



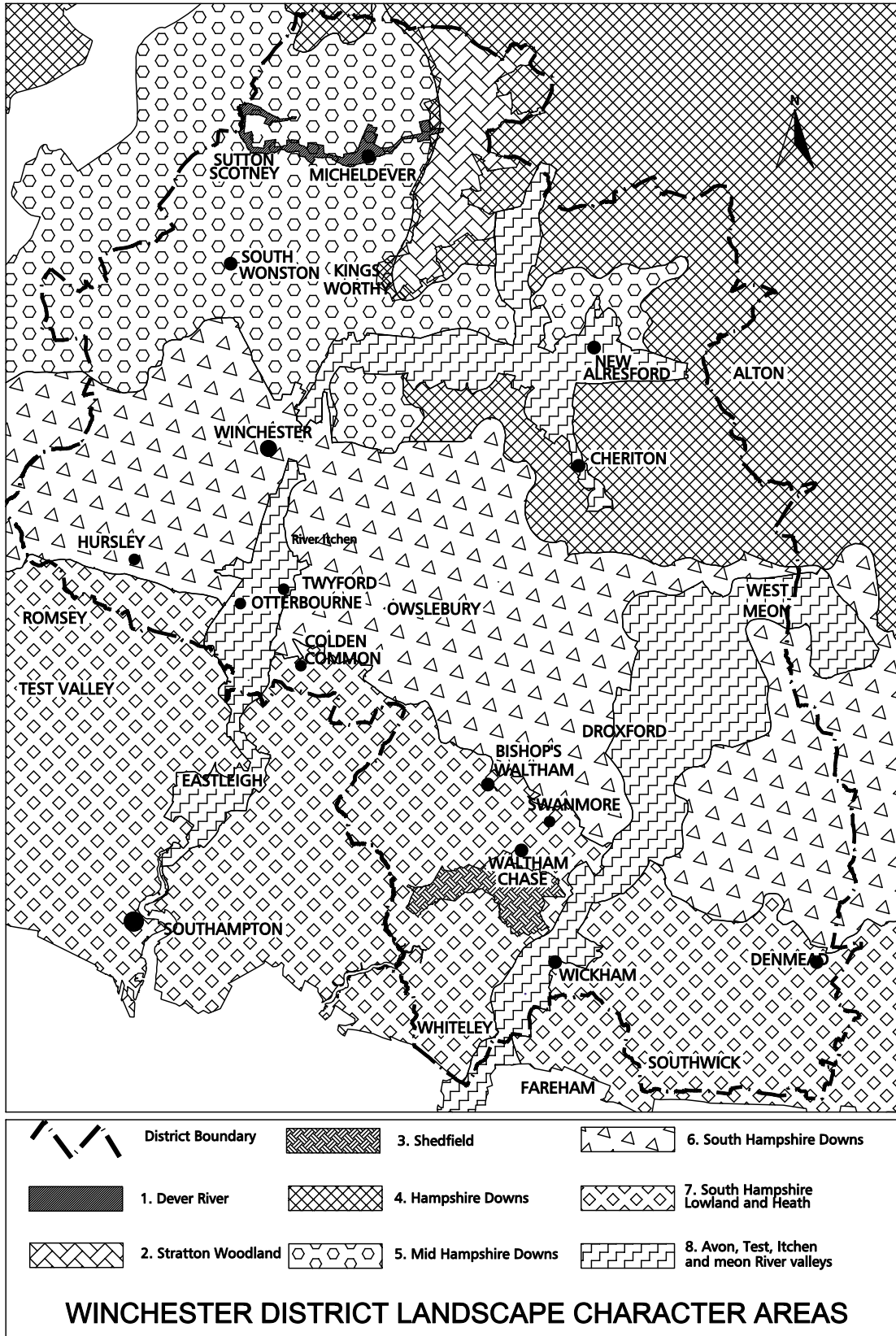
Introduction

Winchester City Council is currently undertaking a Landscape Character Assessment for the District, in accordance with Hampshire County Council and Countryside Agency guidance. This will ultimately divide the District into a series of 'Landscape Character Areas', each with their own Key Characteristics and Landscape Management Strategies. This will guide development, in accordance with Proposal C.6 of this Plan.

