

# Chapter Three | LANDSCAPE AND SETTLEMENT TYPES

## 3.0 Introduction

According to the Countryside Agency (2002), 'Landscape Types' are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogenous in character. They are generic in nature, in that they may occur in different areas of the country but, wherever they occur, they share similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation and historical land use and settlement pattern. This chapter maps and describes the landscape types relevant to the Winchester District.

The landscape of the District has been subdivided into landscape types based on those designated in *The Hampshire Landscape* (HCC, 1993), as shown in *Figure 3.1*. This shows a general predominance of 'Open Arable' and 'Chalk & Clay' in the northern chalk downland of the District, together with small areas of 'Clay Plateau' and 'Scarps: Downland'. To the far south of the District 'Mixed Farmland and Woodland' predominates, together with scattered areas of 'Pasture on Clay', 'Horticulture and Smallholdings' and 'Pasture & Woodland: Heath Associated'.

Parts of the Winchester District landscape have also been assessed in other recent Landscape Character Assessments, and these were also used to inform this assessment. The countryside immediately surrounding Winchester was characterised in *Winchester City and its Setting* (HCC et al, 1998), whilst the landscape of the AONB was characterised in the *East Hampshire AONB Integrated Management Guidelines* (HCC, 1998). To the south of the District, the assessment undertaken as part of the Forest of Bere Strategy has been used.

The refined Landscape Type map for the District undertaken as part of this assessment is shown in *Figure 3.2*. It uses the Landscape Types described by HCC (1993), but has subdivided some of them according to their degree of enclosure and woodland. It also uses a new Landscape Type, 'Historic Parkland' and shows some small areas of 'Heathland' and 'Heathland Plantation' not previously identified. The boundaries of these landscape types have also been refined, generally adhering to field boundaries where possible.

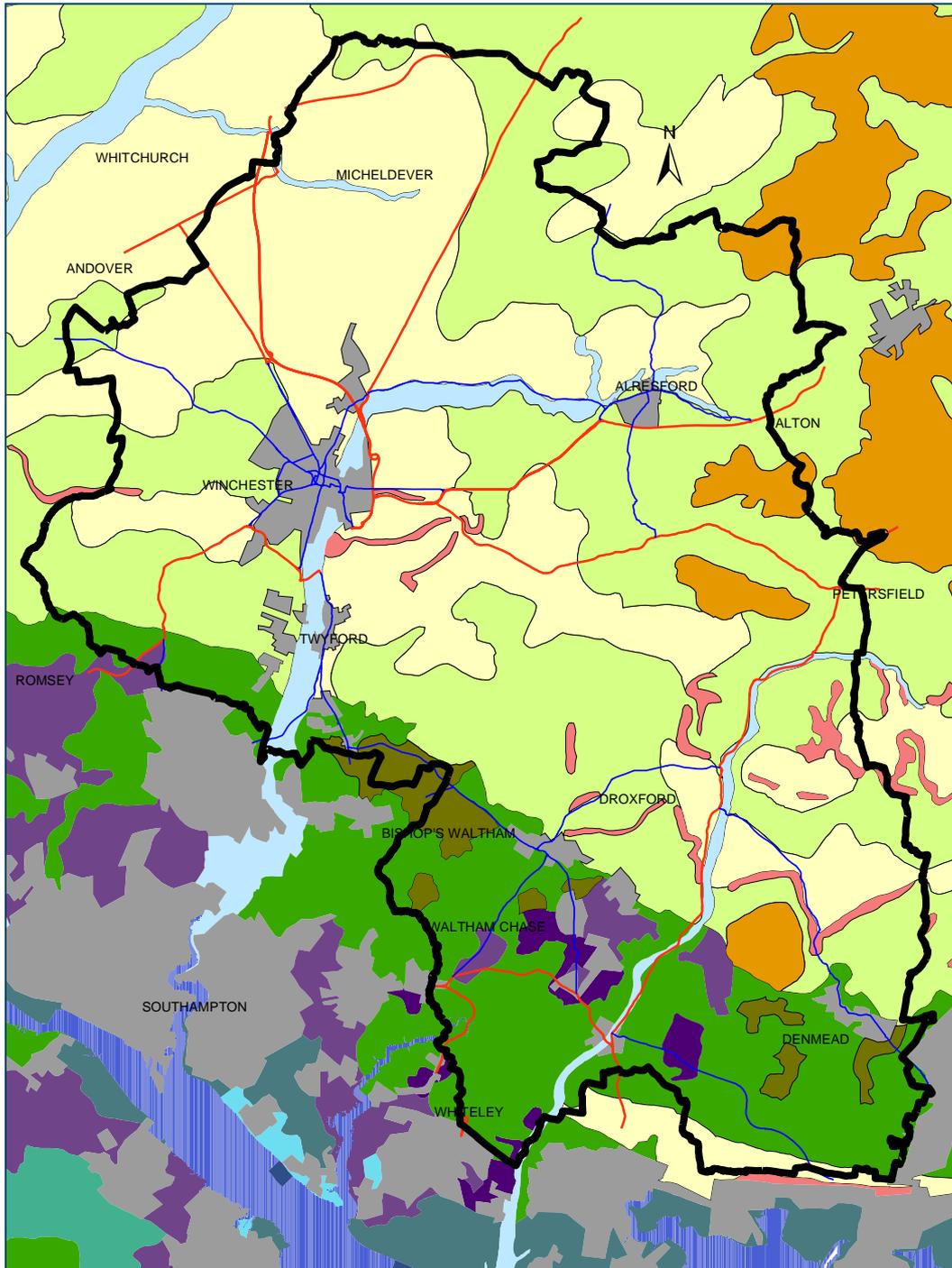
This chapter describes in detail the characteristics of each Landscape Type. It covers the distribution of the areas and describes their typical soils and geology, topography, archaeological and historic features and field patterns, vegetation, land use, settlement pattern, building materials, routes and degree of tranquillity. Each section also outlines the key issues

affecting the landscape features typical of the area, particularly focussing on woodlands, hedgerows, agriculture, grassland and the broader visual landscape.

As well as subdividing the landscape of the Winchester District into types, this chapter also highlights patterns in settlement form, and describes a series of 'Settlement Types'. There are distinct similarities between the settlement characteristics and, like the landscape types, these generally relate to their location within the District. The chalk areas are characterised by 'Chalk Downland: Hill Top' and 'Chalk Downland: Dry Valley' settlements, together with 'Chalk River Valley' settlements, while to the south of the District, the predominantly clay geology is typified by 'Chalk-clay Spring Line' settlements, 'Scattered Clay Lowland' settlements and 'Heath Associated' settlements, together with a 'Clay River Valley' settlement. Three settlement types are not restricted to certain types of the District, being more associated with certain historic functions, namely 'Estate Villages' 'Victorian Railway' settlements and '20<sup>th</sup> Century' settlements. The City of Winchester is excluded from this analysis, given its detailed coverage in the document *Winchester City and its Setting*.

