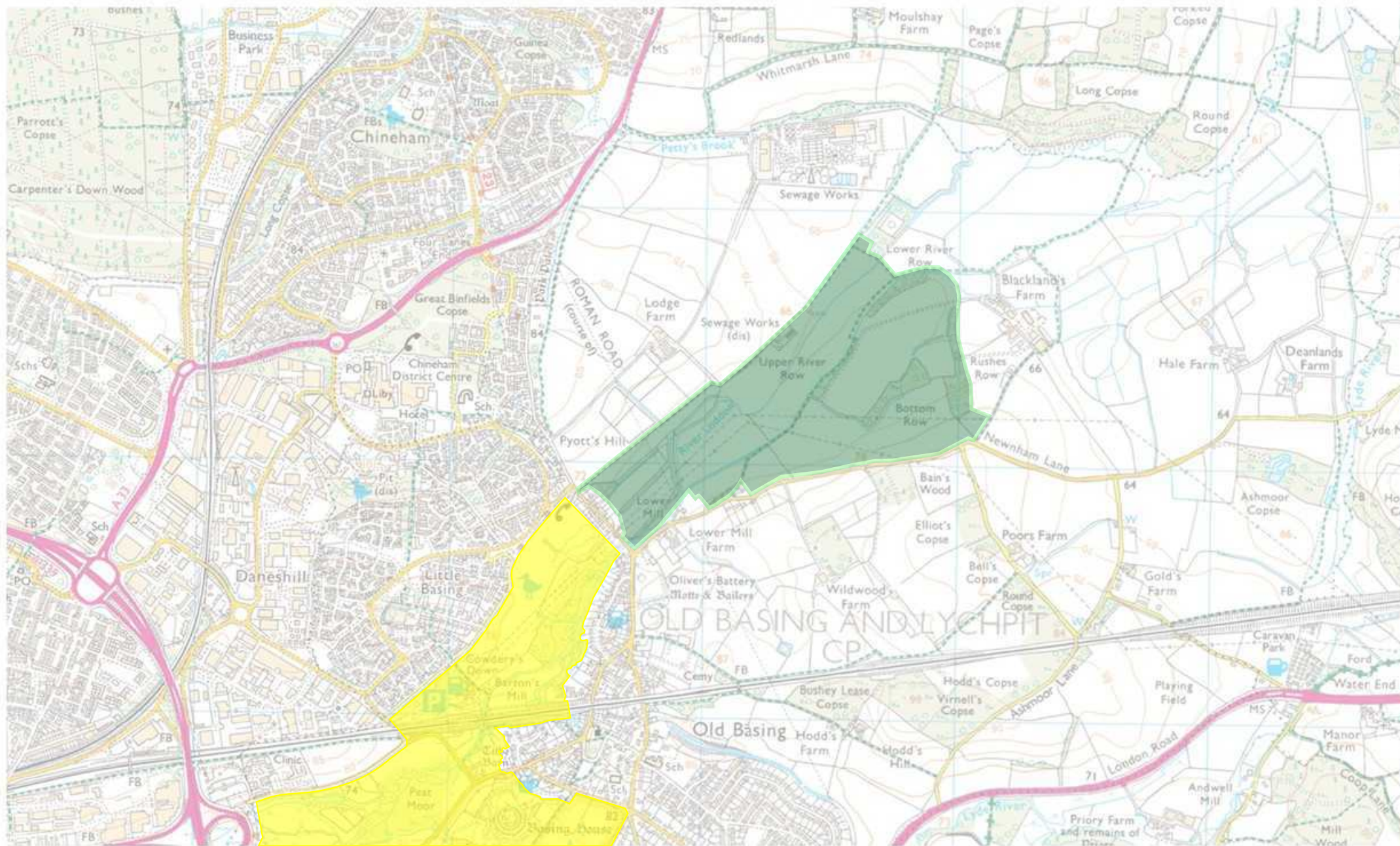




Not to Scale

Key

- Proposed Local Gap
- Existing Basingstoke and Old Basing Strategic Gap



Old Basing Local Gap Study Proposed Local Gap Plan

Old Basing and Lychpit Parish
Council

Drawing Ref: 14772L.PLG.005 Rev A

Date: Jun 2026 Drawn: EB Checked: JG

APPENDIX 1

Extract from *Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Character Assessment* (HDA, May 2021)