Until the Landscape Character Assessment has been completed, the Key Characteristics and Landscape Management Strategies for the Dever Valley, the Stratton Woodlands and Shedfield should accord with the 'Landscape Character Assessment Pilot Study' (Winchester City Council, 2000). These are set out in Sections 1-3 below. All other areas of the District, which were not covered by the Pilot Study, should refer to the Key Characteristics and Landscape Management Strategies set out in 'The Hampshire Landscape: A Strategy for the Future' (HCC, 2000). These are indicated in Sections 4-8 below. All 8 Landscape Character Areas are shown on the map overleaf.

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1. Dever River Valley Landscape Character Area

Dever River Valley: Key Characteristics

- The River Dever meanders through a relatively narrow valley, creating a distinct human-scale, enclosed landscape.
- Clear, alkaline, nutrient-rich spring river supporting a rich aquatic flora and fauna, including watercress beds, and a luxuriant riverine vegetation.
- A predominantly agricultural landscape (Grade 4), with pasture on the flood plain.
- Small, irregular fields along the riverbanks, with no obvious field pattern. Remnant hedgerows enclose many fields.
- Small copses, carr and isolated trees are characteristic of the area. These are predominantly water-associated native species, such as willow, sallow, ash, poplar and oak.
- The central section of the valley has an unspoilt, remote, and tranquil character. The A34 and A33 main roads reduce this at the eastern and western ends of the Landscape Character Area respectively.
- Minor roads run along the river valley sides linking the various settlements.
- Large manor houses and country residences with associated parkland are features of the northern side of the river valley, some of which are associated with earlier settlement.
- A number of small villages and hamlets are located along the valley, either clustered at river crossings, such as Micheldever, or along the valley side, such as Wonston.
- Traditional building materials are a common feature of the Character Area, including thatched timber framed and brick cottages, many of which are listed. Many settlements are noted for their special architectural and historic interest and are designated as Conservation Areas.

Dever River Valley: Landscape Management Strategies

Maintain and enhance the distinctive sense of place of the Character Area. In particular through the:

- conservation of the rich biodiversity associated with the clear nutrient-rich spring water;
- conservation of the structure and condition of field patterns, through the replanting and management of locally indigenous tree and shrub species (such as poplar, willow and ash);
- conservation of the linear pattern of settlements along the course of the valley and historic character of the lanes and roads;
- restoration of disused watercress beds;
- conservation of the diverse range of wildlife habitats including unimproved grazing, ponds, hedgerows, woodland and carr;
- conservation of the generally unspoilt, quiet rural character of the valley away from the noise intrusion and urban influences of major roads and major towns;
- conservation of the generally small-scale enclosed and intimate character of the valley;
- conservation of the loosely structured landscape with occasional hedges and woods and single trees or tree lines along water courses including willow and poplar;
- improvement of public access to the riverside.



2. Stratton Woodlands Landscape Character Area

Stratton Woodlands Key Characteristics

- Characteristic buildings within the village include 17th Century timber framed thatched cottages, and 19th Century brick and thatch estate cottages. Other buildings within the area are generally concentrated around farmyards, or have developed in association with the A33.
- The roads are generally quite narrow, but are straight and direct, as associated with medium rectangular parliamentary field enclosure patterns.
- Ancient woodland is a key feature of this area, including Micheldever Wood (mainly ancient replanted woodland), Rownest Wood, and Shroner wood (ancient semi-natural assarted woodland.)
- Mixed-species hedgerows are frequent, and are generally quite tall and dense. Oak and beech are the principal hedgerow trees, although ash and field maple also occur widely.
- The extended historic deer park, Stratton Park.

Stratton Woodlands Landscape Management Strategies

Maintain and enhance the distinctive sense of place of the Character Area. In particular through the:

- conservation of the generally high degree of enclosure and seclusion created by the numerous woodlands and hedgerows;
- restoration of the biological diversity and the patchwork appearance of the landscape within areas of intensive arable farming, by replanting hedgerows and woodlands where they have been removed, and allowing wider headlands around fields;
- conservation and restoration of the structure and condition of the woodlands, hedgerows, and historic parkland which contribute to the biodiversity and character of the landscape, through the appropriate management and replanting of locally indigenous species including oak, beech, hazel, ash, and field maple;
- restoration of neglected oak-hazel coppice with appropriate management plans;
- conservation of the character of various archaeological sites and historic field patterns and character of roads, lanes and tracks;
- conservation of the pattern of isolated settlements and traditional building materials, including brick and timber-frame buildings and thatched roofs.



