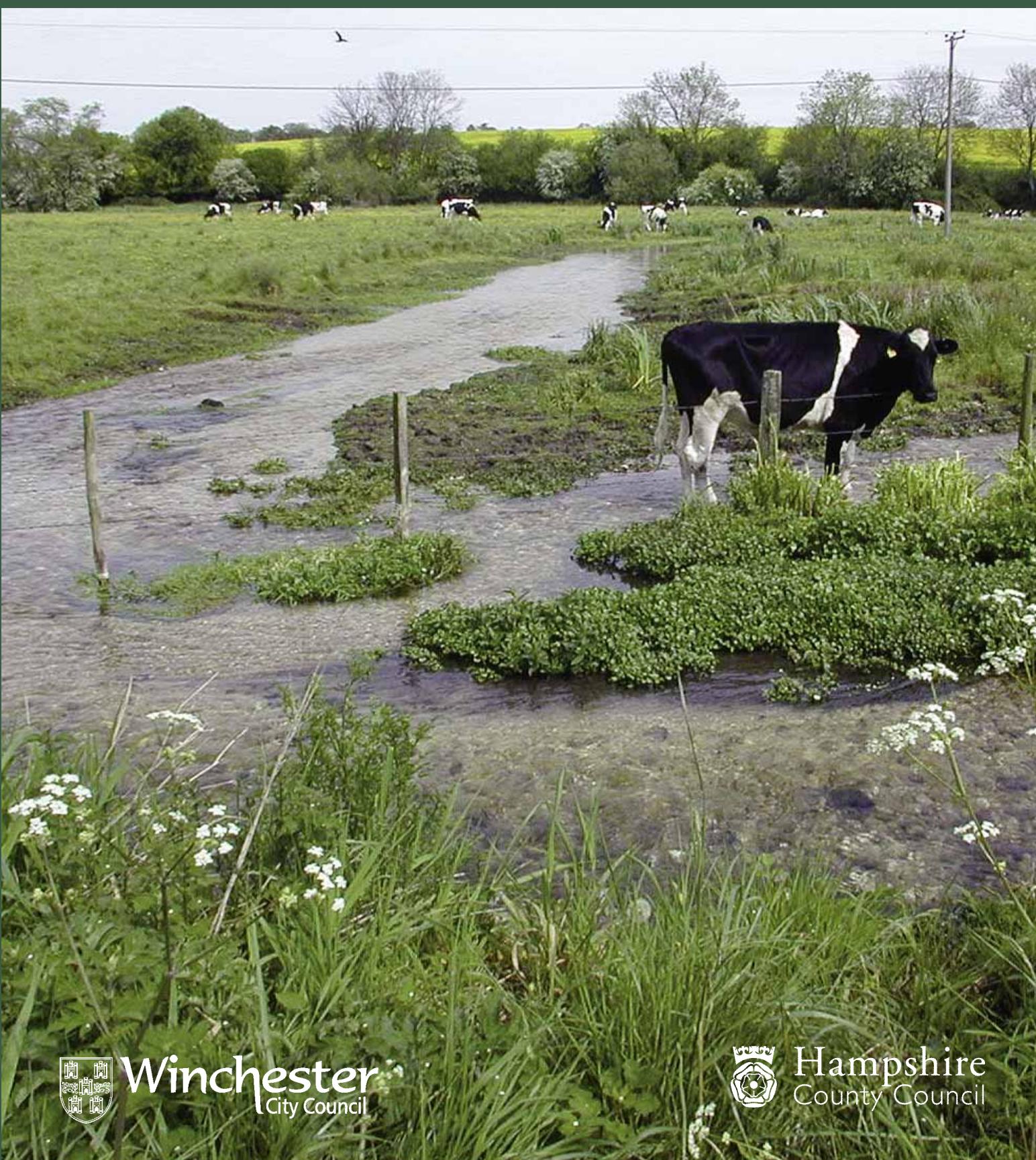


Volume 2 Appendices

Landscape Character Assessment

W I N C H E S T E R D I S T R I C T



Winchester
City Council



Hampshire
County Council

J A N U A R Y 2 0 0 4

Appendix One

METHODOLOGY



Appendix One | METHODOLOGY

Introduction

The Landscape Character Assessment follows the methodology set out by the Countryside Agency & Scottish Natural Heritage in 1999 (Interim Guidance on Landscape Character Assessment) and 2002 (Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland, CAX 84/F). This consists of four key stages:

1. Desk study
2. Field Survey
3. Making Judgements
4. Stakeholder Participation

The work was led by the Winchester City Council's Landscape Team, with input from ecological consultants and archaeological consultants during the first three stages. The archaeological consultants also produced the Historic Landscape Character Assessment in parallel with this process.

Stage 1. Desk Study

The desk study involved the preparation of 1:25,000 map overlays of different landscape factors. These formed the basis for defining areas of common character which were then checked in the field as part of the Field Assessment.

The information and overlays used included:

- Geology and Soils (*British Geological Survey Data, MAFF Agricultural Land Classification*)
- Landform and Drainage (*Ordnance Survey Data*)
- Vegetation (*Natural Area Profiles, BAPs*)
- Trees/woodland (*Ordnance Survey Data, Ancient Woodland inventories, aerial photos*)
- Land Use and enclosure/field patterns (*Ordnance Survey Data, Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment, Historical maps, Aerial Photos, Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens*)
- Settlement Patterns (*Ordnance Survey Data, Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment, Historical maps, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Conservation Area Assessments*)

Previous landscape and townscape assessments were also used and prepared as overlays:

- *The Hampshire Landscape* (HCC, 1994)
- *The Hampshire Landscape: A Strategy for the Future* (HCC, 2000)
- *Winchester City and its Setting* (HCC et al, 1998)

- *The East Hampshire AONB Integrated Management Guidelines* (HCC, 1998)
- *Winchester District Landscape Assessment* (WCC, 1995)
- *The Character of England Map* (Countryside Agency, 1998)
- *The Forest of Bere Strategy* (Forest of Bere Partnership, 2000)

Once prepared, the overlays were combined to suggest clear correlations between different factors and allow areas of potentially similar character to be identified. These used the Hampshire County Council Landscape Types (HCC, 1994) as a basis for assessing cross-county conformity. The Desk Study therefore enabled a draft set of Landscape Types and Landscape Character Areas to be drafted for the Winchester District.

At the time that this desk study was being undertaken, the archaeological and ecological consultants had also been instructed to commence their (predominantly desk-based) work, which would feed into the final analysis (Stage Three)

Stage 2. Field Survey

The field survey involved a detailed assessment of the landscape and settlements of the District to gather information that could not be provided by the desk study, including perceptual qualities such as important views, tranquillity, building materials, standards of habitat management and agricultural trends, including hedgerow loss.

2.1 Landscape Types

Every draft area of a given Landscape Type was visited, to check for conformity of character. In particular, boundaries were checked and areas, which did not appear to easily fit into a particular Landscape Type during the Desk Study, were examined. The scope of this survey meant that virtually every road in the District was driven, with frequent stops to complete Landscape Type Survey Sheets. This part of the Field Survey was undertaken by two Landscape Architects, as recommended by the Countryside Agency (2002), providing the practical benefits of assistance with navigating and recording, as well as enabling a consensus to be reached on a broad overview of the landscape.

At least one Landscape Type Survey Sheet was completed for each of the Landscape Types falling within every draft Landscape Character Area. A different template had been drawn up for each Landscape Type Survey Sheet (see Appendix Two) to

focus the surveyor on the particular features that could be expected to be present in these areas. In part, these were also based on the features defined for each Landscape Type in *The Hampshire Landscape* (HCC, 1994). These Survey Sheets ensured that aspects such as landform, field patterns, geology and species were recorded, as well as features and trends that appeared to be threatening the landscape. A digital photograph accompanied each survey sheet. These surveys also prompted ideas about how the landscape and built form could be improved, and thus provided input into the ultimate Landscape Strategies and Built Form Strategies for each Landscape Character Area.

By the end of this stage, the boundaries of the draft Landscape Types had been finalised (subject to stakeholder consultation) and the draft Landscape Character Area boundaries had been confirmed with more conviction.

2.2 Landscape Character Areas

A second stage to the Site Survey was carried out, once the Landscape Types had been finalised. By using the boundaries of the proposed Landscape Types and revisiting the desk study findings, the boundaries of the draft Landscape Character Areas were then refined. Where possible, these boundaries coincided with those of the Landscape Types although in some instances, for example where the visual envelope of a river valley formed its Landscape Character Area boundary, this was not always possible.

A second round of site surveys was then undertaken to finalise the Landscape Character Area Boundaries. This work was divided between two landscape architects, who undertook the survey work on half of the 23 Landscape Character Areas each. This part of the survey involved driving through each selected Landscape Character Area, stopping at least 3 times to record its perceptual qualities and characteristic features (Survey Sheet is shown in Appendix 2). In particular, patterns in settlement distribution and form were noted, and the accuracy of proposed boundaries checked.

2.3 Integrated Field Survey

In conjunction with these field surveys, the landscape architects spent two days with the ecological and archaeological consultants, who had commenced their own desk studies. This enabled them to be given a guided tour of the district, highlighting the draft Landscape Types and Landscape Character Areas. It also enabled all of the professionals to discuss and clarify important issues. For further details on the archaeologist's methodology see Appendix Four.

Stage 3. Making Judgements

Once the draft Landscape Types and Landscape Character Areas had been finalised (prior to stakeholder consultation) it was possible to define what the Key Characteristics of each area were and to

write Landscape and Built Form Strategies for each area. By this stage, the Historical Landscape Character Assessment and Ecological Mapping were complete and could be fed into the final analyses. Once each of the 23 Landscape Character Area descriptions and strategies had been drafted, they were read by the ecological consultants, who provided amendments and additions.

The results of Stage 3 are shown in Chapter Four of the main document.

Stage 4. Stakeholder Participation

Following the drafting of the Landscape Type and Landscape Character Area boundaries and the writing of the Key Characteristics and Strategies, a period of consultation commenced. This aimed to test the professional judgements made in formulating the character assessment; to provide additional information that is more readily available from local people and to raise public awareness of the assessment and landscape.

The process began with an evening workshop held in Winchester with invited parish councils, councillors, amenity groups, residents groups, adjacent district councils, government agencies and Winchester City Council officers. This provided a central location for all interested parties to meet. By just holding one meeting, it also meant that there was a good concentration of attendees to debate the issues, with over 35 people attending in total. The workshop enabled Winchester City Council to provide a presentation of the work that had been carried out to date and explain why the assessment was being carried out.



Stakeholder Workshop, Winchester, July 2002

Participants were then divided into five groups, each with a facilitator. Each group discussed four or five of the different Landscape Character Areas, which were relevant to their area. This enabled the stakeholders to consider the names and boundaries of the Landscape Character Areas and Landscape Types that had been proposed, as well as the providing their own thoughts on the character of the landscape and its future. For each character area, the groups were asked:

- What features do you think are distinctive of the area?

- What features of the area need improving/protecting?
- How would you like to see the landscape improved over the next 20 years?

Following the workshop evening, appropriate amendments were made to the maps and written descriptions and a period of further consultation commenced. 101 stakeholders were sent full maps and descriptions of the proposed Landscape Character Areas and Landscape Types, for their detailed comments. Following a month long consultation period, 16 external consultees responded together with officers from Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council. The external consultees consisted of seven parish councils, English Nature, two amenity/heritage societies, one local landowner, Fareham Borough Council, the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, the East Hampshire AONB project officer and the National Farmers Union (NFU).

A number of the comments raised concerned minor discrepancies and typographic errors, which were then amended. The Hampshire Wildlife Trust and two of the parish councils complimented the Council on the study and made no requests for amendments. Hampshire County Council and the East Hampshire AONB Project Officer raised queries regarding the consistency between some of the proposed Landscape Type boundaries in the Winchester District Landscape Character Assessment, *The Hampshire Landscape; A Strategy for the Future* (HCC, 2000) and the *East Hampshire AONB Integrated Management Guidelines* (HCC, 1998).

Following detailed discussions and site visits with HCC, some of the Landscape Type boundaries were amended slightly. In the remaining instances, HCC agreed that the detailed assessment undertaken by WCC had helped to refine the original HCC Landscape Types and did not need to be changed. A similar situation arose at the boundary between WCC and Fareham Borough Council, where discrepancies between the existing Fareham Landscape Assessment and the draft Winchester City Council Landscape Types were evident.

Again, site visits and discussions took place, which concluded that ideally an Upper Hamble Landscape Character Area would have been included in the Winchester District Landscape Character Assessment, to act as a continuation of a similar character area in Fareham Borough. It was acknowledged however, that this Landscape Character Area would be extremely small on the Winchester side and would not be practical to include. Consequently, an explanatory paragraph describing the tidal character of the Upper Hamble has been included in the Whiteley Woodlands Landscape Character Area.

The Bishop's Waltham Society raised a similar request for an 'Upper Hamble Landscape Character Area', although this proposal suggested the inclusion of much of the Hamble valley and its surroundings, to the south of Bishop's Waltham. Such an area was

shown in the previous Winchester Landscape Assessment. However given that the whole of the AONB area was excluded from that document, the remaining assessment was generally more detailed. Given the scope of this Landscape Character Assessment, it would not be practical to incorporate any further Landscape Character Areas. The proposed Key Characteristics and Strategies for a proposed 'Upper Hamble Valley' area would also be too similar to those of the Durley Claylands Character Area to warrant a separate character area.

The Bishop's Waltham Society, together with English Nature, the AONB and various parish councils also made many useful suggestions for factual amendments and additions to the draft Landscape Character Areas and Landscape Types, and these have been incorporated wherever appropriate. The NFU raised concerns over the phrasing of some of the Landscape Strategies regarding woodland and agriculture management and these too were amended, also in line with English Nature suggestions.

The draft Landscape Character Assessment was published on 9th May 2003 with a six week period of consultation that concluded on the 23rd June 2003. The 'Key Characteristics' and 'Landscape and Built Form Strategies' were appended to the Revised Deposit Local Plan Review and were therefore subject to formal consultation as part of the Local Plan process. During this period the council sought the views of Parish Councils, WCC Councillors, GOSE, Neighbouring Authorities and the Winchester Landscape Alliance, to whom copies of the Landscape Character Assessment were sent. In addition Hampshire County Council, National bodies, other Hampshire bodies and Local Organisations were sent copies of the Revised Deposit Local Plan Background Documents CD, including the Landscape Assessment. All those on the Local Plan Newsletter mailing list (nearly 3,000) were informed of the publication of the Landscape Character Assessment through the April 2003 Newsletter and notified that comments were to be invited.

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

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

Appendix Two

LANDSCAPE TYPE
AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA
SURVEY SHEET TEMPLATES



Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Open Arable

Landscape Character Area.....Map Ref.....