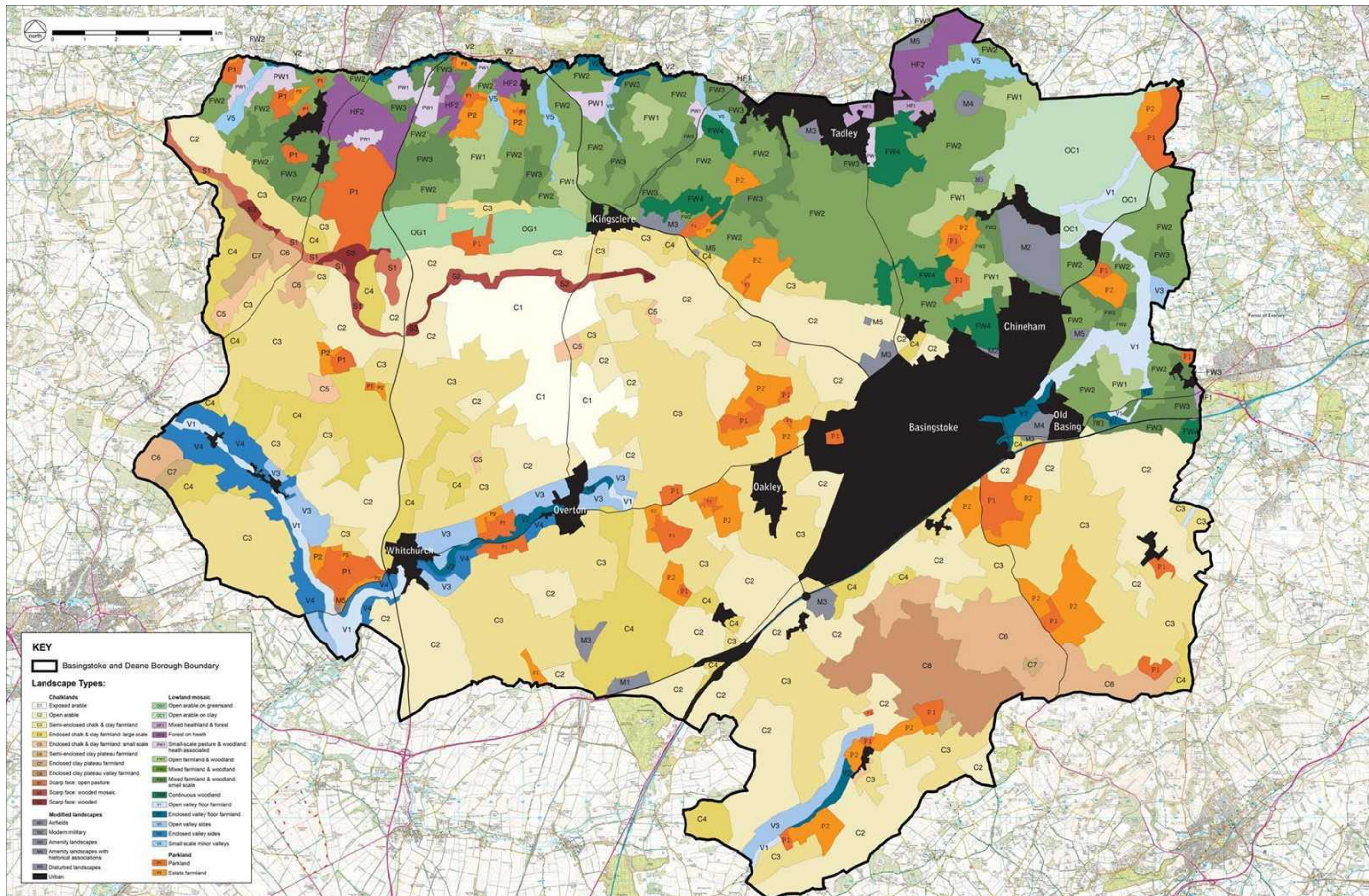


Figure 6 Landscape Types

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Open arable landscapes

3.6 These are the extensive, large-scale and open arable landscapes that are characteristic of the most intensively farmed chalkland areas. They are widespread across the Borough, particularly in those areas of gently rolling landform where the influence of the chalk geology is not masked by deposits of clay with flints. Like the 1995 Borough-wide assessment, this assessment divides the main open arable landscape type into two sub-types, mainly reflecting differences in the frequency of hedgerows and trees. These are:

