

## Introduction

Winchester City Council has undertaken a Landscape Character Assessment for the District, in accordance with Hampshire County Council and Countryside Agency guidance. This divides the District into a series of 'Landscape Character Areas', each with their own Key Characteristics, Landscape Management and Built Form Strategies. This will guide development, in accordance with Policy CE.5 of this Plan.

This appendix contains the Key Characteristics, Landscape Strategies and Built Form Strategies for each of the 23 character areas which have been identified. A Map illustrates the District's Landscape types, as a refinement of the Landscape Types described by the Winchester District Landscape Character Areas, (shown in Map 35).

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## Maps

1. Winchester District Landscape Character Assessment:  
Winchester District Landscape Character Areas (Map 35).

## 1. Hursley Scarplands Landscape Character Area

### 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 creating a topographically complex landscape.
- 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 the 18th and 19th centuries situated around villages such as Compton & 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, an 18th century 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 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.
- Conserve important long views to Winchester Cathedral, and other long views from high points.

### 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.

## 2. Sparsholt Woodlands Landscape Character Area

### 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).
- Undulating well-drained chalkland landscape to the north-west of Winchester, forming part of the setting of the City.
- 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 enclosure 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 SINC's including smaller ancient woodlands are found throughout the northern part of the character area.
- 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 Ancient Monuments.
- 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 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.
- 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.

### 3. Crawley Downs Landscape Character Area

#### Key Characteristics

- A wide, open, gently rolling dry valley on an 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 farmland 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 Strategies

- Extend and reconnect links between existing isolated woodland 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 shelterbelts.
- 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 roadside verges appropriately, 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.

#### 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.

## 4. Wonston Downs 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 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.

### 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.

## 5. Dever Valley Landscape 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.
- 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 & 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.

### Built Form Strategies

- Resist road improvements, which would threaten the historic narrow valley-side, and cross-valley rural lanes, which characterise this area.
- Conserve and respect the traditional forms and scales of settlements 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.
- Carefully position and screen new agricultural buildings to avoid visual intrusion.

## 6. North Dever Downs Landscape Character Area

### 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 assorted semi-natural ancient woodlands to the north.
- Good populations of declining farmland birds.
- Rare arable weeds 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 and 19th 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, 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.
- 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 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.
- Conserve and enhance the existing hedgerow network to maximise biodiversity, restore ecological networks and provide visual enclosure. The impacts of any proposed new hedgerow planting on declining farmland birds should be discussed with the RSPB prior to provision of grants.
- Conserve and enhance areas of mature trees through appropriate management and replanting as appropriate. These include the avenue of lime 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.
- 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 and enhance the setting of prehistoric sites, such as Norsebury Ring, from ploughing, through improved agricultural practices for example.

### Built Form Strategies

- Conserve and respect the visually remote character of the area through sensitive location and design of new development.
- 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 appropriate 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.

## 7. Stratton Woodlands Landscape Character Area

### Key Characteristics

- Strong presence of assorted 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 assorted 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, 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 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. 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 biodiversity 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.
- Conserve and improve public access to the woodlands.
- 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.

### Built Form Strategies

- Conserve the rural character and pattern of East Stratton and Woodmancott.
- Conserve the form and character of other isolated dwellings associated with farm complexes.
- New development should respect the traditional built form and materials typical of the character area.
- Respect the small-scale nature of existing dwellings.
- Enhance the rural character of the area through appropriate garden boundaries avoiding high brick walls and fences, which are not characteristic of the area.
- Conserve the rural character of the lanes and tracks.

## 8. North Itchen Downs Landscape Character Area

### 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 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 arable weeds in 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.
- Conserve the open panoramic views throughout the area through the appropriate management of hedgerows and avoiding inappropriately located woodland planting.
- Conserve archaeological sites and their settings, from damage by ploughing.
- Monitor declining farmland birds to measure success of biodiversity strategy.

### Built Form Strategies

- Conserve the visually remote character settlement within the area by avoiding inappropriately located or prominent buildings.
- Integrate new development into the landscape with appropriate native planting.
- Minimise the impact of intrusive structures such as telecommunications masts and new agricultural buildings through sensitive siting and screening.
- Conserve the narrow, rural character of lanes.