This chapter describes each settlement type in terms of its origins, setting, form and street patterns, building types and plot patterns, building materials and edge character. *Figure 3.3* indicates the settlement types of each village in the District. It should be noted that the analysis is not limited only to those settlements defined in the Winchester District local Plan Review (Revised Deposit 2003). Some hamlets that strongly fit a particular settlement type are also included, although it has not been possible to include all of the smallest settlements in the district.

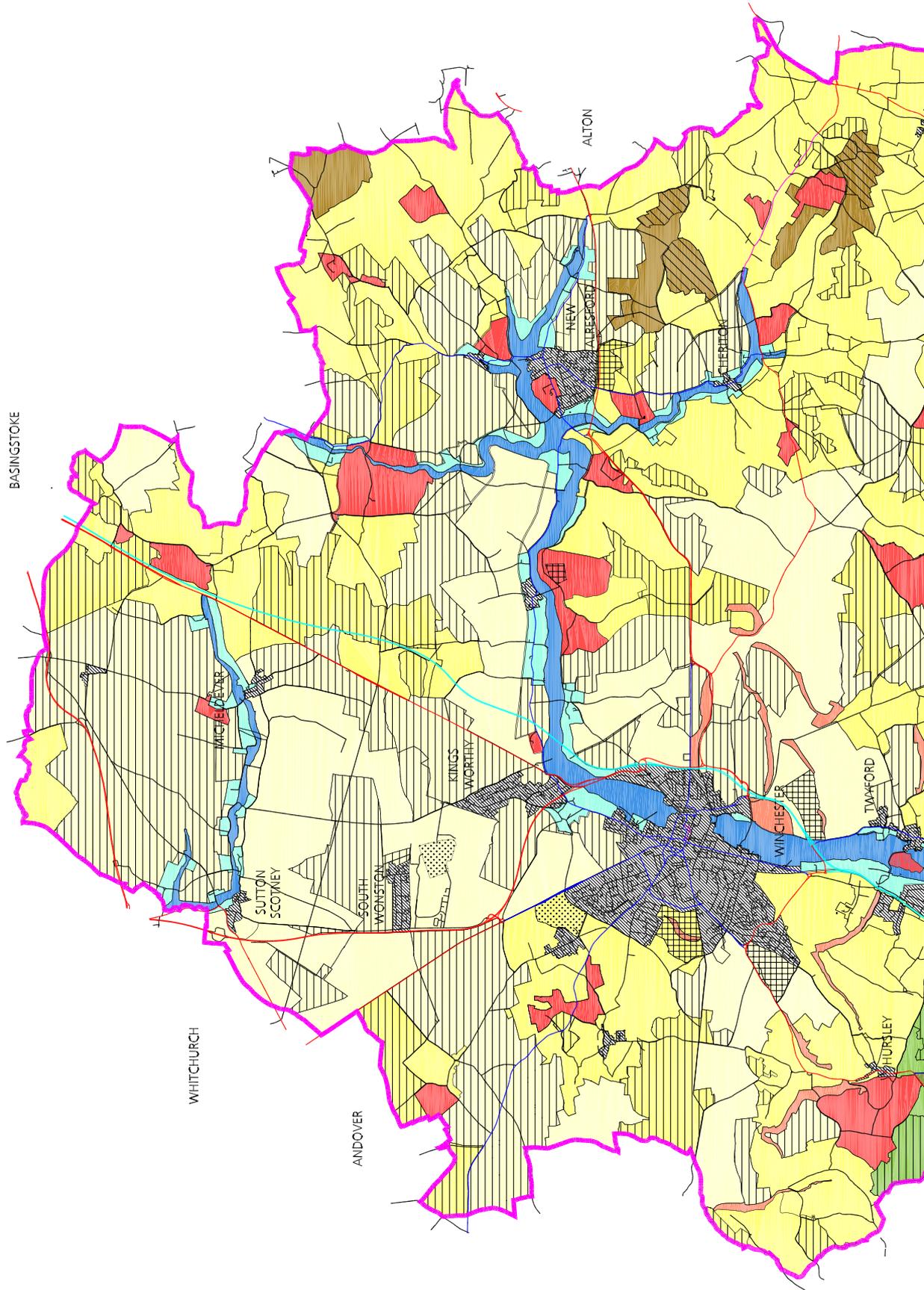
Figure 3.1 Landscape Types shown in The Hampshire Landscape (HCC, 1994)

