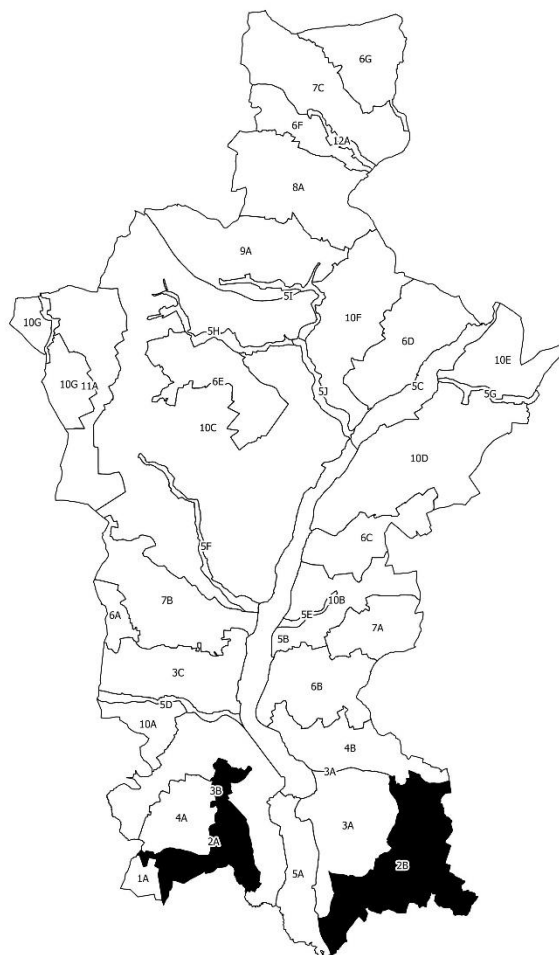


LCT2 Pasture and Woodland Associated with Heathlands

General Description

2.1 The Pasture and Woodland Associated with Heathland landscape character type is an enclosed landscape with pockets of low intensity grazed pasture in a well-wooded setting. The character type includes the heathland edge around the New Forest and is closely associated with a zone of former heathland, which still retains a heathy character.



Parklands are a typical feature, characterised by landscape features such as scattered trees, rows of trees, wood pasture (in the case old deer parks) exotic trees, ancient pollard trees and veteran trees. Woodlands and shelter belts often occur with these parklands.

2.2 Settlements are characteristically found to have an open but nucleated settlement pattern having developed in an essentially open, heathland environment to support the rapid growth of Southampton and Chandler's Ford.

Location

- 2.3 Pasture and Woodland Associated with Heathland is found in the southern areas of the Borough on higher ground. It is closely associated with heathland (including LCT1) to the south, which extend into the New Forest and is generally more heavily wooded, and influenced by non agricultural human activity, than the adjacent areas of mixed farmland and woodland (LCT3 and 4) to the north. Two character areas have been classified within this landscape character type.

- LCA2A Embley Wood and Heathland
- LCA2B North Baddesley and Chilworth Woodland Mosaic

Physical Influences

- 2.4 **Geology and Soils:** The boundary of the character type is mainly defined by local geology and relates to the transition where shallow poor soils over gravels become deeper initially in patches and then becoming uniform and so more viable to cultivate. This landscape typically occurs on a varying geological formation of sands, sandy clays and gravels.

Landform: A very gently rolling landscape, almost a plateau, with generally small dry valleys, smooth ridges and no sharp escarpments.

Drainage: This type lies within the Test and Itchen catchment areas and includes small streams and ponds.

Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern

- 2.5 Pasture and Woodland Associated with Heathland is characterised by extensive ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW) as well as plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) and active coppice, linked by hedgerows. There are several pockets of wet woodland. There is a high proportion of improved grassland and localised arable use on patches of more favourable soils. Fields of unimproved acid and neutral grassland form important habitats. There are occasional patches of lowland heath dominated by heather, together with mosaics of acid grassland, patchy woodland and scrub. There are some smaller watercourses and wet flushes, and damp grassland to the valley bottoms.

Notable habitats

- Ancient semi-natural woodland (encompassing lowland mixed deciduous woodland of varying community types, as well as wet woodland)
- Unimproved grassland (lowland meadows / acid grassland priority habitats)
- Fragments of lowland heathland.

Historical Influences

- 2.6 This landscape is characterised by tracts of nineteenth century woodland and some elements of woodland with a pre-1810 origin interspersed with areas of small and irregular assarting up on the higher ground flanking the river valleys. Where the ground slopes down towards the valley floor, the agricultural landscape changes with more parliamentary fields, associated with the wooded areas.
- 2.7 These characteristics demonstrate a process of developing human influence over what has traditionally been a largely forested environment. The generally linear alignment of the assarted field boundaries suggests a later, possibly early nineteenth century, date for their creation although some earlier assarting may exist particularly closer to the interface with the New Forest. Valley associated parliamentary field systems indicate the rapid enclosure of the lower land of this character type.

