

Hart District Landscape Character Assessment

Hart District Council

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Quality information

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 In 2026, Hart District Council commissioned AECOM Ltd to undertake a Landscape Character Assessment for the rural landscape within the district. The Landscape Character Assessment will form part of the evidence base for the new Hart District Local Plan and will assist in guiding and informing spatial planning and development management decisions.

The Role of Landscape Character Assessment

- 1.2 Natural England¹ define Landscape Character Assessment as:

“the process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features (characteristics) that make landscapes distinctive.”

- 1.3 Landscape Character Assessment covers themes of the social, cultural, perceptual, aesthetic and natural environment. It recognises that all landscapes are important. Landscape Character Assessment also addresses, in part, the general and specific obligations for landscape protection, management and planning as set out in Articles 5 and 6 of the European Landscape Convention².

- 1.4 Landscape Character Assessment can be used as a tool to help understand what the landscape is like today, the influence of the past and how the landscape may change in the future. Landscape Character Assessments provide a framework to help protect, manage, enhance, mitigate and restore landscapes in the future and retain their distinctiveness, whilst guiding future development. The Landscape Character Assessment will provide a baseline of information that can be used by landowners, managers, developers, communities and planning authorities when making decisions regarding spatial planning and future land use and management decisions in the district.

- 1.5 Landscape Character Assessment can be undertaken at a variety of scales and to differing levels of detail. This Landscape Character Assessment forms a district level of information alongside national and county published Landscape Character Assessments.

- 1.6 Natural England¹ define Landscape Character Types as:

“distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but whenever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historical land use, and settlement pattern”.

- 1.7 Natural England¹ define Landscape Character Areas as:

“These are single unique areas which are discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type. Each will have its own individual character and identity, even though it shares the same generic characteristics with other areas of the same type”.

¹ Natural England (2014) An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment. [online] Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/691184/landscape-character-assessment.pdf 2

² Council of Europe (2000) Council of Europe Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176). [online] Available at: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list?module=treaty-detail&treaty-num=176>

- 1.8 This Landscape Character Assessment describes and maps the elements and features that make up distinctively different Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas throughout the rural part of the district and based upon the above definitions. The Landscape Character Assessment study area is shown on **Figure 1: Location and Landscape Designations**.

Relationship with other studies

National Level

- 1.9 With reference to **Figure 2: National Character Areas**, at a national level, England is divided into 159 National Character Areas (NCAs)³, as published by Natural England. The NCAs are a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history and cultural and economic activity which makes each area unique in terms of its landscape character.
- 1.10 Hart District is predominantly covered by two NCAs, which are outlined below:
- NCA 129: Thames Basin Heaths⁴ extends across a large area, from Odiham and Crondall in the south, to the northern boundary of the study area. Published key characteristics include:
 - *“Plateaux of Tertiary sands and gravels in the London Basin, with intervening river valleys floored by London Clay;*
 - *High woodland cover, offering an array of colour in the autumn. Conifers and large plantations on former heathland are dominant features in the east, while the west is scattered with small, semi-natural woodlands on ancient sites;*
 - *Acid, leached soils mean that farming on the plateaux is limited to rough pasture, and that alternative land uses (such as forestry, golf courses and horse paddocks) have emerged. Heather, gorse, oak and birch all thrive here. Arable land and improved pasture are found in the valleys, on alluvium;*
 - *Beyond the large areas of heathland and woodland, there is a patchwork of small to medium-sized fields with woods”.*
 - NCA 130: Hampshire Down⁵ covers a relatively smaller portion of the southern part of the study area, from Odiham and Crondall southwards to the southern boundary. Published key characteristics include:
 - *“The rolling, elevated, chalk arable downland has an open, exposed character that provides open skies and long-distance views;*
 - *Elevated plateaux and upper valley slopes are characterised by extensive open tracts of large, low-hedged fields with thin chalky soils, shelterbelts, and ancient semi-natural woodland blocks on clay-with-flint caps on some of the steeper slopes;*
 - *In contrast, within the sheltered valleys and to the east of the area, the network of hedgerows, interspersed by numerous areas of oak/ash or hazel woodland coppice and smaller meadow fields, gives a strong sense of enclosure”.*
- 1.11 This information has been reviewed as part of the process of this Landscape Character Assessment and informed the study where relevant. It is acknowledged that the study areas of the national level assessments are at a considerably larger scale and published near to a decade prior.

³ Natural England (2013-15) National Character Areas. [online] Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles>

⁴ Natural England (2013) NCA Profile:129 Thames Basin Heaths (NE530). [online] Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4685559624630272>

⁵ Natural England (2013) NCA Profile:130 Hampshire Downs (NE549). [online] Available at: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6738147345956864>

County Level

- 1.12 With reference to **Figure 3: Hampshire County Landscape Character Assessment**, at a county level, the Hampshire County Landscape Character Assessment⁶ identifies a series of Landscape Character Types, Landscape Character Areas and 23 larger settlements which have been subject to a townscape assessment, including for Fleet and Church Crookham. This published study has been reviewed as part of the process of preparing this Landscape Character Assessment due to its geographic coverage including parts of the study area. However, it is acknowledged that the Hampshire County Landscape Character Assessment was intended to provide a larger scale county level assessment and identifies landscape character units at a broader scale.

Planning Policy Context

- 1.13 The *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF)⁷ was updated in August 2026. This document sets out the Government's planning policies within England and their application. The NPPF sets out within section N2 that decision making policies should *'contribute positively to the natural environment, and support nature's recovery'*. The NPPF states that, among other priorities, decision making should *'consider the environmental qualities of land proposed for development, including habitats, landscape character and the natural beauty of the countryside, and identify opportunities for those qualities to be conserved or enhanced'*. The Landscape Character Assessment contributes to this statement.
- 1.14 This Landscape Character Assessment forms an evidence base to support the landscape policy and other character policies within the new Local Plan for Hart District. The way in which it will do this is set out in the Natural England¹ guidance as follows:
- *"Describe a landscape with reference to the characteristics that combine to make a place distinctive;*
 - *Give spatial reference to baseline information / evidence via mapped landscape character areas / types;*
 - *Inform understanding of key characteristics, sense of place, special qualities etc. that can then inform judgements – decision making - regarding, for example, development management and the siting, design, scale and massing of developments from housing developments and transport infrastructure to forests, woodlands, or renewable energy projects; and*
 - *Assist with the monitoring of change."*

⁶ Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment. [online] Available at:
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/landscape/integratedcharacterassessment>

⁷ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2026) *National Planning Policy Framework*. [online] Available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

2. Methodology

Approach

- 2.1 This Landscape Character Assessment has been undertaken based on the principles of good practice guidance as published by Natural England¹ in 2014, *An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment*. As set out in **Chapter 1**, the Landscape Character Assessment also involves a review of existing published Landscape Character studies covering Hart District and within adjacent districts.

Study Area

- 2.2 With reference to **Figure 1: Location and Landscape Designations**, the Landscape Character Assessment study area covers the rural areas of Hart District. This is considered to comprise the land beyond the settlement boundaries defined in the Hart Local Plan Strategy and Sites (2032), which were provided by Hart District Council. Rural hamlets and other smaller settlements are considered, for the purposes of this study, to be more closely connected to the rural landscape than the urban areas and are therefore included within the study area. The study area is shown on Plate 1 below, with the settlement areas excluded from the study area outlined in red.

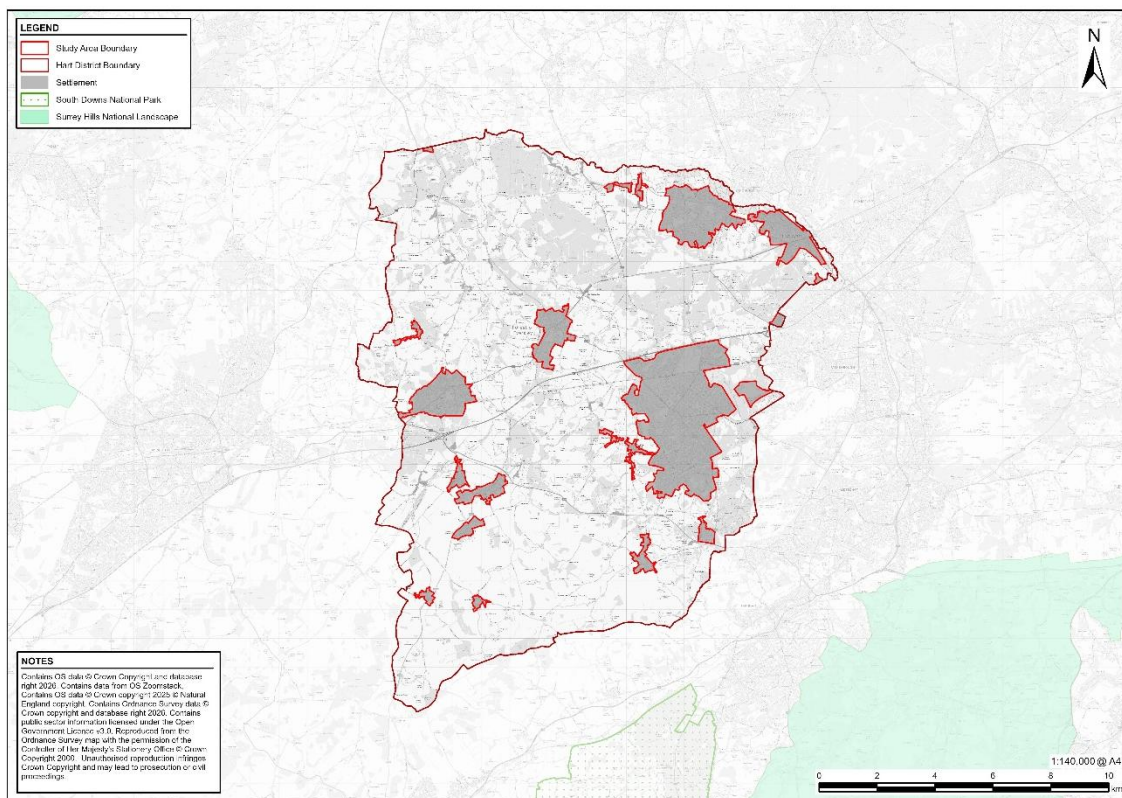


Plate 1: Extract of Figure 1 showing the study area boundary, Hart District boundary, settlements, South Downs National Park and Surrey Hills National Landscape.

- 2.3 Hart District is located within the northeastern part of Hampshire County Council. Hart District is bound by Bracknell Forest and Wokingham Unitary Authorities to the north, Waverley, Rushmoor and Surrey Heath Boroughs to the east, East Hampshire District to the south and Basingstoke and Deane Borough to the west.

- 2.4 The South Downs National Park is situated approximately 2km to the south of the study area at its closest point and the Surrey Hills National Landscape is situated approximately 4.6km to the southeast at its closest point.

Methodology and Process

- 2.5 Landscape character assessment is the process of systematically characterising, describing and mapping the landscape. It does not seek to attach any landscape value to the types and areas that it defines. This Landscape Character Assessment has followed Natural England's¹ four iterative steps as outlined below:

1) Define purpose and scope

- 2.6 This Landscape Character Assessment seeks to identify and describe a series of Landscape Character Types and geographically unique Landscape Character Areas within the study area. Landscape Character Types are generic and can occur in several different locations and across various scales, and are defined by similar patterns of characteristics. Landscape Character Areas are defined at a smaller scale, based on unique combinations or patterns of elements and characteristics.

2) Desk study

- 2.7 A preliminary desk-based study was undertaken, which included a review of numerous key documents which are relevant at the time of writing, to gain an understanding of the study area and underlying baseline characteristics, such as geology, soils and topography. This formed the basis for further investigation from field surveys and stakeholder engagement. These documents referenced within the desk-based study, or their superseded versions, should be read in conjunction with this Landscape Character Assessment. These can be referred to at **Appendix A: Sources of Information**.

3) Field study

- 2.8 Field survey work was undertaken to verify the desk-based studies and to capture the aesthetic, perceptual and experiential qualities of landscapes that are often only identifiable through field survey or stakeholder engagement. Field survey work was completed within June and July 2026. This was undertaken using ArcGIS Field Maps and ArcGIS Survey123 to assist in data collection. Refer to **Appendix B: Field Study Sheet**. The electronic field survey sheet was developed using best practice guidance to record findings in-situ.
- 2.9 Hours of darkness site work included reviewing direct light sources across the district by driving along main roads within the landscape. This included reviewing the influence of major road networks and key sources of light such as Odiham airfield in the south of the study area.

4) Classification and description of Landscape Character Types and Areas

- 2.10 Further desk-based study and analysis of field surveys and stakeholder engagement was undertaken to refine, classify, map and describe the proposed Landscape Character Types and Areas. The Landscape Character Assessment reflects the landscape at a particular moment in time and is reflective of the professional interpretation made by the Chartered Landscape Architects who carried out the assessment, informed by the criteria defined in best practice guidance (Natural England¹).

Stakeholder input

- 2.11 As set out within the published guidance (Natural England¹), stakeholder input can add value to Landscape Character Assessments. A number of stakeholders in the district were contacted to provide

input into the perceptual and aesthetic elements of the landscape, including memories, associations and sights. The following stakeholders provided feedback and their responses have been considered and inputted into the Landscape Character Assessment where relevant:

- Yateley Society;
- Odiham Society;
- Fleet Cycling;
- Hart District Ranger Team; and
- Hart District Council Environmental Promotions Team.

2.12 Relevant comments relating to landscape character received from town and parish councils during the Local Plan Scoping Consultation have also been taken into account in undertaking the assessment.

Settlement gaps

2.13 Settlement gaps are referred to in various ways within existing policy, guidance and appraisals, including 'local landscape gaps', 'rural gaps' and 'local gaps', although to ensure consistency for the purposes of this report, they are simply referred to as 'gaps'. In line with national policy, the purpose of settlement gaps is to maintain the separate identities of settlements and their physical separation.

2.14 There are multiple interrelated reasons that gaps between settlements are identified within Neighbourhood Plans, which include these and other purposes. This report focuses on the function of these gaps in line with national policy, and on the landscape character within these gaps. This assessment refers to adopted policy in relation to these gaps at the time of writing, but it should be acknowledged that the new Hart Local Plan is currently emerging, on the basis of an updated evidence base, as well as new national policy and guidance, which will need to be given consideration as this comes forward.

2.15 The made Neighbourhood Plans relevant to the 'gaps' are listed as follows:

- Crondall Neighbourhood Plan;
- Odiham and North Warnborough Neighbourhood Plan;
- Crookham Neighbourhood Plan;
- Dogmersfield Neighbourhood Plan;
- Hook Neighbourhood Plan;
- Rotherwick Neighbourhood Plan; and
- Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan.

Outputs

2.16 The outputs of the Landscape Character Assessment are:

- A high-level review of published information regarding the natural, cultural and social, perceptual and aesthetic information of the study area.
- Mapping of the boundaries of each Landscape Character Type and Landscape Character Area.
- Photographs to illustrate the key characteristics and typical appearance of each Landscape Character Area.
- Description of the distinctive elements within each Landscape Character Area; including information about the topography and hydrology, geology and soils, land use, vegetation cover, built form, field patterns, landscape elements, historical influences and perceptual attributes, such as tranquillity.

- Information about the forces for change which have shaped the current landscape character, and which could alter or influence the future landscape character.
- Guidelines to inform future land management and/or development, within each Landscape Character Area, as appropriate.

3. Formative Influences

- 3.1 The first part of this chapter summarises the main physical and cultural influences that have shaped the landscape of Hart District. The landscape of the district has evolved through the interaction of the natural environment and human activities, through the combination of physical and cultural influences. Physical influences such as geology and landform, together with the pattern of settlement and land use, are key determinants of landscape character.
- 3.2 The second part of this chapter reviews the perceptual aspects of tranquillity and the character of the hours of darkness in relation to published information. Further reference to perceptual and aesthetic qualities are included in the key characteristics of the defined Landscape Character Areas, based upon the information obtained through desktop review, fieldwork and through stakeholder engagement.

Natural Influences

Geology

- 3.3 With reference to **Figure 4: Geology**, the study area comprises a mixture of superficial and bedrock geology⁸.
- 3.4 The bedrock of the study area consists of four key groups and subgroups, with predominantly White chalk in the southernmost third of the study area, with a band of Lambeth group (clay, silt, sand and gravel) directly to the north of the White chalk. The northern two thirds consist of predominantly the Thames group (clay, silt, sand and gravel) within the northwest and the Bracklesham group (sand, silt and clay) in the northeast.
- 3.5 There are also four key types of superficial geology that occur within the study area, with pockets of clay with flints occurring exclusively in the southernmost third. There are areas of river terrace deposits and alluvium, within the northern section of the district, loosely aligned with the river valleys, and sand and gravel within the areas of underlying Bracklesham group bedrock.

Soils

- 3.6 The same pattern between the north and the south of Hart District for the underlying geology broadly applies to the soils found across the study area.
- 3.7 The chalky bedrock within the southern part of the study area supports a mix of shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone, and freely draining lime-rich, or slightly acid loamy soils. These give way to Grade 2 and 3 (Moderate to Very good) agricultural land, as observed in to **Figure 5: Agricultural Land Classification**.
- 3.8 The Thames and Lambeth group bedrock that line the west and south flank of the northern two thirds of Hart District support slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils, areas of which are naturally high in ground water. The resulting agricultural land is Graded 3 (Good to Moderate), 4 (Poor) and non-agricultural.
- 3.9 The northeastern part of the study area, which consists of Bracklesham group bedrock, supports a greater diversity of soils, including areas of loamy soils with naturally high groundwater along the northern boundary, naturally wet and freely draining very acid sandy and loamy soils in the northeast and areas of

⁸ British Geological Survey (2017) The BGS Lexicon of Named Rock Units provides our definitions of the geological units of the UK and its continental shelf. [online] Available at: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/technologies/the-bgs-lexicon-of-named-rock-units/>

slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage and freely draining slightly acid sandy soils to the southwest. The majority of the resulting soils are non-agricultural, though there are areas of Grade 3 and 4 agricultural land on the naturally wetter soils.

Landform and Hydrology

- 3.10 With reference to **Figure 6: Topography and Hydrology**, the southern part of the study area is characterised by a relatively elevated, undulating chalk landform with broad sweeping hills and ridges, and dry valleys. There is limited influence of hydrological features within the southern third of the study area, although the River Whitewater rises at springs near Greywell and flows northeast to meet the River Blackwater in the north of the district. The River Hart also rises within the study area at Ashley Head Spring in Crondall and flows north to meet the River Whitewater near Bramshill.
- 3.11 The high point of the district is in the south at +221m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), falling gradually northward. The lower areas of the study area are occupied by river valleys, with a low point of +44m AOD at River Blackwater in the north. Much of the remainder of the study area comprises undulating low plateaus, with localised steeper landform, between the river plain landscapes of the River Blackwater, the River Hart and the River Whitewater. There are some localised high points across the northern two thirds of the district including a point reaching +98m AOD by Winchfield Station and high points of approximately +90m AOD on Reading Road North in Fleet, Hazeley Heath and Heckley Heath.
- 3.12 Aside from the major rivers, Hart district contains several bodies of water, including Wellesley Water Meadow, Dogmersfield Lake, Tundry Pond, Fleet Pond (the largest freshwater lake in Hampshire', which is notable (21 ha)), Hawley Lake and the Blackwater Valley Wetlands.

Flora and Fauna

- 3.13 With reference to **Figure 7: Flora and Fauna**, the distribution of vegetation within the study area is associated with the diverse geology, landform and soils present. This is particularly notable in the northern part of the study area. NCA 129: Thames Basin Heath⁴ covers the northern two thirds of the study area and is characterised by high woodland cover, mosaics of wet and dry heathland, forest plantations on former heathland and low-grade agricultural land. Heathland is the most prevalent habitat type, focused in the northeast of the district, supplemented by a mosaic of various lowland grasslands and fens, and blocks of deciduous woodland.
- 3.14 The majority of Ancient Woodland blocks are located to the west of the River Whitewater, as well as in smaller blocks within the south of the study area. There are very few other priority habitat areas throughout this southern section, within NCA 130: Hampshire Downs⁵, which is open and exposed, consisting of extensive open tracts of large, low-hedged fields with thin chalky soils, shelterbelts and ancient semi-natural woodland blocks.
- 3.15 With reference to **Figure 8: Nature Conservation Designations**, there are numerous areas that are nationally designated, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and many of which are also Special Protection Areas (SPAs). These include several parcels of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, which covers a large area within the northeast and east of the study area. There are also multiple SSSIs, largely focused across the northeast of the study area, associated with large areas of forested and wooded heathland, as well as to the east of Fleet and western part of the study area around Hook. The northern part of Basingstoke Canal SSSI also traverses the study area, following a general east- westerly direction.

Climate

- 3.16 The Hart District is located in the south of England and has a temperate climate. The climate is characterised by large temperature changes across the seasons. The average minimum temperature for the winter months (December – February), based on data recorded between 1991-2020 at Odiham

weather station, sits between 1.68 and 2.13 degrees Celsius⁹. The average maximum temperatures for the summer months (June – August), based on the same dataset, were between 19.94 and 21.82 degrees Celsius.

- 3.17 Annually, there is generally a balanced climate with minimal variation in precipitation. There is a slight decrease in rainfall over the spring and summer months, which rises and peaks with November being the wettest month, receiving an average of 90.82mm of rain, over 13.1 rainy days, based on data recorded between 1991-2020 at Odiham weather station. On average, May is the driest month, receiving an average of 48.94mm of rain⁹.
- 3.18 The long-term climatic trends for the district align with national trends, with typically milder, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. There is also an increased prevalence of extreme weather events according to the Office for National Statistics¹⁰. In 2021, Hart councilors declared a climate emergency for the District, recognising climate change as the most serious environmental challenges in the 21st century¹¹. The council has committed to becoming a carbon neutral authority by 2035 and a carbon-neutral district by 2040, putting reduction of CO² emissions at the centre of policies and decision-making.

Cultural and Social Influences

Land Use

- 3.19 The study area comprises a varied patchwork of land uses, including agricultural, woodland, heathland, commons, mineral extraction, military land, settlements and areas of recreation. There are areas of large-scale coniferous forestry operations in the north of the study area, with parts managed for recreation as well as mineral extraction activities. Recreational land use is extensive across much of the study area, with large areas of common land, particularly within the wooded heathland areas, country parks, golf courses and along public rights of way (PRoW). This includes recreational access along the river networks and lakes. Some areas of common land in the district have a military land use, resulting in managed public access, particularly in the northeast and east of the district.
- 3.20 Agricultural land use is prevalent across the study area, including arable, pasture and equestrian use, particularly within the landscapes adjacent to settlement in the north of the study area and within large parts of the central and southern area of the district. There are also areas where land use is influenced by the presence of historical landscapes, such as Registered Parks and Gardens with reference to **Figure 11: Cultural Heritage Designations**.

Movement and Access

- 3.21 With reference to **Figure 9: Movement and Settlement Pattern** the PRoW network across the study area includes public footpaths, bridleways and byways. There are numerous long-distance recreational routes that pass through the district, including the Blackwater Valley Path which follows the River Blackwater, Basingstoke Canal Towpath Trail, Three Castles Path, which diagonally crosses the study area from southwest to northeast, and Brenda Parker Way which crosses the centre of the study area.
- 3.22 The following long distance recreational routes run through the district:

⁹ Met Office (2026) *Odiham Location-specific long-term averages* [Online] Available at:

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/location-specific-long-term-averages/gcp76xc2f>

¹⁰ Office for National Statistics (2022) *Climate change insights, families and households, UK: August 2022* [Online] Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsandstates/articles/climatechangeinsightsfamiliesandhouseholdsuk/august2022>

¹¹ Hart District Council (2025) *Declaring a climate emergency in Hart* [Online] Available at:

<https://www.hart.gov.uk/environment/climate-change-new/declaring-climate-emergency-hart>

- Blackwater Valley Path;
- Wokingham Way;
- Round Reading Walks;
- Thames Valley Circular Walks;
- Three Castles Path;
- Brenda Parker Way;
- Basingstoke Canal Tow Path;
- Dymchurch to Didcot Robust Ramble;
- St Swithuns Way; and
- Pilgrims Way.

- 3.23 There are large areas of common land within the study area, with reference to **Figure 9: Movement and Settlement Pattern**. These are located within the northern two thirds of the study area, including Yateley, Hartley Wintney, West Green, Odiham, Bartley Heath and Hook Commons. These common areas provide managed routes, such that they are often extensively used for recreation activities. There are also several areas managed as Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) across the study area, often within country parks and near to the edge of settlement.
- 3.24 There are no National Cycle Network routes cross the study area. King Alfred's Way is a 350km cycling loop around historic Wessex. Approximately 32km of the route lies within the study area. The route enters at Ewshot at the southeast boundary, exits towards Riseley just beyond the northeast boundary, passing through Crookham Village, Hazeley Bottom and Bramshill.
- 3.25 The study area is dissected by the M3 which extends east towards Frimley and west towards Basingstoke. South of Hook, the A30 and A287 fork, extending towards Blackwater and Farnham respectively. From the A30, the A327 branches off north towards Eversley, the A323 to the southeast towards Fleet and the A327 towards Farnborough. The A3013 runs through the north of Fleet. A small section of the A33 cuts through the northwest corner of the study area. There are limited A-roads in the south and the northwest of the study area.
- 3.26 There are several B-roads which cross parts of the study area, with a higher concentration in the north and only one in the southern third, where minor roads connecting settlements and farms are more common. While the northern two thirds are well connected by major roads, there are also numerous minor roads present.
- 3.27 The district is dissected by the London to Southampton railway line, with railway stations at Hook, Winchfield and Fleet within the study area. A separate railway line is located on the northeastern boundary, with approximately 3km of the line and Blackwater station within the study area.

Settlement

- 3.28 With reference to **Figure 9: Movement and Settlement Patterns**, the settlement pattern within the study area is generally limited to small, dispersed hamlets and isolated properties. The landscape within the study area is locally influenced by larger scale settlements such as Fleet, Yateley, Blackwater and Hawley in the northeast, Fleet and Church Crookham within the east and Hook in the west. However, influence from settlements adjacent to the study area is often limited or localised due to intervening vegetation and landform.

Historic Landscape Character

- 3.29 With reference to **Figure 10: Historic Landscape Character**, the northeastern part of the study area consists of a range of Historic Landscape Character (HLC) Types. The published HLC Types which are relevant to this area include predominantly 'heathland plantation' and 'recent settlement', with smaller areas of 'assarts', 'commons', 'communications', 'valley floor', 'recreation' and 'industry'.
- 3.30 The dominant HLC Types in the northwestern part of the study area comprise 'assarts' and 'parliamentary fields', with smaller areas of 'commons', 'valley floor', 'parks', 'heathland plantation', 'other old woods' and 'old settlement'.
- 3.31 The south of the study area is dominated by 'ex-downland fields', 'large wavy fields' and 'parliamentary fields', with smaller areas of 'communications', 'old Settlement', 'downland' and 'other old woods' dispersed throughout.
- 3.32 The historic 'hundred' administrative boundaries in the district also had an influence on the historic landscape character. This includes the Crondall Hundred covering areas including Crondall, Ewshot, Crookham and Yateley and Odiham Hundred covering areas including Dogmersfield, Winchfield, and Greywell. The influence relates to the landscape pattern of field enclosure sizes and land divisions relating to ancient routes such as The Harrow Way.
- 3.33 The Forest of Eversley has historically influenced the landscape across much of the northern part of the district, expanding across a 26,000 hectare area, from Yateley in the north, Farnborough and Aldershot in the east, Odiham and Crondall in the south and the edge of Basingstoke in the west¹². It covers an area of former medieval royal hunting forest, comprising a matrix of habitats including rivers, woodland, wetland and heath. Over time, the area covered by the Forest of Eversley has been altered by changing land management practices, such that its influence on the existing landscape character is limited.