- **Exposed arable (C1)** - very large-scale, arable fields with virtually no structure of hedgerows, trees or woodlands; simple landscape with few landscape features; visually exposed with a sense of elevation and extensive panoramic views; blocks or belts of plantation woodland may be present but are generally infrequent; scattered settlement pattern dominated by large farms.
- **Open arable (C2)** - similar characteristics to C1 but distinguished from that type by a greater frequency of hedgerows defining field boundaries. However, these are often low and fragmented with few hedgerow trees, and there is still a low incidence of woodland cover; settlements scattered and infrequent but occurring more often than in the exposed arable type.

Chalk and clay landscapes

3.7 These landscapes are the most extensive in the Borough and are typical of chalkland areas where there are widespread deposits of clay with flints, particularly on hilltops, creating an undulating or rolling landform. These landscapes share some of the characteristics of the open arable landscapes, but the main difference is the greater incidence of woodland, hedgerows and tree cover. This is closely related to the presence of clay on the ridges and hilltops and its absence in the valleys. Three main subdivisions of this type have been identified in this assessment on the basis of the degree of enclosure created by differences in landform and vegetation cover and the scale of the landscape. These are:

- **Semi-enclosed chalk and clay farmland (C3)** - predominantly large-medium scale arable fields with some areas of pasture; frequent woodland blocks and an intact structure of hedgerows; some visual containment and enclosure by vegetation or landform, but scale of field pattern allows more distant views and creates a semi-enclosed character; denser settlement pattern than found on open arable landscapes with scattered hamlets and villages linked with a moderately dense network of generally winding lanes;
- **Enclosed chalk and clay farmland: large-scale (C4)** - as C3 but with frequent woodland and strong, often tree lined, structure of hedgerows, which creates a definite sense of enclosure and contains more distant views;
- **Enclosed chalk and clay farmland: small-scale (C5)** - similar to C4 but with a noticeably smaller-scale of landscape pattern resulting from smaller field sizes, more diverse topography and a more intimate patchwork of hedgerows, woods and open fields.

Clay plateau landscapes

3.8 These are landscapes which typically occur on areas of higher ground underlain by extensive, sometimes almost continuous, deposits of clay with flints. The best example is Herriard Plateau in the south-eastern part of the Borough. Other examples are found in the Oakley/Hannington area and in places towards the far western boundary of the Borough. A denser pattern of vegetation distinguishes these areas from the adjacent chalk uplands, with a high overall cover of woodland (typically semi-natural broadleaved) and a strong structure of dense, mixed species hedgerows, with oak as a predominant species.

3.9 The 1995 Borough assessment distinguishes between the clay plateau landscapes on areas of different topography, notably between the flatter areas of continuous clay, and the series of ridges and valleys where erosion has worn away much of the clay. These differences have also been defined in this assessment, together with a distinction in the degree of enclosure within the flatter clay plateau areas:

- **Semi-enclosed clay plateau farmland (C6)** - predominantly large-scale arable fields with some areas of pasture; high frequency of woodland (predominantly semi-natural broadleaved) and a strong structure of hedgerows with distinctive oak trees; some visual containment and enclosure by vegetation or landform, but the scale of field pattern allows more distant views and creates a semi-enclosed character; settlements infrequent and occasional hamlets are widely dispersed and linked via a network of narrow and indirect lanes, lending a sense of remoteness to the area.
- **Enclosed clay plateau farmland (C7)** - as C6 but with a stronger sense of enclosure created by vegetation cover. Enclosed clay plateau valley farmland (C8) - distinguished from C6 and C7 by topography, with a complex system of steep-sided, enclosed valleys and ridges contrasting with flatter plateau landscapes; steep slopes, often wooded, and dense hedgerows and blocks of woodland also occurring on upper slopes; visual enclosure provided by landform and vegetation, creating an intimate land- scape; occasional hamlets and villages with narrow lanes running along valley floor and then upwards onto clay plateau.