Landscape Type Exposed Arable.....Open Arable.....

Location.....

Parish.....

Date:.....Weather:.....

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Landform	Gently Rolling	Evenly sloping	Elevated	
Surface Geology & Soils	White chalky soil	Clay		
Drainage	Well drained	Streams		
Land-use	Intensive Arable Extensive Uninterrupted Farmland	Gallops Farmland	Remnant Downland Golf Courses	
Field Pattern	Very Large Regular Headlands;	Large (Parliamentary Enclosure)	Medium	
Boundaries	Hedges: Few trees Fences	Straight Trimmed	>1m high Fragmented	2-3m high; Thick
Woodland	Game Spinneys Ancient woodland	Recent plantations No Woodland	Shelter belts	
Habitats & Species	Woodland: Hedges: Individual trees: Shelterbelts:	Beech Hawthorn Ash Conifer Blackthorn Yew Species Rich Downland Turf	Conifer Blackthorn Yew Holly	Few Oaks
Routes	Straight Roads Ridgeway	Tracks	Drove Roads	
Building Materials	Brick	Flint	Thatch	Clay Tile
Building Types	Farm houses Cottages	Traditional Barns Church	Modern agricultural barns Retail/residential	
Historic Features	Tumulii	Hillforts	Drove Roads	
Historic Landscape Types			

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Open Arable (continued)

CONDITION OF CHARACTER

Good

Declining

Poor

NOTES

DETRACTORS

Intrusive farm buildings
Inappropriate tree species
Golf Courses

Unmanaged Land
Prominent Structures: masts

DESIRABLE FEATURES

Remnant downland
Parish hedgerow boundaries
Open character

Ancient woodland
Nature hedgerow value

Drove roads
Cultural associations

THREATS & TRENDS

Fragmented hedgerows
Soil erosion

Set-aside policy

Over mature shelter belts

IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Indigenous species to shelter-belts
Hedgerow Management

Return some arable land to downland

PHOTOGRAPH

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Chalk & Clay

Landscape Character Area **Map Ref.....**

Landscape Type Chalk & Clay Farmland..... Chalk & Clay Woodland.....

Location.....

Parish.....

Date..... **Weather.....**

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Landform	Undulating Varied topography: Escarpsments	Sloping Ridges & valleys	Combes		
Surface Geology & Soils	Chalk	Clay	Flinty soil		
Drainage	Dry valleys	Streams			
Land-use	Arable dominant Grazed hills & slopes	Extensive farmland Golf Courses	Wooded		
Field Pattern	Medium Fairly open No pattern	Large Enclosed			
Boundaries	Hedges: Dense Hedgebanks Gardens: Fences	Trimmed Fences Hedges	Overgrown Woodland edge Brick walls Flint walls		
Woodland	Ancient woodland	Oak/hazel coppice	Plantation		
Habitats & Species	Oak (high ground) Ash Downland turf	Oak & beech (low ground) Hawthorn Field maple	Whitebeam Yew Holly		
Routes	Winding Wide verges Lanes	Straight Tracks	Narrow Many footpaths 'A' Roads	Indirect Motorways	Steep
Building Materials	Brick Longstraw thatch	Flint Slate	Timber framed buildings Clay tiles	Hurdle making	
Building Types	Farm houses Detached Cottages	Barns Country Pubs	Church	Retail/residential	
Historic Features	Tumuli Strip Lynchets	Long Barrows	Ancient Field Systems Deserted Villages		
Historic Landscape Type				

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Chalk & Clay (continued)

CONDITION OF CHARACTER

Good

Declining

Poor

NOTES

DETRACTORS

Golf courses

DESIRABLE FEATURES

Ancient woodland

Tranquillity

Managed coppice

Hedgerows, parks, avenues

Downland pockets

THREATS & TRENDS

Hedgerow/woodland removal

Inappropriate rectilinear plantations

Increased field size

Loss of calcareous grassland

Damage to archaeological evidence within woodland areas

Hedgerow/woodland neglect

Coppice neglect

Mechanical hedge-cutting

Agricultural pollutants

IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Connect isolated habitats

Return some arable to downland

Screen structures

Hedgerow management

Management of historic landscape

PHOTOGRAPH

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Clay Plateau

Landscape Character Area.....Map Ref.

Landscape Type: Clay Plateau (Open).....Clay Plateau (Enclosed)....

Location:.....

Parish.....

Date:.....Weather:.....

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Landform	Gently undulating High ground	Domed Shallow dry valleys	Sloping
Surface Geology & Soils	Clay Chalk		
Drainage	Streams		
Land-use	Arable Extensive, uninterrupted farmland		
Field Pattern	Medium Open	Large Closed	Regular
			Irregular
Boundaries	Hedges: Hedgebanks Gardens:	low trimmed Fences Fences	high overgrown Woodland edge Brick walls Flint walls
Habitats & Species	Hedgerows: Hawthorn Woodland: Valleys: Commons:	Mixed Hazel Oak Ash Holly Field Maple Wayfaring tree Whitebeam Yew Beech Ash Birch Sweet chestnut	Bracken Blackthorn, Crab apple Dogwood Dog Rose Wild cherry Hornbeam Goat Willow, Gorse Bracken
Routes	Narrow	Indirect	Wide verge
Building Materials	Brick Flint Clay tiles	Timber framed buildings 20 th Century materials	Longstraw thatch, Slate
Building Types	Farm houses	Barns Cottages	Church
Historic Features	Remnant wood pasture Commons		

Historic Landscape Types.....

CONDITION OF CHARACTER

Good Declining Poor

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Clay Plateau (Continued)

NOTES

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DETRACTORS

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DESIRABLE FEATURES

Remoteness	Long views	Intact hedges
Commons	Ancient woodland	Remnant wood pasture

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THREATS & TRENDS

Hedgerow removal (incl saplings) & management
Poor pond management

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IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Connect isolated habitats	Soil erosion	Woodland/hedgerow management
Screen structures		

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PHOTOGRAPH

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Scarps

Landscape Character Area.....Map Ref:.....

Location:.....

Parish:.....

Date:.....Weather:.....

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Landform Steep scarp hillsides; winding chalk escarpment; high prominent ridgeline, domed hill/promontory, ancient hill fort

Surface Geology & Soils Chalk Thin Soils Silty

Drainage Well drained

Land-use Grazed: Species-rich Grassland
Ungrazed: Scrub encroachment
Recreation. Grazing
Woodland

Field Pattern Shallow slopes cultivated Open downland

Routes Base of scarp Top of scarp
Steep sunken lanes traversing scarp Footpaths
None

Boundaries Fences Woodland

Woodland Beech Yew hangers Forestry plantations

Species Hawthorn Yew Blackthorn Dogwood Field maple,
Dog rose Wayfaring tree

Building Materials Flint Clay Tiles Slate Brick

Building Types No Buildings Cottages

Historic Features Hill Forts
Ancient Semi-natural woodland
Chalk downland

Historic Landscape Types

CONDITION OF CHARACTER

Good Declining Poor

NOTES

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Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: **Scars** (Continued)

DETRACTORS

Visually intrusive arable fields

Scrub encroachment

DESIRABLE FEATURES

Chalk downland

Grazing land

Tranquillity

THREATS & TRENDS

Loss of downland to arable production

Unmanaged grassland/woodland

IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Ancient woodland management

Extend grazing land

Woodland management

Scrub encroachment

PHOTOGRAPH

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Heathland

Landscape Character Area.....Map Ref:.....

Landscape Type: Heathland.....Heathland plantation.....

Location:.....

Parish:.....

Date:.....Weather:.....

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Landform	Flat to gently undulating plateau			
Surface Geology & Soils	Predominantly sand			
Drainage	Generally well drained Ponds Bogs			
Land-use	Commons	Grazing/mechanical mowing,		
	Recreation	Scrub	Woodland	
Field Pattern	Unenclosed			
Boundaries	Scrub	Regenerated woodland strip		
	Gardens: Fences, hedges, brick walls, flint walls			
Woodland	Recent forestry plantation	Regenerating birch/oak woodland,		
	Gorse/bracken scrubland			
Habitats & Species	Heath: Heather	Acid grassland	Gorse	Broom
	Regenerating woodland:	Birch Pine	Oak	
Routes	Straight	Winding		
Building Materials	Brick flint	Timber framed buildings	Longstraw thatch,	
	Clay tiles	20 th Century materials		
Building Types	Detached cottages			
Historic Features	Heath	Acid grassland	Open boundaries	
	Common	Edge settlement		
Historic Landscape Types			

CONDITION OF CHARACTER

Good Declining Poor

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: **Heathland (Continued)**

NOTES

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DETRACTORS

Modern development

Pylons

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DESIRABLE FEATURES

Heath

Acid grassland

Scrubland

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THREATS & TRENDS

Loss of remnant heath through plantation, recreation, development

Neglect of Heath

Inappropriate management of heath

'Improvement' of grassland areas

Scrub encroachment

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IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Restoration of heathland areas where appropriate

Encourage appropriate management strategy

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PHOTOGRAPH

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated

Landscape Character Area.....Map. Ref.....

Location:.....

Parish:.....

Date:..... Weather:.....

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Landform	Undulating	Flat	Low-lying	Complex and Varied
Surface Geology & Soils	Sandy Loam	Sandy	Clays	Gravels
Drainage	Well drained Narrow valleys			
Land-use	Horse Paddocks Streams		Pasture Golf Courses	Market Gardens
Field Pattern	Small Irregular		Medium Regular	
Boundaries	Hedgerows: Fencing:	Banks Fencing sub-divisions of hedged fields		
Woodland	Well wooded	Mixed deciduous/evergreen		
Habitats & Species	Oak Acid Grassland	Birch Pine	Holly Bracken	Gorse,
Routes	Narrow Lanes	Straight	Winding	Sunken
Building Materials	Brick	Slate	Clay Tiles	20 th Century Materials
Building Types	Cottages Church	Smallholdings Country Pub	Bungalows	Large Houses
Historic Features	Commons			

Historic Landscape Types

CONDITION OF CHARACTER

Good Declining Poor

NOTES

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated (Continued)

DETRACTORS

Rhododendron invasion Garden centres Horticulture

DESIRABLE FEATURES

Remnant heathland Species rich meadows Well-wooded, ancient woodland
Intact hedgerows Seclusion Rural character

THREATS & TRENDS

Unmanaged hedgerows Ranch fencing Recreational use
Erosion of traditional commoning

IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Hedgerow management
Replace fencing with hedges

PHOTOGRAPH

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Mixed Farmland and Woodland

Landscape Character Area.....Map Ref.....

Landscape Type: Open Mixed Farmland & Woodland.....
Enclosed Mixed Farmland & Woodland.....

Location:

Parish:

Date:.....**Weather:**.....

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Landform	Undulating higher land Steep sided valleys	Flatter low lying land
Surface Geology & Soils	Clay Sand	Clayey Sand Loam Acidic
Drainage	Streams Springs	Ditches Rivers Waterlogging
Land-use	Intensive arable Grazing, Woodland	Unimproved Meadows Flushes, Woodland
Field Pattern	Small Regular Ancient Intimate	Medium Irregular Modern Enclosed
Boundaries	Hedgerows on banks	Ditches Woodland Edges
Woodland	Ancient Woodland	Shelterbelts Forestry Plantations
Habitats & Species	Woodland: Plantations: Hedgerows: Trees:	Oak Ash Beech Pine Birch Poplar Conifers Oak Bracken Blackthorn, Hawthorn Alder Crab Apple Willow
Routes	Winding Narrow	Roads Wide verges Lanes Busy
Building Materials	Brick Tiles	Slates
Building Types	Farm Houses Country Pubs Retail/Residential	Barns Church Detached Cottages
Historic Features	Ancient Intact Field Patterns	Commons Wood Pasture
Historic Landscape Types

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Mixed Farmland and Woodland (Continued)

CONDITION OF CHARACTER

Good

Declining

Poor

NOTES

DETRACTORS

Pylons

DESIRABLE FEATURES

Streets Meadows Commons
Small scale ancient field systems
Enclosed character

Wood pasture Woodland
Intact hedge/banks

THREATS & TRENDS

Woodland and hedgerow removal to increase field size
Loss of ancient field pattern Urban fringe encroachment
Recreational use

IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Reinstate hedges to provide connectivity to woodland
Protect meadows Woodland management

PHOTOGRAPH

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Pasture on Clay

Landscape Character Area.....Map. Ref.....

Location:.....

Parish:.....

Date:.....Weather:.....

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Landform	Flattish	Gently Undulating	Unified
Surface Geology & Soils	Clay		
Drainage	Seasonally waterlogged	Streams	
Field Pattern	Small Medium	Regular	Patchwork
Routes	Straight Roads	Lanes	Footpaths
Land-use	Grazed	Lush pasture	No arable
Boundaries	Regular	Intact network of low trimmed hedges Numerous regularly spaced individual trees	
Woodland	Remnants of Ancient Woodland	Former wood pasture	
Species & Habitats	Woodland: Hedgerow trees: Hedges: Minor species locally:	Oak Oak Hawthorn Blackthorn Holly Dog Rose Alder Ash Crab apple Dogwood Elder Common Elm Guelder Rose Hazel Field maple Goat willow Ancient woodland indicators: Aspen	Field Maple
Building Materials	Brick	Slate	Clay Tile Thatch
Building Types	Farm Houses Church	Barns	Cottages Country Pubs
Historic Features	Parliamentary Enclosure Field Pattern		
Historic Landscape Types		

CONDITION OF CHARACTER

Good Declining Poor

NOTES

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Pasture on Clay (Continued)

DETRACTORS

Electricity transmission lines

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DESIRABLE FEATURES

Intact low hedgerows with trees
Regular small scale field pattern

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Grazing

THREATS & TRENDS

Increasing traffic impact
Absence of hedgerow saplings

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Demand for recreation uses
Urban fringe pressure

IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Plant hedgerow trees

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PHOTOGRAPH

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Horticulture & Smallholdings

Landscape Character Area.....Map. Ref.....

Location:.....

Parish:.....

Date:.....Weather:.....

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Landform	Flat	Undulating	Sloping
Surface Geology & Soils	Sandy	Sandy Clay	Loamy
Drainage	Streams		
Land Use	Horticulture Garden centres	Smallholdings Urbanised	Nurseries Paddocks
Field Pattern	Small Open	Medium Enclosed	Regular
Boundaries	Fragmented hedgerows	Fenced	Unfenced
Woodland	Shelterbelts		
Habitats & Species	Shelterbelts: Hedgerows: Minor Species:	Pine Cypress Ornamental species Oak Ash Elder Beech Field Maple	Poplar Alder Hawthorn Dog rose Dogwood Goat willow
Routes	Main roads Straight	Minor roads Winding	Narrow lanes
Building Materials	Brick	Slate	Flint
Building Types	Glasshouses	Bungalows	Smallholdings
Historic Features	Brick works		Cottages
Historic Landscape Types		

CONDITION OF CHARACTER

Good Declining Poor

NOTES

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Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Horticulture & Smallholdings (Continued)

DETRACTORS

Polythene tunnels	Electricity transmission lines
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DESIRABLE FEATURES

Remnant heathland	Productive land
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THREATS & TRENDS

Hedgerow/ sapling removal	Hedgerow fragmentation
Soil erosion	Loss of rural identity
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IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Hedgerow management
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PHOTOGRAPH

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: River Valley

Landscape Character Area.....Map. Ref.....

