along the course of the River Alre. Old Alresford Park (Grade II listed) with adjacent Upton Park creates a large area of open parkland characterized by trees in grassland.
- High biodiversity value, with habitats including the chalk river, fen/carr/ swamp/ reedbed, unimproved neutral grassland,

calcareous grassland, standing open water, ephemeral headwaters and ancient semi-natural woodlands.

- A number of long views across the river valley gained from the open valley sides, including the open flood plains in the upper reaches.
- Long distant footpaths such as the Wayfarer's Walk, Three Castles Path and Oxdrove Way criss cross this LCA, between the river and adjacent downland via drove roads and lanes.
- A long history of occupation, with numerous archaeological remains, including ancient tracks and three deserted medieval villages (Abbotstone, Northington and Swarraton).
- Limited development beyond New Alresford northwards towards Totford, creates a remote feel.
- Small villages often Anglo-Saxon in origin. These have developed at river crossing points and generally developed in a linear form along the valley side. Where topography has allowed, a few settlements such as New Alresford have also become more nucleated. Estate villages and Parkland, such as Tichborne and Avington, are also characteristic.
- Traditional building features and methods, including timber frames, brick, flint, wheat-reed thatch, slate and clay tiles.
- Noise from A31 affects tranquility within adjacent southern areas.
- Watercress line an heritage railway train line brings visitors to area.
- Areas of grape vines for wine production.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Chalk and Clay farmland
- Open Arable
- Open Arable Exposed
- Parkland
- River Valley Floor
- River Valley Side
- Urban Areas

Settlement Types within the Area:

- Chalk Downland Hill Top
- Chalk River Valley

Formative Influences:

The predominant influence on the area is the River Itchen and its tributaries, which have formed a relatively narrow river valley through the surrounding chalk downland. The permeability of the chalk has also resulted in the formation of numerous meanders, braided channels, springs, ponds and lakes. As well as influencing the topography of the area, the river flood plain also provides a diversity of flora and fauna, with numerous habitats associated with the river channel, valley floor and valley sides.

Due to its sheltered position and clear, shallow source of water, the valley has a long history of settlement, dating back to the Iron Age. The majority of the numerous villages and hamlets developed in Anglo Saxon times, at suitable river crossing points. The continued occupancy of the valley had been promoted by its agricultural importance, providing energy for corn mills and fulling mills as well as a suitable location for water meadows, watercress beds and trout fishing. By the 18th Century, the river valley location was also becoming a favoured place of residence for the landed gentry and therefore has a significant number of large country houses and associated parkland.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

The area is characterised by a number of relatively narrow, meandering chalk river valleys, which converge at New Alresford and then flow into the River Itchen further to the west. The river channels themselves are also relatively narrow and shallow, generally little more than a stream in parts.

There is much evidence of historic change to these channels. In places they have been widened and dammed, forming Old Alresford Pond (c1190) and ornamental lakes at Northington and Avington for example, as well as numerous watercress beds, located mainly around the town of New Alresford. There is also evidence within the landscape of the formation of mill chases, weirs and water meadows, although these are no longer traditionally managed.

The Itchen is covered by the designation: Special Area for Conservation (cSAC) under the 1992 European Habitats Directive, as it is one of the best examples of a chalk river habitat in Europe. Three areas of the Itchen Valley also form part of the Itchen Valley SSSI,representing former floated water meadows consisting of a mosaic of fen, carr and meadow on peat.

The river valleys are generally typified by agricultural uses, with pasture and scattered areas of wet woodland on the valley bottom and arable fields on the valley sides, leading up to the arable downland of the surrounding area. On the valley sides, oak, beech and ash are common, together with typical hedgerow species such as hawthorn. In places, hedgerows have been neglected and have become overgrown or fragmented. Ancient woodland is uncommon, and only found in association with historic parkland, with tree species along the river being predominantly alder, willow and poplar.

Large areas of the valley landscape are dominated by historic houses and parkland, including Old Alresford House, Upton House, Northington Grange and Arlebury House. These are generally associated with ornamental, mature tree species and some still have traditional pastures. Others however, have been converted to other uses, such as arable farmland. In many instances, parkland trees are poorly managed and over-mature.

The Upper Itchen Valley Landscape Character Area is characterised by a long history of settlement, with evidence of Iron Age strip lynchets and a park enclosure possibly dating from Roman times. There is now a large concentration of small, linear settlements in the area. These tend to consist of a narrow lane leading from a river crossing point, up the valley side, with later linear extensions to the village along the valley sides. Examples include Abbotstone, Bishop's Sutton, Northington and Old Alresford.

All villages have retained their historic traditional character, although New Alresford has expanded significantly in the 20th Century. Many buildings are constructed using vernacular materials and construction methods, including red brick, colour-washed brick, flint, wattle and daub, slate, clay tiles and longstraw thatch. The only settlement to differ in this aspect is the historic core of New Alresford, which has a far higher proportion of colour- washed brick and render buildings and a far lower proportion of thatch.

Long distant walks – Three Castles Path and Wayfarer's Walk and St Swithun's Way

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- Habitats of National and European ecological importance including the clear alkaline river, fen/carr/swamp/reedbed, unimproved neutral grassland, calcareous grassland, standing open water, ephemeral headwaters and ancient semi- natural woodlands.
- The stream and some of the floodplain is internationally designated as a SAC because of its chalk stream habitat, rich in plants, invertebrates and fish.
- Important concentration of remnant water meadows which was historically integral to medieval sheep-corn husbandry.
- The well-treed character with individual specimens and belts of trees located along the river and its tributaries and on the valley sides.
- The fairly irregular field pattern largely made up of paddocks and pasture resulting from the enclosure of historic water meadows forms an area of contrast to the adjacent areas of downland.
- Frequent minor crossing points marked by white parapets to bridges.
- The interconnection of semi-natural habitats such as the river, chalk downland and ancient woodland which is important for the movement of wildlife and the well-being of residents.
- Internationally renowned as a fly-fishing river especially for wild brown and rainbow trout.
- The Itchen valley has inspired many artists and boasts literary connections with Keats, Tennyson, Pope, Wordsworth, Jane Austen, Trollope and Izaak Walton.
- Crossing point for long distant walks.
- Dark skies.
- Views across river valley to undeveloped valley sides and crests.
- Small contained settlements located on valley side often with church spire marking location within wider landscape.

Key Issues:

- Maintenance of the favourable conservation status of the Itchen cSAC.
- Pollution of river water from agricultural chemicals including the watercress industry.
- Decline of watercress beds and industry and subsequent replacement land uses.
- New smaller farms with associated new buildings and infrastructure eroding remote and rural character.
- Expansion of watercress sites, with inappropriate out of character buildings, gateways and boundary fencing which can erode historic character and rural tranquility.
- Formal amenity areas on land traditionally supporting pasture management.
- Suburbanization of rural hamlets and individual properties, including inappropriate suburban garden boundaries i.e close boarded timber fencing and oversized gateways.
- Expansion of built development and gardens onto valley floor and on valley sides and skyline

- Increased artificial light on tranquil rural quality.
- New smaller farms with associated new buildings and infrastructure eroding remote and rural character.
- Non-native hedgerows (i.e., leylandii) visible as part of open countryside.
- The poor siting and location of car parking can result in cars detracting from historic character of villages and buildings.
- Silt deposition in the river as a result of the ploughing of permanent pasture.
- Fragmentation and neglect of hedgerows and wet woodlands.
- Agricultural improvement of pasture and water meadows.
- Management of parkland features, including pasture, trees and lakes.
- Artificial changes to river course, including the construction of new lakes and ponds.
- Reduction in biodiversity through intensive agricultural practices including wine growing.
- Protection of historic character of settlements and their separate identities.
- Protection of open views.
- Visual intrusion of detractors such as pylons, paddock fencing, stabling, huts and other industrial buildings. Development of large agricultural buildings on open valley sides.
- Management of unimproved/semi-improved neutral and calcareous grassland.
- Damage to trees and grassland by heavy vehicles.
- Visual impact of new land uses and associated infrastructure.
- Cumulative effects of infrastructure development and intrusive vertical elements such as wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons, and rigs associated with hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') which can be visible over long distances.
- Poly-tunnels and solar farms which can be particularly noticeable due to their colour and reflective qualities.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape.

Landscape Strategies:

- Conserve the integrity of the cSAC by seeking advice from English Nature on all planning applications in this character area.
- Conserve and restore hedgerows and wet woodlands, through appropriate management such as coppicing, thinning, replanting and the removal of alien species, to retain the existing landscape pattern. Replanting should use locally indigenous species, such as ash, willow and poplar on the valley floor, and oak and beech on the valley side. This would also be an area suitable for the reintroduction of native black poplar, Populus nigra.
- Restore and enhance the biodiversity of arable farmland, by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow field.
- Conserve archaeological sites such as the deserted villages and ancient field systems, and their settings.
- Conserve and enhance the water meadows and areas of unimproved pasture

- Encourage the retention and traditional management of watercress beds
- Conserve the predominantly visually remote and quiet rural character of the area.
- Conserve the variety and rural nature of views throughout the area, including short, enclosed views of the river valley floor as well as long views to and from the surrounding downs.
- Conserve and restore the landscape and built features of historic parks through continued replacement tree planting, woodland management and the restoration of pasture and lakes.
- Conserve the rich bio-diversity associated with the clear spring water.
- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices to minimise fertiliser and soil run-off, which could lead to the pollution of the River Itchen and the chalk aquifer.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.
- Improve public access to Rivers.

Built Form Strategies:

- Conserve the small and linear pattern of settlements and respect the traditional form and scale of existing buildings.
- Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc.
- New smaller farms should respect historic and local vegetation pattern and character and avoid proposing new buildings and infrastructure in visible locations.
- Conserve and promote the use of local building materials such as red brick, white colour-washed brick, flint, clay tiles and thatch in any new development.
- Conserve and promote the use of traditional garden and parkland boundaries such as brick and flint walls, palisade fencing, railings and non- coniferous hedging.
- Encourage the use of indigenous planting as appropriate, in order to integrate new development with surrounding landscape, particularly within the countryside.
- Retain the historic character of the narrow valley- side and cross-valley rural lanes, fords and footbridges by resisting any road improvements which would threaten these.
- Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons and ‘fracking’ rigs are carefully situated to minimise visual intrusion.

Key Designations:

Conservation Areas:

- River Itchen
- River Arle
- New Alresford

Scheduled Monuments:

- Site of St Gertrude's Chapel (Mon. No. 550 HA)
- Deserted village of Abbotstone (Mon. No. 339 HA)
- Alresford Bridge (Mon. No. 129 HA)
- The Grange (Mon. No. 487HA)

SSSIs:

- River Itchen
- Old Alresford Pond

SACs:

- River Itchen

SINCs:

- Candover Valley Meadow –Abbotstone Fen; River Arle Meadows; Bishop's Sutton Stream; Lower Abbotstone Valley; Lodge Wood; Grange Park Wood;

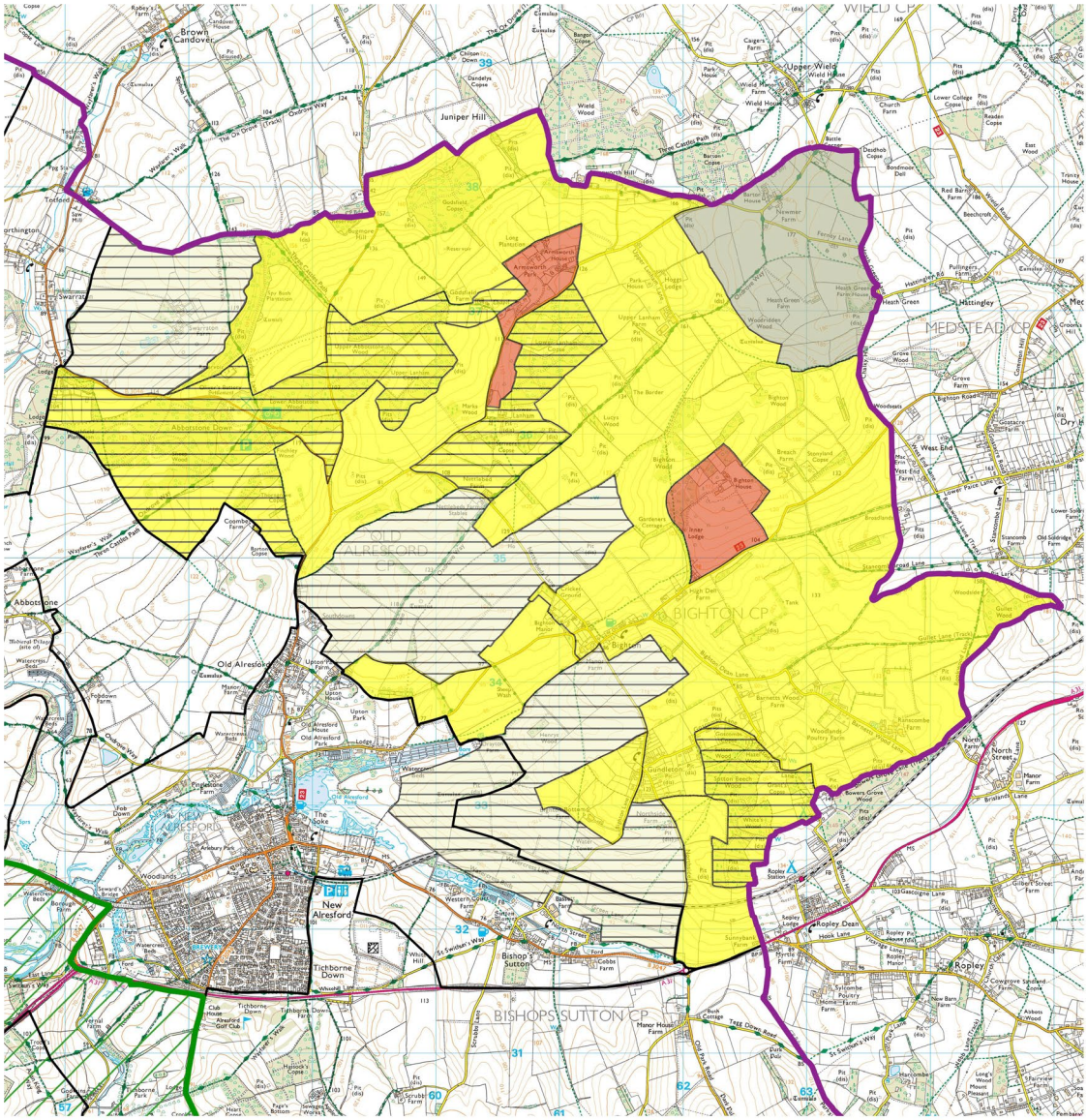
Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens:

- Abbotstone (site 1538) Pre 1810) Park
- The Grange Northington (site 1553. Historic England Grade 11 Listed Park) Pre 1810 Park,
- Old Alresford House (site 1559 Historic England Grade 11 Listed Park) Pre 1810 Park
- Upton House and Park (site 1560) Pre 1810 Park
- Arlebury Park (site 1553) Pre 1810 park
- Langton House, New Alresford
- Weir House, Old Alresford

Local Nature Reserves:

- None

Figure 22 - LCA10 Bighton Woodlands



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- South Downs National Park boundary
- Landscape Character Areas

LCT boundaries - LCA 10: Bighton Woodlands

- Chalk and Clay Farmland
- Chalk and Clay Woodland
- Clay Plateau Open
- Open Arable
- Parkland

north 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

LCA10 - Bighton Woodlands Landscape Character Area

Bighton Dean Lane

Armsworth Park

Location and Boundaries:

The Bighton Woodlands Landscape Character Area is located in the north-east of the district. Its northern and eastern boundaries are formed by the district boundaries with Basingstoke and Dean Borough and East Hampshire District. To both the south and west, the area is bounded by river valleys that form tributaries to the Itchen.

Key Characteristics:

- Varied, undulating topography, rising up from the Itchen Valley to the north-east, forming one of the highest points in the district.
- Mixed geology consisting of freely draining Upper Chalk, with areas of overlying Clay with Flints, and areas of loamy soils, which is reflected in the mixed land cover of arable agriculture and woodland.
- Well-treed area with strong field boundaries and large areas of woodland. Scattered remnants of assarted ancient woodland, many reduced by clearance in the 19th and 20th Centuries.
- Medium to large fields with relatively straight boundaries generally formed through the enclosure of medieval open field systems, and subsequent 19th and 20th Century formal enclosure and field rationalisation.
- Remnant downland at Abbotstone Down.
- Long panoramic views from higher land, with open views elsewhere, enclosed by distant trees and hedgerows.
- Ancient, narrow, indirect lanes, often with hedgebanks, together with a large number of drove roads, tracks and footpaths, including the Wayfarer's Walk.
- Evidence of long history of settlement, including Bronze Age barrows, Iron Agefield systems and an Iron Age settlement.
- Tranquil and remote with no major roads and sparse settlement pattern, consisting of scattered farms, several small historic parks, two hamlets, Gundleton and Lower Lanham and the small village of Bighton.
- Traditional building construction and materials including red brick, colour-washed brick, timber- frame, thatch, flint, and clay tiles.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Chalk and Clay(Woodland)
- Chalk and Clay(Farmland)
- Open Arable
- Clay Plateau (Open)
- Parkland

Settlement Types within the Area:

- Chalk Downland: Dry Valley 20th/21st Century

Formative Influences:

The geology in this area consists of Upper Chalk but with occasional areas of Clay with Flints and clayey soil, particularly in the higher areas around Newmer Farm and around the well-treed areas of Bighton and Gundleton. The resulting landscape is an undulating mosaic of farmland, woodland and occasional remnants of calcareous grassland. The permeable character of the chalk means the area is well drained, with dry valleys, forming part of the catchment area of the Itchen. It, therefore, falls in height towards the valleys of the Candover Stream to the west and the stream at Bishop's Sutton.

The present landscape was probably initiated as long ago as the Bronze Age, when much of the original woodland cover was cleared for arable agriculture and grazing. There is evidence of prehistoric activity in the area, including Bronze Age barrows; Iron Age field systems; a Romano-British Iron Age settlement near Lower Lanham; an Iron Age hill fort at Oliver's Battery; the site of a Roman villa north of Bighton Wood and a Roman road near Upper Lanham Farm.

During medieval times, the area consisted of large areas of calcareous grassland, managed as open sheep pasture with relatively few trees and hedges. There is some evidence of early informal enclosure of these open field systems, although generally enclosure occurred by formal agreement in the 18th and 19th Centuries. The 20th Century saw major changes to the landscape of the area, as farming became predominantly arable and increasing areas of woodland were assarted.

In the latter half of the century, increasing mechanisation meant that this was accompanied by field rationalisation, with a consequent loss of hedgerows and increase in field size.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

This is an area with a strong historic rural character, consisting of largely arable farmland interspersed with remnants of the former woodland cover. The topography of the area is exceptionally undulating, influenced by two chalk river valleys forming tributaries of the River Itchen to the south and west, rising up to a plateau in the north east. The mixture of clay and chalk has also influenced the distribution of woodland, which is typically found on hilltops and may be dominated by either beech or oak. Consequently, the area benefits from a wide variety of long views, some being panoramic and others more enclosed by the landform and woodland.

Trees form an important part of the area, with Abbotstone Down, Godsfield Copse, Lower Lanham Copse and Sutton Beech Wood forming the largest areas. Other woodlands, such as Bighton Wood have significantly diminished in size during the 20th Century through assarting. A relatively high proportion of the woodland is ancient semi-natural or replanted woodland, including Sheep Wood at Abbotsdone Down; Godsfield Copse, Gascombs Copse, Sutton Wood, Hazel Wood and Sutton Beech Wood near Gundleton; Gullets Wood at Soldridge and the remnants of Bighton Wood. Although woodland has diminished in the area, field boundaries are strong, containing numerous remnant woodland and coppice species.

Agriculture is predominantly arable in character, with medium to large fields with straight boundaries, although these tend to be smaller and more irregular around Gundleton and Lower Lanham.

There is a long history of settlement in the area, although it has retained its rural character. As well as scattered farms, there is one small village, Bighton and two hamlets, Gundleton, and Lower Lanham. Bighton has a strong historic character and has had little recent expansion. It is linear in form, relating to its location in a dry chalk valley. The majority of buildings use traditional building

materials and methods, including brick, colour-washed brick, timber-frame and plaster thatch, flint, and clay tiles. Gundleton forms a more dispersed settlement, having developed in a hill side location during the 20th Century.

Routes within the area are ancient and rural, being narrow and indirect, and often having hedgebanks. Many of the most direct routes take the form of tracks and pedestrian 'lanes' and there are many footpaths and drove roads within the area. There are no major transport routes in or near the area, and consequently it is very remote and tranquil in character.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- Well treed area with strong field boundaries and large areas of woodland.
- Woodland areas including Ancient and Ancient replanted woodland.
- Remanant downland at Abbotstone Down.
- Some roads enclosed by tree belts creating strong enclosed tunnel effect .
- Mature oak tree and yew trees within hedgerows.
- Extensive areas of parkland, some historic.
- Long panoramic views, enclosed by distant trees and woodland.
- Tranquil and remote with no major roads and sparse settlement pattern.
- Dark skies.
- Traditional building construction including red brick, colour washed brick, timber, thatch, flint and clay tiles.
- Strong historic village character of Bighton, where small adjacent hedged fields of pasture form part of its setting and character while also permiting views out to the surrounding open countryside.
- Long trail footpaths including Oxdrove Way, St Swithun's Way, Three Castles paths.
- Old chalk pits marked in landscape as small tree copses.

Key Issues:

- Loss of hedgerows and woodland in late 20th century, combined with mechanical hedgerow management, leading to gappy hedges, with reduced visual amenity and wildlife corridor functions.
- Increase in paddocks and 'horsiculture' and sub division of fields with post and wire or post and rail. Visibility of shelters and sheds.
- Reduction in woodland biodiversity caused by lack of traditional woodland management in the 20th century.
- Conversion of much ancient semi-natural woodland to conifer plantation throughout the 20th Century.
- Use of inappropriate, non-native species for game cover.

- Loss of calcareous grassland through reduced grazing pressure and conversion to arable.
- Loss / reduction in field margins, including both permanent grass field margins and ploughed buffers with species-rich field margins.
- Damage to archaeological sites through ploughing
- Continued flow of river, with low groundwater levels with polluted run off may have a greater impact if dilution capacity is reduced.
- Protection of historic character of settlements and farms.
- Development of large agricultural buildings and also their effect on the historic character of settlements.
- Increased artificial light on tranquil rural quality.
- Replacement residential buildings with suburban characteristics. Modern buildings with large windows, causing light pollution and eroding dark skies.
- Poorly designed and sited new woodlands.
- Poor quality garden boundary treatment including tall close boarded fencing which creates a hard edge in visible locations.
- Game cover detracting from rural views, introducing areas of planting out of context and non-native plants.
- New smaller farms with associated new buildings and infrastructure eroding remote and rural character.
- Loss of rural character and public views with the extension of gardens, parkland and residential curtilage.
- Potential for nitrate/phosphate pollution of the River Itchen from agricultural chemicals, affecting human water supplies, commercially important fishing rights and nationally important chalk river wildlife.
- Reduction in breeding success of farmland birds due to increase in winter crops harvested in early summer
- Reduced feeding opportunities for farmland species, due to increased concentration on arable farming and consequent loss of mixed farmland.
- 'Rat runs' along narrow lanes.
- Loss of areas of parkland trees due to age with no new replacement planting. Loss of areas of historic parkland to arable conversion and woodland planting.
- Cumulative effects of infrastructure development and intrusive vertical elements such as wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons, and rigs associated with hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') which can be visible over long distances.
- Poly-tunnels and solar farms which can be particularly noticeable due to their colour and reflective qualities.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape.

Landscape Strategies:

- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of the woodlands through appropriate management such as thinning, coppicing, replanting, ride and edge management and the removal of alien species.
- Conserve, enhance and restore historic parkland through continued replacement tree planting and woodland management.
- Conserve and restore the tall, wide hedgerows and tree belts in the area, through appropriate management and planting, to retain the existing landscape pattern and link existing areas of woodland and outlying hedgerows.
- Conserve and retain historic field patterns within area.
- Conserve the character of various archaeological sites, particularly within woodland and ploughed fields.
- Conserve the predominantly remote and quiet rural character of the area.
- Conserve the varied open and panoramic views throughout the area.
- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices, to minimise fertiliser and soil run-off for example, which could lead to the pollution of the River Itchen and the chalk aquifer.
- Restore and enhance the biodiversity of arable farmland, by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow fields, to sustain important arable weed flora and seed-eating birds, and especially halt the rapid decline of the stone curlew.
- Restore areas of arable farmland to permanent chalk grassland.
- Monitor declining farmland birds to measure the success of the biodiversity strategy.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.
- New gardens, parkland and other residential curtilage should take into account surrounding vegetation pattern, rural character and existing public views.
- New smaller farms should respect historic and local vegetation pattern and character and avoid proposing new buildings and infrastructure in visible locations.
- Game cover should conserve vegetation and historic field patterns and not include non-native plants species.

Built Form Strategies:

- Conserve the linear form and rural character of Bighton including the surrounding hedged small fields.
- Conserve the sparse scattered pattern of rural farm settlement.
- Respect the small-scale nature of existing dwellings. Avoid replacement dwellings which will increase light pollution within area i.e. from large windows and outdoor spaces
- Integrate new development into the well-treed rural setting through the appropriate use of locally indigenous tree and hedge planting.
- Conserve and promote the use of local building materials such as brick, colour-washed brick, longstraw and combed wheat read thatch, flint and clay tiles.
- Conserve and promote the use of traditional rural garden boundaries (low in height) including palisade fencing, brick and flint walls, railings and hedgerows.
- Conserve the historic rural character of lanes, footpaths and drove roads throughout the area and resist any road improvements

that would threaten these features.

- Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc.
- Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons and 'fracking' rigs are carefully situated to minimise visual intrusion.

