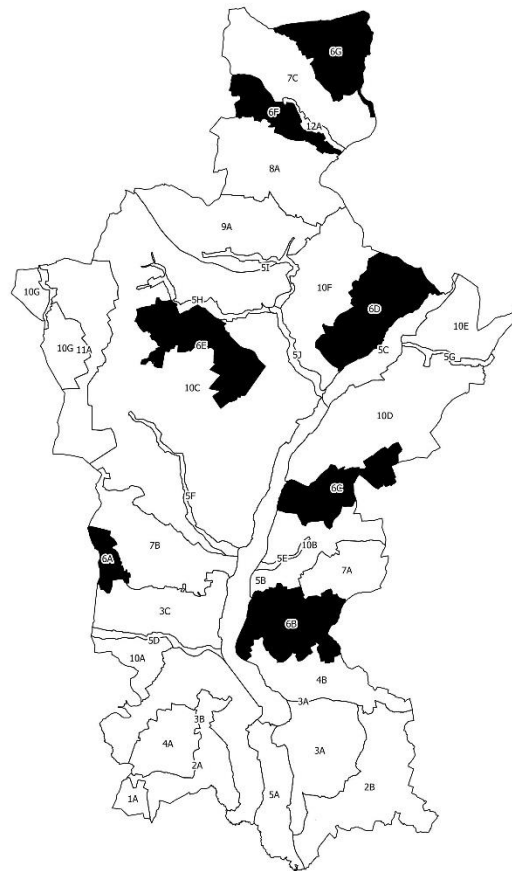


LCT6 Enclosed Chalk and Clay Woodland

General Description

6.1 The Enclosed Chalk and Clay Woodland landscape character type consists of woodland with associated fields which are predominantly arable, but mixed in size ranging from large to small scale. Smaller fields of pasture are found adjacent to settlements and areas of steep gradients. The fields have a strong hedgerow structure, which is more intact than the Open Chalklands LCT10.



6.2 A feature of this landscape is the dramatic scarps, with rounded tops and gentle dip slopes. These scarps generally encircle valleys or overlook more extensive vales. Their steep topography makes arable farming difficult so most commonly they are either grazed by sheep or are left to develop as woodland and rarely have roads or settlements associated with them. The scarps are popular for recreation, due to the dramatic landscape and opportunity to gain panoramic views.

6.3 There are numerous historic parks and designed landscapes, many originating as medieval deer parks. Small villages nestle within sheltered valleys with widespread scattered farmsteads and hamlets and an intricate network of rural lanes overhung by deep grassy banks and woodland.

Location

- 6.4 The landscape character type is found across the Borough north of a line from West Tytherley to Michelmersh. It is closely associated with the Open Chalklands and together with LCT7 forms a distinctive transition landscape between the predominantly chalk upland and clay lowlands of LCT3, 8 and 9.
- 6.5 The Chalk and Clay Enclosed Woodland landscape is divided into several character areas. These comprise:
- LCA 6A: Norman Court Wooded Downs
 - LCA 6B: Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods
 - LCA 6C: Little Somborne Wooded Downs
 - LCA 6D: Harewood Forest Wooded Downs
 - LCA 6E: Ampport Wooded Downs
 - LCA 6F: Rushmore Wooded Down
 - LCA 6G: Faccombe Wooded Downs

Physical Influences

- 6.6 **Geology and Soils:** Chalk, distinguished by a thick capping of Clay with Flint in some areas. The reddish brown clay creates heavier sticky loams in comparison with the light, freely draining, calcareous soils found on the chalk.
- Landform:** This landscape type covers a wide topographical range from 30m to 240m. It has a more undulating topography than Enclosed Clay Plateau, and Semi Enclosed Clay Plateau, with some parts exhibiting ridge and valley landforms, dry valleys, coombs and scarps within the overall undulating, rolling landscape. Very long views are limited due to the high percentage of woodland.
- Drainage:** Due to the pervious nature of the chalk there is no evidence of surface waterbodies.

Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern

- 6.7 This landscape has some open arable areas but has a strong pattern of woodland and hedgerows. The hedgerow structure is relatively intact and links with areas of ancient semi-natural woodland. The woodlands vary from small

copses and game spinneys to shelter belts and larger woodlands. Most of the ancient semi-natural woodlands are dominated by oak or ash. Yew, holly, whitebeam and hazel are also characteristic tree species of this landscape. Small pockets of unimproved calcareous grassland, which are of high conservation value, occur in places.

Notable habitats

- Unimproved and semi-improved calcareous grassland

Historical Influences

- 6.8 The Enclosed Chalk and Clay Woodland demonstrates a cross section of an historic environment captured in a state of change. This landscape contains varying degrees of later post-medieval parliamentary field systems and a series of larger and more modern prairie fields which represent the introduction of an increasingly mechanised state of farming during the 20th and into the 21st centuries. The later and clearly surveyed parliamentary field systems and their subsequent but more sporadic opening up into larger prairie fields removed what appear to have been extensive elements of large assarted fields. These assarted fields occur on the upland slopes of this landscape character type and, given the size and shape of their boundaries most probably represent eighteenth and early nineteenth century assarting of upland woodland.
- 6.9 Extensive elements of woodland displaying both pre and post-1810 elements survive particularly upon the upland areas of Enclosed Chalk and Clay Woodland.

Settlement Pattern

- 6.10 Substantial and formal settlements are missing from Enclosed Chalk and Clay Woodlands. Where assarted field systems or woodland survive to any extent there remains a scattered number of farmsteads dotted around the landscape in relative proximity to each other. Where parliamentary field systems and later prairie fields have replaced any evidence of assarting, the farmsteads are more widely spaced.

Communication Network

- 6.11 Narrow, winding roads extend throughout this Landscape Character Type and appear to retain their medieval or early post-medieval character. These routes generally move between the higher forested and assarted upland areas down towards the lowland areas.

Key Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues

- 6.12 Key natural and cultural landscape issues as follows:
- Erosion arising from access to viewpoints on, or close to, fragile areas of grassland
 - Maintenance of public rights of way
 - Appropriate management of woodland
 - Maintenance of Parkland
 - Maintenance of the intimate winding rural lanes with a good sense of tranquillity and remoteness
 - Impact of traffic on the tranquil and remote character
 - Loss of chalk downland to arable or scrub encroachment
 - Lack of coppice management leading to a reduction of associated habitat specific species such as woodland butterflies and dormice
 - Isolation of small patches of habitat
 - Hedgerow fragmentation and loss
 - Loss of unimproved mesotrophic grassland to arable or through application of fertilisers
 - Management of local woodlands for commercial game shooting.

Land Management Guidelines

- 6.13 All of the Borough wide land management guidelines in the introduction apply to this Landscape Character Type. Specific to this Landscape Character Type are:
- 6.14 **Landscape Distinctiveness**
- Conserve strong sense of seclusion and tranquillity

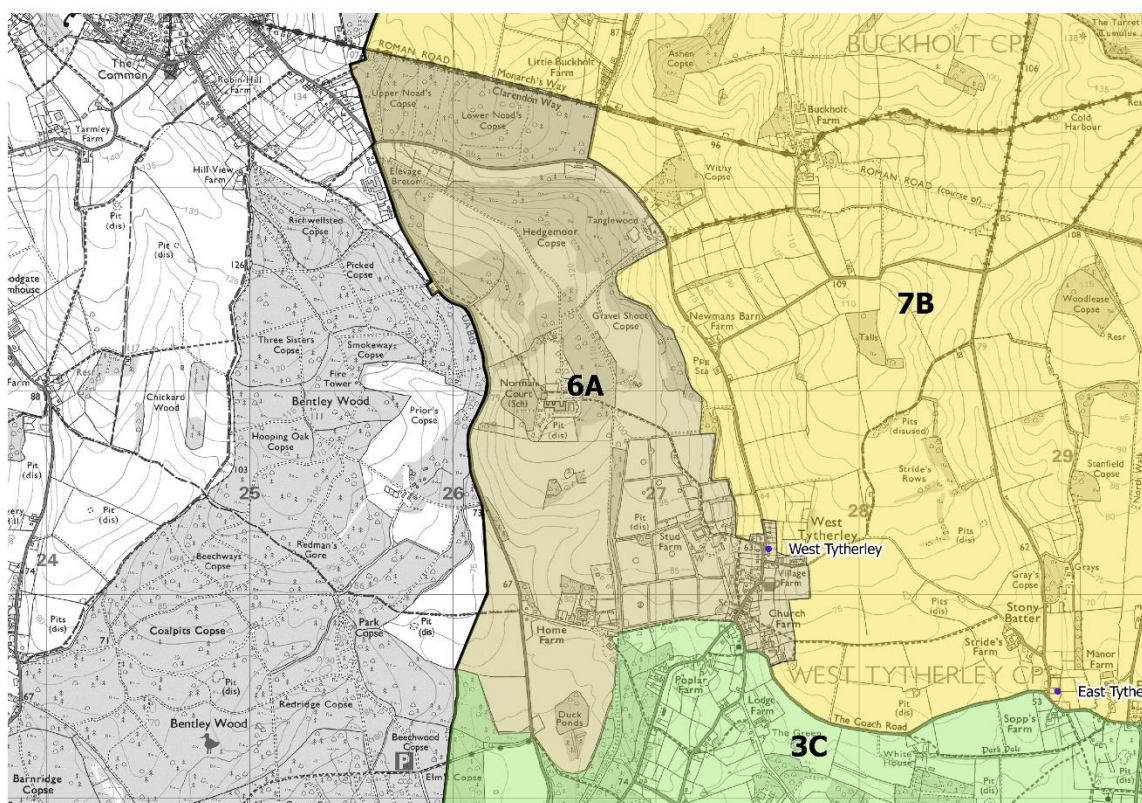
6.15 **Agriculture**

- 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

6.16 **Hedgerows**

- Ensure oak standards grow up to form hedgerow trees

LCA6A Norman Court Wooded Downs



General Description

- 6A.1. Norman Court Wooded Downs lie on a southerly extremity of the upper chalk with patches of clay with flints but has a good covering of woodland, whereby it differs from the neighbouring Broughton Downs LCA 7B to the east. It is a quiet remote area, influenced by the Norman Court estate, largely unaffected by modern development.

Location

- 6A.2. Norman Court Wooded Downs is a small character area, which largely lies to the north and west of West Tytherley up to the western boundary of the Borough.

Local Physical Influences

- 6A.3. **Geology and Soils:** Chalk overlain with Clay with Flints on higher ground at Norman Court.

Landform: The area is characterised by a broad ridgeline which runs north-south. Slopes are steeper in the north part of the area.

Drainage: The area lies within the River Test catchment area and is well-drained with no streams or waterbodies, with the exception of a chain of man-made ponds at West Tytherley.

Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern

6A.4. This area is one of large open arable fields and improved grassland pasture, with large and small areas of woodland linked by field hedges. Most of the larger woodland in the LCA is Ancient Woodland and also designated as SINC such as Hedgemoor Copse and Noads Copse.

6A.5. There are also small copses, game spinneys to shelter belts that in many cases contribute to wider ecological network benefits as they form linear features linking other sites and features, including the large Bentley Wood SSSI that forms the western boundary of the LCA.

6A.6. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA6A.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Arable and horticulture	119.93	32.94
Boundary and linear features	6.85	1.88
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	128.12	35.18
Built-up areas and gardens	18.13	4.98
Coniferous woodland	0.39	0.11
Improved grassland	75.53	20.74
Standing open water and canals	0.21	0.06
Unidentified habitat	14.45	3.97
Unidentified water	0.53	0.15
Total	364.13	

Local Historical Influences

6A.7. The majority of this area is taken up by a pre-1810 estate landscape centred around Norman Court. The northern boundary of the estate is bounded by an area of large, regular assarting and assarted pre-1810 woodland while to the south lies Tytherley Common and the parliamentary field systems of LCA 3C. The presence of a pre-1810 estate landscape within this area of the Borough has clearly had an effect upon the subsequent development of the area and

its historic environment. Home Farm at the southern end of the LCA was the farming centre for this estate landscape.

Designations

6A.8. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:

6A.9. **Nature Conservation**

SSSI

- Bentley Wood - Broadleaved semi-natural woodland

SINC

- 6 SINCs, mostly ancient semi-natural woodland

6A.10. **Historic**

Conservation Areas

- West Tytherley

Scheduled Monuments

- A section of Roman road forms the northern boundary of this LCA

Listed buildings

- Clusters of listed buildings across the LCA including Norman Court Grade II* Listed Building.

Settlement Pattern

6A.11. The linear settlement of West Tytherley is the only significant village settlement within this LCA. West Tytherley has a well-developed historic core which survives as a nucleus focused upon a junction of roads with some 19th century settlement extending along these roads away from the core.

Local Settlements

6A.12. Local Settlements and their corresponding Settlement Type (see Appendix 2 for more information):

- West Tytherley: Chalk-Clay Spring Line Settlement Type

Remoteness and Tranquillity

6A.13. A secluded undisturbed area which extends westwards out of the Borough into Wiltshire.

Key Valued Characteristics

6A.14. Key valued characteristics of LCA6A are as follows:

- Remains of post-1810 estate parkland cover most of this area
- Stands of nineteenth century woodland and wooded copses present within the north of the area, presumably associated with the estate landscape
- Quiet and remote
- Largely unaffected by modern development
- Large incidence of woodland connected by hedgerows, much of it pre-1810
- Small areas of calcareous grassland
- Historic core of West Tytherley

Key Detractors

6A.15. None have been identified

Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues

6A.16. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA6A are as follows:

- Partial erosion of the parkland landscape much of which survives in good order and is relatively untouched by later development.

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

6A.17. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA6A Norman Court Wooded Downs are as follows:

- Norman Court Wooded Downs are distinguished by their parkland character and sense of seclusion. The overall strategy is therefore to conserve and enhance the combination of woodland and open fields and parkland features within Norman Court Wooded Downs and protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

Land Management

6A.18. 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:

6A.19. Landscape Distinctiveness

- Maintain the existing balance of open pasture and woodland with parkland trees
- Conserve the strong sense of seclusion and tranquillity

6A.20. Agriculture

- Maintain the existing pasture management

6A.21. Hedgerows

- Maintain the existing hedgerow pattern

6A.22. Woodland and Trees

- Maintain the existing variety of woodland sizes and forms

6A.23. Biodiversity

- Conserve, manage and restore woodland habitats
- Explore opportunities to enhance the woodland and hedgerow ecological network

6A.24. Historic Landscapes

- Maintain the dominance of the existing parkland character and plant appropriate trees species to ensure succession.

Land Use and Development

6A.25. 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:

6A.26. Built Development

- Avoid any development that would be visually intrusive in this area or out of keeping with its intimate scale

6A.27. Infrastructure

- Avoid highway engineering works in the area which might erode the particularly quiet rural character of the road network
- Development to be small in scale and well-sited, taking advantage of vegetation cover, to conserve the sense of remoteness and tranquillity

6A.28. Recreation, Tourism and Access

- Ensure equestrian infrastructure is sensitively integrated within the landscape setting



Parkland east of Home Farm



Parkland at Home Farm

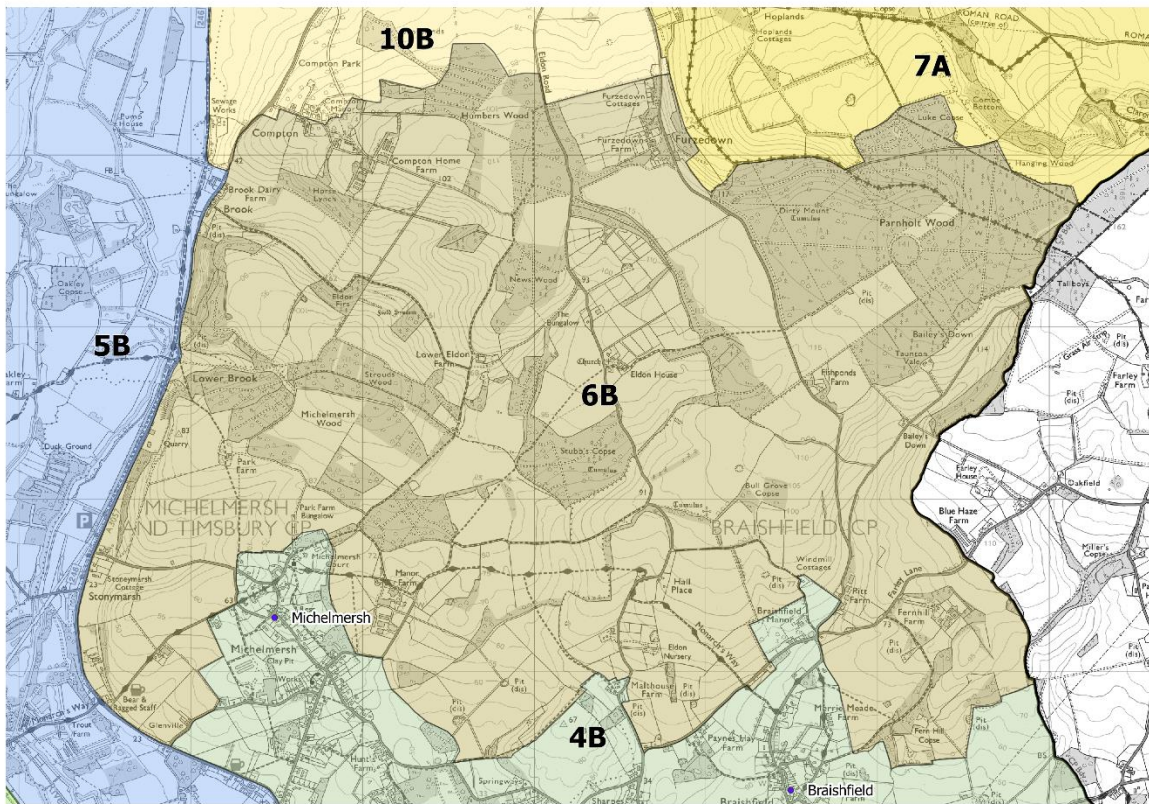


Softly undulating landform with
woodland north of Norman Court



Equestrian use within parkland setting south of Norman Court

LCA6B Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods



General Description

- 6B.1. Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods has a typical rolling and undulating chalk downland topography, rising above the valley of the River Test (at around 30m) through a series of distinctive dry valleys to a higher level in the east at 160m.
- 6B.2. The woodlands vary in size from the largest Parnholt Wood (mainly plantation) to smaller copses, such as Stubbs Copse. A number of woodlands also occupy the more inaccessible and uncultivable slopes creating long sinuous wooded areas within the landscape i.e. Horse Lynch and Baileys Down. These areas of woodlands are then linked across the landscape by shelterbelts and a variety of hedgerows leading to a complex landscape of openness and enclosure.

Location

- 6B.3. Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods lies to the east of the River Test valley to the north east of Michelmersh, extending to the Borough boundary at Bailey's Down.

Local Physical Influences

- 6B.4. **Geology and Soils:** Chalk overlain in some areas of higher ground by Clay with Flints.

Landform: The more gentle ridgelines are associated with the overlying Clay with Flints e.g. the ridgeline to the northwest of Eldon House, and to the east of Bull Grove Copse. On the exposed Chalk, there is a more dramatic landform as, for example, south of Compton House leading up to Lower Eldon Farm.

Drainage: The area drains westwards into the River Test and is characterised by an absence of streams and waterbodies.

Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern

- 6B.5. This area is one of large open arable fields and improved grassland pasture, with large and small areas of woodland linked by field hedges. Much of the woodland in the LCA is Ancient Woodland and most woodlands area also designated as SINC, such as Parnholt Wood.
- 6B.6. There are also small copses, game spinneys to shelter belts (many of which are also SINC) that in many cases contribute to wider ecological network benefits as they form linear features linking other sites and features, including the River Test SSSI that is close to the western boundary of the LCA.
- 6B.7. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA6B.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Arable and horticulture	838.60	50.57
Boundary and linear features	13.55	0.82
Bracken	0.50	0.030
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	415.89	25.08
Built-up areas and gardens	20.86	1.26
Calcareous grassland	11.31	0.68

Coniferous woodland	31.78	1.92
Improved grassland	306.64	18.49
Inland rock	2.14	0.13
Neutral grassland	0.01	0.01
Unidentified habitat	16.69	1.01
Unidentified water	0.28	0.02
Total	1658.27	

Local Historical Influences

- 6B.8. The central and eastern portion of Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods represent a largely upland environment and are dominated by the presence of numerous large irregular assarted fields with some small stands of trees and copses associated. A break in slope occurs between the upland assarted fields and the valley side parliamentary and prairie fields, this is best demonstrated where Michelmersh and Casbrook Common dominate the scarp.
- 6B.9. The western end of this area begins to slope down to the valley floor of the River Test. Where the land drops to the valley floor, parliamentary and prairie fields dominate the historic landscape of the character area.
- 6B.10. The northern portion of LCA 6B retains a significant amount of woodland and some associated assarting. Some parliamentary field enclosure and the later development of prairie field within the upland areas in the north of LCA 6B can possibly be attributed to the actions of Compton Manor which lies partially within this area.

Designations

- 6B.11. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:
- 6B.12. **Nature Conservation**
SINC
- 38 SINC, mainly ancient semi-natural woodland, also including agriculturally unimproved grassland and sites which support notable species
- 6B.13. **Historic**
Scheduled Monuments

- Manor Farm
- Roman villa north of Fernhill Farm
- Bowl barrow in Parnholt Wood

Listed buildings

- A small number of listed buildings are present in this LCA

Settlement Pattern

6B.14. The settlement is limited to the small hamlet of Furzedown and isolated farmsteads predominantly located on the south-facing slopes throughout the area. A series of well-dispersed farmsteads sit within the open areas of arable fields. Few farmsteads lie within the area of large irregular assarts along the southern boundary of this character area. It is assumed that the farms to which these fields belong lie nearby in adjacent areas.

Local Settlements

6B.15. None identified.

Remoteness and Tranquillity

6B.16. Away from the A3057, Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods has a quiet remoteness and tranquillity due to the undulating landform, high covering of woodland and sparsely settled character.

Key Valued Characteristics

6B.17. Key valued characteristics of LCA6B are as follows:

- Undulating chalk downland topography
- Distinctive dry valleys
- Large incidence of woodland, semi - natural and plantation, often sinuous following the line of steeper slopes
- Pockets of unimproved calcareous grassland
- Variety of shelter belts and hedgerows
- Good covering of Public Rights of Way
- There is a clear distinction between the upland assarted field systems (the result of forest clearance) and the valley side landscape where parliamentary

and prairie fields abound. This difference represents historically different approach to farming within the topography of the Test Valley

- Well-dispersed farmsteads and little settlement.
- Narrow winding lanes
- Far-reaching views
- Enclosure and remoteness
- Quietness and tranquillity away from A3057
- Traditional building styles are brick walls with clay tile roofs

Key Detractors

6B.18. Key detractors of LCA6B are as follows:

- Inappropriate suburban-style garden boundaries including close-board fencing
- Active and disused quarries along the boundary with the Test Valley floor, as at Brook. Quarries are often screened by surrounding vegetation reducing their visual impact.

Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues

6B.19. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA6B are as follows:

- Possible development of larger prairie-type field systems within the upland areas of this assarted landscape which is quite clearly associated with its upland context.

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

6B.20. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA6B Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods are as follows:

- The Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods is most important for the extent and quality of its woodlands. The overall strategy is therefore to conserve the existing pattern of woodland and open fields within Compton with Parnholt and Michelmersh Woods whilst enhancing other habitats and extant historic features and to protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

Land Management

6B.21. 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:

6B.22. **Agriculture**

- Maintain existing field pattern and hedgerows
- Encourage reversion of arable fields to pasture

6B.23. **Hedgerows**

- Enhance links created by hedgerows between woodlands and shelterbelts

6B.24. **Woodland and Trees**

- Encourage the replanting of conifer plantations with locally-native broadleaved species

6B.25. **Biodiversity**

- Conserve and enhance remnants of chalk grassland and explore opportunities for reversion of improved pasture / arable land to more species-rich calcareous habitats
- Enhance the network of woodland, copse and hedge habitats, and their linkages to the River Test

6B.26. **Historic Landscapes**

- Maintain and enhance landscape setting of historic features and buildings

Land Use and Development

6B.27. 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:

6B.28. **Built Development**

- Built form to reflect local pattern and materials

6B.29. **Infrastructure**

- Avoid suburbanisation arising from introduction of inappropriate highway measures

6B.30. **Recreation, Tourism and Access**

- Encourage greater use of good footpath system

6B.31. **Minerals and Waste**

- Seek opportunities to restore the landscape of old and existing quarries, linking new planting into existing vegetation pattern
- Resist creation of new sites
- The landscape impact of the after-use of any proposed waste should be carefully considered



Long views across gently undulating downland broken up by pockets of woodland



Undulating downland with woodland



Undulating downland north of Braishfield

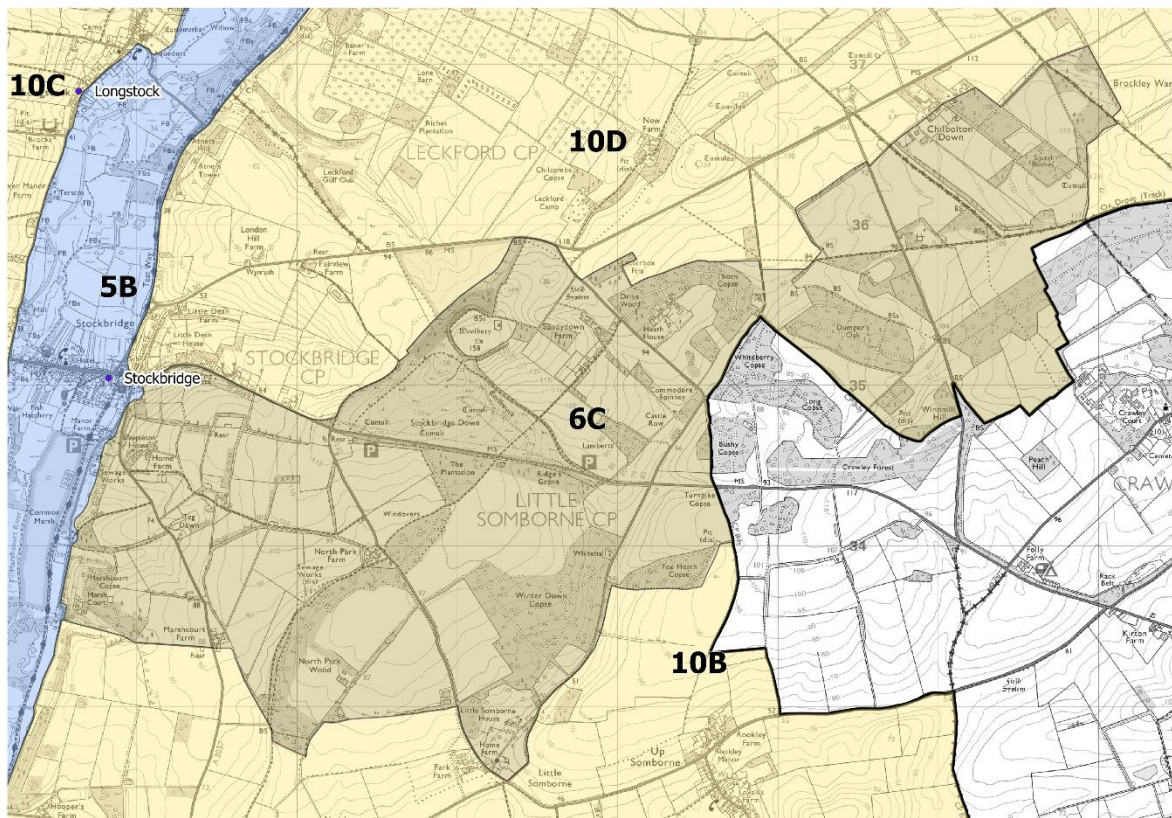


Narrow rural lane



Far-reaching views from high ground

LCA6C Little Somborne Wooded Downs



General Description

- 6C.1. Little Somborne Wooded Downs forms a discrete block of chalk downland landscape that is distinguished by its rolling landform and extensive cover of woodland with contrasting open areas of arable farmland. Towards the western edge of the area, along the edge of the River Test valley, Little Somborne Wooded Downs becomes more complex with a higher incidence of smaller pasture fields, farmsteads and parks associated with large country houses. A scarp, which is mainly wooded with a small amount of scrub and grassland, lies east of Woolbury Hill Fort.

Location

- 6C.2. Little Somborne Wooded Downs lies south and east of Stockbridge, to the south of the A30 up to Brockley Warren and straddling the B3049 until this road leaves the Borough. The eastern boundary is formed by the Borough boundary. The southern boundary runs along the southern edge of Winter Down Copse,

North Park Wood and Marsh Court. The western boundary abuts LCA 5B Middle Test Valley Floor just above the flood plain.

Local Physical Influences

- 6C.3. **Geology and Soils:** Chalk with very small patches of Clay with Flints above Stockbridge.

Landform: Sloping landform, either fairly steeply to the River Test valley floor or more gently southwards to the King's Somborne tributary. The area has a number of wooded scarps such as at Woolbury, New Farm, North Park Wood. The area has some of the higher ground in the Borough and Woolbury Hill is a local landmark.

Drainage: The area drains into the River Test and King's Somborne tributary with an absence of streams and waterbodies.

Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern

- 6C.4. This area is one of open arable fields and improved grassland pasture, with large and small areas of woodland linked by field hedges and shelter belts. Much of the woodland in the LCA is Ancient Woodland and most woodlands area also designated as SINC's.

- 6C.5. Stockbridge Down SSSI lies along the central northern boundary of the LCA; this is a nationally-important area of calcareous grassland, and is also noted for its rich invertebrate populations particularly its butterflies.

- 6C.6. There are also several woodlands, small copses, game spinneys and shelter belts (many of which are also SINC's) and several of these continue to be traditionally managed hazel coppice with oak standards. These are important for woodland butterflies such as the Duke of Burgundy. In many cases these patches of woodland contribute to wider ecological network benefits as they form linear features linking other sites and features, within the LCA such as Stockbridge Down SSSI and various SINC's, and outside the LCA such as the River Test SSSI and its associated wet meadows and species-rich grasslands that is close to the western boundary of the LCA.

6C.7. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA6C.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Arable and horticulture	650.38	55.57
Boundary and linear features	12.33	1.05
Bracken	0.44	0.04
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	288.99	24.69
Built-up areas and gardens	25.46	2.18
Calcareous grassland	50.51	4.32
Coniferous woodland	4.58	0.39
Improved grassland	114.50	9.78
Neutral grassland	4.77	0.41
Standing open water and canals	0.05	0.01
Unidentified habitat	18.28	1.56
Unidentified water	0.13	0.01
Total	1170.43	

Local Historical Influences

6C.8. Little Somborne Wooded Downs has been extensively developed most probably during the 19th century with the construction of parliamentary field enclosures both on the valley side of the River Test and on the uplands around Stockbridge Down. These upland parliamentary field systems surround an area of regular assarted fields and assarted pre-1810 woodland.

6C.9. Stockbridge Down, managed and maintained by the National Trust, retains an extensive series of earthworks including three Bronze Age burial mounds and a series of earthen banks which may relate to prehistoric field systems or a settlement. Woolbury Iron Age Hill Fort survives immediately to the north east of Stockbridge Down.

Designations

6C.10. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:

6C.11. Nature Conservation

SSSI

- Stockbridge Down - Unimproved calcareous grassland, scrub and broadleaved woodland

- Brockley Warren - Unimproved calcareous grassland, scrub and broadleaved woodland
SINC
- 17 SINC's, mostly ancient semi-natural woodland and sites which support notable species, with some agriculturally unimproved grassland and sites which support an outstanding assemblage of species

6C.12. **Historic**

Conservation Areas

- Part of Stockbridge Conservation Area lies within the LCA

Scheduled Monuments

- Woolbury Ring
- Multiple bowl barrows on Stockbridge Down
- Settlement site at Brockley Warren

Listed Buildings

- A number of listed buildings are within the LCA including Marsh Court (Grade I listed) and Little Somborne House

Registered Parks and Gardens

- Marsh Court: Listed as Grade II* on the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

Settlement Pattern

6C.13. Very little formal settlement occurs within this character area although a portion of 19th and 20th century development at the eastern end of Stockbridge does extend up the slope of the river valley into this area. This represents later medieval development away from the historic core of Stockbridge focused upon the principal roads into and out of the settlement.

6C.14. The farmsteads within this area are found within the areas of 19th century parliamentary enclosure. No farmsteads appear to be located within either the area of regular assarted fields south of Stockbridge Down or within the bands of woodland and copse, which extend through this area. The farmsteads are generally well-dispersed.

Local Settlements

6C.15. None identified.

Remoteness and Tranquillity

6C.16. The enclosed woodland character, the sparsely-settled nature and winding network of rural lanes, all contribute to a sense of quiet remoteness and tranquillity.

Key Valued Characteristics

6C.17. Key valued characteristics of LCA6C are as follows:

- Undulating chalk downland topography rising to local landmark at Stockbridge Down and Woolbury Hill
- Popular area of open access land with characteristic chalk downland at Stockbridge Downs (National Trust)
- Far-reaching panoramic views from Stockbridge Downs
- Sense of enclosure created by large areas of woodland; semi-natural and plantation and relatively intact hedgerow structure
- Long sinuous wooded scarps
- Open pasture
- Thick shelter belts and hedgerows of varying thickness
- Extensive parliamentary enclosure of fields
- Survival of prehistoric landscape elements upon Stockbridge Down
- Sparsely-settled landscape with a winding network of rural lanes
- The sense of quiet remoteness and tranquillity
- Farmsteads and large houses associated with the River Test valley
- Dispersed farmsteads on higher ground
- Traditional building styles are brick and brick and flint walls with clay tile roofs.
- Marsh Court

Key Detractors

6C.18. Key detractors of LCA6C are as follows:

- Erosion to sensitive chalk downland landscapes

Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues

6C.19. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA6C are as follows:

- The Bronze Age burial mounds on Stockbridge Down and the Iron Age defences of Woolbury Hill Fort are potentially under threat from any large-scale public access to the National Trust owned land on Stockbridge Down.
- Retention of existing levels of tranquillity.

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

6C.20. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA6C Little Somborne Wooded Downs are as follows:

- The area is valued for its quiet and tranquillity, which is threatened by its increasing popularity for recreational use. The overall strategy is to conserve the quiet and undisturbed combination of woodland and open pasture of the downs at Little Somborne Wooded Downs and to protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

Land Management

6C.21. 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:

6C.22. Landscape Distinctiveness

- Maintain distinctive chalk escarpments as features of the landscape

6C.23. Agriculture

- Encourage reversion of arable land to pasture
- Maintain field sizes

6C.24. Hedgerows

- Maintain and enhance hedgerow coverage
- Seek further opportunities to create hedgerow links between woodland

6C.25. Woodland and Trees

- Maintain and manage woodland and coppice

6C.26. Biodiversity

- Conserve, and enhance remnants of chalk grassland and explore opportunities for reversion of improved pasture / arable land to more species-rich calcareous habitats

- Enhance the network of woodland, copse and hedge habitats with particular emphasis on traditional management regimes and focus on woodland butterflies

6C.27. **Historic Landscapes**

- Maintain and enhance landscape setting to historic features and buildings and protect archaeological sites from erosion

Land Use and Development

6C.28. 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:

6C.29. **Built Development**

- Maintain existing settlement pattern
- Built form to reflect local pattern and materials

6C.30. **Infrastructure**

- Avoid suburbanisation arising from introduction of inappropriate highway measures
- Avoid visual and noise intrusion from traffic on the A3057

6C.31. **Recreation, Tourism and Access**

- Seek opportunities to control erosion to sensitive chalk downland landscapes from high levels of public access
- Maintain public recreational car parks in a good condition



Far-reaching panoramic views north-west from popular National Trust land at Stockbridge Downs



Woolbury Hill Fort at Stockbridge Downs

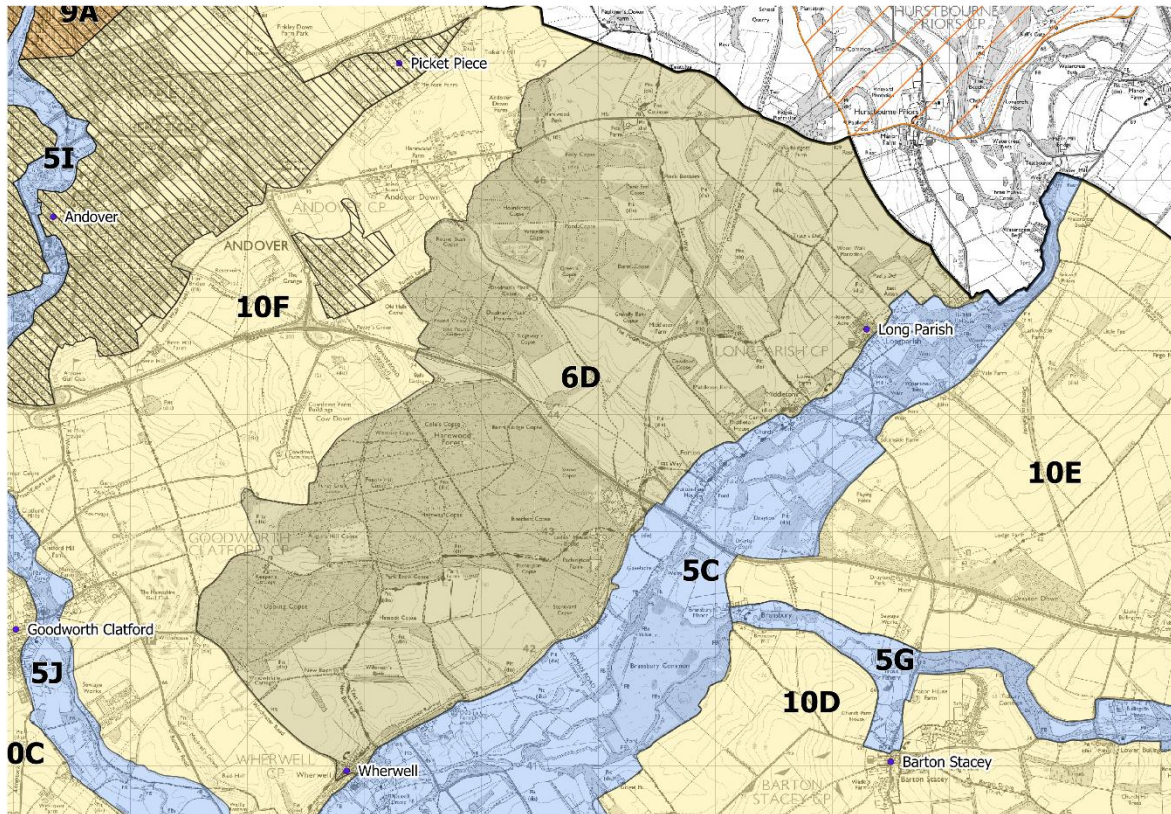


Pasture interspersed with woodland north of North Park Farm



Far-reaching panoramic views eastwards from Stockbridge Downs

LCA6D Harewood Forest Wooded Downs



General Description

- 6D.1. Most of Harewood Forest Wooded Downs is covered by Harewood Forest, the largest tract of woodland within Hampshire outside the New Forest. In addition the areas outside the woodland have a strong hedgerow and tree structure, which gives LCA 6D an enclosed character.

Location

- 6D.2. The northern boundary of this LCA follows the north western edge of Harewood Forest. The southern boundary abuts the Upper Test Valley Floor LCA 5C, which runs along Longparish Road.