Landscape Type Valley Floor.....Valley Side.....

Location.....

Parish.....

Date:.....Weather:.....

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Landform	Flat floodplain Gentle slopes	Narrow valley	Steep sides
Surface Geology & Soils	Alluvium	River & valley gravel	Chalk Clay
Drainage	Main river channel Mill chases	Braided channel Ponds	Tributary streams
Land-use	Fishing Wooded bottom	Watercress Beds Unimproved Water Meadow	Fish Farms Woodland Pasture
Field Pattern	Water meadows extend down to river No obvious field pattern	Irregular	Small
Boundaries	Remnant Hedgerows Individual trees	Fences	Lines of trees
Woodland	Small Copses Wooded Valley Side	Poplar Belts	Carrs
Habitats & Species	Riparian Alder Ash	Reed Beds Sallow willow (pollarded) Hawthorn	Marsh Poplar Field Maple
Routes	Valley Side Roads Fords	Valley Bottom Roads Footpaths	Bridges
Building Materials	Brick Longstraw thatch	Lime washed plaster over timber wattle Clay tiles	Flint walls
Historic Features	Setting for Stately Homes Sluices	Locks	Parkland landscapes & lakes Mills Water meadows
Historic Landscape Types

CONDITION OF CHARACTER

Good Declining Poor

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: River Valley (Continued)

NOTES

.....
.....
.....
.....

DETRACTORS

Fish Farms

.....
.....

DESIRABLE FEATURES

Riparian character	Water courses	Flood meadows
Wet woodland	Watercress beds	

.....
.....

THREATS & TRENDS

Mineral workings	Reservoirs	Land drainage	Erosion of river banks
Scrub encroachment	Fish farm development		
Loss of river features such as meanders			
Cessation of traditional water-meadow management			
Improvement of grassland through fertiliser and herbicide use			

.....
.....

IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Plant indigenous species	Pollard management	Woodland management
Restoration of pasture		

.....
.....

PHOTOGRAPH

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Historic Parkland

Landscape Character Area..........**Map. Ref.....**

Location.....

Parish.....

Date:..........**Weather:.....**

CHARACTERISTIC LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Age of Park.....

Landform	Flat	Undulating	
Sloping (<i>hill top/side location</i>)			
Surface Geology & Soils	Chalk	Clay	Sandy
Drainage	Adjacent to river		
Land-use	Pasture	Arable	Gardens
Routes	Peripheral road		Driveway to house
Boundaries	Fences:	Estate railings	Palisade fencing
	Walls:	Brick	Flint
	Hedgerows		
Woodland	Ancient woodland	Shelter belts	Copse
	Game coverts	Wood pasture	
	Clumps of trees	Specimen Trees	
	Avenues		
Habitats & Species	Oak	Beech	Lime
	Chestnut		Cedar
	Ornamental Shrubs		
	Ornamental Trees		
	Native woodland species		
Building Materials	Stone	Brick	Slate
	Thatch	Brick & flint walls	
Building Types	Main house	Gate lodges	Estate cottages
	Estate village	Church	
Historic Features	Ornamental Gardens		Ancillary buildings
	Archaeological features predating park		
	Memorials		
Historic Landscape Types			

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Type: Historic Parkland (Continued)

CONDITION OF CHARACTER

Good Declining Poor

NOTES

DETRACTORS

Inappropriate architectural alterations & development

DESIRABLE FEATURES

Gardens	Parkland	Avenues
Ancient woodland	Tranquillity	
Views	Boundary walls & fences	

THREATS & TRENDS

Poor tree management (including avenues, woodland and clumps)
Removal of trees (especially avenues and clumps)
Conversion of parkland pasture to arable
Conversion of parkland to golf course

IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Tree planting	Tree management
Return arable land to pasture	

PHOTOGRAPH

Winchester City Council Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Character Area Survey Sheet

Character Area Name:.....

Parish:.....

Date of Survey:..... **Weather:**.....

THE LANDSCAPE OF THE AREA:

Landscape Types within the Area:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

(See *Landscape Type Survey Sheets for this Character Area* for more detailed information)

Main Features of the Character Area

Settlements:.....

Woodland:.....

Historic Features :.....

Landscape:.....

Character Area boundaries and Location of Landscape Types:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Integration of Landscape Types and Unifying Features:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

SENSES

Views:	Long	Panoramic	Short	Agriculture	Settlements
	Beyond Character Area Boundary			Beyond District Boundary	
	Other.....				

Key Views:.....
.....

Landmarks

Sound: Tranquil Windy Car Trains Aeroplanes People

Feel: Exposed Sheltered Open Enclosed

Notes:.....

SETTLEMENTS IN THE LANDSCAPE

Settlement Density Low density Medium density High density

Settlement Size Small villages & hamlets
Market towns
Estate workers' cottages Large villages
Scattered farms

Settlement Origins Roman(43-410AD) Anglo Saxon(410-1066)
Medieval(1066-1500) Elizabethan/Tudor(16th 17th C)
Georgian(18th C) Victorian(1840-1914) 20th C

Predominant Architectural Character Medieval(1066-1500) Elizabethan/Tudor(1500-1700)
Georgian(1700-1840) Victorian(1840-1914) 20th C

Dominant Character Rural Urban Suburban

Evidence of Historic Settlement:.....

Settlement 1.

Place name origins:.....

Settlement Type:

Buildings:

Materials:

Photograph

Appendix Three

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
CHARACTER ASSESSMENT
OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY



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Appendix Three | HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

1. Introduction

1.1.1 Winchester City Council commissioned Oxford Archaeology (OA) to carry out a desk-based survey, assessing the historic landscape character of Winchester district. The principal aim of this survey was to characterise the landscape of the Winchester district into historic landscape character areas (HLCA), using as a base survey the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment (1999).

1.1.2 The Winchester District, being a political creation, is composed of several different landscape areas, or areas which do not wholly lie within the boundaries of the district. The greater part of these distinct areas lies beyond the bounds of the district. Broadly speaking these landscape areas are:

- The South Downs, which extend westwards to the Itchen valley below Winchester.
- The Central Hampshire Downs, which occupy the NW part of the district and are an extension of the southern central chalklands which include Salisbury Plain
- The Hampshire lowlands which are situated to the south of the South Downs in the southern part of the district.

2. Historical Background

2.1.1 The Winchester District extends from Micheldever parish in the north, to Portsdown Hill in the south and is the central district within the county of Hampshire. At least 70% of the district is situated on the chalk, with the southern-most part of the district (below a line from Hursley in the west, to Denmead in the south-east), lying on the younger tertiary deposits of the Hampshire Basin (sands, gravels and clays).

2.1.2 The chalk areas of the district vary in character, with the chalk downlands to the west and north of Winchester exhibiting a relatively low rolling nature, rarely exceeding 100m in altitude, although some areas rise as high as 150m. The area contains very little woodland, which is mainly due to the absence of a clay covering. The current land use is predominantly arable with large fields and straight surveyed hedged boundaries. These downlands are relatively uniform in appearance and represent an enclosure landscape brought about by formal agreement and parliamentary means, and later boundary loss and field rationalisation giving rise to quite large fields.

2.1.3 To the east and west of Winchester the chalk downland varies more in relief (with the western-most extremity of the South Downs lying just to the east of Winchester, land can rise up to 200m or more, such as

at Beacon Hill). These downlands display comparatively more woodland than those to the north and east due to the presence of a 'clay with flints' geology covering the chalk. Enclosure types vary more, with more smaller and irregular enclosures occurring. These are often hedged and represent early post-medieval informal enclosure. Historically, the chalk downlands of the district would have been used for the rearing of sheep with the greatest extent of downland probably occurring in the 17th Century. With the introduction of water meadows in the late 17th Century, notably in the Itchen and Meon valleys, some downland may have been used for other agricultural purposes. Any lands which had not been enclosed by either informal or formal agreements were enclosed by the enclosure acts of the late 18th and early 19th Centuries, more or less giving rise to the present day landscape. Post-WWII, field rationalisation and boundary loss has also had an effect on the landscape, with larger and more regular fields being made with fewer treed hedges.

2.1.4 On the sands and gravels to the south of the chalk lies an entirely different landscape which is dominated by the old Forest of Bere. The Forest of Bere was an area of land lying between Portsdown Hill to the south and the South Downs to the north, set aside as a royal hunting reserve and, as such, was subject to special laws. The Forest of Bere was enclosed by act of parliament in 1814. The present day extent of the forest represents a parliamentary type enclosure landscape, with rectilinear fields with straight surveyed boundaries and modern coniferous plantations. Around the 1814 outskirts of the forest lies an older landscape of assarts and associated assarted woodland. These represent incursions and encroachment upon the medieval forest. These assarts tend to be relatively small and highly irregular, with treed hedges. The woodlands surrounding the early 19th Century extent of the Forest of Bere, as shown on the 1st edition 1' O.S. map, are also old, often pre-1600 in date (Hampshire Inventory of Ancient Woodlands, English Nature 1995).

2.1.5 Historically the river valleys of the district, notably the Itchen and Meon valleys, as well as the Dever (a tributary of the river Test) are important, as they provide locations for settlements within areas of chalk downlands where free flowing water is a relatively scarce resource. Indeed in the chalk areas of the district major settlements i.e. villages and towns are confined to the river valleys, with parish boundaries extending up from the valleys onto the chalk downs, so as to include as large a variety of landscape and soil types as possible and thereby maximising available rights to local natural resources.

Villages are usually situated at favourable crossing points, such as fords and later bridges, often where at least two routes converged to cross a water course. Rivers are also a resource in themselves, providing mechanical energy in the form of watermills, top grade agricultural land for arable crops and winter grazing, especially in the form of water-meadows which came into use from the late 17th Century onwards but fell into decline in the mid 19th Century with the advent of artificial fertilisers and the agricultural slump of the late 19th Century.

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The principal aims of the Winchester District Historic Landscape Character Assessment, were:

- To divide the district up into 'Historic Landscape Character Areas' using the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment (1999) as a base survey.
- To provide the results of the above in the form of a historic landscape character map, together with brief character descriptions in a digital format compatible with existing WCC and HCC software.
- To employ the historic landscape assessment methodology to characterize the townscape of the larger rural settlements of the district.
- To produce a report to provide a clarification and explanation of the historic landscape character areas.

3.2 Objectives

3.1.2 It is hoped that the results of this study will contribute towards the following objectives:

- An understanding of the 'time-depth' aspects of the landscape, through a historic landscape characterisation which can then be used to provide a historic element for WDCs Landscape Character Assessment.
- To contribute to the identification and description of significant threats or opportunities for vulnerable areas of the historic landscape.

4. Methodology

4.1 Sources Consulted

4.1.1 This assessment involved examination of the relevant parts of the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment (Scott Wilson Resource Consultants & OAU on behalf of HCC & English Heritage, 1999).

4.1.2 Winchester District Council provided the base mapping of OS 1:10,000 scale maps in digital raster form, these being the smallest OS scale at which field boundaries are depicted in digital form. OS 1:25,000 scale maps, on which the original Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment was based, are not available in digital form.

4.1.3 Other sources consulted were, *A Guide to Enclosure in Hampshire 1700-1900*, J. Chapman & S.

Seeliger (Hants Record Society 1997), *Winchester District Landscape Assessment* (WDC, 1995) and the *Hampshire Inventory of Ancient Woodland* (English Nature, February 1995).

4.2 Identification of Historic Landscape Character Areas

4.2.1 This assessment involved the detailed re-examination, of the parts relevant to the Winchester District, of the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment. The historic landscape types (HLTs), which comprised the assessment, were closely examined, together with ancillary information such as OS 1:10,000 and 1:25,000 scale maps. This process entailed a review of the Historic Landscape type boundaries produced in 1999. These were amended where it was felt that this was appropriate although, gratifyingly, if was felt that in the majority of cases no such amendment was necessary. For ease of reference the numbers and landscape types are used in the following report. A key to the Historic Landscape Types used is presented as Figure 1a of this report. A brief definition of each Historic Landscape Type is given in Annex One below, and full definitions can be found in the Hampshire Historic Landscape characterisation final report (OA/CBA 1999).

4.2.2 Following this process the project passed into the second (principal) phase which entailed the assembly of groups of HLTs, with similar historic rationales, into Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCAs). The boundaries of the HLCAs' were taken to be the boundaries of the HLTs although occasionally, for the sake of simplification and clarity, the boundary would be drawn through a HLT. Nineteen HLCAs were defined. Detailed discussion of each of the defined areas is presented in Section 6.0 below and their location and detailed HLT make-up is shown in Figure 1 at the rear of the report.

4.2.3 Some regions of the district lent themselves to historic landscape characterisation more readily than other regions. The southern part of the district, to the south of the chalk, is historically dominated by the ancient Royal Forest of Bere (Landscape Area10) which, in effect, is a ready-made HCA. The countryside surrounding the Forest of Bere (Landscape Areas 9, 11 & 13) is also historically distinctive, due to its relationship with the Royal Forest and, as such, was readily characterised into HLCAs.

4.2.4 The chalkland areas of the district (comprising about 70% of the district) are not so readily characterised into various, distinctly different, HLCAs. This is due in part to the nature of the chalk geology and the resulting topography and soils which are the major factors in governing man's use of the landscape. Chalkland HLCAs are distinguished principally on the basis of topography, high ground and differences in woodland cover, as well as differences between the basic types of enclosure HLTs, such as 'parliamentary' type enclosures (1.9-1.14) and 'pre-parliamentary' enclosures (1.1-1.3,1.6,1.8,1.15 & 1.16). Historically the chalkland areas, from medieval

times, have been used for the rearing of sheep, demonstrating a consistent land use across the entire zone. The most important historical difference between chalkland HLCAs is therefore the enclosure types. The areas fall roughly into two categories either representing predominantly pre-parliamentary types, representing piecemeal and informal enclosure or parliamentary types, representing enclosure by Act of Parliament, by formal agreement and later by post World-War II field rationalisation, usually marked by boundary loss and boundary straightening.