Key Designations:

Conservation Areas:

- None

Scheduled Monuments:

- Oliver's Battery: a hillfort on Abbotstone Down near Alresford (Mon. No. 24338) List UID 1010867
- Godsfield Chapel (Mon. No. 11 HA) List UID 1001962
- Roman villa N of Bighton Wood (Mon. No. 315 HA) List UID 1001854
- Bowl barrow 600m E of Upper Lanham Farm (Mon. No. 12143) List UID 1008224

SSSIs:

- None

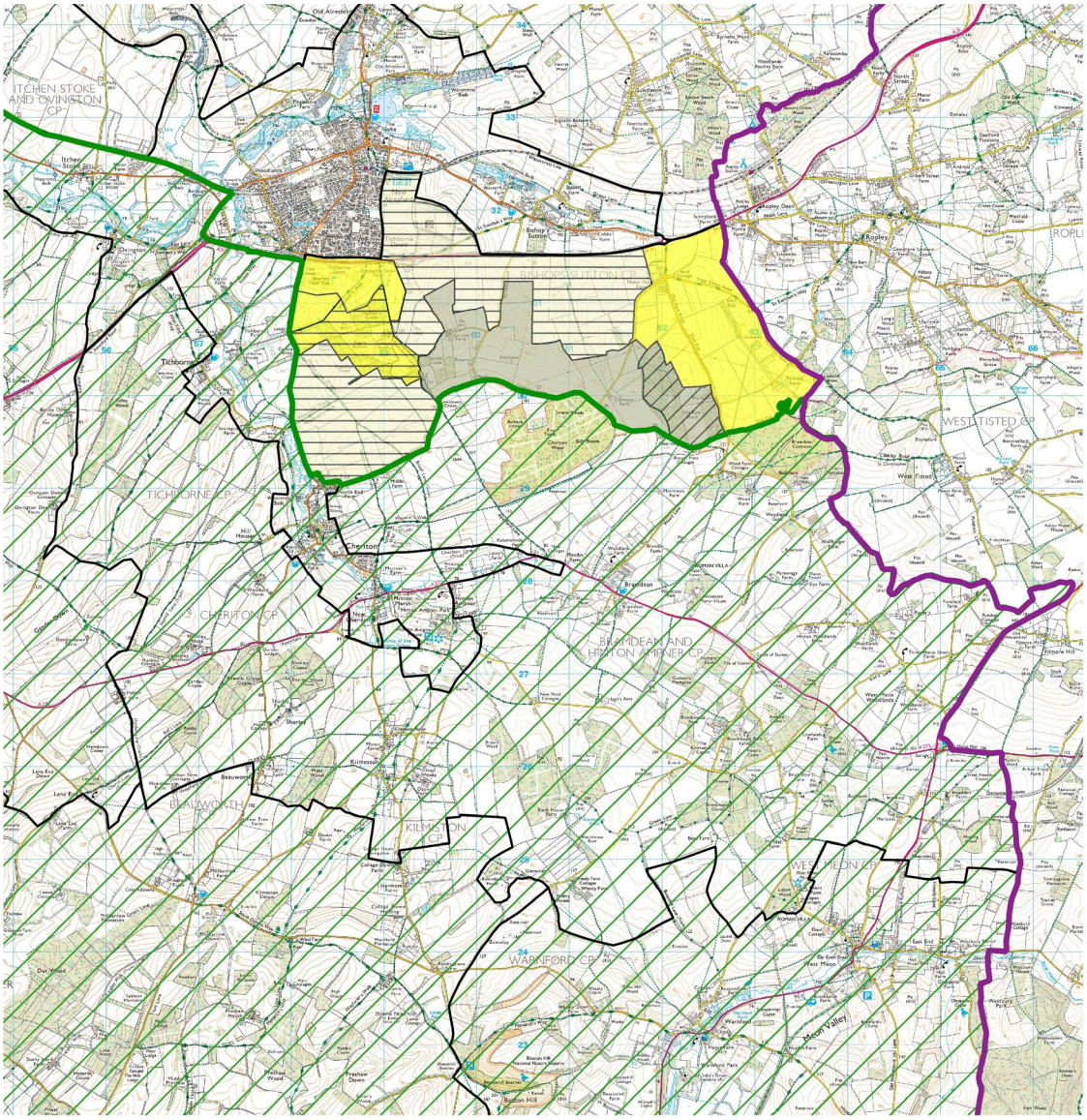
SINCs:

- Bugmore / Brick Kiln Copses (part); Godsfield Copse; Sheep Wood (Abbotstone Down); Abbotstone Down; Finchley Wood / Thorngrove Copse; Lower Abbotsone Wood and Broom
- Copse; Upper Lanham Copse (not on HCC list); Nettlebed Woods; Lower Lanham Copse (north and south); Bighton Woods; Stonyfield Copse; Sutton Wood and Gascombs Copse; Gullet Wood; Barton Copse; Devil Acre Copse.

Parks Listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens:

- Armsworth Park, Old Alresford (site 1556) Post 1810 Park
- Bighton House and Wood (site 1497) Post 1810 Park. c1844

Figure 23 - LCA11 Bramdean Woodlands



LCA11 - Bramdean Woodlands Landscape Character Area

View north from Scrubbs Lane

Badshear Lane

Location and Boundaries

This wooded undulating landscape character area lies to the east of the District, with the District boundary with East Hampshire District Council forming its eastern edge. The area forms part of the catchment area for the headwaters of the Itchen and the Bishop's Sutton tributary forms its northern boundary.

Key Characteristics

- Undulating landform along the northern edge of the South Downs, closely related to the River Itchen valley and its tributaries.
- Well-drained geology of upper chalk with areas of overlying clay with flint. No visible surface water drainage other than occasional dewponds.
- Rural area with little modern intrusive development consisting of arable farmland defined by strong field boundaries frequently interspersed with scattered woodland.
- Relatively high proportion of ancient woodland (much of which has been at least partially replanted with conifers), found particularly on hilltops and coinciding with areas of clay. Due to the mixed geology, species are varied, including oak, beech, ash, Scots pine, holly and hazel coppice.
- Varied field size and shape defined by hedgerows, tending to be smaller around the settlements. These were predominantly enclosed informally in early post- medieval times.
- Views are often long but enclosed by woodland and undulating topography.
- Numerous footpaths, drove roads and pedestrian green lanes, connecting local settlements and linking to New Alresford via the Wayfarer's Walk. Other lanes are narrow and indirect.
- A long history of occupation, with numerous archaeological remains, including tumuli, barrows, a medieval park pale and ancient field systems.
- No settlements. Farms are sparsely scattered throughout the area and are particularly found in the south.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Chalk and Clay (Woodland)
- Chalk and Clay (Farmland)
- Open Arable
- Clay Plateau (Enclosed)
- Clay Plateau (Open)

Formative Influences:

The geology in this area consists of Upper Chalk but with frequent bands of Clay with Flints,

particularly in the higher areas Common and to the east of the Itchen. These clay areas tend to coincide with the higher land forming the valley sides of the River Itchen.

The present landscape was probably initiated as long ago as the earlier prehistoric period when most of the original forest cover was probably cleared for arable agriculture and grazing, although many small areas of woodland have survived or have been replanted. There is much evidence of prehistoric activity in the area including Stone Age and Bronze Age barrows and a number of Iron Age enclosures. There is also evidence of an iron age settlement at Tichborne, and medieval park pale to the north of Bramdean Common.

The farmland of the area has not been subject to parliamentary enclosure and the medieval open field systems and downland were most likely to have been enclosed by informal and formal agreement. This has resulted in fields with irregular, wavy boundaries, probably enclosed from late medieval to 17th/18th centuries, although the later enclosures have resulted in straighter field boundaries. The larger fields are probably a result of 20th century boundary loss and rationalisation.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

This is an area with a strong historic rural character, consisting of largely arable farmland interspersed with areas of woodland. The topography of the area is undulating and varied, influenced by the chalk valleys of the River Itchen and its tributaries. The mixture of clay and chalk has also influenced the distribution of woodland, which is often found on hilltops and may be dominated by either beech or oak.

Woodland forms an important part of the area. A large number of small woodlands are scattered throughout the area, enclosing views and giving it a remote, secluded feel, despite its proximity to Winchester and Alresford. Many of the woodlands are semi-natural ancient or replanted ancient woodland, and of significant historic and conservation value.

Agriculture in this area is predominantly arable, with field sizes varying, the smallest being closest to settlements. Fields are enclosed by strong hedgerow boundaries or woodland edges, offering the potential for important nature conservation value and visual enclosure.

There is a long history of settlement in the area, although it has retained its rural character.

Many buildings in the area date from the 18th century, with some dating back further. Building materials and methods are traditional, including timber frames, red and vitreous bricks, colour-washed brick and render, long straw thatch, flint and clay tiles.

Routes within the area are ancient and rural, being narrow and indirect. Many of the most direct routes take the form of tracks and pedestrian ‘lanes’ and there are many footpaths within the area. Consequently the area is relatively tranquil with the A31 running along the northern boundary.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- Rural area of arable farmland defined by strong field boundaries frequently interspersed with scattered woodland with little modern intrusive development.
- Relatively high proportion of ancient woodland.
- Early post-medieval field patterns around settlements
- Long views..
- Footpaths, drove roads and pedestrian green lanes connecting local settlements and linking to New Alresford via the Wayfarer's Walk.
- Tumuli, barrows, a medieval park pale and ancient field systems.
- Farms are sparsely scattered throughout the area.

Key Issues:

- Potential impacts on the Itchen SAC, arising from agriculture and development.
- Loss of hedgerows during the second half of the 20th century
- Declining hedgerow and woodland management
- Loss of calcareous grassland during the 20th century.
- Increased artificial light on tranquil rural quality.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape
- Solar farms which can be particularly noticeable due to their colour and reflective qualities.
- Cumulative effects of sustainable energy and infrastructure developments
- Loss of rural character and public views with the extension of gardens, parkland and residential curtilage.

Landscape Strategies:

- Ensure that land-use changes in this area do not affect the Itchen. As the River Itchen is protected by European legislation, Winchester City Council is responsible for ensuring that the permissions it gives will not adversely affect the interest of the river, either alone, or in combination with other changes.
- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of the woodlands through appropriate management such as thinning, coppicing, replanting, ride and edge management and the removal of alien species.
- Restore replanted ancient woodland to a more semi-natural condition.
- Conserve hedgerows and tree belts, through appropriate management, to retain the existing landscape pattern and link existing areas of woodland and outlying hedgerows.
- Conserve the character of various archaeological sites, particularly those within woodland and ploughed fields, including Cheriton Battlefield.
- Conserve the predominantly remote and

quiet rural character of the area.

- Conserve the sheltered, wooded views throughout the area.
- Conserve the historic rural character of roads, lanes and tracks throughout the area and resist any road improvements, which would threaten these features. Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices, to minimise fertiliser and soil run-off for example, which could lead to the pollution of the River Itchen and to promote the growth of species-rich field margins and habitats for declining farmland birds.
- Restore and enhance the biodiversity of arable farmland, by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow fields.
- Seek opportunities for the restoration of arable to permanent chalk downland.
- Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons and 'fracking' rigs are carefully situated to minimise visual intrusion.
- Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc including light spill from large windows.
- New gardens, parkland and other residential curtilage should take into account surrounding vegetation pattern, rural character and existing public views.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.

Built Form Strategies:

- Conserve the scattered pattern of rural farm settlement and respect the small-scale nature of existing dwellings.
- Integrate new development into the well-treed rural setting through the appropriate use of native tree and hedge planting
- Conserve and promote the use of local building materials such as red and vitrified brick, flint, clay tiles, combed wheat reed and long straw thatch and slate.
- Conserve and promote the use of traditional rural garden boundaries including palisade fencing, brick and flint walls, railings and hedgerows.

Key Designations:

Conservation Areas:

- None

Scheduled Monuments:

- None

SSSIs:

- None

SINCs:

- Hookham Copse; Cheriton Corner (Hookham Copse); Dark Copse; Grove Copse, Bishops Sutton; Old Park (East and West); Bramdean Common (part); Tichborne Down Golf Course;Scrubs Copse

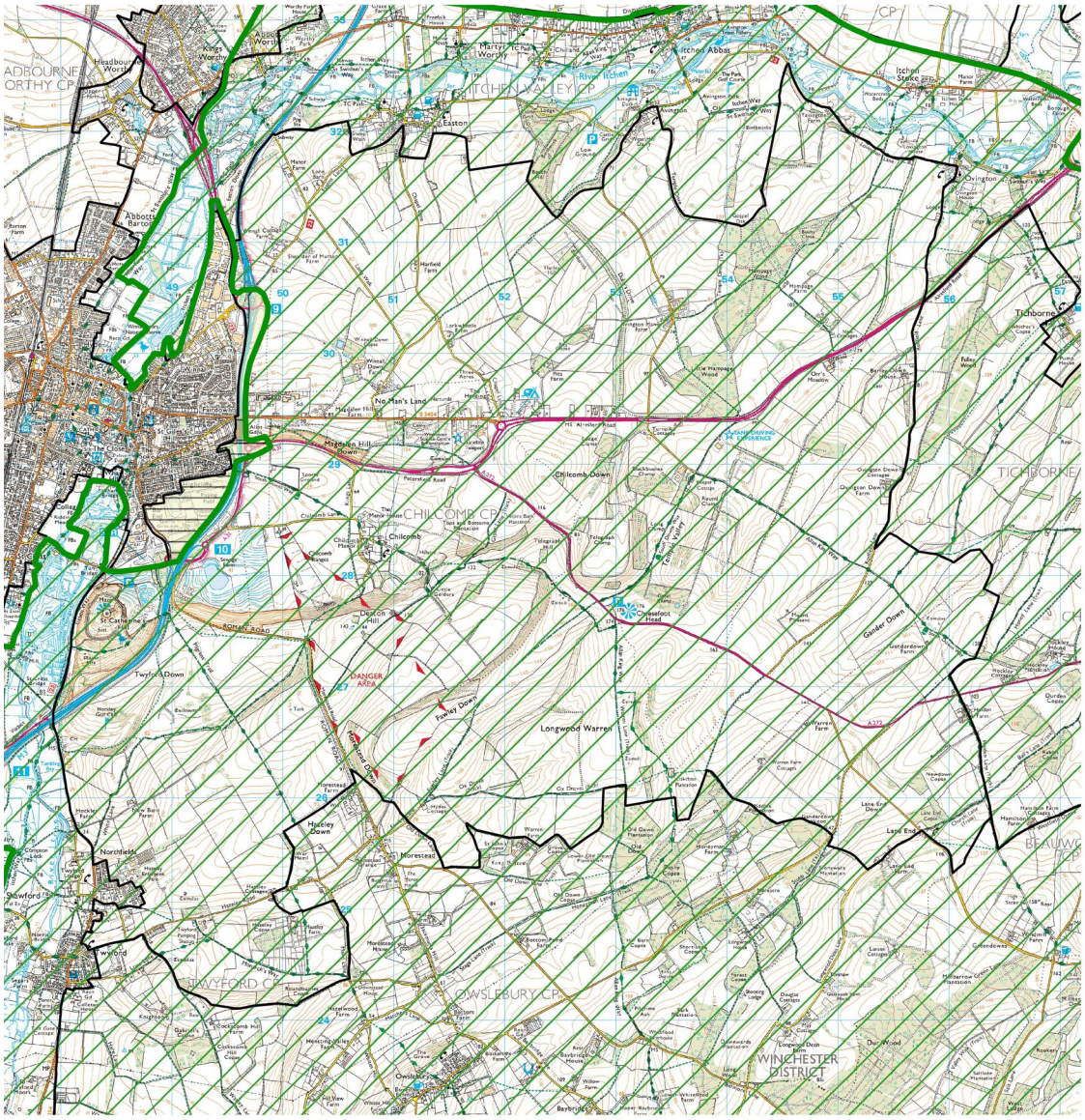
Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens:

- None

Sites listed in the Historic England Register of Historic Battlefields:

- Cheriton Battlefield (part)

Figure 24 - LCA12 East Winchester Downs



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- Landscape Character Areas
- South Downs National Park
- LCT boundaries - LCA 12: East Winchester Downs
- Open Arable
- Open Arable Exposed
- River Valley Floor
- River Valley Side
- Scarp Downland and Grassland

north

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

LCA12 - East Winchester Downs Landscape Character Area

North-east towards Alresford Road from footbridge over M3

South across King George V Playing Fields towards Chilcomb House

Location and Boundaries:

The East Winchester Downs Landscape Character Area lies to the east of the City of Winchester. The City forms the northern and western boundaries of the character area and the eastern boundary is formed by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) and the M3. Part of the area includes the western extent of the chalk escarpment within the SDNP. The Eastern boundary adjoins the Bramdean Woodlands Landscape Character Area, which has a greater occurrence of tree cover. To the south a narrow strip of LCA 12 links to LCA 13 Lower Itchen Valley.

Key Characteristics:

- Topographically varied landscape with high open areas of arable farmland east of the M3.
- Upper Chalk geology enclosed by long winding escarpments of hard Middle Chalk.
- Free-draining area with no obvious surface water bodies and channels. Forms part of the River Itchen catchment area.
- Intensive arable farmland occasionally broken by shelterbelts and beech clumps. A field pattern strongly influenced by informal and formal enclosure followed by subsequent boundary loss and rationalisation, resulting in regular medium to large fields.
- Important ecological sites include ancient semi-natural woodland at Magdalen Hill Down (SINC). These remnants of the pre-enclosure landscape provide reservoirs of biodiversity in an otherwise highly intensively farmed landscape.
- The variety in landform and tree cover within the character area has given rise to differing senses of enclosure throughout the character area, from the exposed, panoramic nature of the Downs, to the more sheltered intimate feel of Bar End.
- Routes, such as Alresford Road are generally fairly straight and direct, reflecting their Roman origins. The A272 follows the upper chalk ridgeline. The M3 is an intrusive feature.
- Footpaths including sections of the South Downs Way give good access to the countryside.
- A sparsely populated area on the edge of the City with extensive sporting facilities at Bar End.

Landscape and Settlement Types within the Area:

- Open Arable
- Open Arable (Exposed)
- Scarps

Settlement Types within the Area:

- None

Formative Influences:

The character of the East Winchester Downs area is strongly influenced by its chalk geology. The A272 ridgeline forms the western end of a series of intermittent but prominent ridgelines which follow the Meon anticline, with a series of hills, the most westerly one being St. Catherine's Hill. Erosion of the chalk has resulted in areas of lower lying land contained by inward facing escarpments, such as the Vale of Chilcomb which is contained by the escarpments of Deacon Hill and Magdalen Hill Down.

There is evidence of prehistoric settlement within the area, with Bronze Age barrows and Iron Age field systems and hill forts, for example at St Catherine's Hill. At this time, extensive woodland clearance first enabled the chalk downs to be grazed. This forest clearance continued through Roman occupation forming extensive areas of arable farmland followed by a gradual transition to sheep farming. Field enclosure began in the medieval period but its main impact was between the 17th and 19th Century, when the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts sanctioned the conversion of common open fields and forests into privately owned fields. The agricultural revolution saw the increase in arable production and the loss of downland pasture. More recently, increased mechanisation, larger fields, and industrial scale farm buildings have had a significant impact on these open chalk downland areas, increasing their degree of exposure. The M3 cutting has had a severe impact.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

The East Winchester Downs character area is one of contrasts. It comprises a small area of high rolling downs and areas of former arable farmland. Although woodland and scrub occurs on sections of these steep escarpments, many consist of significant areas of unimproved chalk grassland.

The field pattern has been very much disturbed by the creation of playing fields at Bar End and the constrcution of the M3.

Though somewhat rural in parts and sparsely populated, there is a long history of settlement within the area, including the prehistoric hillfort on nearby St Catherine's Hill. There are no villages in the area but the south-western part of the LCA lies against the City and Chilcomb House was formerly an isolated farmstead.

There are some major routes which pass through the character area, including the M3, which cuts off the downs from the rest of the character area. The A272 is more rural in character and follows the main ridgeline through the area.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- The rolling, elevated, chalk downland in the north-east has an open, exposed character that provides open skies and long-distance views and provides a clear sense of scale and orientation for the city and its setting.
- Topographically varied and striking rolling landscape including steep scarps in the north-east.
- Visible in views from St Catherine's Hill
- A network of distinctive and ancient droving roads and trackways is a particular feature across the Downs.
- Good public access with a network of public rights of way, including the South Downs Way national trail, and open access land at Magdalen Hill Down.
- Sparse settlement including isolated farmsteads of 18th-19th century including New Barton Farm (now Chilcomb House - County Museum Service).
- Large open skies ensure that weather conditions are a dominant influence creating a dynamic, moody landscape, particularly on higher ground.
- The area forms an important eastern setting to Winchester.

- **Key Issues:**
- Opportunities for the restoration of arable to chalk downland.
- Noise from M3.
- Effect on views from St. Catherine's Hill.
- Pressure from urban fringe use related activities
- Lack of, or inappropriate management of, woodland cover and tree clumps
- Management of remnants of species-rich calcareous grassland
- Visual impact of urban influence of Winchester.
- Cumulative effects of sustainable energy and infrastructure developments
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape

Landscape Strategies:

- Conserve and enhance the restored chalk downland on land adjoining Magdalene Hill. This in compensation for loss of species-rich grassland due to development elsewhere in the district and should be monitored, so that similar opportunities to extend existing areas of wildlife interest can be taken with minimum risk.
- Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons and 'fracking' rigs are carefully situated to minimise visual intrusion.
- Restore and enhance existing hedgerow structures through replanting (where appropriate) and management, whilst retaining the openness of the downland.
- Encourage appropriate management of chalk grassland roadside verges.
- Encourage any new woodland planting to use locally indigenous species and to respond positively to the contours and landform.
- Restore scarps to semi-natural grassland, by removal of plantation trees or restoration of appropriate management.
- Monitor the chalk grassland and invertebrates on restored grassland on the land adjoining Magdalene Hill, so that similar opportunities to extend existing areas of wildlife interest can be taken with minimum risk.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover

Built Form Strategies:

- Sensitively locate new development to avoid prominent ridgelines and plant locally indigenous species where appropriate.
- Conserve traditional construction details and local building materials such as flint, brick, clay plain tiles and either long straw or combed wheat reed thatch, and promote their use in any new development where appropriate.
- Conserve important views of the landmark church at Chilcomb from surrounding escarpments and from Winchester.
- Conserve the scattered pattern and sparsely populated rural character of the area where this remains.
- Conserve the routes of the historic tracks and drove roads.
- Minimise the impact of intrusive structures (eg. telecommunications masts) through sensitive siting and screening with planting.

Key Designations:

- None

Scheduled Monuments:

- None

SSSIs:

- None

SINCs:

- Magdalene Hill Down

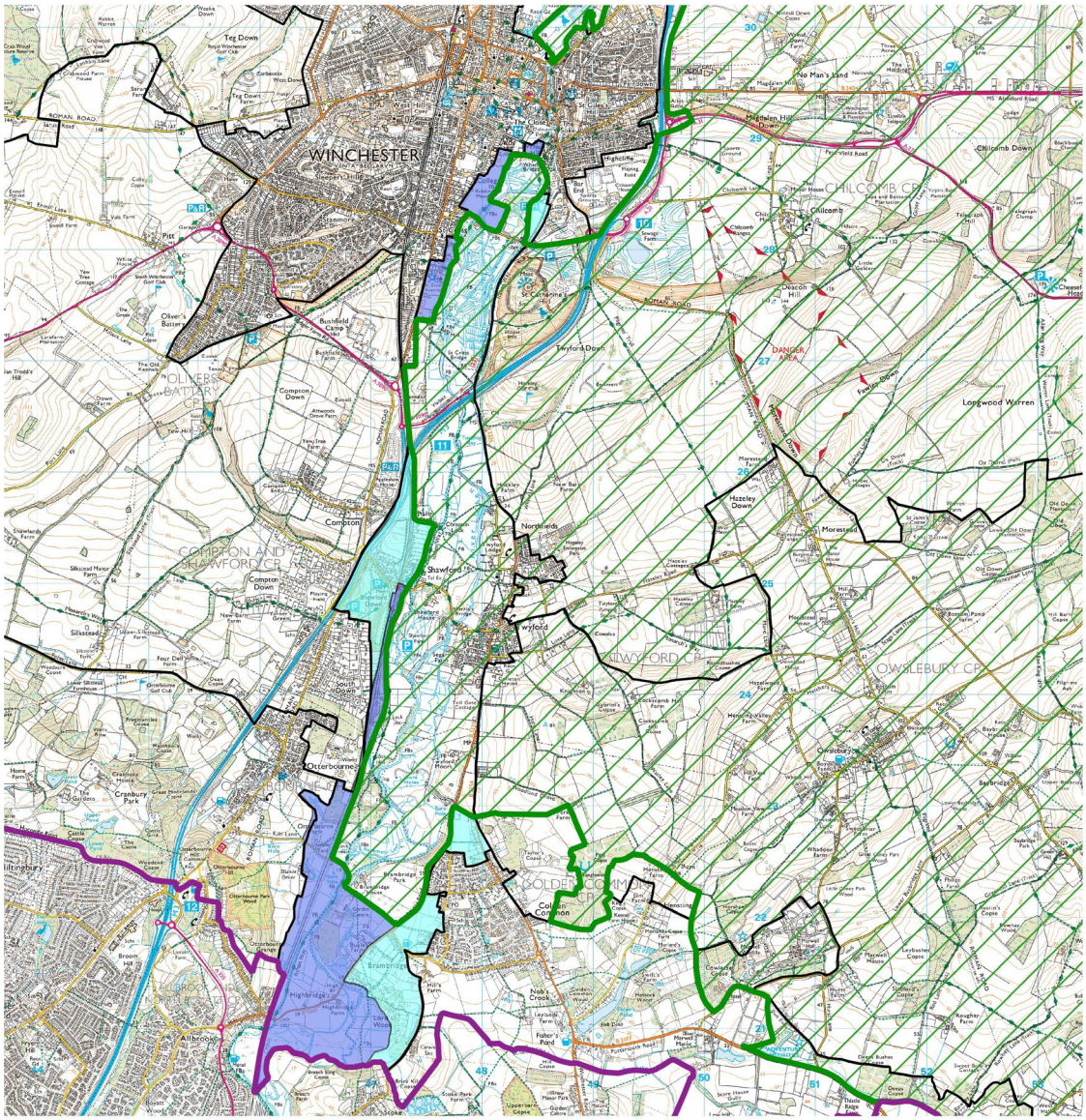
Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens:

- None

Local Nature Reserves:

- None

Figure 25 - LCA13 Lower Itchen Valley



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- Landscape Character Areas
- South Downs National Park
- LCT boundaries - LCA 13: Lower Itchen Valley
- River Valley Floor
- River Valley Side

north 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

LCA13 - Lower Itchen Valley Landscape Character Area

St.Cross from St. Catherine's Hill

Shawford Down

Location and Boundaries

The Lower Itchen Valley Character Area lies south of Winchester and comprises a number of disconnected areas. It starts within the built up area of the City and extends linearly southward, defined to the east by the SDNPA (SDNP LCA G5: Itchen Valley Sides and F5:Itchen Floodplain), towards the district boundary with Eastleigh Borough Council. The character area is strongly defined by the topography of the river valley and its boundaries are formed by its visual envelope, which often coincides with the M3 Motorway and the B3335 and the built edge of Colden Common and South Down.

Key Characteristics:

- Wide flat, low-lying floodplain with gently rising valley sides containing river with many meanders and braided sections.
- The area includes a transition in the underlying geology, with the northern valley sides lying on chalk and the southern ones lying on clay.
- The alluvium-based soils in the valley floor have provided for both improved and unimproved nutrient rich pasture for sheep, cattle and more latterly horse grazing.
- A well-treed character. Individual specimens and belts of trees are commonly located along the river and its tributaries and on the valley sides.
- A fairly irregular field pattern largely made up of paddocks and pasture resulting from the enclosure of historic water meadows.
- Historic features associated with the presence of the river and the Itchen Navigation include water mills, locks, carriers and drains from the flood meadow system.
- Habitats of national and European ecological importance including the clear alkaline river, fen/carr/swamp/reedbed, unimproved neutral grassland, calcareous grassland, standing open water, ephemeral headwaters and ancient semi-natural woodlands. The watercourse and banks are designated as a SSSI and the watercourse has also been designated as a SAC. Unimproved neutral grassland at Shawford Down is designated as a SINC.
- An enclosed and sheltered feel, in stark contrast to the open arable landscape to the east and west of the character area.
- Important landmark buildings and views such as St Cross Hospital and Twyford Church and the view from Shawford Down across the river valley to Twyford. This landscape provides the immediate setting for Winchester.
- The river valley provides a transport corridor and includes several 'B' roads, a main line rail line, numerous footpaths including the Itchen Way and the historic course of the

Itchen Navigation. In particular, the Hockley viaduct is an important landmark.