Settlement Pattern

- 2.8 Heath Associated Settlement Types dominate this landscape character type. These settlements characteristically have an open but nucleated settlement pattern having developed in an essentially open, heathland environment. Some fragmentary historic cores dating to the seventeenth and eighteenth century can be identified within some of these heath associated settlements although they tend to be the extant remains of apparently isolated farms and manorial complexes which have attracted later settlement growth. These settlements appear to have generally later post-medieval origins with relatively extensive areas of nineteenth and twentieth century development. This process of later post-medieval expansion is particularly associated with the rapid growth of Southampton and its principal suburbs during this period.

Communication Network

- 2.9 Several gently winding roads, in part respecting the contours of the land, appear to extend north south through this character type particularly in the west of the Borough. These may be the remains of the drove roads connecting the ancient forest farmland to the core of the New Forest to the south of the River Blackwater. In general the east west aligned roads appear to be much straighter and extend directly between principal settlements. Recreational opportunities are high with a good density of footpaths in some areas.

Key Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues

- 2.10 Key natural and cultural landscape issues are as follows:
- Hedgerow fragmentation and loss
 - Pressures for new built development
 - Cumulative visual impact from extensive storage of caravans, redundant farm machinery
 - Pressure for further recreational provision on heathland and woodland in the settlement / urban fringe
 - Dilution of locally distinctive character through standard development form and design
 - Potential change in farming practices, with increased areas managed as 'hobby farms' or as horse paddocks, characterised by rank weedy grassland and poorly managed boundaries.
 - Loss of open heathland resulting from conifer plantation, and in some instances manicured golf course designs
 - Loss of parkland features
 - Increased risk of localised flash flooding due to run off from new developments
 - Isolation of small patches of lowland heathland and unimproved grassland and threat to remnant heathland and unimproved pasture
 - Loss of historic landscape character with assarted field systems giving way to the development of large open fields associated with mechanised forms of agriculture

- Loss of historic heathland areas to settlement development associated with the continuing growth of Southampton.

Land Management Guidelines

2.11 All of the Borough wide land management guidelines in the introduction apply to this Landscape Character Type. Land management guidelines specific to this Landscape Character Type are:

2.12 Agriculture

- Manage the agricultural landscapes for biodiversity such as incorporating hedgerows or grass field margins
- Encourage replanting of hedgerows and hedgerow trees
- Ensure the careful siting of new agricultural buildings

2.13 Hedgerows

- Restore hedgerows and encourage replanting of former hedgerow lines, ensure oak standards grow up to from hedgerow trees

2.14 Woodland and Trees

- Avoid use of coniferous plantations and shelter belts

2.15 Biodiversity

- Seek opportunities to link existing woodland and heathland through habitat restoration

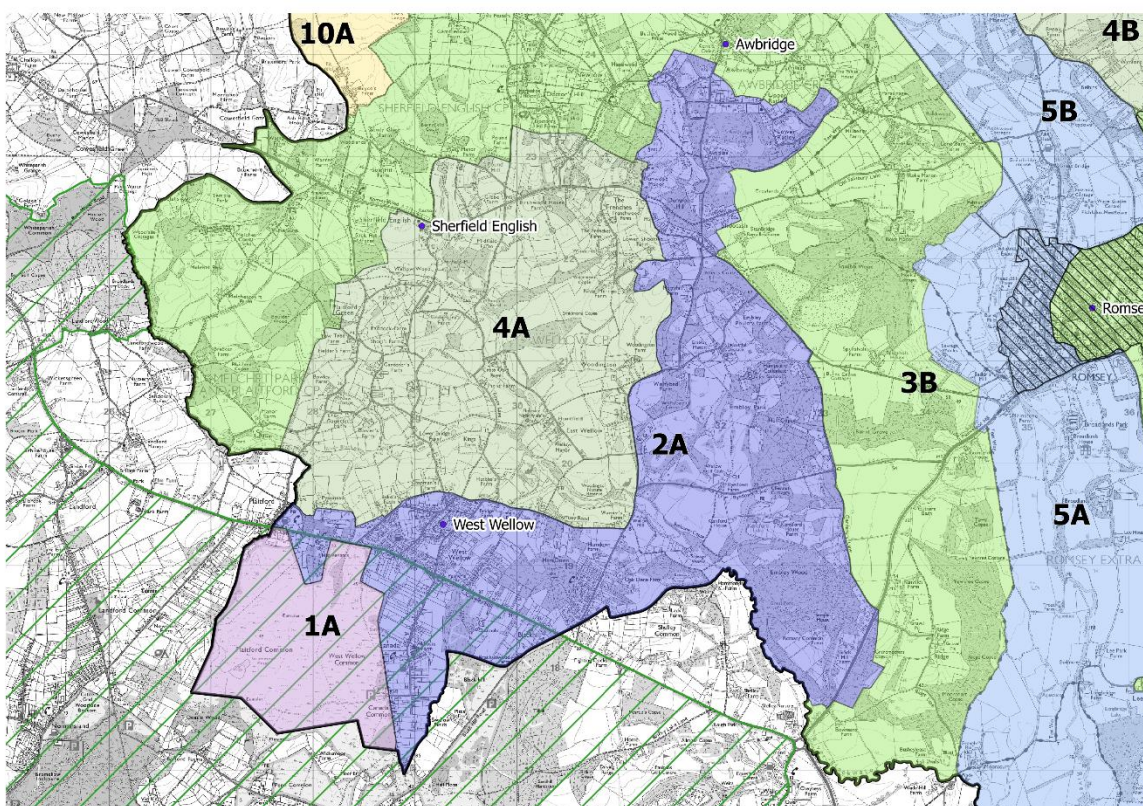
Land Use and Development Guidelines

2.16 All of the Borough wide land use and development guidelines in the introduction apply to this Landscape Character Area. Specific to this Landscape Character Type are:

2.17 Recreation, Tourism and Access

- Encourage management of woodlands to enable greater public access

LCA2A Embley Wood and Heathland



New Forest National Park area indicated with green line hatch.

General Description

- 2A.1. A mixture of areas of semi-open landscape including a golf course which contrast with areas of an enclosed landscape of mature woodlands, small hedged fields, and areas of scrub and heathland. Embley Park forms a strong influence within this landscape with its associated designed features including lakes, woodlands, lodges and once open areas of parkland. Additionally the smaller 19th century park of Awbridge Danes to the north of this character area has a similar influence, however on a smaller scale.

Location

- 2A.2. Embley Wood and Heathland has close links with the West Wellow Heaths LCA to the west side of Canada and includes West Wellow, Awbridge Danes, Embley Park and Embley Wood. To the south, the character area extends to

the Borough boundary, with the characteristics of the area continuing in the New Forest.

- 2A.3. The southern most part of this character area, to the south of the A36, is within the New Forest National Park¹.

Local Physical Influences

- 2A.4. **Geology and Soils:** Mainly comprising Wittering Formation and Earnley Sand Formation. The acidic soils have a strong influence on the vegetation type forming pockets of heathland and areas of poor quality soils.

Landform: A prominent ridgeline on the eastern boundary of Embley Park forms the eastern edge of the area. The landscape falls gently to the River Blackwater.

Drainage: The area falls within the River Blackwater catchment area and includes part of the River Blackwater and numerous small streams and ponds.

Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern

- 2A.5. Plaitford Common SSSI on the edge of the New Forest is composed of broadleaved woodland and unimproved grassland. There are several SINCs in this LCA; representative examples include Embley Wood, and area of broadleaved woodland with patches of dry heath and wet heath, some forestry scrub and an area of bog.
- 2A.6. Native broadleaved woodlands are also found at Withybed Copse, Hall Copse, Kentford Lake Wood, Spouts Copse, Shootash Copse and Baldwins Copse. Characteristic woodland species in this area include typical deciduous woodland trees such as oak and birch, while scrub layer can include notable species such as butchers broom. Typical ground flora in the more biodiversity-rich areas includes species such as bluebell, moschatel, sanicle, pignut, wood anemone, primrose, wood spurge and various orchids. Hazel dormouse has been recorded in woodlands in this area.

¹ Regard should also be had to the New Forest National Park's Landscape Character Assessment.

2A.7. Unimproved neutral grassland can be found at Daneswood Meadow, Hilltop Meadows Eastlands Meadow, while semi-improved neutral grassland occurs at All Saints, Awbridge. Characteristic species of these grasslands include various violet and eyebright species, hawksbeard, cranesbills, and several species of orchid.

2A.8. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA2A.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Acid grassland	23.45	1.84
Arable and horticulture	96.15	7.53
Boundary and linear features	37.92	2.97
Bracken	1.21	0.09
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	403.04	31.55
Built-up areas and gardens	206.23	16.14
Coniferous woodland	34.49	2.70
Dwarf shrub heath	1.17	0.09
Fen, marsh and swamp	4.62	0.36
Improved grassland	394.45	30.87
Neutral grassland	9.28	0.73
Rivers and streams	1.85	0.15
Standing open water and canals	2.37	0.19
Unidentified habitat	44.40	3.48
Unidentified water	16.97	1.33
Total	1277.60	

Local Historical Influences

2A.9. Parliamentary field enclosure upon portions of the heathland associated with the northern boundaries of the New Forest and generally close to Heath Associated type settlements. Pre-1810 assarted woodland and replanted assarted pre-1810 woodland is the dominant form of woodland in this character area and is possibly associated with the nearby presence of the New Forest. A single golf course and two historic parks (Embley Park and Awbridge Danes) are present within this character area.