3. Shedfield Landscape Character Area

Shedfield Key Characteristics

- There are remnants of heathland throughout the Landscape Character Area, notably at Shedfield Common.
- There are more muted traces of 'heathy' character around Curdrige, with bracken and gorse in the hedgerows, fence lines and roadside vegetation for example.
- Market gardening, horticulture and smallholdings can be found in areas such as Black Horse Lane in Shirrell Heath and Sandy Lane and St. Anne's Lane in Shedfield.
- Pastures are often enclosed by hedges, woodlands and tree-belts.
- Some routes in more 'ancient' landscape are sunken (such as Pricketts Hill and Sandy Lane), but are generally straight and more recent, resulting from the parliamentary enclosure of the surrounding fields.
- Some use of traditional building materials is evident in the area, with timber framed brick-built dwellings and farm buildings. Brick making was traditionally carried out in this area.

Shedfield Landscape Management Strategies

Maintain and enhance the distinctive sense of place of the Character Area. In particular, through the:

- enhancement of the character of the existing areas of heath and woodland through continued appropriate management, including the continued grazing and selective clearance of heathland (to prevent woodland succession occurring);
- strengthening of the character of other former heathland areas, through the re-creation of small-scale areas of heathland, integrated into a mosaic of pasture and woodland;
- enhancement of the character of the area through the appropriate use and management of hedgerows, rather than ranch-style fencing;
- enhancement of the character of the area by reducing the impact of visually intrusive electricity transmission lines, farm buildings and suburban development, with the use of appropriate landscape schemes and building design;
- strengthening of the character and biodiversity of the area by planting locally indigenous plant species in shelterbelts as well as replanting and gapping up hedgerows. Such species include oak, birch, gorse and pine.

4. Hampshire Downs Character Area

(Excluding area covered by Stratton Woodlands Landscape Character Area above)

Hampshire Downs Key Characteristics

- Generally elevated chalk landscape comprising extensive tracts of predominantly arable agricultural land, mostly with a remote and quiet rural character despite several major through routes.
- Predominantly high ground with broad and sweeping contours varying from very gently domed or undulating clay plateaux to steeply rolling and domed hills with dry valleys and coombes; also steep, dramatic escarpments forming prominent skylines of wooded hangers or exposed hilltops.
- A sense of openness and space allowing spectacular panoramic views from the more open parts of the area.
- Generally a high degree of enclosure and a sense of seclusion created by numerous woodlands and hedgerows particularly on many areas of higher ground where a clay cap overlies the chalk. Also many areas of arable farmland with a more open spacious character, occasionally with coniferous shelter belts or small plantations.
- Numerous, but often unmanaged, ancient semi-natural woodlands and ancient hedgerows provide significant biodiversity value throughout the area; generally the more intensively farmed areas have low biodiversity levels.
- Mainly Grade 3 agricultural land comprising well drained shallow calcareous soils, or more clayey soils on areas of higher ground capped by clay with flints. Predominantly intensive arable production with a much smaller proportion of grazing land.
- Mainly medium to large or very large fields comprising both irregular field patterns of ancient pre Enclosure systems, but also regular patterns of more recent enclosures by Parliamentary Act or Agreement of former downland and open field systems.
- Sites and monuments of significant archaeological interest include Bronze Age burial mounds such as those at Seven Barrows; Iron Age hill forts and also a medieval castle at Barley Pound.
- Historic parks include Stratton Park.
- Winding ancient roads, lanes and tracks predominate, often with hedgebanks and occasionally with sunken profiles especially on steeper slopes, though straight roads associated with Parliamentary Enclosures also occur; a motorway and several major roads and railways also lie across the area creating local visual and noise intrusion.
- Settlements widely dispersed, including hamlets and villages.
- Characteristic building materials include brick or lime washed plaster over timber wattle, and the widespread use of flint for walls; timber framed buildings are typical. Longstraw thatch, later superseded by clay tiles are characteristic roofing materials.