4.3 Format and Presentation of Survey Data

4.3.1 The primary database for the present study is the Geographical Information System (GIS) which accompanies this report. The GIS comprises a layer of polygons overlying the OS 1:10,000 base maps. Each polygon represents the extent of a Historic Landscape Type identified from the OS 1:10,000 maps. The colour of the polygon hatching indicates the Historic Landscape Type. Within each polygon, beside its unique identification number, is a central 'node' (visible as a cross). The central node has a data set connected to it which may be accessed by placing the cursor on the cross and pressing the Enter/Return Key on the mouse or keyboard.

4.3.2 The District-Wide location of the HLCAs is shown on Figure 1.

4.4 Limitations of the Survey

4.4.1 The assessment is purely a desk-based study and the information was not systematically checked in the field, although two days were spent driving through the District (in the company of the other members of the team). This process was intended to give a visual impression, i.e. from a horizontal perspective, as opposed to a vertical perspective as given by a desk-based study.

5. Analysis of Survey Data

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This desk-based assessment has created nineteen HLCAs which are discussed in more detail in Section Six below. The HLCAs were derived through the considered analysis of the distributions and concentrations of HLTs, as originally defined in the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment (1999). They represent patterns and groupings of identifiable Historic Landscape Types. This work was carried out in conjunction with the wider Landscape Character Mapping being undertaken by Winchester City Council and, as part of the iterative process of this project draft information from the OA descriptions, has been fed into the wider City Council analysis. As part of the same process, draft City Council Landscape Area descriptions (where supplied to OA) have been informally reviewed as part of the OA study.

5.2 Rural Areas

5.2.1 The HLCAs can be grouped into three categories, chalkland, lowland and river valleys. These

HLCAs tend to roughly follow a NW-SE alignment. This can be related mainly in part to the underlying geology, especially the southern boundary of the chalk of the South Downs and the tertiary deposits of the Hampshire Basin.

5.2.2 Chalkland HLCAs were differentiated from each other by reference to relief and height, woodland cover and field type and morphology. The low rolling nature of the chalk to the north of Winchester, together with the lack of clay on the chalk, has given rise to an arable landscape with sparse woodland cover, consisting of relatively large HLTs of predominately parliamentary type enclosures, with few HLTs of a more ancient origin besides the occasional pre-1810 park. The HLCAs which cover the South Downs, i.e. the chalk areas to the east and south of the Itchen, namely HLCAs 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 16, 17 & 18, are differentiated mainly on the basis of relief and woodland cover. The relatively high relief of the South Downs and the subsequently more heavily incised slopes, together with the presence of more woodland and general early informal enclosure history has given rise to a landscape of more predominantly smaller HLTs than other areas of chalk within the district. These HLTs are generally old in nature with enclosure HLTs being of informal enclosure types (1.6, 1.15 & 1.16). There is also evidence of assarting on the chalk, especially in HLCA 18. Any parliamentary type enclosure within these HLCAs are the result of 19th/20th Century enclosure of old downland.

5.2.3 The lowland HLCAs are dominated by the royal Forest of Bere and its surrounding sphere of influence or hinterland. They are predominately situated on the tertiary sands, gravels and clays of the Hampshire Basin. The Forest of Bere, together with Waltham Chase, represents an predominantly formal enclosure landscape. Around this there are HLCAs which represent encroachment upon the Forest in the form of assarts and associated assarted woodland. These HLCAs (9,11 & 19), represent an old landscape which has resisted the changes imposed upon the landscape by processes such as formal and parliamentary enclosure, which have affected the Forest of Bere.

5.2.4 Portsdown Hill forms an HLCA by its self and represents an outlying outcrop of chalk to the south of the South Downs. The river valleys define themselves.

5.3 Settlement and townscape

5.3.1 The City of Winchester, which has been the subject of a separate study (LDA 1998) has a complex historic townscape that has been more fully studied than any other Roman or medieval town in England. For the early medieval period the transition from Anglo-Saxon to Norman townscape has been studied through a series of early surveys (Barlow, Biddle, et al., 1976). For the later medieval period the wealth of title deeds and other records has allowed a complete reconstruction of landholding in the city and suburbs (Keene, 1985), and the post-medieval city and environs have been also been mapped (James 1997).

Medieval towns required a setting of fields and pastures for the livelihood of citizens and visitors (hay was especially important in this regard), while other products of the land (e.g. firewood) came from further afield. Winchester has retained a significant green setting of downs and river meadows, and recognition of this has had a significant impact on decisions about development and road alignments (e.g. Twyford Down). At the same time the expanding post-medieval city has had an impact on the surrounding landscape by drawing in communication links by road and rail, and by expansion in suburbs and nearby dormitory areas.

5.3.2 Winchester is in a dominant position in the historic urban landscape, with the nearest towns of any size, after Southampton and Portsmouth, being in the neighbouring counties (Salisbury, Reading, Guildford and Chichester). Possibly on this account the density of historic market towns was lower in Hampshire than all surrounding counties except Surrey (Everitt 1967). The network of market towns was fluid and covered a range of places from larger market towns (e.g. Alresford) to those that were little more than villages with a market place (e.g. Wickham), and included medieval markets that later ceased to operate as such.

5.3.3 A more remarkable urban development has been the coastal conurbation from Fareham to Havant, including Portsmouth and Gosport. The coastal plain has all but disappeared beneath modern housing, and a stretch of land to the north of Portsdown at Widley-Horndean is also built over. The intensity of the developed area is matched by the suddenness with which it terminates, especially on the Winchester/ Havant boundary, a remarkable instance of the political geography of planning. Inevitably this places much pressure on the adjacent areas within the Winchester District, which this report finds to contain some of the oldest and most remarkable landscapes.

5.3.4 Village morphology demands a separate study by itself, but essentially this is an area of nucleated villages, with some hamlets and isolated farms in wooded areas, and occasional common-edge settlement (and then regular colonisation of former commons and heaths). There is perhaps a tendency towards linear villages spread along roads or beside the river valleys, rather than villages formed around central greens. Among the villages there are a number of places that have expanded as market centres, often established in the 12th or 13th Centuries, and with the encouragement of their feudal lords.

5.3.5 There are three of these in the Winchester District, which have been subject to a mapping study (Figs. 2, 3 and 4); and to these is added Denmead (Fig. 5) which has undergone more recent expansion. To show the pace of the most recent change, the expansion has been mapped from the early 19th-century OS or tithe maps, the 1960s OS 1-inch maps, and the most recent OS 1:25,000 mapping.

5.3.6 *Alresford* (Fig. 2): This was one of the new

towns founded by the bishops of Winchester in 1200/1202 (Beresford 1959), with a formal town layout and the vast fishpond contained within a dam carrying the approach road to the town. The association of the planned town, with the water features (pond, river, and watercress beds) is unusual and significant, while the older settlement (Old Alresford) still exists further to the north. The regular tenement plots of the medieval market place that are aligned north-south are in contrast with the less regular ones aligned along the east-west turnpike road that became the later focus of the town. There was little expansion between the medieval period and the detailed mapping of the town on the 1837 Tithe Map. Despite frequent fires and rebuilding, the townscape of the historic centre has been well preserved, and the extensive 20th Century expansion has taken place south of the railway in a regular block limited by the A31 trunk road, the river and downland. The earlier area of expansion (to 1971) was along the railway and infilling within a triangle of roads, whereas the more recent phase has been a second block of infill out towards the A31 by-pass, demonstrating the seemingly inevitable effect of such road building. The ambience of the historic centre has been almost unaffected by this large expansion. (See also *New Alresford Conservation Area, A Technical Assessment* draft 1997)

5.3.7 *Bishops Waltham* (Fig. 3): Bishops Waltham is also to be seen in an extended feudal landscape of Bishop's Palace, Park and Chase; the western section of the Forest of Bere, granted by the Crown to the Bishops of Winchester in 904 AD. Aligned on an axis of palace and parish church, and again in a context of controlled water features of fishponds/mill reservoirs, the town developed as a market in the 13th Century. The primary plan certainly includes a broad market street with back lanes in an overall grid plan, and it may be that (as at Thame) this includes a diversion of the original streets to make a linear market place. Expansion has been of an organic character, partly around the east and west approach roads to the town and in diverse parts, rather than in large blocks. An area of 19th Century growth is most marked in the 'Newtown', built for the brickworks to the west of the town. Expansion in the first half of the 20th Century (to 1965) was in disparate areas, mostly on roadside fields, which have then become infilled by later 20th Century growth, producing a more regular, but still diverse, overall massing. By contrast with Alresford the impact of road improvement within (rather than around) the town has been a diminution of key elements of the medieval townscape, and in the loss of historic fabric at the Bishop's Palace. (See also *Bishops Waltham Conservation Area, A Technical Assessment* draft 1999).

5.3.8 *Wickham* (Fig. 4): Although Wickham has Roman origins, and is sited on a Roman crossroads, it is a relative latecomer compared with the previous two places, receiving its market grant only in 1269. The planned town may date from that time, and is a classic small compact market place, with regular

tenements surrounding it, aligned on the river and commencing at the bridge that leads to the parish church. As with the other towns, the plan in 1839 was probably only very slightly larger than the original medieval layout. The growth of Wickham in the 20th Century has been along roads both east and west of the town, but has clearly been defined by the availability of land and the avoidance of the river valley and Rookesbury Park to the east. Both the earlier phase (to 1965) and the later have comprised smaller roadside blocks coupled with large infilling of fields. The result has been a compact urban space, with a firm edge, but a sense of organic growth. (See also *Wickham Conservation Area, A Technical Assessment* draft 1999).

5.3.9 Denmead (Fig. 5): The expansion of the forest-edge farm and hamlet of Denmead is almost all of fairly modern date, following disafforestation of the Forest of Bere. From a straggling linear settlement along the Denmead to Hambledon road, and especially around the enclosed Anthill Common, Denmead grew in the first half of the 20th Century along all the roads, especially south of Denmead, and then in the latter half expanded further southwards to fill the rectilinear zone as far as Forest Road. Thus, the character of 19th Century enclosure colonisation has changed to a 20th Century urban/suburban one, matching the extensive development nearby already spoken of in Cowplain and Waterlooville, and not wholly inappropriate in a disafforested area that had lost much of its former character. Although this may be seen as 'urban sprawl', its varied character and the availability of open space is in contrast with the more solid areas of relentless 'suburban' development outside the Winchester District, and may offer some suggestions as to how growth can be accommodated in a countryside that has less intrinsic historic interest.

6. Detailed Discussion of Landscape Areas

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Detailed area by area discussion of the defined Historic Landscape Character Area is presented, in tabular form below. The location and detailed Landscape type make-up of each of the areas is shown on Figure 1 at the rear of the report. Definitions of the historic landscape types (HLTs) are summarised in Annex One.

Area 1: Crawley, Wonston, Hunton and Itchen Downs

General Description: The HLCA is bounded to the south by the river Itchen and the City of Winchester, to the east by Micheldever Wood and tributaries of the Itchen and is situated on the chalk.

HLT Characteristics: The dominant HLT's of this area are of the larger parliamentary types, (HLTs 1.10, 1.11 and 1.14) as well as 1.8, 'ladder fields'. The woods tend to be relatively small and few and far between. They consist mainly of the unassarted type, 4.3 and the plantation type, 4.5.

Settlement: The area contains a few old core settlements such as Crawley, Littleton, East Stratton and King's Worthy. There are also several large areas of more recent urban growth, located at South Wonston, Kings Worthy and Littleton on the chalk to the north of Winchester. These modern housing estates are primarily connected with the military, some containing barracks and married quarters.

Historical factors: The low rolling nature of the landscape (rarely exceeding 100m) has given rise to relatively large fields with straight, surveyed boundaries, though not all of this area was subject to enclosure by act of parliament. Much of the land was enclosed by formal agreement but the resulting enclosures and field pattern are typical of a parliamentary enclosure landscape. However 20th Century boundary loss and field rationalisation may account for some of the larger fields and straight surveyed boundaries. The 'ladder fields' (1.8) are an amalgamation of old and new. The long wavy boundaries, extending from the Dever valley up onto the chalk, probably represent the old open field boundaries, with the surveyed straight 'rungs' representing later enclosure of the open fields.

Historically, the area was used for sheep rearing, but arable has become the dominant form of agriculture during the 20th Century.

Time Depth: Though predominantly an enclosure (both informal piecemeal and later parliamentary) landscape, this area has potentially a great time depth value in the form of archaeological potential, being heavily exploited in the prehistoric and Roman periods. 20th Century loss of field boundaries has degraded both medieval and enclosure landscape. There are a few surviving features of older landscapes present. These include old parkland, small pockets of ancient woodland and prehistoric features such as tumuli, encampments and field systems. Two Roman roads cross the area and are historically important because they have been used not only as routes of communication but have also been utilised to form field and parish boundaries. Modern intrusive features include a railway line, major trunk roads such as the A34 and relatively large urban developments which tend to be related to the military presence.

Area 2: Hursley Scarplands

General Description: This HLCA, is bounded to the east by the City of Winchester and the river Itchen, to the north by more regular parliamentary type enclosed chalkland and to the south by the wooded hills and valleys on the tertiary deposits at the northern extremity of the Hampshire basin.

HLT Characteristics: The dominant HLT's are large wavy bounded fields, (1.6), prairie fields, (1.14) and fields surrounded by roads tracks and paths, (1.15). Smaller enclosures, such as small parliamentary type, (1.9), tend to be situated around villages such as Sparsholt and Compton and Shawford.

The more irregular, wavy bounded enclosures, such as 1.6 and 1.15, probably represent informal, gradual enclosure of the downlands, whilst the large area of prairie field (1.14) at Pitt Down represents enclosure, by both formal and parliamentary means, of common downland.

Settlement: Settlement character is generally old, typified by settlements such as Sparsholt, Hursley and Compton. The majority of the area contains little modern urban expansion, apart from the area directly to the west of the Itchen valley, which exhibits considerable urban expansion associated with Winchester. This area has also been utilised by communication infrastructure, such as rail and motorway routes.

Historical factors: Though this HLCA is situated on the chalk and has an open character, the prevalence of irregular hedged fields with a network of old winding and often sunken lanes, in the south of the area, lends an old historical character to the area. The area contains varied evidence of historic (pre-enclosure) activity including a number of prehistoric tumuli, two sections of Roman Road, the medieval Merton Castle and the medieval Deer Park and post-medieval parkland at Hursley. The area contains substantial areas of woodland including the (replanted) Ancient Woodland at West Wood.

Time Depth: The area contains considerable evidence of historic activity dating from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods. The pre-enclosure landscape was of mainly open downland, bisected by old drove roads leading to and from Winchester. Small pockets of old downland still survive, in places, but cover no sizeable area. The area contains a number of prehistoric burial mounds, usually associated with patches of old downland. Merton Castle, together with its deer park and the fish ponds at Hursley, are surviving elements of the medieval landscape along with ancient woodland, especially at West Wood and the Domesday villages of Hursley and Sparsholt. The current landscape is one of an old enclosure landscape, which has been degraded to a certain extent by 20th Century boundary loss and modern farming methods, principally to do with arable farming. There are no major modern intrusive features in this landscape.