- Valley side settlements include Shawford, a village which developed in with the advent of the railway station.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- River Valley Side
- River Valley Floor

Settlement Types within the Area:

- Victorian Railway

Formative Influences:

The character of this area has been strongly influenced by the presence of the river, which has resulted in a mixed landscape of pasture, settlements and woodlands set within a varying topography. To the north of the area, the underlying chalk geology has allowed the development of a meandering river within a relatively wide, open, flat floodplain with steep valley sides. Further south, however, between Otterbourne and Colden Common, the underlying clays have resulted in a more enclosed landscape with more trees but much shallower valley sides, rising almost imperceptibly in places, for example along Kiln Lane.

The landscape has also been influenced by its historical use. From post-medieval times, in particular between 1650 and 1850, the flood plain would have been used as water meadows. These were periodically flooded, to allow the nutrient rich waters to fertilise and warm the land, to provide rich alluvium soils. With the introduction of new farming techniques in the mid 19th century, such as chemical fertilisers, water meadows fell into decline and only a few survive intact, such as those to the west of St Catherine's Hill and south of Lords Wood. The pattern of the landscape is still evident today in features such as the head mains, carriers, drains, ridge and furrow earthworks and weirs. Many of today's paddocks and pastures are a result of the enclosure of meadows and other pastures along the valley floor.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

The character area comprises a wide flat river valley flood plain and valley sides. The River Itchen is distinctly meandering within this area and has many tributaries. Although there are numerous settlements close to the area only Shawford is directly related physically and historically to the river, which has provided both a source of energy for water mills as well as a suitable river crossing point. The character of Shawford has been more influenced by the railway and although the village originated in early medieval times it has particularly developed since the construction of its railway station in Victorian times.

The river valley corridor is important for transport routes and includes the Southampton-London railway line along its western valley side, the B3335 road on its eastern side and the canal, the 'Itchen Navigation', which functioned until the mid 19th century. It is also a popular amenity for walkers, with numerous footpaths including the 'Itchen Way', which follows the canal tow path for most of its course from Winchester to Southampton.

The landscape character area is of significant ecological importance, both for its aquatic species and its unimproved chalk grassland, such as at Shawford Down. The Itchen has been identified as a candidate Special Area for Conservation (SAC), as it is considered to be one of the best examples of a chalk river habitat in Europe. As such it is protected by the 1994 Habitats Regulations. Winchester District Council is the authority which administers these regulations in respect of most planning applications. The Council is therefore responsible to the UK government, and ultimately the European Council for the conservation of the Itchen at favourable conservation status. Natural England is the statutory authority that is required to provide advice on the implications of this legislation.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- Habitats of national and European ecological importance including the clear alkaline river, fen/carr/swamp/reedbed, unimproved neutral grassland, calcareous grassland, standing open water, ephemeral headwaters and ancient semi- natural woodlands.
- The stream and some of the floodplain is internationally designated as a SAC because of its chalk stream habitat, rich in plants, invertebrates and fish.
- Important concentration of remnant water meadows which was historically integral to medieval sheep-corn husbandry.
- Protection of historic character of settlements.
- The well-treed character with individual specimens and belts of trees located along the river and its tributaries and on the valley sides.
- The fairly irregular field pattern largely made up of paddocks and pasture resulting from the enclosure of historic water meadows.
- Forms the boundary of the broad transition between the eastern and western downland.
- Historic features associated with the presence of the river and the Itchen Navigation include water mills, locks, carriers and drains from the flood meadow system.
- Frequent minor crossing points marked by white parapets to bridges.
- Important landmark buildings and views such as St. Cross Hospital and Twyford Church and the view from Shawford Down across the river valley to Twyford. This landscape provides the immediate setting for Winchester.
- Historic Winchester College opens out along the riverside where the interrelationship of historic buildings, green spaces, river and mature trees has an open, pastoral character.
- Species-rich watermeadows and grassland provide an important and often tranquil landscape setting for many of the city's historic buildings, including Winchester College, Wolvesey Palace and the Hospital of St. Cross.
- Strip lynchets on Shawford Down
- The interconnection of semi-natural habitats such as the river, chalk downland and ancient woodland which is important for the movement of wildlife and the well-being of residents.
- Internationally renowned as a fly fishing river especially for wild brown and rainbow trout.
- The Itchen valley has inspired many artists and boasts literary connections with Keats, Tennyson, Pope, Wordsworth, Jane Austen, Trollope and Izaak Walton.

Key Issues:

- Pollution of river water from agricultural chemicals (including watercress farms)
- Silt deposition in the river as a result of the ploughing of permanent pasture
- Potential impacts of development on the SAC
- Under-management of the Itchen Navigation

- Loss of meadows and lack of appropriate management of unimproved neutral grassland.
- Suburbanisation and loss of tranquillity within the character area including inappropriate garden boundaries and oversized gates.
- Visual intrusion of detractors such as pylons, paddock fencing, and industrial buildings.
- Cumulative effects of sustainable energy and infrastructure developments
- Fragmentation and neglect of hedgerows and wet woodlands
- Artificial changes to river course
- Reduction in biodiversity through intensive agricultural practices
- Water abstraction, treatment and flooding.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape
- Traffic and railway noise from major transport routes such as the M3 and railway interrupt the tranquil valley landscape.

Landscape Strategies:

- Co-ordination of Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment to enable the effects of changes on the integrity of the Itchen SAC to be taken into account, including co-ordination of river users to feed into the SEA and enable ongoing monitoring of the favourable status of the SAC.
- Consult Natural England on planning applications, to seek advice on likely significant impacts on the integrity of the SAC.
- Restore and maintain the Itchen Navigation and its banks.
- Conserve and restore the structure of hedgerows and wet woodland through appropriate management such as thinning, coppicing, replanting and the removal of invasive alien species to retain the existing landscape pattern.
- Replanting should use locally indigenous species, such as ash, willow and poplar on the valley floor and oak and beech on the valley side. This would also be an area suitable for the reintroduction of native black poplar, Populus nigra.
- Restore and enhance unimproved neutral grassland through appropriate management, with appropriate grazing uses, and retain as long-term pasture or traditional hay meadows.
- Conserve and enhance water meadows through traditional management and the restoration of head mains, carriers, drains, ridge and furrow earthworks and weirs.
- Conserve the rich bio-diversity associated with the clear spring water.
- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices, to minimise fertiliser and soil run-off for example, which could lead to the pollution of the River Itchen and the chalk aquifer.
- Conserve the varied nature of views throughout the area, particularly those of the river.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.

Built Form Strategies:

- Conserve the rural character of the

landscape and resist development that would result in further suburbanisation of the character area.

- Protect and enhance the rural setting of settlements within the character area, by resisting inappropriate development or development in unsuitable locations.
- Respect the valley side settlement pattern and small scale of the existing development within the character area.
- Conserve local traditional building form and materials such as red brick, white colour-washed brick, flint, clay plain tiles and promote their use in any new development.
- Conserve and restore river-associated features, such as mills and bridges.
- Conserve traditional garden and parkland boundaries such as brick and flint walls, palisade fencing, railings and non-coniferous (with the exception of Yew) hedging, and promote their use in any new development.
- Integrate new development with the surrounding landscape by providing locally indigenous planting, as appropriate.

Key Designations:

Conservation Areas:

- None

Scheduled Monuments:

- Moated site at Otterbourne Manor (Mon. No.12055)
- Moated site 300m SE of Compton House (Mon. No.12059)

SSSIs:

- River Itchen

SINCs:

- Shawford Down; Clausentum Road Fen and Woodland (part); Land and St Cross F (part); Otterbourne wood (part); Lord's Wood, Colden Common

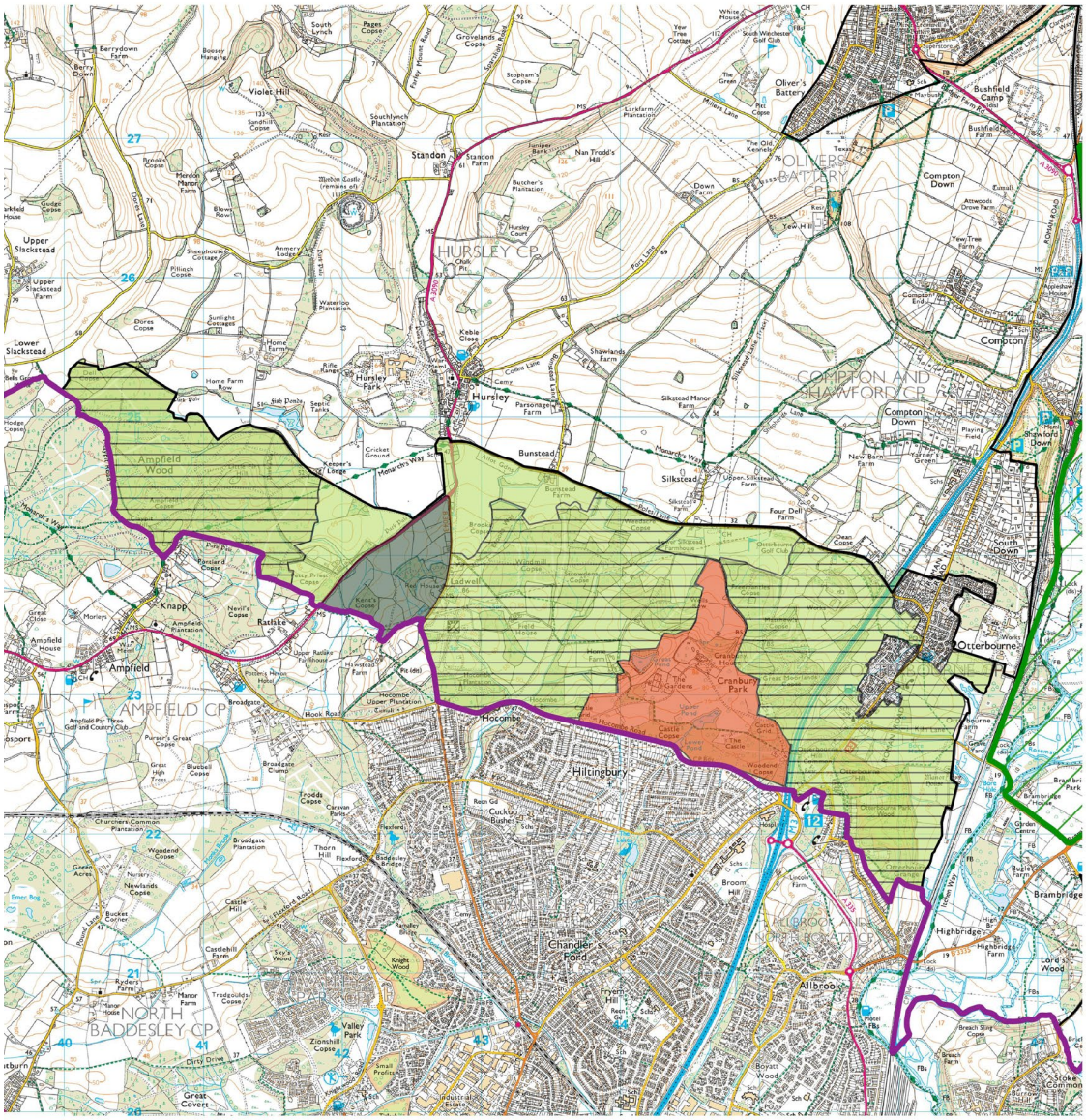
SACs:

- River Itchen (part)

Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens:

- None

Figure 26 - LCA14 Cranbury Woodlands



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- Landscape Character Areas
- LCT boundaries - LCA 14: Cranbury Woodlands
- Mixed Farmland and Woodland
- Mixed Farmland Woodland Enclosed
- Parkland
- Pasture on Clay
- Urban Areas (Local Plan Policy Boundary)
- South Downs National Park

north 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

LCA14 - Cranbury Woodlands Landscape Character Area

Monarch's Way, Ampfield Wood

Cranbury Park

Location and Boundaries:

The Cranbury Woodlands Landscape Character Area lies to the north of Hiltingbury and Chandlers Ford, forming a boundary with Eastleigh Borough Council. It stretches from the Itchen Valley, east of Otterbourne, to Ampfield Wood in the west. The northern boundary of the Character Area is formed by the more open downland and parkland of the Hursley Scarpland Landscape Character Area.

Key Characteristics:

- Undulating ridge running in a north-west to south-east direction to the north of Hiltingbury, coinciding with a geology of clay and sand.
- Numerous streams, ponds and springs, including the Bourne stream at Otterbourne.
- A mosaic of woodland, pasture, parkland and arable fields, giving short, enclosed views.
- Fields are small to medium, generally irregular in shape but with straight boundaries, resulting from the assarting of woodlands from medieval times and the 19th Century enclosure of commons.
- Extensive areas of irregular, assarted, woodland often comprising semi-natural ancient woodland and replanted ancient woodland.
- The varied geology and soils of the area has resulted in a variety of tree species present in the woodlands, including oak, sweet chestnut and beech, together with rare areas of small-leaf lime coppice at Ampfield Wood and oak coppice at Otterbourne Park Wood.
- Historic 18th century park of Cranbury lies within the area, together with part of the medieval Merdon Castle deer park.
- Relatively few public footpaths, tracks or lanes.
- The M3 motorway bisects the area to the east, and the Southampton-London railway line runs just beyond the eastern end of the area. Consequently, although visually remote, it is not tranquil.
- The area is sparsely settled, being dominated by woodland and parkland. Otterbourne forms the only settlement, having a relatively linear form that has developed along the chalk-clay spring line, particularly expanding in the 20th century.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Mixed Farmland and Woodland
- Pasture on Clay
- (Enclosed) Historic Parkland

Settlement Types within the Area:

- Chalk-clay spring-line

Formative Influences:

The geology of this area forms a sharp contrast to the Upper Chalk that forms the downland to the north. It consists of a series of parallel bands of underlying sands and clays, from Reading Beds (mottled clay and sand), through London Clay to Lower Bagshot sands, as well as gravels associated with the River Itchen. The relationship of the clay with the adjacent chalk has resulted in a series of springs along this boundary, together with a network of small streams, ditches and ponds. The varied geology has also resulted in a mosaic of woodland, meadows and a variety of plant species.

The area has probably been settled since the Iron Age, with Cranbury Park developing on the site of an Iron Age fort. There is also evidence of Roman settlement, near Matthew's Copse, and Roman roads, including the Otterborne–New Forest route and the Winchester–Bitterne route. Almost all this area was probably part of the Forest of Bere-Ashley, which was subject to Forest Law in medieval times, being managed primarily for game, but minor rights (such as grazing) being granted by favour of the Lord. The area has retained its wooded character although settlements have developed (e.g. Otterbourne), one of which is now deserted. The majority of change in the landscape has occurred since the 18th century, with the development of Cranbury Park, and the subsequent enclosure of heathland at Ampfield Wood.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

This character area forms an undulating ridge between the suburban area of Hiltingbury to the south and the chalk downlands surrounding Hursley to the north. The landscape is characterised by a high proportion of woodland, much of it semi- natural ancient woodland (Windmill Copse, Woodend Copse, Great Moorlands Copse, Freemantles Copse, Otterbourne Park Wood) and replanted ancient woodland (Ampfield Wood). Other areas of woodland were converted to plantations in the early 20th century. Areas of agricultural land and parkland are interspersed with woodland, forming a sheltered, enclosed rural mosaic with occasional longer views.

Cranbury Park dates from the late 18th century and covers a large proportion of the area, surrounded by a heavily wooded boundary. The varied soil type in this area has resulted in a mixture of woodland species, including sweet chestnut, birch, oak, and beech. Historically the forest formed part of a vast tract of heathland and woodland which included the New Forest. Otterbourne Common is the only unenclosed remnant of this, although commoners rights have lapsed even there.

Fields in the area tend to be relatively small meadows, often being assarts from the Forest. To the north, an area of relatively regular fields is associated with formal enclosure in the 19th century. Hedgerows here are predominantly hawthorn with standard oak trees. These trees tend to be of a similar age and many are in decline. It is therefore important that additional replacements are provided. Elsewhere fields are associated with earlier informal enclosure, having less regular boundaries with a wider variety of species including hazel, hawthorn, hornbeam, dog rose, goat willow, ash and field maple. In some areas gorse and bracken are also present.

The predominance of clay in this area has resulted in the presence of ponds, streams and springs in contrast to the chalk uplands to the north. It is likely that the village of Otterbourne developed in response to the proximity of these water sources as well as the adjacent River Itchen. Despite evolving along a Roman road and having a core of 18th and 19th century dwellings, the village is dominated by 20th century development. It has evolved in a nucleated, linear form between the M3 and the railway, roughly parallel to the Itchen. The village, however, is visually and physically separated from the river. An adjacent medieval settlement, close to the site of the 13th Century

St Matthew's church, has since been deserted.

Given the high proportion of recent dwellings, construction materials are generally modern, although local brick and flint are used on some older dwellings together with slate roofing.

The high proportion of trees gives the area a visually remote feel, with Otterbourne forming the only settlement. Due to its proximity to Eastleigh and Winchester, however, the area is heavily influenced by aural intrusion from the M3 motorway and Southampton-London railway line, both of which bisect the area to its northern end. The proximity of Southampton Airport to the south also reduces the perceived remoteness of the area.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities

- Numerous streams, ponds and springs, including the Bourne stream at Otterbourne.
- A mosaic of woodland, pasture, parkland and arable fields, giving short, enclosed views.
- Fields are small to medium, generally irregular in shape but with straight boundaries, resulting from the assarting of woodlands from medieval times and the 19th Century enclosure of commons.
- .Extensive areas of irregular, assarted, woodland often comprising semi-natural ancient woodland and replanted ancient woodland.
- Rare small-leaf lime coppice at Ampfield Wood and oak coppice at Otterbourne Park Wood.
- Historic Cranbury Park and Merdon Castle deer park.
- Sparsely settled and dominated by woodland and parkland.

Key Issues:

- Fragmentation of woodlands and associated habitats
- Opportunity for the restoration of conifer plantations to semi-natural conditions on ancient woodland sites
- Suburbanisation
- Visual and aural intrusion of M3 motorway and Southampton-London railway line
- Visual intrusion of overhead cables and cumulative effects of sustainable energy and infrastructure developments
- Improvement of grass through fertiliser and herbicide use.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape

Landscape Strategies:

- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of the woodlands through appropriate management such as thinning, coppicing, replanting, ride and edge management and the removal alien species. Replanting should use locally indigenous species.
- Encourage extensive management in large woodland blocks, to mimic current conditions in the New Forest and recognise the historic links between it and the Forest of Bere-Ashley.
- Protect and conserve hedgerows through appropriate management. Replant hedgerows where they have been lost, or have gaps, to retain the existing landscape pattern. Plant additional hedgerow trees where existing trees have been lost or are over-mature.
- Conserve and enhance the unenclosed, heathy character of Otterbourne Common by the removal of recent woodland / scrub.
- Conserve the generally enclosed, varied views throughout the area.
- Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons and 'fracking' rigs are carefully situated to minimise visual intrusion.
- Improve agricultural practices to minimise chemical run-off, which could lead to the pollution of the River Test and River Itchen and to a reduction in biodiversity.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.
- Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc including light spill from large windows.

Built Form Strategies:

- Conserve the linear nucleated form of Otterbourne.
- Conserve the scattered pattern of rural farm and parkland settlement.
- Respect the small-scale nature of existing dwellings.
- Integrate new dwellings into the well-treed rural setting through the careful siting and the use of locally indigenous tree and hedge planting.
- Conserve and promote the use of local building materials such as red brick, painted brick, vitrified brick, flint and slate.
- Conserve and promote the use of traditional rural garden and parkland boundaries including palisade fencing, brick walls and hedgerows.

Key Designations:

- Ampfield Countryside Heritage Area

Conservation Areas:

- None

Scheduled Monuments:

- Park pale to the north, west and south west of Hursley Park (Mon. No. 34132)

SSSIs:

- Ratlake Meadows

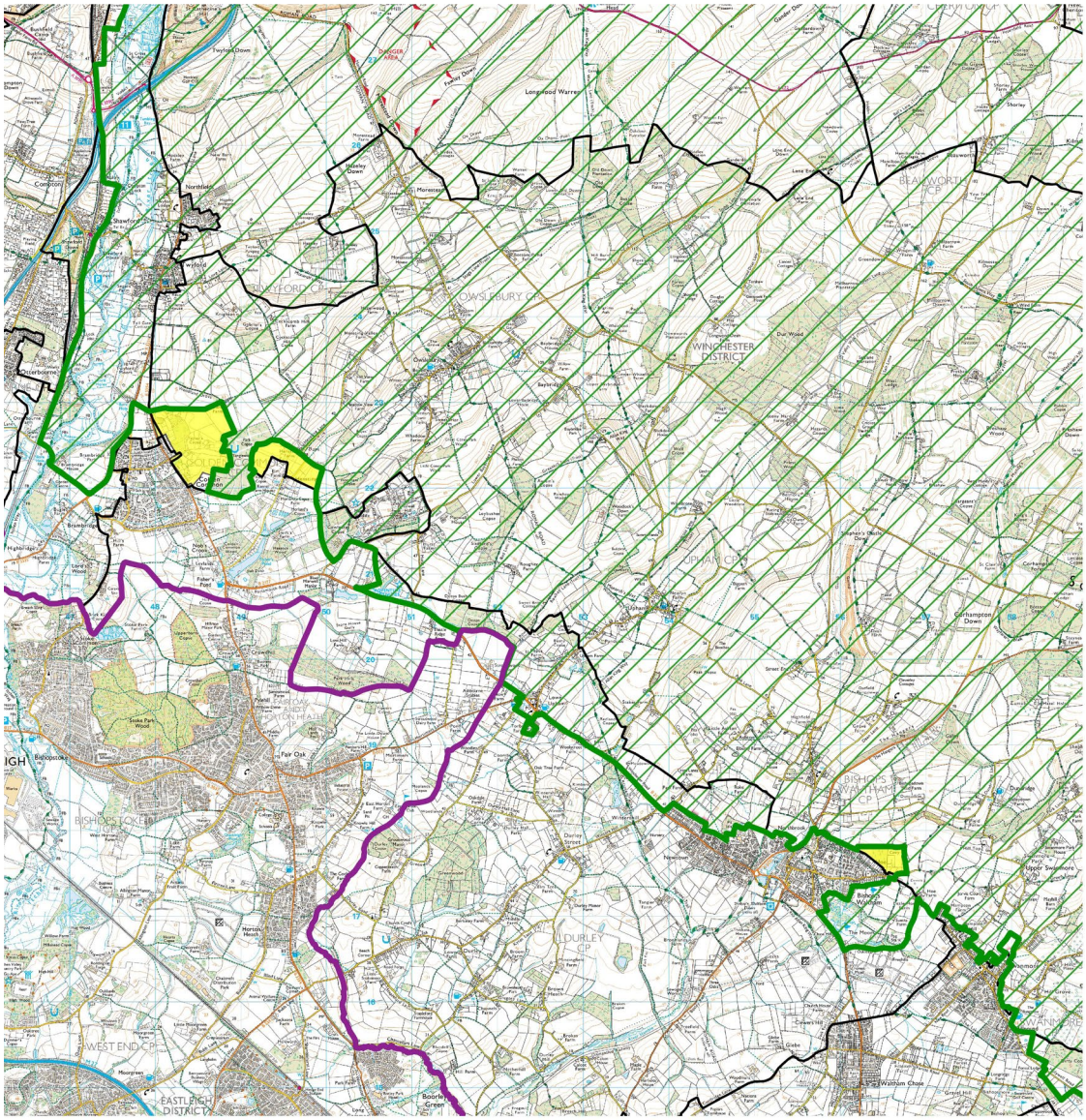
SINCs:

- Ampfield Wood (part); Petty Priest Copse; Deer Park Copse (not on HCC list); Upper Ratlake Farm (northern meadow); Bailey's Paddock / Roundridge Mead; Bunstead Farm Copse; Gully Field, Ladwell; Barn Copse; Blacklands Row (not on HCC list); Long Meadow, Ladwell; Strowden's Copse Belt; Wells Row; Great Moorlands Copse Complex (part) in Cranbury Park; Oakwood Copse; Sparrowgrove Copse; Long Mead; Otterbourne Common; Otterbourne Hill Common; Otterbourne Wood; Little Headlands Copse (not on HCC list); Kents Copse; Snows Copse Meadow

Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Parks and Gardens:

- Cranbury Park (site 1533. Historic England
- Grade II* Listed Park) Otterbourne House (site 1561)

Figure 27 - LCA15 South Winchester Downs



LCA15 - South Winchester Downs Landscape Character Area

Adjacent to Colden Common Recreation Ground

Fields adjacent to Hoe Cemetery north-east of Bishop's Waltham

Location and Boundaries:

The South Winchester Downs Landscape Character Area consists of 3 small areas remaining from the former boundary following the designation of much of the LCA as SDNP. Two of the areas are east of Colden Common and the third is north-east of Bishop's Waltham and includes Hoe Cemetery. The northern boundaries are formed by the SDNP, and adjacent SDLCA landscape types are D1 South Winchester Dowland mosaic (at Bishop's Waltham and north-east of Colden Common), and E4 Itchen Valley to the north and west of Colden Common. Two of the areas directly abut the settlements of Colden Common and Bishop's Waltham.

Key Characteristics:

- Undulating lower chalk downs.
- Well-drained chalk on the higher ground with Reading Beds of sand, clay and silt on the lower ground.
- The landscape is made up of the lower slopes of the downs, and the dry valley at Hensting.
- Predominantly in use as horse paddocks and the recreation ground at Colden Common and as meadow and cemetery at Bishop's Waltham.
- The fields are generally medium in size, often sub-divided with fencing into paddocks.
- North-east of Colden Common is Taylor's Copse, an ancient and semi-natural woodland; at Hoe there is a mixed conifer and deciduous woodland block.
- Public access limited some local footpaths to boundaries and the cemetery, as well as the Colden Common Park recreation ground at Boyes Lane.
- Scattered farms and houses along and around Hensting Lane with buildings mostly closely fronting the lane do not exert an urbanising influence.
- East of Taylor's Copse is an equestrian centre and a small number of houses and buildings associated with the equestrian centre and the recreation ground. A substantial urban extension has recently been constructed at Sandyfields Lane. These developments combine to create an urbanising influence on this lower ground which is closer to the settlement
- Some traditional building features and methods, including timber frames, flint, thatch, red brick, painted brick, vitrified brick, weatherboard (barns), clay tiles, thatch and slate.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Chalk and Clay (Farmland)
- Chalk and Clay (Woodland)

Settlement Types within the Area:

- None

Formative Influences:

The geology of these areas consists almost entirely of Upper Chalk, with some Reading Beds to the south at Colden Common. The permeable nature of this geology has resulted in a rolling well-drained topography, associated with dry valleys and no surface water streams.

The formation of the present landscape was probably initiated as long ago as the Bronze Age, when much of the original forest cover was probably cleared for arable, agriculture and grazing.

During medieval times the area would have contained much open sheep pasture. Subsequently, the assarting of woodlands and the informal enclosure of fields in the 17th century followed by the loss of field boundaries in the 20th century has resulted in the field patterns seen today.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

These areas with strong connections to the adjacent settlements, becoming less strong at Hensting and to the north of the other areas where there is a clear connection with the adjacent downland to the north.