Hampshire Downs Landscape Management Strategies

Maintain and enhance the distinctive sense of place of the Character Area. In particular, maintain and enhance:

- the predominantly remote and quiet rural character throughout extensive tracts of agricultural landscape;
- the generally high degree of enclosure and seclusion created by numerous woodlands and hedgerows;
- the sense of openness and space and the spectacular panoramic views provided by the generally high ground of the Character Area;
- the East Hampshire AONB; supporting the AONB Integrated Management Guidelines, which aim to help conserve and manage the designated area;
- the diverse range of wildlife habitats including the numerous ancient hedgerows and ancient woodlands, including the chalk hangers, and areas of unimproved species-rich chalk grassland; enhance biological diversity especially within areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels;



- the character of the various archaeological sites, historic field patterns and historic roads, lanes and tracks, including ancient sunken lanes;
- the prominent skylines of wooded hangers or exposed ridges and hilltops which occur on the steep and dramatic escarpments particularly along the east boundaries of the Character Area;
- the pattern of widely dispersed settlements, and the characteristic building materials and design styles, including timber framed buildings and the widespread use of brick and flint;
- the structure and condition of the particular landscape features, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows and old chalk pits, which contribute to the biodiversity and character of the landscape, through the use of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally.

5. Mid Hampshire Downs Landscape Character Area

(excluding area covered by Dever River Valley and Stratton Woodlands Landscape Character Areas above)

Mid Hampshire Downs Key Characteristics

- Generally open spacious landscape with a gently undulating landform surrounded by higher ground and comprising mainly of intensive arable farmland with a predominantly rural character.
- Consists predominantly of lower lying parts of Hampshire's chalk downs, apart from occasional areas of higher ground and ancient hill forts on isolated knolls. Forms part of the catchment for the River Itchen which passes through the area.
- Generally open character allows panoramic views to the sweeping skylines of the surrounding higher ground of the Hampshire Downs and the South Hampshire Downs. Forms a generally open setting for the Dever River.
- Large-scale landscape with a broad and generally open character with low trimmed and often fragmented hedges with few hedgerow trees and saplings, or linear mainly coniferous shelter belts and occasional game plantations breaking the sweeping contours and long views.
- Generally low vegetation cover and minimal habitat value throughout: biodiversity interest confined mainly to limited numbers of ancient woodlands concentrated on isolated areas with more clayey soils, and fragmented areas of chalk grassland on the steeper and uncultivated slopes.
- Mainly Grade 3 arable land with shallow calcareous soils, but more clayey soils on more wooded areas of higher ground.
- Predominantly large or very large fields with a regular field pattern created by enclosure of former downland and open field systems by Parliamentary Act or Agreement; linear field pattern echoed by many straight roads, lanes and tracks.
- Sites and monuments of significant archaeological interest include Iron Age settlements and Bronze Age burial mounds.
- Historic Parks include Crawley Court.
- Isolated farms occur throughout but generally the main settlements are in the valleys; characteristic building materials include brick or lime washed plaster over timber wattle, and the widespread use of flint for walls; timber framed buildings are typical, and longstraw thatch, later superseded by clay tiles are characteristic roofing materials.
- Although some areas have a degree of remoteness, several major roads, railways and a motorway lie across the area.

Mid Hampshire Downs Landscape Management Strategies

Maintain & enhance the distinctive sense of place of the Character Area. In particular, maintain and enhance:

- the predominantly rural and generally open large-scale character of the landscape;
- the large and generally regular field pattern and the wide and panoramic views;
- the isolated ancient woodlands and limited areas of unimproved species-rich chalk grassland, linking and extending both habitats where practicable; enhance biological diversity throughout the extensive areas of intensive arable farming where biodiversity levels are particularly low;
- the general pattern of valley settings for the main settlements, and the characteristic building materials and design styles, including the timber framed buildings and widespread use of brick and flint;
- the structure and condition of the particular landscape features, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows and old chalk pits, which contribute towards the biodiversity and character of the landscape, through the use of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally.



