

# *The* Hampshire **LANDSCAPE** --- *a Strategy for the Future*



# *The* Hampshire **LANDSCAPE** *a Strategy for the Future*



# FOREWORD



The English landscape is a by-product of the way we have chosen to develop and manage the land. We are fortunate in having a refined and reasonably successful planning system in this county which has both controlled poorly conceived development and encouraged high quality in new design.

However, in the statutory planning system there has been little or no place for influencing the way the land is managed. Decisions about the way we manage the land can have a profound impact on the quality of the environment, as profound as new development. Devastating loss of wildlife in the countryside, erosion of the sense of place and destruction of historic landscapes (as physical evidence of human activities over thousands of years) have mainly happened without being noticed by society, and outside the scope of the planning system.

Society's agenda has changed as a result of these losses, and those who manage land have shown that they are capable of rising to new challenges. There is a need for us, therefore, to be clear what the long-term objectives are for the countryside so that they can be conveyed to those who manage and develop land.

Hampshire County Council has published this Landscape Strategy which will now sit beside the County Structure Plan and set out our ambitions for the way the countryside should be managed. It will inform both Strategic Management Plans and individual whole farm plans.

As Chairman of Hampshire County Council's Planning and Transportation Committee I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed towards making this an effective and pertinent document which will help secure the sustainable management of Hampshire's landscape.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dudley A. Keep". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Dudley Keep  
*Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee,*  
Hampshire County Council

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# SUMMARY

## Introduction

This Landscape Strategy is the first strategic land management plan for Hampshire. It is based on the county landscape assessment *The Hampshire Landscape* produced by the County Council in 1993. The Strategy, like the assessment, covers all countryside areas throughout the county but urban areas are outside its scope.

The Strategy sets out three main aims: to maintain and enhance the distinctive sense of place and great diversity of Hampshire's different landscapes; to support and complement the aims of the Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire; to support planning policies and guide policy decisions ensuring that new development recognises and respects the character of the landscape including scarce and irreplaceable landscapes.

It is aimed at those with a policy, advisory or design role and those who have an interest, influence or concern about the future of the landscape. To raise public awareness, a non-technical summary is published with the Strategy.

The Strategy supports and complements the Hampshire County Structure Plan (Review) in its commitment to promote the conservation and enhancement of Hampshire's countryside and coast, wildlife and historic heritage. It also sets out a comprehensive framework for other strategic and local plans and strategies and provides a focus for harnessing and directing the environmental initiatives and actions of all those involved in shaping the Hampshire landscape in the future.

## Landscape change and public concern

Before the twentieth century, the landscape had evolved and developed to reflect changing human needs over several thousand years. Since then the speed of change has transformed the landscape.



The intensification of agriculture and increasing pressures for many different forms of development have eroded the character of the landscape and brought the loss of many wildlife habitats. These changes, and the growing awareness of the overall impact of human action on the natural environment have led to widespread public concern about environmental matters. In reversing environmental damage, the power of public opinion is central to bringing about action to achieve change.

It is recognised that landscape change is both necessary and inevitable, and that the countryside of the future will serve many different purposes. Conservation and change are not alternatives but different interests which need to be accommodated in an integrated way.

## Sustainable landscape management

The value of the landscape as a fundamental social, economic and environmental resource is inestimable. Its sustainable management is crucial for future generations, and this can only be achieved by substantial investment and new mechanisms which integrate environmental conservation and economic policy.

It is recognised that behind ambitious ideas for the restoration and enhancement of a healthy landscape lies the awkward reality of its cost. Most of the countryside is managed by farmers and landowners. The realities of farm economics, particularly in an increasingly competitive global market mean that the successful management of a rich and healthy landscape is threatened. Radical new mechanisms and solutions involving reforms of agricultural policy are required.

The sustainable management of the traditional English landscape, rich in wildlife and characterised in the public mind as a patchwork of woods, fields and hedgerows, will require substantial investment if this concept is to be achieved and maintained.



*The open Hampshire Downs contrast with the small fields and woodlands of the North Hampshire Lowlands beyond*



**Landscape diversity**

Hampshire has a very diverse landscape. The Strategy describes 11 distinctive Character Areas, each with its own particular sense of place. The Character Areas correspond broadly with the regional Character Areas identified by the Countryside Agency in their landscape character assessment of England, although the county areas are at a more detailed level.

**Landscape issues and guidelines**

The Strategy sets out in detail the issues which have contributed towards the decline in the quality of the landscape. It identifies a number of guidelines addressing the issues and detailing the actions needed to help restore and enhance the distinctive sense of place of the county’s different landscapes. It also reviews issues such as climate change and disease although these are outside the scope of the Strategy’s framework for action.

Many of the issues and guidelines apply widely throughout Hampshire, but those applicable to particular Character Areas are identified separately. The countywide issues and guidelines are dealt with under the following headings:

Land Management	Land Use and Development
Landscape Character and Diversity	Landscape Character and the Planning System
Agriculture	Urban Expansion
Woodlands, Trees and Forestry	Recreation, Tourism, Access and Diversification
Hedgerows	Transport
Biological Diversity	Minerals and Waste
Historic Landscapes	
Urban Fringe	

**Implementation**

Significant environmental improvements are already being carried out by numerous agencies, organisations, voluntary groups and individuals. The Strategy is an overall framework which is intended to be a focus for directing and complementing these ongoing environmental improvements. It identifies the range of organisations from national agencies to local groups whose different roles, including the provision of funding, can be combined in working partnerships to implement the guidelines. The Strategy also sets out a framework for action and the mechanisms through which implementation can be achieved.





# INTRODUCTION

## The Strategy

This Landscape Strategy is the first strategic land management plan for Hampshire. It also addresses the different ways in which development issues affect the landscape.

The Strategy sets out a comprehensive framework for other strategies and plans and provides a focus for harnessing and directing the environmental actions, advice and policies of numerous organisations which are already achieving significant improvements throughout Hampshire. This countywide framework is intended for all those directly or indirectly involved in shaping the Hampshire landscape in the future. In particular it is intended to provide a framework for District Authority strategies and other plans and local action initiatives. Additionally, it is intended for those with a policy, advisory or design role, and those who carry out action and change on the ground. It is also for all those who have an interest, influence or concern about the future of the landscape.

It supports and complements the *Hampshire County Structure Plan (Review)* in its commitment to promote the conservation and enhancement of Hampshire's countryside and coast, wildlife and historic heritage, and to respect the diversity of character in Hampshire. The Strategy provides practical advice in support of the landscape policies of the *County Structure Plan (Review)*. These include policies E6, E7, E8, E9 and E15 which are listed in Appendix E.

### Scope of the Strategy

The Strategy is based on the landscape assessment *The Hampshire Landscape* produced by the County Council in 1993. Like the assessment, it covers all countryside areas throughout the county but urban areas are outside its scope. However, the important and seamless inter-relationship between urban areas, the urban fringe and rural areas is acknowledged. A high quality urban environment with good facilities and attractive residential and employment opportunities not only helps to revitalise towns and cities but will also help to reduce the pressure on rural areas.

### Aims, guidelines and implementation

The Strategy sets out three main aims to enhance the character, quality and diversity of the landscape throughout the whole county. A number of advisory rather than prescriptive guidelines and a long-term framework for action are set out to help translate the aims into effective action on the ground.

#### **Aim 1 Landscape character and diversity**

*To maintain and enhance:*

- the overall quality and diversity of landscape character across the whole county*
- the distinctive sense of place and individual identity of each particular area*

#### **Aim 2 Biological diversity**

*To support and complement:*

- the aims of the Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire, enhancing biological diversity throughout the wider countryside*

#### **Aim 3 Development**

*To support and complement planning policies by helping to ensure that:*

- new development respects and where practicable contributes towards enhancing the character and local sense of place of the landscape*
- scarce and irreplaceable landscapes are recognised and respected when development proposals are being considered*





**Public awareness**

Raising awareness and understanding and building on the steady growth of public concern for the environment are vital elements in the success of the Strategy. Public benefit is central to the aims of the Strategy, and public support is an essential and powerful ingredient in stimulating the economic changes needed to more closely integrate environmental and economic interests. The environment is an economic resource needing long-term investment and sustainable management.

**Funding**

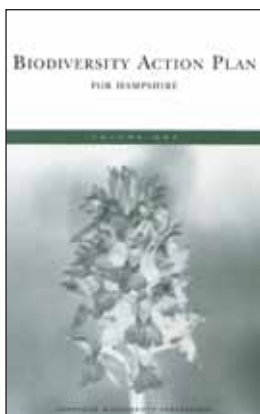
It is hoped that the strategy with its coherent and long-term approach to landscape management and enhancement can be used as a means of attracting financial support to help towards implementing the guidelines.

**Relationship with the Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire**

The *Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire* translates national objectives for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity into effective action at county level. The *Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire* consists of two volumes : *Volume One* sets out a framework and the main courses of action, and *Volume Two* consists of detailed Action Plans for habitats and species of conservation concern in the county, as well as topic plans for issues influencing biodiversity such as water management.

As the strategic land management plan for the county, the Landscape Strategy complements and supports the Biodiversity Action Plan. They are both strategies for action, aiming to conserve and enhance Hampshire’s countryside and coast. Both guide and direct other plans, strategies and programmes for local action which help to deliver particular environmental objectives.

The Biodiversity Action Plan uses the county Landscape Character Areas identified in this Strategy to illustrate the geographical occurrence of the Key Habitats as a guide to targeting action. The county Character Areas relate closely to the regional Character Areas identified by the Countryside Agency and English Nature.



The Biodiversity Action Plan and this Strategy share many common goals although each has its own emphasis. The geographical distribution and location of particular habitats and species are closely related to the county Landscape Types and Character Areas identified in this Strategy. A Landscape Type may encompass several of the Key Habitats of nature conservation concern identified in the Biodiversity Action Plan. Detailed Habitat Action Plans are being drawn up for each of the Key Habitats and the other topic plans which aim to enhance biodiversity throughout the wider countryside. These Action Plans are supported and augmented by this Landscape Strategy, which sets out guidelines for the conservation and enhancement of the character of all countryside areas throughout the county.

## The Need for a Strategy

### The landscape

The landscape is important for many different reasons. It is a place to live, to work and a place for recreation. It offers a sense of freedom and space, and the extremes and subtleties of the seasons. It contains a record of culture and history, and it is a social, economic and environmental resource on which both human life and wildlife depend.

### Landscape change

The landscape has slowly evolved and changed over several thousand years to reflect human needs. It is the result of an ongoing interaction between the natural world and human activity. Landscape change is both necessary and inevitable, and it will continue.

In the last 50 years a rapid increase in the speed of change has transformed the landscape. Change has brought about both new and flourishing landscapes. It has also reduced the quality, character and diversity of the traditional English landscape. To meet the needs of society, the intensification of agriculture and increasing pressures for various forms of development have urbanised and eroded the character and biodiversity of many rural and coastal landscapes. A landscape which took several hundred years to develop can be destroyed by modern technology in a day.

The widespread use of similar building materials and design styles, and the use of fast-growing non-indigenous tree species have brought an increasing uniformity to both settlements and the countryside. The features which make places different and give a community its local identity have been eroded by this spreading uniformity.

### Public concern

Increasing media coverage on the impact of human action on the natural environment has led to greater awareness and public concern about environmental matters.

Global pollution and its effects, including holes in the protective ozone layer of the earth's upper atmosphere, and changes to the climate brought about by greenhouse gases are a source of international concern and co-operation.

The pollution of city streets from vehicle emissions, the quality of the air and water generally, and the effects of some farming methods have brought considerable public concern for both human health and the state of the environment.

Along with other issues, the declining populations of both rare and common species of birds including skylarks and song thrushes has drawn public attention to agricultural practices. The impact and consequences of BSE on both farmers and the public as consumers, has perhaps led to particularly close scrutiny on the introduction of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and other agricultural practices such as the use of antibiotics in livestock management.

## Sustainable Land Management

### Conservation and change

Landscape change is inevitable particularly in a rapidly changing world. The global economy is likely to bring many difficulties for agriculture and the rural economy in the years ahead, with consequences for the landscape. Changing patterns of housing need, work, mobility and recreation will also result in pressures on the landscape for new development. Landscape conservation and enhancement are central aims of this strategy, but it is recognised that the countryside of the future will serve many different purposes. Conservation and change are not alternatives, but different interests which need to be accommodated in an integrated way.

### Sustainable land management - an overview

This strategy aims to enhance the character, quality and diversity of the landscape throughout the whole county. Numerous agencies, organisations, voluntary groups and individuals continue to contribute significantly towards environmental improvements of all kinds throughout Hampshire.

The guidelines in this strategy set out some of the measures considered necessary to help achieve these aims. However, such words serve little purpose without effective action on the ground. As a

means of making progress, the implementation programme sets out ways in which the guidelines can be translated into effective action through policy, advice or change on the ground by all those involved in shaping the landscape.

The awkward reality which lies behind ambitious ideas for the creation or restoration of a diverse and healthy landscape is its cost. This is a significant factor in the present and future condition of the landscape. In many areas, the landscape is more or less a by-product of a countryside dominated by agricultural production and the realities of farm economics. Landowners and farmers are in business and need to make their land viable and profitable. Additionally, the acute difficulties in the agricultural economy, brought about recently by a variety of factors, are threatening the viability of many farm businesses, particularly those with smaller holdings.

The importance of agriculture and its crucial role in maintaining the character of different landscapes in the future can not be underestimated. The economic viability of the livestock sector for example has a direct relationship with the continuity of the character of pastoral landscapes. Cereal growers in Hampshire are likely to become more vulnerable to increased trading in world markets. Financial difficulties brought by changing circumstances will make maintenance of the fabric of the landscape increasingly difficult. All these issues raise questions about the long-term future of the landscape and highlight the importance of finding ways of integrating economic viability with environmental objectives.

The landscape meets many human needs. It is a basic social, economic and environmental resource needing sustainable management. This can only be achieved by substantial investment and new mechanisms which integrate environmental conservation and economic policy. Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and the evolving pattern of global markets create opportunities for the emergence of a radically different system.

Such a system should aim to ensure that the quality of the landscape is not an incidental by-product of agriculture but a major objective of sustainable land management having equal status to food production. The integration of these different interests would make a significant contribution towards economic prosperity, public appreciation and a healthy landscape.

The value of the landscape as a fundamental social, economic and environmental resource is inestimable. Its sustainable management is important for future generations. Its value suggests that it should be treated as a whole and that the 'ordinary countryside', as well as those areas protected for their international or national landscape or wildlife importance, should be well managed, carefully conserved and treated as environmentally sensitive.

Farmers and land managers have frequently expressed their readiness to maintain and conserve valued landscapes and habitats, and enhance areas in decline providing the work is adequately funded. The sustainable management of the traditional English landscape, characterised in the public mind by an attractive patchwork of woods, fields and hedgerows, is unlikely to be funded from the proceeds of agricultural products in an increasingly competitive global market. If there is public reluctance to part with this concept of the traditional landscape, and if it is to be maintained as an attractive, healthy and biologically diverse environment, substantial changes will be needed to the package of controls and incentives which are currently influencing agriculture.

## Background

From the early 1950s, the most valued areas of countryside were selected for protection and designation as National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Such areas represented the best areas of landscape and it was implicit that the wider rural landscape, the 'ordinary countryside', was not special in the same way - 'the best and the rest'.

There are five AONBs either partly or totally in Hampshire: East Hampshire AONB (designated in 1962); Chichester Harbour AONB (1964); South Hampshire Coast AONB (1967); North Wessex

Downs AONB (1972); Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB (1983). Additionally, in 1999 the Government outlined a proposal to designate the New Forest and the South Downs as National Parks. The South Downs extend west from West Sussex into the East Hampshire AONB.

The rapid changes in the landscape in the decades since the 1950s showed that a more comprehensive approach to understanding and assessing the whole countryside and how it was changing was necessary. This led to the concept of landscape character assessment which was developed during the 1980s by the Countryside Commission, now the Countryside Agency. The Countryside Commission produced guidelines on character assessment in 1987, 1991 and 1993, with a further refinement in 1999. By the end of the 1990s the majority of English County Councils had completed character assessments.

**The process of landscape character assessment**

Landscape character assessment is a consistent and systematic means of identifying, describing, classifying and mapping the character of different rural landscapes without making judgements about their relative worth. It takes account of physical, cultural and historical aspects of the landscape including smaller settlements within the countryside. Landscape assessment identifies and describes the features and characteristics which influence and contribute towards the distinctive identity and sense of place of a particular landscape and its contribution to the diversity of the wider area. Assessments can be undertaken at a range of scales from national to local. At the more local scale, account can be taken of the condition of the landscape and the need for conservation or enhancement. Assessments can also demonstrate the continuity of landscape character beyond administrative boundaries and provide a sound basis for co-ordinated cross-boundary plans and strategies.

**The uses of landscape character assessment**

Landscape assessment can be useful in raising awareness and furthering the understanding of the landscape, but it is best used as a mechanism for achieving action, identifying priorities and allocating resources. It creates the opportunity to set out guidelines which can help to guide and direct landscape change, and assist with aspects of countryside planning and management.

**National and local landscape assessments**

The Countryside Agency has published a landscape character assessment of the whole of England. This is entitled *Countryside Character: The character of England's natural and man-made landscape* and is published in eight volumes. Hampshire is included in *Volume 7: South East and London* published in 1999. The County Council assisted in the identification and mapping of the character areas covering Hampshire to achieve consistency with the county landscape assessment.

The County Council published the countywide landscape character assessment *The Hampshire Landscape* in 1993 using Countryside Commission guidelines. This Landscape Strategy is based on that assessment.

The 11 District Authorities in Hampshire published local landscape character assessments during the 1990s. Using the county assessment as a framework, these finer grain assessments also used Countryside Commission guidelines and were co-ordinated by the County Council.

The *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment* was published in 1999. The County Council commissioned consultants Oxford Archaeological Unit and Scott Wilson Resource Consultants to produce this countywide assessment covering the historic and archaeological aspects of the landscape not covered by *The Hampshire Landscape*.

The *Forest of Bere Project* and the *Forest of Eversley Project* landscape character assessments were published by the County Council in 1998. These fine-grain assessments are at a more detailed level than the District Authority assessments.



## Landscape Diversity

The Hampshire landscape has great diversity of character.

In a regional context the chalk downs extend across central Hampshire linking Salisbury Plain to the South Downs. This high and extensive tract of mainly rural landscape physically separates the lowland areas of north, south and east Hampshire.

Overall, five entirely different landscapes contribute to Hampshire's diversity:



The large-scale, high and sweeping landscapes of the mostly rural chalk downs



The small-scale, well-wooded and generally enclosed landscapes of the low-lying clay lowlands



The extensive heaths and woodlands of the New Forest and Hampshire's other heathland areas, associated with the clay lowlands

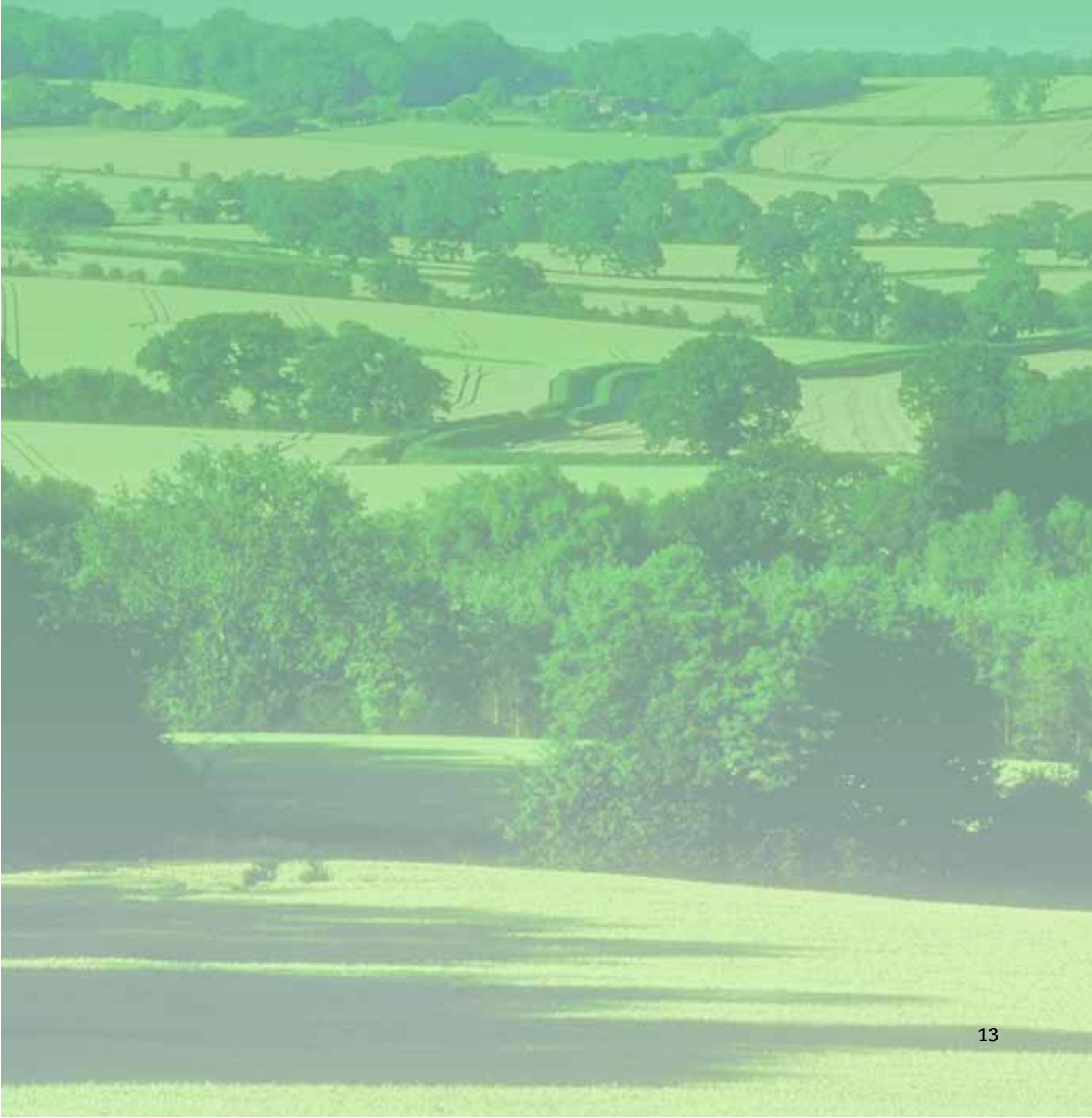


The large-scale and open landscapes of Hampshire's coast



The distinctive low-lying but varied character of Hampshire's main river valleys

# CHARACTER AREA *Descriptions*





# CHARACTER AREA Descriptions

## Introduction

### County and regional Character Areas

This section describes the 11 county Character Areas within Hampshire and outlines the main characteristics which give each Area its distinctive sense of place. Several areas share some common features but each has its own particular identity.

Most of the Character Areas extend into adjacent counties where the character is similar. This is clearly shown in the regional Character Areas identified by the Countryside Agency in their landscape character assessment of England. Of the regional Character Areas, 10 occur either partly or wholly in Hampshire. The Hampshire assessment is more detailed, showing a sub-division of the regional Hampshire Downs area, identifying the four main Hampshire river valleys and showing the coastal plain south of the New Forest.

County Character Areas	Regional Character Areas
Hampshire Downs	Hampshire Downs
Mid Hampshire Downs	Salisbury Plain and West Wiltshire Downs
South Hampshire Downs	South Downs
Cranborne Chase	Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase
North Hampshire Lowland and Heath	Thames Basin Heaths
Western Weald Lowland and Heath	Wealden Greensand
South Hampshire Lowland and Heath	South Hampshire Lowlands
New Forest Lowland and Heath	New Forest
New Forest Coast	Dorset Heaths
South Hampshire Coast	South Coast Plain
Avon, Test, Itchen and Meon River Valleys	

## Countryside Character of England

The Countryside Agency has published a landscape character assessment of the whole of England. This is entitled *Countryside Character: The Character of England's natural and man-made landscape* and is published in eight volumes. Hampshire is included in Volume 7: South East and London published in 1999.

The purpose of the assessment is to recognise, describe and analyse the character of the different English landscapes in order to raise awareness and achieve a better understanding of their character and diversity. The assessment also identifies where there is a need to conserve or strengthen the character of the landscape and it aims to provide a framework for more detailed assessments.

The assessment has identified and described 159 different Character Areas based on a range of landscape elements including geology, landform, ecology, agriculture, field patterns, woodlands and settlements.

The Countryside Agency worked closely with English Heritage and English Nature on the initiative which is compatible with English Nature's Natural Areas, a classification of ecologically coherent areas in England. Natural Areas describes and analyses each area identifying key wildlife features and setting objectives for each area. Some of the Countryside Agency's Character Areas have been combined to form a single Natural Area. There are eight Natural Areas in Hampshire.



<b>Character Areas and Landscape Types</b>	The 11 Character Areas in Hampshire have been derived from the landscape character assessment <i>The Hampshire Landscape</i> (1993) which identified the range of different Landscape Types within the county. The Landscape Types are described in Appendix A. A Landscape Type is a distinct landscape with a set of particular characteristics which can occur in different parts of the county or country. The combination of characteristics which form a Landscape Type include geology, topography, vegetation and human influences. A Character Area is a unique and geographically specific Landscape Type or group of Landscape Types with a local place name and with its own local identity.
<b>Local landscape character assessments</b>	Each of the District Authorities in Hampshire has published local landscape assessments. Using the county assessment as a framework the District assessments have identified and described local Character Areas and Landscape Types at a much finer level of detail.
<b>County Character Areas</b>	The Landscape Types and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty within each Character Area are listed on the following pages. Also listed are:

Special Protection Areas  
Candidate Special Areas of Conservation  
Key Habitats  
Country Parks and other opportunities for public access

#### Special Protection Areas, and Candidate Special Areas of Conservation

Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC) are European nature conservation designations. The European Union's Habitats Directive is the single most important piece of European nature conservation legislation. It represents a shift towards greater habitat and species protection than is currently the case under UK legislation. It requires member states to maintain or restore natural habitats and species to a favourable conservation status. To achieve this, a network of ecologically important sites known as Natura 2000 has been created. Natura 2000 comprises cSACs and SPAs, which should be designated by member states where sites host habitats and species listed in the Habitats Directive.

At present, the cSACs have been submitted by the UK but not yet been confirmed by the European Union. SPAs were established by the EU Birds Directive which was adopted in 1979. Member states designate SPAs where habitats meet the criteria set out in the Directive. Hampshire County Council is the 'competent authority' required to 'have regard' for these designated sites under European legislation.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are notified in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Many SSSIs occur within each Character Area but these are too numerous to list.

#### Key Habitats

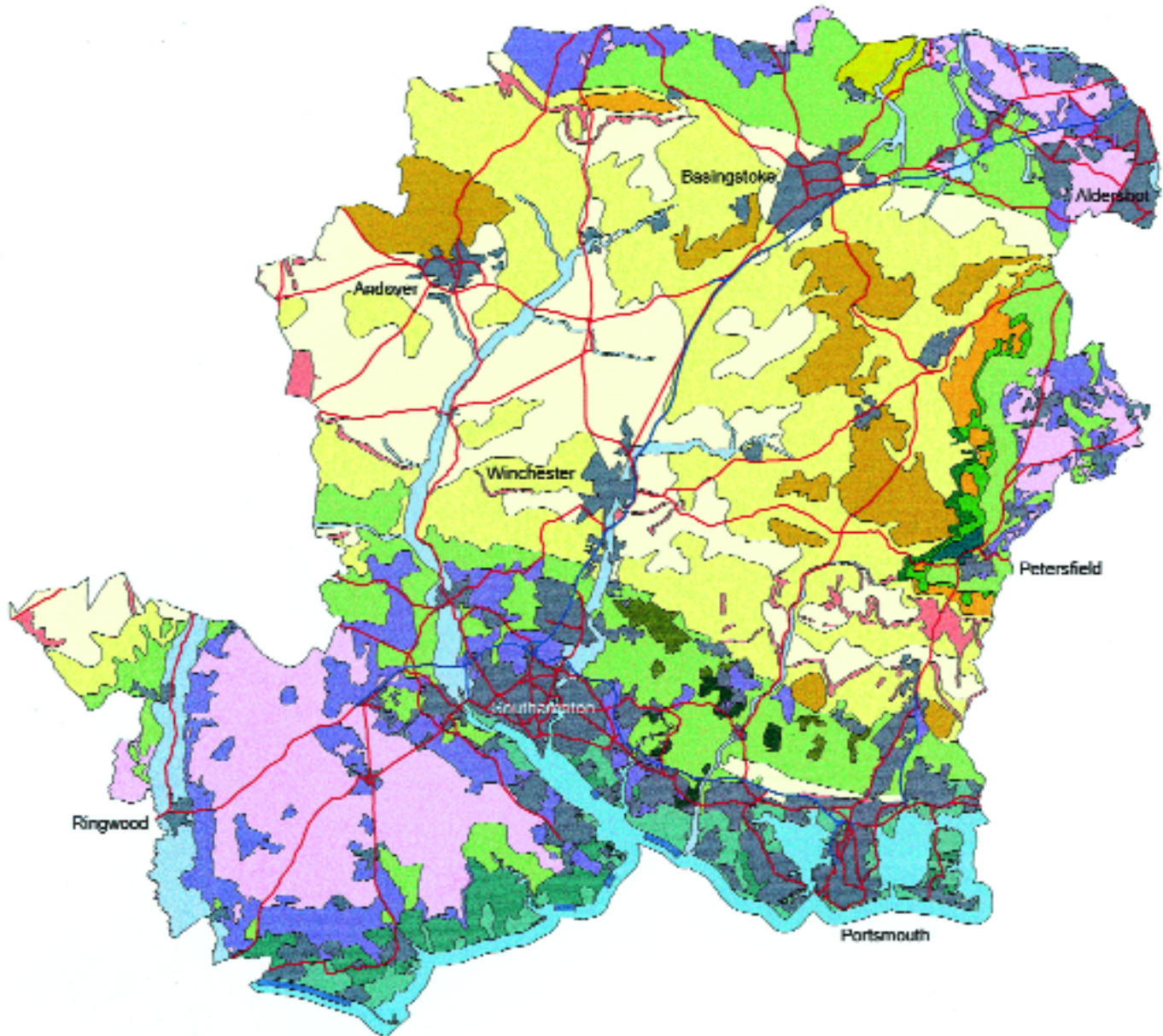
The Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire has identified 22 Key Habitats in the county. Key Habitats are of particular nature conservation concern both nationally and locally. They include those habitats for which the UK has international obligations, those at risk from decline or scarcity, or those which are important for particular species, especially species of particular conservation concern.

For each of the 22 Key Habitats in Hampshire a detailed Habitat Action Plan has been drawn up by the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership. The Habitat Action Plans appear in *Volume 2* of the *Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire*.

#### Country Parks and other opportunities for public access

Within each Character Area numerous opportunities exist for public access to the countryside and coast. For each Character Area a few of the opportunities which exist for public access are listed. The areas listed include Country Parks, Nature Reserves, viewpoints and long distance paths. They offer access to a wide variety of different landscapes including downlands, heathlands, woodlands and coastal sites, with historic, archaeological or wildlife interest, and recreational opportunities. Many of these sites are managed by Hampshire County Council.



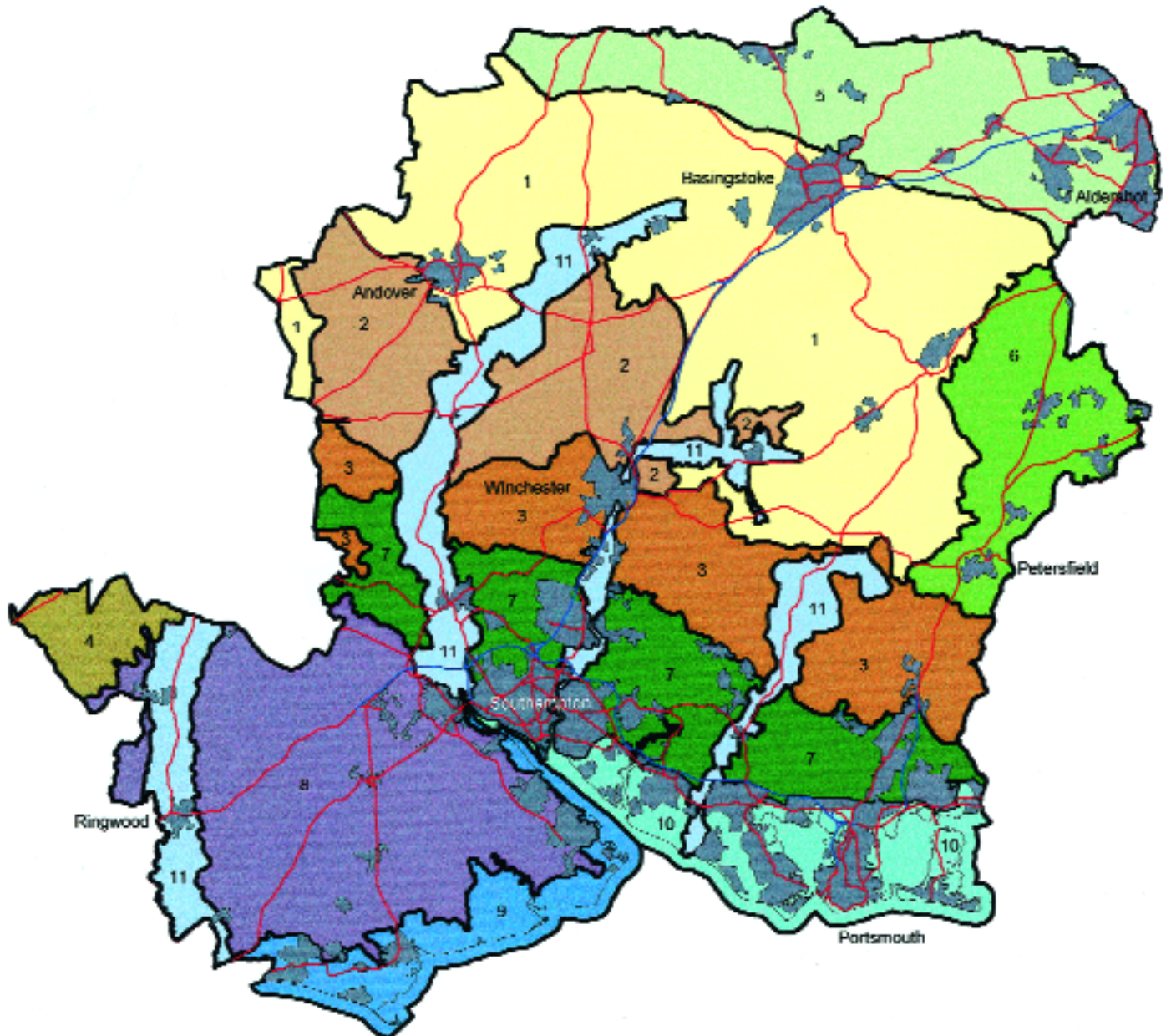


### Landscape Types

	Open Arable		Heathland and Forest
	Chalk and Clay		Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated
	Clay Plateau		Mixed Farmland and Woodland
	Scarps: Downland		Horticulture and Smallholdings
	Scarps: Hangers		Open Coastal Plain
	Hangers on Greensand		Enclosed Coastal Plain
	Open Arable on Greensand		Coastline
	Pasture: Hangers Associated		Cliff Coastline
	Pasture on Clay		River Valley
	Open Arable on Clay		Urban Area

The Landscape Types shown here were identified and described in the landscape assessment *The Hampshire Landscape* (1993)

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## Landscape Character Areas

- 1 Hampshire Downs
- 2 Mid Hampshire Downs
- 3 South Hampshire Downs
- 4 Cranborne Chase
- 5 North Hampshire Lowland and Heath
- 6 Western Weald Lowland and Heath
- 7 South Hampshire Lowland and Heath
- 8 New Forest Lowland and Heath
- 9 New Forest Coast
- 10 South Hampshire Coast
- 11 Avon, Test, Itchen and Meon River Valleys



## Hampshire Downs Character Area



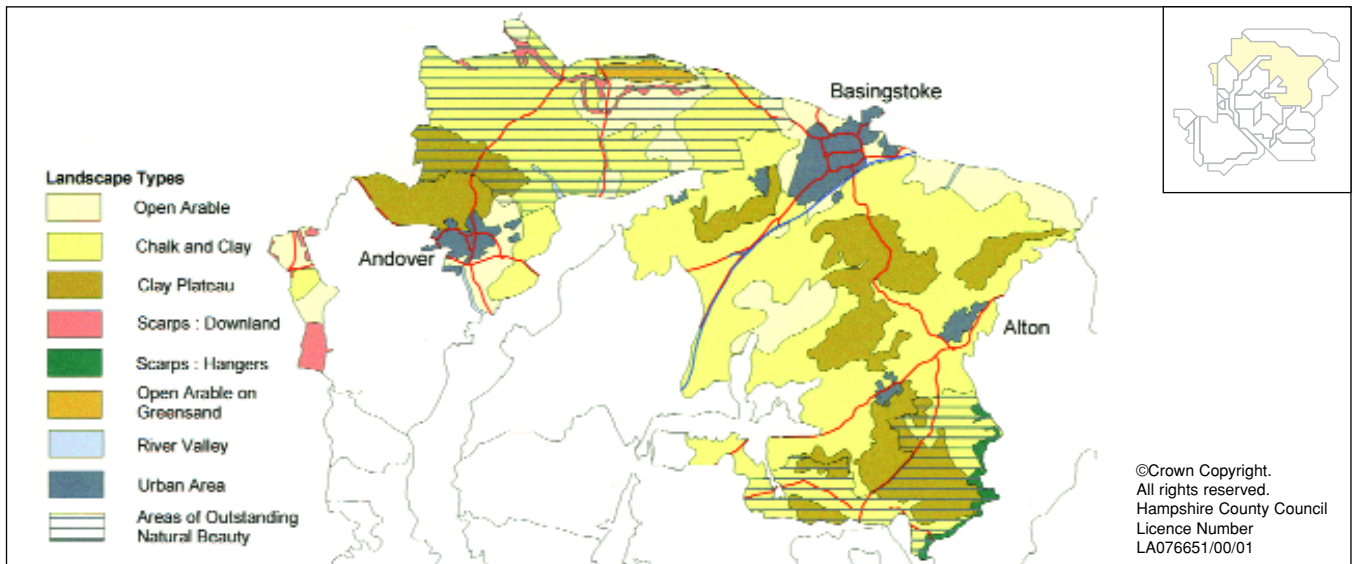
### General description

The most remote, high and tranquil parts of rural Hampshire are found in these rolling and extensive chalk downs. Broad and gently domed high plateaux or sweeping hills with long and panoramic views provide a sense of openness and space, combining with numerous ancient woodlands and hedgerows, and many winding ancient lanes and tracks to create a rich and generally well-enclosed landscape. These distinctive characteristics provide a secluded setting for large tracts of intensively farmed, mainly arable countryside and the widely dispersed settlements throughout the area.

The Hampshire Downs form the highest parts of Hampshire’s broad belt of chalk which as a whole acts as an extensive rural buffer separating the significantly smaller-scale and slightly more urbanised Lowland and Heath landscapes of north and south Hampshire.

Many parts of the Hampshire Downs retain their generally unspoilt rural character despite the presence of three large urban areas and several major transport routes.

<p><b>Landscape Types</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open Arable</li> <li>Chalk and Clay</li> <li>Clay Plateau</li> <li>Scarps: Downland</li> <li>Scarps: Hangers</li> </ul>	<p><b>BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN:</b></p> <p><b>Key Habitats – Action plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland</li> <li>Pasture Woodland, Parkland</li> <li>Hedgerows</li> <li>Arable Land</li> <li>Lowland Calcareous Grassland</li> <li>Open Standing Water</li> <li>Chalk Streams</li> </ul>
<p><b>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Wessex Downs AONB</li> <li>East Hampshire AONB</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Access and Long Distance Paths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abbotstone Down</li> <li>Ashford Hangers Nature Reserve</li> <li>Beacon Hill Iron Age Fort</li> <li>Whitehill viewpoint</li> <li>Basing House</li> <li>Test Way</li> <li>Wayfarers Walk</li> <li>Three Castles Way</li> </ul>
<p><b>Special Protection Areas and Candidate Special Areas of Conservation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Porton Down SPA</li> <li>Salisbury Plain cSAC</li> <li>East Hampshire Hangers cSAC</li> </ul>	



### Main characteristics

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



## Mid Hampshire Downs Character Area



### General description

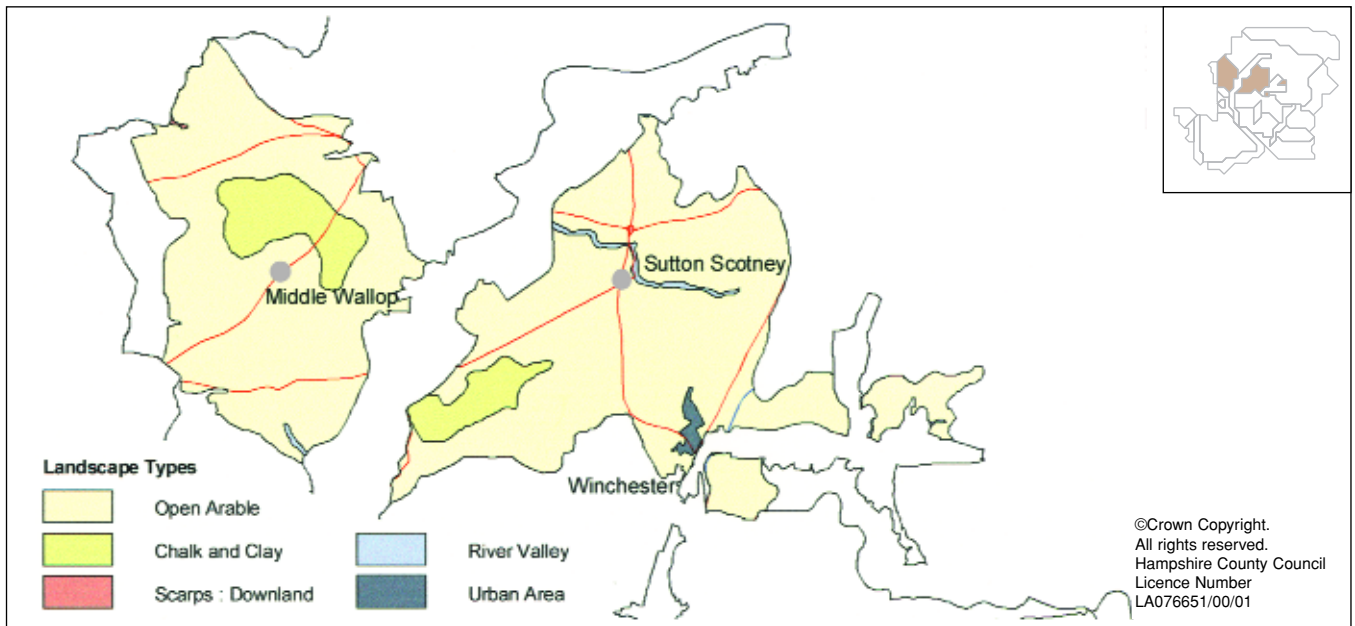
This broad and predominantly open area consists mainly of the lower lying parts of Hampshire's chalk downs. Surrounded by the higher ground and sweeping horizons of the Hampshire Downs and the South Hampshire Downs the area forms part of the catchment of the River Test and River Itchen.

This is primarily intensively farmed arable land on shallow calcareous soils in an open and gently undulating setting. The low, trimmed hedges with few hedgerow trees create little sense of enclosure though occasional linear, mainly coniferous shelter belts break the sweeping contours and long views. In this open landscape several ancient hill forts on isolated knolls are prominent and attractive features.

Biodiversity is generally very limited and confined to scattered areas of remnant chalk grassland and occasional ancient woodlands on the more clayey soils on higher ground.

The predominantly rural character of the Mid Hampshire Downs is emphasised by the often prominent but widely dispersed farms and farm buildings, whilst the main settlements are generally in the valleys and less prominent. The open rural character is an attractive and noticeable feature from the numerous major roads which lie across the area, but the noise and visual intrusion are widespread and only a few areas retain a degree of remoteness and tranquillity.

<p><b>Landscape Types</b></p> <p>Open Arable Chalk and Clay Scarps: Downland</p>	<p><b>BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN:</b></p> <p><b>Key Habitats – Action plans</b></p> <p>Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland Hedgerows Arable Land Lowland Calcareous Grassland Chalk Streams</p>
<p><b>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b></p> <p>None</p>	<p><b>Public Access and Long Distance Paths</b></p> <p>Danebury Ring Iron Age Hill Fort Stockbridge Down (National Trust)</p>



### Main characteristics

- Generally open, spacious landscape with a gently undulating landform surrounded by higher ground, and comprising mainly intensive arable farmland with a predominantly rural character.
- Consists predominantly of the lower-lying parts of Hampshire's chalk downs, apart from occasional areas of higher ground and ancient hill forts on isolated knolls; forms part of the catchments of the River Test and River Itchen which both pass through the area.
- Generally open character allows panoramic views to the sweeping skylines of the surrounding higher ground of the Hampshire Downs and the South Hampshire Downs; generally open setting for the valleys of the Dever and Anton Rivers, and Pillhill and Wallop Brooks, all tributaries of the River Test.
- Large-scale landscape with a broad and generally open character apart from isolated areas of greater enclosure and numerous woodlands notably east of Stockbridge and south west of Andover; elsewhere, low trimmed and often fragmented hedges with few hedgerow trees and saplings, or linear mainly coniferous shelter belts and occasional game plantations break the sweeping contours and long views.
- Generally low vegetation cover and minimal habitat value throughout; biodiversity interest confined mainly to limited numbers of ancient woodlands concentrated on isolated areas with more clayey soils, and fragmented areas of chalk grassland on the steeper and uncultivated slopes.
- Mainly grade three arable land with shallow calcareous soils but more clayey soils on more wooded areas of higher ground.
- Predominantly large or very large fields with a regular field pattern created by enclosure of former downlands and open field systems by Parliamentary Act or Agreement; linear field pattern echoed by many straight roads, lanes and tracks.
- Sites and monuments of significant archaeological interest include the Iron Age hillforts at Danebury Hill, Quarley Hill, Woolbury and Bury Rings on prominent hilltops and evidence of associated field systems in the local landscape; also, Bronze Age burial mounds such as those on Stockbridge Down; and John O'Gaunt's palace and a medieval park pale in Kings Somborne.
- Historic parks include Amport Park, Cholderton Park and Crawley Court.
- Isolated farms occur throughout but generally the main settlements are in the valleys; characteristic building materials include brick or lime washed plaster over timber wattle, and the widespread use of flint for walls; timber-framed buildings are typical, and longstraw thatch, later superseded by clay tiles are characteristic roofing materials; although some areas have a degree of remoteness, several major roads, railways and a motorway lie across the area, and with the presence of Middle Wallop airfield noise intrusion is difficult to escape in many areas.

## South Hampshire Downs Character Area



### General description

The South Hampshire Downs lie roughly east-west across Hampshire forming a high and prominent ridge linking the South Downs of Sussex with Salisbury Plain. This broad belt is broken by the valleys of the Rivers Test, Itchen and Meon which cut through the chalk, in places forming steep hillsides. The spacious and rural character of the South Hampshire Downs contrasts strongly with the small-scale, enclosed clay landscapes to the south, many parts of which have varying degrees of urban influence.

Generally this is intensively farmed arable land in a well-enclosed but large-scale setting with numerous ancient woodlands and hedgerows, and winding roads, lanes and tracks. However, the more open landscapes of the higher ground allow broad views of the sweeping contours and prominent, domed hills of the ridge, and extensive views across the lower ground further south. The north side of the ridge occasionally forms a steep and dramatic escarpment though the more gentle and undulating dip slope to the south falls gradually to the south Hampshire clay landscapes.

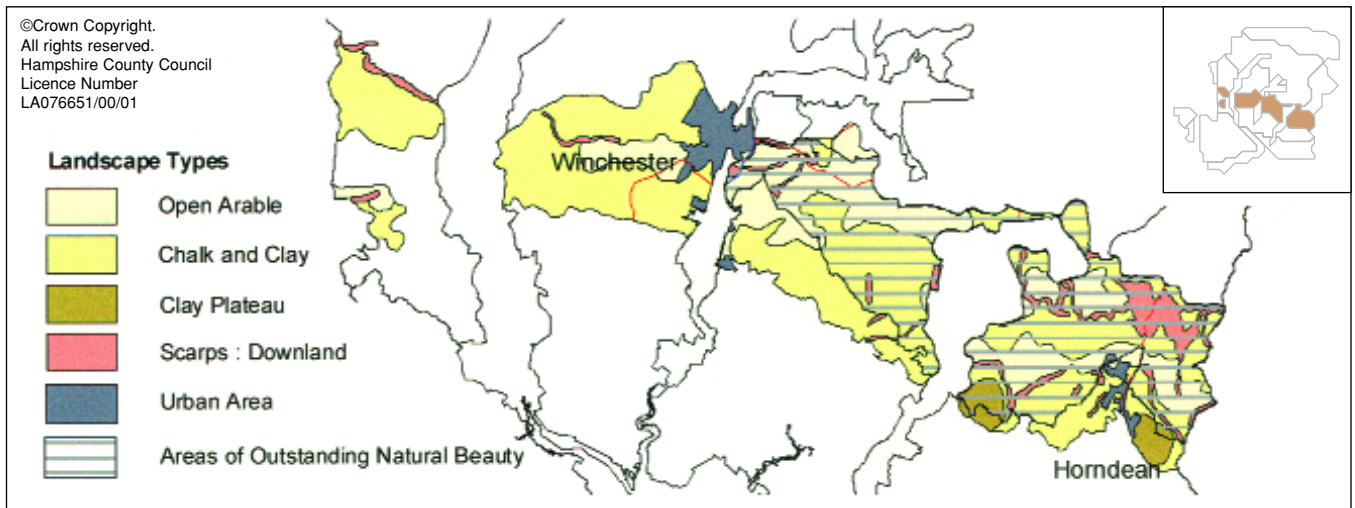
Generally the settlements are widely dispersed occurring mainly on the dip slopes with isolated farms on the higher ground. The character is generally remote, rural and tranquil though near Winchester and towards the south east the influences of major roads and urban areas are more noticeable.

<p><b>Landscape Types</b></p> <p>Open Arable Chalk and Clay Clay Plateau Scarps: Downland</p> <p><b>BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN:</b></p> <p><b>Key Habitats – Action plans</b></p> <p>Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland Pasture Woodland, Parkland Hedgerows Arable Land Lowland Calcareous Grassland Open Standing Water Road Verges</p>	<p><b>Public Access and Long Distance Paths</b></p> <p>Farley Mount Country Park Cheesefoot Head Catherington Down Nature Reserve Oxenbourne Down Nature Reserve Queen Elizabeth Country Park South Downs Way Clarendon Way Wayfarers Walk Staunton Way</p> <p><b>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b></p> <p>East Hampshire AONB</p>
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### Main characteristics

- Predominantly arable farmland with a rural character comprising a prominent ridge line forming the continuation of the South Downs and linking Sussex to Salisbury Plain; also includes small area comprising eastern parts of Dean Hill, Wiltshire, separated from main South Downs ridge by a narrow belt of clay overlying the chalk.





- Major ridge with broad, sweeping contours and often domed and prominent hills, cut by the valleys of the Rivers Test, Itchen and Meon; generally steeper on north side occasionally with steep escarpments, though south of the ridge the dip slope falls more gently to the clays of the South Hampshire Lowland and Heath area.
- A sense of openness and space in the more open areas allowing long views to the Isle of Wight and across many parts of Hampshire.
- Open, spacious character mainly on areas of higher ground often associated with former open downland particularly between Winchester and the Hampshire-Sussex boundary; however, generally a high degree of enclosure and sense of seclusion created by numerous woodlands and hedgerows particularly on the dip slope where more clayey soils occur.
- Numerous but often unmanaged ancient semi-natural woodlands and ancient hedgerows provide significant biodiversity value throughout the area especially on dip slopes south of major ridge line; areas of unimproved species-rich chalk grassland mainly on steeper uncultivated slopes, represent isolated remnants of large areas of former open downland particularly along the higher ground between Winchester and the Hampshire-Sussex boundary; generally the more intensively farmed areas have low biodiversity levels.
- Mainly grade three agricultural land comprising well-drained shallow calcareous soils, or more clayey soils where clay capping covers the chalk on the dip slope; predominantly intensive arable production with a smaller proportion of grazing land.
- Mainly medium to large or very large fields comprising both irregular field patterns of ancient pre-Enclosure systems mainly on the dip slope, and regular patterns of more recent enclosures by Parliamentary Act or Agreement of former downlands.
- Sites and monuments of significant archaeological interest include the prominent Iron Age hillforts at Old Winchester Hill and St Catherine's Hill, as well as the Iron Age cross dykes on Butser Hill; also, traces of ancient Celtic field systems at Butser Hill; Bronze Age burial mounds, as at Old Winchester Hill, Flowerdown and Queen Elizabeth Country Park, and an impressive medieval castle at Merdon.
- Historic parks include Lainston House and Marwell House.
- Generally few major roads but two notable exceptions, the M3 and A3, cut through the South Hampshire Downs at Twyford Down and Butser Hill; winding ancient roads, lanes and tracks predominate, often with hedgebanks and occasionally sunken profiles especially on steeper slopes, though straight roads associated with Parliamentary Enclosures also occur mainly on areas of former open downland.
- Generally widely dispersed settlements throughout, mainly on the dip slope with isolated farms on higher ground; characteristic building materials include the widespread use of brick and flint; many areas still remain remote and quiet within the South Hampshire Downs, especially between Winchester and the Hampshire-Wiltshire boundary; towards the south east, urban influences are slightly more evident where the urban areas of the South Hampshire Lowland and Heath area are more frequent.

## Cranborne Chase Character Area

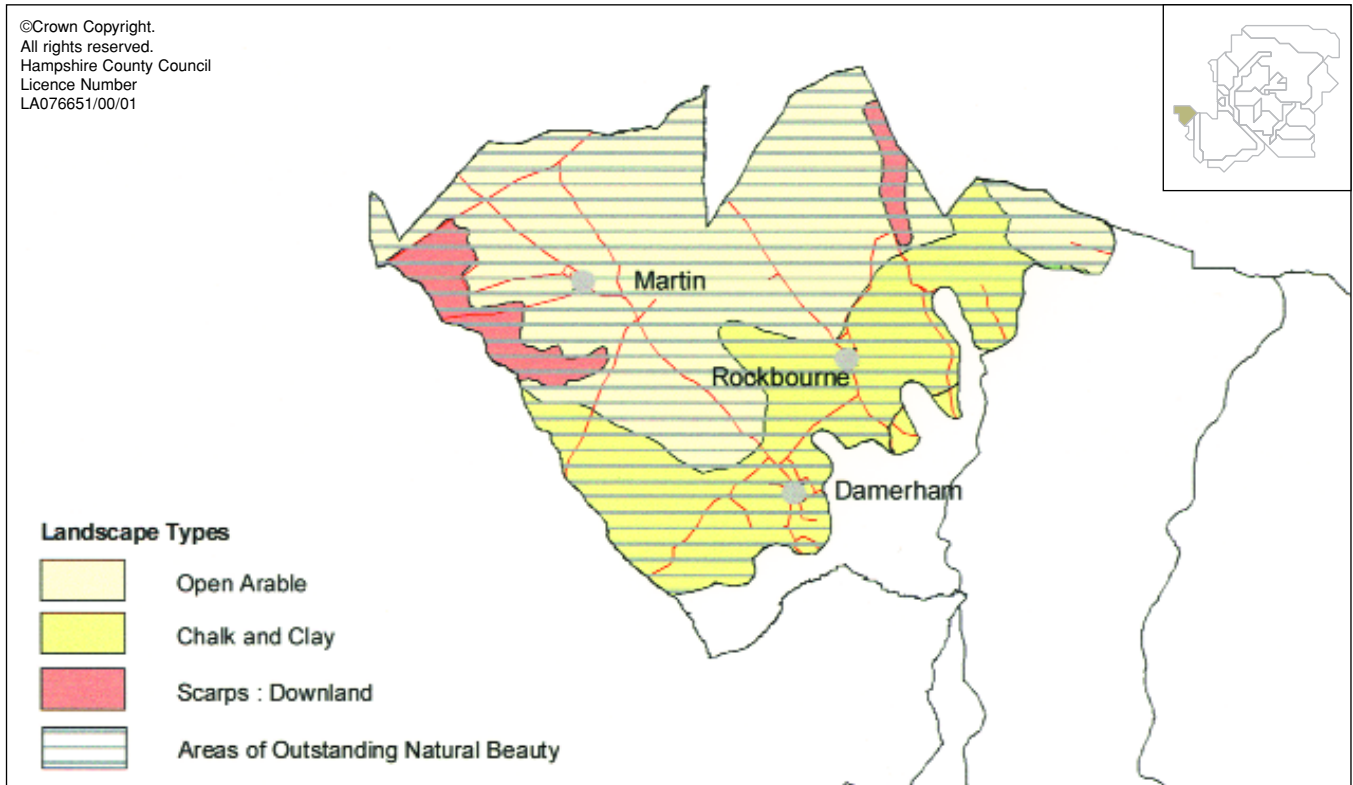


**General description** This remote, rural area forms a small part of Cranborne Chase which lies mostly outside Hampshire.

The open, spacious character and broad sweeping skylines create a tranquil countryside setting for the narrow lanes, small valley settlements and undulating arable farmland. To the south east, the landscape is somewhat more enclosed, wooded and more steeply undulating with well-treed ridges and knolls, some with ancient hill forts.

To the west, the highest ground in the area just inside the Hampshire-Dorset boundary, Martin Down National Nature Reserve and Tidpit Down form an extensive area of uncultivated open downland with public access and good viewpoints. The Downs have a wealth of archaeological interest and the species-rich chalk grassland has high biodiversity value.

<p><b>Landscape Types</b></p> <p>Open Arable Chalk and Clay Scarps: Downland</p>	<p><b>BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN:</b></p> <p><b>Key Habitats – Action plans</b></p> <p>Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland Hedgerows Arable Land Lowland Calcareous Grassland</p>
<p><b>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b></p> <p>Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB</p>	<p><b>Public Access and Long Distance Paths</b></p> <p>Martin Down National Nature Reserve Tidpit Down Damerham Knoll</p>



**Main characteristics**

- Predominantly open spacious landscape, in part former open downland, now largely arable farmland in a gently undulating setting with broad and sweeping skylines and a remote, quiet and very rural character.
- Part of a broad dip slope starting at higher ground in Wiltshire, dissected by ridges and valleys and falling gently south east to the Avon Valley; mostly gently undulating, though occasionally steeper towards the south east where valleys are more clearly defined by prominent ridges and knolls.
- Generally open landscape with many views; longer views from higher ground across Avon Valley to the New Forest; to north and west major ridges limit long views.
- Very open large-scale landscape on higher ground in north west with occasional linear shelter belts and thin hedgerows; to south east more steeply undulating landscape with wooded knolls and ridges and more frequent woodlands and hedgerows create greater sense of enclosure.
- Species-rich chalk grassland of high biodiversity value at Martin Down National Nature Reserve and Tidpit Down with isolated remnants of former extensive open downland elsewhere; small pockets of ancient semi-natural woodland, but generally low biodiversity levels in intensively farmed arable areas.
- Mainly grade three agricultural land comprising well-drained, shallow calcareous or fine loamy soils supporting predominantly intensive arable production.
- Open, unenclosed downland at Martin Down and Tidpit Down; otherwise large or very large fields with regular field pattern created by Parliamentary Act or Agreement Enclosures of former open downland.
- Sites and monuments of significant archaeological interest include Bokerley Dyke, a large and impressive Bronze Age linear earthwork on Martin Down, associated with Bronze Age burial mounds; also, Neolithic long barrows, such as Knap barrow and Grans barrow, and evidence of Roman settlement at Soldiers Ring and Rockbourne Roman Villa.
- Apart from the busy A354 Salisbury to Blandford road just inside the county boundary, the area generally has a remote and quiet character; small linear settlements including Martin, Rockbourne, Damerham and Whitsbury lie along narrow gently winding lanes in the valleys; numerous mainly straight tracks and isolated farms occur throughout.



## North Hampshire Lowland and Heath Character Area



### General description

This generally low-lying area forms a small part of the Thames Basin and lies to the north of Hampshire’s chalk downs.

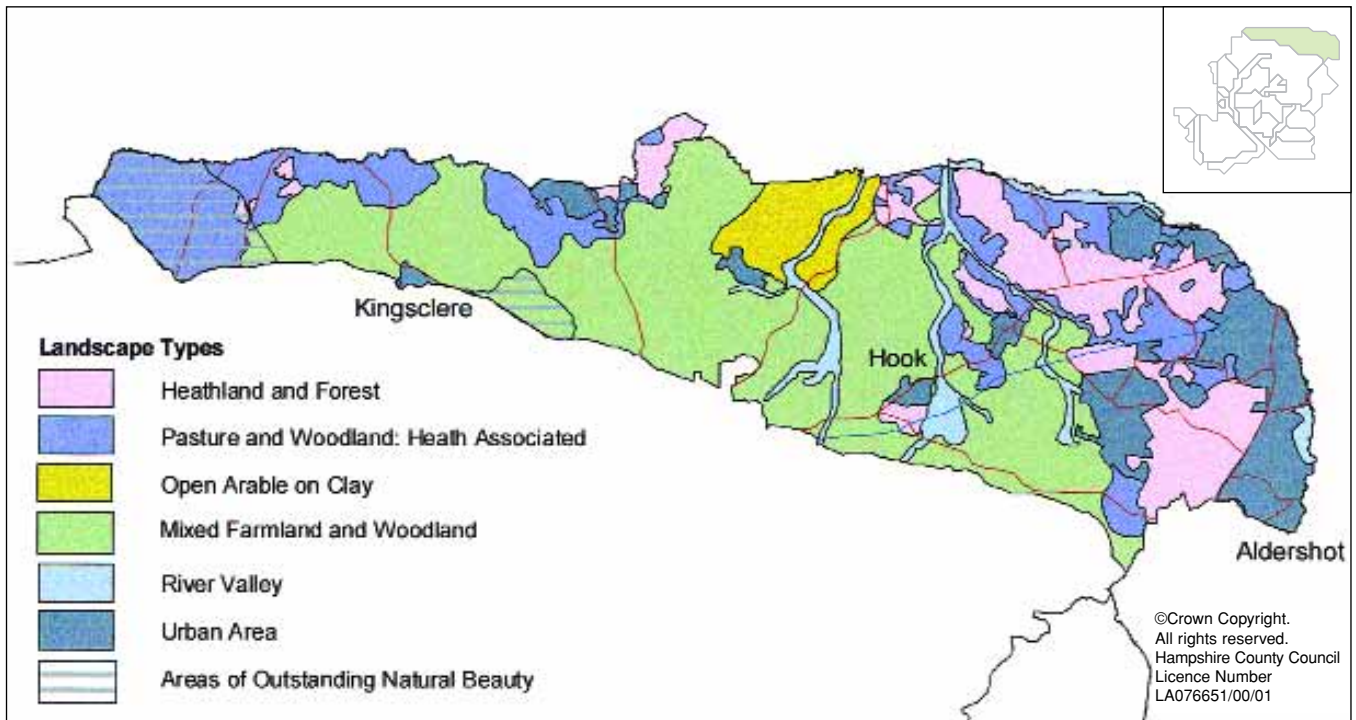
The area is predominantly farmland comprising both arable and grazing land in an undulating and well-wooded setting. Throughout the area numerous rivers and streams flow north from the chalk to the River Thames. This is mainly an ancient landscape with numerous ancient woodlands and ancient hedgerows with high biodiversity value, and the irregular field patterns and winding lanes and tracks characteristic of pre-Enclosure landscapes. The heathlands and unimproved meadows of North Hampshire are also habitats of significant nature conservation value. There are also large areas of forestry plantation.

Towards the east where the railway and several major roads link Basingstoke, Fleet and the Blackwater Valley towns, the landscape shows a greater concentration of urban influences. Elsewhere the character is generally more rural and some areas have a particularly remote and quiet character.

<p><b>Landscape Types</b></p> <p>Mixed Farmland and Woodland</p> <p>Open Arable on Clay</p> <p>Heathland and Forest</p> <p>Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated</p> <p>River Valley</p>	<p><b>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b></p> <p>North Wessex Downs AONB</p>
<p><b>BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN:</b></p> <p><b>Key Habitats – Action plans</b></p> <p>Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland</p> <p>Pasture Woodland, Parkland</p> <p>Hedgerows</p> <p>Arable Land</p> <p>Unimproved Neutral Dry Grassland, Hay Meadows</p> <p>Heathland, Acid Grassland and Bog</p> <p>Fen/Carr/Marsh/Swamp/Reedbed</p> <p>Open Standing Water</p> <p>Canals</p>	<p><b>Special Protection Areas</b></p> <p>Thames Basin Heaths SPA</p>
	<p><b>Public Access and Long Distance Paths</b></p> <p>Yateley Common Country Park</p> <p>Blackwater Valley Walks</p> <p>Basingstoke Canal</p> <p>Castle Bottom Nature Reserve</p> <p>Zebon Copse Nature Reserve</p> <p>King John’s Castle</p> <p>Bramshill Common</p> <p>Herbert Plantation Nature Reserve</p> <p>Pamber Forest Nature Reserve</p>

### Main characteristics

- Generally low-lying gently undulating small-scale landscape with numerous ancient woodlands and hedgerows which create a strong sense of enclosure; mainly grazing land on heavy soils, with arable crops on areas of higher or better drained ground; also heathland, or woodlands and plantations on former heathland, on more acid soils associated with small gravel outcrops or, towards the east, more extensive gravel plateaux.
- Generally undulating but varying from steep-sided valleys particularly towards the west to almost flat further east where river valleys often have indistinct boundaries, tending to merge into the surrounding landscape; extensive, elevated gravel plateaux east of Fleet and the River Hart.



- Generally small-scale landscape; numerous woodlands, forestry plantations and well-treed hedgerows limit views and create a high degree of enclosure; more open in places particularly arable farmland associated with the Loddon and Whitewater Valleys; occasional views of high and prominent chalk downs skyline to the south.
- Diverse range of habitats including numerous ancient semi-natural woodlands, ancient hedgerows and hedgebanks, and valuable habitats associated with streams and spring lines which occur where the area meets the chalk downs; areas of heathland on acidic soils on higher ground near Burghclere and Tadley, but mainly towards the east especially on the plateau gravels east of the River Hart.
- Predominantly grade three agricultural land with small areas of grades two and four on loamy or heavy, clayey soils including seasonally waterlogged ground; both grazing and arable land in similar proportions overall but generally less arable towards the west particularly on clayey valley soils; also unintensified grazing land including many paddocks and occasional stud farms often on former heathland areas.
- Largely ancient pre-Enclosure landscape with small to medium-sized irregular field pattern; also small areas with regular field pattern of Enclosure by Parliamentary Act or Agreement.
- Sites and monuments of significant archaeological interest include Silchester Roman Town located on a low spur, with an amphitheatre alongside; also, a number of medieval moats associated with woodland clearance, such as Clappers Farm, and a medieval fish pond complex at Wyeford Farm; and important medieval castles at Old Basing and Odiham, with a medieval deer park nearby.
- Historic parks include Dogmersfield Park, Elvetham Park, Highclere Park, Stratfield Saye, The Vyne and Wolverton Park.
- Urban influences including MoD land are more heavily concentrated towards the east where larger towns and major urban areas including Fleet, Farnborough and Aldershot are linked by primary transport routes including M3 and main railway to Basingstoke; mineral extraction and landfill sites also occur towards the east, changing the character of the rural landscape and causing visual intrusion and disturbance in varying degrees; villages, occasionally with village greens, and scattered farms are well dispersed but more frequent than on Hampshire's chalk downs; timber-framed brick and tile buildings are characteristic; settlements linked mainly by winding roads, lanes and tracks occasionally sunken in steeper areas; areas with a more remote and quiet rural character occur locally throughout but notably north of Echinswell and Kingsclere, and areas associated with the Rivers Loddon and Lyde including around Rotherwick and Stratfield Saye.

## Western Weald Lowland and Heath Character Area



### General description

This highly distinctive area forms a small part of the Weald of Sussex and Kent.

The complex and varied landform is unique in Hampshire, particularly the steep escarpments of the visually striking East Hampshire Hangers, which are included in the adjacent Character Area. To the east the undulating heathlands and woodlands of Woolmer Forest, Ludshott Common and Bramshott Common provide an entirely different character. Between the Hangers and heathlands the low-lying belt of arable and grazing land, including the valleys and tributaries of the Rivers Rother and Slea, adds further variety.

In this generally well-enclosed landscape, the numerous ancient sunken lanes and tracks which climb through wooded escarpments or under well-treed hedgerows are a distinctive feature. This secluded character contrasts strongly with the large arable fields and broad, open views of the upper greensand belt where isolated hop growing still occurs.

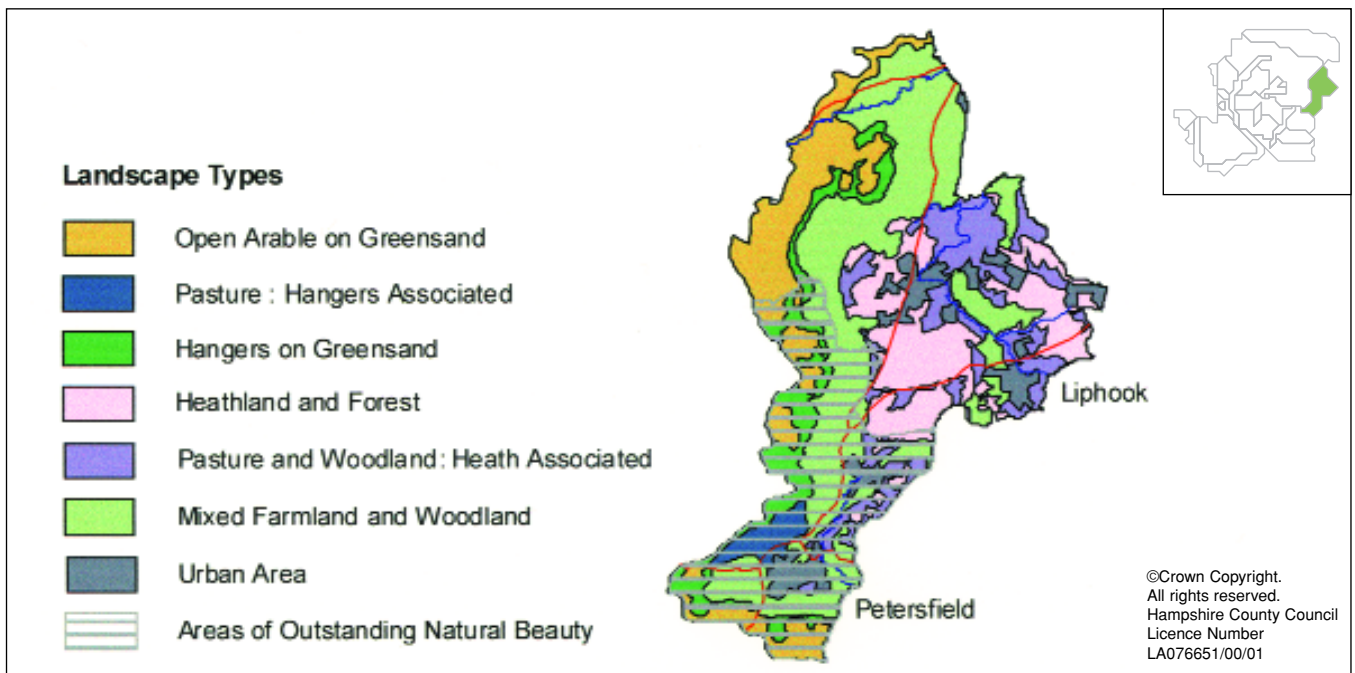
Many areas retain a remote and rural character though urban influences are noticeable near Petersfield, Liphook, Bordon and Headley, and along the main roads which link them.

<p><b>Landscape Types</b></p> <p>Hangers on Greensand</p> <p>Open Arable on Greensand</p> <p>Heathland and Forest</p> <p>Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated</p> <p>Mixed Farmland and Woodland</p> <p>Pasture: Hangers Associated</p>	<p><b>BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN:</b></p> <p><b>Key Habitats – Action plans</b></p> <p>Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland</p> <p>Pasture Woodland, Parkland</p> <p>Hedgerows</p> <p>Arable Land</p> <p>Unimproved Neutral Dry Grassland, Hay Meadows</p> <p>Heathland, Acid Grassland and Bog</p> <p>Road Verges</p>
<p><b>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b></p> <p>East Hampshire AONB</p>	<p><b>Public Access and Long Distance Paths</b></p> <p>Broxhead Common Nature Reserve</p> <p>Shortheath Common Nature Reserve</p> <p>Hangers Way</p>
<p><b>Special Protection Areas</b></p> <p>Wealden Heath Phase II SPA</p>	

### Main characteristics

- Highly distinctive and richly varied landscape notable for the spectacular East Hampshire chalk and greensand hangers to the west, and extensive heathlands to the east; diverse wildlife habitats and wide variations in other characteristics, from wooded and well enclosed to very open, very steep to almost flat, and open roads to sunken lanes; some areas with urban influences and busy transport routes but others with a remote, quiet and rural character.
- Landform determined by parallel alignment of underlying geological strata; low-lying, gently undulating or almost flat central belt with higher ground to both east and west comprising chalk





and greensand hangers, steep wooded escarpments to the west, and an undulating landscape with increasingly steep-sided valleys towards the county boundary with Surrey and West Sussex.

- Generally small-scale, enclosed landscape apart from more open tract of arable land on upper greensand dip slope between Binsted and just north of Selborne; views generally limited by numerous ancient woodlands, forestry plantations, secondary woodland on former heathland, and well-treed hedgerows; more open areas allow views of dramatic wooded escarpments to west, especially high and prominent skyline of wooded chalk hangers, and sweeping contours of open downs to north and south.
- Diverse range of habitats; ancient semi-natural woodlands including greensand hangers, ancient hedgerows, hedgebanks and many sunken lanes; heathlands on acidic sandy soils including Woolmer Forest, Bramshott and Ludshott Commons.
- Mainly grade three agricultural land with grade two on upper greensand between Binsted and Hartley Mauditt, and grade four on gault clay belt; soils vary from well drained and loamy on upper greensand to seasonally waterlogged and clayey on parts of the gault; acidic sandy soils on heathland and former heathland areas; arable land on lighter soils including isolated hop growing on upper greensand; grazing on heavier ground and numerous paddocks mainly on former heathland areas.
- Largely ancient pre-Enclosure landscape with wide range of field size varying from small to large, or very large on upper greensand; also areas with regular field pattern of Enclosure by Parliamentary Act or Agreement.
- Sites and monuments of significant archaeological interest include the extensive and impressive Bronze Age barrow cemeteries on Petersfield Heath and around Woolmer Pond, an important Roman pottery industry at Alice Holt associated with the woodland, and the water management of the River Wey, such as the water meadows and aqueducts.
- Historic parks include Bohunt Manor, Langrish House and Stodham Park.
- Main road and railway corridors, notably the A3, A325, A272 and A31, create local noise and visual intrusion and significant areas of MoD land around Bordon erode the rural character; occasional mineral extraction and landfill sites also occur, changing the character of the rural landscape and causing visual intrusion and disturbance in varying degrees; winding roads, lanes and tracks, often deeply sunken on steeper slopes link the generally well-dispersed settlements; characteristic building materials include malmstone which is often used in conjunction with flint, for example in Hawkley and Langrish; areas with a remote and rural character occur locally throughout, but notably north of both Kingsley and Headley, in the Hawkley and Empshott area, and many parts of Woolmer Forest, Ludshott and Bramshott Commons.

## South Hampshire Lowland and Heath Character Area



### General description

This generally well-enclosed and low-lying area lies to the south of Hampshire’s chalk downs but includes the open chalk ridge of Portsdown Hill. The valleys of the Rivers Test, Itchen and Meon split the area into four separate parts.

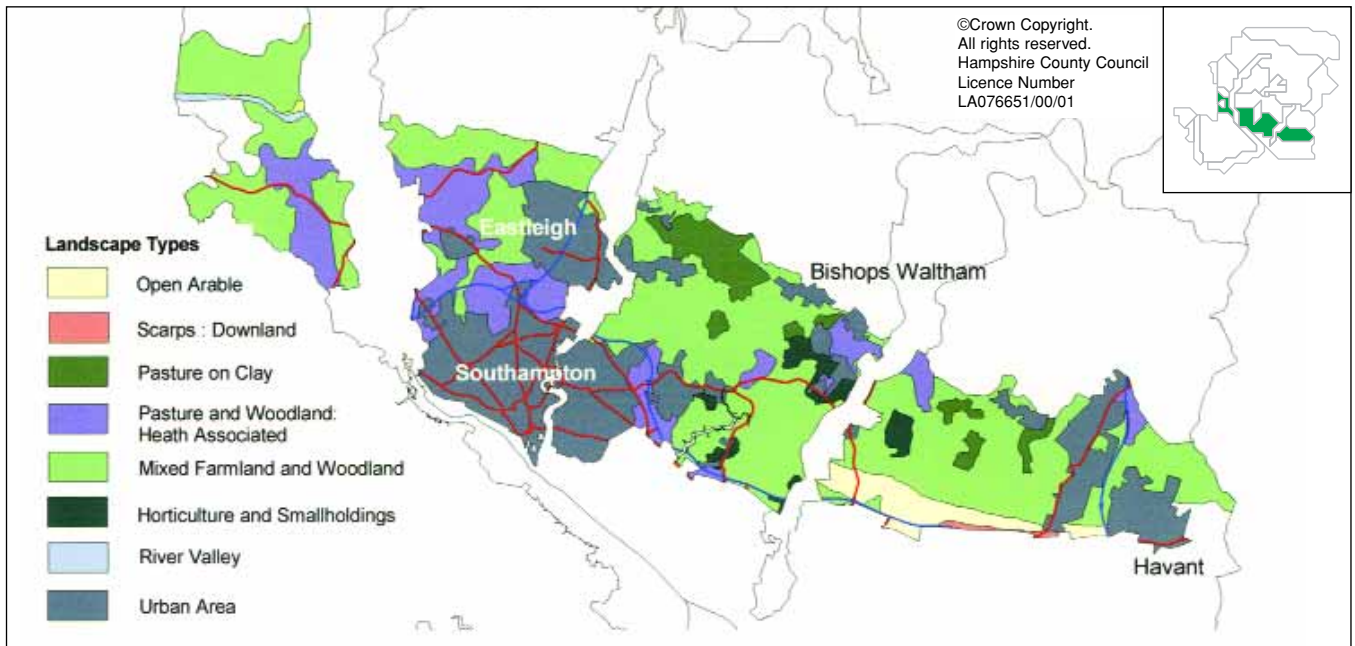
The undulating small-scale landscape is mainly well-enclosed grazing land on heavy, clayey soils with some arable and horticultural production on lighter soils on higher ground. Generally this is an ancient pre-Enclosure landscape with numerous ancient woodlands and hedgerows, irregular field patterns and winding lanes and tracks. However, on the more acidic soils there are many areas of former heathland or common enclosed by Parliamentary Act or Agreement. These have more regular field patterns and many are now frequently used as paddocks. On these acidic soils only a few small isolated areas of heathland remain. Throughout the area there are many unimproved meadows, often associated with the major rivers and their numerous tributaries. These habitats, along with the ancient woodlands, hedgerows and chalk grassland escarpment of Portsdown Hill, have significant natural conservation value.

Many parts of the area, including the character of many minor roads and lanes, show different degrees of urban influence, which generally increase with proximity to major towns and cities. However, many areas still retain a quiet, remote and rural character.

<b>Landscape Types</b>	<b>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b>
Mixed Farmland and Woodland	None
Pasture on Clay	
Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated	<b>Public Access and Long Distance Paths</b>
Horticulture and Smallholdings	Manor Farm Country Park
River Valley	Bishops Waltham Railway Path
Open Arable	The Moors Nature Reserve
Scarps: Downland	Tapnage Woodlands
<b>BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN:</b>	Wickham Common
<b>Key Habitats – Action plans</b>	Fort Nelson Viewpoint
Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Johnston’s Coppice Nature Reserve
Pasture Woodland, Parkland	Staunton Country Park
Hedgerows	
Unimproved Neutral Dry Grassland, Hay Meadows	
Lowland Calcareous Grassland	
Heathland, Acid Grassland and Bog	
Open Standing Water	

### Main characteristics

- Generally low-lying undulating small-scale landscape with numerous ancient woodlands and hedgerows which create a strong sense of enclosure; mainly grazing land on heavy soils, with a lesser amount of arable crops on higher ground or lighter soils; occasional small, remnant heathlands or unintensified grazing, mainly paddocks, on many former heathland areas; urban influences in many areas but others with a more remote, quiet and rural character.
- Mostly undulating but varying from locally steep to almost flat; prominent chalk ridge with steep escarpment and more gentle dip slope at Portsdown Hill.



- Generally small-scale landscape; numerous woodlands, well-treed hedgerows and occasional forestry plantations limit views and create a high degree of enclosure and a secluded character in many places; occasional views to higher ground of South Hampshire Downs to north from limited number of more open areas; notable exception is Portsdown Hill where open spacious character allows long views particularly over Portsmouth, Gosport and Portsmouth Harbour to The Solent and the Isle of Wight.
- Diverse range of habitats including numerous ancient semi-natural woodlands, ancient hedgerows and hedgebanks, and habitats associated with streams and spring lines which occur where the area meets the chalk downs; unimproved species-rich chalk grassland on the south-facing escarpment of Portsdown Hill.
- Predominantly grade four agricultural land with smaller proportions of grades one, two and three; mainly seasonally waterlogged clayey or loamy soils except for more acid sandy soils on some areas of higher ground, and shallow well-drained calcareous soils at Portsdown Hill; mainly grazing land with a smaller amount of arable farming or horticulture generally on lighter soils on higher ground; also unintensified grazing land on more acidic soils of former heathland areas, including many paddocks.
- Generally ancient pre-Enclosure landscape with small or medium-sized irregular field pattern; also numerous areas throughout with small or medium-sized regular field pattern enclosed by Parliamentary Act or Agreement, including Pasture on Clay examples with low, well-trimmed oak hedgerows.
- Sites and monuments of significant archaeological interest include the Neolithic long barrow at Bevis Grane on Portsdown Hill, alongside Bronze Age barrows, Roman settlement and Saxon burial grounds; also on Portsdown Hill, the prominent nineteenth century Palmerston Forts defending Portsmouth; a medieval Bishop's Palace at Bishops Waltham, associated with the Bishop's deer park, and a priory at Southwick.
- Historic parks include Cranbury Park, Embley Park, Leigh Park (Sir George Staunton Estate), Melchet Park and Southwick Park.
- Landscape affected by the influences of urban areas particularly specific areas between the River Test and the Hampshire-West Sussex boundary; urban influences increase with proximity to major towns and cities and their main road and motorway links; distinct urban fringe character next to many major urban areas; rural character of many small country lanes adversely affected by short cuts and 'rat runs' to urban areas and motorways; occasional mineral extraction and landfill sites also occur, changing the character of the rural landscape and causing visual intrusion and disturbance in varying degrees; elsewhere farms and smaller settlements occasionally densely clustered but generally well dispersed but more frequent than on chalk downs; timber-framed brick buildings are characteristic; settlements linked generally by winding roads, lanes and tracks, with straight roads and lanes in several areas of former heathland or common enclosed by Parliamentary Act or Agreement; areas with a more remote and quiet rural character occur locally throughout the character area away from urban areas and main roads, but notably west of the River Test, around Durley, areas associated with the upper River Hamble valley north of the M27, also between Burridge and Wickham, and between Wickham and Denmead.



## New Forest Lowland and Heath Character Area



### General description

This is a unique landscape. Those parts of the area within the New Forest Heritage Area have a status equivalent to a National Park for planning purposes. The high open heathland plains and extensive tracts of ancient woodlands offer a sense of remoteness in many places, and are invaluable for access and recreation. The New Forest is of international importance for the extent and diversity of its habitats and species.

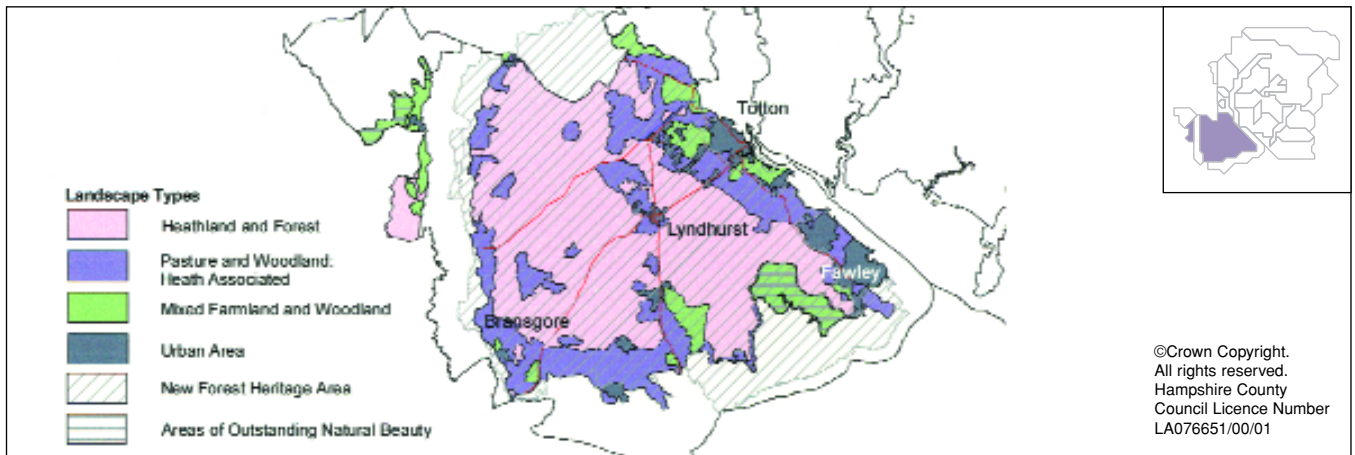
The open unenclosed forest consists of a complex mosaic of open heaths, ancient woodlands with clearings and glades merging gently with regenerating scrub woodland and grasslands, valley mires, bogs and streams. Throughout the open forest the commoners exercise their traditional rights to graze their ponies and cattle, pigs and sheep. Within these areas, there are also numerous fenced inclosures of forestry plantations. The enclosed forest lies within and around the open forest and has a different character: this is a small-scale highly-enclosed landscape consisting of small secluded fields mainly of unintensified grazing land, numerous paddocks and many small settlements, in a well-wooded setting with oak hedgerows and narrow lanes.

In places, the remote and quiet character of the woods and heaths is somewhat eroded by the busy major roads which lie across the area, and by the activity associated with the urban and industrial areas along its eastern boundary from Totton to Fawley.

<p><b>Landscape Types</b></p> <p>Heathland and Forest</p> <p>Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated</p> <p>Mixed Farmland and Woodland</p>	<p><b>BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN:</b></p> <p><b>Key Habitats – Action plans</b></p> <p>Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland</p> <p>Pasture Woodland, Parkland</p> <p>Hedgerows</p> <p>Unimproved Neutral Dry Grassland, Hay Meadows</p> <p>Heathland, Acid Grassland and Bog</p> <p>Open Standing Water</p> <p>Road Verges</p>
<p><b>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b></p> <p>South Hampshire Coast AONB</p> <p>Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire</p> <p>Downs AONB</p>	<p><b>Public Access and Long Distance Paths</b></p> <p>Most areas within the New Forest perambulation</p> <p>Buckland Rings Iron Age Hill Fort</p> <p>Solent Way</p>
<p><b>Special Protection Areas and Candidate Special Areas of Conservation</b></p> <p>The New Forest SPA</p> <p>The New Forest cSAC</p>	

### Main characteristics

- Unique and highly distinctive landscape notable for extensive tracts of open heathland and ancient pasture woodland, diversity of habitats and species of international importance, traditional grazing of commoners' livestock, recreational value and ease of access; also, forestry inclosures of coniferous and mixed plantations, and small-scale enclosed landscape of small settlements in a well-wooded setting with small fields, paddocks, oak hedgerows, and narrow lanes.



- High ground in north, near Hampshire-Wiltshire county boundary north of Fritham, falling gradually west, south and east to the River Avon, The Solent and Southampton Water; generally undulating landform varying from steep to almost flat; also extensive plateaux and ridges overlooking both broad and steep-sided valleys.
- Variable enclosure, from broad and exposed, extensive heathland plains and plateaux with long views to the chalk downs of Dorset, Wiltshire and the Isle of Wight, to well-enclosed extensive ancient semi-natural pasture woodlands or coniferous or mixed plantations; also small enclosed fields with well-treed hedgerows, limited views and a sense of seclusion; Fawley oil refinery and power station prominent from south east parts of area; unfenced, unenclosed heathland and forest landscape consists of gently merging mosaic of open heaths, grasslands, regenerating scrub and ancient woods with glades and clearings.
- Unique reserve of international importance to nature conservation with a rich and diverse range of habitats and species; in the open, unenclosed forest dry and humid heathlands, ancient semi-natural pasture woodland, neutral and acid grasslands, bogs and mires, rivers, streams and ponds; in the enclosed areas outside the open forest, species-rich unimproved meadows, ancient coppice woodlands and ancient hedgerows.
- Grades three, four and five agricultural land with range of soils varying from loamy permeable soils to seasonally waterlogged heavy soils, or very acid uncultivated soils; small areas of arable crops on more loamy soils, otherwise grazing/traditional commoning including pasture woodland in the unenclosed forest; unintensified grazing including many paddocks often with ranch fencing, and occasional riding schools in enclosed landscape mostly on former heathland.
- Outside open unenclosed forest, mainly small fields comprising both irregular field patterns of ancient pre-Enclosure systems, and regular pattern of more recent enclosures of former heathland by Parliamentary Act or Agreement.
- Sites and monuments of significant archaeological interest include the Iron Age hillforts at Buckland Rings, Lymington and at Tatchbury Mount; also an important Roman pottery industry in the New Forest, associated with the woodlands, and many medieval woodland features, such as lodges, park pales and woodland banks; additionally, Bronze Age burial mounds across the heaths, a medieval moated site at Holbury, and Beaulieu Abbey was an important ecclesiastical establishment.
- Historic parks include Brockenhurst Park, Hale Park, Paulton's Park and Pylewell Park.
- Several major roads within the area; three of these and the main railway lie across the heart of the New Forest making total escape from noise intrusion difficult, though many areas away from major towns and roads have a very remote and quiet character; mineral extraction and landfill sites towards the eastern edge of the area and in Ringwood Forest cause visual intrusion and disturbance in varying degrees, changing the character of the rural landscape; elsewhere farms and smaller settlements occasionally densely clustered but generally well dispersed; very isolated settlements within the open forest; timber-framed buildings, chalk and clay cob walls and thatched roofs are characteristic; clay cob walling known as 'Beaulieu bricks' is evident at Fawley and in the Lymington area; settlements linked by winding roads and lanes, and straight roads and lanes in many areas of now enclosed former heathland; to the south, particularly between Sway, New Milton and Lymington, roadside settlements, smallholdings, market gardening and garden centres are frequent outside the open forest.

## New Forest Coast Character Area



### General description

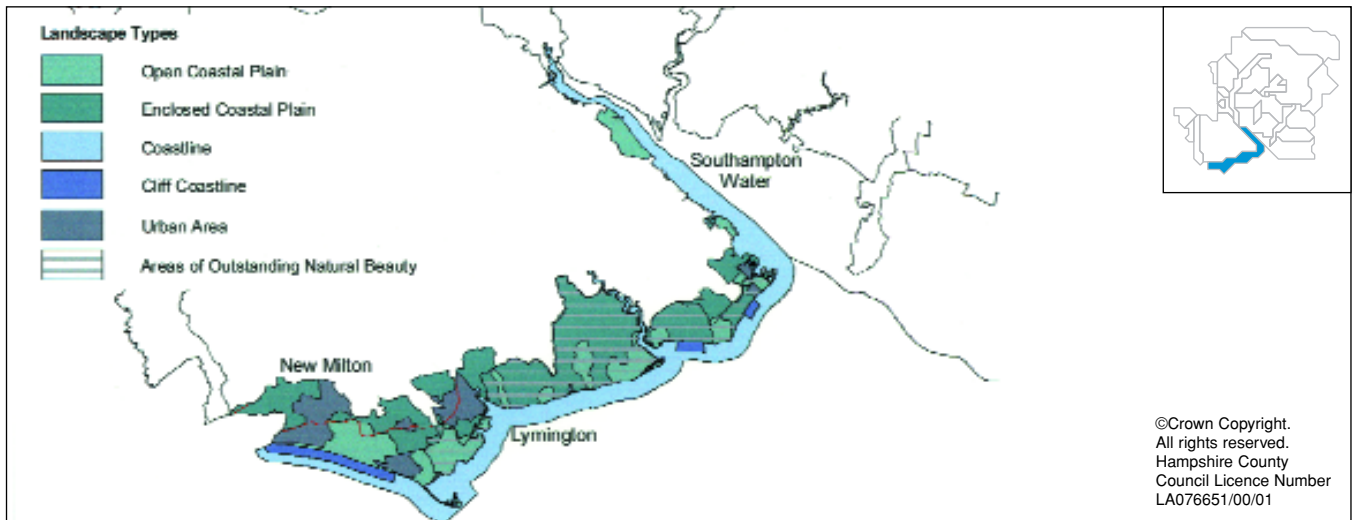
The most remote and quiet parts of the Hampshire coast are found to the south of the New Forest particularly between the Lymington and Beaulieu Rivers. Generally the landscape consists of a very gently undulating coastal plain with a gradual slope down to the coastline. Many wooded stream and river valleys, most notably the tidal estuaries of the Lymington and Beaulieu Rivers flow to The Solent, interrupting the farmland character and the continuity of the coastal plain.

This is a medium to large-scale mainly arable landscape with an increasingly open and exposed character towards the coastline, with characteristically windswept trees and broad, extensive views across The Solent to the Isle of Wight. Along the widely varied coastline, the eroding cliffs, shingle beaches and spits, saltmarshes, mudflats, creeks and estuaries are of significant nature conservation value. Away from the coastline the ancient woodlands and hedgerows, plantations and shelter belts create a greater sense of enclosure.

Recreation and public access are an intrinsic part of the coastal character. Sailing facilities, notably at Lymington, Lepe Country Park, the coastal path, Solent Way west of Lymington and other facilities help to satisfy these needs. Towards the east Fawley power station becomes increasingly prominent in the landscape. In the Fawley area and west of Lymington, the landscape shows greater signs of urban influence, but generally the unspoilt character provides a remote and tranquil setting for the narrow lanes and well-dispersed settlements and farms.

<p><b>Landscape Types</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open Coastal Plain</li> <li>Enclosed Coastal Plain</li> <li>Coastline</li> <li>Cliff Coastline</li> </ul>	<p><b>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Hampshire Coast AONB</li> </ul>
<p><b>BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN:</b></p> <p><b>Key Habitats – Action plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland</li> <li>Hedgerows</li> <li>Fen/Carr/Marsh/Swamp/Reedbeds</li> <li>Maritime Cliffs</li> <li>Shingle</li> <li>Saltmarsh</li> <li>Coastal Grazing Marsh</li> <li>Mudflats and Eelgrass Beds</li> <li>Saline Lagoons</li> </ul>	<p><b>Special Protection Areas and Candidate Special Areas of Conservation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solent and Southampton Water SPA</li> <li>Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons cSAC</li> </ul> <p><b>Public Access and Long Distance Paths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lepe Country Park</li> <li>Hurst Spit</li> <li>Lymington-Keyhaven Nature Reserve</li> <li>Calshot Marshes Nature Reserve</li> <li>Solent Way</li> </ul>





- Main characteristics**
- Very gently undulating coastal plain with gradual slope to coastline; generally arable production with woodlands and hedgerows, plantations and shelter belts, but increasingly open towards coastline; broad coastal views and varied coastline with eroding cliffs, shingle beaches and spits, saltmarshes, mudflats, creeks and estuaries, and a wide range of wildlife habitats; urbanising influences near Fawley and between Lymington and New Milton / Barton on Sea; otherwise generally unspoilt landscape with well-dispersed small settlements and farms and quiet, remote character.
  - Very gently undulating coastal plain with gradual overall slope down to coastline; almost flat in places; coastal plain interrupted by numerous, often wooded valleys of watercourses, streams and rivers, most notably the tidal estuaries of Lymington and Beaulieu Rivers; both low and cliff coastlines comprising shingle beaches, banks and spits, broad saltmarshes, creeks, river estuaries and mudflats; rapidly eroding cliff faces with significant geological interest as at Barton on Sea, and smaller cliffs near Calshot and Lepe; also sea defence walls and reclaimed land.
  - Medium to large-scale landscape with increasingly open character towards coastline; exposed coastal conditions with broad open views to The Solent, Isle of Wight and the sea from coastline and open parts of coastal plain; Fawley power station prominent towards east of area; generally greater enclosure away from coastline with ancient woodlands, often associated with valleys, hedgerows with oak standards, forestry plantations and coniferous shelter belts; numerous windswept trees particularly near coastline.
  - Wide range of habitats particularly along coastline, including coastal grazing marshes, shingle beaches, spits and banks, saline lagoons, saltmarshes, mudflats, river estuaries and creeks; also ancient semi-natural woodlands, hedgerows, unimproved meadows, rivers and streams; low biodiversity levels in intensively farmed arable areas.
  - Mainly grade two agricultural land with smaller areas of grades three and four; generally loamy, permeable soils; mostly intensive arable production on medium-sized or large fields but also market gardening and numerous paddocks; both irregular field pattern of ancient pre-Enclosure systems, and regular patterns of more recent enclosures by Parliamentary Act or Agreement; grazing of roadside verges in some areas by commoners' livestock.
  - Sites and monuments of significant archaeological interest include Lymington and Keyhaven Salterns, which were of economic importance, and Hurst and Calshot Castles which defended The Solent.
  - Historic parks include Cadland House and Exbury House.
  - Urbanising influences on landscape are mainly concentrated towards the west where Milford on Sea, Barton on Sea and New Milton are linked by A337 to Lymington, and near Fawley; occasional mineral extraction and landfill sites also occur towards the west, changing the character of the rural landscape and causing visual intrusion and disturbance in varying degrees; smaller settlements and road network also more densely concentrated west of Lymington; east of Lymington, no major roads, generally narrow, winding roads and lanes at low density with well-dispersed small settlements, cottages and farms with characteristic traditional estate influence; generally unspoilt landscape and coastline with strong sense of remoteness especially between Lymington River and Beaulieu River; characteristic coastal sailing facilities including marinas, moorings and buildings notably at Lymington; public access and coastal path west of Lymington.

## South Hampshire Coast Character Area



### General description

The landscape of much of this area shows noticeable signs of urban influence particularly close to urban areas and major roads. Although these characteristics are more widespread here than in any other character area in Hampshire, some parts still retain a more remote and quiet character. Generally the landscape consists of a very gently undulating coastal plain with a gradual slope to the coastline, but towards the east it is almost flat. The medium to large-scale landscape has a mainly open coastal character, with productive farmland soils supporting arable crops, market gardening and horticulture.

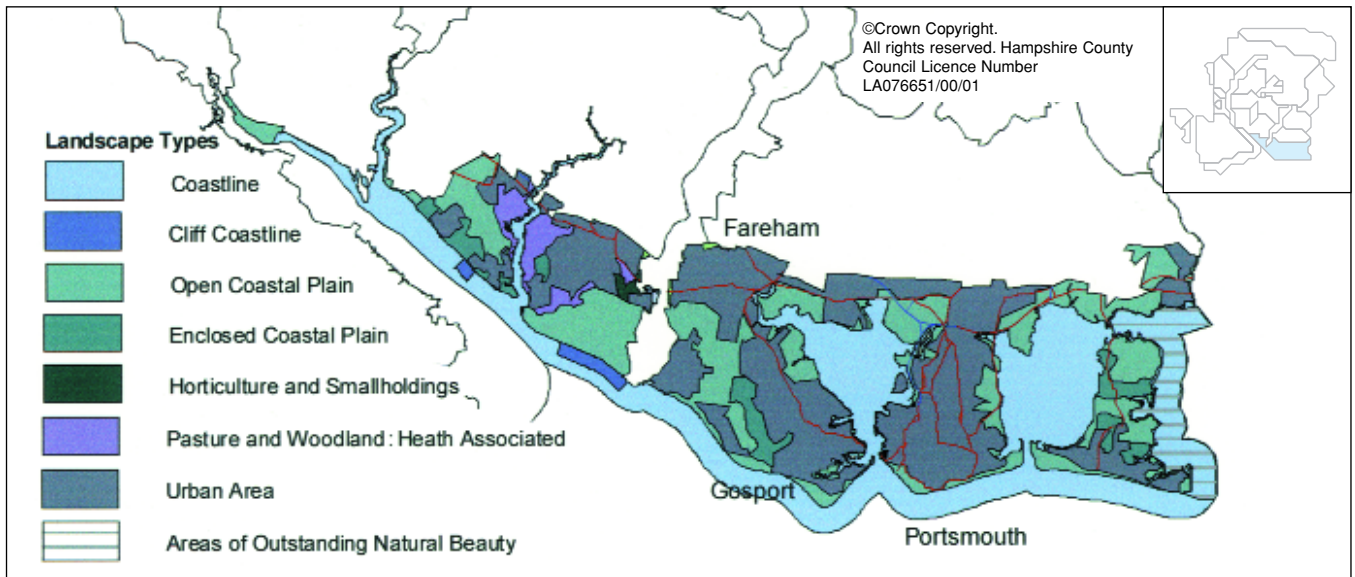
The open character of the coastal plain is interrupted by several generally wooded valleys of rivers and streams, notably the tidal estuaries of the River Itchen and River Hamble, and the Rivers Alver and Meon. Otherwise the broad extensive views of Southampton Water, The Solent and the Isle of Wight are broken only by isolated woodlands, shelter belts and hedgerows with windswept trees near the coastline. Fawley power station and oil refinery are prominent from the coastline north west of Lee-on-the-Solent. The varied coastline includes the three natural harbours, Portsmouth, Langstone and Chichester Harbours, and numerous shingle beaches, spits and banks, saltmarshes and mudflats, coastal grazing marshes and heathlands. These features, and several other habitats, are of significant nature conservation value.

The considerable population of South Hampshire’s urban areas creates a strong need for ease of public access and a range of recreational facilities. Such facilities are an intrinsic part of the coastal character. Good access to the coastline, along with sailing facilities notably on the River Hamble, the Royal Victoria County Park, Solent Way, several nature reserves and many other sites and facilities help to satisfy these needs.

<p><b>Landscape Types</b></p> <p>Open Coastal Plain                  Enclosed Coastal Plain                  Coastline                  Cliff Coastline                  Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated                  Horticulture and Smallholdings</p>	<p><b>Special Protection Areas and Candidate Special Areas of Conservation</b></p> <p>Portsmouth Harbour SPA                  Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA                  Solent and Southampton Water SPA                  Solent Maritime cSAC</p>
<p><b>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b></p> <p>Chichester Harbour AONB</p>	<p><b>Public Access and Long Distance Paths</b></p> <p>Royal Victoria Country Park                  Titchfield Haven Nature Reserve                  Castle Shore Park, Portchester                  Brownwich and Chilling Coastal Area                  Brownwich Valley Woodlands                  Netley Common                  Westwood Woodland Park                  Wicor Coastal Area                  Solent Way                  Nature Reserves: Hackett’s Marsh, Hook with Warsash, Mercury Marshes, Gutner Point, Sandy Point, The Kench</p>
<p><b>BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN:</b></p> <p><b>Key Habitats – Action plans</b></p> <p>Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland                  Hedgerows                  Fen/Carr/Marsh/Swamp/Reedbeds                  Shingle                  Saltmarsh                  Coastal Grazing Marsh                  Sand Dunes                  Mudflats and Eelgrass Beds                  Saline Lagoons</p>	

### Main characteristics

- Very gently undulating coastal plain with gentle slope to coastline but almost flat towards east; arable production, market gardening and horticulture with a generally open character apart from small isolated woodlands, shelter belts, hedgerows, and well-wooded valleys; broad coastal views



and varied coastline with small cliffs overlooking parts of Southampton Water, shingle beaches and spits, saltmarshes, mudflats, creeks and estuaries, and a wide range of wildlife habitats; urbanising influences widespread particularly close to urban areas, though some areas still retain a more remote and quiet character.

- Very gently undulating coastal plain with gradual overall slope down to coastline but almost flat towards the east, particularly Hayling Island; coastal plain interrupted by numerous, generally wooded valleys of streams and rivers, most notably the River Meon and the tidal estuaries of the Rivers Itchen and Hamble; both low and cliff coastlines comprising shingle beaches, banks and spits, broad saltmarshes, creeks, river estuaries and mudflats; also sea defence walls and reclaimed land.
- Medium to large-scale landscape with generally open coastal character apart from well-wooded areas around Netley and Hamble, the Hamble and Alver valleys and some central parts of Hayling Island; broad open views from coastline and open parts of coastal plain to Southampton Water and the New Forest coast or to The Solent and the Isle of Wight; Fawley power station and oil refinery increasingly prominent north west of Lee-on-the-Solent; occasional small isolated ancient woodlands, shelter belts and hedgerows on coastal plain away from wooded valleys; numerous windswept trees particularly near coastline.
- Wide range of habitats along coastline and in the three natural harbours, Portsmouth, Langstone and Chichester Harbours, including coastal heathland, coastal grazing marshes, sand dunes, shingle beaches, spits and banks, saline lagoons, saltmarshes, mudflats, river estuaries and creeks; also ancient semi-natural woodlands, unimproved meadows, rivers and streams; low biodiversity levels in intensively farmed arable areas.
- Mainly grade two agricultural land with small areas of grades one, three and four; generally well drained silty or loamy soils; intensive arable production, market gardening and horticulture on generally large or very large fields; occasional paddocks; remnant field patterns of both ancient pre-Enclosure systems, and regular patterns of more recent enclosures by Parliamentary Act or Agreement.
- Sites and monuments of significant archaeological interest include the Roman fort at Portchester, with its later Norman keep, and the important medieval abbeys at Titchfield and Netley; also, the medieval and post-medieval castles are evidence of defence of the coast, through to World War II installations.
- Urbanising influences on landscape are widespread particularly close to major urban areas; notable exceptions with a more remote and quiet character are the large area between the lower Meon Valley and Warsash, and several smaller areas associated with wooded valleys or parts of the Hayling Island coast; occasional mineral extraction and landfill sites also occur, changing the character of the rural landscape and causing visual intrusion and disturbance in varying degrees; generally high density of busy roads and lanes, including M27, A27 and numerous main roads linking urban areas; occasional small isolated settlements and farms between towns and larger urban areas; characteristic coastal sailing facilities including marinas, moorings and buildings notably at the River Hamble; good public access to coastline with numerous sites and paths including Royal Victoria Country Park and Solent Way.



## River Valleys: Avon/Test/Itchen/Meon Character Areas

### General description

The four major river valleys of Hampshire are distinguished by their significant length and scale, and by the occasionally spectacular way in which they cut through the landform of the county’s chalk, clay and heathland landscapes. With the exception of perhaps the tidal estuaries of the Hamble and Beaulieu Rivers, Hampshire’s other river valleys tend to merge more gently with the surrounding landscape.



The character of the four valleys varies widely, from the broad and generally open River Avon Valley with its rich floodplain habitats and the large arable fields on its well-drained gravel terrace, to the narrow and generally more enclosed River Meon Valley meandering through the steep-sided chalk hills of the South Hampshire Downs’ ridgeline. Apart from the Avon, the upper parts of the valleys are mainly small scale and well enclosed. The floodplains throughout generally have a loosely structured landscape with no obvious field pattern, comprising remnant hedges, tree lines or single trees along watercourses, and occasional small woodlands, poplar plantations, and sallow and alder carr. The valley sides also vary widely from steep and often wooded to gently sloping arable land.

The rivers, streams and floodplains are rich and diverse habitats of significant nature conservation value and the nutrient-rich alkaline spring water supports watercress beds in the upper Test, Itchen and Meon Valleys. Grazing land predominates on the loamy, silty or peaty floodplain soils while the terraces and valley sides are mainly arable land and only occasional grazing with some market gardening and horticulture on the broad Avon Valley terrace.



Many parts of each valley have an unspoilt, remote and tranquil character. However, each has a main road along much of its length and many of Hampshire’s major through roads cross the valleys, notably the A31, M27, M3 and A303. Major towns have developed at these road intersections, for example at Ringwood, Totton and Winchester, and the valley landscapes generally show significant signs of urban influence and noise intrusion in the proximity of main roads and urban areas.

The river valleys are very attractive for recreational uses such as fishing, water sports on mineral workings restored as lakes, particularly in the Avon Valley, and numerous facilities are provided. These also include nature reserves and hillside viewpoints with public access, and major valley footpaths.

<p><b>Landscape Types</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River Valley</li> <li>Open Arable</li> <li>Scarps: Downland</li> <li>Chalk and Clay</li> <li>Mixed Farmland and Woodland</li> <li>Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated</li> <li>Heathland and Forest</li> <li>Horticulture and Smallholdings</li> <li>Open Coastal Plain</li> </ul>	<p><b>Special Protection Areas and Candidate Special Areas of Conservation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avon Valley SPA; River Avon cSAC; River Itchen cSAC</li> <li>Solent and Southampton Water SPA (lower Meon Valley)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire</li> <li>Downs AONB</li> <li>North Wessex Downs AONB</li> <li>East Hampshire AONB</li> </ul>	<p><b>BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN:</b></p> <p><b>Key Habitats – Action plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hedgerows</li> <li>Unimproved Neutral Dry Grassland, Hay Meadows</li> <li>Lowland Wet Grassland</li> <li>Fen/Carr/Marsh/Swamp/Reedbeds</li> <li>Open Standing Water</li> <li>Chalk Streams</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Public Access and Long Distance Paths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avington Park; Shawford Down; Titchfield Haven;</li> <li>Avon Valley Path; Meon Valley Railway Path;</li> <li>Test Way</li> </ul>

**Main Characteristics**

- Diversity of character of Hampshire's four major river valleys created in part by linear valley alignments cutting through landform of chalk, clay and heathland landscapes; variable character, from large-scale broad and open Avon Valley to small-scale, narrow and enclosed Meon Valley, occasionally with steep and abrupt valley sides; generally meandering rivers bordered by luxuriant riverine vegetation, occasional reedbeds, marshes and former water meadows; very high nature conservation value of clear, alkaline nutrient-rich spring water and unimproved floodplains; grazing on floodplains, mainly arable production on terraces with grazing and arable on valley sides; generally unspoilt, remote and tranquil character except for urban influences and noise intrusion increasing with proximity to main roads, major towns and mineral workings.

- Landform varies from medium to large scale with broad, flat valley floor including low-lying floodplain and flat, slightly raised gravel terrace as in Avon Valley, to smaller-scale, narrow and relatively confined valley character as in parts of Meon Valley; valley sides in all four valleys vary from gently sloping to steep and abrupt; views limited in valley floor but good views across and along valley course from open parts of valley sides.



- Upper parts of valleys generally small scale and enclosed apart from Avon; elsewhere, valley floors have variable enclosure but are occasionally very open; valley floor of Avon generally more open throughout; valley sides in all four valleys vary from very open agricultural land to well wooded; generally the floodplains have a loosely structured landscape and no obvious field pattern, with remnant hedges, isolated single trees often along watercourses, and occasional small woods, poplar plantations and sallow or alder carr.

- All four rivers rise in chalk with clear nutrient-rich spring water supporting rich aquatic flora and fauna; the Avon also receives acidic water from New Forest catchment; rich and diverse habitats along floodplains including unimproved neutral grasslands, grazing marshes, reedbeds, fen vegetation, carr, swamps and numerous ponds and lakes; occasional ancient woodlands on valley sides and valley floor.

- Grazing land comprising grade four agricultural land on floodplains with grade three grazing and arable land on valley sides; grades two and three on gravel terraces especially in Avon valley; mainly arable on gravel terraces; arable, horticulture and market gardening on Avon terrace; watercress beds in nutrient-rich alkaline water in upper Test and Itchen valleys; predominantly deep peaty soils in Test and Itchen valleys; loamy soils in Avon valley and silty, loamy soils in Meon valley.

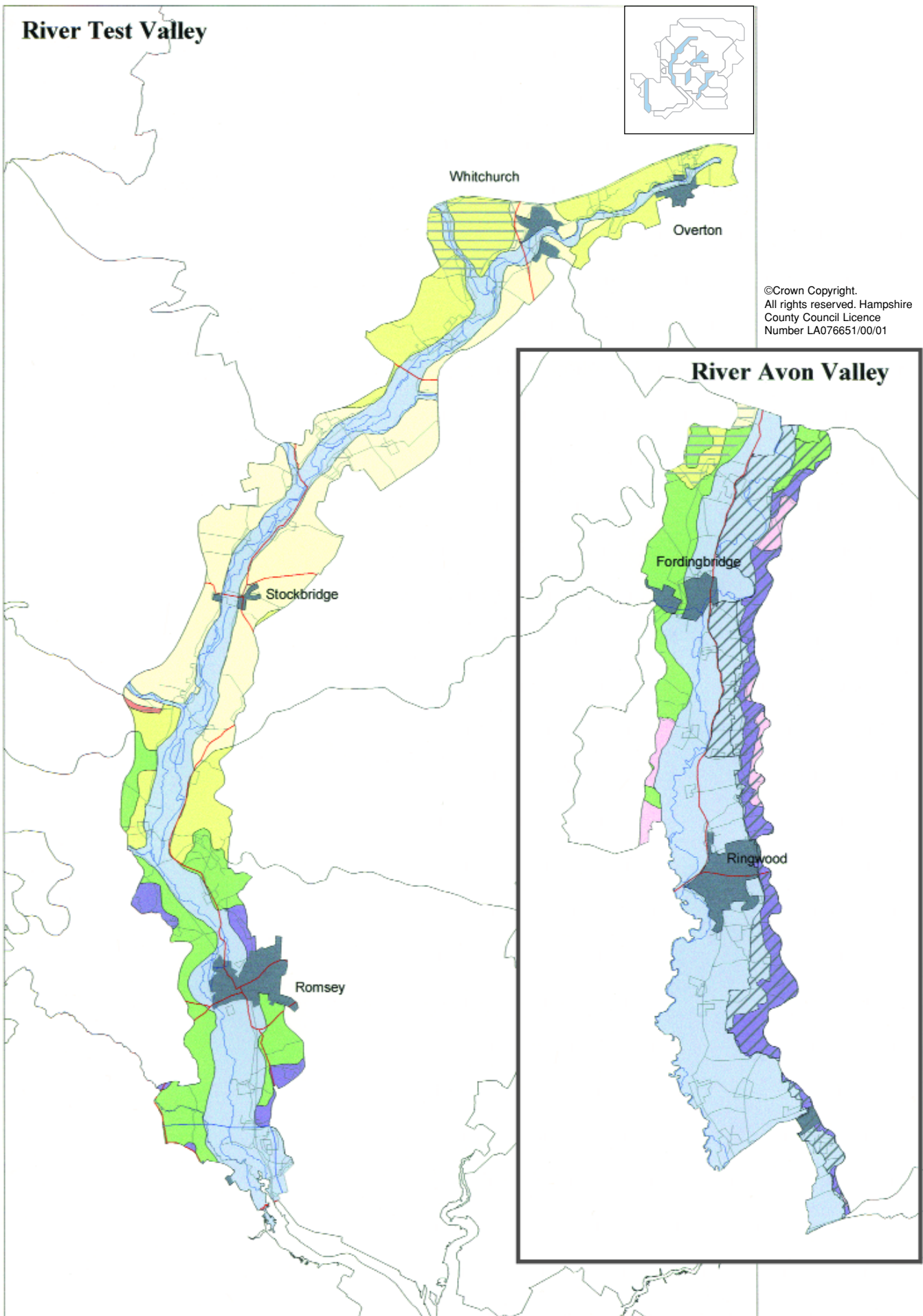
- Sites and monuments of significant archaeological interest include the medieval abbeys at Mottisfont and Romsey, and St Michael's Priory at Breamore; also, important medieval bridges at Redbridge and Fordingbridge, as well as water management features such as water meadows and mills.

- Historic parks include Somerley Park (Avon valley), Broadlands, Hurstbourne Park and Mottisfont Abbey (Test valley), Avington Park, Shawford House and Tichborne Park (Itchen valley), and Warnford Park and Westbury House (Meon valley).

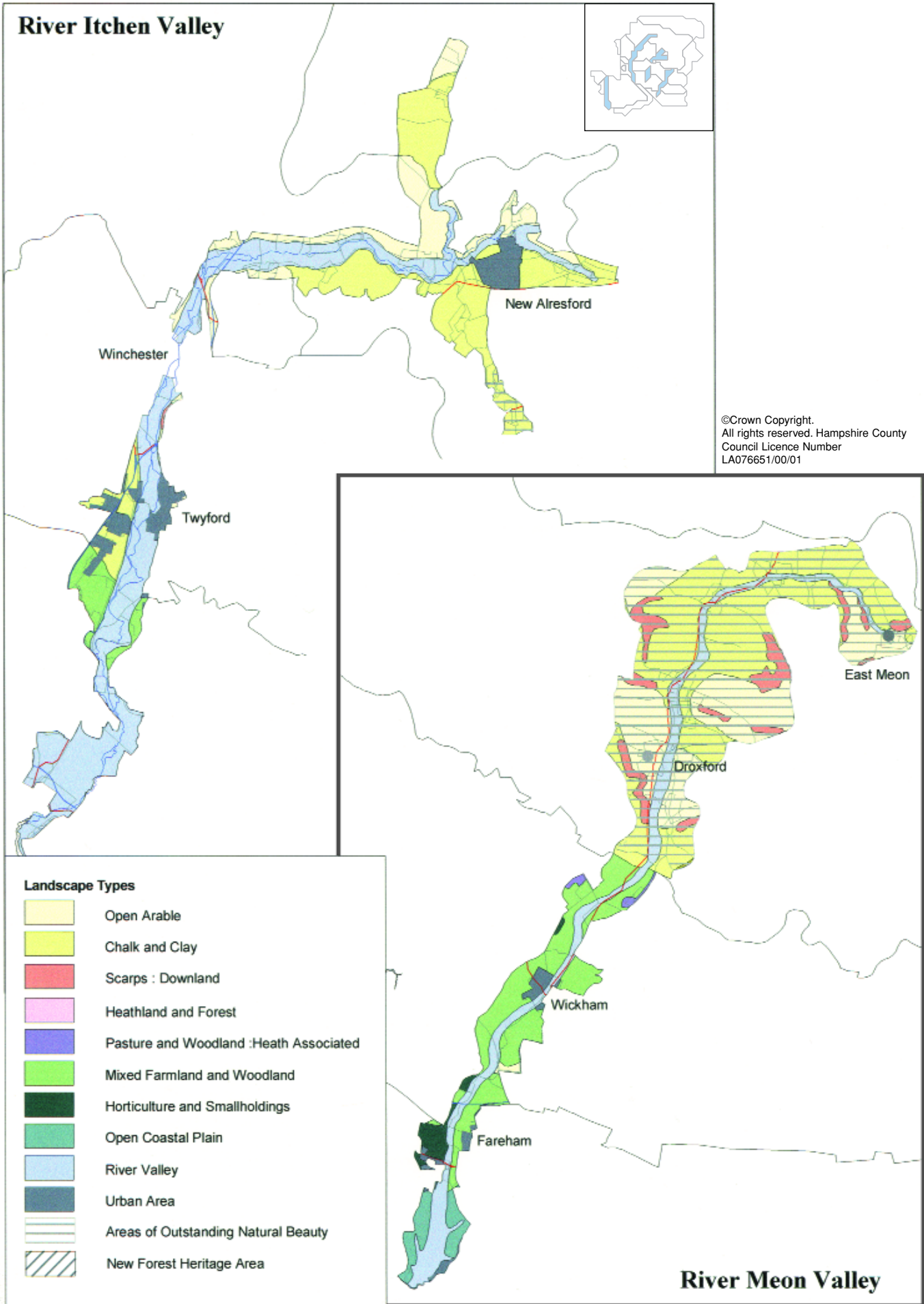
- Generally winding roads and lanes following edge of valley floor above floodplain level; each valley has a main road along much of its length; where these intersect main roads crossing the valleys major towns are usually located, for example, Ringwood, Romsey, Totton and Winchester;

most of Hampshire's major through routes cross the valleys, notably the M27, M3, A303 and A31; characteristic linear form of smaller settlements along valleys; numerous mineral workings especially in Avon valley; Southampton Airport lies in the Itchen valley; valley character increasingly affected by urban influences and noise intrusion depending on proximity to major roads and towns; however, generally unspoilt, remote and tranquil character elsewhere; numerous recreational facilities including fishing and water sports particularly on mineral workings restored as lakes, notably in Avon valley; also, nature reserves and hillside viewpoints with public access and major valley footpaths.







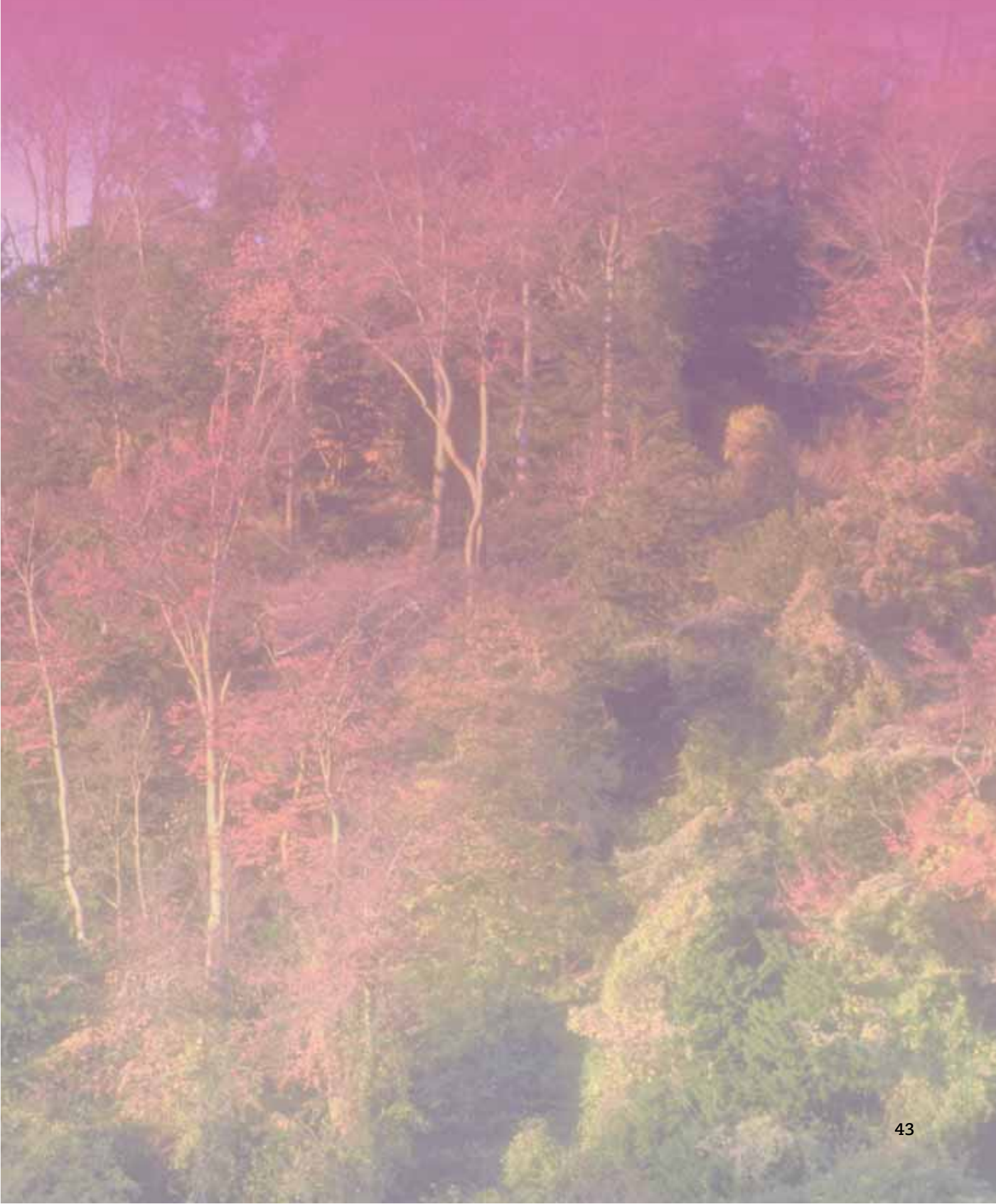








# ISSUES





# ISSUES

## Introduction

This section sets out many of the issues which have brought considerable landscape change across the county in recent decades. A rapid increase in the speed of change has transformed the landscape. To meet the needs of society, the intensification of agriculture and continually increasing pressures for various forms of development have urbanised and eroded the character, quality and diversity of many rural and coastal landscapes.



### Landscape enhancement

Although most of the issues listed in this section are those which have led to a loss of landscape quality, many issues are already being addressed by a range of agencies, organisations, farmers and foresters in various parts of the county.

Farmers and landowners have been caring for their land for many years. Throughout the 1990s many trees and hedgerows have been replanted to replace those lost in previous decades. The Hedgerow Regulations introduced in 1997 have helped to reduce the rate of hedgerow loss. New woodland planting or extensions to existing woodlands, often grant aided, particularly of small woods and copses in field corners or on steep slopes is now common throughout Hampshire. Many woodland management initiatives are successfully restoring ancient woodlands which had been neglected for many years. Despite the recent difficulties in the agricultural economy, which are quite acute in some sectors, many farmers are developing field margins and conservation headlands, managing some of their land with nature conservation objectives, and practising crop management techniques which help to reduce the harmful effects of agrochemicals.

### Landscape issues

Most of the issues set out in this section have been well rehearsed in recent years in many publications, journals and other media. For this reason some of the issues are outlined briefly rather than discussed in detail.

The issues are split into three tiers:

#### Wider Environmental Issues

The Wider Environmental Issues covered are generally outside the scope of this Strategy's implementation programme, although they can have varying degrees of impact on the landscape.

#### Countywide Issues

The Countywide Issues are those which apply in most Character Areas throughout the county. These issues are listed under two main headings, Land Management, and Land Use and Development, which are repeated later in the Countywide Guidelines section. Land use and development issues are included in the Strategy in order to achieve a comprehensive approach to landscape improvement. In the past, some strategies have encompassed only land management issues and guidelines.

#### Character Area Issues

The Character Area Issues section is set out in tabular form to show where particular issues apply geographically. The Character Areas are grouped into broad 'families', for example *Chalk Downs* encompasses the four individual chalk Character Areas. Each 'family' contains its own set of detailed Landscape Types, and the issues which apply are shown under the relevant Landscape Type.

## Wider Environmental Issues

The environmental issues covered in this section are generally outside the scope of this Strategy's implementation programme, although they can have varying degrees of impact on the landscape. Issues such as Dutch elm disease or climate change remain either unresolved or require co-operation on an international scale to make real progress in addressing the causes. However, individual and local action to conserve natural resources and reduce pollution is an essential part of such progress.

### Climate change and energy

Climate change is likely to have an increasingly significant environmental impact, bringing milder, wetter winters and drier summers with an increase in hot spells and summer droughts, broken by severe summer storms. In addition, a rise in sea levels is anticipated, with a greater frequency and severity of storms and floods. Average wind speeds are expected to increase with more winter gales in the south of the country. Throughout the twentieth century, global mean surface temperatures have risen by about 0.5° Celsius, and nine of the ten warmest years on record have occurred since 1980. Research has shown that by 2080, summer temperatures could reach those of the summer of 1995 almost every year, with 50 per cent of normal summer rainfall; wet winters with 160 per cent of normal winter rainfall will be five times more frequent than at present; and the mean sea level in the English Channel will be 54 cm higher than at present. A change in the overall pattern of ocean currents including the Gulf Stream is also a possibility. The environmental effects of climate change on the south of England are potentially significant, and monitoring and research are essential in developing appropriate responses.



There is now great dependence on the production and consumption of energy. Energy supply remains dominated by the use of the fossil fuels, oil, gas and coal which are major sources of carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. There is now general acceptance that, along with other greenhouse gases, these emissions contribute towards global warming and climate change.

During the last 50 years, industrial regulation and 'cleaner' fuels have led to improvements in air quality. A reduction in the reliance on coal has significantly reduced sulphur emissions, a principal cause of acid rain, which can pollute both soil and water. However, pollution from vehicles, exacerbated by traffic growth, is becoming the major problem.

Energy from renewable sources can make a significant contribution towards the overall energy supply for the future, helping to limit greenhouse gases and climate change. Renewable energy from the combustion of plant material (biomass) does not add to the overall amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Combustion merely emits the carbon dioxide which the living plant itself once extracted from the atmosphere.

Energy generation from biomass has some potential in Hampshire. Cultivated biomass products such as fast growing willow and poplar species as an alternative use for agricultural land are a possibility, as are the use of forestry residues, straw and short rotation coppice products from currently unmanaged coppice woodlands. However, the need for electricity generation plants and the accompanying power transmission lines could introduce visually prominent new features into the landscape and significantly alter its character.

### The impact of climate change

Predictions about the potential range of effects of climate change on the landscape suggest that different landscapes are likely to be affected in different ways. The changes would not only have an impact on the appearance of the landscape but also on a whole range of wildlife habitats and their species compositions.



Agricultural landscapes are likely to be affected. Agricultural practices can tolerate moderate shifts in temperature over the long term but beyond these tolerance limits new cultivars and crops, and new technologies may be required. Summer droughts are likely to increase the need for irrigation from new ponds and reservoirs created for on-farm storage of winter rainfall. Such features could have both beneficial or urbanising effects on the landscape. Droughts will also dry out soils, leading to greater soil friability, increased risk of soil erosion by wind, and less productive soils. This could threaten the viability of some farms and lead to pressure to introduce new uses into the landscape which may change its character. The rise in temperature may bring about changes in the ways livestock will be housed. Housing for pigs and poultry production may need adaptation for higher temperatures with the possibility of less intensive methods being used, including greater outdoor rearing of pigs, increasing the risks of soil erosion and water pollution.



The generally warmer climate may introduce new pests and diseases, some of which may affect the health of particular species which contribute towards the character of the landscape. Higher overall temperatures may see traditional arable crops replaced by more tolerant species including sunflowers, maize, soya beans and crops such as Miscanthus grass grown for use as biomass for renewable energy production. Such introductions would significantly alter the appearance of the landscape.

Greater winter rainfall may lead to increased surface water run-off and exacerbate soil erosion problems. It may also increase the chances of waterlogging and damage to grazing land by livestock through poaching, in turn affecting the appearance of the land.

Hampshire's low-lying coastal landscapes are likely to be increasingly at risk from rises in sea level and more frequent storm surges which may overtop some existing sea and tidal defences. The Environment Agency has undertaken research to establish which areas are likely to be particularly vulnerable. The shingle bank at Hurst Spit, which acts as a barrier protecting the western approach to The Solent and the Keyhaven saltmarshes, needed extensive reinforcement and restoration after severe storm damage during the 1990s. The soft coastal cliffs at Milford and Barton on Sea are also at risk from erosion as are those at Chilling. The county's internationally important coastal wetland landscapes, and their valuable wildlife habitats such as mudflats and saltmarshes are likely to be 'squeezed' between existing sea defences and rising sea water levels.





The combination of more frequent winter gales, increased rainfall and the resulting waterlogged soils may bring damage to woodlands and trees on the scale of the Great Storm of 1987 and the winter storm of 1990.

Hampshire's heathland landscapes and their wildlife habitats are already affected by fires during hot spells. Prolonged summer droughts are likely to exacerbate this and could also lead to the drying out of the New Forest's bogs and mires, which are an integral part of the mosaic and variety of lowland heathland landscapes. Low annual rainfall in past years has led to low water tables and low flows in some rivers and streams. Climate change and increased water consumption could exacerbate those conditions, posing a threat to the

winter-bournes which are a key landscape feature in the upper reaches of Hampshire's chalk streams. Increased soil erosion and low summer flows may reduce amounts of water to dilute sewage treatment works' discharges, and bring a deterioration in river water quality. These issues highlight the importance of the careful management of water resources.

Climate change could adversely affect plant species on the edge of their range, or those particularly vulnerable to drought conditions, reducing diversity in the landscape and threatening wildlife habitats. Oak trees can suffer and become stag-headed during drought conditions, and some woodlands, particularly those with moist and shady conditions could be affected by the loss of various vegetation types which are an essential part of their character. Additionally, ancient woodlands, particularly on chalk landscapes may suffer from drought conditions. Such changes may make the countryside more fragmented. Milder winters may favour species such as sweet chestnut and aggressive, weedy plant species may spread, but the speed of climate change and the fragmented nature of the landscape may restrict the ability of the less dominant and more valuable species to migrate.

Severe drought conditions may create stress conditions for particular species, making them more susceptible to disease. Such conditions could favour more tolerant species which could become dominant over wide areas in the longer term. At present, particular species groups help give different landscapes their individuality. It is important that the full diversity of each of these groups is maintained, creating a robust landscape to withstand changing conditions. It has been suggested that beech trees could be susceptible to climate change because of their shallow roots on thin chalk soils. Widespread losses of beech would significantly alter the character of the county's chalk landscapes where the trees are characteristic, notably the East Hampshire Hangers. Losses of beech would also cause great damage to the character of many parts of the New Forest.



A dry New Forest stream



### The impact of disease

Disease already has the potential to cause considerable damage to the landscape. The most notable example of this was the destruction of mature elms in the UK brought by Dutch elm disease to the south of the country in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Hampshire had suffered considerable losses by the mid 1970s.

The disease is caused by a fungus which causes rapid death by blocking the conductive tissue of the tree. Fungal spores are spread by three species of elm bark beetle which breed beneath the bark of the tree. The roots of many elms continue to survive the disease. These produce young shoots which develop normally for 10 or 15 years, usually in hedgerows, until the bark is sufficiently thick to support breeding populations of the beetles which then bring a return of the disease. Diseased trees become prominent in the landscape usually in summer, when their dying leaves turn yellow or brown before falling. The dead trees become increasingly derelict and unsightly in subsequent years.

Other diseases continue to cause concern but with significantly less destructive consequences. Beech bark disease tends to be localised, affecting mainly young trees in plantations without being prominent in the landscape. Alders next to watercourses have been affected by a serious water-borne disease. This could have an impact on the county's river valley landscapes as it continues to be a matter for concern, although the effects of the disease are less now than in the early 1990s. Oak die-back is a complex disease causing the slow death of trees. It involves several different factors including the adverse effects of drought, so it could become more widespread if changes in the climate continue.

# COUNTYWIDE *Issues*

The Countywide Issues on the following pages are grouped under two main headings and twelve sub-headings as shown below.

## *Land Management*

Landscape Character and Diversity

Agriculture

Woodlands, Trees and Forestry

Hedgerows

Biological Diversity

Historic Landscapes

Urban Fringe

## *Land Use and Development*

Landscape Character and the Planning System

Urban Expansion

Recreation, Tourism, Access and Diversification

Transport

Minerals and Waste

## Countywide Issues: *Land Management*

### Landscape Character and Diversity

The changing needs of society have transformed the way the landscape has been managed in recent decades. Many of these changes have adversely affected the overall diversity of the landscape across the county, and the loss of many landscape features has brought a decline in the sense of place and biological diversity of the different Character Areas. These changes have affected the quality of Hampshire's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and also the character of the wider countryside.

### Agriculture

Agriculture determines the appearance and character of much of the countryside. The landscape has been affected in many ways by the changes and trends of recent decades and these are unlikely to ease as agriculture becomes increasingly exposed to global markets in the future.



The intensification of agriculture over the last 50 years brought about by technological, social and economic changes, including the Common Agricultural Policy, has led to an erosion of the quality and diversity of the landscape and wildlife habitats, and raised doubts about the sustainability of some agricultural practices.

The removal of woodlands and hedgerows to increase field sizes, and the conversion of pasture and marginal land for arable crop production, has eroded the structure, character and sense of place of some landscapes. Intensive agriculture has left some areas with few landscape features and particularly low levels of biological diversity.



Other issues resulting from the overall impact of modern farming on landscape features and wildlife habitats include:

- the cultivation of the maximum field area, eliminating or reducing the margins next to hedgerows, woodland edges and other field boundaries allowing agrochemical spray drift to damage these features and their wildlife habitats;
- the effects of autumn cultivation for arable crops, and the consequent reduction of winter stubbles, leading to minimum vegetation cover during winter months, soil erosion of cultivated soils and the loss of stubble habitats;
- the neglect of farm ponds, leading to the loss of these attractive landscape features and a decline in their habitat value.

Many landscape features however, are now being replanted to replace those lost earlier and farmers are increasingly keen to take advantage of agri-environmental schemes such as Countryside Stewardship which provide financial support for management of particular features and habitats. Unfortunately, Countryside Stewardship funding is limited and generally favours 'special' areas (see page 66) rather than the whole countryside. The scheme is over-subscribed each year. The preparation of Whole Farm Plans can enable farmers to apply successfully for grant aid, although many farmers are likely to require environmental advice in drafting such plans. The current level of farm incomes however, makes employing professional advice an unlikely option.

Proposals for farm diversification to help maintain farm viability can have an adverse effect on the character of the rural landscape. The introduction of new enterprises into rural areas, including the adaptation and re-use of existing buildings for commercial, industrial or storage uses will help the rural economy, but some may be incompatible with the historic or architectural character of the local settlement.

## Woodlands, Trees and Forestry

Woodlands, trees and forests are an integral part of the character and scenic quality of much of the Hampshire landscape. The different patterns of their distribution contribute towards the diversity of character throughout the county. Woodlands and forests are features of significant historic and wildlife importance which also provide opportunities for public access and sporting activity.

The decline of traditional woodland management practices has affected the quality, condition and habitat value of some woodlands, including ancient woodlands. In neglected woodlands, single-age structures can develop making them more vulnerable to storm damage. Natural regeneration is often very limited and, in the absence of new planting the long-term continuity of such woodlands as landscape features is threatened.



An unmanaged ancient woodland

A well-managed ancient woodland not only supports a great diversity of species and habitats which have developed over a long period, but also provides an attractive landscape with a rich ground flora and large, ancient trees. Similarly, the grazing of ancient pasture woodlands particularly the tradition of commoning in the New Forest, is vital to the continuity and diversity of these historic woodland landscapes.

Although many ancient woodlands in Hampshire remain unmanaged, the marketing of timber and other woodland produce, as demonstrated by the Wessex Coppice Group, has contributed

significantly towards the successful management of many ancient woodlands in the county.

Other issues affecting woodlands in Hampshire include:

- the low proportions of broadleaf trees in some ageing coniferous plantations, and the introduction in the past of conifers into some ancient woodlands affecting both their appearance in the landscape and their wildlife value;



*A fragmented shelter belt*

- the appearance and condition of many unmanaged and leggy shelter belts containing over-mature conifers and a limited range of indigenous tree and shrub species.

In the past, the removal or fragmentation of woodlands for new development or conversion to agriculture has eroded the character and structure of the landscape in some areas. However, many new woodlands or extensions to existing woodlands are now being planted in the county helping to reverse these losses, reinforcing the landscape structure and establishing a better network with existing woodlands and hedgerows.

## Hedgerows

Hedgerows are an essential part of the traditional patchwork of field patterns which characterise the English countryside. In addition to their agricultural functions hedgerows are not only part of the historic heritage of the rural landscape, but along with their banks, verges and ditches they are important wildlife habitats.



*The remains of a former hedgerow*

Parish boundaries and ancient lanes and tracks are often defined by ancient hedgerows which have been in existence since medieval times or earlier. In contrast with the straight lines and rectangular fields formed by Enclosure Act hedgerows, ancient hedgerows often define the winding, irregular lines of older boundaries. The wider range of shrub and tree species found in ancient hedgerows, and the more diverse ground flora of their banks and margins have developed over many centuries, adding significantly to their landscape interest and wildlife value. However, there is a lack of comprehensive information on the location and condition of ancient hedgerows and other hedgerows of historic significance in the county.

The main issues affecting the character, unity and structure of the hedgerow network are the loss of hedgerows in recent decades, and the condition of many existing hedgerows, in particular:

- the loss or fragmentation of hedgerows to accommodate new development or to increase field sizes for agriculture, which can increase the risks of soil erosion by wind and rain, or by soil drying;
- the isolated tree lines of remnant or former hedgerows and the loss of hedgerow connectivity with woodlands and other hedgerows;
- the poor condition of badly managed or neglected, leggy hedgerows, threatening their survival as landscape features and offering limited wildlife cover especially in open landscapes where hedgerows are the main wildlife refuge;

*An unmanaged, leggy hedgerow*



- the threat to hedgerows and their wildlife from agrochemical spray drift;
- the limited age range of hedgerow trees, and a scarcity of young trees in hedgerows for the future, especially self-sown saplings;

During the last 10 years or more, some of these issues have been positively addressed by farmers who are reinforcing gappy hedgerows and replanting new hedges on old hedge lines. Also, hedge laying is increasingly being used to rejuvenate and thicken some neglected hedgerows. Since their introduction in 1997, the Hedgerow Regulations have contributed towards this more favourable future by helping to reduce hedgerow removal.

## Biological Diversity

The issues affecting nature conservation and the landscape are closely interwoven. The loss of landscape features or their inappropriate management invariably has an adverse impact on their habitat value and species diversity. This applies equally to woodlands and hedgerows as to heathlands and species-rich downlands or meadows.

The *Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire* includes Habitat and Species Action Plans which identify conservation issues, establish directions and targets, and provide a monitoring framework for a number of key habitats and species. This Landscape Strategy complements the Biodiversity Action Plan, and provides a broad framework for the more detailed actions and targets of the Habitat Action Plans.

The Hampshire landscape is particularly rich and diverse in wildlife despite the loss or decline of many landscape features and wildlife habitats, brought about by changing land management practices and increasing needs for new development.



However, these changes have adversely affected the levels of biological diversity across a wide range of habitats in both designated areas and in the wider countryside, leaving many habitats fragmented or isolated and in some cases posing a threat to their survival. The decline in numbers of some of the more common wildlife species has brought increased media attention and public concern.

The rate of past losses has declined and, although many pressures still remain, the growing concern for wildlife issues is reflected in the increasing willingness of many farmers and land managers to farm their land in more environmentally sensitive ways, including the participation in agri-environmental enhancement schemes. A variety of initiatives involving partnerships of local authorities and other organisations to conserve and enhance biological diversity are also successfully managing a range of habitats in the county. These include the management of ancient semi-natural woodlands by the Wessex Coppice Group, heathland restoration and management by the Hampshire Heathland Project, and management of the New Forest Special Area of Conservation by the New Forest LIFE Partnership.

## Historic Landscapes

The landscape of the present has been shaped by both natural and human influences over several thousand years. The physical features which survive in the landscape today provide evidence and insight into the requirements and changes of the past. Such features include lanes, tracks and paths; woodlands, field patterns, hedgerows, banks and ditches; historic parks, commons and heathlands; and ancient monuments, settlements and buildings. These features are subject to many of the pressures for change set out in this section.



A significant amount of information already exists on many elements of the historic landscape, including the county Sites and Monuments Record and the Registers of Historic Parks and Gardens kept by English Heritage and the County Council. In June 2000, the County Council published the *Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens – A working list of recorded sites*. Numerous changes have



affected Hampshire's historic designed landscapes in recent years. Such changes include the effects of storm damage, conversion of pasture to arable land, the loss and limited replacement of parkland trees, and the declining condition of characteristic parkland features such as boundary walls, railings and other structures. Also, changes in ownership or fragmenting ownerships can lead to different, conflicting and urbanising land uses, and the loss of the integrity of the designed landscape.

Until the *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment* (1999) was undertaken no systematic assessment had been made of the character of the wider historic landscape of the whole county. The Assessment identified, classified and described 85 different Historic Landscape Types in the county and mapped their geographical locations and distribution.

The aims of the *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment* included the need to develop a better understanding of the wider historic landscape, and to recognise and respect the variety of character and irreplaceability of historic landscape features and larger areas where little change has occurred. Areas which remain relatively intact may be representative of particular parts of the county's historic heritage and are likely to have a high scarcity value today. Before the status and value of these areas can be confirmed, verification or refinement will be necessary from more detailed primary information sources at a local level, because of the inherent limitation of scale of a countywide study.

## Urban Fringe

The urban fringe is an important landscape with many functions and a variety of appearances. It can provide relief and space from urban areas, with opportunities for recreation, and also a practical location for various uses associated with urban areas including sewage works, waste disposal facilities, and roads, railways and other communication links.



There is often a seamless relationship between urban areas, the urban fringe and rural areas, with the urban fringe acting as a buffer and helping to integrate town and country. The urban fringe also provides a setting for urban areas sometimes with important landscape features and valuable wildlife habitats. Where urban and countryside uses merge, agriculture can often face the difficulties of unauthorised access, vandalism, litter problems and fly tipping.

Other urban fringe issues include:

- the condition, lack of management, appearance and overall quality of the landscape including existing features such as woodlands, trees and hedgerows or the absence of such features;
- the fragmented structure of the landscape, the decline of some wildlife habitats, and the general state of the land including poorly-managed horse paddocks;
- the absence of opportunities in some areas for formal and informal recreation, sports and other forms of public access.

## Countywide Issues: *Land Use and Development*

### Landscape Character and the Planning System



*A landscape with a strong rural character*

The social, economic and technological changes of the last 50 years have brought many changes and losses to the landscape. The expansion of urban areas, new roads and motorways, requirements for mineral extraction and waste disposal, recreational needs and other forms of new development have had an urbanising effect on the quality and rural character of parts of the Hampshire landscape, and brought noise and visual intrusion. The widespread use of similar building materials and design styles has led to an increasing uniformity and in places a loss of local distinctiveness and sense of place.

The landscape character assessment process identifies the features and characteristics which contribute towards the distinctive identity of different landscapes. Recognising differences in landscape character is essential to ensuring that land management changes and decisions about new development proposals take every practicable opportunity to respect and enhance the sense of place of different areas.

In order to achieve comprehensive coverage of the whole range of features which help to give each area its own identity, the landscape assessment methodology should encompass other important characteristics of the landscape not currently included in local assessments. Such features and assets include the scarce and irreplaceable historic landscapes described earlier, quiet areas, the different degrees of urbanisation of rural areas, and townscape assessments of urban areas, acknowledging the inter-relationship between urban and rural landscapes. Although urban areas are outside the scope of this Strategy, future landscape assessments should identify the various types of townscape within urban areas as well as assessing countryside areas. Quiet areas with little or no

*An urbanised landscape*



intrusion from traffic noise have gradually been eroded by increasing amounts of traffic in recent decades, and by the growing use of minor roads to avoid traffic congestion. Pressure for recreational activities and the increasing need for farm diversification have introduced various degrees of urbanisation into rural areas. This trend is likely to continue and may threaten the character of some unspoilt and inherently rural landscapes.

The identification of these characteristics will provide a more comprehensive picture of the identity of different areas, and will be a first step towards respecting local character when new development proposals are being considered.



## Urban Expansion



*The visual impact of new development on the wider landscape*

In order to meet society's needs for housing, employment and other forms of urban activity which can not be accommodated within existing urban areas, there will inevitably be development of greenfield sites. Such development is likely to impact on the landscape in a number of ways:

- the effects of the development on particular landscape features, and on the overall landscape structure and character, including the permanent loss of urban fringe or rural landscape to urban development;
- the visual impact of the development on the wider landscape and the need for an appropriate new landscape setting;
- some landscapes have little scope to accommodate change, particularly where large-scale new development is concerned: small-scale, irreplaceable or scarce landscapes are likely to be vulnerable;
- urbanising influences on adjacent rural areas, including the effects of new recreational activities and additional traffic on rural roads and lanes.

## Recreation, Tourism, Access and Diversification

The Hampshire landscape has many attractions for both visitors and residents, particularly the New Forest and the coast, and also many countryside areas where there is an increasing need for recreational activities and organised sport. All of these areas provide numerous opportunities for sustainable outdoor access and recreation in the form of walking.

Recreation, tourism and proposals for farm diversification help contribute towards the local economy and create employment opportunities. However, the introduction of some of these recreational activities and new enterprises into rural areas can have an urbanising effect on the character of the landscape. The loss of landscapes or particular landscape features which are irreplaceable or scarce can also occur. Such development proposals raise the following landscape issues:

- the potential impact of new recreation development, particularly proposals for larger or formal recreational uses with new buildings, access roads and car parks on the existing landscape structure, landscape features and wildlife habitats, and the impact on the wider landscape. Additionally, in the case of golf courses, modifications to the landform, along with mown greens and fairways, tees and bunkers, and artificial lighting requirements can have an urbanising effect on the character of the rural landscape;





- the potential impact of some proposals for farm diversification, including new buildings or the re-use of existing buildings for commercial, industrial or storage uses may be incompatible with the historic or architectural character of local settlements;
- the impact of noisy motor sports, including noisy water sports on the essentially quiet character of rural areas;

the urbanising effects on the character of the landscape of proposals and facilities associated with horse riding, in particular:

- proposals including new buildings or stables, particularly those in more remote or isolated locations in rural landscapes, and those with an open or exposed character;
- new post and rail fencing particularly in open, unhedged landscapes;
- poorly-managed paddocks with over-grazing or poaching; also paddocks with badly-managed hedgerows or excessive browsing by horses which can transform hedges into tree lines with little or no hedge base;
- the visual appearance of horse jumps, plastic tapes and other unsightly equipment, especially when not in frequent use.

## Transport

During recent decades changing technology, economic development and increasing prosperity have led to mass car ownership, increasing mobility, longer journeys and changing patterns of work and leisure. These changes have been accompanied by the construction of new roads and motorways, and numerous engineering improvements to roads, bringing significant noise and visual intrusion and affecting or urbanising the character and quality of many areas. Increasing amounts of traffic are likely to have an adverse effect on:

- the rural and historic character of minor roads and lanes, including those with sunken profiles and ancient hedgebanks or verges;
- those routes already acknowledged as 'rat runs', and other increasingly busy rural roads and



lanes; their verges and banks, and the overall character of the local landscape and its settlements are also likely to be affected. Engineering improvements and traffic management schemes can introduce features which have an urbanising effect on the local landscape, such as proposals for road widening or easing of bends, lighting, additional signs, the creation of passing bays, new kerbs and new junctions.

It is generally accepted that increases in road capacity can not meet the rate of demand and remain environmentally acceptable, and that reducing the need to travel along with encouraging increased use of public and community transport

are more environmentally sustainable options. However, new road developments and other facilities are still likely to be required. This raises the following landscape issues:

- new roads and bypasses, including the accompanying new structures, lighting, earthworks and hardworks, can have a significant impact on the character of the landscape;
- major new service stations and petrol stations along the strategic road network, with prominent new buildings, structures and lighting can have an adverse impact particularly in rural landscapes.

Road verges and hedgebanks are an integral, extensive and attractive part of the highway landscape, often providing a significant wildlife habitat throughout the county. They represent a remnant and important part of a once extensive resource of species-rich grasslands. Banks and verges require particular types of management to maintain their attractiveness and species diversity, particularly those with a wide range of species.

## Minerals and Waste

The extraction of minerals and the disposal of waste inevitably have a significant impact on the character and structure of the landscape. Mineral working and processing and landfill operations can create significant noise, and the accompanying stockpiles, screen bunds, buildings, lighting, haul roads and site entrances can be visually intrusive features in the landscape.

The Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton *Minerals and Waste Local Plan* (adopted 1998) sets out detailed policies and proposals to guide and control development for the supply and processing of minerals and the management and disposal of waste. It aims to conserve mineral resources, minimise waste requiring disposal and ensure environmentally acceptable working and restoration of sites. The Local Plan seeks to strike the right balance between environmental protection and meeting society's needs for minerals and disposing of waste. Additionally, it aims to ensure that proposals pay due regard to the effects of the development on the character of the landscape, and on particular landscape features and wildlife habitats. Restoration proposals are required to return the landscape to a beneficial after-use compatible with the local area.



# CHARACTER AREA Issues

This section shows where particular issues apply geographically.

Issues relating to Historic Landscapes; Urban Fringe; Landscape Character and the Planning System; Urban Expansion; Recreation, Tourism Access and Diversification; Transport; Minerals and Waste are not included here as they apply generally across the county rather than to particular Character Areas.

The Character Areas are grouped together under their broad 'family' headings as shown below.

## Chalk Downs

### Character Area

Hampshire Downs  
Mid Hampshire Downs  
South Hampshire Downs  
Cranborne Chase

## Lowland and Heath

### Character Area

North Hampshire Lowland and Heath  
Western Weald Lowland and Heath  
South Hampshire Lowland and Heath  
New Forest Lowland and Heath

## Coast

### Character Area

New Forest Coast  
South Hampshire Coast

## River Valleys

### Character Area

Avon, Test, Itchen, Meon River Valleys

ISSUES	CHARACTER AREAS AND LANDSCAPE TYPES																	
	Chalk Downs				Lowland and Heath						Coast and River Valleys							
	Open Arable	Chalk and Clay	Clay Plateau	Scarps: Downland	Scarps: Hangers	Mixed Farmland and Woodland	Heathland and Forest	Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated	Open Arable on Clay	Open Arable on Greensand	Hangers on Greensand	Pasture: Hangers Associated	Pasture on Clay	Horticulture and Smallholdings	Open Coastal Plain	Enclosed Coastal Plain	Coastline	River Valleys
<b>Agriculture</b>																		
areas of intensive farming with low biodiversity levels	●	●	●			●			●	●					●	●		
decline of winter stubbles and spring sown crops	●	●	●			●			●	●					●	●		
lack of permanent grass field margins, including uncultivated buffer strips next to rivers, streams and other sensitive wildlife habitats	●	●	●			●			●	●			●		●	●		●
insufficient use of conservation headlands	●	●	●			●			●	●					●	●		●
neglected farm ponds	●	●	●			●			●	●			●		●	●		●



ISSUES	CHARACTER AREAS AND LANDSCAPE TYPES																	
	Chalk Downs					Lowland and Heath							Coast and River Valleys					
	Open Arable	Chalk and Clay	Clay Plateau	Scarps: Downland	Scarps: Hangers	Mixed Farmland and Woodland	Heathland and Forest	Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated	Open Arable on Clay	Open Arable on Greensand	Hangers on Greensand	Pasture: Hangers Associated	Pasture on Clay	Horticulture and Smallholdings	Open Coastal Plain	Enclosed Coastal Plain	Coastline	River Valleys
<b>Woodland and Trees</b>																		
lack of appropriate management of ancient semi-natural woodlands including hazel coppice woods	●	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●
continuity of traditional management of pasture woodlands						●	●											
high proportions of conifers in ancient semi-natural woodlands and on alkaline soils	●	●	●			●		●										
lack of management of over-mature mainly coniferous shelter belts	●	●	●			●				●					●	●		
loss of broadleaf woodlands	●	●	●			●			●	●						●		●
the locations and tree species of new woodlands	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
<b>Hedgerows</b>																		
loss of hedgerows	●	●	●			●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●
fragmented, isolated and remnant hedgerows, and the unity of the hedgerow network	●	●	●			●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●
lack of hedgerow management	●	●	●			●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●
failure to retain tree saplings in hedgerows	●	●	●			●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●
over-management of hedgerows and damage from spray drift	●	●	●			●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		
identification and management of hedgerows of historic significance	●	●	●			●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●
<b>Biological Diversity</b>																		
loss, fragmentation and lack of management of unimproved chalk grassland	●	●		●														
loss, fragmentation and lack of management of heathland and former heathland areas							●											
lack of appropriate management of unimproved neutral grassland and fen meadows						●		●										●
lack of appropriate management of floodplain grazing marsh																		●
lack of appropriate management of coastal grazing marsh															●		●	
threats to mudflats, saltmarsh and other coastal habitats from development, sea defence works, recreational uses and climate change																	●	
lack of appropriate cutting of road verges and hedge banks, and damage from scrub encroachment, road improvements and agrochemicals from adjacent farmland	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●



# GUIDELINES





# GUIDELINES

## Introduction

This section sets out the guidelines which are considered necessary to help achieve the three main aims of the Strategy. The guidelines are advisory rather than prescriptive and are intended for all those directly or indirectly involved in shaping the Hampshire landscape in the future. The guidelines are split into two sections: Countywide Guidelines and Character Area Guidelines.

### Countywide Guidelines

The Countywide Guidelines are those which are applicable in most Character Areas throughout the county. The guidelines are listed under the two main headings, Land Management, and Land Use and Development as used in the Countywide Issues section earlier.

Under the Land Use and Development heading the guidelines aim to support and complement national and local planning guidance which plays a key role in protecting and conserving the environment, and in shaping the pattern of development. Land use and development guidelines are included in the Strategy in order to achieve a comprehensive approach to landscape improvement. In the past, some strategies have encompassed only land management guidelines.

The Countywide Guidelines which can be located geographically are shown later in the Implementation of the Strategy section, under the relevant Landscape Types.

### Character Area Guidelines

The Character Area Guidelines set out the principles necessary to maintain or reinforce the particular sense of place of each Character Area. The county landscape assessment identified the main characteristics of each Area, and to retain the essence of that character the characteristics should be respected and enhanced.



# COUNTYWIDE *Guidelines*

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The Countywide Guidelines on the following pages are grouped under two main headings and eleven sub-headings as shown below.

## ***Land Management***

*Landscape Character and Diversity*

*Agriculture*

*Woodlands, Trees and Forestry*

*Hedgerows*

*Biological Diversity*

*Historic Landscapes*

*Urban Fringe*

## ***Land Use and Development***

*Landscape Character and the Planning System*

*Urban Expansion*

*Recreation, Tourism, Access and Diversification*

*Transport*

**The planning system** plays a key role in protecting and conserving the environment, and in guiding and shaping the pattern of development.

**The Guidelines** under the Land Use and Development heading aim to support and complement national and local planning guidance through local landscape strategies and landscape character assessments which may have the status of supplementary planning guidance. This will help to ensure that development proposals are located and designed to respect and enhance the character of the local landscape.

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# Countywide Guidelines: Land Management

## Landscape Character and Diversity

### Diversity and sense of place

Encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the overall diversity of character across the whole county and reinforcement of the distinctive sense of place and cultural identity of each Character Area, as set out under the Character Area Guidelines on pages 85 to 94.

### Locally indigenous species

Encourage the planting and natural regeneration of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally within the different Landscape Types, giving each its distinctive character.



Out of character - conifers on the Hampshire Downs

### Indigenous Species

The indigenous species of trees, shrubs and ground flora found in Hampshire’s woodlands, hedgerows, heaths and chalk grasslands make a major contribution towards the distinctive character of the county’s different landscapes. These species have established over many centuries and are an intrinsic part of the county’s natural heritage.

Growing where they occur naturally, these indigenous species and their groupings are well adapted to the climate, geology, soils and other local conditions. They are an essential part of complex wildlife habitats where various species depend on each other for survival.

Working with nature by allowing natural regeneration, or by using plants raised from seed of local provenance, are the preferred ways of creating or extending woodlands, hedgerows, heaths and chalk grasslands. Such methods rely on the greater genetic variability and local suitability of seedlings of local provenance, and ensure that a maturing landscape will have wider adaptability to environmental stresses and greater biological diversity.

In recent years, large areas of semi-natural landscape with indigenous species have been lost, and many non-native, fast-growing or ornamental species, have been introduced. Many of these introductions do not respect the sense of place of the local landscape and have altered the traditional character of parts of the countryside. The wide distribution of such introductions can erode the differences between landscapes of contrasting character and bring a degree of uniformity to otherwise distinctive areas of countryside. Even indigenous species suitable in one landscape can be unsuitable in another, eroding the local character. For example, Scots pine or mountain ash, both associated with the acidic soils of heathland landscapes have been widely planted on the county's chalk downs. Also, the species used in the creation of new woodlands, hedgerows and other landscape features, should reflect the composition and proportions of the natural vegetation, in order to respect the local landscape character.

The County Council is committed to encouraging the use of indigenous species, and raising awareness of their important contribution to the richness and diversity of the Hampshire landscape.



## Agriculture

### Sustainable agriculture and landscape diversity

Encourage the closer integration of agricultural, environmental, economic and social interests to help make agriculture and rural communities more sustainable. Whilst recognising the need for change,

maintain and enhance the diversity of character of the different agricultural landscapes across the county, respecting the historic landscape heritage, biodiversity and other natural resources, and

reinforce or restore the identity and sense of place in areas where the structure and character of the landscape has been eroded or fragmented.

Encourage national Government to enable broadening the scope of strategic land use plans to integrate environmental objectives for the sustainable management of rural landscapes more closely with the existing planning policies for those areas, as recommended by the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development. Such objectives would help guide ongoing public funding (e.g. Common Agricultural Policy) affecting rural landscapes.

### Common Agricultural Policy

Support and encourage reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to help maintain the rural economy and respect or enhance landscape character, particularly by achieving a shift from price support payments for farmers towards attaching environmental conditions to payments with increased rewards and incentives for appropriate countryside management and enhancement, including the maintenance of rights of way. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has set out its intentions on CAP reform in *A New Direction for Agriculture (1999)* and the *England Rural Development Plan 2000-2006*.

### Organic farming

Encourage organic farming where appropriate, including making representations to national Government for better financial incentives to farmers to convert to organic production, and by stressing the environmental advantages of organic methods which help to reduce agrochemical pollution and damage to wildlife and are more beneficial to soil structure and soil fertility.

### Genetically modified organisms

Encourage the adoption of the precautionary principle in resisting the premature introduction and widespread use of genetically modified organisms until it can be clearly shown that there will be no adverse effects on wildlife or the landscape in either the short-term or the long-term future.

### Integrated Crop Management

Encourage the adoption of Integrated Crop Management techniques as demonstrated by the LEAF project (Linking Environment and Farming) to minimise the environmental impact of agrochemical pollution on wildlife habitats and water resources, and achieve a balance between environmental protection and crop and soil management.

### Whole Farm Plans

Encourage the preparation and implementation of Whole Farm Plans on both private and County Council land, including adoption of Plans by adjoining landowners and farmers to achieve better integration of all aspects of farm management, particularly to increase opportunities for public access, enhance wildlife habitats and reinforce the distinctive character of the local landscape.

### Diversification

Ensure that opportunities for diversification within or outside agriculture which help to maintain or diversify the rural economy respect the rural character and sensitivities of the local landscape and its capacity to absorb the proposals. The production of renewable energy from the processing of biomass, possibly requiring new buildings, structures and overhead electricity transmission lines is likely to have a significant landscape impact.



## Agri-environmental improvement schemes

Encourage the expansion of existing Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and other agri-environmental improvement schemes, for example, the Countryside Stewardship Scheme which has been over-subscribed each year and tends to favour 'special' areas rather than the whole countryside. Also, encourage greater participation by farmers and landowners in such schemes including those which provide new opportunities for public access. In areas with smaller farms, increasing competition in the future may make some farms unviable without support.

### Environmentally Sensitive Areas

*Environmentally Sensitive Areas are designated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to safeguard and enhance the special landscape, wildlife or historic features of particular areas.*

*The publicly funded ESA scheme was launched in 1987 to encourage farmers and landowners to protect valuable features on their land by adopting or retaining traditional methods of management rather than shifting to more profitable modern farming methods.*

*The ESA scheme is entered voluntarily by farmers who are compensated annually for pursuing less profitable but more environmentally sensitive ways of farming. Those joining the scheme are also encouraged to allow new opportunities for public access on their land.*

*The important features of each ESA are defined and objectives are specified by MAFF for their conservation and enhancement. This may entail for example the retention of grazing land rather than conversion to arable production, and the conservation of particular habitats and species.*

*There are three Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Hampshire: the South Downs, and the river valleys of the Avon and the Test. These landscapes are managed mainly to conserve their traditional floodplain grazing land and historic water meadows, and the species-rich chalk grasslands of the South Downs.*

### Countryside Stewardship Scheme

*The Countryside Stewardship Scheme is run by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to conserve, enhance or restore particular landscapes and wildlife habitats in the countryside. The Scheme offers payments, advice and support to farmers and land managers to manage their land to achieve particular objectives, including the creation of new opportunities for public access. The Scheme is generally based on 10-year agreements and is open to all those with suitable land providing they meet the objectives. Grant Aid was substantially increased for applications received in 1999/2000.*

*The Countryside Stewardship Scheme applies to the management of particular landscape types and features including:*

- chalk grassland, and the return of cultivated areas to chalk grassland, including arable field margins;*
- waterside land, including wet grassland and species-rich meadows, water meadows, and grass margins to act as a buffer between watercourses and arable fields;*
- heathlands, including extending or re-creating heaths on cultivated or forestry land;*
- field boundaries, including old field patterns and tracks; also hedgerow regeneration and replanting, particularly on a whole farm basis;*
- grass field margins and conservation headlands on arable land;*
- restoration of historic parklands;*
- new permissive public access, and site interpretation if appropriate.*

## Hampshire Farming Study

The Hampshire Farming Study was commissioned by the County Council and partner organisations to examine the future viability of agriculture in the county. The Study, which was published in 1997, assessed the current and likely future impact of the changes taking place within agriculture on the economic, environmental and social well-being of rural Hampshire.

The Study reviewed the recent trends in agriculture revealed by Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food census and other data. It analysed responses to a questionnaire sent to more than 3,000 Hampshire farmers and growers, dealing with a wide range of current and future concerns. Responses to the questionnaire raised numerous matters including key issues such as the Common Agricultural Policy, sustainable agriculture, and the relationship between agriculture and the market place; farm diversification and rural employment, and the stability of rural communities.

The Study discussed the issues raised in this extensive consultation and made recommendations for future actions. These included the need to:

- make representations on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy;
- promote Biodiversity Action Plans and Landscape Strategies;
- provide additional environmental advice for farmers and support initiatives to help make agriculture more economically and environmentally sustainable;
- ensure economic support of rural business diversification;
- promote local produce marketing and closer links between farmers, processors, retailers and consumers;
- encourage knowledge and understanding of the countryside by increased visits to local farms by school children;
- encourage farmers and landowners to create additional voluntary access agreements.



A steering group was then set up to monitor the outcome of the action points, and ensure that the Study remained dynamic. In 1998, the County Council and partner organisations publicised the Study at the Royal Show. The Study was reviewed in 1999 to assess the effects of recent farming trends in Hampshire, and the steering group recommended:

- the provision of information and training to farmers and rural businesses;
- continued support for the farmers' market initiative;
- responding to consultations from EU and UK government on agriculture and rural issues;
- maintaining high priority on environmental issues;
- lobbying for increased funding for agri-environmental schemes;
- encouraging and supporting the work of the Countryside Education Group;
- continued encouragement for appropriate diversification proposals.



<b>New agricultural buildings</b>	Encourage the use of locations and designs which minimise the visual impact on the local area of new agricultural buildings, making full use of the landform and existing trees and woodlands, or groups of existing buildings. Where practicable design, materials and colours should reflect the style and character of existing buildings, and new screen planting should consist of locally indigenous tree and shrub species.
<b>Low biodiversity levels</b>	Encourage the restoration or enhancement of the character of the landscape and an increase biological diversity within the wider countryside especially in areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels.
<b>Soil erosion</b>	Encourage retention of winter stubbles followed by spring sown crops, and cultivation along, rather than across contours to reduce soil erosion of exposed, cultivated soils with minimal vegetation cover during winter rains. Winter stubbles are also an important wildlife habitat, particularly for farmland birds.
<b>Set aside</b>	Where set aside is used, encourage the use of non-rotational set aside to reduce inputs and increase farm biodiversity; for rotational set aside allow natural regeneration to provide wildlife habitats, where possible in the form of 20-metre strips around field boundaries or immediately next to existing wildlife habitats.



<b>Field margins</b>	Encourage the adoption of permanent grass and native herb field margins to increase the total area available for wildlife and to help protect the habitat value of hedges and hedgebanks by minimising damage to hedges caused by chemicals/spray drift; also, uncultivated buffer strips next to rivers and streams or other sensitive wildlife habitats will help reduce the effects of pollution, erosion and siltation. Some permanent grass field margins may also have the potential to fill gaps in the Rights of Way network.
<b>Conservation headlands</b>	Encourage the adoption of conservation headlands using a selective reduction of pesticides providing transition zones between field margins or hedges and the crops, in order to provide space for non-aggressive broadleaf plants, rare arable weeds, crop pest predators and pollinating insects.
<b>Farm ponds</b>	Encourage the restoration of neglected farm ponds to re-create lost landscape features and enhance habitat value for wildlife.
<b>Local produce</b>	Encourage the production, promotion and marketing of local produce in the county by continued support for farmers' markets and the Hampshire Fare initiative to contribute towards the local economy and help reduce the excessive 'food miles' total accumulated in the processing and delivery of produce to the consumer.

## Woodlands, Trees and Forestry

### Existing Woodlands

#### The value of woodlands

Encourage the protection, conservation and enhancement of woodlands and forests for their value:

- as significant landscape features making a major contribution towards the particular character and scenic quality of each Character Area and Landscape Type;
- as features of significant historic, wildlife, economic and educational importance, which provide timber, shelter and screening, and opportunities for public access, shooting and other activities;
- in helping to reduce pollution and improve air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide and other gases, and filtering particulates.

#### Management of existing woodlands

Encourage the appropriate management of existing woodlands and forests to ensure their long-term continuity and productivity, to increase opportunities for public access, and to enhance wildlife habitats including promoting greater diversity achieved through wider woodland age structures, and where practical the retention of ancient trees and dead wood. The following paragraphs refer to a variety of woodland types requiring different management approaches, and the incentives and advice needed to achieve appropriate management.



#### Hazel coppice woods

Encourage the appropriate management or restoration of ancient and semi-natural woodlands including the traditional management of hazel coppice woods.

#### Broadleaf, mixed and coniferous woodlands

Encourage appropriate management of broadleaf, mixed and coniferous woodlands. In particular:

- increase proportions of locally indigenous species of broadleaf trees by planting or preferably by natural regeneration;
- reduce proportions of conifers particularly in ancient semi-natural woodlands, and on alkaline soils;
- increase proportions of broadleaf trees within ageing coniferous plantations.

#### Pasture woodlands

Support and encourage the traditional management and restoration of ancient pasture woodlands particularly in the New Forest.



### The UK Forestry Standard The Government's Approach to Sustainable Forestry

The UK Forestry Standard expresses a vision for woodlands in the UK. It sets out criteria and standards for the sustainable management of all forests and woodlands in the UK, and is linked to developing international protocols for sustainable forestry. It can be used as a basis for the development of forest monitoring and compliance with management standards.

The UK Forestry Standard is important for forestry authorities, woodland owners, managers and consultants, and anyone with an interest in sustainable forest management in the UK.

<b>Shelter belts</b>	Encourage appropriate management of over-mature or leggy shelter belts by expansion of existing limited range of tree and shrub species using locally indigenous species, and by removing existing over-mature conifers.
<b>Woodland management plans and grant aid</b>	Encourage and promote the adoption of woodland management plans in association with specialist advice. To assist this, and also to encourage greater participation in woodland grant aid schemes, support increased funding for such schemes, and greater provision of training/job creation for woodland management skills.

## Woodland Grant Schemes

*The Woodland Grant Scheme, the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme and the Woodland Improvement Grant are run by the Forestry Commission to provide incentives for the management of existing woodlands and the creation of new woodlands. Woodland grants can also help to provide employment and improve the economy of rural areas. The Forestry Commission subjects applications for the creation of new woodlands to a scoring system. This aims to ensure that grants are given only to applicants whose intentions meet the objectives outlined in the Commission's England Forestry Strategy A New Focus for England's Woodlands (1998).*

*The Woodland Grant Scheme aims to enhance the landscape through woodland creation or management. It also aims to provide new or improved wildlife habitats, increase timber production and offer opportunities for woodland recreation and sport. Additionally, the Scheme also offers the option of extending existing woodlands by natural regeneration to create new woodlands where practical and appropriate.*

*The Farm Woodland Premium Scheme encourages the creation of new woodlands on agricultural land to improve the landscape and increase biodiversity. It offers annual payments to compensate for forgone agricultural income.*

*The Woodland Improvement Grant encourages better management of undermanaged woodlands, along with informal public recreation and particular types of management to help achieve the woodland aspects of Biodiversity Action Plans.*

<b>Marketing of woodland produce</b>	Promote the landscape, wildlife and economic benefits of the marketing of timber and other woodland produce including hurdle making, charcoal production and other woodland crafts. Also, continue to support the work of the Wessex Coppice Group.
<b>Local community action</b>	Encourage and promote greater interest and involvement of local communities and individuals in woodland and non-woodland trees including hedgerow and roadside trees, landmark trees, parkland trees, ancient trees and other single trees, including continued support for initiatives such as the Hampshire Tree Warden Scheme and the Ancient Trees of Hampshire survey.

## New Woodlands

<b>New broadleaf woodlands</b>	Encourage the creation of new multi-purpose broadleaf woodlands using locally indigenous species, to help reverse woodland losses, to enhance or restore the particular character and scenic quality of the landscape and to create new opportunities for public access. New woodlands should generally avoid harsh, geometric shapes and follow, rather than cut across, the natural contours, particularly in open and undulating landscapes. The following paragraphs refer to a range of opportunities and methods for new woodland creation, each helping to enhance the character of the landscape.
<b>Agricultural land</b>	Encourage new woodlands on lower grades of agricultural land, using locally indigenous trees and shrub species preferably by natural regeneration, particularly next to existing woodland seed sources, but avoiding unimproved meadows, heathlands or land with historic field patterns or other archaeological features.
<b>Extending existing woodlands</b>	Encourage new woodlands to extend and re-connect links between existing fragmented or isolated woodlands and hedgerows, creating new wildlife habitats and a diverse range of woodlands on a variety of soil types.



**Woodland management plans and grant aid** Encourage new woodlands through greater participation in woodland grant aid schemes and the adoption of woodland management plans with appropriate specialist advice.

**Screening buildings and structures** Encourage new woodlands to provide additional screening of large or new buildings and structures, carefully considering the design, location and eventual woodland form and shape.



**Opportunities for public access** Encourage new woodlands to provide new opportunities for public access close to existing urban areas, and to create the landscape setting for new development, particularly major development areas or large mineral extraction and waste disposal sites.

## Hedgerows

**The value of hedgerows** Encourage the protection, conservation, enhancement or restoration of the hedgerow network where appropriate to reinforce existing field patterns and maintain or improve the character, unity and structure of the landscape.

**Historic hedgerows** Identify, protect, conserve and enhance the ancient hedgerow network and other hedgerows of historic significance to maintain an important part of the county's natural heritage, and safeguard these rich wildlife habitats, and their banks, verges and ditches.



**Hedgerow trees** Encourage the retention of self-sown saplings and the planting of new hedgerow trees within existing hedgerows to increase the overall age and numbers of hedgerow trees.

**New hedgerows** Encourage the planting of new hedgerows and the restoration/gapping-up of fragmented hedgerows using locally indigenous species, to increase species diversity where appropriate, to increase connections with existing hedgerows and woodlands, and to re-connect isolated tree lines of remnant hedgerows.

### The Hedgerow Regulations

The Hedgerow Regulations were made under section 97 of the Environment Act 1995 and came into operation in 1997. They introduced arrangements for local planning authorities in England and Wales to protect important hedgerows in the countryside by controlling their removal through a system of notification.

'Removal' applies equally to the whole or part of the hedgerow, and includes grubbing up or other forms of hedgerow destruction. The system applies to hedgerows which are 20 metres or more long, or which meet another hedgerow at each end.

Landowners and land managers wishing to remove a hedgerow must notify the local planning authority giving their reasons for requiring its removal. The local planning authority must take account of the reasons given for removal, and whether the hedgerow is 'important'. If the local planning authority fails to respond to the notification within 42 days, the hedgerow may be removed.

The Regulations set out criteria that must be used by the local planning authority in determining which hedgerows are important. The criteria refer to the value of hedgerows from an archaeological, historical, landscape or wildlife perspective. They exclude hedgerows less than 30 years old. If a hedgerow meets any one of the criteria, and it is at least 30 years old, it is 'important'.

Applicants refused consent have a right of appeal. Removal of a hedgerow in contravention of the Regulations is a criminal offence.

In 1998, the Government published a Review of the Hedgerow Regulations. The Review made a number of recommendations on how the Regulations might be strengthened, particularly on how the criteria defining 'important' hedgerows could be improved and simplified. Included in the recommendations were an acknowledgement of the importance of field testing of the revised criteria, and the need for full consultation before the revised Regulations are approved.

#### Hedgerow management

Encourage the appropriate management of low cut over-trimmed hedges or neglected leggy hedgerows by laying or coppicing to provide additional and better wildlife cover, particularly in large-scale, open landscapes with little woodland cover where hedgerows are the main wildlife refuge, and to increase the variety of hedge types. Management may also include the removal of Old Man's Beard in areas where this is suppressing other hedgerow vegetation. A well-managed hedgerow network will also provide improved shelter and shade for livestock, and reduce soil drying and soil erosion by wind and rain.

#### Field margins

Encourage the adoption of permanent grass field margins to help protect the habitat value of hedges and hedgebanks by minimising damage to hedges caused by chemicals/spray drift.



## Biological Diversity

### Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire

Support and encourage the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity across the whole county. Encourage the integration of biodiversity with all forms of land use and land management, particularly by supporting and complementing the aims of the *Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire* and its Habitat and Species Action Plans. The Habitat Action Plans and Species Action Plans contain detailed actions to conserve and enhance biodiversity across the county. They also relate to this Strategy's Guidelines for Agriculture, Woodlands, Hedgerows and Historic Landscapes in this section.

### Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity

Encourage the prevention of further loss and decline, and where practicable maintain, enhance, extend or restore biological diversity in Hampshire through continued, improved or new management of habitats and species as set out in the Character Area Guidelines and in more detail in the Biodiversity Action Plan, and in particular:

- within areas with international or national designations (SPA, cSAC, SSSI) or local designations (SINC – Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation) acknowledged for their importance to nature conservation;
- in the wider countryside outside designated areas, especially within areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels.

### Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire

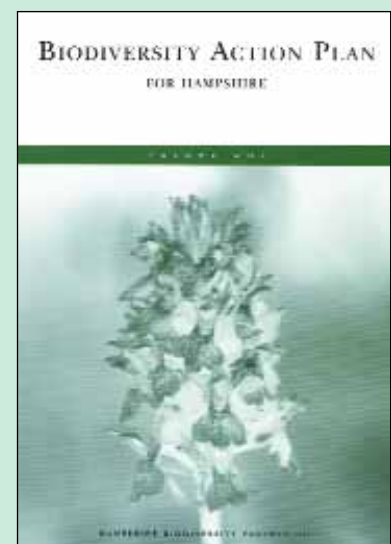
*In 1992 the Government signed the Convention on Biological Diversity at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and pledged to halt the decline in biodiversity within the UK. The Government later published Biodiversity: the UK Action Plan, a broad strategy to conserve and enhance biodiversity, and subsequent reports recognised the important role of both national and local Biodiversity Action Plans in halting the decline and achieving the Government's conservation objectives.*

*The production of the Biodiversity Action Plan translates national objectives into effective action at the county level. The Action Plan is one of the main tasks of the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership which was formed in 1997 to advance the conservation of biodiversity in Hampshire. The Partnership consists of a wide range of organisations able to influence biodiversity in the county. It plays a vital role in stimulating and co-ordinating action. Partners can also assess and monitor their own activities against the objectives, targets and priorities of the Action Plan.*

*The Biodiversity Action Plan is a strategy for action in two volumes. Volume One sets out a framework and the main courses of action, and Volume Two consists of detailed Action Plans for habitats and species of conservation concern in Hampshire. 22 Key Habitats have been identified, comprising 19 of national conservation concern and an additional three of local concern. The Key Habitats are listed under the relevant Character Areas on pages 18 to 39 of this Landscape Strategy. Also, 776 species of conservation concern have been identified in the county with 493 of these included on the Hampshire priority list.*

*In addition to the Action Plans, the Biodiversity Action Plan also includes topic plans for other issues influencing biodiversity, such as water management.*

*The detailed Action Plans provide information and raise awareness; they direct action; they identify the roles of different organisations, establish targets and priorities, and provide a monitoring framework. They will be updated periodically to take account of changing circumstances.*





## Historic Landscapes

### Surviving historic landscapes

Identify, conserve and enhance surviving historic landscapes, particularly those showing little change and significant time depth (visible evidence of different land uses over periods of time). Such areas would include those with relatively intact historic field patterns including ancient woodlands, ancient trees, including pollarded trees, ancient hedgerows, and ancient lanes and tracks; detailed research on the complex nature of historic landscapes should build on and refine the Historic Landscape Types identified



A relatively intact historic field pattern

in the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment (1999). English Heritage has published *Yesterday's World, Tomorrow's Landscape* (1999) to provide a basis for expanding its work on the conservation and public enjoyment of the landscape, and *Sustaining the Historic Environment: new perspectives on the future*, a discussion document outlining a sustainable approach for the future of the whole historic environment.

### Ancient hedgerows, lanes and tracks

Identify, conserve and enhance ancient hedgerows, including ancient trees and other ancient boundaries, ancient lanes and tracks, green lanes, white lanes and drove roads throughout the wider landscape of the county.

### Archaeological features in the landscape

Encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the individual components which contribute to the character and pattern of the wider historic landscape, and in particular the archaeological sites and monuments and their settings which are significant features in the landscape, such as field systems, water features, buildings, structures and earthworks including ancient hillforts, burial mounds, dykes and lynchets; appropriate management may include scrub clearance and restoration of grazing uses.

## Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment

The Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment was published in 1999. The Assessment was commissioned by the County Council and English Heritage and produced by consultants Oxford Archaeological Unit and Scott Wilson Resource Consultants in two volumes. Volume One is the main report and Volume Two contains appendices with descriptions and maps of Historic Landscape Types. The map-based data is available on the County Council's Geographical Information System.

The Historic Landscape Assessment supplements and enhances the county landscape assessment The Hampshire Landscape (1993). It is also part of English Heritage's national programme of encouraging the production of historic landscape assessments.

The Assessment provides a framework for local, more detailed historic landscape assessments in the county, and an additional source of historic landscape information for consideration when decisions involving landscape change are made.

The study assessed the present-day landscape, recognising both current and relict landscape characteristics, and distinctions between historic landscape types which reflect change through time. It identified 85 different Historic Landscape Types under a number of categories including field patterns, commons, woodlands, heathlands, downlands, valley floors, coastal landscapes and parks.

Volume One presents a commentary and analysis of the variations, distribution and proportions of the Historic Landscape Types in the county. It offers a view of areas most likely to retain attributes and characteristics of different historic periods, describing which areas are likely to have had slow rates of change and show greatest coherence of time depth. It shows how different groups of Historic Landscape Types relate to each other and to different parts of Hampshire, and it reviews a range of possible applications of its findings in relation to ongoing land management and land use changes. Volume One also explores the inter-relationships between the Historic Landscape Types and communities of ancient origin such as settlements and parishes.



**Historic designed parkland landscapes**

Encourage the identification, conservation, restoration and/or appropriate management of the features and character of historic designed landscapes, including historic deer parks; in particular, encourage the preparation of 10-year conservation or restoration plans in accordance with Countryside Stewardship guidelines, to restore and manage original design features such as designed views, formal avenues, parkland trees, water features, and return arable land to former grazing use. Restoration plans are an essential basis to seek funding.

## Urban Fringe

**Landscape enhancement**

Promote and encourage policies and initiatives which aim to achieve landscape improvements and provide greater opportunities for public access in urban fringe areas, as set out in the following paragraphs. Such improvements will help to enhance the character and attractiveness of these areas, in turn reducing pressure on adjacent urban and rural areas.

**Landscape features**

Encourage the planting of new woodlands and hedgerows where appropriate, and the restoration and management of existing landscape features to reinforce the existing or former character and structure of the landscape, and to create or enhance wildlife habitats.

**New opportunities for recreation**

Encourage the creation of new opportunities for formal and informal recreation, sports and other forms of public access including new footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways, particularly new links to create more usable networks for recreation and access to work and school.

**Urban fringe strategies**

Encourage the preparation of urban fringe strategies including the involvement of local communities where appropriate.

# Countywide Guidelines: Land Use and Development

## Landscape Character and the Planning System

It is important to ensure that the essential characteristics which give each Character Area at both county and district levels its distinctive sense of place are recognised, respected and enhanced. When preparing or refining landscape character assessments and strategies, a number of factors should be addressed, including:

- Rural character** the different degrees of rural character of all countryside areas from the urban fringe to the most remote areas, in particular recognising areas of unspoilt and inherently rural landscape with few or no urbanising features.
- Quiet areas** quiet areas, particularly those with a sense of remoteness and little or no intrusion from traffic noise.
- Historic landscapes** surviving historic landscapes showing little change and great time depth, particularly areas with relatively intact historic field patterns including ancient woodlands, ancient hedgerows and ancient lanes and tracks; also, specifically the identification of ancient hedgerows, ancient lanes and tracks, green lanes and drove roads throughout the wider landscape; detailed research on the complex nature of historic landscapes should build on and refine the Historic Landscape Types identified in the *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment* (1999).
- Artificial lighting** the sources and effects of artificial lighting and its capacity to erode the character of rural landscapes and create visual intrusion in adjacent areas.
- Landscape condition** the current condition of the various landscape features and other characteristics within each Character Area and Landscape Type, and the need for either conservation, enhancement or restoration.
- Landmarks** notable landmarks and their settings, including both prominent landscape features and less obvious features of more local interest.
- Electricity transmission lines** the routes of electricity transmission lines including both high and low-voltage systems, aiming to identify particularly sensitive landscapes where lines, pylons and posts are particularly intrusive, and where route re-alignment or undergrounding of low-voltage lines is worthy of consideration.
- Townscape character** the different character of the various types of townscape including natural landscape features within urban areas, to complement assessments of rural areas.
- Adjoining authorities** landscape assessments and strategies for adjoining areas, including adjacent authorities to establish links and achieve compatibility.
- Public participation** local community participation in the landscape character assessment process, building on local knowledge and helping to achieve local understanding, consensus and commitment to the outcome of assessments.

The identification of these various characteristics of the landscape should help ensure that, through local planning policies, or local landscape assessments and strategies which may be supplementary planning guidance, new development proposals respect the essential characteristics of the local Character Area. Such frameworks should help to:

- influence the form and location of new development proposals, including telecommunication masts and, through planning conditions and obligations, enhance the landscape of the development and its setting by reflecting the pattern of existing features.



<b>Locally indigenous species</b>	To help integrate and soften the impact of development, encourage and promote the planting and natural regeneration of the indigenous and characteristic tree and shrub species which occur locally within each different Character Area and help to define their distinctive character.
<b>Countryside Design Summaries, Village Design Statements and Parish Maps</b>	Encourage and promote the preparation and adoption of Countryside Design Summaries, Village Design Statements and Parish Maps, which can make a significant contribution towards the understanding, protection and enhancement of the local character, sense of place and landscape setting of rural towns, villages and smaller settlements.

## Countryside Design Summaries

In 1996, the Countryside Commission (now Countryside Agency) published Countryside Design Summaries, advising local planning authorities on the preparation of Countryside Design Summaries.

Countryside Design Summaries aim to show how necessary development can be accommodated in rural settlements and countryside areas in ways which respect local character and avoid standardised building designs and layouts.

A Countryside Design Summary is a descriptive analysis which explains the relationship between the landscape, settlement patterns and buildings. Its emphasis is on the countryside setting of settlements and the ways in which different landscapes provide those settings. From this analysis, it identifies principles to be applied to new developments, and the implications of those principles for the design of new buildings and the spaces between them. It can provide a basis for objective guidance on good design and is suitable for approval as Supplementary Planning Guidance, providing links with the development plan. It can be helpful in development control decisions, and also ensures that design impact is considered in forward planning when potential development sites are being assessed.

The publication Countryside Design Summaries also gives practical advice on their preparation, including the resources needed, the organisation and management of the process and how the completed Summary should be used on a day-to-day basis.

## Village Design Statements

In 1996, the Countryside Commission (now Countryside Agency) published Village Design, encouraging the preparation of Village Design Statements by local communities, and advising on how this could be achieved.

The aim is that local communities should take the lead in developing Village Design Statements, which are intended to influence the operation of the statutory planning system. They need the approval of local planning authorities before being adopted by the authority as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Village Design Statements provide a context for achieving harmonious new development based on local character and sense of place. They have no role in decisions about whether or not development should take place.

A Village Design Statement is prepared by a wide section of a local community and should represent the views of that community. It describes the visual character of the settlement and its setting, and it establishes design principles, showing how that local character can be protected and enhanced when new development of any scale takes place.

The publication Village Design also offers detailed guidance on the production of a Village Design Statement, and deals with its effective use after being approved as Supplementary Planning Guidance.



## Urban Expansion

*National and local planning guidance aims to:*

*encourage the development of land within urban areas, particularly on previously developed sites, provided that this creates or maintains a good living environment, before considering the development of greenfield sites.*

In order to meet future demand for new development in the county which can not be accommodated within existing urban areas some greenfield sites will be allocated in the development plan. Where development takes place:

- ensure that the existing features and structure of the landscape which help to create both the local and wider landscape setting of the area to be developed are recognised, respected and enhanced where this is practicable. This may include the creation of new woodlands where appropriate and the provision of public access for recreational purposes. The design of new development should aim to respect the local characteristics and building materials which contribute towards the identity and sense of place of the character area.

## Recreation, Tourism, Access and Diversification

*National and local planning guidance aims to:*

*promote environmentally sustainable tourism and informal countryside recreation, particularly opportunities which encourage appreciation of the landscape, wildlife, culture and history of the area in ways which do not damage the character and quality of those assets;*

*ensure that proposals for formal recreation activities, including new golf courses and golf course extensions, are located close to major urban areas or towns and, where appropriate, using opportunities to enhance degraded landscapes, helping to:*

- meet local needs, reducing the need to travel, minimising additional traffic on rural roads and lanes and enabling convenient access by public transport, foot and cycle;
- enhance the character and quality of the landscape and create new wildlife habitats;

*ensure that proposals for economic diversification in rural areas including those requiring new buildings or the conversion of redundant farm buildings are appropriate in location, scale and design, and respect the character of the local landscape and the historic and architectural character of the existing buildings;*

*ensure that proposals associated with the keeping and training of horses, including indoor and outdoor equestrian centres and riding schools, and paddocks for private use with field shelters or small stables, are located and designed to minimise any adverse and urbanising effects on the character of the landscape.*





## Recreation, Tourism and Diversification

### Motor sports

Encourage the use of locations close to existing major noise sources such as main roads and motorways for noisy motor sports, including noisy water sports, to help protect the essentially quiet character of rural areas.



### Formal recreation

Ensure that the urbanising effects of new development proposals outside built-up areas, particularly those with new buildings, access roads and car parks, and in the case of golf courses, mown greens and fairways, tees and bunkers are minimised. In particular:

- ensure the retention and enhancement of the existing landscape structure, features and wildlife habitats;
- ensure that the new landscape proposals, including the species used, reflect and reinforce the character of the local landscape;
- ensure that new buildings or the conversion of existing buildings to new uses respect the historic and architectural character of the locality;
- minimise the impact of any new lighting requirements, particularly those with a more intrusive nature such as floodlit driving ranges associated with golf courses;
- ensure that modifications to the landform, particularly those of a specialised nature required for golf courses are kept to a minimum where possible, and broadly reflect the scale of the landscape.

### Whole Farm Plans

Where appropriate, encourage the preparation and implementation of Whole Farm Plans in association with proposals for economic diversification, to increase opportunities for permissive public access, enhance wildlife habitats and to enhance the landscape setting of the proposal.

### Renewable energy

Ensure that economic diversification to electricity generation from renewable/non-fossil fuel sources such as short rotation coppice, requiring new power generation plants and electricity transmission lines, respect the character of the landscape and aim to enhance the interests of biodiversity and other environmental considerations. Underground electricity lines and noise minimisation are key issues in respecting landscape character.



### Horse riding

Encourage a reduction in the urbanising effects on the character of the landscape of proposals and facilities associated with horse riding and training. In particular:

encourage the use of land close to urban areas, towns and smaller settlements for such proposals rather than in more remote or isolated rural landscapes, particularly those with an exposed or open character;

encourage the re-use of existing buildings for such developments where possible, or in the case of new buildings, the use of locations closely associated with existing buildings, and ensure that their scale and design aim to minimise the visual impact on the local landscape;

where new post and rail, or preferably post and wire fencing is proposed, encourage new hedge planting outside fence lines, except in open landscapes where hedges would be out of character;

encourage appropriate landscape management of existing paddocks and larger equestrian sites including:

- hedgerow management, including regular trimming, hedge laying, coppicing and double fencing of hedges where appropriate, and the retention of self-sown sapling trees to provide shade and shelter for horses, and to avoid the steady transformation, through excessive browsing, of hedges into tree lines with little or no hedge base;
- fencing off woodlands to avoid damage to woodland vegetation;
- the avoidance of poor management practices which adversely affect the appearance of the landscape including over-grazing and poaching;
- the removal of horse jumps, plastic tapes and other unsightly equipment when not in frequent use.





## Access

County Council policy aims to:

**maintain, improve, extend and promote opportunities for access to the countryside including:**

- the Rights of Way network including footpaths and bridleways for walking, cycling and riding;
- Country Parks and other publicly owned land with recreational, landscape, historic, archaeological or wildlife interest;
- continued support and encouragement of Parish Councils throughout the county in maintaining and improving their local Rights of Way networks under the Parish Paths Partnership initiative;
- continued development of horse riding trails and on-road and off-road cycle trails, in accordance with the aims of the National Cycle Network, the Hampshire Recreational Cycling Strategy and other local strategies and trails, and ensuring that maintenance and re-surfacing work makes use of materials which respect the local character of the rural landscape;
- the use of Traffic Regulation Orders where necessary and appropriate to control or prohibit the use of motor vehicles on green lanes where damage, disturbance or conflict between users is occurring; in particular cases, damage to valuable habitats or ancient hedgerows for example, could be permanent.

### Additional public access

Encourage farmers and landowners to participate in agri-environmental and woodland management schemes such as the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, Environmentally Sensitive Areas initiative, and Woodland Grant Scheme, which allow public access on private land where appropriate. Additional public access can also be achieved through the establishment of permissive footpaths, for example, in association with planning consents for the conversion of redundant farm buildings to new uses.

## Parish Paths Partnership

The Parish Paths Partnership is a grant aid scheme open to parish councils and other local groups interested in the maintenance, improvement and promotion of their local public rights of way network. The Parish Paths Partnership is known as 'P3'.

Hampshire County Council's Parish Paths Liaison Officer provides enabling support for P3 member groups. Funding and training are provided to equip the groups with the essentials to work on and promote their local paths. The groups consist mainly of local volunteers.

The P3 scheme in Hampshire is in its sixth year and has 70 local groups at various stages in their individual work programmes. After a basic path survey, the groups work to improve the condition and accessibility of their paths and later initiate promotions such as leaflets and map boards. Projects range from vegetation clearance and boardwalk construction to waymarking and the provision of circular routes with disabled access.

For more information about the Parish Paths Partnership scheme contact the Parish Paths Liaison Officer, Robert Thompson (01962 846953).



## Transport

### *National and local planning guidance aims to:*

- reduce the need to travel, especially by car;
- increase the use of alternatives to the private car, including public transport, cycling and walking, to help reduce the rate of traffic growth;
- focus major generators of traffic demand in city, town and district centres, and near to major public transport interchanges;
- locate local and day-to-day facilities which need to be near their clients in local centres so that they are accessible by walking and cycling.

### **Character of roads and lanes**

Support and encourage policies which help ensure that the rural and historic character of minor roads and lanes is respected, particularly ancient roads and lanes, including those with sunken profiles and ancient hedgebanks or verges; engineering improvements should be discouraged unless required by safety considerations, and should only proceed when no other alternative is practicable.

### **Cycling and walking**

Support and encourage policies which promote recreational cycling and walking on appropriate on-road and off-road trails in accordance with the aims of the National Cycle Network, the Hampshire Recreational Cycling Strategy and other local strategies and trails; such activities will help to minimise the intrusive effects of traffic noise on quiet rural areas remote from major routes.

### **Traffic management**

Where traffic management and traffic reduction schemes are required to reduce traffic speed and increase safety in rural settlements, on acknowledged 'rat runs' and other busy rural roads and lanes, ensure that the proposals respect the character of the local landscape; road widening, easing of bends, lighting, additional signs, the creation of passing bays, new kerbs and verges, new junctions and other engineering improvements can have an urbanising effect on the landscape.



## The Hampshire Road Verge Management Project

The County Council is responsible for the management of most of the road verges within Hampshire. A partnership has been established between the County Council and Hampshire Wildlife Trust to manage these verges to enhance their landscape and wildlife value.

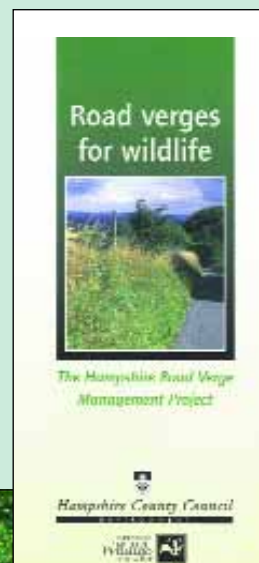
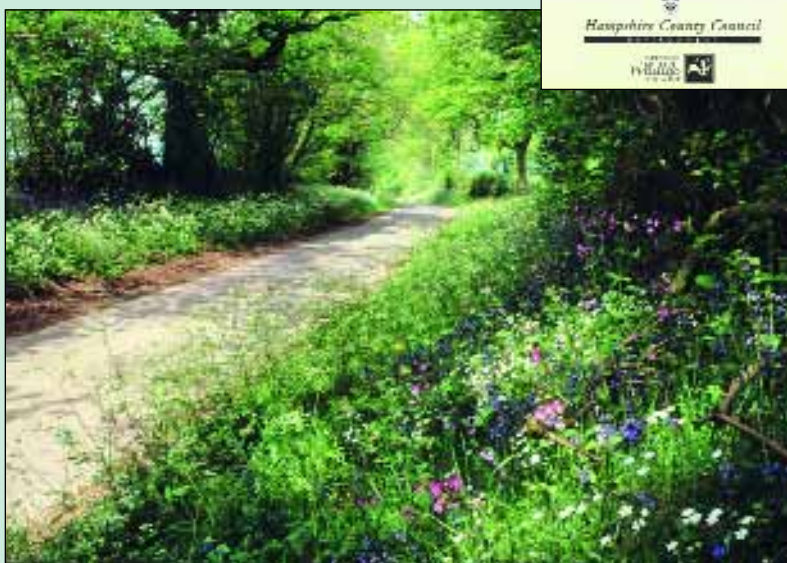
A large number of verges have been surveyed to establish their ecological importance. Management prescriptions have been drawn up to ensure that important verges are treated in ways which benefit wildlife whilst fulfilling road safety requirements. This normally entails arranging the timing and frequency of cutting to allow wild flowers to flower and set seed.

As further important roadside verges are identified they will be surveyed and evaluated, and management will be prescribed. All sites will be monitored periodically to ensure that management is achieving the desired objectives.

The County Council and Hampshire Wildlife Trust are keen to identify additional wildlife-rich roadside verges.

Contacts:  
 County Planning Department  
 The Castle  
 Winchester, SO23 8UE  
 01962 846803

Hampshire Wildlife Trust  
 8 Romsey Road  
 Eastleigh, SO50 9AL  
 023 8061 3636



### Verges and banks

Encourage the appropriate management of the natural vegetation of the verges and banks of roads and lanes, particularly those supporting a wide range of species. Appropriate management should aim to maintain or enhance the local character and biodiversity of the area and include new planting where appropriate, while securing public safety. Verges can also be a valuable refuge for walkers as a safety measure when using rural roads and lanes.

### New roads and other facilities

Where new road developments and other facilities are required:

Ensure that routes for new roads and bypasses are carefully aligned and designed to absorb the road and any new structures and lighting into the landscape, minimising their impact on existing landscape features; and that mitigation measures including new planting, the species used, earthworks and hardworks reflect the pattern and character of the local landscape.

Encourage the use of locations closely associated with existing developed areas when major new service stations and petrol stations are required along the strategic road network, aiming to avoid the introduction of prominent new buildings, structures and lighting into otherwise rural landscapes.

### Major transport corridors

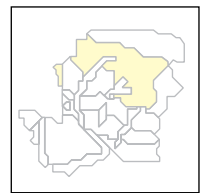
Support and encourage policies which aim to conserve and enhance the character and quality of the landscape along major transport corridors including both road and rail routes. The design and management of the landscape corridor of such routes helps to reduce its impact locally and integrate it with the character of the landscape. It also provides the opportunity to create an impression of the county for users of the route.

# CHARACTER AREA *Guidelines*

*The purpose of the Character Area Guidelines is to set out the principles necessary to maintain or reinforce the particular sense of place of each Character Area. The county landscape assessment identified the main characteristics of each Area and, to retain the essence of that character, the characteristics should be respected and enhanced.*

## Hampshire Downs Guidelines

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



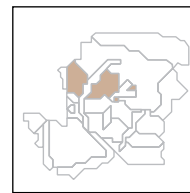
- the predominantly remote and quiet rural character throughout extensive tracts of agricultural landscape;
- the generally high degree of enclosure and seclusion created by the numerous woodlands and hedgerows;
- the sense of openness and space and the spectacular panoramic views provided by the generally high ground of the Character Area;
- the landscape, ecological and cultural assets of the North Wessex Downs AONB, supporting the work and management objectives proposed by the Downlands Conference group; also maintain and enhance the East Hampshire AONB, supporting the AONB Management Guidelines, which aim to help conserve and manage the designated area;
- the diverse range of wildlife habitats including the numerous ancient hedgerows and ancient woodlands, including the chalk hangers, and areas of unimproved species-rich chalk grassland; enhance biological diversity especially within areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels;
- the character of the various archaeological sites, historic field patterns and historic roads, lanes and tracks, including ancient sunken lanes;
- the prominent skylines of wooded hangers or exposed ridges and hilltops which occur on the steep and dramatic escarpments particularly along the east and north boundaries of the Character Area;
- the pattern of widely-dispersed settlements, and the characteristic building materials and design styles, including timber-framed buildings and the widespread use of brick and flint;
- the structure and condition of the particular landscape features including woodlands, trees, hedgerows and old chalk pits, which contribute towards the biodiversity and character of the landscape, through the use of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally within each different Landscape Type.





## Mid Hampshire Down Guidelines

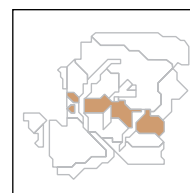
Maintain and enhance the distinctive sense of place of the Character Area and each Landscape Type. In particular, maintain and enhance:



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

## South Hampshire Downs Guidelines

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



- the predominantly remote and quiet rural character of the landscape;
- the sense of openness and space, and the spectacular panoramic views provided by the domed hilltops and sweeping contours of the prominent ridge line;
- the more enclosed and secluded character on the dip slope south of the main ridge line created by the numerous woodlands and hedgerows;
- the landscape, ecological and cultural assets of the East Hampshire AONB, supporting the integrated AONB Management Guidelines, which aim to help conserve and manage the designated area;
- the range of wildlife habitats including the numerous ancient woodlands, ancient hedgerows and areas of unimproved species-rich chalk grassland; enhance biological diversity especially within areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels;
- the traditional land management techniques employed in particular parts of the character area, by supporting and encouraging the aims of the South Downs Environmentally Sensitive Area designation;
- the character of the various archaeological sites, historic field patterns and historic roads, lanes and tracks, including ancient sunken lanes;
- the pattern of widely dispersed settlements and isolated farms, and the characteristic building materials and design styles, including the widespread use of brick and flint;

- the structure and condition of the particular landscape features including woodlands, trees and hedgerows and old chalk pits, which contribute towards the biodiversity and character of the landscape, through the use of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally within each different Landscape Type.

## Cranborne Chase Guidelines

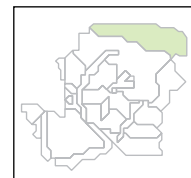
**Maintain and enhance the distinctive sense of place of the Character Area and each Landscape Type.** In particular, maintain and enhance:



- the predominantly remote and quiet rural character of the landscape;
- the generally open large-scale character of the landscape, and the broad, sweeping skylines and open views;
- the more wooded and enclosed character of the landscape in the south east of the Area;
- the landscape, ecological and cultural assets of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB, and support and encourage initiatives which aim to help protect and manage the designated area including an integrated AONB Management Plan;
- the open and unenclosed species-rich chalk grassland of Martin Down and Tidpit Down, and extend smaller areas where practicable; maintain and enhance the small pockets of ancient woodland; enhance biological diversity especially within areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels;
- the many sites and monuments of significant archaeological interest throughout the Area, including the various historic field patterns and historic lanes and tracks;
- the pattern of small linear valley settlements and the characteristic building materials and design styles;
- the structure and condition of the particular landscape features including woodlands, trees and hedgerows and old chalk pits, which contribute towards the biodiversity and character of the landscape, through the use of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally within each different Landscape Type.



## North Hampshire Lowland and Heath Guidelines



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

- the generally remote and quiet rural character of many parts of the Area which occur in pockets throughout, such as the area north of Kingsclere and Echchinswell;
- the generally well-enclosed small-scale character of the landscape created by the numerous woodlands, well-treed hedgerows, and on more acidic soils, forestry plantations;
- the landscape, ecological and cultural assets of the North Wessex Downs AONB, supporting the work and management objectives proposed by the Downlands Conference group;
- the varied character of the river valleys, such as the Loddon, the Whitewater and the Blackwater, and other tributaries of the River Thames which meander through the Character Area;
- the diverse range of wildlife habitats including the numerous ancient woodlands, ancient hedgerows and species-rich grasslands, and on more acidic soils, heathlands; enhance biological diversity especially within areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels;
- the traditional management techniques necessary to achieve the continuity and long-term management of existing heathland areas, and the restoration of areas of former heathland, by supporting and encouraging the aims of the Hampshire Heathlands Project;
- the diversity of landscapes and wildlife habitats, and the recreational and educational opportunities of those parts of the Character Area within the Forest of Eversley, by supporting and encouraging the aims of the Forest of Eversley Project;
- the character of the various archaeological sites, and the character of the winding roads, lanes and tracks including the predominantly ancient pre-Enclosure small to medium-sized field pattern throughout the area;
- the pattern of well-dispersed scattered villages and farms, and the characteristic building materials and design styles, including timber-framed brick and tile buildings;
- the structure and condition of the particular landscape features including woodlands, trees and hedgerows, which contribute towards the biodiversity and character of the landscape, through the use of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally within each different Landscape Type.

### Forests of Bere and Eversley

The Forests of Bere and Eversley lie in south east and north east Hampshire respectively in areas which correspond broadly with the former royal hunting forests of Bere Portchester and Eversley. The two Forests are areas of working countryside which lie close to highly populated urban areas. Both Forests are used by local communities for a wide range of recreational and commercial purposes.

A partnership between local authorities and other organisations has been set up to enhance the countryside of the Forests of Bere and Eversley, and provide new opportunities for recreation and tourism. To help achieve its aims the partnership has drafted a Strategy for each of the Forests. The Strategies are intended to inform and guide those who have a role in shaping the future of the Forests. The Strategies set out a shared vision for the Forests taking account of their current condition and outlining guidelines to help achieve the vision.

The vision is to establish and enhance the Forests as multiple use, environmentally and biologically diverse living and working countryside. The vision can be achieved through providing new opportunities for recreation and tourism, by promoting and supporting sustainable forestry and farming for future generations, by protecting and restoring valuable and fragile landscapes and habitats, and by encouraging the environmental education of local communities. The partnership offers grant aid towards management projects which help support the vision.

The partnership is led by Hampshire County Council and includes the Unitary and District Authorities in and around the Forests, as well as the Countryside Agency, Forest Enterprise and the Hampshire Wildlife Trust. Town and Parish Councils are important consultees and stakeholders in both Forests.

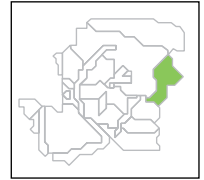
For more information about the Forests of Bere and Eversley contact the Forest Project Officer at Hampshire County Council (01962 846771).





## Western Weald Lowland and Heath Guidelines

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

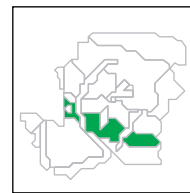


- the generally remote and quiet rural character of many parts of the Area which occur in pockets throughout, such as north of Kingsley, in the Hawkley and Empshott area and in parts of Woolmer Forest, Ludshott and Bramshott Commons;
- the distinctive sense of place and generally diverse character of the Area, including isolated areas of hop-growing and particularly the spectacular views of the varied and dramatic topography, notably the chalk and greensand hangers, and the sweeping contours of the chalk down to the north and south;
- the generally well-enclosed small-scale character of the landscape created by the numerous woodlands, well-treed hedgerows, and on more acidic sandy soils, forestry plantations or secondary woodlands on former heathland;
- the landscape, ecological and cultural assets of the East Hampshire AONB, supporting the integrated AONB Management Guidelines, which aim to help conserve and manage the designated area;
- the diverse range of wildlife habitats including the numerous ancient woodlands, notably the greensand hangers, species-rich grasslands, ancient hedgerows, sunken lanes and on more acidic sandy soils, heathland; enhance biological diversity especially within areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels;
- the traditional management techniques necessary to achieve the continuity and long-term management of existing heathland areas, and the restoration of areas of former heathland, by supporting and encouraging the aims of the Hampshire Heathlands Project;
- the character of the various archaeological sites, and the character of the winding, often sunken lanes and tracks, including the largely ancient pre-Enclosure small or medium sized field pattern of the Area;
- the pattern of generally well-dispersed settlements, and the characteristic building materials, including Malmstone which is often used in conjunction with flint;
- the structure and condition of the particular landscape features including woodlands, trees and hedgerows, which contribute towards the biodiversity and character of the landscape, through the use of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally within each different Landscape Type.



## South Hampshire Lowland and Heath Guidelines

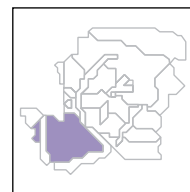
Maintain and enhance the distinctive sense of place of the Character Area and each Landscape Type. In particular, maintain and enhance:



- the remote and quiet rural character of some parts of the Area, for example, areas associated with the upper River Hamble valley north of the M27;
- the generally well-enclosed small-scale character of the landscape created by the numerous woodlands and well-treed hedgerows; also the contrast within the Area provided by the open spacious character and long spectacular views possible from the chalk ridge of Portsdown Hill;
- the diverse range of wildlife habitats, including the numerous ancient woodlands, ancient hedgerows and species-rich grasslands, including the chalk grassland of Portsdown Hill; enhance biological diversity especially within areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels;
- the diversity of landscapes and wildlife habitats, and the recreational and educational opportunities of those parts of the Character Area within the Forest of Bere, by supporting and encouraging the aims of the Forest of Bere Project;
- the character of the various archaeological sites, and character of the winding roads, lanes and tracks, including the generally ancient pre-Enclosure small to medium-sized field pattern; also, the more recent regular small-scale field pattern and characteristic hedgerows of the Pasture on Clay Landscape Type;
- the general pattern of well-dispersed settlements, and the characteristic building materials and design styles, including timber-framed brick buildings;
- the structure and condition of the particular landscape features including woodlands, trees and hedgerows, which contribute to the biodiversity and character of the landscape, through the use of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally within each different Landscape Type.

## New Forest Lowland and Heath Guidelines

Support and encourage the work of the New Forest Committee and in particular the aims and objectives of its Strategy for the New Forest (1996), and its current New Forest LIFE Partnership project to manage and enhance the nature conservation value of the New Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC).



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

- the unique, richly varied and distinctive character of the landscape, particularly the New Forest Heritage Area including its wildlife habitats, recreational value and the attractive character of its settlements;
- the continuity and economic viability of the crucially important role of commoning in the management by grazing of the unenclosed heathlands and ancient pasture woodlands;
- the rich diversity and traditional management of wildlife habitats and species of international importance, including the dry and humid heathlands, and ancient pasture woodlands grazed by commoners' animals, the bogs, mires, streams and ponds, the neutral and acid grasslands, and the ancient coppice woodlands; enhance biological diversity especially within areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels;



- the landscape, ecological and cultural assets of the South Hampshire Coast AONB and Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB, and support and encourage initiatives which aim to help protect and manage these designated areas including integrated AONB Management Plans;
- the remoteness and tranquillity of many parts of the Area;
- those areas, routes and focal points in the landscape where their particular recreational attractiveness can cause disturbance, damage and erosion. Management of particular recreational activities, including directing visitors to more robust areas, and reviewing locations of car parks in areas particularly susceptible to environmental damage can help relieve pressure caused by most forms of recreation including cycling, walking, horse riding and angling;
- the well-enclosed and secluded character of the ancient woodlands, forestry plantations, well-treed hedgerows and small fields, and the contrast provided by the broad, exposed character and long views of the heathland plains and plateaux;
- the historic character of this unique, diverse and ecologically rich landscape which is intrinsically related to its commoning tradition, and the complex pattern of grazed, unenclosed heathlands and ancient woodlands; also, the forestry Inclosures, the field patterns consisting of irregular pre-Enclosure fields and more recent Enclosure fields, and the network of winding roads, lanes and tracks;
- the pattern of occasionally clustered but generally well-dispersed settlements and farms, and the characteristic timber-framed buildings, thatched roofs and chalk and cob walls;
- the structure and condition of the particular landscape features which contribute to the biodiversity and character of the landscape, including woodlands, hedgerows and trees, and particularly the numerous ancient trees, within the Character Area. The use of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally within each different Landscape Type will help to maintain and enhance the distinctive character of the Area.



## New Forest Coast Guidelines

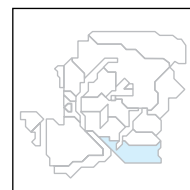
**Maintain and enhance the distinctive sense of place of the Character Area and each Landscape Type.** In particular, maintain and enhance:



- the remote and quiet coastal character of many parts of the coastal plain and the coastline, for example, between Lymington and Calshot/Blackfield; also, the significant recreational value of the whole coastline;
- the natural landscape features of the undeveloped coast, including the open exposed coastal character of the coastline and much of the coastal plain landscape, and the broad and open views of The Solent and the Isle of Wight; also, the contrast with the more wooded and hedged landscape of the Enclosed Coastal Plain, including the well-wooded valleys of many streams and rivers, notably the tidal estuaries of the Lymington and Beaulieu Rivers;
- the landscape, ecological and cultural assets of the South Hampshire Coast AONB, and support and encourage initiatives which aim to help protect and manage the designated area including an integrated AONB Management Plan;
- the diverse range of wildlife habitats particularly along the coastline, including coastal grazing marshes, shingle beaches, spits and banks, saline lagoons, saltmarshes, mudflats, river estuaries and creeks; also, the ancient woodlands, unimproved meadows, rivers and streams; enhance biological diversity especially within areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels;
- sea defences and coastal protection measures to reduce coastal erosion and prevent flooding where essential, but where practicable allow natural coastal processes to continue, rather than engineering solutions which can cause adverse effects elsewhere on the coastline;
- the historic character of the coastline including historic or archaeological coastal features and landmarks including ancient monuments, historic buildings and defence features; the historic character of the ancient pre-Enclosure medium-sized field pattern in some parts of the coastal plain, and the associated winding roads, lanes and tracks;
- existing coastal recreational areas including coastal footpaths and bridleways, land owned by the County Council and other sites with public access, and acquire, extend and manage additional coastal land for appropriate public access providing no environmental damage would be caused;
- the open coastal setting and the pattern of settlements, more densely concentrated west of Lymington, but very well dispersed east of Lymington where the farms and cottages have a characteristic traditional estate influence;
- the character of the landscape with new planting where appropriate, helping to reinforce existing landscape features and reduce the visual impact of new or prominent buildings or features including recreational facilities such as car parks;
- the structure and condition of the particular landscape features including coastal woodlands, trees and hedgerows, which contribute towards the biodiversity and character of the landscape, through the use of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally within each different Landscape Type.

## South Hampshire Coast Guidelines

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

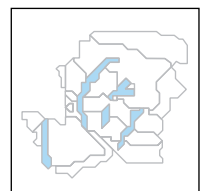


- the remote and quiet coastal character of some parts of the coastal plain and coastline, for example, between the lower Meon Valley and Warsash, and other smaller areas associated with stream and river valleys, notably parts of the tidal estuary of the River Hamble and the River Meon valley; also, the significant recreational value of the whole coastline;

- the natural landscape features of the undeveloped coast, including the open coastal character of the coastline and parts of the coastal plain, and the broad and open views of Southampton Water, The Solent and the Isle of Wight; also, the contrast with the more wooded landscape of the Enclosed Coastal Plain including the well-wooded stream and river valleys which interrupt the coastal plain, notably the River Hamble and River Alver valleys;
- the landscape, ecological and cultural assets of the Chichester Harbour AONB, and support and encourage initiatives which aim to help protect and manage the designated area including an integrated AONB Management Plan;
- the diverse range of wildlife habitats particularly in Portsmouth, Langstone and Chichester Harbours and along the coastline, including coastal heathland, coastal grazing marshes, sand dunes, shingle beaches, spits and banks, saline lagoons, salt marshes, mudflats, river estuaries and creeks; also, the ancient woodlands, unimproved meadows, rivers and streams; enhance biological diversity especially within areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels;
- sea defences and coastal protection measures to reduce coastal erosion and prevent flooding where appropriate, but where practicable allow natural coastal processes to continue, rather than engineering solutions which can cause adverse effects elsewhere on the coastline;
- the historic character of the coastline including historic or archaeological coastal features and landmarks including ancient monuments, historic buildings and defence features; the historic character of the remnant ancient pre-Enclosure field patterns in some parts of the coastal plain;
- existing coastal recreational areas including coastal footpaths and bridleways, land owned by the County Council and other sites with public access, and acquire, extend and manage additional coastal land for appropriate public access providing no environmental damage would be caused;
- the pattern of small isolated settlements and farms between the towns and larger urban areas;
- the character of the landscape with new planting where appropriate, helping to reinforce existing landscape features and reduce the visual impact of new or prominent buildings or features including recreational facilities such as car parks;
- the structure and condition of the particular landscape features including coastal woodlands, trees and hedgerows, which contribute towards the biodiversity and character of the landscape, through the use of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally within each different Landscape Type.

## Avon/Test/Itchen and Meon River Valleys Guidelines

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



- the generally unspoilt, remote and quiet rural character of most parts of the valleys away from the noise intrusion and urban influences in the proximity of main roads, major towns and mineral workings; also, the significant value of the various recreational opportunities in the valleys;
- the generally small-scale, enclosed and intimate character of the upper parts of the valleys, apart from the Avon; elsewhere, the variable enclosure of the valleys, particularly the loosely-structured landscape of the floodplains consisting of occasional hedges and small woods, and single trees or tree lines along water courses including willow and alder carr;
- the traditional land management techniques employed in parts of the valley floors, by supporting and encouraging the aims of the Avon Valley and Test Valley Environmentally Sensitive Area designations;

- the traditional land management techniques employed in parts of the valley floors, by supporting and encouraging the aims of the Avon Valley and Test Valley Environmentally Sensitive Area designations;
- the landscape, ecological and cultural assets of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB, North Wessex Downs AONB and East Hampshire AONB, and support and encourage initiatives which aim to help conserve and manage these designated areas including the work and management objectives for the North Wessex Downs AONB proposed by the Downlands Conference group, and the integrated Management Guidelines for the East Hampshire AONB;
- the diverse range of wildlife habitats particularly on the floodplains, including unimproved grazing marshes, reedbeds, fen vegetation, carr, swamps, numerous ponds and lakes, and occasional ancient woodlands; also, the rich aquatic flora and fauna associated with the clear nutrient-rich spring water arising in the chalk; enhance biological diversity especially within areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels;
- water levels in rivers and streams, by supporting the aims of the Environment Agency's Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAP), particularly where low summer flows affect both the levels of biodiversity and the quality of the landscape; also, appropriate flood defence and erosion control measures;
- wetland pastures, including the reversion to wetland pasture of arable land next to rivers and streams, or the creation of grass margins between arable fields and watercourses or species-rich grassland to act as a buffer;



- the characteristic linear pattern of settlements along the course of the valleys, the historic pattern of floodplain water meadows and the historic character of the winding roads and lanes;
- the character of the valley landscape with new planting or tree management where appropriate, helping to reinforce existing landscape features including pollard willows, tree lines and significant hedgerows;
- the structure and condition of the particular landscape features including woodlands, trees and hedgerows, which contribute towards the biodiversity and character of the landscape, through the use of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally within each different Landscape Type.

## Local Environment Agency Plans

Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs) are produced by the Environment Agency. A LEAP is a five-year action plan setting out a programme of local environmental protection and enhancement for a particular area to be carried out by the Environment Agency and partner organisations.

The Agency has wide-ranging responsibilities to protect and, where appropriate improve the environment, including: achieving improvements in the quality of air, land and water; the conservation of natural resources, animals and plants; managing water resources; improving fisheries; controlling pollution and improving standards of waste disposal.

Following a formal consultation process, the Agency publishes its LEAP for a particular area. The LEAP describes the plan area concerned, outlines the issues which relate to the Agency's responsibilities, and sets out a list of action points responding to those issues, taking account of costs and benefits and identifying timescales for delivery. The action points often cover issues such as the effects of river engineering works on biodiversity, reduced water quality of sea bathing waters, low summer flow rates in streams, groundwater contamination, and the spread of alien flora and fauna in watercourses. The Agency undertakes annual reviews to monitor progress on the action points and report on any changes in the programme.

The County Council is a consultee on all LEAPs within Hampshire. It encourages the Environment Agency to ensure that the character of the landscape is recognised and respected as it carries out its responsibilities set out in each LEAP.





# IMPLEMENTATION *of the Strategy*

# IMPLEMENTATION of the Strategy

## Introduction

This section sets out the various ways in which the Strategy can make practical progress towards achieving the three main aims as set out on page 7. The guidelines serve little purpose unless carried forward into effective action.

Significant environmental improvements are being achieved in Hampshire by the actions of numerous agencies, organisations, voluntary groups and individuals. This Strategy outlines an overall framework which is intended to harness and direct all these activities.

Landscape improvements can be achieved by means of effective policies, well-directed advice, raising awareness and encouraging action on the ground, including support for particular projects by direct funding.

## Roles and responsibilities

The organisations, agencies and individuals involved in protecting and shaping the landscape make their contributions in many different ways. Government agencies and others with statutory responsibilities including local authorities, play a vitally important role in the protection, conservation and enhancement of the environment. They have responsibilities for wildlife, historic and cultural assets, as well as duties to control pollution and wastes. Their role is also to ensure that the needs of agriculture, proposals for new development and conservation are balanced in sustainable ways, and that the countryside remains an attractive resource and a source of public enjoyment. These responsibilities are achieved through a variety of practical means. They encourage, advise, influence and provide information and technical services for others, and it is their role to promote understanding and raise awareness of environmental matters. They also undertake research, develop new techniques and run practical projects and environmental improvement schemes.

Farmers, landowners and foresters and their representatives play a pivotal role in managing the land and looking after most of the countryside, and other organisations, voluntary groups and individuals also make an invaluable contribution towards environmental management and improvement.

## Partnerships

The success of this Strategy depends on the wealth of knowledge, expertise and commitment of these agencies, organisations and individuals, not only in engaging the many successful partnerships already working together for the environment, but also in developing new connections and partnerships to help achieve the Strategy's aims.

## Implementation of Guidelines

The Implementation of Guidelines section on pages 98 and 99 is set out in tabular form to show where particular guidelines apply geographically. The Character Areas are grouped into broad 'families', for example Chalk Downs encompasses the four individual chalk Character Areas. Each 'family' contains its own set of detailed Landscape Types, and the guidelines which apply are shown under the relevant Landscape Type.

## Framework for Action

The Framework for Action section on pages 100 to 103 outlines the next stages of the Strategy in which partnership working will begin the implementation of particular guidelines. It also sets out the mechanisms through which implementation can be achieved.

### Grants, Advice and Local Environmental Action Groups

The agencies and organisations who offer grant aid, management schemes and advice, and those who undertake local action on the ground are listed in this section under Grants, Advice and Local Environmental Action Groups on pages 104 and 105.

### Landscape indicators

There is a growing awareness of the need to monitor the impact and influence of European, national and local policies on landscape change. At present the development of landscape indicators is in its infancy. In 1999, the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions published revised key indicators for sustainable development. The indicators include landscape and wildlife, forests and woodlands. These will set the framework for the development of indicators at national and local levels.

This Strategy does not set out specific landscape indicators, but it is recognised that there is a need for these to be developed in partnership with others who have an influence and interest in landscape change in the county. This will be the subject of a separate study. The aim will be to arrive at a set of locally relevant key indicators, both quantitative and qualitative, which can demonstrate trends over time.

The Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK has identified a series of indicators. Those relevant to the landscape include:

Themes/Issues	Key Indicators
Reverse the long-term decline in populations of farmland and woodland birds	Population of wild birds
Reverse the decline in wildlife and habitats	Trends in plant diversity Biodiversity action plans
Protect individual features such as hedges, ponds and drystone walls	Landscape features: hedges, stonewalls and ponds
Protect the wider landscape	Countryside quality
Promote public access and enjoyment of the landscape	Access to the countryside
Contextual indicator	Native species at risk
Continue expansion of (UK) woodland area	Area of woodland in the UK
Protect ancient and semi-natural woodlands	Ancient semi-natural woodlands
Better management of existing woodlands	Sustainable management of woodland



## Implementation of Guidelines

GUIDELINES	CHARACTER AREAS AND LANDSCAPE TYPES																	
	Chalk Downs					Lowland and Heath								Coast and River Valleys				
	Open Arable	Chalk and Clay	Clay Plateau	Scarps: Downland	Scarps: Hangers	Mixed Farmland and Woodland	Heathland and Forest	Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated	Open Arable on Clay	Open Arable on Greensand	Hangers on Greensand	Pasture: Hangers Associated	Pasture on Clay	Horticulture and Smallholdings	Open Coastal Plain	Enclosed Coastal Plain	Coastline	River Valleys
<p>The guidelines listed here, with the exception of those under the heading Biological Diversity, are abbreviations of the full guidelines which appear earlier in the Countywide Guidelines section. Guidelines for Historic Landscapes; Urban Fringe; Landscape Character and the Planning System; Urban Expansion; Recreation, Tourism, Access and Diversification; Transport are not included here as they apply generally across the county rather than to particular Character Areas.</p> <p><b>Landscape Character and Diversity</b></p> <p>Encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the overall diversity of character across the whole county and reinforcement of the distinctive sense of place of each Character Area and Landscape Type, as set out under the Character Area Guidelines</p> <p>Encourage the planting and natural regeneration of the indigenous tree and shrub species which occur locally within each different Landscape Type</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Agriculture</b></p> <p>Restore or enhance biological diversity within the wider countryside especially in areas of intensive farming with particularly low biodiversity levels</p> <p>Encourage the retention of winter stubbles</p> <p>Encourage the retention of non-rotational set aside</p> <p>Encourage the adoption of permanent grass field margins for arable land, including uncultivated buffer strips next to hedgerows, rivers and streams or other sensitive wildlife habitats</p> <p>Encourage the adoption of conservation headlands</p> <p>Encourage the restoration of neglected farm ponds</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Woodlands and Trees</b></p> <p>Encourage the appropriate management or restoration of ancient semi-natural woodlands including hazel coppice woods</p> <p>Encourage the traditional management and restoration of pasture woodlands</p> <p>Encourage appropriate management of broadleaf, mixed and coniferous woods</p> <p>Encourage appropriate management of over-mature shelter belts</p> <p>Encourage the creation of new broadleaf woodlands:</p> <p>On lower grades of agricultural land using locally indigenous tree and shrub species, preferably by natural regeneration and particularly next to existing ancient woodland seed sources</p> <p>To extend and re-connect links between existing isolated woodlands and hedgerows</p> <p>To provide additional screening of large and new buildings and structures</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Guidelines apply

GUIDELINES	CHARACTER AREAS AND LANDSCAPE TYPES																	
	Chalk Downs					Lowland and Heath						Coast and River Valleys						
	Open Arable	Chalk and Clay	Clay Plateau	Scarps: Downland	Scarps: Hangers	Mixed Farmland and Woodland	Heathland and Forest	Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated	Open Arable on Clay	Open Arable on Greensand	Hangers on Greensand	Pasture: Hangers Associated	Pasture on Clay	Horticulture and Smallholdings	Open Coastal Plain	Enclosed Coastal Plain	Coastline	River Valleys
<b>Hedgerows</b>																		
Encourage the management and enhancement of ancient hedgerows and other hedgerows of historic significance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Encourage the planting of new hedgerow trees, and preferably the retention of self-sown saplings within existing hedgerows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Encourage the planting of new hedgerows and the reinforcement of fragmented hedgerows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Encourage the appropriate management of low-cut over-trimmed hedges, or neglected leggy hedgerows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Biological Diversity</b>																		
Encourage the appropriate management of unimproved chalk grassland, promoting the expansion of, and linkages between such areas where conditions are favourable, for example on steeper slopes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>														
Encourage the appropriate management of existing heathland, acid grassland and bog, and the restoration where practicable of former heathland areas, including secondary woodland and scrub and land currently used for coniferous plantations, aiming to achieve linkages between isolated or fragmented habitats							<input type="checkbox"/>											
Encourage the management of unimproved neutral grassland and fen meadows with appropriate grazing uses, and retain as long-term pasture or traditional hay meadows						<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										<input type="checkbox"/>
Encourage the management of floodplain grazing marsh with appropriate grazing or silage/hay uses																		<input type="checkbox"/>
Encourage the management of unimproved species-rich coastal grazing marsh with appropriate grazing uses															<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Encourage the continuation of the natural processes of coastal erosion where practicable, including geological features such as cliffs and other coastal defence features, allowing the creation or extension of coastal habitats such as mudflats, saltmarsh and grazing marsh																	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Encourage the appropriate management of the verges and banks of roads and lanes, particularly those supporting a wide range of species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

\* Areas of high, open farmland on chalk were often extensive open grasslands or open field systems. New hedge planting would be inappropriate.

## Framework for Action

The Strategy sets out a broad framework and direction for the long term conservation and enhancement of the Hampshire landscape.

This section outlines the next stages of the Strategy in which the County Council will play a key role in partnership working to implement particular guidelines, and also ensure that progress is reviewed and monitored at appropriate intervals.

### Response to the Consultation Draft

The Consultation Draft of the Strategy gained a significant amount of enthusiasm and support which confirmed the overall direction it set out. Many offers of help were received. These showed willingness at all levels to help take the Strategy forward, as well as highlighting particular issues needing specific kinds of action.

Several organisations made commitments to partnership working or expressed an intention to incorporate the Strategy's guidelines into their own environmental programmes. Others offered to pursue local research or survey projects to help implement particular guidelines.

Many consultees said that the identification of priorities for implementation was particularly difficult as all of the guidelines are important. Where priorities were selected, consultees generally identified the broad topic heading, such as agriculture or woodland and hedgerow management, rather than specific guidelines. Various working groups, organisations and individuals are already working to achieve their own particular priorities, and new working partnerships will need to establish new priorities. However, these are difficult to identify at this stage.

### The present position

There are numerous plans, projects and initiatives to protect, manage and enhance the landscape currently achieving significant environmental improvements throughout the county, and many more are planned. Many of these schemes are assisted by grant aid from the agencies and authorities listed on pages 104 and 105. Some of the Strategy's guidelines are already being implemented in various parts of the county by these initiatives. Such projects include both long and short term programmes at all levels from national and international policy level through to action on the ground at the local level.

At present, detailed Habitat Action Plans and Species Action Plans drawn up by the Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership are emerging. These set out detailed actions for a number of the landscape features outlined in this Strategy's guidelines. The Habitat Action Plans are listed in Appendix D.

Funding for particular environmental action on the ground is obviously a major factor. At a time when radical changes are affecting agriculture and real farm incomes are as low as at any time in the last 30 years, funds for environmental work are particularly limited. However, the *England Rural Development Plan 2000-2006* published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in January 2000 introduces new proposals for a fundamental re-direction of agriculture based on a proposed expenditure of £1.6 billion over seven years. The Plan allows MAFF to reduce payments which support production and increase payments for more sustainable farming and forestry systems in an integrated approach to help support rural areas. Among other intentions, the Plan proposes to expand existing agri-environmental and woodland grant aid schemes, and introduces three new grant schemes to help maintain the rural economy.

### The implementation process

In order to get the implementation process underway the County Council will need to take a lead in contacting key players to seek their commitment to incorporate the aims and guidelines of the strategy into their own programmes. Working groups will be set up and new partnerships established to carry forward the various courses of action required to implement particular guidelines. There are also likely to be opportunities to participate in and influence regional initiatives, such as those co-ordinated by the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency to find ways of moving the South East region towards more sustainable development.



As implementation proceeds it will be necessary to remain vigilant and flexible in order to adapt to changing circumstances and legislation, and accommodate new opportunities as they arise. For instance, the Government's forthcoming Rural White Paper, expected towards the end of 2000 may have implications for parts of the Strategy.

The implementation of many of the guidelines, for example those seeking to improve the management of hedgerows, woodlands and agricultural land, involve direct action on the ground by farmers and landowners. In helping to implement such guidelines the County Council can play an indirect role not only by continuing to encourage and engage others in existing partnerships, but also by augmenting some of these initiatives or by identifying gaps in ongoing environmental programmes. Attracting additional grant aid and the creation of new partnerships to establish new initiatives is also likely to be necessary.

There are several areas in which the County Council can take a lead in implementing particular guidelines. For example, it can encourage District Authorities to prepare and implement their own local landscape strategies or action plans. This could be done whilst reviewing their existing landscape character assessments. Local landscape strategies should set out landscape guidelines and identify geographical areas where different types of management are necessary. Such management action would range from conservation or enhancement to restoration, depending on the condition of the landscape.

The County Council also has opportunities to influence other plans and strategies for landscape improvement and sustainable development, for example strategic management plans for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, cross-border initiatives with adjacent counties and the Hampshire Corporate Rural Strategy. Similarly, the County Council can engage with and encourage District Authorities, other organisations and local community groups and parish councils to undertake new desk or field studies and other research work.

Following public consultation on the Draft Strategy, a number of organisations and agencies made commitments to contribute towards implementing the Strategy's aims and guidelines. The County Council can establish with these groups the roles that each can play in working partnerships to achieve particular objectives or develop new initiatives.

The potential of demonstrating the practical working of particular guidelines to achieve landscape conservation or enhancement on land owned by the County Council is also an area to be examined. Finally, the County Council has a key role in raising awareness of landscape issues generally.

### Framework for action

This table sets out a framework showing the broad areas for action, the key players involved and the mechanisms, programmes and initiatives which can influence landscape policy or bring about direct action on the ground.

Action (see full guidelines on pages 64 to 84)	Key Players	Implementation mechanisms
<b>Landscape Character and Diversity</b> Encourage the identification, conservation and enhancement of sense of place and diversity of landscape character, including both recognised, designated landscapes and the 'ordinary' or commonplace landscape.	HCC, CA, DA, CAH, HAPTC / PC	Local Plans/supplementary planning guidance, District Authority integrated landscape character assessments and strategies, Countryside Design Summaries, Village Design Statements, Community Action Fund (HCC grant aid).
<b>Agriculture</b> Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agriculture, and diversity of character and habitat value of agriculture landscapes.	MAFF / FRCA, EA, FWAG, NFU, CLA, CA, HCC, HBP, DA, HWT, EHAONB, HFS, NFC	Countryside Stewardship Scheme (additionally, investigate opportunities for a pilot scheme to explore greater farm coverage of sustainable and environmentally sensitive agricultural practices), Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme, Organic Aid Scheme, Biodiversity Action Plan: Habitat Action Plans, 'Landwise' plans/whole farm plans, Integrated Management Guidelines East Hampshire AONB, Hampshire Farming Study, farmers markets, Forest Friendly Farming.

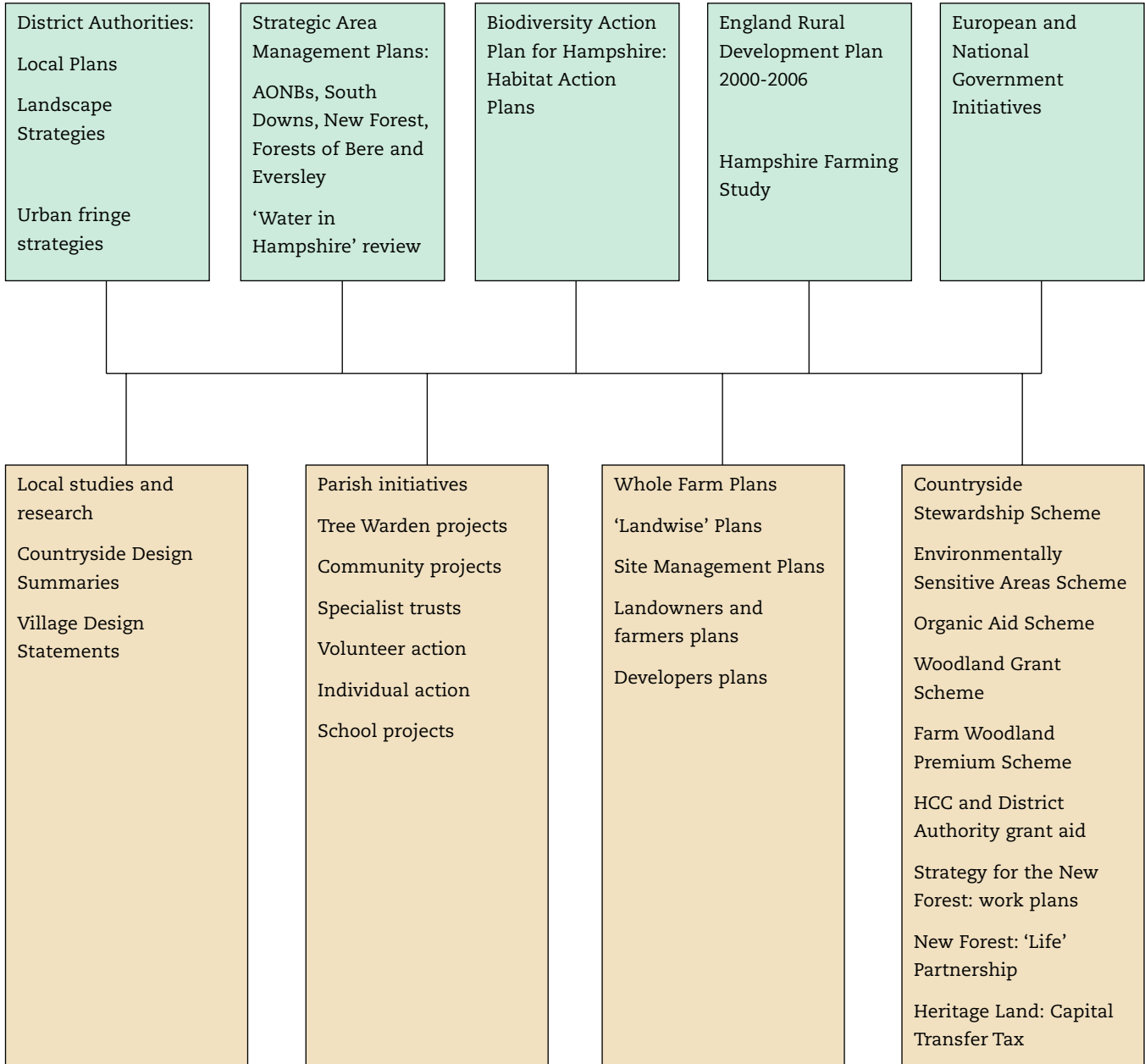
Table continues on page 102

Table continued from page 101

Action (see full guidelines on pages 64 to 84)	Key Players	Implementation mechanisms
<b>Woodlands, Trees and Forestry</b> Encourage the protection, conservation and enhancement of existing woodlands, and the creation of new woodlands.	FC, EN, HCC, WCG, HBP, HWT, DA, NFC, HWF, BTCV	Woodland Grant Scheme, Woodland Improvement Grant, Farm Woodland Premium Scheme, HCC grants, Wessex Coppice Group, Habitat Action Plans for Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland / Lowland Pasture Woodland, Strategy for the New Forest, New Forest: 'Life' Partnership, Forest of Bere and Eversley Strategies.
<b>Hedgerows</b> Encourage the protection, conservation and enhancement of existing hedgerows, and the planting of new hedgerows.	MAFF / FRCA, FWAG, NFU, CLA, HCC, HBP, DA, NFC, WT, BTCV	Countryside Stewardship Scheme, Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme, District Authority grants, Habitat Action Plan for Hedgerows.
<b>Biological Diversity</b> Encourage the protection, conservation and enhancement of biological diversity.	All, particularly HBP	Biodiversity Action Plan: Habitat, Species and Topic Action Plans.
<b>Historic Landscapes</b> Encourage the identification, protection, conservation and enhancement of surviving historic landscapes and historic landscape features.	HCC, DA, EH, HGT, HAPTC / PC, local community groups	District Authority integrated landscape character assessments and landscape strategies, Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens research and management plans, local research initiatives.
<b>Urban Fringe</b> Encourage the conservation, enhancement and restoration of urban fringe areas, including additional public access and recreation.	HCC, DA, HAPTC / PC, CAH, local community groups	Urban Fringe Strategies, local initiatives, Community Action Fund (HCC grant aid).
<b>Landscape Character and Development</b> Support and complement planning policies by helping to ensure that new development is located and designed to respect and enhance the character of the local landscape.	HCC, DA, CAH, HAPTC / PC	Local Plans/supplementary planning guidance, District Authority integrated landscape character assessments and strategies, Countryside Design Summaries, Village Design Statements, Community Action Fund (HCC grant aid), developer 'contributions'.
<b>Landscape Policy</b> Influence and advise government and government agencies, local authorities and other organisations.	HCC, DA	Planning Policy Guidance notes (PPGs), Government Review of Policies relating to the Historic Environment, AONB policy, Environment Agency – Local Environment Agency Plans (LEAPs), Local Plan policy.
<b>Raising Awareness</b> Raise public awareness, understanding and appreciation of landscape conservation and enhancement issues with local communities and schools.	HCC, LTL, FWAG, BTCV, EA, ENT	Pilot scheme to disseminate information on the character of local landscapes; education initiatives promoting visits to 'demonstration' farms, wildlife study centres, managed woodlands.

BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	HAPTC	Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils
CA	Countryside Agency	HBP	Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership
CAH	Community Action Hampshire	HCC	Hampshire County Council
CLA	Country Landowners Association	HFS	Hampshire Farming Study
DA	District Authorities	HGT	Hampshire Gardens Trust
EHAONB	East Hampshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	HWF	Hampshire Woodland Forum
EA	Environment Agency	HWT	Hampshire Wildlife Trust
EH	English Heritage	LTL	Learning Through Landscapes
EN	English Nature	MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
ENT	Entrust (Landfill Tax)	NFC	New Forest Committee
FC	Forestry Commission	NFU	National Farmers Union
FRCA	Farming and Rural Conservation Agency	PC	Parish Councils
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	WCG	Wessex Coppice Group

**Indicative mechanisms for implementation of the strategy**





## Grants, Advice and Local Environmental Action Groups

	Grant aid and management schemes	Advisory role	Policy role	Local action group
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF)	Countryside Stewardship Scheme: chalk grassland waterside land coastal areas heathland unimproved grassland historic features (parkland, field patterns, earthworks, water meadows) hedgerows and hedgerow trees grass field margins/buffers urban fringe landscape features new paths and open spaces (Countryside Stewardship Scheme applies to whole of Hampshire though priority given to annually reviewed Target Areas)	●	●	
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF)	Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme (ESA): The South Downs ESA The Test Valley ESA The Avon Valley ESA	●	●	
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF)	Organic Aid Scheme Arable Area Payments Scheme: countryside access scheme on five year set-aside land	●	●	
Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA)	(see MAFF above)	●	●	
Forestry Authority	Farm Woodland Premium Scheme Woodland Grant Scheme Woodland Improvement Grant: undermanaged woods woodland biodiversity	●	●	
English Nature	Reserves Enhancement Scheme National Nature Reserves Capital Grants Local Nature Reserves Grant Scheme Local Schemes (E.N. Local Team funds) Species Recovery Grant Scheme	●	●	
Countryside Agency	Grant aid for projects achieving Countryside Agency aims as set out in the publication <i>Tomorrows Countryside - 2020 vision</i> Local Heritage Initiative: grant aid for local community groups for landscape, archaeological or built heritage features	●	●	
English Heritage	Grant aid for research and restoration of historic parks and gardens and various archaeological initiatives	●	●	
Environment Agency		●	●	
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	Heritage Lottery Fund			
Hampshire County Council	Community Action Fund: local community environment improvement projects Forests of Bere and Eversley: environmental improvements of benefit to the public Hampshire Heathland Project: heathland management (outside New Forest) Coppice Restoration Grants: traditional management of coppice woodlands Habitat Management Advisory Project (joint project with Hampshire Wildlife Trust): management of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) Hampshire Grazing Project (joint project with English Nature): support for grazing of important habitats Historic parks and gardens: funding for the preparation of restoration and management plans and their implementation Historic Buildings Repair Grant: funding for historic garden features and architecture Hampshire Road Verge Management Project: management of roadside verges important for wildlife	●	●	

	Grant aid and management schemes	Advisory role	Policy role	Local action group
Hampshire County Council (continued)	Archaeological Projects: <i>archaeological initiatives, surveys/excavations, publications</i> Parish Paths Partnership Scheme: <i>funding and training for management of footpaths and bridleways</i>	●	●	
District Councils	Funding available for environmental projects	●	●	
New Forest Committee		●	●	
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group		●	●	
Hampshire Wildlife Trust	Local Environment Initiative: <i>Advice to local communities and landowners/farmers on approaching appropriate bodies for grant aid</i>	●	●	●
Wessex Coppice Group	Support and development of the coppice industry: <i>(principal patrons: Hampshire County Council; Forestry Authority; Countryside Agency)</i>	●	●	
Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)		●	●	
Hampshire Gardens Trust	Grant aid for historic parks and gardens	●	●	
The Tree Council	Funding available on an annual basis for various tree planting project e.g. local community schemes, school grounds	●		
The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)	Training, support and advice for local communities in planning, implementing and managing conservation schemes in rural and urban areas. Support offered to existing groups and those establishing new groups. Specialist support offered for schools	●		●
Community Action Hampshire		●		●
Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils		●	●	●
East Hampshire AONB Joint Advisory Committee	Environmental Improvement Grants or volunteer assistance to landowners and community groups for environmental projects and Village Design Statements. Also advice on habitat management, landscape improvement and national grant aid schemes	●	●	





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# APPENDICES



# Appendix A

## Descriptions of Landscape Types

The following descriptions have been taken from the Hampshire county landscape assessment *The Hampshire Landscape* (1993).

### Open Arable

This landscape has a strong sense of place. It consists predominantly of arable farmland in a broad and open setting. The gently undulating landform and the low, trimmed thorn hedges with few hedgerow trees add to the sense of openness and space. The settlements are generally on lower ground and in the valleys, apart from isolated clusters of farms and farm buildings.

In places, long, straight mainly coniferous shelter belts break the sweeping contours and the long views. The few woodlands are mainly game spinneys or recent plantations, typically of beech and coniferous species.

The large or very large fields and the well-spaced, regular hedgerow pattern echo the network of typically straight roads, lanes and tracks. In recent decades, hedgerow removal has contributed towards an increase in field size. Hedges are occasionally thick at the base and two or three metres high, but generally they are very low, heavily trimmed and often fragmented.

This is a landscape of intensive arable production: the 'factory floor' of the agriculture industry. Although more clayey soils occur in places, generally the shallow chalky soils are characteristically white after ploughing, especially on the steeper slopes. The noticeable absence of oak in most areas demonstrates the thin calcareous nature of the soils. Occasionally, ash, beech, holly and yew occur singly or at irregular spacings in the otherwise treeless hedgerows. The nature conservation value of this landscape is very low, being confined to small pockets of ancient woodland and remnant downland, ancient drove roads and parish boundary hedgerows.

This landscape generally forms the relatively lower parts of the chalklands. The scarps, downlands and woodlands on the high chalklands, however, sometimes form a distant and extensive skyline viewed from the higher ground.

### Chalk and Clay

This landscape of farmland, woodlands and hedgerows is characterised by its often striking landform and the variability of its enclosure.

The variety of enclosure is partly a consequence of the geology and soils: large areas of the chalk are capped by a superficial deposit of clay, often with flints. In this undulating landscape, the presence of clay on the ridges and hilltops, and its absence in the valleys, often determines the distribution of woodland and farmland, and the character of the hedgerows. Oak is the principle hedgerow tree along clay-capped ridgelines, while beech is seldom present; in many of the valleys both trees are present. Ash and field maple also occur widely, but yew, holly and whitebeam are found mainly on the thinner, chalky soils.

Throughout this landscape the numerous ancient semi-natural woodlands of oak-hazel coppice and the pockets of downland which occur on many of the steeper slopes are of significant nature conservation value. Mixed-species hedgerows are frequent, varying from dense and well trimmed to unmanaged and overgrown. Many hedgerows and woodlands have been removed in recent years as field sizes have been increased for arable crop production. This has reduced the overall 'connectivity' value of the hedgerow/woodland network for wildlife and furthered the erosion of the patchwork of the landscape. Although hedgerow trees are not scarce, mechanical hedge cutting has left few saplings. Many fields are fenced.

Grazing land is common on the higher ground and the steeper slopes but primarily this is a landscape of arable farming where the medium to large fields are absorbed into an ancient landscape setting of typically indirect roads, winding lanes and hedgerows, occasionally with steep

hedgebanks. There is no shortage of public footpaths - a typical characteristic of an ancient landscape.

Very long views are possible from the highest ground but, with the varied topography and the degree of enclosure, views are generally limited. The undulating landform also provides a setting for the ornamental landscapes of several historic parks.

With its winding network of lanes and the low density of villages and hamlets, this landscape embraces extensive tracts of secluded countryside. These remain remote from busy through-routes and are valued for their quietness.

### Clay Plateau

This landscape occurs mainly on the higher parts of the Hampshire chalk and is characterised by large tracts of gently undulating countryside. Typically a landscape of farmland and woodland, hedgerows and little-used lanes, it is generally remote from major routes through the county. Occasional very long views emphasise the sense of remoteness.

The sense of place of this landscape is partly due to its geology and soils. In these areas the chalk is capped by a shallow but virtually continuous deposit of clay, often with flints. This is not a plateau in the purest sense: the higher areas are broad and gently domed, sloping and undulating gradually towards shallow valleys. Occasionally, the edge of the clay at its junction with the underlying chalk forms a minor but sometimes steep scarp.

The strong influence of the clayey soils is demonstrated by the dominance of oak in the hedgerows and woodlands, and by the infrequent occurrence of beech. However, in places, especially on the lighter valley soils, beech is sometimes present in great numbers. In the mixed-species hedgerows numerous oaks typically line the narrow lanes which often have wide verges and ditches. The hedgerows, often with varying amounts of bracken, range from low and trimmed to high and overgrown. Ash is present throughout and, though scattered, holly is also a hedgerow tree sometimes occurring as an unusually large specimen. The range of species is generally more limited than on the more variable soils of the chalk and clay landscape, but uncharacteristically for a chalk landscape, birch, sweet chestnut, gorse and bracken occur with beech on some of the former commons. A number of the commons and surviving wood pastures, along with the many ancient semi-natural woodlands are of significant nature conservation interest, although some of the latter have been replaced by forestry plantations.

This is predominantly a landscape of arable farmland with variable enclosure and gently undulating medium to large fields defined by woodland edges and hedgerows. Some of the higher areas are more open and exposed, often grazing land with large fenced fields and very long views. Occasional hamlets and villages, often with village greens, are widely dispersed throughout a complex network of narrow and indirect lanes, which typically have ditches and wide verges, occasionally with remnants of wood pasture.

Within this landscape large tracts of secluded countryside remain remote from major routes and are valued for their quietness.

### Scarps: Downland and Hangers

The high ground of both Hampshire and the south of England is formed primarily by chalk. This landscape of open downland and panoramic views, ancient hill forts, rolling hills and steep scarp hillsides, is attractive to visitors and high in nature conservation value.

The distinctive East Hampshire Hangers create a prominent skyline where the hanger woodlands clothe the tortuously winding chalk escarpment. The Hangers form a steep and dramatic boundary with the Western Weald.

The geology and soils largely account for the striking landscape character of the hangers and the downs. The steep 'scarp' faces of the chalk occur both at the junction with other geological strata and also within the rolling landscape of the chalklands. Typically, a scarp forms a linear, winding belt



with a high and prominent ridgeline, which creates a strong skyline and backcloth when viewed from lower lying areas. Occasionally the scarp virtually encircles an area of high ground, isolating a large, characteristically domed hill or promontory, and creating an elevated vantage point with panoramic views. Many of these are the sites of ancient hill forts and settlements.

From these exposed hilltops and from many other high points on the crest of the chalk scarps, exceptionally long views within and outside Hampshire are possible: from Butser Hill near Petersfield all six adjacent counties are visible, including the Isle of Wight, the distant chalk hills of Dorset, Wiltshire and Berkshire, and the English Channel.

The rich habitat value of chalk grassland is exceptional: the land is unsuitably steep for arable cultivation and the low fertility of the shallow, well-drained, calcareous soils, if appropriately managed by grazing, maintains the diversity of the species-rich grassland. Without management chalk grassland is invariably colonised by the encroaching scrub of many species, often hawthorn, though some areas are eventually dominated by yew.

Throughout the scarps, the species-rich grassland is accompanied by varying amounts of scrub and woodland, including many hangers, often of beech. Forestry plantations are frequent but oak is noticeably uncommon on the shallow, calcareous soils.

Where the rolling hills and slopes are not prohibitively steep, ploughing of the downs for cereal crops has been widespread. Grassland habitats have been lost throughout the numerous minor scarps which occur particularly in the steeper parts of the **chalk** and **clay** areas.

The dramatic landscape of the East Hampshire Hangers is characterised by precipitous scarp slopes clad in 'hanging' woodlands. There is a striking contrast between the long and spectacular views from the higher parts of the Hangers and the shelter and enclosure at the foot of the steep and wooded scarp. To the south and south east the rolling South Downs escarpment extends into West Sussex.

The distinctive character of this landscape is emphasised in spring and autumn when the beech trees in particular provide strong contrast with the dark yew foliage. Ash, field maple and holly also occur with the beech and yew but oak is scarce on the shallow calcareous soils. The ancient semi-natural woodlands and numerous plantations are accessible from ancient sunken roads and trackways which climb the steep scarp, exposing the sometimes vertical chalk banks. These are of significant nature conservation value. A few steep, open slopes of grazed chalk grassland occur between the woodlands.

The hangers and downlands have a strong sense of place, and considerable ecological and archaeological interest.

### **Hangers on Greensand**

This is an intricate and very distinctive landscape of small enclosed fields and narrow, secluded valleys, enclosed by steep hanger woodlands which clad the winding Upper Greensand escarpment.

The Upper Greensand belt is part of the Western Weald: the escarpment occurs where the eroding edge of the Upper Greensand meets the underlying belt of Gault Clay.

Under the hanger woodland canopy, ancient, deeply-eroded, sunken lanes and tracks climb the steep scarp exposing vertical walls of sandstone, often split and cracked by projecting tree roots. These shady road and trackway cuttings are habitats of significant nature conservation interest. Oak, ash and beech occur throughout the ancient semi-natural hanger woodlands.

In places, where the woodland has been cleared for grazing land, the characteristically steep and rounded hillsides allow views over the adjacent farmland to the higher, wooded parts of Western Weald.

The Upper Greensand belt narrows towards the south west and follows the foot of the much higher chalk hangers for several miles. Together they form one of the steepest and most dramatic areas of

landscape in the county. The chalk escarpment and hangers visually dominate the landscape and strongly influence the soils of the Upper Greensand. There are a number of small settlements and large houses in this locality. Here, and south east to the county boundary, the wooded Greensand hangers are more fragmented by areas of steep grazing land.

### **Open Arable on Greensand**

This is a very open landscape of gently sloping or almost flat arable farmland with broad views, occasionally interrupted by hedgerow trees and shelter belts. It lies on the Upper Greensand belt, part of the Western Weald in eastern Hampshire. Towards the south west the belt narrows, losing its open character in the complex landform near Petersfield, and widens again to open arable land between Ramsdean and the county boundary. A small, steeper area occurs near Kingsclere in north Hampshire.

Traditionally an area where hops were grown, this is essentially a landscape of medium to very large fields, well-drained loamy soils and intensive arable farming. The characteristic whitish sandstone is often exposed on the surface after ploughing. As the belt narrows south of Selborne, grazing land, horticulture and arable farming occur on the loamy soils.

The intensive nature of arable crop production in recent decades has led to hedgerow removal and an increase in field size, leaving open grass banks by the roadside in some areas. Closely trimmed hedgerows also occur with oak and ash as the principal hedgerow trees, but few saplings are retained as replacements. Plantations and shelter belts of poplar and pine, often associated with the hop and horticultural areas, are common but there are few woodlands throughout this landscape. The nature conservation value is very low.

A small number of characteristically winding but quite direct roads and lanes cross the broad, open farmland, linking the farms and the small villages. The sandstone (malmstone) which underlies the area is common in the villages as a building material. Lanes and roads associated with steeper slopes occasionally have sunken carriageways and steep hedgebanks with hedgerow trees.

Despite its predominantly arable character, this landscape has a variety of interest and contrast which is inherently related to its geological setting in this part of Hampshire. The enclosure of the sunken lanes contrasts strongly with the openness and views from the arable farmland.

### **Pasture: Hangers Associated**

This small but distinctive area of ridges and valleys merges on its north west boundary with the complex and dramatic landform of the Upper Greensand and chalk escarpments. Towards the south east the undulations become less steep.

Geologically, two parallel belts underlie the area: Gault Clay to the north west and the sands of the Folkestone Beds to the south east.

Numerous streams and watercourses flow south east from springs close to the junction with the Upper Greensand belt.

Winding lanes link the farms and small settlements throughout the area which is predominantly grazing land comprising small or medium-sized fields.

Despite numerous small woodlands, hedgerows and the undulating topography, which together create a high degree of enclosure, the prominent skyline of the chalk hangers to the north west and the rolling South Downs to the south are visible from areas of higher ground.

### **Pasture on Clay**

This is a landscape of distinctive identity and unity, characterised by a patchwork of small, grazed fields in a setting of low trimmed hedgerows with numerous oak trees. It lies on part of the broad belt of low-lying London Clay which fringes the lower slopes of the chalk in southern Hampshire. Its character derives from its generally flat or gently undulating landform, the seasonally waterlogged clayey soils, and from the many watercourses which feed the tributaries of the major south Hampshire rivers. The heavy soils are unsuitable for arable cultivation and as a result there has been minimal hedgerow removal.

This landscape is characterised by the small field pattern, the regular and largely intact hedgerow network, and the numerous hedgerow oak trees which create a strong sense of place. Many of the ageing oaks are of similar age and the hedgerow management has allowed very few sapling trees to remain as eventual replacements.

There is nature conservation interest in the few ancient semi-natural woodlands occurring within this farmland landscape. Formerly, wood pasture covered many parts of the area. Oak is the dominant tree throughout, although ash and field maple occur on the higher ground.

Farms are scattered throughout the area, and a limited number of small settlements are associated with the generally straight roads and lanes. The low hedgerows allow views across the grazed, well-treed landscape. From areas of higher ground, views over the clay are possible to the large arable fields of the chalk landscape to the north.

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

### **Open Arable on Clay**

This is an open, gently sloping or almost flat landscape of large arable fields with low hedgerows and occasional oak trees. This unique and low-lying area is associated with the Loddon Valley in north Hampshire.

Despite seasonally waterlogged soils which overlie London Clay, this is an area of intensively-farmed arable land. Within the large fields which have been increased in size by hedgerow removal, remnants of the irregular ancient field pattern are still apparent in some of the internal field boundaries. The alignment of former hedgerows is indicated by deep, open-banked ditches, or isolated oak trees within the large fields.

Along the narrow, winding lanes which often have deep ditches and wide verges, the low, mixed-species hedges contain occasional hedgerow trees. These are mainly oak with some ash. Occasional saplings have been retained as future replacements but generally the roadside hedgerows are fragmented or, in places, absent.

In this open landscape, the occasional clusters of cottages, the low density of farms and the scatter of small, isolated, ancient, semi-natural copses are features. Because of its low-lying nature, long views are generally restricted by a skyline of hedgerow trees and woodland, mainly in the surrounding areas. The broad, open character of this arable farmland has a degree of remoteness which is emphasised by the general absence of major roads and by the indirectness of the winding lanes.

### **Heathland and Forest**

This landscape consists of a varied mosaic of extensive woodlands and open heathlands, with a complex pattern of scrub, grasslands, streams and bogs.

Hampshire has more lowland heath than any other county in Britain. The majority of this is in the New Forest, with smaller areas concentrated mainly in the east and north east of the county. The New Forest, with its continuity of traditional management by grazing, provides a link with the past: heathland is a relic of both prehistoric and historic farming practices. With its large scale and its rich and diverse range of species and habitats, it is a unique reserve and a wildlife resource of international importance. Its facilities, space and ease of access attract large numbers of visitors for recreation. Although the smaller heathland areas in Hampshire are relatively fragmented and have limited management, they are also of significant nature conservation value.

Cleared of the 'wildwood' in prehistoric times for grazing or cultivation, the light soils, assisted by the slight natural acidity and permeability of the underlying sands and gravels, were leached of nutrients and became more acidic, and suitable only for acid-tolerant species such as gorse and heather. Continued grazing is necessary to prevent encroachment upon the open heathland by acid-tolerant shrub and tree species.



The landform generally consists of flat or gently undulating plains, or flat to gently sloping plateaux with broad, occasionally steep-sided valleys. In the Western Weald the undulating landform of the sands of the Lower Greensand formation is variable, but becomes particularly steep and dramatic in the deeply eroded valleys of the higher ground near the county boundary with Surrey and West Sussex.

The Heathland and Forest landscape is essentially unenclosed. Most of its roads and tracks are unfenced, particularly in the New Forest, where commoners' livestock have the freedom to roam and graze. The ancient woodlands often have no definite edge, with areas of natural regeneration extending gradually into the adjacent heathland. This advance is generally dependent on the numbers of grazing livestock. Regenerating birch, pine and often oak tend to lead the encroachment of the woodland fringe upon the open heath and grasslands. This advance and retreat is mainly dependent on the numbers of grazing stock. Controlled burning is also used to limit woodland encroachment, and to stimulate fresh growth of grasses and heather for grazing. In the Hampshire heathlands outside the New Forest woodland encroachment, when unmanaged, threatens the continued existence of the heathland.

The diversity of habitats is unique consisting of open heathland and acid grassland, lawns, bogs and mires, rivers and ponds, and ancient unenclosed pasture woodlands. These areas gently merge and are continually changing. Coniferous and mixed-species plantations occur throughout. In the New Forest the ancient unenclosed pasture woodlands, of oak and beech, often with an understorey of holly, differ from the ancient semi-natural woodlands elsewhere in Hampshire. There is a more varied age structure in the New Forest, with over-mature and decaying trees, and many glades and clearings, although grazing deer and stock limit the understorey and ground flora. The distinctive and unusual character of these habitats is the essence of their significant nature conservation value.

In the heathland areas outside the New Forest a variety of different species and habitats of great nature conservation interest also occur. Extensive forestry plantations are widespread, sometimes accompanied by mineral extraction and landfill sites. MoD ranges occur in east and north east Hampshire.

Recreation, nature conservation, forestry and other interests are brought together in these extensive tracts of uncultivated land. The seasonally colourful heaths, heathers, gorse, beech and birch, and the contrast between the open heathland and the secluded enclosure of the ancient woodlands, contribute towards the distinctiveness of the Heathland and Forest landscape.

**Pasture and Woodland:  
Heath Associated**

This is an enclosed and often undulating landscape of unintensively grazed pasture in a well-wooded setting. Much of the landscape is closely linked to, or has been created from, former heathland. In the New Forest area, it is traditionally associated with commoning.

The landscape generally has a 'heathy' character, with oak, birch, bracken and pine reflecting its heathland links and origins. However, this varies with the geology, soils and land-use history.

This landscape occurs on a varying geological formation of sands, sandy clays and gravels, occasionally with narrow valleys underlain by clay. The 'heathy' character of the valleys is often minimal as in north west Hampshire. In the east of the county, the Lower Greensand of the Western Weald consists mainly of sands.

The generally undulating landform is highly variable. It is steep at Blissford in the New Forest and at Bramshott in the Western Weald, but almost flat on the gravels of the former heathland at Netley Marsh.

This is primarily a landscape of unintensively-farmed pasture with widespread horse grazing and very little productive arable land. The acidic former heathland soils and a range of mainly poor, light or slowly permeable soils are a major factor in the land uses. Small areas of more fertile loamy soils occur in association with the arable land.

This is largely an ancient landscape with small well-hedged, irregularly shaped fields set in winding, occasionally sunken lanes with hedgebanks, hedgerows and numerous oak trees. Small farms, cottages and occasional straggling roadside settlements are dispersed along the winding lanes. A more regular field pattern also occurs, with a network of typically straight roads and lanes with small, hedged fields, or small to medium-sized fields which are often internally fenced. Gorse and bracken are common in the field boundaries and the landscape has a more 'heathy' character than the ancient landscape. Roadside settlements, smallholdings, market gardening and garden centres are also associated with this regular and more recently enclosed landscape. Roadside verges within the New Forest are grazed by commoners' livestock.

On many areas of former heathland, woodland has developed creating a mature and enclosed setting for scattered large houses, often associated with a network of small fields, usually used as paddocks. The strong identity of these areas is often characterised by a wide species range including oak, beech, pine and birch with a bracken, holly and occasionally rhododendron understorey.

A diverse range of habitats occurs in association with the open heathland of the New Forest, including ancient woodlands, species-rich meadows, former commons, species-rich verges and ancient field systems. In the Western Weald, the steep sandstone banks of narrow sunken lanes are of nature conservation interest.

Throughout the whole of this landscape, horse grazing is widespread. Riding schools and stud farms are common. The range of field sizes varies from small paddocks to medium-sized fields, often subdivided by various types of ranch fencing. Hedgerow management is often minimal. The condition of many of the poorer hedgerows varies from lines of established hedgerow trees accompanied by a few thin and leggy remnant hedge species, to tall, untrimmed hedges, very thin and heavily browsed near the base but often with continuous lines of saplings. This is a reverse situation to areas of intensive farming where mechanical hedge trimming is unselective and hedgerow saplings are few.

A few open areas occur, but generally the patchwork of small fields, winding lanes, hedgerows and woodlands, creates the enclosure and seclusion characteristic of much of this complex and varied landscape.

### Mixed Farmland and Woodland

This is a variable landscape of both arable and grazing land with numerous woodlands, hedges and hedgerow trees and a generally undulating landform.

This variability is the result of the wide range of clays, sands, clayey sands and gravels which underlie a variety of loamy, or clayey, seasonally waterlogged soils. These have influenced the land uses along with the drainage pattern of numerous watercourses.

In the main, this is the landscape which abuts Hampshire's chalk landscapes. At this junction, water from the chalk produces many spring lines which are often associated with habitats of significant ecological interest.

There is great variety in the landform. Outcrops of sand and gravel are usually associated with higher and more strongly undulating ground, for example at the former Roman town near Silchester. Valleys associated with frequent outcrops are often steep-sided and well-wooded, such as the River Hamble north of Botley. On broader belts of the lower-lying clay the landscape is more gently undulating or almost flat, as seen between Bramley and Sherborne St John. Another typically flat landscape is formed by the deposits of older river gravels adjoining the valleys of the River Test and River Avon. These small plateaux are up to 50 metres above present river levels. The pattern of the landform generally dictates the nature and intensity of the land use although exceptions do occur. The heavier, lower-lying ground associated with clays, watercourses and streams is predominantly used as grazing land. The higher and generally drier ridges and slopes are often suitable for arable crops and more intensive farming. In south Hampshire, the proportion of arable land is lower than in other parts of the county.

Woodland and hedgerow removal has increased field sizes in some of the arable areas. Fields which were once separate have been connected often by narrow links between woodlands to maximise the

productive area. This has left many woodlands isolated, and reduced the overall 'connectivity' value of the woodland/hedgerow network for wildlife. It has also furthered the erosion of the patchwork of the landscape. Throughout this generally enclosed landscape the numerous ancient semi-natural woodlands, and some areas of wood pasture are of significant nature conservation value. There is also ecological interest in a diverse range of habitats including streams, meadows, commons and some ancient field systems.

This is largely an ancient landscape of generally small to medium-sized irregularly shaped fields and woodlands, and hedgerows with hedgebanks and large oak trees. Oak is the predominant tree but ash is also widespread. On the more acid soils of the higher ground a wider range of species occurs: bracken is frequent in many hedgerows, beech occurs occasionally, and shelter belts of fast growing trees, such as pine or poplar, are often planted. Forestry plantations of mixed and coniferous species also occur throughout this landscape.

Throughout the network of winding roads and lanes, villages and scattered farming settlements are generally at a low density, although overall, this is higher than in Hampshire's chalk landscapes. The villages are sometimes straggling but occasionally there is a clear nucleus, often associated with a village green.

Views are limited by the numerous woodlands and hedgerows, but Hampshire's chalk landscapes are visible from areas of higher ground. Within this generally low-lying, intimately enclosed landscape there is a great variety and contrast. The richly-wooded valleys, remote farmland and little-used lanes in parts of north Hampshire contrast strongly with the busy roads and lanes in fundamentally similar tracts of landscape near the urban areas of south Hampshire. Many large areas of secluded countryside remain remote from busy through-routes and are valued for their quietness.

### Horticulture and Smallholdings

This is a landscape of horticultural uses and a varying degree of urbanisation.

The geology and soils partly account for the distribution of these areas in south Hampshire. Light well-drained sands and sandy clays are overlaid by productive loamy soils. Good drainage is also provided by the undulating landform. Where the soils are less productive, horticultural uses are accompanied by garden centres, nurseries and smallholdings with a range of uses. Historically, the development of railways in the nineteenth century created new markets, particularly in London. These assisted the expansion of the horticultural industry and its associated settlements.

This landscape is characterised by a variable pattern of settlements and productive land. The medium-sized open fields, in places unfenced and unhedged, are typically of plots and linear strips growing a wide variety of crops. In places, randomly distributed houses and bungalows, storage buildings and structures, glasshouses and polythene tunnels provide the landscape setting. Although main roads pass through this landscape, the road network consists mainly of minor roads and narrow lanes with straight sections and more winding alignments.

This is generally a small-scale landscape, partly contained by the undulating landform, although some longer views are possible from the higher ground. The landscape structure has been neglected or removed. Oak and ash still occur in the fragmented hedgerows along with occasional shelter belts of pine, cypress, poplar and alder, and ornamental species around the settlements. There is little nature conservation interest in this intensively used and productive landscape.

#### Note

*Small, fragmented areas of similar land uses occur in many landscapes, particularly in the 'enclosed coastal plain' south of the New Forest. Larger-scale horticulture occurs on the 'open coastal plain' in the Titchfield/Warsash area.*

### Open Coastal Plain

Much of the coastal plain consists of a wide expanse of open, arable farmland with broad and extensive views. The urban areas between Southampton and Hayling Island interrupt and

occasionally limit the open views. Elsewhere, the gently sloping plain, The Solent and the high and sweeping profile of the Isle of Wight, emphasise the sense of openness and exposure.

Geologically, this landscape is part of a broad plain of gravel extending several miles inland and sloping gently down towards the coast. Towards the east of the county the slope becomes imperceptible, and at Hayling Island the landscape is flat. The continuity of the coastal plain is interrupted by many streams and rivers which flow to the sea through partly wooded valleys.

Generally, this is large-scale, intensive, arable farmland. The loamy, well-drained, productive soils are also suitable for horticulture and market gardening which is particularly common east of Southampton. The medium to very large fields are often fenced or have open banks and ditches. Hedgerows, typically of hawthorn, blackthorn and gorse occur less frequently. Characteristically windswept trees, principally oak, which are often stunted near the coastline, occur within the hedgerows or along the fencelines of remnant or former hedgerows. Shelter belts, in some cases immediately behind the coastline, consist of a variety of species including pine, holm oak and poplar. Small isolated woodlands occur on the open plain but are generally confined to the valleys. Otherwise, nature conservation interest is restricted to a small number of isolated coastal heathland sites. East of Southampton Water, extensive development of major and minor urban areas has occurred on the coastal plain. This has limited the openness and scale of the plain but its character is still recognisable.

The smaller settlements, typically linked by minor roads and lanes, are scattered and isolated, and include smallholdings and bungalows east of Southampton Water. To the west of Southampton Water the smaller settlements are more scattered.

Workable mineral deposits occur in the coastal plain. Extraction of these deposits has an impact on the coastal plain landscape. Restoration often involves change in landform and land use.

#### Enclosed Coastal Plain

This part of the coastal plain consists of an enclosed and gently undulating landscape, mainly of arable farmland interrupted by wooded valleys. There is a wider variety of land use near urban areas.

Geologically, this landscape is part of a broad plain of gravel extending several miles inland and sloping gently down towards the coast. The continuity of the coastal plain is interrupted by many streams and rivers which flow to the sea through partly wooded valleys.

In this partly enclosed landscape, the loamy, well-drained soils are intensively farmed. The medium to large mainly arable fields are defined by a strong framework of woodlands, which include a mixture of coniferous and mixed plantations, and ancient semi-natural woodlands. The latter are confined mainly to the valleys where some species-rich meadows are also of nature conservation value. Mixed farming, horticulture and paddocks occur near the urban areas.

The winding but fairly direct roads and lanes are characteristically hedged, often with windswept oak, pine or holly, which also occur occasionally along fencelines. Hedgebanks, ditches and verges are common by the roadside. Within the perambulation of the New Forest the verges are grazed. Verge planting of tree species, retention of hedgerow saplings and dense, thick hedgerows also occur within the areas managed by some of the large estates. Throughout the whole of the enclosed coastal plain pine shelter belts are typical.

There is strong contrast and variation in the density and style of the settlements in this landscape. Within the large estates the low density and traditional style of the farms, cottages and settlements is a reflection of long-term influence and continuity of management. Designed parks and gardens are also characteristic. Near the urban areas there is a high density of mixed housing styles, bungalows and smallholdings.

Workable mineral deposits occur in the coastal plain. Extraction of these deposits has an impact on the coastal plain landscape. Restoration often involves change in landform and land use.

Despite the degree of enclosure of much of this landscape, the presence of windswept oaks and occasional glimpses of the Isle of Wight acknowledge its coastal location.



**Coastline**

The coastline has great contrast and diversity. The mudflats, saltmarshes and shingle beaches are rich in wildlife and are habitats of national importance. With its backcloth of the Isle of Wight, The Solent and the coastline are attractive areas for recreation. This landscape includes the immediate onshore margin and the area between the high and low water marks.

Open and exposed to the elements, the coastline is subject to a continual process of erosion, deposition and change. The sheltered natural harbours to the east contrast strongly with the eroding, retreating cliffs to the west. At Milford and Barton on Sea, areas of accumulated slump debris occur at the base of the low, eroding cliffs. Next to The Solent, lower and almost vertical cliffs occur with shingle beaches. The coastal landform is variable throughout its length, including shingle spits, shingle banks, and extensive mudflats and saltmarshes in sheltered harbours, inlets and estuaries. Limited areas of undulating sand dunes also occur on the south east and south west corners of Hayling Island. Abrupt sea walls and promenades occasionally interrupt the natural continuity of the coastline and the coastal plain.

Woodland borders the coastline at Stanswood Bay and in the upper river estuaries, but is otherwise limited to occasional willow and alder carr at the river mouths and isolated pockets of windswept oak and blackthorn. The mudflats, marshes, estuaries, shingle banks and dunes provide a great diversity of habitats and species, and are protected by international, national and local environmental designations. The international importance of The Solent is recognised particularly for its value in winter to wading birds and wildfowl.

The Isle of Wight provides shelter for The Solent and this has encouraged the development of many recreational uses. Increasing interest in all forms of coastal recreation, and the associated demand for additional access and facilities such as car parks, moorings and marinas, has caused conflict with landscape and nature conservation interests. In the largely open coastal setting facilities and buildings associated with recreation, industry, military and urban areas are prominent in the landscape.

**River Valleys**

The river valleys of Hampshire encompass a wide variety and diversity of character. From the broad, open River Avon at Ibsley to the narrow, wooded River Wey at Bramshott, the river valleys have significant landscape and nature conservation value and attract a wide recreational interest.

Hampshire's rivers flow into either the River Thames or the English Channel. The chalk of central Hampshire is the source of the Test, Itchen and Meon and many of their tributaries. The Avon rises in Wiltshire and has tributaries in both chalk, sands and clays. The chalk is also the source of some of the rivers and tributaries of the lowland areas, the remainder rising in the sands and clays. The lowland rivers include the Hamble, Beaulieu and Lymington in the south, and the Loddon, Whitewater, Blackwater and Wey in the north and east.

The character of the valleys and their setting is variable. The broader chalk rivers have a wide flat floodplain and occasionally a similarly wide, flat, adjoining terrace only a few metres higher. The valley sides are often steep and abrupt, for example at the Avon Valley/New Forest boundary near Mockbeggar. The valleys on the clays and sands tend to match the character of the adjoining landscape. In a gently undulating landform, for example near Sherfield on Loddon, the floodplain merges gently with the surrounding open farmland. In a more steeply undulating, enclosed landscape, as seen in the River Wey valley at Bramshott, the narrow floodplain abruptly meets the steep and wooded valley sides.

The river valleys are typically a farmed landscape with grazing on the floodplain and usually arable land on the river terraces. The grazed floodplain has a looser, less-structured, hedgerow network than the more intensively-grazed landscapes outside the valley. The meandering rivers are bordered by a fringe of semi-natural vegetation of varying width, comprising reedbeds, marsh, luxuriant riverine species and alder, willow and poplar. The willows are often pollarded. Adjoining this, usually with no obvious field pattern, the rough grassland, meadows, former water meadows and grazing commons are typically interspersed with isolated single trees, usually willow, alder and poplar, but also oak, ash and hawthorn. These tend to line the numerous water channels, creating a very

irregular network of small, partly-enclosed meadows where the trees and shrubs are more continuous. Fences and heavily-browsed, remnant hedges form more definite field boundaries, and small copses, sallow and alder carr, and poplar plantations are scattered throughout. Parkland landscapes with ornamental tree species and occasionally with lakes also occur. In the upper Test and Itchen valleys, the clear, nutrient-rich alkaline water is suitable for watercress beds.

The rich variety of habitats, particularly in the floodplains of the chalk rivers, include unimproved water meadows, reedbeds, fen and grazing commons. Valuable habitats are also provided by numerous ponds and lakes usually associated with parkland and mineral workings. Many former workings in the Test, Blackwater and particularly the Avon valley, are of great importance especially for birds. In recent decades, agricultural improvements, involving land drainage systems and the use of herbicides and fertilisers, have contributed towards habitat losses. Pollution, flood control works, water abstraction, reservoirs and fish farms have also had an impact.

The valley settlements and roads echo the historic importance of river valleys as access routes and corridors of settlement. Both major and minor roads tend to follow the sides of the valley, particularly with the chalk rivers, where many linear settlements are characterised by dwellings of flint, cob and thatch. Major towns, and many minor settlements, occur at river crossings. The villages and smaller settlements are more mixed and scattered within the valleys on clay and sand.

The many resources and opportunities, including passive recreation and active water sports, mineral deposits and water supply, and the value of landscape and nature conservation interests, contribute towards the distinctive character and importance of the varied valley landscapes of Hampshire.



# Appendix C

## Contacts

	Address	Telephone	Fax No.	E-mail
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF)	Regional Service Centre, Block A, Government Buildings, Coley Park, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 6DT	01189 581222	01189 392120	r.bonham-official@readg-rsc.maff.gsi.gov.uk
The Farming and Rural Conservation Agency	Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR	020 7238 5432	020 7238 5588	i.section@frca.maff.gov.uk
The Forestry Authority	Alice Holt Lodge, Wrecclesham, Surrey GU10 4LH	01296 681181	01296 682130	ahl@forestry.gov.uk
English Nature	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Team, Southampton Road, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7BU	023 8028 3944	023 8028 3834	hants.iwight@english-nature.org.uk
The Countryside Agency	Dacre House, 19 Dacre Street, London SW1H 0DH	020 7340 2900	020 7340 2911	
English Heritage	23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB	020 7973 3000	020 7973 3001	
The Environment Agency	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area Office, Wessex Business Park, Wessex Way, Colden Common, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 1WP	01962 713267	01962 841573	
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH	020 7211 6200	020 7211 6210	enquiries@culture.gov.uk
Hampshire County Council	Planning Department, Ashburton Court West, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UE	01962 846802	01962 846776	plango@hants.gov.uk
Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 4AH	01256 845412	01256 844706	julian.evans@basingstoke.gov.uk
East Hampshire District Council	Penns Place, Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 4EX	01730 234200	01730 267760	
Eastleigh Borough Council	Civic Offices, Leigh Road, Eastleigh Hampshire SO50 9YN	023 8068 8000	023 8068 8079	
Fareham Borough Council	PO Box 82, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 7TT	01329 236100	01329 822732	
Gosport Borough Council	Town Hall, High Street, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 1EB	023 9254 5409	023 9254 5395	
Hart District Council	Civic Offices, Harlington Way, Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8AE	01252 622122	01252 626886	
Havant Borough Council	Civic Offices, Civic Centre Road, Havant, Hampshire PO9 2AX	023 9247 4174	023 9248 0263	
New Forest District Council	Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7PA	023 8028 5303	023 8028 5555	
Rushmoor Borough Council	Council Offices, Farnborough Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7JU	01252 398790	01252 524017	
Test Valley Borough Council	Council Offices, Duttons Road, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8XG	01794 515117	01794 514378	
Winchester City Council	City Offices, Colebrook Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 9LJ	01962 840222	01962 849101	
Southampton City Council	Civic Centre, Southampton SO14 7LY	023 80 832727	023 8083 2607	
Portsmouth City Council	Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2AU	023 9283 4295	01705 834660	
The New Forest Committee	4 High Street, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7BD	023 8028 4144	023 8028 3983	newforestcommittee@btinternet.com
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	Sparsholt College, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 2NF	01962 797443	01962 776587	enquiry@sparsholt.ac.uk
Hampshire Wildlife Trust	8 Romsey Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO50 9AL	023 8061 3636	023 8061 2233	hampswt@cix.compulink.co.uk



	Address	Telephone	Fax No.	E-mail
Council for the Protection of Rural England	Warwick House, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1 0PP	020 7976 6433	020 7976 6373	info@cpre.org.uk
Council for the Protection of Rural England	c/o Community Action Hampshire, Beaconsfield House, Andover Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 6AT	01962 854971	01962 841160	director.cprehants@cwcom.net
Hampshire Gardens Trust	Jermyns House, Jermyns Lane, Ampfield, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 0QA	01794 367752	01794 368520	HGT@webtribe.net
The Tree Council	51 Catherine Place, London SW1E 6DY	020 7828 9928	020 7828 9060	www.treecouncil.org.uk
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	Conservation Centre, Micheldever Wood, Micheldever, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 3BP	01962 774714	01962 774522	Hampshire@btcv.org.uk
Community Action Hampshire	Beaconsfield House, Andover Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 6AT	01962 854971	01962 841160	christine.pattison@action.hants.org.uk
Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils	St Thomas' Centre, Southgate Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 9FF	01962 841699	01962 841647	xhpcxxsh@hants.gov.uk
East Hampshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee	Queen Elizabeth County Park, Gravel Hill, Horndean, Hampshire PO8 0QE	023 9259 1362		alison.tingley@hants.gov.uk

## Appendix D

### Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire: Habitat Action Plans

Ancient semi-natural woodland  
 Pasture woodland, parkland  
 Hedgerows  
 Arable land  
 Unimproved neutral dry grassland, hay meadows  
 Lowland calcareous grassland  
 Lowland wet grassland  
 Heathland, acid grassland and bog  
 Fen, carr, marsh, swamp, reedbeds  
 Open standing water  
     also, (Ephemeral ponds)  
 Chalk streams  
     also, (Rivers and streams)  
 Canals  
 Maritime cliffs  
 Shingle  
 Saltmarsh  
 Coastal grazing marsh  
 Sand dunes  
 Mudflats and eelgrass beds  
 Saline lagoons  
 Road verges  
 Urban  
 Marine

## Appendix E

### Hampshire County Structure Plan 1996–2011 (Review) Landscape Policies

Policy E6	To ensure that development maintains and enhances areas of distinctive landscape character local planning policies will pay particular regard to: (a) the need to respect scenic quality, sense of remoteness and historic landscapes; (b) the sense of place, including the local character of buildings and settlements; and (c) the setting of settlements; in the whole countryside.
Policy E7	In determining proposals for development within or adjacent to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape will be a major consideration whilst having regard to the economic and social well-being of the area. Any development which would have a significant adverse effect on the natural beauty, character and quality of the landscape will not be permitted. Major industrial or commercial developments will not be permitted unless: (i) there is proven national interest; (ii) it can be demonstrated that there are no other alternative sites available; and (iii) the bulk of the buildings, siting, layout, design and materials are in sympathy with the local environment.
Policy E8	Development should avoid or minimise any adverse effect that proposals would have on woodlands, trees and hedgerows. Where appropriate, proposals should include new woodland, tree and hedgerow planting, and management proposals to conserve and enhance existing features.
Policy E9	The quality of the environment along major road and rail corridors will be conserved or enhanced. Development proposals should avoid or minimise any adverse effects on the quality of the environment along major road and rail corridors.
Policy E15	Development which is likely to have an adverse impact on landscapes included in English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest and the County Council's Register of Parks and Gardens will not be permitted unless the local planning authorities are satisfied that the need for the development outweighs that impact.

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