## 9. Upper Itchen Valley Landscape Character Area

### 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.
- 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.
- A significant number of ornamental historic parks and associated houses, mostly dating from the 18th century. These feature ornamental species including lime, horse chestnut and cedar.
- 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 and more enclosed/settled valley floor nearer Winchester.
- Riverside routes such as the B3047 the B3046 and footpaths such as the Itchen Way. Also railway lines such as the disused railway line and the Watercress line. Also regular connections between the river and adjacent downland via drove roads and lanes. Long distance footpaths follow the river and cut across the area.
- Numerous river crossings, via lanes, fords and footbridges.
- A long history of occupation, with numerous archaeological remains, including iron age lynchets, ancient tracks and the sites of an iron age settlement (Itchen Stoke) and three deserted medieval villages (Abbotstone, Northington and Swarraton).
- Remote feel away from the main roads.
- A high concentration of 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 & methods, including timber frames, brick, flint, wheat-reed thatch, slate and clay tiles.
- River-associated structures, including mills, dams and weirs.

### Landscape Strategies

- Conserve the integrity of the SAC 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 fields.
- 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.

### Built Form Strategies

- Conserve the small and linear pattern of settlements and respect the traditional form and scale of existing buildings.
- 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.
- Minimise the impact of intrusive structures such as telecommunications masts through sensitive siting.

## 10. Bighton Woodlands Landscape Character Area

### 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 assorted 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 Age field 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 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 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 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.

### Built Form Strategies

- Conserve the linear form and rural character of Bighton.
- Conserve the sparse scattered pattern of rural farm settlement.
- Respect the small-scale nature of existing dwellings.
- 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 reed thatch, flint and clay tiles.
- Conserve and promote the use of traditional rural garden boundaries 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.

## 11. Bramdean Woodlands Landscape Character Area

### Key Characteristics

- Undulating landform along the northern edge of the South Downs closely related to the River Itchen valley and its tributaries and to the River Meon to the south east.
- Well-drained geology of upper chalk with areas of overlying clay. 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, such as Cheriton Wood. Due to the mixed geology, species are varied, including oak, beech, ash, Scots pine, holly and hazel coppice.
- Varied field size and shape, tending to be smaller around the settlements. These were predominantly enclosed informally in early post-medieval times.
- Bramdean Common, an unenclosed area of grassland and woodland. The wooded areas are designated as SINCs.
- Historic parks, both in the area (Brockwood Park and Woodcote Park) and directly adjoining it (Hinton Ampner Park, Tichborne Park, Ovington Park). This has given settlements such as Bramdean and Hinton Ampner a distinct parkland character with mature ornamental trees. Copper beeches associated with Brockwood Park line part of the A272.
- 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, with the A272 being the only major through-route.
- A long history of occupation, with numerous archaeological remains, including tumuli, barrows, the site of a Roman villa, a medieval park pale and ancient field systems.
- Few settlements, namely the small Domesday villages of Bramdean, Kilmeston and Hinton Ampner. Farms are sparsely scattered throughout the area and are particularly found in the south.
- Loosely structured villages, with no clear centre, all retaining a strong rural historic character with traditional building materials and methods and little modern expansion.

### Landscape Strategies

- Ensure that land-use changes in this area do not affect the Itchen and Meon. 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, and manage the regeneration of wood pasture at Kilmeston.
- 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.
- Protect Bramdean Common from enclosure to conserve its character and manage it extensively, as a whole entity, whilst still allowing the possibility of restoring grazing.
- 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.
- Enhance the landscape of historic parkland, such as Brockwood Park, through continued replacement tree planting and woodland management.
- 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 arable weeds in 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.

### Built Form Strategies

- Conserve the loosely nucleated form and strong, rural historic character of Kilmeston, Bramdean and Hinton Ampner.
- 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.

## 12. East Winchester Downs Landscape Character Area

### Key Characteristics

- Topographically varied landscape with high open expansive areas of arable farmland at Longwood Warren, Gander Down and Twyford Down for example, punctuated by steep escarpments, with a distinctive wide low vale at Chilcomb.
- Upper Chalk geology, apart from the Vale of Chilcomb which is lies on eroded softer Lower Chalk, enclosed by long winding escarpments of hard Middle Chalk.
- Free-draining area with no obvious surface water bodies and channels other than occasional dew ponds and sewage works ephemeral lake. 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. In particular, this has resulted in the extensive prairie fields of Longwood Warren, returning the area to its former downland openness.
- Woodland is largely confined to the north-eastern corner of the character area, and includes semi-natural and replanted semi-natural ancient woodland and 19th century plantations.
- Although there are no historic parks within the area, the ancient driveways to Avington Park in the Itchen Valley (Duke's Drive and Temple Drive) form strong features within the local landscape.
- Important ecological sites include the calcareous grassland at St Catherine's Hill and Cheesefoot Head (SSSIs), and ancient semi-natural woodland at Magdalen Hill Down, Deacon Hill and Hampage Wood (SINCs). 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 Chilcomb, nestled at the base of Deacon Hill.
- Numerous historic features, including the prehistoric hillfort on St Catherine's Hill, and the enclosures south of Twyford Down and south of Avington Park. Drove roads are also a common feature, such as the Dongas at St Catherine's Hill.
- Routes, such as the Morestead Road and Alresford Road are generally fairly straight and direct, reflecting their Roman origins. The A272 follows the upper chalk ridgeline.
- Footpaths including sections of the South Downs Way and Wayfarers Walk give good access to the countryside.
- A sparsely populated area with only one settlement, the small, nucleated Domesday village of Chilcomb.