Area 3: Chilcomb and Easton downs

General Description: This HLCA is bounded to the north and west by the river Itchen and to the south by the eastern extremity of the South Downs.

HLT Characteristics: The enclosure HLT's are dominated by medium to large parliamentary types, (1.10, 1.11), There are fewer woods than in adjacent areas to the east and south, with plantation and replanted types, 4.5 and 4.2, 4.4, respectively, being most common.

Settlement: The area contains little settlement, with the primary focus of settlement lying in the small village of Chilcomb. Otherwise the area contains only a few scattered farms, although ribbon development is growing along the B3404 and A31 roads.

Historical factors: Much of this area, such as the old parish of Easton, was enclosed by act of parliament in 1799. The parish of Chilcomb was enclosed by informal agreement. The large parliamentary types present have arisen by 20th Century boundary loss and field rationalisation. One noticeable HLT is unimproved downland, (6.1), which is generally to be found on the steep chalk scarplands of the area. Some of the scarps have been wooded over in recent times and are represented by 4.7 (19th Century hangers) which possibly reflects the change in use of the land from sheep to arable, with the scarps being marginal land for arable.

Time Depth: An enclosure landscape of old downland. Prehistoric linear earthworks and tumuli still survive. The tumuli are associated with small pockets of old downland. The downland and the Domesday village of Chilcomb survive from the medieval landscape, along with old drove roads. Modern intrusive features include a rifle range, the M3 motorway, a sewage farm and modern ribbon development along the B3404 and A31 roads. This area is now a modern enclosed landscape of arable land. The previous landscape of downland has been heavily degraded.

Area 4: Cranbury Woodlands and Colden Common

General Description: The HLCA is located on either side of the river Itchen, abutting the district boundary to the south and is situated on the tertiary deposits of the northern extremity of the Hampshire basin, with the chalk lying immediately to the north.

HLT Characteristics: This is an area of predominantly wooded hills and valleys, with old irregular, wavy, hedged fields. The major woodland HLTs are of the assarted types, 4.1 and 4.2. They are characterised by their highly irregular shapes, interlocking with associated assart enclosure types, such as 1.2 and 1.3. Other noticeable HLTs include pre-1810 parkland, (10.1) such as Cranbury Park and 2.4, wooded over commons, e.g. Otterbourne Hill common. A large proportion of the area to the west of the Itchen was enclosed from the woodland by assarting. To the east of the Itchen there are fewer woods but enclosure types are still small, such as 1.16 and 1.9.

Settlement: The historic settlement pattern is represented by historic village centres at Otterbourne and Fisher's Pond. The area displays some evidence of modern settlement, primarily at Colden Common, but also with some urban expansion at Otterbourne.

Historical factors: The predominantly wooded area to the west of the Itchen, lies on the southern margins of the parish of Hursley and is part of a larger area of assarted ancient woodland and assarts, the majority of which lies to the west and south of the district boundary. This larger area corresponds with the old Royal Forest of Bere by Winchester or Bere Ashley. Ampfield Wood was originally part of Hursley and may well represent remnants of common grazing or wood pasture which were enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1809.

Time Depth: This is a landscape of old assarted woods and assarts, together with commons and parkland which has been little changed in the modern era, apart from intrusive features like the M3 motorway. Historical features of note include Cranbury Park, which dates from the 18th Century, Brambury Park and a moated manor house to the south of Otterbourne. Parks and commons are also in evidence.

Area 5: Abbotstone, Brighton and Tichborne Downs

General Description: This HLCA is located in the north east corner of the district around the headwaters and tributaries of the Itchen.

HLT Characteristics: The enclosure HLTs are generally medium to large, consisting of a mixture of parliamentary types, 1.10 and 1.11 and large irregular wavy bounded types, such as 1.6 and 1.8. Pockets of smaller enclosure types, such as 1.16 and 1.9, also exist. Woodland HLTs are dominated by pre-1810 replanted assarted woods, (4.2), with Micheldever Wood, in the north east corner of the HLCA, being a prime example. This wood exhibits some evidence of assarting, as does Brighton Wood, with its associated large straight-sided assarts (1.4).

Settlement: The only settlement of note is Brighton, which shows no major modern expansion. However, to the south is Gundleton, which is post 1810 in date.

Historical factors: Very little of this HLCA was subject to enclosure by Act of Parliament. All of the area was enclosed by the mid-19th Century, by informal and formal agreements, by the major landowners such as the Duke of Buckingham (Brighton manor). The large areas of parliamentary type enclosure, (1.10 and 1.11) are probably due to 20th Century boundary loss and field rationalisation. Large pockets of wavy bounded fields (1.6), are interspersed between the parliamentary type enclosure and possibly represent enclosure by informal means and are, therefore, older.

Time Depth: Although the present day landscape is of an enclosed landscape of old downland, the presence of old assarted ancient woodland suggests that woodland was once more widespread and has been cleared by assarting since perhaps as early as the prehistoric period. Tumuli and earthworks still survive from the prehistoric. There is very little downland still surviving. Old drove roads and green lanes criss-cross the landscape. The medieval village of Brighton displays no large scale modern development. There are no major modern intrusive elements present.

Area 6: Bramdean Woodlands

General Description: The HLCA is bounded to the south by scarp slopes of the South Downs, to the west and north, and by areas of large enclosures on the chalklands

HLT Characteristics: The major enclosure type is wavy bounded fields but with some more regular parliamentary type enclosure. The woodland types generally occupy the tops and slopes of the hills and are old in character, with some assarting evident. Other Historic Landscape Types of note are unimproved downland (6.1), which occupies the steep north facing slopes of Old Winchester Hill and areas of wooded-over common (2.4), such as Bramdean Common. Old parks (10.1) are also a feature.

Settlement: The area contains one old settlement, at Bramdean, but otherwise the area is characterised only by a spread of scattered farms

Historical factors: This HLCA was enclosed in the main by informal agreement, without recourse to enclosure by Act of Parliament. This has resulted in a landscape of relatively small sub-regular hedged fields interspersed with pockets of ancient woodland. The relatively early enclosure of the land has helped in the preservation of some historical landscape features, such as Bramdean Common.

Time Depth: An old enclosure landscape formed by the enclosure of old downland in post medieval times. There are pockets of ancient woodland some of which display signs of assarting. The woodland would historically have been more extensive and has probably been cleared from as early as the prehistoric. Tumuli, linear earthworks and an Iron Age hillfort at Old Winchester Hill still survive from the prehistoric. The sites of at least two Roman villas are located in this area. Still surviving medieval features in the landscape include the Domesday village of Bramdean, together with its common (now wooded over). Historic parks such as Brockwood Park and Woodcote Park are late medieval in date. There is little modern intrusive development.

Area 7: Beauworth and Kilmeston

General Description: This HLCA lies on the downs to the south of the headwaters of the River Itchen.

HLT Characteristics: The enclosure HLTs are generally medium to large types, being mainly older irregular types, such as 1.6 and 1.8. The parliamentary types present represent enclosure by Act of Parliament of downland. Woods are old and are generally of the non assarted type 4.3.

Settlement: The area contains three historic settlements (Beauworth, Hinton Ampner and Kilmeston). The settlements show no signs of significant modern expansion. Scattered farms are frequent across the area.

Historical factors: Most of this HLCA was enclosed gradually by informal means (that is without recourse to formal agreement or parliamentary act). There are also many roads and tracks running in a general fashion from the valley bottoms up onto the downs. These are probably quite old in nature.

Time Depth: An old enclosed landscape with very little enclosure by Act of Parliament. There is very little downland left, with some still surviving pockets of ancient woodland. The villages of Kilmeston and Hinton Ampner are Domesday villages which exhibit little signs of modern expansion. A major feature of the historic landscape are the green lanes and old drove roads leading up from the Itchen valley onto the downs. Some of these probably date back to prehistoric times, as do the tumuli present. The areas of historic parkland present date to the 18th Century. There are no major modern intrusive elements in the landscape.

Area 8: Hambledon and Chidden Downlands

General Description: The HLCA is bounded by the Meon valley to the east, the scarp slopes of the South Downs to the north and the wooded fringes of the forest of Bere and Waltham Chase to the south.

HLT Characteristics: The enclosure types within the area are generally large in size and comprise a mixture of irregular wavy types, such as 1.6 and 1.15 and parliamentary types, such as 1.10 and 1.12. The woodland types consist mainly of assarted types, 4.1 and 4.2. Pre-1810 wooded scarps and hangers, 4.6, are evident particularly to the north and east of Hambledon. There are also a few areas of extant unimproved downland, 6.1, generally also being situated on the steep scarps.

Settlement: The only settlement of note is Hambledon. This lies near the base of the dip slope, on the spring line which follows the bottom of two intersecting, steep sided, chalk valleys.

Historical factors: The areas of common downland still surviving at the beginning of the 19th Century were enclosed in the mid-19th Century and correlate with areas of parliamentary type enclosure. However, not all of these areas were enclosed by parliamentary act and some have probably resulted from 20th Century boundary loss and straightening. Historically, from the medieval times to the late 19th to 20th Centuries, the major land use would have been for sheep rearing but, in recent times, with increasing mechanisation of farming and also various post war economic factors, arable farming has become prevalent. The large areas of 'fields bounded by roads, tracks and paths' (HLT 1.15) have probably arisen from old drove roads and tracks, running roughly north-south, to and from the downs and the forest of Bere, where parishes such as Soberton, East Meon and Hambledon had woods and/or grazing rights. This network of roads and tracks has resulted in enclosure of the downland by default, though some of the area designated as 1.15 may have resulted from 20th Century boundary loss. Areas of irregular, wavy bounded fields (HLT 1.6) probably formed due to late medieval / early post-medieval informal enclosure. The steep scarps, with old woods and unimproved downland, almost certainly date from at least early post-medieval times and represent marginal agricultural land.

Time Depth: This landscape mainly consists of old enclosed downland. The roads, tracks and paths which form the majority of the boundaries of HLT 1.15 are probably very old, some dating back to medieval or even prehistoric times. Evidence for prehistoric activity in this area comes from tumuli and long barrows. Woods are ancient and small, some of which display signs of assarting. There is little surviving downland in the landscape and little modern intrusive development.

Area 9: Swanmore, Droxford, Soberton and Denmead Forest Fringe

General Description: This HLCA is bounded to the south by the forest of Bere and Waltham Chase and to the north by the dip slope of the South Downs. This is a long linear HLCA, running north west/ south east, and can be termed 'forest fringe'.

HLT Characteristics: The enclosure HLTs, within this area, are generally old and small, such as 1.16. Assart types 1.1 and 1.2 are also in evidence and are also small and old. There is little evidence of parliamentary type enclosure, some 1.9 may have resulted from the straightening and rationalisation of older boundaries. There are similarities with HLCA 11, in that this HLCA lies between an area of chalk upland and the forest of Bere. Due to the juxtaposition with the forest of Bere, assart types of enclosure and woodland are common, particularly against the forest of Bere, to the east of the Meon valley e.g. 1.1, 1.2 and 4.1, 4.2. To the west of the Meon valley, where the HLCA is bounded by Waltham Chase, the prevalent enclosure types are 1.16 and 1.15.

Settlement: Settlements within the area are generally small. The area is bisected by the River Meon. To the east of the Meon, the area contains no modern settlements and is characterised by a pattern of scattered farms. To the west of the Meon lies the medieval town of Bishops Waltham, the medieval core of which is surrounded by modern urban growth.

Historical factors: The historic character of this area has evolved from the clearance of woodland on the fringes of the Forest of Bere which has resulted in a pattern of enclosures and assarts. Moving from south to north, on to the dip slope of the South Downs, field size tends to increase, although still being on the small side. Boundaries are often hedged, with hedge row trees being frequent. Small copses and thickets are common, often named and old in nature.

Time Depth: The most notable historic elements of this landscape are the assarted ancient woodlands, together with their associated assart field types. They have been formed by encroachment upon the Forest of Bere and are potentially very old, perhaps dating back to medieval times. Together with the small irregular enclosures to the west of the Meon, which are represented by small wavy boundaries (HLT 1.16), they can perhaps be used to define the northern physical extent of the Forest of Bere in medieval times. Other historic landscape elements include green lanes and old drove roads leading from downland and river valley villages to the forest. The scattered farms in the area possibly date back to medieval times and are typical of forest edge settlement. There is little modern intrusive development apart from the modern expansion of Bishops Waltham and associated lines of communication.

Area 10: The Forest of Bere and Waltham Chase

General Description: The Forest of Bere and Waltham Chase lie on the tertiary sands and clays at the eastern end of the Hampshire basin. The HLCA is bounded to the south by an area of assarted mixed farmland and woodland, to the north and west by a belt of small irregular enclosures leading on to the dip slope of the chalk, and to the east by the district boundary.

HLT Characteristics: The dominant enclosure HLT's of the area are of the parliamentary types, especially 1.9, small parliamentary type enclosures. Woodland types are mainly of the plantation types, particularly 19th Century plantation.

Settlement: The area contains very little historic settlement. It can display some elements of intrusive modern developments such as at Denmead, Newtown and Soberton Heath, all of which are post enclosure in date.

Historical factors: The Royal Forest of Bere was an area of land set aside as a royal hunting reserve and, as such, was subject to special laws. Waltham Chase was a private hunting reserve of the bishops of Winchester. Neither of these areas was totally covered in woods and trees, as modern interpretations of their names might suggest, rather, they would have originally consisted of a mixture of woods, wood pasture and heathland. Parishes all around the Forest of Bere had grazing rights within the forest, possibly dating from before the Norman Conquest. The forest was enclosed in 1814 by parliamentary act. Parliamentary enclosure accounts for the high percentage of this HLCA characterised by the more modern HLT's, such as, parliamentary type enclosure, (1.9), plantation type woodland, (4.5 and 4.9), and replanted type woodland (4.2). Settlement types within the area are all modern, (9.2 and 9.6) and post enclosure in date (1814), apart from isolated forest lodges. Before enclosure no settlement would have been allowed.

Time Depth: The 1810 extent of the Forest of Bere, as mapped from the OS 1st edition 1"map, is essentially an enclosure landscape. Time depth for this HLCA is best exemplified by analysis of place names, which can give clues to the pre-enclosure nature of the landscape. Historic landscape features such as ancient oaks are also relevant. Intrusive modern elements of the landscape include modern developments such as Denmead, Newtown and Soberton Heath, which are post enclosure in date. There are also modern woodland plantations such as Creech Woods.

Area 12: Ports Down

Area 11: Southwick and Boarhunt Forest Fringe

General Description: This HLCA is bounded to the north by the Forest of Bere, to the south by Portsdown Hill and an area of inter-parochial heavily wooded and assarted land and also to the east and west by the district boundary.

HLT Characteristics: The dominant HLTs in the area are of the assart variety of enclosures, (1.1-1.4) together with associated assarted woodland types (4.1 & 4.2). Small enclosure types, such as 1.16, small wavy bounded fields are also in evidence, especially towards the west of the area.

Settlement: The area contains no significant modern settlement. The settlement pattern is characterised by a pattern of nucleated historic settlements (such as Southwick) and a spread of scattered hamlets farms.

Historical factors: The distinctive character of this area has evolved from the piecemeal clearance of woodland to form enclosures. This assarted landscape is essentially old in nature and represents woodland clearance, on the southern fringes of the Forest of Bere, from medieval times onwards. The network of winding, twisting lanes also reflects this. Due to the informal, piecemeal nature of assarting, a distinctive pattern of small irregular fields, with treed hedges forming the boundaries, interspersed with small, often named, woods and copses has arisen.

Time Depth: Nearly all of this HLCA is characterised by old HLT's, especially of the assart field and woodland types. These have arisen through encroachment upon the Forest of Bere in medieval times and could be used to define the southern medieval extent of the forest. Other notable historic landscape elements are the Southwick estate, (which was originally the setting for an Augustinian priory built in the mid 12th Century), the course of the Chichester to Bitterne Roman road and various green lanes and drove roads leading to the Forest of Bere. The scattered farms and hamlets are typical of forest edge settlement and date back to medieval times. A ring and bailey earthwork, located in Place Wood, is Norman in date. There is little modern intrusive development, apart from the B2177. The current landscape is essentially old with its basic elements having survived relatively untouched for centuries.

General Description: This Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA) includes part of the crest and the majority of the north-facing slope of Ports Down.

HLT Characteristics: The dominant Historic Landscape Type within this area is HLT 1.15 ('Fields bounded by roads, tracks and paths'). The other important HLTs come from the Military and Defence category, such as Fort Nelson and Fort Southwick, part of the network of defences built by Palmerston.

Settlement: Settlement is limited to a few scattered farms on the north slope of Ports Down, although the crest of the hill to the south contains a number of military installations, most notably the Napoleonic forts at Fort Nelson and Fort Southwick.

Historical factors: The steep north facing slope of Ports Down is bisected by numerous sunken lanes and several rights of way, generally running north-south. These sunken lanes and rights of way probably represent old drove roads connecting the Forest of Bere, to the north of Ports Down, with settlements to the south, such as Portchester, which had grazing rights within the forest. They would also have been used to connect settlements to the north, such as Boarhunt and Southwick, with the downland pasture of Ports Down. Due to its strategic position, overlooking Portsmouth and the Solent, Ports Down has traditionally been associated with military fortifications, such as the Palmerston forts. Together with the sunken lanes and the open downland character of the north slope, the military fortifications give this HLCA a distinctive character in relation to its surroundings. This character has come about through the exploitation of the natural topographic attributes of the area and the juxtaposition with surrounding historical features of the landscape, in particular the Forest of Bere to the north. It is essentially historic in nature.

Time Depth: Ports Down is a combination of old downland and, because of its strategic position overlooking Portsmouth and the Solent, military installations which mainly date from the mid 19th Century. Other historical landscape elements of note include sunken lanes and a motte and bailey.

Area 13: Curbridge, Shedfield and Wickham woodlands

General Description: This HLCA is situated on the low-lying tertiary deposits towards the eastern end of the Hampshire basin. It is essentially an enclosed landscape character of mixed farm and woodland.

HLT Characteristics: The dominant HLTs are of the assarted woodland types, 4.1 and 4.2, together with their associated field types, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4. The woods are highly irregular, having been 'eaten away' by assarting to form fields.

Settlement: There are no major settlements within the area, as the HLCA is situated on marginal land at the junction of several parishes. There are some scattered farms around the perimeter of the woods, with an area of modern scattered settlement, including a golf course just to the west of Wickham.

Historical factors: The historic character of this HLCA is probably quite old, as its location on marginal parishional land also coincides with an area of poor quality agricultural land, so as to provide a zone of land unattractive for cultivation and development. Historically, this area would have provided fuel and timber for the parishes and, as such, was an important resource.

Time Depth: Time depth is represented by assarted woods and associated assart field types. This area was probably completely wooded over in early medieval times. A railway line, some scattered settlement and a golf course are the only modern intrusive developments.

Area 14: Whiteley Urban Fringe

General Description: This is a small area situated to the west of the Meon valley, bounded to the south by the modern developments of Locks Heath and Titchfield Park and to the north by Botley Wood.

HLT Characteristics: The HLTs are of the modern settlement types, such as 9.2 and 9.6.

Settlement: The area contains no significant historic settlement and the settlement pattern is characterised by areas of overspill development from Locks Heath and Titchfield Park.

Historical factors: The area represents 20th Century urban encroachment onto marginal land.

Time Depth: The historic character is very young, with older historic landscape features being swallowed up by modern development.

Area 15: The Itchen, Meon and Dever River Valleys

General Description: These rivers and their tributaries, drain the chalk uplands of the district and generally flow north-south for most of their length, with the upper waters of the Itchen and the Meon flowing east-west, before turning south. The Dever is a tributary of the river Test, which lies outside of the district and flows east-west. These river valleys are historically important to the district and have been utilised by man from prehistoric times.

HLT Characteristics: Of the river valley HLTs, perhaps the most worthy of note, as far as the historic character of the valleys is concerned, are watermeadows (7.4) and watercress beds, (7.6).

Settlement: The valleys are also a very important location for settlements. A high proportion of the District's villages are situated on the rivers, often at favourable crossing points. Such settlements are evident in the Dever Valley at Wonston, Micheldever, Hunton and Stoke Charity. Settlements in the Upper Itchen Valley include Shawford, Otterbourne, Martyr Worthy, Easton, Itchen Abbas and Itchen Stoke whilst, to the south, the area contains settlements such as Twyford, Shawford and Otterbourne. Settlements in the Meon Valley include villages such as Meonstoke and Wickham.

Historical factors: Water meadows are post medieval in origin and generally date from 1650 to the first half of the 19th Century. They began to fall into decline by the mid-19th Century. They were a method of fertilising riverside meadows with the rich nutrients carried by the chalk rivers and streams to provide early spring grazing for lambs and sheep, which were overwintered in the valleys. With the introduction of new farming techniques in the mid 19th Century, such as chemical fertilisers, water meadows fell into decline and only a very few are wholly extant today. Though so few have survived wholly intact, certain water meadow features have survived in relatively large numbers e.g. head mains and carriers, drains, ridge and furrow style earthworks, weirs and in some cases sluice gates. These features are an important part of the historic and visual character of the District's river valleys, particularly the Itchen to the north and south of Winchester. Watercress beds are usually located on the upper reaches of the river valleys, particularly the Itchen. Although they are relatively small in size, watercress beds are very distinctive and are a traditional feature of the river valleys. They can be postmedieval in date and many are still in use today.

Time Depth: The river valleys of the District have been utilised since prehistoric times. Historic features include water-meadows and various historic parks. There is little ancient woodland, except perhaps within the boundaries of some of the historic parks. Many of the settlements along the rivers are Domesday villages. Modern expansion of the villages, together with increased lines of communication, have intruded upon the landscape.

Area 16: Longwood Warren and Cheesefoot Head

General Description: This HLCA is situated on the western extremity of the South Downs. It extends from the Itchen valley in the west and is roughly 9km east-west and 5km north-south. The area represents the relatively high relief of the South Downs and is open and exposed, with predominantly south facing slopes bisected by dry valleys with their associated scarpas.

HLT Characteristics: The area has an open and exposed character due to the underlying chalk geology and relatively high altitude. Woods are few, being generally confined to the steep scarp slopes with a few shelterbelts and plantations situated to the north of Cheesefoot Head. Fields are typically large and generally represent the enclosure of former open downland such as Longwood Warren, which was encroached upon in early post-medieval times. Post-war boundary loss and field rationalisation have also played a part in the evolution of this landscape. Only Twyford Down was enclosed by Act of Parliament (1851), the rest of the area was enclosed by formal and informal agreements. Apart from the A272, which runs along the top of the South Downs, roads and tracks are limited to a few south-west - north-east aligned tracks which utilise the dry valleys for traversing the higher ground and the steep scarp slopes. These may be very old and probably represent old drove roads to and from the downs.

Settlement: The area represents the edges of a number of parishes and, in itself, contains no significant settlement. The villages of the parishes lie either to the north of the area along the Itchen, such as Easton, Itchen Abbas and Ovington, or to the south on the lower slopes of the downs, such as Owslebury and Twyford. None of these villages are located within the area. The only settlements within the area are a few isolated scattered farms in the south and east.

Historical factors: This HLCA represents relatively high marginal land at the junction of several parishes (Twyford, Owslebury, Chilcomb, Itchen Valley, Itchen Stoke and Ovington, Tichborne and Cheriton).and would have been used as summer grazing pasture, mainly for sheep, from at least late medieval times until the 20th Century. The land is open and exposed, with little cover and very few woods.

Time Depth: Historically, an area of old downland enclosed by informal means and by encroachment in post-medieval times. Existing downland is generally confined to steep scarp slopes and the tops of hills. Tumuli are evidence of prehistoric activity in the area, as is the Iron Age hillfort on St Catherine's Hill. Modern intrusions upon the landscape include the M3 motorway and a golf course.

Area 17: Twyford Owslebury and Upham

General Description: This HLCA is located on the lower southern slopes of the South Downs and extends from the Itchen valley, in the west, to the Meon valley in the east. It is situated on chalk geology with clay. The area is of a generally semi-enclosed nature or aspect with some woodland.

HLT Characteristics: The HLTs in this landscape are predominantly of the medium to large parliamentary type enclosures (1.10, 1.11). Irregular wavy bounded types (1.6, 1.16, 1.3) are also present. Other HLTs of note include (11.1), gallops and (4.1, 4.2, 4.3), ancient woodland.

Settlement: Included in this HLCA, are the parochial villages of Twyford, Owslebury and Upham together with numerous scattered farms and hamlets. Historically, this area was the main settlement location for the downland villages whose parishes extended up onto the downs.

Historical factors: Very little of the area was enclosed by Act of Parliament, with only some land immediately to the south-east of Twyford village and some land around the village of Upham being so enclosed. The vast majority of the area was enclosed by informal means by the early 17th Century. Areas depicted as parliamentary style enclosure have probably come about by the processes of field rationalisation and boundary loss.

Time Depth: This is a landscape of old enclosed downland, HLT 1.6, with numerous old tracks and lanes. There are also small pockets of ancient woodland. The historic park associated with Belmore House is 18th century in date. Modern intrusive elements include a golf course, a zoo and a gallops, with some modern expansion of villages such as Owslebury.

Area 18: Durwood and Beacon Hill

General Description: This HLCA is situated on the south facing slopes of the South Downs, between the Meon valley in the east and Longwood Warren in the west, and occupies the upper south facing slopes and crest of the South Downs including Beacon Hill. The majority of this area lies above 100m in altitude and is generally of an enclosed nature, due to the large number of woods and plantations on the scarp and slopes of the area, apart from around Beacon Hill which is more open.

HLT Characteristics: The most notable HLTs in this landscape are of the assarted woodland types (4.1 & 4.2) together with their associated assart field types (1.2 & 1.3). It is these HLTs which help to differentiate this area from adjacent areas.

Settlement: There are no major settlements (villages or towns) within the area. Settlements are limited to scattered farms, with Preshaw House and its associated estate being the largest.

Historical factors: Due to the presence of clay on the chalk, these upper slopes of the South Downs are more heavily wooded than other areas. Woods such as Dur Wood are ancient woodland and probably covered a larger area, but have been reduced in size by assarting. The fields or assarts are typically of irregular shape, with hedges for boundaries and hedgerow trees are common. Larger assarts have probably been formed by the rationalisation of smaller assarts. None of this area was enclosed by Act of Parliament. The old downland in the east of the area around Beacon Hill was probably enclosed by informal means. Some areas may even of been enclosed by default, i.e. the surrounding roads tracks and paths naturally enclosed. These areas are defined as HLT 1.15. This area represents an area of high ground which historically would have provided summer pastures for sheep and other livestock, and fuel and timber from the woodlands.

Time Depth: A landscape of old enclosures and old assarted woodland which would have been more extensive in the past. Still surviving historic landscape features include green lanes and old drove roads. Prehistoric features such as tumuli and long barrows also survive. The earthworks of the deserted medieval village of Lomer indicates that this area was perhaps more heavily populated in medieval times than it is now. Preshaw estate is originally mid 17th Century in date. The area is now an arable landscape with woodland and small areas of old downland still surviving on the steep slopes, especially around Beacon Hill.

Area 19: Curdridge, Durley and Shedfield

General Description: This HLCA is situated to the south of Waltham Chase and to the west of the Meon valley. It lies on the tertiary sands, gravels and clays of the Hampshire basin and has a general mixed farmland and woodland landscape character with some pockets of 'Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated' and 'Pasture on Clay' landscape types.

HLT Characteristics: The major enclosure types are old and small and represent informal and piecemeal enclosure of heath and woodland and open fields. Of parliamentary type enclosures there are few if any, in this HLCA. The fields are hedged with hedgerow trees being common. These fields are typically pasture and historically used for dairy farming.

Settlement: The area contains three foci of settlement, at Curdridge, Shedfield and Durley. The settlements are scattered with no real nucleated centres. The villages are generally linear and lie along the roads. Curdridge and Shedfield have grown up around their respective commons and in the case of Curdridge has expanded onto the common itself.

Historical factors: Lying to south of Waltham Chase and the Forest of Bere, this area was perhaps never really settled until post medieval times, hence the probable absence of open field systems. The parishes of Curdridge and Shedfield are post medieval creations and were once part of the parishes of Bishops Waltham and Droxford respectively. Many of the enclosures present were probably formed by the enclosure of heath and woodland rather than open fields.

Time Depth: This is a landscape of old small enclosures which have been enclosed from heath and woodland since medieval times. Pockets of ancient woodland survive. Historic landscape features of note include commons and a network of winding twisting lanes. Modern intrusions upon the landscape include a golf course and 19th and 20th Century urban development, including ribbon development along some of the roads and lanes.

7. Time-depth

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The Winchester District is composed of several different landscape areas that do not wholly lie within the boundaries of the District. Broadly speaking these consist of:

- The South Downs, which extend westwards to the Itchen valley below Winchester.
- The Central Hampshire Downs, which occupy the NW part of the district and are an extension of the southern central chalklands, which include Salisbury Plain
- The Hampshire lowlands which are situated to the south of the South Downs, in the southern part of the district.