Cultural Heritage

- 3.34 With reference to **Figure 11: Cultural Heritage Designations**, there are numerous listed buildings across the study area, particularly Grade II listed and with a smaller number of Grade I and Grade II* listed.
- 3.35 There are nine scheduled monuments in the study area, including the Mound at Cudbury Clump, Festaen Dic earthwork and the Bowl barrow on Hornley Common within the northern part. Odiham Castle and Lodge Farm Roman Villa near North Warnborough, and Round Barrow Cemetery next to Ewshot. Barley Pound earthworks, Powderham Castle and 'The Battery' can also be found along the southern boundary of the study area.
- 3.36 There are eight Registered Parks and Gardens, all within the northern two thirds of the study area. Tylney Hall and Warbrook House in the northwestern corner are both Grade II* and Bramshill Park, located between the two, is Grade I. The remaining listings are Grade II, with Heckfield Place and Stratfield Saye Park in the northwestern vicinity, Elvetham Hall near Hartley Wintney, Minley Manor to the northeast, and centrally located Dogmersfield Park.
- 3.37 Within the southern part of the study area, there are several Grade II* listed buildings, including within the settlement areas of South Warnborough, Long Sutton and Blouance.
- 3.38 There are 32 Conservation Areas within or partially within the district, including the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area which meanders through the centre. Several of these lie directly adjacent to the canal, including Odiham and North Warnborough, Greywell, Crookham Village and Dogmersfield.

¹² Countryside Access Plan for the Forest of Eversley 2008-2013. [online] Available at:
<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/countryside/CS-Access-CAP-ForestofEverlsey.pdf>

Perceptual and Aesthetic Influences

Tranquillity

- 3.39 In 2007, Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) mapped England's tranquillity from most tranquil to least tranquil¹³. This mapping takes into account "*people's experiences of the countryside and what qualities contribute to a feeling of tranquillity*". With reference to **Figure 12: The CPRE Tranquillity Mapping**, the southern part of the study area predominantly lies within the most tranquil parts of the spectrum, with similar pockets ranked highly within the northwestern part of the district. The least tranquil areas are generally on the urban fringe of the larger settlements, including Fleet and Church Crookham, Hook, Blackwater and Yateley, with the next lowest ranking areas situated along the M3 corridor.

Dark Skies

- 3.40 In 2016, CPRE mapped England's light pollution and dark skies¹⁴. With reference to **Figure 13: The CPRE Dark Skies Mapping**, this illustrates the level of radiance (night lights) shining up into the night sky, with corresponding bands of colour to demarcate the transition between the darkest and brightest skies.
- 3.41 The eastern part of the study area and the settlement of Hook lie within the medium to high levels of radiance due to their relatively urban context and surroundings, thereby reflecting the brighter night skies reaching between 8-6 NanoWatts/cm²/sr. The two airfields, RAF Odiham and Blackbushe Airport, generate hotspots of slightly brighter skies around 4-8 NanoWatts/cm²/sr.
- 3.42 The remaining areas have darker skies at around 0.5-1 NanoWatts/cm²/sr, with some areas within the northwestern corner of the study area, and the southern third as low as 0.25-0.5 NanoWatts/cm²/sr.

¹³ The Countryside Charity (2007) Tranquillity Map: England. [online] Available at: <https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/tranquillity-map-england/>

¹⁴ The Countryside Charity (2016) England's Light Pollution and Dark Skies. [online] Available at: <https://www.nightblight.cpre.org.uk/maps/>

4. Hart District Landscape Character Types and Areas

4.1 The following section outlines the distinct Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas identified as part of this Landscape Character Assessment. The extents of the Landscape Character Types are illustrated on **Figure 14: Hart Landscape Character Types** and the Landscape Character Areas are illustrated on **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**. The Landscape Character Assessment has identified a series of seven Landscape Character Types and seventeen Landscape Character Areas within the study area, as follows:

Table 1. Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Type	Landscape Character Area
A - Chalk Downland	A1 - Hart Chalk Downland
B - River Plains	B1 - Whitewater River Plains B2 - Blackwater River Plains B3 - Hart River Plains
C - Dense Wooded Commons	C1 - Hook Dense Wooded Commons C2 - Odiham Dense Wooded Commons
D - Wooded Parkland	D1 - Dogmersfield Wooded Parkland D2 - Tylney Wooded Parkland D3 - Wellington Wooded Parkland
E - Fringe Wooded Farmland	E1 - Winchfield Fringe Wooded Farmland E2 - Redlands Fringe Wooded Farmland E3 - Eversley Fringe Wooded Farmland E4 - Frogmore Fringe Wooded Farmland
F - Densely Forested Heathland	F1 - Bramshill Densely Forested Heathland F2 - Tweseldown Densely Forested Heathland
G - Wooded Heathland	G1 - Minley Wooded Heathland G2 - Hazeley Wooded Heathland

Landscape Character Type A: Chalk Downland

4.2 With reference to **Figure 14: Hart Landscape Character Types**, Landscape Character Type A: Chalk Downland is located within the south of the study area. This generally comprises an influence of chalk bedrock across an undulating landform and the dominant land use is agriculture. This Landscape Character Type is characterised by a generally open, rural landscape, with some enclosure and semi-enclosure afforded by copses and mature vegetation cover. The influence of settlement is generally limited due to the topographical changes and vegetation cover. The Landscape Character Type consists of the following Landscape Character Area:

- Landscape Character Area A1: Hart Chalk Downland.

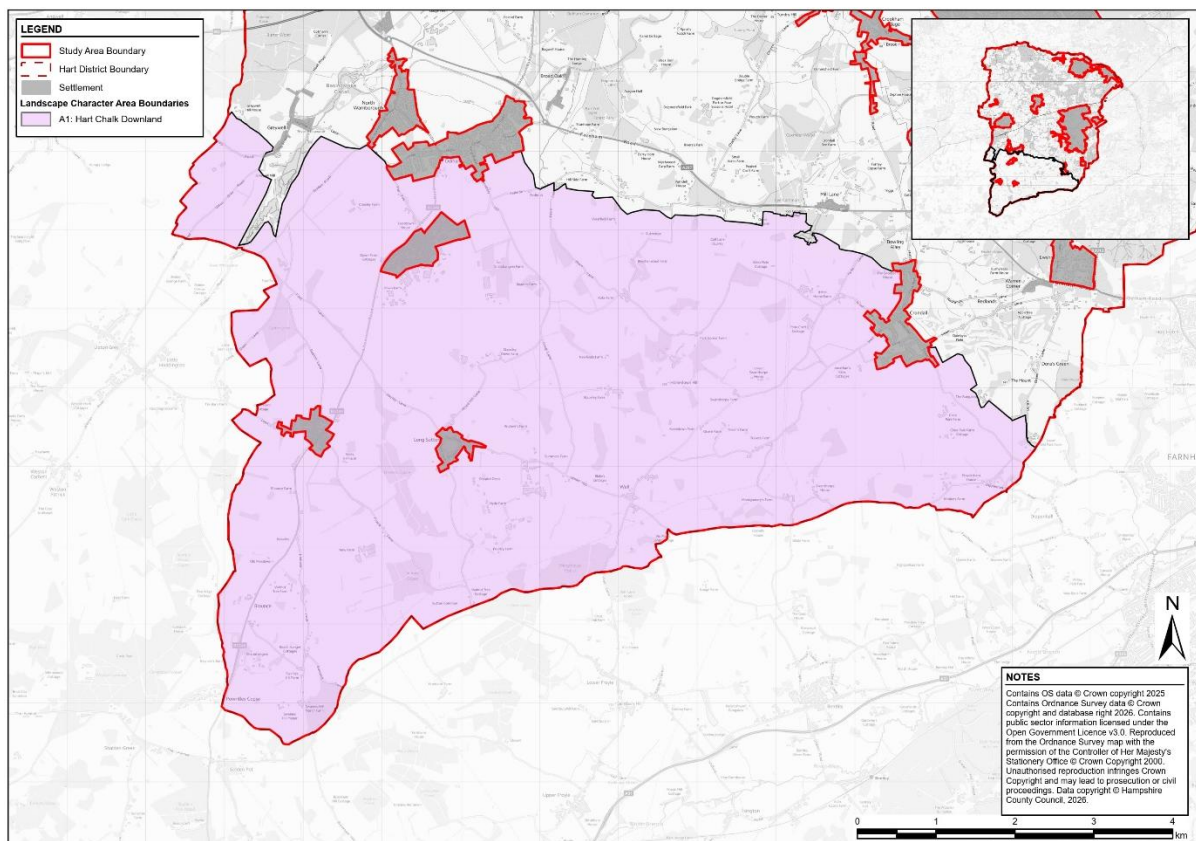


Plate 2: Extract of Figure 15 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area A1 in a colour fill



Plate 3: View of the agricultural landscape with a backdrop of mature vegetation restricting long distance views and distant influence of overhead lines and pylons



Plate 4: View of overhead lines and pylons across arable fields with distant views across the rolling landscape

Location and Boundaries

- 4.3 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, this Landscape Character Area occupies approximately the southern third of the district. The northern boundary is defined by the southern edge of Odiham, Hillside Road and Farnham Road and the eastern boundary by the settlement of Crondall.
- 4.4 Landscape Character Area A1: Hart Chalk Downland is bordered on its northern edge by the following Landscape Character Areas:
- Landscape Character Area B1: Whitewater River Plains;
 - Landscape Character Area D1: Dogmersfield Wooded Parkland Landscape Character Area; and
 - Landscape Character Area E2: Redlands Fringe Wooded Farmland.

Overview of Landscape Character

- 4.5 The bedrock geology consists predominantly of white chalk. The soils are typically shallow and lime-rich, over chalk or limestone in the west, and predominantly freely draining slightly acid and lime-rich loamy soils in the east. There are smaller areas of slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils.
- 4.6 The Landscape Character Area covers an elevated, undulating landscape which lies between approximately +90m and +221m AOD, gradually rising towards the north. The topography comprises rolling undulations with rounded high points and dry valleys. There is a limited influence of hydrological features other than Billsaw Lake and Billhook fishing lakes at Horsedown Hill and small water bodies including Itchel Mill Springs.
- 4.7 Vegetation cover includes numerous woodland blocks and copses, many of which are defined as Ancient Woodland, which restrict longer distance views in places and divide the wider, relatively open parts of the Landscape Character Area. Woodland blocks are comparatively more prevalent in the central and southern parts of the Landscape Character Area and the level of enclosure alters dependent on the elevation and proximity to vegetation. The area of mature vegetation in the northeast corner of the Landscape Character Area affords a sense of greater enclosure in particular.
- 4.8 There is evidence of hedgerow removal in parts and the loss of historic field boundary vegetation due to modern agricultural farming practices resulting in large open fields. The majority of the vegetation is native deciduous tree cover; however, there are tall poplars in pockets, which are an increasingly scarce feature in the English landscape. Ecological designations include Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) in discrete areas within the Landscape Character Area.
- 4.9 Land use is predominantly large scale arable agriculture with a sense of openness; however, there are pockets of grassland with pastoral farming practices present with a more intimate feel. There is recreational land use near to settlement, including Farnham Road Recreation Ground to the south of Crondall and Hook Meadow, which also has a historical function as it forms part of fields which separated the church and the manor house from the medieval centre of Crondall.
- 4.10 There is a pattern of small villages and hamlets set within a rural landscape many of which are located within valleys, including Well and Long Sutton. Numerous scattered farmsteads, often comprising traditional red brick buildings, are also a notable feature of the landscape. There is influence from the All Saints Church, Crondall in the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area, appearing as elevated above the village, although views are screened by mature vegetation in places. Typically, the landscape is more open in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area around Odiham with a visual interrelationship between the settlement and the surrounding landscape.

- 4.11 Overhead lines and pylons extend through the Landscape Character Area from Fleet substation in the adjacent Dogmersfield Wooded Parkland Landscape Character Area to the north. Overhead lines and pylons and communication masts in the adjacent Landscape Character Area break up the skyline however views are distant and not typically influential as they are set behind woodland. Despite its predominantly rural character, the western part of the Landscape Character Area is locally influenced by Odiham Airfield. This influence includes the presence of large scale low-rise buildings, including those in residential use, vertical structures and areas of open land associated with the airfield.
- 4.12 Comparatively elevated parts of the Landscape Character Area afford distant views across the open chalklands into neighbouring landscapes, contributing to a strong sense of openness and exposure. This includes elevated views from the northwestern corner of the Landscape Character Area towards Basingstoke and Reading and also views out towards the South Downs National Park. There are views towards Odiham Castle in the northwestern corner of the Landscape Character Area. There is a backdrop of mature vegetation in Redlands Fringe Wooded Farmland Landscape Character Area which encloses views towards the eastern edge of the Landscape Character Area.
- 4.13 The tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area contains the full range found within the district, from -96 to +33, but the majority falls within the +1 to +33 range and is the Landscape Character Area with the most highly tranquil areas within the district.
- 4.14 The hours of darkness baseline within the Landscape Character Area lie between 0.25-8 nanoWatts / cm^2/sr , which is low in comparison to the remainder of the district. There are areas of higher light emissions associated with the airfield at RAF Odiham, around Crondall and around Long Sutton, reaching between 1-2 nanoWatts / cm^2/sr around the settlements and up to 8 nanoWatts / cm^2/sr around RAF Odiham. Red aviation lighting associated with RAF Odiham Airfield is visible predominantly from the southern part of the Landscape Character Area during hours of darkness and this results in a greater perception of the airfield than is evident during daylight hours. In contrast, the A287 has minimal influence during hours of darkness due to vegetation screening and the absence of street lighting.

Key Characteristics

- The white chalklands are evident in parts of the agricultural landscape resulting in a unity of character across a large area in the southern part of the district.
- An undulating landform with localised smooth high points including Horsedown Hill and dry valleys.
- Vegetation cover includes hedgerows, mature trees and copses, which provide containment in places dependent on elevation and proximity to the vegetation cover. There is also some evidence of removal of historic hedgerow cover.
- Large scale conversion to agricultural land use across the Landscape Character Area to create typically large scale, open field enclosures with some areas of chalk grassland remaining present on valley sides.
- Historic landscape characterisation of 'large wavy fields' as well as 'small' and 'medium parliamentary fields'.
- Historic extraction of clay within the landscape.
- Ancient roadway within the landscape including the 'Harrow Way' passing through the settlements of Well and Long Sutton and sunken lanes indicating time-depth in the landscape.
- Reference to historical land use including Warnborough Park parkland on the southern edge of South Warnborough.
- Recreational land uses occur near settlements, including sports facilities, and a good network of PRoW including footpaths, bridleways and byways largely within the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- There is extensive cycling activity throughout this Landscape Character Area, making use of the road network as well as smaller lanes and appropriate PRoW.

- A network of local and secondary roads extends throughout the Landscape Character Area, often enclosed by mature boundary vegetation and high hedgerow banks which can restrict outward views particularly along narrow sunken lanes.
- The settlement pattern is dispersed and nucleated, consisting primarily of small villages, hamlets and farmsteads with agricultural buildings. The influence of settlement is more noticeable in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area due to the relative openness.
- The overriding character is that of a rural landscape with localised influence from overhead lines and pylons which pass through the Landscape Character Area and also from the Odiham airfield in close proximity.
- Distant views across open chalklands into neighbouring landscapes, with a sense of openness and exposure, available from comparatively elevated parts of the Landscape Character Area.
- There is a peaceful feeling with a sense of naturalness and tranquillity with seasonal variety provided by the agricultural land use patterns. This is coupled with the occasional influence of noise and views of military aircraft.
- The Landscape Character Area is comparatively dark. However, there is greater perception of the airfield across a greater extent of the Landscape Character Area during hours of darkness than during the day.

Forces for Change

- Expansion of development, including around settlements, particularly with regard to preserving the rural and peaceful setting to the various Conservation Areas in the Landscape Character Area and existing settlement including Odiham.
- Further loss of field boundary vegetation due to agricultural pressures.
- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area.
- The potential for expansion of energy related infrastructure including solar development.
- Increased recreational pressure on PRow and rural lanes.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Preserve open space and recreational land use on the edge of settlements, particularly important for Crondall as this contributes to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.
- Reinstate historic vegetated boundaries lost due to agricultural practices to ensure linear wildlife corridors.
- Protection of existing vegetation which is characteristic of the Landscape Character Area and improve the quality where possible, including hedgerow and tree cover.
- Retain and preserve PRow, including those that connect residential areas and settlements.
- Explore further opportunities for recreational cycling infrastructure including reference to the Local Cycling Walking and Infrastructure Plan or successor document.
- Support aims and objectives of ecological designations and the priorities within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.

Development Guidelines

- Respect outward rural views from the Crondall, Well, South Warnborough, Odiham, North Warnborough and Long Sutton Conservation Areas to the surrounding countryside and contribution of land outside the settlement boundary to the Conservation Areas.
- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing and sympathetic to the existing character particularly around the traditional rural settlements and including consideration of local topography and landform.
- Respect the open nature and rural long-distance views across the downland.
- Development to be sensitive to the visual relationship with South Downs National Park in distance mainly from the northwestern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- Recognise gap to the north of Crondall to prevent the coalescence of Mill Lane and Crondall Village.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.
- Where possible and appropriate, renewable energy, energy transmission and low-carbon infrastructure proposals should make efficient use of existing infrastructure and minimise the need for additional grid connection works within the landscape.
- Development should protect and respond positively to the qualities associated with 'key views', especially with regard to those identified by published neighbourhood planning documentation in relation to Odiham.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRoW and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.

Landscape Character Type B: River Plains

4.15 With reference to **Figure 14: Hart Landscape Character Types**, Landscape Character Type B: River Plains generally comprises a gradually falling landform associated with the river courses. Vegetation cover is varied and includes characteristic vegetation lining the watercourse, such as willow. There are rare habitats in parts, often associated with ecological designations. There are associations with historic land uses still present in the landscape today, including mill leats and castle remains. Several country parks and meadows with recreational access are present across the landscape. Despite the influence of the road and rail networks, there are pockets of rural and tranquil nature. The Landscape Character Type consists of the following Landscape Character Areas:

- Landscape Character Area B1: Whitewater River Plains;
- Landscape Character Area B2: Blackwater River Plains; and
- Landscape Character Area B3: Hart River Plains.

Landscape Character Area B1: Whitewater River Plains

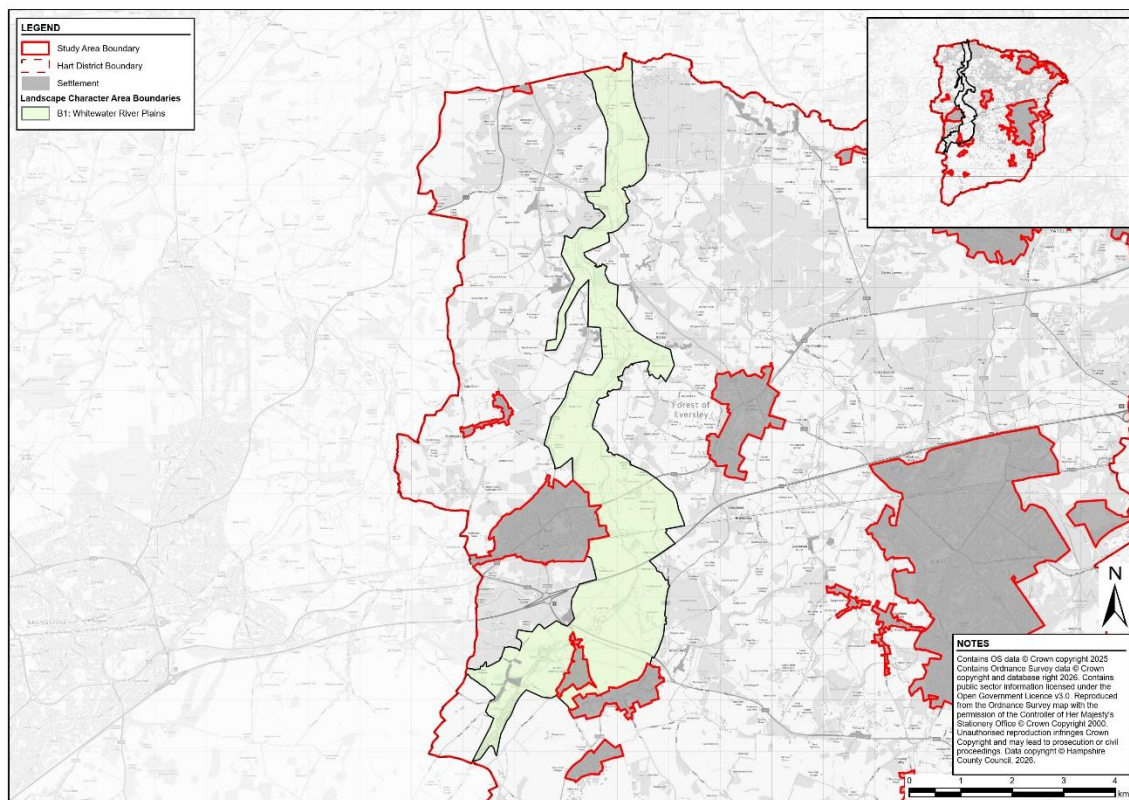


Plate 5: Extract of Figure 15 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area B1 in a colour fill



Plate 6: View of Whitewater River plains with individual mature trees and hedgerow vegetation cover

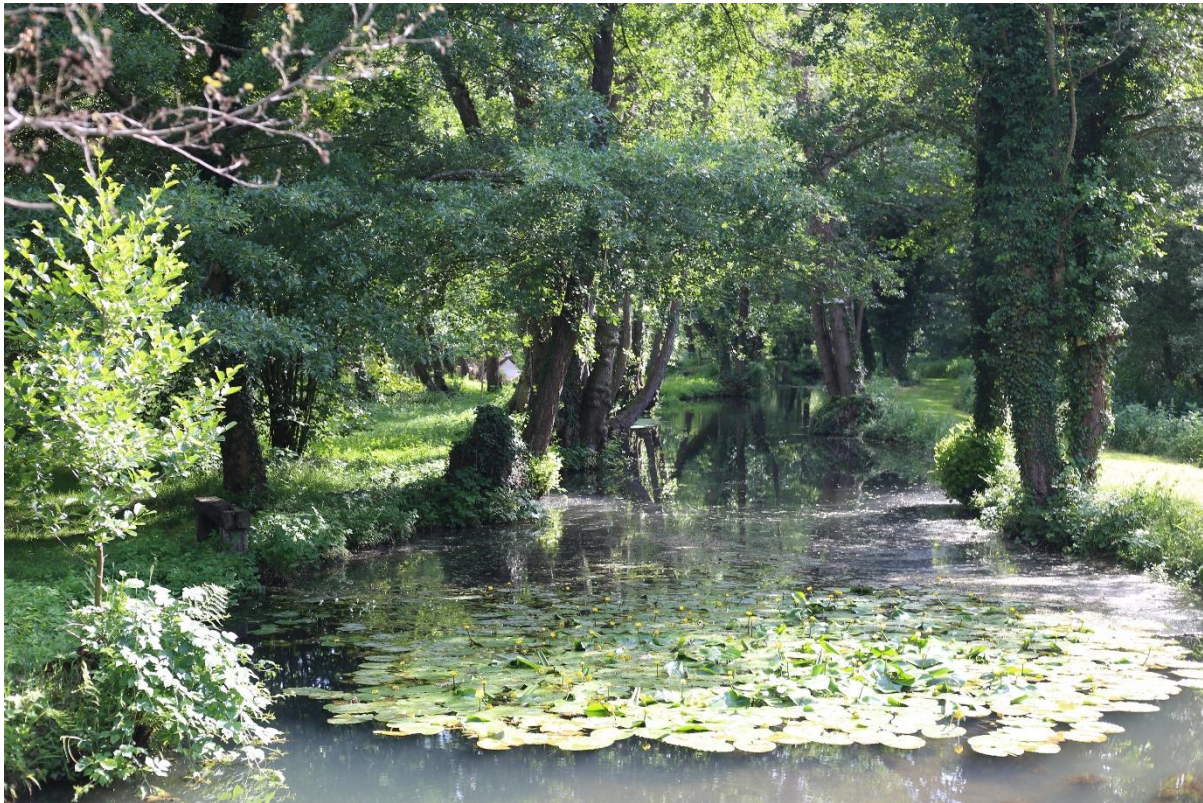


Plate 7: View of Whitewater River with mature vegetation cover

Location and Boundaries

- 4.16 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, this Landscape Character Area comprises a long narrow strip of land within the western part of the district, along the alignment of the River Whitewater and its catchment, continuing to the northern edge of the district.
- 4.17 Landscape Character Area B1: Whitewater River Plains is bordered by the following Landscape Character Areas:
- Landscape Character Areas B2: Blackwater River Plains, Landscape Character Area F1: Bramshill Densely Forested Heathland, Landscape Character Area B3: Hart River Plains, Landscape Character Area G2: Hazeley Wooded Heathland, Landscape Character Area D1: Dogmersfield Wooded Parkland and Landscape Character Area C2: Odiham Dense Wooded Commons to the east;
 - Landscape Character Area A1: Hart Chalk Downland to the south; and
 - Landscape Character Area C1: Hook Dense Wooded Commons, Landscape Character Area D2: Tynney Wooded Parkland and Landscape Character Area D3: Wellington Wooded Parkland to the west.

Overview of Landscape Character

- 4.18 The bedrock geology consists predominantly of clay, silt, sand and gravel in the north, with a small band of white chalk at the southern limit. The soils consist predominantly of loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater and slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils with smaller areas of freely draining slightly acid sandy soils.

- 4.19 The Landscape Character Area covers a gradually falling landform associated with the course of the river, falling from approximately +90m to +45m AOD from Greywell in the south to the confluence of the River Whitewater with the River Blackwater in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- 4.20 The River Whitewater is a chalk stream that runs through the length of this Landscape Character Area, strongly influencing its character. Chalk streams are an internationally rare habitat. In the south near Mattingley the river valley is relatively open chalk stream, becoming increasingly narrow and enclosed towards the north.
- 4.21 Vegetation cover includes small blocks of scrub, marshland and linear woodland adjacent to the river including willow. Some of the woodland blocks are identified as Ancient Woodland, although limited to small pockets. Good quality hedgerows line the roads and mature individual trees both in field enclosures within the river plain and also along the river course in parts such as in the south near to North Warnborough. There is evidence of hedgerow fragmentation particularly within the central part of the Landscape Character Area. Flora and fauna interests include Greywell Fen SSSI, Warnborough Green SSSI and Basingstoke Canal SSSI including habitats such as wet grassland and calcareous valley mire.
- 4.22 Typically, agricultural and equestrian land uses, with other uses such as meadow land near to Greywell in the south of the Landscape Character Area. The land uses are relatively mixed in the southern part of the Landscape Character Area compared with the north more focused on agriculture. However, there are large scale agricultural buildings along the A287 in the south.
- 4.23 The landscape to the north of Odiham contains the southern part of a former royal deer park and the remains of the Odiham Castle Scheduled Monument, which was built by King John in the thirteenth century. This has ancient royal connections which are evident in the landscape and contribute to the time-depth of the landscape. Greywell Mill and associated mill leats also reflect historic land uses. The Basingstoke Canal is an important historic landscape feature and crosses under the River Whitewater. The canal was originally constructed as a navigable waterway for the transport of goods and materials and has become a valued recreational and cultural resource, providing access to Odiham Castle Scheduled Monument (locally known as King John's Castle) and forming part of a wider network of routes used by walkers, cyclists and boaters.
- 4.24 Recreational access includes Wellington Country Park, hitewater Meadows, Bassetts Meadow Country Park and Wellesley Water Meadow with informal paths and managed habitats including tussock meadow in Wellesley Water Meadow. The latter three areas are also managed as SANGs. Recreational access is provided by an extensive PRow network, including across Greywell Hill Park in the southern part of the Landscape Character Area. The Three Castles Path recreational route including Odiham Castle along Basingstoke Canal passes through the southern part of the Landscape Character Area. Cycling activity is largely limited to the road network and part of the King Alfred's Way cycle route passes through.
- 4.25 The settlement pattern largely comprises linear and nucleated villages, hamlets and farmsteads, concentrated within the southern part of the Landscape Character Area. This includes Greywell, a linear settlement characterised by its traditional timber-framed and red brick buildings. The local road network includes fords across the River Whitewater at Mill Lane between Odiham Castle and North Warnborough. Bunkers Hill Solar Farm is visible from Reading Road in the central part of the Landscape Character Area, while overhead lines and pylons are also evident in views.
- 4.26 Despite the influence of the road and rail networks that cross the Landscape Character Area from east to west, pockets of tranquillity and rural character remain. This is particularly evident within the North Warnborough Conservation Area, where historic settlements retain a strong relationship with landscape features such as the River Whitewater and Basingstoke Canal. The tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area contains the full range found within the district, from -96 to +33. There is a very dark landscape relative to the surrounding district with a baseline of 0.25-2 nanoWatts /cm²/sr although some influences from car headlights along the M3 in places, and a peak of up to 32 nanoWatts /cm²/sr around the settlement of Hook.

Key Characteristics

- Gentle valley sides which rise from the course of the River Whitewater.
- The River Whitewater is a chalk stream which supports a rare habitat of ecological importance and contributes to local distinctiveness through the presence and sound of flowing water. Hydrology also includes the man-made lake at Wellington Country Park, as a result of historic gravel extraction.
- Vegetation cover includes small blocks of scrub, marshland and linear woodland, individual mature trees and hedgerows with some fragmentation. Flora and fauna interest associated with ecological designations, including wet grassland.
- Mixture of perception of scale, including relatively larger scale where field boundary vegetation is less defined or fragmented and medium scale arable, pastoral and paddock fields which results in a more intimate character due to mature vegetation and broad valley landform.
- The Basingstoke Canal is largely enclosed by mature vegetation which creates a tranquil green / blue corridor. Historic buildings are located adjacent to the Basingstoke Canal, many of which are listed buildings and provide architectural and historical interest.
- The M3 is elevated and cuts across the Landscape Character Area resulting in perceptible road noise. Traffic noise from the A287 also has a localised influence.
- The local road network includes fords across the River Whitewater.
- Recreational access includes various meadows and country parks with informal paths, small areas of common land, an extensive PROW network and the Three Castles Path long-distance route.
- The Basingstoke Canal provides a valued recreational resource for walkers, cyclists and boaters and forms part of the wider route network. Part of King Alfred's Way cycling route runs through the Landscape Character Area.
- Built form comprises small settlements as well as scattered farmsteads, large agricultural buildings and small pockets of employment land use generally in close proximity to settlements. This built form has a localised influence on the wider rural landscape, particularly near to Odiham and North Warnborough and the associated road network in the south of the Landscape Character Area.
- Historic Landscape Characterisation is dominated by 'valley floor', with smaller areas of 'large wavy fields' and medium irregular 'assarts' reflecting historic woodland clearance and enclosure patterns.
- Historic interest features include Greywell Mill and associated mill leats and the former Royal Deer Park reflecting historic land uses. The remains of the Odiham Castle Scheduled Monument are evident in the landscape which contributes to the time-depth of the landscape.
- Localised urbanising influence from the edge of Hook and development along the A30.
- Influence of solar development and overhead lines and pylons within parts of the Landscape Character Area providing reference to energy development.
- Typically, enclosed character with short distance views due to mature vegetation cover. Longer views are available outwards across the landscape in parts, particularly from the elevated central area.
- Areas of lower tranquillity are found near the urban edges of settlement while the most tranquil spots are found to the north of the Landscape Character Area. Despite the influence of the road and rail networks, pockets of rural character and tranquillity remain.
- A very dark landscape relative to the surrounding district is experienced across much of the Landscape Character Area, although there are localised influences from vehicle headlights along the M3 in places and influence around the settlement of Hook.

Forces for Change

- Potential pressure for settlement expansion, particularly around Odiham and North Warnborough, with the potential to alter the relationship between settlements and the surrounding countryside.
- Expansion of energy related infrastructure including solar development.
- Expansion of development, particularly with the potential to alter the rural setting of the Basingstoke Canal, Diple and Hazeley Bottom Conservation Areas and the rural nature of the river valley.
- Climate change increasing extreme weather events, such as flooding due to rainfall patterns changing and heat stress relating to the landscape.
- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area
- Impacts arising from groundwater abstraction at the Greywell abstraction source, which draws water from the chalk aquifer feeding the River Whitewater and Greywell Fen SSSI. These impacts may affect river flows, wetland and fen vegetation, and the condition of distinctive chalk stream habitats, with consequential effects on landscape character and perceptual qualities.
- Potential pressure for the expansion of large scale commercial and employment development across the Landscape Character Area with the potential to reduce tranquillity, rural character, views and the setting of heritage and ecological assets.
- Further loss of field boundary vegetation due to agricultural pressures.
- Potential requirements for recreational areas to be provided such as the change in use to enable new or expansion of SANGs with requirements for parking, signage, fencing, habitat creation, visitor activity and management infrastructure.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Protect natural water sources, including the River Whitewater, from pollution, increased water consumption, foul water discharge, wastewater treatment, agricultural pollution and recreational pressure and the chalk stream associated rare habitats.
- Protect the influence of the River Whitewater on the surrounding landscape character, noting that this alters through the Landscape Character Area largely dependent on the sense of openness.
- Protection of existing vegetation, which is characteristic of the Landscape Character Area, and improve the quality where possible, including riparian vegetation cover and field boundary vegetation.
- Maintain rural views from recreational routes within proximity to Odiham, by minimising suburbanising development.
- Support aims and objectives of ecological designations and the priorities within the LNRS.
- Retain and preserve the recreational routes across the Landscape Character Area, including those that connect residential areas and settlements and the towpath along Basingstoke Canal.
- Preserve vegetation and rural nature of land use on the edge of settlements, particularly important for Hartley Wintney Conservation Area, Diple Conservation Area and Hazeley Bottom Conservation Area as this contributes to the character and appearance of the Conservation Areas.
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.
- Conserve and enhance the naturalistic character of existing and proposed SANGs, ensuring that access, wayfinding and visitor infrastructure are sensitively integrated into the landscape and reflect local character.

- Manage recreational greenspaces, including SANGs, to maintain a predominantly natural character, strengthen habitat networks and avoid urbanising influences that would detract from landscape character.
- Support the creation of new natural greenspaces and SANGs where they reinforce local landscape character, enhance biodiversity and retain the rural qualities of the area.

Development Guidelines

- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing and sympathetic to the existing character, including local topography and landform.
- Where possible and appropriate, renewable energy, energy transmission and low-carbon infrastructure proposals should make efficient use of existing infrastructure and minimise the need for additional grid connection works within the landscape.
- Avoid detracting development which would influence the tranquil nature of the river corridor.
- Respect outward rural views from the North Warnborough Conservation Area, Diple Conservation Area, Hazeley Bottom Conservation Area and Greywell Conservation Area to the surrounding countryside and contribution of land outside the settlement area to the Conservation Areas. This includes retaining eastern views from the settlement of Greywell towards the river corridor.
- Recognise gap between North Warnborough and Odiham and respect the views from and towards the settlements.
- Development should protect and respond positively to the qualities associated with 'key views', especially with regard to those identified by published neighbourhood planning documentation in relation to Winchfield, Odiham and Hook.
- Development within the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area and its setting should follow development / design guidance, ensuring it is of a scale and design to reinforce the locally distinctive character.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRow and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.

Landscape Character Area B2: Blackwater River Plains

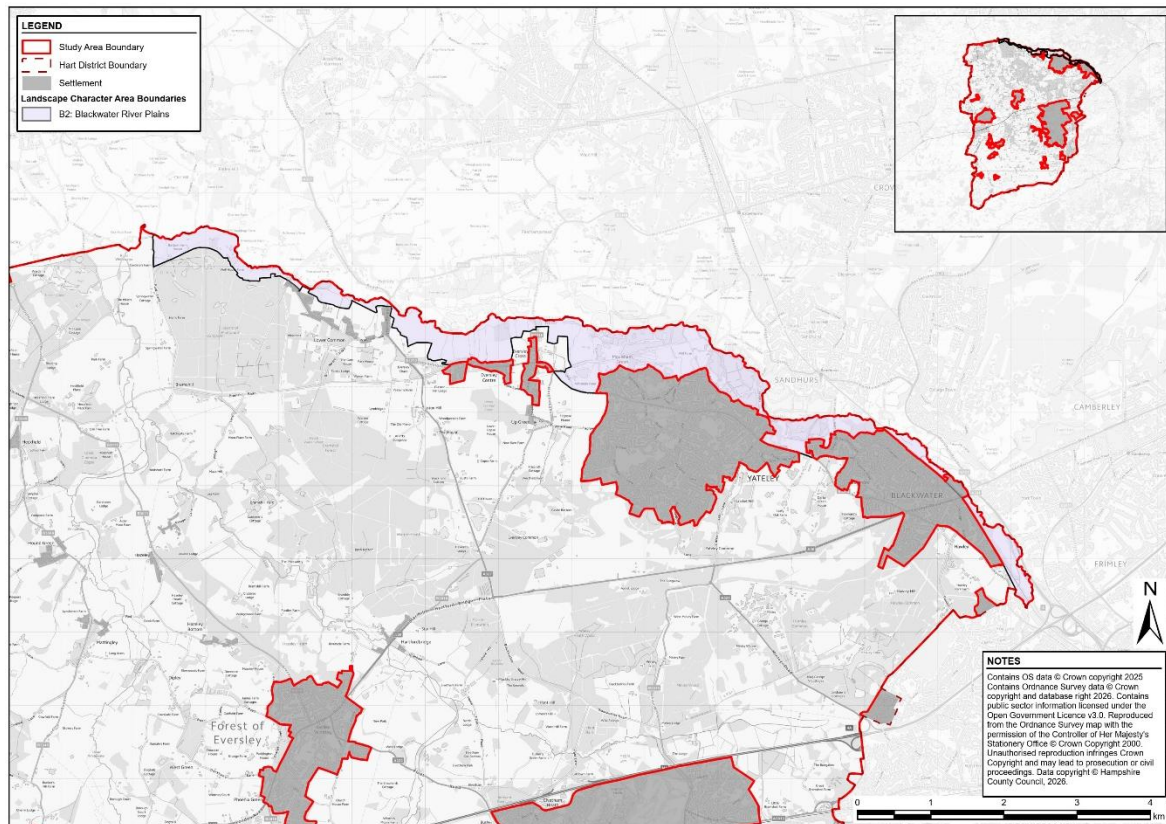


Plate 8: Extract of Figure 15 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area B2 in a colour fill



Plate 9: View of the River Blackwater



Plate 10: View of lake south of Moor Green Lakes Nature Reserve

Location and Boundaries

- 4.27 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, this Landscape Character Area comprises a thin strip of land along the northern boundary of the district, to the north of Yateley, Blackwater and the settlements in Eversley Fringe Wooded Farmland Landscape Character Area.
- 4.28 Landscape Character Area B2: Blackwater River Plains is bordered by the following Landscape Character Areas:
- Landscape Character Area F1: Bramshill Densely Forested Heathland, Landscape Character Area E3: Eversley Fringe Wooded Farmland, Landscape Character Area E4: Frogmore Fringe Wooded Farmland and Landscape Character Area G1: Minley Wooded Heathland to the south; and
 - Landscape Character Area B1: Whitewater River Plains to the west.

Overview of Landscape Character

- 4.29 The bedrock geology consists primarily of sand, silt and clay to the east of the Landscape Character Area, with the addition of gravel in the western part. The soil consists of loamy soils with naturally high groundwater.
- 4.30 The Landscape Character Area covers a relatively flat and low lying river plain, between approximately +48m AOD and +60m AOD. It comprises extensive hydrological features, including the River Blackwater which runs in a generally east to west direction through the length of the Landscape Character Area. Hydrological features also include various lakes, including Yateley Lakes and lakes to the north of Blackwater Valley Golf Centre, which comprise sites of former mineral extraction activity. These hydrological features have a strong influence on the character of the landscape.

- 4.31 Vegetation cover comprises riparian vegetation, including trees and shrubs alongside the river network, with characteristic willow and alder trees present. Invasive species also dominate vegetation cover in places, including Himalayan balsam. Lakes are generally bound by trees and reeds with vegetation in the lakes including aquatic plants and water lilies. Trees have fallen into the river and lakes in places, which have begun to grow, creating diversity within the river channel. Beyond immediate river corridors, vegetation cover comprises a combination of meadow and grassland, enclosed by mature trees and individual shrubs, and some individual trees within field parcels.
- 4.32 Ecological designations comprise parts of the Landscape Character Area, including Blackwater Valley SSSI, a nationally important habitat, and several locally designated SINCs including within the lakes and the meadows.
- 4.33 There is substantial recreational use across the Landscape Character Area, including along Blackwater Valley long distance route and Three Castles Path long distance route, Hawley Meadows, also managed as a SANG, and Blackwater Park Nature Reserve. There is also recreational sports use in Blackwater Valley Golf Centre and Sean Devereux Park. Angling and watersports also take place across some of the lakes.
- 4.34 The tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area ranges from -96 to +15, where the sense of remoteness is reduced in the east of the Landscape Character Area due to influence from the industrial edge of Blackwater and main road corridors. A railway line runs along the boundary in the east of the Landscape Character Area. However, mature vegetation limits the influence, and the railway station lies within the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area. Mature vegetation in the central part restricts the influence of the settlement of Yateley in the surrounding landscape. However, land use within the central part of the Landscape Character Area, including Sean Devereux Park and Blackwater Valley Golf Centre, and influence from water activities on Horseshoe Lake, create an active and busy character. The western part of the Landscape Character Area is more remote and tranquil in character, with limited influence from settlement or development. There is influence from overhead lines and pylons across the Landscape Character Area, although this is somewhat localised due to mature vegetation.
- 4.35 During hours of darkness, influence from light sources is generally limited across much of the Landscape Character area to scattered residential properties. There is localised influence from Yateley, especially in the west, ranging from 0.5->32 nanoWatts /cm2/sr, which is considerably brighter in comparison to the remainder of the district due to proximity to various settlements. Vehicle lights are glimpsed along the B327.

Key Characteristics

- The Landscape Character Area covers relatively flat and low-lying landform associated with the river plain, between approximately +48m AOD and +60m AOD.
- Extensive hydrological features are present, including the River Blackwater which flows through the length of the Landscape Character Area. There are also multiple shallow lakes created by past mineral extraction.
- Vegetation cover comprises riparian tree and shrub species alongside the river network including characteristic willow and alder trees. Invasive species also dominate vegetation cover in places. Lakes are generally bound by trees with riparian vegetation, including water lilies.
- Beyond immediate river corridors, vegetation cover comprises a combination of meadow and grassland and relatively small scale agricultural fields, enclosed by mature trees and individual shrubs.
- There are numerous ecological designations within the Landscape Character Area, including Blackwater Valley SSSI and several locally designated SINCs.
- Much of the land is retained for nature and managed for recreation. Extensive recreational access, including along long distance routes and numerous nature reserves and recreational sports use in Blackwater Valley Golf Centre, Sean Devereux Park and across some of the lakes.

- There is extensive cyclist use of the PRow network throughout this Landscape Character Area along the River Blackwater.
- Settlement pattern is limited within the Landscape Character Area with small groupings of residential properties typically set within mature vegetation.
- A semi-enclosed character, with framed views along the river and across lakes. Mature vegetation and low-lying topography limit longer distance views.
- Historic landscape characterisation comprises primarily 'valley floor' with paddocks and pastures, with areas of 'industry' consisting of reservoirs and water treatment.
- Transport corridors comprise a few main roads, including the A327, A30 and A331, as well as minor roads which largely run across the river corridor, connecting settlements north to south.
- Tranquil areas are located mainly in the western part of the Landscape Character Area.
- During hours of darkness, influence from light sources is limited to scattered residential properties and localised from influence from Yateley.

Forces for Change

- Expansion of development, including around settlements with an emphasis on being well-connected to the train station, particularly with regard to preserving the rural setting to the Eversley Cross and Eversley Street Conservation Areas.
- Climate change increasing extreme weather events, such as flooding due to rainfall patterns changing and heat stress relating to the landscape.
- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area
- Development expansion from nearby urban areas, particularly in the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- Potential requirements for recreational areas to be provided such as the change in use to enable new or expansion of SANGs with requirements for parking, signage, fencing, habitat creation, visitor activity and management infrastructure.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Management of the River Blackwater including reducing pollution, improving water quality and managing bank erosion to retain this as a recreational resource and to reduce flood risk.
- Protect the influence of the River Blackwater on the surrounding landscape character.
- Management of invasive species along the watercourses.
- Retain small scale field enclosures which define the river valley setting.
- Preserve tree and hedgerow vegetation on the edge of settlements, particularly important for Eversley as this contributes to the character and appearance of the Eversley Cross and Eversley Street Conservation Areas.
- Support aims and objectives of ecological designations and the priorities within the LNRS.
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.
- Conserve and enhance the naturalistic character of existing and proposed SANGs, ensuring that access, wayfinding and visitor infrastructure are sensitively integrated into the landscape and reflect local character.

- Manage recreational greenspaces, including SANGs, to maintain a predominantly natural character, strengthen habitat networks and avoid urbanising influences that would detract from landscape character.
- Support the creation of new natural greenspaces and SANGs where they reinforce local landscape character, enhance biodiversity and retain the rural qualities of the area.

Development Guidelines

- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing and sympathetic to the existing character, including local topography and landform.
- Development proposals should protect Blackwater River corridor as a leisure and recreational resource and not harm biodiversity or water quality.
- Limit further development influence particularly in the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area to retain as far as possible the rural nature of the river valley.
- Development should respect the rural land use on the edge of Eversley as this contributes to the setting of the Eversley Cross and Eversley Street Conservation Areas.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRoW and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.

Landscape Character Area B3: Hart River Plains

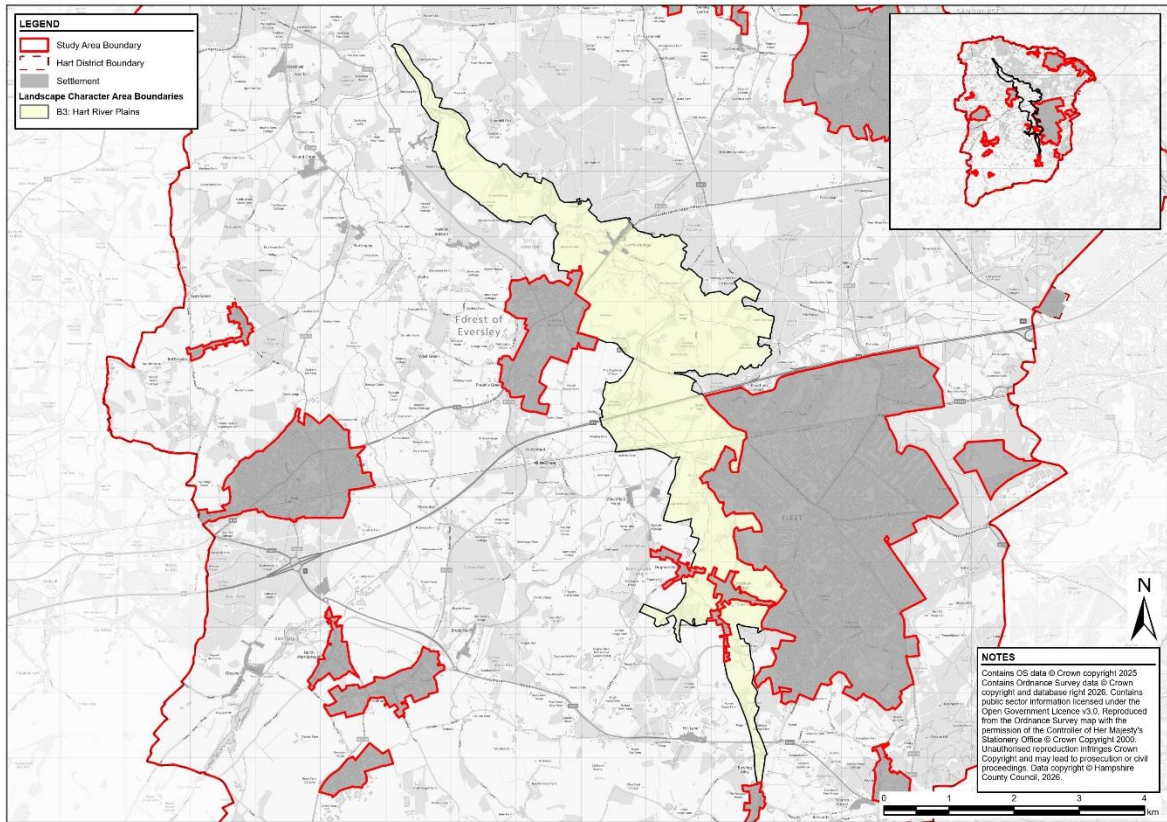


Plate 11: Extract of Figure 15 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area B3 in a colour fill



Plate 12: View along public access with a sense of enclosure from mature surrounding vegetation.



Plate 13: View showing the relatively flat river plain landscape with overhead lines and pylons visible
Location and Boundaries

4.36 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, this Landscape Character Area covers an area of land broadly within the central part of the district, to the west of Fleet and to the east of Hartley Wintney.

4.37 Landscape Character Area B3: Hart River Plains is bordered by the following Landscape Character Areas:

- Landscape Character Area B1: Whitewater River Plains to the north;
- Landscape Character Area F1: Bramshill Densely Forested Heathland to the northeast;
- Landscape Character Area E2: Redlands Fringe Wooded Farmland to the east; and
- Landscape Character Area D1: Dogmersfield Wooded Parkland, Landscape Character Area E1: Winchfield Fringe Wooded Farmland and Landscape Character Area G2: Hazeley Wooded Heathland to the west.

Overview of Landscape Character

4.38 The bedrock geology consists of sand, silt and clay. The soils consist predominantly of loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater and slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils. There are smaller areas of slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage.

4.39 The Landscape Character Area covers a broad flat valley and in small parts to the north, rolling landform situated between approximately +55m AOD in the north and +80m AOD in the south of the district.

4.40 The River Hart meanders across the landscape, which is the main hydrological feature. There are also multiple drainage ditches and small streams, some with main river status, and the waterbodies at

Edenbrook Country Park. The river plains are typically flat with poor drainage and comprise of meadow and pastureland. The river is chalk-fed and is a tributary of the River Whitewater. Parts of the southern area of the Landscape Character Area are less influenced by the river, which is a much smaller vegetation-lined watercourse. Some tributaries are sunken and vegetated, concealing them in places; however, there remains awareness of the river system denoted by low level grassy vegetation. The river system also results in flooding issues due to the poorly draining land.

- 4.41 There is typically a lack of riparian vegetation along the river; however, is tree-lined in places and there are pockets of more obvious riparian vegetation, including reeds. Areas of meadow grassland in close proximity to the river is often enclosed by hedgerows with evidence of removal and individual or rows of trees. There are few woodland blocks throughout the Landscape Character Area, some of which are defined as Ancient Woodland. The vegetation offers a sense of enclosure due to the generally flat landform. Basingstoke Canal SSSI supports rare flora and fauna and various SINCs across the Landscape Character Area provide important habitats including pockets of woodland.
- 4.42 Recreational access including within Edenbrook Country Park, which is managed as a SANG, small areas of common land near to the outer boundaries of the Landscape Character Area and parts of longer-distance recreational routes including the Three Castles Path. The local PRoW network converges in parts of the Landscape Character Area with the River Hart, reinforcing its influence on the landscape. The Basingstoke Canal provides a historic and current recreational resource for walkers, cyclists and boaters which forms part of a wider network. Otherwise, cycling within this Landscape Character Area is largely restricted to the road network and a small part of the King Alfred's Way cycle route.
- 4.43 Land use generally includes arable, rough grazing and paddocks with wooden fences. The majority of built form and development across the Landscape Character Area has localised influence due to containment across the typically flat landform. This includes a dispersed settlement pattern of residential properties, scattered agricultural buildings, solar farms, industrial estates, golf courses and a wastewater treatment works. Linear development along the road network at Hartfordbridge of residential dwellings.
- 4.44 The Landscape Character Area largely has an enclosed perception. However, there are outward views in places across the wider rural landscape, including from the Hartfordbridge Conservation Area. Typically, a rural landscape but with perception of visible and audible road traffic on surrounding roads including Crondall Road, M3 motorway and A30 passing through the Landscape Character Area.
- 4.45 The tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area contains the full range found within the district, from -96 to +33. There is a reduced tranquillity near the urban edge of Fleet and more tranquil areas adjacent to the denser vegetation of Bramshill Densely Forested Heathland Character Area. The London to Southampton railway line within the central part of the Landscape Character Area also passes through. Influence from neighbouring settlement areas including Fleet, particularly in the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area, but this is mainly localised and limited to the large scale leisure centre, therefore generally a limited influence from settlement due to mature vegetation cover. The perception of overhead lines and pylons are more noticeable due to their elevated presence across the Landscape Character Area.
- 4.46 The hours of darkness landscape is relatively dark although with some localised influence of the M3 on an embankment with a baseline of 0.5-8 nanoWatts /cm²/sr. The A30 is unlit and is generally well screened by mature woodland and vegetation, reducing its influence on the landscape, particularly during hours of darkness.

Key Characteristics

- The River Hart is a chalk-fed tributary of the River Whitewater and is a key hydrological feature with sounds of flowing water. The floodplain is relatively flat, has varying levels of openness and consists of poorly draining land.

- Vegetation cover includes hedgerows, hedgerow trees, mature individual and rows of trees, meadow grassland and pockets of riparian vegetation along the watercourses.
- Flora and fauna interest associated with ecological designations, including pockets of woodland habitats.
- Mixture of land use including agriculture, equestrian, golf course and brownfield sites. The agricultural land uses are reflected across the landscape including drainage ditches.
- Basingstoke Canal runs through the Landscape Character Area and is largely enclosed by mature vegetation which creates a tranquil green / blue corridor.
- Parkland trees and tree lined historic routes at Grade II Elvetham Hall Registered Park and Garden in the central part of the Landscape Character Area and the edge of Grade I Bramshill Park Registered Park and Garden in the northern part.
- Historic landscape characterisation of primarily 'valley floor' with paddocks and pastures.
- Varied field sizes, typically smaller scale nearer to the River Hart and medium scale on the edge of the Landscape Character Area.
- Scattered residential development including farmsteads; however, this is generally limited across the Landscape Character Area.
- Recreational access including country parks, small areas of common land, the local PRoW network which converges in parts with the River Hart and parts of longer distance recreational routes.
- The Basingstoke Canal provides a historic and current recreational resource for walkers, cyclists and boaters which forms part of a wider network. A small part of King Alfred's Way lies in both the north and south of the Landscape Character Area.
- A relatively enclosed landscape due to relatively flat landform and mature tree cover which limits longer distance views.
- Typically a rural landscape with perception of visible and audible road traffic on surrounding roads and localised influence from existing built form and development, including energy development, due to predominant enclosure. However, there is perception of overhead lines and pylons through the Landscape Character Area.
- A relatively dark landscape across much of the Landscape Character Area, although with some localised influence of the M3 on an embankment.