### Landscape Strategies

- Conserve and enhance the restored chalk downland on land adjoining Magdalen Hill. This is 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.
- 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.
- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of the ancient woodland through appropriate management such as thinning, coppicing, replanting, ride and edge management and removal of invasive alien species.
- Encourage any new woodland planting to use locally indigenous species and to respond positively to the contours and landform.
- 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.
- 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.

### Built Form Strategies

- Sensitive 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 the nucleated form and rural character of Chilcomb and important open views of the village (and its landmark church) from surrounding escarpments and from Winchester.
- Conserve the scattered pattern and sparsely populated rural character of the area.
- Retain the rural character of the roads and lanes throughout the area and avoiding and removing insensitive improvements and signage where possible. Encourage the use of traditional flint walling or indigenous hedged garden boundaries.
- Conserve the routes and character of the historic tracks and drove roads.
- Minimise the impact of intrusive structures such as telecommunications masts through sensitive siting and screening with planting.

### 13. Lower Itchen Valley Landscape Character Area

#### Key Characteristics

- Wide flat, low-lying floodplain with gently rising valley sides channel and contain 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, with alluvium based soils in the valley floodplain.
- 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, particularly in association with historic parkland. Individual 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 and historic parks such as Brambridge Park and Shawford Park.
- 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 SINCC.
- 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 including Twyford, a nucleated settlement that developed at a river crossing point and Shawford, a village which has developed in Victorian times with the advent of the railway station.

#### 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 English Nature 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.
- Conserve and restore the landscape and built features of the historic parks as appropriate, in particular, through continued replacement tree planting, woodland management and the restoration of pasture.

#### 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 inappropriate locations.
- Respect the valley side settlement pattern and small scale of the existing development within the character area.
- Encourage the restoration of the Hockley viaduct as an important feature in the landscape.
- 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.

## 14. Cranbury Woodlands Landscape Character Area

### Key Characteristics

- Undulating ridge running in a north-west to south-east direction to the north of Hiltisbury, 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 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, healthy character of Otterbourne Common by the removal of recent woodland / scrub.
- Conserve the generally enclosed, varied views throughout the area.
- 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.

### 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.

## 15. South Winchester Downs Landscape Character Area

### Key Characteristics

- Large area of tranquil, undulating chalk downs, stretching from Winchester to the Meon Valley, forming the southern boundary of the eastern end of the South Downs.
- Well-drained area of upper chalk with occasional areas of Clay with Flints and thin calcareous topsoil. The landscape consequently has numerous hills, dry valleys, scarps and combs giving some long panoramic views towards the Isle of Wight and Fawley oil refinery for example, as well as views of a more enclosed intimate nature.
- Remote, rural landscape of predominantly arable farmland with some mixed farming. The fields are often medium in size and were generally enclosed by informal means in the 17th century, although later rationalisation has resulted in larger, more regular fields. Hedgerows are generally strong, often with mature trees.
- Significant areas of woodland, from small copses, game spinneys and chalk dells, to larger woods, a number of which comprise ancient semi-natural and replanted woodland. Some also show evidence of assarting. Beech and ash are characteristic tree species of the area, together with some oak and yew. Wooded scarps ('hangers') are also characteristic of the area. These wooded areas provide an important ecological corridor across much of the northern part of the area.
- Remnant downland with areas of calcareous grassland on scarps.
- Historic parkland and houses, including Preshaw House, Belmore House and Longwood Park.
- Long history of settlement including Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age sites and deserted medieval village of Lomer.
- Well-connected network of footpaths, tracks, drove roads and winding narrow lanes, together with straight sections of Roman Road. Footpaths include Wayfarer's Walk, Monarch's Way, Pilgrims Way, South Downs Way and Kings Way.
- Accessible countryside for leisure pursuits including footpaths, bridleways, gallops (e.g. Stephens Castle Down), motor cycle scrambles (e.g. Morestead), shooting (e.g. Longwood) and golf (e.g. Corhampton Down).
- Numerous scattered farms, hamlets and villages generally retaining a remote, rural, historic character.
- Settlements are small and loosely structured, either located on hill tops, (Owslebury, Upham, Ashton and Upper Swanmore) or in sheltered valleys (Morestead, Dean and Dundry). These are generally well integrated with the landscape, screened by its topography and mature trees, as is Bishop's Waltham to the south of the area. Traditional building features and methods, including timber frames, flint, thatch, red brick, painted brick, vitrified brick, weatherboard (barns), clay tiles, thatch and slate.