6. South Hampshire Downs Landscape Character Area

South Hampshire Downs Key Characteristics

- Predominantly arable farmland with a rural character comprising a ridge line forming the continuation of the South Downs, linking Sussex to Salisbury Plain.
- Major ridge with broad, sweeping contours and often domed and prominent hills, cut by the valleys of the Rivers Itchen and Meon; generally steeper on north side occasionally with steep escarpments, though south of the ridge the dip slope falls more gently to the clays of the South Hampshire Lowland and Heath area.
- A sense of openness and space in the more open areas allowing long views to the Isle of Wight and across many parts of Hampshire.
- Open, spacious character mainly on areas of higher ground often associated with former open downland particularly between Winchester and the Hampshire-Sussex boundary; however, generally a high degree of enclosure and sense of seclusion created by numerous woodlands and hedgerows particularly on the dip slopes where more clayey soils occur.
- Numerous but often unmanaged ancient semi-natural woodlands and ancient hedgerows provide significant biodiversity value throughout the area especially on dip slopes south of major ridge line; areas of unimproved species-rich chalk grassland mainly on steeper uncultivated slopes, represent isolated remnants of large areas of former open downland particularly along the higher ground between Winchester and the Hampshire-Sussex boundary; generally the more intensively farmed areas have low biodiversity levels.
- Mainly Grade 3 agricultural land comprising well drained shallow calcareous soils, or more clayey soils where clay capping covers the chalk on the dip slope; predominantly intensive arable production with a smaller proportion of grazing land.
- Mainly medium to large or very large fields comprising both irregular field patterns of ancient pre-Enclosure systems mainly on the dip slope, and regular patterns of more recent enclosures by Parliamentary Act or Agreement of former downland.
- Sites and monuments of significant archaeological interest include the prominent Iron Age hill forts at Old Winchester Hill and St Catherine's Hill, Bronze Age burial mounds at Old Winchester Hill and Flowerdown and an impressive medieval castle at Merdon.
- Historic parks include Lainston House and Marwell House.
- Generally few major roads but one notable exception, the M3, which cuts through the South Hampshire Downs at Twyford Down. Winding ancient roads, lanes and tracks predominate, often with hedgebanks and occasionally sunken profiles especially on steeper slopes, though straight roads associated with Parliamentary Enclosures also occur mainly on areas of former open downland.
- Generally widely dispersed settlements throughout, mainly on the dip slope with isolated farms on higher ground. Characteristic building materials include the widespread use of brick and flint. Many areas still remain remote and quiet within the South Hampshire Downs, especially between Winchester and the Hampshire-Wiltshire boundary. Towards the south-east, urban influences are slightly more evident, where the urban areas of the South Hampshire Lowland and Heath area are more frequent.

South Hampshire Downs Landscape Management Strategies

Maintain and enhance the distinctive sense of place of the Character Area. In particular, maintain and enhance:

- the predominantly remote and quiet rural character of the Landscape Character Area;
- the sense of openness and space, and the spectacular panoramic views provided by the domed hilltops and sweeping contours of the prominent ridge line;
- the more enclosed and secluded character of the dip slope south of the main ridge line created by the numerous woodlands and hedgerows;
- the landscape, ecological and cultural assets of the East Hampshire AONB, supporting the integrated AONB Management Guidelines, which aim to conserve and manage the designated area;



Appendix 2. Landscape Character Area Key Characteristics and Landscape Management Strategies

- the range of wildlife habitats including the numerous ancient woodlands, ancient hedgerows and areas of unimproved species-rich chalk grassland; enhance biological diversity especially within areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels;
- the traditional land management techniques employed in particular parts of the character area, by supporting and encouraging the aims of the South Downs Environmentally Sensitive Area designation;
- the character of the various archaeological sites, historic field patterns and historic roads, lanes and tracks, including ancient sunken lanes;
- the pattern of widely dispersed settlements and isolated farms, and the characteristic building materials and design styles, including the widespread use of brick and flint;
- the structure and condition of the particular landscape features including woodlands, trees, hedgerows and old chalk pits, which contribute towards the biodiversity and character of the landscape, through the use of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally.