Scarp landscapes

3.10 These are areas of dramatic landform at the edge of the chalk, where erosion has exposed the hard Middle Chalk to form a steep, north facing slope. This towers above the lower-lying landscapes to the north and forms a dramatic edge to the long gentle gradient of the dipslope stretching away to the south. At certain places, such as Beacon Hill, the scarp encircles an area of high ground, producing a domed hill, flanked by characteristic steep-sided coombes. The main distinctions in character brought out by this assessment relate to differences in land cover along the steep scarp face, as follows:

- **Scarp face: open pasture (S1)** - steep, generally north-facing slope predominantly under permanent pasture, with areas of remnant chalk grassland; possibly some encroaching scrub but generally open in character with extensive views out across landscape to the north;
- **Scarp face: wooded mosaic (S2)** - areas of steep scarp face, which have developed a mosaic of grassland, scrub and woodland;
- **Scarp face: wooded (S3)** - areas of steep scarp face, which are clothed in dense woodland.

Open arable on Greensand

3.11 This landscape type occurs in a single location at the foot of the steep chalk scarp to the west of Kingsclere, associated with an exposure of Upper Greensand. It shares many of the characteristics of the surrounding chalk landscapes and almost imperceptibly merges with them, forming a smoothly undulating landform. This is characterised by large-scale, open arable fields, with sparse, closely trimmed hedges and occasionally interrupted by hedgerow trees and blocks of woodland. This is a fairly homogenous area of landscape character which is identified as a single type in this assessment:

- **Open arable on Greensand (OG1)** – strongly undulating landform forming a transitional area between the steep chalk scarp and low-lying clay landscape to the north; predominantly under arable cultivation with large scale fields divided by sparse, trimmed hedgerows; isolated hedgerow trees and occasional woodland blocks; generally open character with distant views; settlements infrequent or scattered and consisting of large farms and associated buildings (including stud farm); roads infrequent and normally follow a gently winding route.

Open arable on clay

- 3.12 This landscape type is only found in the Loddon and Lyde Valley character area and is unique to the Borough. It is a flat, low-lying landscape associated with the River Loddon, although there is little discernible valley form. It overlies extensive deposits of London Clay with soils prone to waterlogging. Drainage ditches are frequent features. The landscape is generally open, with low, trimmed hedges containing isolated mature trees, and only a few isolated copses of oak and ash woodland are interspersed across the landscape. This is a fairly homogenous area of landscape character which is identified as a single type in this assessment:

- **Open arable on clay (OC1)** - flat, low-lying landscape; predominantly under arable cultivation with medium to large-scale fields; isolated copses of woodland and low, trimmed hedges with isolated hedgerow trees; frequent drainage ditches; generally open character with medium range views interrupted only by the layering effect of sparse vegetation in flat landscape; outside the main villages settlement pattern very sparse, with larger farms or small clusters of cottages located at the junction of narrow lanes.

Heathland and forest landscapes

- 3.13 These landscapes occur exclusively within the north of the Borough on the mosaic of Tertiary clays, sands and gravels with thin acidic soils. They represent areas of unproductive land that have escaped conversion to agricultural use, and comprise a mosaic of acid grassland, heath, encroaching scrub and trees (birch, pine and oak) or continuous forest, mostly comprising coniferous plantations. They represent important remnants of formerly more extensive areas of these habitats and are highly distinctive landscapes within a predominantly farmed area. This assessment sub-divides this type into two, reflecting the difference between more open mosaics of heathland, scrub and woodland, and the dense continuous stands of forest:

- **Mixed heathland and forest (HF1)** - areas of heathland vegetation forming a mosaic with invading scrub, grassland and woodland; semi-natural character; generally visually enclosed but with a mosaic of more open and enclosed areas;
- **Forest on heath (HF2)** - large-scale areas of continuous woodland or forest cover; mainly under commercial coniferous plantations, but with some fringes or stands of broadleaved woodland; potentially some open areas created within the forest through management.