Field sizes are generally medium with fenced sub-division into paddocks often rectilinear or straight-edged. Fields are often bounded by hedgerows

The area along and around Boyes Lane, east of Colden Common is subject to the urbanising influences of the nearby settlement, including the newly completed housing development at Sandyfields Lane, the road, recreation ground and equestrian uses. The cemetery at Bishop's Waltham has an urbanising influence but is nonetheless a peaceful place with appropriately planted boundaries.

Buildings within the areas are small in scale, with a high proportion constructed using traditional construction methods and materials.

Red brick, flint, clay tiles, and thatch are all characteristic materials, together with weatherboard for barns.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- Some long views south from the higher ground, as well as views of a more enclosed intimate nature.
- Hedgerows are generally strong, often low, sometimes with mature trees.
- Some woodland, including Taylor's Copse ancient woodland.
- Temple Usk Meadow SINC at Boyes Lane.
- Hensting Lane has a rural, well-hedged and -treed character, with some sunken sections and a sense of history.
- The eastern / northern edges of Colden Common / Bishop's Waltham are generally well integrated into the landscape, screened by the topography and mature trees.
- Some tranquillity in all 3 areas where removed from the settlement - generally stronger on higher ground to the north, / SDNP boundary where there are strong connections with the wider downland landscape.

Key Issues:

- Urbanising influences in the area close to the settlement, east of Taylor's Copse, Colden Common and including increased artificial light on tranquil, rural areas.
- Soil erosion and chemical pollution of aquifer.
- Erosion of thin topsoil and flash flooding as chalk becomes saturated
- Removal of hedgerows in the late 20th century and their ongoing neglect
- Management of ancient semi-natural woodland
- Decline of sheep farming resulting in loss of traditional chalk grassland management
- Management of unimproved/semi-improved calcareous grassland
- Protection of archaeological remains.
- Development of prominent large agricultural buildings or new.
- Cumulative effects of sustainable energy and infrastructure developments
- Potential development of masts and vertical structures in open landscapes
- Further expansion of Colden Common and Bishop's Waltham, particularly extending to the higher ground towards the SDNP and along the sparsely settled Henstings Lane.
- Further expansion and possible urbanisation of the cemetery area
- Opportunities for the restoration of arable to chalk downland and the management of 'conservation headlands'
- Opportunities for the restoration of coniferised woodland to a more semi-natural condition.
- Horsiculture and urbanisation
- Conversion of farm buildings to housing and new smaller farms with associated new buildings and infrastructure eroding rural character.
- Pressure to provide large-scale leisure facilities such as golf courses
- Pressure for urban fringe use related activities.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape

Landscape Strategies:

- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of woodlands through appropriate management such as thinning, coppicing and replanting, ride and edge management, and the removal of invasive alien species. Replant using locally indigenous species. Encourage biomass provision, linked wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities.
- Manage and replant medieval hedgerows to ensure they create a continuous ecological network and connect isolated habitats.
- Tree replanting, including to replace ash trees due to die-back should be with new locally indigenous tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover and be generally kept below ridgelines.
- Remove post and wire/rail fencing and, if necessary, replace with hedging.
- Restore and enhance the biodiversity of arable farmland, by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow fields.

- Conserve the open parts of the area to sustain farmland birds and protect long views.
- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices, to minimise chemical and soil run-off.
- Restore areas of arable farmland to species-rich chalk downland as linked and strengthened habitats for wildlife.
- Conserve public access to leisure facilities and enable greater access opportunities for local people whilst also conserving the rural character of their setting.
- Encourage any groundworks to contribute to the reduction of surface water run-off and conserve safe flood plains in valleys.
- Conserve visual and aural tranquillity in areas where it exists.
- Discourage further urbanisation of the area east of Taylor's Copse, Colden Common.
- Encourage continued appropriate planting and management at Hoe Cemetery, Bishop's Waltham.
- Retain the rural character of Hensting Lane.

Built Form Strategies:

- Conserve and promote the use of local building materials such as brick, flint, weatherboard, thatch and slate.
- Integrate new development with the surrounding rural landscape through appropriate siting and the use of locally indigenous planting.
- Conserve and promote the use of traditional garden and parkland boundaries such as brick and flint walls, palisade fencing, railings and non- coniferous hedging
- Conserve the well-screened setting of Bishop's Waltham with its lack of urban fringe activities.
- New developments, including curtilage extensions should respect historic and local vegetation pattern and character and avoid proposing new buildings and infrastructure in visible locations.

Key Designations:

- None

Conservation Areas:

- None

Scheduled Monuments:

- None

SSSIs:

- None

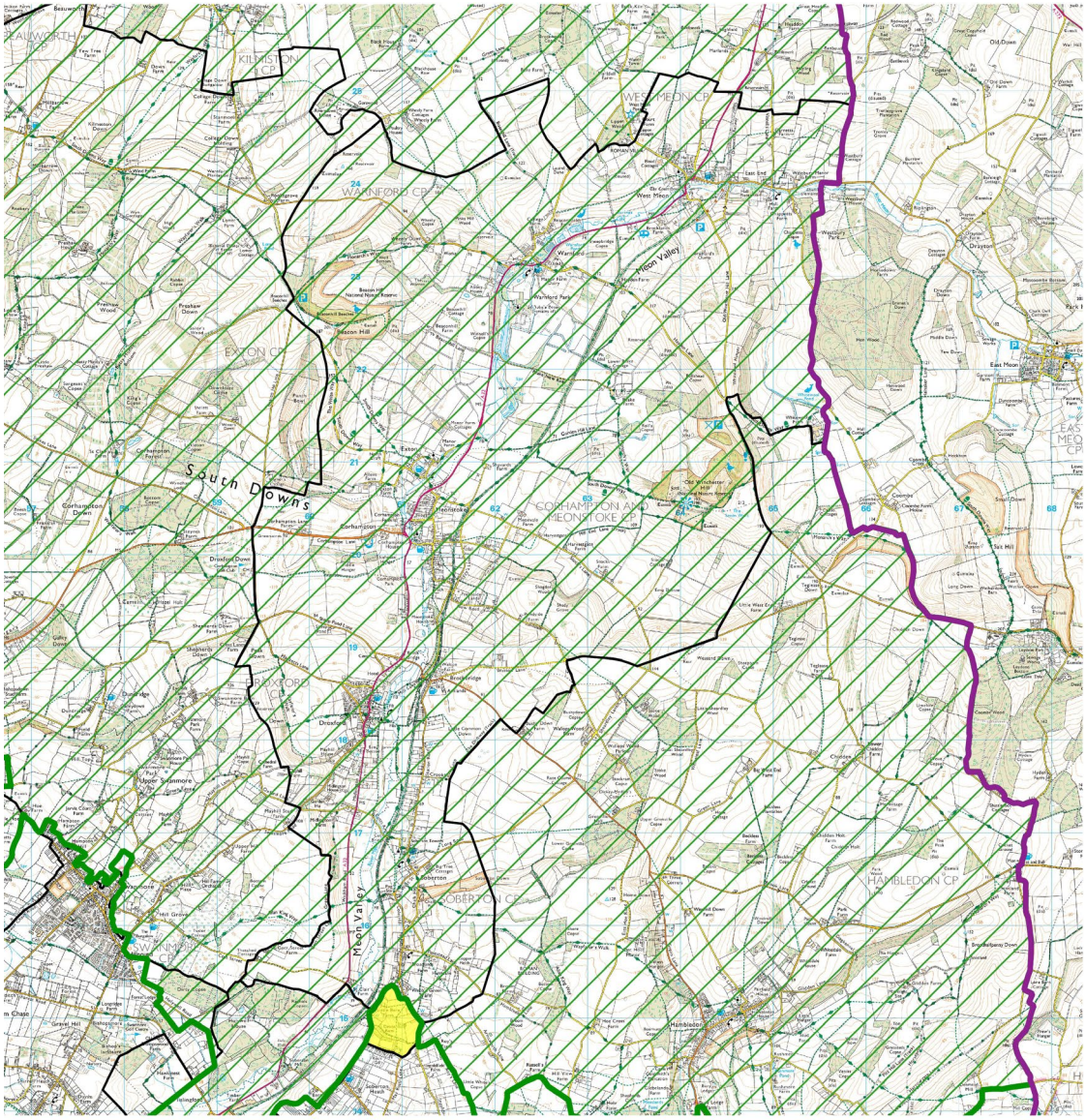
SINCs:

- Taylor's Copse; Temple Usk Meadow; Durnford's Yard Meadow

Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens:

- None

Figure 28 - LCA16 Upper Meon Valley



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- Landscape Character Areas
- South Downs National Park
- LCT boundaries - LCA 16: Upper Meon Valley
- Chalk and Clay Farmland

north 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

LCA16 - Upper Meon Valley Landscape Character Area

North of Chapel Road, Soberton Heath

West of Plough Lane, Soberton Heath

Location and Boundaries:

The Upper Meon Valley character area comprises a small part of the upper reaches of the River Meon valley, though not the river itself. The river lies to the west of the LCA, within and SDNP and flows through the chalk downlands before reaching the clay lowlands to the south. The source of the river Meon is close to East Meon, which lies within the adjacent East Hampshire District, within the SDNP.

The character area lies north of Soberton Heath, with the Forest of Bere Lowlands LCA to the south. The SDNP boundary wraps around it with SDLCA LCA Meon Valley - Valley Sides to the north and west, and LCA Hambledon to Clanfield Downland Mosaic (enclosed) to the east.

Key Characteristics:

- Relatively wide river valley landscape cutting through the chalk uplands
- Land use predominantly grazed paddocks and pastures.
- Contains Deans Row ancient and semi-natural woodland
- Small irregular assarts intermixed with woodland.
- An enclosed feel, with views contained by landform and trees.
- Local footpaths including links to the SDNP and the Meon River
- The LCA's boundary is formed by rural roads.
- Scattered farms within the area and linear development along the southern boundary which is linked to nearby Soberton Heath. Also contains a cluster of buildings to the north, part of Webbs Green.
- The only historic features is the Grade II Little Bere Farmhouse.
- Some traditional building features and methods, including brick and flint and clay plain tile.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Chalk and Clay Farmland

Formative Influences:

The upper reaches of the Upper Meon Valley north of the LCA comprise an expansive landscape, wide in comparison to the small scale of the River Meon itself. This is partly due to areas of lower softer chalk which lie between Beacon Hill and Old Winchester Hill which, through erosion, has resulted in a wide basin of undulating land gently sloping towards the river, contained by the escarpments of harder Middle Chalk.

The presence of the river has resulted in a long history of occupation in the general area.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

The Upper Meon Valley Character Area is characterised by undulating chalk and clay farmland sloping west towards the River Meon. The landscape is reasonably well treed with a generally good hedgerow structure.

Buildings include farm buildings and houses, around the perimeter of the area, along roads Building materials typically include red brick, flint and clay plain tiles.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- Contains Deans Row ancient and semi-natural woodland and SINC
- Rural character to the area
- A sense of tranquillity, despite the presence of pylons

Key Issues:

- Impact of agricultural chemicals on nearby chalk river
- Management of calcareous grasslands and scrub encroachment on scarps
- Fragmentation and management of hedgerows during the late 20th Century
- Erosion and other impacts on chalk grasslands and archaeological sites from increasing visitor pressure
- Impact on biodiversity of intensive farming practices
- Impact of suburbanisation on settlement character
- Cumulative effects of sustainable energy and infrastructure developments
- Development of large agricultural buildings on open valley sides
- Flood prevention for the River Meon
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape

Landscape Strategies

- Conserve and enhance the unimproved areas of pasture.
- Conserve and maintain areas of calcareous grassland.
- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of ancient semi–natural woodlands at through appropriate management such as thinning, coppicing, replanting, ride and edge management. This would also be an area suitable for the reintroduction of native black poplar, Populus nigra
- Conserve and restore the hedgerow network to connect key habitats where appropriate.
- Conserve and manage the rural character of the land, footpaths, lanes and tracks.
- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices, to minimise fertiliser and soil run-off for example, which could lead to the pollution of the River Meon.

Built Form Strategies

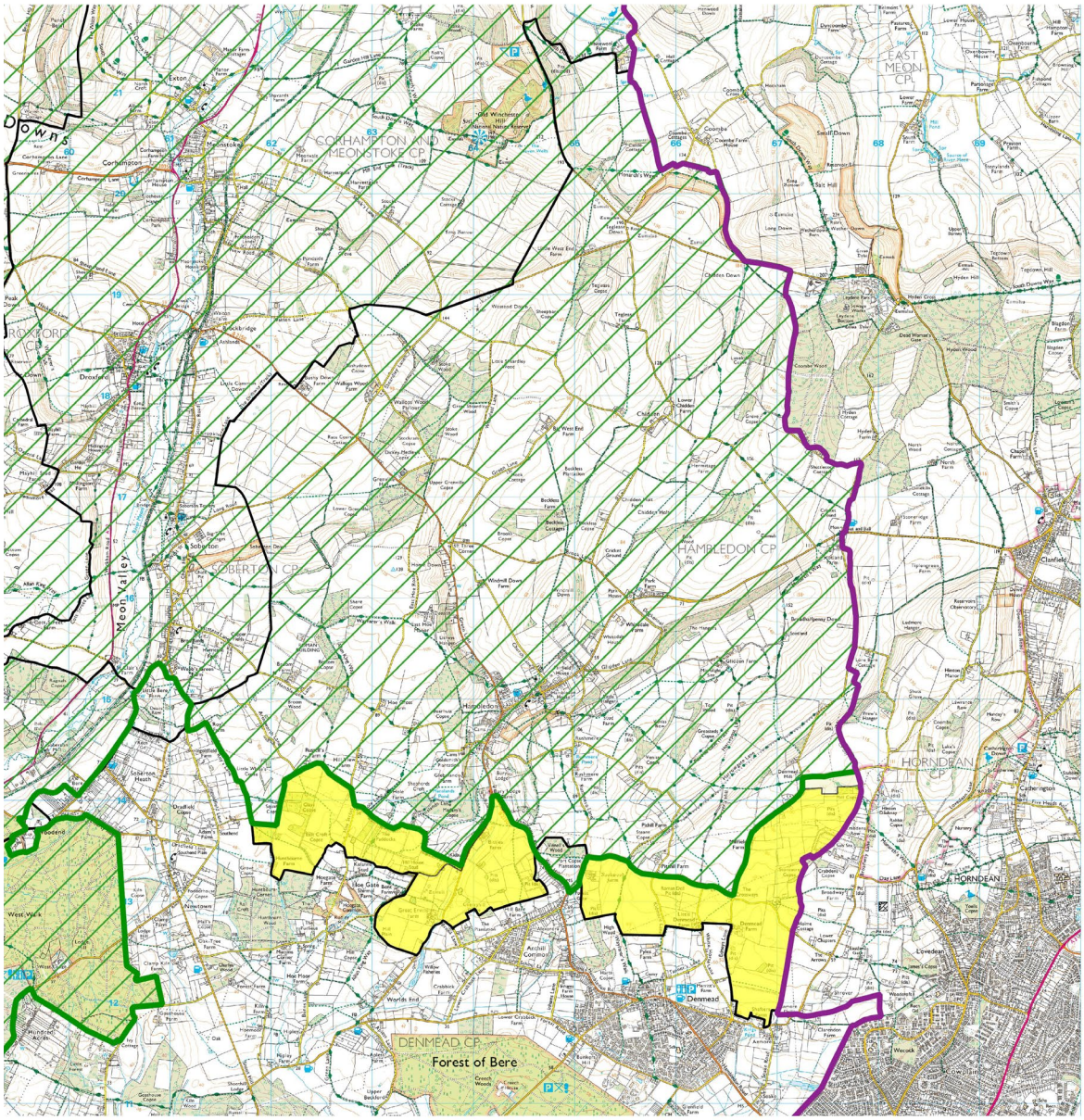
- Conserve the form and pattern of the river valley settlements.
- Conserve the open, undeveloped character of the valley sides, avoiding the construction of large agricultural buildings here for example
- Promote the use of local building materials, such as red brick, flint and clay plain tiles in keeping with the character of existing settlements.
- Respect the compact and small-scale nature of existing dwellings.
- Conserve rural garden boundaries such as brick and flint walls, and native hedgerows and promote their use in new developments.
- Respect the sparse pattern of development beyond the river valley floor.

Key Designations

SINCs

- Deans Row

Figure 29 - LCA17 Hambledon Downs



Key

Winchester District Boundary
Landscape Character Areas
South Downs National Park
LCT boundaries - LCA 17: Hambledon Downs
Chalk and Clay Farmland
Open Arable Exposed

north 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

LCA 17 - Hambledon Downs Landscape Character Area

North of Denmead

Armsworth Lane, east of Soberton Heath

Location and Boundaries:

The Hambledon Downs Character Area comprises 2 small areas north and north-west of Denmead in the central-east of Winchester District, separated by the SDNP, with the eastern edge abutting the boundary of East Hampshire District. The northern boundary is formed by the edge of the SDNP, SDLCA landscape type D Downland Mosaic; LCA D2a Hambledon to Clanfield Downland Mosaic (Enclosed).

Key Characteristics:

- Undulating rolling landform south of the South Downs ridgeline. The eastern section of the LCA lies on the south-facing slope of the downs, rising up to 115m at Denmead Mill. The western section straddles the lower reaches of the dry Hambledon valley. Scarps and dry valleys are common features.
- Upper chalk geology giving rise to shallow, well drained calcareous soils.
- A tributary of the River Wallington flows through the valley to the south of Hambledon.
- Arable crop production common across the areas, interspersed with woodland and pasture on the steeper slopes.
- Medium to large irregular wavy fields formed through the enclosure of downland in medieval times, together with more regular fields created at the time of parliamentary enclosure.
- Limited habitats of ecological significance; small areas of ancient semi-natural woodland in west.
- Varied degrees of visual enclosure with some long views from higher ground. Strong patterns of hedgerows, intermittent trees and woodland.
- Sparsely populated areas with isolated farms, associated outbuildings and cottages.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Open Arable (Exposed)
- Chalk and Clay Farmland

Formative Influences:

The Hambledon Downs Character Area is underlain by Upper Chalk. Much of the area is covered with thin calcareous soils, although parts are also overlain by deposits of clay giving rise to a greater proportion of woodland.

From medieval times to the late 19th and mid 20th centuries, the major land use on the downs to the north would have been sheep rearing. This

has resulted in the large numbers of old drove roads running in a north-south direction through the areas, connecting the Downs to the Forest of Bere. With increasing farm mechanisation, arable farming has become common. Where fields were enclosed in medieval times boundaries are irregular, but more recent enclosure has resulted in straighter boundaries. The steep scarps with old wood and unimproved downland date from post medieval times.

Landscape and Settlement Description

Predominantly arable farmland with medium to large fields superimposed on a dramatic rolling chalk landform. The small areas of woodland are ancient semi-natural, dominated by ash or oak, with some replanted plantation. Hedgerows are a significant feature of the character area, with hedgerow trees consisting mainly of oak, with some more recently planted beech. Occasional long distance views across south Hampshire.

As is typical of most downland landscapes, the area is sparsely populated with settlement confined to isolated farms.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities

- Tranquil rural nature with no major routes passing through the area (the main one being the B2150). Routes consist of an intricate network of ancient minor roads, lanes and drove roads. These are mainly winding and narrow with some high hedgerows.
- Some long views from higher ground towards Portsdown ridge and occasional panoramic views south and north towards the South Downs.

Key Issues:

- Declining farmland birds, due to historic loss of downland and more recent changes in agricultural practices, particularly winter cropping
- Subdivision of large fields by fencing
- Harsh rectilinear shape of some woodland planting
- Impact of horsiculture around Anthill, including subdivision of fields to form paddocks
- Risk of continued intensive farming practices causing chemical pollution to chalk aquifer and downstream water courses
- Risk of continued ploughing of steep downland slopes causing further loss of topsoil and consequent siltation of downstream water courses
- Impact of commuter traffic on the B2150 and the network of narrow lanes
- Presence of large electricity substation in eastern section with high incidence of pylons; both causing visual and aural intrusion and threat of additions to this infrastructure.
- Ash dieback prevalent in the area which will continue to result in loss of tree cover.
- Pressure for urban fringe related activities and recreational pressures.

Landscape Strategies

- Encourage the extension, restoration and creation of species-rich chalk downland, through agricultural and planning policies (e.g. compensation for unavoidable loss of wildlife habitats resulting from planned development).
- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices, to minimise fertiliser and soil run-off for example, which could lead to the pollution of watercourses.
- Restore and enhance the biodiversity of arable farmland, by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow fields.
- Encourage the protection and conservation of important wildlife and historic features such as ancient hedgerows and woodlands, especially where they provide a link with other semi-natural habitats.
- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of the woodlands through appropriate management such as thinning, coppicing, replanting, ride and edge management and the removal of invasive alien species.
- Promote the introduction of less intensive farming methods to enhance biodiversity and reduce risks of pollution of the aquifer and both pollution and siltation of downstream watercourses.
- Conserve and enhance the rural agricultural character and mosaic of landscape features, which create the contrasting scale of open and enclosed areas of downs.
- Conserve and enhance the remote character and contrasting scale of open farmland and enclosed wooded areas of clay plateau.
- Monitor success of ecological strategies by surveying farmland birds and calcareous grassland plants
- Opportunities for enhanced connectivity between semi-natural habitats (ancient woodland, calcareous grasslands, water-courses), although planting should not reduce viability of arable land for farmland birds
- Opportunities for enhanced management of areas of woodland, in particular the semi-natural ancient woodlands.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.
- New gardens, parkland and other residential curtilage should take into account surrounding vegetation pattern, rural character and existing public views.

Built Form Strategies

- Resist visually intrusive development on elevated ridges, including large-scale farm structures and telecommunications masts.
- Conserve the rural character and sparse pattern of farms and settlements.
- Ensure that the intimate rural character of the complex pattern of small roads, lanes and tracks is not altered through inappropriate road improvements.
- Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc

Key Designations:

Scheduled Monuments

- Three bell barrows and a bowl barrow, 250m and 270m NW of Great Ervills Farm, Denmead (Mon. No. 32551)

SSSIs

- None

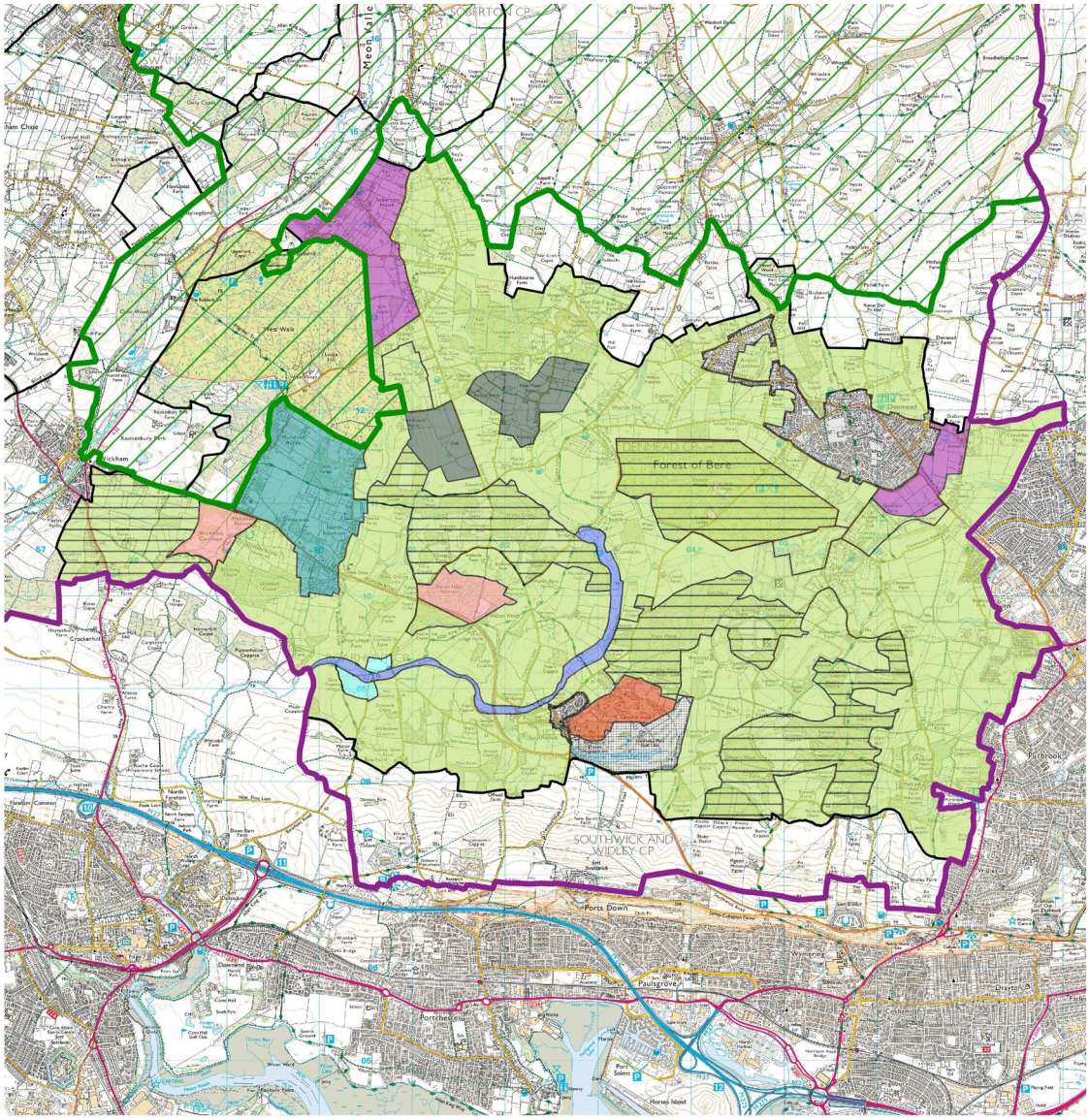
SINCs

- The Paddocks

Parks listed in Hampshire Register of Historic Park and Gardens

- None

Figure 30 - LCA18 Forest of Bere Lowlands



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- Landscape Character Areas
- South Downs National Park
- LCT boundaries - LCA 18: Forest of Bere Lowlands
- Golf Courses
- Heathland
- Horticulture and Small holdings
- Miliary base
- Mixed Farmland and Woodland
- Mixed Farmland Woodland Enclosed
- Parkland
- Pasture Woodland Heath Associated
- Pasture on Clay
- River Valley Floor
- River Valley Side
- Urban Areas (Local Plan Policy Boundary)

north 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

LCA18 - Forest of Bere Lowlands Landscape Character Area

Across the valley of the River Wallington, from Back Lane (north-west of Southwick)

Trampers Lane (north of North Boarhunt)

Location and Boundaries:

The character area encompasses the lowlands of the Hampshire Basin to the south of the district, between the chalk uplands of the Hambledon Downs to the North and the chalk ridge of Portsdown Hill to the South. The eastern boundary abuts Waterlooville (Havant District) and the western Boundary abuts the SDNP, SDLCA landscape type Q Wooded Claylands; LCA Q1 West Walk - Rookesbury Park.

Key Characteristics:

- Undulating landscape at the foot of the Chalk Downs which drop steeply down to the coastal plain at Portsdown Hill to the south of this area.
- Varied geology, mainly consisting of London Clay with areas of Bagshot sand and river valley alluvium.
- The catchment of the River Wallington, which flows east to west through the south of the character area, including tributary streams, wetlands and ponds.
- Land cover characterised by farmland and a high proportion of assarted woodland. The farmland is largely arable, with pasture concentrated on lower ground.
- High proportion of semi-natural habitats.
- The area is historically strongly associated with the Royal Forest of Bere, which was once a royal hunting reserve, encompassing a much larger area than the present forest.
- The framework of the landscape is typified to the south by assarts evolved from the piecemeal clearance of woodland from medieval times onwards, forming irregular enclosures and winding lanes. To the north of the area, parliamentary type enclosure is typical.
- Southwick Park historic park lies within the area. Southwick Park, based on the site of a 12th Century Augustine Priory was developed as a deer park from the 16th century and now accommodates HMS Dryad and a golf course.
- Routes vary from straight roads with wide verges associated with heathland settlements and the pasture on clay and long winding narrow hedged routes through the mixed farmland and woodland.
- Settlements are scattered throughout the area, with the largest ones located in the north and small shrunken hamlets and farms to the south such as Boarhunt. Sprawling 19th century settlements associated with heathland to the north include Soberton Heath, and chalk–clay spring line settlements such as Denmead

and estate villages such as Southwick.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Horticulture and smallholdings
- Mixed farmland and woodland (Open)
- Mixed farmland and woodland (Enclosed)
- Pasture and woodland: heath associated
- Pasture on clay
- Heathland
- Golf courses
- River valley floor
- River valley side
- Historic parkland

Settlement Types within the Area:

- Chalk clay spring-line
- Estate village
- Scattered clay lowland
- Heath associated

Formative Influences:

The lowland topography and the deep fertile soils of clay, with deposits of sand and gravel create conditions suitable for woodland cover, with the largest areas of woodland being situated on the Bagshot Sands. The distinctive character of this area has evolved from the remnants of the former Forest of Bere, an extensive royal hunting reserve.

The forest was enclosed in 1814 by parliamentary act resulting in significant landscape changes throughout the 19th century, including the creation of medium sized regular shaped fields and woodland plantations, particularly in the northern and eastern part of the area. To the south, around Boarhunt and Southwick, the landscape has evolved from the more piecemeal clearance of woodland, forming a mixture of enclosure patterns and associated ancient woodland, with small irregular fields some with wavy boundaries.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

The landscape of this area has an ancient character, retaining historic landscape features and a network of ancient winding narrow lanes. Due to the informal piecemeal nature of woodland clearance, the landscape has a distinctive pattern of small irregular fields, with treed hedges forming boundaries, interspersed with small irregularly shaped woods and copses. The area also includes many meadows associated with the River Wallington and a strong hedgerow network, which provides a backdrop to more open fields and the historic landscape of Southwick Park.

There are a number of settlements in this area interspersed with the woodland. These vary significantly in form. The largest is Denmead, a nucleated settlement that originated on the spring line that has formed where the chalk uplands meet the clay lowlands. It is only in the past 60 years that this has expanded substantially though, consequently giving it a 20th century character. The oldest settlement is the estate village of Southwick, which developed at the boundary of the Southwick Park. Soberton Heath, Hundred Acres and Boarhunt are examples of heath associated settlements with a typically linear form.

Further major development is underway west of Waterlooville providing 3000 new homes plus community and employment facilities as well as the restoration of meadows and woodlands and the River Wallington.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities

- Exceptionally high cover of semi-natural habitats, including an extensive complex of base-rich neutral meadows along the tributaries of the Wallington, remnants of heathland (Wickham and Walton Heath Commons), neutral-acid grassland and marsh (Lye Heath Marsh and Hook Heath Meadows SSSIs), wood pasture (such as Anthill Common and Creech Walk) and species rich ancient semi- natural woodland (such as Place Wood, Ham Coppice). It is therefore one of the most bio- diverse areas in Winchester District, with many areas designated as SINCs. Plantation woodland over heath, such as Walton Heath Plantation and 19th Century plantations such as parts of Creech Walk.
- Remote and enclosed feel to much of the area, due to the presence of woodland and narrow hedged roads.
- Popular public woodland walks including West Walk and Creech Wood, supplemented by numerous rights of way, including Wayfarers Walk and Pilgrims Way.
- Sense of history in places with old buildings, woodlands and trees
- Open gap separating Denmead and Waterlooville
- Straight roads, including of Roman origin

Key Issues:

- Opportunities to protect and enhance, re-establish and link habitats and features characteristic of the Forest of Bere, including heaths, grasslands and ancient woodland.
- Suburbanised urban 'fringe' character of parts of the area, with assorted sheds, horse paddocks and fencing, neglect of hedgerows, small nurseries and tipping.
- Erosion of the gap separating Denmead and Waterlooville
- Loss of rare heathland habitats and lack of appropriate heathland management.
- Impact of fertilisers and herbicides on unimproved acid grassland and meadows.
- Loss of semi-natural structure of ancient and ancient replanted woodland.
- Impact of modern land use on the historic Southwick Park.
- Intrusive vertical elements such as wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons, and rigs associated with hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') which can be visible over long distances.
- Cumulative effects of sustainable energy and infrastructure developments
- Localised intrusion of the busy B2177.
- Increased artificial light on tranquil rural quality.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape.

Landscape Strategies

- Increase awareness of the Forest of Bere and enable greater access opportunities for local people.
- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of the woodlands through appropriate management such as thinning, coppicing, replanting, ride and edge management and the removal of invasive alien species.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.
- Create a more heavily wooded matrix between woodland blocks such as West Walk and Creech Wood and manage woodland in line with the Forestry Commission's Forest Plan for Creech Wood.
- Encourage biomass provision, linked wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities
- Conserve semi-natural grassland through the promotion of extensive grassing systems and hay making without fertiliser or herbicide.
- Restore and enhance the biodiversity of arable farmland, by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow fields.
- Identify and restore ancient species-rich hedgerows.
- Restore and appropriately manage former heathland areas, through clearance, grazing and controlled burning where appropriate.
- Create wetland habitats along the River Wallington valley.
- Improve habitat footpath linkages between Creech Wood and West Walk.
- Conserve and enhance the parkland associated with Southwick Park.
- Monitor the success of strategies by regular surveys of key species, particularly the distribution and abundance of those characteristic of unimproved grasslands and heaths.
- Refer to the Denmead Neighbourhood Plan.
- Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc.

Built Form Strategies:

- Enhance the local urban edge, by planting locally indigenous hedgerows.
- Resist development, which further fragments the restoration of the former Forest of Bere, or suburbanises local settlements, such as that associated with 'horsiculture'.
- Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons and 'fracking' rigs are carefully situated to minimise visual intrusion.
- Respect the distinctive linear pattern of many of the heath-associated settlements.
- Respect the historic character of Southwick.
- Respect the distinctive relict pattern of small holdings at Hundred Acres.
- Retain the rural character of the local minor roads within the character area.
- Refer to the Denmead Neighbourhood Plan.

Key Designations:

Conservation Areas:

- Southwick

Scheduled Monuments:

- Southwick Brewhouse (Mon. No. 591 HA) Southwick Priory (Mon. No. 204 HA)
- Ringwork and bailey in Place Wood, 680m WSW of Wanstead Farm (Mon. No. 32552)

SSSIs:

- Hook Heath Meadows
- Lye Heath Marsh (Acid grassland/bog)

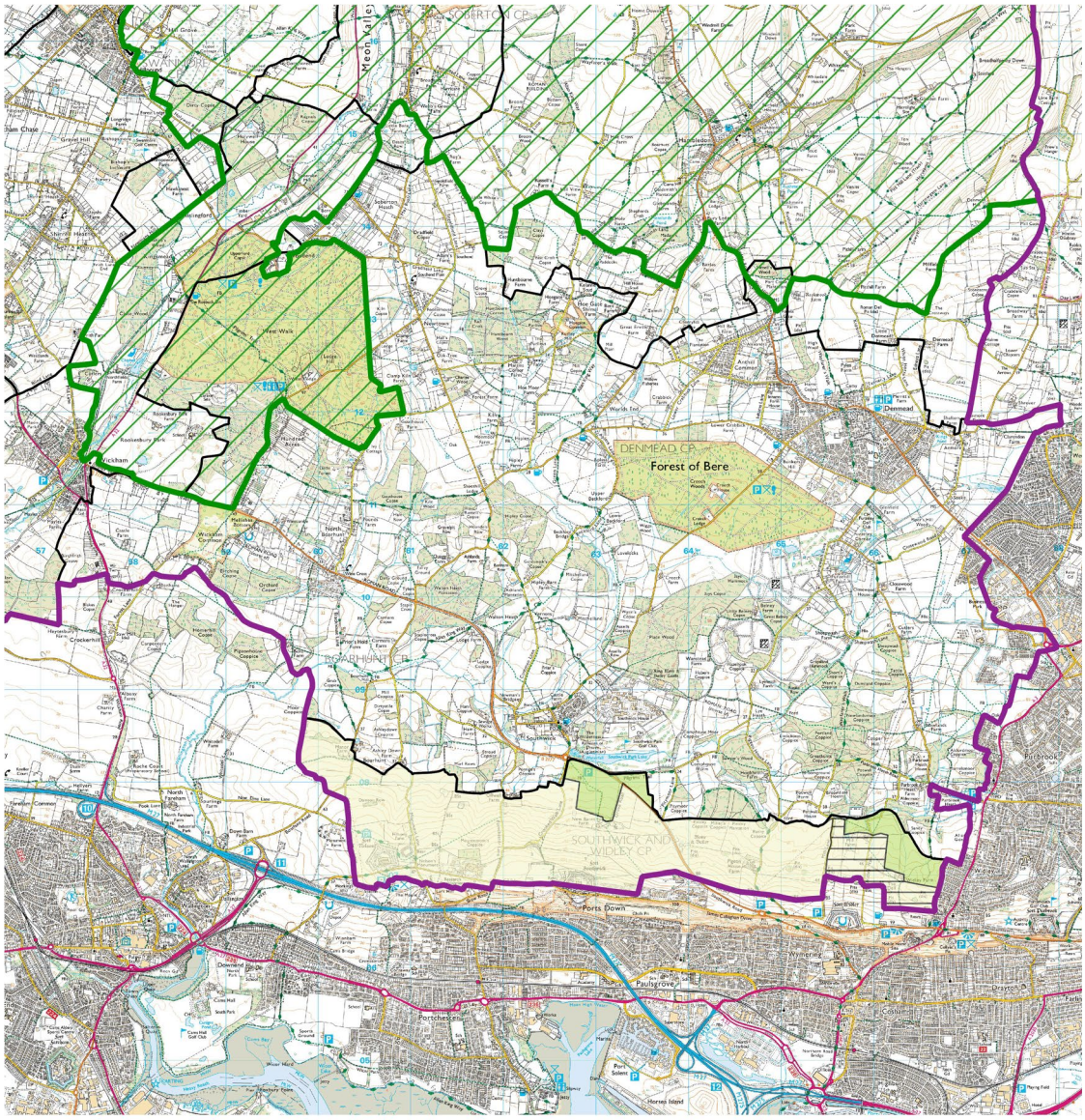
SINCs:

- Kiln Copse; Forest Lodge Farm Pond / Meadow. Wickham Common; Walton Heath / Ashlands (north); Wickham Meadow; Martin's Copse; Fullimore's Copse; Birching Copse; Orchard Copse; Grub and Mill Coppices; Gravelhole Copse; Moor Coppice; Dirtystile Coppice; Whitehill Row (not on HCC list); Hone Copse; Goathouse Complex; Dradfield Copse; Hale Meadow; Staplecross Row; Dirty Ground Copse; Carman's Copse; Opposite Carmans Copse; Ashleydown Copse; Fodderhouse Copse; Hall's Copse; Charles Wood; Hipley Copse; Great Breach Row; Walton Heath / Ashlands / Staplecross (South); Marls and Stroud Coppices; Stroud Coppice Field; Perriges Coppice; Walton Pond; Goldsmith's Copse; Crooked Walk Meadow; Southwick Meadow; Commanders Field, HMS Dryad; Ansells Copse; Mitchelland Farm Meadow; Mitchelland Copse; Mill Plain; Hoegate Common; Mill Copse; 9 x Lovelock Meadows; 5 x Lower Beckford Meadows; Wiggs Wood; Wynns Copse; Place Wood and Little Belney Copse; Creech; Creech Walk Plantation; Creech Farm Copse; Wood; Hill Barn Meadows Areas 1 and 3; Creech Comphouse Moor Coppice; Creech Walk East; Vinnells Wood; Highwood Meadow; Anthill Farm Meadow; Anthill Common Areas 1 – 4; Inhams Lane Meadows 2, 4 and 5; Harts Copse / High Wood; Creech Edge Scrub; Mount Pleasant Meadow; Pitymoor Coppice; Sawyers Wood; Hookheath Alders; Hookheath Meadows G3, 4, 5 and 6; Hookheath Scrubs; Venables Coppice; Hazelhook Coppice; Broomfield House Copse; Drivetts Complex; Broomground and Potwell Copices; Widley Walk Meadow; Pinsley Complex; Sheepwash , Tattle and Dunstand coppices; Piper's Hill Wood; Sandy and Aldermoor Copices; Aldermoor Meadow; Lings Pond Meadow; Anmore Dell Meadow; Alsfordmoor Coppice; Purbrook Heath; Marrelsmoor Row; Marrelsmoor Coppice; Newlands and Plant Rows; Newlands Farm Meadow; Bucks Copse; Clamp Kiln Row; Ham Coppice; Castle Farm Meadow; Mitchelland Meadow; Assell's Meadow; Lovelocks Marsh (south); Lovelocks Meadow (OS 1330) South; Lovelocks Meadow (OS 1330) north; Lovelocks Meadow (OS 0357); Lower Beckford Meadow 24.

Hampshire Register of Historic Parks And Gardens

- Southwick Park (Site No.1569) Deer Park

Figure 31 - LCA19 Portsdown Hill



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- Landscape Character Areas
- South Downs National Park

LCT boundaries - LCA 19: Portsdown Hill

- Mixed Farmland and Woodland
- Open Arable
- Open Arable Exposed

north 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

LCA19 - Portsdown Hill Landscape Character Area

South from B2177

East from Pigeon House Lane

Location and Boundaries:

The Portsdown Hill Landscape Character Area runs along the southernmost edge of the district. It forms a distinctive boundary to the District and lies on a chalk escarpment and dip slope between the built up area of Portsmouth City Council to the south and the remote, wooded clay lowland of the Forest of Bere to the north. Its eastern edge is formed by the district boundary with Havant Borough Council and its western boundary is formed by the district boundary with Fareham.

Key Characteristics:

- Chalk dip slope, rising evenly from north to south where it forms a very visible east-west scarp along the northern edge of Portsmouth and marks the south-west extremity of the South Downs.
- Large, predominantly arable fields, with straight boundaries formed by late, formal enclosure, together with larger irregular fields bounded by lanes, resulting from informal post-medieval enclosure
- Sites of recognised ecological interest confined to secondary calcareous grassland that has developed on the steep slopes of man-made structures, as at Fort Southwick. However, area also likely to be of value to declining farmland birds and species-rich field margins
- Generally minimal hedgerow structure, concentrated to the lower slopes where the hedgerows contain a variety of species and are often on banks. Few trees.
- Small areas of woodland along the northern base of the slope, including 19th century plantations. Elsewhere however, there is a general lack of trees and woodland.
- Elevated, exposed southern ridgeline gives long panoramic views over the Forest of Bere to the north. The land continues to rise to the south of the district boundary, ultimately forming an escarpment overlooking Portsmouth (and lying within Portsmouth City administrative boundary).
- Series of narrow, irregular sunken lanes connecting the northern lowlands to the southern hilltop, probably representing old drove roads. The B2177 is the only road cutting diagonally up the hill and then along the ridge.
- The Victorian Palmerston forts, Fort Nelson and Fort Southwick, together with Fort Widley (within Portsmouth City boundary) form an important series of historic landmarks along the hilltop, with man-made, virtually treeless slopes to the north (glacii).
- Other than the strong military presence along the southern ridge, this area contains little settlement, other than occasional farms located along the spring line. Evidence of deserted medieval villages at Boarhunt and

adjacent to Mill Farm, Widley.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Open Arable
- Open Arable (Exposed)
- Mixed Farmland and Woodland (Open)

Settlement Types within the Area:

- None

Formative Influences:

This character area is strongly influenced by its Upper Chalk geology, which forms a distinct hill rising up from the clay lowlands to the north and forming a steep escarpment above the coastal alluvium of Portsmouth City to the south.

Historically the downland would have been used for grazing as shown by the evidence of medieval settlement and drove roads in the area. There is some evidence of early informal enclosure of these open field systems as well as later formal enclosure towards its eastern end. During the 20th century farming in the area became predominantly arable, although the expansion of Widley and Portsmouth has subsequently resulted in some further field subdivision for pony paddocks as well as other urban fringe characteristics.

Due to its strategic position overlooking Portsmouth and the Solent, the area has traditionally been associated with military fortifications such as the Palmerston Forts, dating from the mid 19th century, which have a strong visual presence on the hill top.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

The chalk dip slope forms a narrow character area but an important landscape feature, adjacent to the extensive clay lowlands to the north. As well as forming an important enclosing element in views from these lowlands, it also provides a local vantage point appreciated by residents of the city of Portsmouth.

It has a distinct open character, which contrasts strongly with the adjacent woodlands to the north. Fields are generally large with few hedgerows and provide expansive panoramic views to the north. Towards the east of the area, the hedgerow structure is more intact, and a number of fields have been subdivided to form pony paddocks. Although hedges often contain a variety of species, hedgerow trees and woodlands do not form a major feature in the area.

Many fields are bounded by a number of parallel narrow sunken lanes that wind their way down the hill. It is likely that these were originally drove roads, connecting the Forest of Bere to settlements such as Portchester to the south, which had grazing rights within the forest. They would also have connected settlements to the north such as Boarhunt and Southwick to the downland pasture of Portsdown. Other than the B2177, which cuts diagonally up Portsdown Hill from Southwick, there are no major roads in the area.

From medieval times, the area appears to have seen a decline in population, losing villages at Boarhunt and adjacent to Mill Farm, Widley. Now all that remains are the Saxon church of St Nicholas, Boarhunt and its massive yew tree together with scattered farms. The summit of Portsdown Hill, which commands views of the Solent, Spithead and the Isle of Wight, was the site of the Elizabethan beacon which was to summon 16,000 men to Portsmouth to fight the Armada.

The brow of the hill however, is dominated by a series of brick-built Victorian forts, which were screened and protected from the north by huge dry grass covered moats and earthworks known as glacis. Two of these (Fort Nelson and Fort Southwick) lie within the district boundary. These Grade 1 Listed Buildings known as Palmerston's Follies, were built in the 1860s to guard the Dockyard from the perceived threat of French invasion. Fort Nelson is now managed by the Royal Armouries, as a museum, while

Fort Southwick is still owned by the Ministry of Defence. In addition the hilltop accommodates three modern MoD building complexes, Portsdown West, Portsdown Main and the Land-based Test Site, their buildings and apparatus being highly visible along the horizon of the hill. Some MoD structures have been demolished and there are replacement buildings planned, some of large scale. The other very visible feature is Nelson's Monument.

The expansion of Portsmouth's suburbs and the adjacent settlements of Waterlooville, Havant, Purbrook, Portchester, Fareham and Gosport is now putting strain on this area, being one of the nearest areas of countryside and offering a variety of coastal and rural panoramic views. Fly-tipping is problematic and urban fringe uses such as telecommunications masts, pylons and pony paddock fencing are visually detrimental.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities

- Chalk grassland that has developed on the steep slopes of man-made structures, as at Fort Southwick.
- Species-rich hedgerows and small areas of woodland and plantation on the lower slopes to the north.
- Long panoramic views to the north over the Forest of Bere and to the south over Portsmouth.
- Sunken lanes linking the hilltop to the lowlands, probably representing old drove roads.
- The Grade I-listed Victorian Palmerston forts and their man-made treeless northern slopes (glacii).
- The Nelson Monument which is a significant Victorian structure (Grade II*)

Key Issues:

- Declining farmland birds, through changing agricultural practices (including winter cropping)
- Subdivision of fields to form pony paddocks
- Visual impact of coniferous plantations
- Intrusive farm buildings, modern military sites and security fencing although the military installations are part of the landscape's long history of fortification.
- Cumulative effects of sustainable energy and infrastructure developments
- Loss of arable field margins
- Historic loss of calcareous grassland
- Set-aside
- Visual impact of urban fringe activities including Park and Ride and car sales at Fort Southwick, pylons and telecommunication masts and fly-tipping and litter, often associated with viewpoint car parks.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape.

Landscape Strategies:

- Promote environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices, to minimise chemical and soil run-off which could lead to the pollution of the River Wallington and the aquifer
- Restore and enhance the biodiversity of arable farmland, by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow fields.
- Protect the open, unenclosed nature of the area through appropriate hedgerow management. This will be of benefit to farmland birds and the preservation of long views.
- Promote less-intensive agricultural practices to sustain arable weed flora and farmland birds
- Promote restoration of arable to chalk grassland, especially extending existing areas of interest.
- Protect the narrow and rural character of the lanes in this area and their north-south direction, by resisting any road improvements which would threaten these features
- Conserve the open panoramic views to the north by avoiding new development in prominent or inappropriate locations.
- Restore fields that have been subdivided into paddocks, through the removal of post and rail fencing and sheds for example.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.

Built Form Strategies:

- Respect the setting of Fort Southwick and Fort Nelson
- Conserve and respect the scattered nature of settlement in the area and its visually remote character.
- Integrate new development into the surrounding rural landscape through the use of appropriate siting and screening with indigenous planting. Avoid locating new agricultural buildings in prominent, visually intrusive locations.
- Conserve and promote the use of local building materials such as red brick, flint and clay tiles.
- Minimise the impact of intrusive structures such as MOD boundary fencing, telecommunications masts and electricity pylons, through sensitive designs and siting, and the use of underground cables.
- Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc. including light spill from large windows.

Key Designations:

Conservation Areas:

- None

Scheduled Ancient Monuments:

- Fort Nelson (Mon. No. 329 HA)
- Fort Southwick (Mon. No. 500 HA)

SSSIs:

- None

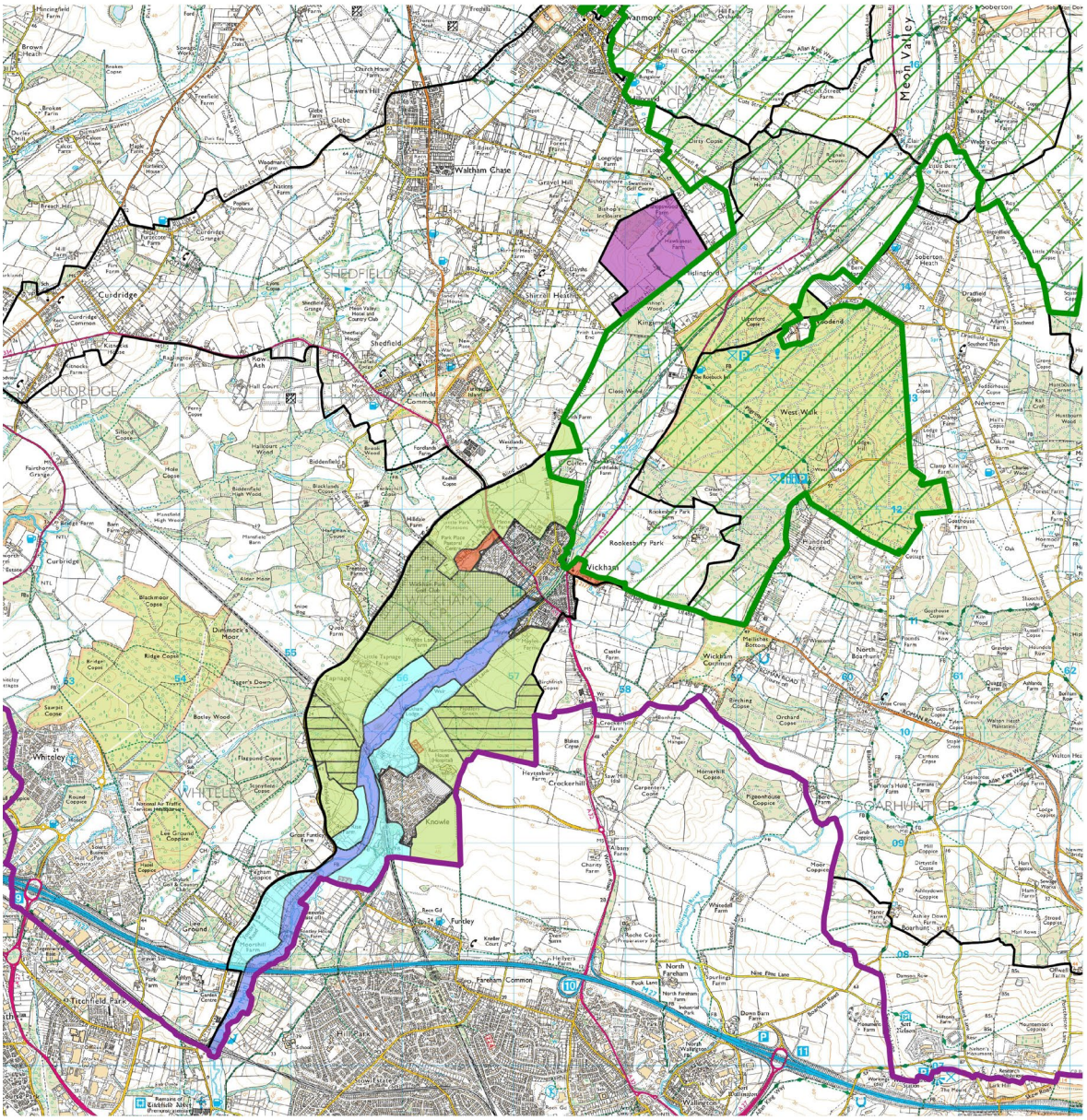
SINCs:

- Crooked Walk Banks; Southwick Fort; Motte and Bailey and Chalk Pit; Hookheath Meadow (G 7); Pigeonhouse Row; Bushy Coppice (not on HCC list); Mill Farm Meadow; Diverse woodland communities, including Small-leaved Lime; Wild Service Tree. Rich woodland invertebrate fauna, including Purple Emperor and the rare leaf beetle Orsodacne lineola.

Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens:

- None

Figure 32 - LCA20 Lower Meon Valley



LCA20 - Lower Meon Valley Landscape Character Area

Newmans Hill, looking towards Hawks Nest Farm

Valley side, east of Titchfield Lane

Location and Boundaries:

The Lower Meon Valley Character Area lies in the south-east part of the District. It has a distinctly narrow linear form, running along a north-south axis, with a small area to the east of Shirrell Heath now separated from the former LCA boundary by the SDNP, which is adjacent to the north-east, comprising SDLCA LCA Meon Valley - Valley Sides. The eastern and western boundaries of the LCA are formed by the edge of the valley envelope, with the Shedfield Heathlands and Whiteley Woodlands Landscape Character Areas to the west and the historic Forest of Bere Lowlands Character Area to the west. The southern end of the area is formed by the district boundary with Fareham Borough Council.