### 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.
- Manage and replant medieval hedgerows to ensure they create a continuous ecological network and connect isolated habitats, particularly towards the south of the area. Replanting should use locally indigenous species and be generally kept below ridgelines. Remove post and wire/rail fencing and, if necessary, replace with hedging.
- Manage and replant parkland trees as appropriate to ensure their conservation. Restore arable parkland to pasture.
- 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 chalk downland.
- Conserve public access to rural leisure facilities 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 the tranquillity and visual and aural remoteness of the area and seek to restore it where the Morestead Road and B3035 have impinged on this.

### Built Form Strategies

- Conserve and respect the visually remote character of the area, given that settlement is small-scale and scattered and often well screened by trees.
- 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.

## 16. Upper Meon Valley Landscape Character Area

### Key Characteristics

- Relatively wide river valley landscape cutting through the chalk uplands and including the distinctive wide vale formed out of the soft chalk between Old Winchester Hill and Beacon Hill.
- South Downs ridge line (on an east/west axis), of which Beacon Hill and Old Winchester Hill form a part. This is bisected by the River Meon, which flows southwards.
- Clear alkaline spring water in meandering narrow channels, which are often braided, together with occasional lakes, ponds, mill chases, springs, watercress beds and ephemeral headwaters.
- Distinction in land use relating to topography; with arable farmland on the valley sides and chalk downlands and grazed paddocks, water meadows and pastures within the valley flood plain.
- Woodland is largely confined to scarps, steeper built-up valley sides and in association with parkland landscapes.
- Predominantly small, regular fields subject to both informal and formal enclosure, especially over more clayey soils. The higher, more exposed areas form larger fields with regular boundaries where subject to parliamentary enclosure, and irregular boundaries of informal enclosure, on the dip slopes.
- Many historic parks on the valley floor and sides, including Warnford Park, Corhampton House, Midlington Place in Droxford and Hall Place in West Meon. These are generally enclosed by mature tree belts.
- Many important ecological habitats, including calcareous grassland (SSSIs) on scarps at Old Winchester Hill, Beacon Hill and Peake Wood; ancient semi-natural woodland, such as Halfway Wood and the aquatic habitat of the River Meon itself (designated as a SINCA).
- 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, ephemeral headwaters and unimproved neutral grassland/fen.
- Open feel to the north, with long panoramic views gained from high points such as Beacon Hill and Old Winchester Hill. From within the valley floor the landscape has a more enclosed feel, with views contained by landform and trees.
- Numerous footpaths including the South Downs Way, Monarch's Way, and the Wayfarers Walk, which take advantage of routes along the river, through the river valley villages and meadows along the valley floor. A bridleway/cycle route follows the disused Meon Valley Railway line.
- Routes within the character area are concentrated along the river valley, the A32 and the now disused railway line. Other routes mainly cross the river valley where villages have often developed.
- Routes within the exposed arable areas are largely straight, often following ridgelines
- Settlements are concentrated along the river valley at crossing points. They are generally loosely linear in form, of

Saxon origin and typically characterised by 17th and 18th century dwellings. Exton is an exception, being a nucleated village.

- Historic features include the Iron Age hill fort on Old Winchester Hill, numerous tumuli (Bronze Age barrows) and the remains of St. John's House and the medieval site of the original village of Warnford in Warnford Park.
- Traditional building features & methods, including brick and flint and clay plain tile and occasional use of longstraw and wheat-reed thatch.