7.1.2 As only a minor percentage of these areas lies within Winchester District it would be more useful to analyse the time depth of the constituent HLCAs of the district as one entity, rather than as separate entities which do not wholly conform to the district boundaries. The HLCAs are generally too small to provide a useful level of analyse of their constituent HLTs, especially in pictorial form.

7.2 Time depth to 1600AD (See Landscape Character Assessment Main Document: Figure 2.6)

7.2.1 This plot includes elements that are most likely to originate from the medieval period:

- Assarts 1.1, 1.2 & 1.3
- Commons
- Ancient woodland 4.1, 4.2, .3, 4.4 & 4.6
- Downland 6.1
- River valley types 7.3 & 7.5
- Pre-1810 settlement 9.1, 9.3, 9.7, & 9.9
- Military & Defence 14.1 & 14.2.

7.2.2 The greater part of these HLTs are towards the east and in the south of the district. The majority of the assart types, particularly the smaller ones, are located on the tertiary deposits of the Hampshire basin which correlate with the known medieval extent of the Forest of Bere and the Forest of Bere at Winchester (HLCAs 11, 19 & 4). However, HLCA 10, which represents the 1810 extent of the Forest of Bere and Waltham Chase, displays very little time depth elements, apart from some replanted ancient woodland.

7.2.3 All of the chalkland HLCAs display time depth elements to certain degrees. Downland (6.1) is naturally present in all of them, apart from HLCAs 6 & 7. The surviving downland is generally confined to marginal land, such as scarp slopes and the tops of steep hills, which are uneconomic for farming by modern agricultural methods. Associated with downland are various prehistoric and Roman features such as tumuli. The only prehistoric and Roman sites which have been mapped at an HLT level are Iron Age

and Roman forts (14.1). Examples are at Old Winchester Hill, Norsebury Ring , St Catherine's Hill, Teg Down and Olivers Battery. Ancient woodland, either assarted (4.1 & 4.2) or other (4.3 & 4.4) occurs to varying degrees in all of the HLCAs. Even the chalkland HLCAs contain assarted woodland which suggests that the chalk was once more heavily wooded than it is now. By contrast, Micheldever and Itchen Woods contain evidence of well preserved prehistoric occupation, such as tumuli, enclosures and linear earthworks and Roman archaeology which show quite different past land uses prior to becoming woodland.

7.2.4 The vast majority of the pre-1810 settlements mapped are recorded in Domesday Book (1086) and thus, likely to be of yet greater antiquity. One notable exception is New Alresford, which was founded by the Bishop of Winchester in the 13th Century. The deserted medieval village of Lomer, situated very near the top of the South Downs, suggests that downland areas were in some parts more heavily populated in medieval times than they are now.

7.2.5 Perhaps the oldest still surviving HLTs are those representing common land. These have survived notably in the more wooded areas of the district such as HLCAs 4, 6 & 11. In particular, these areas were subject to enclosure by informal means, rather than by parliamentary acts or 19th and 20th Century field rationalisation. Inasmuch as commons and downland contain a large number of archaeological sites such as earthworks and cropmarks, they also represent a yet more ancient 'archaeological' landscape that is not necessarily apparent on casual inspection.

7.3 Time Depth Post-Medieval to 19th Century (See Landscape Character Assessment Main Document: Figure 2.6)

7.3.1 This plot includes elements reflecting changes to the medieval landscape in the 'age of improvement':

- Field types HLT 1.6, 1.15 & 1.16
- Valley floor types except HLT 7.6 - watercress beds
- Parks HLT 10.1.

7.3.2 The most noticeable changes in this figure, compared with the pre-1600 map, are the field HLTs representing informal and piecemeal enclosure. Type 1.16 fields in the south of the district, particularly in HLCA 19, are probably the results of assart rationalisation. The larger informal enclosure types 1.6 & 1.15 represent the informal enclosure of downland and type 1.15 (fields bounded by roads tracks and paths), in particular, is peculiar to old downland areas and represents enclosure by default.

7.3.3 Of the chalkland HLCAs, areas 2, 6, 7, and 18 are covered by more than 50% informal enclosure types (in the case of 18, this includes assart types). All of the land of the river valleys of the district were fully utilised during the post-medieval period. They provided good locations for settlements and also

landscape features such as parks (HLT 10.1). The deer Parks which have been mapped are of post-medieval date, and represent an ordered approach to leisure space that reflected the ordering of an enclosed landscape elsewhere.

7.4 Time Depth 19th Century (See Landscape Character Assessment Main Document: Figure 2.6)

7.4.1 This plot comprises elements that can be related to further changes in the period of great population expansion in the 19th Century:

- All parliamentary types and 1.8 'ladder' fields
- Woodland types 4.5 (C19th plantations and C19th heathland plantations)
- Race courses 11.1
- Military and Defence 14.4
- Post-1810 parkland 10.2
- Stations and sidings 13.1
- Watercress beds 7.6
- Horticulture 3.1 (orchards), 3.3 (nurseries).

7.4.2 The parliamentary enclosures of the early part of the 19th Century brought about the most dramatic changes to the landscape of the district. HLCA 1 and 3 are nearly all mapped as parliamentary style enclosure even though there weren't many actual enclosures by Act of Parliament, but the patterns arose from 19th/20th Century field rationalisation. An interesting HLT which appears in this plot is ladder fields 1.8, which represent enclosure of old downland and generally extend from the river valleys of the district up onto the downlands. The long wavy boundaries are probably quite old, often with tracks and parish boundaries associated with them. They possibly represent old enclosure of downland or, perhaps, even the boundaries of the large open field systems of the medieval period. These large fields have been enclosed in recent times by the addition of straight surveyed boundaries at right angles between the wavy ones, to form the rungs of the ladder. All the chalkland HLCA display some parliamentary style enclosure.

7.4.3 Of the woodland types, HLT 4.5 represents 19 & 20th Century plantations. These are most noticeable on the chalklands, often as shelter belts and game spinneys, usually consisting of conifers.

7.4.4 Of the lowland HLCA, HLCA 10, representing the 1810 extent of the Forest of Bere and Waltham Chase, contains the most noticeable enclosure landscape. The Royal Forest of Bere was enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1814. These enclosures are represented by HLT 1.9 (small parliamentary fields). All settlements within the 1810 extent are post 1814 in date, such as Denmead and Shirrell Heath and Turkey Island. Post-1810 scattered settlement 9.2 is a noticeable HLT in this HLCA, often originating from squatter settlements within the forest. Wooded areas such as Creech Walk (4.5) were probably areas of

heathland within the forest which have been planted with trees since enclosure.

7.5 Time Depth cumulative to 19th Century (See Landscape Character Assessment Main Document: Figure 2.6)

7.5.1 This plot comprises all elements that are of the 19th Century, or before, and thus draws attention to the very few areas of landscape that can be ascribed to the 20th Century.

8 Analysis of pressures

8.1 As part of the present study, initial analysis of the possible developmental, agricultural and other sundry pressures likely to threaten the historic integrity of the more vulnerable of the various historic landscapes areas has been carried out.

8.2 Initial assessment suggested that the likely pressures fall into two principal groups namely, the continuing pressures arising from agricultural (primarily arable) utilisation of the landscape, and a potentially more significant and active threat arising from the increasing pressure of new housing and associated urban development. These pressures can be broadly divided into geographical or topographic area, with the agricultural pressures being concentrated in the downland areas in the northern and eastern section of the District and the increasing urban pressures being concentrated at the southern and south-western fringes of the District. Of the two threats, the latter would appear to be both more pressing and historically more damaging, impressing as it does upon what this study has suggested are the better preserved historic landscapes in the southern portion of the Winchester District.

8.3 Broad analysis would suggest that the likely scale of threat arising from the continuing agricultural regime is concentrated around a number of key factors, namely the continuing loss of hedgerows, the encroachment upon the remnant historic woodland of the Downland area and the continuing and sustained damage to the range of (primarily) prehistoric archaeological sites and earthwork remains located within the Downland areas. The severity of the likely agricultural pressure upon the Historic Landscape Character Areas defined is difficult to fully categorise, without a far more detailed and intensive fieldwork survey. Such a survey is considered to lie outside the remit of the present (essentially desk-based) study. In purely historic landscape terms, analysis would suggest that such pressures, although potentially real and ongoing may be considered to be less immediately serious than the potential developmental threats to the landscapes to the south. Such an analysis is primarily rooted in the undeniable fact that the historic downland landscapes affected have, in many cases, already been significantly denuded and degraded by such activity over the last half century.

8.4 The possible (or likely) implications of the increasing pressure upon available land, arising from the increased demand for housing and associated

urban development, are potentially more concerning. Analysis of the pattern of modern development, and the location of modern core settlements, suggests that the Historic Landscapes within the southern and western areas of the District display a significant vulnerability to any increased expansion of the existing settlements, both within and on the immediate fringes of the District.

8.5 Although it should be stressed that the identification of such pressures in the present study is firmly rooted in map-based analysis (rather than demonstrated or defined through actual local knowledge of the likely pressure) this analysis suggests that any continued fringe development, or expansion of the principal settlements within and immediately outside the southern portion of the District, may affect vulnerable and well preserved historic landscapes located within their environs.

8.6 Of potential concern is any proposed westward expansion of the urban areas immediately to the east of the District, particularly in the areas of Waterlooville or Cowplain which would impact upon the relatively well preserved landscapes in the south-eastern corner of the District, primarily Historic Landscape Character Area 11 (Southwick and Boarhunt Forest Fringe). This area comprises an ancient and relatively untouched area containing areas of assarted woodland, associated with the fringes of the medieval Forest of Bere, scattered farms and hamlets of typical forest edge type and a network of ancient green lanes and drove roads leading to the medieval forest.

8.7 Similar pressures from outside the District may also impact upon other relatively well preserved areas of historic landscape on the south-western edge of the District. Of further concern would be any urban creep or continued expansion of large urban areas such as Eastleigh and Chandlers Ford, which would possibly impact upon Historic Landscape Character Area 4 (Cranbury Woodlands and Colden Common) with its well preserved and relatively untouched landscape of old assarted woodlands, commons and historic parkland.

8.8 A similar threat would appear to arise from development within the District itself. Areas of concern would include any expansion of the current Historic Landscape Character Area 14 (Urban Fringe) into the also relatively untouched Area 13 (Curbridge, Shedfield and Wickham Woods). Although Area 13 contains more intrusive modern development, in the form of scattered modern settlement and golf course developments, than Areas 4 & 11 this survey has suggested that it still retains substantial elements of ancient assarted woodland.

9 Conclusion

9.1.1 Nineteen HLCAs have been created in the process of this historic landscape characterisation of Winchester District for Winchester City Council. The characterisation was desk based, using the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment (1999), as the primary

source material. Other sources consulted included OS 1st edition One Inch maps (1810) of the district, OS 1:25,000 maps (1997), the Hampshire Inventory of Ancient Woodland (English Nature 1995) and A Guide to Enclosure in Hampshire 1700-1900 (HCC 1995).

9.1.2 The HLCAs can broadly be separated into three categories, namely chalkland areas, areas and the river valleys of the Itchen, Meon and Dever chalkland HLCAs which account for ten of the areas. Historically the chalkland areas of the district have primarily been used as downland, principally providing upland pasture for sheep. With the introduction of fertilisers and increased mechanisation of farming in the late 19th and 20th Centuries, the character of these chalkland areas has changed from downland to arable.

9.1.3 Lowland HLCAs situated mainly on the tertiary deposits of the Hampshire Basin, account for eight of the areas. These areas are dominated and centred around the Royal Forest of Bere. The HLCAs surrounding the Forest of Bere contain some of the oldest landscapes in the district. Ironically these areas, being adjacent to some of the large urban conurbations on the south coast, are more under threat from urban expansion than any other area within Winchester District.

9.1.4 The river valleys of the Itchen, Meon and Dever are combined into one area. These valleys are historically important for providing locations for settlements, especially within the chalkland areas, within which water is a scarce commodity. The valleys also contain notable historic features, such as watermeadows and water-mills which, where preserved, add to the overall landscape character of the district, as do the few surviving remnants of downland. Being the most suitable locations for settlements, and also forming the easiest avenues for transport and communication, has made the river valleys more susceptible to the threats of urban development.

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AGRICULTURAL FIELDS**Old Assarts (HLT 1.1 – 1.3)**

Old Assarts (fields cut out of woodland or heathland) were identified as enclosures of very irregular form with wavy boundaries. They form an irregular field pattern with no discernible major common boundaries within the pattern. Assart fields usually contain scattered small woods & copses and may be associated assarted woods. These types were subdivided into three sizes:

- HLT 1.1 *Small Assarts*: up to 2-3 hectares in size
- HLT 1.2 *Medium Assarts*: 2-3 to 12 hectares
- HLT 1.3 *Large Assarts*: over 12 hectares

In practice the field patterns were composed of a variety of field sizes, but it was relatively easy to decide which of these ranges was predominant.

Regular Assarts (HLT 1.4)

These show evidence of later modifications or origins. They includes assarts with a significant proportion of straight boundaries, which are thought to reflect 19th century or later modification of earlier assarts, or in some cases 19th century assarting in the same manner as earlier assarts. In addition, this type includes some areas of fields where there is clear map evidence of recent clearance of woodland where this has not been replaced by parliamentary-type field systems. These fields were often distinguished by the association of woodland showing evidence of being assarted since the OS 1st Ed. 1" series map; for most of the county dated 1810.

Strips and Furlongs (HLT 1.5)

These are fields that probably originated from the enclosure of medieval strip fields. They are bounded by relatively long, gently curving boundaries, often of reversed 'S' form, and are most clearly recognised where the field shapes still retain a long narrow form, and where small "steps" in boundaries correspond to the width of furlongs or strips. A combination of such features was needed for a group of fields to be mapped as this category. There are likely to be other areas mapped as 1.6 or 1.16, which probably do originate from strip fields.

Wavy-edged pre-parliamentary type fields (HLT 1.6, HLT 1.16)

Field pattern HLT 1.6 consists of fields whose boundaries are wavy in form but whose overall shape is more regular than that of assarts. In most cases they probably reflect late medieval and post-medieval enclosure, or rationalisaion of earlier field patterns, prior to the parliamentary enclosure movement of the

late 18th and early 19th Centuries. They are usually larger and often more regular than assarts, and are further distinguished from them by the lack of scattered small woods and copses typical of assart field patterns.

HLT 1.16 is a small version of HLT 1.6, and is composed of moderately regular fields with wavy boundaries; however, these fields are generally smaller than about 10 hectares in area.

"Ladder" type fields (HLT 1.8)

"Ladder" type fields consist of long unbroken wavy parallel boundaries (often tracks roads or footpaths), with the area between them sub-divided into fields by regular straight boundaries. Where the "rungs" of the ladder were also wavy (which was not frequently) the pattern was classified as HLT 1.6. This field pattern usually follows the grain of the topography up chalk spurs or dry valleys on the chalk. The long wavy parallel boundaries usually made this category readily distinguishable from other types. They likewise seem to date from the 18th and early 19th Centuries, and again seem to reflect the enclosure of downland.

Parliamentary type enclosures (HLT 1.7, HLT 1.9 – 1.12)

These field patterns are characterised by straight surveyed boundaries and usually regular shapes, often rectilinear when topography is not a key influence. In many cases they do derive from 19th Century Parliamentary Enclosure Acts, but this is by no means always evident.

HLT 1.7. A specific pattern of small, irregular rectilinear fields with straight boundaries. They are very similar to HLT 1.9 small fields but have a distinctively irregular, rectilinear pattern of interlocking shape, and appear to be associated with flat riverside locations.

HLT 1.9 *Small Parliamentary*: less than 6-8 hectares

HLT 1.10 *Medium Parliamentary*: between 6-8 to 20-25 hectares

HLT 1.11 *Large Parliamentary*: over 20-25 hectares

HLT 1.12 *Graded Size Parliamentary*: was noted as a specific category frequently occurring on the chalk, where the full range of size categories is represented, increasing in size with distance (normally up-slope) away from a settlement. This type of graded variable-size field pattern was generally considered to end at the parish boundary, in order to define its extent in relation to other parliamentary enclosed types.

Prairie Fields (HLT 1.14)

These fields (HLT 1.14) are those with at least one boundary over 1 km in length and which are the result of either very large parliamentary enclosure or more usually extensive boundary loss. These were usually mapped, if even only one field was present, due their large size. Distinguishing characteristics include the presence of remnant field boundaries. In general this category occurs only within patterns of fields that are already quite large, and while most probably originate from parliamentary-type fields, there are examples that seem likely to have originated from pre-parliamentary types (HLT 1.6).

Fields defined by rights of way (HLT 1.15)

These fields are irregular in pattern and shape, their boundaries being defined by public footpaths, bridleways and roads or other tracks and paths that are not rights of way. The pattern almost entirely lacks other internal boundaries dividing the fields into smaller enclosures, and this is their chief distinguishing characteristic. Occasional boundaries may be straight or wavy. It is possible that some are the result of boundary loss (i.e. prairie types - see below). However, they mostly lack the remnant boundary features characteristic of prairie fields and the density of tracks and roads suggests that they derive from the enclosure of downland by the simple expedient of using the numerous downland tracks as boundaries. They mainly seem to date from the 18th and early 19th Centuries. A version of this type of pattern was also found to occur on the coastal plain, which may reflect a rather different origin, possibly market gardening.

COMMONS (HLT 2.1 – HLT 2.4)

Commons were identified using the council's 'National Policy Constraints' map which shows large areas of common land, and from 'The Common Lands of Hampshire' (Tavener 1957). Some areas indicated by Tavener were found to be no longer common land, according to the map, but others appear to have been too small for the map to show. Wooded-over commons (HLT 2.4) were identified as those which specifically still exist as common land, rather than ex-common land which had reverted to woodland.

HORTICULTURE (HLT 3.1, HLT 3.3)

Horticulture types were mapped directly from the OS 1:25000 base maps, and were identified by the presence of orchard (HLT 3.1) or glasshouse symbols (HLT 3.3). There may well be more extensive areas of horticulture, either in small fields (e.g. HLT 1.16, 1.7, or 1.9) or large open areas on low ground (e.g. HLT 1.10, 1.11 or 1.15 where it occurs on the coastal plain). The general category is thus very likely to be under-represented. Comparison with the Hampshire County Council Landscape Types mapped as "Horticulture and Smallholdings" shows no correspondence with the orchards mapped here, but rather with a range of the other types noted above.

WOODLAND (HLT 4.1 – HLT 4.11)

Three sources were used to identify the various woodland types: the OS 1:25000 maps themselves; the 'Hampshire Inventory of Ancient Woodland' (Hampshire County Council and English Nature 1995); and OS 1st edition 1" maps.

'Pre-1810' woodland was identified on the basis of its presence on the OS 1st Edition 1" map and by being recorded as ancient woodland in the Ancient Woodland Inventory. Absence from the 'Ancient Woodland Inventory' does not, however, mean that a wood is post-1810, since the official definition of 'ancient' is pre-1600 and it would be classified as pre-1810 if shown on the OS 1st edition 1" map. If a wood is absent on the 1st edition 1" map, but recorded as ancient woodland in the Inventory, the Inventory was taken as being correct.

Where pre-1810 woodland was not assignable to one of the more specific morphological or land use-related types below, it was mapped as "other pre 1810 woodland" (HLT 4.3)

Assarted woodland (HLT 4.1, HLT 4.2)

HLT 4.1 Assarted Pre-1810

HLT 4.2 Replanted Assarted Pre-1810

In general, woods were deemed assarted if their outline was sufficiently irregular, showing the appearance of being eaten away. This was most evident where they were adjoined by assart field systems. However, it is clear that often the field systems could have been rationalised up to the woodland edge at a later date, and the presence of assarts was not seen as necessary for this identification.

Definite evidence of recently cleared woodland (often, in effect, clearly assarted in its shape) was clear if the extent of a wood had decreased from that indicated on the 1st edition 1" map, as compared with the current 1:25000 map. Occasionally, such clearance was also evident from the depiction of unenclosed belts of uncleared trees shown on the modern map.

Replanted woodland (HLT 4.2, HLT 4.4)

HLT 4.2 Replanted Assarted Pre-1810

HLT 4.4 Replanted Other Pre-1810

These types were identified by being recorded as replanted in the Ancient Woodland Inventory, and/or by the presence of conifer symbols on the OS 1:25000 maps.

Hangers (HLT 4.6, HLT 4.7)

HLT 4.6 Pre-1810 Hangers

HLT 4.7 Post 1810 Hangers

Hangers were identified on the basis of their topographical location, normally on chalk or greensand, being generally linear irregular features situated on steep hillsides and scarpes. Where they were clearly associated with heathland they were mapped as the appropriate heathland category.

Heathland woods and plantations (HLT 4.5, HLT 4.8, HLT 4.9)

Heathland associated woodland was identified as such both within heathland areas, and immediately adjacent to heathland, if the surrounding or land within the forest was of a heathland nature.

19th Century plantation (HLT 4.5) was identified as being those areas that were neither present on the 'Ancient Woodland Inventory', nor on 1st edition 1" map.

Heathland plantations (HLT 4.9) were identified as for other plantations.

DOWNLAND (HLT 6.1)

The location of downland was indicated by reference to the Hampshire County Council map of Downland (1991) and by the Hampshire County Council 'Chalk grassland survey, 1980-1982'. Confirmation of downland extent was checked by examination of the aerial photographs. Areas observed on aerial photographs, of unimproved grassland associated with downland, were also recorded as downland.

RIVER VALLEYS (HLT 7.1 – HLT 7.8)

The extent of the valley floor was mapped according to the limits of the flat valley ground either side of streams or rivers where field boundaries are shown as water-filled ditches on the 1:25,000 maps. It was usually the case that features such as field boundaries, roads and tracks defined the valley floor area. When this was not the case, and the limits passed through a field, contours were followed. Within the valley floor areas, defined in this way, a variety of specific valley floor or water-associated land uses were mapped as individual valley types:

HLT 7.1 Miscellaneous Valley Floor. The remaining valley floor landscape, after the recording of the specific categories below. These enclosures tend to vary considerably in their morphology of field shape and boundaries. Their form tends to be affected by the existence of a mixture of natural channels, imposed field patterns and drainage ditches, that may result in selective straightening of sinuous boundaries.

HLT 7.2 Valley Floor Woodland identified in the larger scale valley floors by the appropriate map symbols.

HLT 7.3 Marsh and Rough Grazing identified in the larger scale valley floors by the appropriate map symbols.

HLT 7.4 Water Meadows The recording of water meadows was restricted to those consisting of the most substantial & patterned system of ditches. Areas with sparsely located ditches could sometimes also be identified as water meadows, where the pattern of ditches seemed likely to reflect the presence of former water meadow systems, but it is likely that the results may under-represent the full extent of areas of simpler (and possibly older) water meadow systems.

HLT 7.5 Unimproved Grassland. Valley floor areas of SSSI (as indicated by the Hampshire County Council

National Policy Constraints map), which were not marsh or rough grazing, were assumed to be unimproved grassland which may be meadow or pasture.

HLT 7.6 Watercress Beds

HLT 7.7 Fishponds, Hatchery Complexes, Natural Ponds & Lakes

HLT 7.8 Watermills. Including mill ponds and leats.

Lakes formed by gravel extraction were mapped separately as features related to extractive industry. The scale of some of these features (especially watercress beds and mills) was too small for all to be mapped. Small watercress beds, fishponds and mills without a substantial associated mill pond were generally not recorded.

SETTLEMENTS (HLT 9.1 – HLT 9.11)

A basic distinction was made between pre- and post-1810 extent of settlement. In effect, this can be seen as a rough approximation to pre- and post-industrialisation. Deserted settlements were not mapped, largely because of their very small size and lack of impact on the present character of the landscape. Settlements were also divided between a number of morphological types.

Scattered Settlements (HLT 9.1 & HLT 9.2)

HLT 9.1 Scattered settlements with paddocks pre-1810 Extent;

HLT 9.2 Scattered settlements with paddocks post-1810 Extent

These represent areas with dense dispersed settlement in and amongst very numerous, very small fields and paddocks. The post 1810 version of this includes areas of "stockbroker belt" detached houses with large gardens.

Common edge settlements (HLT 9.3 & HLT 9.4)

HLT 9.3 Common Edge Settlement 1810 Extent

HLT 9.4 Common Edge Settlement post-1810 Extent

These were identified where clearly related to extant, or former, commons. These reflect some of the difference in settlement morphology between areas dominated by heathland and woods and more open farming countryside.

Pre 1810 Settlements (HLT 9.7 & HLT 9.9)

HLT 9.7 Village/hamlet 1810 Extent

HLT 9.9 Town & City 1810 Extent

Post 1810 Settlements (HLT 9.6)

This type included the expansion of villages, hamlets and towns

Caravan sites (HLT 9.11)

Caravan sites were recorded as a settlement type

when they were of a substantial permanent nature, and included surfaced roads & static caravans. Camping sites were not included when they were annotated by a tent symbol alone and did not consist of a network of roads.

PARKLAND & DESIGNED LANDSCAPE (HLT 10.1 – HLT 10.3)

The basis for identifying areas of parkland was the Hampshire County Council map of 'Designed Historic Landscape' which includes deer parks and landscaped parks. Confirmation was achieved by reference to Hampshire Countryside Heritage 5 - Historic Parks & Gardens Appendices I and II, which list historic deer parks and designed parks and gardens in Hampshire and/or, by reference to OS 1:25000 and 1:50,000 maps. Parkland extent was also checked by examination of Hampshire County Council vertical aerial photographs. If parkland indicated by the Hampshire County Council map of 'Designed Historic Landscape' was seen subsequently to be no longer of a 'designed' nature and obscured by more recent development, or land uses, it was not recorded as parkland. Woods and valley floor areas situated within parkland areas were mapped as parkland, rather than as the relevant woodland or valley floor types.

HLT 10.1 *Pre-1810 parkland.* Parkland depicted on the OS 1st edition 1" maps.

HLT 10.2 *Post-1810 parkland.* Parkland not depicted on the OS 1st edition 1" maps. Includes a few areas of estate-type landscape, where a particularly strong element of design is evident in copse plantations, shelter belts etc.

HLT 10.3 *Deer parks.* These were often known from boundary features only and have lost their parkland character, in which case they have been mapped as whatever type reflects their current nature. The original distribution of deer parks may be established by cross-reference to the Sites and Monuments Record. Whether individual cases have survived as parks will have depended as much as anything on the vagaries of fortune of individual families and their estates; which may have been affected by political and economic vicissitudes with little or no connection to the local landscape.

RECREATION (HLT 11.1 – HLT 11.3)

Recreation features were mapped directly off the OS 1:25000 maps.

HLT 11.1 *Racecourses* There are hardly any Racecourses (HLT 11.1) as such in Hampshire, but this type includes gallops and associated stables etc.

HLT 11.2 *Golf Courses.* The extent of golf courses (HLT 11.2) was confirmed by examination of aerial photographs

HLT 11.3 *Sports Fields.* The mapping of sports fields & complexes was restricted to those of a larger size. Smaller sports fields/areas associated with schools were not recorded.

EXTRACTIVE AND OTHER INDUSTRY (HLT 12.1-HLT12.5)

HLT 12.1 *Chalk Quarries* Identified & mapped directly from OS 1:25000 maps.

HLT 12.2 *Gravel Pits* Identified & mapped directly from OS 1:25000 maps.

HLT 12.3 *Factories*

HLT 12.4 *Large Scale Industry* Distinguished from smaller industrial complexes & factories by being named on OS 1:25000 maps as oil refineries, power stations etc., and by their large scale.

HLT 12.5 *Water Treatment*

Active & disused quarries were mapped which included those now flooded and those used as refuse sites. While these are visually very different, they represent landscape features that are distinctive of the after-use of quarries. Current workings were not distinguished separately on the basis that these are transitory phases of quarry landscapes. Industrial complexes & factories situated within urban areas were recorded as general post-1810 development.

COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES (HLT 13.1, HLT 13.3, HLT 13.4)

HLT 13.1 *Stations & Sidings* Identified and mapped directly from the OS 1:25000 maps.

HLT 13.3 *Airfields.* Identified from the 1:25,000 maps and checked by examination of aerial photographs, and were mapped to include associated buildings. Disused airfields were included if they were still evident as former airfields from relict runways etc. influencing the field pattern. Military-based airfields were recorded as 20th Century defence sites (see below).

HLT 13.4 *Motorway Services.* Identified and mapped directly off the OS 1:25000 maps

MILITARY AND DEFENCE (HLT 14.1- HLT 14.5)

HLT 14.1 *Prehistoric & Roman*

HLT 14.2 *Medieval*

HLT 14.3 *Post Medieval 1500-1830*

HLT 14.4 *19th Century 1830-1914*

HLT 14.5 *20th Century 1914-*

Military and defence-related areas were mapped according to whether they are sufficiently large and distinctive to make, or to have left, a distinct impact on the landscape. This therefore includes prominent disused prehistoric hillforts as much as disused military airfields, where they have clearly influenced the landscape, but does not include either if they have been obliterated with no clearly visible relict character. Very small features, such as pillboxes, have not been mapped, even where forming parts of large scale defence systems. The grouping of defence sites by date has been based on information from the Hampshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

KEY TO HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPES



