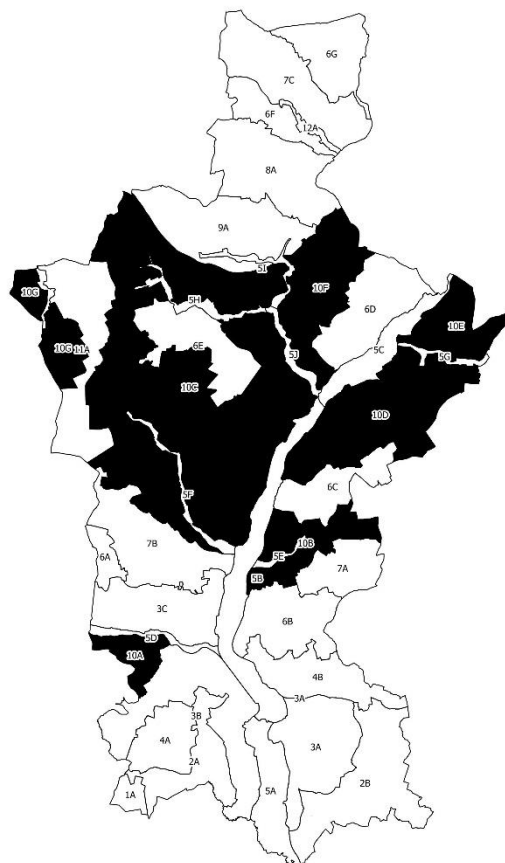


## LCT10 Open Chalklands

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### General Description

10.1. The Open Chalklands landscape character type is a large scale arable landscape, characteristic of the most extensively farmed chalkland areas, where the chalk geology is generally not masked by the deposit of Clay with Flints. The hedgerow structure is fragmented and commonly replaced by fences, adding to the open landscape character. A limited number of small hedged pasture fields are found adjacent settlements and farmsteads. Blocks or belts of trees occasionally break up this open landscape, but are infrequent with isolated woodlands often found adjacent to farmsteads. Small streams or winter bournes divide the type but generally it is noted for its dry valleys.



10.2. The settlement pattern is scattered and dominated by large farms. There is an occasional large house with parkland found sited within a dry valley. A pattern of right angled roads, often running straight for considerable distances and with wide verges, is typical of the Open Chalklands landscape type.

### Location

10.3. Open Chalklands are located within the central area of the Test Valley, mainly north of Broughton Down and around the southern edge of Andover. These

areas are divided by the River Test and its tributaries and the winterbourne valleys.

10.4. Within the Test Valley Borough there are 7 Landscape Character Areas as follows:

- LCA10A East Dean Chalk Downland
- LCA10B King's Sombourne Chalk Downland
- LCA10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland
- LCA10D Leckford and Chilbolton Downs
- LCA10E Drayton Chalk Downland
- LCA10F Andover Chalk Downland
- LCA10G Cholderton Downs

### **Physical Influences**

10.5. **Geology and soils:** Chalk with loamy and clayey soils.

**Landform:** Gently undulating to flat topography, occasionally broken by chalk river valleys of Landscape Character Type 5. A feature of this landscape is the dramatic sculptural scarps but they are less frequent than found within the Chalk and Clay landscape types LCT6 and LCT7. These scarps are generally very steep and encircle valleys or overlook more extensive vales. The tops and toes of the slopes are abrupt, with a marked change in gradient.

**Drainage:** Due to the pervious nature of the chalk there is no evidence of surface drainage.

### **Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern**

10.6. This type is characterised by extensive open large scale arable farming. The hedge structure is limited, often low and fragmented with a few standard trees. They consist mainly of hawthorn and blackthorn although there are some older hedgerows that do have a greater species diversity.

10.7. These areas have had extensive woodland clearance leaving sparse clusters of deciduous semi-natural woodland. Oak is generally less abundant in this

LCT than in others due to the thin calcareous soils; ash, beech, holly and yew are however somewhat more abundant.

- 10.8. The biodiversity value of these areas is generally relatively low compared to other areas such as the river valleys and wooded areas to the south due to the intensive agriculture. However, there are a few areas of richer and more important ecological interest, for example where habitats support small populations of nationally declining arable weeds and farmland birds such as corn bunting.
- 10.9. There is a strong commonality between the character areas within Open Chalklands and therefore some of the detail, usually included under the character area, is covered here.
- 10.10. There are important patches of unimproved calcareous and neutral grassland, associated with scarps and steeper slopes, and most larger areas of these habitats are designated SSSIs. These grasslands are typically a rich mixture of grasses and herbs and are characteristic of a vegetation with a long history of sheep grazing.
- 10.11. There are occasional areas of relict ancient semi-natural woodland and other broadleaved woodland, mostly surviving as small copses and within shelter belts.
- 10.12. **Notable habitats**
- Unimproved and semi-improved calcareous grassland

### **Historical Influences**

- 10.13. The Open Chalklands type is dominated by extensive stretches of parliamentary fields systems dating to the 19th century which have largely replaced earlier agricultural field systems. This landscape type is characterised by well surveyed and open field systems and isolated stands of woodland, parkland and ancient monuments.

## **Settlement Pattern**

- 10.14. Due to the extensive coverage of Open Chalklands, numerous settlement types fall within its boundaries although they do tend to be of a type related to the underlying chalk geology and the influence that this has upon topography and settlement development. These settlements are located in a fertile agricultural landscape and those upon the higher ground display a nucleated pattern of development while those on lower ground and in the valleys, retain linear street patterns. Settlement types within this landscape character type often retain readily visible historic cores including a manorial complex, medieval church and medieval/early post-medieval housing. Farmsteads within the surrounding agricultural landscape are often very dispersed and sit within well-developed farming 'territories'.

## **Communication Network**

- 10.15. The major and minor road networks throughout this Landscape Character Type generally display straight, surveyed characteristics when extending through areas of parliamentary field enclosure. These surveyed roads appear to extend around the boundaries of the numerous formal parks which can be found in this landscape type. Within the wider valleys, the road network tends to follow the natural contours of the valley floor landscape. The Clarendon Way and Monarch Way pass through the area.

## **Key Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues**

- 10.16. Key natural and cultural landscape issues as follows:
- Potential continued intensification of farming resulting in large fields, the loss of biodiversity and historic landscape features and the erection of large farm buildings
  - Loss of chalk downland to arable or scrub encroachment
  - Isolation of small patches of habitat
  - Hedgerow fragmentation and loss
  - Declining farmland bird populations
  - Loss of unimproved mesotrophic grassland to arable or through application of fertilisers

- Risk of spray drift having an effect on hedges and hedge bottoms and arable weeds
- Changes to historic farm buildings and their historic landscape setting
- Potential impact of 'energy' crops on the strong downland character
- Potential impact of solar panels on the undeveloped rural character
- Possible future demands for irrigation of arable land, resulting in the need for reservoirs and associated infrastructure
- Inappropriate locations of woodlands, which sometimes impact on the open expansive remote character and series of views
- Inappropriate management of the characteristic Chalk Hanger woodlands and areas of grassland
- Suburbanising influence of built development and roads, including the introduction of inappropriate styles of fencing, signage, lighting and planting
- Decommissioning of military bases and changes to use of Ministry of Defence (MOD) land, resulting in changes in land use and associated developments
- Visually intrusive development in open areas of downland. Tall or large structures such as communication masts and transmitters, and wind turbines will, if not carefully sited, be particularly visually intrusive on the predominantly open sky
- Impact of exposed development on the sense of remoteness
- Redevelopment of obsolete farmsteads and subsequent changes of use which can erode the rural character
- Golf courses, siting and layout within the open landscape and potential closure and change of use as they fall out of fashion

## **Land Management Guidelines**

- 10.17. 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:

#### 10.18. **Landscape Distinctiveness**

- Maintain sense of remoteness and tranquillity
- Protect significant open vistas from visual intrusion
- Protect and enhance views to valued local landscape features

#### 10.19. **Agriculture**

- Seek opportunities to retain remaining small areas of pasture
- Discourage further amalgamation of fields and loss of hedgerows
- Encourage sustainable farming practices with a view to minimising the impact of new farming infrastructure and methods including spraying and fertiliser applications
- Encourage new farm buildings to be well sited and integrated into the landscape and where possible avoid ridge locations, which make them particularly visible within the surrounding area
- Encourage careful siting of new energy crops in keeping with the local landscape pattern and to create a positive contribution to the landscape

#### 10.20. **Hedgerows**

- Restore lost and fragmented hedgerows on former hedgerow lines, ensure yews and oaks grow up to form hedgerow trees
- Seek opportunities to mitigate impact from existing and future development through new hedgerow planting

#### 10.21. **Woodland and trees**

- Seek opportunities for new woodland planting to link existing wooded areas and integrate modern development into the landscape
- Identify woodlands where felling would make a positive contribution to the landscape and provide more suitably sited replacement woodlands

#### 10.22. **Biodiversity**

- Conserve, restore and manage remnant areas of unimproved chalk grassland
- Avoid further erosion of farmland biodiversity due to intensive agricultural methods and encourage the creation / extension of biodiversity-rich arable field margins
- Seek opportunities to extend and link unimproved grassland and woodland habitats
- Explore opportunities for improving and linking habitats for farmland birds

#### 10.23. **Historic Landscapes**

- Protect historic features as well as their landscape setting
- Avoid further erosion of historic landscapes due to modern agricultural methods

#### 10.24. **Urban and 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 and the setting of settlement

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

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

#### 10.26. **Built Development**

- Development to respond to the local characteristics of the landscape
- Maintain the historic integrity of the existing settlement pattern
- Careful consideration to be given to the environmental impact of alternative uses for redundant MOD land and airfields
- Avoid introduction of urban features including lighting in predominantly dark areas and infrastructure improvement in these predominantly rural areas. Where suitable sites can be located, tree and shrub planting should link and enhance the surrounding vegetation pattern and landscape character
- Careful consideration should be given to the location of solar farms and other renewable energy development, which could impact on the views, rural landscape character of the area and sense of remoteness
- Consideration must be given to the visual effect of the change of use of farmsteads and farm buildings (as they increasingly become redundant to modern agriculture). Suitable planting should be considered to help mitigate the impact on the surrounding landscape

#### 10.27. **Infrastructure**

- Seek opportunities to enhance roadside planting and minimise visual and noise intrusion
- Avoid intrusive development of tall and large structures except where they can be successfully integrated into the landscape
- Seek to minimise the visual intrusion and suburbanising effect arising from highway infrastructure
- Maintain the single-track lanes with soft verges and native boxed hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees

#### 10.28. **Mineral Extraction**

- Avoid mineral extraction within the open landscape
- Restoration should include a landform which is sympathetic to the landscape character of the Downland
- Native planting should include measures to restore the hedgerow pattern of the site and include new woodlands (where suitable) to further enhance the area
- All measures undertaken (access, road widening, signage etc) to facilitate extraction should be removed as part of the final restoration
- Reinstatement should be to a rural land use. Many types of industrial after-use will not be appropriate to the rural setting

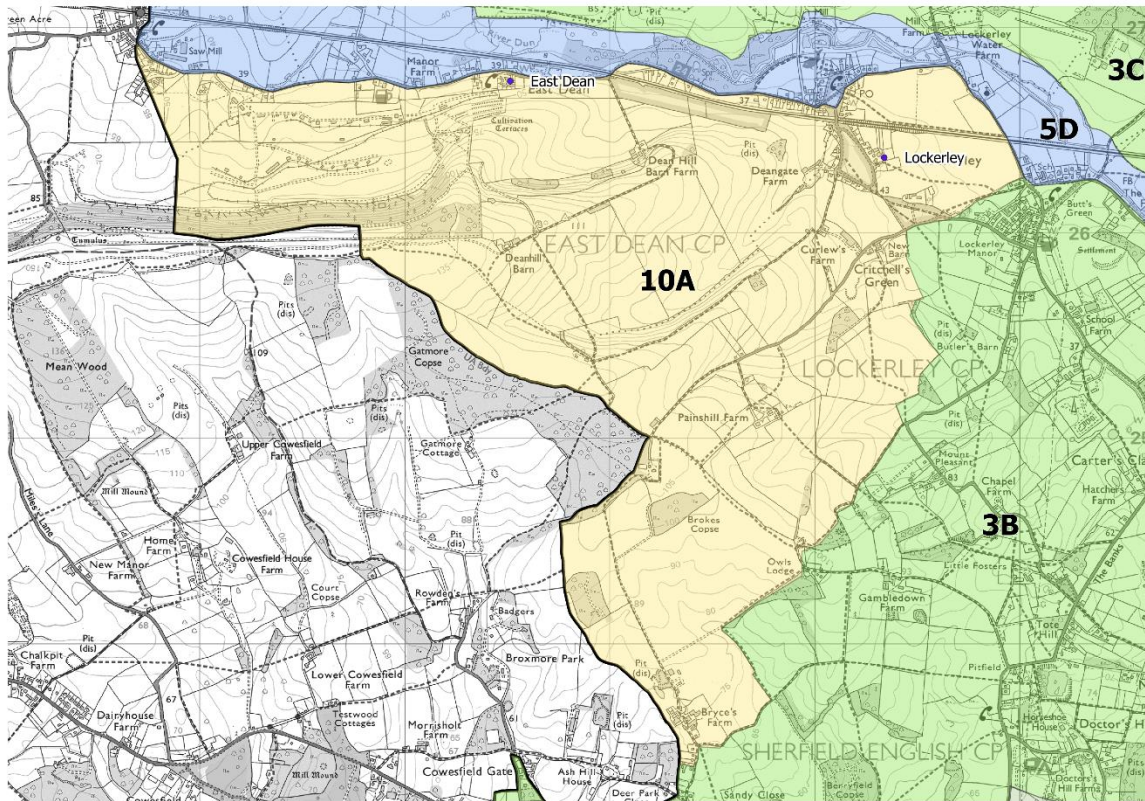
#### 10.29. **Recreation, Tourism and Access**

- Consider possibility of introducing recreational focal points
- Manage any growth in horse-related recreational activities to prevent deterioration in landscape features
- Control cabin sites/caravan sites/ camping sites or similar as not to erode the largely development free areas



## LCA 10A East Dean Chalk Downland

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### General Description

- 10A.1. East Dean Chalk Downland is the smallest Landscape Character Area of this Landscape Character Type, extending westwards into Wiltshire.
- 10A.2. The landform includes a number of dry valleys flowing in a north easterly direction towards the River Dun. The highest areas are at around 130m which are located to the west where the Chalk is capped with Clay and Flints creating a softer ridgeline before dramatically sloping down Dean Hill, a wooded scarp with some areas of grassland. The lowest areas of this LCA are found adjacent the River Dun where the LCA abuts LCA5D.
- 10A.3. The area is predominantly arable, with few hedgerow boundaries, resulting in large expansive areas. Additional to this agricultural landscape, this LCA also includes part of Dean Hill Park a former Royal Naval Armaments Depot which covered an area of more than 500 acres.

- 10A.4. Fields of grassland and pasture can be found adjacent to the settlement of Lockerley, however the hedgerows enclosing these smaller fields are of poor quality. Other areas of grassland are found on the less dramatic Scarp face, located south west of Curlew's Farm. Small isolated woodland copses exist within this open arable landscape.

### **Location**

- 10A.5. East Dean Chalk Downland lies on the western boundary of the Borough, south of the River Dun. To the east the boundary extends from Lockerley / Critchell's Green, in a south westerly direction towards the southern side of Bryce's Farm.

### **Local Physical Influences**

- 10A.6. **Geology and soils:** Chalk with small areas of Clay with Flints in the west.  
**Landform:** A much steeper landform than is typical of the type, with a north facing escarpment. Slopes fall northwards to the River Dun from the eastern end of Dean Hill.  
**Drainage:** A well-drained area, draining to the River Dun.

### **Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern**

- 10A.7. Habitats in this LCA are characterised by larger arable fields with somewhat sparse hedge boundaries and thus the majority of the LCA is of lower biodiversity value. There are a few very small pockets of isolated woodland and two small Ancient Woodland SINC's (Brokes Copse and The Plantation). Brokes Copse is linked to the larger Gatmore Copse woodland (also ancient woodland) over the border in Wiltshire.
- 10A.8. The main features of interest in the LCA are the larger areas of calcareous grassland. In particular, the LCA encompasses part of Brickworth Down and Dean Hill SSSI and adjacent SINC's to the north west, which is a nationally important area of chalk downland.

10A.9. There is also an expanse of chalk downland / calcareous grassland at Curlew Down centrally in the LCA, while there are patches of neutral grassland to the north east in the lower-lying areas around Lockerley.

10A.10. While the majority of the LCA is somewhat lower in biodiversity interest, there is potential for some unmapped areas of higher-interest to persist, for example around arable field margins and headlands. Any such fragments of surviving more diverse habitats would fit well in the wider ecological network as stepping stones between the larger mapped areas of habitat, for species such as butterflies, plants and other invertebrates. Such areas would also be of use to farmland birds.

10A.11. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA 10A.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Arable and horticulture	311.42	48.09
Boundary and linear features	15.28	2.36
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	42.37	6.54
Built-up areas and gardens	22.89	3.53
Calcareous grassland	76.27	11.78
Coniferous woodland	0.79	0.12
Improved grassland	164.31	25.37
Neutral grassland	7.55	1.16
Unidentified habitat	6.48	1.00
Unidentified water	0.24	0.04
Total	647.59	

### **Local Historical Influences**

10A.12. A series of 19th century Parliamentary field systems can be observed occupying the lower ground around the two spurs of downland which extend from west to east through this area.

10A.13. The earthworks of what is thought to be a prehistoric settlement survive within the fields to the north east of School Farm.

## **Designations**

10A.14. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:

10A.15. **Nature Conservation**

SSSI

- Brickworth Down and Dean Hill – Broad leaved woodland, mixed plantation woodland and calcareous grassland

SINC

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

10A.16. **Historic**

Conservation Areas

- West Dean

Listed Buildings

- A few listed buildings on the southern side of the road from East Dean to West Dean and within Critchell Green farmstead

## **Settlement Pattern**

10A.17. The parliamentary enclosure continues into the heart of Lockerley which is a highly dispersed settlement in part bordering upon the River Dun. The portion of Lockerley village within the bounds of this Landscape Character Area is largely 19th century in makeup with the historic core further to the east focused around Lockerley Manor.

10A.18. Farmsteads tend to be located towards the eastern end of this character area on the lower slopes and below the downland areas to the west. Those with the parliamentary field system landscape are relatively close together presumably taking advantage the lower slopes. In the southern portion of this Landscape Character Area farmsteads associated with smaller regular fields with wavy boundaries are located closer together suggesting smaller and more compact farming 'territories'. At the very south of the Landscape Character Area the rapid industrialisation of agriculture (indicated in this

instance by the presence of prairie fields) has led to fewer farms controlling larger areas of land and a more dispersed pattern of farmsteads.

10A.19. Settlements are located towards the edge of this LCA, with East Dean and Lockerley located adjacent the River Dun, and Critchell's Green associated with the more densely settled Landscape Character Type of the adjoining Mixed Farmland and Woodland. Farmsteads can be found located on the edge of these settlements e.g. Dean Gate Farm and also located on higher ground towards the ridge, for example Painshill Farm.

10A.20. Roads within this Landscape Character Area are limited to the road leading up to Painshill Farm. However, the landscape is well serviced with Public Rights of Way located within the valleys and across the ridges, providing access to the top of the Scarps.

10A.21. Dean Hill Park straddles this LCA with neighbouring Wiltshire. Originally a Royal Naval Armaments Depot, which began life in 1938 as Britain prepared itself against the threat of war with Germany. The site was decommissioned in 2004 and sold to a company who has converted the buildings to civilian use and have returned the rest of the site to conservation and agriculture. The site is now characterised by a low density of flat roofed redbrick buildings within an open grassland setting. The southern edge has a low earth bund running along its entirety which originally would have provided protection for the 24 bunkers cut into the chalk hillside to store explosives.

## **Local Settlements**

10A.22. Local Settlements and their corresponding Settlement Type (see Appendix 2 for more information):

- East Dean: Clay River Valley Settlement Type
- Lockerley: Scattered Clay Lowland Settlement Type

## **Remoteness and Tranquillity**

10A.23. Due to the lack of roads, this is a tranquil, remote but accessible landscape.

## **Key Valued Characteristics**

10A.24. Key valued characteristics of LCA10A are as follows:

- Typical open chalk downland, with large skies and simple character
- A series of isolated dry river valleys creating an intimate landscape, although frequently with public access (Public Rights of Way)
- Settlements limited to the edge of this Landscape Character Area
- At Lockerley Green, properties are set around a large open area of sloping grassland
- Open setting of church at East Dean
- Traditional building style includes brick and white rendered walls with clay tile roofs.
- Dramatic wooded and grassed scarp of Dean Hill and Pains Hill visible within locality
- Small isolated woodland copses create focal features within the mainly arable landscape
- A remote and tranquil area with a good network of Public Rights of Way
- Extensive 19th century parliamentary field systems
- Long views across parkland (e.g Dean Hill Park)

## **Key Detractors**

10A.25. Key detractors of LCA 10A are as follows:

- Dean Hill Park, ex MOD site characterised by an open landscape with red brick buildings, set around areas of grassland; chain link fences and open roads with long views out to the north
- Earth embankments (adjacent valley road) part of Dean Hill Park, block and screen potential good views across landscape
- Poor hedgerow structure within arable landscape
- Ribbon development along approach roads at Lockerley detracts from the open rural landscape and the rural setting of Lockerley historic core

## **Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues**

10A.26. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA10A are as follows:

- Further redevelopment of the ex-MOD Munitions Depot at Dean Hill and the effect on the SSSI, as well as the skyline/horizon visible from adjacent areas
- Further enlargement of fields with the loss of hedgerows and local landscape features
- Requirements for large scale farm buildings plus other farm units becoming redundant with potential for conversion
- Impact of tall structures, including communication masts and transmitters
- Loss and damage to archaeological sites
- Sites for solar panels and their visual impact on the surrounding landscape

## **Landscape Strategy and Guidelines**

10A.27. Landscape strategy and Guidelines for LCA10A East Dean Chalk Downland are as follows:

- East Dean Chalk Downland is noted for its open contrast with the adjacent River Dun and its chalk downland features and habitats. The overall strategy is therefore to conserve and enhance these features and the quiet open rural character of East Dean Chalk Downland and to protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

## **Land Management**

10A.28. 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:

10A.29. **Landscape Distinctiveness**

- Maintain sense of remoteness and tranquillity
- Protect significant open vistas from visual intrusion, especially views across to Dean Hill Downs
- Protect low density and layout of Lockerley around open green

10A.30. **Hedgerows**

- Restore lost and fragmented hedgerows on former hedgerow lines, in particular linking to existing woodland copses

#### 10A.31. **Woodland and Trees**

- Seek opportunities to integrate new woodland planting within the ex MOD site which also enhances and respects the existing wooded downland at Dean Hill
- Protect and enhance individual woodland copses within the open arable land and where possible restore, enhance or create new hedgerows to link copses to the wider landscape

#### 10A.32. **Biodiversity**

- Conserve and enhance the extensive area of grassland at Dean Hill Park

#### 10A.33. **Historic Landscapes**

- Avoid further erosion of historic landscapes due to modern agricultural methods
- Protect open setting of historic buildings including the church at East Dean
- Protect historic features of value at Dean Hill Park and its place within history

### **Land Use and Development**

10A.34. 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 as follows:

#### 10A.35. **Built Development**

- Resist further ribbon development on the approach roads to Lockerley
- Dean Hill Park: Seek opportunities to integrate and reduce the visual prominence of some of the poorer less remarkable existing buildings on the old base
- Removal of the artificial earth bunds on the northern edge of Dean Hill Park should be considered to restore the open views up across the landscape to Dean Hill
- Removal of the poor quality and ex MOD fencing (12-foot-high), should also be considered or a reduction in its visual prominence at key locations with carefully located and selected native planting

#### 10A.36. **Infrastructure**

- Look for opportunities to reduce the visual presence of the railway line, especially when on embankment



#### 10A.37. **Recreation, Tourism and Access**

- Increased public access (footpaths/bridleways) into Dean Hill Park and links to adjacent Public Rights of Way should be considered



Intimate dry valley with footpath



Low ridge with woodland copse



Open setting for traditional building



The Green, Lockerley characterised by small and dormer bungalow properties



Long views across to the wooded Dean Hill within Dean Hill Park

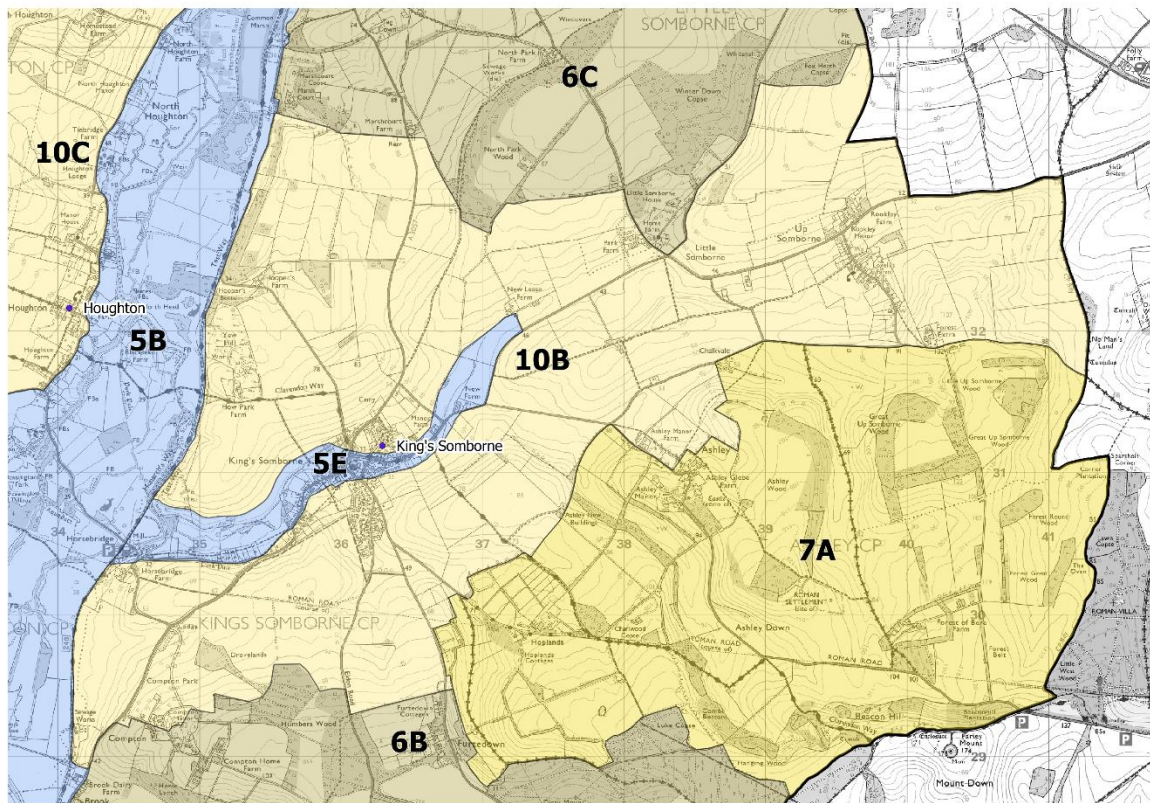


Open setting for church at East Dean



## LCA 10B King's Somborne Chalk Downland

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### General Description

- 10B.1. King's Somborne Chalk Downland has a gently rolling and undulating landform, with dry 'V' shaped river valleys running down towards the tributary at King's Somborne. A number of areas south of King's Somborne are capped with clay and flints creating smooth soft domed hills.
- 10B.2. It is an area of predominantly large arable fields with some notable areas of few hedgerows, woodlands and trees, creating large expanses of open downland. The arable fields with the roads also create a pattern which loosely radiates towards King's Somborne.
- 10B.3. A number of new woodlands have been planted within the north of this LCA, which have strong rectilinear shapes. Other woodlands are found adjacent to the Test valley, where they are linear in form, marking the edge of the flood plain and the transition to the Test valley floor.

- 10B.4. The parkland at Compton is located on the periphery of this landscape character area and brings diversity with an area of grassland and trees, in contrast with the homogeneous arable landscape.

### **Location**

- 10B.5. King's Somborne Chalk Downland surrounds the King's Somborne River Valley Floor (LCA5E) to the north, east and south. The northern and southern boundaries are defined by the transition to the more wooded and complex landscape to the north of Little Somborne and south of Ashley and Compton. The western boundary runs adjacent to the flood plain of the Test Valley.

### **Local Physical Influences**

- 10B.6. **Geology and soils:** Chalk with clay, silt, sand and gravel on upper winterborne reaches on the King's Somborne River.

**Landform:** Gently undulating ground, lower than is typical of the Open Chalklands.

**Drainage:** A well-drained area, draining into the River Test and King's Somborne valley.

### **Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern**

- 10B.7. The majority of the LCA is extensive intensive arable farmland with tightly-managed hedges around the large fields. There are very few features of particular biodiversity interest at the landscape scale, with only a very small number of small isolated woodland pockets. The most interesting feature of the LCA is the chalk grassland within Yew Hill SINC, a disused chalk quarry to the north west of the LCA. There is a further very small patch of calcareous grassland at Up Somborne Down and a small area of neutral grassland at Kings Somborne Cemetery.

10B.8. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA10B.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Arable and horticulture	1232.87	85.30
Boundary and linear features	18.12	1.25
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	36.39	2.52
Built-up areas and gardens	44.53	3.08
Calcareous grassland	10.03	0.69
Coniferous woodland	1.93	0.13
Improved grassland	68.24	4.72
Neutral grassland	0.66	0.05
Unidentified habitat	32.45	2.25
Unidentified water	0.18	0.01
Total	1445.41	

## Local Historical Influences

10B.9. 19th century parliamentary field systems are to be found throughout this area surrounding King's Somborne. An area of prairie fields indicating some 20th century field rationalisation is present within the south of this area close to Compton Manor and parkland.

10B.10. A Roman Road extends through this area but only remains fossilised within the occasional field boundary and part of a surviving lane.

## Designations

10B.11. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:

### 10B.12. Nature Conservation

#### SINC

- 14 SINC's including ancient semi-natural woodland, agriculturally unimproved grassland, other grasslands and sites that support notable species

#### Historic

#### Conservation Areas

- King's Somborne

#### Scheduled Monuments

- Roman Corn Drier – south of Tin Wood and north east of Little Somborne

- John of Gaunt's Palace, south of the A3057, King's Somborne
- John of Gaunt's Deer Park Pale – eastern edge of How Park Farm and Yew Hill
- Enclosure south of Marsh Court  
Listed Buildings
- A number of Listed buildings are found within the central historic core of King's Somborne, Little Somborne and Up Somborne

### **Settlement Pattern**

10B.13. This LCA contains parts of King's Somborne (mainly located within LCA 5E) and Little Somborne (located within LCA 6C) and all of Up Somborne. Up Somborne is focused along two roads with the majority of the settlement development dating to the 19th century. Little Somborne appears to have been influenced in the more recent past by its proximity to the small estate at Little Somborne House.

10B.14. The parts of King's Somborne which are located within this LCA are post 19<sup>th</sup> century with recent housing development extending up the valley sides along Eldon Road.

10B.15. The farmsteads within this predominantly 19th century parliamentary field landscape are generally well dispersed. The road network throughout this area is extremely straight suggesting that the routes were laid out or at least earlier routes were formalised through survey at the time of the parliamentary enclosure.

10B.16. The principal routes appear to have largely survived this resurveying and tend to follow contours (as between Stockbridge and King's Somborne or the route connecting all three of the Somborne villages).

### **Local Settlements**

10B.17. Local Settlements and their corresponding Settlement Type (see Appendix 2 for more information):

- King's Somborne: Chalk Downland: Dry Valley Settlement Type

- Little Somborne: Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type
- Up Somborne: Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type

### **Remoteness and Tranquillity**

- 10B.18. The A3057 runs through King's Somborne. This is a busy road and affects tranquillity levels on either side.
- 10B.19. Large areas of arable farmland, within undeveloped dry valleys and across open ridges, will offer a degree of remoteness and tranquillity.

### **Key Valued Characteristics**

- 10B.20. Key valued characteristics of LCA10B are as follows:
- Typical chalk downland with big skies, long open views, uninterrupted skylines and a simple character
  - Gently undulating landform with dry 'V' shaped valleys and smooth ridges including a number of smooth domed hills
  - Additionally, contained areas with views to local smooth ridges further characterised by woodlands and individual trees
  - Some well hedged pasture fields and mature trees which form a feature of the periphery of settlements and adjacent farmsteads
  - New woodlands are a feature within the north of this LCA, providing interest within this predominantly open arable landscape
  - Dispersed compact farmsteads, characterised by mature trees which sit neatly within the landscape
  - Traditional building style includes brick and white rendered walls with clay tile roofs
  - Simple single carriageways with soft grass verges enclosed by native managed hedgerows
  - Good network of Public Rights of Way, including the Clarendon Way

### **Key Detractors**

- 10B.21. Key detractors of LCA10B are as follows:
- Busy and fast road A3057
  - Weak hedgerow structure within the arable landscape

- Neglected parcels of land around King's Somborne
- Newer 20<sup>th</sup> century housing can be visually intrusive where adjacent to open hillside
- Hedgerow loss
- Spread of equestrian activity, with large scale areas of poor quality fencing and some field stables

### **Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues**

10B.22. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA10B are as follows:

- Neglected parcels of land
- Further enlargement of fields with the loss of hedgerows and local landscape features
- Potential for solar panels and their visual impact on adjacent landscape
- Requirements for large scale farm buildings plus other farm units becoming redundant with potential for conversion
- Impact of tall structures, including communication masts and transmitters
- Further housing extension of King's Somborne onto open valley sides
- Future potential demand for mineral extraction of sharp sand and gravel north of valley

### **Landscape Strategy and Guidelines**

10B.23. Landscape strategy and guidelines for LCA10B King's Somborne Chalk Downland are as follows:

- King's Somborne Chalk Downland is distinguished by its openness and more limited vegetation cover. The overall strategy is therefore to conserve the openness whilst restoring a pattern of hedgerows and small woodland copses across the downs at King's Somborne Chalk Downland and to protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

### **Land Management**

10B.24. 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:



#### 10B.25. **Landscape Distinctiveness**

- Maintain areas of remoteness and tranquillity
- Protect significant open vistas from visual intrusion

#### 10B.26. **Agriculture**

- Encourage careful siting of new energy crops or any other crops, including vineyards, in keeping with the local landscape pattern and to create a positive contribution to the landscape

#### 10B.27. **Hedgerows**

- Enhance and restore hedgerows around the periphery of King's Somborne to reduce the visual impact of existing development on the adjacent open downland character

#### 10B.28. **Woodland and Trees**

- Seek opportunities for new woodland planting and link to existing or new hedgerows. Avoid woodlands which will impact on the open views

#### 10B.29. **Biodiversity**

- Seek opportunities to extend and link unimproved grassland and woodland habitats with particular reference to threatened and locally-distinctive butterflies

#### 10B.30. **Historic Landscapes**

- Protect and enhance parkland features of value at Compton Park. Keep views open towards parkland from adjacent road
- Seek opportunities to reference the Roman Road which cuts through the southern part of this LCA

### **Land Use and Development**

10B.31. 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 as follows:

#### 10B.32. **Built Development**

- Avoid further development on the open Downlands
- Seek opportunities to further integrate and reduce the visual impact of existing more recent housing on the open downland character. The use of

small woodlands, hedgerows which can then also reinforce the local vegetation pattern would be preferred

**10B.33. Infrastructure**

- Seek opportunities to enhance roadside planting and minimise visual and noise intrusion of the A3057

**10B.34. Recreation, Tourism and Access**

- Manage the vineyards to avoid urbanising infrastructure and increased traffic on the quiet single carriageways
- Maintain and promote the quiet single carriageways as multi-recreational routes



Views across to Compton Park



Hedged-lined single carriageways



An elevated and gently undulating landscape



New vineyards

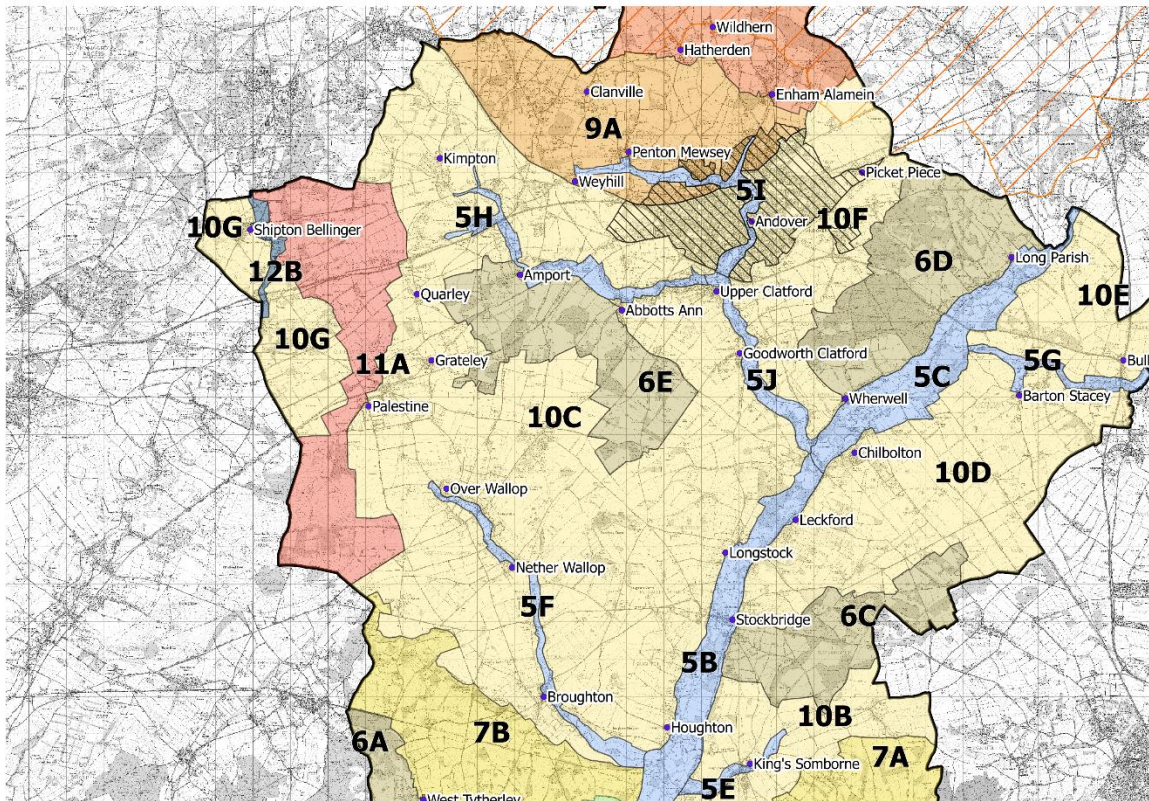


Open long views to wooded horizons in adjacent LCAs



## LCA 10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland

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North Wessex Downs AONB area indicated with orange line hatch.

### General Description

- 10C.1. Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland is the largest of the Landscape Character Areas of this Landscape Character Type.
- 10C.2. A gently undulating raised plateau, only broken by the chalk river valleys of Wallop Brook, the River Anton and Pillhill Brook and smaller streams and dry valleys leading down to these water courses, as at Thruxton. Isolated rounded hills provide a feature on the skyline, for example Bury Hill, Danebury Hill and Chattis Hill.
- 10C.3. This is a strong rural agrarian area dominated by large-scale arable farming, resulting in a very open exposed landscape with a particularly weak hedgerow structure. However, there are some areas of woodland, associated with the small hills (e.g. Chattis Hill) or steep inaccessible slopes and scarp

faces, e.g. Cleve Hill. Smaller areas of woodland are also found adjacent to farmsteads e.g. Eveley Farm and Castle Farm. There are a few areas of fields with pasture bounded by hedgerows, generally associated with the older settlements within this LCA, which have integrated the settlements into the landscape.

10C.4. Throughout the area there are wooded shelter belts, e.g. adjacent the hill forts of Danebury Hill and Chattis Hill and adjacent the farmsteads as seen with Down Farm. Their density increases within the north-east of this LCA, where they are scattered across the landscape. The shelter belts within this LCA tend not to follow the underlying landform resulting in an alien feature in landform.

10C.5. Parklands prevail more in the north than the south, usually positioned on the edge of settlements, for example on the southern edge of Kimpton, the northern edge of Quarley and the southern edge of Grateley. These areas of parkland are generally areas of grass with individual trees, contrasting to the more open adjacent areas of arable land.

10C.6. Away from Andover, this LCA has a relatively un-spoilt agrarian character with few prominent developments, but localised detracting influences such as the A343, A30, A303, railway line, and large building associated with airfields, as seen at Thuxton and Middle Wallop. Closer to Andover, ribbon development along some of the radiating roads, has created a degraded feel resulting in a wide transition zone from an urban character to a rural character.

10C.7. The Monarch's Way and Clarendon Way pass through this LCA.

## **Location**

10C.8. The boundaries of Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland are defined to the south by Broughton Down, to the east the edge by the flood plain of the River Test, and northeast the flood plain of the River Anton. The western boundary is formed by the alignment of low lying hills, which include Isle of

Wight Hill, Quarley Hill, Thruxton Hill and Snoddington Hill east of Grateley. Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland encloses the chalk river floodplains of Wallop Brook River Valley Floor LCA5F, and Pillhill Brook River Valley Floor LCA5H and the chalk and clay Amport Wooded Downs LCA6E.

## **Local Physical Influences**

### **10C.9. Geology and soils:** Chalk.

**Landform:** Broad underplating plateau, punctuated by a number of small but prominent hills, most notably Danebury Hill, dry valleys as seen at Houghton Down and scarps. A number of disused chalk pits can also be found throughout this LCA.

**Drainage:** Well drained, draining to Pillhill and Wallop Brooks and the River Test.

## **Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern**

10C.10. This is a large LCA and for the most part, the extensive highly managed arable landscape is of limited biodiversity value in terms of supporting large areas of more diverse habitats.

10C.11. There are very few areas of woodland and those that are present are very small and for the most part somewhat isolated.

10C.12. The most notable biodiversity feature in the LCA is the chalk grassland and associated habitats within and immediately around Danebury Hill Fort, a SSSI and also a Scheduled Ancient Monument. There are further small fragments of calcareous grassland to the south and east of Danebury at Chattis Hill, Cleave Hill and Hazel Down.

10C.13. There is an extensive scattering of small barrows (also Scheduled Ancient Monuments) in the area surrounding Danebury, and these may be less likely to have been subject to as intensive agricultural improvement. Therefore they may also support small isolated patches of more diverse habitats and provide further stepping stones in the wider ecological network.

10C.14. As with other areas of arable land on the chalk, there are likely to be unmapped headlands and field margins with small fragments of relict higher-diversity grassland or that support populations of threatened arable plant species.

10C.15. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA10C.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Arable and horticulture	8614.69	70.78
Boundary and linear features	264.58	2.17
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	314.41	2.58
Built-up areas and gardens	776.88	6.38
Calcareous grassland	39.84	0.33
Coniferous woodland	28.94	0.24
Fen, marsh and swamp	0.18	0.01
Improved grassland	1817.68	14.93
Inland rock	4.74	0.03
Neutral grassland	17.13	0.14
Standing open water and canals	0.36	0.01
Unidentified habitat	290.97	2.39
Unidentified water	1.40	0.01
Total	12171.80	

## Local Historical Influences

10C.16. This Landscape Character Area represents a relatively large proportion of the central area of Test Valley. The lower and central areas of LCA 10C display evidence of extensive agricultural land rationalisation during principally the 19th century but also the later 18th century.

10C.17. This process of increasingly arable based agriculture throughout the central portion of Test Valley has resulted in an open landscape populated by numerous large, regular and generally straight sided fields interspersed infrequently by stands of trees and natural topographic elements upon which more marginal land could escape the process of enclosure.

10C.18. Several Iron Age hill forts survive throughout this character area including Danebury. This example has been the focus of an intensive study which has included an assessment of the environs around the hill fort. This work has

revealed that, to a greater or lesser extent, a network of prehistoric field systems survive surrounding the hill fort within the 19th century parliamentary landscape.

## **Designations**

10C.19. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:

10C.20. **Nature Conservation**

SSSI

- Danebury Hill - Unimproved calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland
- SINC
- 48 SINCS, including agriculturally unimproved grassland, ancient semi-natural woodland, other grasslands, wetlands including some open freshwater and sites supporting notable species

10C.21. **Historic**

Conservation Areas

- Kimpton
- Quarley
- Grateley
- Houghton and Bossington
- Fyfield
- Thruxton
- East Cholderton
- Amport and Monxton
- Abbots Ann
- Over Wallop
- Middle Wallop
- Nether Wallop
- Longstock
- Stockbridge
- Goodworth Clatford
- Upper Clatford
- Broughton



### Scheduled Monuments

- Danebury Hill (Iron age hill fort)
- Long barrow – 125m north west of Waters Down Farm
- Bowl barrow – 400m south of Waters Down Farm
- Bowl barrow – 700m southeast of Waters Down Farm
- Long barrow - 50m north east of Down Farm
- Long barrow - 450m south west of Downs Farm
- Long barrow – 350m south west of Down farm
- The Moat - Longstock
- Bury Hill (Iron age hill fort) – east of Upper Clatford
- Field system on Hazel Down 850m north of Hazeldown
- Long barrow and two bowl barrows - 400m north of Chattis Farm
- Long barrow - 500m west of Croft Farm, Over Wallop
- Hydraulic pillbox - south western edge of the Middle Wallop Airfield
- Bowl barrow 125m north east of South View Farm, Palestine
- Barksbury Hillfort - southern side of Andover and A303(T) (part of an Iron age hill fort)

### Listed buildings

- Listed buildings are concentrated within the older settlements as well as some of the isolated farmsteads (e.g. Eveley Farm) and residential properties (e.g. Longstock House)
- Grade I listed buildings comprise St Leonards Church at Grateley, St Peter and St Pauls Church at Kimpton, and a barn east of Berry Court Farm near Nether Wallop.

## Settlement Pattern

10C.22. Given the large area which this LCA covers numerous forms of settlement activity prevail dependent upon their positions within the landscape. In general, these settlements retain a coherent historic core which is often focused upon an early medieval church, manorial complex or important farmstead. Nineteenth and particularly 20th century development within these settlements has been minimal given the increased focus upon the larger towns and cities. During the last two or three decades this has changed with

people wishing to move away from the major population centres and out into the rural landscape.

- 10C.23. This open landscape is dominated by open parliamentary fields and the farmsteads which controlled these land holdings are generally well dispersed. Not all are located upon surveyed roads or tracks but they do tend to lie within field systems provided with straight boundaries and trackways. This large area does include what appears to be a hierarchy of farms with the larger examples located upon main roads or the junction of roads and the smaller farmsteads positioned further away within open field systems.
- 10C.24. The principal roads throughout this area appear to be largely unchanged by the surveying of new field boundaries which was undertaken during the later 18th and 19th centuries. In contrast, many of the smaller roads and tracks do demonstrate evidence of straightening at some point in the recent past.
- 10C.25. Overall the settlement pattern for this area varies from the southern section to the northern section. Towards the south of this LCA, larger settlements are located within the sheltered chalk river valleys, of the neighbouring Landscape Character Type 5. However, towards the north, settlements such as Fyfield are located within this LCA, set in sheltered valleys.
- 10C.26. Exceptions for the general settlement pattern can be found with the military base at Middle Wallop, which is sited adjacent Middle Wallop Airfield, out on the open plain and Palestine, a settlement built post 1945 on a grid on the western edge of this LCA.
- 10C.27. Farmsteads are located generally in two different localities / patterns, the first being dotted sporadically across the open plain, for example Darfield Farm, Broughton Down Farm; the second being more closely related to existing settlements, i.e. Goddards Farm with Middle Wallop. A number of low lying poultry houses are sited away from the main farmstead - as seen north of Over Wallop.

## **Local Settlements**

10C.28. Local Settlements and their corresponding Settlement Type (see Appendix 2 for more information):

- Andover (post-medieval): Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type
- Abbots Ann: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type
- Broughton: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type
- Fyfield: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type
- Goodworth Clatford: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type
- Grateley: Chalk Downland: Hilltop Settlement Type
- Houghton: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type
- Kimpton: Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type
- Longstock: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type
- Middle Wallop: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type
- Netter Wallop: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type
- Over Wallop: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type
- Quarley: Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type
- Upper Clatford: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type
- Weyhill: Clay Upland and Plateau Settlement Type

## **Remoteness and Tranquillity**

10C.29. This is a large-scale landscape, with big skies. Away from the main roads in isolated dry valleys or in close proximity to small hills, the large-scale landscape can be appreciated with a strong sense of tranquillity. Lighting and traffic, particularly on the A303 and Middle Wallop, are eroding the tranquillity of a wide area, due to the openness of the landscape.

## **Key Valued Characteristics**

10C.30. Key valued characteristics of LCA10C are as follows:

- An elevated gently undulating area of very open chalk downland, dominated by arable farming; provides opportunities and experiences for long views with big expansive skies and wide views, which also provides a development free backdrop and contrast to the adjacent LCT5: River Valley floors

- Enclosed, historic routeways, e.g the public right of way leading south from Broughton Road to Houghton Down Farm
- Small hills including Danebury Hill, Bury Hill and Chattis Hill create interest on the skyline, as well as opportunities for viewing across the landscape as many have good public access
- Danebury Hill Fort is recognised as a key landscape feature of the area and the Borough
- Broughton is noted for its distinctive 'town like' character of narrow streets and dense but varied housing styles. The good architectural mix is valued.
- Local buildings are predominately brick and flint with clay tiled roofs
- A few isolated woodlands and shelter belts which traverse the landform
- Woodlands within adjacent LCAs create wooded horizons
- Disused chalk pits often overgrown forming small woodland copses within the open arable landscape
- Properties found in commanding positions on elevated ridges, characterised and framed by mature trees
- Some areas of pasture and hedgerows on the periphery of older settlements reduce their visibility within the open landscape
- The lack of visibility of settlements within the southern section of this LCA, creates a strong feeling of remoteness
- Parklands occasionally found on the edge of settlements provide diversity
- Longstock Park a rich area of parkland
- Good network of public rights of way
- Largely a landscape dominated by 19th century parliamentary enclosure
- Number of large villages in the north of the area associated with dry valleys
- Several popular and attractive villages and focal points including Amport, Abbots Ann, Broughton, Bury Hill, Danebury Hill Fort, Goodworth Clatford, Upper Clatford, and the Wallops

### **Key Detractors**

10C.31. Key detractors of LCA10C are as follows:

- Weak hedgerow structure within arable landscape and extensive areas of one crop. In particular due to the poor hedgerow structure on the roads adjacent to

Danbury Hill, cars travelling along the road network are visible within this historic landscape

- Intrusive development along the roads radiating out of Andover, has diluted the rural character
- Lighting at Middle Wallop and on road junctions is considered to be particularly intrusive
- Large scale sheds/hangars and structures of Middle Wallop Airfield intrude above horizon; also, as seen within context of Danebury Downs
- Visibility of solar panels, e.g east of Red Post Lane, south of A303, and south of Broughton Road near Houghton Farm.
- Visually prominent earth bunds adjacent to Thruxton Airfield
- Dis-used buildings and ex greenhouses in some visually prominent locations, where farms are located in elevated positions
- Urbanising influences including elaborate property gates
- Visibility of existing barns often on local ridges. Visibility of new barns with poor quality mitigation including very artificial bunding
- Busy and fast road A303(T), railway line
- Development of farm sheds (often poultry) away from farmsteads dilute undeveloped surrounding landscape character
- Visually intrusive paddock boundaries

### **Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues**

10C.32. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA10C are as follows:

- Future potential demand for mineral extraction of sharp sand and gravel
- Potential and visual impact of solar panels
- Requirements for large scale farm buildings plus other farm units becoming redundant with potential for conversion
- Impact of tall structures, including communication masts and transmitters
- Future potential for the expansion of settlements onto open valley sides
- Further enlargement of fields with the loss of hedgerows and local landscape features

- Potential for further modern agricultural methods to further damage the fragile evidence for the prehistoric landscape around Danebury Hill Fort and remaining unimproved chalk grassland
- Spread of equestrian activity and associated field stables
- Loss of dark skies and tranquillity over a wide area due to openness of the landscape
- Potential intrusion from greater activity or changes to Ministry of Defence (MOD) land and airfields

### **Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA10C**

10C.33. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA10C Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland are as follows:

- The Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland is an open homogenous area of national importance for its unimproved grassland and woodland habitats and extant historic features. The overall strategy is therefore to conserve the open views and its historic and ecological value whilst restoring some of the landscape structural features of the downs at Thruxton and Danebury Chalk Downland and to protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

### **Land Management**

10C.34. 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:

#### **10C.35. Landscape Distinctiveness**

- Maintain sense of remoteness and tranquillity
- Protect significant open vistas from visual intrusion
- Protect and enhance views to valued local landscape features including Danebury Hill, Bury Hill and Chattis Hill
- Maintain undeveloped valley sides to river valleys (LCT5)

#### **10C.36. Hedgerows**

- Improve hedgerow structure especially within the vicinity of Danebury Hill, so it can help mitigate the visual impact of traffic on the adjacent landscape

#### 10C.37. **Biodiversity**

- Seek opportunities to extend and link chalk grassland and woodland habitats, with particular reference to threatened and locally-distinctive butterflies

#### 10C.38. **Historic Landscapes**

- Protect and enhance parkland features, including within the smaller properties on the periphery of villages
- Maintain and suitably enhance the surviving Iron Age Hill Forts at Danebury and Bury Ring while protecting earthworks from visitor erosion

#### 10C.39. **Urban Fringe**

- Reinforce the edge of Andover and the transition to open countryside through careful design and appropriate landscape planting
- Avoid deterioration in the urban fringe landscape arising from poor design and intrusive development
- Seek improved management and maintenance of farmsteads and farms in the urban fringe

### **Land Use and Development**

10C.40. 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 as follows:

#### 10C.41. **Built Development**

- Opportunities to be sought to restore local landscape features and create a stronger landscape structure around the settlement edge of Andover
- Mitigate and integrate visually intrusive structures and buildings with landscape measures which are not out of character within the landscape itself
- Careful consideration to be given to the environmental impact of alternative uses for any redundant MOD land and airfields
- Careful siting of new solar panels should be sought to avoid a belt of solar panels developing along the major route corridors
- Consider the potential visual impact of new development on elevated views from the Broughton Downs (LCA7B) adjacent to this character area

#### 10C.42. **Infrastructure**

- Maintain and enhance the roadside planting for the A303(T) and A343, to reduce the impact of these route corridors on the landscape

#### 10C.43. **Recreation, Tourism and Access**

- Consider possibility of introducing recreational focal points on the adjacent edge of Andover





Views from Danbury Hill to Backstake Hill



Long views to hill forts which acts as focal features within the landscape



Elevated long views to wooded horizons



Large houses within parkland setting

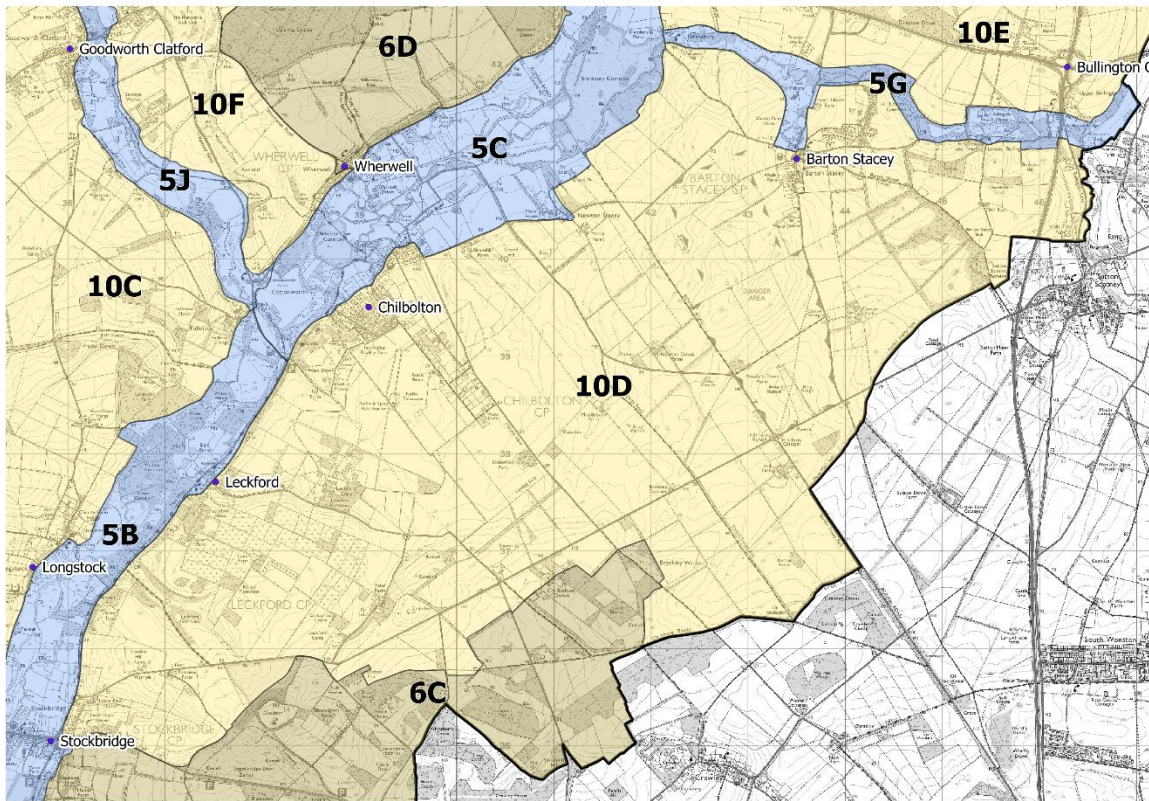


Enclosed, historic routeways



## LCA 10D Leckford and Chilbolton Downs

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### General Description

- 10D.1. Leckford and Chilbolton Downs is an elevated, rolling landscape, sloping down towards the River Test valley with a series of steep dry valleys.
- 10D.2. It is predominantly arable with a mix of small to large fields with a sporadic hedgerow structure, creating expansive areas with big skies and long views across open countryside and over the River Test. Woodlands are rectilinear in shape creating skyline features on the low ridges. Pockets of pasture exist predominantly adjacent to farmsteads and settlements. Other areas of grassland can be seen associated with the Ministry of Defence (MOD) rifle range, golf courses, caravan sites and large properties.
- 10D.3. Groups of shelter belts exist throughout this area, with a high density located to the east of Barton Stacey and again associated with farmsteads, for

example Newton Down Farm. Where these shelter belts occur, they create some visual enclosure and contain the larger fields.

- 10D.4. The landscape adjacent the River Test has a more complex character than the main area of this LCA with a higher frequency of woodland, better quality hedgerows and the location of the main settlements within this LCA.

### **Location**

- 10D.5. Leckford and Chilbolton Downs is located to the east of the River Test valley, south of the River Dever and west of the Borough boundary. The boundary to the south is less well defined, running from Stockbridge in a north easterly direction to north of Sutton Scotney and including Brockley Down and Barton Stacey.

### **Local Physical Influences**

- 10D.6. **Geology and soils:** Chalk with localised areas of Clay with Flints and River Terrace Deposits.

**Landform:** Gently undulating landform, rising to the south-east.

**Drainage:** A well-drained area, draining into the River Test.

### **Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern**

- 10D.7. The majority of the LCA is extensive intensive arable farmland with tightly-managed hedges around the patchwork of smaller and medium-sized fields. There are very few features of particular biodiversity interest at the landscape scale, with only a very small number of small isolated woodland pockets. The most interesting features of the LCA are the small fragments of relict chalk grassland within Leckford Golf Course SINC and West Down SINC to the west of the LCA as it drops down to the floodplain of the River Test.
- 10D.8. As with other areas of arable land on the chalk, there are likely to be unmapped headlands and field margins with small fragments of relict higher-diversity grassland or that support populations of threatened arable plant species.

10D.9. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA10D.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Arable and horticulture	2671.65	74.90
Boundary and linear features	41.88	1.17
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	162.20	4.55
Built-up areas and gardens	117.14	3.28
Calcareous grassland	10.91	0.31
Coniferous woodland	17.97	0.50
Fen, marsh and swamp	2.44	0.07
Improved grassland	481.82	13.51
Neutral grassland	7.40	0.21
Unidentified habitat	51.99	1.46
Unidentified water	1.61	0.05
Total	3567.02	

## Local Historical Influences

10D.10. Parliamentary field enclosures of the later 18th and 19th centuries extend across much of this Landscape Character Area. One area of 20th century prairie field development is present within this area associated with Middlebarn Farm.

10D.11. An area of 19th century plantation and occasional stands of pre-1810 woodland survive within the eastern portion of this area. The pre-1810 woodland does in places retain evidence of earlier episodes of assarting along its boundaries although the assarted fields themselves have since been subsumed within larger parliamentary schemes.

10D.12. The Chilbolton Observatory, located off Drove Road, Chilbolton, Stockbridge includes a 25m metre steerable antenna installation which is visible from the surrounding landscape. Construction of the Chilbolton Observatory started in 1963; where it was built partially on the redundant site of RAF Chilbolton.

## Designations

10D.13. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:

10D.14. **Nature Conservation**

SINC

- 4 SINCs including agriculturally unimproved grassland, ancient semi-natural woodland and sites that support notable species

10D.15. **Historic**

Conservation Areas

- Barton Stacey
- Leckford
- Stockbridge
- Chilbolton

Scheduled Monuments

- Cropmark enclosure – 500m south east of Ivy Farm, south of Chilbolton
- Long Barrow 400m south east of Moody Down farm
- 3No Long Barrows - south west of Newton Down Farm
- Long Barrow 400m west of Moody's Down Farm
- Long Barrow 300m south east of Middlebarn Farm
- Settlement site at Brockley Warren

Listed buildings

- Listed buildings are concentrated within the older parts of the settlements of Chilbolton, Barton Stacey and Newton Stacey as well as some of the isolated farmsteads (New Farm) and a number of miles stones on the A30

## Settlement Pattern

10D.16. A small portion of modern Stockbridge extends into the southern part of this character area. The other settlements of Barton Stacey and Chilbolton are largely 19th and 20th century developments. The two settlements (Chilbolton and Barton Stacey) both have a strong association with adjacent river valleys.

10D.17. Barton Stacey does retain a limited historic core focused upon the main street and to the south of the medieval church, however MOD development (from

1952) led to a linear arm of mainly ribbon development extending out of the village onto higher ground nearly doubling the overall size of the village.

10D.18. Chilbolton, originally a more nucleated settlement, then increased its size with a compact area of new housing (circa 1948) to the south extending development up the valley sides. A road with late 20<sup>th</sup> century linear development extends to the south east of Chilbolton with predominantly single storey buildings with some dormer windows.

10D.19. This open landscape is dominated by large parliamentary fields and the farmsteads which controlled these land holdings are generally well dispersed. Not all are located upon surveyed roads or tracks but they do tend to lie within field systems provided with straight boundaries and trackways.

10D.20. A number of roads (often following the alignment of Roman roads) follow the alignment of dry valleys down towards these settlements. While others roads are more directional and cut across the higher parts of the landform, as seen with the A30.

### **Local Settlements**

10D.21. Local Settlements and their corresponding Settlement Type (see Appendix 2 for more information):

- Barton Stacey: Chalk Downland: Dry Valley Settlement Type
- Chilbolton: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type
- Leckford: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type
- Stockbridge: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type

### **Remoteness and Tranquillity**

10D.22. A feeling of remoteness and exposure exists across the areas of higher ground but local detractors, which include the firing range and the A30, affect adjacent tranquillity levels.

## **Key Valued Characteristics**

10D.23. Key valued characteristics of LCA10D are as follows:

- An elevated gently undulating area of very open chalk downland dominated by arable farming, sloping down through a number of dry valleys to the River Test
- Largely a landscape dominated by 19th century parliamentary enclosure
- Isolated small woodlands, sometimes associated with farmsteads
- Shelter belts some of which are linked together provide some enclosure
- West Down Nature Reserve
- Elevated with 'big skies' and long views to clear ridges and skylines with the occasional wooded horizon
- Large areas of countryside development free, creating impression of remoteness
- Individual farmsteads characterised by mature trees
- Straight roads characterised by straight cut native hedgerows and individual mature yew trees; some on the original alignment of Roman roads
- Occasional seasonal winterbourne feeding into adjacent River Test or River Dever
- Single-track lanes and lack of engineered edges maintains undeveloped rural landscape character
- Villages characterised by mature trees
- Traditional building styles include brick and brick with flint walls with clay tiled roofs

## **Key Detractors**

10D.24. Key detractors of LCA10D are as follows:

- Weak hedgerow structure within the arable landscape
- Radio telescope at Chilbolton is visually prominent on horizon
- Noise from A303 and firing range
- Large scale industrial sheds at Leckford Diaries and located on local ridgelines
- Visibility of development within the open landscape, with agricultural sheds intruding into skyline

- Visibility of shooting range and associated buildings, signage, structures, masts and in particular the artificial earth-bunds
- Detached farm sheds away from farmsteads dilutes undeveloped surrounding landscape character
- Ribbon development leading out of Barton Stacey is particularly urban in character and visible

### **Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues**

10D.25. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA10D are as follows:

- Risk of extensive views of any new large to medium scale development
- Potential impact from any change to the use on MOD sites
- Change of use of farm buildings to large residential properties with associated domestic curtilage features potentially urbanising the area
- Further enlargement of fields with the loss of hedgerows and local landscape features
- Loss of orchards south of Leckford and the introduction of vineyards
- Expansion of farms (e.g. Leckford Dairy Farm) and impact of large scale buildings, infrastructure and lighting on rural landscape character
- Potential oil and gas exploration, appraisal or extraction at Crawley Down, potential impact on local infrastructure and potential visibility of associated development
- Further loss and damage to archaeological sites
- Installation of solar panels and tall structures (i.e. communication masts and transmitter) impacting on sense of remoteness

### **Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA10D**

10D.26. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA10D Leckford and Chilbolton Chalk Downs are as follows:

- The Leckford and Chilbolton Chalk Downs are valued for their open views and big skies. The overall strategy is therefore to conserve the open rural character of Leckford and Chilbolton Chalk Downs and to protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.



## **Land Management**

10D.27. 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:

10D.28. **Landscape Distinctiveness**

- Maintain sense of remoteness and tranquillity
- Protect significant open vistas from visual intrusion

10D.29. **Agriculture**

- Protect the natural alignment and character of the winterbournes and their seasonal flow
- Maintain the hedgerows, woodland structure and landscape features of value within the new areas of vineyards

10D.30. **Woodland and Trees**

- Protect the distinctive yew trees within the roadside hedgerows
- Maintain the existing trees around isolated farmsteads, look for additional areas to further plant trees around other isolated buildings, structures and clusters within the open downland landscape

10D.31. **Biodiversity**

- Conserve and enhance the biodiversity of West Down

10D.32. **Historic Landscapes**

- Protect and enhance the straight roads (Roman Roads) and elevated long views which can be appreciated from them

## **Land Use and Development**

10D.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 as follows:

10D.34. **Built Development**

- Maintain the large swathes of development free areas as development free
- Careful consideration to be given to the environmental impact of alternative uses for any redundant MOD land
- Propose improvements to the boundaries of existing MOD sites to reduce their influence on surrounding undeveloped areas

- Careful consideration to be given to the further expansion of Barton Stacey on the adjacent open downland and its visual impact on the surrounding landscape character
- Improve the existing settlement edge treatment of Barton Stacey with the use of tree planting and hedgerows to help integrate and reduce the visual prominence of buildings on the adjacent open undeveloped rural landscape
- Any structures etc. associated with the potential oil or gas exploration, appraisal or extraction at Crawley Down for oil and gas, should not impact on the surrounding rural landscape character. All tall structures which are potentially visible from a wider area and areas of public access should be avoided within this open landscape without appropriate mitigation.

#### 10D.35. **Infrastructure**

- Seek opportunities to enhance roadside planting and minimise visual and noise intrusion
- Avoid intrusive development of tall and large structures except where they can be successfully integrated into the landscape
- Maintain the single-track lanes with soft verges and hedgerows or grassy banks
- Avoid the introduction of pavements within the village settlements and other urbanising proposals



New vineyards with hedgerows and woodlands retained



Long straight (ex-Roman road), with farmstead surrounded by mature trees



Elevated, gentle undulating landform with long views to wooded horizons



Single-track lane with open banks allows views out to surrounding landscape

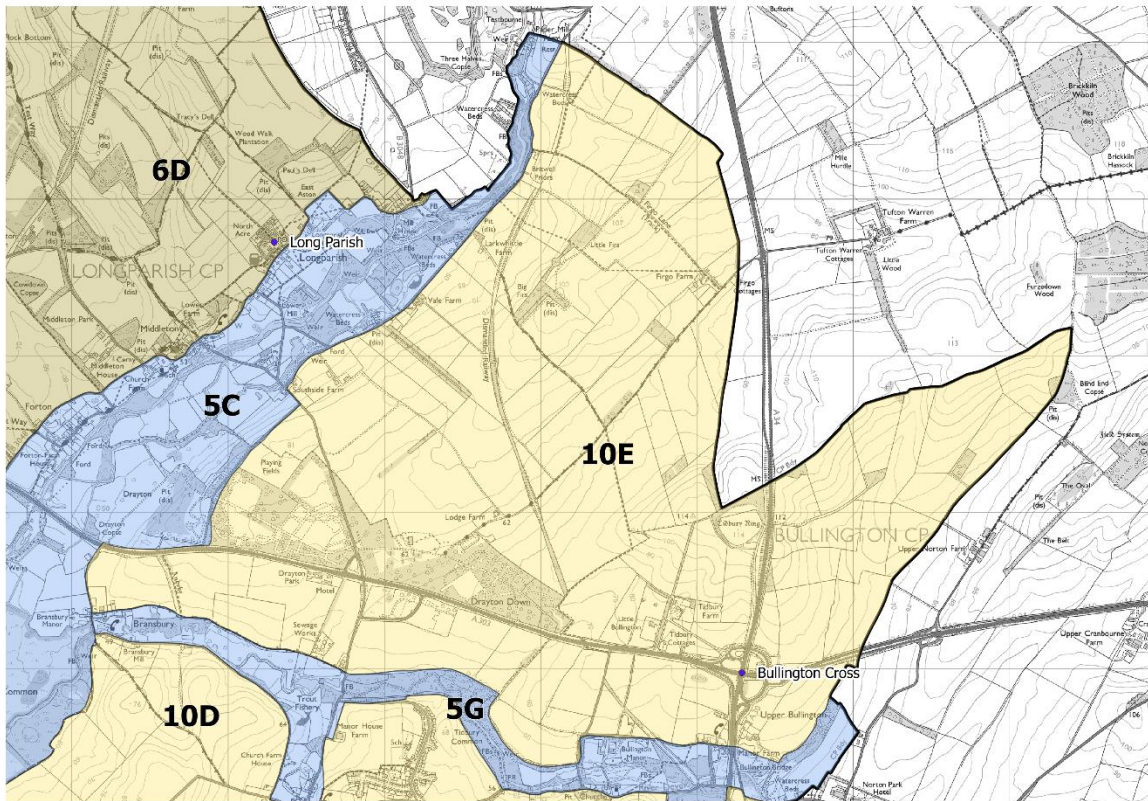


Isolated woodland within open arable landscape



## LCA 10E Drayton Chalk Downland

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### General Description

- 10E.1. Drayton Chalk Downland covers a small area of rolling chalk downland which extends across the Test Valley Borough boundary into the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane.
- 10E.2. This LCA includes the redundant area of ex-army camps at Drayton Down and Barton Stacey which are characterised by areas of rough grassland, scrub and small woodlands as well as a network of tracks and areas of hard standings, with a mix of new tenants. This area contrasts with the rest of the LCA which is predominantly a homogenous arable farmland.
- 10E.3. There are also a number of rectilinear woodlands and shelter belts towards the north. With the old railway embankment also wooded which forms a prominent feature within this open landscape.

- 10E.4. This LCA is also characterised by a number of iron age barrows and Tidbury Hill fort.

### **Location**

- 10E.5. Drayton Chalk Downland is sandwiched between the River Test to the north west, and the River Dever to the south and the Borough boundary to the north and east.

### **Local Physical Influences**

- 10E.6. **Geology and soils:** Chalk with a very small area of Clay with Flints in the east and clay, silt, sand and gravels adjacent to the River Dever Valley Floor (LCA5G).

**Landform:** Gentle undulating slopes, rising to higher ground at Tidbury Hill.

**Drainage:** A well-drained area, draining to the River Test and River Dever.

### **Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern**

- 10E.7. The majority of the LCA is arable farmland with tightly-managed and fairly thin hedges around the patchwork of medium to large fields. There are very few features of particular biodiversity interest at the landscape scale, with only a very small number of small isolated woodland pockets. The most notable wooded feature is the linear belt of woodland along the route of the dismantled railway running approximately north-south. Linear features such as this generally make a good contribution to ecological networks, although in this instance, there is limited wider value to this as there is little connection to this from the adjacent land.
- 10E.8. Other key biodiversity features of the LCA are large area of neutral grassland at Drayton Down and the small Ancient Woodland SINC at Tidbury Ring.
- 10E.9. There is also a strip of arable land designated as a SINC (Longparish Cornfields) as it supports a population of notable arable plant species. This LCA sits within the wider Longparish Important Arable Plants Area and as with other areas of arable land on the chalk, there are likely to be unmapped

headlands and field margins with small fragments of relict populations of threatened arable plant species or other grassland habitats.

10E.10. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA10E.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Arable and horticulture	930.72	74.02
Boundary and linear features	29.61	2.35
Bracken	0.09	0.01
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	58.17	4.63
Built-up areas and gardens	32.37	2.57
Calcareous grassland	0.08	0.01
Coniferous woodland	6.84	0.54
Improved grassland	149.54	11.89
Inland rock	15.85	1.26
Neutral grassland	17.01	1.35
Unidentified habitat	17.08	1.36
Unidentified water	0.03	0.01
Total	1257.38	

## Local Historical Influences

10E.11. There are 19th century parliamentary enclosures extending across the majority of the area. Immediately to the north of the A303 are several surviving stands of 19th century plantations with ornamental tracks and driveways extending throughout them. These plantations may well relate to the older forest of Harewood across the valley of the River Test to the north west.

10E.12. Two army camps (Drayton Down and Barton Stacey Camp) developed around the alignment of the A303(T). The camps were used for training post World War II. Originally containing over 100 single storey buildings, all now remains is a network of tracks and tarmac roads linking open areas of grass and large areas of hard standings (tarmac).

10E.13. The A303 bisects this area from west to east. This route connects with the A34 trunk road (aligned north south) which runs through the eastern end of the Landscape Character Area. Immediately to the west of the A34 lies

Tidbury Ring, a univallate (with a single bank and ditch) hill fort. The remains of a dismantled railway extend through this area aligned roughly north south.

## **Designations**

10E.14. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:

10E.15. **Nature Conservation**

SINC

- 4 SINCS, including agriculturally unimproved grassland, ancient semi-natural woodland and a site supporting notable species

10E.16. **Historic**

Scheduled Monuments

- Tidbury Ring
- Andyke - North east of Bransbury

Listed buildings

- Listed buildings are found within some of the isolated farmsteads (e.g. Firgo Farm)

## **Settlement Pattern**

10E.17. No formal settlements are present within Drayton Chalk Downland.

10E.18. The farmsteads within this character area are generally located to the north of Drayton Down and the woodland associated with it. Each of these farms are located along the lower ground by either the River Test or the River Dever beside good sources of fresh water and road networks.

## **Local Settlements**

10E.19. None identified within the Landscape Character Area.

## **Remoteness and Tranquillity**

10E.20. The impact of noise from the existing road corridors of the A303 and the A34 affect local tranquillity levels.

## **Key Valued Characteristics**

10E.21. Key valued characteristics of LCA10E are as follows:

- An elevated downland landscape sloping down towards the River Test valley with views across the River Test valley and beyond
- Woodlands, often isolated. New woodlands, rectilinear in shape frequent in the north of this LCA
- Eastern area characterised with hedgerows and a high density of hedgerow trees
- Robust boxed hedgerows with mature yew trees aligning single carriageways
- Traditional building styles include brick and brick with flint walls with clay tiled roofs.
- Redundant railway line demarcated within landscape as long woodland feature
- Scheduled Monument – Andyke demarcated by a belt of trees
- Iron Age hill fort (Tidbury Ring) present within the eastern portion of this character area
- Largely a landscape dominated by 19th century parliamentary enclosure

## **Key Detractors**

10E.22. Key detractors of LCA 10E are as follows:

- Weak hedgerow structure within arable landscape
- Large redundant army base with associated areas of disused hard standings (i.e. south of A303(T)) with semi wasteland character and now semi occupied by a mix of new land uses (e.g. shooting school and driver training)
- Dominant road corridors of the A303(T) and A34, with large junction, noisy and in places visible from adjacent landscape
- Recycling/scrap facility on junction of A34 and A303(T)
- Telecommunication mast
- Visible fields of solar panels
- Visible sewage works, with new taller structures



## **Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues**

10E.23. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA10E are as follows:

- Further enlargement of fields with the loss of hedgerows and local landscape features
- Alternative uses for redundant Ministry of Defence (MOD) land at ex Drayton and Barton Stacey army camps and visibility of them within the wider adjacent landscape
- Further solar and other renewable development eroding the rural character of the area
- Influence and degrading of landscape with land uses adjacent the A34 and A303(T)
- Impact of tall structures, including communication masts and transmitters
- Loss and damage to archaeological sites
- Future potential demand for mineral extraction of sharp sand and gravel on edge of LCA but requiring infrastructure within this LCA

## **Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA10E**

10E.24. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA10E Drayton Chalk Downland are as follows:

- The Drayton Chalk Downland is a more disturbed area of open downland as a result of major changes. The overall strategy is therefore to restore and create a pattern of woodland and hedgerows, integrating both existing and any future development to help re-establish a quiet open rural character to Drayton Chalk Downland and protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

## **Land Management**

10E.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:

10E.26. **Landscape Distinctiveness**

- Protect and enhance views to valued local landscape features and views from valued local features to the surrounding landscape, e.g Tidbury Ring (west of A34)

#### 10E.27. **Woodland and Trees**

- Enhance and manage the woodland structure across the redundant army base to create a landscape of value
- Maintain and manage the existing hedgerow trees and encourage the planting of Yew trees as specimens

#### 10E.28. **Biodiversity**

- Collectively conserve, enhance and manage the mixed habitats across the redundant army base camps
- Explore the extent of existing rare arable plant populations and seek and implement opportunities to secure the local viability of these species through the creation of and more sensitive management of arable field margins and uncultivated strips

#### 10E.29. **Historic Landscapes**

- Protect the landscape setting to historic features such as Tidbury Ring and Andyke

### **Land Use and Development**

10E.30. 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 as follows:

#### 10E.31. **Built Development**

- Careful consideration to be given to the environmental impact of alternative uses for redundant MOD land
- Propose planting to help screen and integrate the sewage works and other visible detractors within the open landscape

#### 10E.32. **Infrastructure**

- Seek opportunities to enhance roadside planting and minimise visual and noise intrusion from both A34 and A303(T) considering valued views
- Avoid intrusive development of tall and large structures except where they can be successfully integrated into the landscape
- Seek to minimise the visual intrusion and suburbanising effect arising from highway infrastructure

#### 10E.33. **Recreation, Tourism and Access**

- Look for opportunities to improve access, and the landscape setting for Tidbury Hill



Mature Yew trees are a feature of the hedgerows



Narrow, hedged single carriageways



Ex MOD base, includes open areas of grassland and mature trees



Redundant railway line, now wooded forms a continuous feature

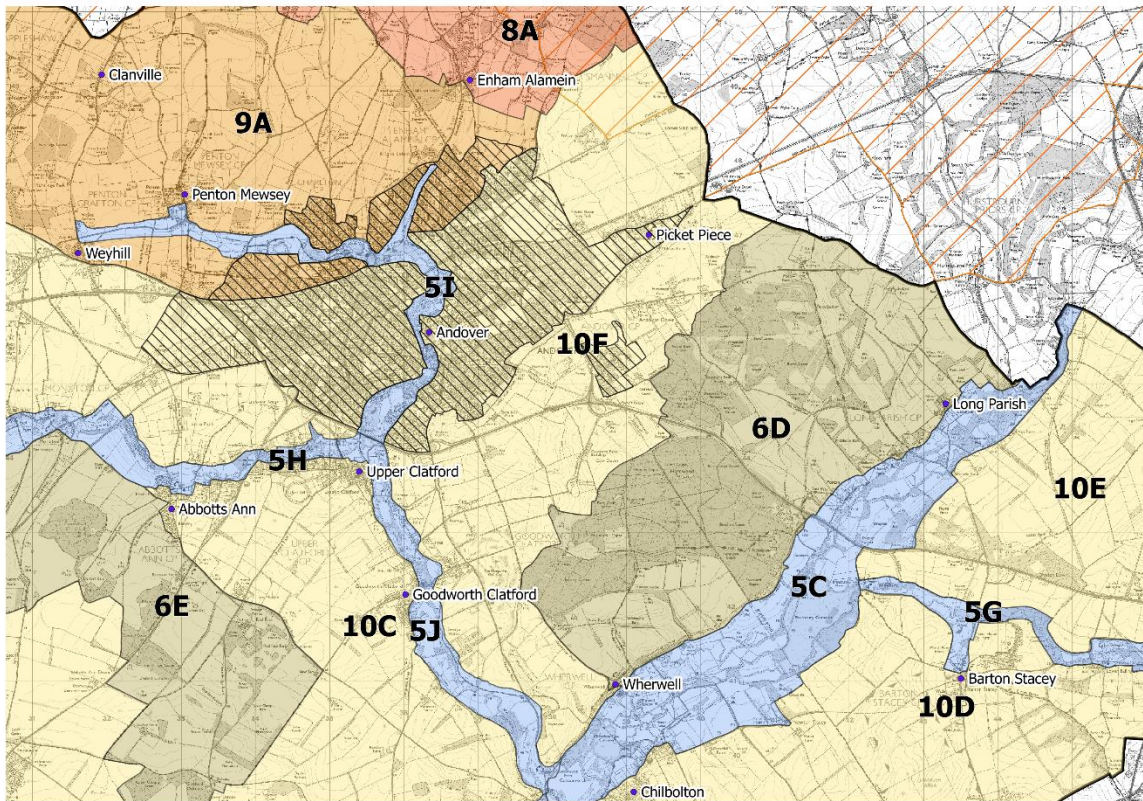


New areas of woodland planting create interest within the predominantly arable landscape



## LCA 10F Andover Chalk Downland

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North Wessex Downs AONB area indicated with orange line hatch.

### General Description

- 10F.1. Andover Chalk Downland is a gently undulating and rolling area of chalk downland, with small hills located to the east (e.g. Tinker's Hill) orientated and sloping down to the west with a series of dry valleys towards the River Anton and Test Valley.
- 10F.2. It features open areas of arable land, and more recently fields of solar panels, separated by areas of settlement, new housing and infrastructure creating a fragmented character area of original downland. A number of isolated woodlands are seen within the open arable areas, often demarcating old disused pits. Other small woodlands are located on non-productive land as seen around the A303(T) and also on the small scarp face at Wallis Bottom. Shelter belts or thick hedgerows are also a feature, with a high density found

towards the south, linking and providing areas of enclosure between the wooded landscape type to the north and the river valley to the south.

- 10F.3. Urban fringe recreation activities exist with the golf course east of Goodworth Clatford and Finkley Down Farm Park to the north of the railway line. Other urban fringe land uses including sewage works. Pylons are visible transecting the northern part of this LCA.
- 10F.4. Ribbon development along the radiating roads out of Andover has caused urbanisation of this area of Downland, as seen along the B3400. Two golf courses are present within this area close by Goodworth Clatford and on the southern edge of Andover.

### **Location**

- 10F.5. The western edge of Andover Chalk Downland is defined by the River Anton valley. The northern edge runs from East Anton, south of Smannell and Ridges Copse. The eastern boundary follows the Borough boundary, with the southern boundary bordering the northern edge of Harewood Forest.

### **Local Physical Influences**

- 10F.6. **Geology and soils:** Chalk with localised areas of Clay with Flints, as well as Alluvium running into Andover.

**Landform:** Gentle undulating landform with higher ground at Andover Down. Southern area falls more steeply to the lower River Anton.

**Drainage:** A well-drained area, draining to the River Anton.

### **Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern**

- 10F.7. The majority of the LCA is arable farmland with tightly-managed and fairly thin hedges around the patchwork of medium to large fields. The LCA overall has the appearance of being fairly low-interest in terms of biodiversity, and is notably bounded by higher-value areas to the south-west (River Anton corridor) and south (Harewood Forest). The A303 bisects the LCA from east to west and there is extensive new residential development to the north of the A303.

10F.8. Although the fields themselves are of limited ecological interest, the network of hedges in the area supports populations of hazel dormouse. This is most notable in the hedges and scrub around the mosaic of smallholder-type plots around Picket Piece, where there are numerous dormouse records. There are also dormice known to be present to the north and south of Picket Piece, across most of the area north of the A303. It is likely that the A303 and the railway line provide good corridors for dispersal of this species. The landscape to the south of the A303 does not have a known dormouse population, although its character is similar, and the species appears to be likely to be present here.

10F.9. There are also a small number of relic calcareous grassland at Mackrell Down, Red Hill and Ladies Walk Down, as well as chalk grassland that has established in the more modern embankments of the A303 at its junction with the A3093 and A3057.

10F.10. As with other areas of arable land on the chalk, there are likely to be unmapped headlands and field margins with small fragments of relict populations of threatened arable plant species or other grassland habitats.

10F.11. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA10F.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Arable and horticulture	1225.21	53.29
Boundary and linear features	103.23	4.49
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	72.44	3.15
Built-up areas and gardens	352.48	15.33
Calcareous grassland	14.25	0.62
Coniferous woodland	1.16	0.05
Fen, marsh and swamp	0.01	0.01
Improved grassland	406.49	17.68
Neutral grassland	11.81	0.51
Standing open water and canals	0.02	0.01
Unidentified habitat	111.53	4.85
Unidentified water	0.35	0.02
Total	2298.98	

## Local Historical Influences

- 10F.12. The majority of this landscape has been enclosed by acts of parliament during the later 18th and 19th centuries which has produced a characteristic regularity within the landscape with large open fields, straight field boundaries and trackways.
- 10F.13. A small element of pre-1810 Harewood Forest extends northward into this area close to Andover Down Farm. A small portion of downland to the east of Romsey Road is to be found at the southern limit of this area overlooking the valley of the River Anton.
- 10F.14. Two Roman Roads extend through this area; the Portway (aligned north east - south west) and the Icknield Way (aligned north west – south east). The Icknield Way does not appear to appreciably survive as either earthworks, road alignments or within field boundaries although it does form the north eastern boundary between more modern development at Andover (with East Anton to the north east of it). The Portway survives in field boundaries to the south west of East Anton and within the line of Finkley Road.

## Designations

- 10F.15. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:
- 10F.16. **Landscape**
- North Wessex Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty<sup>1</sup>
- 10F.17. **Nature Conservation**
- SINC
- 16 SINC, including agriculturally unimproved grassland, other grasslands, ancient semi-natural woodland and sites supporting notable species
- 10F.18. **Historic**
- Conservation Areas
- Wherwell
  - Andover

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



#### Scheduled Monuments

- Site of Roman house east of Finkley Farm
- Devils Ditch

#### Listed buildings

- Listed buildings includes a cluster in Andover town centre, at farmsteads (Picket Twenty Farm) and the iron bridge crossing Micheledever Road on the Ladies Walk, as well as the Grade I listed St Peters Church at Goodworth Clatford

### **Settlement Pattern**

- 10F.19. Goodworth Clatford (partially within this Landscape Character Area) has an appreciable historic core and straddles the banks of the River Anton. It is focused upon an historic crossing point over the river with the majority of settlement development on the western bank. The church and historic core within Andover Chalk Downland is smaller and has only relatively limited 19th and 20th century development. The built up area of Andover abuts the character area to the north and west and also straddles the River Anton.
- 10F.20. The east of Andover has expanded dramatically within the last few years, with a new neighbourhood to the west of Finkley Down and enclosing East Anton. Picket Piece originally a ribbon-style settlement, with properties also having extensive gardens behind has now been re-structured with a housing development. The area of Andover Down, originally a line of properties along the London Road, has now in part been back filled across to the west up to the A3093 with a new neighbourhood.
- 10F.21. The farmsteads within this character area are well spaced outlying with a network of large, open and straight-sided fields.
- 10F.22. The more major medieval roads largely linking principal settlements, such as Winchester Road and Romsey Road, continued to follow the contours along the valley floor of the River Anton. Roads within this LCA radiate towards Andover, traversing the lie of the land. The major roads are the A303(T) and

the A3093, with its junction forming a major feature within this generally open landscape.

## **Local Settlements**

10F.23. Local Settlements and their corresponding Settlement Type (see Appendix 2 for more information):

- Picket Piece: Chalk Downland: Dry Valley Settlement Type
- Andover (historic core): Chalk River Valley Settlement Type
- Andover (post-medieval): Chalk Downland: Hilltop Settlement Type
- Goodworth Clatford: Chalk River Valley Settlement Type

## **Remoteness and Tranquillity**

10F.24. The impact of suburban elements has resulted in the loss of remoteness and tranquillity. Furthermore, the open nature of this landscape, further extends the negative impact of urban fringe land uses. However, in the north of this LCA, within areas of the undulating landscape pockets of remoteness can still be appreciated where the urban edge is less significant. To the south where the hedgerow pattern provides enclosure, areas of remoteness and tranquillity can still be experienced.

## **Key Valued Characteristic**

10F.25. Key valued characteristics of LCA10F are as follows:

- An elevated downland landscape sloping down towards the River Anton and Andover, with far reaching views towards wooded horizons and to Danebury Hill
- Development free roads: Romsey Road and Winchester Road descending down to the River Test valley. With long views across the River Anton valley to partially wooded horizons and Danebury Down visible to the west
- Rural lanes with single-tracks, thick hedgerows with mature trees and soft un-engineered verges
- Traditional building styles include brick and brick with flint walls with clay tiled roofs
- Two Roman roads, the Ickneild Way and Portway, extend through this area, characteristically straight

- Largely a landscape dominated by 19th century parliamentary enclosure
- Disused pits marked in the landscape as small woodland copses
- Woodland copses located on ridges
- Good public access from southern side of A303(T) out to countryside and Harewood Forest
- Mackrel's Down, typical downland landform
- Undeveloped character of Goodworth Clatford retains historic integrity

### **Key Detractors**

10F.26. Key detractors of LCA10F are as follows:

- Visible new urban edges on the west side of Andover
- Overhead pylons visible across area
- Visibility of extensive area of solar panels within rural landscape to the south east of Goodworth Clatford and from the A303(T)
- Loss of internal hedgerows within area to the north of this LCA, with large fields evident east of Smannell creating featureless large scale arable landscape
- Cumulative visual impact of solar panels, sewage works and oil well at Romsey Road, near Goodworth Clatford
- Telecommunication masts on exposed highpoints
- Dominant road corridor of the A303(T) with large junction

### **Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues**

10F.27. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA10F are as follows:

- Expansion of Andover
- Numerous lines of communication across the landscape (roads, railway line, pylons). Poorly managed and maintained farmland
- Erosion and further fragmentation of the landscape structure, with further enlargement of fields with the loss of hedgerows and local landscape features
- Potential oil and gas exploration, appraisal or extraction at site south east of Goodworth Clatford. Potential impact on local infrastructure and visibility of site compound with tall structures from adjacent landscape especially adjacent Public Right of Way

- Restoration of existing mineral sites
- Visual impact of large expanse of solar panels from A303(T) intruding into open view of undeveloped countryside
- Requirements for large scale farm buildings plus other farm units becoming redundant with potential for conversion
- Impact of tall structures, including communication masts and transmitters
- Loss and damage to archaeological sites
- Impact on AONB and setting of AONB

## **Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA10F**

### **10F.28. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA10F the Andover Chalk**

Downland are as follows:

- The Andover Chalk Downland is a fragmented and open landscape, with exposed views of the edge of Andover. The overall strategy is therefore to enhance and re-create a landscape structure of small woods and hedgerows within Andover Chalk Downland and to create new appropriate landscape features to contain and integrate Andover into its landscape and protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

## **Land Management**

### **10F.29. 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:**

#### **10F.30. Landscape Distinctiveness**

- Protect the AONB and its setting from intrusive development
- Protect and enhance the contrast of a rural landscape with the urban character of Andover
- Protect significant open vistas from visual intrusion
- Protect and enhance views to valued local landscape features, e.g across to Danebury Hill to the south-west and the adjacent Harewod Forest to the south-east.

#### **10F.31. Hedgerows**

- Seek opportunities to mitigate the impact from existing and future development through new hedgerow planting

- Seek opportunities to improve the hedgerow structures around the areas of existing solar panels to reduce their visual impact on public places (including Public Rights of Way)

#### 10F.32. **Woodland and Trees**

- Seek opportunities for new woodland planting to link to existing wooded areas and integrate modern development into the landscape
- Maintain the open setting of Harewood Forest

#### 10F.33. **Biodiversity**

- Manage the golf course to increase biodiversity and chalk grassland habitats
- Maintain and enhance hedgerow habitat extent, management regime and linkages with respect to hazel dormice

#### 10F.34. **Historic Landscapes**

- Protect the character and where possible alignment of identified Roman roads

#### 10F.35. **Urban Fringe**

- Reinforce the edge of Andover through careful design and appropriate landscape planting
- Avoid deterioration in the urban fringe landscape arising from poor design and intrusive development
- Seek improved management and maintenance of farmsteads and farms in the urban fringe

### **Land Use and Development**

10F.36. 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 as follows:

#### 10F.37. **Built Development**

- Opportunities to be sought to restore local landscape features and create stronger landscape structure within the settlement edge of Andover
- Maintain the historic integrity of the existing settlement pattern
- Use planting to help reduce the visual prominence of the sewage works, solar panels and oil extraction site at Goodworth Clatford. Carefully consider any new developments on these sites and the potential visual effect on the adjacent landscape character

- Avoid solar panels in visually prominent sites; where suitable sites can be found, further mitigate the potential visual impact with the use of hedgerow and woodland planting

#### 10F.38. **Infrastructure**

- Seek opportunities to enhance roadside planting and minimise the visual and noise intrusion of the A303(T)
- Seek to minimise the visual intrusion and suburbanising effect arising from highway infrastructure

#### 10F.39. **Recreation, Tourism and Access**

- Maintain and improve access into and around Harewood Forest, especially from the new areas of development within Andover



Gently undulating landform with single-track lanes and boxed hedgerows



Woodlands form skyline features



Mature trees are a feature of the hedgerows



Harewood Forest prominent to the south east

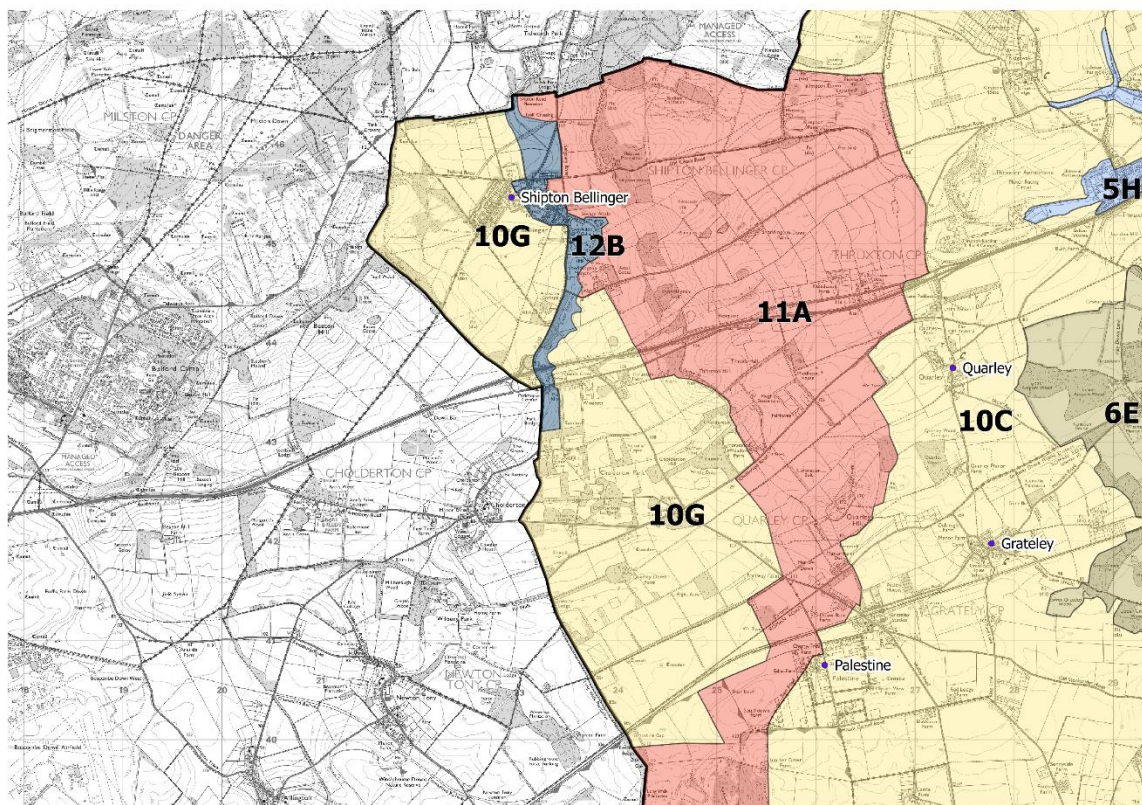


Long views to local ancient hill forts



## LCA 10G Cholderton Downs

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### General Description

- 10G.1. The Cholderton Downs form two areas of valley farmland which run down to and are divided by the River Bourne Valley LCA12B. South of the River Bourne Valley, the land gently rises to the east to LCA11A Quarley Hill Downs, and to the west to Beacon Hill, outside the Borough.
- 10G.2. The northern area is predominantly arable, with areas of grassland towards the west. The landscape to the south contains Cholderton Park, with its associated small woodlands, shelter belts, lodges and farms, creates an area of contrast to the open arable fields to the north and further to the south.

### Location

- 10G.3. Cholderton Downs is located to the far west of the Borough, on the western and south western side of the low-lying hills of Quarley Hill, Thruxton Hill, Snoddington Hill and the River Bourne Valley.



## **Local Physical Influences**

### **10G.4. Geology and soils:** Chalk

**Landform:** Very gently undulating landform on higher ground rising to 150m AOD.

**Drainage:** Well drained area, outside the River Test catchment area.

## **Local Biodiversity and Vegetation Pattern**

10G.5. The majority of the LCA is intensive arable farmland with tightly-managed hedges around the large fields. There are very few features of particular biodiversity interest at the landscape scale, although some of the hedge boundaries are stronger and more established than in other areas of this Landscape Character Type. There are several distinct broad shelterbelts that extend for good distances though the LCA and this LCA presents a somewhat stronger ecological network than perhaps other areas of the LCT do.

10G.6. The most ecologically important feature of the LCA is the chalk grassland areas to the far west of the LCA where small areas of the large Salisbury Plain SAC and SPA project into the Borough over the border from Wiltshire. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) training area between the Plain and Shipton Bellinger also appears to present a slightly more diverse mosaic of grassland and scrub / woodland, although none of this is currently mapped as notable habitat.

10G.7. Salisbury Plain SPA is important for its population of stone curlew; these birds are not confined to the SPA boundaries and will nest / breed on areas of bare and disturbed arable land in the landscape around the SPA within this LCA. Therefore some of the arable areas that initially appear less interesting may be of value in providing supporting habitat for the SPA. The RSPB are working with farmers and estate owners in this area to further the conservation of stone curlew.

10G.8. The table below identifies the broad habitat types for LCA10G.

Broad habitat type	Area of habitat (Hectares)	Percentage of the LCA (%)
Arable and horticulture	638.99	58.88
Boundary and linear features	16.08	1.48
Broadleaved, mixed, and yew woodland	138.42	12.76
Built-up areas and gardens	25.42	2.34
Calcareous grassland	1.54	0.14
Coniferous woodland	1.36	0.13
Improved grassland	247.03	22.76
Unidentified habitat	16.10	1.48
Unidentified water	0.20	0.02
Total	1085.16	

### Local Historical Influences

10G.9. This Landscape Character Area is a very varied environment surrounded to the east and south by a downland ridge and to the north and west by the Borough boundary. Within this area of largely arable-based agriculture, late 18th and 19th century parliamentary field enclosure abounds.

10G.10. At the southern edge of this area and immediately to the south of Cholderton Park, a series of regular ladder fields survive associated with post-medieval informal enclosure of downland to produce a workable arable environment.

10G.11. A series of Bronze Age burial mounds survive at the southern end of Cholderton Park and to the east on Cholderton Hill.

### Designations

10G.12. Designations that lie wholly or in part within this Landscape Character Area comprise:

10G.13. **Nature Conservation**

SAC and SPA

- Salisbury Plain

SSSI

- Salisbury Plain - Broadleaved woodland, scrub and calcareous grassland

## SINC

- 6 SINCS, including agriculturally unimproved grassland, other grasslands, and sites which support notable species

### 10G.14. **Historic**

#### Scheduled Monuments

- Devils Ditch boundary earthwork – east of Shipton Bellinger
- Barrow cemetery 730m north of Hampshire Gap
- Bowl barrow 780m NNE of Hampshire Gap
- Bowl barrow in Windy Dido, 250m west of Horseshoe Meadow Farm
- Two bowl barrows 200m south of Laundry Bungalows
- Bowl barrow 260m SSW of Laundry Bungalows
- Three bowl barrows 250m west of Andover Lodge: part of a round barrow cemetery in Barrow Field Clumps, Cholderton Park
- Three round barrows 100m north west of Andover Lodge: part of a round barrow cemetery in Barrow Field Clumps, Cholderton Park
- Three ditched bowl barrows south of Andover Lodge: part of a round barrow cemetery in Barrow Field Clumps, Cholderton Park
- Bowl barrow 130m WSW of Andover Lodge: part of a round barrow cemetery in Barrow Field Clumps, Cholderton Park
- Bowl barrow 200m south west of Andover Lodge: part of a round barrow cemetery in Barrow Field Clumps, Cholderton Park
- Bowl barrow 340m WSW of Andover Lodge: part of a round barrow cemetery in Barrow Field Clumps, Cholderton Park

#### Listed buildings

- Listed buildings are found within Cholderton estate including Cholderton Park, Kingsettle Stud, Home Farm and Quarley Down Farm

## **Settlement Pattern**

10G.15. Shipton Bellinger is the only formal settlement within this character area and only the western portion of this village lies within this LCA. The historic core lies within LCA 12B to the east extending along the valley of the River Bourne. The majority of the settlement within LCA 10G dates to the 20th

century and has developed along a road which extends south west away from the main settlement centre.

10G.16. Few farms are located within this predominantly 19th century managed landscape. Those that do survive tend to be located close to major routes through the character area and towards the 'corner' of large areas of open field as opposed to within the center of a field system. Conversely the regular ladder fields to the south of Cholderton Park have a single farm (Quarley Down Farm), located centrally within the field system and connected to the main road system via a single formal trackway. Additional to this Cholderton Park and its associated buildings, of lodges and the Home Farm, occupy a central area within this LCA.

10G.17. The settlement pattern within this LCA is limited to the western element of the linear village of Shipton Bellinger, individual dwellings, for example Althorne Cottage, and a few isolated farmsteads, for example Quarley Down Farm.

### **Local Settlements**

10G.18. Local Settlements and their corresponding Settlement Type (see Appendix 2 for more information):

- Shipton Bellinger: Chalk Downland: Hill Top Settlement Type

### **Remoteness and Tranquillity**

10G.19. Although not particularly remote, the area has an air of quiet but intensive agricultural use.

### **Key Valued Characteristics**

10G.20. Key valued characteristics of LCA10G are as follows:

- Good public access to countryside from Shipton Bellinger
- Woodlands form features on skyline
- Shelter belts and linear woodlands located around Cholderton Park create areas of enclosure
- Large area of parkland at Cholderton Park and Snoddington Manor providing diversity in a landscape dominated by arable farming

- Mature overgrown roadside vegetation create tunnel effect around Cholderton Park
- Traditional building styles include brick and brick with flint walls with clay tiled roofs
- Largely a landscape dominated by 19th century parliamentary enclosure
- Prehistoric monuments survive within Cholderton Park and upon the downland and hilltops immediately to the east
- Views to the west up to Beacon Hill
- Views across to Quarley Hill Fort outside of this LCA to the east

### **Key Detractors**

10G.21. Key detractors of LCA10G are as follows:

- Late 20<sup>th</sup> century housing on western part of Shipton Bellinger is visible from adjacent landscape
- Visual and noise impact of the A303(T) and the railway line
- Dominant road corridor of the A303(T), with large junction
- Visible overhead pylons
- Visibility of solar panels in rural setting

### **Local Natural and Cultural Landscape Issues**

10G.22. Local natural and cultural landscape issues for LCA10G are as follows:

- Loss of historically important open downland and associated prehistoric earthworks in this area to pressures from modern farming practices
- Future expansion of Ministry of Defence (MOD) activity at Tidworth
- Numerous lines of communication infrastructure cross the landscape (roads, railway line, pylons)
- Visual impact of solar panels and concentration of them adjacent the A303(T)
- Large scale farm buildings and other farm units becoming redundant and eroding rural character
- Potential conversion / redevelopment of farms with potential harm to rural character
- Impact of tall structures, including communication masts and transmitters

## **Landscape Strategy and Guidelines**

10G.23. Landscape Strategy and Guidelines for LCA10G Cholderton Downs are as follows:

- The Cholderton Downs is a more fragmented and enclosed landscape than much of this landscape type, but it is noted for its historic features. The overall strategy is therefore to conserve and enhance the quiet open parkland character of Cholderton Downs and protect and enhance the key valued characteristics.

## **Land Management**

10G.24. 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:

### **10G.25. Landscape Distinctiveness**

- Maintain sense of remoteness and tranquillity
- Maintain the network of shelterbelts and woodlands around Cholderton Park
- Protect significant open vistas and views from visual intrusion
- Protect and enhance views to valued local landscape features

### **10G.26. Hedgerows**

- Improve hedgerows as robust boundary features around areas of solar panels to help reduce the visibility of the solar panels within the local landscape

### **10G.27. Woodland and Trees**

- Seek opportunities for new woodland planting to link existing wooded areas

### **10G.28. Biodiversity**

- Seek opportunities to work with RSPB and local farmers to provide stone curlew nesting plots and / local population monitoring

### **10G.29. Historic Landscapes**

- Protect and enhance parkland features and the network of shelterbelts and woodlands around Cholderton Park

## **Land Use and Development**

10G.30. 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 as follows:

#### 10G.31. **Infrastructure**

- Seek opportunities to enhance roadside planting adjacent the A303(T) and minimise visual and noise intrusion
- Seek to minimise the visual intrusion and suburbanising effect arising from highway infrastructure
- Maintain the wooded character of the public roads around Cholderton Park

#### 10G.32. **Recreation, Tourism and Access**

- Protect and enhance the footpath network from Shipton Bellinger





Robust hedgerows and small woodlands create strong vegetation pattern to the north of Shipton Bellinger



Views up to Beacon Hill to the west



Views across an open landscape to Quarley Hill



Mature roadside trees create tunnel effect around Cholderton Park



Tree belts and woodlands create pockets of enclosure around Cholderton Park