### Landscape Strategies

- Conserve and enhance the unimproved areas of pasture and water meadows within the valley floor.
- Conserve and maintain areas of calcareous grassland.
- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of ancient semi-natural woodlands at Halfway Wood, Peake Wood and Old Winchester Hill (species rich Ash-Hazel woodland), as well as other scattered woodlands, 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*.
- Control scrub encroachment on scarp to minimise loss of calcareous grassland.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable to chalk downland, especially adjoining existing species-rich grassland.
- Conserve and restore the hedgerow network to connect key habitats where appropriate.
- Conserve important archaeological sites such as Old Winchester Hill fort.
- Restore the water meadow structures and encourage appropriate management of the meadows.
- Conserve and manage the rural character of the land, footpaths, tracks and visitor attractions.
- Encourage the retention and traditional management of watercress beds, to ensure that they remain a characteristic feature of this 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 Meon.
- 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 rich bio-diversity associated with the clear spring water and the river banks.

### 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.

**16. Upper Meon Valley Landscape Character Area  
(continued)**

- 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.

## 17. Hambledon Downs Character Area

### Key Characteristics

- Undulating rolling landform including part of the South Downs ridgeline to the north of character area where the highest points are at Teglease Down. The land gradually falls from the north-east to the Hambledon valley, but with a secondary ridge east/west of Hambledon. Scarps and dry valleys are common features.
- Upper chalk geology with deposits of clay with flints to the east and west of Hambledon. This gives rise to shallow, well drained calcareous soils.
- The Downs fall towards the south, to the dry Hambledon Valley with gravel deposits. A tributary of the River Wallington flows through the valley to the south of Hambledon.
- Arable crop production dominates the area, interspersed with woodland and pasture on the steeper slopes.
- A variety of copses, shelter-belts and woodlands, many of which are ancient semi-natural woodland and designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.
- 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.
- Few historic parks, except those concentrated around the settlement of Hambledon. The main one Bury Lodge, a late 18th Century Park.
- Habitats of ecological significance include ancient semi-natural woodland, and remnants of unimproved calcareous grassland, both often associated with scarps.
- Varied degrees of visual enclosure, from the exposed downs to the more enclosed areas to the south of the character area, with a strong pattern of hedgerows, intermittent trees and woodland.
- Numerous long views from high points on the Downs, in particular from Teglease Down, where there are long views over south Hampshire to the Isle of Wight, and views over Hambledon from the surrounding escarpments.
- Tranquil rural nature with no major routes which 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 straight and open across the downs and winding and narrow elsewhere.
- Sparsely populated area with one main settlement, Hambledon, located in a sheltered base of scarp position, other dwellings include isolated farms with associated outbuildings and cottages.
- The settlement of Hambledon has a distinctly linear form, dictated by the location of adjacent scarps. It has Roman origins and a Georgian architectural character.

### Landscape Strategies

- Encourage the extension of existing chalk downland, through agricultural and planning policies (e.g. compensation for unavoidable loss of wildlife habitats resulting from planned development).
- Conserve the large-scale open rolling landscape of the Downs by concentrating any new planting in the valleys.
- Encourage the conservation and enhancement of the hangers and areas of unimproved calcareous grassland on scarp slopes.
- 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, tracks and historic parks, 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.
- Conserve and restore the landscape and built features of the historic parks as appropriate, in particular through continued replacement tree planting, woodland management and the restoration of pasture.
- Monitor success of ecological strategies by surveying farmland birds and calcareous grassland plants.

### 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 new development in Hambledon reflects the strong form and pattern of the village, in relation to the adjacent scarps.
- Respect the distinctive Georgian character of the village with appropriate design, scale of buildings and materials.
- Ensure that the intimate rural character of the complex pattern of small roads, lanes and tracks is not altered through inappropriate road improvements.

## 18. Forest of Bere Lowlands Landscape

### Character Area

#### 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. However it retains an 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, Creech Walk, West 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.
- 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 and West Lodge historic parks lie within the area. The setting for 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 a military establishment and a golf course. West Lodge lies within West Walk Woodland and is a late 18th Century park.
- Remote and enclosed feel too 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.
- 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 Strategies

- Increase awareness of the Forest of Bere.
- 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.
- Create a more heavily wooded matrix between woodland blocks, such as West Walk and Creech Wood.
- 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.

### Built Form Strategies

- Enhance 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'.
- Minimise the impact of intrusive structures such as telecommunications masts and electricity pylons, through sensitive siting, screening and the use of underground cables.
- Respect the distinctive linear pattern of many of the heath-associated settlements.
- Respect the historic character of Southwick.
- Respect the distinctive relict pattern of smallholdings at Hundred Acres.
- Retain the rural character of the local minor roads within the character area.

## 19. Portsdown Hill Landscape Character Area

### Key Characteristics

- Chalk dip slope, rising evenly from north to south where it forms an east-west scarp along the northern edge of Portsmouth.
- 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 arable weeds.
- Generally minimal hedgerow structure, concentrated on 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's 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. Massive earthworks (glacis).
- 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 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.

### 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.

## 20. Lower Meon Valley Landscape Character Area

### 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 distinctively riparian character, with a flat low lying flood plain, with riverside pastures and marshy grassland. Many of these retain high species-richness. Important ecological habitats within the area include the river itself and agriculturally unimproved meadows, such as Huntage and Wickham Meadows.
- 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 assorted fields, particularly to the south, and larger parliamentary fields to the north.
- The character area is well treed, with willow-lined watercourses and riverside woodlands and valley side woods, many of which are designated a SSSIs or SINCs, and are remnants of ancient woodland. This well treed character creates a sense of intimacy and enclosure.
- Historic Parks are commonly found in river valley locations. Rookesbury Park, for example, is situated to take advantage of river valley views.
- Sheltered pastoral and rural character of the valley floor with few detracting influences.
- Routes within the character area generally follow the valley, on the higher ground of the valley sides.
- 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.
- The disused railway line, which follows the river valley side, creates a distinctive tree-lined feature within the landscape and part is used as a bridleway/cycleway.

### 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.
- 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 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 parks 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.
- The compact nature of existing settlement 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.
- Sensitive locate buildings within the countryside, avoiding open ridge-lines and integrating them into the landscape setting, and incorporate new indigenous planting where appropriate.
- Minimise the impact of intrusive structures such as telecommunications masts and electricity pylons, through sensitive siting, screening and the use of underground cables.
- Conserve and enhance the rural character of existing roads and lanes and avoid new inappropriate road improvements where possible.

## 21. Whiteley Woodlands Landscape Character Area

### Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating lowlands underlain by sands, loams, gravels and clays. This poor quality agricultural land has proved unattractive for cultivation and development.
- 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 assorted woodland structure.
- Small areas of paddocks, nurseries and smallholdings are situated along Biddenfield Lane, Titchfield Lane and Funtley Lane to the east of the area, plus an extensive landfill site and small industrial uses.
- 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, but generally enclosed by woodland.
- Few roads or paths, especially in the centre of the area, although the main South Coast railway line goes through here. This and a section of the M27, which crosses through the southern area adjacent to Whiteley, reduces the tranquillity of the area.
- A long history of occupation since the Stone Age, focused on Fairthorne Manor, Curbridge, including 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.
- Settlement is sparse, occurring at the edges of the character area with a predominance of woodland in the centre. The only settlements are Curbridge and the recent major development of Whiteley, which provides employment, housing and community/service facilities. Farms are sparsely scattered and occasional dwellings and small holdings have been developed in the latter 20th century along Titchfield 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.

### 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

### Built Form Strategies

- Enhance local urban edge, by planting locally indigenous hedgerows.
- Resist development, which further suburbanises local settlements such as that associated with 'horsiculture'.
- Conserve the narrow winding rural character of roads.
- Respect the small-scale nature of existing dwellings in the countryside.
- Integrate new buildings 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.

## 22. Shedfield Heathlands Landscape Character 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.
- Areas of poor drainage and minor streams on underlying clays.
- Scattered species-rich neutral grassland retained in the Hamble catchment, including Waltham Case 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 assorted semi-natural ancient woodland to the east of the area, such as Dirty Copse and 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.
- A 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 Strategies

- Conserve and enhance areas of heathland around Shedfield through grazing and controlled burning, where appropriate, to prevent woodland succession.
- 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.
- 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.

### 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'.
- Conserve and promote the use of traditional garden boundaries, such as indigenous or evergreen non-coniferous hedgerows for new development.

## 23. Durley Claylands Landscape Character Area

### 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 (including Fishers Pond), 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.
- Strong hedgerow and woodland network dominated by oak, ash, hawthorn, hazel and field maple. Woodland generally assarted.
- River associated species along the River Hamble, including the flower-rich wet meadows fen at Bishop's Waltham Moors.
- Long views from elevated positions across farmland, together with shorter views enclosed by woodland and strong hedgerow boundaries.
- 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.
- Traditional construction and building materials include timber frame with brick infill, red brick, vitrified brick, painted brick, clay tiles. Thatch is relatively rare.
- 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 Strategies

- Conserve and restore the structure and condition of the woodlands through appropriate management such as thinning, 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 Forestry Authority grants.
- 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.

### 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.
- 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.