7. South Hampshire Lowland And Heath Landscape Character Area

(Excluding area covered by Shedfield Landscape Character Area above)

South Hampshire Lowland and Heath Key Characteristics

- Generally low lying undulating small-scale landscape with numerous ancient woodlands and hedgerows which create a strong sense of enclosure. Mainly grazing land on heavy soils with a lesser amount of arable crops on higher ground or lighter soils. Occasional small, remnant heathlands or unintensified grazing, mainly paddocks on many former heathland areas. Urban influences in many areas; but others with a more remote, quiet and rural character.
- Mostly undulating but varying from locally steep to almost flat, prominent chalk ridge with steep escarpment and more gentle dip slope at Portsdown Hill.
- Generally small-scale landscape, numerous woodlands, well treed hedgerows and occasional forestry plantations limit views and create a high degree of enclosure and a secluded character in many places. Occasional views to higher ground of South Hampshire Downs to north from limited numbers of more open areas; notable exception is Portsdown Hill where open spacious character allows long views.
- Diverse range of habitats including numerous ancient semi-natural woodlands, ancient hedgerows and hedgebanks, and habitats associated with streams and spring lines which occur where the area meets the chalk downs; unimproved species-rich chalk grassland on the south facing escarpment of Portsdown Hill.
- Predominantly Grade 4 agricultural land with smaller proportions of Grades 1, 2 and 3. Mainly seasonally waterlogged clayey or loamy soils except for more acid sandy soils on some areas of higher ground, and shallow well drained calcareous soils at Portsdown Hill. Mainly grazing land, with a smaller amount of arable farming or horticulture generally on lighter soils on higher ground; also unintensified grazing land on more acidic soils of former heathland areas, including many paddocks.
- Generally ancient pre-Enclosure landscape with small or medium sized irregular field pattern; also numerous areas throughout with small or medium sized regular field pattern enclosed by Parliamentary Act or Agreement.
- Sites and monuments of significant archaeological interest include evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman and Saxon settlement at Portsdown Hill, the prominent nineteenth century Palmerston Forts. Also, a medieval Bishop's Palace at Bishop's Waltham, associated with the Bishop's deer park, and a priory at Southwick.
- Landscape affected by the influences of urban areas; urban influences increase with proximity to major towns and cities and their main road and motorway links; distinct urban fringe character next to many major urban areas. Farms and smaller settlements are occasionally densely clustered, but are generally well dispersed and more frequent than on the chalk downs.
- Timber framed brick buildings are characteristic.
- Settlements are linked generally by winding roads, lanes and tracks, with straight roads and lanes in several areas of former heathland or common enclosed by Parliamentary Act or Agreement. Short cuts and 'rat runs' to urban areas and motorways adversely affect the rural character of many small country lanes.
- Areas with a remote and quiet rural character occur locally throughout the character area, away from urban areas and main roads. These are notably around Durley; in areas associated with the upper River Hamble valley north of the M27, and also between Burrigge and Wickham and between Wickham and Denmead.

South Hampshire Lowland and Heath Landscape Management Strategies

Maintain and enhance the distinctive sense of place of the Character Area. In particular, maintain and enhance:

- the remote and quiet rural character of some parts of the Character Area;
- the generally well enclosed small-scale character of the landscape created by the numerous woodlands and well treed hedgerows; also the contrast within the Area provided by the open spacious character and long spectacular views possible from the chalk ridge of Portsdown Hill;



Appendix 2. Landscape Character Area Key Characteristics and Landscape Management Strategies

- the diverse range of wildlife habitats, including the numerous ancient woodlands, ancient hedgerows and species-rich grasslands, including the chalk grassland of Portsdown Hill; enhance biological diversity especially within areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels;
- the diversity of landscapes and wildlife habitats, including the numerous ancient woodlands, ancient hedgerows and species-rich grasslands, including the chalk grassland of Portsdown Hill; enhance biological diversity especially within areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels;
- the diversity of landscapes and wildlife habitats, and the recreational and educational opportunities of those parts of the Character Area within the Forest of Bere, by supporting and encouraging the aims of the Forest of Bere Project;
- the character of the various archaeological sites, and character of the winding roads, lanes and tracks, including the generally ancient pre-Enclosure small to medium sized field pattern; also, the more recent regular small scale field pattern and characteristic hedgerows of the 'Pasture on Clay Landscape Type';
- the general pattern of well dispersed settlements, and the characteristic building materials and design styles, including timber framed brick buildings;
- the structure and condition of the particular landscape features including woodlands, trees and hedgerows, which contribute to the biodiversity and character of the landscape, through the use of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally.



