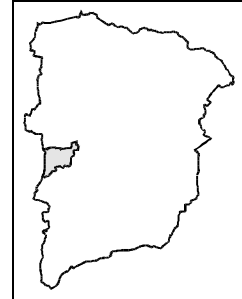


5 Character Area 3: Bartley

Description

- 5.7 This is a small, distinctive character area which lies between the southern edge of Hook and the farmland which lies along the edge of the Whitewater Valley. It is bounded to the west by the District boundary although its character extends beyond.



Main distinguishing features

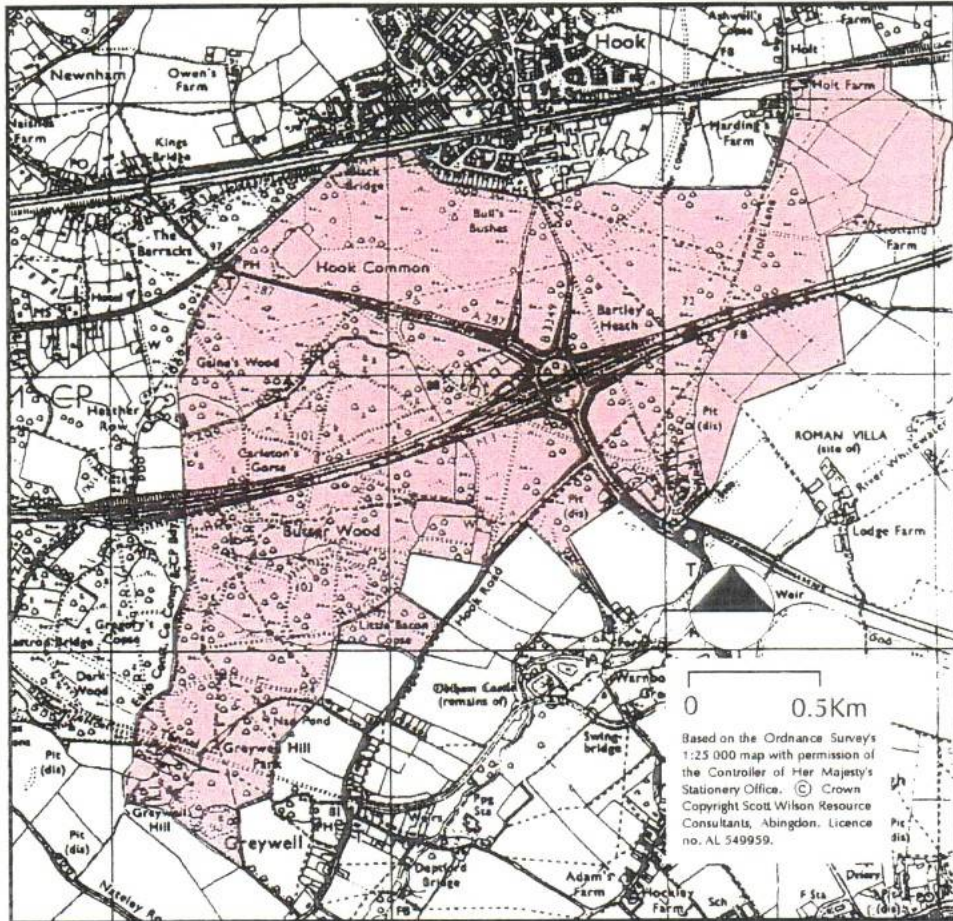
- *a predominantly wooded character, with extensive broadleaved, semi-natural woodland on areas of former heathland and an intimate and enclosed character;*
- *within the woodlands, a mosaic of scrub, grassland and open heath;*
- *no settlement but significant, localised influence of roads (including the M3 motorway and interchange with A287/B3349) and occasional built development associated with roads or the fringes of Hook.*

Enhancement priorities

- 5.8 This area has an attractive, wooded and intimate character and contains important remnants of heathland and semi-natural woodland which are worthy of **conservation**. The main priority for intervention, therefore, is to ensure that the intrusion of roads and built development are minimised and to encourage the **restoration** of a small-scale mosaic of open heathland and broadleaved woodland by opening up areas of comparatively recent woodland cover.

Main enhancement priorities

- *management of existing woodlands, hedgerows 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*



Bartley landscape types (see Figure 4 for key)



Mixed heathland and woodland at Hook Common

- *small-scale selective woodland clearance to encourage restoration of more open heathland character within woodland matrix*
- *strengthening of landscape structure along road corridors and around fringes of Hook, to minimise intrusion of built development on rural landscape character*