Local Physical Influences

- 6D.3. **Geology and Soils:** The underlying geology is formed of Chalk, overlain with Clay with Flints, with River Terrace Deposits leading up from the River Test valley floor.

Landform: A gently rolling landform falling in height from 110m along the northern edge to around 50m along the southern edge. A landscape of dry valleys which predominantly align in a south easterly direction

Drainage: The area drains to the River Test and has an absence of streams and waterbodies.

Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern

6D.4. This area is dominated by Harewood Forest, with is a large area of woodland, much of which is designated as Ancient Woodland (both ancient semi natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites) and a SINC. Outside of the Forest, there are open arable patches. There are smaller woodlands and shelter belts within the arable matrix outside the Forest and these serve to provide ecological linkages down to the River Test that lies to the south of the LCA.

6D.5. The woodland areas of this LCA are important for hazel dormouse. The proximity of extensive Ancient Woodland to the river makes this a likely important landscape for bats.

6D.6. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA6D.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Arable and horticulture	836.86	45.41
Boundary and linear features	25.28	1.37
Bracken	0.36	0.02
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	846.44	45.93
Built-up areas and gardens	30.68	1.66
Calcareous grassland	1.80	0.10
Coniferous woodland	28.84	1.57
Improved grassland	53.59	2.91
Neutral grassland	0.64	0.03
Unidentified habitat	17.51	0.95
Unidentified water	0.74	0.04
Total	1842.75	

Local Historical Influences

- 6D.7. This Landscape Character Area is dominated by the Harewood Forest which is comprised of several elements all of which date to a pre-1810 forested environment and include wooded pasture, other pre-1810 woodland and replanted pre-1810 woodland. Harewood Forest then may represent a reasonably intact medieval forest which has subsequently undergone several replanting episodes possibly to replace episodes of assarting.
- 6D.8. Several areas of assarting survive along the north eastern edge of Harewood Forest. Within the open areas surrounding the southern and eastern boundaries of the forest, what must have been initially an assarted landscape has been replaced by parliamentary field systems.
- 6D.9. The south eastern boundary of LCA 6D borders the extended settlement of Longparish. This border between the Borough boundary to the north east and Middleton Park to the south west retains several regular fields with wavy boundaries. The creation of such field systems normally date from between the later medieval period and the 17th/18th century and represent informal enclosure undertaken before the formal surveying process associated with parliamentary enclosure during the 19th century.

Designations

- 6D.10. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:
- 6D.11. **Nature Conservation**
- SINC
- 16 SINCs, mostly ancient semi-natural woodland with some grasslands and sites that support notable species
- 6D.12. **Historic**
- Conservation Areas
- Longparish
 - Wherwell

Scheduled Monument

- Old Pound Copse earthwork

Listed Buildings

- A significant number of listed buildings are situated within the LCA, mostly within the village centres including Wherwell and Longparish

Settlement Pattern

6D.13. No formal settlements are located wholly within this character area. Several farmsteads occupy the outskirts of Harewood Forest. The surrounding 19th century parliamentary enclosure contains well-dispersed farms which occupy large territories.

6D.14. The designed parkland of Middleton House is sited on the valley side to the River Test, bringing contrast to the adjacent large arable fields.

Local Settlements

6D.15. Local Settlements and their corresponding Settlement Type (see Appendix 2 for more information):

- Wherwell: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type
- Longparish: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type

Remoteness and Tranquillity

6D.16. The A303 dual carriageway causes considerable localised intrusion upon the landscape, but generally the road network throughout the area is sparse, with much of the area relatively inaccessible, creating a sense of remoteness, isolation and tranquillity.

Key Valued Characteristics

6D.17. Key valued characteristics of LCA6D are as follows:

- Dry valleys of mixed chalk and flint aligning towards the Test Valley
- Mainly covered with woodland
- Wood pasture
- Large arable fields enclosed by woodland or hedgerows mainly in the form shelter belts and spinneys

- Sparsely settled landscape
- Strong feeling of enclosure with high levels of tranquillity in areas away from the A303
- Good access with Public Rights of Way, including the Test Way
- The character area is dominated by a large expanse of pre-1810 woodland which probably in places dates back to medieval period
- Limited assarting has taken place principally focused around the valley slopes above Longparish
- Roman Road thought to extend through Harewood Forest
- Middleton House parkland
- Traditional building styles are brick walls with clay tile roofs

Key Detractors

6D.18. Key detractors of LCA6D are as follows:

- Intrusion from busy A303

Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues

6D.19. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA6D are as follows:

- Ongoing woodland management within Harewood Forest may impact upon surviving earthwork features
- Demand for greater access to the woodland for quiet recreation

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

6D.20. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA6D Harewood Forest Downs are as follows:

- The Harewood Forest Downs is both locally valued and also an important feature of the Test Valley Borough landscape. The overall strategy is therefore to conserve and enhance the wooded character and hedgerow structure of Harewood Forest Downs and protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

Land Management

6D.21. 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:

6D.22. **Landscape Distinctiveness**

- Maintain the extent and dominance of Harewood Forest

6D.23. **Agriculture**

- Encourage retention and restoration of historic field patterns

6D.24. **Hedgerows**

- Maintain hedgerow pattern

6D.25. **Woodland and Trees**

- Care to be taken in woodland management to avoid damage to archaeological features
- Maintain and enhance the pattern of spinneys and shelterbelts
- Encourage replanting of coniferous plantations with native broad-leaved trees

6D.26. **Biodiversity**

- Conserve, and enhance remnants of chalk grassland and explore opportunities for reversion of improved pasture / arable land to more species-rich calcareous habitats
- Manage woodland where appropriate to encourage restoration of conifer plantations to native broadleaved woodland, particularly within areas of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)
- Encourage woodland and hedgerow management and restoration to conserve and enhance the local population of hazel dormouse

6D.27. **Historic Landscapes**

- Maintain and enhance landscape setting to historic features and buildings
- Retain medieval boundary to Harewood Forest

Land Use and Development

6D.28. 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:

6D.29. Built Development

- Maintain the existing form and character of the eastern edge of Wherwell
- Ensure new and replacement residential buildings employ locally characteristic materials

6D.30. Infrastructure

- Improve the visual and acoustic containment of the A303

6D.31. Recreation, Tourism and Access

- Seek opportunities to increase the recreational potential of Harewood Forest where this is not in conflict with the protection of ecological or archaeological features



Rolling farmland with dry valley backed by woodland to the north of The Middleway

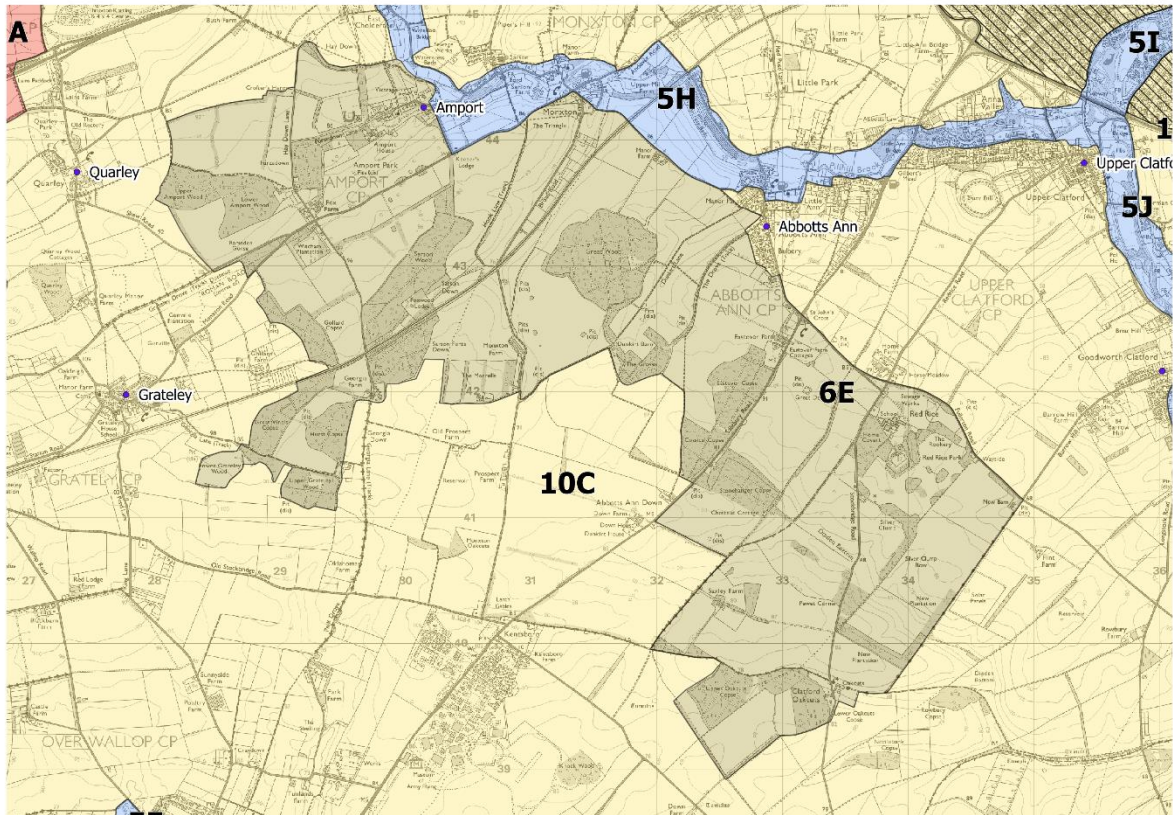


Registered park and gardens at Middleton House



Amalgamated fields with woods and shelterbelts

LCA6E Amport Wooded Downs



General Description

- 6E.1. Amport Wooded Downs is made up of extensive blocks and belts of plantation and semi natural woodland, alongside large arable fields. The arable fields are semi enclosed by the woodlands and hedgerows which range from a reasonable to poor quality. Areas of contrast are provided by parkland and estate farmland, as found at Amport House to the west and Farleigh School to the east.

Location

- 6E.2. Amport Wooded Downs is located to the south west of Andover, along the southern edge of Pillhill Brook running through Abbotts Ann, Monxton and Amport. The eastern boundary runs alongside the east of Farleigh School. The western and southern boundaries follow the outer boundaries of woodland (including Hurst Copse, Stonehanger Copse) above Kentsboro.

Local Physical Influences

- 6E.3. **Geology and Soils:** Chalk with some parts of the area overlain with clay and flints, which are typically covered with areas of woodland as at Great Wood.

Landform: A relatively level topography with heights between 60m to around 90m forming minor dry valleys which generally align in a southwest direction leading down to Pillhill Brook.

Drainage: Well drained area with no streams or significant waterbodies.

Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern

- 6E.4. The ecological pattern of this LCA is very much one of extensive low-value intensive arable fields interspersed by relatively small patches of woodland such as Eastover Copse, many of which are designated SINC's and Ancient Woodland. The woodland areas are generally well-linked by hedges and shelter belts although there are several more isolated woodland pockets. There is limited grassland interest in the landscape.
- 6E.5. The woodlands are generally of higher value and reasonably well-linked across the ecological network and may therefore provide useful 'stepping stones' for species such as woodland butterflies and hazel dormouse.
- 6E.6. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA6E.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Arable and horticulture	1061.61	65.92
Boundary and linear features	16.82	1.04
Bracken	0.16	0.01
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	353.63	21.96
Built-up areas and gardens	28.61	1.78
Coniferous woodland	48.98	3.04
Improved grassland	60.07	3.73
Unidentified habitat	40.30	2.50
Unidentified water	0.17	0.01
Total	1610.34	

Local Historical Influences

- 6E.7. The historic agricultural landscape area around Amport Park which dominates the western area of this LCA is largely composed of regular fields with wavy boundaries. These fields represent a process of 17th and 18th century informal enclosure focused around the core parkland and associated with several areas of pre-1810 woodland. Elsewhere in this character area parliamentary enclosure is to be found throughout the rest of the LCA.
- 6E.8. A Roman Road aligned north east south west runs through this Landscape Character Area and forms the south eastern boundary of Amport Park and is also fossilised within the track referred to as Grately Drove.

Designations

- 6E.9. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:
- 6E.10. **Nature Conservation**
- SINC
- 18 SINC's, mostly ancient semi-natural woodland and other woodland
- 6E.11. **Historic**
- Conservation Areas
- Amport and Monxton Conservation Area
- Listed buildings
- A significant number of listed buildings within the LCA, mostly clustered within settlements
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Amport Park Listed as Grade II on the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

Settlement Pattern

- 6E.12. The historic core of Amport is located close to Amport House along the northern edge of the park boundary and extends towards the valley floor and Monxton during the later post-medieval period. No other historic settlements are to be found wholly within this character area although the 20th century settlement associated with Abbots Ann does extend into this area.

6E.13. The farmsteads within this character area generally lie within the 19th century parliamentary field systems and are connected by surveyed straight farm tracks and roads.

6E.14. Throughout LCA 6E there is a network of roads, strongly rural in character and, because of the overall flat level landform, the roads tend to have a relatively direct alignment.

Local Settlements

6E.15. Local Settlements and their corresponding Settlement Type (see Appendix 2 for more information):

- Amport: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type
- Monxton: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type

Remoteness and Tranquillity

6E.16. A remote and tranquil landscape, although A343 causes some localised intrusion.

Key Valued Characteristics

6E.17. Key valued characteristics of LCA6E are as follows:

- Relatively flat landscape
- Large blocks and belts of woodland
- Medium to large scale arable fields
- Parkland estates
- Good hedgerow structure
- Generally unsettled landscape except where it abuts the Pilhill Brook valley
- Isolated rural character
- Rural roads
- Pockets of unimproved calcareous grassland
- Pilhill Brook and associated ecology
- Unbroken skyline around Amport enhancing appearance of surrounding high ground
- Roman road

- Brick and flint buildings
- Remote and tranquil away from A343
- Historic landscape around Amport Park

Key Detractors

6E.18. Key detractors of LCA6E are as follows:

- Localised intrusion of A343
- Suburban boundary treatments

Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues

6E.19. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA6E are as follows:

- Possible development pressures from Andover extending into the area north west of Red Rice Park
- Intrusion from Wallop airfield across a wide area of the landscape.

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

6E.20. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA6E Amport Wooded Downs are as follows:

- The area is distinguished by the higher woodland and hedgerow cover, in contrast with the adjoining open chalklands. However, these qualities are being eroded and therefore the overall strategy is to enhance and restore the woodland and hedgerow landscape structure of Amport Wooded Downs and protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

Land Management

6E.21. 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:

6E.22. **Landscape Distinctiveness**

- Maintain the sense of transition from the Pilhill Brook river valley landscape up to the downs

6E.23. **Agriculture**

- Discourage further merging of fields and loss of hedgerows
- Seek opportunities to use smaller plots for pasture

6E.24. Hedgerows

- Seek opportunities for replanting of former hedgerow boundaries
- Maintain and restore existing hedgerows

6E.25. Woodland and Trees

- Maintain existing woodland cover and encourage planting of copses, shelterbelts and spinneys, comprising locally-appropriate species, around farmland

6E.26. Biodiversity

- Enhance the existing network to improve the resilience and capacity of the landscape
- Encourage the restoration of plantation on ancient woodland sites to broadleaved semi-natural woodland
- Encourage the management of woodlands and rides for notable butterflies

6E.27. Historic Landscapes

- Maintain and enhance landscape setting to historic features and buildings

Land Use and Development

6E.28. 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:

6E.29. Built Development

- Contain existing villages at the foot of the downland slopes
- Maintain existing patterns of development outside the villages
- Protect the area from suburbanising influences and inappropriate landscaping including over-sized gates and non-native boundary planting
- Proposals for new solar development should consider the cumulative impacts on the valued predominantly rural character

6E.30. Infrastructure

- Avoid suburbanisation arising from introduction of inappropriate highway measures
- Maintain alignment of historic road pattern
- Avoid introduction of intrusive elements, such as telecommunications masts, unless they can be adequately screened

6E.31. **Recreation, Tourism and Access**

- Explore opportunities for greater access to the public for quiet recreational activities



Farmland and woodland setting of Amport Park



Farmland interspersed with woodland and shelterbelts

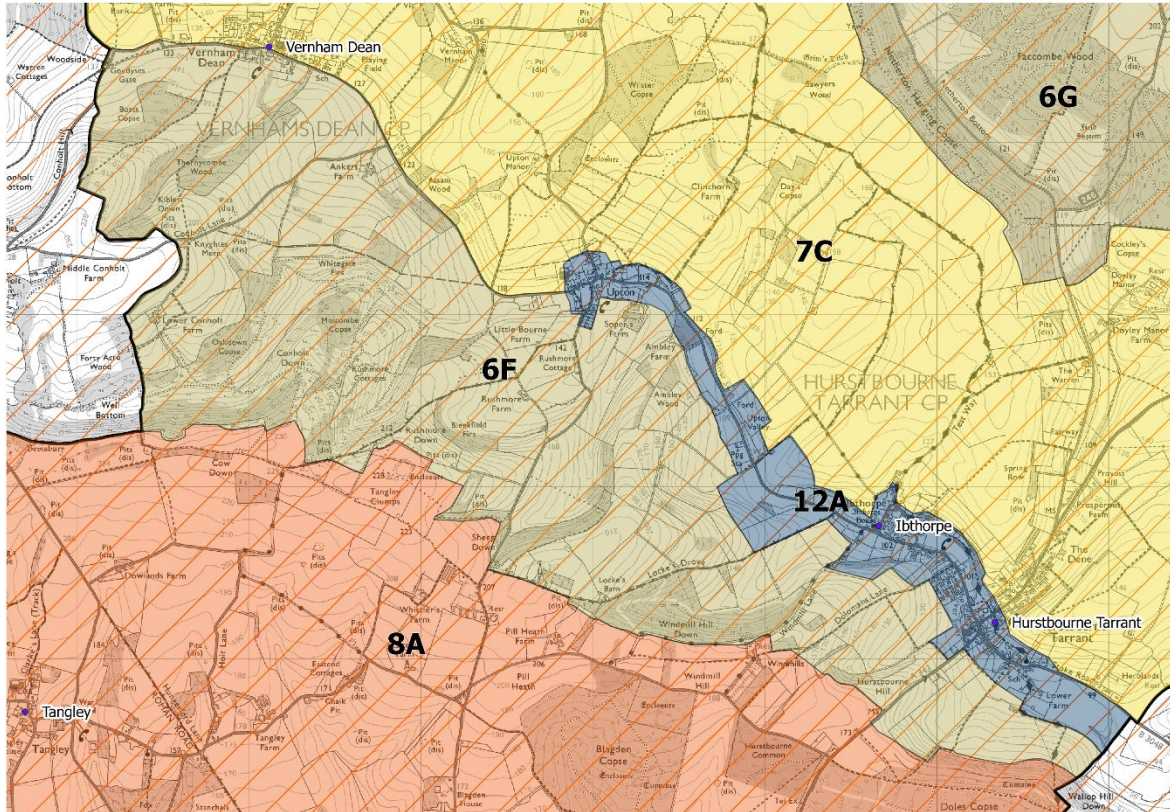


Road lined by shelterbelt and estate railings



Farmland with hedges backed by the wooded skyline of Great Wood

LCA6F Rushmore Wooded Downs



North Wessex Downs AONB area indicated with orange line hatch.

General Description

- 6F.1. A dramatic rising landform interspersed with dry valleys, combes and ridges. Steep long sinuous scarps, are predominantly woodland, as at Conholt Down, Rushmore Down, Sheep Down and Wind Hill Down. Strong patterns of medium to small-sized fields with thick hedgerows across the landform. Predominantly arable with smaller fields of pasture associated with farmsteads.

Location

- 6F.2. Rushmore Wooded Downs lie south of Vernham Dean, Upton and Hurstbourne Tarrant, and rising to the ridge line at Cow Down and then across in a southeast direction to Hurstbourne Hill.

Local Physical Influences

- 6F.3. **Geology and Soils:** Chalk with some areas of clay, silt, sand and gravel in the valleys.