8. River Valleys: Itchen/Meon Character Area

River Valleys: Itchen/Meon Key Characteristics

- Diversity of character, created in part by linear valley alignments cutting through landform of chalk, clay and heathland landscapes. Generally meandering rivers bordered by luxuriant riverine vegetation, occasional reedbeds, marshes and former water meadows. Very high nature conservation value of clear, alkaline nutrient-rich spring water and unimproved floodplains. Grazing on floodplains, mainly arable production on terraces with grazing and arable on valley sides.
- Generally unspoilt, remote and tranquil character except for urban influences and noise intrusion increasing with proximity to main roads, major towns and mineral workings.
- Views limited in valley floor but good views across and along valley course from open parts of valley sides.
- Upper parts of valleys generally small-scale and enclosed; valley floors have variable enclosure but are occasionally very open. The valley sides vary from very open agricultural land to well wooded. Generally the floodplains have a loosely structured landscape and no obvious field pattern, with remnant hedges, isolated single trees, often along water courses, and occasional small woods, poplar plantations and willow or alder carr.
- The rivers rise in chalk with clear nutrient-rich spring water supporting rich aquatic flora and fauna. Rich and diverse habitats along floodplains including unimproved neutral grassland, grazing marshes, reedbeds, fen vegetation, carr, swamps and numerous ponds and lakes. Occasional ancient woodlands on valley sides and floor.
- Grazing land comprising Grade 4 agricultural land on floodplains with Grade 3 grazing and arable land on valley sides; watercress beds in nutrient-rich alkaline water. Predominantly deep peaty soils in Itchen Valley and silty, loamy soils in Meon Valley.
- Water management features such as water meadows and mills.
- Historic parks include Avington Park, Shawford House and Titchbourne Park (Itchen Valley) and Warnford Park and Westbury House (Meon Valley).
- Generally winding roads and lanes following edge of valley floor above floodplain level; each valley has a main road along much of its length. Major towns are usually located where these roads intersect main roads crossing the valley, for example Winchester.
- Linear form of smaller settlements along the valley.
- Valley character increasingly affected by urban influences and noise intrusion depending on proximity to major roads and towns; however, generally unspoilt, remote and tranquil character elsewhere.
- Recreational facilities including fishing; also nature reserves and hillside viewpoints with public access and major valley footpaths.

River Valleys: Itchen/Meon Landscape Management Strategies

Maintain and enhance the distinctive sense of place of the Character Area. In particular, maintain and enhance:

- the generally unspoilt, remote and quiet rural character of most parts of the valleys away from the noise intrusion and urban influences in the proximity of main roads, major towns and mineral workings; also the significant value of the various recreational opportunities in the valleys;
- the generally small-scale, enclosed and intimate character of the upper parts of the valleys, elsewhere the variable enclosure of the valleys, particularly the loosely structured landscape of the floodplains consisting of occasional hedges and small woods, and single trees or tree lines along water courses including willow and alder carr;
- the landscape, ecological and cultural assets of the East Hampshire AONB, and support and encourage initiatives which aim to help conserve and manage the AONB, including its Integrated Management Guidelines;



Appendix 2. Landscape Character Area Key Characteristics and Landscape Management Strategies

- the diverse range of wildlife habitats particularly on the floodplains, including unimproved grazing marshes, reedbeds, fen vegetation, carr, swamps, numerous ponds and lakes, and occasional ancient woodland; also, the rich aquatic flora and fauna associated with the clear nutrient-rich spring water arising in the chalk; enhance biological diversity especially within areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels;
- water levels in rivers and streams, by supporting the aims of the Environment Agency's Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAP), particularly where low summer flows affect both the levels of biodiversity and the quality of the landscape; also, appropriate flood defence and erosion control measures;
- wetland pastures, including the reversion to wetland pasture of arable land next to rivers and streams, or the creation of grass margins between arable fields and watercourses or species-rich grassland to act as a buffer;
- the characteristic linear pattern of settlements along the course of the valleys, the historic pattern of floodplain water meadows and the historic character of the winding roads and lanes;
- the character of the valley landscape with new planting or tree management where appropriate, helping to reinforce existing landscape features including pollard willows, tree lines and significant hedgerows;
- the structure and condition of the particular landscape features including woodlands, trees and hedgerows, which contribute towards the biodiversity and character of the landscape, through the use of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally.