

5 Character Area 13: Tweseldown

Description

- 5.28 This character area occupies the gap between the eastern edge of Fleet and the district boundary, although its character extends further eastwards. Its northern and southern boundary roughly mark the limit of dense woodland cover.

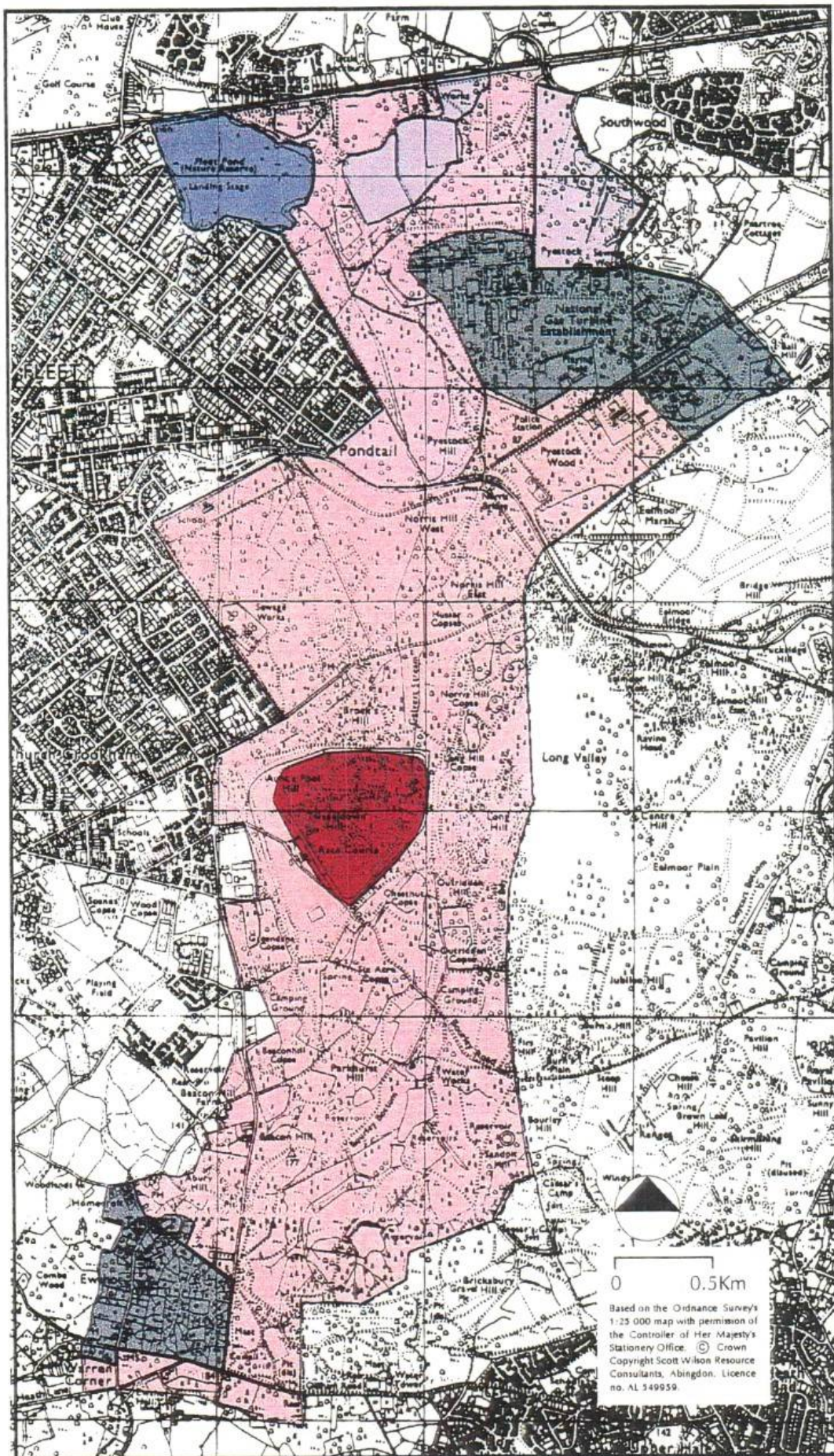


Main distinguishing features

- *extensive areas of dense woodland (mainly coniferous plantation) interspersed with areas of open heath creating a distinctive heath and forest landscape, with characteristic vegetation (including oak, birch, pine woodland, heather, gorse, broom and bracken);*
- *comparatively quiet and remote apart from the localised noise and activity associated with the A323 and A3103 and recreational activity associated with the race course;*
- *an essentially rural character but with localised suburbanising influences of urban development around the fringes of Fleet, at Ewshot and around the National Gas Turbine Establishment, the RAE airfield site at Farnborough and the main road corridors;*
- *a number of man-made wetlands, including Fleet Pond, reservoirs at Parkhurst Hill and Bricksbury Hill, and the Basingstoke Canal;*
- *complex landform towards the south of the area forming a series of hills and valleys and creating enclosure and landscape diversity.*

Enhancement priorities

- 5.29 The extensive forests and heathland which dominate this area are of high landscape quality despite their proximity to the urban fringes of Fleet. The dense tree cover reduces the visibility of intrusive development which consequently has only a localised effect on landscape quality. The over-riding priority is, therefore, to **conserve** and enhance these key landscape resources and ensure that intrusion by built development is kept to minimum.



Tweseldown landscape types (see Figure 4 for key)

Main enhancement priorities

- *management of existing woodlands and trees to secure their long-term presence within the landscape and maximise their landscape and ecological value*
- *management of existing areas of open heath/common to prevent encroachment by scrub and woodland*
- *small-scale selective woodland clearance to encourage restoration of more open heathland character within woodland matrix*
- *where necessary, strengthen planting around the fringes of urban areas, around isolated developments and along road corridors, to minimise intrusion of built development on landscape character*
- *encourage development of heathy vegetation along roadside verges, field margins and within woods*



Forest and heath around Tweseldown Hill



Wetland landscape at Fleet Pond