Landform: Rushmore Wooded Downs forms a distinctive sinuous chalk escarpment, part of the highest area of land in the Borough, falling northwards from Cow Down (LCA8A) at 230m to the River Swift winterbourne.

Drainage: The area drains into the River Swift valley and is well drained with no streams of waterbodies.

Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern

- 6F.4. This area is steeply sloping and presents a mosaic of moderate and small-sized arable and grazing pasture fields, interspersed with smaller woodlands and mature hedges / shelterbelts, some of which are SINC, such as Thorneycombe Wood and Windmill Hill Wood. The wooded habitats are likely to support hazel dormouse as these are recorded in adjacent LCAs that are well-linked to the habitats in this area.

- 6F.5. The most significant biodiversity feature is Rushmore and Conholt Downs SSSI, which is a large area of open calcareous grassland and associated scrub and woodland to the west of the LCA. There are small patches of calcareous and neutral grassland elsewhere, some of which are also SINC, such as Rats Bank and Kiblet Down.

- 6F.6. Overall the biodiversity features form a reasonably dense network of the woodlands, hedges and more open grassland areas, with good linkages between the SSSI and wider features.

- 6F.7. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA6F.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Arable and horticulture	403.94	50.48
Boundary and linear features	6.55	0.82
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	163.60	20.45
Built-up areas and gardens	7.02	0.88
Calcareous grassland	64.44	8.05
Coniferous woodland	0.61	0.08

Fen, marsh and swamp	0.66	0.08
Improved grassland	131.09	16.38
Neutral grassland	5.06	0.63
Unidentified habitat	17.05	2.13
Unidentified water	0.12	0.02
Total	800.14	

Local Historical Influences

- 6F.8. Numerous large irregular assarted fields associated with pre-1810 woodland survive within the north western portion of this character area. Also within this north western zone are discrete bands of surviving downland and several 19th century hangers extend through this narrowing strip of land.
- 6F.9. The southern valley side of the River Swift is included within this character area and this is dominated by parliamentary field enclosures which extend generally up to the valley ridge line. Further up on the higher ground extend a series of informal field systems characterised by regular fields with wavy boundaries. This indicates a process of enclosure which may have occurred between the late medieval period and the late 17th/early 18th century. The road systems within this Landscape Character Area all appear to cut through and not follow the contour lines to head directly up/down slope.

Designations

- 6F.10. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:

6F.11. **Landscape**

- North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty¹

Nature Conservation

SSSI

- Rushmore & Conholt Downs - Unimproved calcareous grassland, scrub and broadleaved woodland

SINC

- 9 SINC's including ancient semi-natural woodland, grasslands and sites that support notable species

¹ Regard should also be had to the North Wessex Downs AONB Landscape Character Assessment.

6F.12. **Historic**

Conservation Areas

- Vernham Dean

Listed buildings

- A small number of listed buildings are found within this LCA

Settlement Pattern

6F.13. No formal settlements are found wholly within this character area. The farmsteads within this character area are well dispersed throughout all of the historic landscape character types.

6F.14. Three roads transverse this area, located within dry valleys. These include the A343.

Local Settlement

6F.15. Local Settlements and their corresponding Settlement Type (see Appendix 2 for more information):

- Vernham Dean: Chalk Downland: Dry Valley Settlement Type

Remoteness and Tranquillity

6F.16. A remote area with a high level of tranquillity.

Key Valued Characteristics

6F.17. Key valued characteristics of LCA6F are as follows:

- Interesting chalkland scenery including coombs, ridges and dry valleys
- Wooded sinuous scarps and small woodland copses
- Remnants of unimproved calcareous grassland
- Areas of rough grassland
- Thick hedgerows with hedgerow trees
- Mixed farming with field sizes ranging from medium to small
- Settlements limited to well-dispersed farmsteads
- Remnants of assarting within the north-western portion

- A landscape with a good time depth. The downland is occupied by woodland and late medieval/early post-medieval field systems. Only the lower valley slopes have been the focus of 19th century parliamentary enclosure
- A particularly tranquil and remote area
- A sheltered landscape with a diverse range of woodlands including shelterbelts, wooded pasture, hangers, parkland, copses and ancient and secondary semi-natural woodland
- A landscape with a great diversity with experiences ranging from intimate and enclosed to dramatic and open
- An intricate network of rural lanes
- Far-reaching views

Key Detractors

6F.18. Key detractors of LCA6F are as follows:

- Local intrusion from A343

Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues

6F.19. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA6F are as follows:

- Potential risk of more marginal landscapes to be brought into intensive arable cultivation, threatening the survival of an area of late-medieval/early post-medieval field systems.

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

6F.20. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA6F Rushmore Wooded Downs are as follows:

- The Rushmore Wooded Downs is typical of the wooded areas of the North Wessex Downs AONB scarp landscape. The overall strategy is therefore to conserve and enhance the sense of intimate seclusion and mix of woodland, hedgerows with trees and rough grassland within the Rushmore Wooded Downs and protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

Land Management

6F.21. 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:

6F.22. **Landscape Distinctiveness**

- Maintain the existing relationship between landform and vegetation pattern

6F.23. **Agriculture**

- Encourage reversion of arable land to pasture
- Retain and encourage grazing of pasture by sheep and cattle, as appropriate
- Maintain field sizes

6F.24. **Hedgerows**

- Maintain pattern of thick hedgerows

6F.25. **Woodland and Trees**

- Maintain existing levels of woodland cover

6F.26. **Biodiversity**

- Conserve and enhance remnants of chalk grassland within and around SINCs and explore opportunities for reversion of improved pasture / arable land to more species-rich calcareous habitats to overall improve calcareous grassland habitat stepping stones across the LCA with the Rushmore and Conholt Downs SSSI and the SINCs as core area
- Manage woodland to encourage restoration of conifer plantations to native broadleaved woodland, particularly within areas of plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS)
- Encourage woodland and hedgerow management and restoration to conserve and enhance the local population of hazel dormouse
- Maintain and restore connections between habitats to reduce fragmentation

Land Use and Development

6F.27. 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:

6F.28. **Built Development**

- Maintain existing pattern of scattered farmhouses

- Built form to reflect local pattern and materials

6F.29. **Infrastructure**

- Avoid visual and noise intrusion from tall elements and the A343

6F.30. **Recreation, Tourism and Access**

- Ensure equestrian infrastructure is sensitively integrated within the landscape setting



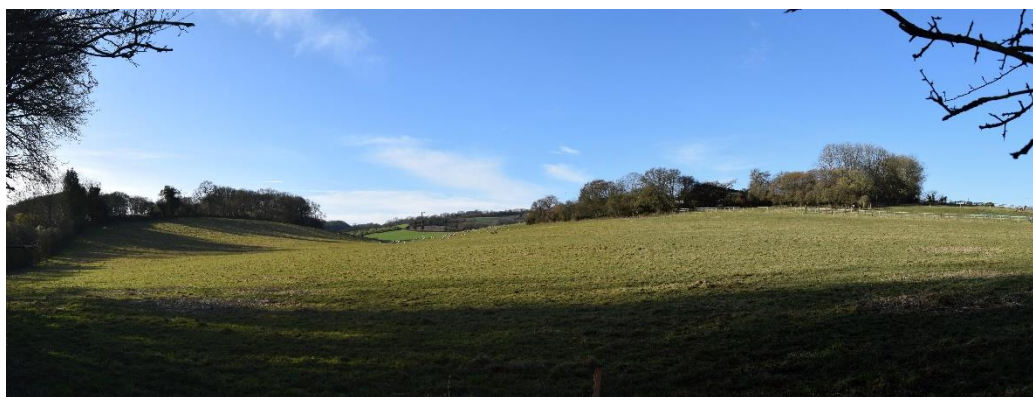
Chalkland ridge with wooded sinuous scarp south of Upton



Long views across rolling chalkland with coombs and ridges south of Vernham Dean

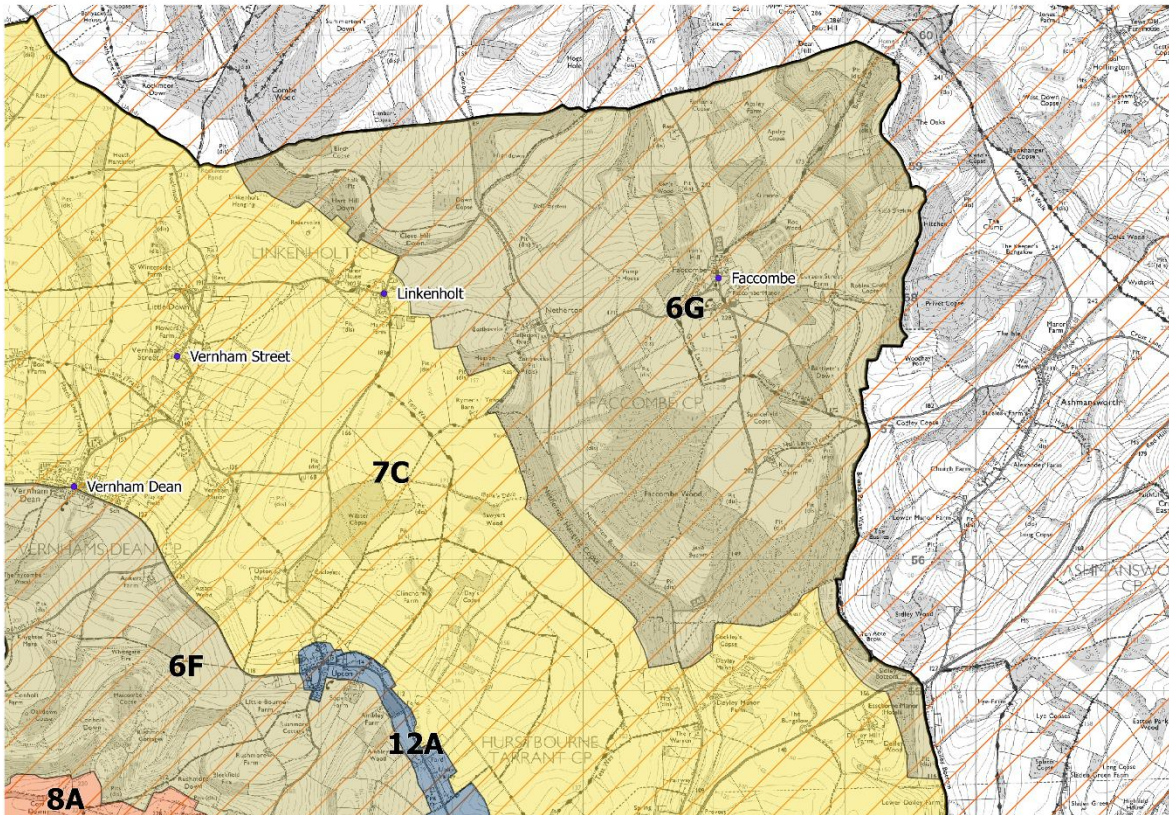


Quiet rural roads lined by mature trees



Rolling chalkland with sinuous ridges and coombs emphasised by hedges and woodland

LCA6G Facombe Wooded Downs



North Wessex Downs AONB area indicated with orange line hatch.

General Description

- 6G.1. Facombe Wooded Downs is characterised by its extensive and connected woodland cover, which occurs in association with the valley sides. This produces a distinct landscape pattern comprising large open predominately arable fields on the higher areas, long sinuous hangers clinging to the slopes of the steep combs where woodland is intermixed with pasture (i.e. Netherton Hanging Copse and Hart Hill Down) and large blocks of woodland, predominantly plantation located on the middle slopes of the valleys. Scarps feature strongly within LCA 6G, with examples found at Pilot Hill, Hart Hill Down and Cleve Hill Down. The scarp at Pilot Hill is characterised by open grassland on the upper slopes and scrub with woodland on the lower slopes, while the Scarps at Hart Hill Down and Cleve Hill Down are mainly wooded with some areas of scrub and grassland.

- 6G.2. The farmland mosaic, which includes areas of arable farmland, is enclosed by intact hedgerows with mature trees and in some areas screen belts as found north of Faccombe Wood. Smaller fields, with some pasture are associated with the settlement of Faccombe. The designed parkland associated with Faccombe Manor brings further variation to this LCA.

Location

- 6G.3. Faccombe Wooded Downs is located within the northern eastern tip of the Borough, to the north east of Linkenholt and the southwestern edge of Netherton Hanging Copse and extending down to include Doyley Wood.

Local Physical Influences

- 6G.4. **Geology and Soils:** The ridges are predominantly covered with Clay and Flints over the Chalk, softening their form. The valleys are a mix of Chalk and clay, silt, sand and gravels.

Landform: A great deal of topographical variation with high rolling hills cut by steep sided dry valley, scarps and dramatic combs.

Drainage: The southern part of Faccombe Wooded Downs lies within the River Test catchment area. The area is well drained with no streams or waterbodies.

Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern

- 6G.5. This area is very much a managed arable landscape but does have large areas of woodland and Ancient Woodland, notably Faccombe Wood, a large area of plantation on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) to the south of the LCA, There are good hedgerow linkages between the woodland areas.
- 6G.6. There are notable areas of calcareous grassland to the chalk slopes, often associated with woodland, such as at Pilot Hill to the north-east, Netherton Hanging Copse to the south-west, and Hart Hill Down to the north-west. Many of these areas are also SINC's.
- 6G.7. A small part of the large Combe Wood SSSI, an expanse of woodland / scrub with some grassland interest lies to the north-west of the LCA.

6G.8. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA6G.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Arable and horticulture	775.51	56.67
Boundary and linear features	10.84	0.79
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	305.32	22.31
Built-up areas and gardens	13.65	1.00
Calcareous grassland	45.25	3.31
Coniferous woodland	104.21	7.61
Improved grassland	49.59	3.62
Neutral grassland	5.00	0.37
Standing open water and canals	0.06	0.01
Unidentified habitat	58.50	4.27
Unidentified water	0.56	0.04
Total	1368.48	

Local Historical Influences

6G.9. The eastern element of Faccombe Wooded Downs is composed of generally large irregular assarted field systems interspersed with areas of 19th century plantations and 19th century hangers. Within this area of assarting is a ridge of downland and pre-1810 hangers which are all located along the eastern boundary of the Borough. Associated with the area of large irregular assarting is a woodland environment (Faccombe Wood) at the southern end of this LCA. This represents a pre-1810 replanting episode of previously assarted field systems. An area of assarted pre-1810 woodland known as Netherton Hanging Copse extends along the south western side of Faccombe Wood.

6G.10. The northern and western portion of this LCA is occupied by extensive parliamentary field systems and later 20th century prairie field developments of what would appear to have been a previously assarted landscape.

6G.11. Several probably prehistoric field systems survive both within the large assarted fields and within Faccombe Wood.

Designations

6G.12. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:

6G.13. **Landscape**

- North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty²

6G.14. **Nature Conservation**

SSSI

- Combe Wood & Linkenholt Hanging - Broadleaved semi-natural woodland
- ##### SINC
- 23 SINCS, mainly ancient semi-natural woodland, also including agriculturally unimproved grassland and other grasslands

6G.15. **Historic**

Scheduled Monuments

- Netherton medieval settlement earthworks

Listed Buildings

- Few listed buildings are present in this LCA. Includes Faccombe Manor an early 18th century house (Grade II Listed Building)

Settlement Pattern

6G.16. The area is sparsely populated, with a low settlement density comprising of the small village of Faccombe (a ridge top nucleated settlement) and Netherton (a valley nucleated settlement), as well as scattered isolated farmsteads, again located on ridges for example Kimmer Farm and within the valleys i.e. Curzon Street Farm. Faccombe is comprised mainly of later post-medieval buildings although a small historic core does remain close to Faccombe Manor.

6G.17. The farmsteads within the area of large irregular assarted fields are comparatively densely packed whilst there are no farmsteads within the parliamentary field systems to the west. These fields are a part of larger landholdings characteristic of the development of larger fields during the 19th and 20th centuries.

6G.18. An intricate network of rural lanes winds through the area linking settlements, following ridges but mainly dry valleys i.e. the road along Netherton Bottom.

² Regard should also be had to the North Wessex Downs AONB Landscape Character Assessment.

Local Settlements

6G.19. Local Settlements and their corresponding Settlement Type (see Appendix 2 for more information):

- Faccombe: Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type
- Netherton: Chalk Downland: Dry Valley Settlement Type

Remoteness and Tranquillity

6G.20. A landscape of great diversity with experiences ranging from the intimate and enclosed, to dramatic and open, which has resulted in an area which has retained a remote and tranquil rural character.

Key Valued Characteristics

6G.21. Key valued characteristics of LCA6G are as follows:

- Dramatic topographical variation with scarps and dry valleys
- Long sinuous wooded hangers on coomb slopes
- Woodlands mainly small copses and spinneys except at Faccombe Wood
- Extensive and connected woodland cover with intact hedgerows
- Small winding lanes with an intimate remote character
- Open ridges of arable land
- Sparsely settled with very small villages and farmsteads found on higher ground
- Extensive assarting of what appears to have been an extensively wooded landscape during the later medieval and early post-medieval period
- Survival of replanted assarted pre-1810 woodland at the southern limit of this character area
- A peaceful, tranquil and secluded rural landscape, with sheltered enclosed woodland areas contrasting with more open, remote summits.
- Intricate network of winding rural lanes including characteristic sunken lanes overhung by deep grassy banks and woodland
- Small areas of unimproved chalk grassland
- Faccombe Manor parkland
- Presence of possible prehistoric field systems or settlement within Faccombe Wood.

- The built form includes harder chalk sometimes used in walls, brick and flint, chalk cob and thatch, with some older buildings retaining timber

Key Detractors

6G.22. Key detractors of LCA6G are as follows:

- Localised visual intrusion of wind turbines

Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues

6G.23. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA6G are as follows:

- Increased agricultural mechanisation allowing more marginal landscapes to be brought into intensive arable cultivation threatening the survival of an area of late-medieval/early post-medieval field systems
- Potential further demand for wind turbines.

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

6G.24. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA6G Faccombe Wooded Downs are as follows:

- The Faccombe Wooded Downs is typical of the wooded areas of the North Wessex Downs AONB scarp landscape on the edge of open downland. It is noted for its woodland seclusion within a varied topography. The overall strategy is therefore to conserve and enhance the wooded slopes and farmland mosaic of Faccombe Wooded Downs and protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

Land Management

6G.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:

6G.26. **Landscape Distinctiveness**

- Maintain the diversity of landscape features and variety of spatial experience

6G.27. **Agriculture**

- Avoid further extension of arable land use particularly into the southern wooded slopes
- Retain and encourage grazing of pasture by sheep and cattle, as appropriate

6G.28. Hedgerows

- Seek opportunities to restore hedgerows to former field boundaries

6G.29. Woodland and Trees

- Take care to avoid damage to any possible prehistoric field systems or settlements within Faccombe Wood
- Maintain strong woodland cover and manage woodland for biodiversity and succession
- Actively manage woodland and coppices

6G.30. Biodiversity

- Conserve and enhance the network of calcareous grassland across the northern slopes of the LCA and explore opportunities for reversion of improved pasture / arable land to more species-rich calcareous habitats to overall improve calcareous grassland habitat stepping stones across the LCA
- Manage woodland to encourage restoration of conifer plantations to native broadleaved woodland particularly within Faccombe Wood

6G.31. Historic Landscapes

- Maintain and enhance landscape setting to historic features and buildings

Land Use and Development

6G.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:

6G.33. Built Development

- Maintain existing settlement pattern
- Built form to reflect local pattern and materials
- Development to be small in scale and well-sited, taking advantage of vegetation cover, to conserve the sense of remoteness and tranquillity

6G.34. Infrastructure

- Avoid introduction of tall structures (including wind turbines) except where they can be satisfactorily sited to limit visual intrusion



Rolling landform and assarts at Bartlett's Down



Winding rural lane at Faccombe



Parkland at Faccombe Manor



Wind turbine north of Faccombe



Standard oaks with coppice at Netherton
Hanging Copse