Designations

2A.10. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:

2A.11. **Landscape**

- New Forest National Park: The south-west portion of this LCA lies within the National Park

2A.12. **Nature Conservation**

SINC

- 17 SINC's including ancient semi-natural woodlands, agriculturally unimproved grasslands, wetlands, heathlands and sites which support notable species or an outstanding assemblage of species

2A.13. **Historic**

Scheduled Monuments

- Dunwood Camp

Listed buildings

- There are significant numbers of listed buildings within this LCA including a notable cluster at West Wellow

Registered Parks and Gardens

- Awbridge Danes: Listed as Grade II on the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.
- Embley Park: Listed as Grade II on the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

Settlement Pattern

- 2A.14. Settlements within this area are concentrated towards the south with Canada, which lies within the New Forest National Park, and West Wellow sited along the edge of the New Forest National Park boundary. Canada is a small linear settlement adjacent to open common. Other settlements are limited to the large houses of Embley Park and Awbridge, a few scattered farmsteads, for example Merry Hill Farm and isolated industrial estates. The scattered system of farmsteads corresponds with the largely assarted and woodland character of this area. This may well represent a historical response to the type of farming landscape during the earlier post-medieval period with a series of farmsteads scattered within small land holdings but located in relative proximity with each other.

- 2A.15. Small roads criss-cross the landscape. The A36 in the south of the LCA has a suburbanising influence along the road corridor.
- 2A.16. Heathland settlement types in this character area appear to be largely post-medieval/modern development focused upon the main roads running through the area. Where a historic core does exist it is as one or more farmsteads with the more modern settlements developing up around these farms in one or more directions with later development occurring in blocks rather than as gradual organic development over time. The roads are the principal driving factor behind the development of this more modern settlement.
- 2A.17. The settlement pattern in this area during the later post-medieval period has been increasingly dominated by expansion from Southampton and its associated suburbs. These larger later post-medieval settlements are characterised by areas of planned housing with clearly defined boundaries edges and often a well-planned network of connecting roads.
- 2A.18. Settlements within this area are concentrated towards the south-west dominated by Heathland and Common Edge settlement types with a close relationship to adjacent open commons. Other settlements are limited to the large houses of Embley Park and Awbridge, a few scattered farmsteads and isolated industrial estates

Local Settlements

- 2A.19. Local Settlements and their corresponding Settlement Type (see Appendix 2 for more information):
- Awbridge: Clay River Valley Settlement Type
 - Canada: Common Edge Settlement Type
 - Plaitford: Common Edge Settlement Type
 - East Wellow: Common Edge Settlement Type
 - West Wellow: Heath Associated Settlement Type

Remoteness and Tranquillity

- 2A.20. Within the existing areas of parkland away from the main roads, areas of tranquillity can be found. The high degree of woodland cover provides the area with a sense of remoteness despite the proximity of Romsey and the A36.

Key Valued Characteristics

- 2A.21. Key valued characteristics of LCA2A are as follows:

- Prominent wooded ridgeline
- A landscape with a strong interconnecting pattern of farmland and woodland
- Extensive areas of woodland, particularly in association with parkland, contribute to a strong sense of enclosure
- Scattered farmsteads, including surviving traditional farmsteads, set largely within a pattern of small parliamentary fields, assarted fields and woodland positively contribute to the rural character and sense of time depth
- The pattern of fields, hedgerows, tree lines and blocks of woodland which intermingles with and bounds the settlement edges
- Views are short, mostly to the next field boundary or woodland edge except from high ground adjacent to open areas where views to the New Forest open up
- Occasionally views across open water of lakes and adjacent small pasture fields enclosed by woodland, although vegetation often limits these views
- Away from the A36, valued for its quiet rural character in contrast to Southampton
- Rural character of shaded leafy lanes
- Embley Park, Awbridge Danes and their parkland features, i.e. lodges, designed landscapes
- Pastoral landscape of small parliamentary field pattern on former heathland
- Extensive pre-1810 assarted and acid broadleaved woodland
- River Blackwater, local small streams and man-made lakes with adjacent pasture fields, riverside vegetation and woodland
- Acid to neutral unimproved grassland, with some remnants of heathland

- Red brick cottages with slate roofs are characteristic of the traditional linear settlements with modern housing of brick construction with concrete tiled roofs.
- Maturing native planting around and within the golf course (Wellow Golf Club) limits landscape and visual impact of the golf course and associated uses
- Glimpsed views from the settlement edges across surrounding pasture fields and to wooded horizons

Key Detractors

2A.22. Key detractors of LCA2A are as follows:

- Built development along and behind the A36 frontage
- Visually intrusive pylons south of Wellow Golf Club
- Expansion of industrial estates resulting in loss of pasture fields and woodland
- Limited number of public rights of way restricting recreational opportunities and enjoyment of the countryside
- The cumulative impact of fencing and fishing paraphernalia at lakes interrupting the remote character of the area

Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues

2A.23. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA2A are as follows:

- Erosion of parkland features within Embley Park
- Poor management of hedgerows
- Loss of wood pastures
- Loss of traditional farm buildings to non-farming uses, as seen adjacent to Embley Manor
- Declining use of traditional 'back-up' commoning land
- Continuing expansion of dormitory developments focused upon small settlements to serve Southampton and elsewhere
- Fragile archaeological heritage present upon the exposed (and traditionally marginalised) heathland sensitive to further settlement development
- Pressure for additional development and the potential erosion of the pattern of fields, hedgerows, tree lines and blocks of woodland which intermingles with and bounds the settlement edges

- Expansion of farmsteads and conversion of farm buildings to residential
- Loss of pasture areas for industrial use, causing change in landscape character and loss of biodiversity
- Modernisation and development of sewage works potentially causing visual intrusion and dilution of the rural character of River Blackwater and local small streams
- Increase in demand for recreational fishing with the cumulative impact of small-scale incremental change (e.g. signage, fencing, kerbing of rural lanes) on the rural character of the area

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

2A.24. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA2A Embley Wood and Heathland are as follows:

- The landscape condition of Embley Wood and Heathland has been eroded over the years by a variety of human activity, but it still retains the basis of a strong and distinctive landscape pattern and a strong sense of seclusion. The overall strategy is to enhance the tranquillity and extensive wooded character and its locally distinctive features and protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

Land Management

2A.25. All of the Borough wide and Landscape Character Type land management guidelines apply to this Landscape Character Area. Specific to this Landscape Character Area are as follows:

2A.26. **Landscape Distinctiveness**

- Maintain sense of enclosure and intimacy
- Conserve the variety of the landscape pattern within a wooded framework

2A.27. **Agriculture**

- Encourage continuity of back up grazing
- Maintain present field size and encourage use for pasture

2A.28. **Hedgerows**

- Encourage traditional methods of hedge management
- Maintain, restore and where possible enhance hedgerow field boundaries

2A.29. **Woodland and Trees**

- Maintain existing levels of woodland cover in medium sized swathes providing a diversity of woodland habitats
- Retain landscape features within wooded parkland

2A.30. **Biodiversity**

- Conserve remnant areas of unimproved pasture and heathland
- Active management of woodland to protect and increase ecological value
- Seek opportunities to link existing heathland through heathland restoration

2A.31. **Historic Landscapes**

- Protect parkland features at Embley Park and Awbridge Danes

Land Use and Development

2A.32. All of the Borough wide and Landscape Character Type land use and development guidelines apply to this Landscape Character Area. Specific to this Landscape Character Area are:

2A.33. **Built Development**

- Avoid adversely impacting the tranquillity of the adjacent open heathland at West Wellow Common and Plaitford Common
- Protect the pattern of small linear settlements and scattered farmsteads and dwellings – maintaining the rural character of the landscape with, for example, appropriate boundary treatments such as native hedgerows or estate railings rather than suburban close-board fencing. External lighting kept to a minimum and selection of deciduous species rather than ornamental conifers and evergreens on garden boundaries.
- Protected the wooded setting to existing farms and industrial estates
- Ensure the setting of the New Forest National Park is conserved

2A.34. **Infrastructure**

- Seek opportunities to reduce the visual impact of overhead power lines
- Protect the area from further noise and visual intrusion from the A36

2A.35. **Recreation, Tourism and Access**

- Manage the recreation of the lakes for fishing to retain their rural quality, avoid overdevelopment of facilities and infrastructure which will create a more urban and artificial landscape

- Establish new public access links, including connecting to the River Blackwater



Man-made lakes



Small parliamentary fields on former
heathland

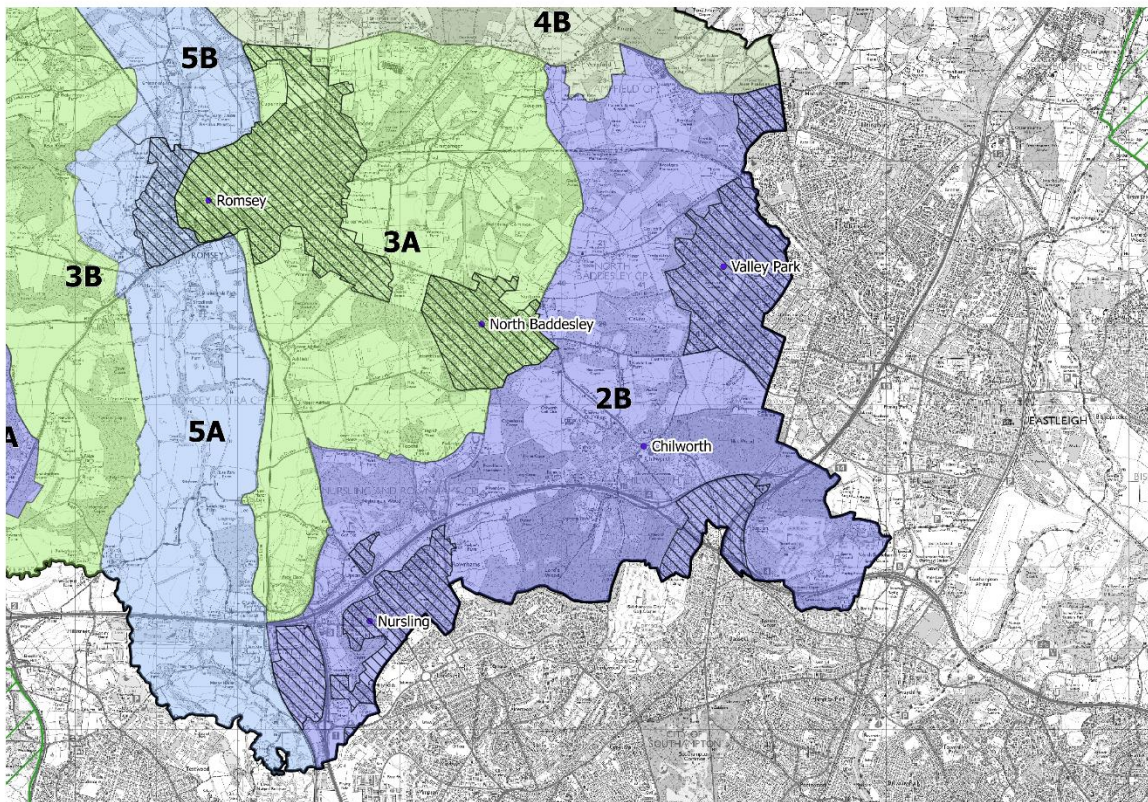


Parkland landscape at Embley Park



Shaded leafy lanes

LCA2B North Baddesley and Chilworth Woodland Mosaic



General Description

- 2B.1. North Baddesley and Chilworth Woodland Mosaic is a mix of large areas of woodland including plantations, predominantly along the northern edge of Southampton, with open areas of arable land, and rough grassland with heathland located to the west of Chandler's Ford. The areas of arable farmland have generally poor quality hedgerows, with fields collectively forming larger open areas that are contained within the woodland framework.
- 2B.2. There are pockets of higher density residential development adjacent to Southampton and Chandler's Ford. Business Parks with large scale buildings are located between Southampton and the M271/M27. A number of golf courses occupy sites adjacent to woodlands, for example at North Stoneham and Nightingale Wood, with golf courses also located within open areas south of North Baddesley. The M27 runs through the landscape to the south, with

junctions and slip roads encroaching into the wooded and open arable landscape on either side.

Location

- 2B.3. North Baddesley and Chilworth Woodland Mosaic has close links with the Baddesley Mixed Farm and Woodland to the west. The area is located in the south-east corner of the Borough extending to the southern and eastern Borough boundaries. The built up areas of Chandler's Ford and Southampton lie immediately to the east and south.

Local Physical Influences

- 2B.4. **Geology and Soils:** Complex area of London Clay, Wittering Formation and Earnley Sand Formation, with some areas of Alluvium and River Terrace Deposits.

Landform: Gentle undulating ground sloping south to Southampton Water, becoming more pronounced south of the M27.

Drainage: This is within the Itchen and Test catchments and has numerous streams and ponds.

Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern

- 2B.5. Most of the more extensive woodlands in this area are plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS), such as Great Covert SINC, Home Copse and part of Lords Wood. There are also areas of ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW), notably Trodd's Copse SSSI and the SINC woodlands around Valley Park along the western fringes of Chandler's Ford.
- 2B.6. Native broadleaved woodland is an important habitat in this area (particularly where this is Ancient Woodland). Oak and birch are abundant in these areas, while other species such as ash, rowan, holly, whitebeam and field maple are also represented. Poplar and aspen are found in the damper areas. There are locally-abundant areas of sweet chestnut and this has often been historically managed by coppicing, although this has somewhat fallen into neglect.

- 2B.7. There are areas of acid and neutral grassland including some traditional grazed hay meadows. The more unimproved and species-rich grasslands are generally dominated by fine-leaved grasses such as red fescue, crested dog-tail and velvet bent. Coarser grasses such as cocksfoot and Yorkshire fog are not so frequent although are ubiquitous in most other more improved grasslands. There is a variety of flowering plants that in some cases can comprise a substantial proportion of the herbage in these grasslands.
- 2B.8. Other notable habitats include occasional patches of lowland heath dominated by heather, together with mosaics of acid grassland, patchy woodland and scrub. Often the valleys have wet areas. Ancient and semi-natural woodlands link with hedgerows and provide an important resource, contributing to wider ecological networks and are particularly key to species such as hazel dormouse, which is well-represented in the woodlands in this LCA.
- 2B.9. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA2B.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Acid grassland	54.56	2.07
Arable and horticulture	108.91	4.13
Boundary and linear features	179.26	6.79
Bracken	5.16	0.20
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	657.30	24.92
Built-up areas and gardens	444.10	16.83
Coniferous woodland	298.21	11.30
Dwarf shrub heath	3.17	0.12
Fen, marsh and swamp	3.93	0.15
Improved grassland	717.45	27.19
Inland rock	8.92	0.34
Neutral grassland	27.42	1.04
Standing open water and canals	3.91	0.15
Unidentified habitat	119.25	4.52
Unidentified water	6.61	0.25
Total	2638.17	

Local Historical Influences

- 2B.10. Parliamentary field enclosure can be found close to several heath associated settlements and principally close or within the valley of the River Test at the

western end of North Baddesley and Chilworth Woodland Mosaic. Further north the dominant form of historic landscape is regular assarted fields with straight boundaries typical of 19th or 20th century woodland clearance. Close by are surviving 19th century plantations further supporting the 19th/20th century date for the nearby regular assarted fields.

- 2B.11. Earlier pre-1810 woodland does survive. When this is combined with the evidence for extensive assarting this suggests the presence within this area of Test Valley of a significant forested environment, possibly associated during the prehistoric period with the New Forest.

Designations

- 2B.12. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:

2B.13. **Nature Conservation**

SSSI

- Trodds Copse – Ancient semi-natural woodland

SINC

- 77 SINCs including ancient semi-natural woodlands, pasture woodland, agriculturally unimproved grasslands, wetlands, heathland remnants, scrub and sites which support notable species

2B.14. **Historic**

Scheduled Monuments

- Castle Hill
- The Ring earthworks
- Section of Roman Road SW of Titlark Farm

Conservation Areas

- Chilworth Old Village Conservation Area and part of Ampfield Conservation Area lie within this LCA

Listed buildings

- There is a notable cluster of listed buildings in Chilworth Old Village Conservation Area and small numbers of other listed buildings across the LCA, including North Baddesley Manor House: Grade II Listed Building

Settlement Pattern

- 2B.15. Settlements within this area are concentrated towards the south and east, linking to the areas of existing development of Southampton and Chandler's Ford. This has resulted from localised growth of the individual settlements in the 19th century and in the extensive development of new suburbs along major roads.
- 2B.16. The larger and more regular assarts farmsteads appear to be considerably more spaced apart than within areas where smaller assarted fields predominate. The various elements of woodland at the southern end of this character area appear to have no farmsteads within them.
- 2B.17. The built form is dominated by modern building styles and materials, predominately housing of brick construction with concrete tiled roof.
- 2B.18. The settlement pattern of this area is largely dominated by expansion from Southampton and its suburbs during the later post-medieval period

Local Settlements

- 2B.19. Local Settlements and their corresponding Settlement Type (see Appendix 2 for more information):
- Chilworth: Heath Associated Settlement Type
 - North Baddesley: Heath Associated Settlement Type
 - Nursling: Heath Associated Settlement Type.

Remoteness and Tranquillity

- 2B.20. The M27 and M271, with associated slip roads and junctions, and adjacent large scale commercial buildings have had an impact on levels of tranquillity within the adjacent area. Areas of woodland away from traffic noise still offer some sense of remoteness and tranquillity. The visibility of golf courses as well as residential development on the open landscape, has affected the sense of rural remoteness, with a more urban character.

Key Valued Characteristics

2B.21. Key valued characteristics of LCA2B are as follows:

- Pockets of gently undulating pasture and arable fields within a strong framework of hedgerows and woodland cover, including plantation
- Remnant heathland and unimproved grassland
- Some parliamentary enclosure close to heath associated settlement and nearby the valley floor of the River Test which flanks the western boundary of this character area
- Wooded character of Chilworth
- Large areas of assarting present within the northern portion of this character area, many of a small scale intimate character
- Retained mature former hedgerow trees within business parks
- Woodland provides containment to golf courses and aids in reducing their potential landscape and visual impact
- Woodland and generous woodland belts provide containment to suburban residential development extending from Southampton and Chandler's Ford
- Views are generally short, mostly to the next field boundary or woodland edge with some long views in the vicinity of Ampfield looking southwards across open countryside and northwards and westwards in the vicinity of Chilworth Old Village to wooded ridges
- Pattern of fields separating Ampfield and Chandler's Ford / Valley Park / North Baddesley

Key Detractors

2B.22. Key detractors of LCA2B are as follows:

- Poor fragmented hedgerow structure along arable field boundaries
- M27 and M271 corridor and major junctions in the south of the area
- Areas of suburban residential development, sometimes with poor and abrupt interfaces with open fields, and large-scale visually prominent buildings within business parks extending from Southampton and Chandler's Ford
- A large number of golf courses are more prominent in areas of open landscape and frequently use landscape treatments not in keeping with the rural landscape, including ornamental hedge and tree planting

- These larger post-medieval settlements are characterised by large areas of planned housing with clearly defined boundaries and connected by an often straight and well-connected network of roads.
- Pylons crossing open fields running east-west in the central part of the area
- Visually intrusive caravan parks
- Spread of equestrian activity, with sub-division of open areas of grassland with poor quality fencing and field stables

Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues

2B.23. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA2B are as follows:

- Increased impact upon the pre-1810 woodland along the southern border of the Borough from the development of afforestation, recreation, housing, industry and transport links
- Erosion of rural character by the M27, M271, Chilworth and Nursling junctions
- Erosion of the remaining rural gaps between Southampton, the M27 and Chilworth, notably the significance of the open land north of Southampton in maintaining the perception of separation of fringe settlements
- Erosion of remaining sense of tranquillity away from developed areas
- Further loss of historic parkland to modern use and design
- Parcels of farmland left unmanaged due to aspirations for future development.
- Pressure for additional development, including large-scale commercial development, and the potential erosion of the surrounding landscape arising from further development extending from the main settlements
- Potential erosion of the rural character of the area from solar and other renewable energy development
- Expansion of farmsteads and conversion of farm buildings to residential
- Increased 'horsiculture' with the loss of the rural character of pasture fields

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

2B.24. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA2B are as follows:

- North Baddesley and Chilworth Woodland Mosaic retains strong elements of its wooded character and patches of heathland but these are being eroded. The area is also at risk from the cumulative effects of urban fringe facilities.

The overall strategy is therefore to restore a dominant wooded and heathland character to the North Baddesley and Chilworth Woodland Mosaic through the conservation of existing habitats and new landscape opportunities and protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

Land Management

2B.25. All of the Borough wide and Landscape Character Type land management guidelines apply to this Landscape Character Area. Specific to this Landscape Character Area are as follows:

2B.26. **Landscape Distinctiveness**

- Maintain the present balance of urban and rural land use and vegetation pattern in the area

2B.27. **Agriculture**

- Encourage the reversion of arable land to woodland pasture
- Maintain existing pattern of assarting in the north of the area

2B.28. **Hedgerows**

- Restore the continuity and quality of field hedgerows
- New boundary hedgerows to be planted using locally native species

2B.29. **Woodland and Trees**

- Maintain and strengthen existing woodland cover, particularly east and north of the M27 and M271 and around large-scale commercial buildings
- Avoid replacement of open land with plantation
- Woodland management and new woodlands to be planted with locally native species

2B.30. **Biodiversity**

- Conserve and enhance remnant heathland and unimproved grassland
- Encourage woodland and hedgerow management and restoration to conserve and enhance the local population of hazel dormouse

2B.31. **Historic Landscapes**

- Identify and seek opportunities to restore historic landscapes as appropriate
- Safeguard historic features and their settings, especially where they lie within urban areas and are most vulnerable

2B.32. **Settlement Fringe**

- Avoid deterioration in the urban fringe landscape arising from poor design and intrusive development
- Improve management of the landscape around settlements
- Protect and enhance the important green spaces around and within the settlement fringe and their contribution to green infrastructure, links with the wider countryside, nature conservation, the setting of the settlement and breaking up the built form

Land Use and Development

2B.33. All of the Borough wide and Landscape Character Type land use and development guidelines apply to this Landscape Character Area. Specific to this Landscape Character Area are:

2B.34. **Built Development**

- Maintain the wooded separation of areas of residential development
- Avoid loss of separate identity of well-defined settlements through coalescence and homogeneous design
- Proposals for new solar development should consider the cumulative impacts on the valued, predominantly rural, character with mixed farmland
- Ensure proposals for large-scale commercial buildings are appropriately sited and incorporate appropriate landscape proposals to reduced their potential landscape and visual impact

2B.35. **Infrastructure**

- Protect the area from further noise and visual intrusion from the motorways and associated infrastructure
- Avoid increased suburbanisation arising from introduction of highway measures which conflict with the predominant rural character
- Telecommunications and other high structures to be sited to take advantage of woodland screening
- Seek opportunity to reduce visual fragmentation by placing electricity cables underground
- Reduce the landscape and visual impact of existing pylons and cumulative impacts with other intrusive features

2B.36. Recreation, Tourism and Access

- Minimise the impact of golf course construction and maintenance through locally appropriate planting, and avoid damage to remnant heathland



Long views, in the vicinity of Chilworth Old Village, to wooded ridges



Small-scale intimate character of assorted fields



Retained mature trees within business parks



Strong framework of woodland



Undulating arable fields within a strong framework of hedgerows and woodland