

#### 4 LANDSCAPE AND TOWNSCAPE ASSESSMENT OF THE CITY AND ITS SETTING

The landscape and townscape assessment of the City and its setting has followed a systematic approach with a survey of the principal elements within the study area, an analysis of the key characteristics arising from the survey together with identification and delineation of Landscape Types, Townscape and Landscape Character Areas.

##### 4.1 Landscape Character Assessment of the Study Area

The landscape survey information has provided the base line data to inform the landscape assessment and characterisation of the study area. Prior to the detailed assessment, however, a review of current studies for the area was carried out to ensure that the approach and system of classification was consistent with established delineations. This is set out in Appendix 4.

##### 4.2 Delineation of Landscape Types

The establishment and delineation of the landscape types within the study area is a fundamental stage in the characterisation process. 'The Hampshire Landscape' (Hampshire County Council 1993) sets out a comprehensive landscape assessment of the county. At the county level, eleven landscape character areas have been identified, of which four occur in the landscape surrounding Winchester. At a more local level the range of landscape types was also identified, of which the following four are represented in the countryside around the city: (See Dwg no 1059LP/7).

Chalklands :      Scarps - Downland  
                         Open Arable  
                         Chalk and Clay  
                         River Valley

4.2.1 A detailed examination of the Hampshire County Council landscape types was undertaken in order to identify, verify, and where necessary refine the delineation of the boundaries.

##### 4.3 Distribution of Landscape Types

The range and distribution of the landscape types that surround and extend into the heart of Winchester have been assessed and defined at the level of this study as :

###### Local Landscape Type Description

- Open Chalk Upland with Downland and Escarpments
- Open Arable and Pasture Downs
- Open Chalk and Clay Downs
- Enclosed Chalk and Clay Downs
- River Valley

4.3.1 Three further categories of landscape type have been introduced, comprising golf courses and areas of formal recreation land on the perimeter of the city, areas of designed historic parkland and military camps. Although occurring within broader landscape types, their separate identification reflects the locally significant impact they have on the landscape.



- 4.3.2 There is a notable contrast between the eastern and western sides of the city, however, with predominantly open elevated chalk downs to the north and east, and a more varied succession of landscape types to the west. The River Itchen forms the boundary of this broad transition.

#### Open Arable and Pasture Downs

- 4.3.3 A wide arc of predominantly open arable and pasture downs extend from the north to the south-east of Winchester. The area is characterised by large, rectangular, mainly arable fields with some areas of pasture; low, trimmed or absent hedgerows; and intermittent shelterbelts and angular blocks of woodland. With the exception of the settlements of South Wonston and the Worthy Down Camp, the area is sparsely populated and confined to intermittent isolated farms.

#### Open Chalk Upland with Downland and Escarpments

- 4.3.4 To the east and south-east of the city a series of prominent escarpments extend across the open arable and pasture downs, comprising Magdalen Hill Down, Deacon Hill, Telegraph Hill and Fawley Down, and the steep escarpments surrounding St Catherine's Hill. The steep slopes support intermittent areas of species rich chalk grassland as well as some woodland. The landform of this open chalk upland with downland and escarpments landscape type is dramatic, with spectacular dry valleys sweeping down from the elevated chalk upland to the Itchen Valley. At Chilcomb to the east of Winchester the Magdalen Hill Down and Deacon Hill escarpments enclose a lower vale of high quality open arable and pasture downs.

#### Enclosed chalk and clay downs

- 4.3.5 Hazeley Down forms the southern limit of this broad area of open chalkland. Further south there is a subtle change, with a transition to a smaller or more intricate field pattern and more tree cover. Intermittent deposits of clay-with-flints has resulted in an open chalk and clay downs landscape type. To the east at Longwood Down, however, there is a significant increase in woodland cover resulting in an enclosed chalk and clay downs classification.
- 4.3.6 To the west of the city the pattern of landscape types is more complex. The area is underlain by Upper Chalk together with some superficial deposits of clay-with-flints to the south west of the city. The soil map, however, indicated a more variable soil pattern with some significant areas of clayey and silty clay soils occurring. Although the overall character is still chalkland, the intermittent incidence of areas of clay based soils explain the greater variation in landscape type that occurs in this area.

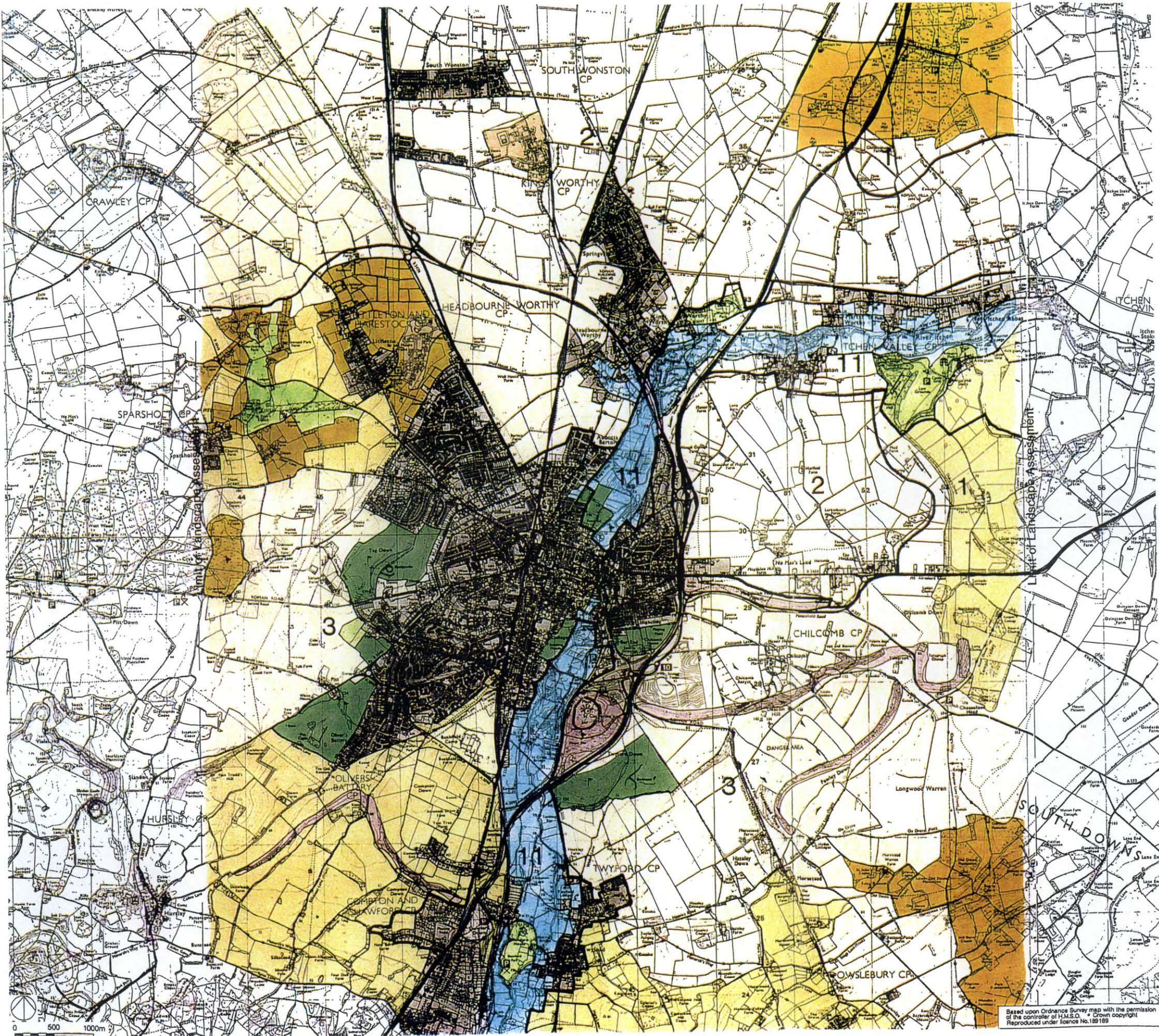
#### Open Arable and Pasture Downs



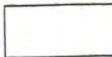
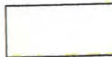







- 4.3.7 A broad 'wedge' of open, predominantly arable, farmland penetrates into the western edge of the city at Lanham and Weeke Down, and extending south to Port Lane. This open character of this area is similar to the expansive arable downs to the north and east of the city and is therefore classified as open arable and pasture downs.

#### Enclosed Chalk and Clay Downs

- 4.3.8 To the north of this area, the pattern of landscape types is much more varied, with a sequence of enclosed small scale fields surrounding the settlement of Littleton, and the villages of Dean and Sparsholt; intermittent areas of more open arable fields; significant area of designed parkland landscape at Northwood Park and Lainston





-  Boundary of landscape types
-  Boundary of Hampshire County Council landscape character areas
  - 1 Hampshire Downs
  - 2 Mid Hampshire Downs
  - 3 South Hampshire Downs
  - 11 Itchen River Valley
- Chalklands**
  -  Scarps - downland
  -  Open arable
  -  Chalk and clay / open
  -  Chalk and clay / enclosed
-  River valley
-  Designed Parkland landscape
-  Golf courses and recreational land on perimeter of city
-  Urban area
-  Military camps

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House; and extensive areas of woodland comprising Crab Wood and West Wood, and extending westwards beyond the area of the landscape assessment. The soil map indicates evidence of clay and fine silty clay soils within the area that may be associated with occasional intermittent deposits of clay-with-flints, although the latter is not recorded on the 1949 issue geology map. This change in soil type, together with the predominantly enclosed character, has resulted in a classification of enclosed chalk and clay downs.

#### Open Chalk and Clay Downs

- 4.3.9 To the south west of Winchester a significant 'wedge' of open farmland extends into the heart of the city south of Olivers Battery, Badger Farm and Bushfield. A prominent escarpment at Compton Down extends across this undulating area to the south-west of which are further areas of clay or silty clay soils. Although there are a number of significant areas of woodland permeating through the farmland, the general character is open, so it has been classified as open chalk and clay downs.

#### River Valley

- 4.3.10 The landscape type adjacent to the River Itchen is river valley throughout with the classification confined to the valley bottom and floodplain. Although other landscape types extend up to the perimeter of the river valley and extend across the valley sides, the river valley is a distinctive and separate type comprising the immediate confines and area of influence of the river.

### 4.4 Delineation of Landscape Character Areas

The identification of landscape types is the first stage in the characterisation process and an essential lead into the subsequent identification of Landscape Character Areas. The well defined and distinctive character of each of these landscape types has resulted in the delineation of a series of Local Landscape Character Areas within single rather than a combination of landscape types. These each have a geographical identity derived from the local area within which they occur. The only exception to this 'single landscape type' approach occurs within the Itchen Valley. Here, a general accordance with Hampshire County Council's Character Area boundary for the Itchen Valley has been followed. As a result, the two Itchen Valley Character Areas embrace a number of landscape types which occur along the valley sides as well as the valley bottom.

- 4.4.1 The final delineation of the Character Areas was based on a synthesis of abrupt or transitional changes in the landscape types, the influence of distinctive changes in landform, and the degree of openness or enclosure. Local features superimposed on these broader variations of landscape pattern were also considered, notably the influence of historic landscape patterns and heritage features, areas of nature conservation interest, and the settlement and communication patterns. These all contribute to the unique identity and 'sense of place' that is particular to each of the Character Areas.
- 4.4.2 A total of nineteen local Landscape Character Areas have been identified and their distribution is illustrated on Drawing No 1059LP/9 and summarised in Appendix 4.



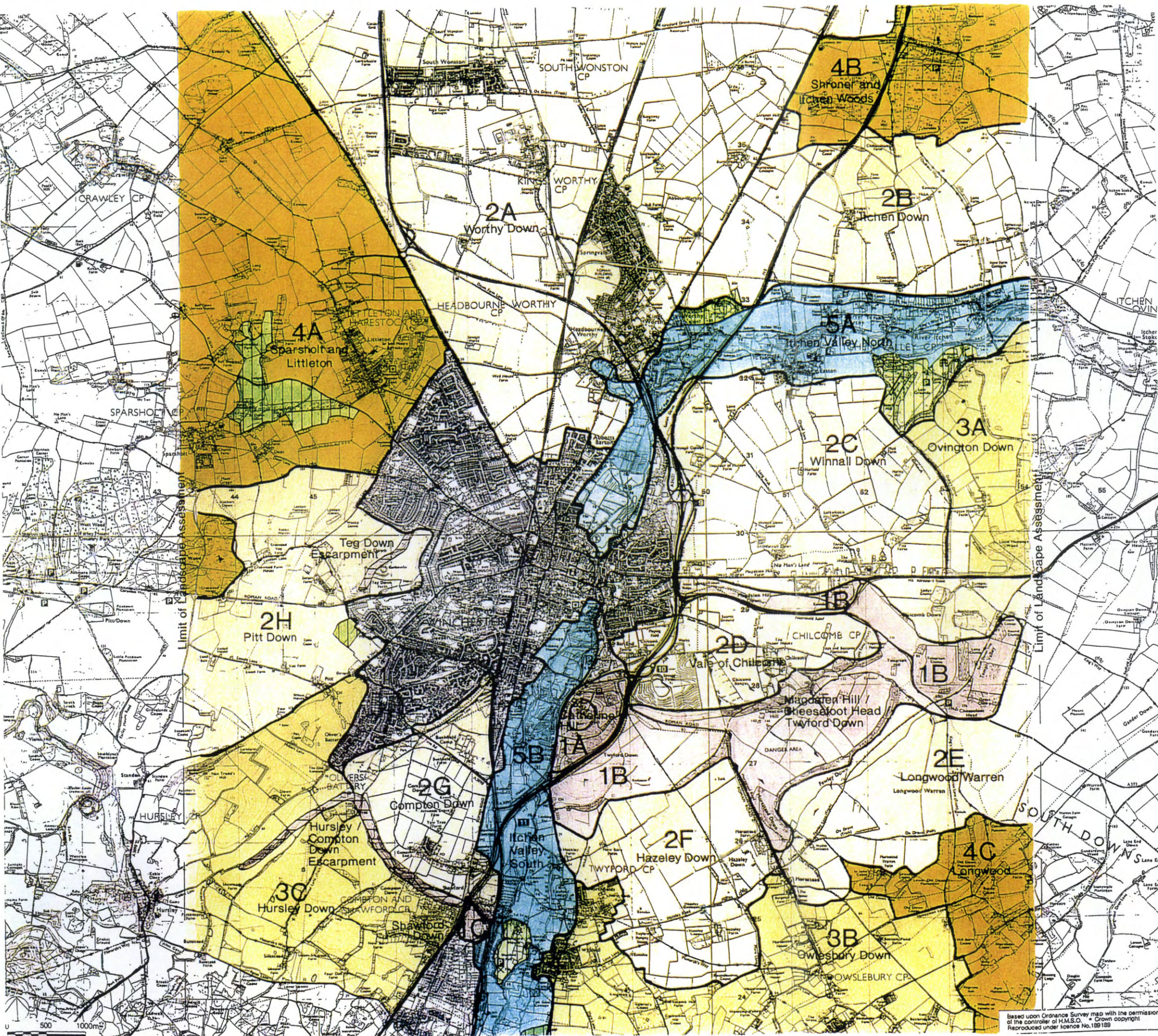
These form the first stage in the characterisation of the landscape setting of Winchester.


#### 4.5 Historic Landscape Assessment

During the landscape assessment phase of this study, Hampshire County Council commissioned a county-wide historic landscape assessment from Oxford Archaeological Unit and Scott Wilson Resource Consultants. The historic assessment, on a parallel programme to this study, provided a draft information base that could be compared against the assessment of the existing landscape. Utilising both sets of information an holistic time depth element was incorporated to the benefit of this study.

- 4.5.1 The historic landscape assessment was primarily a desk exercise involving the examination of maps, documents and other records to analyse the historic development of the Hampshire landscape, assess the way it has changed due to changing landownerships, farming patterns, settlement development and communications. The mapping exercise identified the historic roots of the currently visible landscape. A sample series of site visits were carried out to verify the desk based work.
- 4.5.2 The consultants provided an early draft copy of their mapping and schedule of historic landscape types to the study team. This information was analysed to draw out the significant patterns and age of the existing landscape and is attached as drawing no. 1059LP/8.
- 4.5.3 A comparison of the historic and current landscape assessment mapping (dwg nos. 1059LP/8 and 9) shows the strength and correlation between the two independent pieces of work. This would be expected in the 'set piece' landscape elements such as the Roman Roads or landscape parks such as Avington. However, much more detailed interest lay in the way the historic patterns shine through the layers of the past and are clearly discernible today. There are many areas of agreement but two are particularly interesting and informative for this study.
- 4.5.4 The first relates to the settlement pattern. At the turn of the last century, Winchester was a very compact county town set at the edge of the open eastern downland which was given over to prime 'sheepwalks'. To the west a mosaic of downland interspersed with semi-natural ancient woodlands covered the more complex landforms. The valley of the River Itchen formed the boundary line. Winchester enjoyed an intimate relationship with its hinterland. Extensive farming areas provided employment for town and country people particularly those involved in the sheep, wool and parchment industries and food for the population. Trading opportunities centred on the city.
- 4.5.5 In subsequent years this relationship radically altered, in line with changes throughout the nation. Changing patterns of employment, agriculture, wars, growth and decline in the economy and communications divorced people and their town from the land. These developments have been well documented elsewhere. In Winchester the developed area spread over the adjoining downland and breached some of the natural barriers that constrained the historic city. The growth of areas to the north, such as Harestock, Littleton and Abbots Barton; to the east, at Winnall and to the south west, such as at Stanmore and Oliver's Battery have all, in their way, widened the spread of the city into the country. This has led to city boundaries that are influenced more by landownership patterns than natural features such as landform, streams or roads or field patterns.






 Boundary of landscape character areas

Landscape Character Areas

- 1** Open chalk uplands with downland and escarpments
  - 1A St Catherine's Hill
  - 1B Magdalen Hill / Cheesefoot Head / Twyford Down
  - 1C Shawford Down
- 2** Open arable and pasture downs
  - 2A Worthy Down
  - 2B Itchen Down
  - 2C Winnall Down
  - 2D Vale of Chilcomb
  - 2E Longwood Warren
  - 2F Hazeley Down
  - 2G Compton Down
  - 2H Pitt Down
- 3** Open chalk and clay downs
  - 3A Ovington Down
  - 3B Owlesbury Down
  - 3C Hursley Down
- 4** Enclosed chalk and clay downs
  - 4A Sparsholt and Littleton
  - 4B Shrone and Itchen Woods
  - 4C Longwood
- 5** River valley
  - 5A Itchen Valley North
  - 5B Itchen Valley South

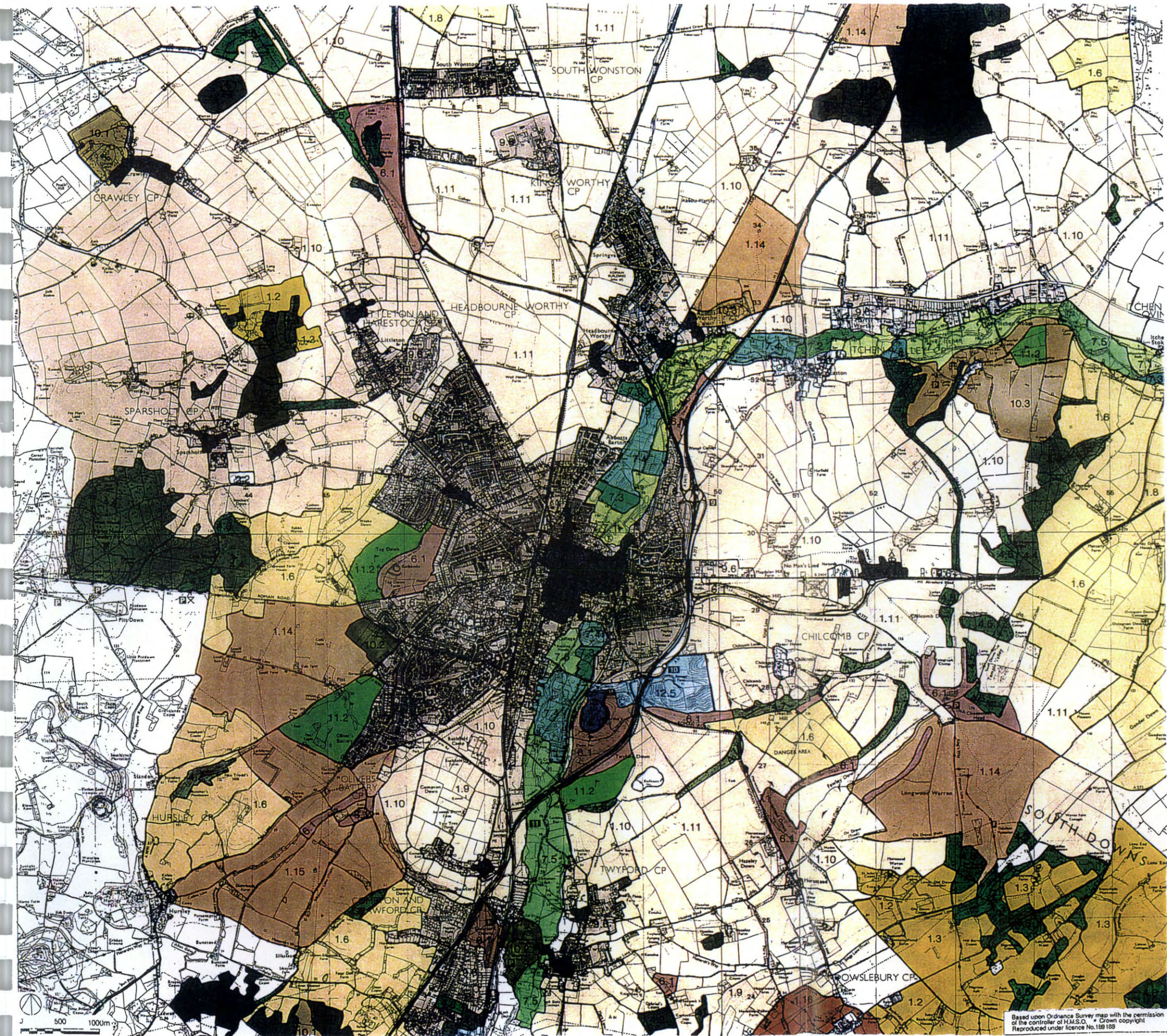
 Urban areas

 Designed parkland landscape

 Significant chalk escarpments separate from principal areas of scarps – downland landscape type









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## HAMPSHIRE DRAFT HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPES

### 1. FIELD PATTERNS

- 1.1 Small irregular assarts intermixed with woodland
-  1.2 Medium irregular assarts and copses with wavy boundaries
- 1.3 Assarts with wavy or mixed boundaries
- 1.4 Regular assarts with straight boundaries
- 1.5 Enclosed strips and furlongs
-  1.6 Rectilinear with wavy boundaries (?late medieval to 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century enclosure)
- 1.7 Irregular straight boundaries
-  1.8 Regular "ladder" (long wavy boundaries subdivided by straight cross divisions)
-  1.9 Small regular with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)
- 1.10 Medium regular with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)
- 1.11 Large regular with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)
- 1.12 Variable size regular with straight boundaries (parliamentary type enclosure)
- 1.13 Post parliamentary 19<sup>th</sup> century enclosure
-  1.14 "prairie" fields (19<sup>th</sup> cent enclosure with extensive boundary loss)
- 1.15 Fields predominantly bounded by tracks, roads and other rights of way
-  1.16 Small rectilinear with wavy boundaries

### 2. COMMONS

- 2.1 Common Heathland
-  2.2 Common Downland
- 2.3 Other Commons and Greens
- 2.4 Commons wooded over

### 3. HORTICULTURE (NOT USED)

### 4. WOODLAND



-  4.1 Assarted pre-1810 Woodland
-  4.2 Replanted assarted pre-1810 Woodland
-  4.3 Other pre-1810 Woodland
-  4.4 Replanted other pre-1810 Woodland
-  4.5 19<sup>th</sup> century Plantations (general)
- 4.6 pre-1810 Hangars (scarp & steep valley-side woodland)
-  4.7 19<sup>th</sup> century Hangars
- 4.8 Pre-1810 heathland Inclosed Woodland
- 4.9 19<sup>th</sup> century heathland Plantations
- 4.10 Pre-1810 Wood Pasture
- 4.11 19<sup>th</sup> century Wood Pasture

### 5. HEATHLAND (NOT USED)




### 6. DOWNLAND

-  6.1 Downland

### 7. VALLEY FLOOR AND WATER MANAGEMENT





-  7.1 Miscellaneous valley bottom paddocks and pastures
-  7.2 Valley floor woodlands






-  7.3 Marsh and rough grazing
-  7.4 Water meadows
-  7.5 Unimproved hay meadows
- 7.6 Watercress beds
- 7.7 Fishpond, hatchery complexes, natural ponds and lakes
- 7.8 Mills, mill ponds and leats

## 8. COASTAL (NOT USED)


## 9. SETTLEMENTS

- 9.1 Scattered settlement with paddocks 1810 extent
- 9.2 Scattered settlement with paddocks (post-1810 extent)
- 9.3 Common edge settlement
- 9.4 Common edge settlement (post-1810 extent)
- 9.5 (Not used)
-  9.6 Post-1810 settlement (general)
-  9.7 Village/hamlet 1810 extent
- 9.8 (Not used)
-  9.9 Town & city 1810 extent
- 9.10 Town & city post-1810 extent
-  9.11 Caravan sites



## 10. PARKLAND AND DESIGNED LANDSCAPE

-  10.1 Pre-1810 parkland
-  10.2 19<sup>th</sup> century and later parkland
-  10.3 Deer parks

## 11. RECREATION


- 11.1 Racecourses
-  11.2 Golf Courses
- 11.3 Major sports fields and complexes

## 12. EXTRACTIVE AND OTHER INDUSTRY

- 12.1 Active and disused Chalk quarries
- 12.2 Active and disused Gravel workings
-  12.3 Industrial complexes and factories
- 12.4 Modern large scale industry (power stations; oil terminals etc)
-  12.5 Reservoirs and water treatment
- 12.6 Dockyards

## 13. INLAND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES (NOT USED)

## 14. MILITARY AND DEFENCE

-  14.1 Prehistoric and Roman (hillforts, other defensive enclosures and Roman forts)
- 14.2 Medieval (motte and baileys, ring works)
- 14.3 Post medieval (1500-1830)
- 14.4 19<sup>th</sup> century (1830-1914)
- 14.5 20<sup>th</sup> century (1914-)

- 4.5.6 The second area of interest relates to the changing landscape patterns around the city. The farmland immediately adjacent to Winchester, particularly in the Eastern Downs, is relatively new, having been formed during the last two centuries and reflects many of the changes which influenced the growth of the city. However, there remain isolated pockets of historic landscape close to the city that have not been brought into cultivation. Often, with downland, this is due to steep scarp slopes that are unsuitable for arable farming. Equally important are the extensive areas of landscape that display much earlier origins. These can be seen south-east of the city around Longwood Dean Lane and beyond the immediate confines of the arable downs for example, south of the River Itchen near Ovington. These landscapes with small, irregular field patterns, higher density of woodlands and scattered settlement patterns are recorded to date back to the 17th and 18th century and may be even older. The continuity of these landscapes provides a varied and interesting mosaic, valuable for wildlife and strong in landscape character and visual interest.
- 4.5.7 The information provided by the historic landscape assessment correlates strongly to the visual landscape assessment. Each independent study is considered to be strengthened in its findings by this high level of agreement. The historic landscape work has thus been valuable in providing a background to and informing the development of the holistic landscape character areas or areas of influence that are set out in Chapter 5.

#### 4.6 Delineation of Townscape Character Areas

The characterisation approach adopted for the rural areas surrounding the city has been extended into the Townscape Assessment of the built area of the city. The progressive development of the city in response to the landform setting, has resulted in a distinct pattern of Townscape Character Areas. These areas range from the historic core of the city with its complex stratification of historic layers, to the peripheral areas of residential development whose coherence is principally derived from the unity of housing style and period of development. The distinctive variations and limitations imposed by the landform and the alignment of the principal approach roads into the city, a number of which date back to the Roman and earlier periods, have also been influential in determining the distinctiveness of and boundaries to each of the Townscape Character Areas.

- 4.6.1 A total of twenty four separate Townscape Character Areas have been identified; these are illustrated on drawing no. 1059 LP / 10. The Townscape Character Areas, together with a description of their principal characteristics and features are detailed in Appendix 5.

#### 4.7 Interface of Landscape and Townscape Character Areas

The clear separation between rural and urban areas along much of the perimeter of Winchester provides physically distinct Landscape and Townscape Character Areas. Nevertheless in some sections of the city the landscape infrastructure infiltrates into the heart of the built area, notably within the Itchen Valley corridor where there is a transitional interface between Landscape and Townscape Character with adjacent Character Areas 'borrowing' characteristics from each other. In other areas within the city the special identity of some of the Townscape Character Areas is a result of the presence of significant areas of landscape infrastructure, notably within St Giles's and Sleepers Hills with substantial areas of mature forest trees contributing to and enhancing the essentially urban character.





- 1 Cathedral Precincts
- 2 The High Street
- 3 North Walls
- 4 The Castle
- 5 Orams Arbour
- 6 The College Area
- 7 Christchurch
- 8 St Cross
- 9A Stanmore
- 9B Badger Farm
- 10 Olivers Battery
- 11 Sleepers Hill
- 12 Romsey Road
- 13A Teg Down Housing Area A
- 13B Teg Down Housing Area B
- 13C Teg Down Housing Area C
- 14A Fulflood
- 14B Greenhill Road
- 15 Berewecke
- 16 Weeke / Harestock
- 17 Northern Approaches / Fringes
- 18 Hyde
- 19A Abbots Barton Estates West
- 19B Abbots Barton Estates East
- 20A Winnall
- 20B Bar End
- 21 Winnall Manor Estate
- 22 The Soke
- 23 St Giles Hill
- 24 Highcliffe

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