Forces for Change

- Expansion of development, particularly with regard to preserving the rural setting to the Dogmersfield Conservation Area, Hartfordbridge Conservation Area, Crookham Village Conservation Area, Hartley Wintney Conservation Area, Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area and Elvetham and Elvetham Farm Conservation Area.
- The potential for expansion of energy related infrastructure including solar development.
- Increased risk of fluvial and surface water flooding associated with the River Hart and its tributaries.
- Climate change increasing extreme weather events, such as flooding due to rainfall patterns changing and heat stress relating to the landscape.
- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area.
- Further loss of field boundary vegetation due to agricultural pressures.

- Potential requirements for recreational areas to be provided such as the change in use to enable new or expansion of SANGs with requirements for parking, signage, fencing, habitat creation, visitor activity and management infrastructure.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Reinstate historic vegetated boundaries lost due to agricultural practices to ensure linear wildlife corridors.
- Protect natural water sources, including the River Hart.
- Protect the influence of the River Hart on the surrounding landscape character, noting that this alters through the Landscape Character Area depending on the sense of openness.
- Conserve and enhance the natural environment, by maintaining and establishing important habitats and ecological networks and a range of good quality spaces which support people and wildlife.
- Protection of the setting of the Hartfordbridge Conservation Area, Crookham Village Conservation Area, Elvetham and Elvetham Farm Conservation Area, the river network and generally rural landscape with a wooded backdrop.
- Preserve farmland, open fields and vegetation pattern on the edge of settlements, particularly important for Dogmersfield, Hartley Wintney and Crookham as this contributes to the character and appearance of the Conservation Areas.
- Preserve recreational access and protect the green / blue network along the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area and its setting.
- Support aims and objectives of ecological designations and the priorities within the LNRS.
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.
- Conserve and enhance the naturalistic character of existing and proposed SANGs, ensuring that access, wayfinding and visitor infrastructure are sensitively integrated into the landscape and reflect local character.
- Manage recreational greenspaces, including SANGs, to maintain a predominantly natural character, strengthen habitat networks and avoid urbanising influences that would detract from landscape character.
- Support the creation of new natural greenspaces and SANGs where they reinforce local landscape character, enhance biodiversity and retain the rural qualities of the area.

Development Guidelines

- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing and sympathetic to the existing character, including local topography and landform.
- Where possible and appropriate, renewable energy, energy transmission and low-carbon infrastructure proposals should make efficient use of existing infrastructure and minimise the need for additional grid connection works within the landscape.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRoW and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.
- Development should respect the farmland, open fields and vegetation pattern on the edge of Dogmersfield as this contributes to the setting of the Conservation Area.
- Development within the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area and its setting should follow development / design guidance, ensuring it is of a scale and design to reinforce the locally distinctive character.
- Towpath resurfacing to maintain the canal as a recreational resource.
- Respect outward rural views from the Hartfordbridge Conservation Area, Hartley Wintney Conservation Area, Crookham Village Conservation Area and Elvetham and Elvetham Farm Conservation Area to the

surrounding countryside and ensure any development follows development policies, ensuring it is of a scale and design to reinforce the locally distinctive character.

- Development should protect and respond positively to the qualities associated with the 'key views' identified within published neighbourhood planning documentation.
- Recognise gap to the north of Crondall to prevent the coalescence of Mill Lane and Crondall Village.
- Recognise gaps, to prevent the physical or visual coalescence and maintain separate identity, between settlements of Crookham Village and Fleet.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.

Landscape Character Type C: Dense Wooded Commons

4.47 With reference to **Figure 14: Hart Landscape Character Types**, Landscape Character Type C: Dense Wooded Commons generally comprises gently rolling landform covered by largely deciduous woodland blocks with interspersed areas of heathland, which are often within areas of common land. The Landscape Character Type has generally limited influence from surrounding development due to the presence of mature vegetation and has little built development within the boundaries. Extensive recreational access, particularly within the common land, is a key characteristic of this Landscape Character Type. The common land sometimes includes the presence of livestock grazing. The Landscape Character Type consists of the following Landscape Character Areas:

- Landscape Character Area C1: Hook Dense Wooded Commons; and
- Landscape Character Area C2: Odiham Dense Wooded Commons.

Landscape Character Area C1: Hook Dense Wooded Commons

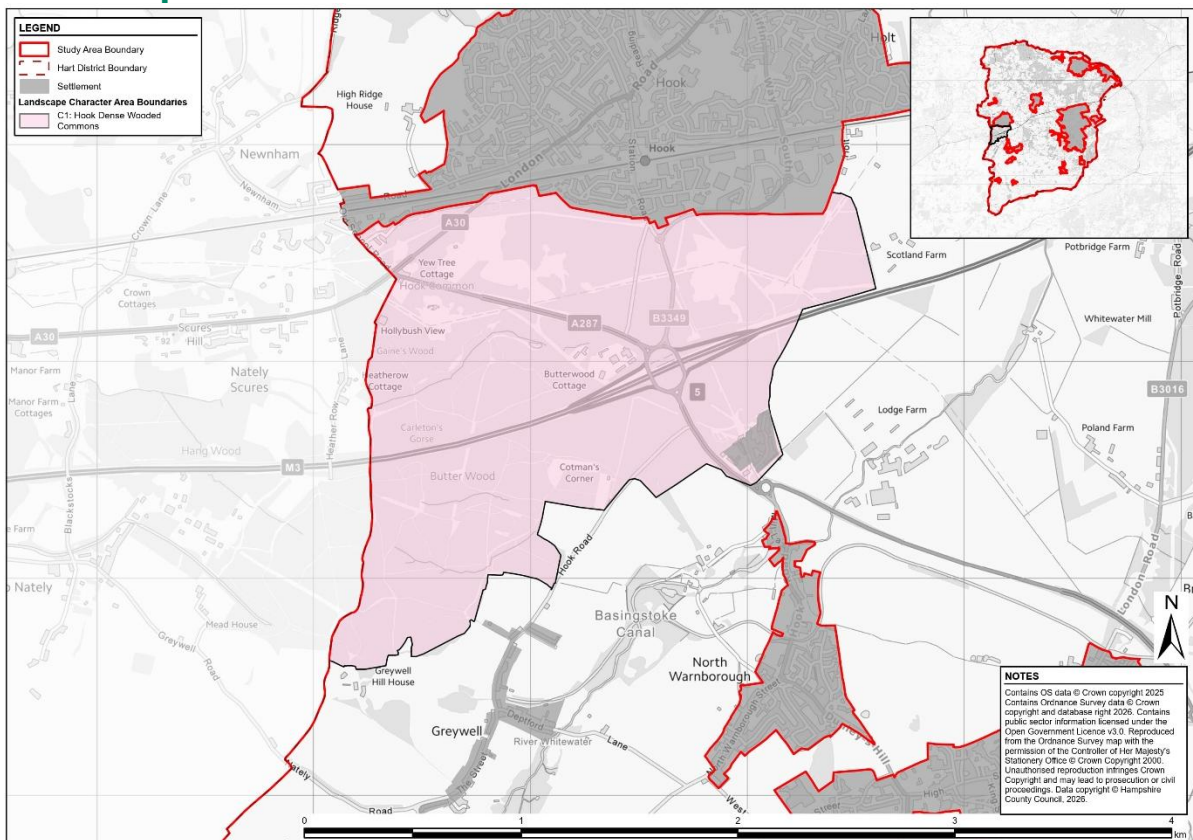


Plate 14: Extract of Figure 15 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area C1 in a colour fill



Plate 15: View of a residential street with a backdrop of mature deciduous woodland



Plate 16: View of a public route with evidence of containment due to mature deciduous woodland cover
Location and Boundaries

- 4.48 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area C1: Hook Dense Wooded Commons lies within the western part of the district, to the south of Hook.
- 4.49 Landscape Character Area C1: Hook Dense Wooded Commons is bordered by Landscape Character Area B1: Whitewater River Plains to the east and south.

Overview of Landscape Character

- 4.50 The bedrock geology consists of clay, silt, sand and gravel. The soils consist predominantly of slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils, with a small central block of loamy soils with naturally high groundwater.
- 4.51 A gently rising landform broadly from east to west, with a low point of approximately +70m AOD in the northeastern corner to approximately +115m AOD in the southwestern corner. The topography falls more steeply in the southwestern corner near to Greywell Hill and the boundary to the Whitewater River Plains Landscape Character Area. There are limited natural hydrological influences within the area. The principal historic water-related feature is the disused Greywell Tunnel, a former section of the Basingstoke Canal, which extends for over 1,000 metres but is not readily evident in the landscape due to its alignment under the higher ground of Butter Wood.
- 4.52 The landscape is characterised by deciduous and mixed woodland, much of which is defined as Ancient Woodland in the central and southern parts of the Landscape Character Area. Flora and fauna interest relating to various ecological designations including Hook Common and Bartley Heath SSSI, Butter Wood SSSI, Greywell Tunnel SSSI, Carleton's Gorse SINC and Bartley Heath (South) SINC, containing habitats such as wet heath.

- 4.53 Extensive recreational access within Butter Wood, Hook Common and Bartley Heath, including common land, the local PRoW network and playing fields in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area. Aside from the main road network, which is well used by cyclists, there is some limited cycling activity throughout woodland areas.
- 4.54 The tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area ranges from -96 to +15, which is a medium-high level of tranquillity relative to the remainder of the district. However, the M3 and Junction 5 at Hook pass through the centre of the area, locally reducing tranquillity through traffic movement and associated noise. There is very little residential development within the Landscape Character Area except for some pockets of residential settlement and commercial buildings. The M3 can be heard but is visually contained due to mature vegetation cover across the Landscape Character Area. There is a similar influence from other road corridors including A287 and B3349, which are also largely enclosed by woodland.
- 4.55 The hours of darkness landscape is very dark across much of the Landscape Character Area relative to the surrounding district. The M3 is not lit in this area, however the Landscape Character Area is locally influenced by the urban edge of Hook, with a range of 0.5-32 nanoWatts /cm²/sr.

Key Characteristics

- A gently rising landform broadly from east to west with some variation in the southwestern corner near to the boundary.
- The vegetation pattern primarily consists of extensive deciduous and mixed woodland interspersed with scrub, grassland and heath. The central and southern parts of the woodland is defined as Ancient Woodland.
- Flora and fauna interest relating to various ecological designations containing habitats such as wet heath.
- Historic landscape characterisation of primarily 'assarted woodland', 'commons' and 'heathland'.
- Livestock grazing in Hook Common and Bartley Heath Nature Reserve with PRoW and informal footpaths throughout the woodland.
- Road patterns consisting of large roads including the M3, A287 and B3349 which have a localised influence only due to vegetation cover.
- Extensive recreational access across the Landscape Character Area including common land and the local PRoW network.
- Scattered clusters of development in pockets of breaks in the mature woodland cover.
- Containment and localised influence from development within and on the boundaries of the Landscape Character Area due to mature vegetation cover resulting in localised tranquillity.
- A very dark landscape relative to the surrounding district with limited influence from the M3 as it is not lit in this section. However, there is local influence from the urban edge of Hook.

Forces for Change

- Expansion of development, particularly with regard to preserving the rural setting to the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area.
- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area.
 - Climate change has the potential to increase heathland wildfires which can alter the character of parts of the Landscape Character Area and reduce heathland wildlife.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Protect recreational access across the Landscape Character Area, particularly with regard to the common land and the local PRoW network.
- Support the aims and objectives of relevant ecological designations, including rare species conservation, and the priorities within the LNRS.
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.

Development Guidelines

- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing, well-designed and sympathetic to the existing character, including local topography and landform.
- Development within the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area and its setting should follow development / design guidance, ensuring it is of a scale and design to reinforce the locally distinctive character.
- Retain distinctive patterns of vegetation of woodland cover and heathland.
- Ensure the continuation of a limited influence of development both within and outside of the Landscape Character Area.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRoW and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.

Landscape Character Area C2: Odiham Dense Wooded Commons

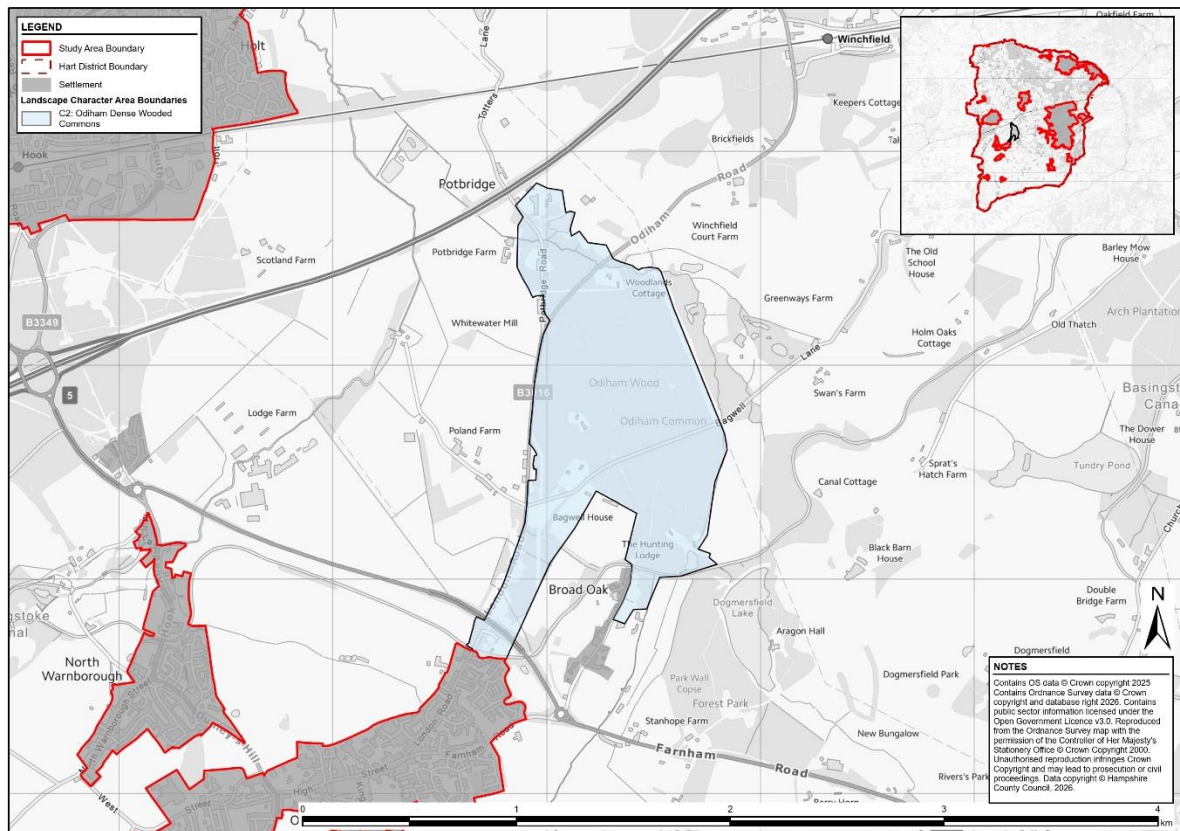


Plate 17: Extract of Figure 15 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area C2 in a colour fill



Plate 18: View of Odiham Common deciduous woodland with understory vegetation



Plate 19: View of mature vegetation cover within Odiham Common

Location and Boundaries

- 4.56 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area C2: Odiham Dense Wooded Commons comprises a small area of land in the western part of the district.
- 4.57 Landscape Character Area C2: Odiham Dense Wooded Commons is bordered by the following Landscape Character Areas:
- Landscape Character Area D1: Dogmersfield Wooded Parkland to the north, east and south; and
 - Landscape Character Area B1: Whitewater River Plains to the west.

Overview of Landscape Character

- 4.58 A gently rising landform from approximately +70m AOD in the northeastern corner to a high point of +88m AOD in the central part near to Green Hill and then falling to approximately +70m AOD in the southern part. The influence of hydrology includes the Basingstoke Canal which passes through the southern section of the Landscape Character Area and a tributary of the River Whitewater along the eastern edge.
- 4.59 The landscape is characterised by deciduous woodland cover across the majority of the Landscape Character Area, the central part of which is defined as Ancient Woodland. Flora and fauna interest within the Odiham Common with Bagwell Green and Shaw SSSI across a large proportion of the Landscape Character Area which includes ancient wood pasture.
- 4.60 Extensive recreational access across Odiham Common, the local PRoW network and the Three Castles Path recreational route. The Basingstoke Canal provides a historic and current recreational resource for walkers, cyclists and boaters which forms part of a wider network. There is a small network of cycling routes within Odiham Common and the road network is also used by cyclists. Part of King Alfred's Way cycling route passes through the Landscape Character Area.
- 4.61 The tranquillity baseline ranges from -39 to +15 resulting in a medium range of tranquillity in comparison to the remainder of the district. The Basingstoke Canal is largely enclosed by mature vegetation which creates a tranquil green / blue corridor, while mature vegetation cover elsewhere allows relative tranquillity. The proximity to the overhead lines and pylons which cross through the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area reduces tranquillity in this area but the influence is limited due to the mature vegetation cover. A very dark landscape relative to the surrounding district due to the limited development, ranging between 0.25-2 nanoWatts /cm²/sr.

Key Characteristics

- A gently rising landform broadly rising from the northeast to a high point in the central part and then falling towards the Basingstoke Canal.
- The Basingstoke Canal passes through the southern section of the Landscape Character Area and a tributary of the River Whitewater along the eastern edge.
- Vegetation cover includes dense deciduous woodland cover across common land and heathland, the central part of which is defined as Ancient Woodland.
- Flora and fauna interest relating to ecological designations across a large proportion of the Landscape Character Area which includes ancient wood pasture.
- Historic landscape characterisation of wooded 'commons'.
- Historic land use includes former brickworks, with evidence of claypits which are recolonised with scrub and woodland, providing historic interest.
- Extensive recreational access across common land, the local PRoW network and recreational routes including part of the King Alfred's Way cycling route.

- Limited road network; although the B3016 passes through the northern part and Bagwell Lane through the central part, with limited influence due to mature vegetation cover.
- Limited influence from built development both within the Landscape Character Area and influence from outside due to mature vegetation cover.
- Break in the mature vegetation cover for the overhead lines and pylons in the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area which locally influence perceptual qualities.
- A very dark landscape relative to the surrounding district due to the limited development.

Forces for change

- Expansion of development, particularly with regard to preserving the rural setting to the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area.
- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area.
- Climate change has the potential to increase heathland wildfires which can alter the character of parts of the Landscape Character Area and reduce heathland wildlife.

Landscape Management guidelines

- Support the aims and objectives of relevant ecological designations, including rare species conservation, and the priorities within the LNRS.
- Protect recreational access including within the common land and along the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area and its setting.
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.

Development guidelines

- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing and sympathetic to the existing character, including local topography and landform, subject to policy guidelines.
- Development within the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area and its setting should follow development / design guidance, ensuring it is of a scale and design to reinforce the locally distinctive character.
- Retain distinctive patterns of vegetation cover of woodland cover and heathland.
- Ensure the continuation of a limited influence of development both within and outside of the Landscape Character Area.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRoW and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.

Landscape Character Type D: Wooded Parkland

4.62 With reference to **Figure 14: Hart Landscape Character Types**, Landscape Character Type D: Wooded Parkland generally comprises blocks of woodland and parkland vegetation which has a great influence on the rural character of the landscape. This includes historic avenues, parkland trees and remnants of deer parks. The vegetation cover results in a typically semi-enclosed landscape and is generally large scale in terms of field patterns. The limited influence of development and built form is a key characteristic of this Landscape Character Type. The Landscape Character Type consists of the following Landscape Character Areas:

- Landscape Character Area D1: Dogmersfield Wooded Parkland;
- Landscape Character Area D2: Tylney Wooded Parkland; and
- Landscape Character Area D3: Wellington Wooded Parkland.

Landscape Character Area D1: Dogmersfield Wooded Parkland

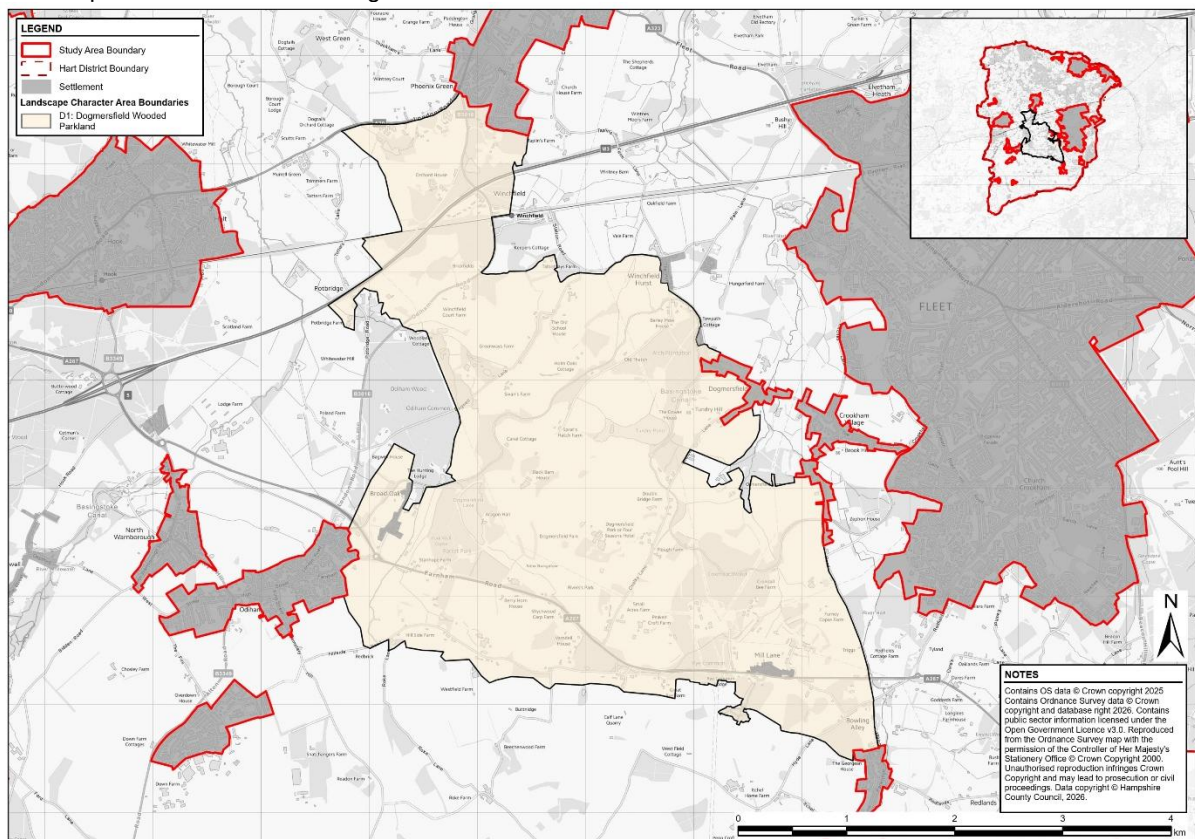


Plate 20: Extract of Figure 15 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area D1 in a colour fill



Plate 21: View of road through parkland landscape in Dogmersfield Wooded Parkland along a tree lined avenue



Plate 22: View looking across large scale relatively open land with influence from overhead lines and pylons

Location and Boundaries

- 4.63 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area D1: Dogmersfield Wooded Parkland comprises an area of land within the central part of the district.

4.64 Landscape Character Area D1: Dogmersfield Wooded Parkland is bordered by the following Landscape Character Areas:

- Landscape Character Area G2: Hazeley Wooded Heathland and Landscape Character Area E1: Winchfield Fringe Wooded Farmland to the north;
- Landscape Character Area B3: Hart River Plains to the east,
- Landscape Character Area A1: Hart Chalk Downland to the south; and
- Landscape Character Area C2: Odiham Dense Wooded Commons and Landscape Character Area B1: Whitewater River Plains to the west.

Overview of Landscape Character

- 4.65 The bedrock geology consists predominantly of sand, silt, and clay in the north, with the addition of gravel in the south. The soils consist predominantly of slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils in the south, a central band of freely draining slightly acid sandy soils and a small area of slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage in the north.
- 4.66 The Landscape Character Area comprises rolling landform ranging between approximately +70m AOD and +110m AOD with low points at Dogmersfield Lake and Tundry Pond. Hydrology consists of various lakes and ponds associated with the historic parkland character and Basingstoke Canal.
- 4.67 Land use generally comprises large scale parkland, farmland and woodland. Vegetation cover consists of open grassland within parkland with trees and deciduous woodland blocks, large parts of which are defined as Ancient Woodland. There is occasional willow along tributaries to the wider river network. Ecological designations include SSSI and SINC. Basingstoke Canal SSSI and part of the Odiham Common with Bagwell Green & Shaw SSSI supports rare flora and fauna.
- 4.68 Grade II Dogmersfield Park Registered Park and Garden occupies and influences the majority of the Landscape Character Area. The parkland influence of these specimen trees extends beyond the boundary of the Grade II Dogmersfield Registered Park and Garden, including in the landscape to the east. They are, however, less dense in these areas. There is also remnant parkland within the Landscape Character Area, including around Winchfield House and Shapely Hill with mature and parkland vegetation and historic approaches that strongly influence local character. There are extensive areas of former parkland that have degraded over time, although elements of the historic landscape survive. Historic bridges spanning the Basingstoke Canal, many of which are listed, contribute to distinctive architectural and historic interest in the area.
- 4.69 Network of recreational access both on PRow and informal routes including through pockets of common land including Rye Common. The Three Castles Path recreational route runs along part of the Basingstoke Canal and further north in the Landscape Character Area. Part of the King Alfred's Way cycling route also passes through. Built form comprises scattered large residential properties, including within the Registered Park and Garden, together with farmsteads. Despite their presence, the landscape retains a strongly rural character.
- 4.70 The tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area ranges from -96 to +15 with greater tranquillity within the centre of the Landscape Character Area. The A287 runs through the southern part of the Landscape Character Area and has some commercial land use and development along its edge. However, it is very enclosed by mature woodland and therefore has a localised influence. The M3 passes through the northern part of the Landscape Character Area, partly on embankment but predominantly well enclosed by mature vegetation cover. This reduces the influence on wider landscape and reinforcing the rural character. The railway line in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area also has a localised visual influence. There is limited influence of settlement along the eastern edge of the Landscape Character Area due to vegetation cover. The semi-enclosed nature of the landscape is evident across the

Landscape Character Area. However, there are longer views available out to the east and west towards a wooded skyline and views towards Basingstoke respectively.

- 4.71 There is localised influence from A287 and M3 on embankment during the hours of darkness where mature roadside vegetation is less dense and allows light through, but otherwise a predominantly dark landscape with a baseline of 0.5-8 nanoWatts /cm²/sr.

Key Characteristics

- The landform is rolling with low points linked to hydrological features including various lakes and ponds associated with the historic parkland nature and Basingstoke Canal.
- Vegetation cover consists of deciduous woodland, and grassland with individual mature trees and tree lined avenues. Flora and fauna interest associated with ecological designations including woodland, acid grassland and wetland habitats.
- Land use generally comprises large scale parkland, farmland and woodland.
- Historic landscape characterisation of primarily 'parks' with deer, and medium irregular 'assarts'.
- Grade II Dogmersfield Park Registered Park and Garden occupies and influences the majority of the Landscape Character Area as well as remnant parkland with mature and parkland vegetation and historic approaches.
- The Basingstoke Canal runs through the Landscape Character Area and is largely enclosed by mature vegetation which creates a tranquil green / blue corridor. Bridges over the Basingstoke Canal of historical interest.
- Network of recreational access both on PRoW, informal routes including through pockets of common land and part of long-distance recreational routes. The Basingstoke Canal provides a historic and current recreational resource for walkers, cyclists and boaters which forms part of a wider network.
- Part of King Alfred's Way cycling route passes through the Landscape Character Area and the Basingstoke Canal towpath is well-used. The road network is also used by cyclists.
- Roadside verges and banks along the typically rural lane network.
- Scattered farmsteads and large residential properties across the Landscape Character Area mostly along the local road network.
- Overhead lines and pylons extending through the Landscape Character Area from Fleet substation. However, despite wayleaves, the vegetation cover in the Landscape Character Area limits their geographical visual influence.
- Limited influence from any commercial or residential development within or on the outskirts of the Landscape Character Area due to mature woodland cover.
- Semi-enclosed landscape afforded by mature vegetation cover with an open feeling due to topography and the typically large scale landscape resulting in generally contained views.
- Greater tranquillity within the centre of the Landscape Character Area.
- There is localised influence from A287 and M3 on embankment during the hours of darkness where mature roadside vegetation is less dense, but otherwise a predominantly dark landscape.

Forces for Change

- Expansion of development, including related to equestrian land use, particularly with regard to preserving the rural setting to the Dogmersfield Conservation Area and Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area.
- Expansion of energy related infrastructure associated with the existing networks within the Landscape Character Area.

- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area.
- Expansion of commercial land use along major road networks.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Restore former parkland vegetation cover.
- Protect and enhance the vegetation cover, including areas of Ancient Woodland, copses, hedgerows, open countryside.
- Support the aims and objectives of relevant ecological designations, including rare and diverse species conservation within Basingstoke Canal open freshwater SSSI, and the priorities within the LNRS.
- Preserve roadside verges and banks.
- Continue to preserve and enhance the local network of recreation routes, including the long distance routes.
- Preserve farmland, open fields and vegetation pattern on the edge of settlements, particularly important for Dogmersfield as this contributes to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.
- Preserve recreational access and protect the green / blue network along the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area and its setting.
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.
- Ensure through management of the existing vegetation network that there remains to be a limited influence from existing commercial land use.

Development Guidelines

- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing and sympathetic to the existing character, including local topography and landform.
- Development within the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area and its setting should follow development / design guidance, ensuring it is of a scale and design to reinforce the locally distinctive character.
- Development should protect and respond positively to the qualities associated with the 'key views' identified within published neighbourhood planning documentation.
- Recognise gap to the north of Crondall and recognise the gaps between the settlement areas of Dogmersfield, Winchfield and Crookham Village, to maintain the dispersed settlement pattern and prevent settlement coalescence.
- Where possible and appropriate, renewable energy, energy transmission and low-carbon infrastructure proposals should make efficient use of existing infrastructure and minimise the need for additional grid connection works within the landscape.
- Development should respect the farmland, open fields and vegetation pattern on the edge of Dogmersfield as this contributes to the setting of the Conservation Area.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRow and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.

Landscape Character Area D2: Tylney Wooded Parkland

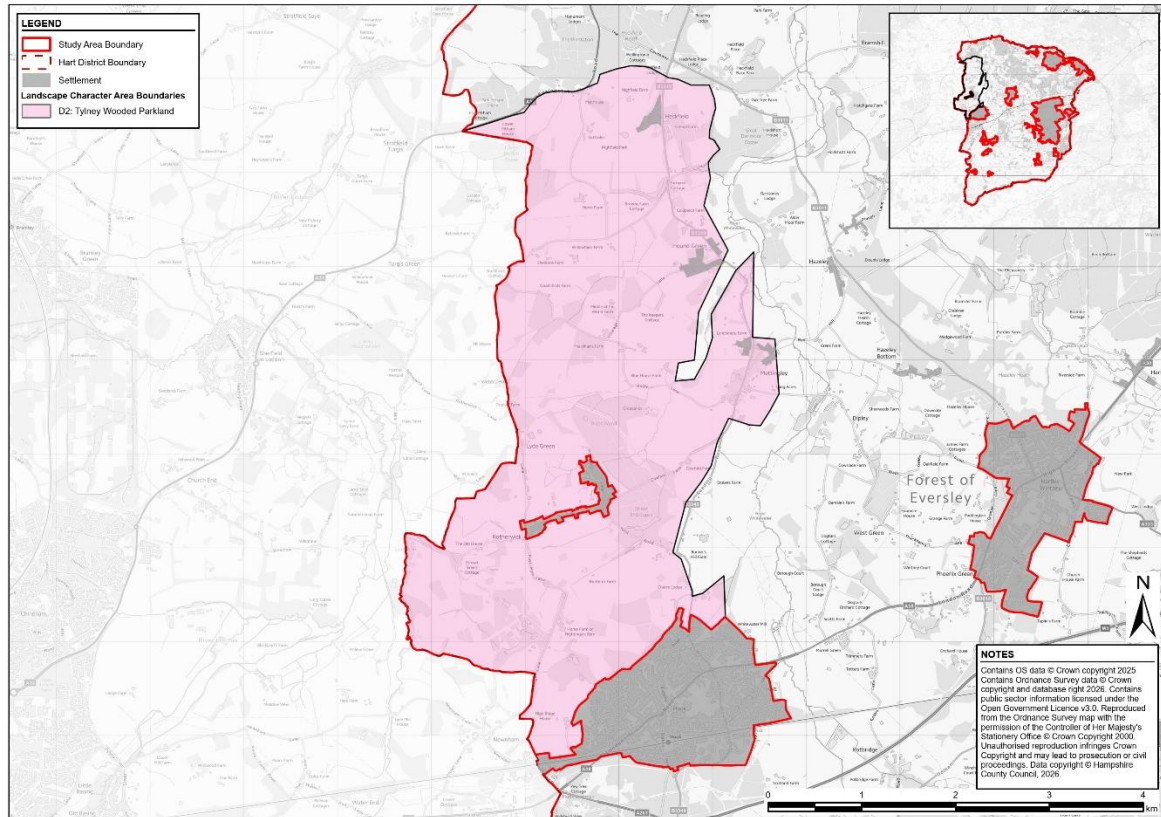


Plate 23: Extract of Figure 15 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area D2 in a colour fill



Plate 24: View of mature blocks of vegetation cover resulting in a semi-enclosed character



Plate 25: View of public access through the agricultural landscape

Location and Boundaries

- 4.72 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area D2: Tylney Wooded Parkland lies within the western part of the district, to the north of Hook.
- 4.73 Landscape Character Area D2: Tylney Wooded Parkland is bordered by the following Landscape Character Areas:
- Landscape Character Area D3: Wellington Wooded Parkland to the north; and
 - Landscape Character Area B1: Whitewater River Plains to the east.

Overview of Landscape Character

- 4.74 The bedrock geology consists of clay, silt, sand and gravel. The soils consist predominantly of slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils, with an island of freely draining slightly acid sandy soils in the south and an island of loamy soils with naturally high groundwater in the north.
- 4.75 The Landscape Character Area covers undulating land between approximately +55m AOD and +100m AOD forming a slight ridge between the River Lyde, beyond the district boundary, and the River Whitewater to the east of the Landscape Character Area. There are some steeper sections, including in the northeast and southern part of the Landscape Character Area. Hydrological influences include tributaries of the River Whitewater in the central and northern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- 4.76 Parkland vegetation is evident, such as individual mature trees in fields, which influences the character particularly in the southern part. Scattered blocks of dense deciduous woodland including pockets of Ancient Woodland and individual trees form a key characteristic feature in the landscape such as oak. Native field hedgerows and hedgerow trees forming agricultural field boundaries, some of which have gaps resulting from removal from historic boundaries, as well as timber gates in some locations. Historic plantations and woodland areas used for coppicing. Ecological designations including SINC's largely associated with the woodland blocks and habitats within.
- 4.77 Grade II* Tylney Hall Registered Park and Garden is located within the southern part of the Landscape Character Area and comprises parkland vegetation cover comprising remains of tree avenues and garden features. It also includes a long historic country lane known as 'The Street' and a complex of buildings largely contained from the wider Landscape Character Area by mature tree vegetation. Highfield Park with historic meadows, parkland vegetation including large oak trees and an avenue of Wellingtonias in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- 4.78 The land use is generally unified as mixed farming. There are pockets of other land uses such as the golf course in the southern part of the Landscape Character Area and equestrian land use. The network of roads include Reading Road and rural country lanes extending to settlements including Hazeley and Hartley Wintney some of which have deep roadside drainage ditches. Recreational access includes the local PRow network, common land including within Mattingley Green and part of long-distance recreational routes such as the Brenda Parker Way. Sports facilities include golf courses and cricket grounds. The road network within the Landscape Character Area is well used by cyclists, as well as several permissive routes used by the community.
- 4.79 There is a dispersed rural settlement pattern within the Landscape Character Area, including Rotherwick and Mattingley as well as some smaller hamlets. Clusters of residential development including at Mattingley and Hound Green, typically of orange and red coloured bricks and the orange clay roof tiles, and linear settlements including Heckfield. There are also scattered residential and large agricultural buildings.

- 4.80 Long views are available across the countryside including from Rotherwick to the surrounding countryside and some views deliberately terminating at Grade II* Tylney Hall Registered Park and Garden. There are also views from lanes to the surrounding countryside in the central part of the Landscape Character Area such as higher land at Hazeley Heath to the east and also from the local PRoW network including near to Highfield Park in the northern part.
- 4.81 The tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area ranges from -39 to +33, containing some of the most tranquil spots of the district. Tranquillity is reduced slightly at settlement edges, but overall, the landscape has a remote feel due to mature vegetation. There is influence of overhead lines and pylons through parts which lessen the sense of remoteness locally. The influence of other energy development is limited, for example the Kiln Fields Solar Farm in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area is largely contained by the mature vegetation and landform.
- 4.82 The hours of darkness baseline within the Landscape Character Area lies between 0.25-1 nanoWatts/cm²/sr, reaching 4 nanoWatts/cm²/sr at the edge of Hook, which is relatively low in comparison to the remainder of the district noting the proximity to adjacent settlement areas.

Key Characteristics

- The landform is undulating which falls to river valleys to the east and west outside the Landscape Character Area.
- Vegetation cover consisting of a mixture of parkland vegetation including individual trees, dense deciduous woodland blocks, hedgerows and hedgerow trees, grassland and historic plantation. Flora and fauna interest relating to ecological designations largely associated with woodland habitats.
- The dominant land use is mixed farming.
- Historic landscape characterisation of primarily 'assarts' and 'assarted woodland' with some areas of 'parks' including deer and pre-1810 parkland.
- The Grade II* Tylney Hall Registered Park and Garden is located within the southern part of the Landscape Character Area and Highfield Park in the northern part which both comprise parkland vegetation.
- Predominantly a network of narrow, rural country lanes between settlements, some of which have deep roadside drainage ditches.
- Recreational access including the local PRoW network, common land, part of long-distance recreational routes and sports facilities.
- Mixed residential pattern, including clusters and linear patterns of settlement and scattered properties.
- Road noise on edge of Hook, but the settlement is visually limited by intervening mature vegetation.
- Influence of overhead lines and pylons through Landscape Character Area. However perception of other energy development is limited due to mature vegetation and landform.
- Large scale semi-enclosed landscape due to large blocks of mature vegetation and topography with naturalness and peaceful feel with audible birdsong.
- Medium to long views available across the countryside in the Landscape Character Area and adjacent areas which typically comprise a wooded skyline.
- Perception of a generally unified character across the Landscape Character Area, other than localised differing land uses.
- Tranquillity is reduced slightly at settlement edges, but overall there is a remote feel due to mature vegetation.
- The hours of darkness baseline is relatively dark noting some lighter areas on the edge of settlements.

Forces for Change

- Expansion of development, including settlement expansion, particularly with regard to preserving the rural setting to the Rotherwick Conservation Area, Heckfield Conservation Area and Mattingley Green and West End Conservation Area.
- Expansion of energy related infrastructure.
- Further loss of field boundary vegetation.
- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Protection of the vegetation cover, including woodland cover, which is particularly important for the Rotherwick Conservation Area as this contributes to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and hedgerows and trees within the Heckfield Conservation Area.
- Infill of hedgerows with gaps to preserve historic boundaries with native species.
- Protection of the parkland features within the Landscape Character Area, particularly within the Grade II* Tynley Hall Registered Park and Garden and Heckfield Conservation Area.
- Support aims and objectives of ecological designations and the priorities within the LNRS.
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.

Development Guidelines

- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing and sympathetic to the existing character, including local topography and landform.
- Respect outward rural views from both within and to the Rotherwick Conservation Area, countryside near to and within the Heckfield Conservation Area and from lanes near to the Mattingley Green and West End Conservation Area in relation to the surrounding countryside.
- Protection of the special character of the Rotherwick Conservation Area, Heckfield Conservation Area and Mattingley Green and West End Conservation Area relating to any new development, this includes the linear pattern of development within Heckfield.
- Recognise gap to ensure a sense of separation and prevent coalescence between Hook and the settlements of Newnham and Rotherwick.
- Any new development to be contained by existing mature vegetation and proposed planting.
- The protection of views near Hook and associated with the settlement of Rotherwick, including views across and beyond the River Lodden / Lyde Valley.
- Maintain the village of Rotherwick within a rural landscape setting.
- Ensure that any future development is proportionate to the size of the existing settlement.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.
- Where possible and appropriate, renewable energy, energy transmission and low-carbon infrastructure proposals should make efficient use of existing infrastructure and minimise the need for additional grid connection works within the landscape.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRoW and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.

Landscape Character Area D3: Wellington Wooded Parkland

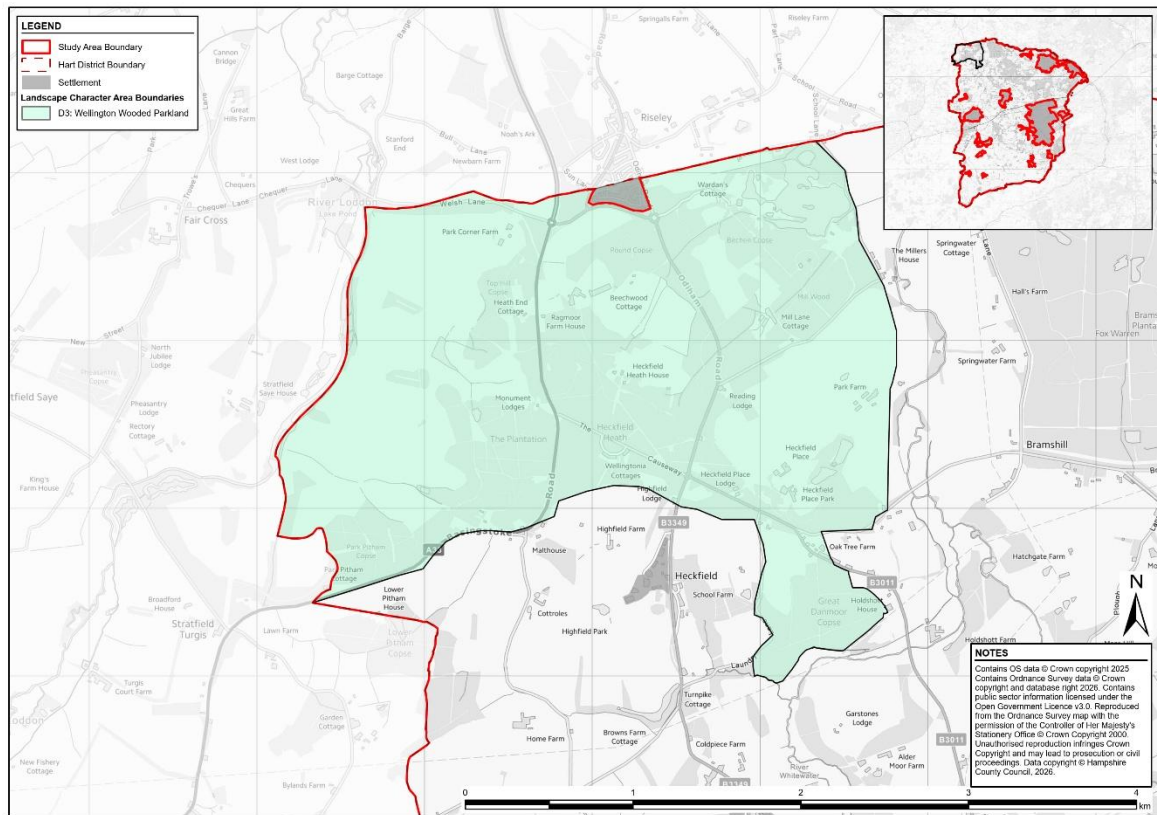


Plate 26: Extract of Figure 15 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area D3 in a colour fill



Plate 27: View across arable and pastoral fields with scattered trees

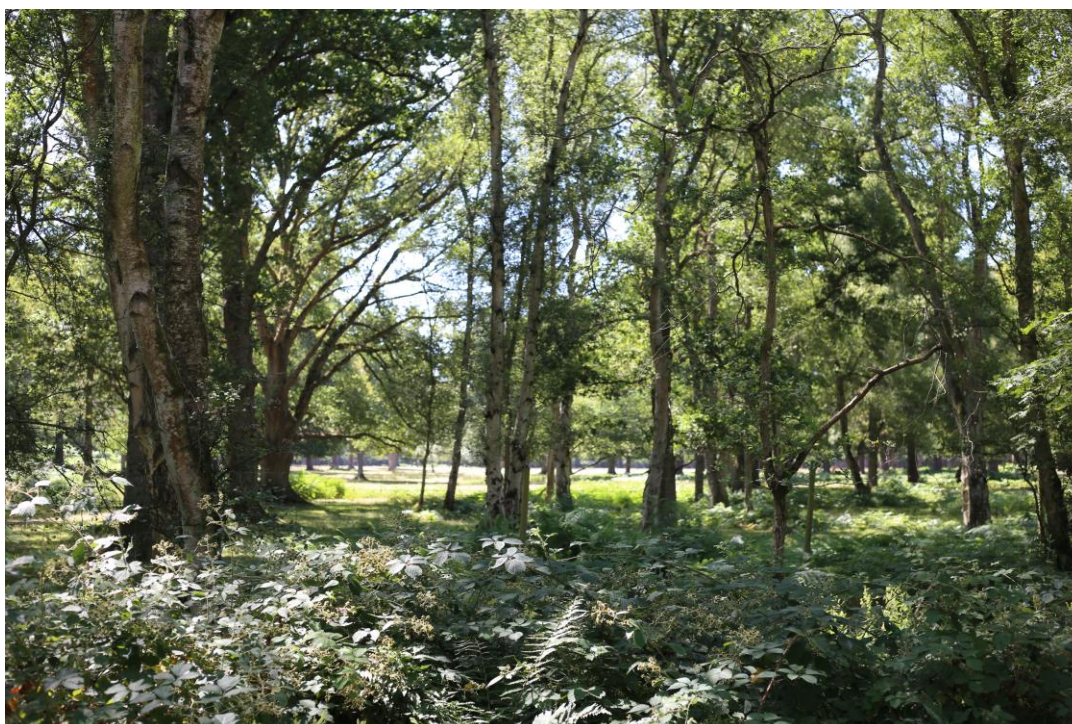


Plate 28: View within Wellington Country Park

Location and Boundaries

- 4.83 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area D3: Wellington Wooded Parkland lies at the northwestern edge of the district.
- 4.84 Landscape Character Area D3: Wellington Wooded Parkland is bordered by the following Landscape Character Areas:
- Landscape Character Area B1: Whitewater River Plains to the east; and
 - Landscape Character Area D2: Tylney Wooded Parkland to the south.

Overview of Landscape Character

- 4.85 The bedrock geology consists of sand, silt and clay, with the addition of gravel in some areas. The soils consist of a band of slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils in the southwest, a central band of freely draining very acid sandy and loamy soils and an area of loamy soils with naturally high groundwater to the northeast.
- 4.86 The Landscape Character Area covers undulating landform on a low plateau, with a higher area of land within the centre around Heckfield Heath, at approximately +85m AOD, and falling to approximately +48m AOD on the eastern and western edges of the Landscape Character Area. Hydrological features comprise the River Loddon on the western boundary, lakes associated with Grade II Stratfield Saye Park Registered Park and Garden, as well as a large lake within Wellington Country Park, as a result of historic gravel extraction, in the northeast of the Landscape Character Area.
- 4.87 Vegetation cover generally comprises a combination of relatively large scale fields associated with parkland landscape, and blocks of large scale mixed woodland, some of which are Ancient Woodland. In the west, a parkland landscape dominates, with arable fields scattered with individual mature trees and small woodland blocks, associated with Stratfield Saye Park. The remainder of the Landscape Character Area comprises large scale deciduous woodland, often with bracken undergrowth, and medium scale fields. There are more open fields to the south of Wellington Country Park with some isolated trees in the fields and hedgerows and gappy shrubs in places.
- 4.88 Land use largely consists of managed recreational access within the Stratfield Saye Park grounds and within Wellington Country Park, as well as equestrian use in the centre of the Landscape Character Area within medium scale fields, as well as a combination of arable and pastoral fields in parts. Wellington Country Park contains a network of access roads and paths throughout for visitors. The road network within the Landscape Character Area is well used by cyclists, as well as routes within Wellington Country Park and part of the King Alfred's Way cycling route.
- 4.89 There is extensive historic interest across the Landscape Character Area, including the parkland landscape of Grade II Stratfield Saye Park Registered Park and Garden and associated structures, such as the Duke of Wellington Statue, comprising the western part of the area and Grade II Heckfield Place Registered Park and Garden in the east. A section of the Roman road The Devil's Highway (Londinium to Silchester) runs east west along the northern district boundary just north of Wellington Country Park.
- 4.90 The settlement pattern is limited to the southern part of Riseley in the north and scattered residential properties. Built features are clustered across the Landscape Character Area, including buildings at Wellington Farm Shop, historical landmarks associated with Stratfield Saye Park, large scale agricultural buildings and structures and buildings associated with Heckfield Place and Wellington Country Park. Influence from these built features is localised due to the mature vegetation.
- 4.91 The A33 is a main transport route which passes through the Landscape Character Area in the north to south direction. Other transport routes include The Causeway, a straight tree-lined road leading to the Duke of Wellington statue, B3349, B3011 and the local road network, which connects the eastern part of

the Landscape Character Area. Road noise from the main transport corridors, including the A33 and A3349, is perceptible particularly in proximity to these routes which reduces the sense of remoteness. Further from road corridors and within mature vegetation, there is a sense of tranquillity and remoteness.

- 4.92 The tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area ranges from -39 to +15, which is a medium to high in range in comparison to the district as a whole. More tranquil areas lie within Stratfield Saye Park in the western part of the Landscape Character Area. The hours of darkness baseline within the Landscape Character Area lies between 0.25-2 nanoWatts/cm²/sr which is relatively low in comparison to the rest of the district.

Key Characteristics

- Undulating landform on a low plateau, between approximately +85m AOD within the centre and +48m AOD within the east and west.
- Numerous hydrological features comprising the River Loddon on the western boundary, lakes associated with Stratfield Saye Park parkland and a large lake within Wellington Country Park.
- Vegetation cover generally comprises a combination of relatively large scale mainly arable fields with scattered mature trees, the parkland landscape associated with Stratfield Saye Park and Heckfield Place, and blocks of large scale mixed woodland.
- Parts of the Landscape Character Area, mainly within the woodland blocks, are covered by locally designated SINC's.
- Recreational land use largely comprises managed access within Registered Parks and Gardens and Wellington Country Park.
- Part of King Alfred's Way cycling route runs along the northern edge of the Landscape Character Area.
- Substantial historic interest across the Landscape Character Area, with the parkland landscape of Grade II Stratfield Saye Park Registered Park and Garden and associated structures comprising the western part of the area and Grade II Heckfield Place Registered Park and Garden in the east.
- Historic landscape characterisation of primarily 'parks' including deer and 19th century and later parkland, 'heathland plantation' and 'assarts'.
- Transport routes include the A33, The Causeway, which is a straight wooded road leading to the Duke of Wellington statue, B3349 and B3011.
- Settlement pattern is generally limited to clusters of residential properties and built features, such as farm shops, agricultural buildings and historic structures. Influence from these built features is generally localised due to the mature vegetation.
- In parts, the landform enables intermittent, long-distant views across adjacent landscapes. However, the Landscape Character Area is relatively enclosed within areas of mature vegetation.
- Tranquillity varies across the Landscape Character Area, including more tranquil areas in the west. In proximity to main transport routes, the road noise is perceptible, which reduces further from these transport routes and within mature vegetation, increasing the sense of tranquillity.
- The hours of darkness baseline is relatively dark in comparison to the rest of the district.

Forces for Change

- Expansion of development, particularly with regard to preserving the Registered Parks and Gardens.
- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Paths to be maintained and monitored to protect recreational access.
- Protect the characteristics of the Registered Parks and Gardens.
- Support aims and objectives of ecological designations and the priorities within the LNRS.
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.

Development Guidelines

- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing and sympathetic to the existing character, including local topography and landform.
- Retain relatively limited influence of residential development in the Landscape Character Area and dominant presence of mature vegetation cover.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRoW and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.

Landscape Character Type E: Fringe Wooded Farmland

4.93 With reference to **Figure 14: Hart Landscape Character Types**, Landscape Character Type E: Fringe Wooded Farmland generally comprises a semi-rural character due to influence in parts by road and rail networks, settlement and land uses. The rolling landform typically gently falls towards neighbouring river plain landscapes. The Landscape Character Type contains varying sizes woodland blocks typically interspersed within predominantly agricultural farmland. The Landscape Character Type consists of the following Landscape Character Areas:

- Landscape Character Area E1: Winchfield Fringe Wooded Farmland;
- Landscape Character Area E2: Redlands Fringe Wooded Farmland;
- Landscape Character Area E3: Eversley Fringe Wooded Farmland; and
- Landscape Character Area E4: Frogmore Fringe Wooded Farmland.

Landscape Character Area E1: Winchfield Fringe Wooded Farmland

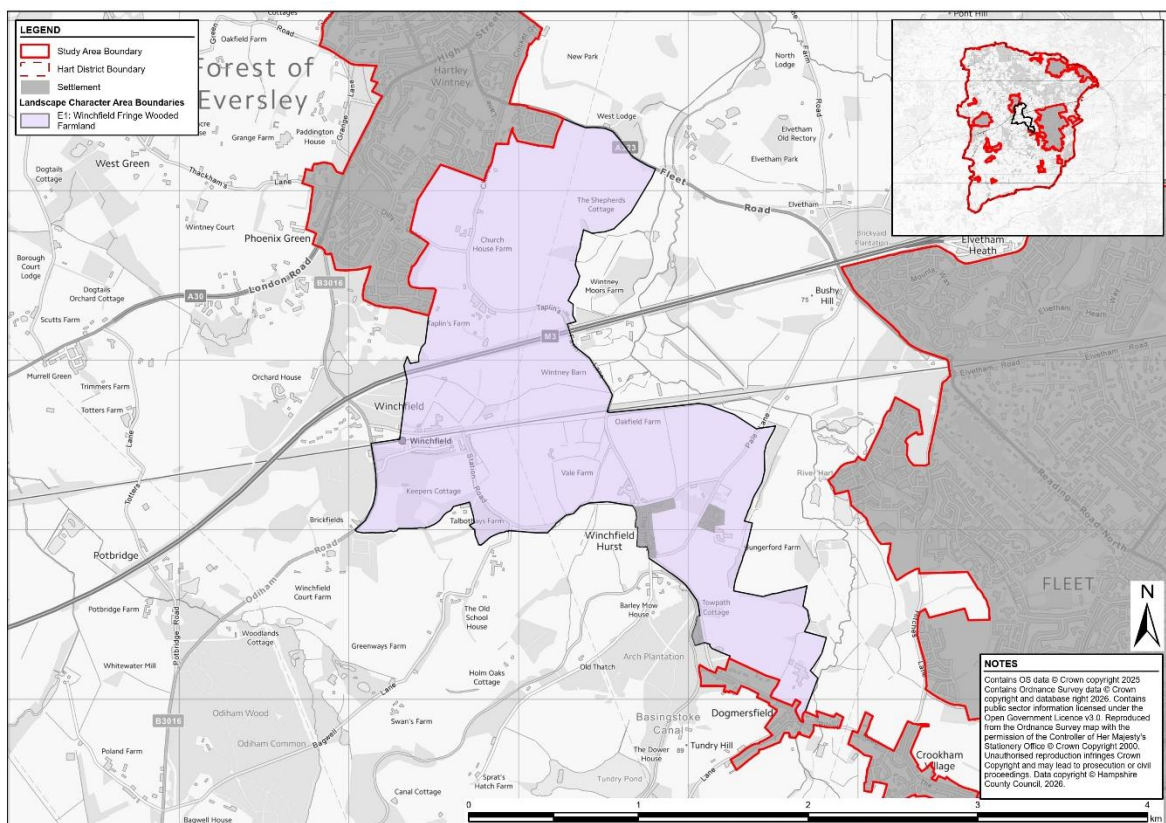


Plate 29: Extract of Figure 15 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area E1 in a colour fill



Plate 30: View across agricultural land use within a large scale field pattern



Plate 31: View looking across meadow land within Queen Elizabeth II Fields

Location and Boundaries

- 4.94 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area E1: Winchfield Fringe Wooded Farmland comprises an area of land in the central part of the district, to the south of Hartley Wintney and north of Dogmersfield.
- 4.95 Landscape Character Area E1: Winchfield Fringe Wooded Farmland is bordered by the following Landscape Character Areas:
- Landscape Character Area B3: Hart River Plains to the north and east; and
 - Landscape Character Area D1: Dogmersfield Wooded Parkland to the south and west.

Overview of Landscape Character

- 4.96 The bedrock geology consists of sand, silt and clay. The soils consist primarily of slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage with a small sliver of floodplain soils to the east and two small areas of freely draining slightly acid sandy soils in the west.
- 4.97 The Landscape Character Area covers rolling landform between approximately +60m AOD and +85m AOD. The topography is relatively higher in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area near to the settlement of Hartley Wintney and generally falls to the east towards the Hart River Plain.
- 4.98 The vegetation cover typically includes mature hedgerow trees as part of field boundaries and some individual trees within field enclosures, typically near to field boundaries. Some of the blocks of mature deciduous woodland cover relate to SINC's for ecological protection and are defined as Ancient Woodland. The recreational network also includes Queen Elizabeth II Fields on eastern edge of Hartley Wintney which provides locally mown pathways through meadowland, as well as long distance routes including the

Three Castles Path and Brenda Parker Way. The settlement pattern typically comprises dispersed hamlets and linear settlement associated with the road network, including Winchfield Hurst, Winchfield Court and Beauclerk Green.

- 4.99 The landscape has a semi-rural character in places due to the influence of the road and rail networks and equestrian land uses. This is particularly evident in the central part of the Landscape Character Area between and in the landscape surrounding the M3 and railway line including the train station. Despite the vegetation cover, visual influences include newer residential and commercial development, the railway line and station, overhead power lines and pylons, agricultural buildings and the road network within the Landscape Character Area. There is also influence from urban development on its margins, including the Hart Leisure Centre at Edenbrook. There are glimpsed views from the local PRoW network to solar development in the adjacent Hart River Plains Landscape Character Area to the east.
- 4.100 The tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area ranges from -39 to 0, which is a medium to low in range in comparison with the rest of the district. This is in part dictated by localised noise from the M3 and the railway line in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area, as well as proximity to settlements. The hours of darkness baseline within the Landscape Character Area lies between 0.5-8 nanoWatts/cm²/sr, with influence from Winchfield, Hartley Wintney and the M3 to the north but darker to the south. This is relatively similar to other parts of the district near settlements.

Key Characteristics

- The landform is gently rolling and generally falls to the east towards the Hart River Plain.
- Small to medium sized blocks of deciduous woodland vegetation, and hedgerow and mature hedgerow tree cover. Flora and fauna interest relating to ecological designations, including woodland cover.
- Land use primarily includes large scale agricultural land with some equestrian use including fencing, which provides a reference to semi-rural character.
- Historic landscape characterisation of primarily medium 'assarts' and medium 'parliamentary fields'.
- The road and rail networks, together with overhead power lines and pylons, contribute to a semi-rural character, particularly within the central part of the Landscape Character Area.
- Recreational access includes the local PRoW network largely linking residential areas, local wildlife walks and parts of long-distance recreational routes.
- Aside from the main road network, which is well used by cyclists, there are several routes through PRoW and fields also used by the community.
- The settlement pattern typically comprises dispersed hamlets and linear settlement associated with the road network.
- Enclosed and semi enclosed Landscape Character Area with some longer views but others screened by mature vegetation.
- The tranquillity levels are largely dictated by proximity to the various major transport corridors and settlements.
- The hours of darkness baseline is relatively dark across much of the Landscape Character Area, with localised influence from the M3 and settlements.

Forces for Change

- Expansion of development, including around settlements with an emphasis on being well-connected to the train station, particularly with regard to preserving the rural setting to the Dogmersfield Conservation Area and Hartley Wintney Conservation Area and the dispersed settlement pattern in the Landscape Character Area.

- Expansion of energy-related generation.
- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Protect and enhance the vegetation cover within the Landscape Character Area, including areas of Ancient Woodland.
- Preserve roadside verges and banks.
- Continue to preserve and enhance the local network of recreation routes, including the long distance routes and between residential development.
- Preserve farmland, open fields and vegetation pattern on the edge of settlements, particularly important for Dogmersfield and Hartley Wintney as this contributes to the character and appearance of the Conservation Areas.
- Support aims and objectives of ecological designations and the priorities within the LNRS.
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.

Development Guidelines

- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing and sympathetic to the existing character, including local topography and landform.
- Respect outward rural views from the Church House Farm Conservation Area to the surrounding countryside and contribution of land outside the settlement boundary to the Conservation Area.
- Recognise gaps between settlement areas, including existing settlement areas within Winchfield, such as Winchfield Hurst, Winchfield Court and Beauclerk Green, with surrounding areas including Fleet, Hook, Hartley Wintney and Dogmersfield, to maintain the dispersed settlement pattern and prevent settlement coalescence.
- Development should protect and respond positively to the qualities associated with the 'key views' identified within published neighbourhood planning documentation.
- Development should respect the farmland, open fields and vegetation pattern on the edge of Dogmersfield as this contributes to the setting of the Conservation Area.
- Where possible and appropriate, renewable energy, energy transmission and low-carbon infrastructure proposals should make efficient use of existing infrastructure and minimise the need for additional grid connection works within the landscape.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRoW and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.

Landscape Character Area E2: Redlands Fringe Wooded Farmland

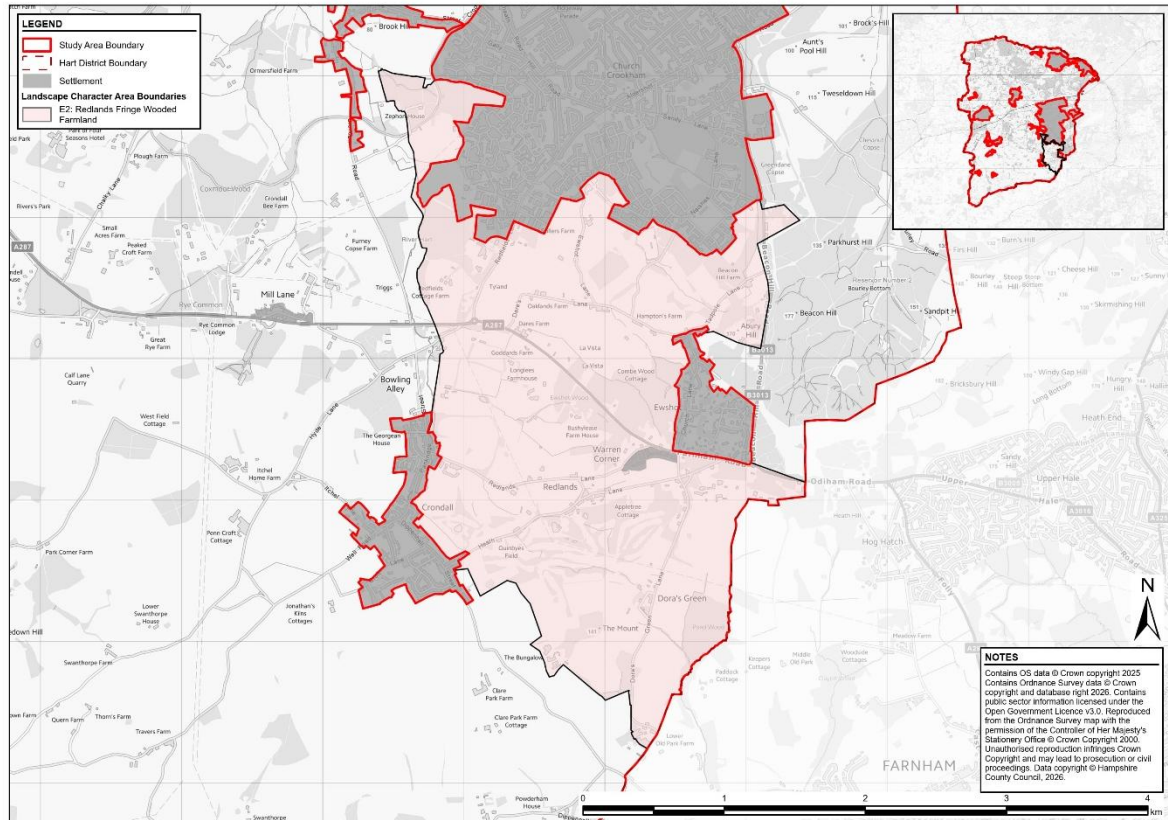


Plate 32: Extract of Figure 15 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area E2 in a colour fill



Plate 33: View illustrating a vegetated backdrop on the skyline and localised influence of the road network



Plate 34: View from higher area of land illustrating that some longer distance views are available

Location and Boundaries

- 4.101 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area E2: Redlands Fringe Wooded Farmland lies at the edge of the district, to the south of Fleet, west of Ewshot and east of Crondall.
- 4.102 Landscape Character Area E2: Redlands Fringe Wooded Farmland is bordered by the following Landscape Character Areas:
- Landscape Character Area F2: Tweseldown Densely Forested Heathland to the east;
 - Landscape Character Area A1: Hart Chalk Downland to the south; and
 - Landscape Character Area B3: Hart River Plains to the west.

Overview of Landscape Character

- 4.103 The bedrock geology consists of clay, silt, sand and gravel, with a small band of chalk at southwestern extreme. The soils consist predominantly of slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils.
- 4.104 The Landscape Character Area covers rolling landform between approximately +80 AOD and rising to approximately +185 AOD in the east near the village of Ewshot. There are steeper areas of land including some high points across the Landscape Character Area such as The Mount and Lands Copse to the south. These higher points allow intermittent longer distance outward views when the vegetation coverage allows. There is generally a more enclosed feel in the lower areas of land.
- 4.105 Vegetation cover includes woodland copses, low hedgerow and tree cover around arable and pasture field enclosures. Mature deciduous woodland vegetation cover across parts of the Landscape Character Area, some of which is defined as Ancient Woodland, including Ewshot Wood and Combe Wood and Ridding's Copse and backdrop of dense woodland in Tweseldown Densely Forested Heathland Landscape Character Area. Basingstoke Canal SSSI supports rare flora and fauna and various SINCS across the Landscape Character Area protect habitats such as woodland copses.
- 4.106 Generally mixed land use including agriculture and semi-rural land uses including a large golf course in the southern part of the Landscape Character Area and paddocks with wooden fencing. Recreational access comprises the local PRoW network scattered across the Landscape Character Area and part of the King Alred's Way cycling route. The local PRoW network typically connects settlement areas, including Crondall to Warren Corner and Ewshot. There are also smaller recreational areas on the edge of settlement including Zephon Common and Albany Park on the western edge of Fleet and Ewshot Recreation Ground and Naishes Lane greenspace which contains former MOD land that has been converted back into recreational use. The Zebon Copse recreation ground on the western edge of Church Crookham and Naishes Wood on the southern edge are also managed as SANGs. Cycling activity within this Landscape Character Area is limited to the road network.
- 4.107 The skyline is largely enclosed by woodland, becoming more open towards the eastern edge of the Landscape Character Area where less mature vegetation permits distant views to the Surrey Hills National Landscape and higher ground beyond. The tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area ranges from -39 to 0, impacted by influence from the settlement of Fleet to the north, but with more tranquil central parts.
- 4.108 The hours of darkness baseline within the Landscape Character Area lies between 0.5-8 nanoWatts/cm²/sr, with influence from Fleet to the north but darker skies to the south, similar to other parts of the district near settlements. The very dark landscape relative to the surrounding district with minimal influence from the A287. Lights from residential properties from within the Landscape Character Area are perceptible across the landscape but there is a limited influence on the wider landscape. There is also a limited influence from settlement edge, although some lighting is visible.

Key Characteristics

- The landform is rolling, with some comparatively steeper sections particularly in the east and south.
- Mature deciduous woodland vegetation cover across parts of the Landscape Character Area, and mature individual trees within field enclosures. Flora and fauna interest relating to ecological designations, including associated with copses.
- Generally mixed land use across the Landscape Character Area including suburban land uses and agricultural uses resulting in a semi-rural character.
- Typically, a small to medium scale irregular field pattern creating an intimate character coupled with the vegetation cover, with some larger scale in the southern and central parts of the Landscape Character Area.
- Recreational access including the local PRoW network connecting adjacent settlement areas, SANGs in the northeastern part of the Landscape Character Area and recreational areas on the western edge of Fleet.
- Part of King Alfred's Way cycling route runs through the Landscape Character Area.
- Basingstoke Canal runs through the Landscape Character Area and is largely enclosed by mature vegetation which creates a tranquil green / blue corridor. It also provides a historic and current recreational resource for walkers and cyclists which forms part of a wider network.
- Remnant parkland associated with Clare Park and historic bridges over the Basingstoke Canal, many of which are listed buildings and provide architectural and historical interest.
- Historic landscape characterisation of primarily 'assarts' with copses and some 'small parliamentary' fields.
- Roads are lined with good quality dense hedgerows with numerous mature hedgerow trees.
- Development is scattered along the network of roads in a dispersed and linear format and scattered farmsteads throughout.
- Localised visual influence from new residential development on the edge of Farnham and Crondall and from overhead lines and pylons.
- Influence from movement and noise from A287 in central part of the Landscape Character Area; however, this is localised due to a slight valley formation.
- Varied sense of enclosure across the Landscape Character Area dependent on relative topography.
- Views contained by mature woodland within the Landscape Character Area, except in some areas on relatively higher land where distant views are available.
- Generally, more tranquil central parts of the Landscape Character Area.
- A very dark landscape relative to the surrounding district across much of the Landscape Character Area, with localised influence mainly from residential properties.

Forces for Change

- Expansion of development, particularly with regard to preserving the rural setting to the Crondall Conservation Area and Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area.
- Pressure of further extension of settlement areas including Crondall.
- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area.
- Potential requirements for recreational areas to be provided such as the change in use to enable new or expansion of SANGs with requirements for parking, signage, fencing, habitat creation, visitor activity and management infrastructure.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Preserve open space and recreational land use on the edge of settlements, particularly important for Crondall as this contributes to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.
- Preserve recreational access and protect the green / blue network along the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area and its setting.
- Support aims and objectives of ecological designations and the priorities within the LNRS.
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.
- Conserve and enhance the naturalistic character of existing and proposed SANGs, ensuring that access, wayfinding and visitor infrastructure are sensitively integrated into the landscape and reflect local character.
- Manage recreational greenspaces, including SANGs, to maintain a predominantly natural character, strengthen habitat networks and avoid urbanising influences that would detract from landscape character.
- Support the creation of new natural greenspaces and SANGs where they reinforce local landscape character, enhance biodiversity and retain the rural qualities of the area.

Development Guidelines

- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing and sympathetic to the existing character, including local topography and landform.
- Planting to contain and lessen the influence of the varied land uses within the Landscape Character Area including roads and power lines.
- Respect outward rural views from the Crondall Conservation Area to the surrounding countryside and contribution of land outside the settlement boundary to the Conservation Area.
- Preserve recreational access and protect the green / blue network along the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area and its setting.
- Development should protect and respond positively to the qualities associated with the 'key views' identified within published neighbourhood planning documentation.
- Respect the visual relationship with the Surrey Hills National Landscape.
- Reduce visual influence of new residential development on the edge of settlements.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRoW and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.

Landscape Character Area E3: Eversley Fringe Wooded Farmland

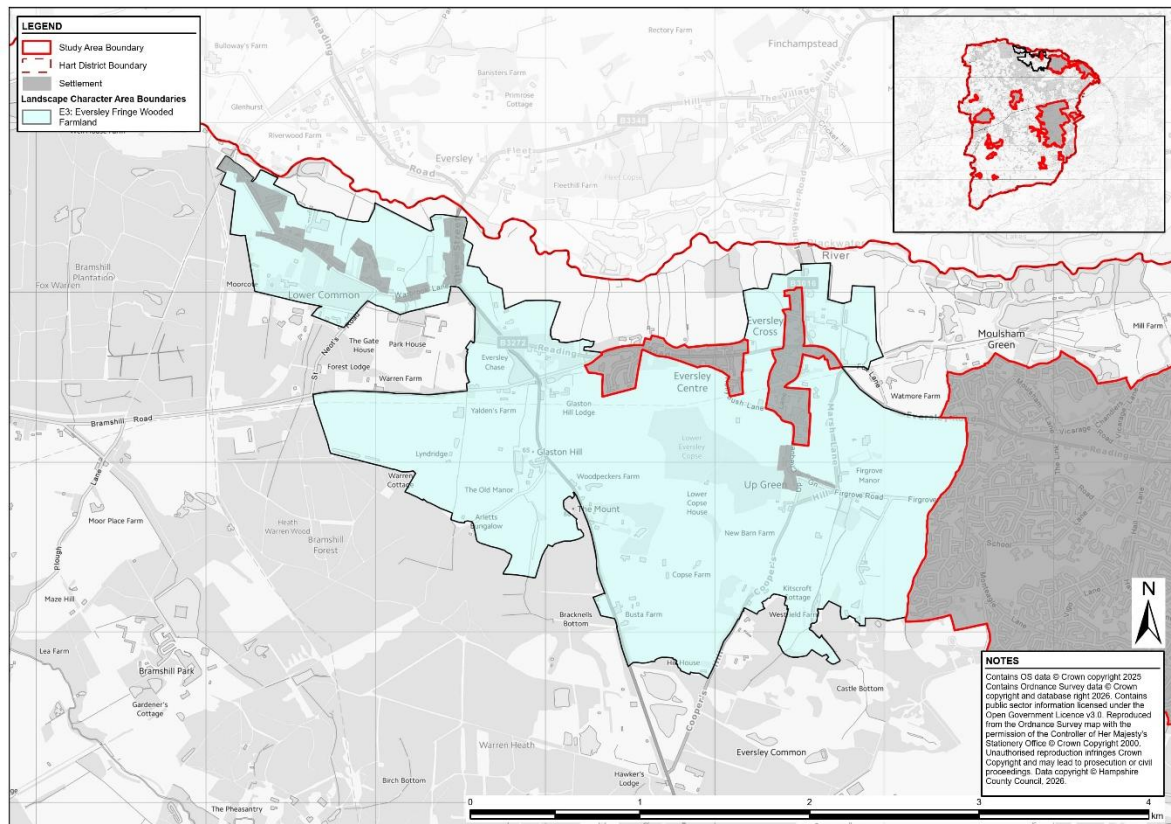


Plate 35: Extract of Figure 15 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area E3 in a colour fill



Plate 36: View of Yateley settlement edge with some screening afforded by tree cover



Plate 37: View of rolling arable field with mature tree cover

Location and Boundaries

4.109 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area E3: Eversley Fringe Wooded Farmland is located to the west of Yateley.

4.110 Landscape Character Area E3: Eversley Fringe Wooded Farmland is bordered by the following Landscape Character Areas:

- Landscape Character Area B2: Blackwater River Plains to the north;
- Landscape Character Area G1: Minley Wooded Heathland to the south; and
- Landscape Character Area F1: Bramshill Densely Forested Heathland to the south and west.

Overview of Landscape Character

4.111 The bedrock geology consists of sand, silt and clay. The soils consist primarily of freely draining slightly acid loamy soils, with some naturally wet, and freely draining very acid sandy and loamy soils in the southern areas, and small areas of loamy soils with naturally high groundwater to the north.

4.112 The Landscape Character Area consists of a sloping landform, which lies between approximately +92m to +50m AOD, gently falling towards the Blackwater River Plain to the north. Hydrological features include a medieval fish pond system near Firgrove Manor.

4.113 Vegetation cover largely comprises fields bound by mature tree, hedgerow and shrubs, which forms rural areas between settlements. Hedgerows are of relatively high quality in places with minimal fragmentation, although there is some evidence of removal. Varying sizes of copses, including Lower Eversley Copse and Great Copse, are scattered between the field parcels, some of which are Ancient Woodland. Land use is primarily mixed arable and pastoral farmland, with pockets of equestrian land use. Larger to medium scale fields are sub-divided by wooden fences for livestock and stables and agricultural sheds. The built form is spread across the rural landscape but typically enclosed by mature vegetation, reducing the visual influence. Agricultural activities provide seasonal interest.

4.114 A relatively well-connected network of PRoW crosses the Landscape Character Area, providing recreational access between settlements including Eversley and Yateley and along historic green lanes. The Three Castles Path long-distance route also provides recreational connectivity to the wider landscape. Cycling takes place primarily on the road network, although some PRoW and areas of publicly accessible land also provide opportunities for cycling.

4.115 The tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area ranges from -96 to +15. There is a perceived sense of tranquillity across the Landscape Character Area, including sounds of bird song particularly from Castle Bottom Nature Reserve to the south. However, road noise is perceptible from the various transport routes, and the settlement edges of Yateley and Eversley Centre locally influence the Landscape Character Area, reducing the sense of remoteness in proximity to these settlements. Overhead lines and pylons also influence the Landscape Character Area. There is influence from the busy A327 and B3272 roads which are perceived throughout the Landscape Character Area, and from the settlements of Yateley and Eversley, which can be glimpsed when in closer proximity, resulting in a less remote feel.

4.116 During the hours of darkness there is limited influence from light sources across much of the Landscape Character Area, with a baseline between 0.5-4 nanoWatts/cm²/sr, with localised influence from lights on the edge of Yateley, Eversley Cross and Eversley Centre, as well as scattered properties. Occasionally red light visible on a wind turbine in the direction of Reading is visible.

Key Characteristics

- A sloping landform, which lies between approximately +92m to +50m AOD, gently falling towards the Blackwater River to the north.
- Vegetation largely comprises fields bound by mature hedgerows and shrubs. Varying sizes of copses are scattered between the field parcels.
- Land use is primarily mixed arable and pastoral farmland, with some equestrian land use. Larger to medium scale fields are sub-divided by wooden fences, and stables and agricultural sheds are present but with limited visual influence.
- Ecological designations include locally designated SINC, including within the copses and areas of meadow.
- Local PROW network provides well connected recreational access. The Three Castles Path long distance route also provides recreational connectivity to the wider landscape.
- Historic landscape characterisation of primarily 'small parliamentary' fields, 'assarts' and 'assarted woodland', and 'small wavy' bound fields.
- Historic interest at Grade II* Firgrove House Listed Building and associated landscape and medieval fish pond.
- Relatively enclosed by mature vegetation along field boundaries and the local road network, including the B3272 and A327, and by mature tree blocks to the south. Some longer views north in places.
- Settlement pattern includes the relatively linear settlements including Lower Common, as well as dispersed residential properties and associated farmsteads.
- The Landscape Character Area forms an area of greenspace between the settlement of Yateley and the smaller settlements of Eversley and Eversley Centre, which maintains separate settlement identities.
- Main transport routes include the B3272, which connects Yateley with Eversley Cross and Eversley Centre, and the A327 on the western edge of the Landscape Character Area. More minor roads include the B3016 and Firgrove Road, which connects into Yateley, and comprise small winding lanes with high vegetated banks.
- There is a perceived sense of tranquillity across the Landscape Character Area. However road noise and influence from settlement edges locally reduce the sense of remoteness.
- Influence from overhead lines and pylons within the Landscape Character Area.
- During the hours of darkness there is limited influence from light sources across much of the Landscape Character Area.

Forces for Change

- Expansion of development, including around settlements, particularly with regard to preserving the rural setting to the Eversley Church Farm, Eversley Cross, Eversley Street and Up Green Conservation Areas.
- Further loss of field boundary vegetation due to agricultural pressures.
- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Land use management to promote soil health and diversity.
- Preserve tree and hedgerow vegetation on the edge of settlements, particularly important for Eversley as this contributes to the character and appearance of the Eversley Church Farm, Eversley Cross, Eversley Street and Up Green Conservation Areas.

- New planting to provide screening and reduce influence from development.
- Planting of hedgerows where there is evidence of past removal.
- Support aims and objectives of ecological designations and the priorities within the LNRS.
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.

Development Guidelines

- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing and sympathetic to the existing character, including local topography and landform.
- Preserve the long distance views available to the wider landscape.
- Development should respect the rural land use on the edge of Eversley as this contributes to the setting of the Eversley Church Farm, Eversley Cross, Eversley Street and Up Green Conservation Areas.
- Protect greenspace within the Landscape Character Area, to maintain the separate settlement identities and prevent physical coalescence between the settlement of Yateley and the smaller settlements of Eversley and Eversley Centre.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRoW and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.

Landscape Character Area E4: Frogmore Fringe Wooded Farmland

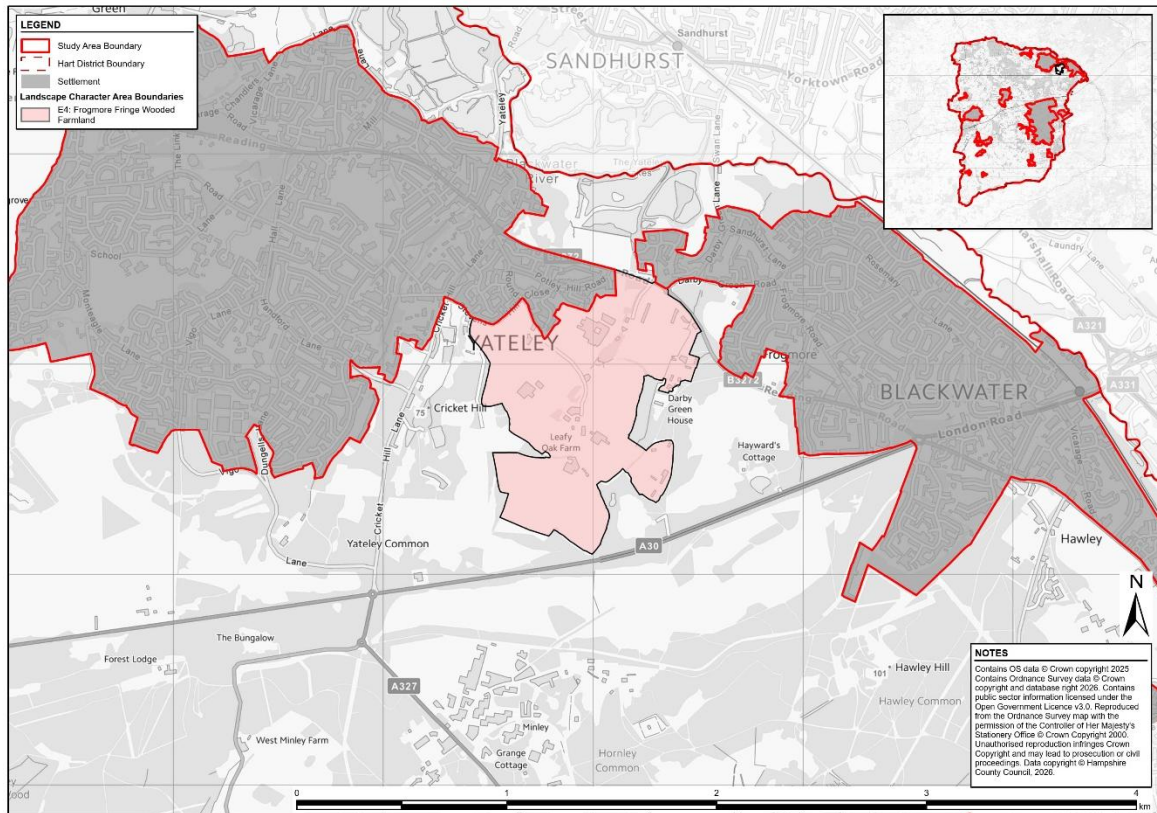


Plate 38: Extract of Figure 15 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area E4 in a colour fill



Plate 39: View of agricultural buildings across pastoral fields



Plate 40: View of paddock and pastoral fields with pockets of mature vegetation cover and sense of enclosure

Location and Boundaries

- 4.117 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area E4: Frogmore Fringe Wooded Farmland comprises an area of land within the northern part of the district, between the settlements of Yateley and Blackwater.
- 4.118 Landscape Character Area E4: Frogmore Fringe Wooded Farmland is bordered by the following Landscape Character Areas:
- Landscape Character Area B2: Blackwater River Plains to the north; and
 - Landscape Character Area G1: Minley Wooded Heathland to the east, south and west.

Overview of Landscape Character

- 4.119 The bedrock geology consists of sand, silt and clay. The soils consist primarily of freely draining slightly acid loamy soils, with some naturally wet, and freely draining very acid sandy and loamy soils in the southern areas, and small areas of loamy soils with naturally high groundwater to the north.
- 4.120 The Landscape Character Area covers a rolling landform which lies between approximately +62m to +96m AOD, steadily falling to the north towards the Blackwater River Plains. There is a pattern of large open pastoral and equestrian fields divided by wooden and wire fencing lined with mature trees which offer a sense of enclosure. Vegetation cover includes individual trees within field parcels, mature linear strips and pockets of deciduous woodland cover.
- 4.121 The settlement pattern is scattered and mostly relates to farming, with large agricultural buildings. This includes traditional scale farmstead buildings on the eastern edge of the Landscape Character Area, within the Darby Green Conservation Area. Localised influence from the road network due to intervening vegetation, this includes the A30 and B3272 and associated modern footbridge. Due to its location nestled between Yateley and Blackwater with the A30 just to the south, the tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area ranges from -96 to -15. The road network consists of narrow lanes with tree lined banks.
- 4.122 The hours of darkness landscape has a baseline between 1-8 nanoWatts/cm²/sr. The hours of darkness landscape has influence from street lights along the B3273, although dense vegetation along the road helps to limit this. Additionally, there is some influence from the settlement edge of Blackwater, but this is also localised due to vegetation. Scattered residential properties and local roads have a localised influence.

Key Characteristics

- The landform gradually falls from Yateley Common in the south to the Blackwater River Plains in the north.
- Vegetation cover includes gorse, mature tree lined field boundaries and pockets of deciduous woodland which create enclosure.
- Land use dominated by equestrian and agricultural management, with large agricultural buildings and wooden and wire fencing splitting large open fields of grazing and pasture.
- Historic landscape characterisation of primarily 'large wavy fields'. There are ancient field boundaries visible associated with historic enclosure, particularly within the Darby Green Conservation Area.
- Narrow tree lined lanes with banks.
- Strong recreational access across the local PRow network. Cycling activity is limited to the road network.

- Scattered settlement pattern, largely properties that are associated with farming set within woodland and farmlands.
- Localised influence from the road network due to intervening vegetation.
- Distant views to wooded skyline to the north.
- The tranquillity levels are influenced by proximity to settlement and road corridors.
- During hours of darkness there is localised influence from street lights along the B3273 and scattered properties.

Forces for Change

- Expansion of development, particularly with regard to preserving the rural nature of the Darby Green Conservation Area.
- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Retain ancient field boundaries, particularly within the Darby Green Conservation Area.
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.

Development Guidelines

- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing and sympathetic to the existing character, including local topography and landform.
- Avoid detracting modern interventions to retain the rural nature of this Landscape Character Area and relationship of the older properties to the wider common land in adjacent Landscape Character Areas, especially relating to the Darby Green Conservation Area.
- Maintain the open space within this area between the more developed areas to the east and west.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRoW and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.

Landscape Character Type F: Densely Forested Heathland

4.123 With reference to **Figure 14: Hart Landscape Character Types**, Landscape Character Type F: Densely Forested Heathland generally comprises large scale, dense coniferous plantation with areas of mixed woodland trees and heathland vegetation, as well as lakes and ponds. There is extensive recreational access within the Landscape Character Type, largely on managed routes or within open access land, and large areas of the Landscape Character Type are ecologically designated. There is limited settlement within the Landscape Character Type, and influence from adjacent settlement is limited and localised, due to the influence from mature vegetation. Much of the land is managed for rotational forestry, mineral extraction or is within managed access land due to military land use. The Landscape Character Type consists of the following Landscape Character Areas:

- Landscape Character Area F1: Bramshill Densely Forested Heathland; and
- Landscape Character Area F2: Tweseldown Densely Forested Heathland.

Landscape Character Area F1: Bramshill Densely Forested Heathland

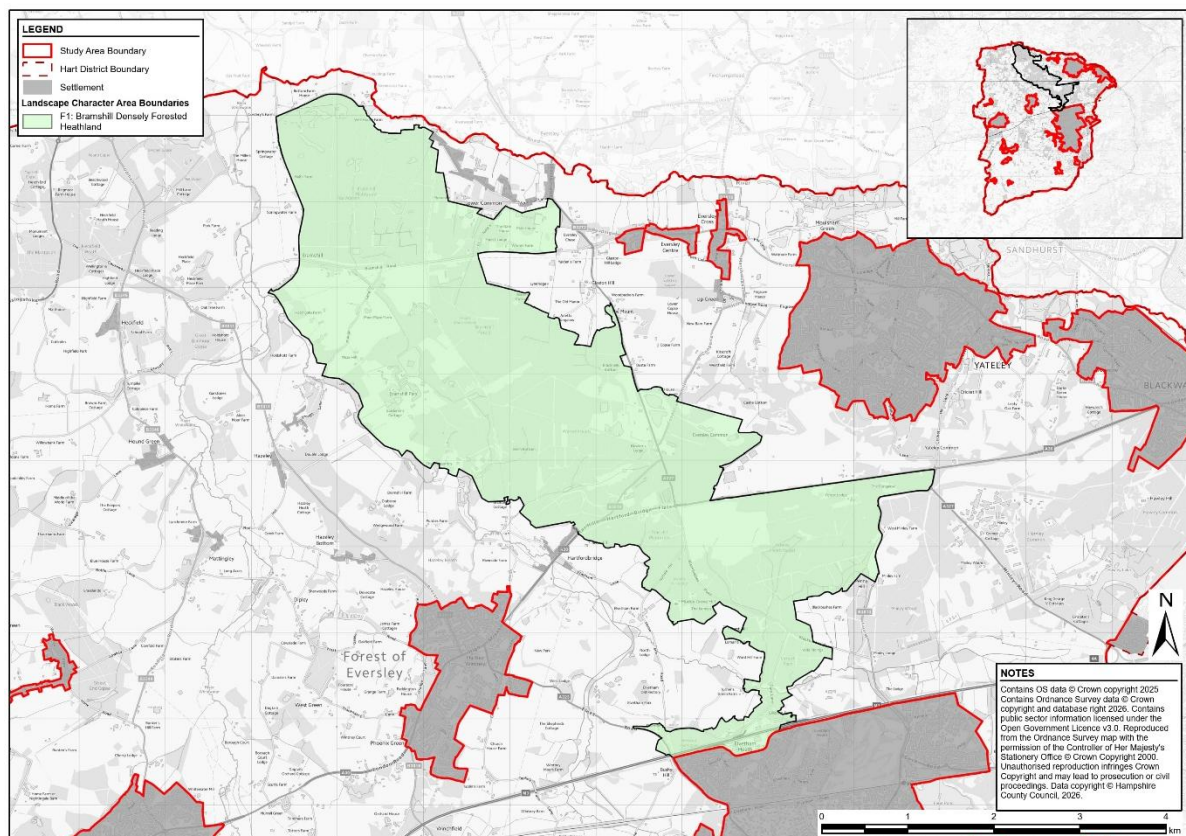


Plate 41: Extract of Figure 15 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area F1 in a colour fill



Plate 42: Overhead lines and pylons located within a clearing through dense forest



Plate 43: View of clearing with younger trees and plantation in background near Grade I Bramshill Park Registered Park and Garden

Location and Boundaries

- 4.124 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area F1: Bramshill Densely Forested Heathland comprises an area of land within the northern part of the district, to the north of Fleet and to the southwest of Yateley.
- 4.125** Landscape Character Area F1: Bramshill Densely Forested Heathland is bordered by the following Landscape Character Areas:
- Landscape Character Area B2: Blackwater River Plains to the north;
 - Landscape Character Area E3: Eversley Fringe Wooded Farmland and Landscape Character Area G1: Minley Wooded Heathland to the east; and
 - Landscape Character Area B1: Hart River Plains and Landscape Character Area B3: Whitewater River Plains to the west.

Overview of Landscape Character

- 4.126 The Landscape Character Area is located on a low plateau between the lower and flatter landform of the River Hart and River Blackwater plains, between approximately +98 AOD to +60m AOD. Much of the forested areas have undergone extensive gravel extraction, before being replanted, which has resulted in varied topography and manmade landform features. Hydrology is generally limited to lakes or ponds which are a legacy of historic and more recent mineral extraction.
- 4.127 Vegetation cover is dominated by large scale coniferous forestry plantation, which is largely managed on a rotational basis, as well as some mixed woodland trees, valley mires and scrub on former heathland. Occasional more open areas are present, covered by bracken, grassland and scattered immature trees, or more structured planting of juvenile trees due to rotational planting activities. Areas of gorse provide seasonal aesthetic interest in the summer. Mature vegetation cover across the Landscape Character Area however with some gaps including in Eversley Woods in the eastern part of the Landscape Character Area where the historic vegetation cover is partially fragmented and at Hatchgate Farm Airstrip in the north.
- 4.128 Large parts of the Landscape Character Area are covered by ecological designations, including part of the Thames Basin SPA, an internationally important habitat for breeding birds, as well as multiple SSSIs, which support diverse habitats including dragon and damselfly.
- 4.129 A large scale, enclosed landscape due to containment within the dense forestry. A sense of semi-enclosure within areas of forestry clearings dependent on felling cycle timings. Recreational routes are present across the Landscape Character Area, including local PROWs, Three Castles Path long distance route and various managed routes. There is also extensive cycling activity including part of the King Alfred's Way cycling route.
- 4.130 There is limited influence from settlement across the Landscape Character Area. Settlement patterns are largely limited to school grounds and associated buildings within the forested landscape, together with properties within Bramshill, including the former Great Bramshill in the Bramshill Conservation Area. There is also limited and localised influence from the surrounding settlement edges of Yateley, Eversley Cross and activities associated with Blackbushe Airport, although these are in part screened by intervening mature vegetation.
- 4.131 The tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area ranges from -96 to +33, featuring some of the areas with the highest tranquillity within the district. The limited settlement, the smell of fresh pine and enclosure within the dense forested landscape results in a sense of tranquillity. The tranquillity diminishes slightly around settlement edge and Blackbushe Airport. The perception of remoteness is also reduced due to the managed nature of the landscape, evidence of former and present mineral extraction, pockets of commercial land use and perception of road noise including the A327, A30 and M3 motorway. This is

often in localised parts of the Landscape Character Area and the influence is not widespread due to the high levels of enclosure.

- 4.132 The hours of darkness baseline within the Landscape Character Area lies between 0.25-16 nanoWatts / cm^2/sr , with localised influence from streetlights along the B3A30 and users of local roads, Fleet in the south, and Blackbushe airstrip. However, these influences are largely contained by mature vegetation, and the majority of the Landscape Character Area remains relatively dark in comparison with the wider district.

Key Characteristics

- A low plateau with undulating landform between approximately +98 AOD to +60m AOD, surrounded by lower and flatter river plains to the north, south and west.
- Vegetation largely comprises rotationally managed large scale, coniferous plantation, alongside some mixed woodland trees, valley mires and scrub, on former heathland. Areas of gorse provide seasonal aesthetic interest.
- There are extensive areas of ecological designations, including areas of the Thames Basin Heath SPA, an internationally important habitat for birds, which covers a large part of this LCA, as well as multiple SSSIs.
- Various formal and informal recreational routes across the Landscape Character Area.
- Historic landscape characterisation of primarily 19th century 'heathland plantation'.
- Historic interest includes Grade I Bramshill Park Registered Park and Garden and Grade II* Warbrook House Registered Park and Garden, with associated parkland landscape.
- There is extensive cycling activity throughout this Landscape Character Area, making use of the road network as well as recreational routes and rights of way. Part of King Alfred's Way cycling route runs through the Landscape Character Area.
- Settlement is generally limited to few sparse properties across the Landscape Character Area. There is also limited and localised influence from surrounding settlement edges, due to mature vegetation.
- Influence from intermittent activity of planes landing and taking off at Blackbushe Airport and overhead lines and pylons which are present within the Landscape Character Area.
- Extensive mature vegetation generally results in a sense of enclosure, remoteness and tranquillity across much of the Landscape Character Area.
- The Landscape Character Area is relatively dark in comparison to the remainder of the district.

Forces for Change

- Expansion of development, particularly with regard to preserving the rural setting to the Bramshill Densely Forested Heathland Character Area.
- Climate change has the potential to increase heathland wildfires which can alter the character of parts of the Landscape Character Area and reduce heathland wildlife.
- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area.
- Increase in activity associated with forestry operations.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Support the aims and objectives of relevant ecological designations, including rare species conservation, and the priorities within the LNRS.

- Where possible, any areas no longer required for plantation to be restored to diverse heathland to increase ecological diversity.
- Paths to be maintained and monitored to protect recreational routes.
- Reinstate historic woodland areas where possible.
- Preserve rural land use on the edge of settlements, particularly where this contributes to the character and appearance of the Bramshill Conservation Area.
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.
- Promote management of land and educational initiatives to reduce heathland fire risk.

Development Guidelines

- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing and sympathetic to the existing character, including local topography and landform.
- Retain relatively limited influence of residential development in the Landscape Character Area and dominant presence of mature vegetation cover.
- Development should respect the vegetation pattern and rural nature on the edge of Bramshill settlement as this contributes to the setting of the Conservation Area.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRow and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.

Landscape Character Area F2: Tweseldown Densely Forested Heathland

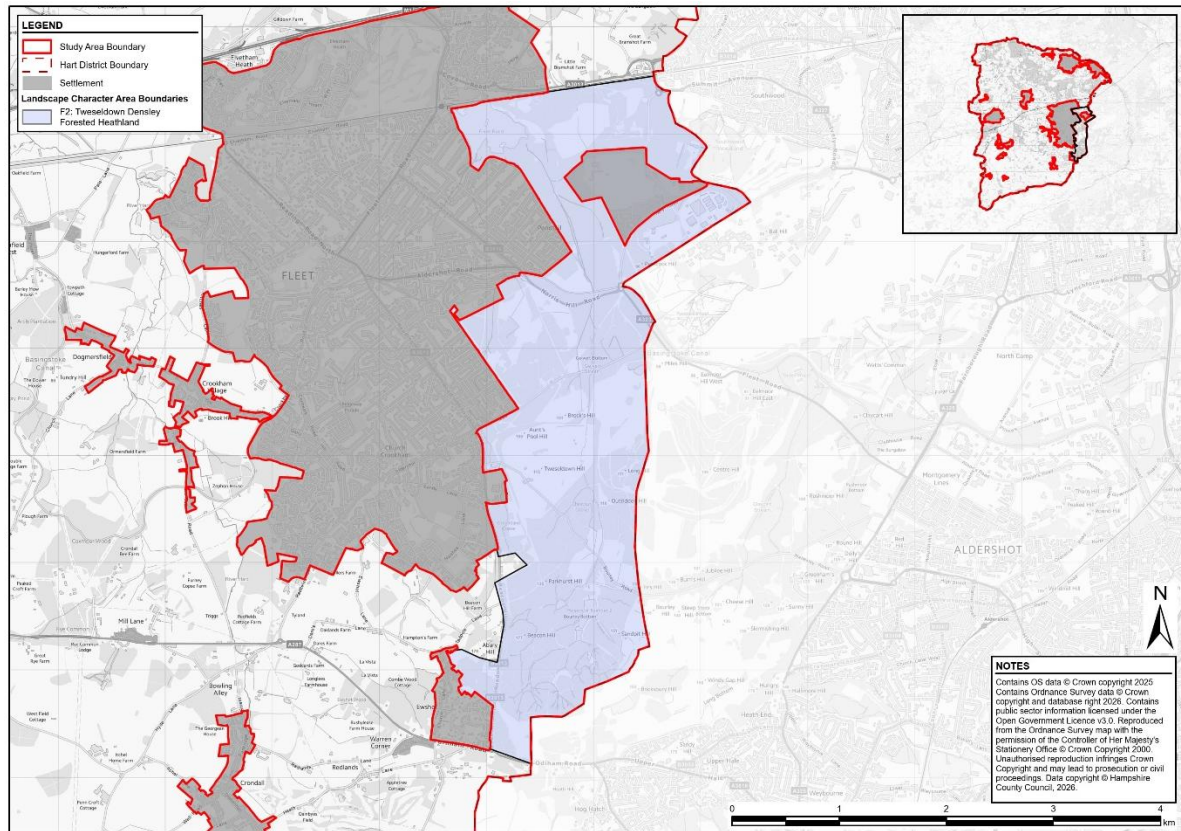


Plate 44: Extract of Figure 15 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area F2 in a colour fill



Plate 45: View of Bourley Lakes and mixed woodland



Plate 46: View of Fleet Pond and riparian vegetation with industrial buildings in the background

Location and Boundaries

- 4.133 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area F2: Tweseldown Densely Forested Heathland lies within the eastern edge of the district. The Landscape Character Area lies to the east of Fleet, Church Crookham and Ewshot which form a considerable part of the western boundary.
- 4.134 Landscape Character Area F2: Tweseldown Densely Forested Heathland is bordered by the following Landscape Character Areas:
- Landscape Character Area G1: Minley Wooded Heathland to the north; and
 - Landscape Character Area E2: Redlands Fringe Wooded Farmland to the southwest.

Overview of Landscape Character

- 4.135 The bedrock geology consists of sand, silt and clay. The soil consists predominantly of naturally wet very acid sandy and loamy soils, with a small block of freely draining very acid sandy and loamy soils in the southern extreme, and some loamy soils with naturally high groundwater to the north.
- 4.136 The Landscape Character Area consists of undulating landform, which is generally of higher elevation and steeper in the south, with some localised high points including Beacon Hill and Tweseldown Hill, falling to a generally more gentle and lower topography in the north. The topography is between approximately +185m AOD to +70m AOD, with several hydrological features including the waterbodies of Bourley Lakes and Fleet Pond and the Basingstoke canal which runs through the northern part of the Landscape Character Area. There are also several streams which generally flow from the higher land in the south, towards Fleet Pond in the north.
- 4.137 Vegetation cover largely comprises extensive areas of dense coniferous forests, as well as mixed woodland, including areas of Ancient Woodland in the south. There are also some areas comprising smaller, more juvenile trees as well as heathland areas within forest clearings. Grassland, bracken and riparian vegetation grow in proximity to the lakes. Basingstoke Canal is enclosed by mature trees and vegetation along its banks and reed beds and marsh vegetation is associated with Fleet Pond. Within the centre of the Landscape Character Area, there is an area of grassland with scattered trees, where Tweseldown racecourse is located.
- 4.138 Large parts of the Landscape Character Area are covered by ecological designations, including part of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, an internationally important habitat for breeding birds, and the Bourley and Long Valley Sites and Basingstoke Canal of SSSI. Locally designated SINCs also cover relatively large areas in the north and south of the Landscape Character Area, including Beacon Hill/ Parkhurst Hill and Pyestock Hill/Pondtail Heath.
- 4.139 Substantial recreational access across much of the Landscape Character Area, with extensive recreational routes through the open access land and part of the King Alfred's Way cycling route. Much of the common land is within managed access areas due to military land use, with military signage prevalent across the area. Recreational access is also present within Fleet Pond Local Nature Reserve, along the Basingstoke Canal and within Hartland Country Park, offering recreational access through mixed woodland. The Hartland Country Park in the northeastern part of the Landscape Character Area is also managed as a SANG.
- 4.140 The settlement pattern is very limited within the Landscape Character Area. There is some localised visual influence from settlement on the western boundaries of the Landscape Character Area, including along Basingstoke Canal and Fleet Pond, and within proximity to Hartland Village development in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area.

- 4.141 The tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area ranges from -96 to 0 due to influences from traffic noise, along road corridors such as the A323 and A3013 and the railway line in the north. There is also localised visual influence from the settlement edges of Fleet in the west and Farnborough to the east, including Farnborough airport, which somewhat reduces the sense of remoteness and tranquillity in parts. Due to containment from vegetation and limited influence from development, there is a relative sense of tranquillity and remoteness across the southern part of the Landscape Character Area. A Technology Park is located in the northeastern part of the Landscape Character Area; however, mature vegetation restricts perception within the wider Landscape Character Area.
- 4.142 The hours of darkness baseline within the Landscape Character Area lies between 0.5-32 nanoWatts / cm^2/sr , with localised influence from the settlements of Farnborough and Fleet in the north. The majority of the Landscape Character Area sits between 1-4 nanoWatts / cm^2/sr .

Key Characteristics

- Undulating landform between approximately +187m AOD to +70m AOD, from higher plateau in the south, descending steeply at first in the southern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- There are several hydrological features including waterbodies of Fleet Pond in the north, reservoirs including Bourley Lake in the south and the Basingstoke Canal. There are also several streams which flow in a general south to north direction.
- Vegetation cover is dominated by large scale dense coniferous forestry and mixed woodland, with areas of smaller, more juvenile trees as well as heathland within forest clearings.
- There are extensive areas of ecological designations, including part of the Thames Basin SPA as well as multiple SSSIs and locally designated SINCs.
- Substantial recreational access across much of the Landscape Character Area, including extensive recreational routes through the open access land and within Fleet Pond Nature Reserve.
- There is a wealth of cycling routes within this Landscape Character Area, making use of both the road network and recreational use within the open access land. Part of King Alfred's Way cycling route runs through the Landscape Character Area.
- Much of the Landscape Character Area is within managed access areas due to military land use, with influence from military signage. Land use also includes activity at Tweseldown racecourse, as well as a Technology Park in the north of the Landscape Character Area.
- Settlement pattern is generally limited, although Hartland Village residential development is located within the north. There is limited influence from settlement within the Landscape Character Area, due to the presence of mature vegetation, although there is some localised influence on the western boundaries in proximity to Fleet.
- Extensive mature vegetation generally results in a sense of enclosure across much of the Landscape Character Area.
- The historic landscape character is dominated by 'heathland plantation', with smaller areas of 'defence' and 'recreation'.
- Historical interest in Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area, although limited influence on the wider landscape due to enclosure by mature vegetation.
- Transport routes comprise main road corridors, including the A323 and A3013, minor roads and a railway line in the north, which all connect into Fleet.
- Technology Park in the northeastern part of the Landscape Character Area has limited influence on the wider landscape, due to containment by mature vegetation cover.
- Tranquillity and remoteness are afforded mainly within the southern part of the Landscape Character Area.

- The hours of darkness landscape is relatively dark compared with the remainder of the district.

Forces for Change

- Further urban expansion on the settlement edges of Fleet has the potential to degrade or remove existing green infrastructure networks.
- Climate change has the potential to increase heathland wildfires which can alter the character of parts of the Landscape Character Area and reduce heathland wildlife.
- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area.
- Increase in activity associated with forestry operations.
- Potential requirements for recreational areas to be provided such as the change in use to enable new or expansion of SANGs with requirements for parking, signage, fencing, habitat creation, visitor activity and management infrastructure.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Conserve existing mature vegetation cover to continue limited intrusion from development on the outskirts of the Landscape Character Area and maintain areas of relative tranquillity.
- Support the aims and objectives of relevant ecological designations, including rare species conservation, and the priorities within the LNRS.
- Continue to preserve and enhance the local network of recreation routes, including those within areas of open access land.
- Promote management of land and educational initiatives to reduce heathland fire risk.
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.
- Conserve and enhance the naturalistic character of existing and proposed SANGs, ensuring that access, wayfinding and visitor infrastructure are sensitively integrated into the landscape and reflect local character.
- Manage recreational greenspaces, including SANGs, to maintain a predominantly natural character, strengthen habitat networks and avoid urbanising influences that would detract from landscape character.
- Support the creation of new natural greenspaces and SANGs where they reinforce local landscape character, enhance biodiversity and retain the rural qualities of the area.

Development Guidelines

- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing and sympathetic to the existing character, including local topography and landform.
- Minimise further intrusion of development, including road networks, to retain characteristic landscape.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRoW and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.

Landscape Character Type G: Wooded Heathland

4.143 With reference to **Figure 14: Hart Landscape Character Types**, Landscape Character Type G: Wooded Heathland generally comprises rolling landform covered by a combination of deciduous and coniferous woodland blocks and areas of heathland mosaic, which are often within areas of common land. It also comprises a patchwork of arable fields and smaller woodland blocks in places. The Landscape Character Type has a varied scale of landscape, owing to the contrast between the large scale woodland areas and smaller scale field enclosures. The prevalence of woodland and mature vegetation limits the influence from surrounding settlement, with localised influence from human activity, such as infrastructure and development in places. Extensive recreational access, particularly within the common land and country parks, is a key characteristic of this Landscape Character Type. The Landscape Character Type consists of the following Landscape Character Areas:

- Landscape Character Area G1: Minley Wooded Heathland; and
- Landscape Character Area G2: Hazeley Wooded Heathland.

Landscape Character Area G1: Minley Wooded Heathland

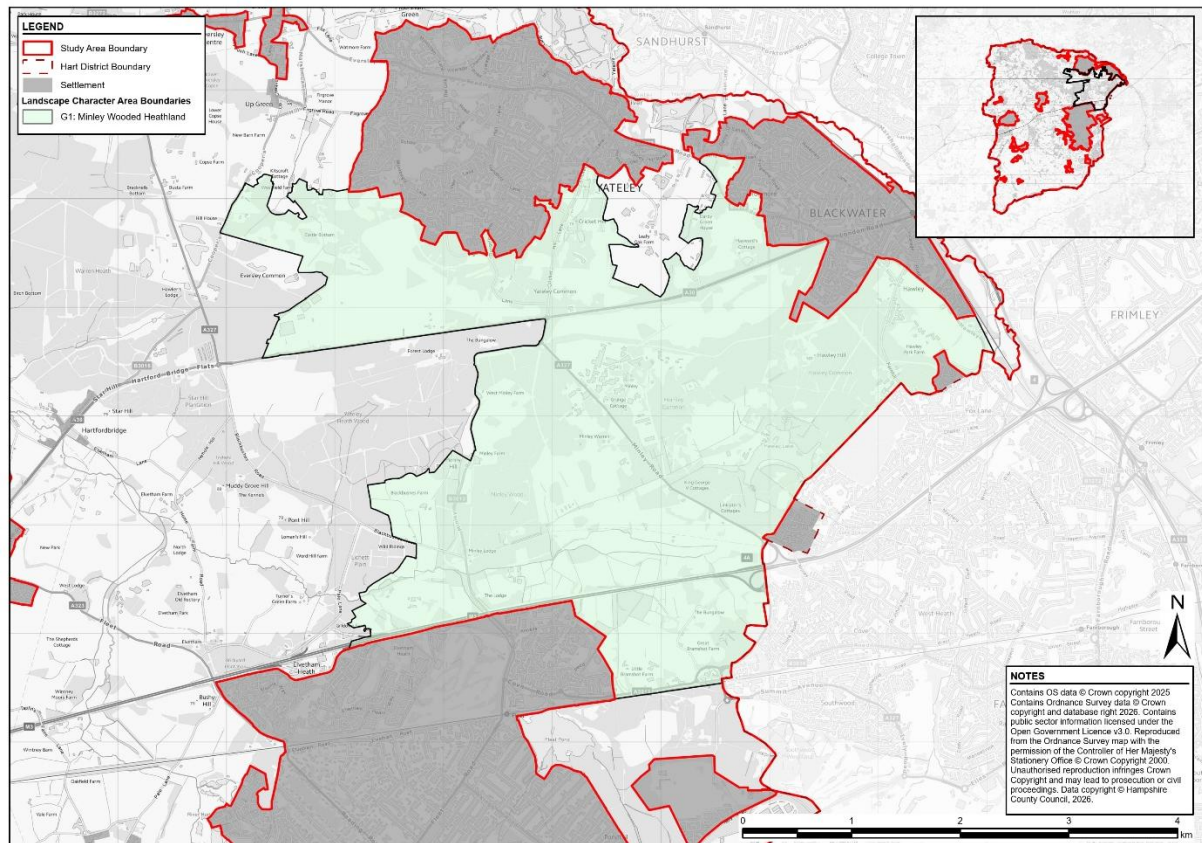


Plate 47: Extract of Figure 15 illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area G1 in a colour fill



Plate 48: View of linear residential properties within Yateley Common



Plate 49: View of Yateley Common with areas of mosaic heathland and more mature mixed woodland

Location and Boundaries

4.144 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area G1: Minley Wooded Heathland comprises an area of land within the northeastern part of the district. The area lies

between the settlements of Yateley, Blackwater and Hawley to the north and the settlement of Fleet to the south.

4.145 Landscape Character Area G1: Minley Wooded Heathland is bordered by the following Landscape Character Areas:

- Landscape Character Area E3: Eversley Fringe Wooded Farmland, Landscape Character Area E4: Frogmore Fringe Wooded Farmland and Landscape Character Area B2: Blackwater River Plains to the north;
- Landscape Character Area F2: Tweseldown Densely Forested Heathland to the south; and
- Landscape Character Area F1: Bramshill Densely Forested Heathland to the west.

Overview of Landscape Character

- 4.146 The Landscape Character Area occupies a low plateau, with localised areas of more steeply sloping landform, ranging in height between approximately +62m AOD and +100m AOD. A band of localised higher and relatively flatter land is present through the centre of the Landscape Character Area, around Blackbushe Airport and Gibraltar Barracks, and including Hawley Hill in the east. The flat piece of land on which the Blackbushe Airport is sited was historically named Hartford Bridge Flats. The southern part of the Landscape Character Area comprises localised lower and relatively flatter landform.
- 4.147 The vegetation cover is varied, with large scale deciduous and coniferous woodland blocks, with associated undergrowth often comprising bracken. The coniferous forestry planted between the 1950s and 1980s is being progressively removed and many areas are being managed to return to the historic open heathland mosaic, comprising vegetation such as heather, gorse and scattered individual trees and scrub. The southern part of the Landscape Character Area typically comprises areas of grassland and open fields, divided by hedgerows and smaller blocks of woodland, some of which are Ancient Woodland. There is a varied scale within the landscape with large scale woodland blocks largely in the northern part of the Landscape Character Area and smaller scale field enclosures elsewhere.
- 4.148 Successive heathland restoration projects have included tree and undergrowth clearance to provide important habitats for ground nesting birds. Large parts of the Landscape Character Area are covered by ecological designations, including part of the Thames Basin SPA in the north, an internationally important habitat for ground nesting birds, as well as multiple Sites of SSSIs across the Landscape Character Area and SINCs mainly within the south of the Landscape Character Area.
- 4.149 Substantial recreational access across much of the Landscape Character Area, with extensive recreational routes through the commons, including a network of bridleways. Much of the common land is within managed access areas due to military land use, with military signage prevalent across the area. Bramshot Country Park to the south of the M3 and Hawley Farm Country Park in the northeast provides additional opportunities for recreational access, both of which are managed as SANGs.
- 4.150 Extensive mature vegetation generally results in a sense of enclosure across much of the Landscape Character Area, with intimate and enclosed views within the wooded areas and partially enclosed, framed views created by a wooded backdrop in the heathland areas. The southern part of the Landscape Character Area is relatively more open, although views are limited by mature vegetation boundaries. Occasional longer distance views are available within the more open Hawley Farm Country Park, in the northeastern part of the Landscape Character Area.
- 4.151 Much of the central part of the Landscape Character Area contains Grade II Minley Manor Registered Park and Garden, which is mainly covered by the patchworks of woodland and mosaic heathland within the common land. Hawley Farm and associated parkland, comprising open fields and scattered mature trees, is located in the northeastern part of the Landscape Character Area. Part of the historic grounds now form Hawley Farm Country Park with open meadows, newly planted trees and extensive recreational

routes. There is also historical influence associated with Blackbushe Airport, which developed as a RAF base in World War II.

- 4.152 Settlement pattern within the Landscape Character Area is sparse, generally limited to scattered, isolated residential dwellings mainly within the southern part of the Landscape Character Area, and some linear settlement along the road network on the northern edge near Yateley. The influence within the wider Landscape Character Area is generally limited and localised from surrounding settlement edges, mainly due to the presence of mature vegetation.
- 4.153 The tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area ranges from -96 to +15, with less tranquil areas between -96 to -40 around the fringes of Yateley and Blackwater, and locally detracting influences such as military activity at Gibraltar Barracks, including associated movement, structures and metal fencing along the A327, overhead lines and pylons and from large scale commercial activities at Blackbushe Airport along the A30. Farnborough Airport is located to the east which also has a perceptual influence on the tranquillity occasionally due to planes. There is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity across parts of the Landscape Character Area, focused within the areas of common land. Generally, there is limited influence from the adjacent settlement areas mainly due to the presence of mature vegetation.
- 4.154 During hours of darkness, there is generally limited influence from light sources across the Landscape Character Area. There is localised influence from extensive light sources at Blackbushe airport, and to a lesser extent at Gibraltar Barracks, which are visible along adjacent road corridors and locally limit the sense of remoteness. The hours of darkness baseline within the Landscape Character Area ranges from 0.25-32 nanoWatts / cm²/sr at these hotspots.

Key Characteristics

- A low plateau with undulating landform, with a band of localised higher and relatively level land through the centre, and localised lower and more level landform in the south.
- Several manmade water bodies in the northern and central parts of the Landscape Character Areas, as well as tributaries of the River Hart across the southern part.
- Mosaic of large scale deciduous and coniferous woodland blocks and areas of restored heathland across much of the Landscape Character Area, with areas of grassland, open fields and smaller blocks of woodland in the south.
- The landscape scale is varied, comprising large scale woodland blocks and smaller scale field enclosures.
- There are extensive areas of ecological designations, including part of the Thames Basin Heath SPA, an internationally important habitat for ground nesting birds, as well as multiple SSSIs.
- Substantial recreational access across much of the Landscape Character Area, with extensive recreational routes through the commons and country parks, including a network of bridleways.
- There is a well-used network of cycling routes within the common land in this Landscape Character Area and the road network is also used by cyclists.
- Much of the common land is within managed access areas due to military land use, with influence from several historical landmarks which remain in the landscape.
- Limited scattered or linear settlement, focused in the south and towards Yateley in the north.
- Extensive mature vegetation generally results in a sense of enclosure across much of the Landscape Character Area.
- Historic landscape characterisation of 'assarts', comprising forested land converted to arable land use, in the south and large areas of 'heathland' and 19th century 'heathland plantation' in the central part of the Landscape Character Area.

- Historical interest relating to Grade II Minley Manor Registered Park and Garden and Hawley Park and associated parkland.
- Transport routes largely comprise main road corridors, including the M3, A30, A3013 and A327, as well as occasional minor roads connecting into settlement areas.
- There is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity across parts of the Landscape Character Area, focused within the areas of common land.
- During hours of darkness, there is generally limited influence from light sources across much of the Landscape Character Area, with localised light sources.

Forces for Change

- Further urban expansion on the settlement edges of Fleet, Yateley and Blackwater and around the Blackbushe Airport site have the potential to degrade or remove existing green infrastructure. This could also influence the separation from urban development with the Hawley Park and Green Conservation Area and Darby Green Conservation Area.
- Climate change has the potential to increase heathland wildfires which can alter the character of parts of the Landscape Character Area and reduce heathland wildlife.
- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area.
- Potential requirements for recreational areas to be provided such as the change in use to enable new or expansion of SANGs with requirements for parking, signage, fencing, habitat creation, visitor activity and management infrastructure.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Promote management of land and educational initiatives to reduce heathland fire risk.
- Support the aims and objectives of relevant ecological designations, including rare species conservation and scrub clearance works in the commons, as well as the priorities within the LNRS.
- Continue to preserve and enhance the local network of recreational routes, including those within areas of common land.
- Promote management of land and educational initiatives to reduce heathland fire risk.
- Retain vegetated boundaries, including tree and hedgerow, and sensitive land use between the developed edge and Hawley Park and Green Conservation Area, Darby Green Conservation Area and Cricket Hill, Yateley Conservation Area to retain separation.
- Woodland management practices to encourage native species as part of healthy functioning of the ecosystem.
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.
- Conserve and enhance the naturalistic character of existing and proposed SANGs, ensuring that access, wayfinding and visitor infrastructure are sensitively integrated into the landscape and reflect local character.
- Manage recreational greenspaces, including SANGs, to maintain a predominantly natural character, strengthen habitat networks and avoid urbanising influences that would detract from landscape character.
- Support the creation of new natural greenspaces and SANGs where they reinforce local landscape character, enhance biodiversity and retain the rural qualities of the area.

Development Guidelines

- Minimise further intrusion of development, including road networks, to retain characteristic landscape features, including mature woodland, heathland vegetation and boundary vegetation to ensure habitat connectivity.
- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing and sympathetic to the existing character, including local topography and landform.
- Respect views from within and the immediate boundaries of the Hawley Park and Green Conservation Area, Darby Green Conservation Area and Cricket Hill, Yateley Conservation Area.
- Development within the Hawley Park and Green Conservation Area, Darby Green Conservation Area and Cricket Hill, Yateley Conservation Area should follow development policies, ensuring it is of a scale and design to reinforce the locally distinctive character.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRow and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.

Landscape Character Area G2: Hazeley Wooded Heathland

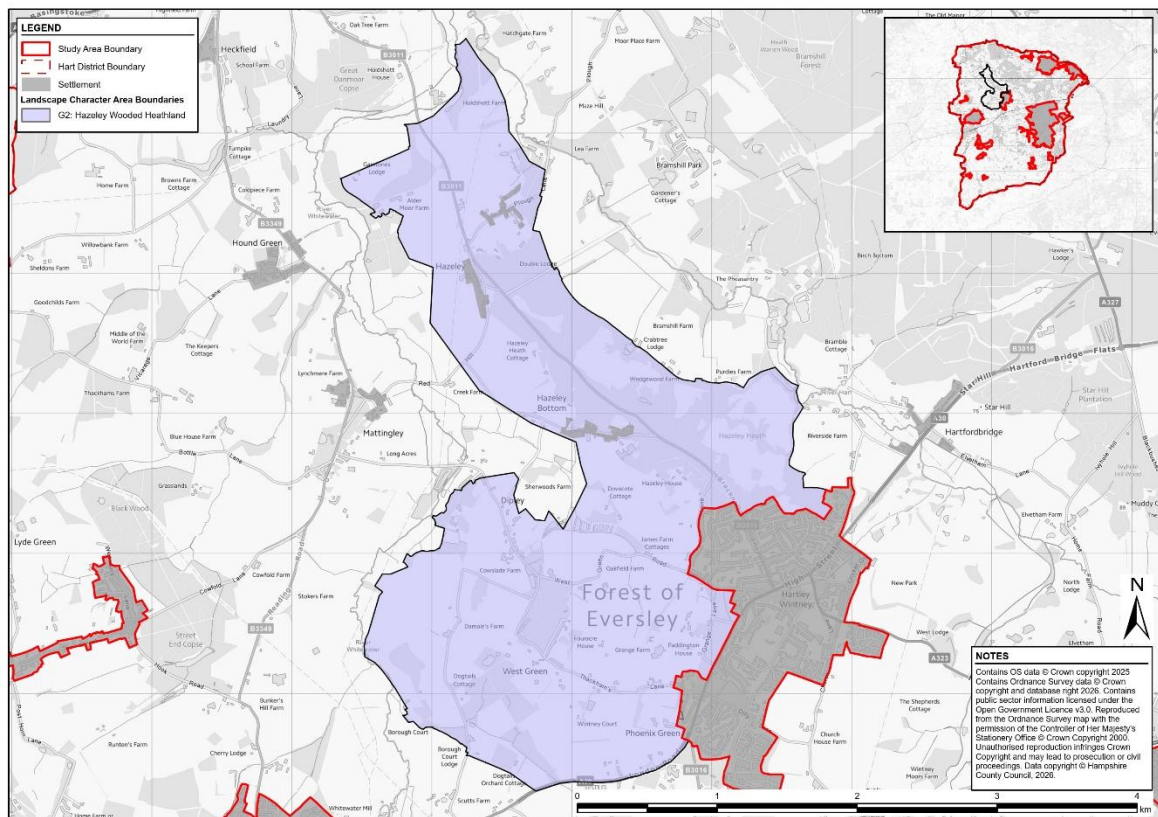


Plate 50: Extract of Figure 15 Areas illustrating the extent of Landscape Character Area G2 in a colour fill



Plate 51: Mixed woodland with ground cover largely comprising bracken within Hazeley Heath



Plate 52: Occasional longer distance views within Hazeley Heath, with coniferous plantation visible on the skyline in the background



Plate 53: Arable fields with scattered individual trees within field boundaries, adjacent to West Green House

Location and Boundaries

- 4.155 With reference to **Figure 15: Hart Landscape Character Areas**, Landscape Character Area G2: Hazeley Wooded Heathland comprises an area of land within the northern part of the district, to the west of Hartley Wintney.
- 4.156 Landscape Character Area G2: Hazeley Wooded Heathland is bordered by the following Landscape Character Areas:
- Landscape Character Area B3: Hart River Plains to the east;
 - Landscape Character Area E1: Dogmersfield Wooded Parkland to the south; and
 - Landscape Character Area B1: Whitewater River Plains to the west.

Overview of Landscape Character

- 4.157 The Landscape Character Area represents an area of undulating topography on a low plateau of Thames Group and Brackelsham and Barton Group sand, silt and clay deposits, between approximately +58m AOD and +86m AOD, with areas of lower and flatter landform associated with the Whitewater River and Hart River Plains, which are adjacent to the Landscape Character Area to the west and northeast.
- 4.158 Vegetation cover is varied in the north of the Landscape Character Area. This comprises deciduous woodland with a bracken understorey growth, clearings of low-growing heathy vegetation including bramble and bracken and areas of immature tree growth, thought to be self-seeded tree growth. There is evidence of tree clearance in parts of Hazeley Heath which is likely part of conservation efforts to maintain the heathland and historic vegetation clearance associated with military land use. Across the remainder of the Landscape Character Area, smaller woodland blocks and copses are interspersed within mixed agricultural land including arable, pastoral and some paddock use. Individual trees are scattered within

field parcels in parts of the Landscape Character Area, particularly within fields in the southern part, in proximity to West Green House.

- 4.159 The Landscape Character Area comprises ecological designations, including Hazeley Heath SSSI and part of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, which cover a large part of the north of the Landscape Character Area and are internationally designated for their rich heathland biodiversity and the important ground nesting bird habitats. Multiple smaller scale SINCs are located within the southern part of the Landscape Character Area, including West Green Common and multiple copses.
- 4.160 Recreational access across the Landscape Character Area is focused within the common land, with extensive recreational routes across Hazeley Heath and West Green Common. Outside of the common land, there is a relatively well-connected network of local PRoWs, particularly in the central part of the Landscape Character Area. The Brenda Parker Way long distance route also runs through the Landscape Character Area, the Three Castles Path long distance route lie on the eastern boundary and part of the King Alfred's Way cycling route also passes through.
- 4.161 Settlement pattern within the Landscape Character Area is generally limited to small linear settlements along the local road network, including Hazeley Bottom, West Green, Diple and Hazeley, with the settlement of Hazeley Bottom set within heathland. Scattered isolated properties with associated gardens and paddocks are also present, generally set within small woodland areas or lines of trees, particularly within the south of the Landscape Character Area. The influence of settlement within the wider Landscape Character Area is generally limited and localised including from the surrounding settlement edges of Hartley Wintney, mainly due to the presence of mature vegetation.
- 4.162 The presence of mature vegetation within woodland blocks or along field boundaries, results in a partially enclosed character across much of the Landscape Character Area. In places, the landform and limited vegetation enable intermittent, longer distance views towards adjacent landscapes, such as the river plains and distant coniferous plantation, which creates a more open character.
- 4.163 The tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area ranges from -96 to 33. There is a sense of remoteness and tranquillity across much of the Landscape Character Area, due to containment from vegetation and limited influence from development. There is however influence from overhead lines and pylons within the Landscape Character Area, and influence from overhead lines and pylons and Bunkers Hill Solar Farm to the west within the Whitewater River Plains Landscape Character Area, although this is localised to the elevated land in the western part of the Landscape Character Area. There is also perceptible road noise from the B3011 and the A30, although this is reduced by influence of mature vegetation. The hours of darkness baseline within the Landscape Character Area lies between 0.25-4 nanoWatts/cm²/sr, which is relatively low in comparison to the remainder of the district.

Key Characteristics

- An undulating low plateau between approximately +58m AOD and +86m AOD, surrounded by lower and flatter river plains to the west and northeast.
- Vegetation cover varies across the Landscape Character Area, with a large area of partially wooded heathland of Hazeley Heath and smaller blocks of largely deciduous woodland and copses, interspersed within a mixed agricultural landscape, divided by hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Individual trees are scattered within field parcels in parts of the Landscape Character Area.
- There are areas designated for ecological conservation, including the extensive Hazeley Heath SSSI and SPA in the north of the Landscape Character Area, with associated bird sounds, as well as multiple locally designated SINCs across the Landscape Character Area.
- Recreational access is extensive within the areas of common land, including that within Hazeley Heath and smaller areas of common land in the south. The rest of the Landscape Character Area is relatively well connected with local PRoWs and the Brenda Parker Way long distance route.

- There is a wealth of cycling routes within this Landscape Character Area, making use of both the road network and PRoW within the common land. Part of King Alfred's Way cycling route runs through the character area.
- Settlement pattern within the Landscape Character Area is generally limited to small linear settlements along the local road network. Scattered isolated properties are also present, particularly within the south of the Landscape Character Area. Mature vegetation generally limits the influence of settlements within the wider Landscape Character Area.
- Historic landscape characterisation of 'commons' in the north, 'assarts' in the central part and an area of 'small parliamentary' enclosed fields in the south.
- Historical interest relating to the 18th Century West Green house and gardens, which is a visitor's destination.
- Generally, a partially enclosed character across much of the Landscape Character Area due to mature vegetation, with some intermittent, longer distance views towards adjacent landscapes, which creates a more open character.
- Transport routes largely comprise a network of local roads, as well as the B3011 in the north which connects Hartley Wintney with Hazeley. The road network is generally tree lined, with grassy verges and some high, vegetated banks across the Landscape Character Area predominantly comprising mixed native hedgerow.
- The tranquillity baseline within the Landscape Character Area is generally high due to containment from vegetation and a limited influence from development.
- The hours of darkness baseline is relatively dark in comparison to the remainder of the district.

Forces for Change

- Expansion of development, particularly with regard to preserving the rural setting to the Hartley Wintney Conservation Area, West Green Conservation Area, Diple Conservation Area and Hazeley Bottom Conservation Area.
- Climate change has the potential to increase heathland wildfires which can alter the character of parts of the Landscape Character Area and reduce heathland wildlife.
- Climate change impacts on vegetation and habitats, including populations of trees being vulnerable to effects of drought as a result of climate change, which has the potential to alter the character of the Landscape Character Area.

Landscape Management Guidelines

- Preserve vegetation and rural nature of land use on the edge of settlements, particularly important for Hartley Wintney, West Green Conservation Area and Diple Conservation Area and Hazeley Bottom Conservation Area, as this contributes to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.
- Support the aims and objectives of relevant ecological designations, including rare species conservation and heathland preservation works in Hazeley Heath, as well as the priorities within the LNRS.
- Promote management of land and educational initiatives to reduce heathland fire risk.
- Continue to preserve and enhance the local network of recreation routes, including those within areas of common land.
- Consideration of climate resilient species, including within proposed planting schemes and ensuring appropriate management.

Development Guidelines

- The height, scale, massing and articulation of any new development to be of high-quality and well-designed detailing and sympathetic to the existing character, including local topography and landform.

- Respect outward rural views from the Hartley Wintney Conservation Area, West Green Conservation Area and Dipley Conservation Area and Hazeley Bottom Conservation Area to the surrounding countryside and contribution of land outside the settlement boundary to the Conservation Area.
- Development should avoid locally designated areas of greenspace.
- Development should protect and enhance existing PRoW and ensure that new housing is well connected to the wider recreational access network.
- Protect development pattern of linear residential development along the local road network.
- Ensure lighting is assessed for landscape and visual impact and designed to minimise outward light spill.

Appendix A Sources of Information

4.164 The following documents have been reviewed as part of the Landscape Character Assessment and provide opportunities for further reading to enable more detailed information on matters raised within the assessment.

- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, 2014¹
- European Landscape Convention, 2000²
- National Character Area profiles, 2013-15³
- Hampshire Landscape Character Assessment⁶
- National Planning Policy Framework⁷
- Hart Landscape Character Assessment 1997¹⁵
- Hart Local Plan Replacement 1996-2006¹⁶
- Hart Local Plan (Strategy and Sites) 2032¹⁷

Relevant Neighborhood Plans:

- Crookham Village Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016-2032¹⁸
- Crondall Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2032¹⁹
- Dogmersfield Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2032²⁰
- Hartley Wintney Neighbourhood Plan 2017- 2032²¹
- Hook Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2032²²
- Odiham and North Warnborough Neighbourhood Plan Review 2014-2032²³
- Rotherwick Neighbourhood Plan 2026-2032²⁴

¹⁵ Hart District Council & Hampshire County Council (1997) *Hart Landscape Character Assessment*. [online] Available at: https://www.hart.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/landscape_assessment_merged.pdf

¹⁶ Hart District Council (2002) *Hart Local Plan Replacement 1996-2006*. [online] Available at: <https://www.hart.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-05/Hart-Local-Plan-%28Replacement%29-1996-to-2006-saved-policies-accessible.pdf>

¹⁷ Hart District Council (2020) *Hart Local Plan (Strategy and Sites) 2032*. [online] Available at: <https://www.hart.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-08/Hart-Local-Plan-strategy-and-Sites-2032.pdf>

¹⁸ Crookham Village Parish Council (2020) *Crookham Village Neighbourhood Development Plan*. [online] Available at: <https://crookhamvillage.org.uk/crookham-village-parish-council-projects/neighbourhood-plan-project>

¹⁹ Crondall Parish Council (2020) *Crondall Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2032*. [online] Available at: <https://www.hart.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-09/Crondall-neighbourhood-plan-referendum-version.pdf>

²⁰ Dogmersfield Parish Council (2019) *Dogmersfield Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2032*. [online] Available at: <https://dogmersfield-pc.gov.uk/dogmersfield-neighbourhood-plan/>

²¹ Hartley Wintney Parish Council (2019) *Hartley Wintney Neighbourhood Plan 2027-2032*. [online] Available at: <https://www.hartleywintney-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

²² Hook Parish Council (2020) *Hook Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2032*. [online] Available at: <https://hook.gov.uk/planning-infrastructure/hook-neighbourhood-plan>

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- Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2037²⁵
- Fleet Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2032²⁶
- Yateley, Darby Green & Frogmore Neighbourhood Plan 2020-2032²⁷
- Adjacent Landscape Character Assessments:
- Bracknell Forest Landscape Character Assessment (2015)²⁸
- East Hampshire Landscape Character Assessment (2024)²⁹
- Rushmoor Landscape Assessment update (2009)³⁰
- Rushmoor Landscape Assessment (2017) - update note³¹
- Surrey Landscape Character Assessment: Waverley Borough (2015)³²
- Wokingham Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2019)³³
- Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Character Assessment (2021)³⁴
- South Downs National Park Landscape Character Assessment (2020)³⁵
- Hart Green Infrastructure Strategy (2017)³⁶
- Hampshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment (1999)³⁷
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- North Hampshire Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Development Study (2010)³⁹
- The Living Landscapes Project: landscape character and biodiversity (2004)⁴⁰
- Odiham Village Design Statement (2009)⁴¹
- Yateley Village Design Framework (2009)⁴²
- Hart Conservation Area Appraisals⁴³
- Winchfield Landscape Character Assessment (2022)⁴⁴
- Winchfield's Key Views Assessment (2023)⁴⁵
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire (2025)⁴⁶

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Appendix B Field Study Sheet

