

New Forest District Council, Hampshire
County Council, the Countryside Agency and
English Heritage

New Forest District Landscape Character Assessment: *Main Report*

July 2000



(incorporating the whole of the New Forest Heritage Area)

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New Forest District Council, Hampshire
County Council, the Countryside Agency and
English Heritage

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July 2000

Reference 5988

Prepared by: Rebecca Knight

For and on behalf of Environmental Resources Management	
Approved by: Julie Martin	
Signed:	
Position:	Technical Director
Date:	17 July 2000

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SUPPLEMENTARY ANNEXES

Annex A Landscape Character and Settlement Character Record Sheets

Annex B Landscape Character Assessment Methodology

Annex C Historic Landscape Assessment

Annex D Settlements and their Landscape Settings

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment: Community Participation Report prepared for the New Forest District Council by Environmental Resources Management (April 2000).

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In April 1999, Environmental Resources Management (ERM) in association with Gifford and Partners were commissioned by the New Forest District Council, in partnership with Hampshire County Council, the Countryside Agency and English Heritage, to undertake a comprehensive integrated landscape and townscape assessment of the New Forest District and New Forest Heritage Area, with supplementary work to refine the existing Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment at the District level.

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

New Forest District, which lies in south-west Hampshire, encompasses most of the New Forest Heritage Area and the north-west Solent coast. In addition the study area includes the northern part of the New Forest Heritage Area which extends into the county of Wiltshire (see *Figure 1*). The Heritage Area, which is on the tentative list of World Heritage Sites of the United Kingdom, is a unique landscape of outstanding historical and ecological importance, and covers 70% of the district's land area. Sandwiched between the major settlements of Bournemouth and Southampton, it is under intense pressure for housing, tourism and recreation development.

New Forest District is the last District in Hampshire to receive a landscape character assessment. The preparation of this assessment completes the detailed landscape character assessment coverage for the County, offering opportunities to develop the concept of integrated character assessment, and to test and refine the County's historic landscape assessment at District level.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE REPORT

Although the landscape of the New Forest has been extensively studied in the past, previous assessments have focused on the Heritage Area rather than on the District as a whole. The aim was to ensure that landscape issues in future receive due attention in land use planning, land management, environmental conservation and enhancement across the District as a whole.

The report has seven main objectives:

- *to outline how the landscape of the New Forest District has evolved in terms of physical forces and human influences;*
- *to classify the landscape into distinct landscape types summarising the key features and issues associated with each type;*

- to describe the current appearance of the landscape, classifying it into distinct zones of homogenous character, identifying key characteristics and sensitivities and providing principles to guide landscape change;
- to describe the landscape setting and character of each of seven selected settlements across the District, highlighting their historical development and providing principles for landscape management and built form;
- to identify changes taking place in the landscape and their causes and to provide generic guidance for managing change;
- to highlight key issues and priorities for action;
- to refine the existing Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment to suit the more detailed District level requirements;
- to develop approaches to engage stakeholders in dialogue and incorporate the outcomes into the report.

Due to the large number of studies carried out in the New Forest it is necessary to clarify the role of the study in relation to other previous work. *The Hampshire County Landscape Character Assessment* ⁽¹⁾ provides the basic structure into which this, more detailed, study fits. Similarly the *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment* ⁽²⁾ provides the basic structure into which the historic part of the study fits, building on and refining information at the county level. Land Use Consultants' work in 1991 ⁽³⁾ used landscape character assessment to identify a proposed boundary for the New Forest Heritage Area. To avoid duplication of previous work, this study takes the landscape types identified by LUC as a starting point, checking boundaries in the field and extending the types across the central core of the New Forest. Landscape types in the north-western corner of the study area are based on the landscape character assessment of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB ⁽⁴⁾. In this way the study complements and builds on previous work.

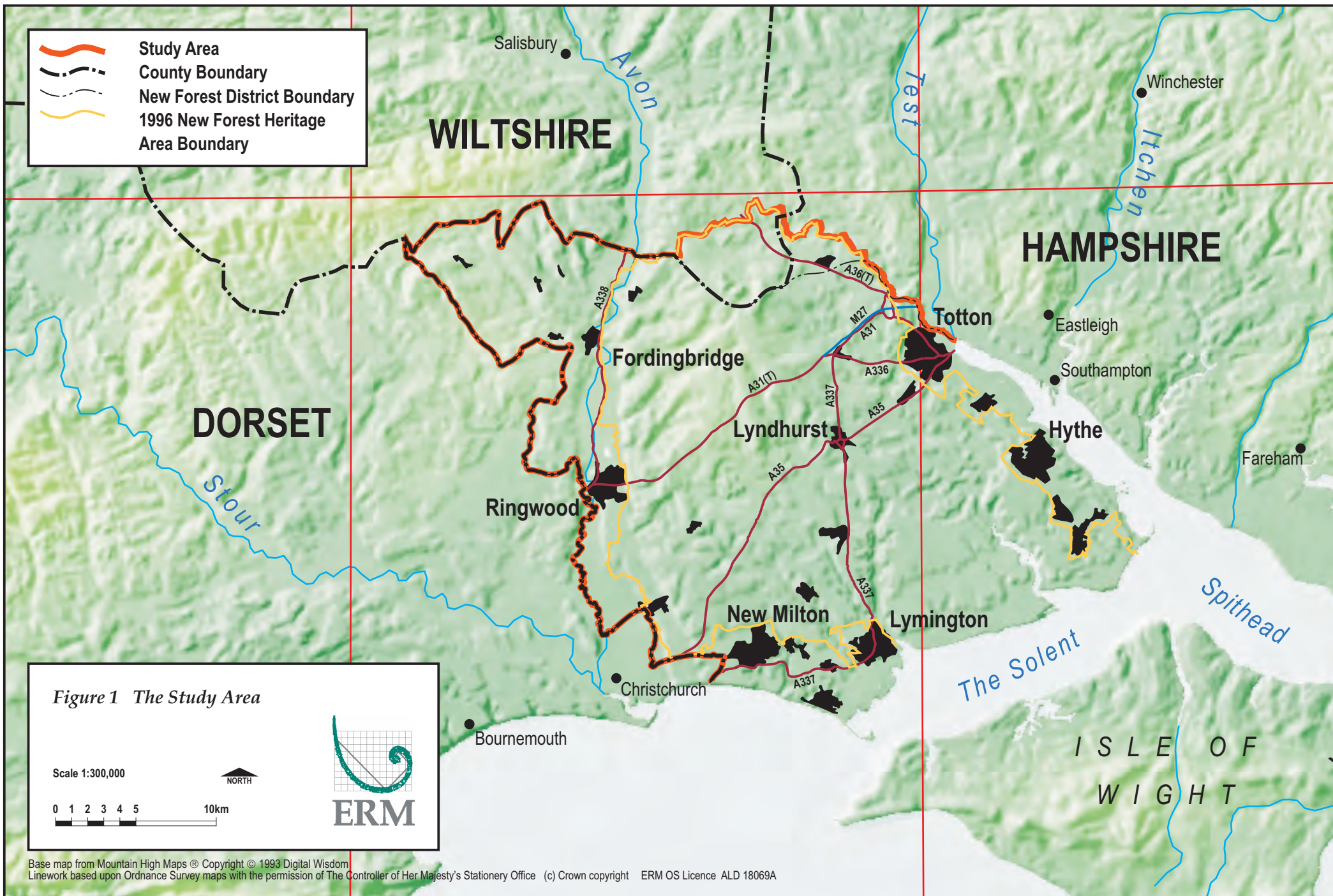
The report adopts an holistic approach which considers the landscapes of the New Forest District as a mosaic of different landscape types and character areas, each with particular characteristics and subject to particular forces for change. The assessment is intended to provide an understanding of the area's landscape, of the constraints and opportunities it presents to development, and to inform policy formulation in the area.

(1) Hampshire County Council (1993) *The Hampshire Landscape*

(2) Oxford Archaeological Unit and Scott Wilson Resource Consultants (1999) *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment*, Report to Hampshire County Council and English Heritage

(3) Land Use Consultants (1991) *New Forest Heritage Area Proposed Boundary*, Report to the New Forest Committee

(4) CCP 465 *The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Landscape*





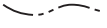


 Study Area
 County Boundary
 New Forest District Boundary
 1996 New Forest Heritage Area Boundary

Figure 1 The Study Area

Scale 1:300,000

NORTH

0 1 2 3 4 5 10km



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1.3

APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The general approach was to use accepted, systematic methods of landscape assessment ⁽¹⁾ supplemented by the new guidance on landscape character assessment ⁽²⁾. The main tasks were:

- Familiarisation with the study area through overlay mapping, desk study and compilation of material onto detailed field survey forms.
- Site survey including completion of field survey forms for character areas and settlements, mapping of landscape types and landscape character areas, and preparation of a photographic record.
- Background research into the geological and physical evolution, human influences on the landscape, and ongoing land use change and development pressures.
- Consultations with key individuals and organisations to assist the team in understanding local landscape character and forces for change.
- Community participation to draw upon local knowledge and perceptions of the landscape.
- Report preparation, including development of guidance on landscape management and built form.

Development of a sound landscape classification laid the foundations for all subsequent work. A more detailed methodology may be found in *Annex B*.

1.3.1

Steering Group

The Steering Group for the project consisted of:

Neil Williamson - New Forest District Council;
Linda Tartaglia-Kershaw - Hampshire County Council;
Graham Flatt - Hampshire County Council;
Caroline Cotterell - Countryside Agency;
Graham Fairclough - English Heritage.

ERM and Giffords would like to acknowledge the help and support provided by Steering Group members throughout the study.

1.4

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This report presents findings on landscape character, diversity, key components and forces for change, including strategic advice on how to

(1) Countryside Commission (1993) *Landscape Assessment Guidance*, CCP 423, Countryside Commission, Cheltenham.

(2) Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage (1999) *Interim Landscape Character Assessment Guidance*.

address the effects of development and land use change in the countryside and the urban fringe. It provides a detailed, up to date picture of the landscapes of the Heritage Area and adjoining land, and will provide a valuable source of information, for planning and land management in the New Forest.

The landscape patterns that we see today have evolved gradually over thousands of years, through both natural and human forces. The *Final Report* begins, in *Section 2*, by describing the principal forces that have shaped the landscape in the District. Important and distinctive geological, cultural, historic and habitat features are highlighted, and their distribution is described.

This sets the scene for *Section 3*, which reviews landscape character and sensitivity across the region. This describes landscape types and character areas, drawing attention to those characteristics and features that are particularly distinctive, rare or special, and should be celebrated as part of the District's natural and cultural heritage. Such characteristics and features may be found even among the non designated landscapes of the District; and an important aspect of the new approach to landscape is to recognise that *all* landscapes matter. For each landscape character area, a description of key characteristics, influences, sensitivity to change, principles for landscape management and principles for built form has been prepared. The key to accommodating landscape change successfully is to understand landscape scale and character; appreciate geology, habitats, field and settlement patterns; and respect local materials and building styles.

Section 4 presents an analysis of the ongoing forces for change to the District's landscape. Integrated generic guidelines for managing change are also presented in this section.

The final section, *Section 5*, outlines the key issues that face the District's landscapes today, and suggests a strategic approach to their conservation and enhancement. The first steps are to recognise the value of 'ordinary landscapes', and to understand the evolving patterns of land use and landscape character.

In addition to the main report there is a separate volume of supplementary annexes:

- *Annex A* contains the field survey record sheets. These are working documents which note the results of the desk study and field survey for each landscape character area and each of the seven principal settlements.
- *Annex B* presents the methodology in more detail, including lessons learned from the project.
- *Annex C* presents the historic landscape assessment undertaken by Gifford and Partners, which has fed into the main landscape character assessment but may also be read as a stand-alone document.

- *Annex D* introduces the *Settlement Analyses* for seven selected settlements across the district and presents the seven *Settlement Analysis Maps* and their accompanying commentaries.

To sum up, the *New Forest District Landscape Character Assessment* is intended to lay the foundation for common policies and action on landscape issues. It is a tool for creative conservation and landscape enhancement; and - where appropriate - it can help to identify opportunities for robust and attractive new development. The landscape is a unique and valuable asset, but one that is very vulnerable to ill-considered change. Action now to recognise landscape character in planning for development and change will enable that change to be positive, creative and effective.

2.1

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW FOREST LANDSCAPE

The New Forest is renowned for its diversity of landscapes, natural beauty and amenity value. The combination of heathland, mire and pasture woodland has a unique cultural identity and forms the largest remaining tract of this habitat type in lowland Europe. Many of its features and habitats are therefore of national and international importance.

As one passes from west to east across the area variations in geology, land management and landscape pattern reveals a sequence of contrasts in character. The transition from chalk uplands to clay lowlands is demonstrated in the north-west of the area. A landscape of windswept unenclosed chalk downland, and large scale Parliamentary field systems of the expansive open arable chalk farmland undergoes a gradual transition via eroded chalk dip slopes to wooded clay lowland. These chalk landscapes show some remarkable visible archaeology including Grim's Ditch, Bokerley Dyke and Whitsbury Iron Age Fort. The Avon Valley, a wide flat bottomed valley with remote water meadows and scattered medieval settlements, separates the chalk landscapes of the west from the central New Forest plateau.

A steep wooded ridge marks the edge of the plateau and the start of the distinctive Forest core - a mosaic of woodland, heathland, mire and ancient forest farmlands. The northern part of the plateau shows some dramatic landforms with elevated open plains and steeply eroded U shaped valleys. The A31(T) divides the plateau along a natural watershed below which the landscape is more verdant and pastoral; forest lawns, heaths, streams, woodlands and grazing animals provide a popular recreational landscape. This central area reveals an incredible time depth; the prehistoric landscape has been preserved by a unique management system which has its roots in Medieval Law. Pockets of ancient forest farmlands and smallholdings with strong commoning traditions border this central area; heathland commons occur around the western and northern edges of the main heathland block while assarted woodland and fields are particularly characteristic of the southern and eastern peripheries.

In contrast the urban/industrial landscapes of the Waterside Parishes on the eastern edge of the District and the large scale coastal estates along the Solent coast are dominated by 18th, 19th and 20th century landscape patterns of parliamentary enclosure and urban growth. The Fawley oil refinery and power station also contribute a significant industrial element. The north-west Solent coast exhibits a complex system of eroding cliffs, mudflats, marshes and spits.

In the late 1700s William Gilpin described the New Forest and its parishioners as "cottagers of the poorest description...who were exposed to every

temptation of pillage and robbery from their proximity to the deer, the game and the fuel of the forest” ⁽¹⁾ , clearly illustrating the poverty of many of the New Forest inhabitants. Rural poverty is the overriding feature which defines domestic architecture in the New Forest. Cob was the traditional structural material, however houses on private lands and freeholds tended to be made of brick with timber frames. The limited choice of materials was in part due to a lack of suitable local building stone, but limitations also occurred due to the Crown and government restricting variances of style and materials. A further limitation was the fact that the soils of the New Forest are not particularly amenable to agriculture which resulted in farms tending to be small holdings, where the accumulation of wealth was almost impossible.

In contrast to the poverty, a number of parks and gardens, symbols of political power and wealth, exist within the New Forest District. These can be seen to represent a cultural tradition with elements of landscape design, recreation and social hierarchy dating back to the creation of private deer parks in the Medieval period.

Key information sources used in the preparation of this section are:

- Oxford Archaeological Unit and Scott Wilson Resource Consultants (1999) *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment*, report to Hampshire County Council and English Heritage;
- Countryside Commission (1995) *The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Landscape*, CCP 465;
- Countryside Commission (1986) *The New Forest Landscape*, CCP 220;
- Colin Tubbs (1968) *The New Forest: An Ecological History*, David & Charles.

2.2 *PHYSICAL INFLUENCES*

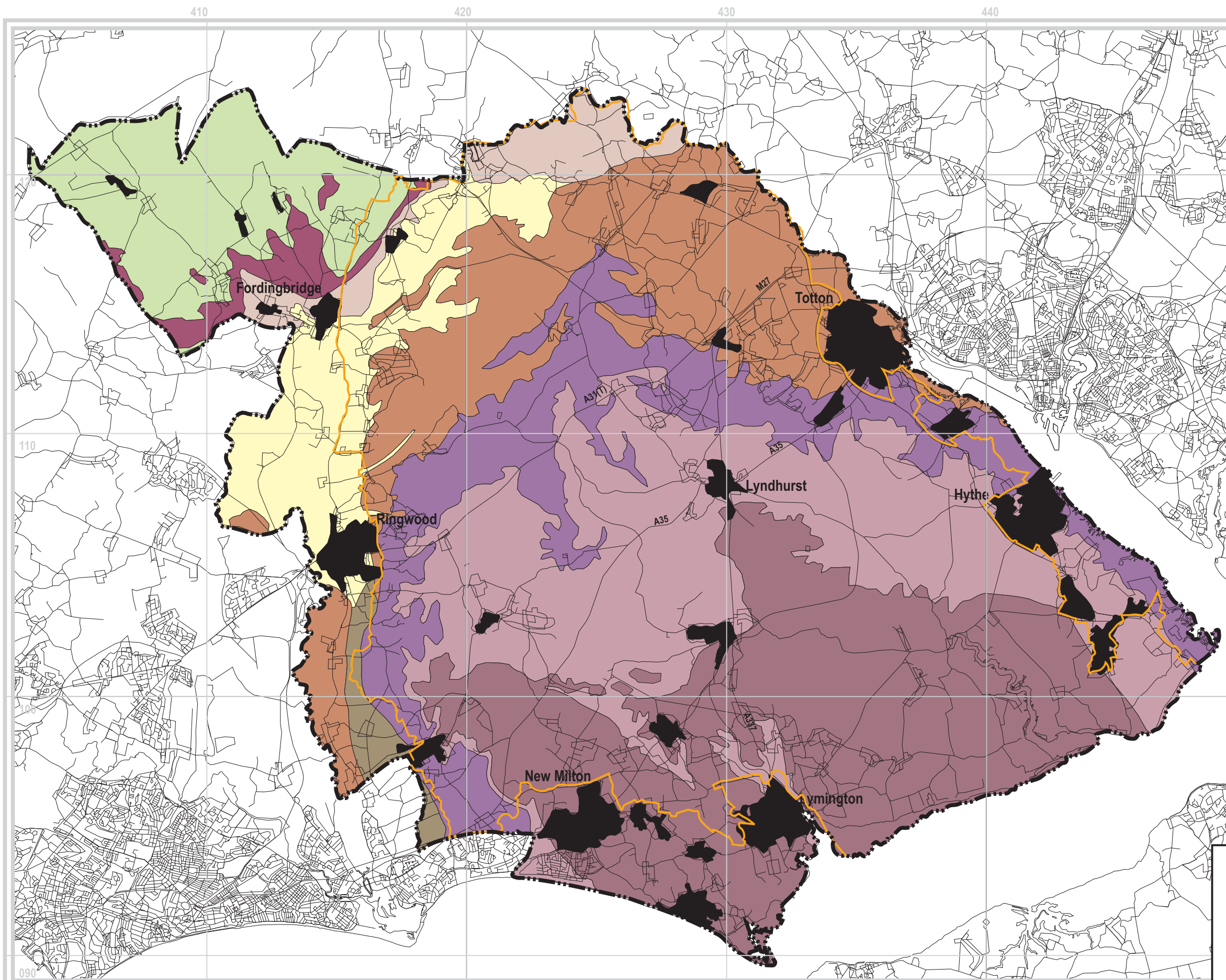
The basic structure of any landscape is formed by its underlying relief and geology. The action of weathering, erosion and deposition alter the form of the landscape, drainage and soils and in turn patterns of vegetation and land use. Marine processes also influence the shape of the land, vegetation cover and coastal settlement patterns.

2.2.1 *Geology, Landform and Drainage*

The underlying solid geology of the New Forest is comparatively simple (see *Figure 2*) and has a strong influence on landform and landscape character.

The New Forest District lies in a downfold of the chalk beds known as the Hampshire Basin where exposed strata become progressively younger towards the south of the area. In the north-west of the area the oldest strata, the Upper Chalk beds of the Cretaceous period, are exposed. These form the distinctive convex landforms of the open chalk downland which continues

(1) W Gilpin (1791) Remarks on Forest Scenery and other Woodland views, relative chiefly to picturesque beauty, illustrated by the scenery of the New Forest, Hampshire, T Cadell and W Davies.




- Hampstead Beds & Bembridge Marls
- Barton Sands
- Barton Clay
- Boscombe Sands
- Bracklesham Beds
- Bagshot Sands
- London Clay
- Reading Beds
- Upper Chalk
- Study Area
- 1996 New Forest Heritage Area Boundary (As approved by New Forest Committee)

Figure 2 *New Forest District: Solid Geology*

Scale 1:150,000

NORTH

0 1 2 3 4 5km



westwards into the adjacent county of Dorset. Embedded within the chalk are flints, which attracted the prehistoric populations to this area. The Reading Beds and the overlying London Clays appear as narrow belts at the southern margin of the chalk and give rise to richer, thicker soils which support good tree growth.

The remainder of the New Forest District is underlain by clays and sands of Tertiary deposits; a series of marine, non-marine and estuarine deposits of clays, clay marls and sands. The Bracklesham Beds and underlying Bagshot Sands show the most dramatic landform and are exposed in the relatively high elevation plateaux and U-shaped valleys of the northern part of the New Forest. Following these, and occupying a large central belt of the New Forest District, are the younger Barton Clays and Sands which form the wide valleys and gently rolling hills of the central New Forest. The Hampstead Beds and Bembridge Marls are the youngest rocks and produce the flat plains and wide shallow valleys characteristic of the southern part of the district and the Solent Coast.

Large areas of the solid formations of the New Forest are covered in superficial deposits of Plateau Gravels and Valley Gravels of varying depths. The Plateau Gravels almost certainly date to the Pleistocene when much of Britain was undergoing Glaciation. The Valley Gravels, which lie in existing river courses, formed later from the destruction of the higher series.

In general the drainage pattern of the area is determined by the three principle drainage basins into which surface water flows. These are the broad valleys of the Avon, Test (Southampton Water) and the Solent.

Geomorphologically, the New Forest District is a series of eroded benches or plateaux. The greatest in height are in the north where stream erosion has left little more than a series of high ridges separated by wide, fairly steep sided, almost 'U' shaped valleys. By contrast, in the south and east, the land is generally expansive, undulating plains. Landform here is less fragmented by drainage systems.

Coastal geomorphology has formed many classic examples of coastal features, despite being modified by a series of coastal defence works. At the entrance to the Solent sits an archetypal shingle feature, Hurst Spit. Further well developed coastal shingle features occur along the Solent shore. Saltmarshes occur on more sheltered coasts, for example in the lee of Hurst spit. The low cliffs between the Beaulieu River and Southampton water, are important as they are a valuable source of sediment for feeding Hurst Spit and the sediment shores of the Solent.

2.2.2 *Soils and Agricultural Capability*

The range of soils in the New Forest District explains much of the variation found in the crops and natural vegetation. There are significant contrasts between the thin chalky soils, the heavy clay soils, organic-rich peats and the easily worked sandy loams. However, in general the base-poor quality of the

parent materials from which the soils are derived has proved a severe restraint to the intensive and prolonged agricultural practices of earlier communities. The deterioration of soil potential and spread of heathland conditions are attributable to this. In later times, the legal status of the Royal Forest precluded the more intensive agricultural practices.

There is an overall tendency for soils to become more base-deficient towards the north. This is evident in the tendency for past agricultural reclamation to be concentrated in the south and is reflected in the greater diversity of the flora in the southern heaths and bogs. For example, the distribution of arable rotation, as shown in the habitat map in *Figure 3*, relates to areas of richer agricultural soils. Distribution is largely confined to the river valleys and coastal regions where superficial deposits of alluvium and gravel have given rise to less acidic soils.

2.2.3 *Vegetation*

The New Forest District displays a complex mosaic of vegetation, attributable directly to the underlying soils and human activity. *Figure 3* is based on Hampshire County Council's Phase 1 habitat data and illustrates the variety and distribution of habitat types across the district. All are important components of local distinctiveness.

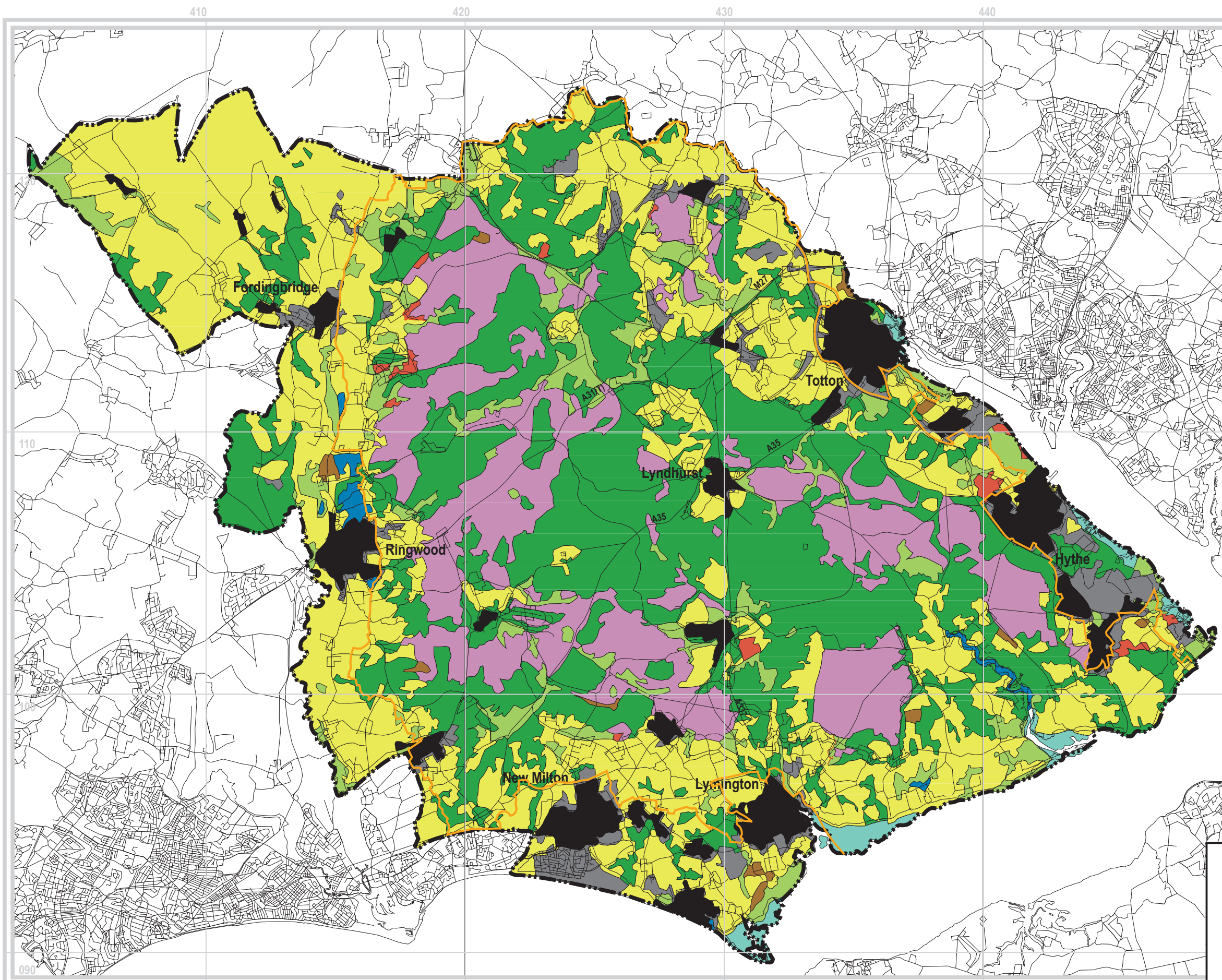
In the chalk areas in the north-west of the district, species-rich chalk downland has virtually disappeared due to conversion to cultivation through agricultural improvement. However, remnants of this downland habitat survive at Martin Down NNR and Martin & Tidpit Downs SSSI which are noted for their unimproved chalk grassland and floristic diversity.

The Reading Beds and London Clays, which appear as narrow belts at the southern margin of the chalk, and give rise to richer, thicker soils and support good tree growth. This area is marked by a belt of woodland in *Figure 3*.

In the south west of the New Forest District, the gravels and alluvium of the Avon Valley have given rise to a landscape of arable and pasture farmland and aquatic habitats, including large areas of open water which have resulted from the excavation of gravel on an industrial scale. The Avon is fed by base rich water from its forest streams and as a result its valley bogs and grasslands are characterised by notably rich flora.

The northern part of the New Forest is underlain by clays and sands of the Bracklesham Beds and underlying Bagshot Sands which give rise to very acid soils which support a complex mosaic of low vegetation cover of heather and grass heath. The Barton clays of the lower valley slopes support acid grasslands and bog or, where alluvium has accumulated in the valley floors, streamside lawns. Much of the woodland in this area is coniferous plantation on former heath.

The main areas of woodland are found in the central portion of the New Forest District on the less acid brown forest soils overlying the Barton clays,




- Aquatic Habitats
- Arable Rotation & Mixed Grassland
- Quality Grassland & Marsh
- Urban Land
- Heaths & Commons
- Quarries, Tips & Bare Land
- Scrub Outside Woodlands
- Woodlands
- Sea Shore
- Study Area
- 1996 New Forest Heritage Area Boundary (As approved by New Forest Committee)

Figure 3 *New Forest District: Habitat Types*

Scale 1:150,000

NORTH

0 1 2 3 4 5km



loamy Barton Sands and loam clays of the Hampstead Beds and fertile shell marls of the Bembridge Marls. These woodlands are a combination of ancient and ornamental woodlands (unenclosed native oak/beece woodlands managed as wood pasture), enclosed plantations of oak and beech and enclosed coniferous plantations.

To the east of the central woodlands the Beaulieu River drains a complex of heathlands, which have mainly arisen on Barton sands. In the shallow valley of the river itself lie gravel deposits; in general, the gravels and the Barton sands are strongly leached and dominated by heather. The scattered areas of woodland can largely be attributed to isolated exposures of the underlying Hampstead Beds and Bembridge Marls and the extensive valley bogs in the area carry accumulations of peat.

In the south of the area, along the Solent Coast, the Hampstead Beds and Bembridge Marls support grassland and farmland.

2.3 HUMAN INFLUENCES

2.3.1 Overview

The characteristics of the present New Forest District landscape are a direct result of human activities constantly acting upon and reacting to geology, topography, soils and vegetation cover. However, some historic events and processes leave more visible traces than others - for example 20,000 years of hunter-gatherers roaming over the New Forest is virtually invisible whereas the result of the Bronze Age Clearances is immediately noticeable. *Time depth* is a phrase which is used to indicate the successive trends of landscape change; it reflects the historic events or processes which are preserved in a modern landscape. A typical example would be remnants of small irregular fields (usually early in date, eg Medieval in origin) surviving alongside large rectilinear fields deriving from the parliamentary enclosure movement of the 18th century. Within the study area the earliest identified process which is fossilised in the landscape is probably the original forest clearance that occurred between circa 5000 and 2000 BC. Areas where we know this occurred may be considered to have the greatest time depth; time depth thus refers to the manifest appearance of antiquity. The three time depth maps presented in *Figure 4* have been taken from the *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment (1999)* (hereafter HHLA) and illustrate the successive layers of historic development across the New Forest District; the white areas indicate areas where recent land use has obscured the historic landscape pattern beneath. The limited extent of these white areas, compared to other parts of the country, indicates the antiquity of the New Forest landscape.

A New Forest District Historic Landscape Assessment was undertaken in parallel with the *New Forest District Landscape Character Assessment*. The objective of this historic landscape assessment was to develop and refine the existing HHLA to suit the more detailed district level requirements and to provide *Historic Landscape Types or Groups* which could inform the analysis of

landscape types and landscape character areas. Wessex Archaeology has undertaken a major previous study of the New Forest (*The New Forest Archaeological/Historical Landscape Character Assessment* 1996). The study assembled a vast amount of archaeological data and it provides an excellent narrative discussion of the history and development processes of the New Forest.

However, in the context of the present study, the Wessex report has limited applicability. The Wessex approach was strictly archaeological in its methodology. The study made no use of the mainstream approach to historic landscape types or character areas. Some of the information in the Wessex study was useful in the formulation of the Historic Landscape Groups in the present study, shown in *Figure 5*. The full findings of the Historic Landscape Assessment are presented in *Annex C* of this report.

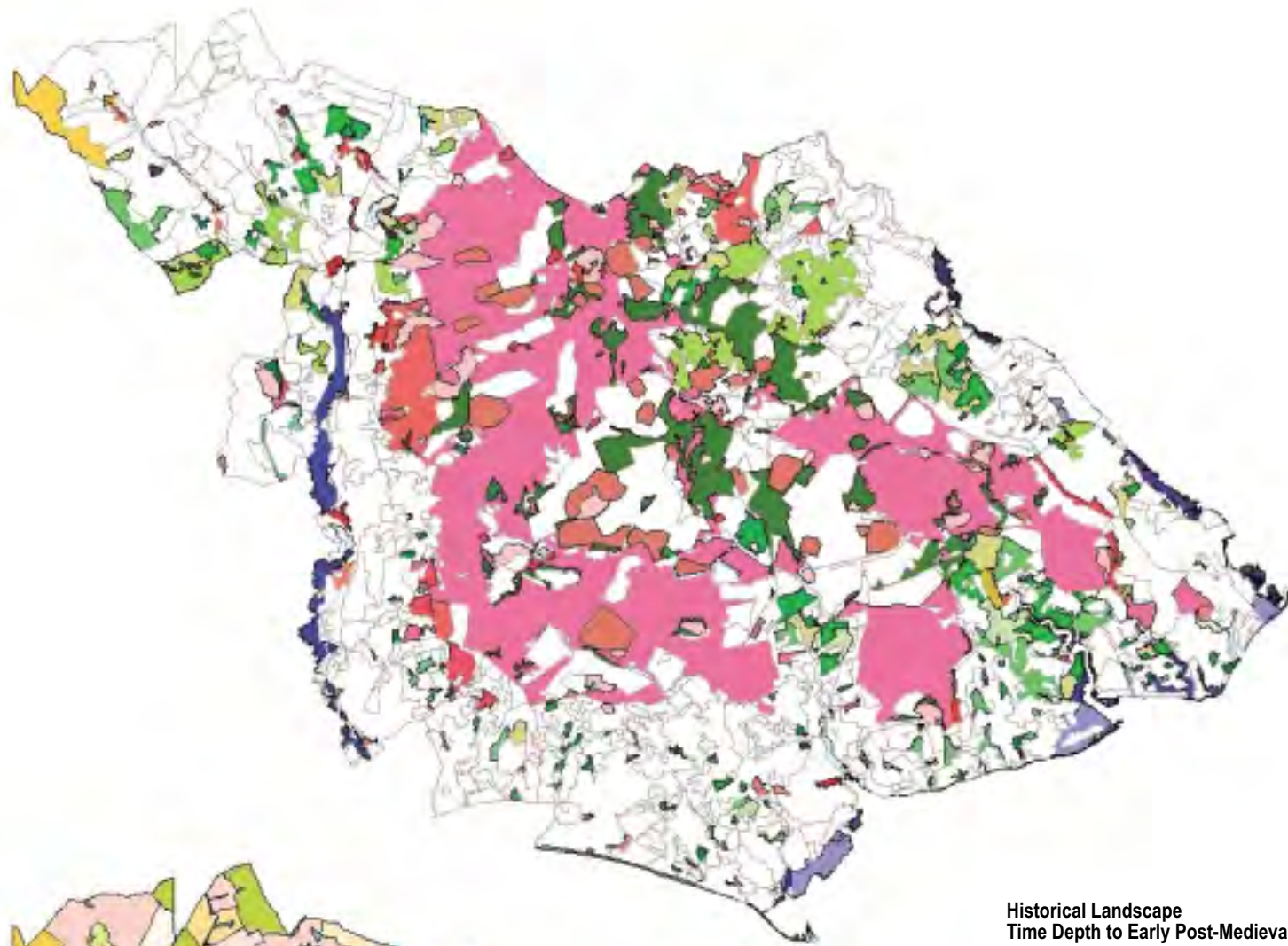
2.3.2 *Prehistoric (up to 450 AD)*

During the Mesolithic period the area was extensively wooded. Material evidence of Mesolithic hunter-gatherer communities is rare and on the whole constitutes isolated finds and scatters of flint implements and knapping waste products. Most of the earliest evidence of early human impact on the landscape comes from the chalk areas in the north-west corner of the district.

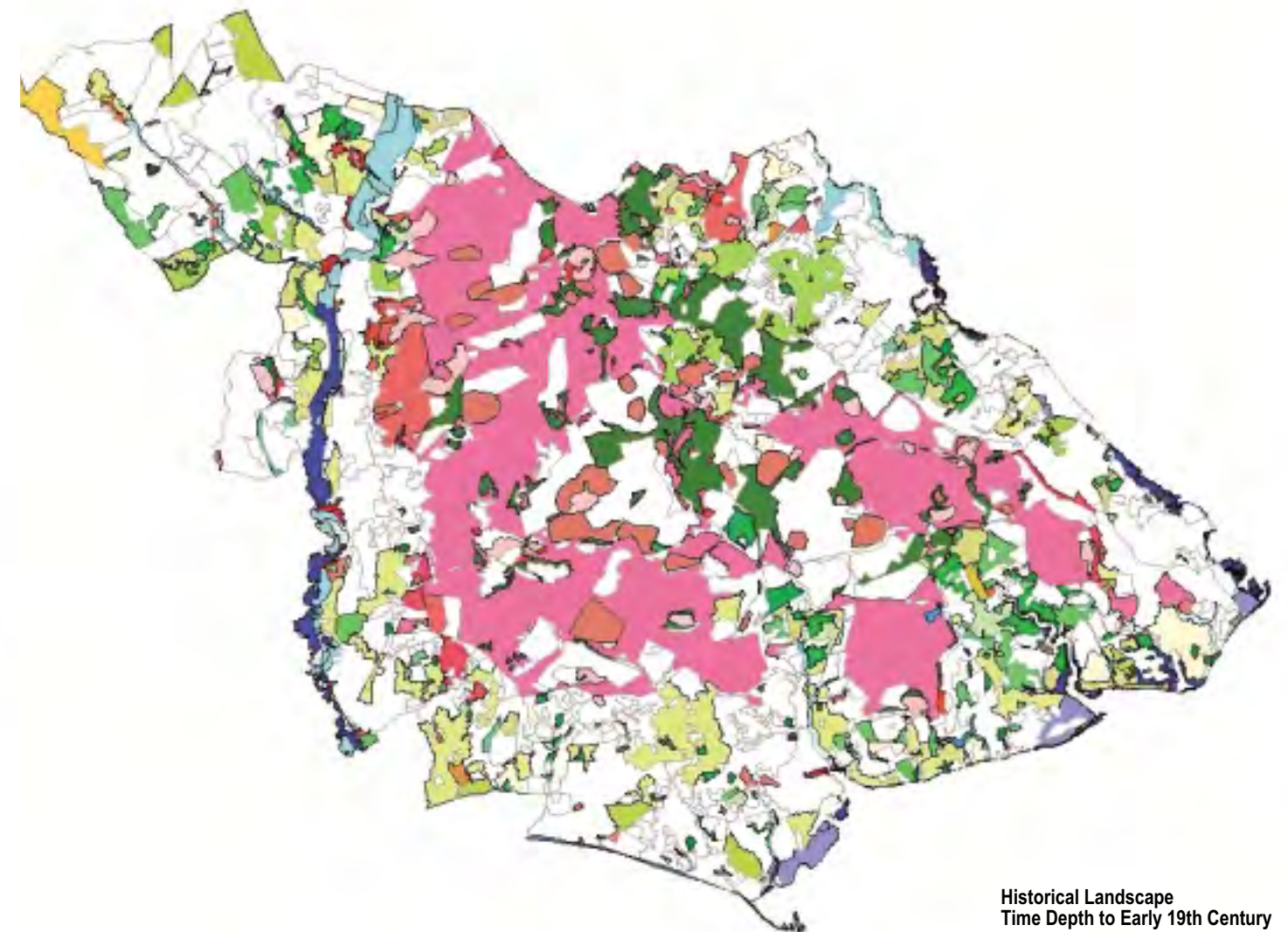
The Neolithic period was characterised by a gradual change from hunting and gathering towards a settled agrarian lifestyle. This is evident in the archaeological record and environmental remains mirror the change in food procurement practices and indicate land clearance, the introduction of wheat and sheep and the domestication of cattle and pigs. However, the lack of monumental structures (causewayed camps, cursus, henges etc) in the central New Forest District generally implies that the area was peripheral to the initial utilisation of lighter soils on the chalk downlands.

The Bronze Age sees the first demonstrable impact upon the open forest environment and the associated river valleys. Pollen evidence suggests there was significant clearance of the primary woodland which it is believed mostly related directly to agricultural expansion, however some was probably specific to the construction of barrows within woodland clearings. Clearance of the pre-existing woodland for agriculture resulted in a gradual spread of heathland as poor soils failed to regenerate. The origin of these heathland landscapes is prehistoric and their distribution may be seen on the first time depth map in *Figure 4*.

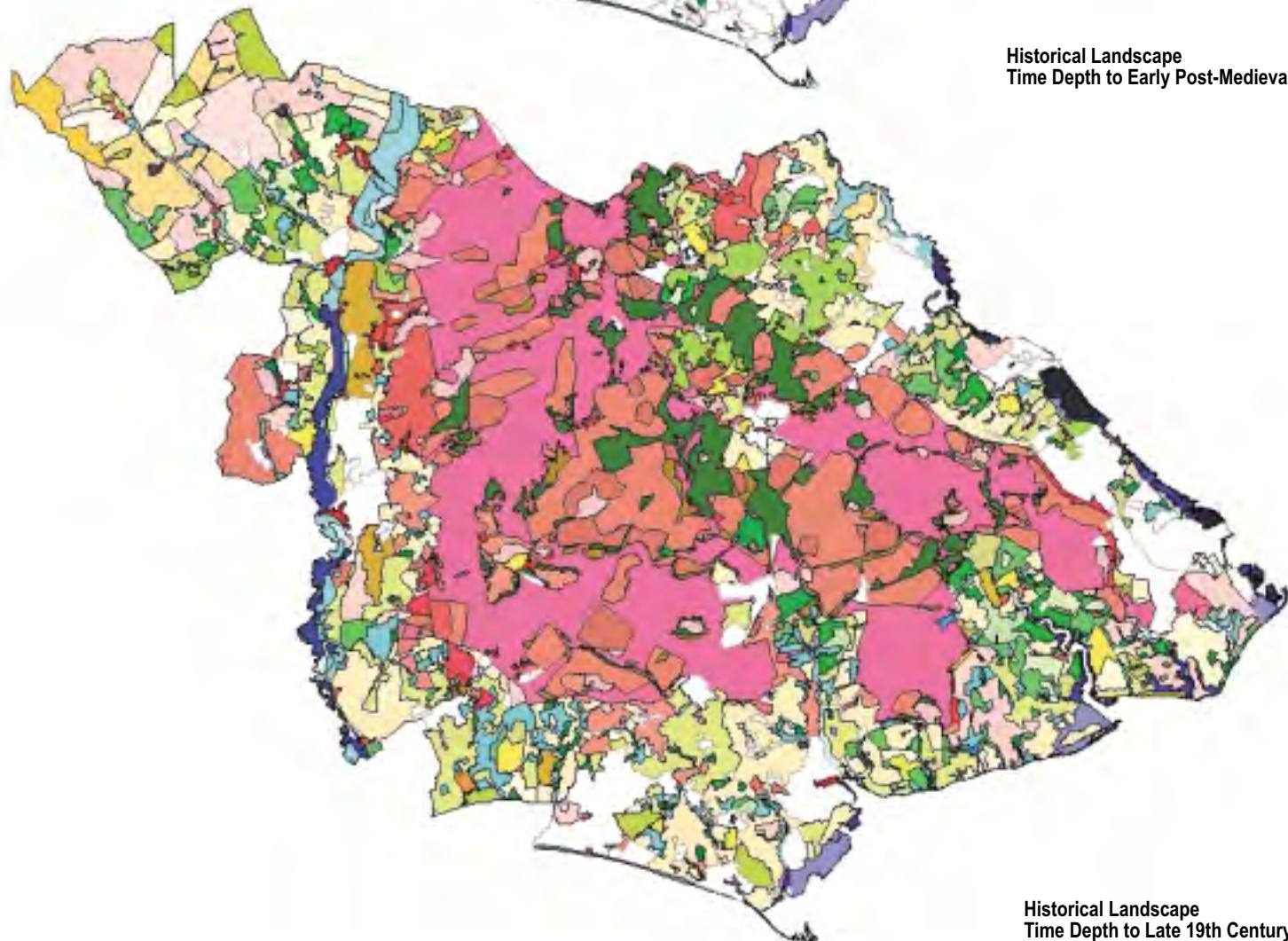
Substantial numbers of monuments were constructed during this period. These are evident today as round barrows (burial mounds) or mounds of burnt flint (boiling mounds) which today particularly characterise the open heathland areas of the New Forest. A concentration of Bronze Age



Historical Landscape
Time Depth to Early Post-Medieval



Historical Landscape
Time Depth to Early 19th Century



Historical Landscape
Time Depth to Late 19th Century

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| FIELD PATTERNS | COMMONS | SETTLEMENTS | INDUSTRY |
| 1.1 Small Assarts | 2.1 Common Heathland | 9.1 Scattered 1810 Extent | 12.1 Chalk Quarries |
| 1.2 Medium Assarts | 2.2 Common Downland | 9.2 Scattered Post 1810 Extent | 12.2 Gravel Pits |
| 1.3 Large Assarts | 2.3 Other Commons and Greens | 9.3 Common Edge 1810 Extent | 12.3 Factories |
| 1.4 Regular Assarts | 2.4 Commons, Wooded Over | 9.4 Common Edge Post 1810 Extent | 12.4 Large Scale Industry |
| 1.5 Strips and Furlongs | HORTICULTURE | 9.6 Post 1810 Settlements | 12.5 Water treatment |
| 1.6 Large Wavy Boundaries | 3.1 Orchards | 9.7 Village/Hamlet 1810 Extent | 12.6 Dockyards |
| 1.7 Irregular Straight Boundaries | 3.3 Nurseries and Glasshouses | 9.9 Town & City 1810 Extent | MILITARY & DEFENCE |
| 1.8 Regular Ladder Fields | HEATHLAND | 9.11 Caravan Sites | 14.1 Prehistoric 7 Roman |
| 1.9 Small Parliamentary | 5.1 Unenclosed Heath and Scrub | PARKLAND | 14.2 Medieval |
| 1.10 Medium Parliamentary | 5.2 Enclosed Heath and Scrub | 10.1 Pre-1810 Parkland | 14.3 Post Med 1500-1830 |
| 1.11 Large Parliamentary | 5.3 Purlieus | 10.2 Post 1810 Parkland | 14.5 20th C 1914- |
| 1.12 Graded Size Parliamentary | DOWNLAND | 10.3 Deer Parks | COMMUNICATION |
| 1.14 Praire Fields | 6.1 Downland | RECREATION | 13.1 Stations and Sidings |
| 1.15 Fields Bounded by Tracks | VALLEY FLOOR | 11.1 Racecourses | |
| 1.16 Small Wavy Boundaries | 7.1 Miscellaneous Valley Floor | 11.2 Golf Courses | |
| WOODLANDS | 7.2 Valley Floor Woodlands | 11.3 Sports Fields | |
| 4.1 Assarted Pre-1810 | 7.3 Marsh and Rough Grazing# | | |
| 4.2 Replanted Assarted Pre-1810 | 7.4 Water Meadows | | |
| 4.3 Other Pre-1810 | 7.5 Unimproved Grassland | | |
| 4.4 Replanted Other Pre-1810 | 7.6 Watercress Beds | | |
| 4.5 19th Century Plantations | 7.7 Fisheries, Natural Ponds, Lakes | | |
| 4.6 Pre-1810 Hangers | 7.8 Watermills | | |
| 4.7 19th Century Hangers | COASTAL | | |
| 4.8 Pre-1810 Heath, Inclosed Woods | 8.1 Coastal Wetlands | | |
| 4.9 19th C Heathland Plantations | 8.2 Salt Marsh | | |
| 4.10 Pre-1810 Wood Pasture | 8.3 Salterns | | |
| 4.11 19th Century Wood Pasture | 8.4 Reclaimed Land | | |
| | 8.5 Harbours and Marinas | | |
| | 8.6 Shingle and Dunes | | |
| | 8.7 Mudflats | | |

Scott Wilson / Oxford Archaeological Unit, 1999, Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment (NB These maps are for illustrative purposes only. The full assessment is available on GIS through Hampshire County Council)

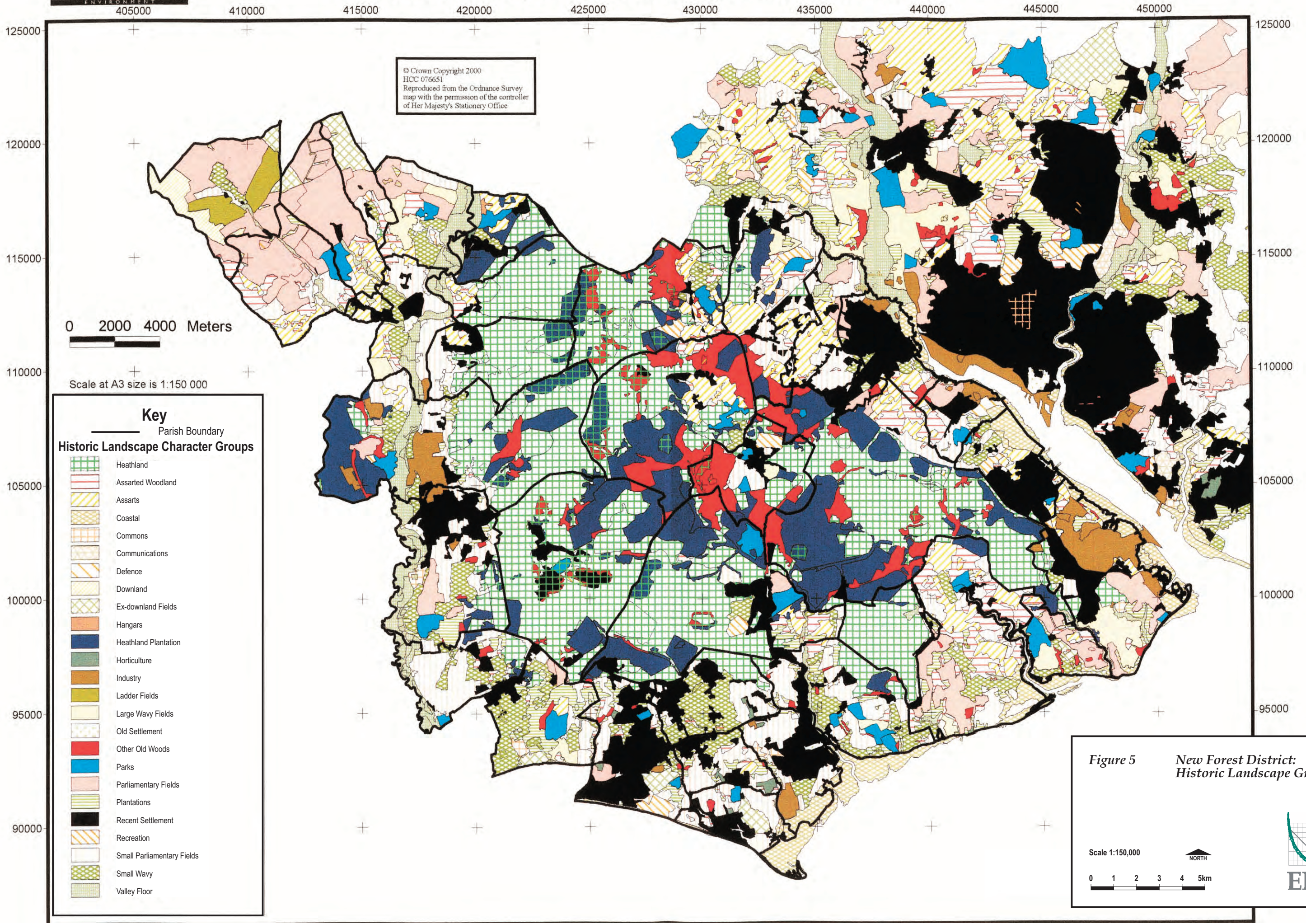
Figure 4 *New Forest District: Historic Time Depth*

Scale 1:225,000

0 5 10km

NORTH

Historic Landscape Character Groups in the New Forest



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0 2000 4000 Meters

Scale at A3 size is 1:150 000

Key

— Parish Boundary

Historic Landscape Character Groups

- Heathland
- Assarted Woodland
- Assarts
- Coastal
- Commons
- Communications
- Defence
- Downland
- Ex-downland Fields
- Hangars
- Heathland Plantation
- Horticulture
- Industry
- Ladder Fields
- Large Wavy Fields
- Old Settlement
- Other Old Woods
- Parks
- Parliamentary Fields
- Plantations
- Recent Settlement
- Recreation
- Small Parliamentary Fields
- Small Wavy
- Valley Floor

Figure 5 **New Forest District:
Historic Landscape Groups**

Scale 1:150,000

NORTH

0 1 2 3 4 5km

monuments exist around Brockenhurst and Beaulieu where an absence of modern agriculture has ensured their survival⁽¹⁾.

During the early Iron Age fixed agricultural systems became fully established. Long-term occupation is indicated in the archaeological record and there was a greater emphasis on land division and protection. This is evident in a rise in the number of small hamlets or farmsteads, scattered larger centres, embanked enclosures (to define personal holdings) and large defended settlements. Grim's Ditch, a boundary earthwork created by Iron Age communities in the chalk downlands, still survives as a prominent landscape feature today. The rounded chalk bluffs provided defensible hill top locations for forts which were built to defend valuable territories; Whitsbury Castle Ditches are the remains of one such fort.

Over most of England, the Roman invasion was followed by a rapid implementation of centralised administration based on towns and supported by a network of metalled roads. Roman settlement of the countryside is indicated by the presence of a Roman Villa at Rockbourne. Roman Roads are evident throughout the new Forest and are recorded from Otterbourne to Stoney Cross, Stoney Cross to Fritham, and from Dibden to Lepe. The straight course of the Ackling Dyke roman road marks the boundary of the district at Vernditch Chase.

A retreat from the chalk downlands was triggered by the introduction of new agricultural tools and techniques which allowed cultivation of the surrounding areas. Although some Roman settlement traces exist in the New Forest, the principal evidence is for the exploitation of natural resources to produce pottery. It is suggested in *the New Forest Archaeological/Historical Landscape Character Assessment* ^{op cit} that timber supplies (for fuel) and the abundance of clay in the Reading Beds, were the main reasons for locating pottery industries in the New Forest.

2.3.3 *Early Medieval to Early Post-Medieval*

Consolidation of permanent settlement occurred on the more productive soils where inhabitants exploited the natural resources throughout the Saxon period. It is believed that the distribution of these hamlets and villages formed the basis of modern settlement patterns and that during the mid to late Saxon period the modern system of parishes was established, with many churches being built as early as the seventh century.

The New Forest was formally created as crown property by William I in 1079 as a hunting ground. William I ordered a perambulation to be defined in which land was governed by Forest Law; the bounded area was named 'Nova Foresta'. The New Forest perambulation, administered by and on behalf of the crown, was occupied by small scattered agricultural communities whose actions were rigorously supervised. Forest Law was maintained by the King's

(1) Wessex Archaeology (1996) *The New Forest Archaeological/Historical Landscape Character Assessment*, Report to the New Forest Committee.

officials and symbolically by the construction of high status buildings. For example King Edward III (1327-1399) built an important group of royal residences and hunting lodges around Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst.

The choice of the New Forest as a Royal Hunting Forest may provide a clue to the character of the landscape in 1079 (and therefore in the preceding century or more). The selection of this area probably means it was at that time sparsely populated and comprised large tracts of open heath with interspersed woodland - the type of landscape most suitable as a hunting preserve. It is therefore quite possible that the landscape we see today is essentially Medieval or Late Saxon in origin and appearance. The character of the New Forest has largely been preserved by this Forest Law, protecting large areas of common, coppice and open woodland from damaging agricultural practices.

The next widely occurring historical process with traces preserved in the modern landscape is that of Medieval clearance of woodland or 'waste' in the 13th - 16th century through the process of 'assarting' *ie* the creation of small, irregular parcels of land for arable or grazing. Many of these small scale, irregular field systems are visible in the landscape today, particularly around Beaulieu on the south side of the Forest and around Bramshaw and Cadnam. Encoppicement (enclosure of a managed area to protect coppice growth from grazing) ensured regeneration and survival of the forest during this period.

2.3.4 *17th, 18th and 19th Centuries*

The next period of large-scale change came during the post-Medieval period when there were several movements towards the creation of larger and more regular field systems. The best known is the enclosure period which started at the end of the 17th century when large landowners enclosed lands by a fence or hedge to transform communal open fields or small individual strips into large unitary fields. This was undertaken either by Acts of Parliament or through less formal legal agreements.

Within the Forest the 1698 Enclosure Act provided for the enclosure and planting of up to 2000 acres of oak. At the same time some old coppices were cleared, re-fenced and sown with acorns. Gradually silviculture became a dominant factor in the management of the New Forest resource which led to ancient coppices being re-enclosed, *eg* Aldridge Hill, Holme Hill and Holidays Hill (covering some 400 acres) were enclosed as oak plantations. This left many enclosure earthworks in the archaeological record.

In the early years of the 19th century, continuing fears about the need for timber for military and construction projects, forced a parliamentary Enclosure Act. In 1808 an Act was passed which gave powers to enclose 6,000 acres of woodland at any one time and by 1850 there were almost 9,000 acres of Statutory Inclosures, in addition to 5,000 acres of unenclosed woods.

In 1851 the Deer Removal Act allowed the Crown to enclose more land for timber production, compensating the commoners for the reduced area of

grazing. The associated reduction in grazing pressure resulting in some regeneration of the ancient and ornamental woodlands. The Act also gave the Crown powers to enclose a further 10,000 acres for planting (16,000 acres in total). Public concern about the threat to the New Forest landscape by large scale enclosure and the effects it had on Commoner's rights led to Select Committees of Inquiry of the House of lords in 1868 and Commons 1875.

The resulting New Forest Act of 1877 defined the rights of the Crown and Commoners and made provision for the preservation of unenclosed woods resulting in the balance of open forest grazing and enclosure we see today. Without this Act, much more of the area would be enclosed, the special landscape character of the area lost and Commoners' rights greatly reduced.

2.3.5 *The Modern Landscape*

During the 20th century the most important features of the modern archaeological record are military remains, industrial relicts and transport systems. The London & South West Railway opened the Southampton & Dorchester line in 1847; it was the arrival of the railway which made the New Forest accessible to visitors from as far away as London. The increase in use of the car has had a significant impact on the Forest as each year a greater number of people visit the New Forest.

2.3.6 *20th Century Landscape Management*

World War I again raised heavy demands for timber at a time when its scenic beauty was increasingly becoming recognised by a nation with free time and income to explore the country's scenic areas. In 1923 The Forestry Commission assumed responsibility for the Forest on behalf of the Crown and further Acts were passed in 1949 and 1964 to help the New Forest react to the changing demands of a modern mobile and affluent society.

Forest Law, established in the Medieval period, and observed through varying degrees throughout the centuries became increasingly more concerned with the needs of the Commoners than with those of the Crown. In 1971, as a result of a mandate by the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, it was firmly established that the New Forest should be regarded as a National Heritage and that priority should be given to the conservation of its traditional character. Forest Law formally disappeared and the original courts reorganised to influence the administration and maintenance of the character of the New Forest. One of these, the Verderers' Court, now regulates development, oversees the welfare of commoners' stock on the Forest and works closely with the Forestry Commission in the management of the open forest. Despite these changes, much of the original administration of the forest remains and is vital to maintaining links between the New Forest today and the traditions which have formed it.

The 1971 mandate also led to the preparation of a management plan for the years 1972-81; a second plan, covering the period 1982-1991 has superseded this. This Management Plan gives further recognition of the Forest as an

ecological resource; its ecological value within the District has been recognised since the 1950's. In 1969 this was formalised by signature of a Minute of Intent, which recognised the Forest as having status equivalent to a national nature reserve. Ecological factors were given extra weight in 1974 by the designation of the forest as a site of special scientific interest (SSSI).

At the same time as the Forest was being recognised for its ecological value, its popularity as a recreational resource was increasing and damage by cars driving off-road in the open forest was becoming unacceptable. During the 19th and 20th centuries the three distinct threads of forest management (commoner grazing, timber production and improved visitor access) have interacted with each other. Gradually legislation has attempted to satisfy the requirements of all three as well as preserve the special landscape character and cultural history of the New Forest.

As we enter the 21st century, official recognition has been given to the area's national landscape importance by granting the New Forest planning protection equivalent to that of National Parks; by the Countryside Agency's decision to begin designating the New Forest as a National Park; and by the recommendation that the area should also be designated as a World Heritage Site.

2.4

LANDSCAPE FEATURES, BUILT FORM AND MATERIALS

The following photographs illustrate the diversity of natural and built features within the New Forest District. It is the specific combination of these elements which determines the distinctive character of different parts of the District.

LANDSCAPE FEATURES, BUILT FORM & MATERIALS



Timber framed thatched dwellings of the New Forest



Forest gatehouses and local buff bricks, Cadland



Large country houses in the coastal estatelands



Ornate red brick barns in the coastal estatelands



Weatherboarding on traditional forest dwellings



Forest lodges in the heart of the forest



Red brick cottages in the Beaulieu Valley



Use of coloured render in coastal towns

LANDSCAPE FEATURES, BUILT FORM & MATERIALS



New Forest lawns



Water meadows in the Avon Valley



Stone bridges in the Avon Valley



Majestic beech woods



Ancient wood pasture and veteran trees



New Forest ponies



Village greens



Hill top copses

In 1993, Hampshire County Council undertook an assessment of the landscapes of Hampshire which is published in *The Hampshire Landscape* ⁽¹⁾. This study encouraged awareness about the character of the landscape and pressures it faces and provided a basis for a landscape strategy for the county which is presently in an early draft form.

The broad County assessment work has been supported by more detailed work at a local level and a number of district-wide assessments have been prepared by local planning authorities. The New Forest District is the last district in Hampshire to be covered in this way; this study provides the final piece in the jigsaw of the landscapes of Hampshire.

Particular landform and landcover elements may combine to produce distinctive *landscape types*. These are landscapes with a range of distinctive but generic characteristics that can recur in different areas, for example a particular type of land use or historic field pattern. *Landscape character areas* are units of landscape which are geographically specific and have their own individual character or 'sense of place'. These are particularly useful in planning and management terms so that appropriate policies or actions can be applied at a local level. The district has been divided into 27 distinct landscape character areas within which repeating matrices of 21 different landscape types have been identified.

3.1

LANDSCAPE TYPES

The variety of landscapes across the New Forest District is remarkable; complex systems of coastal marshes and mudflats, remote water meadows and river terrace farmlands, exposed chalk downland, semi-natural ancient woodland, forestry plantations, windswept heathland, valley mires, ancient forest farmlands, heathland smallholdings, grazed commons and designed parkland are all represented across the District. For this study landscape types were derived from detailed desk study and refined through field surveys, taking account of previous work contained these documents:

- Land Use Consultants (1991) *New Forest Heritage Proposed Boundary*, Report to the New Forest Committee;
- New Forest Committee (1996) *A Strategy for the New Forest*;
- Oxford Archaeological Unit and Scott Wilson Resource Consultants (1999) *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment*, Report to Hampshire County Council and English Heritage;
- Scott Wilson Resource Consultants (1996) *Test Valley Borough Landscape Assessment*, Report to Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council;

(1) Hampshire County Council (1993) *The Hampshire Landscape*.

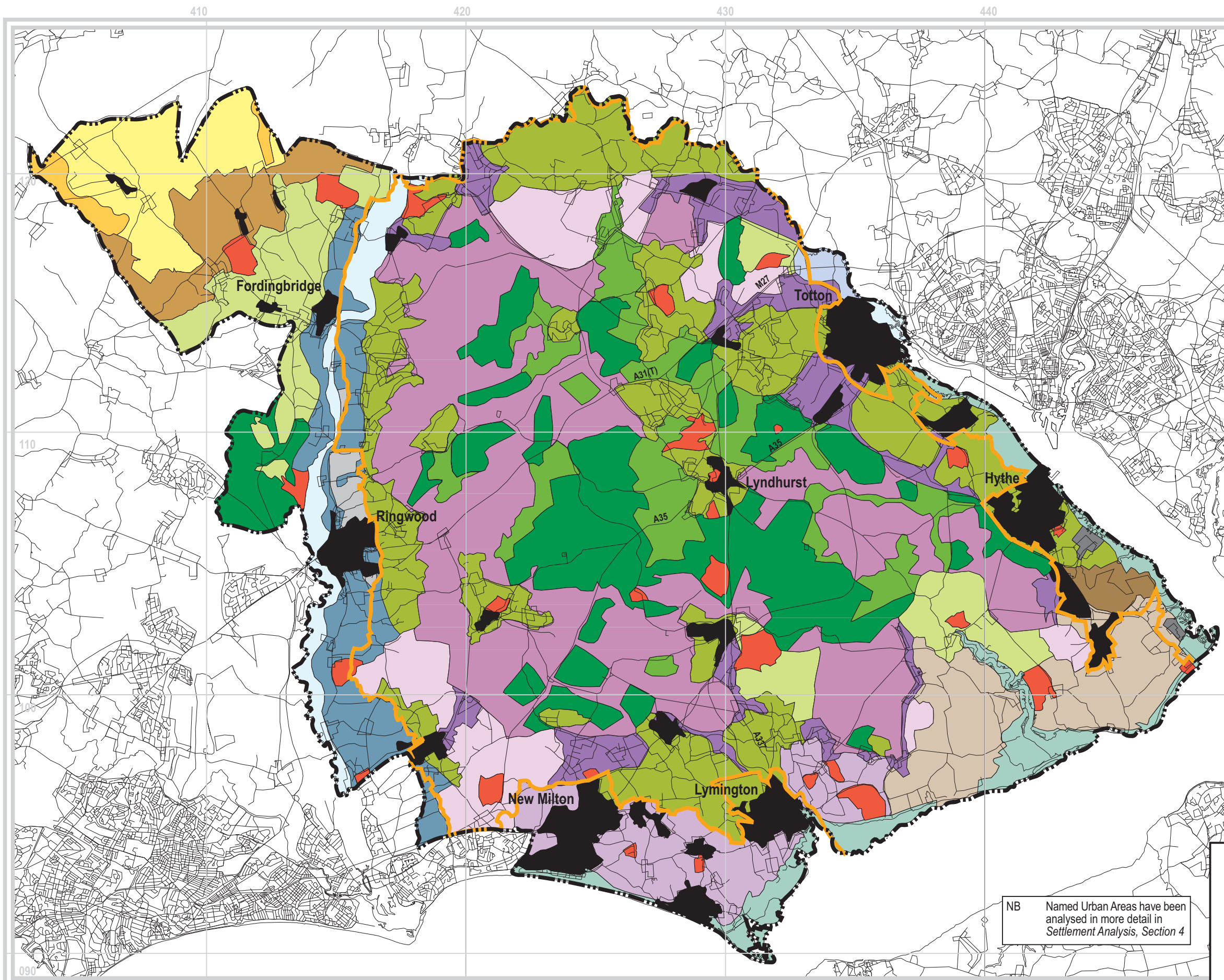
- CCP 465 *The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Landscape*;
- Hampshire County Council (1993) *The Hampshire Landscape*.

Careful review of these documents ensured that the landscape types and character areas would complement previous work and tie in with assessments of adjacent areas.

A map illustrating the distribution of the 21 *landscape types* across the District is presented in *Figure 6* and the descriptions and key issues relating to each landscape type are presented in the summary table below.

Table 3.1 *Landscape Types*

Landscape Type	Description	Key Issues
1. Coastal Fringe	A large scale, flat, open landscape with wide views and a quiet, but exposed and bleak, character. Saltmarsh, shingle beaches, muddy creeks, grazing marshes and coastal woodlands are features supporting waders, wildfowl and other birds. A pattern of coastal forts, including Calshot Castle and Hurst castle, line the coast. Wooded skylines form a backdrop and contrast to the open shoreline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure for urban and industrial development; • erosion of mudflats, marshes and cliffs; • coastal defence works; • increases in sea levels leading to loss of habitat; • development of marinas and reclamation schemes; • recreation including car parks and caravan/camp sites.
2. Coastal Plain Estates - small parliamentary enclosures	An intensively farmed, but well managed landscape of small regular fields with straight boundaries formed by, or linked to, the Inclosure Act system of the late 18 th - early 19 th century. Fields are divided by hedgerows with hedgerow oaks which are a feature. These and the remnants of ancient woodland provide visual links to the Forest. A number of small river valleys drain south into the Solent. Traditional built forms are scattered brick and tile farmsteads, country houses with estate cottages and gate houses. Weatherboarding a feature on agricultural buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow fragmentation and loss; • loss of hedgerow oaks which are distinctive features; • degradation of pockets of ancient woodland; • gravel extraction; • pressure for urban development, particularly residential expansion.



- 1. Coastal Fringe
- 2. Coastal Plain Estates - small parliamentary enclosures
- 3. Coastal Plain Estates - large informal enclosures
- 4. Urban Areas
- 5. Heath Associated Estates
- 6. Heath Associated Smallholdings & Dwellings
- 7. Ancient Forest Farmlands
- 8. Gravel / Mineral Extraction
- 9. Heavy Industry
- 10. Fawley Refinery Complex
- 11. River Terrace Farmlands
- 12. River Floodplain
- 13. Enclosed Farmland & Woodland
- 14. Enclosed Valley Sides
- 15. Enclosed Arable Farmland
- 16. Open Arable Downs
- 17. Chalk Down Scarps
- 18. Ancient & Ornamental Woodland
- 19. Timber Inclosures / Plantations
- 20. Heathland
- 21. Historic Parkland
- Study Area
- 1996 New Forest Heritage Area Boundary (As approved by New Forest Committee)

NB Named Urban Areas have been analysed in more detail in Settlement Analysis, Section 4

Figure 6 *New Forest District: Landscape Types*

Scale 1:150,000

NORTH

0 1 2 3 4 5km

Landscape Type	Description	Key Issues
3. Coastal Plain Estates - large informal enclosures	An intensively farmed, but well managed, large scale estate landscape dominated by fields resulting from informal enclosure between late Medieval and 17 th -18 th century and graded size fields resulting from 18 th -19 th century Inclosure Acts. Fields are divided by hedgerows with hedgerow oaks. Blocks of ancient woodland and recent plantations provide a sense of enclosure and small wooded river valleys drain south into the Solent. Brick and tile farmsteads, weatherboarded outbuildings and large country houses with estate cottages and gate houses are traditional built features. Clear views over the Solent to the Isle of Wight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow fragmentation and loss; • loss of hedgerow oaks which are distinctive features; • degradation of pockets of ancient woodland; • gravel extraction; • pressure for urban development, particularly residential expansion.
4. Urban Areas	Dense urban areas which are not an integral part of the surrounding landscape, as a result of their size or form, have been given a separate category. These tend to be large settlements which are inward looking towards a town centre and which have a large area of residential development around their core which acts as a barrier between the town centre and surrounding landscape. A select number of these will be examined in more detail in the Settlement Analysis section.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decay and dereliction of brownfield sites within urban centres; • pressure for residential development; • recreational use and public access to urban green spaces.
5. Heath Associated Estates	An enclosed wooded estate landscape, often on undulating ground, around the fringe of the forest. This landscape is closely associated with a zone of former heathland and still retains a heathy character; pine and oak plantations are interspersed by tracts of open heath and intensively farmed land consisting of large fields enclosed by hedgerows and woodland edges. There are few settlements or roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow fragmentation and loss; • heathland restoration - particularly from conifers; • declining use of traditional 'back-up' commoning land and loss of commons; • pressure for new built development; • ornamental species from private gardens encroaching on native species.
6. Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings	A variable, small scale pastoral landscape with a regular small scale field pattern defined by ditches and banks, often fringed with gorse or hedgerows and gapped up with fencing or tin sheeting. The area has developed from relatively recent enclosure from former common and is characterised by a heathy character, lack of mature trees and low quality pasture, often used as back-up grazing land for commoners stock. Linear roadside settlements and associated smallholdings have arisen from progressive encroachment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow loss (unrelated to pressure for increase in field size); • unmanaged hedgerows and increase in post and wire or ranch style fencing; • pressure for new built development in ribbon style along roads; • erosion of traditional 'back-up' commoning land and loss of commons; • loss of wood pasture; • heathland restoration.

Landscape Type	Description	Key Issues
7. Ancient Forest Farmlands	A farmed forest landscape with a strong sense of enclosure and an ancient irregular enclosure pattern. Ancient woodlands are a feature of the landscape and create a feeling of being 'in the forest'. A network of winding leafy lanes and drove roads with roadside oaks and wide verges links small areas of remnant wayside common. Scattered farmsteads and occasional roadside cottages of brick, timber and thatch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure for new built development and modern materials; • increase in ranch style fencing; • hedgerow loss and replacement with fencing or tin sheeting; • loss of commons; • dereliction of traditional buildings.
8. Gravel /Mineral Extraction	Large scale gravel pits, particularly in the Avon Valley, which are now water filled and function as recreational lakes. These gravel pits are often surrounded by trees and are therefore not visible, although the signs advertising their recreational functions are often clues to their presence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in land use; • lack of biodiversity; • changes in visual character of the area; • impacts on adjacent areas in terms of noise, visual amenity, air quality and traffic; • erosion of landscape pattern and historic routes.
9. Heavy Industry	Discrete areas in which industrial structures dominate the landscape. These areas are found primarily along Southampton Water and often result in substantial impacts on visual amenity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in land use; • lack of biodiversity; • impacts on adjacent areas in terms of noise, visual amenity, air quality and traffic; • erosion of landscape pattern and historic routes.
10. Fawley Refinery Complex	A large industrial oil refinery site which is strongly enclosed by functional screen planting which obscures views into the site. However, the multitude of stacks and flares of the refinery protrude above the top of the tree line, and as such the refinery site has a large visual influence over the surrounding area. The original grain of the landscape, including field patterns and settlement patterns, has been obscured.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in land use; • lack of biodiversity; • impacts on adjacent areas in terms of noise, visual amenity, air quality and traffic; • erosion of landscape pattern and historic routes.
11. River Terrace Farmlands	A flat, open, intensively farmed landscape with a medium to large scale regular field pattern resulting from 18 th /19 th century Parliamentary enclosure. Fields are bounded by low cut, gappy hedgerows or tree belts, often of pine. The landscape is largely open with long views to the distant woods and heaths. Settlement is confined to scattered farms and occasional clusters of dwellings along communication routes - major built up areas are confined to historic crossing points.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mineral extraction; • loss of ancient deciduous woodland and replacement with conifer plantation; • hedgerow loss and fragmentation of the network; • new roadside development.

Landscape Type	Description	Key Issues
12. River Floodplain	A flat, low-lying pastoral river landscape, frequently associated with former water meadows. Water, both in the river channel itself and in the any associated drainage ditches is an important landscape element. Meandering river channels are bordered by gently sloping grazed banks beyond which lies an open landscape of meadows and rough grazing divided by the occasional post and wire fence. Individual floodplain trees stand out as features.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of water meadows and unimproved grazing marsh; • water abstraction; • pollution from fertiliser and soil run-off; • inappropriate bank management and engineering works; • management of floodplain trees.
13. Enclosed Farmland and Woodland	A wooded agricultural landscape, often on undulating terrain, forming the boundary with the chalklands. Mixed arable (on drier ridges) and grazing land (in clayey hollows) of medium irregularly shaped fields. Ancient semi-natural woodlands, hedgerows with hedgebanks and hedgerow trees create a strong sense of enclosure. Diverse habitats include streams, water meadows, commons and some ancient field systems. Network of winding lanes links scattered farmsteads and villages which are often associated with village greens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow removal and fragmentation of woodlands, sometimes in association with field expansion; • loss of hedgerow oaks; • management of ancient woodlands; • new built development - along roads and around settlements.
14. Enclosed Valley Sides	This landscape type is an extension of the <i>enclosed valley sides</i> landscape type defined in the Test Valley Borough Landscape Assessment. It is described as a flat low-lying predominantly pastoral landscape of meadows, pasture and arable farmland with a remote, riparian character. The enclosed valley floor is characterised by a dense network of hedgerows and trees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow removal and fragmentation of woodlands, sometimes in association with field expansion; • loss of hedgerow oaks; • management of ancient woodlands.
15. Enclosed Arable Farmland	Eroded dip slope margins of chalk at the edge of the transition to lowland clays. A landscape of farmland, numerous semi-natural ancient woodlands (including oak-hazel coppice) and hedgerows with hedgerow oaks creating a strong sense of enclosure. Historically the rounded bluffs provided defensible sites for hill-forts and several of the hills are crowned with ramparts. The pattern of settlement is distinctive; linear villages lie within valleys.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow removal and fragmentation of woodlands, sometimes in association with field expansion; • loss of hedgerow oaks; • management of oak-hazel coppice; • ribbon development along valleys; • replacement of deciduous woodland by conifers.

Landscape Type	Description	Key Issues
16. Open Arable Downs	Landscape dominated by arable farmland in a broad open setting - typically a pattern of large regular fields divided by low, fragmented, treeless hedgerows or post and wire fencing. Remnant downland clings to the steeper hill slopes. The area has low woodland cover; hill top copses mark archaeological sites and plantations and shelterbelts provide functional windbreaks. Apart from isolated clusters of farm buildings, settlements are generally on lower ground and within valleys. Ancient drove roads, boundary earthworks and visible archaeological features demonstrate the historic importance of this landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive arable production leading to the loss of hedgerows; • low nature conservation value; • limited public access; • conservation of archaeological features and their settings.
17. Chalk Down Scarps	Tracts of unenclosed downland survive on the steeper scarp slopes of the chalklands providing a striking contrast to the adjacent enclosed farmland. The scarps often form prominent ridgelines and also provide vantage points with panoramic views. The species-rich calcareous grassland has great nature conservation value and is managed by grazing. Many of these scarps are the sites of ancient hill forts and the extent of visible archaeology is exceptional.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of downland to cereal production; • erosion caused by visitor pressure to these popular recreational areas; • scrub encroachment through reduction in grazing pressure.
18. Ancient and Ornamental Woodland	Ancient unenclosed oak and beech woods forming the heart of the ancient landscape of the New Forest. This landscape originated in the 18 th century or earlier from wood-pasture. The woodlands generally take the form of beech and oak with an understorey of holly, with birch, thorns, yew and grassy glades. Secondary expansions of ancient and ornamental woods including pinewoods, birchwoods and holly groves. Riparian woods of alder and willow are also included in this category.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grazing pressure and natural regeneration of trees; • traditional management techniques such as pollarding; • control of invasive or exotic species; • management of holly understorey; • control of Scots pine; • control of deadwood removal from woodlands; • restoration of wood pasture.
19. Inclosures/ Plantations	Within the Perambulation, woodland stands behind fences within Statutory Inclosures. These Inclosures have been managed for the production of wood and may be plantation oak or beech dating from 1800, mixed oak or beech plantations dating from 1810, mixed plantations of conifers with oak and beech or conifer plantations. Conifer plantations occupy just over half the total area of the Inclosures. The ornamental drives, which contain many ornamental and exotic species, are a feature of this type. Outside the NFHA, woodland is of the same type but has a different history and management background.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversification of single species plantations; • replacement of coniferous plantation by deciduous species; • re-creation of heathland from conifer plantation; • softening of large scale regular fenced outlines of the inclosures; • conservation of traditional woodland management practices; • gravel extraction.

Landscape Type	Description	Key Issues
20. Heathland	Heathland areas that arise on poor acid soils. The heathland is typically a mosaic of wet bogs, bracken, gorse, and tracts of heather which supports particularly important habitats and vegetation types, many of which are internationally rare or threatened species and some of which are included on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. The heaths are characterised by long views across the open heath; Scots Pines rise out of the plain singly or in clumps, their sculptural forms punctuating the skyline. Settlement tends to be confined to the margins of the heath.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasion of scrub and pine due to low grazing pressure; • long sweeping views which are characteristic of the landscape; • reversion of conifer plantation to heathland; • road building and fly tipping; • conservation of bog woodland; • erosion due to recreation.
21. Historic Parkland	Parkland landscapes which are designed landscapes often associated with a large house and sited to take advantage of views. They are characterised by historic connections and landscape features such as scattered trees, rows of trees, wood pasture (in the case of deer parks), exotic trees, ancient pollard trees and veteran trees. Substantial woodlands and shelter belts are also features of these designed landscapes. Areas of historic parkland shown are those which were identified in the <i>Hampshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of views and vistas to these landscapes; • conservation of wood pasture, a rare land-use; • loss of veteran trees; • division into multiple ownership and loss to arable farmland; • replacement of traditional parkland features by modern alternatives; • alterations to entrances and over development of lodges; • conservation of traditional management techniques such as pollarding.

3.2

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

The New Forest District has been subdivided into 27 unique *landscape character areas*, each with a distinctive character and particular geographic area, based upon local patterns of geology, land form, land use, cultural, historic and ecological features. In the New Forest District, a number of previous assessments were taken into account in drawing the boundaries of the *landscape character areas*, not least the County Assessment. The County Council Character Area boundaries have been followed for the Avon Valley (defining the extent of LCAs 6 and 7) and the Coastal Plain Estates (defining the northern extent of LCAs 14, 15 and 16).

The 27 character areas are shown on the location map in *Figure 7* and illustrated by a typical photograph. A glance back at *Figures 2, 3, 4, 5* and *6* will highlight the relationships between landscape character and the underlying geology, habitat types, landscape types and the historic development of the landscape. Together, the landscape character areas provide a new descriptive map of the district which draws attention to the contrasts in landscape character which we so often take for granted.

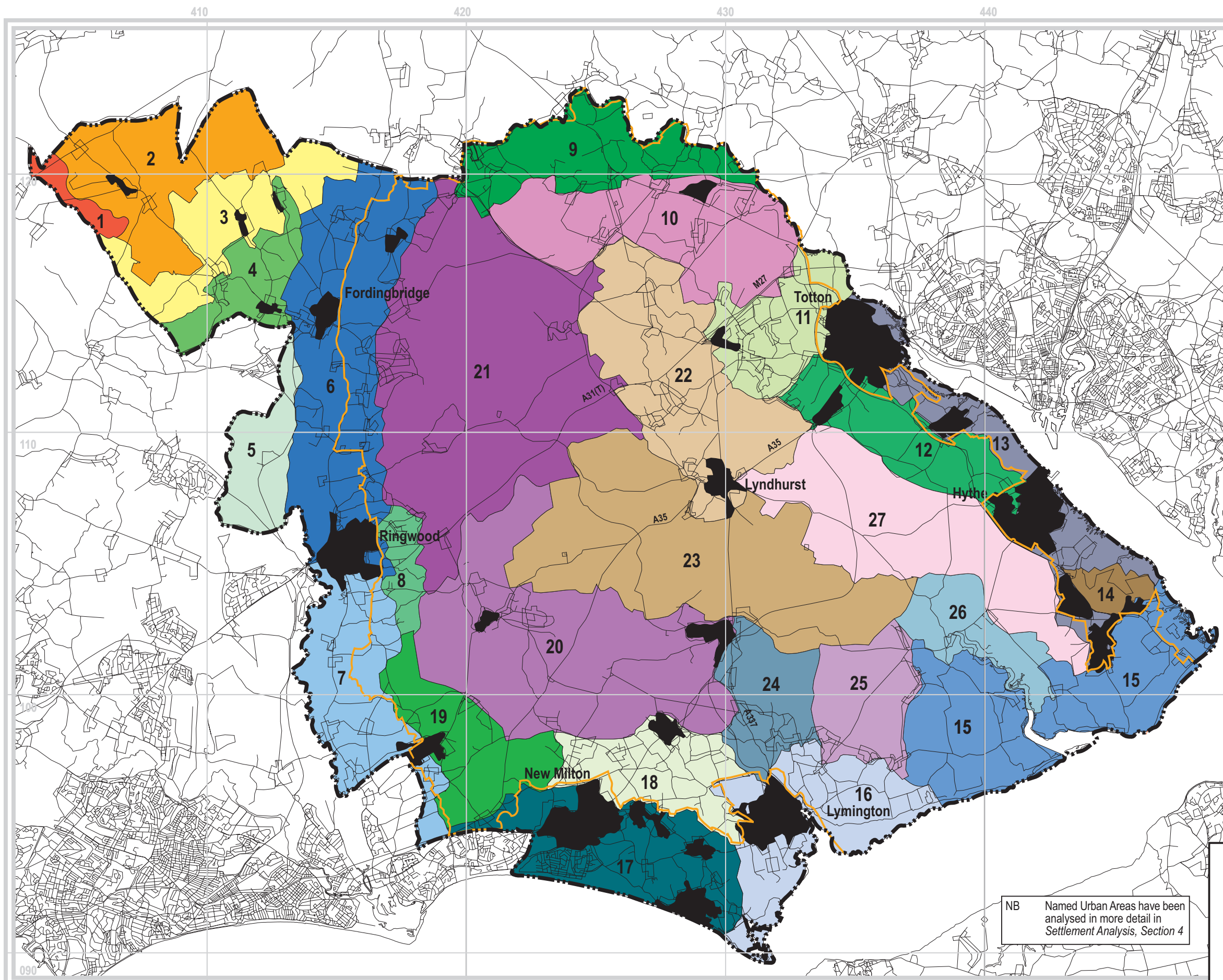
3.2.1

Landscape Character Area (LCA) Descriptions and their Use

The following description and analysis of each LCA includes:

- a summary of key characteristics;
- a brief introduction to influences on landscape character;
- a short description of landscape character, including comments on distinctive geology, landform, landcover, settlement form and land use;
- details of key environmental features, that is important historic, cultural, habitat and visual components of the landscape, which may be particularly sensitive to change;
- notes on guiding principles for landscape management which will seek to conserve, enhance or restore local landscape character; and
- notes on principles for built form.

The notes on principles for landscape management and built form relate closely to the aspects of landscape character and sensitivity highlighted in the description and analysis. They are intended to guide landscape change in such a way as to reinforce and enhance the distinctive character of the region's many different types of landscape. Further information on each LCA can be found in the *Landscape Character Record Sheets* in *Annex A*, within the separate volume of supplementary annexes.



- 1. Martin and Tidpit Downs
- 2. Martin and Whitsbury Open Farmland
- 3. Damerham and Rockbourne Valleys
- 4. Wooded Sandheath Farmland
- 5. Ringwood Forest
- 6. Upper Avon Valley
- 7. Lower Avon Valley
- 8. Poulner Woods and Pastures
- 9. Landford Forest Farmlands
- 10. West Wellow Heaths and Commons
- 11. Copythorne Forest Farmlands
- 12. Hythe and Ashurst Forest Farmlands
- 13. Waterside Parishes
- 14. Fawley Refinery Complex
- 15. North West Solent Estates
- 16. Lymington and Pennington Coastal Plain
- 17. Barton and Milford Coastal Plain
- 18. Sway Pasture and Smallholdings
- 19. Bransgore Woods and Pastures
- 20. Southern Heath and Forest
- 21. Northern Heath and Forest
- 22. Furzey Woodland and Villages
- 23. New Forest Central Woodlands
- 24. Lymington River
- 25. Beaulieu Heath
- 26. Beaulieu River
- 27. Eastern Forest Heaths
- Study Area
- 1996 New Forest Heritage Area Boundary (As approved by New Forest Committee)


NB Named Urban Areas have been analysed in more detail in Settlement Analysis, Section 4

Figure 7 *New Forest District: Landscape Character Areas*

Scale 1:150,000

NORTH

0 1 2 3 4 5km



LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS



1. Martin and Tidpit Downs



2. Martin and Whitsbury Open Farmland



3. Damerham and Rockbourne Valleys



4. Wooded Sandheath Farmland



5. Ringwood Forest



6. Upper Avon Valley



7. Lower Avon Valley



8. Poulner Woods and Pastures

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS



9. Landford Forest Farmlands



10. West Wellow Heaths and Commons



11. Copythorne Forest Farmlands



12. Hythe and Ashurst Forest Farmlands



13. Waterside Parishes



14. Fawley Refinery Complex



15. North West Solent Estates



16. Lyminster and Pennington Coastal Plain

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS



17. Barton and Milford Coastal Plain



18. Sway Pasture and Smallholdings



19. Bransgore Woods and Pastures



20. Southern Heath and Forest



21. Northern Heath and Forest



22. Furzey Woodland and Villages



23. New Forest Central Woodlands



24. Lynington River

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS



25. Beaulieu Heath



26. Beaulieu River



27. Eastern Forest Heaths

Key Characteristics

- Rolling hills of dipslope chalk with broad sweeping skylines reaching 142m at Tidpit Down.
 - Open chalk grassland, textured with scrub with few hedges or boundary fences.
 - Largely unwooded, but scrub clings to steeper slopes.
 - Major route (A354) passes over Martin Down.
 - No settlement.
 - A wealth of archaeological remains including Grim's Ditch, barrows and tumuli, several of which are SAMs.
 - Panoramic views over surrounding chalk farmland. Sweeping views to the horizon with ridgelines silhouetted against the sky.
-

Formative Influences

This landscape was created by Bronze Age land clearances approximately 3000 years ago. Poor soils limited recovery of the forest, and subsequently the open aspect was maintained by extensive grazing.

Landscape Description

The exposed upland chalk downland of *Martin and Tidpit Downs* is characterised by unenclosed calcareous grassland, textured by low lying scrub, which contrasts with the surrounding regular patchwork of enclosed farmland. This character area is located on upper chalk hills, in the far north-west corner of the district, and extends west into the Dorset Downs. To the east is the intensively farmed rolling landscape of the *Martin and Whitsbury Open Farmland*.

The landscape is wild and windswept with few structural landscape elements, such as hedgerows or boundary fences. Open grassland dominates and the area is important for recreation. Scrub contributes texture and shelter to this exposed landscape and its scenic beauty is reflected in its designation as an AONB. There are striking panoramic views over the surrounding area, particularly from the A354, a major route which crosses Martin Down.

There are no settlements on the Downs themselves, although the wealth of archaeological remains demonstrates the importance of the area in prehistory. The most prominent of these features is Grim's Ditch, a boundary earthwork created in the Iron Age, when there was considerable pressure the available pastoral and arable farmland. Bokerley Dyke, a Roman earthwork, runs along the county boundary. The rounded hilltops provided prominent locations for hill forts and barrows which are often marked by small copses.

Key Environmental Features

- *Calcareous grassland habitat of Martin Down* which is one of the most important remnants of calcareous grassland in the district and is designated as a National Nature Reserve;
- *archaeological features*, including the *hill top copses* which are distinctive features of this landscape;
- *open hilltops and ridgelines* which are part of the Cranbourne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB and form a backdrop to many views.

Principles for Landscape Management

- The proportion of scrub to open grassland should be conserved by carefully controlled stock levels; scrub cover should be sufficient to provide habitat diversity and a textural element to the landscape without obscuring the valuable grasslands or open character of this area.
 - Conserving the settings of archaeological sites and features by protecting them from erosion or scrub encroachment, and providing glimpsed views of these features from major routes or footpaths, will promote them as distinctive landmarks.
 - Grazing around and on archaeological monuments will enhance the setting and visibility of these features by limiting scrub encroachment; arable cultivation will result in the erosion of these sites.
 - The provision and upkeep of visitor facilities will encourage recreational use of the landscape and its many features while reducing erosion and pressure on the more sensitive parts of the landscape.
-

Principles for Built Form

- Built development is not characteristic of this exposed upland area.
 - Car parking could be very intrusive in this area. Careful consideration of car park sites and choice of surfacing would be important to ensure they do not become intrusive elements.
-

Key Characteristics

- Gently convex, undulating landform on upper chalk with large geometric fields, reaching 116m at Kingsdown Copse.
 - Fragments of calcareous grassland and scrub cling to steeper slopes.
 - Communication routes follow valleys in a NW-SE direction.
 - The picturesque village of Martin is sited at the head of the Allen River, exhibiting a wide mix of traditional building materials - timber, brick, flint, greensand stone, chalk cob, thatch and tile.
 - Rounded bluffs provide defensible sites for hill-forts; barrows, ditches and hill forts convey the historical importance of the landscape.
 - An large scale, expansive landscape whose character is affected by the skyscape as well as the landscape.
-

Formative Influences

Medieval villages with their surrounding small field patterns and paddocks probably overlie 2-3000 years of continuous settlement, from the Bronze Age onwards. The medieval landscape has been extensively modified by post-medieval parliamentary-type enclosure, transforming small fields and large open strip-fields into large regular enclosed field systems.

Landscape Description

The *Martin and Whitsbury Open Farmland* character area is a large scale, expansive undulating landscape of chalk farmland reaching 116m at Kingsdown Copse in the north-west, where the changing skyscape has a large influence on the character of the landscape.

The area is dominated by arable rotation, contributing to Hampshire's largest single type of land use. Its drainage pattern is characterised by winterbournes which run in parallel chalk valleys south-east towards the River Avon. This enclosed agricultural landscape is a result of 18th century Parliamentary enclosure - typically a pattern of large regular fields divided by low, fragmented treeless hedgerows or post and wire fencing, but with some enclosed strip and furlong fields. Small fragments of calcareous grassland and scrub cling to the steeper hill slopes. The area has low woodland cover. Hill top copses mark archaeological sites (many of which function as landmarks), plantations and shelterbelts provide functional windbreaks and small deciduous farm copses provide shelter for farm buildings.

Field patterns become smaller towards the village of Martin, a linear settlement sited in a shallow depression of the upper Allen valley, where it is sheltered from the harsh winds of the exposed downlands. The medieval

village core of Martin is a key historic component of the landscape and exhibits a range of traditional building styles and materials including timber frames, chalk cob, red brick and flint, and thatch. The village is focused around a small village green and the church spire forms a landmark in the open landscape. Communication routes emerge from the *Damerham and Rockbourne Valleys* and run the length of the chalk valleys in a SE to NW direction to meet the A354.

The wealth of archaeological remains demonstrates the importance of the area in prehistory. Grim's Ditch, a prominent boundary earthwork, and the Fort at Whitsbury both date back to the Iron Age. The finding of flint implements indicate that this area was a focus for activity during the Mesolithic Period.

Key Environmental Features

- Remnants of *calcareous grassland and scrub* which provide important habitats;
- *archaeological features*, including the *hill top copses* which are particularly characteristic of this landscape;
- the surviving *Medieval field patterns* close to Martin and within the chalk valleys which are key visible historic components;
- *field margins* which support a greater biological diversity than the cultivated fields.

Principles for Landscape Management

-
- The re-planting and management of low clipped hedgerows will conserve the pattern of existing parliamentary field boundaries and preserve the scale of field systems.
 - Remnants of unenclosed chalk downland on steeper slopes and hill tops contribute to the visual texture, cultural history and biodiversity of the landscape and should be a priority for conservation; new hedgerows would not be appropriate in these areas.
 - Conserving the settings of archaeological features will ensure they remain visible elements in this important historic landscape.
 - The remnant enclosed strip and furlong fields should be conserved as one of the few remaining areas of this kind in Hampshire.
 - The continued management and re-planting of woodland, copses and shelterbelts will ensure that the landscape retains a robust structure.
 - Characteristic local species include ash, beech, holly and yew.
 - The intensity of farming has a knock-on impact on the level of biodiversity and visual quality of the landscape; avoidance of over-intensive cultivation will reduce loss of hedgerows, woodland, grass verges and field margins which contribute to the biological diversity and visual quality of the landscape.
-

Principles for Built Form

- There is little opportunity for accommodating new built development.
 - Trees and woodland traditionally form the setting to built development.
 - The linear village is the dominant settlement form; however, ribbon development along the valleys would be inappropriate,
 - Traditional building materials are flint and brick, chalk cob, thatch and clay tile; and flint are often seen together.
-

Key Characteristics

- Dip slope valleys and rounded bluffs of lower chalk slopes rising to approximately 100m AOD.
 - Mixture of woodland and farmland punctuated by narrow chalk valleys containing winterbournes.
 - Strong landscape structure provided by ancient woodland, tree belts and hedgerows.
 - Species rich water meadows and lines of willows/poplars marking the course of the bournes.
 - Communication routes follow valleys in a NW-SE direction. Minor winding, leafy lanes cross between the valleys and are bordered by high banks.
 - Linear ancient valley settlements of Damerham, Rockbourne and Whitsbury; brick and flint are characteristic materials.
 - Views are restricted by extent of vegetation cover.
 - Mesolithic, Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman activity still visible in the landscape.
-

Formative Influences

This landscape has developed from a mixture of historic elements. These include the medieval-type assarted fields and woodland copses, and the later 17th-18th century field systems. Given the topography, the character of the landscape is rather more 'medieval' in form and scale than the field systems might indicate. The Saxons had an important influence on the settlement pattern; villages developed along valleys taking the form of a single street. This general layout may still be seen in the villages of Rockbourne, Damerham and Whitsbury today.

Landscape Description

The *Damerham and Rockbourne Valleys* lie on the eroded undulating slopes at the edge of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB, where the chalk slopes merge almost imperceptibly with the lowland clay landscape of the *Wooded Sandleheath Farmland*. The area is drained by valleys, containing the Allen River and Sweatsfords Water, which run south-eastwards towards the Avon Valley.

This is a landscape of enclosed arable rotation and pasture. The landscape pattern is a mixture of 18th century Parliamentary enclosure and more recent 19th and 20th century field systems - typically a pattern of large regular fields divided by hedgerows. The area is more wooded than the *Martin and Whitsbury Open Farmland* to the north-west; small copses, plantations and

shelterbelts are all present with some larger mixed woodlands at Breamore Wood, Kingland Copse, Bouldsbury Wood and Martin Wood.

The narrow chalk valleys contain chalk streams and small, picturesque villages. They also support a smaller scale field pattern with some semi-improved and marshy grassland. The picturesque villages of Damerham, Rockbourne and Whitsbury have a characteristic linear settlement pattern with properties facing onto the road. The bourne associated with each valley typically runs alongside the road; small bridges provide access across the bourne to these properties. The villages contain a range of traditional building styles and materials including timber framed cottages, chalk cob, red brick, flint, and thatch.

There is good access along the valleys; winding leafy lanes follow the length of the valleys. Where the lanes rise up out of the valleys they are bordered by high banks; as they rise onto the open chalk farmland the roadside hedgerows disappear and views open up.

There are a number of historical features of note within the area; the Long Barrow at Breamore Down indicates the presence of activity during the Neolithic period. Grim's Ditch, a prominent boundary earthwork, and the Fort at Whitsbury both date back to the Iron Age and the Roman Villa at Rockbourne, the only example of a Roman Villa in the area, indicates Roman settlement in this area.

Key Environmental Features

- *Ancient woodlands* which give structure and diversity to the landscape and many of which hold SINC designations;
- *chalk river valleys* which contain small scale field patterns and marshy grassland habitats;
- *archaeological features* and their settings which demonstrate a rich historical past.

Principles for Landscape Management

-
- The continued management and re-planting of woodland, copses, shelterbelts and hedgerows will conserve its robust wooded structure and historic field patterns.
 - Strict controls on water abstraction will conserve the valuable marshy grassland in the valley bottoms.
 - Planting of new trees to replace mature and dying trees within the valleys will ensure the wooded character of these valleys is retained.
 - Conserving the settings of archaeological sites and features by protecting them from erosion or afforestation, and providing glimpsed views of these features from major routes or footpaths, will ensure their preservation as historic elements of the landscape.
-

-
- The intensity of farming has a knock-on impact on the level of biodiversity and visual quality of the landscape; avoidance of over-intensive cultivation will reduce loss of hedgerows, woodland, grass verges and field margins which contribute to the biological diversity and visual quality of the landscape.
-

Principles for Built Form

- The undulating landform and rich vegetation give the landscape some capacity to accommodate change; trees and woodland traditionally form the setting to built development within the valleys.
 - The linear village is the dominant settlement form; however, continuous ribbon development along the valleys would be inappropriate.
 - Traditional building materials are flint and brick, chalk cob, thatch and clay tile; flint and brick are often seen together on buildings and brick walls.
 - Weatherboarding is often a feature of outbuildings; wavy edged timbers, horizontally laid, are particularly distinctive. Redwood stains and stylised colours should be avoided.
-

Key Characteristics

- Mosaic of deciduous copses, pasture, water meadows and built development at the transition between chalk downland and lowland heath.
 - Areas of open water, tranquil grazed water meadows and stone bridges along the Sweatsford and Ashford Rivers.
 - Leafy lanes wind their way through woodland.
 - Large built area of Sandleheath with ribbon development branching out along communication routes, into the surrounding countryside.
 - Medieval assarted woodland is dominant historic feature of the landscape.
 - Pines, gorse and rhododendron indicates an isolated pocket of former heath at Sandleheath.
 - Area of scrub and semi-improved grassland at West Park.
 - Traditional materials are red brick with clay tile or slate and thatch.
 - Rural landscape with no clear landmarks; difficult to orientate.
-

Formative Influences

The change in underlying geology from chalk to London Clay has the greatest influence in changes in character seen in this area. The structure of the landscape has developed from the surviving earlier/smaller Medieval type assarts interspersed with wooded tracts. There has been later post-Medieval rationalisation.

Landscape Description

This area lies on the edge of the eroded dip slope margins of chalk. Geology has a strong influence on local landscape character; the Reading Beds on higher ground and London Clay around Sandleheath give rise to brown forest soils which support a rich woodland flora. It is this woodland which gives structure to the landscape. Two rivers, the Ashford Water and Sweatsford Water, drain eastwards into the Avon.

The area is dominated by pre 1810 woodland - these ancient deciduous woodlands have a high nature conservation value as well as giving the landscape a robust structure and strong sense of enclosure. The copses are linked by hedgerows which enclose regular, medium sized fields. An isolated patch of former heath at Sandleheath, marked by the presence of gorse, pines and rhododendrons, and an area of scrub and semi-improved grassland at West Park contribute to the biological diversity of this area. The marshy grasslands within the river valleys are particularly important for their nature conservation and landscape value.

Communication routes run SE-NW along the length of the valleys as well as between them, converging at Fordingbridge. These minor routes are leafy lanes which wind their way around hills and through woodlands. The village centre of Sandleheath is relatively small, although recent development has led to growth out into the surrounding countryside, making it difficult to distinguish the traditional built character of the area. Most green space within the settlement is in the form of private gardens.

Key Environmental Features

- *Ancient deciduous copses* and woodlands which give structure to the landscape and many of which are designated as SINC's;
- *winding, leafy lanes* which give the area a distinctive character;
- *water meadows* alongside the Sweatsford and Ashford Waters;
- *semi-improved grassland and scrub* at West Park.

Principles for Landscape Management

- The survival of traditional management techniques such as coppicing within the woodlands will ensure these woodlands are conserved as copses.
 - The management and re-planting of hedgerows will conserve the hedgerow network, the linkages these form with the woodlands and the historic field systems.
 - Careful management of water courses and controls on abstraction will encourage the conservation of important water meadows along the Ashford and Sweatsford Waters.
 - Replacing conifer plantations with native deciduous species will conserve the interplay between broadleaf woodland and farmland which is characteristic of the area.
 - Restoration and conservation of heathland at Sandleheath will conserve the distinctive character and ecological value of this isolated former heath.
 - Avoidance of road straightening works on winding leafy lanes will ensure that the character of this in this area is conserved.
-

Principles for Built Form

- The strategic gap between Sandleheath and Ashurst is important in retaining these as distinct settlements.
 - The creation of distinctive 'gateways' (buildings, walls, tree planting etc) at the entrances to Sandleheath could mark a clear limit of settlement and prevent a nondescript merging of town with country.
 - Any new development around existing settlements should be accompanied by significant tree and hedgerow planting to integrate buildings into the surrounding landscape pattern.
 - Traditional materials include red brick (orange-toned) with clay tile, Welsh slate or thatch. Weather boarding is often a feature of agricultural buildings.
-

Key Characteristics

-
- Wooded ridge on the edge of Avon Valley leading up to an undulating area of former heath on plateau gravels.
 - Rich mosaic of deciduous copses, tree belts, wooded water courses and pasture on the valley side contrasts with the forest core which is characterised by even aged stands of conifers criss-crossed with straight rides and tracks.
 - Straight lines of communication (including the busy B3081 to Ringwood) plough through the forest landscape.
 - Traditional farm buildings on the forest edge - red brick and thatch.
 - Landscape is dominated by 19th and 20th century forestry - history is obscured.
 - Gravel pits, soil erosion and felled areas are negative features of the landscape.
 - High recreational value; forest provides as a backdrop to the Avon Valley.
-

Formative Influences

This landscape has developed from cleared heathland and afforested in the 19th century. There are few surviving elements of an earlier pattern of either settlement or field systems. In addition, the presence of plateau gravels influences the presence of activities such as gravel extraction and landfill.

Landscape Description

Ringwood Forest lies on the western edge of the Avon Valley. A steep wooded ridge leads up to a gently undulating plateau of former heath between 40-50m AOD, which provides a wooded backdrop to the Avon Valley. The underlying geology of Bagshot Sands capped by plateau gravels produces acid soils with large pockets of gravel. Minor tributaries drain east directly into the Avon Valley.

The steep ridge, which forms the western valley side of the Avon, is a rich mosaic of oak/birch woodland, tree belts, wooded water courses and pasture. The plateau itself is former heathland which is now dominated by 20th century forestry; even aged stands of conifers with geometric rides and tracks cut across the area. There are also areas of bare ground, landfill and mineral extraction within the forest landscape where biodiversity is at its lowest.

Fast, straight roads, for example the B3081, cut across the forest landscape. Minor roads on the forest edge relate more closely to the landscape pattern, winding up the valley side and along the ridge top. Settlement is dominated by scattered farms on the eastern edge of the area - there is little settlement within the forest core. The forest itself provides an important recreational area for local residents and is a designated SINC.

Key Environmental Features

- The steep *wooded ridge* on the east of the area which is highly visible from the Avon Valley and beyond;
- *woodland edges* which are important in views of the area;
- *remaining heathland habitat* which is now extremely rare and of importance for nature conservation;
- *hedgerows* which link existing areas of woodland;
- *views from the top of the slope* over the Avon Valley;
- *minor streams* and their associated riparian vegetation.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Trees and hedgerows make an important contribution to the landscape and provide important visual screens for gravel extraction and landfill sites; their management should be a priority in this area.
 - The creation of buffer zones on the fringes of native deciduous woodland blocks will help to protect the existing woodland edges from damage by agricultural machinery.
 - Planting deciduous trees, particularly native oak, on the fringes of conifer plantations may help to integrate these harsh dark edges with the surrounding landscape, while also promoting ecological diversity and encouraging a higher proportion of native species.
 - Control of invasive rhododendron will ensure it does not dominate the understorey of the forest, particularly in the native deciduous woodlands.
 - Heathland restoration will return some of the open heathland character back to this area and will enhance the nature conservation value of the landscape.
 - Wide heathland rides will provide links between adjacent heathland areas.
-

Principles for Built Form

- There is some scope for new development within the forest where it may make use of a woodland setting - native planting should accompany any development to enhance its setting.
 - New development should not impinge on, or block views, to or from the Avon Valley.
 - Red brick and thatch are the traditional building materials in the area; weatherboarding is often a feature of agricultural buildings.
-

Key Characteristics

- Broad open valley containing the meandering River Avon and enclosed to the east by a steeply wooded ridge.
 - Gently meandering river with stone bridges at minor crossing points.
 - Large areas of unimproved neutral grassland and open water meadows of high nature conservation importance.
 - Large settlements of Fordingbridge and Ringwood in the floodplain are historic crossing points of the river.
 - Main A338 runs the length of the valley with minor crossings in an East-West direction.
 - Church towers are features, protruding from trees within the floodplain.
 - Timber framed thatched cottages are a feature of the valley.
 - Open bodies of water, resulting from gravel extraction, function as important breeding grounds and habitats for wintering wildfowl as well as recreational lakes.
 - Distant views to steep wooded slopes.
-

Formative Influences

Topography and geology (flat often poorly draining , flood and drought-prone fields) have played an important role in the survival of field patterns; they are generally 18-19th century, although some may be earlier and have survived through continued predominance of grazing over arable farming. The settlements are likely to have used the higher forest land to the east or downland to the west as more remote land resources. The extensive sand and gravel deposits have led to the pattern of lakes (old gravel pits) seen in the landscape today.

Landscape Description

The *Upper Avon Valley* lies to the north of Ringwood; its eastern and western extents are defined by the visual envelope of the valley. This broad river valley with its open water meadows and wide floodplain conveys a great sense of space. It separates the wooded chalk dip slope and Dorset heathlands to the west from the ancient forested slopes of the New Forest plateau to the east. The area is underlain by London clay/Reading Beds/Chalk to the north of Fordingbridge and sandy Bagshot Beds to the south. However, the underlying geology is masked by more recent River Terrace deposits of sand and gravel which influence the character of the landscape.

This flat agricultural landscape is predominantly pastoral with unobtrusive post and wire field boundaries and mature floodplain trees; the fields are smaller than in the *Lower Avon Valley* and some are bordered by belts of mature trees. The main A338 between Ringwood and Downton runs the length of the valley with many small villages such as Ibsley and Bickton scattered at regular intervals along the route. Although the A338 allows good access North-South, the river creates a barrier to movement East-West. Small stone bridges allow traffic to cross the water meadows and river at selected points. Local building materials include timber, red brick and thatch. Timber framed cottages with thatched roofs, white painted cottages with slate roofs and weatherboarding on agricultural buildings are all typical of this area. The landscape exhibits a medieval/early post-medieval period of historic character.

The river terrace deposits have given rise to a large gravel resource in the valley; extensive gravel extraction in the past has transformed some areas from grazed water meadows to open water. These lakes now provide an important habitat for birds as well as a recreational resource for the local population. Many of the lakes are screened by belts of mixed planting which supplement the existing mature trees. The advertisements and signs associated with these lakes also add a new element to the landscape.

The area is generally a tranquil pastoral landscape; activity is restricted to the main A338 and specific recreational 'hotspots' along the roadside.

Key Environmental Features

- The *water meadows/floodplain* of the river which hold ESA, SPA and SAC designations;
- the *wooded eastern valley side* which is highly visible and holds a SSSI designation;
- *views to the village churches* which feature as landmarks;
- *villages* which show evidence of medieval settlement;
- *woodlands* which are designated SINCs or SSSIs;
- *archaeological monuments and their settings* which convey a sense of history, notably the SAMs at Breamore and Frankenbury.

Principles for Landscape Management

-
- The development of sensitive plans for mineral restoration will help minimise loss of wetland habitat.
 - Sustainable management of existing woodlands by thinning, coppicing and/or replanting will ensure that these important features are conserved as a visual backdrop to the floodplain and a valuable wildlife habitat.
 - New planting of species indigenous to the area, and of local provenance, will be most easily integrated into the environment.
-

-
- The management of grassland as hay meadows and unimproved grazing marsh, maintaining increased ground water levels and shallow winter flooding, will help to extend the area of water meadows which are a highly valued, and historic, feature of the valley.
 - The area is likely to include some suitable sites for the rare black poplar, which is the subject of a national recolonisation programme.
 - The conservation of veteran trees should be a priority as they are particularly important features of the area.
 - Agricultural practices should seek to minimise fertiliser and soil run-off which could lead to pollution of water courses.
-

Principles for Built Form

- Settlements are characteristically small and dispersed; any new development should be designed to follow this pattern.
 - Built development which would obscure views over the valley, should be avoided for example continuous ribbon development along roadsides.
 - Views across the floodplain to settlements should be conserved and enhanced, perhaps by creating opportunities for views from the road or by using planting to frame selected views.
 - Stone bridges are characteristic features of the landscape and merit careful conservation.
 - Timber beamed red brick cottages with thatch are the traditional built form. Red brick ornate Victorian cottages are also a locally characteristic feature as are white painted cottages with slate roofs and weatherboarding on agricultural buildings
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Key Characteristics

- Broad flat plain at approximately 14m AOD containing the meandering course of the River Avon.
 - Tranquil pastoral scene on the floodplain, with open watermeadows cattle grazing in the shade of mature floodplain trees (willows, poplars and oaks).
 - Regular patchwork of mixed farmland divided by hedgerows with hedgerow trees or thick mature tree belts.
 - Straight lanes follow field boundaries, creating a regular grid pattern.
 - The river creates a barrier to movement west; the Avon Causeway provides the only crossing point.
 - Major communication route, the B3347, runs N-S along the length of the valley with small hamlets of Avon, Bisterne and Kingston along the road.
 - Built development characterised by red brick thatched cottages and weather boarding on agricultural buildings.
 - Long views and big skies
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Formative Influences

Topography and geology (flat often poorly draining, flood and drought-prone fields) have played an important role in the survival of field patterns; they are generally 18-19th century, although some may be earlier and have survived through continued predominance of grazing over arable farming in the floodplain.

Landscape Description

The *Lower Avon Valley* is the more tranquil part of the Avon Valley downstream from Ringwood. This broad river valley has open water meadows and enclosed arable fields. It is located to the west of the wooded slopes around Bransgore and is underlain by Bracklesham Beds and Boscombe Sand, although these strata are masked by more recent River Terrace deposits of sand and gravel.

The floodplain is an extremely tranquil, open pastoral landscape of water meadows and pasture bordered by unobtrusive post and wire fencing. The adjacent flat agricultural landscape is dominated by medium-large regular fields resulting from Parliamentary enclosures. This area supports both arable and pasture and is enclosed by hedgerows and thick shelter belts. These tree belts are linked to woodland, particularly around Bisterne, where pre 1810 parkland has survived as a feature of the landscape.

The B3347 runs the length of the valley with many small villages such as Sopley, Avon, Bisterne, Kingston and Moortown scattered at regular intervals along the route. Although the B3347 allows good access North-South, the river creates a barrier to movement East-West; there is just one crossing point at the Avon Causeway which has become a 'rat-run' between Bournemouth and Bransgore. Local building materials include timber, red brick and hatch. Timber framed cottages with thatched roofs, white painted cottages with slate roofs and weather boarding on agricultural buildings are all typical of this area.

Key Environmental Features

- The *floodplain* of the river which contains important water meadows and holds ESA, SPA and SAC designations;
- the *woodlands and parkland* around Bisterne, some of which are designated as SINC;
- *views across the floodplain* which give the landscape a sense of space;
- *villages* which show evidence of medieval settlement.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Sustainable management of existing woodlands by thinning, coppicing and/or replanting will ensure that these important features are conserved as a valuable wildlife habitat.
 - New planting of species indigenous to the area, and of local provenance, will be most easily integrated into the environment.
 - Hedgerows and tree belts should be managed to retain the existing landscape pattern and link existing areas of woodland and outlying hedgerows.
 - The management of grassland as hay meadows and unimproved grazing marsh, and the maintenance of increased ground water levels and shallow winter flooding will help to extend the area of water meadows, a highly valued feature of the valley.
 - The area is likely to include some suitable sites for the rare black poplar, which is the subject of a national recolonisation programme.
 - The conservation and replanting of floodplain trees should be a priority as they are particularly important features of the area.
 - Agricultural practices should seek to minimise fertiliser and soil run-off which could lead to pollution of water courses.
 - Traffic management could reduce the 'rat-run' effect across the Avon Causeway.
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Principles for Built Form

- Settlements are characteristically small and dispersed; any new development should be designed to follow this existing pattern.
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- Built development which would obscure views over the valley (for example continuous ribbon development along roadsides) should be avoided.
 - Any new built development should be associated with carefully designed planting to integrate it into the valley.
 - Timber beamed red brick cottages with thatch are the traditional built form. Red brick ornate Victorian cottages are also a locally characteristic feature as are white painted cottages with slate roofs and weather boarding on agricultural buildings. Bungalows are not characteristic of the area.
 - The visibility of new housing from the open valley should be considered when planning the location of new development in areas such as Sopley.
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Key Characteristics

- Forest smallholdings and dwellings in irregular historic field pattern of small pastures surrounded by hedgerows reinforced by tin sheeting or post and wire fencing.
 - Ancient semi-natural woodlands and roadside oaks give a feeling of being 'in the forest'.
 - Leafy lanes wind up the valley side; the modern A31 (T) dual carriageway cuts through the ancient landscape, dividing the area into two.
 - Wide variety of housing styles; ornamental gardens have an influence on surrounding landscape character.
 - The high density of private dwellings means there is little public access or recreational opportunities.
 - Views over Ringwood and the Avon Valley.
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Formative Influences

This landscape has largely survived from the medieval, but with 18th century rationalisation of earlier (medieval) assarts. The pressure for built development from Ringwood has influenced the built character of the landscape.

Landscape Description

The *Poulner Woods and Pastures* is part of the steep wooded eastern valley side of the Avon Valley above Ringwood. It forms the transition between the flat floodplain of the Avon Valley and the plateau forests and heaths of the New Forest. The underlying geology of Barton Clays give rise to less acid brown forest soils which are good for tree growth.

This farmed forest landscape is dominated by 18th/19th century small scale field patterns, which date from Parliamentary enclosure. The small fields are enclosed by dense hedgerows and interspersed with mature woods. The presence of these ancient woodlands and hedgerow oaks creates a strong sense of enclosure and a feeling of being 'in the forest'. Some coniferous forestry is also evident. A network of winding leafy lanes with roadside oaks and wide verges link small areas of remnant wayside common, most of which are overgrown.

This is a densely settled landscape which continues to experience a pressure for residential development; linear roadside settlements and their associated smallholdings have progressively encroached on the landscape, particularly in areas close to Ringwood. These residential properties show such a wide variety of building styles and materials that it is difficult to determine the local vernacular style. Hedgerows are often gapped up with fencing (post

and wire or ranch style) or tin sheeting. It is a remarkably tranquil landscape, despite the density of development.

Key Environmental Features

- The *small scale field patterns* which are sensitive to changes in agricultural practices;
- the *ancient semi-natural woodlands* which are important landscape features;
- the *hedgerow and roadside oaks* which are characteristic features of the area;
- the small winding *leafy lanes*.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Small scale field patterns are characteristic of the area; management of hedgerows and replanting of hedgerow oaks will conserve these landscape features as well as maintaining the historic landscape pattern.
 - Hedgerow fragmentation is accompanied by increased use of tin sheeting, wire fencing and suburban style white ranch fencing in this area - hedgerows are more suitable than these substitutes.
 - Winding leafy lanes contribute to the character of the area; any road improvements which would threaten these features should be resisted if possible.
 - Expansion of coniferous forestry to replace deciduous woodland would threaten the character of this ancient forest landscape.
 - Planting close to native woodlands should avoid ornamental species; escapees, for example from private gardens, may invade native woodlands and affect the flora of these.
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Principles for Built Form

- Scattered farmsteads and occasional roadside cottages of brick, timber and thatch are the traditional settlement form; these traditional forms and material should be conserved.
 - There is little capacity to absorb further built development; linear roadside development is inappropriate.
 - Siting of new built development should take into account the views from the Avon Valley.
 - Built development is traditionally set within woodland; any new built development should be associated with woodland and hedgerow planting to integrate it into the landscape.
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Key Characteristics

- An enclosed and settled area of mixed farmland and woodland to the north of the River Blackwater.
 - Extensive ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland with some active coppice and remnant wood pasture commons such as Whiteparish Common.
 - Shaded leafy lanes, sometimes sunken, wind their way through wooded areas.
 - Scattered farmsteads and occasional roadside cottages of brick, timber and thatch.
 - A well defined irregular pattern of medieval assarted woodland and farmland and a medieval deer park at Loosehanger Park.
 - Important ecological habitats, particularly the ancient woodlands.
 - Views are short, most usually to the next field boundary or woodland edge.
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Formative Influences

The small/irregular field patterns of this landscape are medieval in origin. The woodlands are older and have been replanted at intervals as a part of a continuing traditional land use.

Landscape Description

The *Landford Forest Farmlands* lie on London Clays to the north of the River Blackwater, forming part of the New Forest Heritage Area within the county of Wiltshire. This is an ancient farmed landscape of small medieval assarts and small parliamentary enclosures interspersed with ancient woodland, 19th century plantations and lush hedgerows with hedgerow oaks. The landscape is underlain by clays and sands which give rise to some brown forest soils which promote good tree growth. Large areas of ancient broadleaved woodland, with some active coppice, and remnant wood pasture commons create a feeling of being 'in the forest'. In between are open areas of arable rotation and grassland, including some higher diversity semi-improved pasture. The wooded character of the landscape creates a strong sense of enclosure, providing a frame and backdrop to views.

A network of winding leafy lanes and drove roads with roadside oaks and wide verges link small areas of remnant wayside common. Scattered farmsteads and occasional roadside cottages of brick, timber and thatch are traditionally clustered at crossroads; more recent development has developed in a linear pattern for example at Bohemia, Lover and Redlynch.

Key Environmental Features

- *Ancient deciduous woodlands* which have a high biological diversity and contribute a flavour of the New Forest character;
- *remnant wood pastures* which are traditional Forest features and are sensitive to changes in management practices.
- *roadside dwellings* which are traditionally loosely clustered and scattered at low density.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Small scale field patterns are characteristic of the area; management of hedgerows will maintain these landscape features while conserving the characteristic landscape pattern.
 - Promotion of traditional management techniques such as coppicing will ensure the character of these woodlands is conserved.
 - Wood pasture management through controlled grazing and techniques such as pollarding will restore and conserve this traditional ancient land use to the area.
 - In time there may be scope to replace some conifer plantations with broadleaf woodland. The integration of existing plantations can be improved by new woodland edge planting of native deciduous species. Both measures will replace hard lines of conifers with the characteristic soft texture of deciduous woodland.
 - Replacement of hedgerow and roadside oaks will maintain these trees as positive features of area.
 - Leafy lanes contribute to the character of the area; any road improvements which would threaten these features should be resisted if possible.
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Principles for Built Form

- Wherever possible new built development should reflect to the local vernacular to restore built character and identity to the area; local building materials are red brick, slate and thatch.
 - Loosely clustered roadside dwellings, particularly focused at the crossing of routes, is the traditional settlement form.
 - The removal of rusting corrugated iron agricultural buildings and replacement with outbuildings of red brick, weatherboarding, thatch and/or painted corrugated iron in muted tones would improve the visual quality of the landscape.
 - Although linear settlements are characteristic of the area, further extension of built development along roadsides is likely to lead to the coalescence of adjacent settlements.
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Key Characteristics

- A mosaic of remnant heathland commons, remnant pasture woods with ancient oak and beech pollards, farmland and woodland on the undulating northern edge of the forest.
 - Strong heathy character resulting from the underlying older geological deposits and acid soils, reflected in the presence of gorse, bracken, birch and Scot's pine.
 - Areas of unenclosed grazed heathland common including Half Moon, Cadnam, Canada, Penn, West Wellow and Plaitford Commons.
 - Recently enclosed former commons at Landford, Shelley and Copythorne, outside the Perambulation boundary.
 - Distinctive dense linear settlements with residential properties in long narrow plots generally facing away from the commons. A variety of housing styles and ages facing onto the commons indicates recent infill.
 - Long views over commons are limited by the domed topography of the elevated areas or encroaching scrub.
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Formative Influences

This landscape is dominated by early small/irregular assart fields, medieval in origin, with many small copses. Much of the former heathland has been reclaimed for agriculture or woodland.

Landscape Description

The *West Wellow Heaths and Commons* landscape is an elevated area between the Blackwater and Cadnam Valleys, rising to 73m at Nomansland. The area has an undulating topography with gently domed hill top commons and shallow valleys containing tributaries to the Blackwater and Cadnam Rivers. The underlying Bracklesham Beds and Bagshot Sands give rise to acid soils, reflected in the heathy vegetation type which includes gorse, bracken, birch and Scot's pine.

This is predominantly a pastoral landscape consisting of formally enclosed fields, assarted woodlands, heathland commons and remnant pasture woods. The enclosed farmland comprises fields bounded by hedgerows, some of which have been lost and replaced by post and wire fencing. Many of the unenclosed commons are managed by the National Trust, for example Plaitford, Penn, Furzley and Cadnam, and these are closely grazed. Others are less well managed, having been invaded by gorse scrub which restricts access to, and views across, these commons. Ancient deciduous copses tend to occupy more sheltered areas within the valleys and along water courses, while coniferous woodland has been planted on former heathland at Tilhill, Sandhill and Hamptworth. The conifer plantations provide a strong sense of enclosure, obscuring views across the traditionally open landscape.

The settlement pattern is particularly distinctive in this area with dense linear residential development along minor lanes, each within a long narrow plot. Traditionally the houses face away from the commons, but often the far ends of the plots have been developed so that the newer houses face onto the commons. Modern estates and infill have camouflaged this settlement pattern in some areas, eg West Wellow shows a more clustered pattern of built development. The main route through this area is the A36(T) which divides the area north and south. Minor lanes are straight and run perpendicular to the main A36(T).

Key Environmental Features

- *The 'Bramshaw Commons'* ie Cadnam, Furzey, Half Moon, Penn and Plaitford are owned by the National Trust and are also designated as SSSIs, SPAs and SACs. These are some of the only remaining heathland commons and are particularly sensitive to undergrazing, forestry, built development and agricultural enclosure;
- *remnant heaths and wood pastures* which provide ecological and visual links with the Forest;
- *views across the commons* which retain the characteristic sense of openness;
- *linear settlements* which have a close relationship with the commons and are vulnerable to infilling by new built development.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Management of hedgerows will ensure these remain a feature of the enclosed farmland areas.
 - Maintenance of grazing pressure on the commons will reduce the loss of common land through scrub encroachment and maintain the long views characteristic of these areas.
 - Heathland restoration will improve the visual diversity as well as the nature conservation value and historic character of the landscape; conifer plantations are not suitable on these sites.
 - The wild character of the Commons may be maintained by avoiding the expansion of private manicured and ornamental gardens into these areas.
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Principles for Built Form

- Traditional two storey 18th or 19th century red brick cottages with slate roofs are characteristic of the traditional linear settlements.
 - Traditional linear settlements have a close relationship with the adjacent Commons; new built development which faces onto the Common is appropriate.
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- A limited amount of new built development may be accommodated within these linear settlements without altering the distinctive linear settlement pattern or coalescence of adjacent settlements.
 - The use of former Commons as new building plots or as front gardens to new housing (*eg* at Copythorne Common) will result in erosion of the traditional character of these Commons.
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Key Characteristics

- An enclosed and settled area of interspersed with small areas of ancient deciduous woodlands;
 - small scale irregular fields are particularly distinctive, bordered by ditch and bank boundaries with hedgerows and mature hedgerow trees;
 - shaded leafy lanes, sometimes sunken, wind their way through wooded areas;
 - major infrastructure including the M27, A36, A326, A31, A336 pass through the creating barriers to movement across the landscape;
 - distinctive linear development along roadsides of traditional two storey red brick cottages with slate roofs infilled with a variety of modern housing styles and materials;
 - rusting agricultural outbuildings and electricity pylons detract from the landscape;
 - views are short, most usually to the next field boundary or woodland edge.
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Formative Influences

The *Copythorne Forest Farmlands* LCA contains extensive areas of early small/irregular assart fields with small copses - all very 'Medieval' in origin. There are, however some areas of more recent small parliamentary-type (18th century) enclosures. The barrier effect of main infrastructure routes has resulted in a quiet 'backwater' feel to the area.

Landscape Description

The Copythorne Forest Farmlands are a small scale undulating landscape on the eastern edge of the *Furzey Inclosures and Villages* which rises to 40m at Hilly Copse. It lies to the west of Totton and the River Test and is bordered by the M27 and A31 to the north and west and the A326 to the east. The A336 cuts across the area. The landscape is underlain by clays and sands which give rise to some brown forest soils which promote good tree growth.

This is an ancient farmed landscape of small medieval assarts and small parliamentary enclosures interspersed with small areas of ancient woodland, and lush hedgerows with hedgerow oaks which create a well wooded character and a strong sense of enclosure. The small scale, irregular field pattern is the most characteristic feature of this landscape. Bartley Water and Golden Gutter drain the area, flowing east into the River Test.

Major infrastructure creates access problems for local traffic; the M27, A326, A336 and A31, which support a lot of through-traffic, are barriers to movement within the locality. The A326 is a major route into the forest from the M27, and also supports a large volume of traffic. The settlement pattern is particularly distinctive; linear ribbon settlements such as Cadnam, Bartley

and Winsor, occur along minor lanes. These linear strings of dense settlement show a high proportion of recent infill development and have all but merged into one along the lanes which join them. The traditional building styles and materials are hard to distinguish because of the large variety of modern styles and materials in the area.

Key Environmental Features

- *ancient deciduous woodlands* which have a high biological diversity and contribute a flavour of the New Forest scenery;
- *historic ditch and bank fields boundaries* which are traditional field boundary features and are sensitive to changes in agricultural practices or disruption by new development.
- *open hill tops* which allow rare long distance views over the surrounding area.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Small scale field patterns are typical of the area; management of hedgerows will maintain the characteristic landscape pattern.
 - Ditch and bank boundaries are distinctive features; hedgerows should be managed to prevent them from obscuring the ditch feature.
 - Replacement of hedgerow oaks will maintain these trees as positive features of area.
 - Sunken lanes contribute to the character of the area; any road improvements which would threaten these features should be resisted if possible.
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Principles for Built Form

- New built development should reflect to the local vernacular where possible to restore built character and identity to the area.
 - Maintaining rural hedges outside dwellings will ensure suburban style boundaries do not dominate.
 - Local building materials are red brick, slate and thatch. Two storey cottages are the traditional form with and larger farm houses
 - Conversion of under-used or derelict agricultural buildings could provide opportunities for rural development.
 - The removal of rusting corrugated iron agricultural buildings and replacement with outbuildings of red brick, weatherboarding, thatch and painted corrugated iron would improve the visual quality of the landscape.
 - Although linear settlements are characteristic of the area they are usually focused at cross-roads and further extension of built development along roadsides is likely to lead to the coalescence of adjacent settlements.
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Key Characteristics

- Settled farmland on the edge of the forest heaths with large copses and some wood pasture;
 - small-medium scale pastures (from both formal and informal enclosure) bordered by hedgerows with hedgerow trees;
 - period of predominant character is 17th-18th century farmland;
 - shaded leafy lanes, sometimes sunken, wind their way through wooded areas;
 - major infrastructure, including the A326, A35 and Totton to Fawley railway line, cuts across the area;
 - scattered farm houses of red brick or white render with slate or thatch; outbuildings often characterised by use of weatherboarding;
 - dense linear development close to settlements exhibiting a variety of modern housing styles and materials;
 - views are short, most usually to the next field boundary or woodland edge.
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Formative Influences

The present pattern has developed from assarted fields interspersed with woods during the Medieval period. Large tracts of land were then re-organised during the parliamentary enclosures of 17-18th centuries. Large areas of woodland (traditionally managed as copses) have remained.

Landscape Description

This area is a small scale settled farmland landscape on the edge of the *Eastern Forest Heaths*. It occupies an undulating area of land above the flat River Test floodplain reaching 41m at Yards Hill from where there are views over the *Waterside Parishes*. The area is underlain by Barton Clays and Sands giving rise to brown forest soils which support good tree growth.

Small-medium sized geometric fields and large areas of deciduous woodland dominate the scenery. However, medieval assarted fields are also visible in some areas, eg along Deersleap Lane and Beaulieu Road. Many of these woodlands were traditionally managed as copses although there is also some managed as wood pasture and coniferous plantations managed for timber. These woodlands provides a strong sense of enclosure. The area is drained by Bartley Water and Jacob's Gutter which flow east, through the *Waterside Parishes*, into the River Test.

The A35 and A326 draw the majority of traffic through the area without stopping; these also create barriers to movement within the area. As a result the area has a peaceful 'backwater' character at its heart. The presence of

infrastructure has encouraged settlements such as Ashurst to grow. Ashurst, by far the largest settlement in the area, has expanded between the A35 and railway line, creating a triangular shaped settlement which bears no relationship to its landscape. The traditional settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads and hamlets in a predominantly rural landscape remains across much of the area. Traditional building styles and materials include red brick farmhouses, agricultural outbuildings with weatherboarding, thatched cottages with white render and tiled Victorian cottages.

Key Environmental Features

- *ancient deciduous copses* which have a high biological diversity (many hold SINC designations) and contribute a flavour of the New Forest;
- *Bartley Water* which is designated as a SSSI;
- *wood pastures* which are traditional Forest features and rely on tradition management practices and grazing pressure.
- *open hill tops and ridges* which are particularly visible.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Small scale field patterns are characteristic of the area; management of hedgerows will maintain the scale and pattern of the landscape.
 - Replacement of hedgerow oaks will maintain these trees as positive features of area.
 - Sunken lanes contribute to the character of the area; any road improvements which would threaten these features should be resisted if possible.
 - Traditional management techniques such as coppicing should be employed or re-introduced where possible to retain the traditional character of these woodlands.
 - Management of wood pasture by encouraging co-existence of trees and grazing animals will conserve this ancient form of land use.
 - Removal of non-native shrubs such as Rhododendron will ensure these invasive species do not dominate the woodlands.
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Principles for Built Form

- Local building materials are red brick or white render, slate and thatch. White rendered thatched cottages or two storey red brick cottages are the traditional form with some tiled Victorian cottages and larger red brick farm houses.
 - The removal of rusting corrugated iron agricultural buildings and replacement with outbuildings of red brick, weatherboarding, thatch and painted corrugated iron would improve the visual quality of the landscape.
 - Built development is typically scattered across the countryside or focused in small roadside settlements. Large estates are unsuitable in this forest edge landscape.
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Key Characteristics

- Flat, or gently undulating, alluvial plain on the western edge of Southampton Water.
 - Large scale enclosed landscape with a well wooded character creating a sense of enclosure and a robust structure.
 - Open coastal edge with salt marshes, intertidal mud and expansive views across to Southampton.
 - Major infrastructure including the A326 which runs along the western edge of the area, punctuated by a series of roundabouts.
 - High density of built development including residential estates, industrial parks, military ports, electricity sub-stations, electricity pylons, docks and urban fringe activities.
 - Small historic cores to settlements and remnant tide mills.
 - Tall vertical elements such as electricity pylons, Oil Refinery Chimneys and the towering Power Station stack of Fawley Power Station visible above the tree line.
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Formative Influences

Early settlement cores of Eling, Dibden, Hythe and Fawley were probably separated by areas of the earlier medieval types of assarted fields and copses, modified by the post-medieval small/informal enclosure period. A number of small estates were formalised in the 18-19th century by reorganisation into small parliamentary-type fields and the addition of formalised planting and 'estate-type buildings' such as gatehouses. The landscape has generally been overlaid by 20th century suburbanisation.

Landscape Description

The *Waterside Parishes* lie alongside Southampton Water, from the Fawley Refinery Complex at the southern end, to the town of Totton to the north end. The area's western extent is broadly defined by the route of the A326, beyond which the land rises to a settled ancient farmland landscape from Totton to Hythe, and a forest heath landscape from Hythe to Fawley. The area is strongly enclosed by the conifer plantations of Dibden and Fawley Inclosures at Hythe. To the east there is also a definite boundary, this time with Southampton Water. To the south the area abuts the *Fawley Refinery Complex* and the large scale landscape of the *North West Solent Estates* lies beyond.

The topography is low lying and flat at the coast but becomes gently undulating inland where the Barton Clays are overlain by Barton Sands. The highest land is in the north of the area, around Totton, where the underlying Bracklesham Beds are exposed. Alluvium and plateau gravel masks most of the solid geology in this area.

There is extensive remnant pre 1810 woodland as well as more recent structure planting. This creates such a strong sense of enclosure that the high density of development is not generally perceived. The area has therefore retained a strong rural character despite the high density of built development throughout.

Although views inland are restricted, the coastal edge is open in character and allows clear views out across Southampton Water, and conversely, from the edge of Southampton towards the Waterside Parishes. There are few areas of undeveloped coast; those remaining at Eling Creek, Dibden Bay and Cadland Creek provide important historic and visual links between Forest and water. The exposed coastal edge is highly visible, and is also particularly rich in nature conservation designations. The saltmarshes and intertidal mud flats carry SSSI, SPA and SAC designations while the River Test at Totton is designated an ESA. There is a large SINC between Hythe and Marchwood. Inland, some of the ancient woodland remnants and heaths are designated as SSSIs.

Built development is a dominant feature of the area; a mixture of heavy industry, military ports, marinas, large residential estates and small rural estates and villages survive side by side. The period of predominant character is 20th century suburban settlement - private gardens have affected the character of the landscape by replacing the native vegetation of the area with ornamental species. The A326 is the major communication route from which minor roads access the towns and waterfront. However, the Hythe Ferry is an important link to Southampton and provides a unique gateway to the New Forest. Fawley Power Station Chimney, stacks and flares at Fawley Refinery Complex and electricity transmission lines are prominent vertical elements in the landscape.

Key Environmental Features

- *strategic open land* at Eling Creek to Marchwood, Dibden Bay and Cadland Creek where the Forest scenery meets the water;
- the *coastal edge* which is particularly important in terms of its nature conservation value and as a habitat for migratory birds. The waters edge is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and SSSI along much of its length, and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) between Totton and Marchwood;
- *remnants of ancient woodland and heathland* within settlements and between settlements which are reminders of the proximity to the New Forest and provide strategic green spaces between the settlements;
- *River Test floodplain* which is important in recreational and nature conservation terms;
- *tide mill at Eling* which is an historic feature of the water's edge.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Management of hedgerows and woodland remnants will ensure that the landscape structure of the area is maintained and fragmentation is minimised.
 - Priority should be given to new woodland, shelterbelt or hedgerow planting which is designed to link existing woodlands, particularly those with ancient or semi-natural status.
 - Replacement of hedgerow oaks will maintain these trees as positive features of area.
 - Improvement in access to the waterfront would enhance opportunities for enjoyment of the landscape.
 - Traditional management techniques such as coppicing should be employed or re-introduced where possible to retain the traditional character of these woodlands.
 - Strict controls on air pollution will ensure that the exceptionally rich resource of lichens, bryophytes and fungal flora of the New Forest is not depleted.
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Principles for Built Form

- New development may be accommodated within existing settlements - there are opportunities to develop on brownfield sites.
 - The small tide mill villages are, in themselves, attractive landscape features. Development on the fringes of these settlements may obscure views to the characteristic built form. Their settings should be conserved to enhance their presence in the landscape as traditional settlements.
 - Local building materials are red brick (Flemish bond) with clay tile or slate roofs inland with red brick or rendered and painted houses on the waterfront.
 - New built development should avoid sites of historic or nature conservation importance or sites with a high landscape value. The strategic green spaces between settlements should remain undeveloped to prevent their coalescence.
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Key Characteristics

- Large scale site, surrounded by woodland, on the western edge of Southampton Water.
 - Dominated by high density of large scale industrial structures, including stacks and flares which are visible over long distances.
 - Forms the site of former historic parkland designed by Capability Brown.
 - Cadland Creek and pockets of other ecologically rich habitats.
 - Designed tree screen obscures the site from nearby landward viewpoints.
 - A326 and B3053 run along the western and southern boundary, punctuated by a series of roundabouts.
 - Tall oil refinery chimneys visible from surrounding areas.
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Formative Influences

Early medieval types of assarted fields and copses were modified by the post-medieval small/informal enclosure period. The original grain of the landscape, including field patterns and historic parkland designed by Capability Brown, has been obscured by a 20th century industrial landscape.

Landscape Description

The *Fawley Refinery Complex* lies alongside Southampton Water on a sloping site where alluvium and plateau gravels mask most of the solid geology and where industrial development masks the landscape patterns and historic routes of the underlying landscape. A Henry Holland house set within the Capability Brown landscaped park was demolished in the 1940s.

To the north the refinery site abuts remnant woodland of the *Waterside Parishes* and to the south it abuts the open farmland of the *North West Solent Estates*. The area's western and southern extent is defined by the routes of the A326 and B3053, beyond which lie the settlements of Holbury and Blackfield. The village of Fawley lies to the south, separated visually from the refinery by screen planting. The whole site is strongly enclosed by an effective tree screen, designed by Bodfran Grywffid, which obscures views into the site from the nearest residential areas. However, the multitude of stacks and flares of the refinery are visible from further afield protruding above the tops of the trees, and as such the refinery site has a large visual influence over the surrounding area. To the east parts of it are visible from Southampton Water and the port of Southampton beyond.

The landscape supports a rich mosaic of habitats within its bounds and Cadland creek, the refinery outfall, now cleaned up is an important wetland habitat.

Key Environmental Features

- *Cadland Creek*, the refinery outfall, which is an important wetland habitat;
- the *remnant woodlands* along the northern edge of the site which provide screening as well as important habitats;
- the *designed tree screen* which obscures views into the site from the nearest residential areas.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Management of woodland remnants and structure planting will ensure that the landscape structure of the area is maintained and that views of the site are minimised.
 - Management of the existing tree screen will ensure this good example of screen planting is preserved and continues to fulfil its function.
 - Strict controls on air pollution will ensure that the exceptionally rich resource of lichens, bryophytes and fungal flora of the New Forest is not depleted.
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Principles for Built Form

- New development may be accommodated within the existing site where screened by trees.
 - New built development should avoid sites of nature conservation importance such as Cadland Creek.
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Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating coastal plain with a heathy character.
 - Drained by minor tributaries within marshy valleys into the Solent where narrow beaches characterise the waterfront.
 - Enclosed, well managed agricultural landscape of large regular parliamentary fields divided by ditch and bank hedge boundaries with gaps reinforced by post and wire.
 - Hedgerow oaks are a feature.
 - Large arable fields close to the coast from which there are views over the Solent to the Isle of Wight.
 - Clusters of attractive red brick farmhouses; weatherboarding is a feature on agricultural buildings.
 - Traditional houses characterised by buff bricks from local clay pits.
 - Large estates with country houses, estate cottages and gate houses, such as Cadland House, Lower Exbury House and Sowley House.
 - Coastal grazing marshes, shingle spits and saline lagoons which are habitats of national and international importance.
 - Calshot Castle, Calshot activities centre and Fawley Power Station are landmarks at the mouth of Southampton Water.
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Formative Influences

This landscape is a medieval landscape transformed by informal, but parliamentary period, reorganisation. A number of small estates were formalised in the 18-19th century by reorganisation into parliamentary-type fields and the addition of formalised planting and 'estate-type buildings' such as gatehouses. The landscape is now dominated by parliamentary fields and large wavy fields interspersed with pre-1810 woodland and designed villa landscapes.

Landscape Description

The *North West Solent Estates* occupy an area of Solent Coast between Calshot Spit and Sowley Pond. It is an intensively farmed, but well managed large country estate landscape with a heathy character. The medium-large regular fields are a result of a combination of formal Parliamentary and informal enclosure. Fields are divided by hedgerows and the distinctive hedgerow and roadside oaks are features which provide visual links to the Forest. Blocks of ancient woodland and characteristic stands of oak and pine woodland on the coast provide a sense of enclosure, while the coastal edge has an open character and is fringed by extensive marshes and mudflats, with narrow

gravel beaches and low sandy cliffs at Lepe. There are coastal farmland there are clear views over the Solent to the Isle of Wight. The eastern part of the area falls within the New Forest perambulation which is characterised by wide grazed verges linking wayside commons.

A number of small river valleys containing important wetland and brackish communities, drain south into the Solent. The Beaulieu River Estuary is an important area in terms of nature conservation. It supports extensive of important habitats, including a mature shingle spit, intertidal mud and saltmarsh, and is a designated SSSI.

Traditional built forms are scattered brick and tile farmsteads and country houses with estate cottages and gate houses. Traditional houses are characterised by buff bricks from local clay pits and weatherboarding is common on agricultural buildings. Historic designed landscapes such as the gardens of Exbury House and grounds of Cadland House are features of this estate landscape. Public access is limited as much of the land is in private ownership. Lepe Country Park, leased to Hampshire County Council for public access as an open space, therefore provides an important recreational resource for the area.

Calshot Castle is a prominent landmark on the end of Calshot Spit, guarding the entrance to Southampton Water. It dates from the 16th century and has an important history, playing a prominent role in maritime warfare as the site of one of Henry VIII's defensive batteries. Calshot activities centre, housed in old RAF hangars, has an impact on the coastal skyline and setting of the castle. The stack of Fawley Power Station forms another prominent landmark in the area.

Key Environmental Features

- The area's *outstanding scenic beauty* which is recognised in its designation as part of the South Hampshire Coast AONB;
- *coastal mudflats, salt marshes and saline lagoons* which are of value in terms of landscape character and nature conservation importance (designated as a National Nature Reserve);
- *Beaulieu Estuary and Dark Water Valley* which are of nature conservation importance (designated as SSSIs);
- *ancient woodlands* which are of historic and landscape importance (many are SINCs) creating a visual and ecological connection with the New Forest;
- *coastal pine woods* which are typical of the coastal edge;
- *historic designed landscapes* which are features of the landscape;
- *hedgerows* which link ancient woodlands to form a complete network.

Principles for Landscape Management

- The provision of public access to the coast will enhance the public's enjoyment of this scenic landscape.
 - Hedgerow management, including replanting of the characteristic hedgerow oaks, will ensure the survival of these important landscape elements.
 - Deciduous woodland, particularly the ancient semi-natural forest woodlands, are a precious resource - their continued management is important for their survival.
 - Management of the coastal oak and pine woodlands will ensure these features survive and provide a healthy age distribution of trees.
 - Encouragement of organic farming practices will reduce the amount of polluting agricultural run-off into water courses and add diversity to the agricultural landscape in this area.
 - Maintenance of grazing pressure within the New Forest perambulation will conserve the open grazed verges as unusual, but distinctive, character of an enclosed agricultural landscape
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Principles for Built Form

- Settlement is traditionally concentrated in small villages such as Calshot and Exbury - scattered rural dwellings are rare unless they are estate cottages, gate houses, country mansions or agricultural buildings.
 - Agricultural buildings are ornate, often in red brick with weatherboarding and thatch.
 - Traditional materials include the buff coloured brick from local clay pits as well as traditional red brick.
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Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating coastal plain at the mouth of the Lymington River.
 - Coastal grazing marshes, shingle spits and saline lagoons, which are habitats of national and international importance, characterise the waterfront.
 - Enclosed, well managed agricultural landscape of medium-large regular fields divided by ditch and bank hedge boundaries with hedgerow oaks and gaps reinforced by post and wire.
 - Large arable fields close to the coast from which there are views over the Solent to the Isle of Wight.
 - Clusters of attractive red brick farm buildings with ornate red brick barns.
 - Large estates with country houses and estate cottages and gate houses, some now used as hotels or schools.
 - Lymington forms a central focus with marinas and boat yards along the Lymington Estuary.
 - Hurst Castle and lighthouse are coastal landmarks at the end of Hurst Spit.
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Formative Influences

This coastal landscape developed into small and medium fields during the parliamentary enclosures. A number of small estates were formalised in the 18-19th century by reorganisation into small parliamentary-type fields and the addition of formalised planting and 'estate-type buildings' such as gatehouses. The landscape is now dominated by a mixture of small parliamentary fields and small wavy fields interspersed with pre-1810 woodland and designed villa landscapes.

Landscape Description

The *Lymington and Pennington Coastal Plain* landscape character area occupies an area of Solent Coast either side of the Lymington River. It is an intensively farmed, but well managed large scale country estate landscape. Large regular fields are divided by hedgerows with hedgerow and roadside oaks; these are features of the area and suggest visual links to the Forest. Wooded river valleys, blocks of ancient woodland and coastal pine plantations provide a sense of enclosure; beyond this the coastal fringe has an open character and is dominated by the complex system of marshes and mudflats lying in the lee of the natural shingle bank of Hurst Spit. These lie within the Hurst castle and Lymington River Estuary SSSI and the Lymington-Keyhaven Coastal Nature Reserve and also contain archaeological relics of what was once a thriving sea salt industry. Shallow lagoons, or salterns, are the well-preserved remains of these medieval salt workings and may still be seen on the coast outside Lymington. The area is drained by minor tributaries which flow, through

marshy valleys, into the Solent. Close to the shoreline, at Manor Farm, there is an extensive area of gravel workings which is being restored for agricultural use.

Lymington is the dominant settlement, although Keyhaven is a charming coastal settlement which lies within a designated Conservation Area, and Buckler's Hard is a popular tourist destination which conveys some of the maritime history of the area. Sailing is still a popular recreational activity; marinas can be seen along the Lymington River Estuary and two sailing clubs exist at Keyhaven. Public access to honey pot areas is restricted by lack of parking in the summer months and while much of the coastline is not accessible by the public, it is highly visible from the water. Traditional built forms are scattered brick and tile farmsteads and country houses with estate cottages and gate houses. However, within Lymington, coloured terraced town houses liven the street scene. Lymington is particularly visible from the eastern bank of the Lymington River as a result of its situation on the sloping banks of the river.

Key Environmental Features

- The area's *outstanding scenic beauty* which is recognised in its designation as part of the South Hampshire Coast AONB;
- *coastal mudflats and salt marshes* which are of value in terms of landscape character and nature conservation importance - the coastline is designated as an SSSI, SPA and SCA along the whole of its length and there is a NNR at Black Water;
- *ancient woodlands* which are of historic and landscape importance (many are SINCS) creating a visual and ecological connection with the New Forest;
- the *natural shingle bank of Hurst Spit and Hurst Castle* which are of historic and nature conservation importance;
- *country houses set within historic designed landscapes* which are features of the landscape;
- *hedgerows* which link ancient woodlands to form a complete network.

Principles for Landscape Management

- The provision of public access to the coast will enhance the public's enjoyment of this scenic landscape.
 - Recreational activities should be monitored to ensure they do not compete with nature conservation or landscape objectives.
 - Hedgerow management, including replanting of the characteristic hedgerow oaks, will ensure the survival of these important landscape elements.
 - Encouragement of organic farming practices will reduce the amount of polluting agricultural run-off into water courses and add diversity to the agricultural landscape in this area.
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- Deciduous woodland, particularly the ancient semi-natural forest woodlands and the characteristic coastal oak and pine plantations are a precious resource - their continued management is important for their survival.
 - Restoration of gravel pits and landfill workings will minimise the impact of such workings.
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Principles for Built Form

- Settlement is traditionally concentrated in small hamlets around farmsteads - isolated rural dwellings are rare unless they are estate cottages, gate houses, country mansions or agricultural buildings.
 - Resisting large extensions to private dwellings including the addition of swimming pools, electric gates and other expensive features will help to reduce the development of inward-facing private plots and retain the relationship between built development and the landscape.
 - Agricultural buildings are ornate, often in red brick with weatherboarding and thatch.
 - Traditional terraced town houses are often colour washed.
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Key Characteristics

- Large scale undulating wooded estate land landscape overlooking Christchurch Bay.
 - An exposed coast with eroding cliffs and narrow shingle beaches to the west of Hurst Spit.
 - Enclosed farmland is characterised by large scale fields (arable and pasture) divided by hedgerows, fencelines or blocks of woodland which give the landscape structure.
 - Linear deciduous woodlands along valleys of the Avon Water, Danes Stream and other minor tributaries.
 - Large dense settlements showing massive recent expansion of residential housing of a variety of styles and materials at New Milton, Barton-on-Sea, Milford-on-Sea and Lymington.
 - Red brick farm houses estate cottages, boundary walls and large country houses.
 - Golf courses, caravan parks, holiday parks, cliff top parking and cafes selling fish and chips are all typical of the sea front.
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Formative Influences

This coastal landscape developed from former heathland into an enclosed farmed landscape from the Medieval period. The informal Medieval enclosure pattern was then partially overlaid by the formal enclosures of the 18th-19th centuries resulting in a pattern of small parliamentary fields. Plantations and 20th century built development have now largely obscured the historic landscape pattern.

Landscape Description

The *Barton and Milford Coastal Plain* landscape which overlooks Christchurch Bay, stretches between the Hurst Spit to Chewton Brook. The whole area is underlain by workable gravel deposits and extraction already occurs at Efford and New Milton, with other sites proposed for future extraction. This is a large scale estate landscape dominated by 20th century seaside towns, although it exhibits a less formal enclosure pattern than the *North West Solent Estates*. Horticultural units, garden centres, caravan parks, holiday villages and expanded settlements are features of this area and the busy roads reflect the proximity to large urban centres. Fields are divided by fragmented hedgerows with clumps of hedgerow oaks, holly or pine. Small remnants of ancient semi-natural woodland along water courses provide visual links to the Forest. These wooded valleys, containing the courses of the Danes Stream, Walkford Brook and tributaries of the Avon Water, drain south into the Solent and provide important structural and ecological corridors linking the enclosed inland landscape with the open coastal edge. Sturt pond, at the mouth of Danes Stream, forms part of a SSSI.

The coastal edge is dominated by soft, unstable cliffs which are rapidly eroding. These cliffs have geologically interesting rock formations and are designated as a geological SSSI. There are long views to the Isle of Wight from the cliff top footpath, a popular pedestrian route which links Milford to Barton. The cliff top between these towns is for the most part undeveloped and forms strategic open land. Access to the beaches is made difficult due to coastal erosion.

Traditional rural built forms are scattered brick and tile farmsteads, country houses with estate cottages and gate houses. Weatherboarding is a feature on agricultural buildings. Within towns and villages many of the cottages have thatched roofs and are clustered around a village green. Coastal dwellings are often whitewashed.

Key Environmental Features

- The *cliffs to the west of Hurst Spit* which are eroding and geologically important (geological SSSIs);
- *remnant semi-natural woodland* along watercourses which create visual and ecological connections with the New Forest;
- *country houses set within historic designed landscapes* which are features of the landscape;
- *wooded valleys* which contain remnants of semi-natural ancient woodland and important wetland habitats.

Principles for Landscape Management

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- The provision of improved public access should be carefully designed to minimise erosion whilst enhancing public enjoyment of the landscape.
 - The planting and regeneration of natural coastal vegetation, including coastal grassland, will help to improve the appearance of the exposed cliff tops around Milford and Barton.
 - Recreational activities need to be monitored to ensure they do not compete with nature conservation or landscape objectives.
 - Hedgerow management including replanting of the characteristic hedgerow oaks and pines will ensure the survival of the wooded network.
 - Encouragement of organic farming practices will reduce the amount of polluting agricultural run-off into water courses and add diversity to the agricultural landscape in this area.
 - Ancient semi-natural valley woodlands are vital to the structure and ecological diversity of the landscape - their continued management is important in the survival of this resource.
 - Signage along the coastal edge should be carefully designed to convey the message whilst responding to local character and colours.
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Principles for Built Form

- Coloured or white render facades are characteristic of the seaside towns and villages.
 - Countryside dwellings are traditionally red brick country houses, estate cottages and farmsteads; weather boarding is characteristic of agricultural buildings.
 - Settlements are traditionally clustered around a village centre or green.
 - Any new development should be set within a robust woodland structure and associated with woodland and hedgerow planting to integrate it into the wooded landscape framework.
 - The continued expansion of residential areas will to erode landscape character; continuity of architectural styles and materials in individual settlements would enhance their sense of identity.
 - Gateway features may be used to indicate the extent of individual settlements and which would give each settlement a sense of place.
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Key Characteristics

- Farmed plateau and steep sided wooded valleys, drained by Danes Stream and the Avon Water.
 - Densely settled, small scale landscape with an urban fringe character and strong sense of enclosure.
 - Forest smallholdings and dwellings with irregular ancient field pattern of small pastures and hedgerows - an important area for back-up grazing.
 - Ancient semi-natural woodlands and roadside oaks give a feeling of being 'in the forest'.
 - Roadside cottages are a traditional feature, although modern infill in a variety of styles and materials has eroded this character.
 - Paddocks divided by wooden 'ranch style' fencing.
 - Winding sunken leafy lanes twist along valleys; straight lanes cross the plateaux.
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Formative Influences

This landscape has been formed from either later medieval or early post-medieval field patterns with contemporary woodland copses. Significant areas of Parliamentary-type enclosures reflect reorganisation in the 17-18th century.

Landscape Description

The *Sway Pasture and Smallholdings* landscape character area is a landscape of plateau dissected by the steep sided wooded valleys of the Danes Stream and the Avon Water. The land rises to 57m at Wootton Hall. The area lies on the southern edge of the *Southern Heathland and Forest* landscape and is crossed by a number of minor routes, most notably the B3055 from Brockenhurst. The Brockenhurst-Christchurch railway line also runs through the area. The landscape is underlain by Hampstead Beds and Bembridge Marls giving rise to brown forest soils which promote good tree growth.

It is an historic farmed landscape displaying a small scale pattern of medieval assarts and small parliamentary enclosures. The present day land uses are varied; mixed agricultural fields, paddocks, garden centres, poultry houses and private gardens are scattered throughout the area and contribute to the urban fringe character. The area is important for back-up grazing land. A strong sense of enclosure is provided by remnants of ancient woodland alongside watercourses and lush hedgerows with hedgerow oaks.

The settlement pattern is particularly distinctive; linear ribbon settlements such as Bashley, Tiptoe and Mount Pleasant have spread along minor lanes while the larger leafy residential areas of Sway and Hordle show evidence of

extensive recent development and have overwhelmed the 18th century landscape pattern. The traditional building styles and materials are hard to distinguish because there is such a large variety of modern styles and materials in the area.

Key Environmental Features

- *Semi-natural valley woodlands* which have a high biological diversity and contribute to the structure and character of the New Forest landscape;
- *historic ditch and bank fields boundaries* which are traditional field boundary features and are sensitive to changes in agricultural practices or disruption due to new built development.
- *open hill tops* which allow rare long distance views over the surrounding area.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Continued management of the ancient semi-natural woodlands will ensure their long-term survival as landscape features and wildlife habitats.
 - Management and replanting of hedgerows will ensure that they create a continuous ecological network linking the semi-natural woodlands.
 - Replacement of hedgerow oaks will maintain these trees as positive features of area.
 - Winding leafy lanes contribute to the character of the area; any road improvements which would threaten these features should be resisted if possible.
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Principles for Built Form

- New built development should respond to the local vernacular; scattered farms and roadside cottages, focused in small hamlets at cross roads, are the traditional settlement forms.
 - Local building materials are red brick, slate and thatch; two storey cottages are the traditional form with larger farm houses and outbuildings.
 - The removal of rusting corrugated iron agricultural buildings and replacement with outbuildings of red brick, weatherboarding, thatch and painted corrugated iron would improve the visual quality of the landscape.
 - Scattered farmsteads and occasional roadside cottages of brick, timber and thatch are the traditional settlement form; these traditional forms and materials should be conserved.
 - Built development is traditionally set within woodland; any new built development should be associated with woodland and hedgerow planting to integrate it into the landscape.
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Key Characteristics

- Steep, undulating edge to the New Forest plateau forming a wooded backdrop to the Avon Valley;
 - Enclosed and settled mosaic of ancient deciduous woodland, semi-improved grassland and plantation woodland on the edge of the New Forest Heritage area.
 - Enclosed commons support areas of valuable acid grassland at Shirley Common and Poors Common.
 - Leafy roads wind up the valley side, contrasting with the open lanes which follow the ridgetops. Trees always create a backdrop.
 - Farms are scattered throughout the wooded agricultural land; Bransgore forms a concentrated settlement with newer ribbon development extending up the ridge to the New Forest Heritage Area boundary.
 - Scots pine are a local feature.
 - Large houses such as Hinton Admiral, Bransgore House and Avon Tyrell within designed parkland.
 - Red brick and thatch or whitewash and thatch are the traditional building types. Weatherboarding is also popular, particularly on exterior agricultural buildings.
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Formative Influences

The pattern of early woods and clearances has been largely overlaid by later parliamentary-type (17-18th century) reorganisation. This has resulted in regular field patterns.

Landscape Description

This settled, enclosed landscape is located adjacent to the lower reaches of the River Avon where it creates a transition between the river floodplain landscape and the unenclosed lands of the *Southern Moors and Inclosures* of the New Forest Heritage Area. The clays underlying the lower areas produce relatively neutral soils which support a rich mosaic of woodland and mixed agricultural land. The poorer acid soils on higher ground have given rise to a more open landscape of grassland and heath.

The lower slopes are characterised by smallholdings and dwellings with a strong sense of enclosure and ancient forest landscape. Typical woodland flora consists of oak, beech, and holly although rhododendrons are a feature of the woodlands in spring and early summer. However the, majority of the area, is characterised by an enclosed wooded, estate landscape with a strong heathy character. The pine and oak plantations and birch and gorse on the Commons are a reflection of this.

Traditional cottages of brick and thatch are found across the area, particularly along roadsides. There are also many larger houses and agricultural buildings which use red brick as their predominant material; weatherboarding is often seen on agricultural buildings and is another a local feature. Bransgore contains the main concentration of development in the area, most of which is private residential housing. It is located on the edge of the Avon Valley at the junction of several local roads. The boundaries of the settlement are unclear as it extends, ribbon style, up the ridge to Cross Ways. A variety of new building styles are on display in this area; some of which seem incongruous in this landscape, for example the prominent white church at Cross Ways.

This landscape reflects a typical settled forest landscape and has strong visual links with the unenclosed Forest. There are open views from the ridge top across successive layers of woodland and across the Avon Valley; trees always form a backdrop to views.

Key Environmental Features

- *Shirley, Poors and Burton Commons* which are remnant heathland and are particularly sensitive to undergrazing, forestry, built development and agricultural enclosure;
- remnant *ancient semi-natural woodland* which has a high biodiversity and is a feature of this area;
- open *views across the Avon Valley* which are spectacular on a clear day;
- *designed parkland and veteran trees* associated with large houses.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Replacement of mature hedgerow trees will provide shelter and ensure the survival of these characteristic elements of the landscape.
 - Maintenance of grazing pressure on the commons will resist scrub encroachment, conserving the open character of these areas and long views across the surrounding landscape.
 - Sustainable management of existing woodlands by thinning, coppicing and-or replanting will ensure that these local landscape features are conserved.
 - Control of rhododendrons will help to reduce spread and choking of native species.
 - Heathland restoration will retain and improve the visual diversity and heathy character of this forest edge landscape as well as the nature conservation value of the area.
 - Planting close to native woodlands should avoid ornamental species; escapees, for example from private gardens, may affect the character of native woodlands.
 - Winding leafy lanes are fundamental to the character of this area; any road improvements or realignments which would threaten these features should be resisted if possible.
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Principles for Built Form

- Local building material are red brick with thatch or tile; weatherboarding is a local feature and as such is also an appropriate material for use on houses and agricultural buildings.
 - Bungalows and modern buildings look out of place in this forest heath landscape; two storey brick cottages respond to the local vernacular.
 - Any new development should be accompanied by planting to integrate buildings within the surrounding leafy landscape.
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Key Characteristics

- Gently rolling landscape in the south of the district falling gradually away toward the south coast; Avon Water drains the area in a south-easterly direction.
 - Dominated by large expanses of open unenclosed heathland on acidic soils with internationally important valley mires and inclosures.
 - Unenclosed ancient and ornamental woodlands and extensive areas of closely cropped Forest lawns complete the mosaic.
 - New Forest ponies and cattle freely roam across moor and open Forest roads, which follow straight routes across the open moors;
 - Forest villages of Burley and Brockenhurst, focused around a village centre, are busy centres for tourists.
 - Popular part of the forest for recreation - many car parks, picnic spots, campsites and visitor facilities are scattered throughout.
 - Long distance views to the chimneys of the Fawley Refinery Complex, Fawley Power Station and Sway tower.
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Formative Influences

Extensive Bronze Age clearance of woodland, combined with poor soils has led to the development of open heath. Poor suitability of the land for arable crops restricted uses to rough grazing and exploitation of woodland and heathland resources, which in turn was formalised by Medieval Forest law. During the 19th century extensive areas were afforested for commercial exploitation.

Landscape Description

The A34(T) marks the boundary between the *Northern Heathland and Forest* and the *Southern Heathland and Forest*. The A34(T) also marks the watershed which divides these two areas; watercourses which drain the *Southern Heathland and Forest* are part of a separate drainage basin which drains south-east into the Solent. They have less eroding power in this southern part of the forest and produce a landscape with less dramatic landforms than those to the north and west. One of these, the Avon Water Valley, contains a pocket of less acidic soils which support a particularly rich woodland flora, including ash and maple. The land falls sharply away into the Avon to the west, giving a sense of elevation when on the western side of the area.

Valley bogs(wet heath) and mires found within the shallow valleys in this area are particularly important habitats. Vegetation types in these mires include internationally rare or threatened species which are included on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. However, at Holmesley Bog, streams

are becoming choked which is threatening dragonfly habitats. Closely cropped Forest lawns are a feature of this area; these attract visitors in great numbers for passive and active recreational uses. Wood pasture, oak woods on acid soils, lowland beechwoods and riverine woodland on alluvial soils are all present and also all on Annex I of EU Habitats Directive.

Long range views characterise this area; views across the heathy plains are interrupted only by woodland. The conifer plantations of the inclosures create harsh dark lines in the landscape which portray a very different character to the unenclosed scattered Ancient and Ornamental woodlands. However, woodland change will focus on restoration of heath from conifers and the diversification of woodland structure. Scots Pines rise out of the plain singly or in clumps, their sculptural forms punctuating the skyline. The prehistoric landscape pattern has been well preserved by Medieval law and many Bronze Age burial barrows and other prehistoric earthworks are still visible in the landscape today.

Burley and Brockenhurst are the main focus for built form in this part of the forest. These historic forest villages show signs of prehistoric settlement. Traditional buildings today are scattered 19th century red brick cottages and farmsteads within a landscape of small enclosed fields. Its strong commoning tradition thrives and the village lawns and verges are grazed by freely roaming New Forest ponies and cattle.

This area of the forest is a popular area for recreation, partly as a result of its accessibility due to the A31(T) and A35. There are many car parks, picnic sites, campsites and visitor facilities scattered throughout. The recreational pressure on the landscape may be seen as white flashes of bare and eroded ground which are highly visible against the dark heather background.

Key Environmental Features

- *Lowland heath* which is an internationally important habitat and is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and a key habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The whole area (excluding Brockenhurst) carries SPA, SAC and SSSI designations;
- *Bronze Age burial barrows* and other *prehistoric earthworks* which are still visible in the landscape today;
- *valley mires* which contain some particularly rare species;
- *wood pasture* which is sensitive to change in grazing pressure or management practices;
- *Atlantic oak woodland* which is a threatened habitat under the EU Habitats Directive.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Maintaining grazing pressure will prevent scrub encroachment, conserving the open character and archaeological features of the heaths.
 - Removal of areas of conifer plantation and reinstating heathland vegetation will be in line with nature conservation objectives.
 - Opening up some of the inclosures to grazing animals will promote restoration of former areas of wood pasture which is an ancient characteristic of the New Forest.
 - Diversification of woodlands with broadleaved species, particularly native oak, will promote natural regeneration of native species and soften the harsh dark edges created by these plantations.
 - Assisting commoners in acquiring Forest edge smallholdings will encourage common grazing which is the key to the character of the New Forest landscape.
 - Scots pines should be retained as isolated trees or in small stands where they form sculptural elements of the open plains.
 - Relocation of campsites away from the central area of the Forest will help to conserve sensitive habitats and maintain tranquillity.
 - Zoning and management of activities within the Forest, encouraging heavier use on more robust sites, will reduce erosion of vulnerable habitats.
 - An integrated public transport system linking trains and buses with villages, or 'park and ride' schemes from satellite locations on the Forest Fringes could reduce traffic congestion on minor roads.
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Principles for Built Form

- New built development should take place only in existing settlements.
 - New built development should retain the characteristic close relationships between buildings and their local landscape setting by conserving views and ecological links and by encouraging natural native (rather than ornamental) planting.
 - Traditional styles and materials are pigmented lime or masonry paint on render, subdued red brick, timber cladding and thatch or tile. Ornate tiled Victorian buildings, some large scale, are characteristic of the larger forest villages such as Burley and Brockenhurst.
 - Avoidance of high brick walls and fences, security gates and private gardens will permit a close relationship between built form and landscape setting which is characteristic of this landscape.
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Key Characteristics

- Flat topped plateaux divided by four parallel steep sided U shaped valleys containing Ditchend Brook, Latchmore Brook, Dockens Water and Linford Brook creating a ridge and valley landform;
 - Dominated by large expanses of open unenclosed heathland on acidic soils with inclosures, unenclosed ancient and ornamental woodlands and Forest lawns forming the other parts of the mosaic;
 - Conifer plantations create dark lines in the landscape;
 - New Forest ponies and cattle freely roam across moor and open Forest roads which follow straight routes, often along ridge tops;
 - Undulating wooded edge on the west of the area where brooks of the north-western drainage basin have eroded sheltered valleys.
 - Enclosed Forest settlements of Fritham and Linwood.
 - Wild and exposed landscape with a `remote' feel - long views to the horizon and expansive skies.
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Formative Influences

Extensive Bronze Age clearance of woodland, combined with poor soils has led to the development of open heath. Poor suitability of the land for arable crops restricted uses to rough grazing and exploitation of woodland and heathland resources, which in turn was formalised by Medieval Forest law. During the 19th century extensive areas were afforested for commercial exploitation.

Landscape Description

The *Northern Heathland and Forest* is a exposed, elevated area of the New Forest District which is marked approximately by the A31(T) along its southern boundary and by the steep wooded edge of the *Blackwater Basin* at its northern boundary. It extends to the steep wooded edge of the *Upper Avon Valley* to the west and to the edge of the *Furzey Woodland and Villages* to the east.

Plateau gravels form a cap over the underlying geological formations of sands and clays, protecting them from erosion. Once the gravel cap is broken by the eroding streams, the soft underlying deposits are eroded into the broad, steep sided U-shaped valleys which characterise the area. These sheltered valleys contain large even-aged broadleaved plantations, for example Amberwood, Broomy and Great Linford Inclosures. The more exposed plateaux are dominated by heathland with smaller areas of unenclosed Ancient and Ornamental Woodland. Valley bogs and mires within the steep U shaped

valleys in this area are particularly important habitats, forming mosaics of wet heath and valley mire. Vegetation types in these mires include internationally rare or threatened species which are included on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. Wood pasture, oak woods on acid soils, lowland beechwoods and riverine woodland on alluvial soils are all present and also all on Annex I of EU Habitats Directive.

Long range views characterise this area; views across the heathy plains are interrupted only by woodland. The conifer plantations of the inclosures create harsh dark lines in the landscape which portray a very different character to the unenclosed scattered Ancient and Ornamental woodlands. Scots Pines rise out of the plain singly or in clumps, their sculptural forms punctuating the skyline. The scene is reminiscent of an African Savannah landscape with animals grazing into the distance. The landscape shows great time depth; the period of predominant character is prehistoric, having been preserved by early Medieval law. Many Bronze Age burial barrows and other prehistoric earthworks are still visible in the landscape today.

The steep wooded edge to the north of the area (which drops into the Blackwater Basin) is dominated by plantations. These have obscured the pattern of heathland commons; the open character has been lost, but a heathy character remains and former wood pasture is visible.

The forest settlement of Fritham has developed from an isolated circular 'clearing' within the forest. There is evidence of prehistoric settlement here although the traditional buildings today are scattered 19th century red brick cottages and farmsteads within a landscape of small enclosed fields. Its strong commoning tradition thrives and the village lawns and verges are grazed by freely roaming New Forest ponies and cattle. Fritham Lodge dates back to 1671 and is thought to have been built as a hunting lodge for Charles II. Forest smallholdings and dwellings such as Linwood, South Gorley, Frogham and Godshill, all with Medieval origins, lie sheltered along the western edge of the area within the sheltered tributary valleys which drain into the Avon.

This area of the forest is a popular area for recreation - there are many car parks, picnic sites, campsites and visitor facilities scattered throughout. The recreational pressure on the landscape may be seen as white flashes of bare and eroded ground which are highly visible against the dark heather background.

Key Environmental Features

- *Lowland heath* which is an internationally important habitat and is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and a key habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The whole area (excluding Brockenhurst) carries SPA, SAC and SSSI designations;
- *Bronze Age burial barrows* and other *prehistoric earthworks* which are still visible in the landscape today;
- *valley mires* which contain some particularly rare species;

- *wood pasture* which is sensitive to change in grazing pressure or management practices;
- *Atlantic oak woodland* which is a threatened habitat under the EU Habitats Directive.

Principles for Landscape Management

- The area of lowland heath may be increased in line with nature conservation objectives by removing areas of conifer plantation and reinstating heathland vegetation.
 - Opening up some of the inclosures to grazing animals will promote restoration of former areas of wood pasture which is an ancient characteristic of the New Forest.
 - Replacing coniferous plantations with broadleaved species and promoting natural regeneration of native species, particularly oak, will soften the harsh dark edges created by these plantations.
 - Assisting commoners in acquiring Forest edge smallholdings will encourage common grazing which is the key to the character of the New Forest landscape.
 - Maintaining Scots pines as isolated trees or in small stands will ensure they remain sculptural elements of the open plains.
 - Maintaining grazing pressure will prevent scrub encroachment, conserving the open character and archaeological features of these lowland heaths.
 - Relocation of campsites away from the central area of the Forest will help to conserve sensitive habitats and maintain tranquillity.
 - Vertical elements such as pylons and telecommunication towers are particularly visible in this landscape; further developments of this kind may be intrusive.
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Principles for Built Form

- Very little scope for accommodating new built development; any new built development should take place only in existing settlements.
 - Traditional styles and materials are cob and thatch, timber framed buildings and tiled red brick cottages.
 - Timber cladding, usually hung horizontally with uneven edges, is a characteristic feature of both forest dwellings and agricultural outbuildings.
 - Brick walls, high fences, security gates and private gardens may form a barrier between landscape and built form; these barriers are not characteristic in a landscape where built form and landscape setting are closely inter-related.
-

Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating landscape on the eastern edge of the Forest drained by several small watercourses which flow east into Southampton Water;
 - Pockets of enclosed farmland with small loosely clustered villages, such as Bramshaw, Minstead, Brook and Newtown, focused around a village green;
 - Wide grass verges and commons grazed by freely roaming New Forest ponies and cattle;
 - Large areas of Ancient and Ornamental deciduous woodland and oak and beech plantation in inclosures between the village clearings.
 - Lyndhurst, forms a central hub of activity where a number of communication routes and character areas converge, providing a good base for visitors to explore the New Forest;
 - Communication routes are of two types; winding leafy lanes through settled areas and dead straight roads across wooded areas. A31 (T) creates a barrier to movement between the north and south;
 - Thatched cob cottages, 18th century red brick cottages and long low timber agricultural buildings parallel to the road;
 - Church steeple at Lyndhurst creates a visual landmark and Rufus Stone is a significant local historic feature;
 - Cars, car parks, campsites, people and picnic sites are features of the landscape today;
 - Changes in level allow unexpected views, sometimes over surprisingly long distances.
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Formative Influences

Large areas of small and medium sized later Medieval assarted woods and fields still survive today. However, some areas have been re-organised by 17th - 18th century type enclosure into larger fields; however, there is little evidence of widespread enclosure. Areas of woodland were fenced in the 15th Century to keep deer out of the woodland; these inclosures still survive.

Landscape Description

The *Furzey Woodland and Villages* is a settled Forest landscape on the north-eastern edge of the Heritage Area. Good brown forest soils, arising from the underlying Barton sands and clays, support a particularly large area of unenclosed ancient woodland and inclosures which create a strong sense of enclosure. This area forms a key gateway into the Forest for visitors approaching from the M27.

The unenclosed woodlands generally take the form of beech and oak with an understorey of holly, with birch, thorns, yew and grassy glades. There are also pinewoods, birchwoods and holly groves, and riparian woods including

alder woods and sallow groves. Gorse and bracken are also present, as are brightly coloured, but invasive, rhododendrons. The inclosures are a mixture of oak and beech plantations or conifer plantations. Future woodland management will focus on creating a more 'natural' structure with more broadleaves and stronger links with unenclosed woods to form a continuous woodland mosaic.

Pockets of cultivation and settlement (ancient forest farmlands) are set within clearings in the forest. Cottages and farms are grouped along networks of narrow lanes interspersed with farmland and woods of high ecological value. Thatched cob cottages and 18th century red brick cottages are the dominant built form; long low timber agricultural buildings are features often seen parallel to the road. Villages such as Bramshaw, Brook Hill, Newtown and Minstead are traditionally clustered loosely around a village green.

Lyndhurst, which is the largest settlement in the area, is situated at the confluence of three different landscape character areas and provides an attractive base from which visitors may explore the different landscapes of the New Forest. The older properties are two storey whitewashed cottages with slate roofs. However, extensive redevelopment in the Victorian and Edwardian eras has resulted in red brick and ornate tile hung three storey buildings.

Key Environmental Features

The whole area is designated as an SPA, SAC and SSSI and is also of extremely high scenic quality.

- *Peaceful villages* and village greens which are vulnerable to traffic and heavy recreational pressure;
- *Atlantic oak woodland* which is a threatened habitat under the EU Habitats Directive;
- *wood pasture* which is sensitive to change in grazing pressure or management practices;
- *grazed commons and verges* which are at threat from scrub encroachment if grazing pressure is not maintained;
- *open heaths and lawns* which are features of the New Forest landscape and vulnerable to changes in management practices;
- *historic designed parkland* and *veteran trees* which are particularly characteristic of the central areas of the forest.

Principles for Landscape Management

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- Control of deadwood removal from woodlands will ensure that the deadwood resource continues to provide important habitats.
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- Control of invasive rhododendrons and other exotic species within ancient and ornamental woodlands will prevent them from dominating the understorey.
 - Traditional management techniques such as pollarding and coppicing will maintain a diversity of woodland age and structure.
 - Re-creation of the ancient land use of wood pasture may be achieved by releasing significant fragments of former woodland pasture trapped within inclosure fences and maintaining grazing pressure within these areas.
 - The careful control of grazing pressure will maintain open areas such as commons, greens and open verges and conserve the special character of the area.
 - Re-planting of native oak will ensure that oak woodland remains an intrinsic part of the character of this area.
 - Woodland design should aim to screen major roads and reduce noise penetration.
 - Excessive drainage of the ground would result in the loss of valuable bog woodland - this should be avoided.
 - Management of the species rich hedgerows around fields within the forest clearings will maintain ecological, historic and visual links with the surrounding woodland.
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Principles for Built Form

- Traditional built forms are forest cottages of pigmented lime or masonry paint on render, subdued red brick and thatch or tile. Timber framed cottages are characteristic of this area.
 - Village dwellings are small scale and loosely clustered around a central village green; modern infil should be avoided.
 - Timber cladding, usually hung horizontally with uneven edges, is a characteristic feature of both forest dwellings and agricultural outbuildings.
 - Avoidance of high brick walls and fences, security gates and private gardens will permit a close relationship between built form and landscape setting which is characteristic of this landscape.
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Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating landscape in the centre of the New Forest District (on an underlying of Barton Sands and Bembridge Marls which give rise to good brown forest soils).
 - Woodland inclosures dominate the landscape demonstrating the full range of woodland combinations including majestic beech woods, oak plantations and mixed plantations.
 - Large areas of unenclosed ancient and ornamental woods and wood pasture scattered between inclosures contributing to the largest remaining area of primary woodland in lowland Britain.
 - Winding ornamental drives bordered by majestic pines, rhododendrons and ornamental tree species.
 - Small areas of parkland and grass lawn; few settlements or field systems.
 - Isolated country houses, forest lodges and hotels set in forest clearings.
 - Communication routes are of two types; dead straight main roads (A35 and A337) and winding ornamental drives which show off exotic species.
 - Cars, car parks, campsites, people and picnic sites are features of the landscape today.
-

Formative Influences

The heathland areas have resulted from Bronze Age clearances and subsequent grazing under Forest Law. Significant areas of forest recovered where soils were more fertile. During the 19th century timber plantations were established on heath.

Landscape Description

The *New Forest Central Woodlands* landscape is located centrally in the New Forest District. The ancient unenclosed oak and beech woods form the heart of the ancient landscape of the New Forest and part of the largest remaining area of primary woodland in lowland Britain. These woodlands are generally dominated by beech and oak with an understorey of holly, with birch, thorns, yew and grassy glades. However, there are also native pinewoods, birchwoods, holly groves and riparian woods including alder woods and willow groves. Gorse and bracken is also rife, as are brightly coloured, but invasive, rhododendrons.

Inclosures contain the greatest area of woodland in this central area. These are mostly old plantations of oak and beech, often resembling the unenclosed Ancient and Ornamental woodlands, but some are more recent conifer plantations whose large scale and regular fenced outlines contrast with the irregular and broken shapes of the Ancient and Ornamental woodlands. The Forestry Commission's Forest Design Plans will gradually change the

character of the Crown lands by diversification of broadleaved woodlands and greater linkages with unenclosed woods.

Settlement is sparse. There are two small pockets of cultivation at New Park Farm and Burley Lodge and a number of isolated country houses, forest lodges and hotels set in forest clearings. The area is important for visitor recreation and tourist facilities, litter and noise are features of the landscape today. However, the period of predominant character of the landscape remains medieval.

Key Environmental Features

The whole area is designated as an SPA, SAC and SSSI.

- *Atlantic oak woodland* which is a threatened habitat under the EU Habitats Directive;
- *wood pasture* which is sensitive to change in grazing pressure or management practices;
- *ornamental drives* which are particularly characteristic of this central area;
- remaining areas of *heathland* and *open glades* which are features of the New Forest landscape and vulnerable to changes in management practices;
- *designed landscapes and parkland* which may contain veteran trees.

Principles for Landscape Management

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- Controlled deadwood removal from woodlands will ensure that the deadwood resource is not dried up.
 - Control of invasive rhododendrons and other exotic species within ancient and ornamental woodlands will prevent them from dominating the understorey.
 - Traditional management techniques such as pollarding and coppicing will maintain the character of the woods.
 - Re-creation of the ancient land use of wood pasture may be achieved by releasing significant fragments of former woodland pasture trapped within inclosure fences and maintaining grazing pressure within these areas.
 - The careful control of grazing pressure will maintain open areas while allowing natural regeneration of trees; it may be necessary to fence off areas from browsing and grazing animals to promote natural regeneration.
 - Beware loss of prehistoric earthworks and sites to afforestation.
 - The management of the holly understorey will prevent excessive shading of woodlands and encourage diversity on the forest floor.
 - Re-planting of native oak will ensure that oak woodland remains an intrinsic part of the character of this area.
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- Excessive drainage of the ground would result in the loss of valuable bog woodland - this should be avoided.
 - Relocation of campsites away from the central area of the Forest will help to conserve sensitive habitats and maintain tranquillity.
 - Visitor facilities should be designed to minimise environmental impacts (visual intrusion, noise, damage and disturbance of habitats) by careful siting and design of structures.
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Principles for Built Form

- Built development is dispersed; large country houses and hotels or forest lodges are sited within small forest clearings. These are often ornate buildings.
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Key Characteristics

- Broad enclosed, wooded area of former heathland and commons containing the course of the Lymington River and Brockenhurst Park.
 - Ancient woodland, timber plantations and pockets of farmland defined by woodland edges and hedge lines.
 - Enclosed former commons at Setley and Dilton.
 - Settlements of Setley, Dilton, Pilley Bailey, Shirley Holms and Sandy Down with strong commoning associations.
 - Dwellings and smallholdings loosely clustered around a mown village green.
 - Extensive recent modern residential development along leafy lanes.
 - Narrow, winding shady lanes cross the intimate landscape of the steep sided valley.
 - Views are short and enclosed by woodland and hedgerows.
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Formative Influences

Several assarted medieval woods with later medieval to early post-medieval field systems have survived in this area, but there are also areas where these have been rationalised during the 18-19th century enclosure period.

Landscape Description

The *Lymington River* landscape covers the upper part of the Lymington River between the *New Forest Central Inclosures*, where it emerges as a stream, to the *Coastal Estates* in the south. It is a wide, shallow valley with an enclosed landscape dominated by woodland and arable rotation with some parkland and semi-improved grassland. The landscape has a strong heathy character, particularly in the north of the area and around Beaulieu Heath where there is a larger enclosure pattern with field patterns resulting from formal Parliamentary enclosures. This area is characterised by Heath Associated Estates, which form part of the Beaulieu Estate. There are no roads; access is restricted to public footpaths through the area. The A337 passes along the western edge of the area.

The southern part of the valley has a more historic character; the small scale pattern of irregular fields and scattered smallholdings is characteristic of late medieval to 17th century informal enclosures. Winding leafy lanes link dispersed settlements such as Boldre, Sandy Down and Pilley with strong commoning associations. They traditionally have a historic core based around a village green, which are now mown rather than grazed, but show extensive recent suburban development alongside the leafy lanes.

Key Environmental Features

- *Ancient semi-natural woodlands* and copses in the northern part of the valley are of high nature conservation value and carry SSSI, SAC and SINC designations;
- the *ancient forest farmland field patterns* dated late medieval to 17th century;
- *historic village cores* and *village greens*;
- the *course of the river*.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Sustainable management of existing woodlands by thinning, coppicing and/or replanting will ensure that these local landscape features are conserved.
 - Management and replanting of hedgerows will ensure that they create a continuous ecological network linking the semi-natural woodlands.
 - Winding leafy lanes contribute to the character of the area; any road improvements which would threaten these features should be resisted if possible.
 - Further enclosure of commons should be avoided to ensure open grazed commons remain a characteristic feature of this area.
 - Heathland restoration will retain and improve the visual diversity and heathy character of this forest edge landscape as well as the nature conservation value of the area.
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Principles for Built Form

- New built development should respond to the local vernacular where possible to restore built character and identity to the area. Villages are traditionally focused around a village green.
 - Scattered farmsteads and occasional small roadside cottages of brick, timber and thatch are the traditional settlement form; these traditional forms, scales and materials should be conserved.
 - Local building material are red brick with thatch or tile; weatherboarding is a local feature and as such is also an appropriate material for use on houses and agricultural buildings.
 - Any new development should be accompanied by native planting to integrate buildings within the surrounding leafy landscape.
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Key Characteristics

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- Gently domed area of open *Calluna* heathland in the south of the district on an underlying geology of Headon Beds overlain by plateau gravels.
 - Open expanse of heather and gorse scrub with a mixed plantation at Norley Inclosure.
 - Isolated clumps of wind-blown pines are features of the landscape.
 - Open bodies of water and boggy hollows, most notably Hatchett Pond, provide drinking holes for grazing animals.
 - Settlement forms an almost continuous strip of development around the edge of the heath with individual houses facing onto the heath.
 - Traditional dwellings are low beamed whitewashed thatched cottages or two storey red brick cottages with slate roofs.
 - Views to the Isle of Wight and Fawley Refinery chimneys.
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Formative Influences

Extensive Bronze Age clearance of woodland, combined with poor soils led to the development of open heath in this area. Poor suitability for arable restricted uses to rough grazing and the exploitation of woodland and heathland resources, which in turn was formalised by Medieval Forest law. The dispersed peripheral settlement appears to have been a 20th century addition.

Landscape Description

Beaulieu Heath is a distinct, gently domed, area of open heathland sandwiched between *Beaulieu Riverto* the east, *Lymington River* to the west, *New Forest Central Inclosures* to the north and *Lymington and Pennington Coastal Plain* to the south. It is drained by wide, shallow valleys, which flow south into the Solent.

The extensive plain of Beaulieu Heath supports a continuous tract of heather and gorse broken only by Scots pines, growing singly, in clumps and in small woods. The open heath is enclosed on all sides by a distant dark backdrop of woodland; the transition between the wooded *New Forest Central Inclosures* and the heath is particularly marked. The small mixed woodland of Norley Inclosure is seen as part of Beaulieu Heath and as such contains the majority of trees on the heath. There are also some alder and willow trees marking the boggy course of streams; these valley bogs also support a distinctive vegetation of purple moor grass, sedge and sphagnum moss with bog myrtle and reeds.

There is a particularly distinctive settlement pattern in this character area, dominated by residential properties. A linear pattern of housing, of various ages and forms, follows straight lanes along the edges of the heath. All houses face onto the heath as they would onto a central 'village green'. The variety of ages indicate that a lot of infill has occurred, some quite recently. Despite this recent infill the traditional forms are still apparent; low, whitewashed thatched cottages with small windows are particularly characteristic of the area. Early human activity in the area is also evident in the many tumuli which lie scattered across the heath; their forms are particularly visible in the landscape due to the lack of tree cover.

The heath is characterised by long distance views, interrupted only by self-seeded Scots pines and the gently domed landform. Views to the Isle of Wight are particularly impressive on a clear day.

Key Environmental Features

The whole area carries SPA, SAC and SSSI designations.

- *Lowland heath* which is an internationally important habitat and is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and a key habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan;
- visible *archaeological remains* and *SAMs* which are vulnerable to disruption as a result of development;
- *valley bogs* which containing a rich diversity of bog species including some ancient woodland;
- *views to the Isle of Wight*;
- *woodland edges* which form a backdrop to views across the open heath.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Maintaining grazing pressure will prevent scrub encroachment and conserve the character of the open heath.
 - Assisting commoners in acquiring Forest edge smallholdings will encourage common grazing which is the key to the character of this lowland heath.
 - Maintain Scots pines as isolated trees or in small stands where they form sculptural elements in the open heath.
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Principles for Built Form

- Built development is traditionally confined to the edges of the heath, facing onto the heath, which acts as a central common or 'village green'.
 - Small scale dwellings, particularly low beamed thatched white cottages, are the traditional built form. Red brick is also a traditional building material.
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- The use of thatch or slate as roofing materials can give an historic appearance to the dwelling.
 - Avoidance of high brick walls and fences, security gates and private gardens will permit a close relationship between built form and landscape setting which is characteristic of this landscape.
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Key Characteristics

- Large scale undulating estate land landscape encompassing the lower reaches of the Beaulieu River with outstanding wetland flora.
 - A well wooded river valley with pockets of enclosed farmland, including some former heathland, and extensive areas of ancient woodland and timber plantations within the New Forest perambulation boundary.
 - Minor roads wind their way up the valley, along leafy lanes and through tunnels in the trees.
 - Estate influence evident around Beaulieu and Exbury with brick boundary walls, large houses and brick estate cottages or lodges.
 - The wooded valley creates a setting for Beaulieu, the focus of the valley, with its attractive Mill Pond, Palace House and Abbey ruins.
 - Linear settlement along Kings Copse Road faces onto Blackwell Common.
 - Strong commoning communities.
 - Restricted views due to enclosure and extensive woodland cover.
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Formative Influences

Smaller/earlier types of field patterns were replaced by larger and more regular fields during the 18-19th century enclosure period. However, early assarted woods, particularly along the river, have survived.

Landscape Description

The *Beaulieu River* is the wide, shallow valley of the lower reaches of the Beaulieu River, between the *Eastern Forest Heaths* and the *Lymington and Pennington Coastal Plain*. It is characterised by a wooded estate landscape with a strong heathy character; the main land uses are timber production, agriculture and horticulture. The extensive semi-natural ancient woodlands and replanted woods over heath create a strong sense of enclosure and restrict views to the river. The enclosure pattern results from formal Parliamentary enclosures.

Access to most of the area is restricted by the lack of infrastructure. Beaulieu forms the hub of activity in the area; the B3054 from Lymington and Dibden, B3056 from Lyndhurst, and Summer Lane from Exbury, all focus on Beaulieu. The Solent Way long-distance footpath also passes through Beaulieu before branching off, across the *Eastern Forest Heaths*, towards Dibden.

Beaulieu is a distinctive historic settlement which boasts a beautiful setting on the wooded banks of the Beaulieu River. The Abbey ruins (a SAM), Palace

House and Mill Dam all have great historic significance. It demonstrates a distinctive built form in its red brick and decorative tiled frontages. The settlement of Exbury is also associated with a historic house. The traditional building material here is a local buff coloured brick which contrasts with the adjacent settlement of Beaulieu.

Key Environmental Features

The whole area also forms part of the South Hampshire Coast AONB.

- *Mill pond and tidal river* which form part of a NNR and SSSI and provide a landscape setting to Beaulieu;
- *wetland habitats* alongside the river including grazing marsh and saltmarsh which carry SPA and SAC designations under the Natura 2000 initiative;
- *ancient semi-natural woodland* which conveys a feeling of being 'in the forest';
- *ancient field systems* around settlements which are sensitive to changes in agricultural practices and built development.

Principles for Landscape Management

- Sustainable management of existing woodlands by thinning, coppicing and/or replanting with local deciduous species will ensure that the robust landscape structure is conserved.
 - Management and replanting of hedgerows will ensure that they create a continuous ecological network linking the semi-natural woodlands.
 - Winding leafy lanes contribute to the character of the area; any road improvements which would threaten these features should be resisted if possible.
 - Heathland restoration will retain and improve the visual diversity and heathy character of this forest edge landscape as well as the nature conservation value of the area.
 - Careful planting design and siting of structures will ensure views on the approach to Beaulieu are retained.
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Principles for Built Form

- The high degree of woodland cover provides a strong landscape structure as well as opportunities for shelter and visual screening.
 - Local red brick and warm toned tile hanging are characteristic of the Beaulieu area.
 - Use of reclaimed clay peg tiles will give a historic effect to any new built forms.
 - Local buff brick is characteristic of the area around Exbury
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Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating plateau of open heath, bog and woodland in the east of the district, close to the urbanised and industrialised landscape of the *Waterside Parishes*.
 - Meandering rivers in wide, shallow valleys with riverside lawns and wooden bridges.
 - Ancient ash rich riverine woodland with some alder and willow carr along river courses, particularly the Beaulieu River.
 - Boggy hollows and open water provide drinking holes for animals as well as important wetland habitats for flora and fauna.
 - Red brick farmsteads or Forest Lodges set within small enclosed 'clearings' in the open forest.
 - Long views over open heaths with woodland visible in the background.
 - Pylons, Fawley Refinery stacks and Fawley Power Station chimney visible in the distance.
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Formative Influences

Extensive Bronze Age clearance of woodland, combined with poor soils has led to the development of open heath. Poor suitability for arable crops restricted uses to rough grazing and exploitation of woodland resources, which was formalised by Medieval Forest law. The coniferous plantations along the north-eastern edge of the heath are a 20th century addition.

Landscape Description

The *Eastern Forest Heaths* is a long, narrow area which borders the *Waterside Parishes*, providing a buffer between the built up coastline of Southampton Water and the tranquil *New Forest Central Inclosures*. It is an extensive area of open heath with scattered unenclosed woodland, usually along watercourses, and inclosures. Conifer plantations, including Fawley, Dibden, Marchwood, and Longdown Inclosures, form a narrow band along the eastern edge of the area, creating a visual screen and physical boundary to the edge of the Heritage Area. However, the area around Deerleap/Churchplace has a distinctive broadleaved and mixed woodland character.

The open heaths, which have formed on poor sandy soils, are characterised by a continuous tract of heather and gorse broken only by woodland or Scots pines, growing singly or in clumps. The open heath is enclosed on all sides by a distant dark backdrop of woodland. Alder and willows mark the boggy course of streams; these valley bogs support a distinctive vegetation of purple moor grass, sedge and sphagnum moss with bog myrtle and reeds.

Minor roads cross the heaths and bogs on dead straight routes; the main Southampton to Bournemouth railway line also passes across the heath.

Beaulieu Road Station and hotel are sited, somewhat surprisingly, in the middle of the open heath. Settlement is sparse; smallholdings are generally situated on the edges of the heath and the only modern built forms are on the southern tip of the area, at Blackwell Common. There are numerous Bronze Age burial barrows, which are particularly visible in this open landscape. The landscape is otherwise undeveloped and retains its prehistoric character.

The heath is characterised by long distance views; the Fawley Refinery Complex stacks and flares, electricity transmission lines and Fawley Power Station chimney are particularly visible from this area, reminding visitors of the proximity to the thriving 20th century landscape.

Key Environmental Features

The whole area carries SPA, SAC and SSSI designations.

- *Lowland heath* which is an internationally important habitat and is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive and a key habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan;
- visible *archaeological remains* and *SAMs* which are vulnerable to disruption as a result of development;
- *valley bogs* which containing a rich diversity of bog species;
- *ancient woodland* including bog woodland, managed as wood pasture;
- *woodland edges* which form a backdrop to views.

Principles for Landscape Management

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- Maintaining grazing pressure will prevent scrub encroachment and conserve the character of the open heath.
 - Assisting commoners in acquiring Forest edge smallholdings will encourage common grazing which is the key to the character of this lowland heath.
 - Maintain Scots pines as isolated trees or in small stands where they form sculptural elements in the open heath.
 - Relocation of campsites away from the central area of the Forest will help to conserve sensitive habitats and maintain tranquillity.
 - Management of access to the heaths and provision of a robust environment for recreational pursuits and dog walkers will become increasingly important as the population of the Waterside Parishes grows.
 - Heathland restoration should take account of visual issues arising from removal of tree screens.
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Principles for Built Form

- New built development should take place only in existing settlements or forest clearings; built development is generally not characteristic of the landscape.
 - Small scale dwellings, particularly low beamed thatched white cottages or timber framed red brick cottages, are the traditional built form.
 - The use of thatch or slate as roofing materials can give an historic appearance to the dwelling.
 - Brick walls, high fences, security gates and private gardens may form a barrier between landscape and built form; these features are inappropriate.
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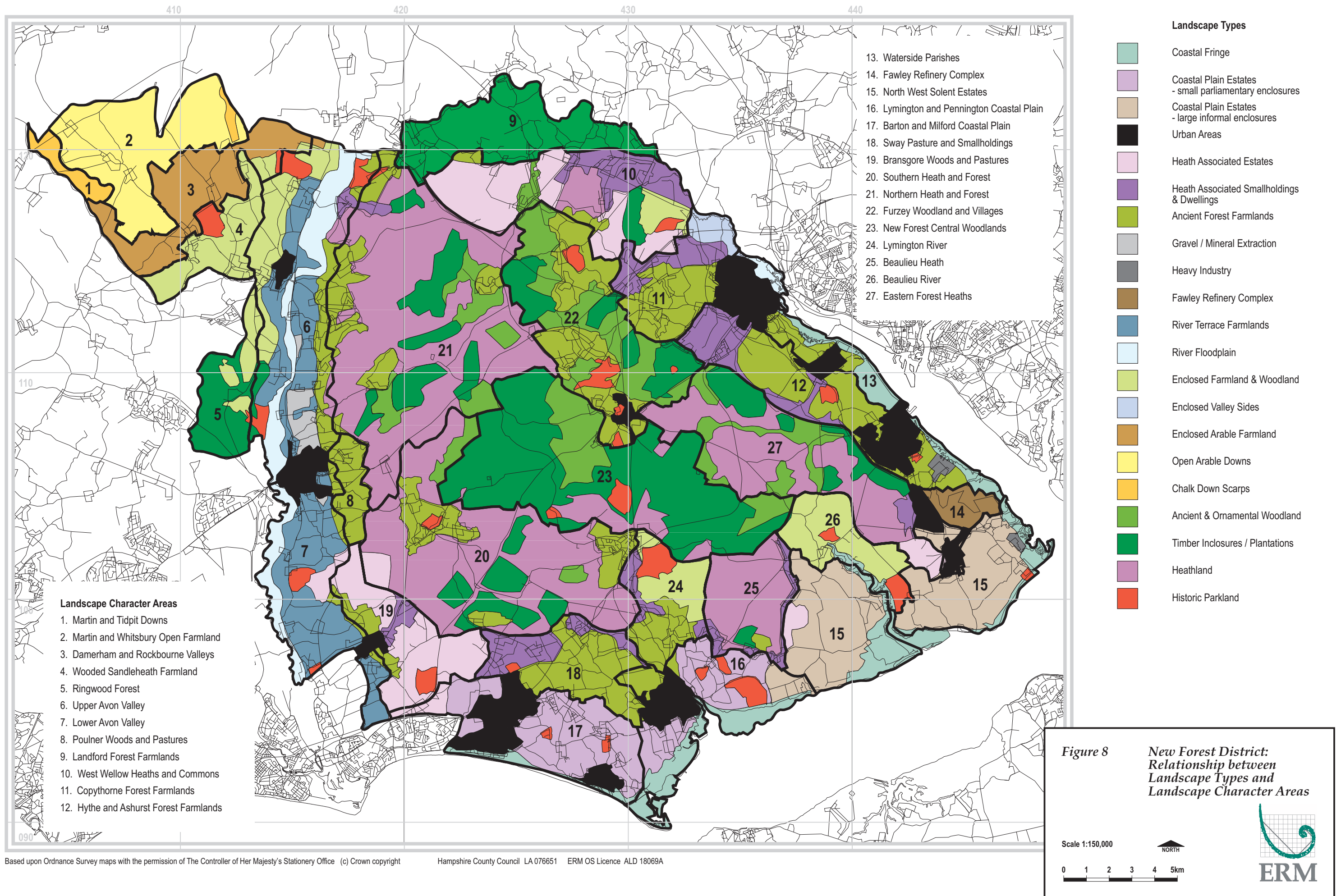
The previous sections explain what *landscape types* and *landscape character areas* are and how they have been derived in the New Forest District. This section looks at the relationship between *landscape types* and *landscape character areas* in the New Forest District and presents this information in both tabular and graphic format.

Figure 8 illustrates the relationship between *landscape types* and *landscape character areas* for the New Forest District. Some LCAs with a defined and distinctive landscape character are composed of just one or two *landscape types*, for example *Martin and Tidpit Downs* and *North West Solent Estates* while other areas may contain a mosaic of many landscape types. In most cases, *landscape type* and *landscape character area* boundaries coincide. An exception is within river valleys where the visual envelope of the valley (which forms the basis for the character area) may cut across the boundaries of *landscape types*.

Table 3.2 *Relationship between Landscape Character Areas and Landscape Types*

Landscape Character Area	Landscape Types
1. Martin and Tidpit Downs	Chalk Down Scarps
2. Martin and Whitsbury Open Farmland	Open Arable Downs
3. Damerham and Rockbourne Valleys	Enclosed Arable Farmland Enclosed Farmland and Woodland Historic Parkland
4. Wooded Sandleheath Farmland	Enclosed Farmland and Woodland Historic Parkland
5. Ringwood Forest	Inclosures/Plantations Enclosed Farmland and Woodland
6. Upper Avon Valley	Enclosed Farmland and Woodland River Terrace Farmlands River Floodplain Historic Parkland Areas of Gravel Extraction Urban Areas Ancient Forest Farmlands Heathland Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings
7. Lower Avon Valley	River Terrace Farmlands River Floodplain Urban Areas Historic Parkland
8. Poulner Woods and Pastures	Ancient Forest Farmlands River Terrace Farmlands

Landscape Character Area	Landscape Types
9. Landford Forest Farmlands	Ancient Forest Farmlands Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings
10. West Wellow Heaths and Commons	Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings Heath Associated Estates Heathland Enclosed Farmland and Woodland Inclosures/Plantations Historic Parkland Ancient Forest Farmlands
11. Copythorne Forest Farmlands	Ancient Forest Farmlands Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings Enclosed Valley Sides
12. Hythe and Ashurst Forest Farmlands	Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings Ancient Forest Farmlands Historic Parkland Urban Areas
13. Waterside Parishes	Urban Areas Ancient Forest Farmlands Coastal Plain Estates (small parliamentary enclosures) River Floodplain Coastal Fringe Heavy Industry
14. Fawley Refinery Complex	Fawley Refinery Complex
15. North West Solent Estates	Coastal Plain Estates (large informal enclosures) Heath Associated Estates Coastal Fringe
16. Lymington and Pennington Coastal Plain	Coastal Plain Estates (small parliamentary enclosures) Historic Parkland Coastal Fringe
17. Barton and Milford Coastal Plain	Ancient Forest Farmlands Urban Areas Coastal Plain Estates (small parliamentary enclosures) Coastal Fringe
18. Sway Pasture and Smallholdings	Ancient Forest Farmlands Heath Associated Estates Historic Parkland Heathland



Landscape Character Area	Landscape Types
19. Bransgore Woods and Pastures	Heath Associated Estates Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings Ancient Forest Farmlands Historic Parkland Urban Areas
20. Southern Heath and Forest	Heathland Ancient Forest Farmlands Inclosures/Plantations Ancient and Ornamental Woodland Historic Parkland
21. Northern Heath and Forest	Heathland Ancient Forest Farmlands Inclosures/Plantations Ancient and Ornamental Woodland Historic Parkland Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings
22. Furzey Woodland and Villages	Ancient and Ornamental Woodland Ancient Forest Farmlands Inclosures/Plantations Historic Parkland Heathland Urban Areas
23. New Forest Central Woodlands	Inclosures/Plantations Ancient and Ornamental Woodland Heathland Historic Parkland
24. Lymington River	Enclosed Farmland and Woodland Ancient Forest Farmlands Historic Parkland Heath Associated Estates
25. Beaulieu Heath	Heathland Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings Inclosures/Plantations Ancient and Ornamental Woodland
26. Beaulieu River	Enclosed Farmland and Woodland Historic Parkland Coastal Fringe
27. Eastern Forest Heaths	Heathland Inclosures/Plantations Ancient and Ornamental Woodland Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings Heath Associated Estates

The landscape, ecological and historical resources of the New Forest Heritage Area and the New Forest District are constantly changing in response to human activity. Historically, changes to agricultural practices, timber requirements and the socio-economic structure of local communities have had significant impact but, for the last two decades, the expansion of urban areas on the fringes of the Heritage Area, increased traffic levels and infrastructure development have been the dominant influence. Changing patterns of employment, agri-environment policies and forestry policy have also played a part in transforming the agriculture and forestry sectors and have often led to changes on the ground.

The pace of change is now more rapid than ever; and the implications of change are always difficult to assess. Changes regarded as negative by some may be seen as improvements by others; perceptions change with time; and new features will often become established as valued elements of the landscape. However, the New Forest is increasingly valued as a resource for tourism and recreation, as well as for its intrinsic landscape, nature conservation and historic interest. It is therefore essential that change is carefully managed to retain or enhance the qualities which make this landscape special and to conserve the variety of historical and ecological resources.

This section examines the driving forces behind changes to landscape, ecological and historical resources in the New Forest Heritage Area and New Forest District, setting changes in a long term context, and analysing trends for the future. It is based on a desk review of relevant planning and policy documents and on wide consultations with local authorities, agencies, interest groups and landowners. The section includes broad guidance for each of the principal forces for change which indicate how change can be managed to ensure that it has a positive influence.

Some of the principal forces for change are illustrated in the photographs overleaf.

4.1 *BUILT DEVELOPMENT*

The New Forest District is largely rural in character but contains a substantial number of towns and villages and supports a population of 171,000 (the highest population of any non-unitary local authority in the country). 30,000 of these residents live within the New Forest, where population is concentrated in Ashurst, Bransgore, Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst and Sway. Since the end of the Second World War, residential expansion in the New Forest District has focused on two main areas:

- the Waterside (the west side of Southampton Water) in areas such as West Totton, Hythe, Dibden Purlieu, Fawley and Holbury;
- the south west corner in areas such as Barton-on-Sea, New Milton and Lymington.

Today, housing represents the main pressure for built development in the District, which had the highest house building rate in Hampshire in the 1980s. Future growth is expected to be considerably slower, with population increasing to about 170,000 by 2001. Stringent controls over development within the New Forest Heritage Area, the South Hampshire Coast AONB and along parts of the western boundary such as the Avon Valley (a designated SSSI, SPA and Ramsar site) and the Cranborne Chase AONB, mean that development pressure is concentrated in fringe areas outwith these designations. There has consequently been some loss of landscape character, historical and ecological resources in these areas. An example of such an area is Blackfield where housing has expanded onto former heath. Pressures for housing development have continued in the Waterside, for example at Totton and Hythe, and the south-west corner of the District, for example at New Milton and Ashley. Other parts of the Study Area, such as Fordingbridge to the west and the Wellows to the north-east, are also experiencing pressure.

Within individual settlements, development pressure for housing, new industrial sites and office developments is located on peripheral sites, smaller infill sites and redundant buildings within the existing urban fabric. New development in these locations will place pressure on the landscape setting and settlement structure. This trend is particularly relevant to settlements within the New Forest Heritage Area. According to the Local Plan ⁽¹⁾, new development here is to be accommodated within the defined boundaries of the 'New Forest Villages' of Ashurst, Bransgore, Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst and Sway. There is some evidence that the farmed landscape surrounding villages such as Sway and Bransgore has already been gradually eroded. The purchase of property as holiday homes is also significant within the Heritage Area which has resulted in rising property prices and increases in traffic as well as altering the character of the traditional Forest settlements. Local shops are also under threat; closure and conversion would affect local village character.

The New Forest has a rich built heritage dating from a range of different periods. There is a direct relationship between landscape character and traditional built form. For instance, the use of building materials such as brick, timber and thatch depended on proximity to local clay, woodland or straw, while the siting and grouping of buildings often depended on patterns of land ownership, heathland, roads, water courses or the coast. Forest settlements typically have a dispersed character, with small clusters of buildings interspersed with farmland and paddocks. Local character and distinctiveness of built form has been gradually eroded over the last 30 years as traditional features have been replaced with standard, uncharacteristic alternatives such as unsympathetic suburban-style conversions, extensions,

(1) New Forest District Council, New Forest Local Plan (Deposit Plan incorporating Proposed Modifications) February 1999

FORCES FOR CHANGE



New built development and urbanisation



Infrastructure expansion and improvements



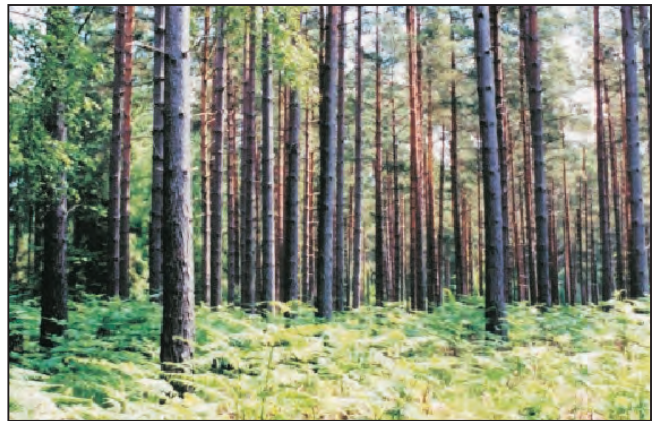
Hedgerow loss and fragmentation



Dereliction of traditional buildings



Field expansion and erosion of landscape pattern



Conifer plantations on former heathland



Recreational pressure



Enclosure of former commons

ornamental fencing and planting, and security lights. Glass houses are also a pressure in certain areas, associated with large scale horticulture. This is a threat to traditional Forest character. Pressures associated with all such developments are potentially damaging in the distinctive landscape of the New Forest if development leads to over-scaled buildings, light pollution or loss of remoteness. Tourist related development and pressure for port expansion are significant pressures in coastal areas, as well as in the Forest. Over time, the small, piecemeal changes to property, road layouts, street furniture and lighting can cumulatively have a large visual impact.

4.1.1

Key Issues

Pressures from new built development affecting the landscape are:

- pressure at particular points along the Heritage Area boundary and gradual 'eating away' of the landscape character;
- homogenous development on the fringes of existing settlements which compromises their distinctive landscape setting;
- the introduction of a profuse variety of building materials and styles and the lack of reference to traditional rural buildings as models for siting and design;
- suburban influences, such as infill and ribbon development, in rural areas where a dispersed settlement pattern is typical and which may affect established trees and preclude the planting of anything but small trees;
- associated road design, carried out to urban highway standards, which is often intrusive and visually incongruous with village settings;
- port development which could impact on the setting of the Forest and views from Southampton Water;
- glasshouses and poly tunnels associated with large scale horticulture.

4.1.2

Broad Landscape Guidance for Built Development

The District Council's *Rural Residential Design Guide* ⁽¹⁾ provides detailed guidance on relevant policies and good practice principles for the design of built development in the district's rural landscapes. Similarly, the District's *Coastal Management Plan* ⁽²⁾ and the New Forest Committee's *Strategy for the New Forest* ⁽³⁾ set out general policies for built development in coastal areas and the Forest. The District Council has also prepared useful guidance on the construction and repair of historic buildings ⁽⁴⁾. However, it should be noted that this guidance is not directly applicable to the parts of the Heritage Area outside the New Forest District.

(1) New Forest District Council (1999) Residential Design Guide for Rural Areas of the New Forest District.

(2) New Forest District Council (1997) Coastal Management Plan.

(3) New Forest Committee (1996) A Strategy for the New Forest.

(4) New Forest District Council, Historic Buildings - A Basic Guide to their Construction and Repair.

Siting

- The traditional relationship between buildings and local roads should be used to inform the siting of new built development; linear, suburban style development which faces directly onto principal roads should be avoided.
- Consider the potential impact of new buildings from a range of viewpoints, both in the immediate surroundings and the wider countryside, placing particular emphasis on views from public rights of way.
- consider the impact of new buildings on the setting and views to and from listed buildings and historic designed landscapes - historic research, survey and assessment at an early stage will increase understanding of the historic landscape and identify historic features worthy of conservation.
- Give special consideration to development in sensitive coastal areas, where views from the sea should be assessed, as well as those inland; coastal development sites should be retained for uses dependent on access to coastal waters.
- Avoid siting buildings in the strategic open land between settlements, where they may lead to coalescence of adjacent settlements.
- Avoid siting buildings close to the crest of wooded ridges, where they may lead to an artificial 'notched' appearance as trees are felled on or close to the local skyline.

Design

- Use the scale, spacing, orientation and siting of existing settlement as a model for considering how new development can be fitted into the traditional pattern and grain.
- Respect existing field boundary patterns and ensure that fencing, hedgerows and lighting along property boundaries are subtly delineated, particularly in rural locations, where they should merge naturally with adjoining fields and woodland.
- Minimise disturbance to the local landform and design earthworks associated with new development to integrate buildings with the local landform and minimise tree loss; avoid the use of substantial retaining walls or under-building on sloping sites.
- Consider the location and scale of outbuildings, driveways and areas of hard-standing as part of the overall design, ensuring that they are not dominant in views from the road.
- Minimise the scale of new development, particularly modern agricultural or commercial buildings, designing exterior finishes and details to reduce their apparent size.
- Retain as many existing trees as possible and plant trees and shrubs indigenous to the relevant landscape type to help screen and accommodate built development. Reference to adjacent sensitive habitats should be made in selection of species.

Use of Materials

- Give careful consideration to the materials and colours of buildings in the countryside, taking inspiration from existing vernacular buildings and using local materials and building techniques wherever possible. For instance, buff-coloured brick is typical of buildings in Exbury, while flint and cob is common in the chalk downlands and thatch in the Avon Valley. The range of materials used on any one building should be limited.
- Select cladding materials and colours for modern agricultural, forestry or industrial

buildings to minimise their impact in the surrounding countryside; avoid the use of very light colours, which can reflect the light, and intense greens or blues, which often clash with the surrounding natural tones of fields and woodland.

- Avoid strong contrasts between ornamental garden plants and styles and the surrounding natural landscape, particularly in the Forest, where 'escaped' garden plants can be invasive.
-

4.2 *INFRASTRUCTURE*

4.2.1 *Roads*

Road development has had a significant impact on landscape character, ecological and historical resources. Roads may fragment the countryside, destroying valued landscape, historic and habitat features, and can also generate new development by making areas of land more accessible. They may also have an urbanising influence, bringing road signs, lighting, noise and an element of standardisation to a deeply rural landscape. For instance, road construction has had a degrading influence on the extensive heaths on the western fringes of the Forest, although there may be potential to mitigate fragmentation by the creation of bridges and tunnels to enable animals to cross freely. The passage of commuter traffic and delivery lorries travelling from dense urban areas on the coast to the motorway has resulted in high traffic speeds and animal deaths, for example around Sway and on Beaulieu Heath. Increased traffic pressure may also be found in rural areas where larger country houses are converted to commercial uses. Parking is a major consideration in rural areas; closure of car parks in the central Forest may increase parking on verges, which obstructs grazing as well as having a major visual impact.

Minor road works can also have an impact on landscape character. The style of signing, surfacing, furniture and engineering can all erode the sense of place and create a more homogenised environment. There is a need to emphasise high standards of design, and to pay particular attention to the conservation of attractive roadside features, and locally characteristic road layouts, signs and street furniture, which may be vulnerable to insensitive improvements. The problem of dumping used and damaged cars in the landscape has increased over recent years and has an impact on landscape character.

Levels of traffic using the New Forest District network are increasing and traffic is now a year round issue. A number of traffic routes in the area suffer congestion at peak times and during the summer months. Proposals in the *Strategy for the New Forest* ^{op cit.} aim to reduce the impact of traffic on the New Forest through a blanket speed limit of 40mph on all but principal roads through the Forest, restrictions on vehicle size and type, a review of signing and improvements to the strategic network. In the future, a number of minor roads may be closed, although there is a need to consider the wider impacts of such road closures. Restriction of heavy lorries using minor routes through

the Forest has, however, led to pressure elsewhere in the network, especially on the B3347 along the south west edge of the District.

The focus of recent road proposals is on traffic management measures, particularly on the A338, A35 and within the District's principal towns and villages. These include traffic calming, provision for cyclists and pedestrians, improvements to junctions, signing and maintenance work. However, there is a need to consider the wider impacts of proposed traffic management in principal settlements. A number of proposals for road upgrading are currently under discussion, including up-grading of the A36 and the A326 Totton western by-pass and the possibility of making the A31 into 3 lanes. Proposals for by-passes in several New Forest towns have recently been shelved. The possible expansion of airport facilities and industrial land at Bournemouth airport may increase traffic on the A35, A31 and A338, and the increased number of aircraft travelling to Bournemouth International Airport as well as private, low flying aircraft is resulting in increased noise levels. Potential improvements to ferry services from Lyminster to Yarmouth (Isle of Wight) may increase traffic along principal routes to Lyminster.

4.2.2 *Telecommunications and Overhead Transmission Lines*

Overhead transmission lines are particularly prominent in the more open and upland areas of the New Forest District. On a smaller scale, they may also be visually intrusive where they appear on the skyline as they cross ridges, for example on the eastern edge of the New Forest.

Single high communication masts or towers are associated with civil aviation, defence industries and the various telecommunications companies. Many such structures have permitted development rights and may not be subject to planning constraints, although the area in the south-west corner of the District may be covered by height restrictions due to its close vicinity to Bournemouth airport. Telecommunications masts may be particularly intrusive in landscapes with a remote or rural character, although the Forestry Commission has adopted a policy not to allow any new telecommunication masts on Crown Lands. High points in the Forest are under particular pressure, particularly along the A31 at Stoney Cross and Pickett Post and on the extensive heathlands to the west of the Forest.

It is difficult to predict whether the development of new masts will continue to be a significant force for change in the future as technology in this field is constantly being updated. In fact, developments in the telecommunications industry could see removal of the major overhead power lines and mobile phone towers in the future. Development control policies in the District and the Heritage Area seek to minimise the impact of new development by encouraging dual use of masts and the use of existing structures. Further landscape improvements can be made by removing redundant masts and placing transmission lines underground.

4.2.3

Key Issues

The most significant pressures for infrastructure which have implications for the landscape are:

- ongoing, piecemeal road improvements, such as widening and straightening, insensitive design and over-use of road signs, surfacing and roadside furniture, which together have a cumulative impact;
- growth in rural traffic levels leading to traffic congestion, pollution and parking problems with subsequent impact on tranquillity and remoteness;
- the fragmentation of habitats and historic landscape patterns as a result of linear infrastructure developments;
- the fragmentation of, and obstruction of access to, back-up land for commoning;
- homogenising influence of road landscapes on local landscape character;
- additional electricity pylons, overhead transmission lines and communication masts.

4.2.4

Broad Landscape Guidance for the Assessment and Design of Infrastructure Developments

Volume 10 of the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* ⁽¹⁾ provides guidance on the environmental design of landform and alignment of new roads. The Countryside Commission (now Countryside Agency) has also produced some useful literature on roads in the countryside.

Siting and Design

- Avoid developing infrastructure in areas of landscape, ecological and historical importance and the fragmentation of important habitats and historical sites.
- As far as possible, keep routes to lower elevations, following contours and natural breaks of slope; avoid straight alignments at angles to the natural grain of the land.
- Resist changes to smaller rural roads as a result of commuter traffic and engineering works.
- An integrated public transport system linking trains and buses with villages, or 'park and ride' schemes from satellite locations on the Forest Fringes could reduce traffic congestion on minor roads.
- Zoning of areas or bringing in time limits to give cyclists priority at some parts of the day/week could help to reduce the dominance of the car.
- Avoid creating straight, geometric cuts for transmission lines through commercial forests; soften woodland edges along such corridors and design plantations to form a backdrop to power lines where they appear on the local skyline.
- Consider under-grounding transmission lines for short distances to avoid breaking the skyline in sensitive locations.

(1) Department of Transport (1993), *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges*, Volume 10, Environmental Design, HMSO

Detailed Design

- New planting should reflect the character and biodiversity of adjacent woodland areas; avoid creating a linear 'corridor' of planting which would draw attention to infrastructure developments and fragment existing habitats.
 - Special consideration should be given to the design of local landscapes associated with roads at the entrance to settlements, using traditional boundary features, hedgerows and tree planting to enhance the 'gateway' effect. and reflect vernacular styles
 - It is important to use local materials characteristic of the area, *ie* timber and local stone for retaining walls and picnic areas and native species for new planting.
-

4.3

MINERAL EXTRACTION

Sand and gravel extraction constitutes the main mineral activity in the study area, although restrictions to minimise extraction in the New Forest Heritage Area have ensured that most quarrying has taken place on its periphery. The two main areas of activity are the Avon valley (stretching from Ringwood to Fordingbridge) and the coastal plain around New Milton and Lymington.

Deposits in the Avon Valley lie on the valley terrace along the line of the A388 and in the fields to the east. An area to the north of Ringwood has undergone major landscape change as a result of mineral extraction and subsequent restoration to wetlands. The newly formed lakes are of particular ecological importance for migrating birds. There is pressure for further mineral extraction exists on land to the north of Ibsley and further south around the village of Avon.

Extraction and potential extraction areas around New Milton and Lymington stretch along the coastal plain up to the Heritage Area boundary. Traffic generated by mineral activity is likely to use the A35 and the A337, both of which run through the Heritage Area. Activity in the areas earmarked for future sand and gravel extraction could have a strong visual impact as these are relatively open landscapes, where extraction and restoration may lead to visible changes in landscape character. In the past, poor quality restoration has resulted in flat basins with steep sides - a 'baking tray effect' - but current restoration schemes are designed to create natural contours. Every opportunity is taken to incorporate restoration to heathland, as well as agricultural land, and to use native species.

Some areas of heathland are covered by wartime concrete which is classed as a 'secondary aggregate' and has value in the construction market. Some of this concrete is being removed as part of a Forestry Commission restoration scheme, although some areas are to be retained for their historic and recreational value.

4.3.1

Key Issues

The principal pressures for change arising from mineral extraction are:

- the visual and ecological impact of sand and gravel workings both during extraction and following restoration, together with the impact on historic sites and landscape patterns;
- the visual impact of traffic associated with mineral workings, especially on traffic routes through the New Forest Heritage Area;
- the change of land use during and following extraction, particularly the loss of back-up grazing land.

Policies within the County Structure Plan ⁽¹⁾ seek to ensure that the natural environment is not adversely affected by extraction. Larger mineral extraction sites may be subject to environmental impact assessments.

4.3.2

Broad Landscape Guidance for Mineral Extraction

- Potential extraction areas which contribute to the pool of back-up grazing land should be fully assessed for potential impacts that the change of use would have on commoners' stock before extraction proceeds.
 - The wooded landscape of the New Forest can provide opportunities for screening extraction sites, particularly if they are a relatively small scale and in sheltered locations.
 - Large-scale extraction sites can have an immense impact on landscape, ecological and historical resources. Locations which are relatively hidden from principal viewpoints (from public roads and from local communities) may help reduce visual impacts to some extent.
 - Avoidance of areas of landscape, ecological and historical importance and protection of nearby areas from disturbance through, for example, pollution, noise, dust and lighting, will help reduce impacts.
 - Phased restoration of active workings and, where possible, restoration of expired mineral workings, will lessen or obviate long term impacts, may result in some visual improvements and provide an opportunity for ecological and historic landscape character enhancement, for example by replacing the original field pattern.
 - Sensitive restoration should pay particular attention to land form, vegetation structure and after-use; an agreed period of after-care for restoration to agriculture, heathland, woodland or recreation will help achieve an overall enhancement of landscape character and the improve the quality of newly created habitats
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4.4

WASTE DISPOSAL

The continued expansion of built development in the study area and its surroundings is inevitably associated with an increase in waste. Landfilling

(1) Hampshire County Council (1996) Hampshire County Structure Plan 1996-2011 (Review).

has traditionally been the principal substrate for the restoration of mineral workings, but this practice is decreasing as the supply of inert material for landfill is reduced and government policy shifts to encourage other forms of waste treatment such as incineration and recycling. There is pressure now for other types of waste operations, such as waste processing and waste transfer, especially along the Waterside. In addition to the potential visual intrusion and emissions, the traffic associated with such waste disposal facilities may have a negative impact on the local landscape, particularly in sensitive landscapes and on minor roads in the Heritage Area. Pound Bottom is a significant landfill/recycling site in the north of the Forest and a search is underway for a new landfill site to serve Salisbury District.

Urban fringe areas on the eastern edge of the New Forest Heritage Area suffer from fly-tipping of household and garden waste. While many gates into fields are kept locked to prevent the entrance of unwanted vehicles, fly-tipping still occurs on the verges of quieter back-lanes.

4.4.1 *Key Issues*

The principal pressures for change in relation to waste disposal are:

- landscape implications of future waste transfer and processing operations;
- landscape impacts of traffic associated with waste facilities;
- fly-tipping on verges of quieter back-lanes in urban fringe areas.

4.4.2 *Broad Landscape Guidance for Waste Disposal Facilities*

Design and Management of Landfill Sites

- Site selection for landfill sites should be influenced by the need to keep environmental impact to a minimum.
 - Landfill sites require careful siting and design to ensure screening from local views; the treatment of boundaries is particularly important. Planting native species within and around the site, and linking landfill site boundaries with the surrounding field patterns, will help to integrate the development within the surrounding landscape and minimise its visual impact.
 - The design of access roads and areas of hard standing requires careful consideration; wherever possible, local materials (fencing and crushed aggregate) should be used to help to minimise the visual impact of the site.
-

4.5 *AGRICULTURE AND LAND MANAGEMENT FOR NATURE CONSERVATION*

There are two types of farmer in the New Forest District; the commercial arable and dairy farmers and the New Forest commoners whose fragile system relies on subsidies. The medium-sized farms are finding it difficult to survive. Apart from the traditional commoners, much of the agricultural land belongs to large estates on the periphery of the Crown Lands, and private

individuals. The majority of the estate land is tenanted, accounting for 40% of the total number of farms in the New Forest ⁽¹⁾.

Agriculture and commoning have long had a crucial role in maintaining the region's valuable range of semi-natural habitats, but agricultural specialisation and intensification has led to significant losses, degradation and fragmentation of key habitats and archaeological sites. The New Forest Natural Area ⁽²⁾ contains the largest extent of semi-natural habitat in lowland England. The area's lowland heathland, woodland, wood pasture, flood plain grasslands, New Forest lawns, greens and coastal grazing marshes are recognised as being of key nature conservation importance, yet all are potentially at risk from the changes in the pattern of New Forest agriculture. In recent years, there has been:

- ***a fall in the total area of land under agriculture***, mainly to the east and south-west ⁽³⁾, as a result of pressures for built development, amenity uses or recreation (eg golf courses and recreational grazing of horses);
- ***an increase in the number of part-time farmers and subsequent fragmentation of land holdings***. This has resulted in changes to field patterns and boundaries because of the difficulty of using modern machinery in small fields;
- ***a decline in traditional land management practices***. Parts of the area are now managed far more intensively than ever before; biologically diverse and uncommon habitats have been replaced with those which are species poor and widespread. Conversely, a lack of grazing has led to the neglect of the existing habitat and scrub encroachment. The landscape character of many areas is dependent on non-intensive traditional grassland management, originally by commoners' animals;
- ***a diversification of farm businesses***, for example an increase in pig farming, livery stables and horticulture, which has helped to create a more diverse and sustainable rural economy. However, as the New Forest Committee state ⁽⁴⁾: "*the main opportunities for diversification within the Forest are likely to be centred around buildings rather than land*". The challenge is to maximise opportunities for diversification whilst ensuring that initiatives have a positive effect on landscape, ecological and historical resources;
- ***increasing pressure on common land and the pool of back-up grazing land***. Commoners have a right to sufficient pasture to graze animals during the winter months and to supply foodstuffs. The pool of back-up land is vulnerable to increasing pressure for development or increases in land value through demand for recreational grazing of horses and development

(1) ADAS (1993) cited in New Forest Committee (1996) A Strategy for the New Forest.

(2) English Nature (1999) The New Forest Natural Area Profile.

(3) ADAS (1993) cited in New Forest Committee, 1996, A Strategy for the New Forest.

(4) New Forest Committee (1996) A Strategy for the New Forest.

such as golf courses. There is also a danger that properties will be sold out from the commoning pool.

- *change in land ownership.* This has had a positive effect on land management and nature conservation value, for example where commons have been brought into National Trust ownership.
- *problems of over-grazing and under-grazing.* Artificially high numbers of stock in some parts of the Forest, as a result of subsidies, results in over-grazing of parts of the Forest and prevention of natural regeneration. The Forest grazing lands do not have a chance to recover before the summer because the winter stock numbers are so high.
- *fencing of roads on the Forest side* which prevents the grazing of roadside ditches and pastures, resulting in overgrown and blocked roadside ditches.

In the last decade, agricultural subsidies have been designed to encourage environmentally friendly farming, following the introduction of the EC Agri-Environmental Regulation as part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform package in 1992. Support for promoting habitat and land management practices at site specific level is available through:

- the designation of the Avon valley floodplain as an *Environmentally Sensitive Area* by MAFF aims to maintain and enhance the pastoral landscape character of the valley, its watercourses, ecological and historical resources. Grants are available to encourage farmers to undertake more extensive grazing practices, reduce the use of fertilisers and mow grassland to improve habitats for migrant birds and wildfowl. The level of grant take-up is steadily increasing and stood at approximately 40% of the available land in the Avon valley (as quantified in 1993) ⁽¹⁾.
- the *Countryside Stewardship Scheme*. Grants encourage farmers to lower the intensity of farming in all the key habitats through reducing the use of chemicals and stocking rates. Subsidies are also available to encourage to bring abandoned land back into management. Although grants are open to all land, the Heritage Area is targeted *ie* applications are seen favourably. Grant take up is scattered - there are a total of 20 sites managed under the scheme in the Heritage Area ranging from 1 ha to several hundred. The pattern, if any, follows the geology of the area.
- the *New Forest LIFE project*, funded by the EU, which includes remedial action to eliminate inappropriate species and to undertake extensive holly pollarding. Further programmes aim to modify inappropriate stand structure and regeneration of valley mires. However, the regeneration of these mires is causing conflict with commoners as dry grassland is reverting to bog and reducing the amount of grazing land available.

(1) FRCA pers. comm, June 1999

Although no dramatic landscape changes are envisaged as a result of either the ESA or the Countryside Stewardship Schemes, cumulatively the support will have a positive impact on landscape change and maintenance of ecological and historical resources. Entry to the schemes is voluntary and thus grant take up is highly dependent on the ability of organisations such as the Farming and Rural Conservation Agency (FRCA) to persuade farmers of their benefits. The schemes target larger areas of grassland, including coastal grazing marsh, but there are some significant exclusions. Unimproved meadows are often not eligible for the Countryside Stewardship Scheme as the land area is too small and/or does not meet all criteria and owners of heathland are often not farmers and so lack the incentive to manage land.

The new reforms proposed for CAP will shape a pattern of agriculture and land management in the New Forest. In theory, the reforms should ensure a more local, targeted approach, making incentives available to encourage traditional practices, such as stock grazing in areas of wood pasture and extensive grazing in the Avon Valley hay meadows. In practice, the effectiveness of the reforms will depend on the level of financial incentives available in comparison to other grants available to farmers. As with rural diversification at present, the reforms may also increase pressure for new buildings in the New Forest Heritage Area and this will require careful control.

The New Forest Committee is aiming to employ a Forest Friendly Farming Project officer this year to start to work up a vision for farming in the forest and co-ordinate the development of a number of funded initiatives to support sustainable farming, forestry and commoning. At a local scale, groups such as the Hythe and Dibden Waterside Group undertake local conservation work with the support of the BTCV, NFDC and Hampshire Wildlife Trust.

4.5.1

Key Issues

The principal pressures for agricultural change affecting the quality of landscape, ecological and historical resources are:

- the influence of national policies, driven by the changing structure of agriculture and other rural development subsidies at a European level;
- an increase in part-time farming and the knock on effects of farm fragmentation, loss of traditional farm boundaries and decline in traditional land management practices;
- an on-going intensification and specialisation away from mixed farming systems which has led to a decline in semi-natural habitats of national importance;
- water abstraction for agriculture and building leading to lowered ground water levels and loss of water meadows;
- rural diversification, subsequent increase in pressure for new development and dwindling supply of housing for commoners within the New Forest Heritage Area;
- low prices for ponies and cattle forcing traditional commoners to turn to other sources of income and alternative land uses such as caravan parks.

Broad Landscape Guidance for Agriculture

The *Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire* ⁽¹⁾ and English Nature's *Natural Areas in London and the South East* ⁽²⁾ set out priorities for habitat conservation, putting the New Forest within a regional context. The *New Forest Natural Area Profile* ^{op cit} and the *Strategy for the New Forest* ^{op cit} list specific objectives for the management, enhancement and expansion of key habitat types through farming and wider land management practices. The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and the FRCA provide leaflets and verbal advice to farmers on sustainable agricultural practices, techniques for conservation and availability of financial resources through the various agri-environment schemes.

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- Recognition and encouragement of traditional land management practices, such as the re-introduction of extensive grazing in areas of heathland and wood pasture, will help to maintain the traditional landscape character and conserve semi-natural habitats.
 - The management of existing unimproved pastures through extensive grazing or as hay meadows will conserve these valuable habitats and add diversity to the agricultural landscape; areas linking remaining agriculturally unimproved grassland fragments should be a priority for management.
 - Modern agriculture can be particularly disruptive to the natural, historical and archaeological heritage; education, information and incentives can help to reduce this impact.
 - Support for the restoration of parkland landscapes from arable to grazing and avoidance of ploughing up historic parkland will conserve historic landscapes.
 - Overgrazing and/or the wrong type of grazing leads to loss of landscape character and habitat; monitoring and control of stocking rates (for horse, deer and cattle) will conserve key habitats and encourage a more diverse landcover.
 - The encouragement of subsidies to ensure the survival of fragile commoning communities and the retention of suitable dwellings for housing commoners will help to conserve the traditional character of the New Forest landscape.
 - Enclosure of woodland pockets within some areas of farmland will encourage woodland regeneration and add diversity to the farmed landscape.
 - The clutter associated with small-holdings can detract from local landscape quality; 'good housekeeping' such as maintenance of out-buildings, removal of scrap and debris and repair of fences helps to maintain and enhance the landscape.
 - Diversification can both have positive and negative effects on landscape character, ecological and historical resources. Opportunities for diversification, such as operation of livery stables, must be encouraged which help strengthen the rural economy whilst also recognising the importance of the conservation and enhancement of local landscape character, ecological and historical value.
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(1) Hampshire Biodiversity Partnership (1998) Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire Volume One.

(2) English Nature (1999) Natural Areas in London and the South East Region.

Woodland in the New Forest is traditionally mixed, with a strong broadleaf component broken by lowland heathland. The woodland resource of the New Forest Heritage Area can be divided into: unenclosed woodlands of the Open Forest (Ancient and Ornamental Woodlands); Forestry Commission (FC) inclosures; and privately owned woodland, mostly on large estates.

The FC is responsible for the management of all Crown Land, which includes the Ancient, Ornamental Woodlands and the majority of heathland of the Open Forest. All felling and replanting in these areas, including land leased to private individuals, is subject to approval by the Forestry Authority. Forest Design Plans or felling licence applications (for smaller areas) are required for any felling and replanting proposals by Forest Enterprise, although ancient woodland and ornamental woodland are not included in the design plan process. A new *Management Plan for the New Forest and Crown Lands* is expected to operate from April 2001. The Forestry Commission's *Plan for the Ancient & Ornamental Woodlands* ⁽¹⁾ is one of a suite of component plans, which will together comprise the co-ordinated *Management Plan*.

The FC's management practices reflect the trend in national forestry policy towards the promotion of woodland management to meet multi-purpose objectives. The Forestry Commission's mandate is to give priority to nature conservation, then public recreation and thirdly timber production. The Forestry Commission is presently working on a 100 year Forest Design Plan ⁽²⁾ which includes extensive consultation. Some of the changes proposed in the Forestry Commission's Design Plan will be relatively rapid, for example heathland restoration, a recognised key habitat in Hampshire's Biodiversity Action Plan ^{op cit.} In other areas of Crown Land, changes in woodland structure through the forest design process will be more subtle. They will include an increase in temporary and permanent open space, more diversity in age and species with an increase in wood pasture, riverine woodlands and 'near natural woodlands', and a move to a greater broadleaved component. The strategic locations intended for the creation of significant areas of these key habitats are shown on the 100 year plan. The New Forest landscape character assessment is therefore dealing with a more dynamic landscape mosaic than will be found in districts elsewhere. The landscape characterisation is based on a 'snap-shot in time' and may be updated on an ongoing basis in response to changes in the landscape mosaic.

Private woodlands, both within and outwith the Heritage Area, comprise large areas of woodland, small copses, individual trees and hedgerows. These features all contribute to the landscape and ecological character of the Forest. Objectives are now a mixture of ecological management, game shooting and timber production; recreational management is considered secondary.

(1) Forestry Commission (1999) Plan for the Ancient & Ornamental Woodlands of the New Forest.

(2) The Forest Design plans will be available from March 2001. ERM met with Bruce Rothnie, the Planning Officer with the Forestry Commission on 28 March 2000.

The Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) is the main government incentive scheme encouraging new planting and woodland management on privately owned land. Incentives available include one off payments per hectare for restocking and annual payments for management such as improving environmental value, enhancing public access, excluding livestock and bringing abandoned woodland back into management. The Woodland Improvement Grant (part of the WGS) provides 50% funding for a variety of management operations in existing woodland such as rhododendron control (a major problem on acid soils in the Forest) and coppice restoration. The take up of grants is very good and most of the large estates are involved. In the New Forest District Council area, the total land area under the WGS is 4096.7 ha and comprises 89 individual management plans. In the New Forest Heritage Area, the total land area under the WGS is 3384.3 ha and comprises 54 individual management plans ⁽¹⁾. In addition, the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme offers grants to farmers to plant trees on improved agricultural land.

The New Forest contains a relatively high proportion of conifers ⁽²⁾ although current policies will, in time, lead to a reduction in conifer plantations as they are removed to increase the area of lowland heathland and as new planting is dominated by broadleaved species. The *New Forest Natural Area Profile* ^{op cit} suggests that at least 20% of conifer plantation should be removed and returned to open forest. There is scope to improve the integration of conifer plantations with adjacent semi-natural woodlands and open spaces.

One way of encouraging a sustainable Forest economy is to promote markets for new Forest timber and thus ensure secured economic returns on hardwoods. The FC's initiative 'Woodlots' aims to encourage woodland management by creating a platform from which landowners can advertise supply and demand for timber from small woodlands. More locally-based initiatives include the Wessex Coppice Group launched by Hampshire County Council to encourage the growth in hazel coppice industry through marketing of coppice products and training of coppice craftsmen.

4.6.1 *Key Issues*

Significant forces for change in relation of woodlands and forestry are:

- Forestry Commission's change in emphasis to give priority to nature conservation which will alter the proportions of the Forest's landscape mosaic;
- restoration of conifer inclosures to heathland;
- an overall increase in open space and a move towards a greater broadleaved component, with more diversity of species and age structure.
- growing need to recognise veteran trees as features of key nature conservation importance;

(1) Forestry Commission pers comm, June 1999.

(2) Countryside Commission (1996) The New Forest Landscape, CCP 220.

- impact of woodland management grants on improving biodiversity and public access;
- encouragement of woodland management through the development of markets for woodland products.

4.6.2

Broad Landscape Guidance for Forestry and Woodlands

The Forestry Commission's *Plan for Ancient & Ornamental Woodlands* ^{op cit} the New Forest Committee's *Strategy for the New Forest* ^{op cit} and the *New Forest Natural Area Profile* ^{op cit} provide detailed guidance on specific measures for managing the woodland component of the New Forest landscape mosaic. The aim is to optimise nature conservation, landscape, heritage, recreational and economic benefits. Further guidance on woodland design and management is also available in the Forestry Commission's *Guidelines* booklets.

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- Conservation, restoration and management of the New Forest's distinctive mosaic of semi-natural woodlands, particularly the Ancient and Ornamental Woodlands, heathlands and wood pastures, will maintain the area's rich diversity of landscape features and habitats and the historic landscape pattern.
 - Recognising and responding to the relationship between woodlands and heathlands, mires and other unwooded habitats is fundamental to enhancing biodiversity, historic landscape patterns and landscape character.
 - The ongoing reduction in the overall proportion of conifers should be carefully structured to maximise opportunities for restoring linked areas of lowland heathland. New planting should be dominated by broadleaved species and designed to soften and improve the visual relationship between conifers and other components of the woodland mosaic.
 - Irregularly shaped felling coupes appear more natural in the landscape, but woodland shapes should reflect those of the natural landform and adjacent landscape patterns.
 - The New Forest is considered to contain a significant resource of veteran trees. Such nature conservation features should be recognised and treasured for their role in the maintenance of biodiversity.
 - Some restoration of traditional silvicultural practices, such as lopping, coppicing and pollarding should be considered to maintain the living tradition of the woodlands.
 - There may be scope to extend the market for New Forest timber to ensure secured economic returns on hardwoods.
 - Subsidies for woodland planting and management will be a significant influence on future land use change in the New Forest.
 - The New Forest woodlands offer considerable opportunities for education and interpretation. This potential should be developed provided it does not prejudice landscape, historic and nature conservation interests.
 - Production of a woodland strategy for the fringes of the Forest would ensure management action complements that undertaken by the Forestry Commission.
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The New Forest is by far the District's most visited area, with an estimated 7.15 million visitor days per year (based on an Ecotec study published in 1992). Visitors contribute some £76 million annually to the local economy, and support the equivalent of nearly 3,000 full-time local jobs. Tourism represents the single most valuable input into the New Forest economy. There is also considerable tourism activity in coastal areas, where cliff top rights of way, car parks, camp sites, beaches and marinas are major attractions. The proximity of the Southampton and Bournemouth/Poole conurbations brings pressure for local recreational activity, in addition to national and international tourism. The Forestry Commission's visitor management strategy ⁽¹⁾ is a 20 year plan for the dispersal of facilities and zoning of activities so that activities are confined to more robust areas. As part of this strategy car parks, camping sites and visitor centres are being re-located, away from sensitive habitats, to more robust satellite locations on the Forest fringe where they can 'catch' visitors on the edge of the Forest.

The *Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire* ^{op cit} recognises the importance of education, public access and increased awareness to the conservation of biodiversity. However, the *Action Plan* also acknowledges the detrimental effect of visitor pressure, particularly through noisy, disruptive and damaging activities. Ancient woodlands, fens, heathlands and coastal habitats are particularly vulnerable and all are well represented in the District.

Government guidance, contained in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 21* (PPG 21: Tourism), advises that most development needs associated with tourism can be met on less sensitive locations outside designated National Parks (for planning purposes, the New Forest Heritage Area is the equivalent). However, the countryside outside the New Forest Heritage Area is also sensitive and local plan policies for both areas provide minimal scope for tourist developments; only existing buildings or extensions to existing buildings are to be used. New tourist development is encouraged in existing built up areas outside the New Forest, although the visitor traffic generated may have wider impacts. The principal honeypots in the New Forest include: Brockenhurst and its surroundings, Burley, the Beaulieu Estate and Paultons.

4.7.1

Key Issues

The unique landscape, historical and ecological qualities of these areas are vulnerable to pressures arising from tourism and recreation. These include:

- ***Erosion of paths*** through walking and recreational horse-riding and the associated damage to vegetation and disturbance of ground nesting birds. Impacts are forest-wide, although concentrated at the 'honeypots' of Brockenhurst, Burley and Beaulieu. Cycling is a more intensive, focused activity which takes people rapidly into relatively tranquil parts of the

(1) This strategy is not yet available but was presented by Donald Thompson at the public participation Workshop on March 23 2000.

Forest, particularly mountain bikers who are looking for the off-road experience and who may fail to appreciate the sensitivity of the area.

- ***Growth in riding schools and private livery yards*** leading to the development of new buildings, riding facilities and post and rail fencing, and to increases in the value of grazing to prices which are unaffordable by the commoning community.
- ***Pressure for amenity and recreational facilities*** such as golf courses, which are often associated with new housing development.
- ***Increase in traffic levels*** - particularly on minor roads, which may erode their character.
- ***Erosion of sense of peace and remoteness.*** The *New Forest Strategy* ^{op cit} states 'The New Forest is one of the few 'wild' areas remaining in the south east and a sense of peace and remoteness is an important element of this'. Increasing traffic levels, visitor numbers and urban encroachment are together eroding parts of the New Forest which possess these qualities. The *Strategy* calls for the identification of 'remote areas' in the New Forest so that measures can be taken to protect the remaining tranquil areas.

4.7.2

Broad Landscape Guidance for Tourist Developments and Recreation

The landscape, ecological and historical resources of the New Forest are a key economic asset for tourism and recreation. One of the greatest challenges is how to resolve the potential conflict between permitting further tourist development and protecting the resource that people come to experience. The New Forest District's *Coastal Management Plan* ⁽¹⁾ the *Local Plan* and the *Strategy for the New Forest* ^{op cit} include some policy guidance on the development and management of tourist activities.

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- The co-ordination of the recreational strategy between the coast and the Forest will result in an overall integrated plan.
 - Siting of car parks on the fringes of the forest will reduce pressure on sensitive habitats in the Forest Core. Provision of toilet and picnic facilities within car parks will encourage use by the majority of visitors.
 - The provision of alternative tourist attractions (such as country parks) outside the Forest could help to redirect visitor pressures; such facilities should be sited to avoid increasing pressures on Forest roads.
 - Allocation and enforcement of specific mountain bike routes will help to reduce erosion on other tracks and footpaths. The use of gravel Forest tracks and old railway tracks by cyclists and old quarries or landfill sites for off-road mountain biking courses should be considered.
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(1) New Forest District (1997) Coastal Management Plan.

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- Siting visitor facilities and youth hostels in areas with public transport connections, particularly those on rail routes, will help to reduce private car use.
 - Information boards in car parks could educate visitors, highlighting the sensitivity of the forest.
 - In the New Forest's naturally wooded landscape, appropriate siting of facilities and planting around camping and caravan parks will help reduce their impact on landscape character, ecological and historical resources while retaining outward views; in more open landscapes, landform screening may be more appropriate. Control of the scale of caravan parks and relocation into less sensitive areas will also help to limit their impact.
 - Identification and management of areas of importance for their tranquil and remote nature will be essential if the New Forest's 'wild' character is to be conserved.
 - A comprehensive approach to visitor management issues in small New Forest villages may offer benefits to local communities, particularly during peak periods.
 - Attention to the siting, public information provision and management of visitor levels to vulnerable areas of landscape, ecological and historical significance will help prevent damage to the resources visitors come to enjoy.
 - Waterside and marina developments can be used to enhance and reinvigorate poor quality waterfronts within settlements.
 - There is scope to improve the quality of coastal amenity areas, beaches and car parks.
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4.8

ACCESS TO THE OPEN COUNTRYSIDE

The demand for access legislation followed the inclosure movement which reached its peak in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. More recently, the Access 2000 initiative has been set up to try to improve the quality, diversity and quantity of managed public access and recreation in the countryside. In February 1998 the Government published a consultation paper, *Access to the Open Countryside in England and Wales* ⁽¹⁾; this was followed up by a *Framework for Action* ⁽²⁾ which was published in March 1999. This debate is perhaps particularly relevant to the New Forest where access to open country is a key recreational asset, although the permissive access arrangements on Crown Land is not affected by the new legislation for access to open land. On the open forest, it is possible to wander at will, subject to the Forestry Commission by-laws. However, open public access brings with it concerns over impact on the environment, particularly heathland and other sensitive sites.

4.8.1

Key Issues

The unique landscape, historical and ecological qualities of the New Forest are vulnerable to pressures arising from open public access. These include:

(1) DETR (1998) *Access to the Open Countryside in England and Wales: A Consultation Paper* issued jointly by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions and the Welsh Office

(2) DETR (1999) *Access to the Open Countryside of England and Wales: The Government's Framework for Action*

- ***Erosion of heathland and other ecologically sensitive habitats*** through walking, recreational horse-riding, mountain biking and four-wheeled vehicles and the associated damage to vegetation and disturbance of ground nesting birds.
- ***Erosion of sense of peace and remoteness.*** The *New Forest Strategy* ^{op cit} states ‘*The New Forest is one of the few ‘wild’ areas remaining in the south east and a sense of peace and remoteness is an important element of this’*. Open public access is a threat to this quality.
- ***Congestion and visual intrusion*** from car parking in the forest.
- ***Disturbance of stock and interference with management activities*** such as heather burning, affecting the livelihoods of those who depend on the open country.
- ***Reluctance of land owners to re-establish heaths and downs*** because of potential access implications. Landowners may be tempted to plough up lowland heath in order to prevent it from being classified as open countryside.
- ***Interference with sites of archaeological interest*** and erosion of such features.

4.8.2

Broad Landscape Guidance for Managing Access to the open Countryside

The New Forest District’s *Strategy for the New Forest* ^{op cit} includes some policy guidance on the management of open access.

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- Development and management of footpath networks will offer alternatives to walking on the open forest; way-marked walks in selected forest locations may help to draw walkers away from the sensitive parts of the open Forest.
 - The development of an integrated rights of way network, incorporating routes outside the Forest, would minimise car use and reduce pressure on sensitive habitats by offering alternatives to New Forest routes.
 - Allocation and enforcement of specific mountain bike routes and bridleways will help to reduce erosion on the open Forest.
 - It may be necessary to protect archaeological sites from erosion.
 - Provision of car parks will reduce parking on road verges which will cause damage to habitats and visual amenity.
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4.9

WATER QUALITY AND RIVER FLOWS

On the whole, water quality in rivers in the New Forest is good. Even with industrial and sewage discharges, Southampton Water is still regarded as

relatively clean. Lymington River is the largest river in the New Forest Heritage Area, but other major rivers within and outwith the Heritage Area include the Avon, Beaulieu and Test Rivers and their tributaries. New Forest streams are of particular nature conservation interest. The peat and acidic sands they drain lend properties which suggest an affinity with upland rivers. Other important wetland features include historic water meadows, valley mires and man-made ponds and lakes, including the Avon valley wetlands, which have been created as a result of sand and gravel extraction. The valley mires are particularly vulnerable to changes in water quality or run off, particularly where they occur in combination with heathland.

The underlying clays are an influence on water flow; the New Forest rivers are characterised by low flows in summer and flash floods in the winter. Two improvement projects are underway to increase river flows in summer: the enhancement of valley mires as stores for rain water; and control of abstraction, for example, through licensing of trickle irrigation for root crops, strawberries and potatoes ⁽¹⁾. Landscape changes will, however, be subtle.

4.9.1 *Broad Landscape Guidance for Water Quality Management*

Water quality management demands an integrated approach. It involves minimising the risk of pollution spills, protecting the catchment area from diffuse pollution in the form of run-off from agricultural land or built development, managing water abstraction and the management of the river corridor landscape itself. The Environment Agency's forthcoming *Catchment Management Plan* for the New Forest rivers will set out policies for managing the region's watercourses and wetlands.

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- There is a risk that new development will reduce the conservation value and scenic quality of watercourses, particularly minor streams; new developments should be designed to benefit from the visual focus and amenity value which water provides.
 - The provision of buffer strips adjacent to water courses may help to intercept diffuse pollution and will enhance the ecological and landscape value of the river; however their effectiveness will depend on local soil types and rates of infiltration.
 - Measures to control abstraction licensing for trickle irrigation and to enhance valley mires as rainwater storage areas will improve flow levels in watercourses and habitat quality in riparian landscapes.
 - Reduction in the use of pesticides and herbicides and encouraging organic farming practices will reduce pollution of water courses due to agricultural run-off.
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4.10 *AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE*

The release of pollutants into the air may influence air quality and climate change. Air pollution can also affect health and biodiversity; sensitive species

(1) Environment Agency, pers comm, June 1999.

such as lichens, habitats which are naturally low in nutrients, and habitats on acid soils or in acid waters are particularly at risk. Air quality is a significant issue in the New Forest as the industrial areas along the Solent are relatively close to the sensitive Forest habitats.

Emissions of greenhouse gases also contribute to global warming. Relatively minor changes in the earth's temperature may have significant effects on biodiversity and landscape character. For instance, rising sea levels could lead to changes in the district's coastline and increased soil temperatures without available moisture may reduce the number of sites suitable for key New Forest species, such as beech. However, predicting the outcome of climate change is very difficult; even the smallest change in base conditions may lead to very different results. The Climate Change Impacts Review Group (CCIRG) has attempted to develop an 'accepted' position on climate change. Their review of current models suggests that there will be a 1.4 degree centigrade rise in mean summer temperatures, greater winter warming and a greater frequency of very warm years ⁽¹⁾. The *Impacts of Climate Change in the South East Study* ⁽²⁾ was undertaken by a team from WS Atkins, The Meteorological Office and ADAS and is linked to the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP). It recognises that this part of the UK has more to gain, or to lose, from climate change than any other region in the UK. It notes that the past century has seen a rise of 0.5%, but greater climate change is predicted for the 21st century, affecting natural resources and habitats.

4.10.1 *Key Issues*

One of the greatest problems is predicting climate change and the impact it will have on the environment. Forces for change relating to air pollution and climate change are:

- ***Air pollution*** from neighbouring industry will affect the survival of sensitive species such as lichens.
- ***Temperature rises and decrease in summer rainfall*** will affect the survival of species at the edge of their range and result in a gradual change in species composition of the Forest.
- ***Rising sea-levels*** will threaten coastal habitats through increased risk of flooding. There will also be an implication for coastal sea defence works.
- ***Increase in tidal surges and high waves*** will have implications for coastal defence works and disruptions to ferry services. Authorities will have to decide whether to maintain or improve coastal defences, or to opt for managed retreat.

(1) Landlines 102 (August 1999) Climate Change: Taking Stock.

(2) The Met Office, ADAS and WS Atkins (November 1999) Rising to the Challenge: Impacts of Climate change in the South East in the 21st Century, Summary Report.

- *Cliff erosion and potential cliff-falls* are a significant threat for coastal properties, particularly at Barton on Sea.
- *Summer water shortages* will result in drying out of valuable wetland habitats, increase risk of fire on heaths and lead to restriction on water abstraction for use in agriculture. The size of reservoirs may need to be increased to store winter rainfall.

4.10.2 *Broad Landscape Guidance for Air Pollution and Climate Change*

Modelling studies to assess the impacts of climate change on species, habitats and the coastline will provide the information needed to make decisions on how to respond to climate change. This will in turn inform policy on the need for mitigation and adaptation. The *Coastal Management Plan*^{op cit} considers issues relating to flood defence, including managed retreat and flood defence works. A strategic framework for the development of future coast protection and flood defence works will be provided by the forthcoming *Shoreline Management Plans* for the Western Solent and Southampton Water, and for Poole and Christchurch Bays.

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- Stricter controls on air pollution will ensure that air pollutants are minimised in this sensitive area of the New Forest.
 - Study of lichens, which act as biomonitors, may inform the effects of air pollution on the environment.
 - Establishment of specific study groups and investment into research on potential impacts of climate change in terms of biodiversity and landscape change will inform objectives for action.
 - Responses to sea level rise could take the form of increased investment in coastal defences or managed retreat. Consideration of abandonment of sea defences could be a more natural approach to habitat change.
 - Planting more trees will help to absorb carbon dioxide, the primary gas responsible for global warming.
 - Rigorous monitoring and prediction of changes will allow development of adaptation strategies and formation of appropriate responses to inevitable impact.
 - Raising of public awareness of the issues associated with climate change and drying out of habitats could promote conservation of water resources during the summer months.
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5.1 A STRATEGIC APPROACH

The *Landscape Character Assessment* highlights the value of landscape diversity and of recognising and reinforcing contrasts in landscape character. It covers *all* the landscapes within the New Forest District and New Forest Heritage Area, not just those which are widely recognised for their scenic, nature conservation or heritage value. It places particular emphasis on those landscapes which provide the setting to local towns and villages.

5.1.1 A Tool for Landscape Management, Planning and Design

The countryside is a dynamic resource; patterns of land use and landscape character have evolved over hundreds of years of cultivation, land management and settlement. The landscape character assessment identifies the key forces for change which are currently most influential and provides guidance to help accommodate change in a positive way. However, it also indicates those landscapes that are particularly sensitive to change and highlights the need to consider the capacity of the landscape to accommodate development, new activities and changes of use without loss of local character and identity.

There is also a strong emphasis on the potential for enhancement and on finding opportunities to improve landscape character through the design and management of new and existing landscapes, including those which are recognised and protected for their landscape, heritage or wildlife interest. This requires a proactive approach. Areas under pressure for development have a particular need for sensitive, high quality design to counteract the tendency for homogenisation and to ensure that development always reinforces local landscape quality and diversity.

5.1.2 A Baseline for Monitoring Future Landscape Change

This study provides a detailed survey of landscape character and condition. It is one of several surveys which can be used as a baseline against which future landscape change can be monitored. Other possible resources for monitoring change in the New Forest District include English Nature's *New Forest Natural Area Profile* ⁽¹⁾ *The Strategy for the New Forest* ⁽²⁾ and the *Coastal Management Plan* ⁽³⁾.

Suggested indicators for monitoring landscape change in the District's landscapes are shown in *Table 6.1*.

(1) English Nature (1999) *New Forest Natural Area Profile*.

(2) New Forest Committee (1996) *A Strategy for the New Forest*.

(3) New Forest District Council (1997) *Coastal Management Plan*.

Table 6.1 *Possible Baseline Indicators for Monitoring Landscape Change*

	LCAs	Possible Indicators
Downlands	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Martin and Tidpit Downs 2. Martin and Whitsbury Open Farmland 3. Damerham and Rockbourne Valleys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retained clear views to village churches • Loss of hedgerows (in m) • Area of calcareous grassland re-created • Length of watercourses with established riparian vegetation • Proportion of pasture and meadow to arable fields • Proportion of conifer : broadleaf woodland • Length of drove roads (with wide verges and hedgerows) • Number of trees in hill top clumps • Water flow within chalk streams at different times of year • Length or number of earthworks surviving • Average field size
Lowland Heaths	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Ringwood Forest 10. West Wellow Heaths and Commons 24. Beaulieu Heath 26. Eastern Forest Heaths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of conifer : broadleaf woodland • Proportion of conifer plantation : open heath • Area of heathland remaining • Number of commons remaining • Area of waste ground • Loss of species of lichen (in relation to air pollution) • Average field size
Forest Edge Farmlands	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Wooded Sandleheath Farmland 8. Poulner Woods and Pastures 9. Landford Forest Farmlands 11. Copythorne Forest Farmlands 12. Ashurst and Hythe Forest Farmlands 17. Sway Pasture and Smallholdings 18. Bransgore Woods and Pastures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of hedgerows (measured in m) • Number of hedgerow oaks per 200m boundary • Proportion of conifer : broadleaf woodland • Area of ancient semi-natural woodland • Area of woodland actively coppiced • Area of small pastures used as back-up grazing land • Average field size • Number of new residential dwellings • Number of derelict farm buildings • Number of veteran trees • Number of village greens

	LCAs	Possible Indicators
New Forest Core	19. Southern Heaths and Woodland 20. Northern Heaths and Woodland 21. Furzey Villages and Woodland 22. New Forest Central Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of village greens and number of mature trees associated with them • Number of veteran trees • Number of Commoners practising • Number of middle sized farms • Number of archaeological features • Proportion of conifer : broadleaf woodland • Area of open heathland • Area of wood pasture • Area of self sown Scots pine • Area of woodland invaded by rhododendron • Area of bog woodland • Area of Atlantic oak woodland • Length of species rich hedgerow • Number of new dwellings
Coasts	13. Waterside Parishes 14. North West Solent Estates 15. Lymington and Pennington Coastal Plain 16. Barton and Milford Coastal Plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length of salt marsh along coastal edge • Area of natural coastal grassland re-created • Area of organic farmland • Area of formal planting associated with 18/19th century estates • Average number of individual field boundary oaks per 100m hedge • Loss of hedgerows (measured in metres) • Proportion of pasture and meadow : arable • Quality of water in streams and ponds • Area of industry • Area of small pastures used as back up grazing land • Number of village greens
Avon Valley	6. Upper Avon Valley 7. Lower Avon Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of open water • Number of floodplain trees • Number of archaeological features surviving • Area of watermeadows • Quality of water in river and lakes • Retained clear view to village churches • Area/number of gravel pits • Average field size

	LCAs	Possible Indicators
Other Valleys	23. Lymington River 25. Beaulieu River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of ancient deciduous woodland • Area of heathland surviving • Number of village greens and number of mature trees associated with them • Area/number of surviving commons • Number of new dwellings • Loss of hedgerow (measured in m) • Average field size • Average number of hedgerow oaks per 100m • Area of woodland actively coppiced • Number of archaeological features surviving

5.1.3 *Using the Landscape Character Assessment*

The landscape character assessment is designed for use by everyone involved in the management, planning and design of landscapes. It provides a common point of reference and will encourage inter-agency co-operation. It may also be used as an educational tool for promoting landscape and conservation issues or as a framework for more local, detailed landscape studies.

In practice, the assessment is most likely to be used by local authorities, government departments and agencies, voluntary conservation organisations, and by developers and consultants (landscape architects, architects, urban designers, ecologists, planners, foresters, recreation and tourism specialists etc) from the private sector. It may also be used by local community groups and schools, particularly for community based initiatives such as village design statements and parish maps. In addition, researchers from a range of different academic fields may benefit from the systematic approach adopted by the assessment, and from the availability of a baseline description of the landscape at a point in time.

Landscape issues relate to a complex web of forces for change. One development pressure will often directly or indirectly affect others and their impacts will be unevenly distributed. It is therefore crucial to adopt an integrated approach - to the broad issues of land use and landscape management, and to the specific issues relating to the siting and design of new development. The assessment provides a common framework for this integrated approach, establishing principles to guide the decision-making process at a range of different scales, from landscape management strategies (eg for a country park) to design briefs for individual development sites.

5.1.4 *Summary of Key Issues Arising from the Landscape Character Assessment*

At a strategic level, the key issues affecting the District's landscapes are:

- *The impact of piecemeal development in the Forest*
- *Pressures on the Heritage Area boundary*
- *The decline of landscape character on the Waterside*
- *Managing visitor pressures*
- *The influence of ongoing changes in forest management*
- *Threats to commoning*
- *The erosion of semi-natural habitats*
- *The impacts of sand and gravel extraction*

- *Threats to historical and archaeological features*

5.2

THE IMPACT OF PIECEMEAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FOREST

The New Forest is an attractive and popular place to live and the ongoing pressures for built development are evident throughout the rural landscape. Large scale development is strictly controlled and the greater threat is from relatively small-scale, piecemeal development which, cumulatively, erodes the distinctive landscape character.

The forthcoming *Residential Guide* ⁽¹⁾ draws attention to this issue and makes practical recommendations for improving the design quality of new development. Traditional properties on large plots may be targets for individual new buildings; and infill or ribbon development is a threat to the character of small Forest settlements and rural lanes. Unsympathetic extensions and conversions can be as damaging as new buildings and small scale changes to properties, such as signs, garden fences, boundary walls, gate posts and lights are also potentially intrusive. The latter are beyond the control of the planning system yet can have a significant impact on the rural, natural character of the Forest by introducing standardised suburban design. The rugged character of the Forest's open spaces is particularly vulnerable to this creeping gentrification; ornamental garden plants, children's play equipment and fencing often dominate the foreground of views across common land.

The *Residential Guide* will assist in raising awareness and encouraging the use of traditional materials and techniques in the built environment. Village Design Statements would provide a further excellent means for guiding and policing small-scale change at a local level. Community involvement would also help to build a sense of local identity and civic pride. At district level, the preparation of a Countryside Design Summary could explore how necessary development can be accommodated in ways which reinforce local character and distinctiveness. The landscape assessment provides a robust basis for this approach.

5.3

PRESSURES ON THE HERITAGE AREA BOUNDARY

With strict controls on development within the New Forest Heritage Area, there are intense pressures on the relatively narrow band of land between the Heritage Area and district boundaries.

This area must accommodate a wide variety of built development and infrastructure, as well as a range of recreational facilities which may have direct links with the New Forest. However, the Heritage Area is relatively

(1) New Forest District Council (1999) Residential Design Guide for Rural Areas of the New Forest District, Consultation Draft.

small and there is a risk that development close to the boundary will gradually erode its distinctive character. The impacts can be felt in different ways: there may be views to built development, car parks, intensively farmed areas, golf courses or transmission lines; the traffic generated may use Forest roads; and the less tangible impacts, from noise, air pollution and lighting, may be equally damaging.

The issue can only be tackled by ensuring that there is a strong, harmonious design relationship between development and the wider landscape context. The sheer lack of space suggests that it would be impractical to introduce any form of buffer beyond the Heritage Area boundary and a strategy of landscape enhancement on the fringes of the Heritage Area is likely to be more effective.

New planting is likely to be the principal mechanism for achieving a more robust boundary. It should be designed to reflect the character of the New Forest landscape mosaic and to develop a subtle, attractive link between the Forest and its wider landscape context. The higher land on the north west boundary of the Heritage Area may be particularly vulnerable to the impacts of upstanding developments, such as communication masts. Such developments may be prominent in the long views which are typical of this part of the Forest and they should be subject to strict controls.

A high standard of design is essential in *all* parts of the District, as the surrounding countryside and settlements contribute to the setting of the New Forest. Development close to the Heritage Area boundary should be carefully monitored to avoid the gradual development of a 'ring' of buildings, golf courses and other formal land uses on the fringes of the Forest.

5.4

THE DECLINE OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ON THE WATERSIDE

The landscape bordering Southampton Water has a rather degraded character, yet forms an essential part of the setting for the expanded settlements of Totton, Marchwood, Hythe, Dibden, Fawley and Calshot. The Waterside has long been a 'gateway landscape', with numerous ferry landing points. The string of settlements and farmland interspersed with stretches of marsh and mudflats are viewed at close quarters from the water, as well as from the edges of the settlements. The Waterside also forms part of the broader landscape setting of Southampton, its rural character providing a contrast to the container docks and dense urban development on the eastern bank. Proposals for the expansion of Southampton Docks at Dibden Bay would represent a significant change in landscape character. A development of this scale would effectively urbanise the western banks of Southampton Water by forming a link between the existing settlements of Marchwood and Hythe and intruding on one of the most extensive areas of undeveloped coast along the upper Southampton Water.

The distinctive Waterside character is concentrated in the core of the small, historic settlements, parts of the enclosed farmland and the sweeping open

landscapes of the coastal marshes. These striking contrasts have been dissipated by extensive development, agricultural change and the decline of small scale Waterside businesses. Analysis of the local characteristics should provide design clues for environmental improvement schemes along the Waterside. These might focus on the settlement waterfront areas (particularly where the character becomes dissipated towards the fringes of the historic core) and car parks, recreation hot spots and points of access to the water's edge. There may be opportunities to redevelop some of the small disused commercial sites (former shipyards and airfields) in the area to ensure that they make a positive contribution to the local landscape. The coastal marshes and inter-tidal areas are of International importance for nature conservation and it is essential that any development, however small in scale, is designed to conserve and enhance the surrounding natural landscapes.

5.5 *MANAGING VISITOR PRESSURES*

The New Forest is one of the most popular destinations for visitors in the south east which is highly accessible to a growing and increasingly urban population. The area must accommodate visitors with very varied and potentially conflicting requirements. While many are attracted by the peace, tranquillity and scenic beauty of the ancient forests and heaths, others come to enjoy active sports such as motorcross, golf and horse riding.

Managing visitor pressures requires a degree of compromise and prioritisation, as well as education, interpretation and control. The *Strategy for the New Forest* ^{op cit} provides a clear framework for recreation and visitor management. It recommends increasing the level and quality of information for visitors and the introduction of 'remote areas' where measures can be taken to protect tranquillity. Limits on vehicular traffic or the creation of 'no go' areas would have knock-on benefits for wildlife habitats and vulnerable historic landscapes, while enhancing the distinctive 'wild' qualities of the traditional New Forest landscape.

The *Strategy* implies a stricter zoning of recreational activities to encourage cyclists, horse riders, walkers and other users to keep to suitable tracks. This requires education, information and monitoring so that the impacts (and potential conflicts) of different activities on the Forest environment can be fully assessed. The findings can be used to inform decisions about future management options.

The detailed siting and design of visitor facilities such as car parks, camp sites and information points is critical in making visitors aware of their role in caring for a high quality, distinctive and sensitive environment. Much has already been accomplished, but there is scope to improve the design and visibility of such facilities, particularly on the fringes of villages and in the more open heathland areas.

The complex mosaic of landscapes which makes up the New Forest is in a constant state of flux as areas of woodland are felled, coppiced and replanted, and glades, tracks and pastures are cleared or left to become overgrown. The Forestry Commission's strategic plans for restructuring some of the Forest's conifer plantations and the restoration of significant areas of heathland represent a major force for change. Other forms of land management, such as fencing areas where natural regeneration is to be encouraged, hedgerow laying and new tree planting will all contribute to the future character of the New Forest landscape.

Many land management schemes are planned to resolve specific issues. Planting may be required to screen a car park, buffer zones may be designed to minimise the flow of pollutants into water courses, and the planned heathland restoration schemes aim to maximise the nature conservation benefits of this important, nationally rare habitat. Whatever the rationale behind the change, it is essential that land management schemes are designed to maximise landscape benefits.

With every change in the landscape mosaic there are opportunities to open up views, retain distinctive (potential future landmark) trees and create buffers between conflicting uses. For instance the heathland restoration schemes will introduce more extensive open areas, with the potential for long views. There are two obvious landscape considerations. The woodland edges bordering these new heathlands will be a backdrop for views and may require careful design, while sufficient woodland should be retained to ensure views to the industrial development to the east are not intrusive.

If the visual effects of change are always taken into account, the distinctive landscape of the New Forest will be constantly renewed and rarely degraded.

Commoning has long been important in maintaining the culture, landscape and ecology of the New Forest, but a gradual decline in the practice represents a threat to the distinctive open Forest landscape. The viability of commoning is threatened by lack of access to suitable land (both common grazing land and enclosed back-up grazing), lack of affordable housing for commoners, interference of visitors in the management of ponies and road accidents resulting from an increase in the speed and numbers of vehicular traffic. The distribution of back-up grazing land was taken into account in drawing up Heritage Area Boundary ⁽¹⁾ and many of the small-scale fields traditionally used for this purpose are included. Nevertheless, there are difficulties in accessing and using much of this land.

(1) Land Use Consultants, New Forest Heritage Area - Proposed Boundary, 1991

The *Strategy for the New Forest* ^{op cit} suggests the development of a joint marketing strategy for marketing Forest animals and products and the review and implementation of the outstanding recommendations in the *Illingworth Report* ⁽¹⁾. In the long term, an increase in subsidy may be required to secure the survival of this important and influential local tradition.

5.8 *THE EROSION OF SEMI-NATURAL HABITATS*

The New Forest district contains the largest extent of semi-natural habitat in lowland England ^{English Nature op cit}. Many of these, including lowland heathland, ancient woodland, acidic grassland, shingle features, salt marsh and saline lagoons, are threatened throughout Europe.

Many of these key habitats are small, fragmented and suffer from inappropriate management. For instance the valuable flora and fauna of the relict valley mires in the Forest and the unimproved grasslands within the Avon Valley are threatened because these habitats are isolated from other similar fragments. It is important that the Forest retains its biodiversity value and that it does not become a stagnant resource. Areas which have the potential to link fragmented habitats should be targeted for management action so that the flow of species can be enhanced.

Many conservation schemes can do little more than maintain the current nature conservation value of a site. In the New Forest there is scope to do much more. Here there are major opportunities to develop a co-ordinated approach, linking and expanding habitats and monitoring the number and flow of species. Traditional management practices have an important part to play - commoning, coppicing, pollarding and lopping all contribute to the distinctive and finely balanced pattern of species and habitats and it is crucially important that these practices continue, despite the lack of financial incentive.

Many important habitats, such as the Avon Valley grasslands, the coastal grazing marshes between Hurst spit and the Lymington River, and the shingle spit and beaches at Stanswood Bay, are beyond the Heritage Area boundary. These habitats are likely to be under particular threat from neglect or development but merit careful conservation.

5.9 *THE IMPACTS OF SAND AND GRAVEL EXTRACTION*

Parts of the Avon valley floodplain have been transformed by large scale sand and gravel extraction. The flat water meadows on the banks of the river are underlain by extensive sand and gravel deposits and there is constant pressure for new quarries.

(1) Forestry Commission (1992) *Grazing in the New Forest - Government Response to the Report of the Illingworth Working Party*.

The extraction process isolates large areas, which become temporarily inaccessible and dangerous. The process generates a flow of heavy lorries and is associated with noise, dust and visual intrusion. All such quarries are subject to strict regulations which require high standards of restoration. The Avon valley quarries have been restored to form a series of large lakes which are used as a wildlife and recreation resource. It would not be possible to restore the gravel pits to the pre-existing water meadow landscape as the water table has been permanently altered by the extraction process. The lakes themselves have relatively little visual impact as they are screened by bunds and new planting, but the profusion of signs, car parks and advertisements can be intrusive.

As more quarries and eventually lakes are developed, consideration should be given to their cumulative impact on the local landscape and the contrast with the pre-existing tranquil open landscape of the Avon floodplain. The important remaining water meadows should be retained for their ecological and landscape value and there may be scope to incorporate some elements of the traditional scenic riverside landscapes in future restoration schemes.

5.10

THREATS TO HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

The New Forest's wealth of historical and archaeological features is a unique and priceless aspect of its landscape heritage; many features, such as the Iron Age earthworks of Whitsbury Castle and Grim's Ditch, are also important and well known landmarks. Bronze Age burial barrows are also well represented in the landscape, particularly in the open heaths of the New Forest, where they stand out as prominent features. Designed historic landscapes are vital to the New Forest's cultural identity. However, these features are threatened by ongoing landscape change, particularly from agricultural intensification, forestry, infrastructure, recreation and built development.

In addition to the many 'single monuments' such as barrows or hillforts, many of the *landscape character areas* derive significant aspects of their defining character from historical processes. For example, the size and form of fields and the relative presence or absence of wooded copses varies markedly. Areas with greater proportions of small irregular fields usually correlate with numbers of small irregular woods, and are arguably surviving elements of a Medieval or earlier process of piecemeal landscape clearance and small-scale farming. Conversely, larger rectilinear fields, with larger regular blocks of planted woods, are typical of the Parliamentary Inclosure movement of the 18th and 19th centuries, and overly or replace the older smaller field systems. In other areas, these later fields are mixed with an additional and more formal element deriving from the creation of small to medium sized country estates, most are also of 18th century date. In each instance the size and shape of fields, woods, and the nature of field boundaries (e.g. hedges) reflect distinct historical processes. This needs to be explicitly recognised, and the continued survival of these elements monitored and managed.

There is a need for the identification, conservation and management of designed historic landscapes and archaeological features, maintaining their integrity, and protecting them from inappropriate development. This may most easily be accomplished as part of a careful process of site appraisal and design, taking account of local views and historic or visual relationships. The presence of heritage features on a site will often form the basis for a more distinctive design, contributing to local identity and to the conservation and enhancement of landscape character.

Most historic sites would benefit from a pro-active approach. The design and management of such landscapes should take account of relevant historic precedents, but should incorporate fresh ideas and techniques wherever this is appropriate. There is a tendency to allow heritage sites to be 'fossilised' and consequently to suffer from degradation and neglect.

5.11

A VALUABLE HERITAGE

The New Forest District's landscapes are a unique and valuable asset. They contribute to the special quality of life of the people who live and work in the region and form the basis for a significant tourist economy. Elements of visual, historic and ecological interest all contribute to the character and qualities that make the New Forest landscape so special. Yet the landscape represents a vulnerable resource, faced with mounting pressures for change. If left unguided and unchecked these pressures will gradually erode its distinctive qualities. Action now will enable landscape change to be positive, creative and effective.

New Forest District Council, Hampshire
County Council, the Countryside Agency and
English Heritage

New Forest District Landscape
Character Assessment:
Supplementary Annexes

July 2000



(incorporating the whole of the New Forest Heritage Area)

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English Heritage

New Forest District Landscape Character Assessment: *Supplementary Annexes*

July 2000

Reference 5988

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For and on behalf of Environmental Resources Management	
Approved by: Julie Martin	
Signed:	
Position:	Technical Director
Date:	17 July 2000

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Annex A

Landscape Character and
Settlement Character
Record Sheets

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	1. Martin and Tidpit Downs
County Landscape Character Area County and Landscape Type(s) District Landscape Types	4. Cranbourne Chase Scarps: Downland Chalk and Clay 14. Chalk Down Scarps
Physical Influences Landform Surface geology and soils Drainage	Rolling hills, broad sweeping skylines and steep hillsides reaching 142m at Tidpit Down. Upper Chalk with shallow, free draining soils No streams, rivers or water bodies. Free draining soils.
Land Cover and Biodiversity Current land uses Habitats (type and value) Diversity and rarity Management issues/objectives	Downland grazed by sheep to maintain a species-rich grassland. Chalk downland consisting of low fertility species rich grassland and scrub. High biodiversity with many rare species. Habitat is becoming scarce - 95% has been lost in the past 50 years. Loss of downland to arable cultivation and application of herbicides/fertilisers. Lack of management and scrub encroachment or overgrazing. Fragmentation of habitat. Opportunities to extend smaller areas of unenclosed species rich chalk grassland.
Archaeology and History Historic landscape type(s) Key visible historic components Period of predominant character Earlier/later features of note Parishes Parish Clusters Functional linkages Management issues/objectives	6.1; Downland Earthworks of Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Saxon periods. This LCA was created by Bronze Age land clearances (ca. 3000 years ago). Poor soils limited recovery of the forest, and subsequently the open aspect was maintained by limited arable agriculture and extensive grazing practices. Bronze Age burial Barrows interspersed with some Roman sites clustered along the south western boundary of the LCA. Occasional Neolithic earthworks. Martin 1 To LCA 2 - served as grazing hinterland for villages in the valleys Grazing (no arable agriculture) to preserve earthworks

Landscape Character Area	1. Martin and Tidpit Downs
<p>Broad Landscape Patterns</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Settlement</p> <p>Field boundaries (type and pattern)</p> <p>Woodland (age, type, size, distribution)</p> <p>Access and recreation</p> <p>Perceived tranquillity</p>	<p>Very few roads. Minor public rights of way in the form of tracks and lanes.</p> <p>No settlement.</p> <p>Few, if any, field boundaries.</p> <p>Scrub only.</p> <p>Large number of public footpaths and free access onto Martin Down; valuable recreational resource.</p> <p>Very tranquil, but background noise of A354.</p>
<p>Settlement Character</p> <p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p> <p>Relationship to landscape</p>	<p>No settlement</p>
<p>Visual Character and Condition</p> <p>Key views</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Landscape settings to settlement</p> <p>Positive features</p> <p>Negative features</p> <p>Forces for change</p>	<p>Panoramic views over Hampshire chalk farmland. Sweeping views to the horizon. Ridgelines silhouetted against the sky.</p> <p>No settlement</p> <p>Wild, untamed character and amorphous landscape patterns. Panoramic views.</p> <p>Cars and car parks.</p> <p>Visitor pressure and erosion.</p> <p>Car park expansion.</p> <p>Scrub encroachment due to changes in grazing pressure.</p>

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	2. Martin and Whitsbury Open Farmland
County Landscape Character Area	4. Cranbourne Chase
County Landscape Type(s)	Open Arable
District Landscape Type(s)	13. Open Arable Downs
Physical Influences	
Landform	Open, undulating hills and valleys, rising to prominent ridges between the valleys (116m at Kingstown Copse).
Surface geology and soils	Upper Chalk with free draining soils.
Drainage	Small Winterbournes drain South-East towards the Avon.
Land Cover and Biodiversity	
Current land uses	Large scale arable rotation, contributing to Hampshire's largest single type of land use.
Habitat (type and value)	Open arable farmland with small copses, geometric plantations and shelter belts. Small fragments of valuable calcareous grassland and scrub on higher tracts of land.
Diversity and rarity	Generally low diversity levels - wildlife interest confined to field margins and small fragments of calcareous grassland.
Management issues/objectives	Loss of downland and calcareous grassland. Intensive arable cultivation and overuse of herbicides and insecticides. Fragmentation and loss of hedgerows. Over-mature shelter belts. Low level of Winterbournes. Opportunities to enhance biological diversity within areas of intensive farming.
Archaeology and History	
Historic landscape type(s)	Field systems of types 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 1.15, 1.16 - all larger Parliamentary period enclosures of downland or earlier systems.
Key visible historic components	Parliamentary enclosures of generally 17-18 th centuries, Medieval village cores, limited 20 th century village growth.
Period of predominant character	Post-Medieval parliamentary-type enclosure, of large regular enclosed field systems.
Earlier/later features of note	BA barrows, grouped on NW edge. Clusters of IA earthworks are visible and a Roman grouping to the south of the LCA.
Parishes	Martin, Rockbourne, Damerham
Parish Clusters	1, 2, 5
Functional linkages	Linked to LCA 1 serving as grazing and later arable for villages
Management issues/objectives	The scale and size of field systems and villages should be preserved.

Landscape Character Area	2. Martin and Whitsbury Open Farmland
<p>Broad Landscape Patterns</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Settlement</p> <p>Field boundaries (type and pattern)</p> <p>Woodland (age, type, size, distribution)</p> <p>Access and recreation</p> <p>Perceived tranquillity</p>	<p>Few routes of communication. Roads runs down into valleys.</p> <p>Scattered, isolated farms. Martin sits within the upper valley of the Allen River.</p> <p>Regular field boundaries between large fields. Smaller field patterns close to Martin. Mainly fragmented and scrubby hedgerows.</p> <p>Largely open landscape. Small deciduous farm copses create some shelter. Plantations and shelterbelts provide functional windbreaks.</p> <p>Limited public access; more public rights of way in the north.</p> <p>Quiet, rural environment.</p>
<p>Settlement Character</p> <p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p> <p>Relationship to landscape</p>	<p>Martin Village only - residential.</p> <p>High density linear settlement along roadside.</p> <p>Timber framed cottages.</p> <p>Chalk cob.</p> <p>Red brick and flint with thatch.</p> <p>Green verges either side of the street where the Winterbourne runs.</p> <p>Village green.</p> <p>Within sheltered valley.</p>
<p>Visual Character and Condition</p> <p>Key views</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Landscape settings to settlements</p> <p>Positive features</p> <p>Negative features</p> <p>Forces for change</p>	<p>Long, sweeping views across open farmland.</p> <p>Church spire at Martin.</p> <p>Kingstown Copse on the hilltop.</p> <p>Topography and trees provide shelter and a setting for Martin.</p> <p>Sense of space.</p> <p>Areas of scrub and hedgerows which break up the uniformity of the landscape.</p> <p>Hilltop copses.</p> <p>Pylons.</p> <p>Hedgerow fragmentation and loss.</p> <p>Loss of grass verges.</p> <p>Intensive arable cultivation replacing downland.</p> <p>Loss of woodland.</p>

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	3. Damerham and Rockbourne Valleys
County Landscape Character Area	4. Cranbourne Chase
County Landscape Type(s)	Chalk and Clay
District Landscape Type(s)	10. Enclosed Farmland and Woodland 12. Enclosed Arable Farmland 18. Historic Parkland
Physical Influences	
Landform	Narrow chalk valleys and undulating lower chalk slopes rising to approximately 100m AOD.
Surface geology and soils	Upper Chalk with clay influences
Drainage	Allen River and Sweatsfords Water (Winterbournes) drain SE into the Avon.
Land Cover and Biodiversity	
Current land uses	Open arable farmland with small copses, geometric plantations and shelter belts.
Habitats (type and value)	Large areas of arable rotation with mixed woodland and coniferous plantation on higher ground. Some semi-improved and marshy grassland in the valleys.
Diversity	Arable farmland has relatively low biodiversity - valleys are more diverse.
Management issues/objectives	Intensive arable cultivation and loss or fragmentation of woodland, trees and hedgerows. Drainage and ground water abstraction leading to loss of marshy grassland.
Archaeology and History	
Historic landscape type(s)	Fields of 1.4 = Regular assarts (19-20 th century) with Parliamentary field systems of types 1.9, 1.10, 1.11, 1.12. Fringe of L Medieval / Early Post - Medieval Assarts to W, otherwise chalk ridges with Parliamentary enclosure systems, interspersed by valleys with Marsh and rough grazing
Key visible historic components	Fringe of L Medieval/Early Post - Medieval Assarts to W, otherwise chalk ridges with Parliamentary enclosure systems, interspersed by valleys with Marsh and rough grazing
Period of predominant character	Mostly Post-Medieval field systems
Earlier/later features of note	Occasional earlier earthworks, Grims Ditch IA fort & Whitsbury Castle IA fort. Neolithic long barrow at Breamore Down, and Roman Villa.
Parishes	Damerham, Rockbourne
Parish Clusters	1,2,5

Landscape Character Area	3. Damerham and Rockbourne Valleys
<p>Functional linkages</p> <p>Management issues/objectives</p>	<p>Damerham, Rockbourne, + Whitsbury villages.</p> <p>The scale and size of both field systems and the village properties should be preserved insofar as possible by resisting amalgamation of fields and loss of hedge/boundaries, or inappropriate scale or density of infill housing.</p>
<p>Broad Landscape Patterns</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Settlement</p> <p>Field boundaries (type and patter)</p> <p>Woodland (age, type, size, distribution)</p> <p>Access and recreation</p> <p>Perceived tranquillity</p>	<p>Communication directly between settlements, along valleys.</p> <p>Small linear valley settlements: Rockbourne, Damerham, Whitsbury.</p> <p>Tall, lush hedgerows and tree belts divide moderate/large fields. Smaller field patterns within valleys and close to settlements.</p> <p>Mixture of ancient deciduous and newer plantation woodlands at Martin Wood/Boulsbury Wood and Bockerley Dyke Plantation.</p> <p>Good access along valleys, more difficult elsewhere.</p> <p>Rural, tranquil environment.</p>
<p>Settlement Character</p> <p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p> <p>Relationship to landscape</p>	<p>Villages - private dwellings. Very few shops.</p> <p>Dense linear patterns along valleys.</p> <p>Red brick and flint with thatch or tile. Thatched timber framed cottages. Chalk cob cottages. Wooden weather-boarding.</p> <p>Private gardens and verges. Water meadows.</p> <p>Fronts face onto road - backs to downs.</p>
<p>Visual Character and Condition</p> <p>Key views</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Landscape settings</p> <p>Positive features</p> <p>Negative features</p> <p>Forces for change</p>	<p>Restricted views due to dense vegetation cover.</p> <p>No obvious landmarks.</p> <p>Settings to settlements created by valley landform.</p> <p>Lush vegetation cover. Winding, leafy lanes. Picturesque Villages.</p> <p>Pylons.</p> <p>Replacement of deciduous woodland by conifers.</p> <p>Over maturing trees in the valleys. Ribbon and infill development along roads.</p>

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	4. Wooded Sandleheath Farmland
County Landscape Character Area	8. New Forest Lowland and Heath
County Landscape Type(s)	Mixed Farmland and Woodland Urban Area
District Landscape Type(s)	10. Enclosed Farmland and Woodland 18. Historic Parkland
Physical Influences	
Landform	Edge of eroded dip slope margins of chalk. Undulating hills and valleys generally between 50 and 80m AOD.
Surface geology and soils	Reading Beds and London Clay with thicker soils than chalk areas. Isolated area of former heath at Sandleheath.
Drainage	Sweatsfords Water and Ashford Water drain NW to SE into the Avon. Areas of open water.
Land Cover and Biodiversity	
Current land uses	Mixed farmland with moderate sized mixed woodlands and copses.
Habitats (type and value)	Fairly equal areas of arable rotation and mixed woodland with small areas of agricultural, semi-improved or marshy grassland and open water. Scrub and semi-improved grassland at West Park.
Diversity	High biodiversity.
Management issues/objectives	Undermanaged, fragmented hedges or hedgerow removal. Loss of ancient woodland to forestry plantations and intensive agricultural land. Loss of meadows and marshy grassland.
Archaeology and History	
Historic landscape type(s)	Fields mostly the smaller/earlier assarts (type 1.1) with some larger (1.4) and mixed 1.16, with numbers of woods type (4.1 = Assorted pre 1810 woodland).
Key visible historic components	Mixed small-medium fields and small assorted woods
Period of predominant character	Med Assorted landscape of limited P. Med re-organisation.
Earlier/later features of note	Very few.
Parishes	Damerham, Rockbourne, Whitsbury Sandleheath village.
Parish Clusters	1, 2, 5
Functional linkages	Sandleheath

Landscape Character Area	4. Wooded Sandleheath Farmland
Management issues/objectives	The scale and size of both field systems and the village properties should be preserved insofar as possible by resisting amalgamation of fields and loss of hedge/boundaries, or inappropriate scale or density of infill housing.
Broad Landscape Patterns Communications Settlement Field boundaries (type and pattern) Woodland (age, type, size, distribution) Access and recreation Perceived tranquillity	Communication routes tend to extend in a NW to SE direction, along valleys. Sandleheath around a village centre. Scattered farms. Hedgerows enclosing regular, medium sized fields. No field boundaries at West Park. High proportion of scattered woodland cover in this area - combination of ancient mixed woodland and some more recent plantation. Good public access across the area. Trout fishing and passive recreational use of countryside. Less tranquil than further up valleys due to proximity to Sandleheath/Fordingbridge and larger number of people in the area.
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style and materials Green spaces Relationship to landscape	Residential. Dense around Sandleheath - residential estates with a small village centre. Various - many new buildings and materials. Traditional red brick, tile, slate or thatch and weatherboarding on agricultural buildings. Private gardens. Set within a wooded structure.
Visual Character and Condition Key views Landmarks Landscape settings to settlements Positive features Negative features Forces for change	Restricted by woodland and hedgerows. None obvious - difficult to orientate in this landscape. Hedgerows and woodland. Wooded, secluded character. Leafy lanes. Sprawling development around Sandleheath. Conifers replacing deciduous species. New built development - along roads and infill around Sandleheath.

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	5. Ringwood Forest
County Landscape Character Area	8. New Forest Lowland and Heath
County Landscape Type(s)	Mixed Farmland and Woodland Heathland and Forest
District Landscape Type(s)	10. Enclosed Farmland and Woodland 16. Timber Inclosures/Plantations
Physical Influences	
Landform	Gently undulating plateau between 40 and 50m AOD to the west of the Avon Valley.
Surface geology and soils	Bagshot Sands and plateau gravels with free draining sandy/gravelly soils.
Drainage	Minor water courses drain east directly into the Avon Valley.
Land Cover and Biodiversity	
Current land uses	Extensive coniferous plantation of Ringwood Forest with small areas of mixed farmland and deciduous woodland on the forest edge.
Habitats (type and value)	Extensive coniferous plantation, amenity grassland and bare ground with low biodiversity. Arable rotation with some mixed woodland to the eastern edge.
Diversity	Low biodiversity in even aged plantations; high biodiversity on forest edge.
Management issues/objectives	Undermanaged, fragmented hedges or hedgerow removal. Loss of heathland to forestry plantations. Low biodiversity. Mineral extraction and landfill.
Archaeology and History	
Historic landscape type(s)	Very extensive. 19 th century heathland plantations
Key visible historic components	Probable early land clearance and assorted, totally lost to 19 th and 20 th Forestry.
Period of predominant character	19 th
Earlier/late features of note	Nil
Parishes	Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley
Parish Clusters	3
Functional linkages	No villages / settlements! Obscure, probably previously heathland grazing.
Management issues/objectives	None

Landscape Character Area	5. Ringwood Forest
<p>Broad Landscape Patterns</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Settlement</p> <p>Field boundaries (type and pattern)</p> <p>Woodland (age, type, size, distribution)</p> <p>Access and recreation</p> <p>Perceived tranquillity</p>	<p>Straight roads cut through the forest. Minor roads on forest edge pay more attention to landscape pattern.</p> <p>Intermittent farms along eastern edge of area. No settlement within forest.</p> <p>Thick hedgerows and tree belts enclose fields on the eastern margin of the forest.</p> <p>Most of the area is even aged coniferous plantation (Ringwood Forest). Oak/birch woodland on forest edge.</p> <p>Good public access, particularly to and within Ringwood Forest which is a popular recreational area.</p> <p>Peaceful away from roads. B3081, a busy road, exerts an influence close to its path.</p>
<p>Settlement Character</p> <p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p> <p>Relationship to landscape</p>	<p>Farm buildings.</p> <p>Extremely low density - scattered properties</p> <p>Red brick and thatch. Wood is also used on garages and outbuildings.</p> <p>Individual properties sit within landscape - they are part of the landscape.</p>
<p>Visual Character and Condition</p> <p>Key views</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Landscape settings to settlements</p> <p>Positive features</p> <p>Negative features</p> <p>Forces for change</p>	<p>Views along rides, and across open spaces within forest (fields or bare ground). Glimpsed views through trees into the Avon Valley.</p> <p>No particular landmarks.</p> <p>No settlements.</p> <p>Balance of pasture and woodland. Diverse and rich forest edge.</p> <p>Erosion and felled areas.</p> <p>Gravel pits.</p> <p>Monotony of even aged and single species stands.</p> <p>Rhododendron invasion to woodland edge. Landfill.</p> <p>Telecommunication masts.</p> <p>Erosion, particularly where there is open ground.</p>

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	6. Upper Avon Valley
County Landscape Character Area County Landscape Type(s) District Landscape Type(s)	11. Avon, Test, Itchen and Meon River Valleys River Valley/Mixed Farmland and Woodland/Heathland and Forest/Urban 3. Urban Areas 5. Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings 6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 7a. Areas of Gravel Extraction 8. River Terrace farmlands 9. River Floodplain 10. Enclosed Farmland and Woodland 17. Heathland 18. Historic Parkland
Physical Influences Landform Surface geology and soils Drainage	Broad open valley enclosed to the east by a steeply wooded ridge. London clay/Reading Beds/Chalk to the north of Fordingbridge and sandy Bagshot Beds to the south. All masked by River Terrace deposits of sand and gravel. River Avon, a large river, meanders from north to south.
Land Cover and Biodiversity Current land uses Habitats (type and value) Diversity Management issues/objectives	Farmed landscape with grazing on the floodplain, mineral extraction and areas of open water used for recreation. Arable rotation and grass with valuable neutral semi-improved and marshy grassland in floodplain and open areas of water. Deciduous woodland on eastern valley side adds diversity. High biodiversity. Mineral extraction/Loss of water meadows and unimproved grazing marsh/Water abstraction/Pollution from fertiliser and soil run-off/Inappropriate bank management and engineering works/Loss of deciduous woodland from the valley side.
Historic landscape type(s)	Dominated by river valley types 7.1 Misc valley bottom paddocks/pastures, 7.3 Marsh and rough grazing, and 7.4 Water meadows Also: 1.2 Medium Assarts/copses with wavy boundaries, 1.6, Small rectilinear fields with wavy boundaries, 1.7 Irregular straight boundaries, 1.10 Medium Regular with straight boundaries (Parliamentary type), and 1.16. small rectilinear with wavy boundaries

Landscape Character Area	6. Upper Avon Valley
Key visible historic components	Extensive water meadows + rough grazing + irregular fields (improved) + Extensive gravel quarries in mid/south.
Archaeology and History Period of predominant character Earlier/later features of note Parishes Parish Clusters Functional linkages Management issues/objectives	Medieval to Early Post-Medieval IA Hillfort at Frankenbury. Medieval Bridge at Fordingbridge. Breamore, Hale, Fordingbridge, Ellingham Harbridge Ibsley, Ringwood 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 Fording bridge + villages along east, linear, low density, below edge of plateau of forest. LCAs 4 + 19 = hinterland. Breamore on west side. Ringwood at south separates LCA 6 from LCA 7 The scale and size of field systems should be preserved by resisting amalgamation of fields.
Broad Landscape Patterns Communications Settlement Field boundaries (type and pattern) Woodland (age, type, size, distribution) Access and recreation Perceived tranquillity	Main A338 runs the length of the valley. Minor roads branch east-west, crossing the river at some points. Major nucleated settlements of Ringwood and Fordingbridge are linked by the A338. Many small villages and farms are also scattered along valley. Well settled area. Field boundaries are more pronounced on the valley sides. Post and wire characterises the floodplain. Ancient woodland is scattered along valley sides. Individual trees on floodplain. Good access North-South along valley with many recreational opportunities (water sports/fishing). Avon Valley Path runs length of valley. River creates a barrier to movement East-West. Peaceful and quiet by the river with activity concentrated along the A338, in specific recreational 'hotspots' and in settlements.
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style and materials Green spaces Relationship to landscape	Residential villages Dense settlements of Fordingbridge and Ringwood. Otherwise small, dispersed villages. Traditional forms - timber framed red brick thatched cottages. Ornate Victorian red brick tiled cottages. Alongside tributaries of the Avon. Close relationship with river.

Landscape Character Area	6. Upper Avon Valley
<p>Visual Character and Condition</p> <p>Key views</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Landscape settings to settlements</p> <p>Positive features</p> <p>Negative features</p> <p>Forces for change</p>	<p>Views across the river floodplain.</p> <p>Church towers of settlements within the floodplain (Ringwood, Harbridge)</p> <p>Floodplain trees (willows, poplars) and water meadows create settings to these settlements.</p> <p>Open meadows and pastoral scene.</p> <p>Rural river landscape with stone bridges.</p> <p>Gravel workings.</p> <p>Watersports centres adverts and signs.</p> <p>Busy A338.</p> <p>Gravel workings leading to areas of open water and loss of meadows.</p>

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	7. Lower Avon Valley
County Landscape Character Area	11. Avon, Test, Itchen and Meon River Valleys
County Landscape Type(s)	River Valley
District Landscape Type(s)	3. Urban Areas 8. River Terrace Farmlands 9. River Floodplain 18. Historic Parkland
Physical Influences	
Landform	Flat open valley between 10-15m AOD.
Surface geology and soils	Bracklesham Beds/Boscombe Sand overlain by River Terrace deposits of sand and gravel.
Drainage	River Avon, a large river, meanders from north to south.
Land Cover and Biodiversity	
Current land uses	Farmed landscape with grazing on the floodplain.
Habitats (type and value)	Arable rotation and grass with valuable neutral semi-improved and marshy grassland in floodplain. Small pockets of deciduous woodland and plantation woodland within farmland.
Diversity	High biodiversity.
Management issues/objectives	Mineral extraction. Loss of water meadows and unimproved grazing marsh. Water abstraction. Pollution from fertiliser and soil run-off. Inappropriate bank management and engineering works. Loss of ancient deciduous woodland and replacement with conifer plantation.
Archaeology and History	
Historic landscape type(s)	Dominated by river valley types 7.1 Misc valley bottom paddocks/pastures, 7.3 Marsh and rough grazing, and 7.4 Water meadows - most are 18-19th century. Off the bottom are fields of types 1.2 Medium Assarts / copses with wavy boundaries, 1.6, Small rectilinear fields with wavy boundaries, 1.7 Irregular straight boundaries Probably 17-18 th century, 1.10 Medium Regular with straight boundaries (Parliamentary type), and 1.16 . Small rectilinear with wavy boundaries.
Key visible historic components	Extensive water meadows + rough grazing + irregular fields (improved), large areas of medium-large regular fields are post-Medieval; Ringwood to north with historic core, hamlets of Avon, and Sopley, Bransgore village to E.

Landscape Character Area	7. Lower Avon Valley
Period of predominant character Earlier/later features of note Parishes Parish Clusters Functional linkages Management issues/objectives	18-19 th centuries Very few. Ringwood, Sopley 2, 6 Riverine arable & pastoral. Dispersed settlements using the forest heaths as hinterland. The scale and size of both field systems and the village properties should be preserved insofar as possible by resisting amalgamation of fields and loss of hedge/boundaries, or inappropriate scale or density of infill housing.
Broad Landscape Patterns Communications Settlement Field boundaries (type and pattern) Woodland (age, type, size, distribution) Access and recreation Perceived tranquillity	B3347 runs the length of the valley. Minor roads branch east-west, creating a grid pattern. Scattered farms and hamlets along communication routes. Eg Sopley, Ripley, Avon, Kingston. Hedgerows (?) enclose regular medium sized fields. Fields are unenclosed close to the river course. Ancient woodland is scattered along valley sides. No woodland on floodplain. Public access difficult. Avon Valley Path runs length of valley. Few recreational opportunities. Rural and quiet.
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style and materials Green spaces Relationship to landscape	Residential. Small, dispersed villages; low density development. Red brick timber frames, thatched cottages. Weather boarding on agricultural buildings. Outside settlements. Scattered along B3347 on the edge of the river.
Visual Character and Condition Key views Landmarks Landscape settings to settlements Positive features Negative features Forces for change	Views across floodplain and open fields. Individual floodplain trees. River creates a setting. Open grazed water meadows, floodplain trees, river, tranquil pastoral scene. Bungalows with ornamental gardens, pylons. Road improvements, new built development along B3347 and on edge of valley eg around Sopley.

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	8. Poulner Woods and Pastures
County Landscape Character Area	Lowland Forest and Heath
County Landscape Type(s)	Pasture and Woodland: Heath associated
District Landscape Type(s)	6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 8. River Terrace Farmlands
Physical Influences	
Landform	Steep valley side enclosing Avon Valley to the east, above Ringwood.
Surface geology and soils	Barton Clay which forms less acid brown forest soils.
Drainage	Minor tributaries drain west into Avon.
Land Cover and Biodiversity	
Current land uses	Private dwellings and small scale pastures; some forestry.
Habitats (type and value)	Deciduous woodland, coniferous plantation, some forestry scrub. Pasture and habitat rich residential areas.
Diversity	High biodiversity, particularly for a residential area.
Management issues/objectives	Unmanaged hedgerows Increase of ranch fencing Pressure for recreation Protection of species rich meadows Erosion of traditional 'commoning' back-up land.
Archaeology and History	
Historic landscape type(s)	Fields of type 1.9 (Small Regular with Straight Boundaries (Parliamentary Type, late 18 early 19 th century), 4.3 other pre 1810 woodland, 4.5 (19 th plantations) and , 9.2 scattered post 1810 settlement.
Key visible historic components	Pre 1810 woods & small Parliamentary fields.
Period of predominant character	'Parliamentary' late 18 th - early 19 th century fields interspersed with older woods.
Earlier/later features of note	Dismantled railway.
Parishes	Ringwood
Parish Clusters	2, 6
Functional linkages	xx
Management issues/objectives	The scale and size of both field systems and the village properties should be preserved insofar as possible by resisting amalgamation of fields and loss of hedge/boundaries, or inappropriate scale or density of infill housing.

Landscape Character Area	8. Poulner Woods and Pastures
<p>Broad Landscape Patterns</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Settlement</p> <p>Field boundaries (type and pattern)</p> <p>Woodland (age, type, size, distribution)</p> <p>Access and recreation</p> <p>Perceived tranquillity</p>	<p>Shady, leafy winding lanes lead up and down valley side. A31(T) blasts through area, dividing it into two.</p> <p>Dense private dwellings - many new. Close to Ringwood.</p> <p>Hedgerows with h-row trees. Post and wire or ranch style fencing.</p> <p>Heavily wooded - typical 'New Forest' type ie oak, beech, holly with birch and self-seeded pine. Some conifer forestry.</p> <p>Mostly private land - little opportunity for public recreation.</p> <p>Very tranquil, despite the large number of dwellings</p>
<p>Settlement Character</p> <p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p> <p>Relationship to landscape</p>	<p>Private dwellings</p> <p>Densely settled. Each house set within woodland.</p> <p>Variety: from thatched cottages to modern bungalows.</p> <p>Each house set within a green space.</p> <p>Integrated - not aware of density of development as you pass through.</p>
<p>Visual Character and Condition</p> <p>Key views</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Landscape settings to settlements</p> <p>Positive features</p> <p>Negative features</p> <p>Forces for change</p>	<p>Views over Ringwood and Avon Forest from hillside.</p> <p>Church tower of Ringwood in distance.</p> <p>Telecommunication tower at Poulner Hill.</p> <p>Diverse woodland and pasture.</p> <p>Wooded setting - feels like the New Forest.</p> <p>Hedgerows with hedgerow trees.</p> <p>Vernacular dwellings and leafy lanes.</p> <p>Telecommunication tower.</p> <p>Modern housing with conifers and ornamental gardens which escape into public space, affecting the landscape.</p> <p>More housing</p> <p>Ranch style fencing</p> <p>Loss of hedgerows</p> <p>Expansion of coniferous forestry to replace deciduous areas.</p>

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	9. Landford Forest Farmlands
County Landscape Character Area	(in Wiltshire)
County Landscape Type(s)	Mixed Farmland and Woodland (HCC)
District Landscape Type(s)	5. Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings 6. Ancient Forest Farmlands (majority of area)
Physical Influences	
Landform	Undulating, uneven topography to the north; River Blackwater in a flat valley bottom marks the southern edge of the area.
Surface geology and soils	London Clays with some river terrace drift deposits along the River Blackwater
Drainage	River Blackwater drains east toward the Test.
Land Cover and Biodiversity	
Current land uses	A farmed forest landscape of pasture, arable, woodland (some forestry).
Habitats (type and value)	Large areas of ancient broadleaved woodland with some active coppice. In between are open areas of arable rotation and grass with some higher diversity semi-improved pasture. Evidence of ancient wood pasture.
Diversity	High biodiversity.
Management issues/objectives	Agricultural intensification leading to hedgerow loss. Loss of traditional management techniques such as coppicing. Loss of ancient woodland and replacement by conifer plantations.
Archaeology and History	
Historic landscape type(s)	Not part of HCC study. Appears extensively wooded (probably largely post-1810 plantations) interspersed with field types 1.1, 1.2, and 1.4 (various assarts)
Key visible historic components	Generally small irregular fields and extensive woodland - field pattern is late Med-early post-med, the woods are probably 19 th century Medieval and post-medieval farmland
Period of predominant character	
Earlier/later features of note	Little evidence of early features, only one cluster of Bronze Age barrows at the far south of the LCA. Medieval settlement of Hatchet Green lies at west. Landford, Melchett Park Plaitford
Parishes	3, 5
Parish Clusters	
Functional linkages	Using forest heaths as hinterland, as per LCA 10 West Wellow and Bramshaw Commons.

Landscape Character Area	9. Landford Forest Farmlands
Management issues/objectives	The scale and size of both field systems and the village properties should be preserved insofar as possible by resisting amalgamation of fields and loss of hedge/boundaries, or inappropriate scale or density of infill housing.
Broad Landscape Patterns Communications Settlement Field boundaries (type and pattern) Woodland (age, type, size, distribution) Access and recreation Perceived tranquillity	A36 trunk road passes through copses without regard for landscape pattern. Other more minor roads and leafy lanes follow field boundaries. Scattered farms and occasional roadside cottages; linear settlements along communication routes, particularly in the west of the area. Small to medium sized fields bounded by hedgerows. Small fields close to settlements. Extensive areas of ancient broadleaved copses across the whole area. Poor public access. Recreational activities such as shooting in the woods. Quiet, unspoilt area. Very tranquil 'forest landscape'.
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style and materials Green spaces Relationship to landscape	Residential and agricultural. Traditional clustered roadside dwellings - low density across the area. More recent development dense linear. Traditional materials red brick, timber framed cottages, thatch, red painted iron bards and weatherboarding on agricultural buildings. Remnant wayside commons. Dwellings set within landscape - clearings in woodland - form a close relationship.
Visual Character and Condition Key views Landmarks Landscape settings to settlements Positive features Negative features Forces for change	Some unexpected views from hill sides across farmland. None. Woodland. Peaceful wooded landscape. Traditional cottages. Pylons. Loss of hedgerows. Rhododendron invasion. Infill development. Ranch style fencing replacing hedgerows. Mineral extraction near Heritage Area boundary.

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	10. West Wellow Heaths and commons
County Landscape Character Area County Landscape Type(s) District Landscape Type(s)	New Forest Lowland and Heath Heathland and Forest Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated Mixed farmland and Woodland 4. Heath Associated Estates 5. Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings 6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 10. Enclosed Farmland and Woodland 16. Timber In.closures/Plantations 17. Heathland 18. Historic Parkland
Physical Influences Landform Surface geology and soils Drainage	Undulating northern edges of forest - domed commons and valleys. Older geological deposits (Bracklesham Beds) give rise to acid soils Into the Cadnam River and east to the Test
Land Cover and Biodiversity Current land uses Habitats (type and value) Diversity Management issues/objectives	Common grazing, farmland, residential estates. Coniferous woodland, deciduous woodland, large areas of semi-improved grassland, dry heath, wet heath, acid grassland, agricultural land, habitat rich urban areas. High biodiversity Management of heathland/demise of commoning Forestry plantations - rides and corridors Heathland restoration - particularly from conifers Erosion of traditional 'back-up' commoning land.
Archaeology and History Historic landscape type(s) Key visible historic components Period of predominant character Earlier/later features of note Parishes Parish Clusters Functional linkages	extensive area of HLTs 1.1 with many very small copses, large areas of 2.1 Commons Small irregular fields, few/no earthworks or other visible remains Medieval assarted landscape, not enclosed in Post-medieval period. None Melchett Park Plaitford, Copythorne, Wellow 2, 3, 5 With LCA9, forms settled farmland around forest heaths, which were used as hinterland

Landscape Character Area	10. West Wellow Heaths and commons
Management issues/objectives	The scale and size of both field systems and the village properties should be preserved insofar as possible by resisting amalgamation of fields and loss of hedge/boundaries, or inappropriate scale or density of infill housing.
Broad Landscape Patterns Communications Settlement Field boundaries (type and pattern) Woodland (age, type, size, distribution) Access and recreation Perceived tranquillity	Straight lanes along edges of Commons Distinctive dense linear settlements with residential properties in long narrow plots. Hedgerows reinforced with post and wire along edges of plots. Coniferous plantation on former commons Deciduous woodland around edges of commons Access onto open commons - access to some commons has been restricted due to enclosure of commons. Density of residential development and main A36(T) reduces tranquillity of area.
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style and materials Green spaces Relationship to landscape	Residential and smallholdings. Dense linear development open onto the commons. Variety of styles and materials - a lot of modern infill. Commons act as `village greens' for settlements. Properties are scattered in a linear pattern along straight roads, at the edges of commons.
Visual Character and Condition Key views Landmarks Landscape settings to settlements Positive features Negative features Forces for change	Views across commons are long; interrupted only by vegetation - more overgrown commons have shorter views. None Commons form settings to settlements. Open commons. Native deciduous woodlands. Overgrown, unkempt commons. New built development without character. Loss of hedgerows. Coniferous plantations on former heathland. New built development. Ornamental species encroaching on native species. Manicured private gardens replacing open commons.

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	11. Copythorne Forest Farmlands
County Landscape Character Area	New Forest Lowland and Heath
County Landscape Type(s)	Pasture and woodland: heath associated
District Landscape Type(s)	5. Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings 6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 11. Enclosed Valley Sides
Physical Influences	
Landform	Small scale undulating on eastern Forest edge
Surface geology and soils	Bracklesham Beds (sand over clay) giving rise to acidic soils
Drainage	No clear pattern, but generally drains east into Southampton Water
Land Cover and Biodiversity	
Current land uses	Enclosed grazed farmland interspersed with ancient deciduous woodlands.
Habitats (type and value)	Pasture, broadleaved woodland, coniferous plantation, idle agricultural grassland, urban areas.
Diversity	High biodiversity, particularly in woodlands.
Management issues/objectives	Unmanaged hedgerows or loss and replacement with post and wire or ranch style fencing. Pressure for recreation. Protection of species rich meadows. Erosion of traditional 'back-up' commoning land.
Archaeology and History	
Historic landscape type(s)	Extensive area of HLTs 1.1, 1.9 (small assarts (medieval) and small parliamentary (18-19 th) fields) with woods (4.1 assarted pre-1810) and 4.5 (19 th century plantations)
Key visible historic components	Small irregular fields, few/no earthworks or other visible remains
Period of predominant character	Later medieval assarted landscape with overlay of 18-19 th century enclosures.
Earlier/later features of note	None
Parishes	Netley Marsh, Copythorne
Parish Clusters	2, 5, 6
Functional linkages	With LCAs 9 and 10, forms settled farmland around forest heaths, which were used as hinterland

Landscape Character Area	11. Copythorne Forest Farmlands
Management issues/objectives	The scale and size of both field systems and the village properties should be preserved insofar as possible by resisting amalgamation of fields and loss of hedge/boundaries, or inappropriate scale or density of infill housing.
Broad Landscape Patterns Communications Settlement Field boundaries (type and pattern) Woodland (age, type, size, distribution) Access and recreation Perceived tranquillity	Major infrastructure creates access problems - M27 and major A roads enclose a triangle of land. Linear ribbon development along roads. Ditch and bank with hedgerows. Small fragments of ancient deciduous woodland dispersed throughout area. Mostly private land - difficult public access. Peaceful 'backwater' feel.
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style and materials Green spaces Relationship to landscape	Private residential Linear strings of dense settlement. Various - some incongruous housing styles and materials. On outside of settlements. Facing onto roads; backs to landscape.
Visual Character and Condition Key views Landmarks Landscape settings to settlements Positive features Negative features Forces for change	Short - to next hedge or woodland edge. Very few. Woodland. Leafy sunken lanes, woodland and mature oaks in hedgerows. Pylons, rusting agricultural buildings. Hedgerow loss (although no pressure for increase in hedgerow size). New built development in ribbon style along roads.

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	12. Hythe and Ashurst Forest Farmlands
County Landscape Character Area	New Forest Lowland and Heath
County Landscape Type(s)	Pasture and woodland: heath associated Urban
District Landscape Type(s)	Mixed farmland and Woodland 3. Urban Areas 5. Heathland Smallholdings and Dwellings 6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 18. Historic Parkland
Physical Influences	
Landform	Undulating area above the flat floodplain of Southampton Water. Steep edge at Ashurst.
Surface geology and soils	Mixture of Barton Clay and Barton Sands forming acidic brown forest soils good for tree growth.
Drainage	Drains east into Southampton Water (Bartley Water, Jacob's Gutter)
Land Cover and Biodiversity	
Current land uses	Agricultural; some timber production.
Habitats (type and value)	Arable rotation, stable grassland, semi-improved grassland, broadleaved woodland, coniferous plantation, urban.
Diversity	High biodiversity, largely due to presence of semi-natural grassland and deciduous woodland.
Management issues/objectives	Management of hedgerows increase of ranch style fencing Erosion of traditional commoning 'back-up' land. Protection of species rich meadows.
Archaeology and History	
Historic landscape type(s)	Extensive area of HLTs 1.9 (Med parliamentary) and 1.2 (Med assarts) with 1.16 (small wavy boundaries, late 17 th 18 th century informal enclosures) interspersed with woods of 4.1/4.10 (pre 1810 assarted or wood pastures).
Key visible historic components	Small scale fields surviving, including the informal; enclosures
Period of predominant character	17-18 th century farmland and assorted woodland
Earlier/later features of note	Few
Parishes	Ashurst Colbury, Marchwood, Hythe Dibden
Parish Clusters	2
Functional linkages	With LCAs 9, 10 and 11 forms settled farmland around forest heaths, which were used as hinterland

Landscape Character Area	12. Hythe and Ashurst Forest Farmlands
Management issues/objectives	The scale and size of both field systems and the village properties should be preserved insofar as possible by resisting amalgamation of fields and loss of hedge/boundaries, or inappropriate scale or density of infill housing.
Broad Landscape Patterns Communications Settlement Field boundaries (type and pattern) Woodland (age, type, size, distribution) Access and recreation Perceived tranquillity	Main A326 along edge of area; A35 cuts across, separating areas. Ashurst cuts the area in half - unusual settlement type to find in this type of landscape. Scattered farmsteads and cottages are more usual. Regular network of hedgerows. Mixed plantations; some ancient broadleaved - large area of former copse in centre of area. Difficult access - tends to be passed by major roads. Quiet backwater - many people pass by on major roads.
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style and materials Green spaces/Relationship to landscape	Agricultural buildings/residential dwellings. Sparse, except for urban settlements where dense linear development is seen. Traditional red brick farmhouses, barns with weatherboarding, white washed thatched cottages, tiled Victorian cottages. Buildings set within the landscape.
Visual Character and Condition Key views Landmarks Landscape settings to settlements Positive features Negative features Forces for change	Views form top of slope across Southampton Water. No obvious landmarks. Woodland creates a setting to development. Tranquil agricultural landscape. Copses. Linear modern development which alters the character of the lanes. Busy roads. New development. Ornamental species replacing native vegetation. Conifers replacing deciduous copses.

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	13. Waterside Parishes
County Landscape Character Area County Landscape Type(s) District Landscape Type(s)	New Forest Lowland and Heath Urban, Open Coastal Plain, Enclosed Coastal Plain, Pastures and Woodlands: Heath Associated, Mixed Farmland and Woodland 1. Coastal Fringe 2b. Coastal plain Estates (Informal Inclosure) 3. Urban Areas 6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 7b. Heavy Industry 9. River Floodplain
Physical Influences Landform Surface geology and soils Drainage	Flat coastal edge rising gently to west into the New Forest perambulation. Barton Clays on coast, Barton sands behind. Toton Backlesham Beds. Small tributaries and artificial drains drain east into Southampton Water
Land Cover and Biodiversity Current land uses Habitats (type and value) Diversity Management issues/objectives	Residential areas, military use, boat building, farmland. Arable rotation and grass, outdoor storage, specialised industry, high density urban, marinas, saltmarsh, broad-leaved woodland, parkland, intertidal mud and sand, semi-improved grassland, scrub high biodiversity in localised areas such as salt marsh, intertidal mud and sand and woodland. Fragmentation of high value habitats Management of woodlands Hedgerow saplings Pressure for urbanisation Mineral extraction
Archaeology and History Historic landscape type(s) Key visible historic components Period of predominant character Earlier/later features of note Parishes Parish Clusters Functional linkages	This LCA is dominated by 20 th C suburban settlement Type 9.6, surrounding the older cores (9.7) of Eling, Dibden, Hythe, and Fawley. The expansion of these towns appears to have overlaid earlier fieldsystems of types 1.1 and 1.4 (early and post-medieval assarts) and probably later field systems of 1.16 etc (smaller/informal enclosure period) Occasional copses and small irregular fields hint at (later) Medieval landscape 20 th century very few Totton, Eling, Marchwood, Hythe Dibden, Fawley - Coastal farmlands, links to Solent and maritime

Landscape Character Area	13. Waterside Parishes
Management issues/objectives	The scale and size of both field systems and the village properties should be preserved insofar as possible by resisting amalgamation of fields and loss of hedge/boundaries, or inappropriate scale or density of infill housing.
Broad Landscape Patterns Communications Settlement Field boundaries (type and pattern) Woodland (age, type, size, distribution) Access and recreation Perceived tranquillity	A326 along backs of settlements with large number of roundabouts. Fast road enclosed by woodland - no views out Along waterside, extending back up slope. Fields and hedgerows between settlements- irregular shapes and sizes. Trapped within urban areas and between urban areas - good screening function. Good access provided by A326 - Mainly residential - poor access to waterfront itself Large amount of traffic around towns, quiet inbetween.
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style and materials Green spaces Relationship to landscape	Residential/ industrial Very dense residential enclosed by woodland and vegetation Variety - mainly new, including in the process of being built. Traditional red brick houses with clay or slate tiles. Coloured render on the waterfronts. Red brick farmhouses. Between settlements landscape structure still remains. Towns face onto the waterfront.
Visual Character and Condition Key views Landmarks Landscape settings to settlements Positive features Negative features Forces for change	Out across Southampton Water to opposite bank Restricted elsewhere due to high tree cover. Spires of settlements. Pylons, telecom. towers, docks (al vertical elements) Woodland The wooded character and remnant deciduous copses. Industry, dereliction, monotony of rows and rows of similar houses. Ornamental gardens imposing character on native vegetation New building development New industry Neglect of landscape structure (hedgerows and deciduous copses) Fly tipping

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	14. Fawley Refinery Complex
County Landscape Character Area	New Forest Lowland and Heath
County Landscape Type(s)	Urban
District Landscape Type(s)	10. Fawley Refinery Complex
Physical Influences	
Landform	Flat coastal edge
Surface geology and soils	Barton Clays on coast, Barton sands behind.
Drainage	Small tributaries and artificial drains drain east into Southampton Water
Land Cover and Biodiversity	
Current land uses	Industrial
Habitats (type and value)	Specialised industry
Diversity	Small amounts of grassland and woodland High biodiversity in localised areas such as salt marsh, intertidal mud and sand and woodland.
Management issues/objectives	Fragmentation of high value habitats Replacement of deciduous species by ornamental species Pressure for urbanisation/industry Public access
Archaeology and History	
Historic landscape type(s)	This LCA is dominated by 20 th century suburban settlement Type 9.6
Key visible historic components	Occasional copses hint at (later) Medieval landscape
Period of predominant character	20 th century
Earlier/later features of note	very few
Parishes	Fawley
Parish Clusters	
Functional linkages	links to Solent and maritime
Management issues/objectives	as above

Landscape Character Area	14. Fawley Refinery Complex
<p>Broad Landscape Patterns</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Settlement</p> <p>Field boundaries (type and pattern)</p> <p>Woodland (age, type, size, distribution)</p> <p>Access and recreation</p> <p>Perceived tranquillity</p>	<p>Around edges of area.</p> <p>Fawley village on edge of area.</p> <p>Obscured.</p> <p>Small remnants of deciduous woodland.</p> <p>Ornamental screen planting around edge of complex.</p> <p>Public access limited due to function of the area.</p> <p>Broken by activity within complex.</p>
<p>Settlement Character</p> <p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p> <p>Relationship to landscape</p>	<p>Specialised industrial.</p> <p>Dense industry - enclosed by boundary planting.</p> <p>20th century - industrial materials.</p> <p>Small areas of grass or woodland within mostly on the edge of the complex.</p> <p>Cut off from surrounding landscape visually and physically by high fence and screen planting.</p>
<p>Visual Character and Condition</p> <p>Key views</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Landscape settings to settlements</p> <p>Positive features</p> <p>Negative features</p> <p>Forces for change</p>	<p>Views blocked by screen planting.</p> <p>Fawley Refinery chimneys, stacks and flares.</p> <p>Woodland.</p> <p>Remnants of deciduous woodland on edges.</p> <p>Industrial chimneys and buildings</p> <p>Ornamental species around edges of complex..</p> <p>Further industrial development.</p>

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	15. North West Solent Estates
County Landscape Character Area	New Forest Lowland and Heath
County Landscape Type(s)	Enclosed Coastal Plain Open Coastal Plain Cliff Coastline Coastline Urban
District Landscape Type(s)	1. Coastal Fringe 2b. Coastal Plain Estates (informal enclosure) 4. Heath Associated Estates
Physical Influences	
Landform	Flat coastal plain.
Surface geology and soils	Hampstead Beds and Bembridge Marls to west; Barton Sands to east; Barton Clays on coast. Whole area masked by drift - plateau gravels with alluvium on coast and in river valleys.
Drainage	South into Solent via wooded streams.
Land Cover and Biodiversity	
Current land uses	Agricultural; industrial on edge of Southampton Water.
Habitats (type and value)	Arable rotation and grassland Broadleaved, and some coniferous, woodland Coastal grazing marsh Semi-improved grassland Saltmarsh
Diversity	High biodiversity, particularly in valleys and on coast
Management issues/objectives	Fragmented hedgerows Pressure for recreational uses Public access Sea defences and coastal protection Conservation of grazing marsh
Archaeology and History	
Historic landscape type(s)	Large areas of HLT 1.6 (Small rectilinear fields with wavy boundaries) and 1.10 (Medium Regular with straight boundaries (Parliamentary type) with woodland types 4.1 (Assarted pre-1810 Woodland) 4.4 (Replanted other pre-1810 woodland) and 4.5 (19 th century Plantations) and stretches of 7.3 (Marsh and rough grazing) along Dark water and Juggler's Moor. Also coastal types 8.6 and 8.7.
Key visible historic components	Post-medieval smaller/informal enclosure period landscape
Period of predominant character	18-19 th century
Earlier/later features of note	few - small 17-18-19 th century estates
Parishes	Beaulieu, Exbury & Lepe, Fawley

Landscape Character Area	15. North West Solent Estates
Parish Clusters Functional linkages Management issues/objectives	1,2 Settled farmland, little evidence of maritime links, predominantly farmland. The scale and size of both field systems and the village properties should be preserved insofar as possible by resisting amalgamation of fields and loss of hedge/boundaries, or inappropriate scale or density of infill housing.
Broad Landscape Patterns Communications Settlement Field boundaries (type and pattern) Woodland (age, type, size, distribution) Access and recreation Perceived tranquillity	Minor lanes between small settlements. Small villages and scattered farms. Hedgerows with hedgerow trees; hedgerow oaks area feature. Deciduous copses, particularly within valleys. Access to coast down minor lanes - beach launching areas at Calcott and Lepe. Extremely quiet area.
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style and materials Green spaces Relationship to landscape	Agricultural, residential, industrial. Scattered farms, residents focused in villages such as Calcott & Exbury or along sea front. Red or local buff brick farm houses, lodges and gatehouses and turn of the century cottages. Formal gardens at Lepe Country Park, Exbury Gardens. Buildings set within designed landscapes. Coastal cottages look out to sea.
Visual Character and Condition Key views Landmarks Landscape settings to settlements Positive features Negative features Forces for change	Across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. To Fawley Refinery chimneys. Fawley Power Station Stack and refinery chimneys. Woodland. Rural, wooded and tranquil landscape with historically interesting buildings and landscapes. Views to the Isle of Wight Unspoilt coastal edge Electricity pylons. Industry Hedgerow loss, field expansion and agricultural intensification, replacement of deciduous woodland with conifers, rhododendron invasion.

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	16. Lymington and Pennington Coastal Plain
County Landscape Character Area	New Forest Lowland and Heath
County Landscape Type(s)	Enclosed Coastal Plain Open Coastal Plain Coastline
District Landscape Type(s)	1. Coastal Fringe 2a. Coastal Plain Estates (formal inclosure) 6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 18. Historic Parkland
Physical Influences Landform Surface geology and soils Drainage	Very gently undulating coastal plain gently sloping south towards the Solent. No cliffs. Young Hampstead Beds and Bembridge Marls overlain by plateau gravels with alluvium. South into the Solent via wooded, marshy valleys.
Land Cover and Biodiversity Current land uses Habitats (type and value) Diversity Management issues/objectives	Agricultural Arable rotation and grassland Broadleaved, and some coniferous, woodland Coastal grazing marsh Semi-improved grassland Intertidal mud and sand Ponds High biodiversity, particularly in valleys, around water, and on coast Fragmented hedgerows Pressure for recreational uses Public access Sea defences and coastal protection Conservation of grazing marsh
Archaeology and History Historic landscape type(s) Key visible historic components Period of predominant character Earlier/later features of note Parishes Parish Clusters Functional linkages	Heath is the ancient (Bronze Age origin) backdrop. The farmlands include large expanses of field types 1.9 and 1.10 (small and medium parliamentary type enclosures) which may be 18-19 th C enclosure of heathland. Woodlands of types 4.2 (Replanted Assarted pre-1810 Woodland) and 4.1/4.5 (Assarted pre-1810 Woodland and 19 th C Plantations). Large park at Pylewell Park and smaller at Newton Park. Regular field patterns and a few older assarted woods, dispersed small hamlets Largely a 18-19 th century enclosed landscape of parliamentary period/style enclosures Occasionally medieval and early Post-medieval buildings Boldre, Lymington and Pennington 3 Maritime at Lymington, and recently 'coastal geriatrica'

Landscape Character Area	16. Lymington and Pennington Coastal Plain
Management issues/objectives	The scale and size of both field systems and the village properties should be preserved insofar as possible by resisting amalgamation of fields and loss of hedge/boundaries, or inappropriate scale or density of infill housing.
Broad Landscape Patterns Communications Settlement Field boundaries (type and pattern) Woodland (age, type, size, distribution) Access and recreation Perceived tranquillity	Minor lanes link individual farms and small hamlets. Lymington forms focus. Rural farms and large country houses. Hedgerows; hedgerow oaks a feature. Large blocks of deciduous woodland, particularly located along watercourses and in valleys. Public access limited due to large area of private land. Tranquil landscape.
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style and materials Green spaces Relationship to landscape	Agricultural buildings, private dwellings, hotels and schools. Scattered - not dense Large red brick country houses, forest lodges and estate cottages. Large houses set within designed grounds. All settlements vary much part of the landscape.
Visual Character and Condition Key views Landmarks Landscape settings to settlements Positive features Negative features Forces for change	Views over the Solent to the Isle of Wight. Fawley Refinery chimneys in background. Hurst Castle. Water - Lymington Estuary Woodland. Deciduous woodland - wooded valleys. Views across the Solent and open coast. Ponds and marshes. Lymington Estuary. Views of industrial chimneys. Hedgerow loss. Quarrying activities. Agricultural intensification leading to loss of grazing marsh. Additions and extensions to private dwellings.

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	17. Barton and Milford Coastal Plain
County Landscape Character Area	New Forest Lowland and Heath
County Landscape Type(s)	Enclosed Coastal Plain/Open Coastal Plain/Urban Area/Coastline/Cliff Coastline
District Landscape Type(s)	1. Coastal Fringe 2a. Coastal Estates (formal inclosures) 3. High Density Urban Areas
Physical Influences Landform Surface geology and soils Drainage	Gently undulating coastal plain with cliffs to the west of Milford-on-Sea. Hampstead Beds and Bembridge Marls; small pocket of Barton Sands around Barton-on-Sea. South into Solent via wooded streams.
Land Cover and Biodiversity Current land uses Habitats (type and value) Diversity Management issues/objectives	Agricultural Arable rotation and grassland High, medium and low density urban areas including caravans and mobile homes Horticulture and Nurseries Coastal Grazing Marsh Broadleaved woodland Semi-improved grassland Intertidal mud and sand High biodiversity, particularly in valleys and on coast Fragmented hedgerows/Pressure for recreational uses/Public access/Sea defences and coastal protection/Conservation of grazing marsh.
Archaeology and History Historic landscape type(s) Key visible historic components Period of predominant character Earlier/later features of note Parishes Parish Clusters Functional linkages	Large areas of fields types 1.9 (Small Regular with Straight Boundaries) and 1.16 (Small rectilinear with wavy boundaries, later Medieval to 17 th century enclosures). Woods of 4.3 (Other pre-1810 Woodland) and 4.5 (19 th century Plantations) 4.1 (Assarted pre-1810 Woodland). The settlements probably grew over fields of types 1.9/1.16. 20 th century seaside towns separated by post-medieval parliamentary period enclosed farmland. 20 th century seaside towns overlying 18-19 th century farmland Parliamentary period enclosed farmland and 20 th century seaside towns Few New Milton, Milford, Hordle - settled farmland

Landscape Character Area	17. Barton and Milford Coastal Plain
Management issues/objectives	Field systems and village properties should be preserved by resisting amalgamation of fields or large scale infill housing.
Broad Landscape Patterns	
Communications	Major A337 runs through area between Lyminster and Christchurch. Minor roads access the coast.
Settlement	Large residential areas of New Milton, Barton-on-Sea and Miford-on-Sea.
Field boundaries (type and pattern)	Hedgerow with hedgerow oaks a feature
Woodland (age, type, size, distribution)	Small amount of ancient deciduous woodland remains in valleys and along watercourses.
Access and recreation	Holiday parks, car parks, cafes and tarmac promenades on the sea front - good access.
Perceived tranquillity	Urban areas, main roads and busy sea fronts contribute to a lively character.
Settlement Character	
Dominant land use	Residential
Density, enclosure	Large dense settlements showing massive expansion of recent housing
Age, style and materials	Older traditional whitewashed cottages clustered around a small village core. Red brick boundary walls around estates with grand country houses. New infill buildings exhibit a variety of styles and modern materials
Green spaces	Grassy cliff tops areas along urban sea fronts. Village greens eg Milford.
Relationship to landscape	Private grounds of Country Houses. Large settlements have their backs to the landscape, except on sea fronts where houses face out to sea.
Visual Character and Condition	
Key views	Views out to sea.
Landmarks	Cafes selling fish and chips on the sea front.
Landscape settings to settlements	Water (sea front) Woodland
Positive features	Deciduous woodland. Sea front.
Negative features	Derelict land on sea front. Variety of modern materials. Telegraph poles. Pay and Display boards.
Forces for change	Replacement of natural coastal edge with purpose built recreational areas. Lack of coherence in building styles and materials.

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	18. Sway Pasture and Smallholdings
County Landscape Character Area	New Forest Lowland and Heath
County Landscape Type(s)	Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated Urban Areas
District Landscape Type(s)	4. Heath Associated Estates 6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 17. Heathland 18. Historic Parkland
Physical Influences	
Landform	Small scale undulating landscape.
Surface geology and soils	Hampstead Beds and Bembridge Marls with an outcrop of Barton Sands in the centre - acid soils, sandy in places.
Drainage	Danes stream and Avon Water drain SE towards Solent.
Land Cover and Biodiversity	
Current land uses	Agriculture, nurseries and urban fringe activities.
Habitats (type and value)	Arable rotation and grass Deciduous woodland Medium density urban residential areas Semi-improved grassland Horticulture and Nurseries Amenity Grassland Habitat rich residential areas
Diversity	Large number of habitat types over a small area
Management issues/objectives	Unmanaged hedgerows Increase of ranch fencing Pressure for recreational uses Protection of species rich meadows Erosion of traditional 'commoning' back-up land
Archaeology and History	
Historic landscape type(s)	Extensive areas of fields of type 1.16 (Small rectilinear with wavy boundaries - late medieval to 17 th C informal enclosures) and 1.9 (Small Regular with Straight Boundaries (Parliamentary Type, formed by Inclosure Acts (or informally but linked to Inclosure Act systems) of late 18 th - early 19 th C. Some woodlands of types 4.1 (Assarted pre-1810 Woodland) and 4.5 (19 th century Plantations). Sway and Hordle have expanded in the 20 th century over fields (1.16).
Key visible historic components	Dispersed settlements and small late medieval-early post-medieval fields
Period of predominant character	17-18 th century farmland
Earlier/later features of note	few
Parishes	Sway, Hordle, New Milton
Parish Clusters	3

Landscape Character Area	18. Sway Pasture and Smallholdings
<p>Functional linkages</p> <p>Management issues/objectives</p>	<p>Dispersed settlements and small late medieval-early post-medieval fields backing onto open heath 5.1</p> <p>The scale and size of both field systems and the village properties should be preserved insofar as possible by resisting amalgamation of fields and loss of hedge/boundaries, or inappropriate scale or density of infill housing. Management issues/objectives</p>
<p>Broad Landscape Patterns</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Settlement</p> <p>Field boundaries (type and pattern)</p> <p>Woodland (age, type, size, distribution)</p> <p>Access and recreation</p> <p>Perceived tranquillity</p>	<p>Dense network of minor lanes. Railway line cuts through middle. Scattered farms. Distinctive linear development along lanes. Residential centres of Sway and Hordle. Hedgerows - hedgerow oaks a feature. Fencing - including ranch style fencing. Some ancient deciduous woodland remains, particularly in valleys alongside water. Public access is restricted due to large proportion of private land. Tranquil area - unaware of the density of development.</p>
<p>Settlement Character</p> <p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p> <p>Relationship to landscape</p>	<p>Residential.</p> <p>Medium density - focused in Sway and Hordle. Variety of modern styles and materials. Traditional whitewashed thatched cottages and two storey red brick cottages are still evident amongst new infill. Outside settlements.</p> <p>Houses face away from landscape - no clear relationship with landscape.</p>
<p>Visual Character and Condition</p> <p>Key views</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Landscape settings to settlements</p> <p>Positive features</p> <p>Negative features</p> <p>Forces for change</p>	<p>Restricted by woodland and hedgerow trees.</p> <p>Sway Tower.</p> <p>Woodland No strong settings. Winding leafy lanes.</p> <p>Modern built development with no sense of place. Dereliction of traditional buildings. Hedgerow loss and replacement with fencing or tin sheeting. Disproportionate increase in residential dwellings.</p>

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	19. Bransgore Woods and Pastures
County Landscape Character Area County Landscape Type(s) District Landscape Type(s)	New Forest Lowland and Heath Pasture and Woodland: heath associated Mixed Farmland and Woodland Heathland and Forest Urban Area 2b. Coastal Estates 3. Urban Areas 4. Heath Associated Estates 5. Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings 6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 18. Historic Parkland
Physical Influences Landform Surface geology and soils Drainage	Steeply rising ground between to flat Avon Valley and elevated plateau of the New Forest Heritage Area. Barton Clay on lower ground; Hampstead Beds and Bembridge Marls on higher ground Wooded brooks run NE-SE into the River Avon.
Land Cover and Biodiversity Current land uses Habitats (type and value) Diversity Management issues/objectives	Ancient wood pasture, forestry, agricultural land, private gardens and paddocks. Ancient deciduous woodland (high value), conifer plantations (low value), dry heath/acid grassland, semi-improved grassland, arable rotation and improved grassland. High diversity of habitat types and species. Grazing of unenclosed heathland and ancient pasture woodland. Maintain enclosed and secluded character of ancient woodlands. Loss of hedgerow trees and hedgerows.
Archaeology and History Historic landscape type(s) Key visible historic components Period of predominant character	Woods 4.5 (19 th century plantations) and 4.4 (Replanted other pre-1810 woodland) <u>very</u> extensive, with 2.1 Common Heath, and 2.9 Common wooded over to N/NW. 1.16 (Small wavy boundaries, late medieval to 17 th century) and 1.9 (small Parliamentary period enclosures). Some enclosure and use of heath along the north-east side. Post Medieval fields overlaid by 19 th century plantations. Some early woods and smaller field patterns overlaid by later parliamentary? Period patterns and woods, and the 20th century expansion of Bransgore

Landscape Character Area	19. Bransgore Woods and Pastures
Earlier/later features of note	Few clusters of activity. There are 2 clusters of Bronze Age sites at the north west boundary of the LCA and 2 clusters of Neolithic. This LCA is more like LCAs 7 and 19 than 17 or 16. Peripheral settlements continue the series along the west edge of LCAs 19 and 20, utilising the open heaths for resources.
Parishes Parish Clusters Functional linkages Management issues/objectives	Bransgore, Sopley, New Milton - Peripheral settlements continue the series along the west edge of LCAs 19 and 20, utilising the open heaths for resources. The scale and size of both field systems and the village properties should be preserved insofar as possible by resisting amalgamation of fields and loss of hedge/boundaries, or inappropriate scale or density of infill housing.
Broad Landscape Patterns Communications Settlement Field boundaries (type and pattern) Woodland (age, type, size, distribution) Access and recreation Perceived tranquillity	Winding leafy lanes climb up wooded valley side. Open tracks follow ridgetops. Scattered farms. Hinton Park. Concentrated settlement at Bransgore. Rows of mature trees reinforced with post and wire. Fragmented hedgerows with h-row trees. Ancient semi-natural woodlands deciduous woodland and mixed plantation throughout the area contributing to a well wooded character. Mainly private land with few footpaths, but three unenclosed Commons. Very peaceful - even Bransgore has a peaceful character.
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style and materials Green spaces Relationship to landscape	Private residential and agricultural buildings. Dense development at Bransgore. Various ages. Weather boarding, red brick and thatch. Plenty of green space inbetween farms and settlements. Agricultural buildings sit within landscape; Bransgore has its back to the surrounding landscape.

Landscape Character Area	19. Bransgore Woods and Pastures
<p>Visual Character and Condition</p> <p>Key views</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Landscape settings to settlements</p> <p>Positive features</p> <p>Negative features</p> <p>Forces for change</p>	<p>Views into Avon Valley and wooded Dorset heaths beyond.</p> <p>Some incongruous buildings eg the church at Cross Ways.</p> <p>Woodland creates setting.</p> <p>Contrast between open Commons and wooded lowlands. Wooded pasture and tranquillity.</p> <p>New built development around Bransgore.</p> <p>Loss of hedgerows and h-row trees.</p> <p>Built development along roads.</p> <p>Invasion of rhododendrons.</p> <p>Loss of wood pasture.</p>

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	20. Southern Heath and Forest
County Landscape Character Area County Landscape Type(s) District Landscape Type(s)	New Forest Lowland and Heath Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated Heathland and Forest 6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 15. Ancient and Ornamental Woodland 16. Timber Inclosures/Plantations 17. Heathland 18. Historic Parkland
Physical Influences Landform Surface geology and soils Drainage	Gently rolling landform with flat moors and lawns. Baton Sand and Bembridge Marls overlain with gravels produce brown forest soils and fertile streamside soils. SE towards the Solent - little eroding effect - gentle landform.
Land Cover and Biodiversity Current land uses Habitats (type and value) Diversity Management issues/objectives	Timber production Grazing Recreation Woodland - deciduous and coniferous Valley mires Areas of grass lawns Scrub Heather High biodiversity Continued management of heathland/demise of commoning Protection of heathland remnants Forestry plantations - rides and corridors
Archaeology and History Historic landscape type(s) Key visible historic components Period of predominant character Earlier/later features of note	Extensive area of Heathland type 5.1, result of Bronze Age clearances since when poor soil has limited uses to grazing, perpetuated under early medieval Forest Law. Includes areas of woods, usually bands along watercourses and small scattered copses. Also extensive woods of type 4.9 (19 th Century heathland plantations). Includes the dispersed settlement of Burley, where settlement types 9.1 (Scattered settlements with paddocks - 1810 extent) and 9.2 (Scattered settlements with paddocks - post-1810 extent) intermingle. Heath and Enclosed wood/plantation, numerous Bronze Age burial barrows Prehistoric preserved by early Medieval law Numerous Bronze Age burial barrows and other generally prehistoric earthworks, and the medium sized enclosed Inclosure woods (19 th century plantation).

Landscape Character Area	20. Southern Heath and Forest
Parishes Parish Clusters Functional linkages Management issues/objectives	Brockenhurst, Burley 3 Served as source of grazing land and other heathland resources Maintain by managed grazing Maintain by managed grazing, afforestation may threaten prehistoric earthwork features
Broad Landscape Patterns Communications Settlement Field boundaries (type and pattern) Woodland (age, type, size, distribution) Access and recreation Perceived tranquillity	Winding lanes in settlements. Straight road across moors and through inclosures. Forest villages of Burley and Brockenhurst Hedgerows in settled villages. Inclosures (all combinations) and Ancient and Ornamental. Very popular and busy area - sheltered lawns particularly well used. Tranquil landscape - tranquillity reduced by heavy recreational use.
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style and materials Green spaces Relationship to landscape	Residential and visitor accommodation. Densely focussed on Forest Villages. Victorian influences are the most obvious. Green spaces in the centre of Burley. Focus inwards towards village centres.
Visual Character and Condition Key views Landmarks Landscape settings to settlements Positive features Negative features Forces for change	Views across open moors and grass lawns to the next Inclosure edge. Sway Tower in the distance. Woodland. Open lawns, woodland, long exhilarating views. Pylons, Fawley Refinery chimneys and power station stack, telecommunication masts. Grazing pressure changes. Telecommunication towers. Road improvements. Drainage leading to loss of bog habitats.

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	21. Northern Heathland and Forest
County Landscape Character Area County Landscape Type(s) District Landscape Type(s)	New Forest Lowland and Heath Heathland and Forest Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated 5. Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings 6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 15. Ancient and Ornamental Woodland 16. Timber Inclosures 17. Heathland 18. Historic Parkland
Physical Influences Landform Surface geology and soils Drainage	Flat topped plateaux divided by steep sided flat bottomed U shaped valleys. Bracklesham Beds/Barton Clays producing v acidic soils. A number of parallel streams flow west in eroded valleys (large eroding effect here).
Land Cover and Biodiversity Current land uses Habitats (type and value) Diversity Management issues/objectives	Heather and grass heath with bogs, woodland, and conifer plantation. Deciduous woodland, heath and acid grassland. High biodiversity. Protection of heathland Forestry plantations: heathland rides and corridors Visitor management
Archaeology and History Historic landscape type(s) Key visible historic components Period of predominant character Earlier/later features of note	Extensive area of Heathland type 5.1, result of Bronze Age clearances since when poor soil has limited uses to grazing, perpetuated under early medieval Forest Law. Includes areas of woods, usually bands along watercourses and small scattered copses. Also extensive woods of type 4.9 (19 th Century heathland plantations). Includes the dispersed settlements of Fritham and Linwood, where settlement types 9.1 (Scattered settlements with paddocks - 1810 extent) and 9.2 (Scattered settlements with paddocks - post-1810 extent) intermingle. Along western edge are dispersed settlements of Hale, Godshill, Frogham, Hyde, Gorley, Mockbeggar, all with Medieval origins and their associated Heathland Commons (2.1) Heath and Enclosed wood/plantation, numerous Bronze Age burial barrows. Prehistoric preserved by early Medieval law . Numerous Bronze Age burial barrows and other generally prehistoric earthworks, and the medium sized enclosed Inclosure woods (19 th century plantation).

Landscape Character Area	21. Northern Heathland and Forest
Parishes Parish Clusters Functional linkages Management Issues/objectives	Ellingham Harbridge Ibsley, Hyde, Godshill, Woodgreen, Hale, Bramshaw, Minstead 3,5 Served as source of grazing land and other heathland resources Maintain by managed grazing, afforestation may threaten prehistoric earthwork features
Broad Landscape Patterns Communications Settlement Field boundaries (type and pattern) Woodland (age, type, size, distribution) Access and recreation Perceived tranquillity	Straight roads across ridges with long views A31 (T) creates barrier to movement. A31 also marks the southern boundary of the areas and a change in drainage pattern. Very minimal. Forest settlements of Fritham and Linwood. Hedgerows around enclosed fields around settlements. Large deciduous, mixed and coniferous inclosures. Ancient and Ornamental unenclosed scattered around edges of inclosures. Fairly quiet part of the Forest. Free access for visitors - important recreational resource. Wild and exposed, 'remote' feel (rather than 'tranquil').
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style and materials Green spaces Relationship to landscape	Smallholdings and residential. Small enclosed areas, not densely settled. Dating from prehistoric times, but mainly showing traditional 19 th Century red brick cottages. Fritham Lodge - hunting lodge for Charles II dated 1671. Village greens and grazed verges. Most settled areas within sheltered valleys on the western edge of the area; Fritham located centrally .
Visual Character and Condition Key views Landmarks Landscape settings to settlements Positive features Negative features Forces for change	Long views across plains. Telecommunication towers, pylons. Woodland. Open, wild expanse - remote qualities. Pylons, telecommunications towers. Tourist pressure, erosion, road improvements.

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	22. Furzey Woodland and Villages
County Landscape Character Area County Landscape Type(s) District Landscape Type(s)	New Forest Lowland and Heath Heathland and Forest Pasture and Woodland: heath associated 3. Urban Areas 6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 15. Ancient and Ornamental Woodland 16. Timber Inclosures 17. Heathland 18. Historic Parkland
Physical Influences Landform Surface geology and soils Drainage	Undulating landscape on the eastern edge of the New Forest plateau. Barton Clays and Sands with brown forest soils. Drains east into Southampton Water
Land Cover and Biodiversity Current land uses Habitats (type and value) Diversity Management issues/objectives	Grazing (enclose and unenclosed). Forestry. Mostly broadleaved woodland. Some coniferous plantation and semi-improved grassland. High diversity. Management of commoning, heathland restoration, protection of spp. rich meadows.
Archaeology and History Historic landscape type(s) Key visible historic components Period of predominant character Earlier/later features of note Parishes Parish Clusters Functional linkages	Extensive woodland (types 4.8 Pre-1810 Heathland enclosed Woodland 4.9 19 th Century heathland plantations [with relict patches of heathland5.1] and 4.10 Pre-1810 Wood Pastures). Large areas of fields 1.1 and 1.2 (small and medium irregular assarts with copses). Some areas of slightly larger and slightly more regular fields (1.16, Small rectilinear with wavy boundaries - late medieval to 17 th century informal enclosures. Small irregular fields , many copses, and extensive woodland, all late medieval to early post-medieval in origin and appearance. Settlements small and dispersed. Includes Lyndhurst with historic core and much larger 19-20 th century expansion. Very few earthworks or visible archaeology, little that is 20 th century either. Bramshaw, Minstead, Lyndhurst, Denny Lodge 3 Forest edge dispersed settlements with access to the previously more widespread heath for resources

Landscape Character Area	22. Furzey Woodland and Villages
Management issues/objectives	The scale and size of both field systems and the village properties should be preserved insofar as possible by resisting amalgamation of fields and loss of hedge/boundaries, or inappropriate scale or density of infill housing.
Broad Landscape Patterns Communications Settlement Field boundaries (type and pattern) Woodland (age, type, size, distribution) Access and recreation Perceived tranquillity	Main roads into Lyndhurst. Winding lanes around settlements. A 31(T) divides the area creating a barrier to movement. Clustered villages with village greens in valleys with enclosed grazing. Hedgerows with hedgerow trees; some post and wire. Extensive ancient woodland, timber inclosures containing both deciduous and coniferous plantations. Popular recreational area close to the A31(T). . Many parking areas. Tranquil landscape - large number of visitors in summer months reduces tranquillity.
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style and materials Green spaces Relationship to landscape	Residential/smallholdings Scattered farmsteads; dense village centres and dense settlement at Lyndhurst. Traditional buildings are thatched cob cottages and 18 th century red brick cottages. Cottages sit comfortably in the landscape, clustered loosely around a village green and Long low timber agricultural buildings are features often seen parallel to the road.
Visual Character and Condition Key views Landmarks Landscape settings to settlements Positive features Negative features Forces for change	Long or short views determined by the next block of woodland. Village greens; tumuli ; church spires eg at Lyndhurst. Streams and woodlands. Thatched cottages, village greens, amorphous deciduous woodland, New Forest ponies. Plastic litter bins; modern house and bungalows; overhead cables. Tourist pressure.

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	23. New Forest Central Woodlands
County Landscape Character Area County Landscape Type(s) District Landscape Type(s)	New Forest Lowland and Heath Predominantly Heathland and Forest Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated 15. Ancient and Ornamental Woodland 16. Timber Inclosures 17. Heathland 18. Historic Parkland
Physical Influences Landform Surface geology and soils Drainage	Gently rolling hills - gentle landform Barton sands forming less acid brown forest soils good for tree growth. SE into the Lymington and Beaulieu Rivers
Land Cover and Biodiversity Current land uses Habitats (type and value) Diversity Management issues/objectives	Timber production; Recreational use. Coniferous plantation, mixed plantation, ancient deciduous woodland, some heathland. Extremely high biodiversity Management of heathland Loss of wood pasture Conifer plantations - replacement with deciduous native species
Archaeology and History Historic landscape type(s) Key visible historic components Period of predominant character Earlier/later features of note Parishes Parish Clusters Functional linkages Management issues/objectives	Huge area of woodland, largely types 4.8 (Pre-1810 Heathland enclosed Woodland), and 4.10 (Pre-1810 Wood Pastures) and more recent type 4.9 (19 th Century heathland plantations) interspersed with areas of heath 5.1. The later type clearly overlies the heath. Few settlements or field systems Heath (resulting from BA clearance) since wooded over Ancient woods on heath with recent plantations - largely a medieval (or earlier?) landscape A few earthworks (eg barrows) Was extra-parochial until 19-20 th centuries; Denny Lodge, Lyndhurst, Brockenhurst, Burley, Minstead 3 Served as resources for surrounding settlements Maintain woodland and heathland management

Landscape Character Area	23. New Forest Central Woodlands
<p>Broad Landscape Patterns</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Settlement</p> <p>Field boundaries (type and pattern)</p> <p>Woodland (age, type, size, distribution)</p> <p>Access and recreation</p> <p>Perceived tranquillity</p>	<p>Straight main roads, winding ornamental drives.</p> <p>Isolated lodges, country houses and hotels Grand in form.</p> <p>None.</p> <p>Ancient and ornamental including bog, woodland and wood pasture, Beech plantations, Oak plantations, Beech and Oak plantations, Mixed plantations, Coniferous plantation.</p> <p>Good access to area - limited access into Inclosures, particularly working plantations.</p> <p>Extremely quiet, sheltered and enclosed landscape.</p>
<p>Settlement Character</p> <p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p> <p>Relationship to landscape</p>	<p>Residential, visitor accommodation.</p> <p>Isolated country houses, lodges and hotels.</p> <p>Victorian influence v strong.</p> <p>Clearings in the forest.</p> <p>Set within wooded landscape at clearings in the forest</p>
<p>Visual Character and Condition</p> <p>Key views</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Landscape settings to settlements</p> <p>Positive features</p> <p>Negative features</p> <p>Forces for change</p>	<p>Short views.</p> <p>Country houses and hotels.</p> <p>Clearings.</p> <p>Leafy lanes, ornamental drives, glades, wooded streams.</p> <p>Signage around hotels, particularly around Brockenhurst.</p> <p>Loss of wood pasture.</p> <p>Working conifer plantations.</p>

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	24 Lymington River
County Landscape Character Area	New Forest Lowland and Heath
County Landscape Type(s)	Mixed Farmland and Woodland
District Landscape Type(s)	Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated 4. Heath Associated Estates 10. Enclosed Farmland and Woodland 6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 18 Historic Parkland
Physical Influences	
Landform	Wide shallow valley containing the Lymington River.
Surface geology and soils	Younger geological formations of Hampstead Beds and Bembridge Marls giving rise to acid soils and a heathy character.
Drainage	South into the Solent.
Land Cover and Biodiversity	
Current land uses	Agricultural (predominantly pasture) and estates (Brockenhurst Park)
Habitats (type and value)	Arable rotation, semi-improved grassland, deciduous woodland, mixed plantation, parkland, horticulture and nurseries/
Diversity	High biodiversity
Management issues/objectives	Management of hedgerows Protection of species rich meadows Protection of ancient deciduous woodland Erosion of traditional commoning 'back-up' land Absence of hedgerow saplings
Archaeology and History	
Historic landscape type(s)	Brockenhurst park at north end adjacent to Brockenhurst. Several large woods types 4.1 Assarted pre-1810 Woodland and 4.2 Replanted Assarted pre-1810 Woodland. Field systems appear to be largely 1.9 (Small Regular with Straight Boundaries, 18-19 C Parliamentary Type) and 1.16 (Small rectilinear with wavy boundaries late medieval to 17 th C informal enclosures). A few larger enclosure fields, particularly adjacent to Beaulieu Heath (from which they are derived?). Boldre, Sandy Down and Pilley are dispersed settlements, Boldre with an older historic core.
Key visible historic components	Small irregular fields and copses
Period of predominant character	Late Medieval and early Post-Medieval overlain by informal enclosed fields - all 18-19 th century
Earlier/later features of note	Little visible archaeology
Parishes	Brockenhurst, Boldre
Parish Clusters	3
Functional linkages	Clearly shows both assarting of woods and encroachment onto heath

Landscape Character Area	24 Lymington River
Management issues/objectives	The scale and size of both field systems and the village properties should be preserved insofar as possible by resisting amalgamation of fields and loss of hedge/boundaries, or inappropriate scale or density of infill housing.
Broad Landscape Patterns Communications Settlement Field boundaries (type and pattern) Woodland (age, type, size, distribution) Access and recreation Perceived tranquillity	Lacking in north of area. Winding leafy lanes and high hedges in south. Linear ribbon style along lanes - extends out from small village centres. High hedgerows with hedgerow trees. Deciduous copses and ancient woodland. Mostly privately owned and poor access in north, but public footpaths across farmland. Tranquil - peaceful leafy residential area
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style and materials Green spaces Relationship to landscape	Residential Dense linear pattern along lanes between distinct village centres. Modern styles particularly prominent. Traditional thatched cottages and small scale dwellings. Village greens - mown rather than grazed Traditionally around a village green
Visual Character and Condition Key views Landmarks Landscape settings to settlements Positive features Negative features Forces for change	Short and contained Village centres Woodland creates setting for all development Leafy lanes Modern housing styles and private boundaries of a variety of styles New housing - large country dwellings out of scale with the landscape Replacement of hedgerows with fencing/ornamental hedging

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	25 Beaulieu Heath
County Landscape Character Area	New Forest Lowland and Heath
County Landscape Type(s)	Heathland and Forest Pasture and Woodland: Heath Associated Forest Core
District Landscape Type(s)	5. Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings 6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 16. Timber Inclosures 17. Heathland
Physical Influences	
Landform	Gently domed
Surface geology and soils	Younger Hampstead Beds and Bembridge Marls overlain by gravels; acid soils.
Drainage	South-east to the Solent
Land Cover and Biodiversity	
Current land uses	Common grazing
Habitats (type and value)	Southern heathlands on gravel (<i>Calluna</i> heath) with scrub and semi-improved grassland Boggy Hollows. Valued internationally
Diversity	Very High
Management issues/objectives	Management of heath Protection of heathland remnants Views from heaths Plantations on heaths
Archaeology and History	
Historic landscape type(s)	Extensive area of Heathland type 5.1, result of Bronze Age clearances since when poor soil has limited uses to grazing, perpetuated under early medieval Forest Law
Key visible historic components	Heath and Enclosed wood/plantation, numerous Bronze Age burial barrows
Period of predominant character	Prehistoric preserved by early Medieval law
Earlier/later features of note	Numerous Bronze Age burial barrows and other generally prehistoric earthworks, and the medium sized enclosed Norley Inclosure wood (19 th century plantation).
Parishes	East Boldre, Boldre
Parish Clusters	3
Functional linkages	Served as source of grazing land and other heathland resources
Management issues/objectives	Maintain by managed grazing

Landscape Character Area	25 Beaulieu Heath
<p>Broad Landscape Patterns</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Settlement</p> <p>Field boundaries (type and pattern)</p> <p>Woodland (age, type, size, distribution)</p> <p>Access and recreation</p> <p>Perceived tranquillity</p>	<p>Around edge - one route across centre</p> <p>Around edges, facing onto heath</p> <p>None</p> <p>Mixed plantation at Norley Inclosure</p> <p>Free access - model aircraft flying.</p> <p>Peaceful - open and uninhabited, particularly near middle away from roads and housing</p>
<p>Settlement Character</p> <p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p> <p>Relationship to landscape</p>	<p>Residential</p> <p>Dense linear - a lot of recent development</p> <p>Oldest are long, low white washed thatched cottages. Red brick 2 up 2 down slate roofed cottages. Variety of modern materials and styles infill between the traditional dwellings. Beaulieu heath is the 'green'</p> <p>Face onto heath</p>
<p>Visual Character and Condition</p> <p>Key views</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Landscape settings to settlements</p> <p>Positive features</p> <p>Negative features</p> <p>Forces for change</p>	<p>Views of the Isle of Wight and Fawley Refinery Chimneys</p> <p>Clumps of pines</p> <p>Common/Heath</p> <p>Open expansive landscape</p> <p>Traditional thatched cottages facing onto heath</p> <p>New built development, views of Fawley stacks</p> <p>Grazing pressure</p> <p>New built development</p>

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	26. Beaulieu River
County Landscape Character Area	Lowland Forest and Heath
County Landscape Type(s)	Mixed Farmland and Woodland Enclosed Coastal Plain
District Landscape Type(s)	1. Coastal Fringe 10. Enclosed Farmland and Woodland 18. Historic Parkland
Physical Influences	
Landform	Wide, shallow valley containing course of the Beaulieu River.
Surface geology and soils	Young Hampstead Beds (loam clay and fertile shell marls) with acid soils
Drainage	SE into the Solent
Land Cover and Biodiversity	
Current land uses	Timber production, agriculture, horticulture and recreation
Habitats (type and value)	Arable rotation and grass, deciduous woodland and coniferous woodland make up the major components. Also present are saltmarsh, tall marginal vegetation, semi-improved and marshy grassland and habitat rich residential areas.
Diversity	
Management issues/objectives	Hedgerow removal and lack of hedgerow saplings Protection of meadows Loss of ancient field systems Visually prominent development Access/recreation
Archaeology and History	
Historic landscape type(s)	Fields in this LCA are appreciably larger, of types 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 (all medium to large assarts of the post-medieval periods) and 1.9 Small Regular with Straight Boundaries (Parliamentary Type of late 18 th - early 19 th centuries). Woods of types 4.1 and 4.2 (Assarted pre-1810 Woodland and replanted pre-1810) particularly along the Beaulieu River.
Key visible historic components	Extensive woods and large fields (possibly older smaller fields rationalised and expanded under Enclosure - possibly linked to the Beaulieu estate?).
Period of predominant character	Early post-medieval
Earlier/later features of note	Little visible archaeology; Beaulieu estate and house, and Bucklers hard historic ship-building centre.
Parishes	Beaulieu, Exbury Lepe

Landscape Character Area	26. Beaulieu River
<p>Parish Clusters</p> <p>Functional linkages</p> <p>Management issues/objectives</p>	<p>Maritime link via river, parts of fields and replanted woods overlie Heath</p> <p>The scale and size of both field systems and the village properties should be preserved insofar as possible by resisting amalgamation of fields and loss of hedge/boundaries, or inappropriate scale or density of infill housing.</p>
<p>Broad Landscape Patterns</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Settlement</p> <p>Field boundaries (type and pattern)</p> <p>Woodland (age, type, size, distribution)</p> <p>Access and recreation</p> <p>Perceived tranquillity</p>	<p>Summer Lane is the main communication route, running up the valley between Exbury and Beaulieu.</p> <p>Nucleated villages around large houses at Exbury and Beaulieu. Forest lodges and scattered farms inbetween.</p> <p>Hedgerows and woodland create boundaries to fields.</p> <p>Ancient and re-planted deciduous woodland, mixed woodland Inclosures - many named copses.</p> <p>Access is difficult - one lane runs north to south; the Solent Way enables public access on foot.</p> <p>Tranquil, particularly in woodland; settlements also remarkably tranquil.</p>
<p>Settlement Character</p> <p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p> <p>Relationship to landscape</p>	<p>Mixture of farm buildings, residential dwellings and hotels.</p> <p>Settlement focused in centres of Exbury and Beaulieu.</p> <p>Beaulieu - red brick and red clay tile and decorative tiled frontages.</p> <p>Exbury - light coloured brick.</p> <p>Green spaces infiltrate the towns - plenty of greens and verges.</p> <p>Beaulieu River and Mill Pond creates setting to Beaulieu.</p>
<p>Visual Character and Condition</p> <p>Key views</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Landscape settings to settlements</p> <p>Positive features</p> <p>Negative features</p> <p>Forces for change</p>	<p>Woodland prevents long views - generally to the next field boundary or woodland edge.</p> <p>Grand houses and forest lodges.</p> <p>Woodland and River (in the case of Beaulieu).</p> <p>Mature woodland and shady lanes.</p> <p>River and river banks.</p> <p>Detailed building designs and magnificent architecture.</p> <p>None</p> <p>Loss marshy grasslands and peat.</p> <p>Built development, particularly around Beaulieu.</p>

New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet

Landscape Character Area	27. Eastern Forest Heaths
County Landscape Character Area County Landscape Type(s) District Landscape Type(s)	New Forest Lowland and Heath Heathland and Forest Pasture and woodland; heath associated 4. Heath Associated Estates 5. Heath Associated Smallholdings and Dwellings 15. Ancient and Ornamental Woodlands 16. Timber Inclosures 17. Heathland
Physical Influences Landform Surface geology and soils Drainage	Gently undulating plateau to the west of Southampton Water Loamy Barton Sands - poor soils support heathland. Drained south by the Beaulieu River.
Land Cover and Biodiversity Current land uses Habitats (type and value) Diversity Management issues/objectives	Open grazing, timber production Wide valleys support bog vegetation and alder and willow carr. Deciduous and coniferous woodland. Semi-improved grassland. Bracken, dry and wet heaths, acid grassland. Habitats have high biodiversity and nature conservation value. Management of heathland/demise of commoning Forestry plantations - rides and corridors Heathland restoration - particularly from conifers
Archaeology and History Historic landscape type(s) Key visible historic components Period of predominant character Earlier/later features of note Parishes Parish Clusters Functional linkages Management issues/objectives	Extensive area of Heathland type 5.1, result of Bronze Age clearances since when poor soil has limited uses to grazing, perpetuated under early medieval Forest Law. Heath 5.1 includes areas of woods, usually bands along watercourses and small scattered copses. Heath and Enclosed wood/plantation, numerous Bronze Age burial barrows Prehistoric preserved by early Medieval law Numerous Bronze Age burial barrows and other generally prehistoric earthworks, and the medium sized enclosed Inclosure woods (19 th century plantation). Denny Lodge 3 Served as source of grazing land and other heathland resources Maintain by managed grazing

Landscape Character Area	27. Eastern Forest Heaths
<p>Broad Landscape Patterns</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>Settlement</p> <p>Field boundaries (type and pattern)</p> <p>Woodland (age, type, size, distribution)</p> <p>Access and recreation</p> <p>Perceived tranquillity</p>	<p>Minor roads cross open Heaths and Bogs along dead straight routes. Beaulieu Road Station in middle of area.</p> <p>Isolated farms; rows of houses by Blackwell Common</p> <p>Small enclosed fields around farms - hedgerows or unobtrusive post and wire</p> <p>Ancient woodland along river courses</p> <p>Timber Inclosures along northern boundary creating a good screen</p> <p>Open access, provision of parking areas. Valuable recreational resource for nearby urban areas.</p> <p>Very quiet - particularly away from the roads and Beaulieu Road Station</p>
<p>Settlement Character</p> <p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p> <p>Relationship to landscape</p>	<p>Small farms</p> <p>Scattered farms - very sparse</p> <p>Red brick farmhouses, although more modern materials used around Blackfield</p> <p>Fields enclosed by hedgerows and mature trees surround isolated farmsteads</p> <p>Set within enclosed 'clearings' within the unenclosed forest</p>
<p>Visual Character and Condition</p> <p>Key views</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Landscape settings to settlements</p> <p>Positive features</p> <p>Negative features</p> <p>Forces for change</p>	<p>Fawley refinery chimneys and Power Station stack</p> <p>As above</p> <p>Woodland</p> <p>Open expanses, ancient woodland, meandering rivers with riverside lawns and wooden bridges.</p> <p>Views of pylons, chimneys etc in the distance.</p> <p>Grazing pressure</p> <p>Tourism/erosion</p>

New Forest Settlement Character Record Sheet

Settlement	Fordingbridge
Adjoining Landscape Types	8. Terrace Farmlands 9. River Meadowlands 10. Mixed Farmland and Woodland 11. Chalk Valleys
Adjoining Landscape Character Areas	6. Upper Avon Valley
<p>Landscape Setting All Fringes - Upper Avon Valley Outline Context</p> <p>Relationships to Landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p>	<p>Flat valley bottom - rising to the west of Fordingbridge. On London Clays with Bagshot sands to the south - all overlain by river terrace deposits River Avon runs through centre; tributaries of the Ashford Water and Sweatsford Water runs through town. Medium density urban development, parkland over improved grassland and grass sports fields. Edge definition is strong in all directions: East: artificial edge formed by A338 - strong edge. West: defined by prominent ridge - modern estates have expanded in this direction North: defined by dismantled railway South retains its historic extent - strong definition. Outward facing buildings create a more attractive edge than inward-facing buildings.</p>
<p>Evolution Brief history</p> <p>Settlement type and plan form</p> <p>Settlement functions</p> <p>Principal building periods</p>	<p>Domesday Fordingebridge : bridge of dwellers at the ford. Crossing point of the Avon. Medieval Market Town.</p> <p>The old centre of the town follows Bridge Street, High Street and Church Street. Some Medieval Burgage plots still visible along these roads, with the longer plots backing onto the river. The town is generally 'fan' shaped as a result of Victorian expansion to the north. The parish Church is, unusually, well away from the main medieval centre, possibly resulting from links to a medieval manor.</p> <p>The town has a commercial centre and associated housing. There are also schools and a hospital. There is still a weekly market.</p> <p>Many of the shops along the High Street are contained within large properties with grand Georgian upper stories. These properties may stand on multiple burgage plots. Intermittent Victorian semis along the southern end of Whitsbury road but much of the development to the north of the town is post war and 1980-90s housing estates.</p>
Settlement Character	

Settlement	Fordingbridge
<p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style, and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p>	<p>Mainly residential with small amounts of commercial</p> <p>High density centre with medium density estates on the edges</p> <p>traditional 2 storey brick terraced town houses; thatched buildings with white or cream render</p> <p>Sweatsfords Water is a green finger which protrudes into the town</p> <p>River Avon floodplain provides a setting</p>
<p>Visual Character</p> <p>Approaches</p> <p>Key views (inward and outward)</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Prominent ridgelines</p> <p>Strategic Gaps</p> <p>Areas with potential for enhancement</p>	<p>A338 provides main entrances from the North and South</p> <p>Minor roads from Ashford, Alderholt and Whitsbury</p> <p>Very few views at present</p> <p>St Marys Church</p> <p>Bridge</p> <p>Hill to the west dividing the town from Ashford Water.</p> <p>Between Fordingbridge and Ashford.</p> <p>Entrances - open up views of Avon and town from A338 approach</p> <p>Watercourses - not utilised to their maximum potential</p>
<p>Relationship to the landscape</p>	<p>Built development tends to face inwards into the town - disconnected from the landscape by infrastructure, modern housing estates.</p> <p>Connections remain at the River Avon and on the southern edge of the settlement where the historic core still forms a connection with the landscape beyond.</p>

New Forest Settlement Character Record Sheet

Settlement	Hythe
<p>Adjoining Landscape Types</p> <p>Adjoining Landscape Character Areas</p>	<p>1. Coastal Fringe</p> <p>6. Ancient Forest Farmlands</p> <p>15. Timber Inclosures/plantation</p> <p>13. Waterside parishes</p> <p>12. Ashurst forest Farmlands to north</p> <p>26. Eastern Heaths to the west</p>
<p>Landscape Setting</p> <p>NW Fringes - <i>Ashurst and Hythe Forest Farmlands</i></p> <p>Outline Context</p> <p>Relationship to landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p> <p>SW Fringes - <i>Eastern Forest Heaths</i></p> <p>Outline Context</p> <p>Relationship to landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p> <p>E Fringes - <i>Waterside Parishes</i></p> <p>Outline Context</p> <p>Relationship to landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p>	<p>Undulating wooded farmland of irregular medieval fields.</p> <p>Poorly defined boundary where residential estates spread out into farmland.</p> <p>Use woodland as a setting to development.</p> <p>Improve definition of edge and sense of place.</p> <p>Settlement edge rises in altitude to heathland overplanted with conifers (on Barton Sands) - different character to areas.</p> <p>Sharply defined (artificially) by A326 and conifer plantations which provide visual screen between heath and urban area.</p> <p>View over heaths?</p> <p>Flat coastal plain of waterside - on Barton clay overlain by alluvial deposits. Small streams drain east into Southampton Water. Medium and low density urban interspersed remnants of ancient woodland.</p> <p>Sharply defined by Southampton Water - long views across Southampton Water.</p> <p>Waterfront and promenade area.</p>
<p>Evolution</p> <p>Brief history</p> <p>Settlement type and plan form</p> <p>Settlement functions</p> <p>Principal building periods</p>	<p>Developed from a ferry stage between Fawley and Southampton.</p> <p>Historic core with rectilinear medieval pattern.</p> <p>Residential outskirts with post-war housing.</p> <p>Ferry Stage, boat building until 1950s.</p> <p>Medieval street pattern;</p> <p>Date of principal buildings 18th/19th century;</p> <p>Post War housing;</p> <p>1990's estates.</p>
<p>Settlement Character</p> <p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style, and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p>	<p>Predominantly residential;</p> <p>Medium density settlement; recent low density development on edges</p> <p>Yellow brick town houses a distinctive feature. Also red brick, colour render with clay tile or slate roofs.</p> <p>Areas of woodland (old copses) trapped within residential areas.</p> <p>School playing fields and recreation grounds.</p> <p>Limited open space on water front with views across Southampton Water.</p>

Settlement	Hythe
<p>Visual Character</p> <p>Approaches</p> <p>Key views (inward and outward)</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Prominent ridgelines</p> <p>Strategic gaps</p> <p>Areas with potential for enhancement</p>	<p>By ferry from Southampton. Through Dibden from the west. Through Buttsash from the south. B3054 from Beaulieu (though residential estates)</p> <p>Limited views, except on water front: Views out across Southampton Water Views of waterfront from Southampton. Hythe Pier, hotel on waterfront</p> <p>Fern Hill</p> <p>Hythe and Dibden Hythe and Little Holbury Hythe and adjacent industrial works Waterfront and promenade area</p>
<p>Relationship with landscape</p>	<p>Weak connections to the surrounding landscape except at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centre and marina area which connect with the waterfront. • Fern Hill where the landscape structure is still legible.

New Forest Settlement Character Record Sheet

Settlement	Lymington
<p>Adjoining Landscape Types</p> <p>Adjoining Landscape Character Areas</p>	<p>1. Coastal Fringe 2a. Coastal Estatelands 6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 16. Christchurch Bay Coastal Estates 15. Boldre and Beaulieu Coastal Estates and 23. Lymington Valley</p>
<p>Landscape Setting</p> <p>N Fringe - <i>Lymington Valley</i> Outline Context</p> <p>Relationship to Landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p> <p>NW Fringes - <i>Sway Pasture and Smallholdings</i> Outline Context</p> <p>Relationship to Landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p> <p>Other Fringes - <i>Newlands Coastal Estates</i> Outline Context</p> <p>Relationship to Landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p>	<p>Rises to wooded, undulating landscape of Lymington Valley. Influenced by Barton Sands, Plateau Gravels and River Alluvium. Poorly defined boundary along railway - industry spreads along river. Robust entrance and distinctive wooded setting at Buckland Rings. Access and views to river.</p> <p>Undulating landscape of wooded valleys, small scale pastures and commons. Land rises to Pennington Common at 21m. Sharp boundary and strong visual connectinos with landscape context. Houses overlook Pennington Common. Prevent further low density sprawl along roads out of Lymington.</p> <p>Flat on waterfront rising gently to the west. Characterised by large open field systems, historic parks and gardens, marshes. Strong edge character on east where Lymington River forms setting. Other edges less well defined due to absence of notable features of landform. Enhance connections between town and waterside setting.</p>
<p>Evolution</p> <p>Brief history</p> <p>Settlement type and plan form</p>	<p>Mentioned in Domesday 'Lemetune' : 'farm by the river Limnen/ farm by elms'. Settlements in the suburbs of Pennington 12th Century Penitone 'penny farm' and Buckland = 1236 Bocland</p> <p>The centre of the town still possesses a linear development with burgage plots visible in the buildings - some are single plots others multiple. The Medieval lay-out survives. Linear development (post war detached bungalows) on the principal routes in and out. The railway and river lie at the eastern edge of the town.</p>

Settlement	Lymington
<p>Settlement functions</p> <p>Principal building periods</p>	<p>The conservation area well reflects the 'old buildings'. The centres of Pennington and Buckland are visible as obvious stops to the post war and late twentieth century development.</p> <p>The major building periods are shown by Victorian and Georgian houses and post War and late twentieth century. Some of the brick under tile or slate houses on the high street may have medieval cores.</p>
<p>Settlement Character</p> <p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style, and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p>	<p>Medium/low density urban areas, sports fields, boat building and marinas.</p> <p>Medium density residential development</p> <p>Historic core: coloured render a feature; also red brick town houses with clay tile or slate. Thatched cottages a feature around Pennington.</p> <p>Pennington Common Waterfront amenity grassland Woodside Gardens. School grounds and playing fields</p>
<p>Visual Character</p> <p>Approaches</p> <p>Key views (inward and outward)</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Prominent ridgelines</p> <p>Strategic gaps</p> <p>Areas with potential for enhancement</p>	<p>Main Approaches: A337 north from Brockenhurst A337 west from Christchurch B3054 east from Beaulieu</p> <p>Views from east bank of Lymington River across the town Views from marina areas in SE of town out across estuary</p> <p>Coloured terraces in the centre of town Boat masts in the Marinas Church tower in the centre of town</p> <p>East bank of the Lymington River, ridge along Sway Road to north, high ground at Yaldhurst to NW.</p> <p>Between Everton and Lymington</p> <p>Area of boat sheds along the waterfront which block views of water. Marina area as a whole has more potential - car parks are a feature at present.</p>
<p>Relationship to Landscape</p>	<p>Strong visual relationship to estuary, but weaker to the north where the railway and associated vegetation cuts the town off from its river setting.</p> <p>All other areas tend to have inward-looking housing estates on their edges which form weak relationships with their surrounding landscape.</p> <p>The town has a strong relationship with the landscape at Pennington Common where houses overlook the green; a flavour of the landscape is brought into the urban area.</p>

New Forest Settlement Character Record Sheet

Settlement	Lyndhurst
Adjoining Landscape Types	6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 14. Ancient and Ornamental Woodland 15. Timber Inclosures 16. Heathland
Adjoining Landscape Character Areas	17. Furzey Woodlands and Villages 26. Eastern Forest Heaths
<p>Landscape Setting N, S & W Fringes - <i>Furzey Woodlands and Villages</i> Outline Context</p> <p>Relationship to Landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p> <p>E Fringes - <i>Eastern Forest Heaths</i> Outline Context</p> <p>Relationship to Landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p>	<p>Woodland, parkland, fields and streams on edges of Lyndhurst (Geology = Barton Sands) Edges face out into landscape -form close relationship with landscape. Approach from south (A337) through historic settlement of Goose Green. Fingers of the town extend out into surrounding low-lying countryside, particularly north and south along A337. Woodland may help to provide a setting.</p> <p>‘Urban park’ on edge of settlement with heathland character (Geology = Barton Sands) Forms close relationship with town which is contrasting in character than other settings - wild heathland character. Ensure cars do not dominate this edge.</p>
<p>Evolution Brief history</p> <p>Settlement type and plan form</p> <p>Settlement functions</p> <p>Principal building periods</p>	<p>In Domesday was Linehest: ‘lime wood’. The town is at a crossing point of routes through the forest, there has been growth in last 150 years.</p> <p>Development follows the roads but the way through is not direct. The main house style is irregular terrace of brick under tile and brick under slate, with some Victorian timber framed shops. The burgage plots are still visible, preserving the Medieval lay-out of the town. Houses start before the town on the main routes, on A35 north there is a collection of ‘seaside’ villas interspersed with 1950s estates. At the south of the town there is a focus towards the heathland - with the houses facing outward. The infill in the base of the triangle of roads consists of a large housing estate. Settlement of Clayhill (just to south) is separate from Lyndhurst.</p> <p>Town is mainly residential-with focus for Verders and ‘forest’ activity. Now has NFDC in its centre.</p> <p>Most of Lyndhurst appears to be Georgian and Victorian terraces and some detached properties (on south west of town). Some newer estates out towards Pikeshill and towards the edges.</p>

Settlement	Lyndhurst
<p>Settlement Character</p> <p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style, and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p>	<p>Residential/hotels - a 'tourist centre'</p> <p>Medium/high density in town centre. Low density estates on outskirts.</p> <p>Verderer's Hall dates from 1388. Small scale brick, or white painted buildings with slate roofs. Red brick and decorative tile hanging on larger buildings. Yellow brick around Goose Green.</p> <p>Goose Green - old village green. Bolton's Bench - heathland penetrates town. Appletree Court - Council offices. Northerwood Park - historic importance.</p>
<p>Visual Character</p> <p>Approaches</p> <p>Key views (inward and outward)</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Prominent ridgelines</p> <p>Buffer zones</p> <p>Areas with potential for enhancement</p>	<p>Historic crossing point of routes. A337 north-south A35 east-west</p> <p>Views from Bolton's Bench inwards. Views from Swan Green inwards - blocked by trees in summer.</p> <p>Spire of Church. Bolton's bench.</p> <p>Wooded Lyndhurst Hill to west of settlement.</p> <p>Goose Green and Clay Hill. Swan Green and Lyndhurst. Goose Green - lost its function as a village green due to traffic.</p>

New Forest Settlement Character Record Sheet

Settlement	New Milton
Adjoining Landscape Types	1. Coastal Fringe 2. Coastal Estates 5. Heathland Smallholdings and Dwellings 6. Ancient Forest Farmlands
Adjoining Landscape Character Areas	16. Christchurch Bay Coastal Estates 17. Sway Smallholdings and Dwellings
<p>Landscape Setting NE Fringes - <i>Sway Pasture and Smallholdings</i> Outline Context</p> <p>Relationship to Landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p> <p>Other Fringes - <i>Newlandsy Coastal Estates</i> Outline Context</p> <p>Relationship to Landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p>	<p>Small scale historic field patterns, parkland and woodland.</p> <p>Strong relationship to landscape - settlement edge fits well with field patterns and looks out into setting.</p> <p>Scale of built development to respond to scale of landscape.</p> <p>Gently undulating large scale landscape with minor valleys. Degraded character with loss of woodland, gravel extraction and loss of field patterns.</p> <p>Weak - context is degraded and new estates face inwards.</p> <p>Woodland settings; enhancement of degraded fringes through ground restoration; creation of 'gateways' into town.</p>
<p>Evolution Brief history</p> <p>Settlement type and plan form</p> <p>Settlement functions</p> <p>Principal building periods</p>	<p>Domesday Midletune : Middle farm' New - late 19th Century railway. Ashley: 1086 Esselle : 'ash wood'</p> <p>The high street of New Milton is a linear late 19th century development with 1960s infill. Parts of the settlement of Ashley could be observed including a couple of thatched cottages, but the majority of houses were 1950s. The specific limits of the conservation area of Old Milton could not be observed. New Milton has merged with Barton-on -sea.</p> <p>The town has a small commercial centre and some schools but is apparently dormitory housing.</p> <p>Generally post war developments(along the railway), with 1970-80s housing estates up toward the north east and south of the town.</p>

Settlement	New Milton
<p>Settlement Character</p> <p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style, and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p>	<p>Residential estates</p> <p>Medium/low density residential estates - many semi-detached and detached bungalows</p> <p>Mostly post-war housing - 1950s red brick high street in the centre of New Milton. Red brick is the dominant building material although traditional materials are hard to identify.</p> <p>‘The Green’ at Old Milton</p> <p>Flat and featureless school grounds and war memorial park.</p>
<p>Visual Character</p> <p>Approaches</p> <p>Key views (inward and outward)</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Prominent ridgelines</p> <p>Strategic gaps</p> <p>Areas with potential for enhancement</p>	<p>Key approaches from:</p> <p>B3058 north from Bashley</p> <p>A337 west from Christchurch</p> <p>A337 east from Lymington</p> <p>No obvious views</p> <p>No obvious landmarks</p> <p>None</p> <p>Highcliffe and N-M</p> <p>Hordle and N-M</p> <p>Bashley and N-M</p> <p>Central area including the war memorial park which is flat and featureless at present</p> <p>Entrance into Old Milton</p>
<p>Relationship with landscape</p>	<p>There are generally weak connections with the landscape - the character of the surrounding landscape is not reflected within the settlement itself and there are no visual connections with the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Estates are inward facing.</p>

New Forest Settlement Character Record Sheet

Settlement	Ringwood
Adjoining Landscape Types	6. Ancient Forest Farmlands 8. Terrace Farmlands 9. River Meadowlands
Adjoining Landscape Character Areas	6. Upper Avon Valley 7. Lower Avon Valley
<p>Landscape Setting N and W Fringes - <i>Upper Avon Valley</i> Outline Context</p> <p>Relationship to Landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p> <p>S Fringes - <i>Lower Avon Valley</i> Outline Context</p> <p>Relationship to Landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p> <p>E Fringes - <i>Poulner Woods and Pastures</i> Outline Context</p> <p>Relationship to Landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p>	<p>Riparian pastoral landscape with watermeadows, river and disused gravel pits which are now used as recreational lakes.</p> <p>Western edge sharply defined by floodplain and A31(T). Northern edge defined by Blashford Lakes - old gravel workings.</p> <p>Improvement of visual and physical links to floodplain and river.</p> <p>Riparian pastoral floodplain landscape with some large parliamentary fields (including arable).</p> <p>Geometric boundary to south, weakly defined by fields. Industry divides town from Mill Stream and R Avon.</p> <p>Enhance links to Avon Valley</p> <p>Steep wooded hill characterised by small scale pastures. Wooded ridge provides a setting for Ringwood.</p> <p>Sharply defined boundary between settlement and landscape - by landform and woodland.</p> <p>Built form to relate to scale and styles of adjacent LCA.</p>

Settlement	Ringwood
<p>Evolution Brief history</p> <p>Settlement type and plan form</p> <p>Settlement functions</p> <p>Principal building periods</p>	<p>955 'Rimcuwuda' : Border Wood. Market town. The town has a market and had Medieval mills (last demolished in 1936).</p> <p>The medieval core of the town is still visible in the form of burgage plots along Market Place, High Street, and Christchurch Road. The plots are visible, but most of the gardens have been built on. Another nuclei was observed around Hightown Road, Bickerley Common (thatched enclave). The town has not spread west because of the flood plains. Ringwood had a railway (now gone)</p> <p>The town has a prominent market centre and it would appear from the number of inns that it was a coaching stop. The town is now also a dormitory town for Bournemouth and has been growing rapidly.</p> <p>Medieval core of town, but most buildings appear to have Georgian and Victorian facades. The later building periods include post (and inter) war with lots of bungalows and 1980-90s estates some of which are not on the 1:2500 map yet.</p>
<p>Settlement Character Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style, and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p>	<p>Residential/retail/industry.</p> <p>High density core. Medium/low density outskirts.</p> <p>Traditional thatched cottages and red brick townhouses still visible in town centre.</p> <p>Bickerley Common - now mown. Avon Valley Wooded slopes to east. Recreation grounds and school grounds.</p>
<p>Visual Character Approaches</p> <p>Key views (inward and outward)</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Prominent ridgelines</p> <p>Strategic gaps</p> <p>Areas with potential for enhancement</p>	<p>From Poulner Hill elevated views across town. A338 from Fordingbridge gradual entrance via busy roundabout. From south - gradual entrance through outskirts, industrial areas etc. West from A31(T) - infrastructure dominates - no tempting views. From Poulner Hill across town. From A31 towards church. Ringwood Church.</p> <p>Poulner Hill to east. Western valley side of the Avon. Between town and adjacent villages north and south along Avon valley. All entrances and approaches to settlement. Industrial areas close to town centre.</p>

New Forest Settlement Character Record Sheet

Settlement	Totton
<p>Adjoining Landscape Types</p> <p>Adjoining Landscape Character Areas</p>	<p>1 Coastal Fringe</p> <p>5. Heathland Smallholding and dwellings</p> <p>6. Ancient Forest Farmlands</p> <p>11. Copythorne Forest Farmlands</p> <p>12. Ashurst Forest Farmlands</p> <p>13. Waterside Parishes</p>
<p>Landscape Setting</p> <p>NW Fringes - <i>Copythorne Forest Farmlands</i></p> <p>Outline Context</p> <p>Relationship to Landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p> <p>SW Fringes - <i>Ashurst and Hythe Forest Farmlands</i></p> <p>Outline Context</p> <p>Relationship to Landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p> <p>SE Fringes - <i>Waterside Parishes</i></p> <p>Outline Context</p> <p>Relationship to Landscape</p> <p>Enhancement Potential</p>	<p>Landform rises into a wooded farmland landscape. (Bracklesham Beds). A326 creates a barrier between rural landscape and settlement</p> <p>Weak edge - still spreading out towards ring road; new residential estates. Historic sites of Hazel Farm and Hanger Farm inside ring road are particularly important features. Approach via A36 past Testwood Lakes. Views from Brooke's Hill & Shorn Hill. Woodland/hedgerows would help link town to character of surrounding farmland.</p> <p>Landform rises towards Ashurst on Barton Clay. Bartley Water flows from surrounding landscape into Totton. Wooded landscape. Views from high ground by Ashurst. Woodland and water courses (Jacob's Gutter/Bartley Water) provide settings. Ring road separates Ashurst from Totton. Woodland could create more definite edge and enhance wooded character of this LCA.</p> <p>Flat landscape on Barton Clay; part of River Test floodplain and valley. Important wetlands including water meadows, open water and marsh. Conservation Area between Totton and Eling. Edges well defined by watercourses - views of edges of settlement across floodplains of both Test and Bartley Water. Particularly important view from Eling across Bartley Water. Retain existing views. Visible buildings on edges - sensitive designs.</p>
<p>Evolution</p> <p>Brief history</p> <p>Settlement type and plan form</p>	<p>In Domesday Totingtone : Farm of Totta. Old centres at Colbury and Eling - but no obvious old centre in Totton. The railway cuts though the centre of the town.</p> <p>Eling is the historic core and basis for the dormitory town that is Totton.</p> <p>There is a small linear development along 'High Street' and another in 'Calmore Road' which contains some Victorian terraces, and the separate settlement of Eling is distinct. The</p>

Settlement	Totton
<p>Settlement functions</p> <p>Principal building periods</p>	<p>town has developed in a fan shape apparently along the A36,A35 and A336, the town has not yet spread out beyond the western bypass.</p> <p>Although Totton has a shopping centre the town appears to be an overgrown village with a large amount of post war and modern housing.</p> <p>The majority of building in Totton is post war, and new (1980-90s) housing estates. The oldest buildings are generally Victorian, but these are quite rare.</p>
<p>Settlement Character</p> <p>Dominant land use</p> <p>Density, enclosure</p> <p>Age, style, and materials</p> <p>Green spaces</p>	<p>Residential.</p> <p>Low/ medium density estates - fairly even density throughout.</p> <p>Variety of modern materials and styles - nothing stands out as traditional or the local vernacular.</p> <p>There is limited open space within the settlement; however there is an important open space alongside Bartley Water.</p>
<p>Visual Character</p> <p>Approaches</p> <p>Key views (inward and outward)</p> <p>Landmarks</p> <p>Prominent ridgelines</p> <p>Buffer zones</p> <p>Areas with potential for enhancement</p>	<p>Main approaches are through the 'back of the settlement' through residential estates. Gateway formed by the bridge over the Test on the A35 approach from Southampton. Views from Southampton over the Test valley towards Totton (main approach from Southampton).</p> <p>Views from Eling, across the Toll bridge towards the edge of Totton - an important view.</p> <p>No landmarks of note.</p> <p>To the west of Totton.</p> <p>Most adjacent villages and settlements have already been incorporated into the settlement which is now known as Totton. However, important beffers remain between Eling and Totton, Netley Marsh and Totton, and Ashurst and Totton.</p> <p>The civic centre and approach from Southampton could benefit from a distinctive gateway and improved legibility.</p> <p>Bartley Water is a landscape, visual, recreational and ecolgical resource which is underused.</p>
<p>Relationship to the landscape</p>	<p>There is generally a weak connection with the surrounding landscape; housing estates turn their backs on the landscape and industry creates a barrier between the town and landscape. The closest relationship is made at Eling where the waterfront has been utilised, houses face outwards; the area has retained some if its individual character.</p>

Annex B

Landscape Character Assessment Methodology

B1.1

THE BRIEF

In April 1999, Environmental Resources Management (ERM) was commissioned by the New Forest District Council, in partnership with Hampshire County Council, the Countryside Agency and English Heritage, to undertake a comprehensive integrated landscape and townscape assessment of the New Forest District.

The brief (together with the supplementary brief dated January 2000) for the New Forest District Landscape Character Assessment indicated that the assessment should:

- build upon current best practice in landscape character assessment both nationally and within Hampshire;
- help advance thinking on the combined assessment of landscape and townscape character;
- encompass the historic and ecological aspects of landscape character;
- draw upon local knowledge within the community through stakeholder participation.

It included a requirement to *“at the conclusion of the study, critically evaluate the work undertaken and highlight lessons learned that might usefully inform future work of this nature”*. This annex records and reviews the methodology that was used, focusing particularly on its new and innovative aspects.

The study Steering Group, comprising Neil Williamson of New Forest District Council, Linda Tartaglia-Kershaw and Graham Flatt of Hampshire County Council, Caroline Cotterell of the Countryside Agency, and Graham Fairclough of English Heritage, provided support and guidance throughout the development of the methodology. The study team gratefully acknowledges their help.

B1.2

STRUCTURE OF THE ANNEX

The sections that follow:

- highlight some of the key issues that influenced the development of the methodology;
- record the assessment methodology for future use and reference;

- draw conclusions on the strengths and weaknesses of the methodology to inform similar work in future.

B1.3

RELATIONSHIP TO THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

In parallel with the main landscape assessment, Gifford and Partners prepared a historic landscape assessment for New Forest District. The ERM team and the Giffords team worked very closely together throughout the study. The results of the historic landscape assessment fed into the main landscape assessment, but the historic landscape assessment also constitutes a project output in its own right.

The historic landscape assessment methodology and its full findings are presented in *Annex C*.

B2.1

KEY ISSUES

The principal task was to develop and pilot an integrated (landscape/biodiversity/historic) assessment methodology that could be applied to both rural landscapes and settlements. A number of key issues were identified. These were:

- how to fit within the hierarchy of assessments that already exists within Hampshire;
- how to integrate the assessment of biodiversity and historic character with the assessment of landscape character;
- how to integrate the assessment of settlements/townscape with the assessment of landscape character.

The commentary that follows describes these issues and how they were addressed within the evolving methodology.

B2.2

ASSESSMENT HIERARCHY

Existing county and district-wide landscape assessments in Hampshire were reviewed at an early stage, and discussions were held with County Council staff to help ensure that the new assessment would fit well with existing assessments.

At county level, Hampshire has both landscape types ⁽¹⁾ and broad landscape character areas ⁽²⁾. Within the districts most existing assessments have defined, at a more detailed level, both generic landscape types and area-specific landscape character areas. However, the emphasis given to types and character areas for planning and management purposes has varied from district to district.

After discussion with the Steering Group for the study, the decision was taken to define both landscape types and landscape character areas for the New Forest District. It was agreed that the landscape types - which closely reflect typologies developed in earlier assessments in Hampshire - would be mapped, and that a brief description and summary of key issues would be prepared for each. However, the main focus of the work would be on the character areas, for which much more detailed descriptions and guidance would be prepared.

The decision to focus on character areas was taken for the following reasons:

(1) Hampshire County Council (1993) The Hampshire Landscape.

(2) Hampshire County Council (1999) Hampshire Landscape Strategy, unpublished draft.

- they enable settlements and their settings to be considered in a seamless way, which is more difficult with landscape types;
- they are more meaningful than types at a district level, because they encompass local identity and sense of place;
- they are more helpful for understanding the complex influences of biodiversity and historic character upon landscape character.

B2.3

INTEGRATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND HISTORIC CHARACTER WITH LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

This was a key requirement for the study. There was a need to ensure that habitat types and historic landscape types influenced the definition of district landscape types and character areas and informed the assessment as a whole.

The inclusion of ecological and archaeological expertise within the study team was a first step towards achieving integration. However, very often such specialist inputs take the form of a separate section of the report, rather than being fully integrated within the characterisation process. ERM wanted to avoid this pitfall and in addition wanted to make best use of the wealth of existing mapped and written information on all aspects of landscape character. These included GIS data, the county historic landscape assessment ⁽¹⁾, existing landscape assessments for parts of the study area ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾ ⁽⁴⁾ ⁽⁵⁾ and specialist studies on the landscape, history and biodiversity of the New Forest.

This issue was addressed by:

- making optimal use of desk study, followed by careful field verification;
- using 1:50,000 maps of Phase 1 habitat types and county historic landscape types as essential layers in the overlay mapping exercise;
- developing a new, tailored *Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet* to carefully and systematically build information on all the landscape 'layers' within a single character area.

The benefits of this approach were that it avoided replication of earlier work; helped the team to understand all the different layers (physical, historical, ecological and visual/perceptual) within the landscape; and summarised key information in an accessible form for future use and reference.

(1) Oxford Archaeological Unit and Scott Wilson Resource Consultants (1999) Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment, Report to Hampshire County Council and English Heritage.

(2) Countryside Commission (1986) The New Forest Landscape, CCP 220.

(3) Land Use Consultants (1991) New Forest Heritage Area: Proposed Boundary, Report to the New Forest Committee.

(4) Scott Wilson Resource Consultants (1996) Test Valley Borough Landscape Assessment, Report to Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.

(5) Countryside Commission (1995) The Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Landscape, CCP 465.

B2.4

INTEGRATION OF SETTLEMENT/TOWNSCAPE AND LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

Earlier work on townscape assessment in Hampshire, for instance the Gosport and Fareham studies ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾, has defined urban area building types/urban landscape types in some detail, but has not necessarily looked closely at the relationships between towns and the surrounding landscape.

After discussion with the Steering Group, ERM decided to pursue a rather different approach to settlement character - one which we felt would be better suited to the generally more rural character of the New Forest District.

In the heart of the New Forest, settlement tends to be quite dispersed in character, and is often an integral part of the landscapes in which it sits. For these landscapes, we decided that there would be little merit in considering the settlements in isolation from their landscape setting. Instead we proposed that descriptions of their character, and principles for their future management and development, should be woven into the writeup for each landscape character area.

However, for the larger settlements (Fordingbridge, Hythe, Lymington, Lyndhurst, New Milton, Ringwood and Totton) a different approach was developed. These settlements are entities in their own right that may exert a significant influence over the surrounding landscape. The approach was based on completion of a *Settlement Character Record Sheet* along similar lines to the *Landscape Character Record Sheet*. In addition, *Settlement Analysis Maps* were developed to show the key landscape/townscape relationships in spatial terms.

(1) Landscape Design Associates (1996) Gosport Borough Landscape and Townscape Study, Report to Gosport Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.

(2) Scott Wilson Resource Consultants (1996) Fareham Borough Landscape Assessment, Report to Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.

In general, the methodology that was developed followed the now fairly standard approach to landscape character assessment that has been formulated by the Countryside Agency ⁽¹⁾. It began with desk study and preparation of a draft character map. This was followed by a field survey and characterisation. Further research and analysis led to the preparation of landscape guidelines and drafting of the draft landscape character assessment report. A series of community participation workshops was then held to draw upon local knowledge within the community and provide suitable outputs for incorporation into the final report.

B3.1

DESK STUDY

An initial literature review focused upon several themes:

- physical influences upon the landscape
- biodiversity
- historical and cultural influences
- settlement character
- forces for change.

This general landscape research was supplemented by more detailed, specialist historic landscape research. This was undertaken by Giffords and is described in *Annex C*.

In parallel with this work, GIS data from Hampshire County Council and other mapped data sources were reviewed, and a series of overlay maps was prepared. The principal overlays were:

- OS base data at 1:25,000 reduced to 1:50,000
- simplified surface geology
- Phase 1 habitat types
- county historic landscape types
- existing landscape character types and character areas.

These overlays were used throughout the assessment, informing both the desk study and the field survey stage. By reviewing the patterns and correlations between the different layers, draft *Landscape Types* and *Landscape Character Maps* were prepared. A total of 21 types and 27 character areas eventually were defined. These were reviewed by members of the ERM study team, and discussed with Giffords at an early stage in the work. They were also reviewed by Hampshire County Council for consistency with other assessments in Hampshire.

(1) The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage (1999) Interim Landscape Character Assessment Guidance.

Consultations yielded additional information, particularly on the key development and land management issues to be addressed. Consultees included:

- Beaulieu, Barker Mill and Cadland Estates
- Christchurch Borough Council
- Council for the Protection of Rural England
- East Dorset District Council
- English Nature
- Environment Agency
- Farming and Rural Conservation Agency
- Forestry Commission
- Geodata Institute
- Hampshire County Council (landscape, planning, archaeology, mineral and waste)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- New Forest Association
- New Forest Committee
- New Forest District Council (planning and landscape staff)
- Salisbury District Council
- Test Valley Borough Council
- Wiltshire County Council
- Verderers' Association

B3.2 *FIELD SURVEY AND CHARACTERISATION*

B3.2.1 *Landscape Character Areas*

As preparation for the field survey, *Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheets* (see *Table B1*) for each of the draft landscape character areas were used in a systematic way to record desk study information on:

- existing landscape and historic landscape types/character areas;
- physical influences;
- land cover and biodiversity;
- archaeology and history
- broad landscape patterns;
- settlement character,
- visual character and condition.

Both ERM and Giffords contributed material to the record forms, which were tested and modified in light of experience and comment from the Steering Group. Initially completed in the office, they were then checked and amplified in the field, where extra information on visual character in particular was added. In addition, working notes were made on landscape sensitivity to change; principles for landscape management; and principles for built form.

The field survey took approximately two weeks. Although ERM was responsible for most of the field work, the ERM team worked very closely with Giffords in relation to historic landscape issues, and Giffords too verified the characterisation in the field.

Table B1 *New Forest Landscape Character Assessment Record Sheet*

Landscape Character Area	
County Landscape Character Area County and District Landscape Type(s) Adjoining Landscape Type(s)	
Physical Influences Landform Surface geology Drainage	
Land Cover and Biodiversity Current land uses Access Habitats (type and value) Diversity Management issues/objectives	
Archaeology and History Historic landscape type(s) Key visible historic components Period of predominant character Earlier/ later features of note Parish clusters Functional linkages Management issues/objectives	

Landscape Character Area	
Broad Landscape Patterns Communications Settlement Field boundaries (type and pattern) Woodland (age, type, size, distribution) Access and recreation Perceived tranquillity	
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style and materials Green spaces Relationship to landscape	
Visual Character and Condition Key views Landmarks Landscape settings to settlements Positive features Negative features Forces for change	
Landscape Sensitivity (working notes)	
Principles for Landscape Management (working notes)	
Principles for Built Form (working notes)	

B3.2.2

Settlements

For each of the seven principal settlements within the District, *Settlement Character Record Sheets* (see *Table B2*) were completed in preparation for the field survey, again using data provided by both ERM and Giffords. Information was recorded on:

- adjoining landscape types and character areas;
- landscape setting (the relationship to adjoining landscape character areas);
- evolution;
- character of the settlement itself;
- overall relationship to the surrounding landscape.

The subsequent field survey, which took around three days, checked and amplified this information, and added working notes on principles for landscape management and principles for built form.

Table B2 *New Forest Settlement Character Record Sheet*

Settlement	
Adjoining Landscape Types Adjoining Landscape Character Areas	
Landscape Setting Outline of context Relationship to landscape Enhancement potential (Repeated for each edge abutting a different landscape character area)	
Evolution Brief history Settlement type and plan form Principal building periods	
Settlement Character Dominant land use Density, enclosure Age, style, and materials Green spaces	

Settlement	
Visual Character Approaches Key views (inward and outward) Landmarks Prominent ridgelines Strategic gaps Areas with potential for enhancement	
Relationship to the Landscape	
Principles for Landscape Management (working notes)	
Principles for Built Form (working notes)	

The field survey also involved a mapped analysis at 1:25,000 of the town's historical development; historic parks and gardens; urban green spaces; and key approaches, prominent landmarks and ridgelines. These elements of the landscape - which are of particular relevance to development planning, landscape conservation and landscape enhancement around the towns - are defined in the box below.

Historical Development

The analysis highlights key phases in the evolution of each settlement:

- *Medieval street patterns* indicate the location and extent of the settlement up until the 15th Century.
- The *historic core* corresponds to the Conservation Area boundary and represents growth up until the mid 19th Century.
- The extent of built development between the mid 19th and mid 20th Century often occupies the largest area within each settlement. The classification does not precisely map *individual buildings* (there may be some post 1960 buildings within these areas), but indicates the *extent* of growth during this period.
- The most *recent built development* is often found on the outskirts of the settlements. This category indicates the extent and pattern of growth over the last 30-40 years.

Historic Parks and Gardens

Historic parks and gardens of recognised importance are identified separately on the analysis maps. Often these occur around the periphery of the settlement and make a valuable contribution to both landscape and settlement character.

Urban Green Spaces

Urban green spaces are open spaces within the settlement, some of which have the potential to make a significant contribution to the character of the surrounding urban areas. They may include areas of landscape, ecological or historic importance, such as river corridors, remnant woodland or common land, although the many are spaces such as playing fields and sports grounds.

Key Approaches, Landmarks and Prominent Ridgelines

The *Analysis Maps* record key approaches, landmarks and prominent ridgelines, which indicate those areas which will be particularly visible and, as such, are particularly sensitive to change.

B3.3

RESEARCH, ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

Finally, the full draft report of the landscape assessment was prepared. This included:

- A section on formative influences, describing the principal forces that have shaped the landscape in the District. Important and distinctive geological, cultural, historic and habitat features were highlighted, and their distribution described.
- A section presenting the classification of landscape types and character areas, and introducing the settlement analysis for the seven selected settlements across the District.
- An analysis of the ongoing forces for change to the District's landscape, together with integrated generic guidelines for managing change in landscape and settlement character.

- An outline of the key issues that face the District's landscapes today, and suggestions for a strategic approach to their conservation and enhancement.

The main text of the report was accompanied by a number of annexes:

- *Annex A, the Landscape Character and Settlement Character Record Sheets;*
- *Annex B, the Landscape Character Assessment Methodology;*
- *Annex C, the Historic Landscape Assessment by Gifford and Partners.*

B3.4

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The *Community Participation Project* involved three seminars held at the New Forest Museum, an exhibition and a questionnaire. The exhibition and questionnaire were available from 10.00am - 5.00pm for a two week period in March 2000. The half day seminars also provided an opportunity to view the exhibition.

Seminar participants were drawn from existing community networks in the New Forest. Potential lists of participants were provided by Hampshire County Council, the New Forest District Council and the New Forest Consultative Panel. They included representatives from all the parish and town councils, local interest groups and amenity societies and the principal estates in the New Forest. In total 96 people were invited and 50 actually attended the seminars. The programme for the seminars is presented in the box below.

9.30 *Exhibition* - coffee and tea available

10.00 *Introduction*

- Landscape character assessment
- Aims and objectives of the study
- What difference will it make?
- Managing change
- Options and practical solutions
- Who is responsible?

10.30 *Presentation*

- Slide show to introduce the landscape character areas
- Key issues and areas under particular pressure for change

11.00 *Workshop*

- Do the landscape character areas fit with your personal perceptions of the New Forest?
- What are the key forces for change in the landscape and how should they be tackled?

12.00 *Pin-up and Discussion*

All participants were welcome to continue the discussions over lunch at the Mailman's Arms in

Lyndhurst following the seminar.



Those attending the seminars were invited to comment on the draft landscape character assessment by:

- annotating a *Briefing Pack* with comments on the proposed name, landscape character, landscape features, key issues and forces for change in each LCA - the *Briefing Pack* provided a photograph and the key characteristics for each LCA;
- presenting their views at the seminar in the group presentations or in the general discussion that followed - in this instance comments were noted in full by ERM;
- marking up the large laminated OS base maps provided with post-it notes indicating key issues and forces for change (different colours reflected the perceived severity of the impact);
- marking suggested changes to the boundaries of the LCAs with red letra-line tape on the laminated maps.

Visitors to the exhibition also had an opportunity to complete questionnaires. All the comments and suggested amendments were presented in a report ⁽¹⁾, discussed with the partners at a review meeting, and changes were incorporated into the final report.

(1) New Forest District Council (April 2000) New Forest District Landscape Character Assessment: Community Participation Project

B4.1 **INNOVATION**

The innovative aspects of the *New Forest District Landscape Character Assessment* may be summarised as follows:

- systematic use of mapped and written data on biodiversity and historic character within the overlay mapping and characterisation process;
- in particular, careful and thorough use of maps of Phase 1 habitat types and historic landscape types to inform the desk study and field survey;
- development of new, tailored record sheets for both landscape and settlement character - allowing key information on all landscape 'layers' to be summarised in a coherent form;
- development of a map-based system for analysing settlement character and the often complex relationships between towns and adjoining countryside;
- development of approaches to stakeholder participation in landscape character assessment.

In addition, the preparation of the *Historic Landscape Assessment* in parallel with the landscape assessment allowed the landscape assessment to include detailed information on the key formative influences for each landscape character area and each settlement - improving the understanding of landscape character overall.

B4.2 **COMMENTS ON STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES**

- *The assessment's level of detail and focus on landscape character areas seemed to work well.* There was relatively easy consensus on the landscape character areas amongst the team and the Steering Group; and Giffords found the character areas to be meaningful and helpful in relation to historic landscape character. There was a high degree of correspondence with the analysis of groupings of historic landscape types that was undertaken by Giffords (see *Annex C*).
- *It was very useful indeed to spend more time than usual on the desk study relative to the field survey.* We would recommend this approach for other landscape assessments in Hampshire and elsewhere. It is especially appropriate for study areas for which there is a broad range of relevant background information.

- *The use of overlay maps of habitat types and historic landscape types was worthwhile.* It is a very simple measure but one that is often overlooked. In the past many landscape assessments have paid too much attention to the visual landscape and have not always been fully informed on biodiversity and historic character. Given the strong influence of these factors on the evolution of the visual landscape, this may be a serious omission.
- *The landscape character record sheets facilitated 'bottom up' integrated landscape characterisation* and will provide a useful record and reference source for users of the landscape assessment. However, on the down-side, they are time-consuming to complete, and there is a risk of 'information overload'. It is important to get the format right at the outset so that there is no need for extensive editing at a later date.
- *The settlement character record sheets also worked well, especially in accommodating information on the historical development of each town.* However, they were perhaps a little cumbersome for recording the relationship of the town to its landscape setting, because of the need to review the linkages to a number of different character areas.
- *The settlement analysis maps were useful for explaining clearly the spatial relationships between a town and different parts of its landscape setting.* They highlighted the importance of particular landscape elements and features as 'environmental capital' within the landscape and townscape. However, they generated an amount of discussion and controversy within the Steering Group. This mainly related to the way in which forward planners and developers might interpret the analysis - although it is intended for information only.
- *The Historic Landscape Assessment of the District was invaluable in preparing the landscape assessment.* It was certainly more useful than the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment alone would have been. The analysis of groupings of historic landscape types, the time-depth analysis, and the information on specific landscape character areas and settlements were all important to the landscape assessment.
- *However, in an ideal world it would have been better if the historic landscape assessment could have been completed before the landscape assessment rather than in parallel with it.* This would have eased the process of landscape character assessment, and would have influenced the development of the assessment more fully. For instance, the time-depth analysis could have fed directly into the section on landscape evolution; and the landscape character areas might have been ordered by time-depth.
- *The successful stakeholder participation exercise enabled local knowledge and perceptions to be fed into the characterisation process.* If stakeholders are involved in the process of reaching decisions about the landscape they are more likely to be committed to the outcome. A significant number of

changes were made to the final report as a result of the views expressed and additional information provided by stakeholders.

Annex C

Historic Landscape Assessment

Report No. B2186.R.01 Rev A
January 2000

NEW FOREST DISTRICT LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

Environmental Resources Management
Eaton House
Wallbrook Court
North Hinksey Lane
Oxford OX2 0QS

Commercial-in-Confidence

NEW FOREST DISTRICT LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

CONTROLLED DOCUMENT

<i>Gifford and Partners Document No:</i> B2186.R.01 Rev A			
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<i>Prepared by:</i>	G A Wait	G A Wait	5.1.2000
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NEW FOREST DISTRICT LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In spring 1999 Environmental Resources Management (ERM) was commissioned by the New Forest District Council to produce a Landscape Character Assessment of the District. As a part of this exercise, Gifford and Partners Ltd were appointed to provide historical expertise and input into the Assessment, and to undertake the preparation of an historic landscape assessment. This is to take the form of an annexe to the ERM Assessment, and be capable of 'standing alone' as a document. This is the first consultation Draft of this Historic Landscape Assessment

The New Forest Historic Landscape Assessment has taken, as a starting point, the basic data produced by the Oxford/Scott Wilson Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment 1999 (HHLA). Thus, all the Historic Landscape Types and Groups developed in the HHLA were accepted and used, albeit after testing for 'robustness' and 'ground-truth' (to which they stood up remarkably well). It was found that the Historic Landscape Groups in HHLA are most useful both 'on the ground' and for paper and statistical analysis at a finer level than was used in HHLA.

An initial attempt has been made to extend the landscape assessment approach to townscapes and town development. The changing relationships between towns and landscapes have also been approached. The discussions of these approaches, below, are regarded as preliminary and very much open to discussion with the Client team.

Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) have been devised jointly with ERM utilising archaeological/historical input for the basic definitions. Considerable effort has been made in the identification of the archaeo/historical processes which have been fundamental in the evolution of the areas. In addition, these LCAs have been used as the basis for a consideration of archaeological data (*sensu strictu*) within this landscape approach. Standard matrices for the co-occurrence of types of archaeological remains within LCAs have been completed and are being used as the basis for a further discussion modelling archaeological survival within the New Forest.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Scope and Reason for Study

The New Forest District Council, in partnership with Hampshire County Council, the Countryside Commission and English Heritage has commissioned a Landscape Assessment of the whole of the District. One optional component of the New Forest Landscape Assessment was an Historic Landscape Assessment, which was included in the commission. In the initial briefing meeting following the commission, it was agreed that the Historic Landscape Assessment would comprise an annexe to the main Landscape Assessment and would thus be capable of ‘standing alone’ as a report.

2.2 Aims and Objectives

The general aims of the Historic Landscape Assessment are to enable a comprehensive and integrated landscape and townscape assessment, to identify changes in the landscape and management issues arising and suggest options for improvement or enhancement of the landscape.

The more specific objective of the Historic Landscape Assessment is to develop and refine the existing *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment* (1999) to suit the more detailed district level requirements.

2.3 Methodology and Sources

The Methodology used for this study was directly comparable with that of the county-wide *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment* (1999) (hereafter HHLA) which in turn derives from the Countryside Commission’s 1993 Guidelines and more detailed studies such as the *New Forest Archaeological / Historic Landscape Character Assessment* (1996).

The area of study has previously been covered by two studies:

- the *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment* (1999) mentioned above, and
- the *New Forest Archaeological/Historical Landscape Character Assessment* (1996).

The first of these had two possible drawbacks - the scale of analysis was aimed at a County level and was thought likely to need refining, especially by a more detailed use of archaeological and historical data. The second study is far more ‘archaeological/historical’ in its approach and not easily integrated into a more main-stream landscape oriented study.

The following Tasks were agreed with the lead consultant (ERM) and the Client Steering Group at the initial Project Meeting.

1. Review the *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment*, and especially the Historic Landscape Types. This required the 1996 study to be up-dated from the County SMR and a more extensive and detailed use of historic maps (the 1999 study used only the 1810 First edition OS 1" maps). This study also checked the 'robustness' or 'ground truth' of the detailed classifications by site and area visits.
2. The potential for Historic Landscape Types and boundaries, to be amended and refined, or the development of a more detailed local differentiation of types was agreed in principle.
3. The accepted Historic Landscape Assessment techniques were adapted and employed to analyse townscape development, and used this to explore the relationship between town/village and countryside.
4. Evidence for time-depth (i.e. the great length of time over which land-use strategies have been pursued which have led to the distinctive New Forest character) within the New Forest landscape were clarified and distilled. This led to a consideration of the extent to which current change is compatible with historic change.
5. The County Historic Landscape Assessment and the County SMR were used to establish a broad-brush approach to modelling archaeological survival.
6. The implementation of these tasks was carried out in tandem with the fieldwork and analysis by ERM of the current landscape, enabling the results to be integrated into the overall District Landscape Assessment.

2.4 The types of data consulted include:

- the Hampshire Sites and Monuments Record
- the *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment* (1999)
- the *New Forest Archaeological/Historical Landscape Character Assessment* (1996).
- printed and manuscript maps
- archaeological archives
- aerial and other photographic evidence
- geological soil surveys

2.5 The sources of data include:

- Hampshire Sites and Monuments Record
- Hampshire Record Offices
- English Heritage
- Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (now the NMR of English Heritage)

2.6 Consultations

Interested individuals have been approached during the Historic Study and their specialist knowledge will be used wherever possible. Individuals and organisations have been approached for information and will be contacted for consultation on this draft report.

- English Heritage
- Hampshire County Council Archaeologists

2.7 Project Timetable

The Historic landscape Assessment was commissioned in an initial meeting on the 13th April. This Draft report is being prepared for release by 27th August, to be followed by consultations. Comments on the Draft to be returned by 29th October, to enable a Final report to be submitted on 24th November 1999.

2.8 Archive

The Final Report, together with drawings and maps will form the site archive, and will be prepared in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (the Management of Archaeological Projects second edition (1991)). Paper copies will be deposited with the New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council Archaeology, and a microfiche copy of the report will be lodged with the National Monuments Record, (Swindon).

2.9 Acknowledgements

Gifford and Partners would like to thank the following for their support and assistance during this project:

- Julie Martin, Rebecca Knight and Catherine Sibley; ERM
- Chris Hill; Geo-data Institute, University of Southampton
- Neil Williamson; New Forest District Council
- Graham Fairclough; English Heritage
- David Hopkins, Ian Wykes and Bruce Howard; Hampshire County Council

The Gifford staff involved in this project were:-

- T J Strickland; Project Director
- Dr Gerald A Wait; Project Archaeologist and principal author
- Lucy Rowley-Williams and Babita Sharma Historical research, field visits and
draft text sections.

3. HISTORIC LANDSCAPE TYPES; THE HAMPSHIRE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

The 1999 *Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment* was commissioned by Hampshire County Council and English Heritage, and carried out by the Oxford Archaeological Unit and Scott Wilson Resource Consultants. That Assessment resulted in a set of over 80 Historic Landscape Types, of which the 51 types presented in summary below in section 3.1 represent those most commonly found in the New Forest District (see HHLA 1999 for detailed descriptions of each Historic Landscape Type).

Within the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment, the 80+ types were combined (or reduced) to 26 ‘Historic Landscape Groups’, a higher level of synthesis which has been used for analysis in this study (see Section 3.2 below).

This Historic Landscape Characterisation study has used the basic groupings developed in the Hampshire County study, albeit at the simplified level of Landscape Groups rather than Types. Thus, all the analyses conducted here are completely compatible with the Countywide study – although the Brief allowed for the possibility of developing/revising the Hampshire study to produce new types, it was judged that any benefits from doing so would be off-set by the loss of compatibility and comparability. In general, the Hampshire study is in the mainstream approach of a ‘top-down’ definition of, and attribution of dating to, historic types. This follows the Countryside Commission’s 1993 *Landscape Assessment Guidance*, and more recently, work by the Cornwall Unit (*Cornwall’s Historic Landscape* 1998 and *St Keverne Historic Landscape Assessment* 1996); this is in distinction to the approach by Historic Scotland (Research Report; *Historic Landscape Assessment* 1999) and that by Herefordshire County (K Ray pers comm.)

3.1 Location, Topography and Geology of Study Area

The New Forest District covers an area of circa 751 square kilometres, with a population of some 170,000 people, with the major urban areas of Southampton to the southeast, Salisbury to the north-northwest, and Christchurch-Bournemouth to the south-west. Just over 70% of the area is designated New Forest Heritage Area deemed by the government to be equivalent to a National Park. The New Forest Heritage Area extends beyond the New Forest District into neighbouring Test Valley Borough and also Salisbury District in Wiltshire - these two small areas outside of the New Forest District were included in the Study Area. See *Figure 1* of the main report.

The landscape varies from the densely settled coastal fringe along the Solent Coast to the Chalk Downlands of south Wiltshire by way of the New Forest itself. The area lies within the Hampshire Basin where the deep chalk strata dip below sands and clays of the Tertiary era. The drowned valleys of the Solent and Southampton Water form the

eastern boundary. Much of the New Forest is characterised by broad valleys with river terraces separating plateaux or flat-topped ridges with many small rivers and streams giving rise to much marshy land. The underlying sands have produced relatively infertile soils. These were largely cleared of their primeval forest cover in the Bronze Age c. 3000 years ago, and have since supported only heathland with gorse and birch - in the 19th century extensive enclosed coniferous plantations which now obscure this pattern. The clay subsoil tends to remain bogs and marshland of sedge, cotton-grass and alder thickets. The limited areas of loam support woodland of oak, beech, yew, holly and thorn. Some areas of un-enclosed woods in the Forest overlie undisturbed acidic forest brown-earth soils, suggesting that they have never been cleared and farmed - these are 'ancient forests' in every sense. To the west the Avon valley soils tend to be poorly drained and subject to periodic flooding, overlying river gravels over chalk. Westward again the land rises to the chalk hills and Downs of south Wiltshire, which were, like the Forest, originally cleared of forest in the Bronze Age and seem to have remained as downland ever since.

The History of the New Forest has been extensively studied and published and is not reviewed here. The most focused summary is that prepared by Wessex Archaeology; *The New Forest Archaeological / Historical Landscape Character Assessment* (1996), but others such as Grant's *The Royal Forests of England* are essential for a thorough understanding of what Medieval Forests really were. The New Forest was created by William the Conqueror who claimed suzerainty for the first time over all the land of England. The application of the Norman Forest system to England meant that all the beasts (referred to as the venison - meaning red, roe and fallow deer and wild boar) and certain of the plant resources (called the vert) belong directly to the King. Residents of the Forest retained specific rights in return - and do so still. In applying these new concepts to the New Forest area William was making use of a sparsely populated area of poor resources for farming - an area that may well have been outside much of the normal Saxon civil society for centuries. Nonetheless this entailed local enforced depopulation to make way for animals - Eling saw 19 families evicted, over 85% of Lyndhurst was 'in forest', and the values of Ringwood declined from £24 in the time of Edward to only £8 when Domesday was taken. The evolution of the early Norman Forest codes has led directly to the present day Court of Verderers.

The choice of the New Forest as a new Royal Hunting Forest may provide a clue to the character of the landscape in 1079 (and therefore in the preceding century or more). The selection of this area presumably means that it was at that time sparsely populated and comprised of large tracts of open heath and interspersed woodland - the type of landscape most suitable for a hunting preserve. It is therefore quite possible that the landscape we see today is essentially early Medieval or Late Saxon in origin and appearance.

3.2 Descriptions of the Principal Historic Landscape Types (derived from HHLA)

The Historic Landscape Type (or HLT) is the most basic unit of landscape characterisation. In this study the HLTs were those already devised in the HHLA (see 2.4 to 2.9 in HHLA for rationale and limitations). Historic Landscape Types are landscape parcels with a range of distinctive but generic characteristics that can recur in different places within a study area. In essence HLTs are mappable and visible parcels of land which are distinctive in terms of size, shape, current and past land use. All of the parcels of land in a study area should be attributable to a particular HLT. This leads to balancing the conflicting tendencies towards ‘lumping’ areas into HLTs that become too general to be analytically useful versus the attempt to draw distinctions which are too fine to be consistently and repeatably achieved. The numbers and specificity/generality of HLTs will vary from area to area, and also as a result of the types and detail of information sources available. The use of 1:25,000 OS ‘Explorer’ (usually reduced to 50%, to 1:50000) maps seems to be something of a standard for County or District level studies and was used by the HHLA and therefore in this study.

**Table 1. Hampshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment
Historic Landscape Types occurring within the New Forest**

HCC HLT	Name	Date Range	General characteristics	Historic Landscape Group
1.1	Small-irregular Assarts/fields interspersed with woodland	13-16 th	General early medieval to early post-medieval. Associated with woodland and heathland, not downland or previously open fields	Old Assart
1.2	Medium Assarts / copses with wavy boundaries	13-16 th	Generally early medieval to early post-medieval. Associated with woodland and heathland, not downland or previously open fields	Old Assart
1.3	Large irregular assart /fields with wavy or mixed boundaries	13-16 th	Generally early medieval to early post-medieval. Associated with woodland and heathland, not downland or previously open fields. May represent types 1.1 and 1.2 amalgamated to form larger fields	Old Assart
1.4	Regular Assarts /fields with straight boundaries	19-20 th	Generally 19-20 th century. May represent types 1.1 and 1.2 amalgamated to form larger fields. Associated with woodland and heathland, not downland or previously open fields	Assart
1.5	Enclosed strips and furlongs/fields	16-17 th	Enclosed strips and furlongs (previously open fields). Generally late medieval-early post-medieval enclosures (may be rationalised into types 1.6 and 1.16). Found only in Martin and Blackwater valley (LCAs 1 and 9).	Small wavy fields
1.6	Small rectilinear fields with wavy boundaries	17-18 th	Probably late Medieval to 17-18 th century informal enclosure	Large wavy fields
1.7	Irregular fields straight boundaries	17-18 th	Probably enclosures period 17-18 th century systems but not by Inclosure Act	Small parliamentary
1.8	Regular Ladder Fields	17-18 th	Post-medieval informal enclosure (17-18 th century) of slopes linking valleys to hills/downs (not by Inclosure Act)	Ladder fields
1.9	Small Regular fields with Straight Boundaries (Parliamentary Type)	17-18 th	Formed by Inclosure Acts (or informally but linked to Inclosure Act systems) of late 18 th - early 19 th centuries; some post-parliamentary period enclosures of downland/woodland also included here	Small Parliamentary

1.10	Medium Regular fields with straight boundaries (Parliamentary type)	18-19 th	Formed by Inclosure Acts (or informally but linked to Inclosure Act systems) of late 18 th - early 19 th centuries; some post-parliamentary period enclosures of downland/woodland also included here	Old Assart
1.11	Large Regular fields with Straight boundaries (Parliamentary type)	18-19 th	Formed by Inclosure Acts (or informally but linked to Inclosure Act systems) of late 18 th - early 19 th centuries; some post-parliamentary period enclosures of downland/woodland also included here	Parliamentary
1.12	Graded size regular fields with straight boundaries (parliamentary type)	18-19 th	Typically formed by Inclosure of late 18 th - early 19 th centuries; some post-parliamentary period enclosures of downland also included here	Parliamentary
1.14	Prairie Fields	20 th	20 th century fields created by removal of boundaries of 118-19 th century enclosures	Parliamentary
1.15	Irregular fields bounded by roads/tracks/paths	17-19 th	Chalk downland type of post-medieval periods - tracks possibly old drove roads to/from downland	Track-bounded
1.16	Small rectilinear fields with wavy boundaries	16-17 th	late medieval to 17 th century informal enclosures	Small wavy fields
2.1	Common heathland	ca. 2000 BC	Unenclosed land subject to Commoners Rights, frequently unimproved grazing	Heathland
2.2	Common downland	ca. 2000 BC	Unenclosed land subject to Commoners Rights, frequently unimproved grazing	Downland
2.3	Other Commons and Greens	prehistoric to 15 th AD	Unenclosed land subject to Commoners Rights, frequently unimproved grazing, includes marsh commons and greens, often ancient in origin	Commons
2.4	Commons wooded over	19-20 th	Unenclosed land subject to Commoners Rights, occasionally always wooded but more frequently has become wooded over in 19-20 th centuries thru inconsistent grazing	Commons
3.1	Orchards	20 th	20 th century commercial	Horticulture
3.3	Nurseries/glasshouses	20 th	20 th century commercial	Horticulture
4.1	Assarted pre-1810 Woodland	13-15 th	Woods in existence since before 1810, not gen replanted, subject to assarting since Medieval period. Assarted fields may have been rationalised subsequently i.e 1.1 and 1.2 transformed into 1.16	Assarted Woodland
4.2	Replanted Assarted pre-1810 Woodland	13-15 th	Woodland in existence since before 1810 but since replanted (conifers), subject to assarting since Medieval period. Assarted fields may have been rationalised subsequently i.e 1.1 and 1.2 transformed into 1.16	Assarted Woodland
4.3	Other pre-1810 Woodland	13-15 th	Woods in existence since before 1810, not gen replanted nor obviously subject to assarting since Medieval period. Generally 'ancient woodland' (rare type - most has been subject or replanting schemes)	Old woods
4.4	Replanted other pre-1810 woodland	13-15 th	Woods in existence since before 1810, generally replanted (conifers) but not obviously subject to assarting. Generally 'ancient woodland'	Old woods
4.5	19 th century Plantations	19-20 th	Post-1810 woodlands imposed over older landscape types (e.g. wind belts), frequently conifers	Plantations
4.8	Pre-1810 Heathland enclosed Woodland	19-20 th	Heathland enclosed and planted/wooded prior to 1810	Heathland
4.9	19 th Century heathland plantations	19-20 th	Heathland enclosed and planted/wooded since 1810, often commercial/plantation forestry	Heathland

4.10	Pre-1810 Wood Pastures	13-15 th	Woods in existence since before 1810, not enclosed, generally considered to be 'ancient woodland'	Assarted Woodland
4.11	19 th century wood pasture	19-20 th	Unenclosed woodland created since 1810, may be areas of scrub which have wooded-over	Heathland Plantation
5.1	Unenclosed heathland and scrub	ca. 2000 BC	Unenclosed heathland (ancient, possibly Bronze Age origin), scrub, rough grazing; ancient in origin, reduced by 4.5 and 4.9 (recent afforestation)	Heathland
5.2	Enclosed Heathland and scrub	13-18 th	Enclosed heathland (ancient, possibly Bronze Age origin), either by encroachment or as purlieus reverting to heath	Heathland
5.3	Purlieus + enclosed heath pastures	13-15 th	Enclosed heaths still under Forest law - ancient in origin (ie Medieval) Associated with small dispersed settlements	Heathland
6.1	Downland	Prehistory to 13 th	Open chalk grazing (sheep) Medieval (or earlier) in origin	Downland
7.1	Misc valley bottom paddocks/pastures		Generally small enclosed meadows/pastures along valley floors	Valley Floor
7.2	Valley floor woodlands		Woods and plantations along valley floor, often willow alder, may be ancient and coppiced or more recent established	Valley Floor
7.3	Marsh and rough grazing		valley floor land seemingly always used for grazing	Valley Floor
7.4	Water meadows	17-18 th	Meadows adjacent to rivers, seasonally flooded along ditches and leats, some may be early (17-18 th) most are 18-19 th	Valley Floor
7.5	Unimproved valley floor grassland	13-17 th	valley floor land seemingly always used for grazing and hay, distinguished from 7.3 by ecological value (SSSI or SLNC)	Valley Floor
7.7	Fishponds + natural ponds/lakes	15-20 th	Fishponds + natural ponds/lakes	Valley Floor
7.8	Water mills	14-19 th	Water mill complexes, medieval or post-medieval in origin	Valley Floor
9.1	Scattered settlements with paddocks - 1810 extent	13-15 th	Scattered properties within a pattern of small rectilinear paddocks extent by 1810, probably late Medieval-post-medieval in origin	Old Settlement
9.2	Scattered settlements with paddocks - post-1810 extent	19 th	Scattered properties within a pattern of small rectilinear paddocks extent post-1810; some are 'stockbroker belt' properties as continuation of earlier 9.1 types (morphologically near identical)	Urban/recent settlement
9.3	Common edge settlement 1810 extent	13-18 th	settlement around perimeter of common land prior to 1810, medieval or post-medieval in origin	Old Settlement
9.4	Common edge settlement post-1810 extent	19-20 th	settlement around perimeter of common land post-1810,	Urban/recent settlement
9.6	Post-1810 settlement	19-20 th	settlement since 1810 - includes both new settlements and expansion of older hamlets/villages/towns	Urban/recent settlement
9.7	Hamlet or Village 1810 extent	13-18 th	Includes larger villages (church and village name = parish name) hamlets are subsidiary and part of dispersed settlement pattern	Old Settlement
9.9	Town and city 1810 extent	13-18 th	1810 extent of towns and cities (usually medieval core plus some expansion)	Old Settlement
10.1	Pre 1810 Parkland	17-18 th	Designed landscape, gen with an historic house, may have medieval origin	Parks
10.2	19 th century and later parkland	19-20 th	designed landscapes created since 1810, occasionally an extension of 10.1	Parks
10.3	Deer parks	12-14 th	Deer parks - 12 th -14 th century in origin, often enclosed within Royal Forest under licences to empark.	Parks

3.3 Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) are a higher level or more synthetic unit of analysis. The HHLA did not develop LCAs. They consist of areas of landscape with distinctive character and particular geographic area, based upon local patterns of geology, land form, land use, cultural, historic and ecological features.

The relationship between HLTs and LCAs varies from study to study and the approach taken and objectives for each study. In the present study HLTs were inherited from HHLA and therefore not devised de novo. The LCAs (below) were devised anew. Reassuringly, this approach (sometimes called ‘top down’) resulted in LCAs which have distinctive archaeological and historical origins and histories.

Within the present study a set of 26 LCAs were developed by ERM and Gifford (See *Figure 7* of the main report):

1	Martin and Tidpit Downs
2	Martin and Whitsbury Open Farmland
3	Damerham and Rockbourne Valleys
4	Wooded Sandleheath Farmland
5	Ringwood Forest
6	Upper Avon Valley
7	Lower Avon Valley
8	Poulner Woods and Pastures
9	Landford Forest Farmlands
10	West Wellow and Bramshaw Commons
11	Copythorne Forest Farmlands
12	Hythe and Ashurst Forest Farmlands
13	Waterside Parishes
14	Fawley Refinery Complex
15	North West Solent Estates
16	Lymington and Pennington Coastal Plain
17	Barton and Milford Coastal Plain
18	Sway Pasture and Smallholdings
19	Bransgore Woods and Pastures
20	Southern Heath and Forest
21	Northern Heath and Forest
22	Furzey Woodland and Villages
23	New Forest Central Woodlands
24	Lymington River
25	Beaulieu Heath

26	Beaulieu River
27	Eastern Forest Heaths

3.4 Robustness of Types

This set of Historic Landscape Types was examined on the ground for accuracy and appropriateness or ‘robustness’. It was clearly impossible to review all types over the whole of the New Forest District, and consequently only the major HLT’s were checked within certain more or less randomly chosen Landscape Character Areas, including:

- 2 Martin and Whitsbury Open Farmland
- 3 Damerham and Rockbourne Valleys
- 4 Wooded Sandleheath Farmland,
- 6 Upper Avon Valley
- 10 West Wellow, Bramshaw and Hamptworth Commons
- 11 Copythorne Forest Farmlands
- 21 Northern Heath and Forest
- 25 Beaulieu Heath

For all the parishes within these Character Areas, the first Edition OS maps were re-examined and compared with modern mapping to test the appropriateness of the attribution to Landscape Types.

In general the attribution of Landscape Types to current land parcels was found to be reasonably accurate and appropriate. At the conclusion of this checking exercise the decision was taken to not attempt any changes to the existing HHLA HLT plots.

Throughout the HHLA landscape types were identified using chronological factors. The most common of these is the use of 1810 as a cut-off date - e.g. ‘common edge settlement pre-1810’ and common-edge settlement post-1810 extent’. This cut-off was chosen because it is the earliest date for which there was complete map coverage for the County. Despite the use of this pragmatic criterion, there is also some theoretical support for the assumption that the landscape prior to 1810 is a close reflection of patterns of much greater antiquity (Roberts and Wrathmell 1995).

One of the objectives of the commission was to identify any necessary amendment or refinement to the existing HHLA HLTs. Just over 50 of the 80+ HHLA types occur in the New Forest (leaving about 30% which do not).

It quickly became apparent that the c. 80+ HLTs represent a complex division of the landscape - there are for example 15 types of field patterns six of which are linked to the enclosure period/movement - and not all could be easily differentiated within the New Forest even with colour plots of Landscape Types to hand. However, it again appeared

that any move to combine types for the New Forest would, whilst producing a simpler division into types, also lead to a greatly more complicated relationship with the ‘parent’ Landscape Assessment from which this study is derived. Therefore, the decision was taken to not attempt to create any simpler scheme of types.

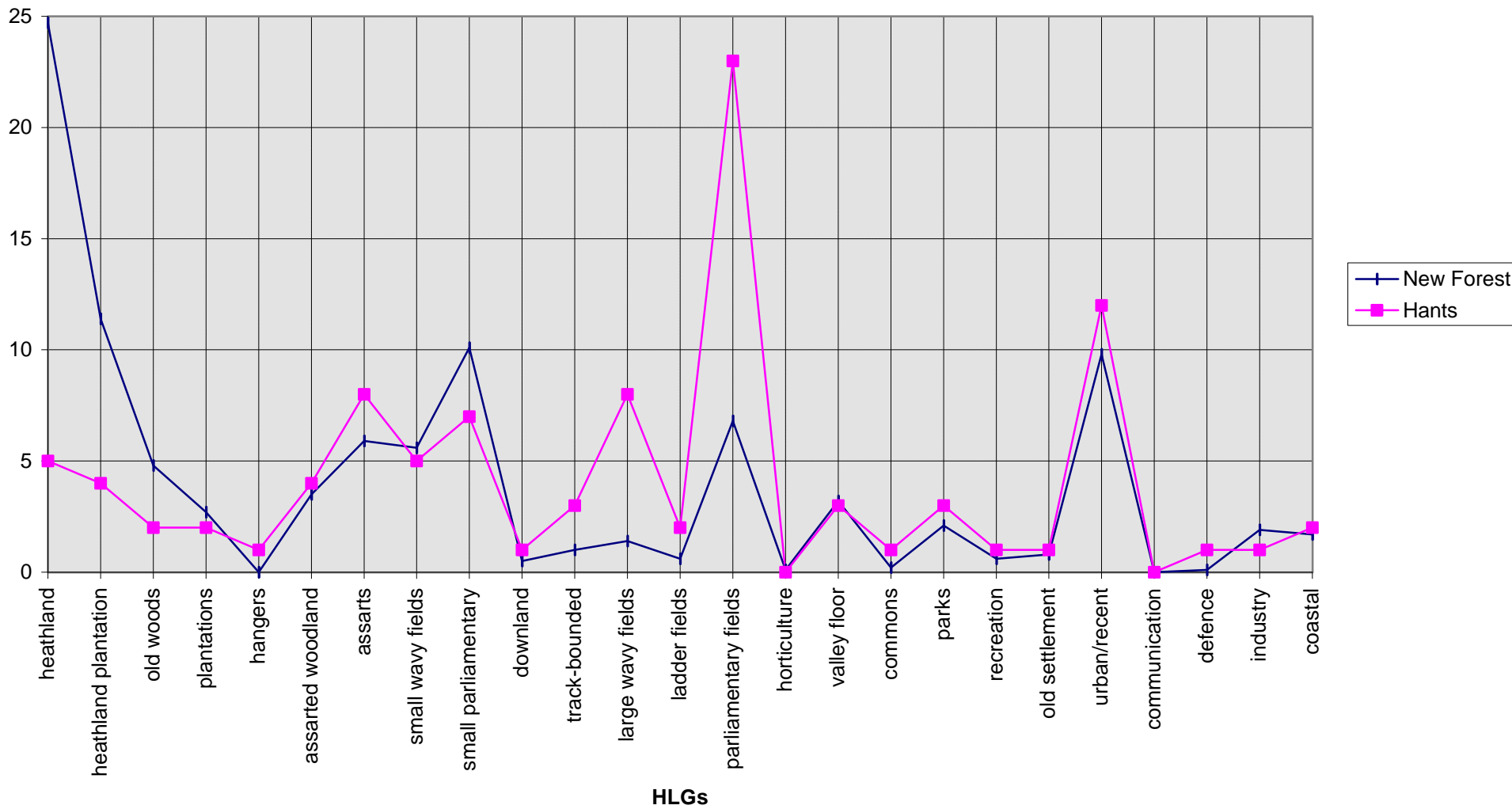
Disclaimer. Throughout the project detailed analysis has been hampered by the basic data in the GIS system that lies behind the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment. It appears that a significant number of ‘polygons’ representing discrete land-units have been keyed-in as two or more Historic Landscape Types and Historic Landscape Groups. Thus, the same plot of land can and will appear on different maps as different types of landscape. Consequently, the data on areas of land attributed to different Types or Groups also varies. Thus it is necessary to repeat a disclaimer here – which is that the data used is currently being checked for errors and so absolute accuracy and consistency cannot be guaranteed. Queries should be directed to the Landscape Planning section of Hampshire County Council.

At this point attention was focused on the set of 25 Historic Landscape Groups which was produced in the Hampshire Assessment, and this was found to provide a much more useful portrayal of the New Forest Landscape. These Groups combine Types that are of similar origin in terms of historical process and of similar morphology. This is analytically simpler and the smaller number of categories is also easier to comprehend. After analysis, one issue remains. The HHLA Group of Assarted Woodland combines assarts of the Medieval period with post-Medieval assarts. For analytic purposes a new Group of ‘Old Assarts’ was created which comprises Medieval assarts, with the remainder left as ‘Assarts’. It has been possible to split the land area and percentages in the Excel spreadsheets derived from the GIS database. It was decided not to attempt to map these two types because this would require re-keying the land parcel attributes within the HCC database behind the GIS interface. See **Figure C1**.

In conclusion it is appropriate to make several points. The ‘higher level’ or more generalised aggregated types provide a simpler, more readily comprehensible, and therefore more useful, description of the landscape. This set of ‘types’ has functioned much more usefully throughout the current analyses. Also, the historical reality of many of the 80+ HLTs is analytically weak – they are primarily morphological, often lacking a proven historical origin. The absence of a link between the 8 ‘Parliamentary type/period’ enclosures, and the historically attested Acts and Informal agreements to Inclose, is an example. It was judged therefore that the 80+ Types give a false impression of precision and historical accuracy.

Historic Landscape Group	% of New Forest	% of Ready-made Hampshire
Heathland	24.7	5
Heathland plantation	11.4	4
Old Woods	4.8	2
Plantations	2.7	2
Hangers	0	1
Assarted Woodland	3.5	4
Assarts	5.9	8
Small Wavy fields	5.6	5
Small Parliamentary fields	10.1	7
Downland	0.5	1
Track-bounded/ex-Downland	1.0	3
Large wavy fields	1.4	8
Ladder fields	0.6	2
Parliamentary fields	6.8	23
Horticulture	0.1	0
Valley floor	3.2	3
Commons	0.2	1
Parks	2.1	3
Recreation	0.6	1
Old Settlement	0.8	1
Urban	9.8	12
Communication	0	0
Defence	0.1	1
Industry	1.9	1
Coastal	1.7	2
Total	100	100

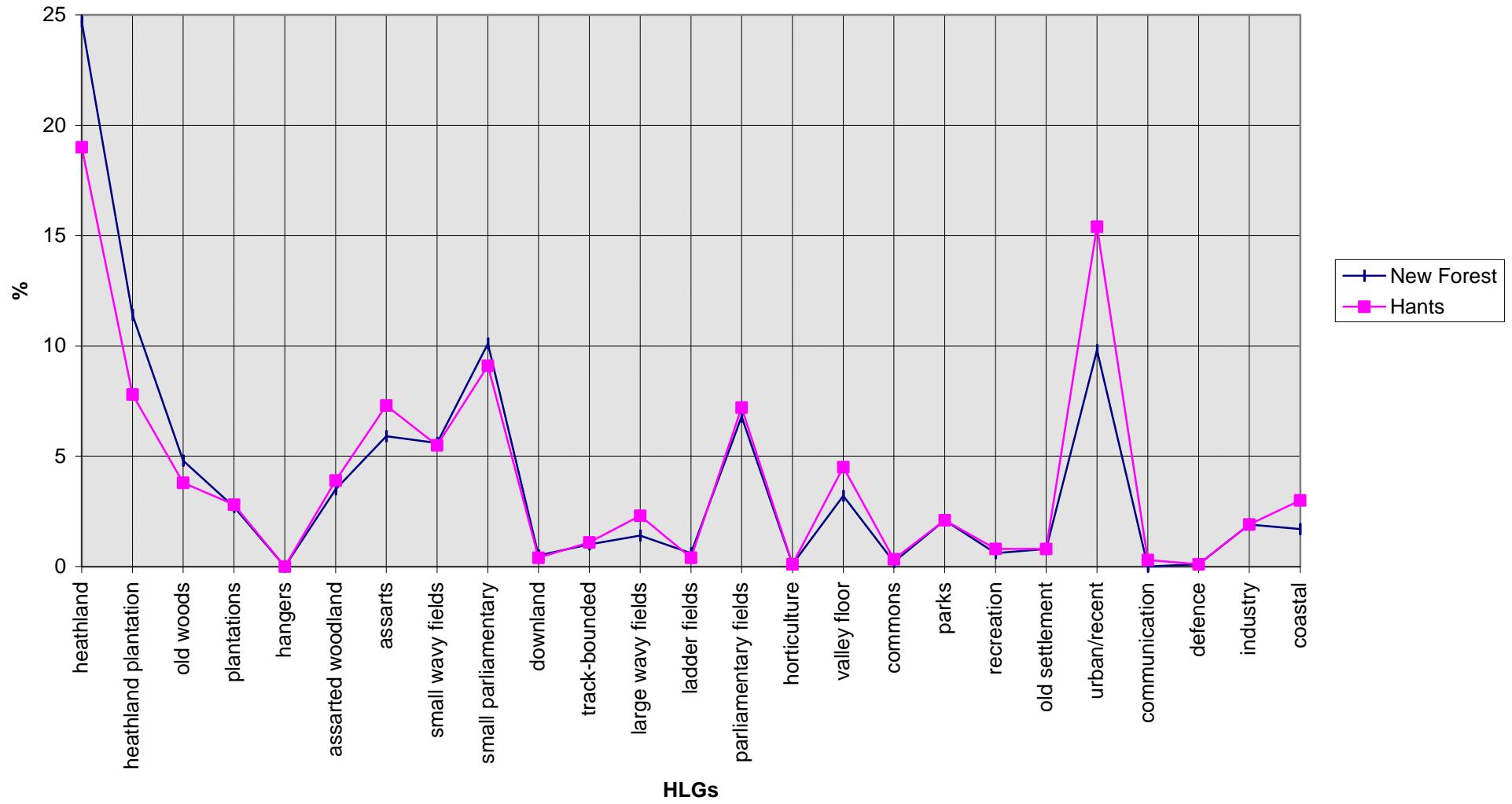
Comparison of Land in HLGs



Historic Landscape Group	% of each HLG in the New Forest
Heathland	92.4
Heathland plantation	61.6
Old Woods	36.2
Plantations	46.1
Hangers	0
Assarts	34.2
Small Wavy fields	21.8
Small Parliamentary fields	30.8
Downland	0
Track-bounded fields	1.1
Large wavy fields	0.6
Ladder fields	0.1
Parliamentary fields	31.2
Horticulture	15.5
Valley floor	19.8
Commons	1.3
Parks	72.9
Recreation	3.0
Old Settlement	16.9
Urban	30.0
Communication	0
Defence	55.2
Industry	71.1
Coastal	56.3
Land area of New Forest as a % of Hampshire	32.4

This highlights in a simple fashion the distinctiveness of the ‘New Forest’. Not surprisingly, Heathland, Heathland Plantation and Plantations are far more common in the New Forest than in Hampshire generally. On the otherhand, Downland and the services of late large and rectilinear fieldsystems are less common in the New Forest. Curiously, these data suggest that nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of Hampshire’s Parkland is in the New Forest.

Comparison of Land in HLGs



4. HISTORIC TOWNSCAPE TYPES AND ANALYSES

The Client team selected a set of seven towns for a ‘townscape’ analysis. These towns were Lymington, Ringwood, Fordingbridge, Lyndhurst, Hythe, Totton and New Milton. These comprise the major towns of the district. A brief discussion of each is given below.

4.1 Historic Townscape Types

The HHLA developed the following 7 ‘landscape’ types that might equally well be called ‘Townscape Types’. These may be refined by the use of the four chronological periods for townscapes derived during the field visits, and are presented below ordered in chronological sequence:

NEW	Saxon	pre 1086	Known via documents/place-names - morphology unknown
NEW	Medieval streets extent	12-15th	Documented extent of Medieval burgage plots and streets. Sub-division of 9.7 or 9.9
9.1	Scattered settlements with paddocks - 1810 extent	13-18 th	Scattered properties within a pattern of small rectilinear paddocks extent by 1810, probably late Medieval-post-medieval in origin
9.3	Common edge settlement 1810 extent	13-18 th	settlement around perimeter of common land prior to 1810, medieval or post-medieval in origin
9.7	Hamlet or Village 1810 extent	13-18 th (15-18 th)	Includes larger villages (church and village name = parish name) hamlets are subsidiary and part of dispersed settlement pattern(‘Historic Core’ in Townscape Records)
9.9	Town and city 1810 extent	13-18 th 15-18th	1810 extent of towns and cities (usually medieval core plus some expansion)
9.2	Scattered settlements with paddocks - post-1810 extent	19-20 th (1810-1959)	Scattered properties within a pattern of small rectilinear paddocks extent post-1810; some are ‘stockbroker belt’ properties as continuation of earlier 9.1 types (morphologically near identical)
9.4	Common edge settlement post-1810 extent	19-20 th	settlement around perimeter of common land post-1810,
9.6	Post-1810 settlement	19-20 th (1810-1950)	settlement since 1810 - includes both new settlements and expansion of older hamlets/villages/towns (‘Built Development’ in Townscape Records)
NEW	Recent Built Development, in villages or towns	post 1950	Development since mid-20 th century. Sub-division of 9.6.

4.2 Settlement Forms

Settlement form can be variously characterised. Using the HHLA types as a base, it is possible to identify a few ‘agglomerated’ settlements - primarily larger settlements with,

interestingly, early origins - including Fordingbridge, Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst. Most settlements are dispersed rather than nucleated/agglomerated. These can be divided into those that are linear - either regularly or irregularly in rows, scattered loosely with interspersed paddocks, or strung along the edge of commons. Loosely scattered or irregularly clustered settlements may increase in density and grow from hamlets into villages into towns. All of these settlement forms may have existed throughout the chronological periods implicit in the table above, and all have been subject to the addition of 20th century housing estates.

4.3 Relationship of settlements to their landscape

Towns can affect and be affected by their surrounding landscape. Land and plant resources that require infrequent visits or low maintenance are frequently sited at the periphery of a community's territory, whereas those needing regular care or guarding are kept close to the settlement. Crops or resources of high value may also be located away from settlements or markets because their inherent value can cover transport costs. Villages and the manors often held a strong control on their surrounding landscape, but institutions like Beaulieu Abbey also had control over disparate portions of land that owed loyalty to the Abbey rather than to closer settlements. Within the New Forest the exploitation of resources such as the peat or heather of the Healthands adjacent to settlements, such as those of the Avon valley, could be followed by a legal crystallisation, whereby the Avon Valley parishes spread out to include part of the heath.

The amalgamation of villages into the spread of towns such as Lymington and Totton removed most of the green spaces between the separate villages. This is likely to particularly affect landscape types 1.1, 1.6, 1.10 and 1.16 as villages are more likely to be sitting within already enclosed fields than in the middle of open heath or woodland. A potentially circular argument can also be observed in the quantity and location of assart and enclosures within the New Forest. These are always centred on settlements, with the size of the enclosed land often reflecting the historical prominence of the settlement. As villages were likely to derive more of their income from the surrounding countryside than towns, they are likely to have a relatively large impact on the economy of their surrounding landscape.

It is interesting to note the spatial distribution of towns within the New Forest. Far more of them are concentrated at the edges of the forest and along the coast and rivers, than within the main area of land in the centre. The rivers and Solent Coast provided easy means of transport far earlier than the current network of roads that cross the forest, even though the A31 at least does have Roman origins. Of the significant settlements not along rivers or the coast, it is really only Lyndhurst which stands out as being of any historical scale (Brockenhurst is as large as Lyndhurst, but most of it is relatively modern spread),

One of the objectives of the Historic Landscape Character assessment was to analyse the relationships between Townscapes and Landscapes. Few recurring patterns have arisen out of this consideration. One such results from classifying roads as either:

‘arterial’ – given access to other towns, or

‘radial’ – giving access to local fields and woods for day-to-day resources.

Arterial roads frequently cut across Historic Landscape Groups and Character Areas. Radial routes, on the other hand, are likely to go ‘with the grain’ of the local landscape. For example, the arterial routes in Fordingbridge are Church Street / High Street / Salisbury Road going north-south on the west bank of the Avon, and Bridge Street crossing the Avon and running eastwards across the Forest to Cadnam, Totton and Southampton. These through routes in turn have numerous smaller branches that give access to farms and fields. [Incidentally, the location of the main Salisbury – Ringwood – Christchurch road on the west bank of the Avon may suggest that from an early time the east and west banks were part of different land-use systems – was the land east of Avon considered ‘Forest’ whilst west was not?]

Over time, radial routes are linked to each other along the backs of the town properties – evidently a Medieval form of ring-road. Fields or copses adjacent to these back-lanes tend to change, from woods/grazing/arable to a more intense and frequent use such as garden allotments, paddocks and orchards etc. and ultimately, have houses inserted along the back-lane and become subsumed within the town. This begins with single houses, but by the 1860’s terraces begin to replace older individual properties. This process is a relatively recent phenomenon. Towns with relatively early mapping (e.g. Fordingbridge) show very little change/development until the second-half of the 19th century. In Brockenhurst and Hythe it is likely that an earlier period of this process is fossilised in the First Edition Ordnance Survey maps but this cannot be more accurately dated than to before 1800. The rapid and massive expansion of Totton – largely a 20th century phenomenon, follows this same pattern. There is also a strong tendency for post-1850 craft/industrial development (and Work Houses!). to occur within the ‘blocks’ of fields outside the contemporary back-lanes, creating another dynamic for change and expansion.

Outside of the half-dozen larger settlements/towns, settlement growth is more likely to take the form of infill (or even ‘re-fill’ of abandoned Medieval plots) and tends to preserve the scale of the historic settlement (i.e. size and spacing of dwellings). This leads to the situation in many settlements – noticeably those within or more closely adjacent to Heathland and Woodland HLGs in which Late Medieval dwellings and plots, and 19-20th century ‘villa-and-paddock’ can not be differentiated on map evidence alone.

This pattern of growth also carries with it implications for the relationships between a town and its hinterland of fields. Essentially, fields are accessed via a network of lanes

running with the grain of the landscape. With proximity to the town, fields/pastures/copses are perceived differently and this utilisation changes, tending towards more frequent and intense access such as vegetable gardens.

This discussion is relatively simplistic and relates to a fairly recent phenomenon. In the absence of map evidence earlier than 1800 it is nearly impossible to discuss changes during either the Medieval or early Post-Medieval periods. It is likely that more detailed patterns are discernable in this early-Modern period, but such would necessitate a more detailed approach than was achievable in this landscape study.

4.4 Discussion of Towns

4.4.1 Lymington

Lymington was mentioned in the Domesday as '*lemetune*' 'elms farm'. The town was a new borough planned between 1184 and 1216, as a linear settlement with regular burgage plots. Many Medieval towns were formed using burgage plots arranged along their main access routes, and consist of long thin plots of land, with a thin building along the street frontage usually consisting of accommodation above a shop, workshops behind with a garden or yard behind this. The garden/yard have often been built on, but the width of shop fronts often reveal their burgage origins in the form of buildings on narrow plots (or multiples of plots). In Lymington a large quantity of burgage plots have remained. Many of the shops have Georgian facades but may these may cover surviving medieval buildings. Lymington's commercial centre is still focused within the Medieval core of the town, using the burgage plot sites. The post war expansion of the town has amalgamated the historic cores of Pennington and Buckland within its outskirts. These existing settlements have provided green spaces within the spread of the town. The major building periods within Lymington are represented by Victorian and Georgian houses and post War and late twentieth century. Some of the apparently Georgian or Victorian properties on the high street may have medieval cores

The historical significance of Lymington was focused on its marine location, however whereas now the town is a centre for pleasure boats and the Isle of Wight ferry, historically it had been a centre of salt trade and piracy. Several of the coastal settlements of the New Forest had connections with the salt trade until the 19th Century when rock salt from Cheshire made tidal salt un-competitive. The salt trade affected the character of towns by the creation of salt pans using the tidal flood plains, and also ports and harbours for salt distribution. Salt also played a large part in the economy at Ashlett Creek and Keyhaven, both settlements have since lost importance.

4.4.2 Ringwood

Ringwood was mentioned in the Domesday Book as *Rimcuwuda* ‘border wood’. The ‘border’ may refer to the border of the New Forest or of the border between Hampshire and Dorset. It is known that Edward the Confessor owned land in Ringwood, so the town may have Saxon origins. The earliest recognisable form of the town is represented by its Medieval core and layout as shown by remnant burgage plots and street layout of its linear centre. The layout of the plots is visible in the consistency of building sizes along the High Street and Market Place, however most of the typical long gardens have been built on. Ringwood owes some of its importance to its location at a crossroads of routes across the Forest, with a large number of inns in the town as a testimony to the need for frequent stops before the advent of the motorcar.

A large amount of the housing in Ringwood is in small-scale terraces, however some larger detached 18th Century properties were also built. In addition to the Medieval core of the town an additional centre can be seen along Hightown road, which was associated with the railway station, (now removed). The spread of the town has also been influenced by the construction of the bypass that has focused the new development out towards the east. To the west and north spread has been limited by the Avon River and Poulner and Blashford lakes. The core of the town may have Medieval buildings surviving behind later frontages, most appear to be Georgian and Victorian facades. The later building periods include post (and inter) war with lots of bungalows and 1980-90s estates some of which are not on the 1:2500 / 25000 maps yet.

4.4.3 Fordingbridge

Fordingbridge was mentioned in Domesday as *Fordingebridge* ‘bridge of the dwellers at the ford’, but the ford was in existence before the bridge was built. The town is a linear settlement, which has not subsumed other villages. Historically the town had two main foci, one along the High Street, Bridge Street and Church Street and the other to the south by St Mary’s church. The church now feels rather isolated but in the 19th and early 20th Centuries there was also a commercial centre there. There are Medieval burgage plots along the High Street, and these are especially noticeable near the river, where the gardens are very long and have not been infilled. Many of the shops along the High Street are contained within large properties with grand Georgian upper stories. These properties may stand on multiple burgage plots. The town has been a centre of commerce and industry especially tanning, textiles, pottery and brick making but these have not survived into the 20th Century. The scale of building within the town is generally small, with Victorian terraces and semi-detached housing flanked by some more modern housing of post war and 1980-90s housing estates. The town has had a moderately large late 20th Century spread to the north-west.

4.4.4 Lyndhurst

Lyndhurst is mentioned in Domesday as *Linhest* ‘lime wood’, and this may refer to an earlier Saxon occupation. Lyndhurst is an agglomerated settlement, and so does not have such an obvious Medieval street layout. Lyndhurst appears to have spread and now included the settlements of Clayhill, Goose Green, Pikeshill and Custards. The open feel of the forest healthland extends up into the town. The town is at a crossing point sited near the centre of the New Forest, and is still along an arterial route. Most of the housing within Lyndhurst is Victorian terraces, although there are a number of larger detached properties, including noticeably the Georgian Verderer’s buildings and a small number of more modern properties. The main house style is irregular terrace of brick under tile or slate, with some Victorian timber-framed shops. Houses start before the town on the main routes, on A35 north there is a collection of ‘seaside’ villas interspersed with 1950s estates. The infill in the base of the triangle of roads consists of a modern housing estate.

4.4.5 Hythe

Hythe was not mentioned in the Domesday book, and the first reference to it is in 1248 as *Huthe* ‘landing-place’. Despite not being included in Domesday it is likely that the village was a landing place between the Saxon manors of Fawley and Southampton. During the Medieval period this importance as a landing place continued, with the historic core of the town clustered around the waterfront. Burgage plots have survived flanking the High Street, and running along Prospect Place. The historical routes through the village led to Dibden, Fawley and the Forest. The present pier was built in 1881, and many of the buildings in Hythe date to the 18th and 19th Centuries. Hythe also had a period of importance connected with commercial flying boats in the early and mid 20th Century. The village has spread dramatically in the second half of the 20th Century, giving the feeling of a town rather than a large village. Hythe’s importance in boatbuilding has lessened, but it has gained a new role as a marina for pleasure boats.

4.4.6 Totton

Both Totton and Eling were mentioned in the Domesday Book as *Totingtone* ‘Farm of Totta’ and *Edlinges* Aeolingas lies behind this’. Totton is now a much larger settlement than Eling, however this has not always been the case. There is a small linear development along ‘High Street’ and another in ‘Calmore Road’ that contains some Victorian terraces, and the separate settlement of Eling is distinct. Eling was a busy port in the 18th Century, but is now a relatively quiet backwater. Due to the spread of Totton in this century it is Eling not Totton which retains a visible historic core. Both Totton and Eling have originated along a linear pattern, but Totton has now spread in a fan shape effectively including Hounslow, Brokenford, Rushington, Testwood and Calmore. On its western side Hanger and Hazel Farms form a green break to

development between the spread of the town and the bypass. The majority of housing in Totton is late 20th Century, although there are some Victorian terraces

4.4.7 New Milton

New Milton, like Totton, is an oddity in the towns chosen because it does not possess a significantly visible historical core. 'Old Milton' was mentioned in the Domesday book as *Midletune* 'middle farm'. The development of New Milton grew around the railway in the 19th Century. The scale of the 19th and 20th Century developments within New Milton and Barton-on-Sea dwarfs the historical core of 'Old' Milton, and even the Old Milton conservation area does not appear to possess any particularly historical buildings or spaces. The High Street of New Milton is a linear late 19th century development with 1960s infill. Parts of the settlement of Ashley could be observed including a couple of thatched cottages, but the majority of houses were 1950s. The specific limits of the conservation area of Old Milton could not be observed. New Milton has merged with Barton-on -sea.

From these brief discussions it is possible to identify several types of towns, for example by function or location (including *inter alia* those with a maritime role, those with a rural market function and those at cross-road positions).

It is possible that consistent patterns in the growth and expansion of towns over the past 500 years may be discerned. Analysis is continuing to elucidate such patterns.

5. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS, PARISH CLUSTERS AND TIME DEPTH

5.1 Historic Landscape Types and Archaeological / Historical events and processes

A group of 26 Landscape Character Areas were initially developed by ERM, based largely on current landscape features. Through discussions and joint site visits with Gifford, the general historical processes that shaped the current landscape were explored. As a consequence, the basic defining criteria for LCA's were refined, and the mapped Landscape Character Areas were extensively modified to incorporate a significant historical component. The historical features for each Landscape Character Area are summarised below. (most are summarised in the main report text).

5.2 Parish Clusters or Groupings and Relationships to Landscape Character Areas

The Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment used a set of some 80 Historic Landscape Types, but reduced these to a set of 25 Historic Landscape Groups (HLGs) for ease of analysis (cf. Text sections 5.1 to 5.40 in HCC study). One of the Hampshire Historic Landscape Groups was subdivided because it combined types of assorted fields of two distinct historic periods. Within GIS it was possible to attribute nearly all the land area of the modern parishes of the county to these HLG's. This enormous database of land areas was then exported to Excel. For the present NFDC Study this spreadsheet was copied and reduced to only those parishes within the study area, and the land areas (originally expressed as hectareage) translated into percentages of the total land area of the parish. The parishes could then be ranked according to the proportion of land belonging to the various HLGs - in effect grouping together parishes that are similar insofar as they share Historic Landscape Groups (Types) and, therefore, also share the certain historic processes, which created those landscape types.

It should be borne in mind that this analysis used modern parishes not the historic parishes. In due course the boundary of the historic parishes could be digitised with in the GIS and the areas by HLGs recalculated.

5.2.1 Parish Cluster 1: Large Parliamentary Fieldsystems

This Parish Cluster contains those parishes with large areas of field systems comprised of larger and more regular fields which generally are attributed to the later 18th and early 19th century Enclosure Movement (HLG Track bounded Fields, Large Wavy Fields, Ladder fields, and Parliamentary Fields). This cluster also includes the only parish with a considerable amount of Downland (given the fact that Downland survives only at Martin within the New Forest, and that Enclosure was widely implemented on Downland, this is hardly surprising, but this may link this cluster more widely across Hampshire and neighbouring Wiltshire and Dorset). The Parishes in this Cluster

include Rockbourne, Leckford, Damerham, Martin, Whitsbury, Exbury and Lepe, and Breamore. The geographic spread is illustrated in **Figure C2**.

Cluster 1 is clearly closely related to LCA's 2 (Martin and Whitsbury) and 3 (Damerham and Rockbourne) and 15 (North West Solent Estates).

HLG: Parliamentary Fields	Landscape Character Areas
	2 – Martin and Whitsbury Open Farmland
	3 – Damerham and Rockbourne Valleys
	15 – North West Solent Estates
	10 – West Wellow, Bramshaw and Hamptworth Commons
	11 – Copythorne Forest Farmlands

5.2.2 Parish Cluster 2: Small and/or Informal Parliamentary Inclosure Systems

This Cluster is defined by fieldsystems which are smaller and more irregular than those above, but which nonetheless were attributed in the HCC Historic Landscape assessment to the later 18th and early 19th century Parliamentary Enclosure Movement, grouped here as 'Small Parliamentary'. The parishes with a significant area categorised as Small Parliamentary include: Marchwood, Netley Marsh, Milford on Sea, Sopley, Hordle, Boldre, Lymington and Pennington, Copythorne, and Sway and are depicted in **Figure C3**.

Cluster 2, comprising the smaller and less formal Parliamentary-type field patterns predominate in LCA's 4 (Wooded Sandleheath), 6 (Upper Avon), 7 (Lower Avon), 10 (West Wellow, Bramshaw and Hamptworth), 12 (Hythe and Ashurst), 16 (Lymington and Pennington Coastal Plain), 17 (Barton and Milford Coastal Plain), 18 (Sway Pasture and Smallholdings) and 19 (Bransgore Woods and Pastures).

HLG: Small Parliamentary	Landscape Character Areas
	4 – Wooded Sandleheath
	6 – Upper Avon Valley
	7 – Lower Avon Valley
	8 – Poulner Woods and Pastures
	10 – West Wellow, Bramshaw and Hamptworth Commons
	11 – Copythorne Forest Farmlands
	12 – Hythe and Ashurst Forest Farmlands
	16 – Lymington and Pennington Coastal Plain
	17 – Barton and Milford Coastal Plain
	18 – Sway Pasture and Small-holdings
	19 – Bransgore Woods and Pastures

It should be recognised explicitly that these two Clusters correspond to the LCA's that surround the Central, Eastern, Southern and Northern Heath and Woodland areas. These

are visually peripheral to the forest core, but in fact represent the foci of settlements that used the heath and woods as peripheral locations for resources. These are areas that also contain a number of (relatively) small estates that were, in the 18-19th centuries formalised by reorganisation into small parliamentary-type fields and the other two accoutrements of small estates – formalised planting (avenues, hedges, planned vistas, etc) and ‘estate-type’ buildings such as more formal courtyards, gate-houses and such. These historic features are still present in the landscape and contribute to the character of these areas, for example in Boldre, Hythe, and Lymington.

- It is significant that Parish Clusters 1 and 2 are mutually exclusive, which would strongly suggest that the historic processes involved were also different in the case of the two clusters.
- However, the dates and locations of both Formal Enclosure (ie by Act of Parliament) and Informal Enclosure were determined for all Parishes within the New Forest. Only seven parishes were enclosed either under an Act or by informal arrangements by land-owners (Damerham, in Cluster 1 above; Boldre in Cluster 2 above; and Ringwood, Totton and Eling, Ellingham Harbridge and Ibsley, Fordingbridge, and Hythe and Dibden). There is thus a very weak correlation between either of the supposed Parliamentary - enclosure type fields and known enclosure events in the New Forest. The Hampshire HLA reached this same conclusion; see text sections 2.11 to 2.14 in the HHLA.

5.2.3 Parish Cluster 3: Heathland and Heathland Plantation

There is a large cluster of parishes that contain significant areas of open Heath, and/or heathland replanted as woodland since the 19th century. Almost by definition these are the parishes that comprise the ‘central core’ of the area of the New Forest Perambulation (of Edward I, ca. 1280, and of other Monarchs). Much of the area was historically *extra-parochial* - meaning that the lands did not belong to a parish and therefore did not pay tithes or a variety of other taxes (the importance of this should not be underestimated - such tithes could amount to large sums of money and were often at the root of legal disputes). This area is also largely the same as that covered by the Royal Forest and thus by Forest Law - an area that had previously never been organised into townships or hundreds. The communities within the Forest retained rights to the Forest and much of its resources which are well documented - the consequences overall constituted a strong force serving the preservation of earlier traces of land-use. The incorporation of this landscape into the parochial system is a relatively recent phenomenon - much occurred by Act of Parliament in 1857. The parishes include East Boldre, Burley, Brockenhurst, Bramshaw, Denny Lodge, Fordingbridge, Ellingham Harbridge Ibsley, Minstead, Lyndhurst, Hale, Melchet Park and Plaitford, Woodgreen, Sway. There is also a reasonably strong correlation with the occurrences of ‘Old woods’ (that is, pre-1810 in date, and arguably survivors of the Medieval assarting and clearances). See **Figure C4**.

This clearly corresponds to LCA’s 20 (Southern Heaths), 21 (Northern Heaths), 22 (Furzey Woodland), 23 (Central Woodlands) and 27 (Eastern Forest Heaths).

HLG: Heathland and Heathland Plantation	Landscape Character Areas
	20 – Southern Heathland and Forest
	21 – Northern Heathland and Forest
	25 – Beaulieu Heath
	27 – Eastern Heathland and Forest
	22 – Furzey Woodland and Villages
	23 – Central Woodlands

5.2.4 Parish Cluster 4: Assarts and Woodland

There is an interesting cluster of parishes with areas of ‘old assarts’ surviving. These are the product of Medieval forest clearance, coupled with the non-occurrence of later, post-Medieval ‘parliamentary’ type reorganisation into larger more regular fields. The parishes include: Sandleheath, Netley Marsh, Copythorne, Hale, Melchet Park/Plaitford, and Damerham. It is clear that these parishes are peripheral to the Heath and (Plantation) Forests of Parish Cluster 3 above. See **Figure C5**. As this figure makes clear, these Landscape Groups are (not surprisingly) quite widely distributed. There are nonetheless several fairly close correlations to Landscape Character Areas – particularly LCA 4 (Wooded Sandleheath), 9 (Landford Forest Farmlands), 11 (Copythorne Forest), 26 (Beaulieu River) and 22 (Furzey Woodland and Villages); LCA 23 (NF Central Woodlands) also contains a large area of old assarted woodland.

HLG: Assarts and Assarted Woodlands	Landscape Character Areas
	4 – Sandleheath
	26 – Beaulieu River
	12 – Hythe and Ashurst Forest Farmlands
	22 – Furzey Woodlands and Villages

5.2.5 Parish Cluster 5: Valley Bottoms

Within the context of the New Forest study the identification of a parish cluster based on valley floor landscape types may appear simplistic. There are 6 parishes that have significant land area of these types (Breamore, Sopley, Ringwood, Woodgreen, Fordingbridge, and Netley Marsh). The first four form the Avon valley, whilst the latter is in the Test Valley - this is virtually a truism. The cluster is identified simply because it will be useful to compare this group of parishes with others in river valley in Hampshire more generally and in neighbouring Wiltshire should the occasion arise. See **Figure C6**. Not surprisingly, this corresponds most clearly to LCA’s 6 and 7 – the valley of the Avon. Smaller, almost insignificant areas of LCA’s 9 and 10 (Landford and West Wellow) make-up the valley of the Test, whilst both the Lymington and Beaulieu Rivers contain areas of valley-bottom fields.

HLG: Valley Floor	Landscape Character Areas
	6 – Upper Avon Valley
	7 – Lower Avon Valley
	24 – Lymington River
	10 – West Wellow, Bramshaw and Hamptworth Commons (NE periphery)
	11 – Copythorne Forest Farmland (NE periphery)
	15 – North West Solent Estates

5.2.6 Other Possible Clusters

Analysis is continuing because there are suggestions that more finely-grained historic trends are observable as ‘clusters’. The difficulty in distinguishing these trends or processes are two-fold; first, some of the information is obscured through the reduction of the 80+ HLTs down to 25 HLGs, and second, the recent process of agricultural intensification in the countryside has erased much of the evidence.

5.3 Historic Landscape Time-depth

Time depth is a phrase used to refer to all of the ‘layers’ or series of landscape features arising from historic processes which have traces similarly preserved in the modern landscape. Within the study area the earliest identified process, which is fossilised in the landscape, is probably the original forest clearance that occurred between circa 5000 and 2000 BC. Areas where we know this occurred may be considered to have the greatest time-depth and are discussed below in section 5.3.1. Time-depth thus refers to the manifest appearance of antiquity. It is very likely that clearances (to continue the example above) occurred widely over other areas, but subsequent, more recent historic processes have either erased or obscured this primary event - thus the earliest preserved process is more recent in date and so the time-depth may be considered to be less.

In the strictest sense the term time-depth can be a misleading concept. All of the landscape is an artefact of human activities constantly acting upon and reacting to geology, topography, soils, and plant-cover. All of the landscape is equally old - humans have been living there and modifying the environment for tens of thousands of years. The usefulness of the term results from the realisation that some historic events/processes leave more visible/accessible traces than others - 20,000 years of hunter-gatherers roaming over the New Forest is virtually invisible, whereas the result of the Bronze Age clearance is immediately visible even if the ordinary layman may not know the causes.

Wessex Archaeology has undertaken a major previous study of the New Forest (*The New Forest Archaeological/Historical Landscape Character Assessment* 1996). This study synthesises a vast amount of archaeological data and provides an excellent narrative discussion of the history and development processes of the New Forest.

However, in the context of the present study, the Wessex report has limited applicability. The Wessex approach was strictly archaeological and the themes explored are archaeological in their phrasing. The study makes no use of the mainstream approach to historic landscape types or character areas. Therefore the historical themes and processes are very general in nature and cannot be easily applied to the types/areas as used in this study. In consequence, an attempt was made to pull some of this information out of the Wessex study and apply it to the more detailed types and areas.

5.3.1 Prehistoric - Figures C7,C8,C9

Within the study area there are large expanses of countryside where the most basic character is the result of historic processes which are truly ancient in origin. These processes are the first widespread clearances of the primal forest cover and date to the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods, summarised in the various tables of this text as 2000BC. This date should not be taken too literally, as the process was probably well underway a millennium earlier, but was certainly reaching its apogee ca. 2000 BC and so this is used as a convenient shorthand. Three of the Historic Landscape Types reveal this process most clearly - Common Heathland (2.1), Downland (6.1) and Common Downland (2.2). It is however important to note that these HLT's survive in such form because they were on geological soils that did not recover from the initial clearance and intensive farming trends (especially enclosure) - the central heaths are classic examples of this. Thus the origin is prehistoric, but the survival is due to geology and a Medieval land-use strategy based on grazing rather than arable. Historic Landscape Types 2.3 and 2.4 both represent heathland (or occasionally downland) that have been deliberately (or simply allowed to become) wooded over within the last century or two.

The distribution of these Historic Landscape Types is shown on **Figure C1**. See also text section 5.2.1 above, regarding Downland and Large Parliamentary systems.

HL Group	HLT	Name Description	Dates	Characteristics
Heathland	2.1	Common heathland	ca. 2000 BC	Unenclosed land subject to Commoners Rights, frequently unimproved grazing
Downland	2.2	Common downland	ca. 2000 BC	Unenclosed land subject to Commoners Rights, frequently unimproved grazing
Commons	2.3	Other Commons and Greens	prehistoric to 15 th AD	Unenclosed land subject to Commoners Rights, frequently unimproved grazing, includes marsh commons and greens, often ancient in origin
Commons	2.4	Commons wooded over	19-20 th	Unenclosed land subject to Commoners Rights, occasionally always wooded but more frequently has become wooded over in 19-20 th centuries through inconsistent grazing
Downland	6.1	Downland	Prehistoric to 13 th AD	Open chalk grazing (sheep) Medieval (or earlier) in origin

5.3.2 Early Medieval to early Post-Medieval - Figures C10 and C11

The next widely occurring historic process with traces preserved in the modern landscape is that of Medieval clearance of woodland or ‘waste’ through the process of ‘assarting’ - the often clandestine creation of small and irregular parcels of land for arable or grazing uses. It is highly likely that much of these areas had been previously cleared in the Neolithic/Bronze Age, and possibly again during the Roman period, only to become wooded again during the Saxon period, but these processes are not clearly visible. They may often be inferred or demonstrated by the presence of archaeological sites of these intervening periods.

HL Group	HLT	Name Description	Dates	Characteristics
Old Assart	HLT 1.1	Small-irregular Assarts interspersed with woodland	13-16 th	Gen early medieval to early post-medieval. Associated with woodland and heathland, not downland or previously open fields
Old Assart	1.2	Medium Assarts / copses with wavy boundaries	13-16 th	Gen early medieval to early post-medieval. Associated with woodland and heathland, not downland or previously open fields
Old Assart	1.3	Large irregular assart with wavy or mixed boundaries	13-16 th	Generally early medieval to early post-medieval. Associated with woodland and heathland, not downland or previously open fields. May represent types 1.1 and 1.2 amalgamated to form larger fields
Assart	1.4	Regular Assarts with straight boundaries	19-20 th	Gen 19-20 th century. May represent types 1.1 and 1.2 amalgamated to form larger fields. Associated with woodland and heathland, not downland or previously open fields
Small Wavy fields	1.5	Enclosed strips and furlongs	16-17 th	Enclosed strips and furlongs (previously open fields). Generally late medieval-early post-medieval enclosures (may be rationalised into types 1.6 and 1.16). Found only in Martin and Blackwater valley (LCAs 1 and 9).
Small wavy fields	1.16	Small rectilinear with wavy boundaries	16-17 th	late medieval to 17 th century informal enclosures
Assarted woodland	4.1	Assarted pre-1810 Woodland	13-15 th	Woods in existence since before 1810, not gen replanted, subject to assarting since Medieval period. Assarted fields may have been rationalised subsequently i.e 1.1 and 1.2 transformed into 1.16
Assarted woodland	4.2	Replanted Assarted pre-1810 Woodland	13-15 th	Woodland in existence since before 1810 but since replanted (conifers), subject to assarting since Medieval period. Assarted fields may have been rationalised subsequently i.e 1.1 and 1.2 transformed into 1.16
Old woods	4.3	Other pre-1810 Woodland	13-15 th	Woods in existence since before 1810, not generally replanted nor obviously subject to assarting since Medieval period. Generally ‘ancient woodland’ (rare type - most has been subject or replanting schemes)
Old woods	4.4	Replanted other pre-1810 woodland	13-15 th	Woods in existence since before 1810, generally replanted (conifers) but not obviously subject to assarting. Generally ‘ancient woodland’
Assarted Woodland	4.10	Pre-1810 Wood Pastures	13-15 th	Woods in existence since before 1810, not enclosed, generally considered to be ‘ancient woodland’
Heathland	5.2	Enclosed Heathland and scrub	13-18 th	Enclosed heathland (ancient, possibly Bronze Age origin), either by encroachment or as purlieus reverting to heath
Heathland	5.3	Purlieus + enclosed heath pastures	13-15 th	Enclosed heaths still under Forest law - ancient in origin (ie Medieval) Associated with small dispersed settlements

Downland	6.1	Downland	Prehistory to 13th	Open chalk grazing (sheep) Medieval (or earlier) in origin
Valley floor	7.1	Misc valley bottom paddocks/pastures		Generally small enclosed meadows/pastures along valley floors
Valley floor	7.2	Valley floor woodlands		Woods and plantations along valley floor, often willow alder, may be ancient and coppiced or more recent established
Valley floor	7.3	Marsh and rough grazing		valley floor land seemingly always used for grazing
Valley floor	7.5	Unimproved valley floor grassland	13-17 th	valley floor land seemingly always used for grazing and hay, distinguished from 7.3 by ecological value (SSSI or SLNC)
Valley floor	7.8	Water mills	14-19 th	Water mill complexes, medieval or post-medieval in origin
Old settlement	9.1	Scattered settlements with paddocks - 1810 extent	13-15 th	Scattered properties within a pattern of small rectilinear paddocks extent by 1810, probably late Medieval-post-medieval in origin
Old settlement	9.3	Common edge settlement 1810 extent	13-18 th	settlement around perimeter of common land prior to 1810, medieval or post-medieval in origin
Old settlement	9.7	Hamlet or Village 1810 extent	13-18 th	Includes larger villages (church and village name = parish name) hamlets are subsidiary and part of dispersed settlement pattern
Old settlement	9.9	Town and city 1810 extent	13-18 th	1810 extent of towns and cities (usually medieval core plus some expansion)
Park	10.1	Pre 1810 Parkland	17-18 th	Designed landscape, generally with an historic house, may have medieval origin
Park	10.3	Deer parks	12-14 th	Deer parks - 12 th -14 th century in origin, often enclosed within Royal Forest under licences to empark.

5.3.3 17-18-19th Century

During the post-Medieval period there were several movements towards the creation of larger and more regular fieldsystems. The best known is the ‘Enclosure’ period (starting in the end of the 17th century) when large landowners ‘enclosed’ (literally enclosed lands by fence or hedge, to transform communal open fields or small individual strips into large unitary fields for either arable or grazing) their lands either by act of Parliament or through less formal legal agreements. Overall the trend occurred over a long period of time (circa 250 years) and under a variety of social pressures. Historic Landscape Types likely (but not exclusively) to be attributable to this period of large-scale change are:

HL Group	HLT	Name Description	Dates	Characteristics
Assart	1.4	Regular Assarts with straight boundaries	19-20 th	Gen19-20 th century. May represent types 1.1 and 1.2 amalgamated to form larger fields. Associated with woodland and heathland, not downland or previously open fields
Large wavy fields	1.6	Small rectilinear fields with wavy boundaries	17-18 th	Probably late Medieval to 17-18 th century informal enclosure
Small parliamentary	1.7	Irregular straight boundaries	17-18 th	Probably enclosures period 17-18 th century systems but not by Inclosure Act
Ladder fields	1.8	Regular Ladder Fields	17-18 th	Post-medieval informal enclosure (17-18 th century) of slopes linking valleys to hills/downs (not by Inclosure Act)

Small parliamentary	1.9	Small Regular with Straight Boundaries (Parliamentary Type)	17-18 th	Formed by Inclosure Acts (or informally but linked to Inclosure Act systems) of late 18 th - early 19 th centuries; some post-parliamentary period enclosures of downland/woodland also included here
Old Assart	1.10	Medium Regular with straight boundaries (Parliamentary type)	18-19 th	Formed by Inclosure Acts (or informally but linked to Inclosure Act systems) of late 18 th - early 19 th centuries; some post-parliamentary period enclosures of downland/woodland also included here
Parliamentary	1.11	Large Regular with Straight boundaries (Parliamentary type)	18-19 th	Formed by Inclosure Acts (or informally but linked to Inclosure Act systems) of late 18 th - early 19 th centuries; some post-parliamentary period enclosures of downland/woodland also included here
Parliamentary	1.12	Graded size regular fields with straight boundaries (parliamentary type)	18-19 th	Typically formed by Inclosure of late 18 th - early 19 th centuries; some post-parliamentary period enclosures of downland also included here
Track-bounded	1.15	Irregular fields bounded by roads/tracks/paths	17-19 th	Chalk downland type of post-medieval periods - tracks possibly old drove roads to/from downland
Small wavy fields	1.16	Small rectilinear with wavy boundaries	16-17 th	late medieval to 17 th century informal enclosures
Commons	2.4	Commons wooded over	19-20 th	Unenclosed land subject to Commoners Rights, occasionally always wooded but more frequently has become wooded over in 19-20 th centuries thru inconsistent grazing
Assarted woodland	4.1	Assarted pre-1810 Woodland	13-15 th	Woods in existence since before 1810, not gen replanted, subject to assarting since Medieval period. Assarted fields may have been rationalised subsequently i.e 1.1 and 1.2 transformed into 1.16
Plantations	4.5	19 th century Plantations	19-20 th	Post-1810 woodlands imposed over older landscape types (e.g. wind belts), frequently conifers
Valley Floor	7.1	Misc valley bottom paddocks/pastures		Generally small enclosed meadows/pastures along valley floors
Valley Floor	7.2	Valley floor woodlands		Woods and plantations along valley floor, often willow alder, may be ancient and coppiced or more recent established
Valley Floor	7.3	Marsh and rough grazing		valley floor land seemingly always used for grazing
Valley Floor	7.4	Water meadows	17-18 th	Meadows adjacent to rivers, seasonally flooded along ditches and leats, some may be early (17-18 th) most are 18-19 th
Valley Floor	7.7	Fishponds + natural ponds/lakes	15-20 th	Fishponds + natural ponds/lakes
Valley Floor	7.8	Water mills	14-19 th	Water mill complexes, medieval or post-medieval in origin
Urban/recent settlement	9.2	Scattered settlements with paddocks - post-1810 extent	19 th	Scattered properties within a pattern of small rectilinear paddocks extent post-1810; some are 'stockbroker belt' properties as continuation of earlier 9.1 types (morphologically near identical)
Old settlement	9.3	Common edge settlement 1810 extent	13-18 th	settlement around perimeter of common land prior to 1810, medieval or post-medieval in origin
Urban/recent settlement	9.4	Common edge settlement post-1810 extent	19-20 th	settlement around perimeter of common land post-1810,
Urban/recent settlement	9.6	Post-1810 settlement	19-20 th	settlement since 1810 - includes both new settlements and expansion of older hamlets/villages/towns

Old settlement	9.7	Hamlet or Village 1810 extent	13-18 th	Includes larger villages (church and village name = parish name) hamlets are subsidiary and part of dispersed settlement pattern
Old settlement	9.9	Town and city 1810 extent	13-18 th	1810 extent of towns and cities (usually medieval core plus some expansion)
Parks	10.1	Pre 1810 Parkland	17-18 th	Designed landscape, generally with an historic house, may have medieval origin
Parks	10.2	19 th century and later parkland	19-20 th	designed landscapes created since 1810, occasionally an extension of 10.1

5.3.4 20th Century

Landscape changes during the recent past are generally linked to intensification of agriculture (eg. larger more regular fields, loss of smaller remnant copses and hedges) and increasing density of settlement (eg. the ubiquitous post-war housing estates). Historic Landscape Types likely to be attributable to this recent past are:

H L Group	HLT	Name Description	Dates	Characteristics
Assart	1.4	Regular Assarts with straight boundaries	19-20 th	Gen19-20 th century. May represent types 1.1 and 1.2 amalgamated to form larger fields. Associated with woodland and heathland, not downland or previously open fields
Parliamentary	1.14	Prairie Fields	20 th	20 th century fields created by removal of boundaries of 118-19 th century enclosures
Commons	2.4	Commons wooded over	19-20 th	Unenclosed land subject to Commoners Rights, occasionally always wooded but more frequently has become wooded over in 19-20 th centuries thru inconsistent grazing
Horticulture	3.1	Orchards	20 th	20 th century commercial
Horticulture	3.3	Nurseries/glasshouses	20 th	20 th century commercial
Heathland	4.8	Pre-1810 Heathland enclosed Woodland	19-20 th	Heathland enclosed and planted/wooded prior to 1810
Heathland	4.9	19 th Century heathland plantations	19-20 th	Heathland enclosed and planted/wooded since 1810, often commercial/plantation forestry
Heathland plantation	4.11	19 th century wood pasture	19-20 th	Unenclosed woodland created since 1810, may be areas of scrub which have wooded-over
Urban/recent settlement	9.6	Post-1810 settlement	19-20 th	settlement since 1810 - includes both new settlements and expansion of older hamlets/villages/towns
Parks	10.2	19 th century and later parkland	19-20 th	designed landscapes created since 1810, occasionally an extension of 10.1

There are also a number of more strictly archaeological biases in the record which are cogently summarised in the Wessex Archaeology The New Forest Archaeological/Historical Landscape Character Assessment (1996, 23-24).

5.4 Historical Forces and Directions of change in LCA's

There are many historical processes and critical events that can be identified as having had or continuing to exert forces of change in the New Forest.

1. Woodland Clearance - principally between ca. 6000 and 2500BC, creating the heathland that is so prominent a feature of the New Forest.
2. Development of the densely settled and farmed landscape - beginning in the Neolithic/Bronze Age and continuing until the creation of the Royal New Forest.
3. This process has returned in a slightly up-dated guise in the form of current pressures for ever more houses, leading to a renewed expansion of settlement and encroachment into Heath, woodland and the fields of earlier agricultural systems.
4. growth of towns and settlements at expense of particular HHLT's
5. Soil deterioration - historically a consequence of the initial clearance and arable use of the Meso-Neolithic-Bronze Ages.
6. Woodland management - originally a by-product of Forest Law, this rose to prominence in the later 18th and 19th centuries long after much of the Medieval management system was redundant, in an attempt by the Crown to ensure supplies of suitable timber for Royal Navy ship-building. After waning in importance this has returned in recent decades.
7. Tourism and Recreation - following behind the increased pressures for housing this is one of the most potent contemporary forces for change, with the New Forest surrounded by several major conurbations.

6. MODELLING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVIVAL

6.1 Comparisons of Archaeological / Historical Remains with LCA's

In one of the pioneering Historic Landscape Character Assessments, the Cornwall Unit developed a matrix as a means of identifying the types of archaeological or historical remains within the landscape, which leave no very obvious or tangible expression. This matrix has been re-used in a number of subsequent studies and has been adapted for use here the level of analysis has been shifted to that of the Landscape Character Area rather than the more detailed Types. Example matrices are given in Appendix 3.

It is clear, and no more than would be expected, that many of the archaeological remains survive due to two related processes. First, the remains are the result of processes that did leave more tangible traces. Second, survival depends on processes that favoured their survival and discovery – and are thus revealed in the Historic Landscape Types.

For example, the well-documented preference of prehistoric farmers for lighter well-drained soils does not mean that all geologically suitable areas were utilised. There are certainly more subtle relationships to be explored.

The co-occurrence of Bronze Age round barrows and the Heathland dominated characters areas (nos. 20, 21, 23 and 27) and more specifically Heathland / Heathland Plantation HL Groups is a clear and obvious example. The barrows were created at the time that these areas were first cleared and turned to extensive arable agriculture. The relationship between barrows, fields and contemporary settlements is still detailed and need not be reviewed here – suffice to say that fields and barrows tend to be more closely proximate than either are to settlements. However, the underlying geology and soils strictly limited soil fertility – agriculture had to be abandoned and the land reverted to heath.

In the absence of soil fertility, agriculture was never resumed, and, barring the obscuring effects of forestry, the barrows still survive as earthworks. The numbers of barrows in the northwest of the study area is misleading – apart from about a dozen on the Downland near Martin, the rest survive as ploughed out ring ditches, primarily in the larger Parliamentary-type fields of LCA number 2.

This example also introduces a warning note against geologic determinism. The preference of BA farmers for lighter well-drained river valley gravel soils is well documented (and the 3 known BA settlements are all in the Avon Valley).

This does not mean that either all such soils were settled upon, nor does it mean that other soils were not settled – the apparent absence of BA settlements or barrows from

the ‘coastal’ LCAs numbers 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17 may be a consequence of the obscuring effects of small fields and frequent woods and to the very low numbers of archaeological investigations in these LCAs when compared to the Heathland.

The discussion can be extended chronologically by considering the distribution of Iron Age and Roman sites. This is almost mutually exclusive with that of Bronze-Age and Heathland. The majority of the Iron Age / Roman sites are off the Heathland and also not on chalk-downland or ridges, but instead are to be found in the surrounding LCA with their small-scale mixture of fields and woods. The Roman site distribution is remarkable for the dense cluster of sites in the middle of LCA 21 – These being a well-known collection of pottery kilns and related sites.

In contrast, Medieval sites are very much more evenly spread across the landscape. However, in distinction from earlier periods, our knowledge of the Medieval landscape and the nature of sites is very much more developed. Not surprisingly, most of the sites visible in the Heathland LCA’s are either the small scattered forest communities (still occupied) or earthwork sites linked to Medieval hunting and forestry management activities.

This overview, brief and superficial as it is, nonetheless would allow some tentative models or frameworks of past land use and site survival to be postulated. These models could in turn be deliberately tested by research, research-driven fieldworks, and by directing development-led fieldwork towards seeking such evidence. For example, it could be suggested that Bronze Age settlements are known to have been located in the major river valleys – were they also located in the shallow stream valleys that drain the Heathland plateaux, and which run through the coastal LCA’s? The otherwise apparent absence of BA sites from the coastal LCAs needs to be tested.

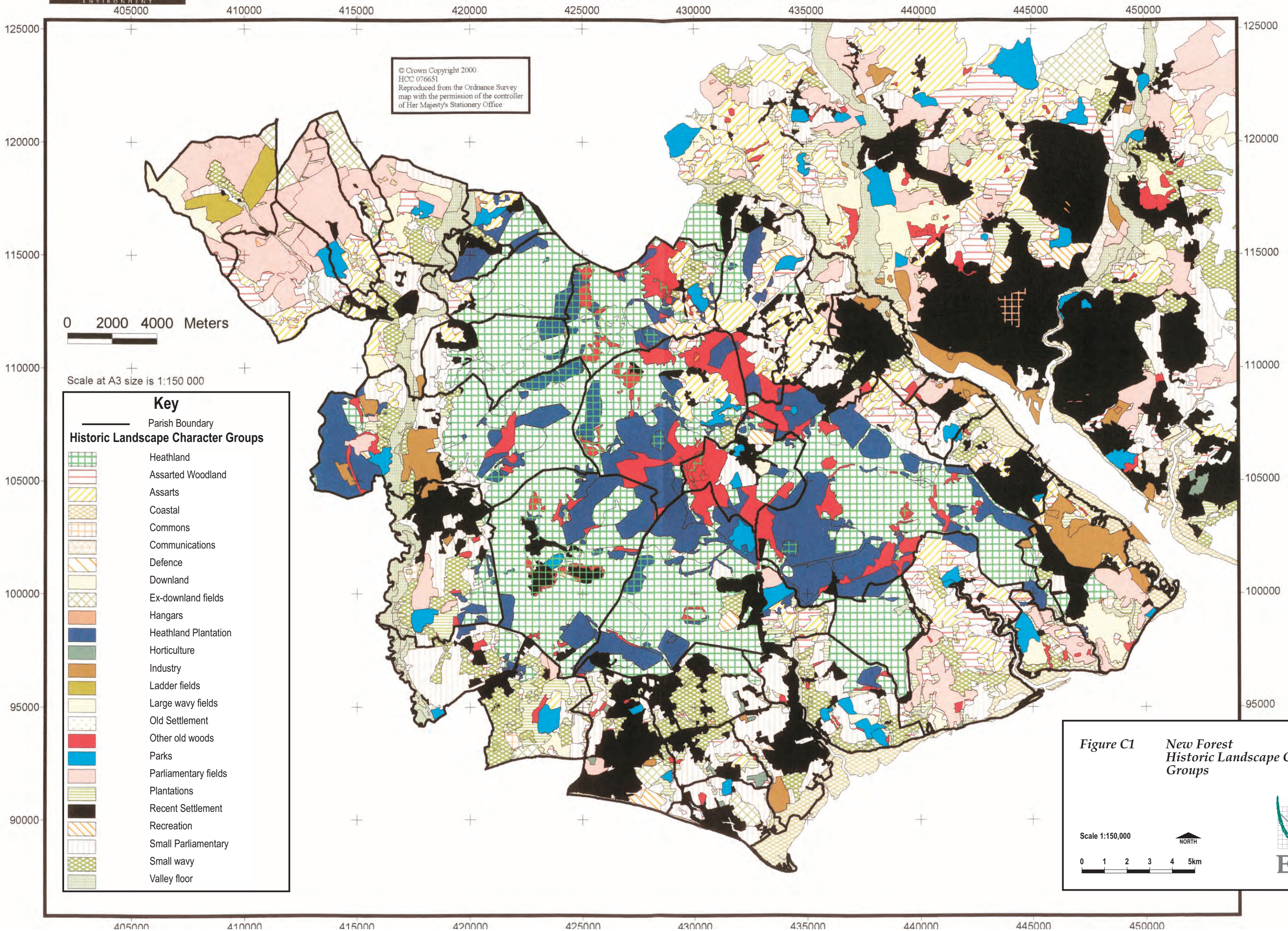
Historic Landscape Character Assessments are ideal starting points for developing and testing such models. It is hoped that this Historic Assessment will be utilised along these lines by local authority planning archaeologists as well as landscape archaeologists and historians.

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8. FIGURES

Historic Landscape Character Groups in the New Forest



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0 2000 4000 Meters

Scale at A3 size is 1:150 000

Key

— Parish Boundary

Historic Landscape Character Groups

- Heathland
- Assarted Woodland
- Assarts
- Coastal
- Commons
- Communications
- Defence
- Downland
- Ex-downland fields
- Hangars
- Heathland Plantation
- Horticulture
- Industry
- Ladder fields
- Large wavy fields
- Old Settlement
- Other old woods
- Parks
- Parliamentary fields
- Plantations
- Recent Settlement
- Recreation
- Small Parliamentary
- Small wavy
- Valley floor

Figure C1 *New Forest
Historic Landscape Character
Groups*

Scale 1:150,000

NORTH

0 1 2 3 4 5km

Historic Landscape Character Groups in the New Forest

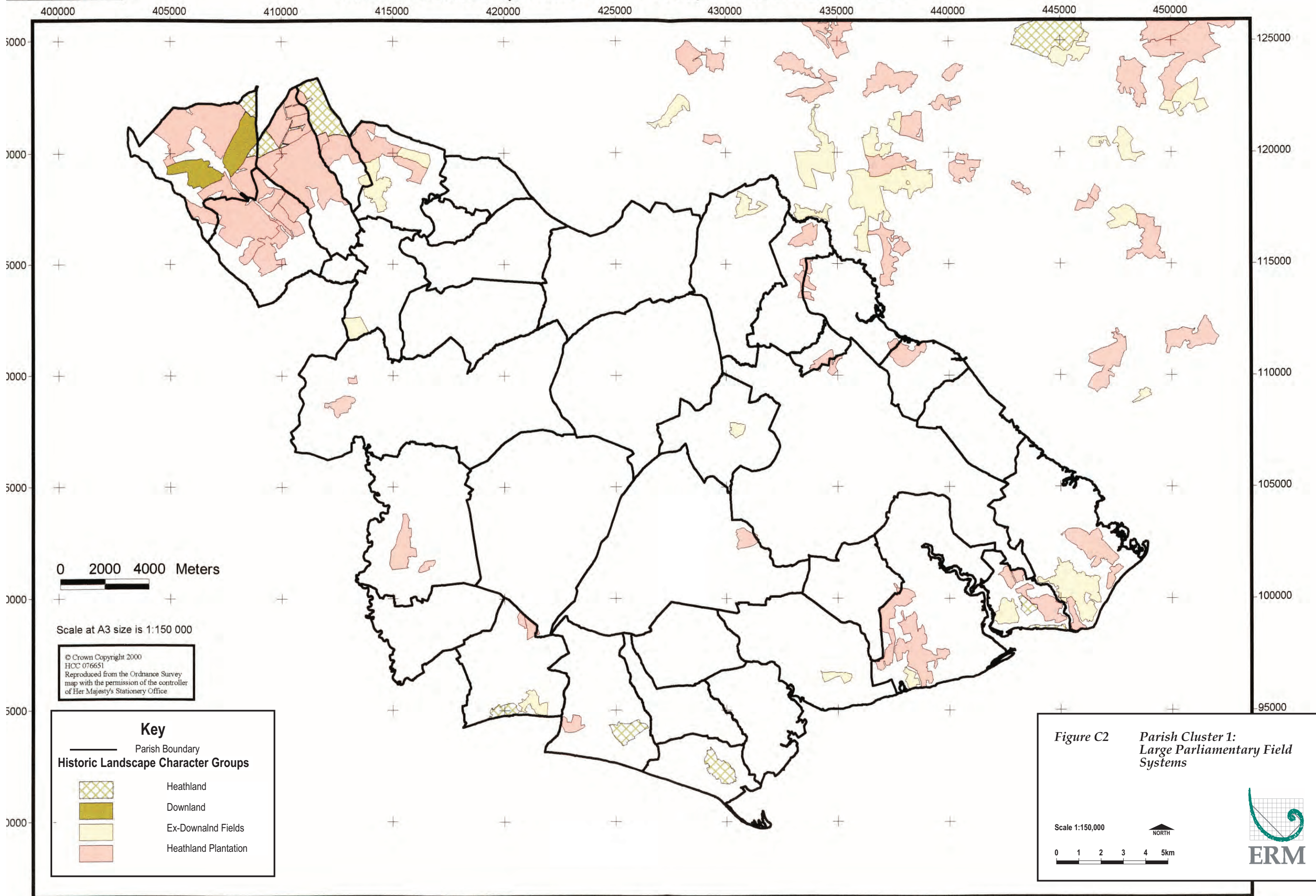



Figure C2 Parish Cluster 1:
Large Parliamentary Field Systems

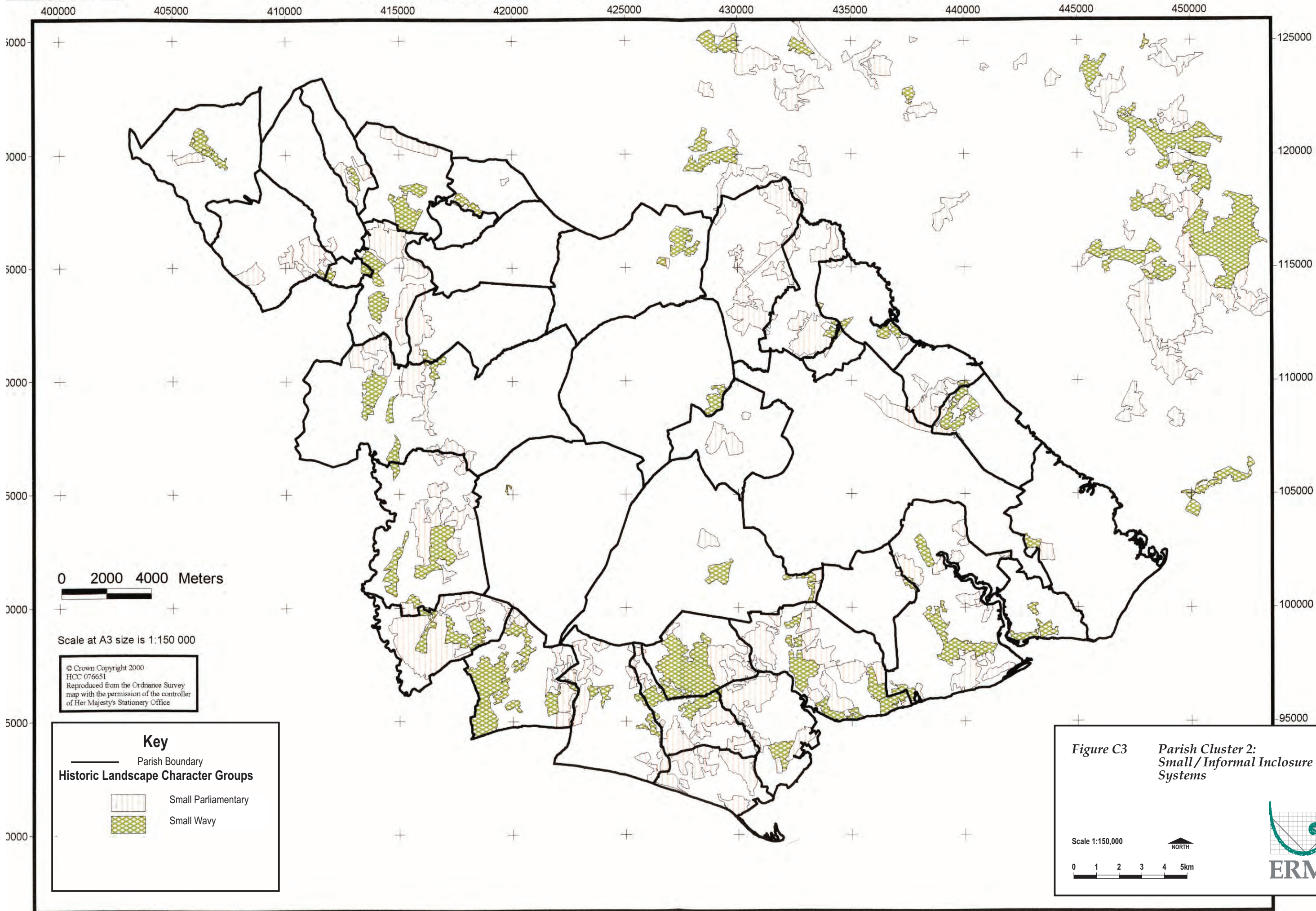
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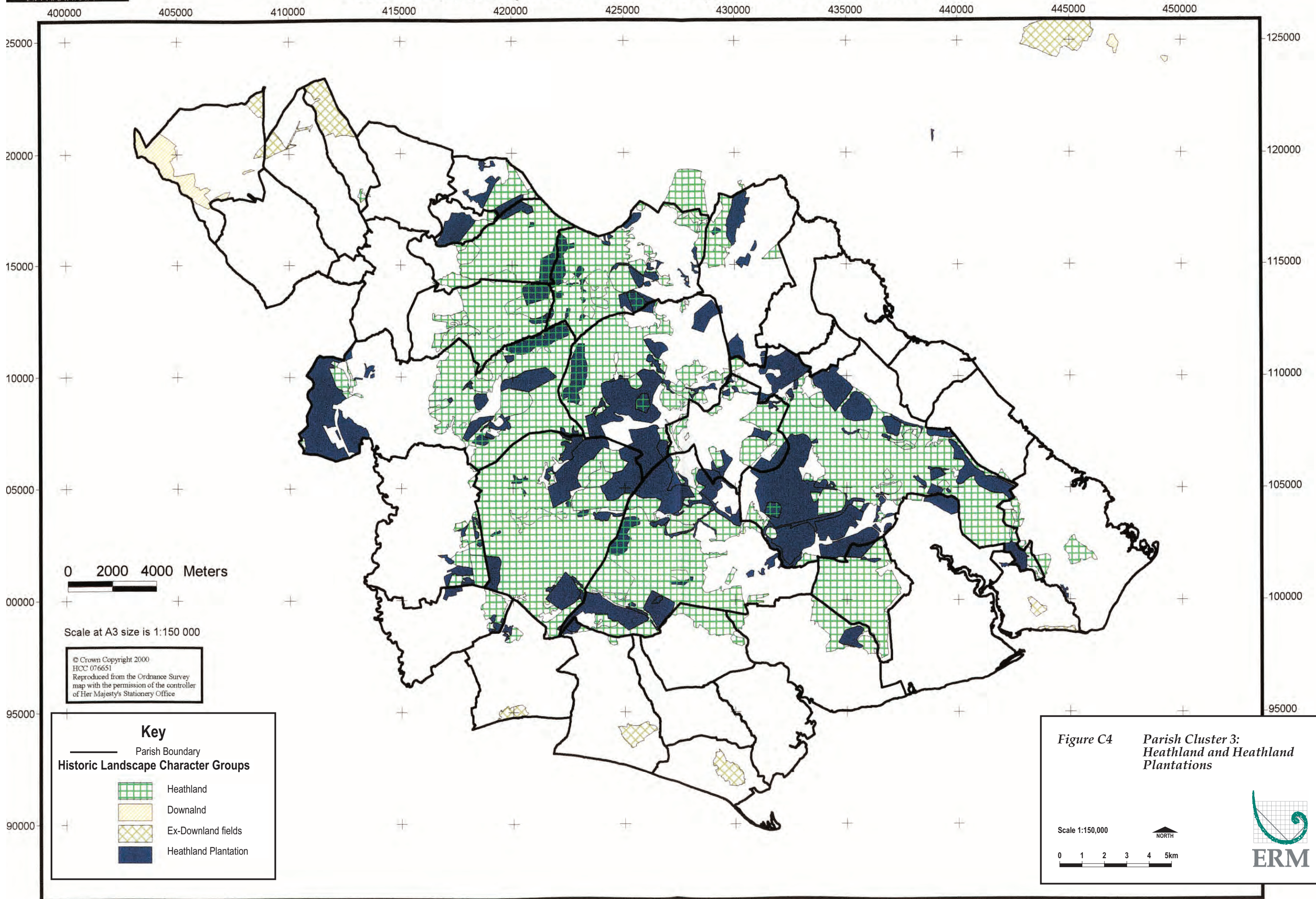
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Historic Landscape Character Groups in the New Forest



Historic Landscape Character Groups in the New Forest



0 2000 4000 Meters

Scale at A3 size is 1:150 000

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Key

— Parish Boundary

Historic Landscape Character Groups

- Heathland
- Downland
- Ex-Downland fields
- Heathland Plantation

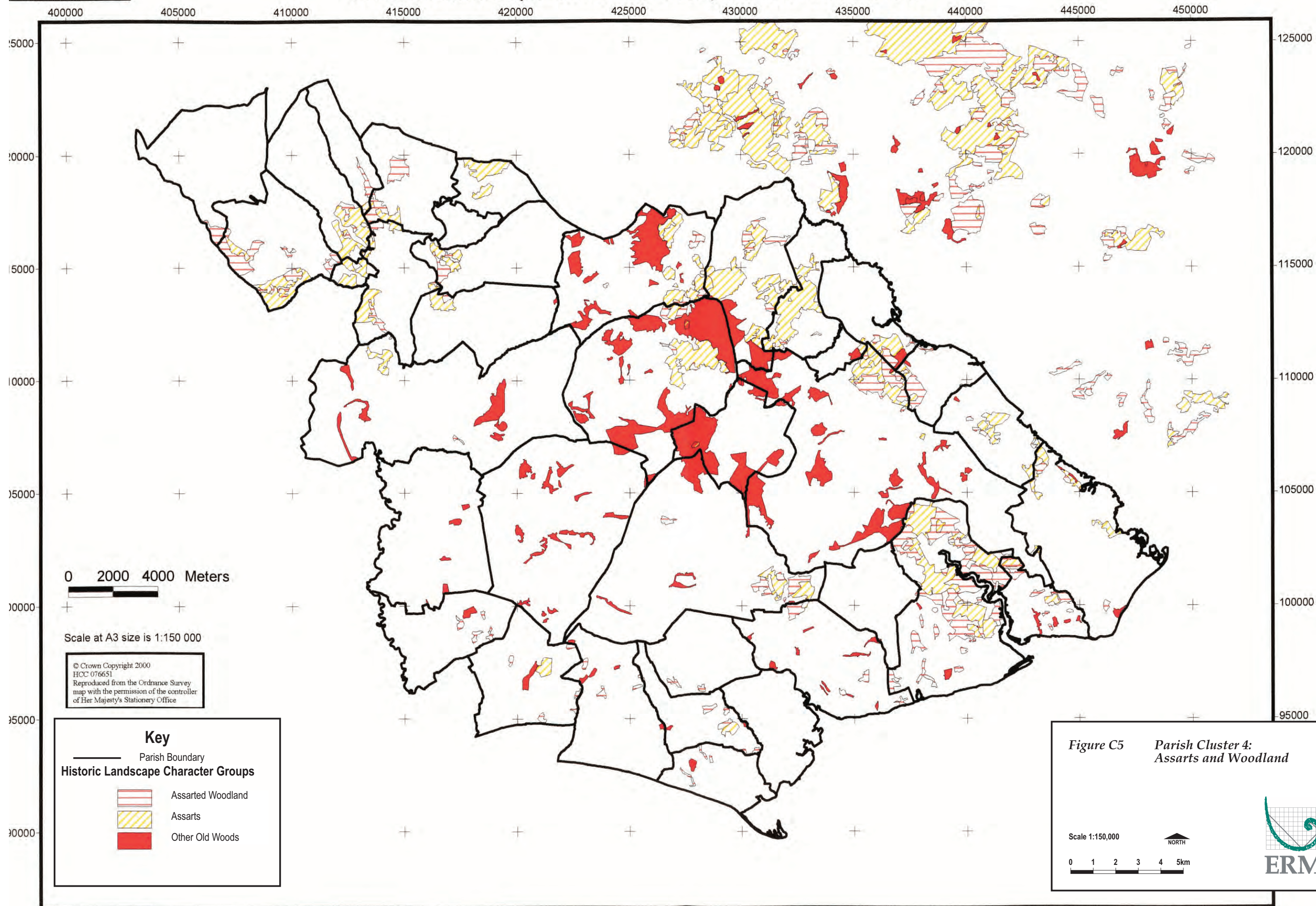
*Figure C4 Parish Cluster 3:
Heathland and Heathland
Plantations*

Scale 1:150,000

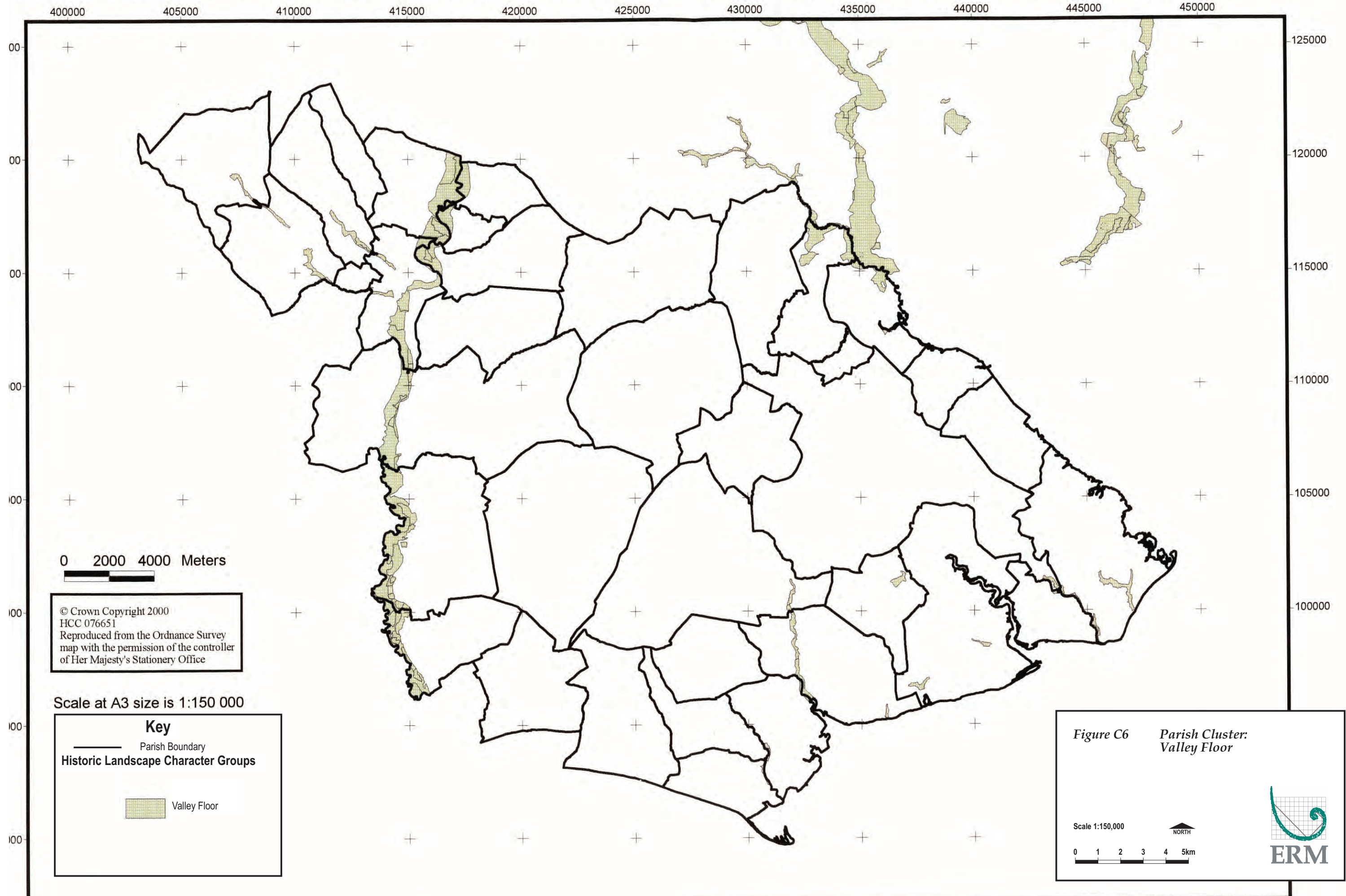
NORTH

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Historic Landscape Character Groups in the New Forest



Historic Landscape Character Groups in the New Forest, Valley Floor



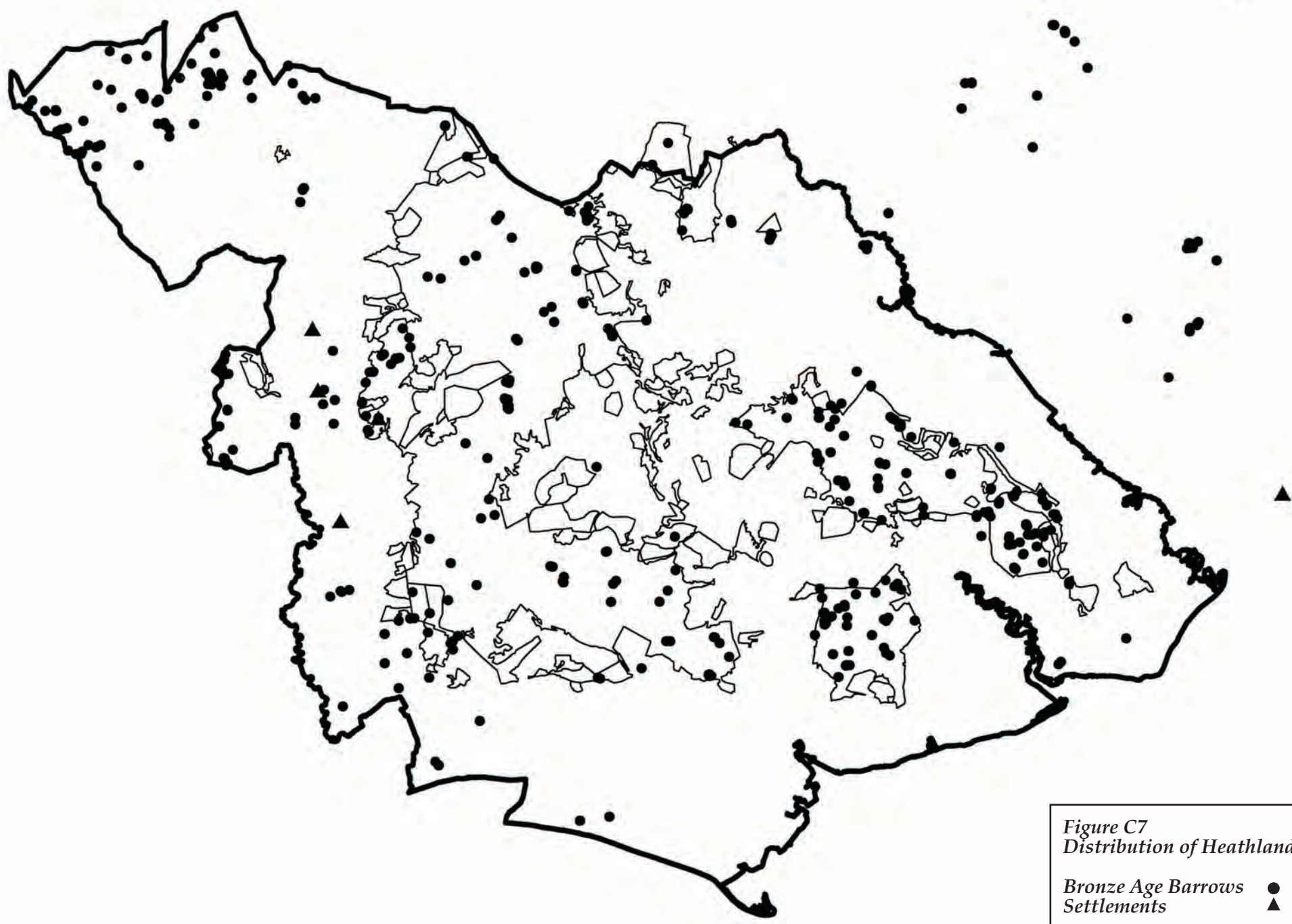
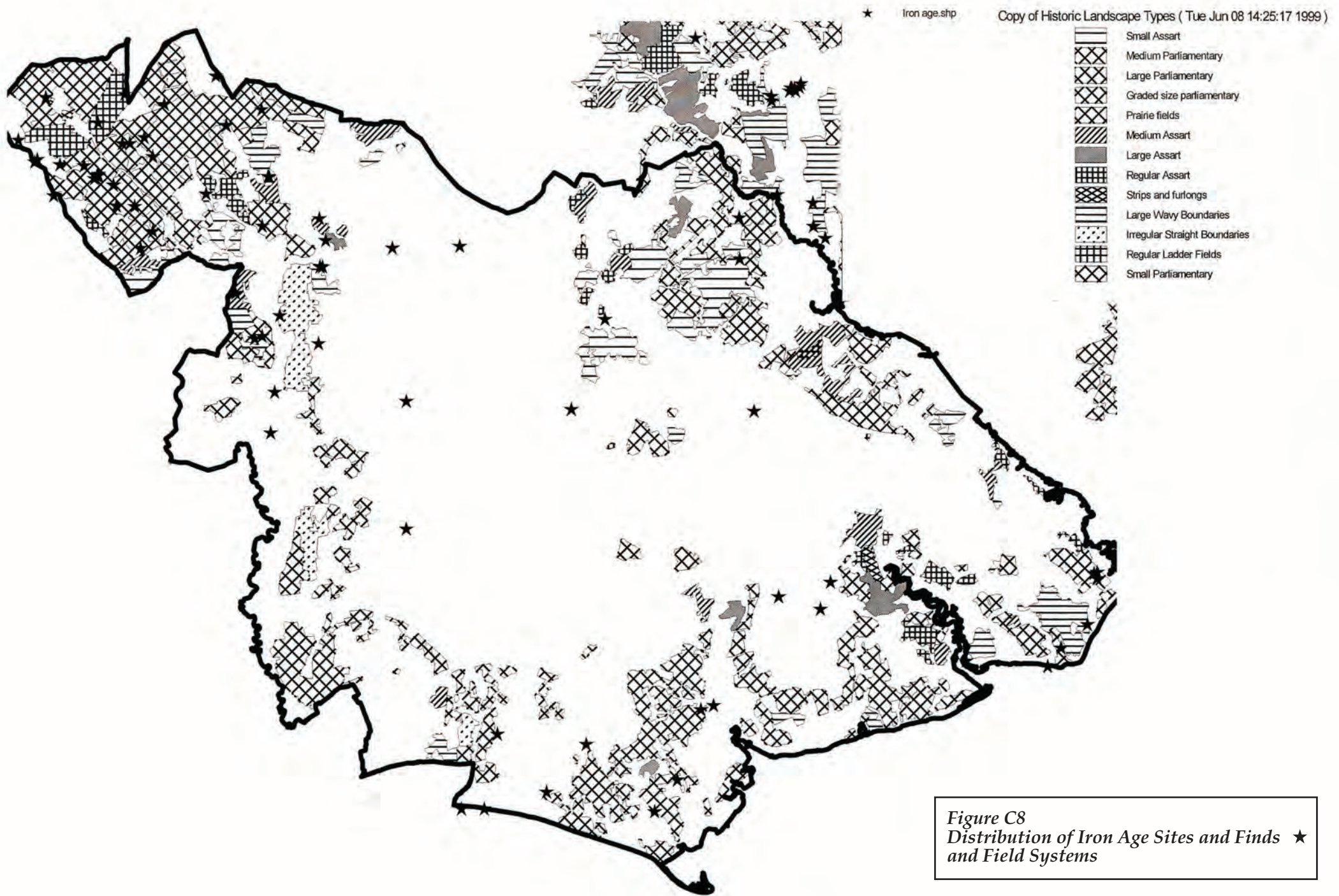


Figure C7
Distribution of Heathland

Bronze Age Barrows ●
Settlements ▲

Iron age sites and finds



Copy of Historic Landscape Types (Tue Jun 08 14:25:17 1999)

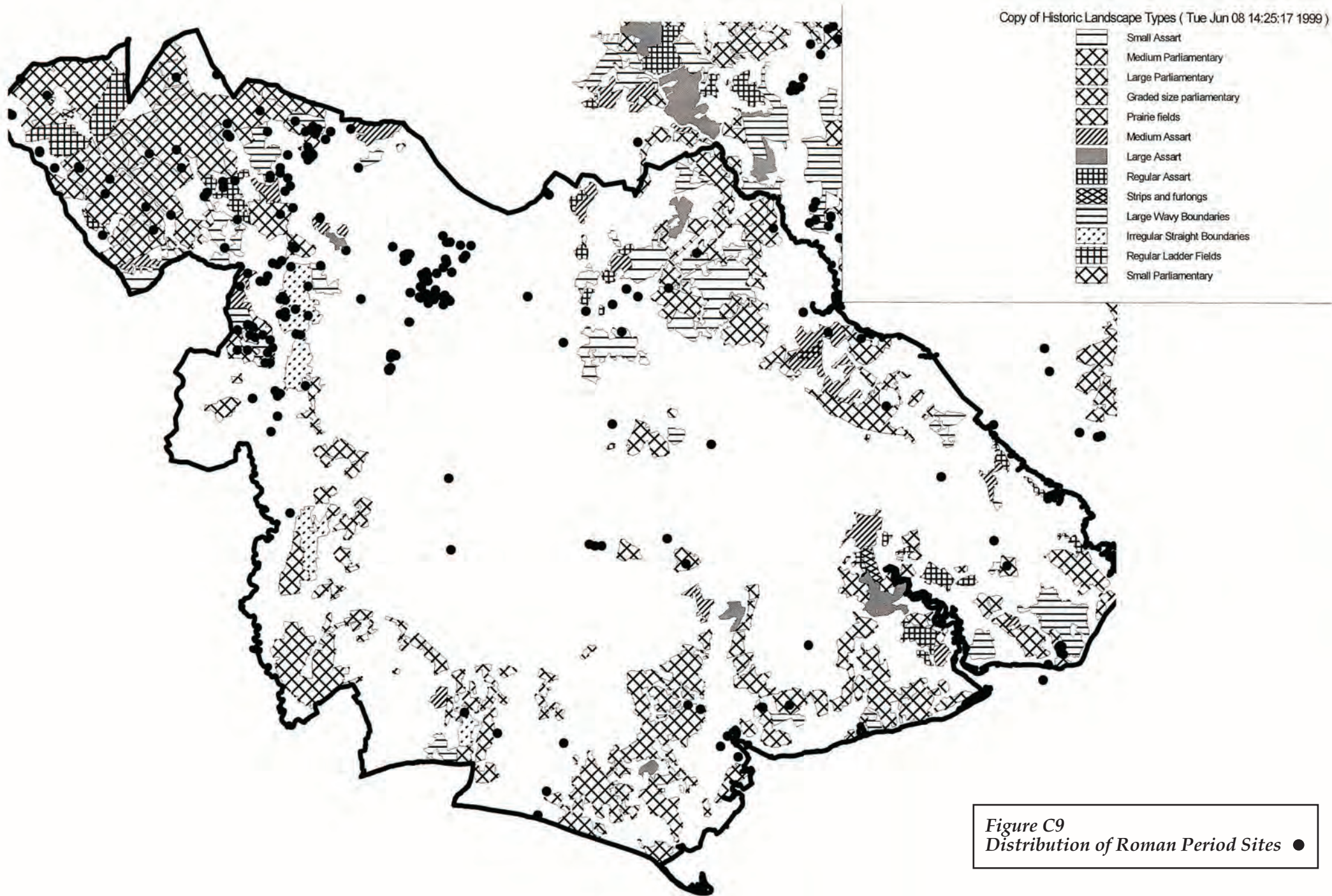
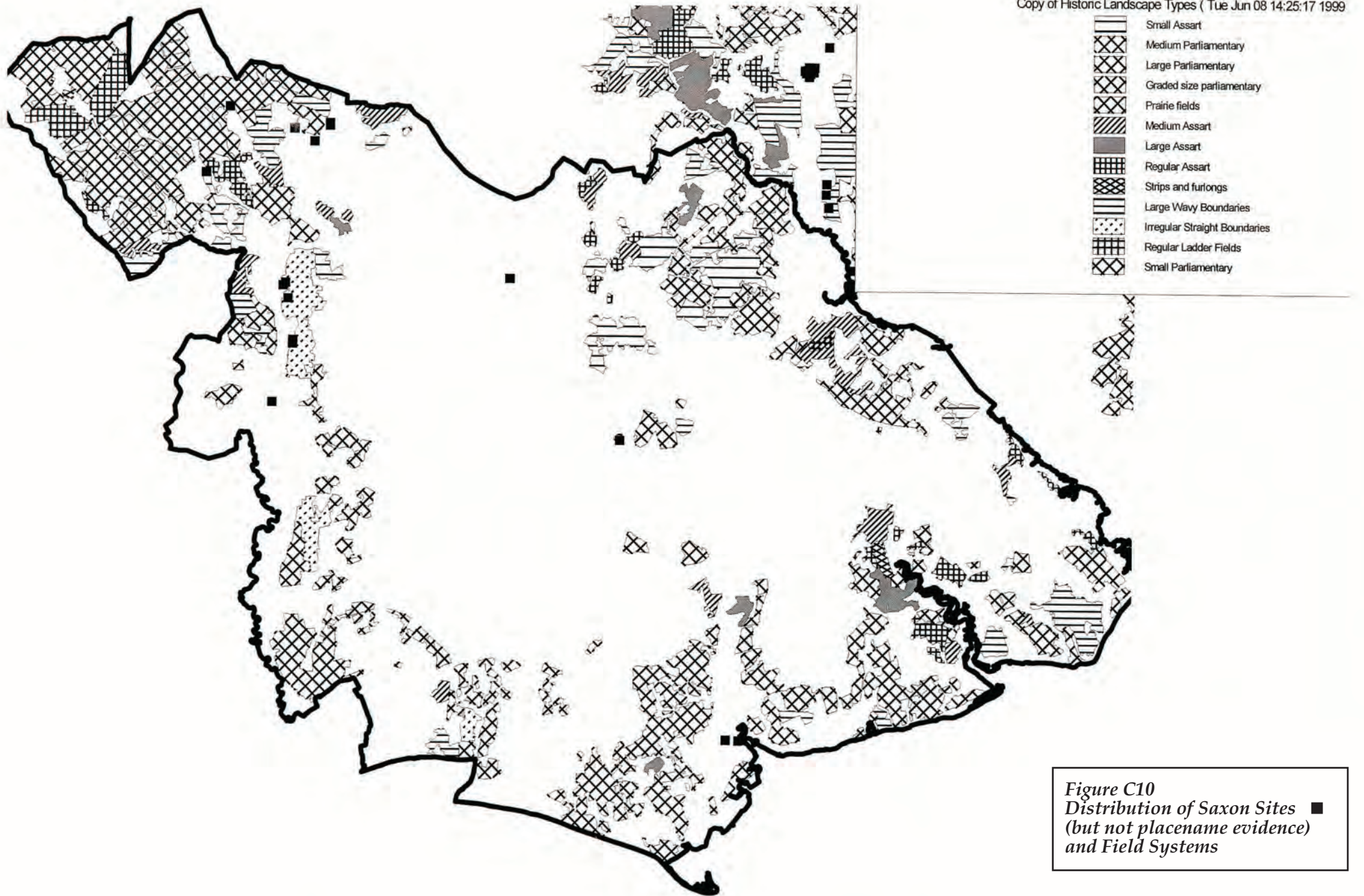


Figure C9
Distribution of Roman Period Sites ●



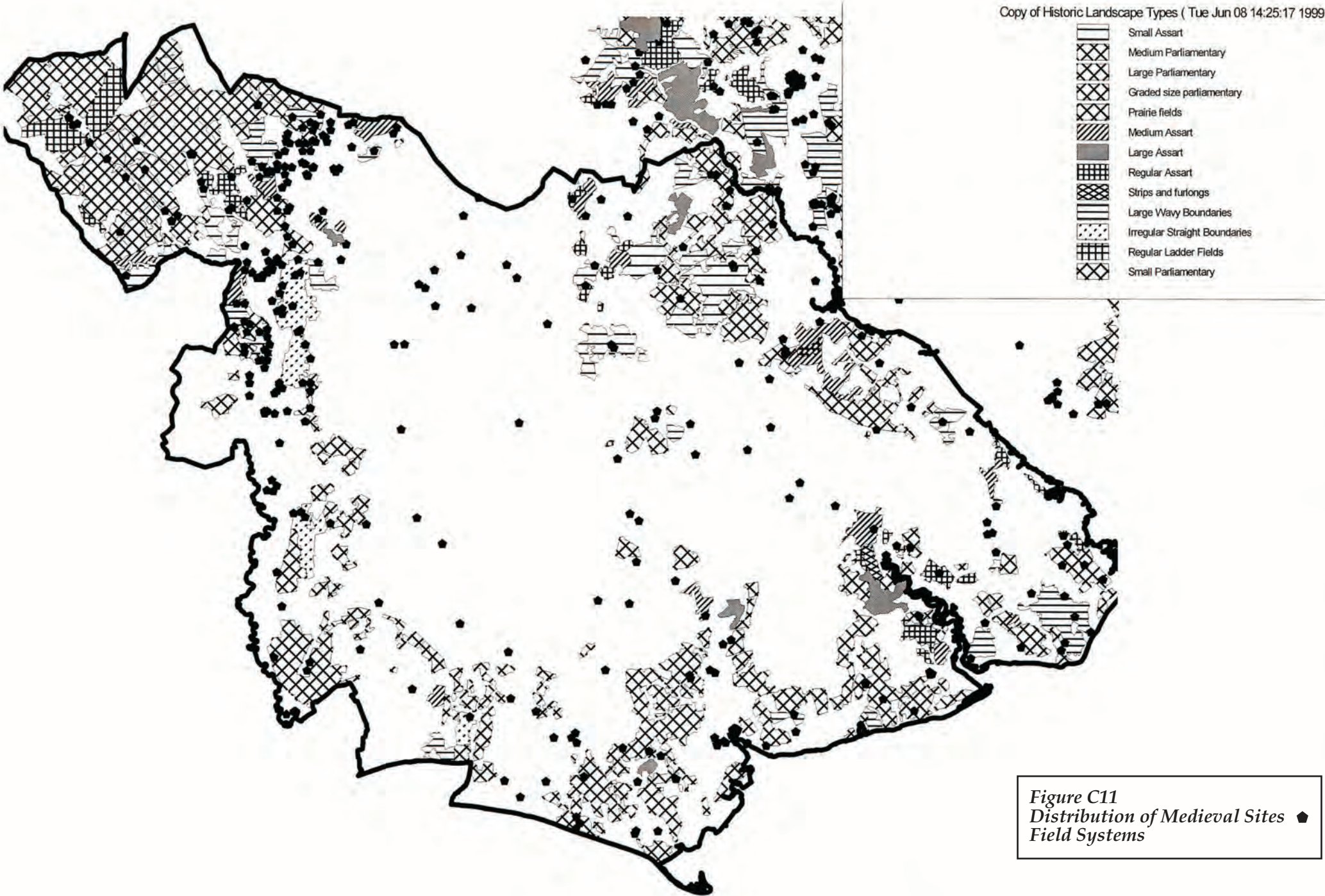


Figure C11
Distribution of Medieval Sites ◆
Field Systems

Annex D

Settlements and their Landscape Settings

The principal settlements and their landscape settings in the New Forest District have been analysed in detail. A *Settlement Analysis Map* for each of the seven towns is accompanied by a written description and analysis. The seven settlements are:

- Hythe;
- Fordingbridge;
- Lymington;
- Lyndhurst;
- New Milton;
- Ringwood;
- Totton.

The written descriptions of the landscape setting of each town are accompanied by notes on its evolution, character, principles for landscape management and the principles for built form. Urban green spaces that provide important links with the open countryside are highlighted using a combination of colour and annotation. The principles suggest appropriate patterns, forms and scales for landscape management and new development - the aim being to ensure that such change helps to reinforce and enhance local landscape character.

The field survey forms for each settlement, which present the results of the desk study and field survey, are presented in *Annex A*.

D1.1

READING THE SETTLEMENT ANALYSIS MAPS

Figure 7 in the main report summarises the location of each settlement in relation to the surrounding LCAs. The boundaries of the LCAs immediately surrounding each settlement have also been drawn onto the *Settlement Analysis Maps* to highlight the relationship that the towns have with the surrounding LCAs. The maps are intended to help planners, developers and land managers to understand the often intricate links between a town, its landscape setting and its principal open spaces. The notations used on the maps are described below. They help to highlight valued elements of the landscape - effectively its 'environmental capital'.

Historical Development

The analysis highlights key phases in the evolution of each settlement:

- *Medieval street patterns* indicate the location and extent of the settlement up until the 15th Century.
- The *historic core* corresponds to the Conservation Area boundary and represents growth up until the mid 19th Century.
- The extent of built development between the mid 19th and mid 20th Century often occupies the largest area within each settlement. The classification does not precisely map *individual buildings* (there may be some post 1960

buildings within these areas), but indicates the *extent* of growth during this period.

- The most *recent built development* is often found on the outskirts of the settlements. This category indicates the extent and pattern of growth over the last 30-40 years.

Historic Parks and Gardens

Historic parks and gardens of recognised importance are identified separately on the analysis maps. Often these occur around the periphery of the settlement and make a valuable contribution to both landscape and settlement character.

Urban Green Spaces

Urban green spaces are open spaces within the settlement, some of which make or have the potential to make a significant contribution to the character of the surrounding urban areas. They may include areas of landscape, ecological or historic importance, such as river corridors, remnant woodland or common land, as well as playing fields and sports grounds.

Key Approaches, Landmarks and Prominent Ridgelines

The *Analysis Maps* record key approaches, landmarks and prominent ridgelines. They indicate visual features which are particularly visible and, as such, may be sensitive to change.

Landscape Setting

Fordingbridge lies on the western edge of the district within the *Upper Avon Valley* landscape character area, a tranquil pastoral landscape with open water meadows and cattle grazing in the shade of mature floodplain trees.

The northern and eastern edges of Fordingbridge are defined by infrastructure; a dismantled railway has prevented built development from spreading in a north-westerly direction and the A338 forms a physical barrier to the east of Fordingbridge. The historic plot of Burgate House lies on the opposite side of the A338.

To the south-east, the edge of the settlement is crisply defined by the River Avon. The floodplain is of high ecological value and the town retains historic links with its floodplain setting in this direction. St Mary's Church is a visual landmark on the southern edge of Fordingbridge. A narrow wooded ridge contains development on the western edge of Fordingbridge. It is this landform and the historic grounds of Sandle Manor School and Packham House which separates the edge of Fordingbridge from the adjacent settlement of Ashford.

Evolution

The name Fordingbridge means 'bridge of dwellers at the ford'. It originated as a Medieval market town which marked the crossing point of the Avon; there is still a weekly market. The old centre of the town follows Bridge Street, High Street and Church Street; some Medieval Burgage plots are still visible along these roads and the longer plots back onto the river. The town is generally 'fan' shaped as a result of Victorian expansion to the north. The parish church is located away from the main medieval centre, possibly as a result of links to a medieval manor.

Settlement Character

Fordingbridge is characterised by a commercial centre and associated housing. It has an important gateway feature (the medieval stone bridge across the Avon) and a distinctive historic town centre. The settlement is dominated by small scale brick buildings, although many of the shops along the High Street are contained within large properties with grand Georgian upper stories; these properties may stand on multiple Burgage plots. There are intermittent Victorian semi detached properties along the southern end of Whitsbury road, but much of the development to the north of the town is post war and 1980-90s housing estates.

Water meadows along the Sweatsford Water are an important feature of the town; they form important green spaces within the urban fabric and link Fordingbridge to its landscape setting within a river valley.

Visual Character

Fordingbridge has a particularly strong relationship with the landscape on its southern edge, where the historic core overlooks the River Avon. The houses are clustered along the roadside with views out into the surrounding countryside. There is a much weaker relationship between town and landscape on the northern and eastern edges; here the modern residential estates face inwards and do not relate well to their surroundings. Garden fences, walls and infrastructure also serve to create visual and physical barriers.

The main approach to Fordingbridge is from the A339 (Fordingbridge bypass). There is a strong visual approach from the south as the road enters the historic core of the town via a medieval bridge across the Avon which functions as a distinctive landmark. The northern approach is weaker; the slip road enters the 'back' of the settlement passing through modern housing estates before entering the historic core.

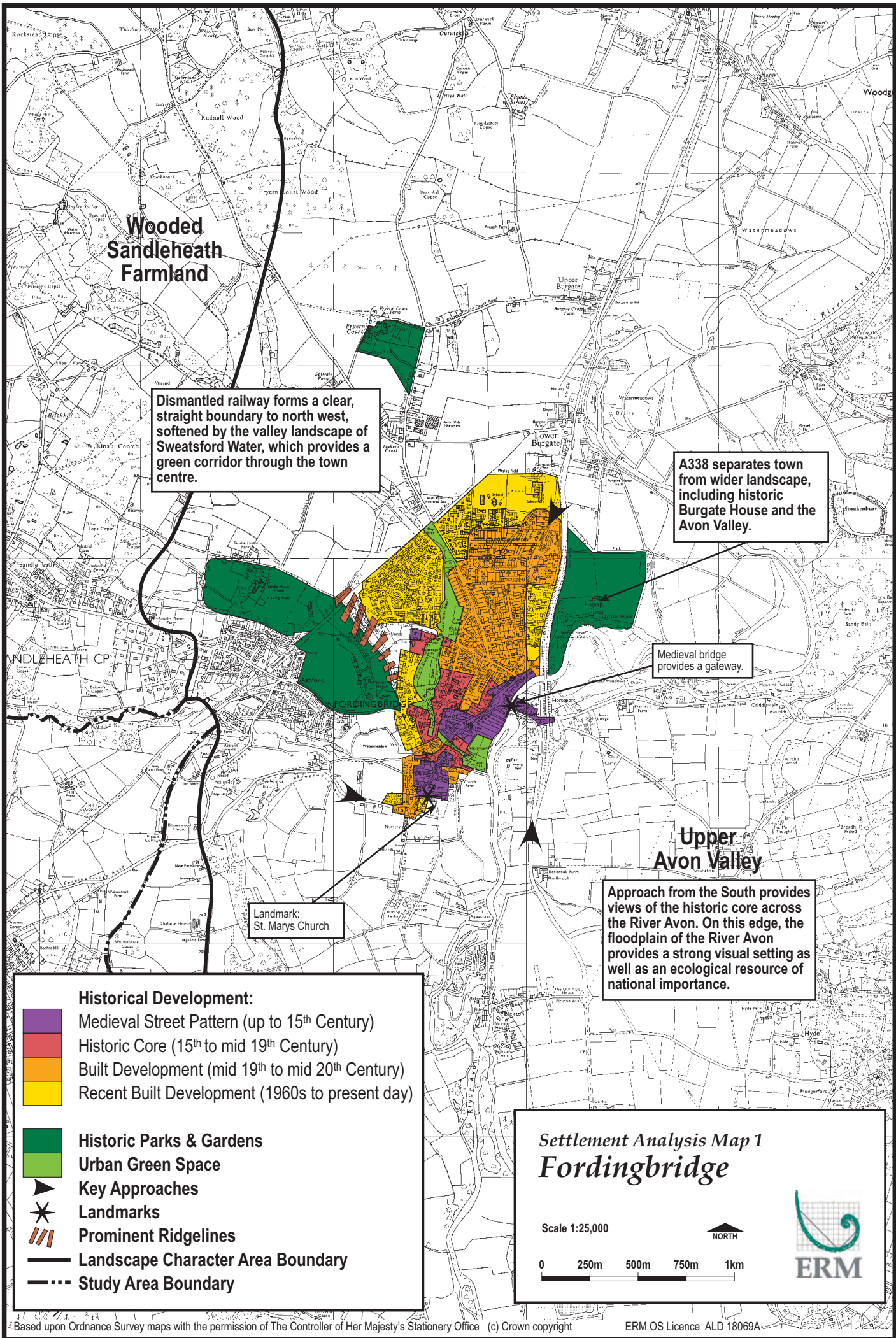
Principles for Strategic Landscape Design

- Improved views and public access to Sweatsford Water and its associated green corridor would considerably enhance its value as a landscape, visual and recreational resource.
 - Improved public access between the town centre and River Avon will enhance recreational use of the town's riverside setting.
 - The conservation of water meadows within urban green spaces will enhance these key habitats and retain the distinctive historic character of this valley settlement.
 - The preservation of the undeveloped area of gardens south of the High Street will ensure historical links between the town and river are conserved.
 - Selective thinning and trimming of high hedges and other tall vegetation at strategic points around the river and town may help to improve views of the town and its riverside setting on the approach from the A339.
 - The creation of distinctive 'gateways' on other principal routes into the town (A339 from the north and approach from Ashford) would help mark these approaches and reduce the impression of entering through the 'back door'.
-

Principles for Built Form

- Built development which faces out into the surrounding landscape rather than inwards will form a better relationship with its landscape setting; development of waterfronts provides exciting opportunities to develop strong links with the surrounding landscape and create an individual sense of place.
 - Town houses are typically small in scale and of a high density; low density bungalows are generally not in character with the landscape. Traditional materials are red brick, sometimes with cream render. Roofs are of handmade tile, slate or thatch.
-

-
- Built form should respond to the local vernacular of the adjacent character area (refer to LCA descriptions) and to local features and landmarks; historic buildings in the local area may give visual cues for the use of materials.
-



**Wooded
Sandleheath
Farmland**

Dismantled railway forms a clear, straight boundary to north west, softened by the valley landscape of Sweatsford Water, which provides a green corridor through the town centre.

A338 separates town from wider landscape, including historic Burgate House and the Avon Valley.

Medieval bridge provides a gateway.

Landmark:
St. Marys Church

**Upper
Avon Valley**

Approach from the South provides views of the historic core across the River Avon. On this edge, the floodplain of the River Avon provides a strong visual setting as well as an ecological resource of national importance.

Historical Development:

- Medieval Street Pattern (up to 15th Century)
- Historic Core (15th to mid 19th Century)
- Built Development (mid 19th to mid 20th Century)
- Recent Built Development (1960s to present day)

Historic Parks & Gardens

- Urban Green Space

Key Approaches


- Landmarks
- Prominent Ridgelines
- Landscape Character Area Boundary
- Study Area Boundary

Settlement Analysis Map 1
Fordingbridge

Scale 1:25,000

NORTH

0 250m 500m 750m 1km



Landscape Setting

Hythe lies on the eastern edge of the district, within the *Waterside Parishes* landscape character area. The north-west fringes of Hythe adjoin the undulating farmland of the *Ashurst and Hythe Forest Farmlands*. The settlement edge is characterised by a poorly defined boundary where residential estates have expanded outwards into the wooded farmland, a small scale landscape of irregular medieval fields.

The south-west fringes are bordered by the *Eastern Forest Heaths*. Here the Totton by-pass (A326) forms an artificial boundary between the settlement and the heathland landscape. Conifer plantations on the former heath border the road, creating a harsh, dark backdrop.

The eastern fringes fall within the *Waterside Parishes*. The north-eastern edge of the settlement abuts Southampton Water. This body of water and adjacent marshes provides a distinctive waterfront setting, with long views across the estuary to Southampton. To the south-east the edges of Hythe are sharply defined by the historic wooded parkland of Furzedown House and Forest Lodge.

Evolution

Hythe was not mentioned in the Domesday book, and the first reference to it is in 1248 as *Huthe* 'landing-place'. Despite its exclusion from Domesday, it is likely that the village was a landing place between the Saxon manors of Fawley and Southampton. During the Medieval period this importance as a landing place continued, with the historic core of the town clustered around the waterfront. Burgage plots have survived flanking the High Street, and running along Prospect Place. The historical routes through the village led to Dibden, Fawley and the Forest. The present pier was built in 1881, and many of the buildings in Hythe date from the 18th and 19th Centuries. Dibden and Dibden Purlieu were once separate settlements surrounded by mature woodland. The villages have spread dramatically in the second half of the 20th Century, giving the feeling of a town rather than separate villages. Hythe's importance in boatbuilding has lessened, but it has gained a new role as a marina for pleasure boats.

Settlement Character

The settlement is dominated by residential dwellings of a medium density. The local vernacular style is rather overwhelmed by the variety of materials and styles present. However, there are many important and distinctive green spaces - remnants of ancient woodland, which are often associated with small streams, and fragments of historic landscapes are trapped within the urban fabric and provide an important visual link with the landscape beyond.

Visual Character

Hythe has an introverted pattern and as such has a rather weak relationship with its surrounding landscape. Recent commercial developments in the town centre have turned their backs to the water front and new residential estates on the outskirts of Hythe tend to be inward-looking. The key approaches to Hythe are from Southampton (by ferry), Little Holbury, Beaulieu and Dibden (by road). These approaches create quite different impressions of the town. Arrival by ferry leads to a rather run down part of the historic town centre. The three main road approaches are through the residential outskirts of the town and provide rather weak entrances to the town as they do not communicate a distinctive identity or sense of place. The strongest of these is the western approach, from Dibden, which does not pass through so many new residential estates before reaching the historic core of the town.

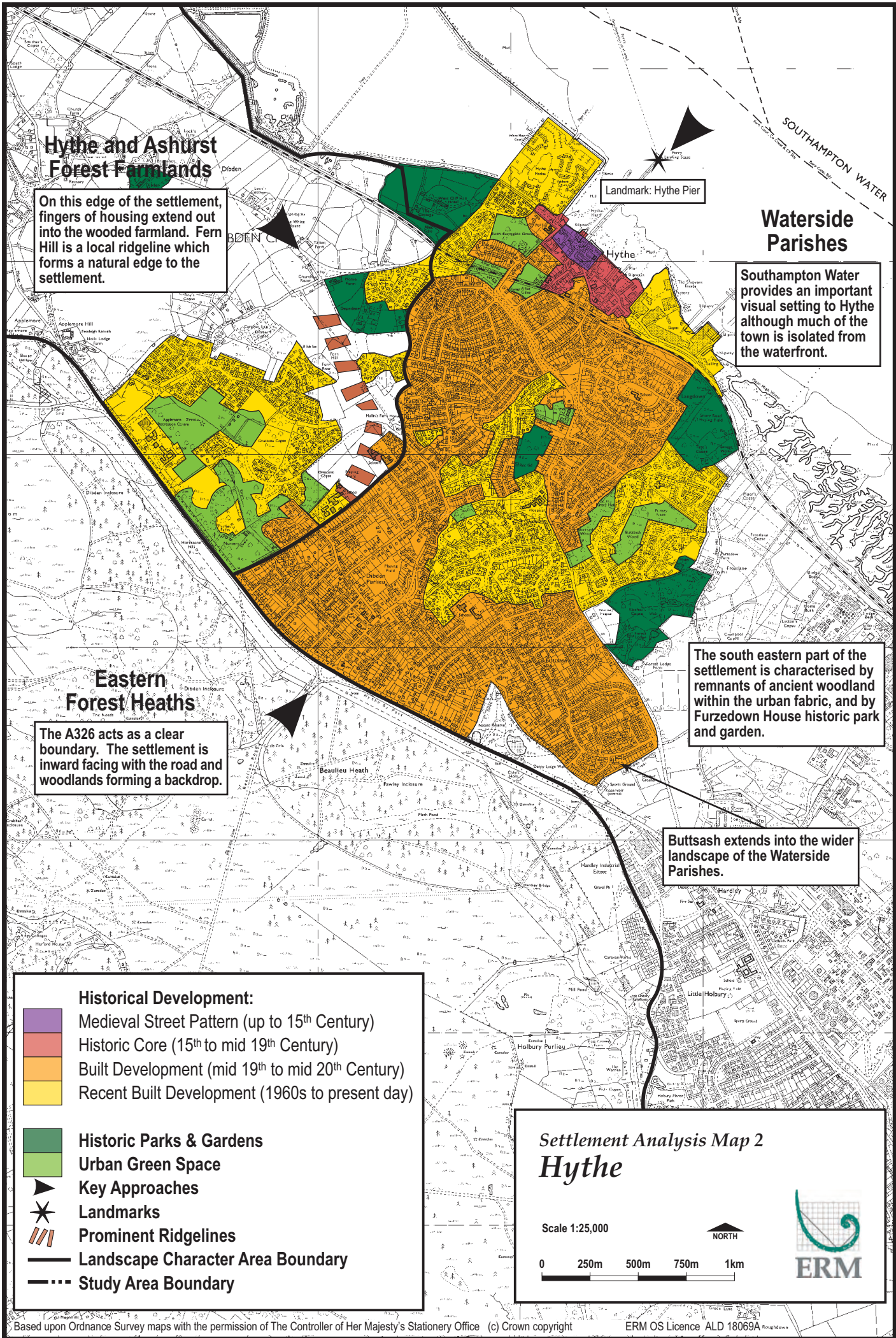
There are views to and from Southampton, across the expanse of Southampton Water; Hythe Pier is a landmark in these views. Fern Hill is a locally prominent ridge which is highly visible from the surrounding areas. It functions as a valuable green space within the built up area. There are also strategic green spaces between Hythe and Marchwood, Hythe and Holbury and along Frost Lane, between Hythe and the adjacent industrial works on the waterfront.

Principles for Strategic Landscape Design

- Any new development on the local ridge of Fern Hill will be highly visible and therefore inappropriate.
 - There is scope to improve the layout and built form of the historic waterfront and promenade area; opening up views and access to the water front will once again make positive use of this space and connect the town to its waterside setting.
 - Conservation and management of the ancient woodland and historic parks and gardens remnants within the residential areas will ensure they continue to contribute to the leafy character of the area, providing links to the wider landscape as well as providing a recreational resource.
 - The creation of distinctive 'gateways' on principal routes into the town (Main Road from Dibden, B3054 from Beaulieu and minor road from Hardley) would help mark the entrance and create a positive impression of the town.
 - Conservation of the pattern of burgage plots along the High Street and Prospect Place will ensure that links with the historic town are retained.
 - Enhanced public access to the waterside will increase the recreational potential provided by the town's waterside setting.
-

Principles for Built Form

- Development of waterfronts provides exciting opportunities to strengthen historic and visual links with the surrounding landscape and creates an individual sense of place.
 - Built form should respond to the local vernacular of the adjacent character area (refer to LCA descriptions). For example built development which adjoins the *Ashurst and Hythe Forest Farmlands* may differ in style and materials to that which borders the *Waterside Parishes* or the *Eastern Forest Heaths*.
 - Local features and landmarks, such as the colour rendered houses and tile hung houses along the water front, may present cues for the use of colour and materials in the area.
 - The creation of high density town housing on brown field sites, particularly close to the waterfront will enhance the character of the town centre and minimise erosion of the landscape setting through residential development.
-



Hythe and Ashurst Forest Farmlands

On this edge of the settlement, fingers of housing extend out into the wooded farmland. Fern Hill is a local ridgeline which forms a natural edge to the settlement.

Landmark: Hythe Pier

Waterside Parishes

Southampton Water provides an important visual setting to Hythe although much of the town is isolated from the waterfront.

Eastern Forest Heaths

The A326 acts as a clear boundary. The settlement is inward facing with the road and woodlands forming a backdrop.

The south eastern part of the settlement is characterised by remnants of ancient woodland within the urban fabric, and by Furzedown House historic park and garden.

Buttsash extends into the wider landscape of the Waterside Parishes.

Historical Development:

- Medieval Street Pattern (up to 15th Century)
- Historic Core (15th to mid 19th Century)
- Built Development (mid 19th to mid 20th Century)
- Recent Built Development (1960s to present day)

Historic Parks & Gardens

- Urban Green Space

Key Approaches


- Landmarks
- Prominent Ridgelines
- Landscape Character Area Boundary
- Study Area Boundary

Settlement Analysis Map 2
Hythe

Scale 1:25,000

0 250m 500m 750m 1km

NORTH



Landscape Setting

Lymington lies at the mouth of the Lymington River, in the south of the district, within the *Lymington and Pennington Coastal Plain*, a wooded estate landscape characterised by large field systems, woodlands and historic parks and gardens. To the east of the settlement, the Lymington River forms a distinctive and scenic setting. The river is renowned for its exceptionally diverse flora and fauna and at this point the river also has important tidal habitats.

The northern edge of Lymington adjoins the wooded undulating landscape of the *Lymington River*. This settlement edge is characterised by a poorly defined boundary where industrial development has expanded northwards along the Lymington River and railway line. The Iron Age hillfort of Buckland Rings, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, provides an important link between history, culture and landscape.

The north-west fringes adjoin the rural landscape of *Sway Pastures and Smallholdings*, a small scale ancient farmed landscape with deep wooded valleys. There is a sharp boundary between the urban areas of Pennington and Upper Pennington and Pennington Common, an urban green space valued for its recreational and ecological value as well as its historic significance as communal open space. The broad wooded valley of the Avon Water provides a setting for the whole settlement, contributing to the recreational and landscape resource of the area as well as providing important ecological links to Pennington Common.

Evolution

Lymington was mentioned in the Domesday as '*lemetune*' 'elms farm'. The town was a new borough planned between 1184 and 1216 as a linear settlement with regular burgage plots (long narrow plots of land, with a building along the street frontage). Many of these burgage plots have remained in Lymington; the commercial centre is still focused within the Medieval core of the town. Many of the shops have Georgian facades but these may cover surviving medieval buildings. The post war expansion of the town has amalgamated the historic cores of Pennington and Buckland within its outskirts, although these have encaptured green spaces within the spread of the town, eg Pennington Common and the Gurney Dixon Centre. The major building periods within Lymington are seen as Victorian, Georgian, post War and late twentieth century housing.

The historical significance of Lymington was focused on its marine location, as a centre of salt trade and piracy. The salt trade affected the character of town by the creation of salt pans using the tidal flood plains, and also ports and harbours for salt distribution. However, the town is now a centre for pleasure boats and the Isle of Wight Ferry.

Settlement Character

The majority of the settlement is dominated by leafy medium density residential areas of a variety of ages. The distinct areas around Pennington, Buckland, the town centre and waterfront demonstrate different local styles and materials. Traditional thatched cottages and small red brick cottages are found within the urban fabric that was the distinct village of Pennington, large scale brick and tile houses are characteristic of the Buckland area, and terraces of smooth rendered, brightly coloured, town houses characterise the town centre. The character of the water front is quite different with marinas, well tended public gardens, large open car parks, blocks of flats with large picture windows overlooking the estuary, boat building sheds and industry. The local vernacular is slate, wood and coloured render.

The majority of green spaces within the town are recreation grounds, school playing fields and cemeteries although the Gurney Dixon Centre and Pennington Common function as important urban spaces which have strong historic and ecological functions as well as providing valuable recreational ground for the local population.

Visual Character

Lymington generally has a strong relationship with its surrounding landscape, particularly along the waterfront and at Pennington Common where buildings are outward looking, and sited to take advantage of the long views. However, visual links have been severed at Lower Buckland, where industrial development and the railway line create a barrier between the town and its landscape setting. The visual relationship is also weak on the northern and southern fringes of the town where residential estates tend to be inward-facing and therefore do not relate well to their surroundings.

The main approaches to Lymington are via the A337 from Christchurch, A337 from Lyndhurst, B3054 from Beaulieu and by ferry. The A337 approach from Lyndhurst, the B3054 approach from Beaulieu and the ferry approach are all strong, arriving at distinct 'gateways' which indicate arrival at an important settlement. In contrast, the A337 approach from Christchurch is relatively weak, giving the impression that it enters through the 'back' of the settlement.

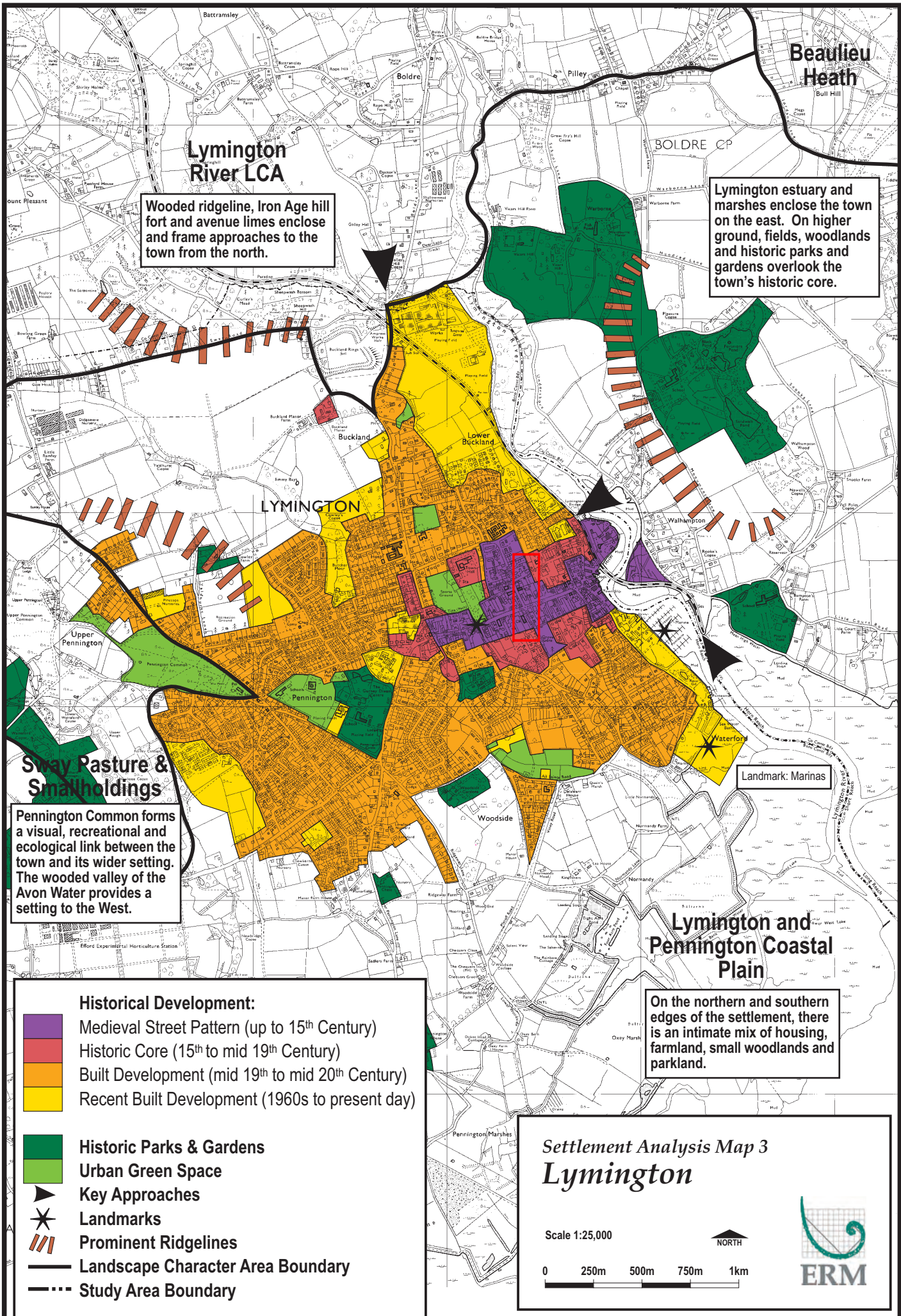
The main views in and out of Lymington are across the estuary; the Isle of Wight is visible from the High Street. Boat masts clustered together within the marinas and coloured terraces of town houses on the waterfront town form distinctive visual 'landmarks'. Walhampton retains its separate identity, being physically separated from the main settlement of Lymington by the river estuary.

Principles for Strategic Landscape Design

- There is scope to enhance connections between the town and its water side setting by opening up views and access to the water front; industrial areas or large expanses of open surface car parking may form a barrier to movement and views.
 - The wooded estate land character of the *Barton and Milford Coastal Plain* may be used to give cues for the design of settings for new built development; historic parks and gardens are a feature of the area.
 - Conservation and management of the avenue of 18th Century limes along Southampton Road will conserve this entrance feature; new planting to replace trees as they near their life expectancy will ensure a new generation of limes survives.
 - Any new built development on the ridgelines at Cowley Farm to the north-west or above Walhampton to the east would be particularly visible and therefore inappropriate.
 - Priority should be given to the conservation of Pennington Common as a recreational, historical and ecological resource; important links to the wooded valley of the Avon Water should also be conserved as they are vital to its status as an important ecological site.
 - Conservation of the pattern of burgage plots and ancient footpaths in the Medieval core of the town will preserve the historic structure of the town centre.
-

Principles for Built Form

- Built form should respond to the local vernacular of the adjacent character area (refer to LCA descriptions). For example built development which adjoins the *Barton and Milford Coastal Plain* or *Lymington and Pennington Coastal Plain* may differ in style and materials to that which borders the *Sway Smallholdings and Dwellings* or the *Lymington River*.
 - Built form should respond to local features and landmarks, such as Buckland Manor, Chawton House and Bellevue House, and may give visual cues for use of materials in that area.
 - Priority should be given to conserving the distinctive character and identity of the different areas (Pennington, Buckland, the town centre and the water front) through traditional built form and materials.
 - Rows of coloured houses are features of the town.
 - The scale of building is the key to achieving appropriate built form; houses of different ages, styles, heights and colours are unified by their scale.
-



Wooded ridgeline, Iron Age hill fort and avenue limes enclose and frame approaches to the town from the north.

Lymington estuary and marshes enclose the town on the east. On higher ground, fields, woodlands and historic parks and gardens overlook the town's historic core.

Sway Pasture & Smallholdings

Pennington Common forms a visual, recreational and ecological link between the town and its wider setting. The wooded valley of the Avon Water provides a setting to the West.

Landmark: Marinas

Lymington and Pennington Coastal Plain

On the northern and southern edges of the settlement, there is an intimate mix of housing, farmland, small woodlands and parkland.

Historical Development:

- Medieval Street Pattern (up to 15th Century)
- Historic Core (15th to mid 19th Century)
- Built Development (mid 19th to mid 20th Century)
- Recent Built Development (1960s to present day)

Historic Parks & Gardens

- Urban Green Space

Key Approaches


- Landmarks
- Prominent Ridgelines
- Landscape Character Area Boundary
- Study Area Boundary

Settlement Analysis Map 3
Lymington

Scale 1:25,000

NORTH

0 250m 500m 750m 1km



Landscape Setting

Lyndhurst lies in the centre of the New Forest at the historic crossing point of routes across the forest. The majority of the settlement falls within the *Furzey Inclosures and Villages*. However, the eastern edge abuts the *Eastern Forest Heaths*.

The north, south and west fringes of Lyndhurst adjoin the fields, streams, woodland and parkland of the *Furzey Inclosures and Villages*. Today, Lyndhurst is characterised by an uneven settlement boundary. The expansion of built development has been restricted in places by historic parkland (Northerwood Park to the west and Foxlease and Wilverley Parks to the south) while elsewhere development has spread out along the main feeder roads (A35 and A337). The close relationship between the fringes of Lyndhurst and its landscape setting is largely due to the fact that modern residential estates have not encircled Lyndhurst.

The eastern edge of Lyndhurst abuts the *Eastern Forest Heaths* and is contained by the A35. The heaths provide a distinctive setting for Lyndhurst where recreational interests are met and character provides some visual interest as well as a visual and ecological links to the New Forest heaths. In addition, it provides a setting for the historic landmark of Bolton's Bench.

Evolution

Lyndhurst developed as a crossing point of routes through the forest. In Domesday it was called 'Linehest' which means 'lime wood' indicating it has always had a wooded setting. It developed linearly along the A35, where its medieval street pattern may still be seen. The Victorian and Edwardian redevelopment plots have had considerable impact on the town and the addition of post-war housing has further altered the character and shape of the town. Growth to the south has connected Goose Green with the main body of Lyndhurst, although traffic has created barriers to movement between different parts of the town. There has been little post 1960's development.

Settlement Character

The settlement is dominated by residential dwellings, hotels and historic buildings, such as The Verderer's Hall (dating from 1388). The older two storey properties are either red brick, or white rendered, with slate roofs. The ornate Victorian and Edwardian three storey red brick, tile-hung buildings are on a larger scale and contrast with the earlier cottages. The majority of green spaces within the town are of historic or landscape importance; the open space behind the Queen's House (at Shrub's Hill) and the grounds of Appletree Court are both important for their mature specimen trees. Goose Green is of historic importance as it functioned as a village green for the

hamlet of Goose Green. Today, however, it is trapped by busy roads and no longer fulfils its social or landscape function.

Visual Character

Lyndhurst generally has a very strong relationship with its surrounding setting, particularly where houses face outwards onto the landscape. This is particularly evident where older buildings form a direct relationship with the landscape, for example at The Bench and the northern edge near the Police Headquarters. Newer areas of housing such as Pikeshill are inward-looking, but still maintain a close relationship with the landscape by incorporating local landscape features and characteristics, such as a wooded setting.

The main approaches to Lyndhurst are via the A337 north and south and the A35 east or west. These all have distinct entrances which indicate arrival at the settlement. Views into Lyndhurst are obtained from high ground surrounding the settlement; Swan Green and Bolton's Bench are examples of such areas. From these vantage points the spire of St Michael's Church forms a landmark. Strategic green spaces still survive between Clayhill and Goose Green, and Emery Down and Lyndhurst.

Principles for Strategic Landscape Design

- Increased access to urban open spaces would considerably enhance their value as landscape, visual and recreational resources.
 - The connectivity and communication between different parts of the settlement may be enhanced by reducing the dominance of traffic and encouraging a network of footpaths and cycleways.
 - The importance of Goose Green as a village green may be re-created by linking it back into the hamlet of goose Green on at least one side, removing traffic which creates a barrier to its use. Grazing, or tree planting could enhance its character as a traditional village green.
-

Principles for Built Form

- Houses which face out into the surrounding landscape form the strongest links with their setting and have a local sense of place.
 - Built form should respond to the local vernacular of the adjacent character area (refer to LCA descriptions). For example built development which adjoins the *Furzey Woodlands and Villages* may differ in style and materials to that which borders the *Eastern Forest Heaths* landscape character area.
 - Built form should reflect local features of the landscape such as the timber framing and tile hanging on the Crown Hotel, the iron railings along Queens road or the walls alongside Goose Green; these may provide visual cues for use of materials in that area.
-

Furzey Woodland and Villages

The form of the town still reflects its historic function as a crossroads. Older buildings on the fingers of the town have retained their strong visual links with the wider landscape.

Eastern Forest Heaths

On the east, the settlement faces out onto the open heathland of White Moor.











Historic Landmark: Bolton's Bench

Historic 'Goose Green' is now isolated by traffic

Parks and gardens provide open space and a historic setting to Lyndhurst.

New Forest Central Woodlands

Woodlands enclose the town on the south and west, forming a backdrop to views.

- Historical Development:**
-  Medieval Street Pattern (up to 15th Century)
 -  Historic Core (15th to mid 19th Century)
 -  Built Development (mid 19th to mid 20th Century)
 -  Recent Built Development (1960s to present day)
- Historic Parks & Gardens**
-  Urban Green Space
- Key Approaches**
- 
- Landmarks**
- 
- Prominent Ridgelines**
- 
- Landscape Character Area Boundary**
- 
- Study Area Boundary**
- 

Settlement Analysis Map 4 Lyndhurst

Scale 1:25,000

0 250m 500m 750m 1km



Landscape Setting

New Milton lies approximately 2km from the cliffs of the north-west Solent Coast. It falls within the *Barton and Milford Coastal Plain* landscape character area, but the north-eastern fringes of the settlement are within the *Sway Pasture and Smallholdings* area.

The north-eastern fringe of New Milton has a well defined boundary which borders the wooded corridor of the Danes Stream. This wooded corridor, including small irregular medieval field patterns, ancient deciduous woodland and parkland at Bashley Park, forms a distinctive landscape setting for New Milton by providing important ecological, historic and recreational resources as well as a visual backdrop to the settlement.

All other urban fringes of New Milton fall within the *Barton and Milford Coastal Plain* and are characterised by a poorly defined, or degraded, edge. The southern edges of New Milton have merged with Barton-on-Sea resulting in erosion of landscape setting and sense of place. In other places enlargement of fields, industrial development or mineral extraction works have eroded the character of the urban fringes. The northern boundary of New Milton is contained by the wooded water courses and open grounds of one of the tributaries of Danes Stream. This provides a valuable woodland habitat and recreational resource and is marked as an important landscape setting on the map.

Evolution

'Old Milton' was mentioned in the Domesday book as *Midletune*, or 'middle farm'. The development of New Milton grew around the railway in the 19th Century. The scale of the 19th and 20th Century developments within New Milton and Barton-on-Sea dwarfs the historic core of 'Old Milton'. The High Street of New Milton is a linear late 19th century development with 1960s infill.

Settlement Character

The settlement is dominated by medium density residential dwellings with many semi-detached and detached bungalows. Red brick is the dominant building material, although there are a variety of materials and styles. Green spaces within the urban fabric are limited to recreation grounds, school playing fields and the war memorial park in the centre which, although flat and featureless, provide a valuable recreational resource for the local population. The green in the centre of Old Milton is an historic space which has now been marred by the presence of traffic and the clutter of urban elements such as signs.

Visual Character

New Milton has a rather weak relationship with its surrounding landscape; the character of the landscape is not reflected within the settlement itself and there are few visual connections between New Milton and its landscape setting. The modern residential estates are inward-facing and tend to ignore their surroundings. However, the eastern edge of the settlement has an intimate relationship with the adjacent small scale field pattern and on the northern edges of New Milton properties look out onto Great Copse Wood and surrounds. In these locations the relationship between New Milton and its landscape setting is much stronger.

The main approaches to New Milton are the A337 west from Christchurch, A337 east from Lymington, the B3058 south from Milford-on-Sea and B3058 north from Lyndhurst. The northern approach is leafy in character and presents an attractive entrance to the town. The southerly approach, by contrast, is through the residential outskirts of Barton-on-Sea and New Milton where landscape structure and sense of place is weak. The easterly approach, along the A337 from Lymington, is also weak, passing disused mineral workings before entering through New Milton's residential outskirts. The westerly approach along the A337 benefits from its arrival in the historic centre of Old Milton. However, there are opportunities to improve the legibility of this area. There are no views or landmarks of note.

Expansion of New Milton has merged the settlements of Ashley, Barton-on-Sea and Old Milton into one indistinguishable mass of residential estates. However, important strategic green spaces still exist between New Milton and Walkford, New Milton and Bashley and New Milton and Hordle.

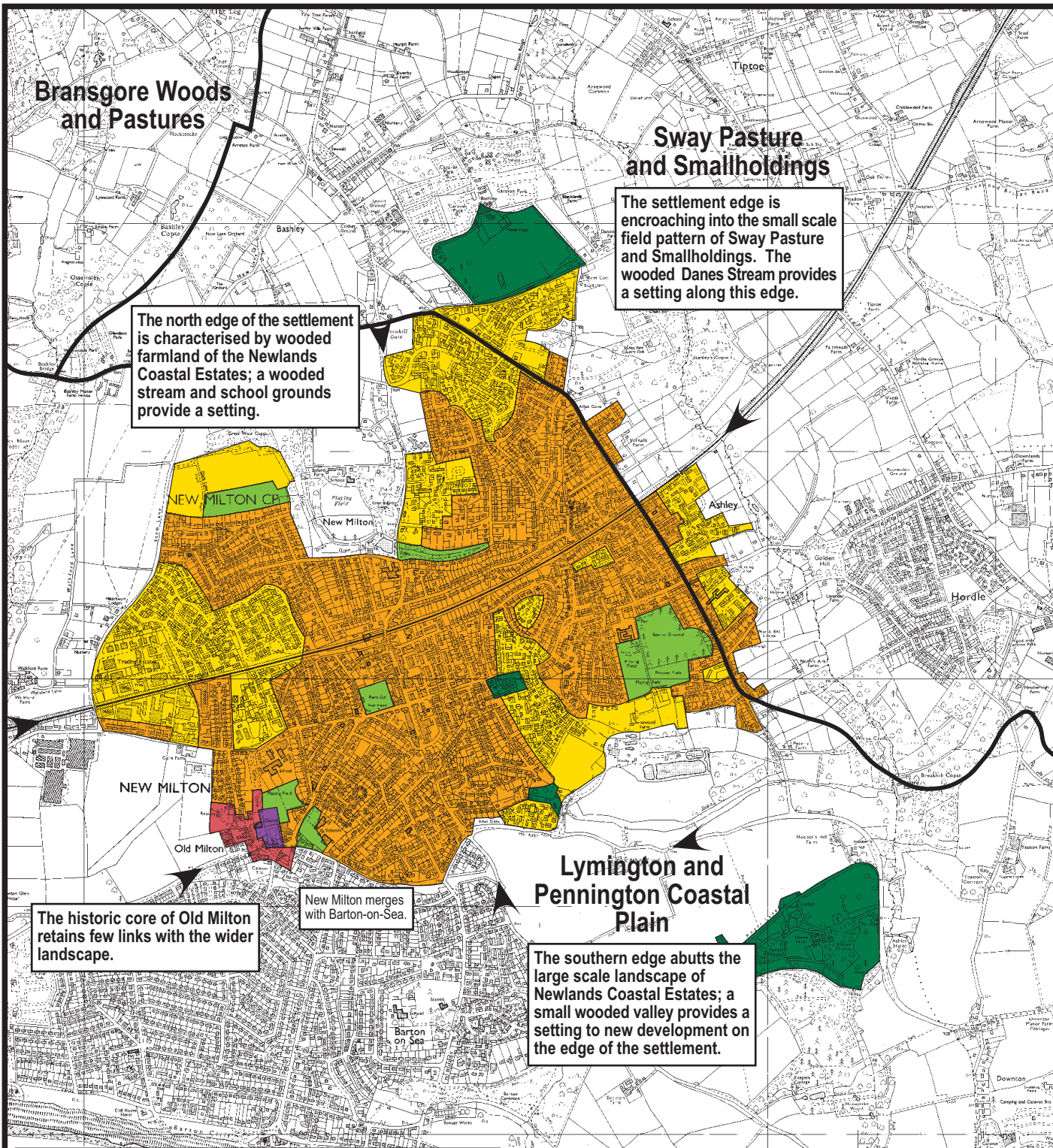
Principles for Strategic Landscape Design

- Priority should be given to the conservation of strategic green spaces between New Milton and the settlements of Walkford, Bashley and Hordle so that they retain their individual local character and sense of place.
 - Opportunities to improve the legibility and sense of place of the town centre may take the form of a series of visual landmarks, enhancement of the settings of traditional buildings and improvement in design of, and access to, important urban green spaces such as the War Memorial Park and Old Milton Green.
 - The enhancement of principal routes into the town, perhaps by creating distinctive 'gateways' through use of tree planting, enhancing views to key buildings or signage, would help mark the major approaches and create a positive impression of the town.
 - Priority should be given to enhancing the distinctive identity of the different areas within New Milton (Ashley, Old Milton, New Milton), for example through tree planting, signage and street furniture, reflecting recognised local features of interest.
 - Priority should be given to the conservation of the distinctive small scale field pattern along the eastern edge of the settlement and the close links between the settlement and its setting.
-

-
- Restoration of the disused mineral workings on the southern edge of the settlement may provide opportunities to improve the landscape setting, taking cues and visual references from the character of the surrounding area.
-

Principles for Built Form

- Built form which responds to the *scale* and *pattern* of the local landscape will be most successful in strengthening the character of the town and encouraging visual links to its setting.
 - Built form should respond to the local vernacular and scale of the adjacent character area (refer to LCA descriptions). For example built development which adjoins the *Sway Pasture and Smallholdings* may differ in style, materials and scale to that which borders the *Barton and Milford Coastal Plain* landscape character area.
 - Built form should respond to local features and landmarks, such as Old Milton, which is a Conservation Area and may give cues for use of materials in that area.
 - Local materials are brick and smooth render with slate roofing or thatch.
-



Bransgore Woods and Pastures

Sway Pasture and Smallholdings

The settlement edge is encroaching into the small scale field pattern of Sway Pasture and Smallholdings. The wooded Danes Stream provides a setting along this edge.

The north edge of the settlement is characterised by wooded farmland of the Newlands Coastal Estates; a wooded stream and school grounds provide a setting.

NEW MILTON CP

NEW MILTON

Old Milton

New Milton merges with Barton-on-Sea.

Lymington and Pennington Coastal Plain

The historic core of Old Milton retains few links with the wider landscape.

The southern edge abuts the large scale landscape of Newlands Coastal Estates; a small wooded valley provides a setting to new development on the edge of the settlement.

Historical Development:

- Medieval Street Pattern (up to 15th Century)
- Historic Core (15th to mid 19th Century)
- Built Development (mid 19th to mid 20th Century)
- Recent Built Development (1960s to present day)

Historic Parks & Gardens

- Urban Green Space

Key Approaches

-

Landmarks

-

Prominent Ridgelines

-

Landscape Character Area Boundary

-

Study Area Boundary

-

Settlement Analysis Map 5
New Milton

Scale 1:25,000

NORTH

Landscape Setting

Ringwood lies on the banks of the River Avon. To the north of the town is the *Upper Avon* landscape character area and to the south is the *Lower Avon*. The steeply wooded hillside of *Poulner Woods and Pastures* encloses the town to the east.

The western edge of Ringwood is sharply defined by the Avon floodplain which, due to its scale and status, provides a distinctive setting for the town. The floodplain is a valued wetland habitat, but also provides long views and valuable recreational opportunities. The north-west edge is artificially defined by the A31(T), a massive six-lane road which by-passes the historic core of Ringwood, but cuts through the remainder of the settlement.

The northern edge of Ringwood borders onto the *Upper Avon Valley* and is artificially defined by the 'Blashford Lakes' - a series of redundant gravel pits which are now open water. The lakes themselves are hidden by woodland which forms a backdrop to the settlement.

The southern fringe of Ringwood borders the *Lower Avon Valley*, a large scale open landscape of grazed floodplain meadows and regular parliamentary fields. This edge is characterised by a geometric boundary which is weakly defined by field boundaries. The gravel extraction pit north of Crow prevents further expansion south.

The eastern edge of Ringwood abuts the steeply wooded valley side of the *Poulner Woods and Pastures*, an area of forest smallholdings and ancient semi-natural woodland. The interface between Ringwood with this landscape is sharply defined by Poulner Hill. The scale of this wooded ridge enables it to provide a strong setting for the town of Ringwood.

Evolution

Ringwood was mentioned in the Domesday book as *Rimcuwuda* 'border wood'. The earliest recognisable form of the town is represented by its Medieval core and layout as shown by remnant burgage plots and the linear street layout at its centre. The layout of the plots is visible in the consistency of building sizes along the High Street and Market Place, however most of the typical long plots have been built on. Ringwood owes some of its importance to its location at a cross-roads of routes across the Forest, with a large number of inns in the town as a testimony to the need for frequent stops before the advent of the motorcar.

In addition to the Medieval core of the town an additional centre can be seen along Hightown road, which was associated with the railway station, (now removed). The spread of the town has also been influenced by the construction of the bypass which has focused the new development out

towards the east. To the west and north spread has been limited by the Avon and the Poulner and Blashford lakes.

Settlement Character

Ringwood is dominated by large residential areas; the historic core is located on the west of the settlement where it is disconnected from its floodplain setting by the A31(T). The residential estates are dominated by post (and inter) war housing with many bungalows as well as many 1980-90s estates. A large amount of the housing in the historic part of Ringwood is small scale 17th-19th century brick terraces with tiled roofs, although some larger detached 18th Century town houses were also built, such as Manor House, Greyfriars and Bridge House. The core of the town is characterised by Georgian and Victorian facades, although there are most likely Medieval buildings surviving behind these later frontages. The remains of village lanes with thatched roadside cottages have also been preserved within the historic core. Bickerley Common is an important historic green space which was used for football and cricket in the 19th century and is now managed by the Town Council.

Visual Character

Ringwood has historically had a strong relationship with its landscape, although recent infrastructure and industrial developments have disconnected the town from its setting. This is particularly noticeable to the north-west of the historic core where the A31(T) has divided the town from the Avon, along the southern edge of the town where large scale industrial buildings dominate, and on the north of the town where the disused gravel pits have altered the character of the landscape.

Approaching Ringwood from the west, along the six lane A31(T), motorists pass at great speeds over the Avon; the only visual clue that they are approaching Ringwood is St Peter and St Paul's Church which is a prominent visual landmark at the side of the road. Infrastructure dominates the local environment. Approaching from the east, there are dramatic views over the Avon Valley and Ringwood from Poulner Hill; the tower of St Peter and St Paul's Church can be seen rising above the treeline. Approaching from the north on the A338, there is no visual indication of the presence of a town until the road passes underneath the A31(T). All of the above routes converge at this point and enter Ringwood via the series of roundabouts where infrastructure, large scale red brick buildings and car parks now dominate the entrance to the town. This provides a rather hostile and alien entrance to an historic town.

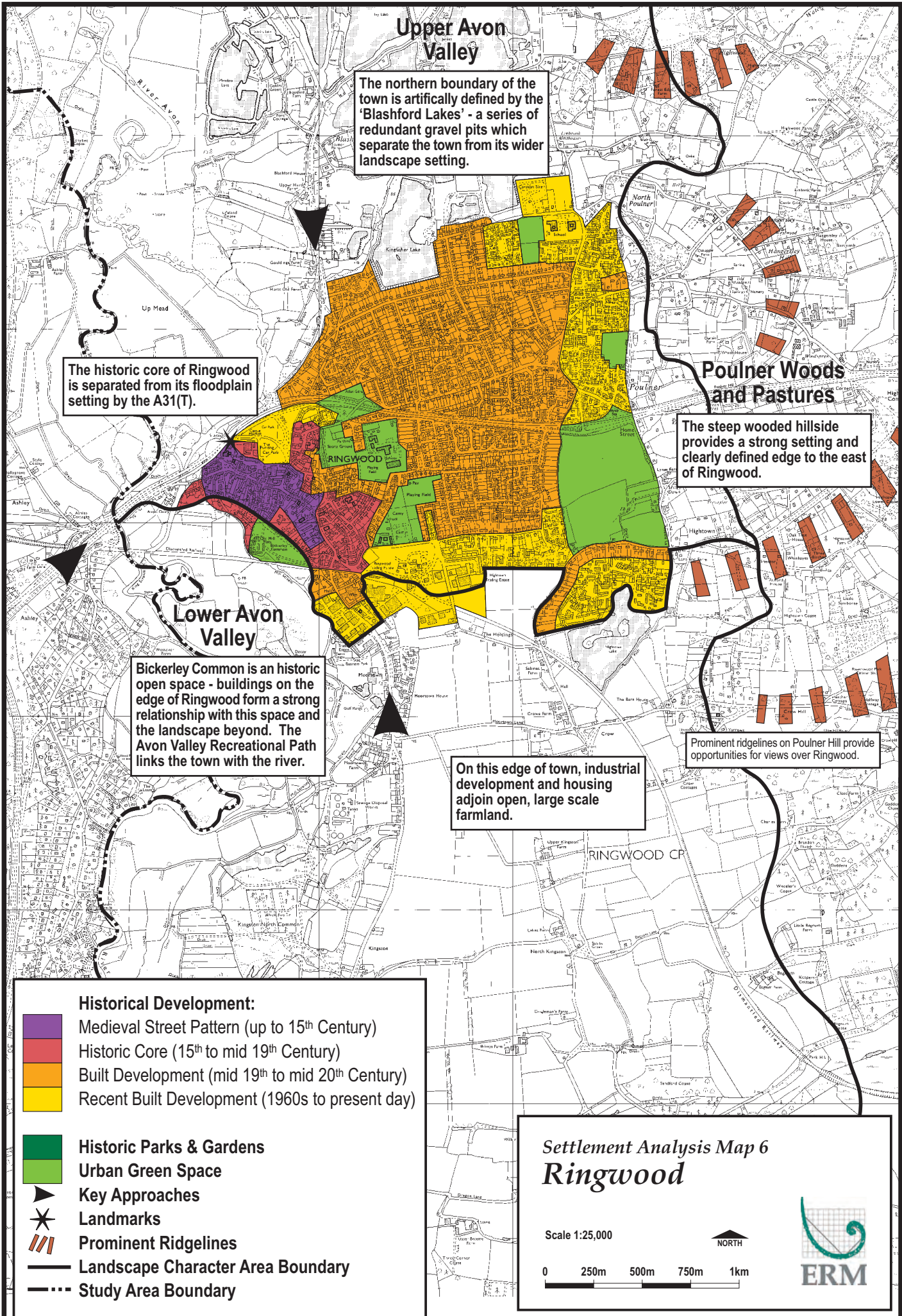
Housing, industry and other urban fringe land uses have spread, ribbon style, along the southern approach road, the B3347. This has resulted in the merging of the village of Moortown with Ringwood; distinctive buildings within this village now mark the 'entrance' to Ringwood. A strategic gap still remains, albeit small, between Ringwood and Blashford to the north.

Principles for Strategic Landscape Design

- Priority should be given to enhancing the setting of the town by opening up visual and physical links to the Avon Valley, particularly enhancing views across the River Avon.
 - There are considerable opportunities to improve the northern entrance to the town through tree planting and appropriate built form, scale and use of materials to reflect the local character of the town.
 - Reinstatement of ancient footpaths would improve pedestrian links across the town.
 - Conservation of the pattern of remnant burgage plats in the Medieval core of the town will preserve historic features of the town.
 - The character of Bickerley Common could be enhanced by reinstating grazing as a land use and by opening up physical and visual links to the Avon Valley.
-

Principles for Built Form

- Built form which responds to the *scale* and *pattern* of the local landscape will be most successful in strengthening the character of the town and encouraging visual links to its setting.
 - Built form should respond to the local vernacular and scale of the adjacent character area (refer to LCA descriptions). For example built development which adjoins the *Poulner Woods and Pastures* will differ in style, materials and scale to that which borders the *Upper* or *Lower Avon Valley* landscape character areas.
 - Built form should respond to local features and landmarks, such as The Market Place and the Furlong Centre; these may give cues for use of materials in the town centre.
 - The town houses tend to be small in scale and constructed from red brick with tile roofs. Surrounding lanes feature cottages which are characterised by their white rendered walls and thatched roofs.
 - The creation of high density town housing on brown field sites, particularly close to the town centre, will provide opportunities to enhance the character of the town while minimising erosion of the landscape setting through residential development.
-



Upper Avon Valley

The northern boundary of the town is artificially defined by the 'Blashford Lakes' - a series of redundant gravel pits which separate the town from its wider landscape setting.

The historic core of Ringwood is separated from its floodplain setting by the A31(T).

Poulner Woods and Pastures

The steep wooded hillside provides a strong setting and clearly defined edge to the east of Ringwood.

Lower Avon Valley

Bickerley Common is an historic open space - buildings on the edge of Ringwood form a strong relationship with this space and the landscape beyond. The Avon Valley Recreational Path links the town with the river.

On this edge of town, industrial development and housing adjoin open, large scale farmland.

Prominent ridgelines on Poulner Hill provide opportunities for views over Ringwood.

Historical Development:

- Medieval Street Pattern (up to 15th Century)
- Historic Core (15th to mid 19th Century)
- Built Development (mid 19th to mid 20th Century)
- Recent Built Development (1960s to present day)

Historic Parks & Gardens

- Urban Green Space

Key Approaches


- Landmarks
- Prominent Ridgelines
- Landscape Character Area Boundary
- Study Area Boundary

Settlement Analysis Map 6
Ringwood

Scale 1:25,000

0 250m 500m 750m 1km

NORTH



Landscape Setting

Totton lies on the eastern edge of the district, within the *Waterside Parishes* landscape character area and abutting the *Copythorne Forest Farmlands* and *Ashurst and Hythe Forest Farmlands*.

The north-west fringes of Totton adjoin the higher land of the *Copythorne Forest Farmlands*. The settlement has a poorly defined boundary in this area. Residential estates continue to expand outwards into the adjacent wooded farmland which is characterised by small irregular fields of medieval origin. The Conservation Areas of Hanger and Hazel Farms are important historic features in this confined area.

The south-west fringes adjoin the *Ashurst and Hythe Forest Farmlands*. Here the Totton by-pass (A326) forms an artificial boundary between the settlement and the surrounding heavily wooded forest farmland, where the irregular medieval field pattern has often been overlaid by regular parliamentary fields, for example around Bartley Water.

The south-east fringes adjoin the *Waterside Parishes*. To the east and south-east, the edges of the settlement is crisply defined by the physical barriers of the Test floodplain and Eling Creek. The floodplain provides a distinctive setting for the settlement, contributing both ecological value and visual amenity. Eling Creek and Bartley Water provide a setting for the south-eastern edge of Totton. The tide mill and causeway are of historic importance but the wetlands are also a valuable tidal habitat and an important recreational resource.

Evolution

Totton is distinctive in that it has developed as a dormitory town outside the historic core of Eling. The town has developed in a fan shape along the A36, A35 and A336 and consists of mostly post-war housing and modern residential estates which have engulfed the former village centres of Calmore, Testwood, Brokenford and Hounslow. The settlement continues to expand with new housing still being constructed on the extreme western edges of the settlement.

Settlement Character

Totton has a rather homogeneous character, with extensive housing estates and some commercial development. However, the recent residential development of West Totton incorporates a planned network of open spaces and cycle routes which give it a different character and a generally higher level of amenity than the rest of Totton. The majority of green spaces within the town are recreation grounds and school playing fields which provide a valuable recreational resource for the local population. In addition to this the

course of Bartley Water, which runs through the centre of the built area, provides an important ecological and visual link with the landscape beyond.

Visual Character

Totton generally has a weak relationship with its surrounding landscape. Industrial development often separates the town from its setting along the River Test floodplain. The modern residential estates are inward facing and hence do not relate well to their surrounding landscape. However, on the edges of Brokenford, the waterfront has been fully utilised and buildings form a strong relationship with the surrounding landscape.

The main approach to Totton is via Red Bridge, along the A35 from Southampton. This approach enters Totton through a rundown industrial area adjacent to the railway line and provides a rather degraded first impression of the settlement. The southern Hounslow approach (via the A35) is marked by a row of Victorian Cottages which form a gateway at the entrance to the settlement. Other approaches (along the A36 and A336) are 'back entrances' through modern residential estates. The main views of Totton are across the Test floodplain, from the outskirts of Southampton, and from the historic village of Eling, across Bartley Water. There are no landmarks of note.

The recent expansion of Totton has joined the individual centres of Calmore, Testwood, Brokenford and Hounslow, but vital green spaces still exist between Totton and Ashurst, Totton and the historic core of Eling, and Totton and Netley Marsh.

Principles for Strategic Landscape Design

- Improved views and public access to Bartley Water and its associated green corridor would considerably enhance its value as a landscape, visual and recreational resource.
 - The provision of cycle networks, pathways and accessible open space on the edge of Totton could encourage appreciation of the landscape setting.
 - Opportunities exist to improve the legibility and sense of place of the town centre such as provision of a series of visual landmarks and enhancement of the settings of traditional and historic buildings.
 - The creation of distinctive 'gateways' on principal routes into the town (A35 Redbridge and A35 Spicer's Hill) would help mark the approach and create a positive impression of the town.
 - Priority should be given to enhancing the distinctive identity of historic 'village' centres (Calmore, Testwood, Brokenford, Hounslow), for example through tree planting, signage and street furniture, reflecting recognised local features of interest. Cumulatively this would enhance legibility of the settlement.
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- The development of industrial buildings alongside watercourses, such as Testwood Industrial Park, Eling Wharf and Totton Industrial Estate, has resulted in blocking views and preventing public access to these landscape features. Selective removal of industrial buildings would present the opportunity to enhance the setting of the town and enhance public access to these features.
 - Opportunities for opening up views and access to the River Test corridor.
-

Principles for Built Form

- Development of waterfronts provides exciting opportunities to develop strong links with the surrounding landscape and creating a strong sense of place.
 - Built form should respond to the local vernacular of the adjacent character area (refer to LCA descriptions). For example built development which adjoins the *Copythorne Forest Farmlands* may differ in style and materials to that which borders the *Waterside Parishes* landscape character area.
 - Built form should respond to local features and landmarks, such as Hanger and Hazel Farms which are Conservation Areas and may give visual cues for use of materials in that area.
 - The creation of high density town housing on brown field sites, particularly close to waterfronts will enhance the character of the town centre.
-