Key Characteristics:

- A linear, fairly narrow river valley with gently sloping sides, situated within the clay lowlands of the Hampshire Basin.
- The area has a complex geological make-up, with riverine associated alluvium and gravel passing through bands of clays, sands and loam.
- The Lower Meon Valley floor has a riparian character, with a flat low lying flood plain, with riverside pastures and marshy grassland. Important ecological habitats within the area include the river itself, floodplain grazing marsh and woodlands and copses.
- The valley floor and sides are typified by paddocks and pastures (enclosed meadows), with little remaining evidence of original water meadows. The adjoining sloping fields, are typified by medium irregular assarted fields, particularly to the south, and larger parliamentary fields to the north.
- The area is well treed, with a sense of intimacy and enclosure.
- Locally registered deer parkland at Park Place, west of Wickham
- Routes within the character area generally follow the valley, on the higher ground of the valley sides. Titchfield Lane runs along the skyline forming a visual horizon to the river valley to the west of the railway line.
- A sparse pattern of settlement, with dwellings generally located on the higher ground of the valley sides. Wickham is the main settlement within the character area. This compact nucleated historic village has expanded east and west of the river around a medieval planned centre. Knowle is also developing as a new, nucleated village

with a character strongly influenced by its previous use as a Victorian hospital.

- Traditional building materials in the area are influenced by the clay geology and include red and grey bricks and clay plain tiles. Later buildings such as Knowle hospital are also roofed with slate. Thatch is not common in this area and flint is rare.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Mixed Farmland and Mixed Farmland and Woodland (Open) and (Enclosed); River Valley Floor; River Valley Side; Historic Parkland; Golf Courses

Settlement Types within the Area:

- Clay River Valley 20th and 21st Century

Formative Influences:

The geology of the river and its floodplain is varied. It consists of alluvium and gravel, which creates a linear feature traversing east-west bands of Reading Beds (mottled clay and sand) in the north, through London Clay, Lower Bagshot sand (on which Rookesbury Park lies), Bracklesham Beds (sand and loam), through to more Reading Beds in the south, plus some deposits of plateau gravel, on which Knowle Village lies. This geology has resulted in a varied landscape of woodland, pasture and arable.

The main feature contributing to the character of the area is the River Meon. This has resulted in a relatively narrow valley floor with gently sloping sides. The present landscape of pasture and paddocks in the valley floor has evolved from the enclosure of water meadows. The irregular field pattern has evolved through assarting involving the piecemeal clearance of woodland to form enclosures.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

The River Meon creates a distinctive feature as it flows south through the clay lowlands, sub-dividing the once extensive Forest of Bere. In comparison to the upper reaches of the river, the valley sides rise relatively gently, especially in the south, generally to about 55 metres above sea level, the highest point being behind Hawk's Nest Farm in the northern section. As such there are few long views over the character area, other than from Titchfield Lane. In conjunction with the generous tree cover the character area has an intimate and enclosed character, with distinctly riparian features of a flat, low-lying valley floor, with pastures and marshy grassland, willow lined water courses and riverside woods.

The area is rural in character with sparse settlements, the main one being Wickham, which owes its current central 'square' to the Norman Lord, Roger de Scures. He developed the existing village into a planned town, based on a rectangle parallel to the river, surrounded by burgage plots, resulting in a compact urban form. Knowle Village, which lies to the south-west of Wickham, is a recent development based around the conversion of a large Victorian hospital.

The predominant architectural character within Wickham is Georgian and Victorian, with 20th and 21st Century buildings to the periphery of the village. Typical materials for the character area include red or brown bricks, often with bands of decorative brickwork and clay or slate roof tiles.

Main routes within the area follow the river valley sides, including the disused railway line, which opened at the turn of the last century and closed in the 1950s.

The Fareham Strategic Development Area east and north of Knowle may result in extensive future growth in this area. There is a settlement gap separating Fareham and Whiteley.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- A riparian character, with a flat low lying flood plain, with riverside pastures and marshy grassland. Important ecological habitats within the area include the river itself, floodplain grazing marsh and woodlands and copses. Just north of the M27 there is a narrow finger of lush valley fields with the poorer quality landscape on the valley sides.
- The river valley floor extends into the heart of Wickham village creating an important open amenity space and connection with the river.
- Scenic quality of riparian features include meandering watercourses, flood-meadows, riverside trees and river terraces with wooded valley slopes.
- The river gives the area a strong sense of place.
- Well treed, with willow-lined watercourses and riverside woodlands and valley side woods, many of which are designated as SSSIs or SINCs, and are remnants of ancient woodland. The well treed character of routes and settlement edges creates a sense of intimacy and enclosure.
- Sheltered pastoral and rural character of the valley floor with few detracting influences.
- A strong sense of tranquillity and some remoteness in places despite being the route of the road whose intrusion is mainly absorbed into the landscape.
- South of Wickham much of the remaining woodland is ancient.
- Unimproved meadowland flanking the river supports a rich variety of flora and fauna.
- The disused railway line, which follows the river valley side, creates a distinctive tree-line feature within the landscape and part is used as a bridleway/cycleway.
- The area around Wickham has been settled since Roman times and has strong links with the river both visually and physically as it once provided power.

Key Issues:

- Impact of intrusive electricity pylons particularly to the south of the character area.
- A short section of the M27 cuts across the southern tip causing significant noise and visual intrusion on the immediate surroundings.
- Some intrusive developments on the valley sides at Knowle and the golf course south-west of Wickham.
- Sustained management of semi-natural meadows and vulnerability of the river valley landscape to changes such as land drainage or canalisation of water courses.
- Impact of large-scale farm buildings and industrial buildings on the open valley sides and lack of integrating planting. New housing developments and the cumulative impact of small infill sites on settlement patterns.
- The impact of urban fringe encroachment, including horsiculture and its associated paddock fencing and outbuildings, and inappropriate suburban garden boundaries.
- Under-management of historic parkland trees and loss of parkland pasture.

- Loss of indigenous hedgerows, trees and grassland on golf courses.
- Cumulative effects of infrastructure developments and intrusive vertical elements such as wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons, and rigs associated with hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') which can be visible over long distances.
- Poly-tunnels and solar farms which can be particularly noticeable due to their colour and reflective qualities.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape.

Landscape Strategies:

- Retain and enhance the rural and riparian character of the area.
- Identify, conserve and enhance areas of agriculturally unimproved neutral grassland and water meadows as linked and strengthened habitats for wildlife.
- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of the woodlands through appropriate management such as thinning, coppicing, replanting, and the removal of invasive alien species. Encourage biomass provision, linked wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities.
- Encourage the creation of new woodlands to link with existing woodland in adjacent character areas, where appropriate.
- Restore and enhance hedgerow structures through replanting and appropriate management.
- Improve footpath linkages to the disused railway line and the Forest of Bere.
- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices to minimise fertiliser and soils run-off, which could lead to the pollution of the River Meon.
- Conserve and restore the landscape and built features of the historic park as appropriate, in particular through continued replacement tree planting, woodland management and the restoration of pasture.
- Encourage the restoration and replanting of hedgerows within golf courses in order to maintain the historic field pattern, using appropriate indigenous species.
- Conserve the rich bio-diversity associated with the clear spring water.
- Restore fields that have been subdivided into paddocks, through the removal of post and rail fencing and sheds for example.

Built Form Strategies:

- Future development should be sensitive to the historic character of settlements within the character area.
- Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc
- The compact nature of existing settlements should be respected and enhanced, with the avoidance of ribbon development.
- Conserve and promote the use of typical local building materials such as red brick, blue brick, clay plain tiles and natural slate.
- Sensitively locate buildings within the countryside, avoiding open ridge-lines and integrating them into the landscape setting, and incorporate new indigenous planting where appropriate.
- Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms,

communication masts, flues, pylons and 'fracking' rigs are carefully situated to minimise visual intrusion.

- Conserve and enhance the rural character of existing roads and lanes and avoid inappropriate road improvements where possible.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover
- North-western block (east of Shirrell Heath) - land uses associated with the river valley - ASLQ excluded modern intrusive development to north and south of this area.

Key Designations:

Conservation Areas:

- Wickham

Scheduled Monuments:

- Funtley ironworks, site of (Mon. No. 516 HA)

SSSIs:

- Botley Wood
- Everetts and Mushes Copses (small part in the east);

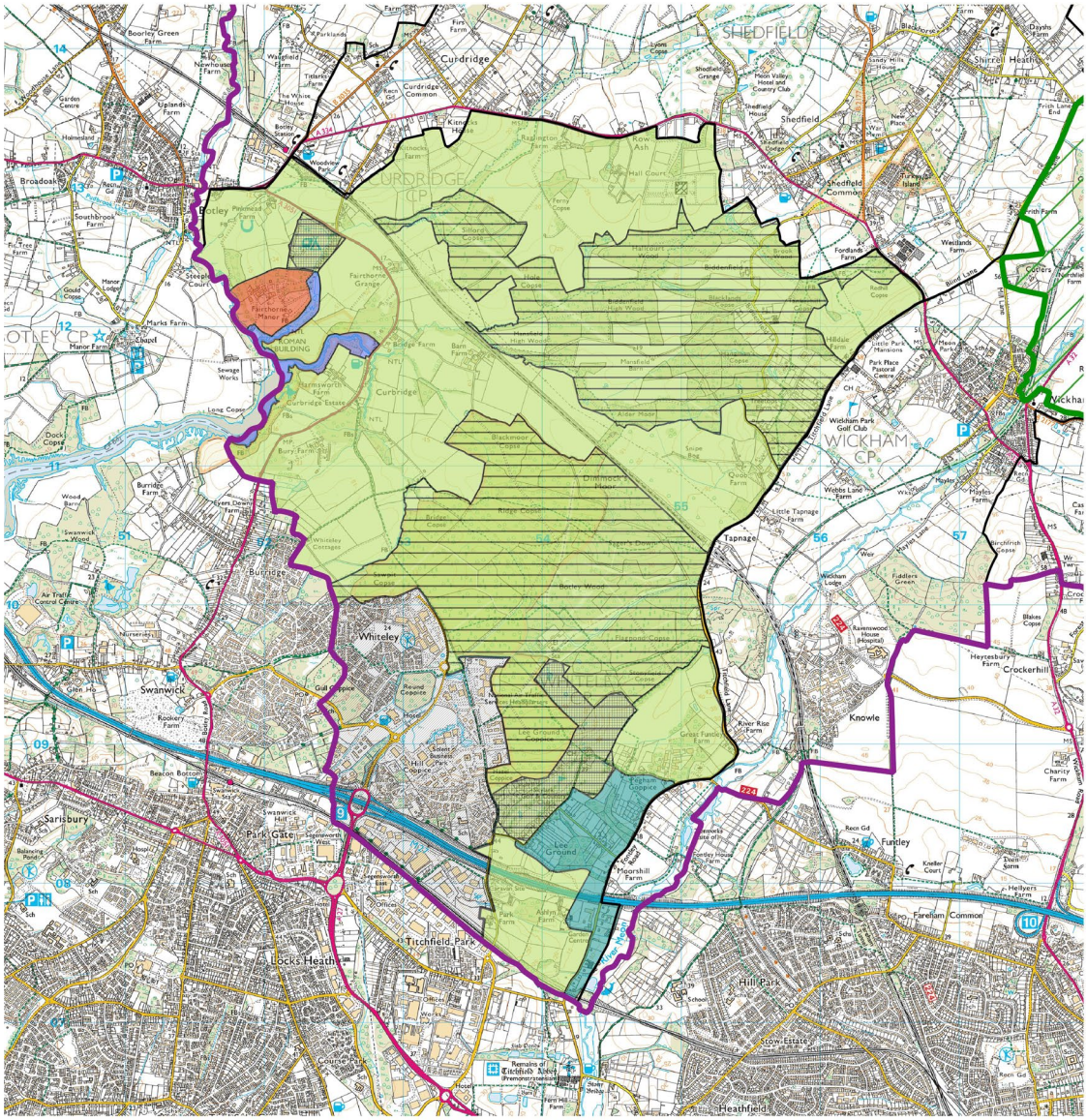
SINCs

- River Meon (part); Knowle Copse / Dash Wood / Ravens Wood; Birchforth Copse; Bishops Enclosure (east)

Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens

- Park Place, Wickham (Site No. 1595) Deer Park

Figure 33 - LCA21 Whiteley Woodlands



LCA21 - Whiteley Woodlands Landscape Character Area

Biddenfield Lane

A3051 east of Botley

Location and Boundaries:

Whiteley Woods Character Area lies in the south of the district, with the district boundary forming its southern and western edges. To the north, the settlement edge of the villages of Shedfield and Curdridge provides the boundary, having a far less wooded and more settled character. To the east, the valley of the lower River Meon marks a change to a more open, chalk landscape. The boundary of the SDNP lies approximately 0.5km to the north-east.

Note:

At Curbridge, the Whiteley Woodlands Character Area contains a small area that is strongly influenced by the presence of the River Hamble, which is tidal at this point. Consequently the ecology, drainage and topography here is significantly different from the rest of the Whiteley Woodlands Area. The area is too small however, to warrant designating as a separate landscape character area. In reality however, this part of the Winchester District has more in common with the 'Upper Hamble Valley Landscape Character Area' described in the Fareham Borough Landscape Assessment.

Key Characteristics:

- Gently undulating lowlands underlain by sands, loams, gravels and clays. This poor quality agricultural land has proved unsuitable for cultivation across much of the character area.
- Minor streams drain the area into the River Hamble to the west and River Meon to the east. The River Hamble at Curbridge constitutes the District's only very small stretch of tidal river. Rich woodland surrounds the Upper Hamble, which is designated an SSSI. This grades into neutral grassland, reed beds, salt marsh and tidal mudflats.
- Irregular small to medium sized meadows are closely integrated with a strong assarted woodland structure.
- Predominance of woodland, including a relatively high proportion of ancient woodland, much of which has been replanted with conifers. The many small semi-natural ancient woodlands include Blackmoor Copse and Ridge Copse. Much of this woodland, including the replanted areas, is protected by national and local wildlife designations providing important habitats for flora and fauna.
- Hedgerow boundaries in the area are strong and often sit on banks. The woody species mix is varied, containing mainly hazel, together with hawthorn, goat willow, gorse and dog rose, and ancient woodland indicator species on the banks.
- Occasional long views, including towards the South Downs through gaps

in hedgerows from Titchfield Lane, but generally enclosed by woodland, with settlement edges generally well-wooded, less so in the small area south of the M27.

- A long history of occupation since the Stone Age, focused on Fairthorne Manor, Curbridge, the site of a Roman building and kiln. A moat is also present in Maid's Garden Copse, and a Roman kiln in Hall Court Wood. In places the mature hedgerows and oaks, pasture and woodland give a strong sense of history.
- Settlement is sparse, occurring at the edges of the character area with a predominance of woodland in the centre. Farms are sparsely scattered and occasional dwellings and small holdings have been have developed in the latter 20th century along Tichfield Lane and at Lee Ground.
- Although development has occurred predominantly in the 20th century, some older farms can be found, constructed mainly of red brick with clay tiles.
- Roads such as Biddenfield Lane in the north and parts of Lee Ground, Winchester Road and Titchfield Lane have a leafy character, often well enclosed by high hedges, woodland or mature tree lines. Biddenfield Lane is a single track road with a remote, rural character.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Mixed Farmland and Woodland (Open)
- Mixed Farmland and Woodland (Enclosed)
- Horticulture and Smallholdings
- River Valley Floor
- Historic Parkland

Settlement Types within the Area:

- 20th and 21st Century
- Scattered Clay Lowland

Formative Influences:

The geology of this area ranges from Plateau Gravel in the south through Reading Beds (mottled clay and sand) and London Clay to Bracklesham Beds (sand and loam) and Lower Bagshot Sand. This varied topography has historically supported a variety of woodlands and lush meadows and is also associated with its gently undulating topography. The predominance of clay is also responsible for the occasional springs and the network of streams in the area, mostly forming tributaries of the River Hamble.

The area has escaped large-scale woodland loss, instead undergoing piecemeal assarting since the 19th century resulting in relatively regular fields, interspersed with large areas of wood. However, much of the remaining woodland has been converted to conifer plantation in the last century, which has reduced the floristic value, although this is not necessarily a permanent change and the plantation is managed to maintain the valuable open areas between tree stands and over time to allow the natural regeneration of native woodland as conifers are harvested.

There is very little species rich grassland remaining in this area, most having been subject to agricultural improvement. The remaining species rich grassland is vulnerable to neglect, as market forces continue to lead to a declining demand for small livestock and mixed production.

The proximity of the area to the Portsmouth-Gosport- Fareham urban area had most influence in the 20th century, resulting in the construction of the M27 motorway and development of Whiteley village. Additional piecemeal development of smallholdings and housing has taken place along Titchfield Lane and at Lee Ground.

In places the introduction of vineyards has taken place in recent years, such as west of Titchfield

Lane, a trend which is likely to increase in coming years given the change in climate.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

The Whiteley Woodlands Landscape Character Area consists of a significant area of woodland, much of it based around Botley Wood and Everetts Mushes Copses, the largest SSSI in the district, including Ridge Copse, Blackmoor Copse, Dimmocks Moor, Sager's Down, Bridget Copse, Flagpond Copse, Stonyfield Copse, Lee Ground Coppice and Sawpit Copse. Much of this is ancient woodland.

The varied soils in the area mean that a mixture of species are present, including oak, ash, cherry, yew, birch and conifers. Despite the size of Botley Wood, it has few public footpaths running through it and remains remote, forming a backdrop to Whiteley. Other areas of woodland, Gull Coppice and Round Coppice contribute to the landscape structure of the new settlement, and are managed by Hampshire County Council as Nature Reserves with public access. The Botley Woods complex is designated an SSSI, chiefly because the woodland rides support a very diverse invertebrate fauna, particularly butterflies and insects.

To the north of the character area, the woodland has been more heavily assarted and is more fragmented. Woods such as Silford Copse, Hole Copse, Biddenfield High Wood, Hallcourt Wood, Mansfield High Wood, Blacklands Copse, Hangman's Copse, Alder Moor, Brook Wood and Tankerhill Copse are all interconnected but interspersed with medium sized fields, generally managed as meadows. Some of these woods have escaped coniferisation and retain a very diverse flora and invertebrate fauna.

The topography of the area is gently undulating, forming minor localised ridges and hills, shown in local place names such as Ridge Copse and Treetops Farm. From some parts of Biddenfield Lane and Titchfield Lane there are long open views, towards Southampton and the Meon Valley respectively. Generally however, this is an enclosed landscape with only short views, as woodland or intact hedgerows bound fields.

Until the 1980s when development at Whiteley started, this was a relatively remote inaccessible area, with the hamlet of Burridge forming the only named settlement and dominated by woodland. The centre of the character area was only traversed by the South Coast railway line and had no road access. However, there has been an increasing amount of development in the south of the character area during the second half of the twentieth century.

Whiteley is now an established residential and commercial centre, forming an expansion of Segensworth to the south of the M27.Built by volume housebuilders, dwellings are constructed using standardised materials and designs. The former limited accessibility throughout the area, with the distributor from the M27 and the A27 forming the only major routes into Whiteley, will change with the major development and recent opening of Whiteley Way which connects Whiteley to the A3051 Botley Road.

Further major housing development of up to 3,500 new homes is currently being constructed north of Whiteley, east of the A3051 which will largely retain the existing landscape structure of this area, formerly designated as an ASLQ under the previous local plan, but will significantly change this part of the character area and further erode tranquillity of the adjacent areas.

Titchfield Lane and Funtley Lane have also seen additional development during the 20th century, particularly nurseries and smallholdings.

Some solar farms have been introduced in the north of the character area. In this enclosed landscape these are not widely visible at the current time but this is a trend which is likely to increase in coming years given the change in climate and move towards renewable energies.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- Rich woodland surrounds the Upper Hamble, which is designated an SSSI.
- Irregular small to medium sized meadows and strong assarted woodland structure, including around Biddenfield Lane.
- Predominance of woodland, including a relatively high proportion of ancient woodland and many small semi-natural ancient woodlands include Blackmoor Copse and Ridge Copse.
- National and local wildlife designations providing important habitats for flora and fauna.
- Strong pattern of hedgerow often on banks.
- Occasional long views, including towards the South Downs through gaps in hedgerows, but generally enclosed by woodland.
- Settlement edges generally well-wooded.
- In places a strong sense of history is created by the mature hedgerows and oaks, pasture and woodland.
- Sparsely settled centre to the character area.
- Occasional older farms constructed mainly of red brick with clay tiles.
- The leafy character of some roads which are well enclosed by high hedges, woodland or mature tree lines. Biddenfield Lane is a single track road with a remote, rural character with a strong sense of history.

Key Issues:

- Loss of species rich grassland through applications of fertiliser and herbicide and also through lack of grazing.
- Potential for improved woodland management using Forestry Authority grants.
- Lack of footpath access to large areas of countryside.
- The character area is crossed by the main South Coast railway line and a section of the M27, which crosses through the southern area adjacent to Whiteley. Traffic and train noise, lighting, security fencing, bridges, and unnatural landform all combine to reduce the tranquillity of the area.
- The major development of Whiteley, which provides employment, housing and community/ service facilities has a suburban character although set within a mature wooded context. Development in the area continues to expand, and this will significantly change this part of the character area and further erode tranquillity of the adjacent areas.
- Some areas of paddocks, nurseries, equestrian centres and smallholdings are situated along roads, mostly in the east of the area. Sometimes there are associated detracting features such as conifer hedges, signage, security fencing and gates, and polytunnels.
- In places businesses fronting the roads with colourful signage, dominant fences and gateways, and car parks create a suburban and visually discordant character. Further pressure for urban fringe use related activities.

- There are instances of ornate entrances which give detract from the rural character, some with highly secure gateways, others with open views of large properties with extensive hard paving, and incongruous ornamentation.
- Increased artificial light on tranquil rural quality.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape
- Some private gardens have significant lengths of tall conifer hedge or close board fencing boundaries fronting onto roads which detract from the rural character, particularly when located away from main settled areas.
- Some leisure pursuits noted in the area, such as paintball and clay shooting, are likely to impact tranquillity, particularly when located away from main settled areas.
- Pylons cross the area, but run through Botley Wood to a substation set within the woodland. Therefore they do not dominate the landscape except when viewed along the substation access road from Funtley Lane. The gateway area further detracts from the character with signage, fencing and concrete grasscrete within the bellmouth entrance.
- Cumulative effects of sustainable energy and infrastructure developments
- Potential for agricultural run-off (including top soil erosion) to cause biological changes in the Upper Hamble.
- Possible fertiliser/pesticide run-off from golf course into the Upper Hamble SINC.
- Solar farms which threaten to change the character if extensively introduced.
- Change to alternative crops such as vines which threaten to change the character if extensively introduced.

Landscape Strategies:

- Consider the potential for adverse impacts (arising from increased silt loads and agricultural chemicals) on the Upper Hamble SSSI in the environmental assessments which accompany applications to plough permanent grassland or build golf courses in the vicinity.
- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of the woodlands through appropriate management such as thinning, coppicing, replanting, ride and edge management and the removal of invasive alien species. Manage woodland rides and edges to encourage invertebrates. Encourage biomass provision, linked wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities
- Conserve and restore the structure of woodlands by planting new woodland to link ancient woodland remnants, using locally native stock to create the woodland community/ies appropriate to the geography and geology. Native woodland stands in this character area vary from dry Hazel - Oak to Ash – Wych Elm, the latter containing rare Small-leaved Lime coppice. New woods in this area should include wide rides. Management of woodland in line with the Forestry Commission's Forest Plan for Whiteley Pastures.
- Conserve and enhance hedgerows through appropriate management. Where hedgerows have been lost or have gaps, they should be replanted to restore the landscape pattern, using locally native shrubs and trees. Additional hedgerow trees should be planted where trees have been lost or are over mature.
- Conserve the varied open and enclosed

views throughout the area and occasional long views, including to the South Downs.

- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices, to minimise fertiliser and soil run-off for example, which could lead to the pollution of the River Hamble
- Restore and enhance the biodiversity of arable farmland, by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow fields.
- Conserve and enhance species-rich grassland through traditional management techniques.
- Create grasslands of nature conservation, managed by extensive stock grazing and hay making without the application of herbicide or fertiliser.
- Seek to secure increased public access and create footpath links, particularly opportunities for local people.
- Ensure the valued landscape structure of hedges, tree lines, woodland, streams ditches and banks in the former Curdridge ASLQ are protected and enhanced in the major development expansion planned north of Whiteley.

Built Form Strategies:

- Enhance the local urban edge, by planting locally indigenous hedgerows.
- Resist development which further suburbanises local settlements, such as that associated with 'horsiculture'.
- Conserve the low density, scattered pattern of development away from existing settlements.
- Conserve the narrow, winding, leafy rural character of roads.
- Respect the small-scale nature of existing dwellings in the countryside.
- Integrate new buildings and infrastructure into the well-treed rural setting through careful siting and the appropriate use of locally indigenous tree and hedge planting.
- Conserve and promote the use of local building materials such as red brick, painted brick, vitrified brick, clay tiles and slate in any new development.
- Conserve and promote the use of traditional rural boundaries including palisade fencing, brick walls and hedgerows in any new development. Resist visually detracting signage, lighting, fences, gates and parking.
- Resist uses which will erode tranquillity in the quieter areas. Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc
- Plan for the creation of a strong landscape framework within and around settlements and growth areas while managing and enhancing existing green space.

Key Designations:

Conservation Areas:

- None

Scheduled Monuments:

- Roman site 370m S of Fairthorn (490 HA)

SSSIs:

- Botley Woods and Everetts and Mushes Copse
- Upper Hamble Estuary and Woods

SINCs:

- Berry Coppice and Roughs (Roughs not named on HCC list); Truemill and Pinkmead Copse (part); Blackmoor Copse Meadow; Ridge Farm Meadows; Coldlands Copse; Suttons Copse; Hangman's Copse; Sawpit Copse; Glassfield Copse Meadow; Landing Place Copse; Truemill and Pinkmead Copses; Brick Kiln Copse; Silford Copse; Ferny Copse; Hole Copse and East Croft Row; Fox Copse; Gully Copse; Mansfield High Wood; Wallers Close; Biddenfield High Wood; Cockshoot Row; Honeycut Row; Hallcourt Wood; Horse Wood; Triangle Row; Crooked Row (part); Botley Row; Seven Acre and Maid's Garden Copses; Pond Close and New Meadows; Alder Moor; Abandoned field next to Birch Row; Field between Alder Moor and Jacob's Croft; Birch
- Row and Hangmans Copse; BlacklandsCopse; Quob Copse; New Copse (not on HCC list); Brook Wood; Tankerhill Copse; Redhill Copse; Pegham Coppice; [Whiteley Meadows 1 - 3; Gull Coppice; Round Coppice.