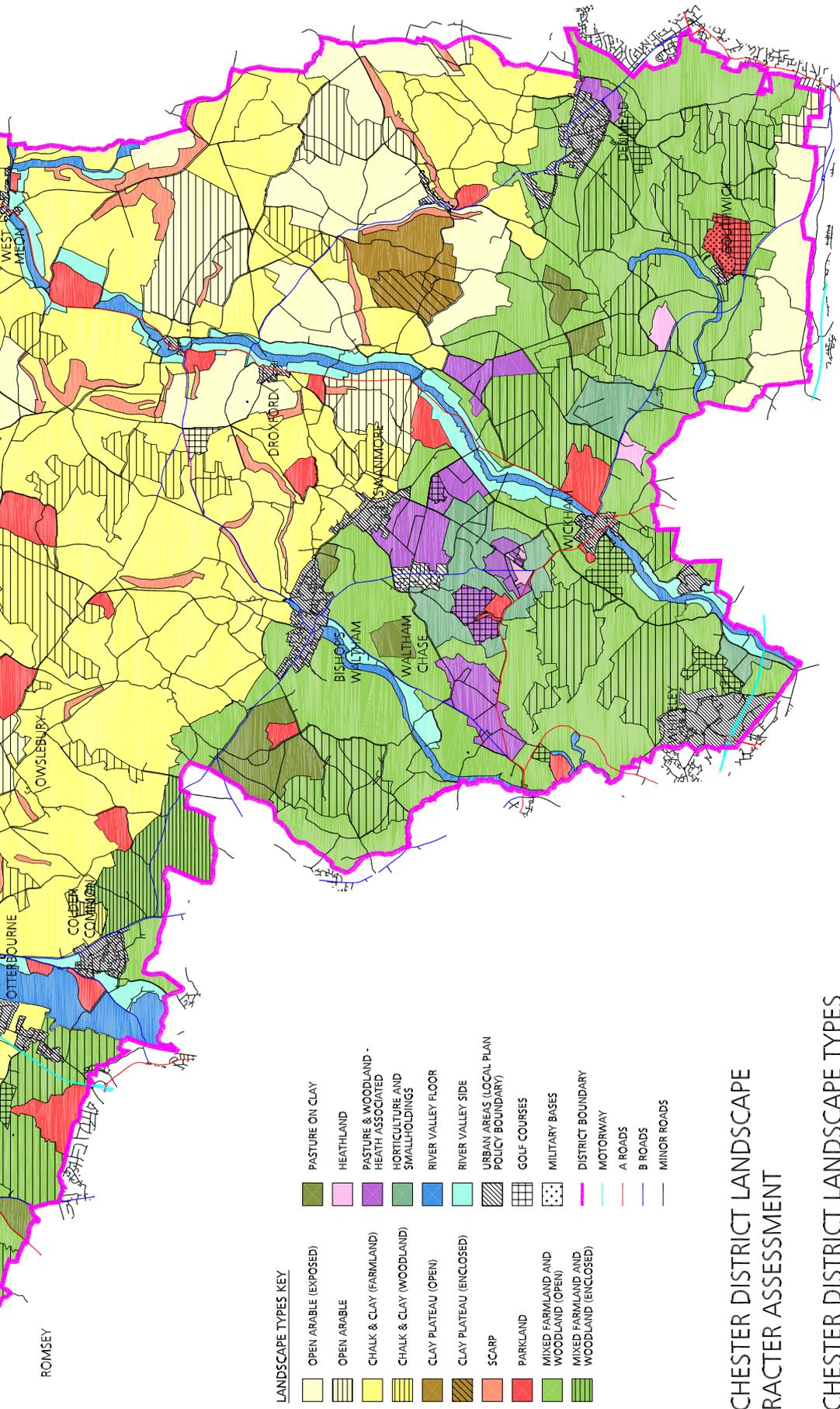


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Figure 3.2 Landscape Types for Winchester District shown in the Landscape Character Assessment (wcc 2003)





**LANDSCAPE TYPES KEY**

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  | OPEN ARABLE (EXPOSED)                  |  | PASTURE ON CLAY                          |
|  | OPEN ARABLE                            |  | HEATHLAND                                |
|  | CHALK & CLAY (FARMLAND)                |  | PASTURE & WOODLAND - HEATH ASSOCIATED    |
|  | CHALK & CLAY (WOODLAND)                |  | HORTICULTURE AND SMALLHOLDINGS           |
|  | CLAY PLATEAU (OPEN)                    |  | RIVER VALLEY FLOOR                       |
|  | CLAY PLATEAU (ENCLOSED)                |  | RIVER VALLEY SIDE                        |
|  | SCARP                                  |  | URBAN AREAS (LOCAL PLAN POLICY BOUNDARY) |
|  | PARKLAND                               |  | GOLF COURSES                             |
|  | MIXED FARMLAND AND WOODLAND (OPEN)     |  | MILITARY BASES                           |
|  | MIXED FARMLAND AND WOODLAND (ENCLOSED) |  | DISTRICT BOUNDARY                        |
|  |  |  | MOTORWAY                                 |
|  |  |  | A ROADS                                  |
|  |  |  | B ROADS                                  |
|  |  |  | MINOR ROADS                              |

**WINCHESTER DISTRICT LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**

**WINCHESTER DISTRICT LANDSCAPE TYPES**

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PORTSMOUTH



### 3.01 Open Arable Landscape Type

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#### Introduction

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

#### a. Open Arable (Exposed)

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



*Pitt Down*



#### b. Open Arable

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



*Chilcomb*



#### Location:

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

#### Soils & Geology:

The soils of this landscape type tend to be shallow, well-drained calcareous brown earth with rendzinas, over Middle and Upper Chalk. Deeper fine silty calcareous soils are found in valley bottoms and hollows such as the Chilcomb vale. Although more clayey soils occur in places, generally the shallow chalky soils are characteristically white after

ploughing, especially on the steeper slopes. The areas of Upper Chalk are softer and have more flints than areas of Middle Chalk. Scarps tend to be formed from Middle Chalk.

Most of the agricultural land is grade 3.

### **Topography:**

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

### **Archaeological & Historical Features & Field Patterns:**

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

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

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

### **Vegetation:**

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

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

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

### **Typical Woody Species: (HCC, 2000)**

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

### **Land Use:**

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

### **Settlement Patterns:**

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

### **Building Materials:**

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

### **Transport Routes:**

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

### **Seclusion & Tranquillity:**

These areas tend to have an openness and space due to the infrequent hedgerows and elevated location and do not therefore tend to feel secluded. Impressive long, panoramic views can be gained across the gently undulating landscape.

### **Key Issues:**

#### **Landscape:**

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

#### **Woodland:**

- The rectilinear form of many existing and recently established woodland blocks and shelterbelts, which conflict with the flowing form of the undulating landform
- The lack of or inappropriate management of woodland cover, including conifers, within new areas of planting
- Lack of management regeneration of wood pasture
- Loss of broadleaf woodlands

#### **Hedgerow:**

- Over-management of hedgerows and damage from spray drift
- Failure to retain tree saplings in hedgerows.
- Inappropriate planting of hedges and tree belts, using non-indigenous species, with low potential biodiversity value.
- Identification and management of hedgerows of historic significance

#### **Agriculture:**

- Increased risk of soil erosion resulting from exposed shallow soils and prolonged periods of arable cultivation
- The effects of run-off from agricultural pollutants including nitrate leaching, and negative impact on aquifer characteristics and water quality
- Predominance of autumn cropping and loss of winter stubble in arable land

- Under-grazing and lack of stock resulting in reversion of remnants of unimproved grassland to rank grassland and scrub invasion, particularly on steeper slopes and isolated escarpments
- Limited management or loss of potentially important field margins
- Low biodiversity value of land through widespread use of fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides and loss of hedgerow and tree cover.
- Potential issue with introduction of new crops
- Neglected farm ponds

#### **Grassland:**

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

#### **Other:**

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

## 3.02 Chalk and Clay Landscape Type

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### Introduction

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

#### a. Chalk & Clay (Farmland)

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



*Avington Manor Farm*



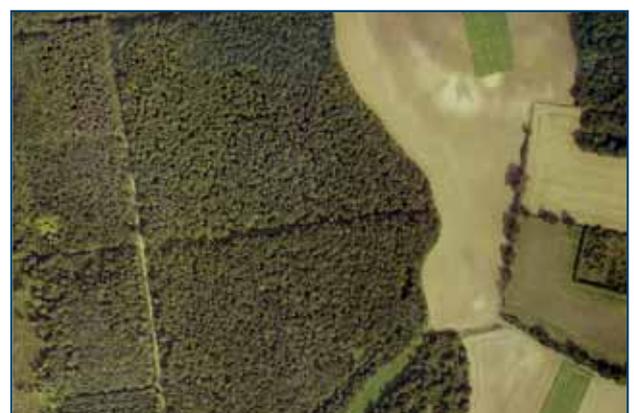
*Ovington*

#### b. Chalk & Clay (Woodland)

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



*Micheldever Woods*



### Location

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

### Soils & Geology:

This landscape type is found on the Upper Chalk areas of the District, especially where the chalk is capped with clay, often with flints. It has more variable soils than the Open Arable landscapes, resulting in a wider range of vegetation types and a greater diversity. Shallow well drained calcareous and silty soils predominate on the valley sides and isolated steep

escarpments, but elsewhere there is a variable mix of well drained calcareous clayey and fine silty clayey soils, with deeper alluvial or flinty calcareous/fine flinty soils in the valley bottoms, notably at Bramdean. This variable soil type has resulted in a wider range of vegetation types and a greater diversity in the land use than found in Open Arable areas.