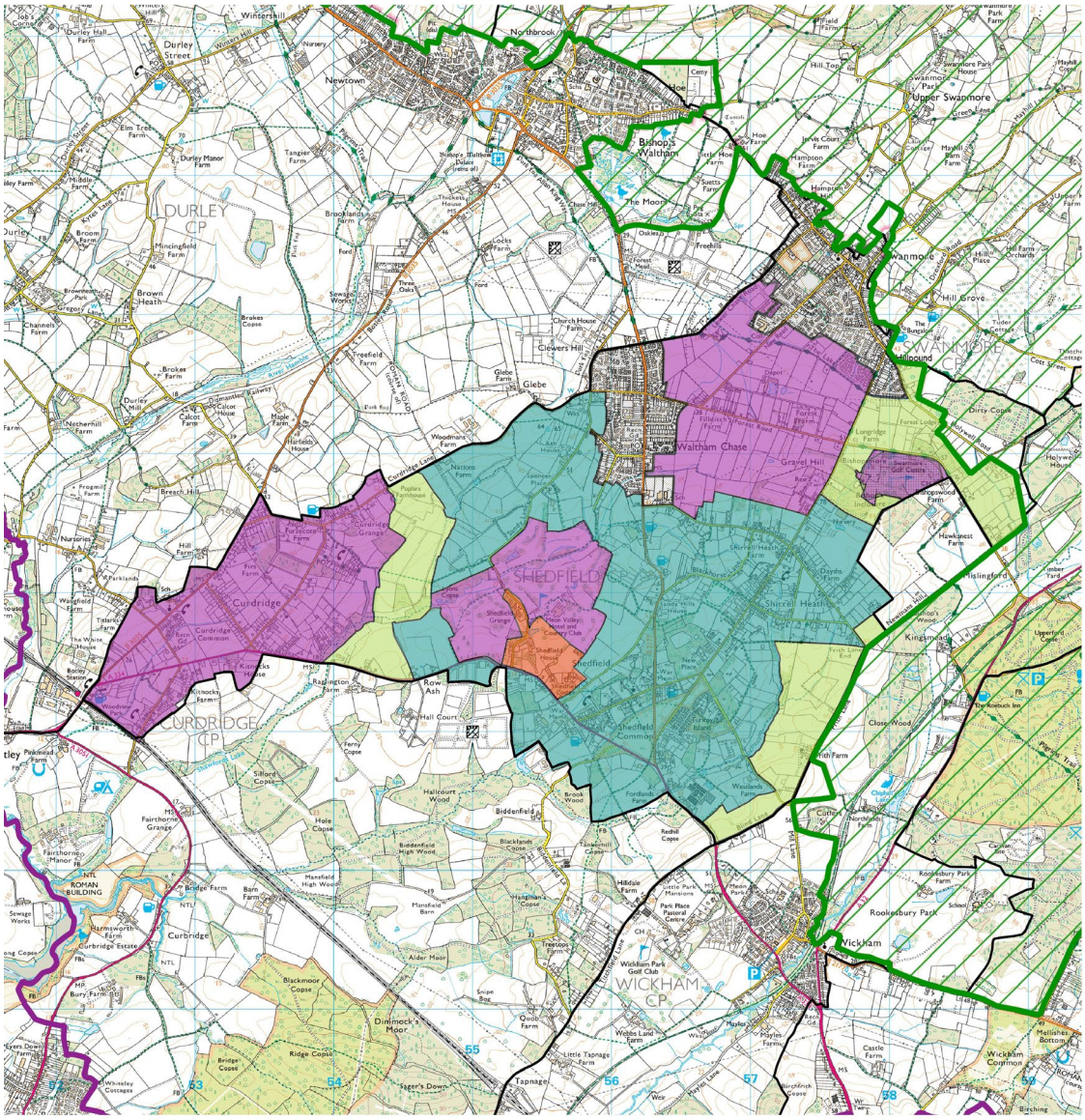
Parks listed within the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens:

- Fairthorne Manor (site No.1515) Post 1810 Park

Local Nature Reserves:

- Upper Hamble, Curbridge

Figure 34 - LCA22 Shedfield Heathlands



Key

- Winchester District Boundary
- Landscape Character Areas
- South Downs National Park
- LCT boundaries - LCA 22: Shedfield Heathlands
- Golf Courses
- Horticulture and Small holdings
- Mixed Farmland and Woodland
- Parkland
- Pasture Woodland Heath Associated
- Urban Areas (Local Plan Policy Boundary)

north 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

LCA22 - Shedfield Heathlands Landscape Character Area

Blind Lane, south-east of Shedfield Common

Bishop's Wood Road, south of Swanmore

Curdridge Lane, south-west of Waltham Chase

Approach to Curdridge, A334 Kitnocks Hill

Location and Boundaries:

The Shedfield Heathlands Landscape Character Area is located in the south of the district. Its north-eastern boundary is formed by the upper chalk of the South Downs. The adjacent SDLCA LCAs are South Winchester Downland Mosaic (Enclosed) to the north; West Walk - Rookesbury Park Wooded Claylands to the north-east; and Meon Valley - Valley Sides along the eastern edge. To the west the change in topography and vegetation formed by the valley of the River Hamble marks the boundary and likewise, to the east, the Meon Valley forms its edge. To the south of the area there is a distinct change to a far more wooded and less populated area.

Key Characteristics:

- Low lying, flat or gently undulating topography, with a particularly distinct ridge at Curdridge.
- Varied geology of clays and sands, ranging from London Clay around Waltham Chase and Shirrell Heath, to Bagshot Sands at Shedfield and Bracklesham Beds and Plateau Gravel at Curdridge. This has resulted in a varied ecology as well as supporting thriving brick-making and sand-extraction industries up until the 20th century. Roman kilns in the area.
- Areas of poor drainage and minor streams on underlying clays.
- Scattered species-rich neutral grassland retained in the Hamble catchment, including Waltham Chase Meadows SSSI and numerous SINCs.
- Mixture of small-scale horticulture and

paddocks, with associated smallholdings, polytunnels, glasshouses and a vineyard. Fruit production was particularly dominant in the area from the mid-18th century to World War 2.

- Generally little woodland, although there are areas of assarted semi-natural ancient woodland to the east of the area, such as Bishops Enclosure and replanted semi-natural ancient woodland at Turkey Island. Scattered small areas of woodland are also found around Curdridge and Shedfield.
- Heathland at Shedfield, with remnant heath indicators elsewhere, including acid grassland, gorse, birch and oak. Much of the area was open heath and forest until the mid-19th century, forming part of the former hunting 'chase'.
- Straight boundaries, hedges and roads formed by formal enclosure in Victorian times and often sub-divided by fences more recently, for use as paddocks. Other small areas such as Black Horse Lane and Sandy Lane are more ancient in character, with narrow winding lanes and irregular fields.
- Views in the area are generally short, due to the undulating topography, frequent buildings, trees and often-overgrown hedgerows. Occasional long views from higher ground.
- Relatively high proportion of the area is settled, with the villages of Waltham Chase, Curdridge, Shedfield, Shirrell Heath, and Swanmore generally having evolved from the late 19th century onward. These settlements have low-density plots often interspersed with paddocks and smallholdings. Property boundaries in these areas often consist of ornamental, non-coniferous hedges.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Mixed Farmland and Woodland (Open); Pasture Woodland Heath Associated; Horticulture and Smallholdings; Golf Courses; Parkland

Settlement Types within the Area:

- Chalk-Clay Spring-line; Heath Associated

Formative Influences:

This area has one of the most varied geologies in the district, with areas of London clay, Lower Bagshot Sand, Bracklesham Beds and Plateau Gravel found within a relatively small area. To the north, the relationship of the London Clay with the adjacent Upper Chalk has resulted in the surfacing of springs and the consequent development of Swanmore.

This varied geology has resulted in a mixed hydrology in the area, with numerous poorly drained fields and minor streams. In other areas, productive loamy soils overlie light well-drained sands and sandy clays and have supported a thriving horticultural industry since the mid-19th century when the wooded medieval hunting ground, of Waltham Chase, was enclosed and the railways created new markets particularly in London. At this time, brick making was also an important local industry, utilising the sands and clays found in the area. Consequently much of the development and field patterns in the area date from then. Many settlements have much older origins, and there is evidence of Roman settlement near Shedfield.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

This is an area where the influences of the 19th and 20th century are strong. Until this time, the area was dominated by heath, wood pasture and woodland associated with the hunting ground of Shedfield House. Settlement was restricted to small hamlets and scattered farms and dwellings, with little evidence of prehistoric settlement. The enclosure of Waltham Chase Forest in the 19th century, resulted in a mosaic of small regular fields and a decline in the heathland character of much of the area. These fields are still present, although often subdivided to provide pony paddocks, small-holdings, nurseries and market

gardens with a surbanised 'fringe' character. The accurately surveyed characteristics of this parliamentary enclosure of the fields are also shown in the numerous straight roads in the area.

The original diversity of much of the area has been depleted by the intensively used and productive land and consequently its importance for nature conservation has been limited. There is, however, still some evidence of heathland species, such as bracken, gorse, birch and pines in the hedgerows, together with occasional areas of acidic grassland. Soils in some areas are distinctly sandy and place names such as Sandy Lane, Sandy Hills House and Shirrell Heath all reinforce this character. There are also important small remaining areas of heath at Shedfield Common and Turkey Island, which are managed for recreational purposes, providing important focuses for the surrounding settlement, as well as valuable nature conservation areas. The golf course at the Meon Valley Country Club has also been planted with heath associated trees and shrubs.

The proximity of the area to the railway stations at Botley and Wickham aided the development of its horticultural economy in the 19th and early 20th century. Combined with its brick-making industry, this resulted in the relatively rapid expansion of Curdridge, Swanmore, Waltham Chase, Shirrell Heath and Shedfield at this time along the major roads. These settlements have generally retained their scattered, low-density structure, continuing to relate well to the surrounding small-scale fields, with numerous smallholdings. During the 20th century, this expansion continued, as the settlements are well placed to allow commuting to Southampton, Portsmouth, Winchester and beyond. Housing designs and boundaries have become increasingly suburban, with a high proportion of detached houses and evergreen hedging.

A settlement gap surrounds Swanmore to the west and south, separating it from Bishop's Waltham and Waltham Chase.

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities

- Varied geology resulting in a varied ecology as well as supporting thriving brick-making and sand-extraction industries up until the 20th century.
- Roman kilns.
- Scattered species-rich neutral grassland retained in the Hamble catchment, including Waltham Chase Meadows SSSI and numerous SINCs.
- Heathland at Shedfield, with remnant heath indicators elsewhere, including acid grassland, gorse, birch and oak. Much of the area was open heath and forest until the mid-19th century, forming part of the former hunting 'chase'.
- Some areas such as Black Horse Lane and Sandy Lane are ancient in character, with narrow winding lanes and irregular fields.
- Views in the area are generally short, due to the undulating topography, frequent buildings, trees and often-overgrown hedgerows, although occasional longer views create a dramatic contrast.
- Generally a peaceful, tranquil landscape with a rural character away from urban influences.

Key Issues:

- Continued management of remnant heath areas and species-rich neutral grassland.
- Retention and management of hedgerows and woodlands.
- Loss of heathland characteristics.
- Absence of hedgerow saplings.
- Impact of fertiliser and herbicide use on biodiversity and water supplies.
- Soil erosion.
- Management of ancient woodland.
- Loss of ancient field systems.
- Visual impact of pony paddocks.
- Visually prominent suburban development, lacking local character, and further pressure for urban fringe related activities.
- Prominent structures/urbanisation.
- Increased artificial light on tranquil rural quality.
- Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape
- Some properties have significant lengths of tall conifer hedge or close board fencing boundaries fronting onto roads which detract from the rural character, particularly when located away from main settled areas. Heavy traffic.
- Change to alternative crops such as vines which threaten to change the character if extensively introduced.
- Solar farms which threaten to change the character if extensively introduced. Cumulative effects of sustainable energy and infrastructure developments

Landscape Strategies

- Conserve and enhance areas of heathland around Shedfield through grazing and controlled burning where appropriate, to prevent woodland succession, and restore heathland and other habitats on Shedfield Golf Course.
- Enforce planning policies to protect existing heathland from development or agricultural use.
- Conserve and enhance the small-scale mosaic of heathland, pasture and woodland, in and around the settlements of Curdridge, Shirrell Heath and Shedfield and to the east of Waltham Chase.
- Encourage the restoration of large-scale woodland in the west of the character area, which is part of an area that appears to have been more extensively wooded.
- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of the woodlands through appropriate thinning, coppicing, replanting and ride and edge management. Replanting should use locally indigenous species and alien species should be removed from semi-natural ancient woodland. Encourage biomass provision, linked wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities.
- Protect and conserve hedgerows through appropriate management. Where

hedgerows have been lost or have gaps, they should be replanted, to retain the existing landscape pattern. Additional hedgerow trees should be replanted where existing trees have been lost or are over mature.

- Conserve the varied open and enclosed views throughout the area.
- Encourage environmentally sustainable agricultural practices to reduce potential for adverse effects on River Hamble and River Meon and reduced biodiversity.
- Restore fields that have been subdivided into paddocks, through the removal of post and rail fencing and sheds, for example.
- Encourage and enable greater access opportunities for local people.
- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.

Built Form Strategies

- Resist the outward expansion of Waltham Chase, Swanmore, Shedfield, Curdridge and Shirrell Heath, to ensure they remain as distinct rural settlements
- Integrate any new dwellings into the existing settlements, with appropriate hedge and tree planting.
- Conserve and promote the use of local building materials including red brick, clay tiles and slate in any new development
- Resist development that would further suburbanise local settlements, such as that associated with 'horsiculture'.
- Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc
- Conserve and promote the use of traditional garden boundaries such as indigenous or evergreen non-coniferous hedgerows for new development.

Key Designations

Conservation Areas

- Shedfield

Scheduled Monuments

- None

SSSIs

- Waltham Chase Meadows

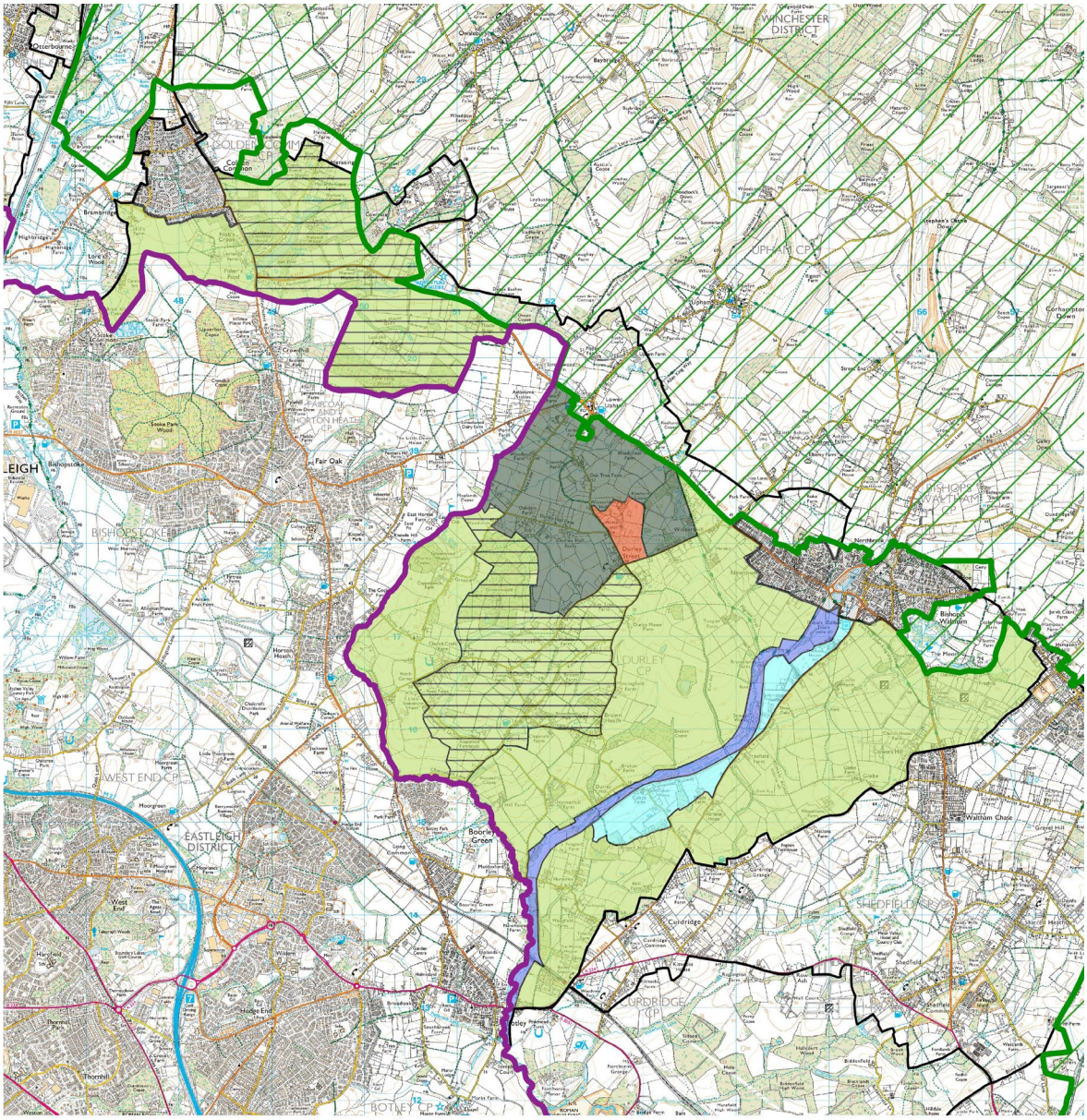
SINCs

- Curdbridge Church Meadow; Grange Copse; Shedfield Church Meadows; Shedfield Churchyard; Shedfield Primary School grassland; Shedfield Common. Little Brook Wood; Shedfield Wood (Biggs Copse); Lyons Copse (part); Lyons Copse Long Meadow; Lyons Copse Meadows 2 and 3; Lyons Copse Meadow 1; Crooked Row (part); Ludwell Meadow; New Road Meadows, Swanmore; Hillpound Meadow; Bishop's Enclosure.

Parks listed in the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens

- Shedfield House (Site No.1565) Post 1810 Park
- Shedfield Lodge (Site No.1566) Post 1810 Park

Figure 35 - LCA23 Durley Claylands



LCA23 - Durley Claylands Landscape Character Area

Curdridge Lane, west of Waltham Chase

Manor Road, near Mincingfield Farm

Location and Boundaries:

The Durley Claylands Landscape Character Area comprises 2 separate areas located at the south-western boundary of the district. The southern borders are formed by the district boundary with Eastleigh Borough Council with the northern boundaries formed by the southern edge of the chalk South Downs. The adjacent SDLCA LCA is South Winchester Downland Mosaic (Enclosed). The Itchen Valley forms the western boundary, and the smallholdings and heath of Shedfield and Curdridge abut the eastern boundary.

Key Characteristics:

- Relatively low lying, gently undulating landscape with a geology ranging from a narrow strip of Reading Beds and wider strip of London Clay in the north around Colden Common, Lower Upham, Durley Street and Bishop's Waltham to the mixed clays, sands and loams of Lower Bagshot Sand and Bracklesham Beds around Durley and Durley Mill.
- Land in northern part of character area drains into the Itchen, whilst that to the south drains into the Hamble
- Numerous ponds, streams, springs, wells and associated wetland habitats and mills, particularly relating to the Hamble which originates in the area.
- Varied landscape of arable and pasture agriculture, copses (including ancient woodland) and scattered settlement, historically resulting from the clearance of the Forest of Bere woodland.
- Small irregular fields associated with informal and piecemeal enclosure cover much of the area, although fields with more regular boundaries associated with the 18th and 19th century parliamentary enclosure acts are found around Lower Upham and Colden Common.
- Hedgerow and woodland network dominated by oak, ash, hawthorn, hazel, and field maple. Woodland generally assarted, and river associated species along the River Hamble.
- Numerous ancient narrow winding lanes, except in areas of parliamentary enclosure where the roads are straight with wide verges and clipped hedges with standard oaks.
- Historic parkland including park pale associated with Marwell Manor and park lug associated with Bishop's Waltham Palace.
- Numerous scattered farms and dwellings centred around Durley, together with the nucleated clay- chalk spring-line settlements of Colden Common and Bishop's Waltham
- Buildings of contrasting ages, from the historic cores of Bishop's Waltham and

Durley, to the high proportion of 19th and 20th century buildings in Durley Street, Colden Common and the outskirts of Bishop's Waltham.

Landscape Types within the Area:

- Mixed Farmland and Woodland (Open); Mixed Farmland and Woodland (Enclosed); Pasture on Clay; River Valley Side; River Valley Floor; Parkland

Settlement types within the Area:

- Scattered Clay Lowland; Chalk Clay Spring Line

Formative Influences:

The geology of this area consists of a series of parallel bands of underlying sands and clays, from Reading beds (mottled clay and sand) in the north-west, to London clay, Lower Bagshot sand and Bracklesham Beds (sand and loam). The relationship of the clay with the adjacent chalk to the north, has resulted in a series of springs along this boundary, together with a network of small streams, ditches, and ponds running through the character area. As well as influencing the vegetation of the area, with its rich pastures and oak woodland, the geology and hydrology of the area has also resulted in a relatively large number of farms and scattered houses throughout the area, as well as the larger settlements of Colden Common and Bishop's Waltham, which have developed on the spring-line.

The area has probably been settled since the Stone Age, with evidence of a flint working site, Bronze Age barrows and Roman coins, tiles and kilns found in the area. The influence of the land ownership of the Bishop of Winchester since Saxon times is also evident in the park lug to the south of Bishop's Waltham, as well as the Bishop's Palace. In more recent times, the clay geology has supported a thriving brick-making industry in Bishop's Waltham and Colden Common, evident in names such as Kiln Lane, Brickmakers Lane and Claylands Road.

Landscape and Settlement Description:

This is an area with a varied rural landscape. It consists of both arable and pasture agricultural land together bounded by strong hedgerows and scattered areas of woodland. The gently undulating nature of its topography and its narrow sunken lanes contributes to its remote, historic feel across much of the area. The predominantly clay geology has resulted in numerous streams, ponds and springs, including the upper reaches of the Hamble. This narrow secluded valley is associated with the disused Bishop's Waltham-Botley railway line together with the historic Durley Mill.

The clay supports a high predominance of oak and ash tree species, both in hedgerows and woodland. Some areas of woodland are ancient, the most extensive being Brokes Copse. The long history of settlement and the relatively early enclosure of some of the fields in this area mean that hedgerows often contain a wide variety of species and boundaries are often irregular, predating times when they would have been carefully surveyed. In areas of later enclosure to the south of Lower Upham however, the landscape character is associated with formal parliamentary enclosure. Here, the fields are predominantly pasture, with straight clipped hedgerows and regularly spaced oak trees. The lanes are also generally straighter and bounded by relatively wide grass verges.

Compared to other rural areas in the district the character area is relatively well settled, consisting of numerous farms and the loosely connected dwellings of Durley and Durley Street, as well as the larger nucleated settlements of Bishop's Waltham and Colden Common. These would have developed at the water sources provided by the local springs and wells and subsequently evolved due to the rich resources provided by the surrounding woodland and farmland. Settlement in the area has continued to evolve from medieval times, covering a wide history of dwelling types and patterns, from the medieval core of Bishop's

Waltham and Durley through to the 19th century development of New Town, and Colden Common and Durley Street. The 20th century has also seen more infill development in these areas, with Colden Common and Bishop's Waltham evolving as commuter settlements.

Buildings from the C16th are often timber-framed, with brick or wattle and daub infill. Brick is generally red, but may be painted or vitrified. Roofing generally consists of clay tiles, although some thatched cottages are present in Durley. Victorian housing is generally brick with slate. Occasional buildings in Durley are also roofed with corrugated iron. Buildings dating from the 20th century are generally constructed of mass produced brick and tiles.

There is a settlement gap between Bishop's Waltham and Swanmore.

Landscape Strategies:

- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of the woodlands through appropriate management such as thinning,

Key Characteristics of Value and Sensitivities:

- Numerous ponds (including Fishers Pond), streams, springs, wells and associated wetland habitats and mills, particularly relating to the Hamble
- Small irregular fields associated with informal and piecemeal enclosure cover much of the area.
- Strong hedgerow and woodland network dominated by oak, ash, hawthorn, hazel, and field maple. Woodland generally assarted.
- Long views from elevated positions across farmland, together with shorter views enclosed by woodland and strong hedgerows boundaries.
- Numerous ancient narrow winding lanes, some sunken and with a quiet, rural character.
- Traditional construction and building materials include timber frame with brick infill, red brick, vitrified brick, painted brick, clay tiles.
- Tranquil in areas away from urban influences.

Key Issues:

- Loss and poor management of hedgerows and woodlands. Ash dieback and the loss of mature trees within the landscape.
- Suburbanisation and urban fringe encroachment, and further pressure for urban fringe use related activities.
- Intrusive vertical elements such as communication masts, flues, pylons, and rigs associated with hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') which can be visible over long distances.
- Poly-tunnels and solar farms which can be particularly noticeable due to their colour and reflective qualities.
- Ecological impact of golf courses.
- Improvement of grass through fertiliser and herbicide use.
- Impact of pony paddock fencing on historic field patterns.

- Increased artificial light on tranquil rural quality.
- Intrusive agricultural and industrial buildings and untidy peripheral areas.
- Cumulative effects of sustainable energy and infrastructure developments
- Pollution and siltation of water courses arising from intensive agricultural practices.

coppicing, replanting and ride and edge management. Replanting should use locally indigenous species and invasive alien species should be removed. In particular, appropriate management of semi-natural ancient woodland should be encouraged through grants and biomass provision, linked wildlife habitats and recreational opportunities should also be encouraged.

- Replace ash trees due to die-back with new native tree species to avoid long term loss of mature tree cover.
- Protect and conserve hedgerows through appropriate management. Where hedgerows have been lost or have gaps, they should be replanted, to retain the existing landscape pattern. Additional hedgerow trees should be replanted where existing trees have been lost or are over mature.
- Conserve the varied open and enclosed views throughout the area.
- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices, to minimise chemical run-off, which could lead to the pollution of the River Hamble and reduce biodiversity.
- Protect grasslands of ecological interest by enforcement of planning policies and support for Countryside Stewardship.
- Encourage and enable greater access opportunities for local people.

Built Form Strategies:

- Conserve the nucleated form of Colden Common and Bishop's Waltham.
- Conserve the scattered pattern of rural farm settlements
- Respect the small-scale nature of existing dwellings.
- Integrate new development into the well-treed rural setting through careful siting and the appropriate use of locally indigenous tree and hedge planting.
- Reduce and avoid increasing artificial lighting within new and existing development (farms, businesses and residential) and associated curtilage, yards, gardens and driveways etc
- Conserve and promote the use of traditional building materials such as red brick, painted brick, vitrified brick, clay tiles and slate in any new development. Buildings utilising corrugated iron and thatch should also be conserved.
- Conserve existing and promote the use of traditional rural boundaries including palisade fencing, brick walls and hedgerows in any new development.
- Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons and 'fracking' rigs are carefully situated to minimise visual intrusion.

Key Designations:

Conservation Areas:

- Bishop's Waltham

Scheduled Monuments:

- Bishop's Palace and associated fishponds, Bishop's Waltham (Mon. No. 26721)
- Park pale at Marwell, 400m W of Marwell Manor (Mon. No. 20068)
- Park pale at Marwell, 250m NW of Marwell Manor (Mon. No. 20069)
- Moated site at Marwell Manor (Mon. No. 12054) Park pale at Marwell, SE of Cowleaze Copse (Mon. No. 20070)
- Park pale at Marwell, N of Thistle Ridge Farm (Mon. No. 20071)

SINCs:

- Snakemoor Farm Meadow; Durley Copse; Ford Lake Meadows (A and B); Parkers Copse / Fir Plantation/ Greenwood; Durley Mill Copse; Wangfield Copse (part); Taylors Copse; Blacknells Brickworks; Colden Common Wood and Blacknells Copse; Main Road Meadow, Colden Common; Fishers Pond Wood; Park Copse (part); Parkhills Copse (part); Brokes Gully South; Mount Folly Copse (1 and 2); Little Gold Copse; Calcot Plantation; Great Gold Copse; Deoryle Wood (Gunners / Brokes Copses); Mincingfield Copse; Redlands Copse; Suetts Farm Meadow; Alexanders Moors; Foxburrow Copse; Railway Copse; Durley Roughett; Calcot Farm Meadow 1 and 2; Calcot Row; Meadow on R. Hamble, Wangfield Lane; The Moors Meadows; Durley Hall Meadow (not on HCC list); Kimbers Copse; Wangfield Copse; Upper Pond, Bishops Waltham.

Parks listed within the Hampshire Register of Parks and Gardens:

- Greenwood Farm (site 1524) Post 1810 Park Oakmoor House (site 1525) Post 1810 Park Bishop's Waltham Palace and Palace House (site 1503) Deer Park
- Wintershill Hall (site 1589) Post 1810 Park

Chapter 5 - The way forward: Implementing the strategies

Introduction

The incorporation of the Winchester District Landscape Assessment's Key Characteristics, Landscape Strategies and Built Form Strategies into the Winchester District Local Plan, and its proposed adoption as Supplementary Planning Guidance, should improve the ability of the planning system to protect and enhance the character of the District's landscape. There are also a number of other ways in which landowners and managers can conserve and strengthen the character of the landscape. This chapter summarises the strategies that should be promoted to achieve this in addition to those identified for the individual LCAs.

Over the past century, Winchester's countryside has seen much change, contributed to by intensification of agriculture methods, a decline in livestock farming, increased traffic and suburban growth. Threats to the landscape as have resulted in the loss and neglect of woodlands, hedgerows, trees, ponds and species-rich grassland and traditional farm buildings, as well as the impact of increased chemical pollution of aquifers and rivers and the visual intrusion of large agricultural buildings, telecommunications masts, renewable energy sites, and suburban sprawl. The corresponding decline in biodiversity and the character of landscape and settlements has consequently been a cause for concern.

In recognition of these potential threats, the last 40 years have seen an increase in schemes and regulations aiming to reverse these trends. Britain's exit from the EU means a move away from Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The government's 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment and subsequent Environment Bill (as summarised in chapter 2) will underpin a new environmental land management system, based on providing public money for public goods (such as habitat enhancement), and replace current direct payments to farmers in England. Schemes such as the Environmental Land Management Scheme, the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme are being operated by the Forestry Commission and Department for Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), to protect the environment and support the rural economy and communities. Bodies such as English Nature also designate and manage important areas for nature conservation and the Forestry Commission protects significant areas of ancient woodland through the refusal of felling licenses. The Hedgerow Regulations are also now used to protect 'important' hedgerows from removal.

This chapter sets out general strategies which land owners and managers can help to maintain and enhance the character of Winchester's landscape and settlements, in addition to those identified for the individual LCAs.

Landscape and Built Form Strategies: A Summary

Woodland:

Winchester benefits from a large number of scattered areas of ancient woodland, some of which make up the characteristic beech 'hangers' on the chalk escarpments of the district. The district also has some large areas of more recent woodland. The woodland of the district is particularly found in the southern parishes where clays dominate the geology, although woodlands can also be found on the chalk downs, generally where areas of 'clay with flints' overlie the chalk. It is important to protect these valuable features of the landscape with their high biodiversity value.

One of the key threats to woodlands has been the lack of management and, with the decline of the coppice markets, ancient woodlands have fallen into neglect. This has resulted in a loss of biodiversity as many species of wildlife also rely on such management techniques. Many woodlands have also been lost in recent years to make way for development and agriculture. This trend is now gradually reversing, as more areas

of woodland are planted and planning controls are restricting unnecessary removal. This trend should be continued.

The biodiversity and character of woodlands has also been threatened by the planting of monocultureal conifer plantations. Current Forest Authority policies are encouraging landowners to restore ancient replanted woodland back to broad-leaved woodland, rather than replant with conifers after harvesting the crop. This is another very positive opportunity to recreate some of the most biodiverse habitats in the UK.

The key objectives for woodland are:

- that the structure and condition of woodland should be conserved and enhanced, in particular ancient semi-natural woodlands, through appropriate management techniques such as coppicing, thinning and replanting of locally indigenous species. Alien species should be removed from semi-natural ancient woodland;
- to encourage the restoration of replanted ancient woodland to a more semi-natural condition;
- to encourage the conservation and enhancement of the wooded 'hangers';

Although broad-leaved tree planting is generally to be promoted, including through the national programme of tree planting, careful consideration must be given to the treatment of the chalk downland area of Winchester, with its panoramic views and visible rolling topography. These areas were given over originally to large-scale grazing and, subsequently, to arable production for many centuries and this has contributed to the current open character of this countryside. Tree planting in these areas should therefore be sensitively undertaken to protect this open character and its valuable calcareous grassland, species-rich field margins and decreasing stone curlew populations.

Hedgerows

Winchester's hedgerows have a strong influence on the character of the landscape, with patterns varying significantly according to the 'age' of the landscape. Hedges associated with the formal parliamentary-type enclosures of the 18th and 19th centuries are generally straighter and with fewer species. These hedges are particularly found on the chalk downlands, where they are more likely to be clipped and enclosing large fields, often having suffered hedgerow loss due to farm mechanisation. The more 'ancient' landscapes towards the south of the district were more likely to have been enclosed in medieval times and contain numerous species often being formed from remnant woodland. These hedgerows are less likely to have been accurately surveyed and therefore tend to have 'wavy' boundaries. The oldest hedges often mark ancient Parish boundaries.

Hedgerows are an extremely important visual feature within the landscape and together with their banks, verges and ditches they also provide an excellent habitat refuge and corridor for wildlife. There are also many agricultural advantages to well-maintained hedgerows. They control and regulate grazing and can provide shelter and shade in adverse weather conditions. They can also protect some crops by helping to minimise soil erosion and by providing a habitat for predators of some insect pests. Mature standard trees are also an important feature of hedgerows, providing a habitat for birds, bats and invertebrates.

The loss of hedgerows in the last 40 years of the 20th century was extensive. Threats have included general neglect, overgrazing, mechanised cutting, fertiliser and spray drift from pesticides, as well as hedgerow removal to facilitate farm mechanisation. At the turn of the century this trend slowed and it is important to continue the improved management of hedges where appropriate.

Key objectives for hedgerows are:

- To protect and conserve hedgerows through appropriate management, such as

coppicing, laying and occasional trimming.

- Where hedgerows have been lost or have gaps, they should be replanted using locally indigenous species. Additional hedgerow trees should be replanted and saplings should be allowed to grow where existing trees have been lost or are overmature.

Whilst hedgerows should be recognised for their biodiversity value, their contribution to the character of their surrounding area should also be understood. It would not be appropriate visually, economically or ecologically, for example, to aim to plant numerous hedges in some areas of the district where chalk downland has historically been characterised by being open and hedge-free.

Species-rich grassland

Until the last century, the chalk downs of the Winchester District consisted of extensive areas of grazed calcareous and neutral grassland, which together with riverside water meadows provided seasonal grazing systems. There are few remaining areas of such pasture left, as arable agriculture has replaced much of the sheep stock. Remaining areas of unimproved grass tend to be found on scarp slopes, which have been too steep to cultivate, or scattered along the river valleys. These areas are threatened by scrub invasion and neglect and it is important to identify and protect these remaining areas. This should not only conserve the rich diversity of flora they support but also reduce the increased silt load that rivers are carrying as permanent pasture is ploughed, which has serious biological consequences.

Key objectives for grassland are:

- Conserve and enhance isolated areas of unimproved calcareous grassland of importance through appropriate management plans.
- Identify, conserve and enhance areas of agriculturally unimproved neutral grassland and water meadows.
- Link existing areas of species-rich grassland with new areas, including roadside verges and arable field margins and headlands.

Arable land including Arable Grassland

The large-scale conversion of sheep pasture to mechanised arable farmland across Winchester's chalk downs during the 20th century has had a significant impact on the biodiversity of these areas. Species-rich calcareous grassland and hedgerows have been lost and farm bird populations have declined. The use of agrochemicals such as fertiliser and pesticides have threatened the chalk aquifers and ecologically rich alkaline spring water rivers, such as the Dever, Itchen and Meon that all run through these arable dominated downs.

Government agricultural policy now aims to continue a reversal in the detrimental trends above, although the impact that arable agriculture is having on the character of the district will need to be monitored, as trends such as the use of Genetically Modified seed stock and climatic change may continue to have an adverse impact on the landscape.

Key objectives for grassland are:

- Restore and enhance the biodiversity of arable farmland, by encouraging the retention of conservation headlands, wildlife strips and grass strips around fields, and the increased use of spring-sown arable crops and retention of winter fallow fields, to sustain important arable weed flora and seed-eating birds, and especially halt the rapid decline of the stone curlew.
- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices, to minimise fertiliser and soil run-off for example, which could lead to the pollution of the water courses and the chalk aquifer, and to sustain important arable weed flora and seed-eating birds.

Ponds and Rivers

The presence or absence of ponds and rivers has an important influence on the character of Winchester District. The well-drained chalk geology of the majority of Winchester District means that surface water features are uncommon in many areas. These parts of the district do however, benefit from the clear alkaline springwater rivers of the Meon, Itchen and Dever. The chalk itself also forms a valuable aquifer and natural filter, supplying drinking water as well as ultimately feeding the important river habitats. Dewponds are also a feature of the chalk downland and are often present when there is a clay cap over chalk. Wells are historically a feature in chalkland settlements.

To the south of the district, where clay predominates, springs, ponds, streams and wells are numerous, providing a very contrasting hydrology. Here, the Hamble and Wallington form smaller rivers than those in the chalk downs, but are fed by a much denser network of tributaries.

One of the main threats to the aquifers and rivers of the district is that of chemical pollution from farm fertiliser and pesticide use. This could affect the quality of drinking water as well as the important alkaline habitat that the river provides for fish, birds, mamals such otter and water, vole, invertebrates and plants. The introduction of alien plant and animal species has a continuing adverse impact on native species.

A position statement on nitrate neutral development was approved by Cabinet on 22 January 2020. The position statement sets out how development proposals should consider the issue. In most cases the mitigation scheme will need to be located in the same river catchment as the proposed development although this does not mean that the mitigation scheme has to be in Winchester district.

Key objectives for ponds and rivers are:

- Encourage the reduced use of pesticide and herbicides and increased organic farming practices to minimise water pollution due to agricultural runoff.
- Encourage the use of buffer strips adjacent to water courses which may help to diffuse pollution and enhance the ecological and landscape value of the river.
- Strategic Environmental Assessment of changes in the integrity of the Itchen cSAC, informed by river users, to enable ongoing monitoring of the status of the cSAC.

Ponds are an important element in the landscape and provide a habitat for many different species of flora and fauna. In the early 2000s Hampshire had lost over 50% of its farm ponds, due to agricultural change and intensification, building development and land drainage. As well as some being over managed, many are also threatened by lack of management, as they no longer have a use, resulting in their filling with sediment and eventually drying out as they become densely vegetated. They have also been threatened by the introduction of invasive non-native plants.

Conserve and enhance existing ponds through appropriate management such as silt removal, lining repairs and the control of invasive species and the construction of features such as spits, bays, islands and sluices

Access and Recreation

The landscape of Winchester District provides many opportunities for informal recreation such as rambling, horse riding and cycling, which in turn contribute to the local economy. The Pilgrims Way and Wayfarers Walk are examples of long distance public footpaths running through the district and these are supplemented by numerous other footpaths, cycle-tracks and bridleways. To the north of the district these often follow ancient drove roads, historically used for the movement of stock to market, while along the Meon Valley a disused railway track provides a popular route. Viewpoints provided at high points of the district are also popular, as are riverside walks, particularly along the Itchen.

Tranquil areas are important for passive recreation, providing for bird watching, artistic inspiration and meditation. There is still a need to improve opportunities for access to the countryside and rivers throughout the district though, particularly for the disabled and for the residents for the larger settlements in the district. The Forest of Bere Forest Plans are aiming to improve access to the south of the district, where the countryside is close to settlements such as Fareham, Whiteley, Wickham and Bishop's Waltham.

There is also a need to minimise the impact of certain leisure pursuits on the landscape, such as golf, horse riding and off-road motorcycling and BMX riding, and paint balling, which can have an urbanising impact on the countryside and result in the loss of important habitats and landscape features.

Key objectives for access and recreation are:

- Conserve and enhance opportunities for public access throughout the countryside, particularly allowing the creation of circular and long-distance routes.
- Improve opportunities for circular walks and rides by improving connections between existing paths.
- Improve the provision of interpretation boards and leaflets to encourage confident use of the countryside and provide educational information.
- Improve opportunities for access to the countryside for all ages and physical abilities.
- Conserve tranquillity in the areas of the district that still allow peaceful enjoyment of the countryside away from major noise generators, such as roads and flight paths.
- Minimise the impact of sports such as golf, horse riding and off-road motorcycling on the landscape and important habitats and which can also reduce the tranquillity of rural areas.
- Where necessary, facilities such as car parks require particularly sensitive design and siting.
- Whilst encouraging public access to the countryside, it is important to encourage informal recreation at a sustainable level to ensure that vulnerable landscapes and sites are protected.
- Protect archaeological sites and sensitive ecological sites from visitor erosion.

The Historic Landscape

The Winchester District landscape contains a wide variety of historic features. These range from individual historic parks and archaeological monuments to large scale historic field patterns, road networks and villages.

There is a particular concentration of historic parks, villages, mills and water-meadows along the Itchen, Meon and Dever rivers which have provided a popular setting for human settlement since Anglo Saxon times, in contrast to the surrounding chalk downlands with their lack of shelter and water. The downs themselves however, have their own historic features, including drove roads, Roman Roads and numerous Bronze and Iron Age burial sites.

To the south of the district, where water and shelter are plentiful, settlement and parks are more dispersed, taking advantage of the local supplies of timber and fuel and rich pastures. Here, as mentioned above, the field pattern is generally much older than on the downs, reflecting earlier enclosure of the forest. The exception to this is the area around the parishes of Shedfield and Curdridge where the forest was much heathier and not enclosed until the 19th century.

The Winchester District Local Plan sets out detailed policies for the conservation of the historic environment, and is supplemented by detailed assessments of the District's Conservation Areas. The following general strategies summarise the aspects of the historic character of the landscape

that should be protected and enhanced.

Key objectives for the historic environment are:

- Conserve and restore ancient hedgerows and woodlands and tracks, especially where they provide a link with other semi-natural habitats.
- Conserve and restore historic buildings and their settings.
- Conserve and enhance the setting and traditional open relationship of the buildings of historic farmsteads and promote the sympathetic re-use of redundant buildings.
- Conserve and restore historic monuments and parks and protect them from damage by agriculture, forestry or recreation.

Traditional construction materials and methods

Whilst it is important not to limit innovative contemporary design in the landscape, it should be recognised that the character of an area is often strongly defined by its local building materials and methods. Within the Winchester District for example, there is a general pattern influenced by the underlying geology, with flint and thatch characteristic of the chalk downs, and bricks and clay tiles more characteristic of the clay lowlands. At a more detailed level, various villages have their own characteristic architectural features, particularly those such as East Stratton and Hursley, which were developed as part of an estate.

It is important that new development respects these traditional materials and methods, and where possible takes inspiration from them. More detailed guidance is available in the various Conservation Area Technical Assessments for the district (see references).

Key objectives for the historic environment are:

- Conserve and enhance buildings and boundaries that are constructed using building materials and construction methods common to the settlement type or landscape character area.
- Encourage the use and production of locally distinct materials such as bricks, tiles, flintwork, British slate, long straw and, therefore, encourage the cultivation of suitable wheat for thatching.
- Where new development takes place, ensure that it respects the surrounding building materials and construction methods typical of the location, seeking inspiration from them wherever possible, without resorting to 'pastiche' solutions.
- Minimise the impact of modern agricultural, forestry or industrial building on the surrounding landscape through appropriate siting and the use of appropriate cladding materials and colours.

The planning system can be particularly influential in the promotion of traditional building materials and methods, but assistance is also available from Winchester City Council and Historic England.

Visually Intrusive Structures and Development

Whilst robust planning policies have protected much of Winchester's countryside from excessive development in recent years, piecemeal alterations and additions to rural buildings and the construction of new agricultural buildings have still had an impact on the visual amenity of the landscape. Intrusive structures such as telecommunications masts, wind turbines and solar farms, rigs associated with hydraulic fracturing (fracking), poly tunnels electricity pylons and large modern barns can have a detrimental impact on the character of the landscape, as can features such as pony stables and paddocks on the urban fringe. The Winchester District Local Plan sets out detailed proposals for the design and siting of new development which should be referred to. The following principles are of

particular importance to the character of the landscape:

Key objectives for visual intrusion are:

- Site new buildings according to the traditional relationship between buildings and roads and using the space, scale, orientation and siting of existing buildings as a model.
- Minimise the visual impact of new developments, paying particular attention to views from public rights of way and the impact of the development on the setting of listed buildings and historic parkland.
- Avoid siting buildings in the open land between settlements and at visible locations, such as the crest of hills.
- Minimise light spill and intrusion in the countryside and rural settlements.
- Minimise the visual impact of structures such as pylons and telecommunications masts through appropriate siting and the use of screening by indigenous tree planting.
- Consider under-grounding transmission lines where they are, or could be, visually intrusive.
- Respect existing field boundary patterns and ensure that fencing, hedgerows and lighting along property boundaries merge naturally with the adjoining fields and vegetation.
- Minimise disturbance to local landform and vegetation, and design earthworks associated with new development to integrate development with its setting. Avoid the use of substantial retaining walls.
- Plant trees and shrubs indigenous to the relevant landscape type to screen or absorb development.
- Ensure that new infrastructure such as solar farms, poly tunnels, wind farms, communication masts, flues, pylons and 'fracking' rigs are carefully situated to minimise visual intrusion and consider the cumulative effect of multiple such developments.

The planning system can be particularly influential in minimising the impact of visually intrusive structures and development, although funding from sources listed below could be used for tree planting or environmental improvements to the visual amenity of the landscape, so long as these are not required as part of any planning consent.

Infrastructure

The character of roads, railways, footpaths and tracks in the district has a significant influence on the character of the overall landscape. Whilst the major roads of the district, especially the M3 and A34 may have a detrimental effect on the environment, generating noise, fragmenting the countryside and proving visually intrusive with their wide carriageways, lighting and urban signage, other routes can contribute positively to the landscape's character. The drove roads of the chalk downs are an important historic feature and the historic, remote character of many areas of the district is strongly contributed to by the winding narrow sunken lanes that have evolved. It is important that the need to maintain a safe, efficient highway system does not unnecessarily dilute this character.

Key objectives for infrastructure are:

- Ensure that new infrastructure is designed and sited to respect the landscape, ecology and historic character of the District.
- Avoid developing infrastructure that would fragment or affect the setting of important habitats and historical sites
- Resist changes to the character of smaller rural roads, ensure that features such hedgebanks, verges and sunken profiles are protected.
- Create new footpaths, bridleways and

cycle-routes where appropriate, to enable improved public access to the countryside.

Tranquillity

The areas least affected by light pollution are the areas of countryside around the settlements north of Winchester and the SDNP as well as the countryside west of Winchester. Other areas such as around Winchester, Whiteley, South Wonston, Micheldever and the M3 services are more affected by light pollution. Overall tranquillity is greatest away from the main settlements and roads, and is important for passive recreation and general character.

Key objectives for tranquillity are:

- Conserve tranquillity in the areas of the district that still allow peaceful enjoyment of the countryside away from major noise generators, such as roads and flight paths.
- Minimise the impact of active sports such as golf, horse riding, off-road motorcycling, paintballing.
- Minimise light spill and intrusion.
- Minimise visual intrusions.

Achieving the Strategies: Advice and Assistance from Local Authorities and Organisations

The Planning Process

The importance of preserving and enhancing the character of the landscape underpins planning policy at all levels. Local Planning Authorities are able to use their planning policies to refuse planning applications that do not comply with them, or to attach conditions to planning consents, to ensure that proposed developments are carried out in an appropriate manner. Accordingly, this Landscape Character Assessment will go through the process of being adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG).

In addition, other documents that promote the conservation and enhancement of the District's landscape and townscape have been adopted by Winchester City Council as SPG. Winchester City and its Setting (HCC et al, 1998) provides an integrated townscape and landscape assessment of Winchester and its immediate environs, while a number of Conservation Area Technical Assessments provide townscape character assessments of various village conservation areas in the District such as Bishop's Waltham and Alresford. Likewise, the Winchester Conservation Area Project has produced a townscape character assessment of the city's conservation area. Such summaries enable local authorities to justify the designation of Conservation Areas and to guide applications for certain works to buildings within them. Local Planning Authorities are also responsible under the 1990 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act for authorising works to Listed Buildings, and again can use these powers to ensure that permission for proposed works will only be granted if they protect and/or enhance the character of the building and its setting.

Local Planning Authorities are also responsible for protecting certain important hedgerows in the countryside by controlling their removal through a system of notification, in accordance with the Hedgerow Regulations (under the Environment Act 1995). The system applies to hedgerows which are at least 30 years old and meet at least one of the criteria set out in Schedule I of the Regulations which define what qualifies as 'important' based on their composition and archaeological, historical and landscape characteristics. Removal of a hedgerow in contravention of the Regulations is a criminal offence. Whilst assisting with the reduction in hedgerow loss however, these tight definitions mean that many hedgerows are not covered by the regulations.

Conclusion

This Landscape Character Assessment shows that Winchester District, as well as containing the SDNP, has a varied landscape with a strong identity, influenced by many factors such as its underlying geology and agricultural history. Many areas in the study area are recognised for their natural beauty and important biodiversity and the Assessment highlights the particular features contributing to this, which should be conserved and enhanced where possible. The landscape of the District has been subject to many pressures over the past century, including housing development, traffic, tourism, agro-chemicals and farm mechanisation, and while some harmful trends, such as hedgerow loss, have started to reverse, other pressures, such as housing need, are stronger than ever.

This Chapter shows that it is still important that the features that contribute so much to the character of the landscape should be restored and enhanced as necessary and where possible. Woodland, hedgerows, species-rich grassland and arable grassland all require appropriate management and conservation if they are to continue contributing to the character of the District. The chalk river species and clear alkaline spring water of many of the District's watercourses, meanwhile, need to be protected from pollution, and the historic character of the numerous parklands associated with the valleys conserved and enhanced. The character of the built environment within the landscape is also important, given the wealth of historic buildings and traditional construction materials found in the District. These should be respected, and protected, by any new development. New buildings, structures and infrastructure should also be sensitively sited to conserve the character of the existing landscape features.

Glossary

Agri-environment schemes: Schemes that offer grants for measures to conserve and enhance the countryside.

Agricultural Land Classification: Classification undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries to indicate the quality of agricultural land (and not its current management). The classification ranges from 'excellent' to 'very poor' over five grades, with 1, 2 and 3a representing the best and most versatile land.

Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland: Woodland that is considered to have existed from at least the start of the seventeenth century which, although modified by man, supports species which are dependent on the long history of the wood

Assart: Enclosure formed by the clearance of woodland and scrub to form arable land; generally of early medieval to early post-medieval in age

Barrow (or tumulus): A mound of earth, turf or stones covering a burial

Biodiversity: Term used to refer to the diversity or richness of species and habitats.

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP): Action Plans to conserve and enhance biological diversity within the UK for our most threatened species and wildlife habitats

Burgage: Property (including a house and yard) in an ancient borough usually with a narrow street frontage and a long narrow strip behind. Held for a fixed rent by a burgess who has special privileges and duties

Calcareous: Of or containing calcium carbonate (chalk)

Carr: A marshy copse, especially of alder or willow

Celtic Fields: Small, squarish, irregular or semi-regular fields common on chalk downland until modern destruction. Sometimes surrounded by great banks and associated with terraces called 'lynchets' formed as ploughed earth moved downhill.

Coppice(ing): Cut certain fast-growing trees or shrubs, such as hazel, to ground level, to provide straight poles for fences and hurdles

Common: Area of land subject to rights of common. Usually a number of people exercised rights such as grazing stock or cutting fuel.

Conservation headland: A 6m–24m wide strip along the edge of a cereal crop that provides opportunities for a wide spectrum of arable plants, insects, foraging birds and other insect-eating animals.

CRoW Act (2000): The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This includes a number of amendments to the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 which strengthen the legislation on the protection of SSSIs and introduces new measures to create access to open countryside (including downlands and commons)

DEFRA: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Dew ponds: A feature of chalk downland, often present when there is a clay cap over chalk. Traditionally these were constructed to ensure an adequate water supply from rainfall alone, by maximising the pond's catchment area in relation to its evaporation area.

Drove road: Ancient long distance route used for driving cattle to fairs or markets (not maintained and not subject to tolls)

Enclosure: Legally, the extinguishing of common rights over a piece of land rather than the act of physically enclosing it with fences, ditches, walls and hedgerows which usually accompanied it. In the 18th and 19th centuries enclosures were typically formed by parliamentary enclosure acts.

Hanger: An area of woodland on a chalk scarp or steep hillside, often of beech

Hedge Coppicing: The practice of cutting an old hedge at the base and allowing regrowth

Hedge Staking: Placing stakes along a laid hedge to keep it together and provide anchorage for secure binding.

Hillfort: Iron Age defence enclosing the top of the hill, often surviving as earthworks

Integrated Crop Mangement: Farming practices that reduce the need for pesticide applications

Ladder Fields: Fields formed by cross boundaries linking long wavy parallel boundaries which are often trackways or footpaths, thus making 'ladders' of long sinuous uprights joined by straight perpendicular 'rungs'. Mainly evident on the chalk uplands, linking lower ground to higher downs. Probably result from informal enclosure of downland in post-medieval times

Landscape Type: Distinctive types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. Generic in nature, in that they may occur in different areas, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation and historical land sue and settlement pattern

Landscape Character Area: Single unique areas that are discrete geographical areas consisting of one or more landscape types.

Open Field System: Agricultural arrangement by which the land was managed by common agreement of the local community. Arable land was divided into small strips. The strips assigned to each tenant were scattered and intermixed with those of others to ensure a fair balance of good land. From the late medieval period many of these strips became consolidated for convenience.

Pale: Boundary fence, particularly of a park – generally with a ditch on the inside

Parish: Originally the area served by a parish church and supporting it by the payment of tithes. Later became a secular administrative area

Park: In the medieval period, an enclosed area for growing timber and/or keeping deer. From the 17th to 19th centuries many landscape parks were created around the houses of the manorial lords.

Parliamentary Fields: Fields typically formed by Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the late 18th –19th centuries. Some fields enclosed at this time have a similar appearance but were enclosed by formal agreement.

Riparian: Of or on a riverbank

Scheduled Monuments (SMs): Archaeological sites and monuments considered to be of national importance by the Secretary of State

Semi-natural habitat: Habitat that has been affected and changed by the activities of humankind. These can be thousands of years old and as wildlife-rich as natural habitats.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC): Sites within Hampshire that are of particular importance for Nature Conservation, containing habitats or features that are effectively irreplaceable. Excludes statutorily designated sites.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): Areas notified by English Nature under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Biological or geological sites considered to be of national importance for conservation.

Time-depth Analysis: The technique of analysing evidence for historic events and processes in the landscape

Track-bounded Fields: Fiends bounded by tracks and roads. These are generally found on chalk uplands and probably result from post-medieval informal enclosure.

Wavy-edged Fields: Fields with wavy boundaries. These were probably formed through informal enclosure in the 17th and 18th centuries, before boundaries were surveyed.

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