**Topography:**

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

**Archaeological and Historic Features and Field Patterns**

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

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

**Vegetation:**

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

The woodlands vary from small copses and game spinneys to shelterbelts and larger woodlands such as Crab Wood, some including semi-natural ancient woodland. Significant areas of ancient woodland have been replanted with deciduous or coniferous species, causing an overall loss of biodiversity. Most of the ancient semi-natural woodlands are dominated by ash or oak, with a hazel coppice understorey. Oak is more frequent on the more acid clay areas and is the

principal hedgerow tree along clay-capped ridgelines, while beech is seldom present. In many of the valleys however, both trees are present. Yew, holly, whitebeam and ash are all more prevalent on the thinner, chalky soils.

Small pockets of downland occur on steeper slopes and escarpments and are of significant nature conservation value, supporting areas of unimproved grassland as well as encroaching scrub and woodland. Most are not receiving active management and development of rank grassland and scrub is a threat. Larger scarps within the Chalk and Clay areas are defined as ‘Scarp’ landscape types (see 3.04). There are small areas of marshy grassland around the source of the River Itchen at Cheriton

**Typical Woody Species (HCC, 2000)**

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

**Land Use:**

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

**Settlement Pattern:**

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

**Building Materials:**

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

### **Transport Routes:**

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

### **Seclusion & Tranquillity:**

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

### **Key Issues:**

#### **Landscape:**

- Neglect of landscape features such as avenues, coppices and hedgerows, together with 20<sup>th</sup> Century golf course developments, are eroding the historical, rural and wooded aspects which contribute most to its distinctiveness.
- Increase in scale and openness of landscape due to loss of hedgerows for agricultural purposes
- Rectilinear woodland planting, conflicting with the fluid lines of the undulating landform

#### **Woodland:**

- Poor woodland management of ancient semi-natural woodlands including hazel coppice woods
- Poor management of over-mature mainly coniferous shelter belts
- The choice of species and spacing of any new trees planting and management, is generally determined by commercial or game management considerations.
- Non-indigenous woodland planting, especially in semi-natural ancient woodlands and on alkaline soils
- Lack of management of ancient semi-natural woodland, where specialist techniques are required to sustain the balance and longevity of the species mix, (especially areas of oak and hazel coppice)

### **Hedgerow:**

- Removal or fragmentation of hedgerows for agricultural purposes resulting in gappy sections or single lines of former hedgerow trees, lack of young hedgerow trees and low biodiversity value
- Declining population of hedgerow trees through senescence, felling and lack of replacement
- Poor hedgerow management including too frequent or badly timed cutting, and application of herbicides and pesticides up to the base of hedgerows
- Loss and fragmentation of isolated unimproved calcareous grassland either through improvement of grassland through fertiliser and herbicide use, or under-grazing resulting in scrub colonisation.

### **Agriculture:**

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

### **Grassland :**

- Loss, fragmentation and lack of management of unimproved chalk grassland
- Lack of appropriate cutting of road verges and hedge banks, and damage from scrub encroachment, road improvements and agrochemicals from adjacent farmland.

### **Other:**

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

### 3.03 Clay Plateau Landscape Type

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#### **Introduction:**

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

Within Winchester District there are two subdivisions of clay plateau: Clay Plateau (Open) and Clay Plateau (Enclosed)

#### **a. Clay Plateau (Open)**

The Clay Plateau (Open) landscape type is characterised by larger and more open fields with a predominance of arable land and occasional areas of woodland. These areas are centred around Newmer Farm in the North East of the District and at Home Down, West of Hambledon.



*Newmer Farm*



#### **b. Clay Plateau (Enclosed)**

The Clay Plateau (Enclosed) landscape type has a more intimate scale with smaller fields, a stronger network of hedgerows, copses and larger areas of woodland, set within a more undulating and enclosed landform associated with valley systems. These areas are found at Bramdean Common/Cheriton Wood area and the Brockwood Park area to the south of Bramdean.



*Bramdean Common*



#### **Soils & geology:**

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

#### **Topography:**

These areas are not plateaux in the purest sense: the higher areas are broadly domed, sloping and undulating gradually towards shallow valleys. The areas are visually bounded by dropping topography or

enclosed by tree-belts and form some of the highest areas in the District, ranging from 75 to 190m OD in altitude.

Occasionally scarps occur at the junction of the edge of the clay and the underlying chalk as seen at Hambledon.

### **Archaeological & Historic Features & Field Patterns:**

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

### **Vegetation:**

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

### **Typical Woody Species: (HCC, 2000)**

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

### **Land use:**

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

### **Settlement Pattern:**

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

### **Building Materials:**

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

### **Transport Routes:**

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

### **Seclusion & Tranquillity:**

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

### **Key Issues:**

#### **Landscape:**

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

#### **Woodland:**

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

- Poor age structure of trees i.e. old trees and young trees present but few of intermediate age

#### **Hedgerow:**

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

#### **Agriculture:**

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

- Over intensive management of field margins including ploughing too close to hedgerows and hedgerow trees, resulting in root disturbance.
- Effect of run-off from agricultural pollutants including nitrate leaching, and negative impact on aquifer characteristics and water quality.

#### **Grassland:**

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

#### **Other:**

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

## 3.04 Scarps Landscape Type

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### Introduction:

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



*Dores Lane, Hursley*



### Location:

Within Winchester District scarps are generally located in a band to the east and west of Winchester City, and are absent from the downs to the north. Examples include St Catherine's Hill, Cheesefoot Head, Beacon Hill, Old Winchester Hill and Stephen's Castle Down.

### Soils & Geology:

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

### Topography:

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

### Archaeological and Historic Features and Field Patterns:

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

The elevated nature of many scarps means they have functioned as important defensive sites in the past. Such examples include Iron Age hill forts at St

Catherine's Hill and Old Winchester Hill. Examples of visible archaeology are consequently numerous in these areas.

### Vegetation:

#### Woodland and Trees

Woodland is characteristic of the steeper slopes, as well as forming prominent hilltop copses such as The Clump at Cheesefoot Head. Yew and whitebeam are a particular feature in areas such as Old Winchester Hill and other woodlands typically include ash, field maple, oak and beech.

Occasionally plantations can develop a rich flora and Galley Down Wood, a relatively recent beech plantation, is notified as an SSSI because of its exceptional orchid population which includes narrow-leaved helleborine, a nationally rare species. Other typical woodland ground flora species in scarp woodlands include bluebell, dog's mercury, sweet woodruff, sanicle and yellow archangel. There are also a number of uncommon ground flora species including white helleborine, fly orchid, bird's-nest orchid and Solomon's seal.

#### Grassland

Remnant areas of species-rich unimproved calcareous grassland are characteristic of scarps often managed by grazing. These areas have great conservation value, and a number of scarps have protective designations, such as SSSIs (St Catherine's Hill, Cheesefoot Head, Beacon Hill), National Nature Reserves (Old Winchester Hill and Beacon Hill) and SINC's (Yew Hill).

The grassland found varies both in species composition and structure, according to factors such as topography, aspect, & grazing pressure. Sheep's Fescue, upright broom and salad burnet are the

dominant species, occurring with other chalk-loving herbs such as chalk milkwort, squinancy wort, horseshoe vetch, clustered bellflower, kidney vetch and autumn gentian. A wide range of orchids also occurs on these chalk grasslands together with rarer species such as bastard toadflax, early Gentian, field fleawort, and round-headed rampion. Ant-hills are a feature of old grassland, indicating that the grassland has not been ploughed, fertilised or cut for hay for a long time.

### Scrub

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

Of particular importance is the juniper colony at Old Winchester Hill, which represents about 5% of the total juniper population in southern England. This supports a number of nationally scarce insects, many of which are exclusively associated with this species. Chalk heath can also be found at Farley Down, where clay-with-flint overlies the chalk. This has allowed calcifuge species such as gorse and heather to grow in close proximity to chalk-loving species.

### Typical Woody Species: (HCC, 2000)

<b>Downland Scarps:</b>	
Major species throughout:	<i>Hawthorn</i>
Major species locally:	<i>Yew</i>
Minor species throughout:	<i>Blackthorn, Dogwood, Field Maple, Dog Rose, Wayfaring Tree</i>
Minor species locally:	<i>Ash, Beech, Purging Buckthorn, Wild Cherry, Crab Apple, Elder, Guelder Rose, Hazel, Holly, Juniper, Wild Privet, Spindle, Whitebeam</i>
Ancient Woodland Indicators:	<i>Wych Elm</i>
<b>Woodland Scarps:</b>	
Major species locally:	<i>Ash, Beech</i>
Minor species throughout:	<i>Elder, Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly, Field Maple, Yew</i>
Minor species locally:	<i>Blackthorn, Purging Buckthorn, Wild Cherry, Crab Apple, Dogwood, Guelder Rose, Pedunculate Oak, Sessile Oak, Wild Privet, Dog Rose, Spindle, Wayfaring Tree, Whitebeam, Goat Willow</i>
Ancient Woodland Indicators:	<i>Wych Elm, Small-leaved Lime</i>

### Land Use:

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

### Settlement Pattern:

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

### Building Materials:

Not applicable.

### Transport Routes:

Due to the steep nature of scarps, routes usually follow the base or top of the scarp feature and occasionally traverse them in the form of very steep, often sunken, narrow, lanes and tracks, such as the Dongas of Twyford Down.

### Seclusion and Tranquillity:

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

### Key Issues:

#### Landscape:

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

#### Woodland:

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

#### **Agriculture & Grassland:**

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

#### **Other:**

- Visitor pressure at peak holiday times at popular elevated locations, Old Winchester Hill, Beacon Hill, St Catherine's Hill Nature Reserve and Cheesefoot Head, where car park facilities increase public accessibility and usage.
- Possible conflict of visitor uses on accessible summit areas between quiet walking and noisy or visually disruptive sports such as model aeroplane flying or mountain biking.
- Localised erosion of summit paths through pressure of visitor use.

### 3.05 Heathland Landscape Type

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#### **Introduction:**

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

This landscape type is subdivided into Heathland and Heathland Plantation.

#### **a. Heathland**

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



*Wickham Common*



#### **b. Heathland Plantation**

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



*Walton Heath Plantation, Boarhunt*



#### **Location:**

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

#### **Soils & Geology:**

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

They are therefore suitable only for acid tolerant species.

#### **Topography:**

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

#### **Archaeological and Historic Features and Field Patterns:**

These areas are examples of old, unenclosed ancient grassland, typically with commoners' rights and are therefore historic features in their own right. In some

areas these characteristics have now been denuded however, through shrub and woodland colonisation, pasture improvements and loss of commoners rights.

### **Vegetation:**

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

### **Typical Woody species: (HCC, 2000)**

<b>Major species locally:</b>	<i>Beech, Silver Birch, Gorse, Holly, Oak, Scots Pine</i>
<b>Minor species locally:</b>	<i>Ash, Yew, Goat Willow, Whitebeam, Dog Rose, Mountain Ash, Field Maple, Hazel, Hawthorn, Guelder Rose, Elder, Crab Apple, Wild Cherry, Alder, Buckthorn, Broom, Blackthorn, Downy Birch</i>
<b>Ancient woodland indicator:</b>	<i>Aspen</i>

### **Land Use:**

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

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

### **Settlement Pattern:**

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

### **Building Materials:**

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

### **Transport Routes:**

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

### **Seclusion and Tranquillity:**

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

### **Key Issues:**

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

### 3.06 Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated Landscape Type

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#### **Introduction:**

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



*Lockhams Road, Curdridge*



#### **Location:**

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

#### **Soils and Geology:**

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

#### **Topography:**

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

#### **Archaeological and Historical Features and Field Patterns:**

Historically many of these areas would once have been heathland, although the heathland characteristics have been denuded through agricultural development and suburban expansion. Throughout the rest of Hampshire these areas have changed little in the past few centuries and still show the 'ancient' irregular boundaries and routes associated with informal enclosure. In the Winchester District however, the Parliamentary Enclosure Acts of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

Centuries have resulted in small to medium-sized fields with regular, straight boundaries. Although this structure still remains, 20<sup>th</sup> Century developments such as roadside housing, market gardening, garden centres and livery stables have further eroded this historic character.

#### **Vegetation:**

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

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

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

## Typical Woody species: (HCC 2000)

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

### Land Use:

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

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

### Settlement Pattern:

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

### Building Materials:

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

### Transport Routes:

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

### Seclusion and Tranquillity:

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

## Key Issues:

### Landscape:

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

### Woodland:

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

### Hedgerow:

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

### Agriculture:

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

### Grassland:

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

### 3.07 Mixed Farmland & Woodland Landscape Type

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#### Introduction

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

#### a. Mixed Farmland & Woodland (Open)

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



*Biddenfield Lane, Wickham*



#### b Mixed Farmland & Woodland (Enclosed)

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



*Creech Wood, Denmead*



#### Location:

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

#### Soils & Geology:

These areas predominantly fall on Reading Beds, London Clay, Bracklesham Beds and some Lower

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

### Topography:

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

### Archaeological & Historical Features:

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

### Vegetation:

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

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

### Typical Woody Species: (HCC, 2000)

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

### Land Use:

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

### Settlement Patterns:

The settlement pattern of the area is typified by small shrunken hamlets and farms (such as Boarhunt), together with sprawling, low-density settlements, stretching out along a main road (such as Durley and North Boarhunt). These are generally scattered throughout an area at a low density, although at a greater frequency than found in the chalklands. Larger, nucleated villages are also present on the chalk-clay spring-line (such as Bishop's Waltham, Denmead and Colden Common)

### Building Materials:

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

### Transport Routes:

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

## **Seclusion & Tranquillity:**

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

## **Key Issues:**

### **Landscape:**

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

### **Woodland:**

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

### **Hedgerow:**

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

## **Agriculture:**

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

## **Grassland:**

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

### 3.08 Pasture on Clay Landscape Type

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#### Introduction

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



*Sciviers Lane, Wintershill*



#### Location:

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

#### Soils and Geology:

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

#### Topography:

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

#### Archaeological and Historical Features and Field Pattern:

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

#### Vegetation:

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

#### Typical Woody Species: (HCC, 2000)

Major species throughout:	<i>Hawthorn, Pedunculate Oak</i>
Minor species throughout:	<i>Blackthorn, Holly, Dog Rose</i>
Minor species locally:	<i>Alder, Ash, Crab Apple, Dogwood, Elder, Common Elm, Guelder Rose, Hazel, Field Maple, Goat Willow</i>
Ancient woodland indicators present:	<i>Aspen</i>

#### Land Use:

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

#### Settlement Pattern:

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

#### Building Materials:

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

**Transport Routes:**

Roads and lanes are generally straight, with wide grass verges

**Seclusion and Tranquillity:**

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

**Key Issues:****Landscape:**

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

**Woodland:**

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

**Hedgerow:**

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

**Agriculture:**

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

**Note:**

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

### 3.09 Horticulture and Smallholdings Landscape Type

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#### Introduction:

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



*Black Horse Lane, Shirrell Heath*



#### Location:

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

#### Soils and Geology:

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

#### Topography:

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

#### Archaeological and Historical Features and Field Patterns:

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

#### Vegetation:

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

#### Typical Woody Species: (HCC, 2000)

Major species throughout: Hawthorn, Hazel, Oak

Major species locally: Ash

Minor species throughout: Blackthorn, Elder, Dog Rose

Minor species locally: Beech, Dogwood, Gorse, Holly, Field Maple, Goat Willow

#### Land Use:

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

#### Settlement Patterns:

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

#### Building Materials:

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

cast iron diamond pattern windows.

### **Transport Routes:**

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

### **Seclusion and Tranquillity:**

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

### **Key Issues:**

#### **Landscape:**

- Soil erosion
- Prominent structures/urbanisation

#### **Woodland:**

- Non-native shelterbelt trees

#### **Hedgerow:**

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

#### **Agriculture:**

- Lack of permanent field margins

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

#### **Grassland:**

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

### 3.10 River Valley Landscape Type

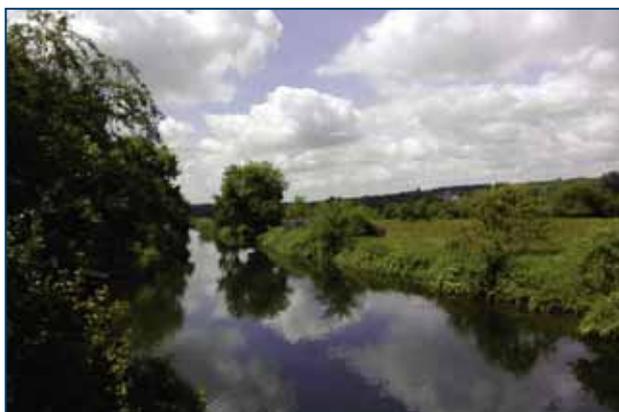
#### Introduction:

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

#### a. River Valley Floor

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

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



River Itchen, from Garnier Road, Winchester



#### b. River Valley Side

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

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



Near Knowle



### Location:

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

### Soils & Geology:

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

### Topography:

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

### Archaeological & Historical Features and Field Patterns:

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

### Vegetation:

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

### Typical Woody Species: (HCC, 2000)

#### Chalk River

- *Ranunculus penicillatus ssp pseudofluitans* community

#### Alder Carr

- *Alnus glutinosa- Carex paniculata* woodland

#### Ash-Hazel woodland with Beech and Yew

- *Fraxinus exelsior – Acer campestre- Mercurialis perennis* woodland

**Major species throughout:** *Ash, Hawthorn, Pedunculate Oak*

**Major species locally:** *Alder, Hazel, Osier, Crack Willow, White Willow*

**Minor species throughout:** *Blackthorn, Elder, Guelder Rose, Dog Rose, Goat Willow*

**Minor species locally:** *Downy Birch, Alder Buckthorn, Wild Cherry, Crab Apple, Dogwood, Common Elm, Holly, Field Maple, Wild Privet, Goat Willow*

**Ancient woodland Indicators present:** *Aspen, Black Poplar*

### Land Use

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

### Settlement Patterns:

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

### Building Materials:

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

### Transport Routes:

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

## **Seclusion & Tranquillity**

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

### **Key Issues:**

#### **Landscape:**

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

#### **Woodland:**

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

#### **Hedgerow:**

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

#### **Agriculture:**

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

## **Grassland**

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

#### **Other:**

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

### 3.11 Historic Parkland Landscape Type

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#### **Introduction:**

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

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



Lainston House, Sparsholt



#### **Soils & Geology:**

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

#### **Topography:**

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

#### **Archaeological & Historical Features:**

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

The oldest parkland in the District was originally deer park, the private hunting ground of the king, bishop and landed aristocracy. Generally these are late C12<sup>th</sup> – C14<sup>th</sup> in origin although may have been subsequently modified by later designed landscapes. Often they were enclosed from within Royal Forest under licences to empark. Deer Parks can often be recognised by the presence of park palings and wood pasture and are typically found in more wooded areas. Typical examples include Bishops Waltham Palace and Palace House, Hursley Park, Avington Park, Stratton Park, Marwell Hall and Southwick Park.

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

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

#### **Vegetation:**

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

#### **Land Use:**

Parkland is typically characterised by pasture although many areas have now been turned to arable use. Historically some areas have been used as deer parks,

although this function has now ceased in the District. Areas of woodland are also common and typically parks are enclosed by it. Ownership of historic parks and houses tends to be varied and includes schools, hoteliers, the National Trust, or private householders.

### **Settlement Patterns:**

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

### **Building Materials:**

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

### **Transport Routes:**

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

### **Seclusion & Tranquillity:**

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

### **Key Issues:**

#### **Landscape:**

- Decline in condition/lack of appropriate management of parkland
- Conservation of views and vistas into and out of parkland
- Loss of traditional parkland features including avenues and clumps of trees
- Lack of restoration programmes to ensure longevity of features
- Sub-division into multiple ownership
- Loss of parkland to arable farmland
- Loss of pasture to arable land use

### **Woodland:**

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

### **Other:**

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

Figure 3.3 Origin of Settlement Types

Settlements	Character Area	Settlement Types									
		Chalk River Valley	Chalk-Clay Spring Line	Chalk Downland Hill Top	Chalk Downland: Dry Valley	Estate Village	Scattered Clay Lowland	Clay River Valley	Heath Associated	Victorian Railway	20th Century
Abbotstone	9			●							
Abbots Worthy	9	●									
Ashton	15			●							
Avington	9					●					
Beauworth	15				●						
Bighton	10				●						
Bishops Sutton	9	●									
Bishops Waltham	23		●								
Bramdean	11				●						
Cheriton	9	●									
Chilland	9	●									
Chilcomb	12				●						
Colden Common	23		●								
Compton Down	1										●
Compton Street	1				●						
Corhampton	15	●									
Crawley	3				●						
Curdrige	22								●		
Dean	15				●						
Denmead	18		●								
Droxford	16	●									
Dundridge	15				●						
Durley	23						●				
Durley Street	23						●				
East Stratton	7					●					
Easton	9	●									
Exton	16	●									
Gundleton	10										●
Hambledon	17				●						
Headbourne Worthy	8	●									
Hinton Ampner	11			●							
Hundred Acres	18					●					
Hunton	5	●									
Hursley	1					●					
Itchen Abbas	9	●									
Itchen Stoke	9	●									
Kilmeston	11			●							
Kings Worthy	8	●									
Knowle	20										●
Littleton	2				●						
Lomer	15			●							
Lower Upham	23		●								
Martyr Worthy	9	●									
Meonstoke	16	●									
Micheldever	5	●									
Micheldever Station	6									●	
Morestead	15				●						
New Alresford	9	●									
Newtown	18						●				
North Boarhunt	18						●				
Northbrook	5	●									
Northington	9	●									
Old Alresford	9	●									
Otterbourne	14		●								
Ovington	9					●					
Owslebury	15			●							
Shawford	13									●	
Shedfield	22								●		
Shirrell Heath	22								●		
Soberton	16	●									
Soberton Heath	18								●		
South Wonston	4										●
South Down	1										●
Southwick	18					●					
Sparsholt	2			●							
Stoke Charity	5	●									
Sutton Scotney	5	●									
Swanmore	22		●								
Swarraton	9	●									
Tichbourne	9					●					
Twyford	13	●									
Upham	15			●							
Upper Swanmore	15			●							
Waltham Chase	22								●		
Warnford	16	●									
Weston Colley	5	●									
West Meon	16	●									
West Stratton	5					●					
Whiteley	21										●
Wickham	20									●	
Wonston	5	●									
Woodmancott	7			●							

### 3.12 Chalk Downland: Dry Valley Settlement Type

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*Hambleton*

#### **Settlement Origins:**

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

#### **Settlement Setting:**

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

#### **Settlement Form and Street Patterns:**

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

#### **Building Types and Plot Patterns:**

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

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

#### **Typical Settlements**

*Beauworth*  
*Bighton*  
*Bramdean*  
*Chilcomb*  
*Compton Street*  
*Crawley*  
*Dean*  
*Dundridge*  
*Hambleton*  
*Littleton (old village)*  
*Morestead*

#### **Building Materials:**

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

#### **Views and Edge Character:**

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

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

### 3.13 Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type

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Owslebury

#### Typical Settlements

Ashton (*Bishop's Waltham*)  
Hinton Ampner  
Kilmeston  
Owslebury  
Sparsholt  
Upham  
Upper Swanmore  
Lomer (*deserted medieval village*)  
Abbotstone (*deserted medieval village*)  
Woodmancott

#### Settlement Origins:

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

#### Settlement Setting:

These settlements are situated at relative high points on the chalk downlands, the most prominent being Owslebury at 110m. They are surrounded by arable agricultural land, but generally benefit from thick hedges and a relatively high proportion of mature trees.

#### Settlement Form & Street Patterns:

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

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

#### Building Types & Plot Patterns:

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

#### Building Materials:

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

#### Views & Edge Character:

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

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

### 3.14 Chalk River Valley Settlement Type



Chilland/Itchen Abbas

#### Settlement Origins:

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

#### Settlement Setting:

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

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

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

#### Settlement Form and Street Patterns:

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

The expansion of such villages is strongly influenced by

#### Typical Settlements

<i>Abbots Worthy</i>	<i>Micheldever</i>
<i>Bishop's Sutton</i>	<i>New Alresford</i>
<i>Cheriton</i>	<i>Northbrook</i>
<i>Chilland</i>	<i>Northington</i>
<i>Corhampton</i>	<i>Old Alresford</i>
<i>Droxford</i>	<i>Ovington</i>
<i>Easton</i>	<i>Stoke Charity</i>
<i>Exton</i>	<i>Sutton Scotney</i>
<i>Headbourne Worthy</i>	<i>Soberton</i>
<i>Hunton</i>	<i>Swarraton</i>
<i>Itchen Abbas</i>	<i>Twyford</i>
<i>Itchen Stoke</i>	<i>Warnford</i>
<i>Kings Worthy</i>	<i>Weston Colley</i>
<i>Martyr Worthy</i>	<i>West Meon</i>
<i>Meonstoke</i>	<i>Wonston</i>

topography. While some villages, such as Exton have not expanded since the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, others have expanded along a valley side road, such as Itchen Abbas, or back away from the river along dry valleys, such as Northbrook and Kings Worthy. Where slopes are gentler, villages have expanded out in a stronger more nucleated form, including Easton, Cheriton and Micheldever. Often a central open space adjacent to the river forms an important feature within these nucleated villages, as seen at Cheriton and Old Alresford.

The development of New Alresford has resulted in this settlement taking on a different character however. In the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, the town was planned as a new market town, resulting in the creation of Broad Street. During the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the town saw further major changes as it expanded to the south.

#### Building Types and Plot Patterns:

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

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

#### Building Materials:

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

**Views and Edge Character:**

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

### 3.15 Chalk-Clay Spring Line Settlement Type

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Swanmore

#### **Settlement Origins:**

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

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

#### **Settlement Setting:**

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

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

Generally the surrounding land-use is typified by larger scale more undulating arable fields to the north and to

#### **Typical Settlements**

*Bishop's Waltham*  
*Colden Common*  
*Denmead*  
*Lower Upham*  
*Otterbourne*  
*Swanmore*

the south by lower lying more intimate fields of pasture or arable farmland with a stronger pattern of hedgerows, trees, woodland and more settlements. Colden Common, unlike the others, also displays some features more in common with heath associated type settlements, including heathy vegetation and poor soils.

#### **Settlement Form and Street Patterns:**

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

#### **Building Type and Plot Patterns:**

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

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

**Building Materials:**

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

**Views and Edge Character:**

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

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

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

### 3.16 Clay River Valley Settlement Type



Wickham

#### Typical Settlement

Wickham

#### Settlement Origins:

Wickham is the only settlement within the District that belongs to the Clay River Valley Settlement Type. Unlike the chalk river valley settlements which originated in Anglo-Saxon times, Wickham originated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD, as a small Roman town or villa complex on the junction of two Roman roads; and excavations have revealed a Roman 'factory' for roofing tiles and pottery here. In Saxon/early Medieval times the village was located to the east of the river, adjacent to church and remains of the manor house.

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

#### Settlement Setting:

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

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

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

#### Settlement Form and Street Patterns:

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

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

#### Building Types and Plot Patterns:

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

#### Building Materials:

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

#### Views and Edge Character:

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

### 3.17 Scattered Clay Lowland Settlement Type

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Durley

#### **Settlement Origins:**

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

#### **Settlement Setting:**

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

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

#### **Settlement Form and Street Patterns:**

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

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

More recent settlements such as Durley Street, North Boarhunt and Newtown are focused particularly along

#### **Typical Settlement**

*Durley*

*Durley Street*

*Newtown*

*North Boarhunt*

one main road, although clusters of dwellings have also developed at crossroads. The enclosure of fields by parliamentary acts in these areas has resulted in straighter field boundaries and straighter roads.

#### **Building Type and Plot Patterns:**

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

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

#### **Building Materials:**

Building materials in these settlements are varied, reflecting the ages of the buildings. Buildings from the C16<sup>th</sup> are often timber-framed, with brick or wattle and daub infill. Brick is common in these areas and is generally red, but may be painted or vitrified. Roofing generally consists of clay plain tiles although some thatched cottages are present in Durley. Victorian housing is generally roofed with slate. Occasional buildings in Durley are also roofed with corrugated iron. Buildings dating from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century are generally constructed of mass-produced brick and concrete tiles.

#### **Views and Edge Character:**

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

### 3.18 Heath Associated Settlement Type



Curdridge

#### **Settlement Origins:**

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

#### **Settlement Setting:**

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

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

#### **Settlement Form and Street Patterns:**

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

Exceptions to the above are at Waltham Chase, where 20<sup>th</sup> Century infill development has resulted in a more

#### **Typical Settlement**

*Curdridge*

*Shedfield*

*Shirrell Heath*

*Soberton Heath*

*Waltham Chase*

nucleated and less dispersed settlement form. Elsewhere some lanes, such as Black Horse Lane (Shirrell Heath) have retained their historic narrow winding character and are fronted by a larger proportion of fields or a golf course (Sandy Lane, Shedfield).

#### **Building Type and Plot Patterns:**

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

The villages are now predominantly residential, although some market gardens are still operating in the area. Most villages have a church and pub, although these are dispersed and often located away from the main concentration of dwellings. Only one of these settlements (Waltham Chase) has a state primary school, although most have post offices.

#### **Building Materials:**

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

#### **Views and Edge Character:**

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

### 3.19 Victorian Railway Settlement Type

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*Micheldever Station*

#### **Settlement Origins:**

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

#### **Settlement Setting:**

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

#### **Settlement Form and Street Patterns:**

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

#### **Typical Settlement**

*Micheldever Station*

*Shawford*

#### **Building Type and Plot Patterns:**

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

#### **Building Materials:**

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

#### **Views and Edge Character:**

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

### 3.20 Estate Village Settlement Type

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*Hursley*

#### **Settlement Origins:**

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

#### **Settlement Setting:**

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

#### **Settlement Form and Street Patterns:**

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

#### **Typical Settlement**

*Avington*  
*East Stratton*  
*Hundred Acres*  
*Hursley*  
*Ovington*  
*Southwick*  
*Tichborne*  
*Warnford*  
*West Stratton*

#### **Building Types and Plot Patterns:**

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

#### **Building Materials:**

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

#### **Views and Edge Character:**

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

### 3.21 20th Century Settlement Type



South Wonston

#### **Settlement Origins:**

Settlements have developed in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century for a number of reasons.

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

A number of settlements, such as Gundleton, Compton Down and South Down have also developed due to the requirement for additional housing during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The most recent example is Knowle, a village that is currently being developed from the conversion of a Victorian Hospital, which commenced at the turn of 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

#### **Settlement Setting:**

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

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

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

Knowle lies on an area of Plateau Gravel overlying chalk, which is the western extent of the Portsdown Hill escarpment. It lies in fairly close proximity to the river Meon and is therefore relatively low. However,

#### **Typical Settlement**

*Compton Down*

*Gundleton*

*Knowle*

*South Down*

*South Wonston*

*Whiteley*

*Extensions at Kings Worthy, Denmead,*

*Colden Common, New Alresford*

since the land falls quite steeply to the south and west it feels fairly elevated.

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

#### **Settlement Form and Street Patterns:**

Due to the fact that settlements within this type have varying origins and settings, they do not conform in terms of settlement form and street pattern. Knowle, for example, has a nucleated, relatively dense settlement pattern, largely dictated by the retention of the hospital buildings, whereas South Wonston has a low density and distinctly linear form. South Down and Compton Down also have very similar fairly low density but dispersed forms which follow fairly wide winding roads and cul-de-sacs. Gundleton, however, has a looser, low-density structure, with a cluster of dwellings at western end of Goscombs Lane at the junction of three roads, together with further dwellings scattered along narrow winding roads in the area.

#### **Building Type and Plot Patterns:**

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

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

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

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

**Building Materials:**

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

**Views and Edge Character:**

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