Pasture and woodland: heath associated landscapes

- 3.14 This landscape type is also confined to the Tertiary sand, gravel and clay deposits along the northern edge of the Borough on acid soils. It essentially comprises a small scale, intimate mosaic of grazing land and woodland and is very similar to the mixed farmland and woodland types. However, it differs in the predominance of pasture over arable or mixed farmland and, most importantly, in the clear presence of heathland species within verges, woodlands and hedgerows (eg bracken, gorse, oak and birch) which are indicative of more acid soils and a former heath-land character. This type has not been sub-divided in this assessment:

- **Small-scale pasture and woodland: heath associated (PW1)** - mosaic of small-scale irregular, fields, predominantly under pasture, and abundant blocks of woodland (coniferous, mixed or deciduous); frequent hedgerows and hedgerow trees (oak); heathy vegetation characteristics within woodlands, hedgerows, field margins and verges (e.g. oak, birch, gorse, bracken, pine); complex structure and intimate, enclosed character.

Mixed farmland and woodland landscapes

- 3.15 These represent the most extensive landscape types across the northern part of the Borough and form a distinctive and highly complex mosaic of mixed farmland and woodland of varying scales and degrees of enclosure. There are no strongly discernible heathy characteristics to the vegetation. Species common in hedgerows and woods tend towards those more typical

of neutral or calcareous soils, such as oak, ash, field maple, dogwood etc. Fields tend to be irregular in shape and bounded by thick hedgerows, mature trees and blocks of woodland, creating a strong sense of enclosure and intimacy. The complex pattern of small-scale valleys, which cross this area from the edge of the chalk to the River Enborne, add to this diversity and enclosure. Some areas have a larger-scale pattern of farmland and are less enclosed by woodland. This assessment sub-divides this type on the following basis:

- **Open farmland and woodland (FW1)** - large-scale, often regularly shaped fields, predominantly under arable; hedgerow structure and woodland blocks are present, but much less frequent or strong than in other examples of this type; generally open character, although longer distance views interrupted by vegetation;
- **Mixed farmland and woodland: large-scale (FW2)** - medium to large-scale mosaic of predominantly arable farmland and woodland; strong hedgerow structure creates moderate sense of enclosure;
- **Mixed farmland and woodland: small-scale (FW3)** - small-scale mosaic of mainly pasture and woodland; strong tree cover and hedgerow structure; enclosed, intimate character; complex landscape created by diverse vegetation pattern and small-scale pattern of valleys;
- **Continuous woodland (FW4)** – large uninterrupted areas of predominantly broadleaved woodland.

River valley landscapes

- 3.16 River valley landscapes have been identified where they have a distinctive, sharply defined valley form or riparian character, notably the chalk rivers of the Test and Bourne Rivulet. The Hampshire County assessment and the 1995 Borough assessment tend only to identify the distinctive landscape characteristics of the valley floor. These include flat, low-lying farmland, predominantly under pasture, with characteristic waterside tree species such as willow and alder running alongside the river and other water-courses. The valley floor includes areas of meadow grass-land and other wetland habitats, and watercress beds are fed by braided river channels.

- 3.17 In the 2001 assessment, a number of additional types were identified to include the prominent, sloping valley sides of the main rivers (particularly on the chalk), and those examples of minor tributary valleys that have a distinctive v-shaped form. Land within river valleys which does not display any special characteristics and merges imperceptibly with the surrounding landscape (eg along the Loddon and Lyde rivers) has been included within the adjacent landscape type. The main distinctions are:

- **Open valley floor farmland (V1)** - flat, low-lying farmland on the valley floor, mainly under grazed pasture or meadow grassland but with occasional arable; distinctive pastoral and riparian character and distinctive species of alder and willow along watercourses; hedgerows, trees and woods comparatively sparse, creating a more open character along the valley floor;
- **Enclosed valley floor farmland (V2)** - similar to V1 but with a greater frequency of trees, hedgerows and woodlands and a smaller-scale pattern of farmland, creating a stronger sense of enclosure;
- **Open valley sides (V3)** - steeply-sloping land which forms an integral part of the valley landscape; fields of varying sizes under arable or pasture with a weak structure of hedgerows and trees; predominantly open character along valley sides although landform blocks views to wider areas;
- **Enclosed valley sides (V4)** - as V3 but with a stronger structure of hedgerows, tree and woodland along the valley sides, creating a stronger sense of enclosure within the valley;
- **Small-scale minor valleys (V5)** - small-scale, distinctive, v-shaped valley landform, without clear definition, between the floodplain and valley sides; tend to be associated with minor tributaries of the main river systems, particularly the River Enborne; generally strong structure of hedgerows, trees and woods, creating strongly enclosed, intimate landscapes.

Parkland landscapes

- 3.18 These landscapes do not register as distinctive types either within the Hampshire County assessment or the 1995 Borough assessment, even though they occur quite frequently within the Borough, sometimes cover quite extensive areas, and can have very distinctive characteristics that set them apart from surrounding rural landscapes. They are typically associated with large country houses and estates where a designed character has been imposed upon the underlying landscape. They include:
- **Parkland (P1)** - including grand, designed landscapes and smaller areas of parks and gardens associated with large country houses; typical characteristics of grazed pasture with mature parkland trees, avenues, copses and clumps of trees, exotic planting and lakes; typically lie immediately adjacent to large country houses; well-man- aged landscape character;
 - **Estate farmland (P2)** - the wider farmed landscape of large country estates which typically forms a setting for the parkland; with a mature, well-managed and well-wooded character (with frequent copses and game coverts); often surrounded by distinctive estate boundaries (railings or ornamental fencing) and avenues of mature trees.

Modified landscapes

- 3.19 These are landscapes that lie within a rural context but have developed semi-urban characteristics because of their specific land uses, or proximity to urban influences. They include such disparate landscapes as golf courses, quarries, landfill sites and airfields. The common thread is that their underlying landscape character has been overwhelmed or even destroyed by specific land uses or management regimes, to produce areas of distinctively different character from the areas surrounding them. These landscape types are not defined within the County or 1995 Borough landscape assessment, but are defined now follows:
- **Airfields (M1)** - typically flat, open landscapes with distinctive features of sheds, areas of hard standing, security fencing etc. However, there is only one small example of this type in the Borough and it is relatively low-key and rural in character;
 - **Modern military (M2)** - typically enclosed landscape altered for modern military purposes and relatively inaccessible to the general public. There is one large military camp within the Borough, at Bramley;
 - **Amenity landscapes (M3)** - these include golf courses and recreational areas which have an intensively managed, suburban character unrelated to their landscape context. They have large areas of managed grassland and distinctive features of bunkers, planting of non-native fast- growing species, club houses/parking etc.
 - **Amenity landscape-historic associated (M4)** - these include areas of historic importance which are specifically managed as tourist attractions or recreational areas;
 - **Disturbed landscapes (M5)** - these are areas where the landscape has been physically altered by mineral or landfill operations, and has lost its original character.

Urban areas and edge characteristics

- 3.20 The more extensive areas of continuous built form associated with the main settlements are identified in the County and Borough-wide assessments as 'urban' landscape types. These have been further sub-divided, as part of the key settlement studies, into distinctive townscape types. However, smaller settlements and areas of built form have not been defined separately and, therefore, some landscape types may include areas of built form that do not register within the landscape type description.
- 3.21 Around the edges of settlements, in particular, some of the landscape types described above exhibit 'fringe' characteristics, which alter their underlying character. They are often the result of the intrusion of adjacent built development, roads or other features (such as power lines), or

poor land management and neglect, such as rank grassland and poorly managed boundaries associated, for example, with horse grazing. Figure 6 illustrates the distribution of all the landscape types across the Borough as a whole.

Townscape types

- 3.22 Settlements are intimately linked to the landscape of which they are a part. However, within settlements there are distinct townscape types that reflect specific patterns of growth and development. Using a combination of historic mapping, historic research and fieldwork, the principal generic townscape types described below were identified within the Borough.
- 3.23 The townscape types of the 2001 Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Assessment have been retained within this 2021 update, along with an additional type of '21st Century Housing Estates' to take account of housing development since the 2001 assessment. Each of these types is identified on the updated plans in Section 5.

Historic Urban Core:

- Continuous built street frontages
- Generally on medieval burgrave plots
- Often a central focal point or landmark
- Buildings using local materials
- Variety of built form – some modern redevelopment
- Relatively high density
- Usually minimum setback from street

Historic Areas with Rural Characteristics:

- Generally more open built form
- Houses often in large plots, often with outbuildings
- Buildings of local materials
- Variety of built form
- Landscape features form a strong element
- Low density

Post Medieval – 19th Century Expansion:

- Mostly 19th century, especially after the arrival of the railways
- The link between buildings and local materials is usually weaker – brick is the usual material
- Fairly high density

Linear 20th Century Expansion:

- Ribbon development – access from existing roads
- Often detached houses and bungalows in fairly large plots
- Low density

20th Century Housing Estates:

- Development not facing onto an already existing road
- Access from culs-de-sac or loop roads
- Low-medium density

21st Century Housing Estates:

- Development not facing onto an already existing road
- Access from culs-de-sac or loop roads
- Medium-high density

Modern Industrial Development

- Large-scale buildings
- Modern materials
- Large car parking areas
- Some landscaping

Modern Office and Retail Development, including hospitals (Basingstoke only)

- Some buildings of high architectural quality
- Large scale buildings – modern materials

Open Space, Woodland and Tree Belts within Settlements

- Includes landscaped road corridors
- Footpath links
- River valleys and streams through built development
- Allotments
- Recreation and playing fields

4 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

- 4.1 The pattern of landscape and historic landscape types provide a detailed impression of the range of character variations within the Borough, and provides the basis for defining landscape character areas. These are tracts of landscape that have a recognisable and coherent identity and sense of place although they may be made up of a number of landscape types. Identification of landscape character areas within the 2001 Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Assessment involved a review of the most appropriate scale and boundaries. This ensured that the historic and ecological characteristics are properly reflected in them. They also take account of public perceptions as determined through stakeholder consultation. It is important to stress that the boundaries between landscape types, or between character areas, are rarely distinct. Instead, they tend to be a best approximation of a gradual but discernible change in character.
- 4.2 The 2001 Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Assessment took into account a number of other assessments in defining and drawing the boundaries of the landscape character areas, including:
- The broad national classification of landscape produced by the Countryside Agency as part of the 'New Map of England' project.
 - The character areas defined at county level and described within 'The Hampshire Landscape - a Strategy for the Future'.
 - The character areas defined in the 1995 Borough-wide assessment.
 - Character area boundaries within adjoining districts.
- 4.3 In total, 20 landscape character areas were defined within the Borough. These represent considerable sub-divisions of the County character areas (4 areas) and also a simplification of the areas identified in the 1995 Borough assessment (35 areas). The resulting areas were considered to represent an appropriate scale, reflecting similarities in underlying geology, landcover, appearance and historic development. Judgements of scenic quality were avoided in favour of a character-based approach in which key characteristics were identified.

- 4.4 This 2021 update takes into account the current landscape character areas of adjoining local authorities, and Natural England's current National Landscape Character Areas.
- 4.5 The 2021 update maintains the Character Areas set out in the 2001 assessment, with amendments and additions to their descriptions, and relatively limited amendments to their boundaries. Boundaries have been revised to take into account changes in the landscape, such as increases in development (most notably extensions to settlements) and to better reflect the transition in landscape character between certain character areas. Changes have been made along the boundaries where land cover or topography, is more in keeping with the adjacent character area than the character area within which it was previously located. Typically woodland along a character area boundary has been included in the more heavily wooded character area.
- 4.6 The 20 Character Areas are as follows. Their revised boundaries are shown on Figure 7, and updated descriptions for each Character Area then follow.
1. Highclere and Burghclere
 2. Ecchinswell
 3. Wolverton
 4. North Sherborne
 5. North Silchester
 6. Loddon and Lyde Valley
 7. The Clere Scarp
 8. Great Litchfield Down and Willesley Warren
 9. Ashmansworth and Binley Down
 10. Litchfield Down
 11. Wyke Down
 12. Test and Bourne Valley
 13. South Test Down
 14. Oakley/Steventon Down
 15. Hannington Down
 16. Basingstoke Down
 17. Dummer and Popham Down
 18. Tunworth and Upton Grey Down
 19. Ellisfield Clay Plateau and Valley
 20. Candover Valley

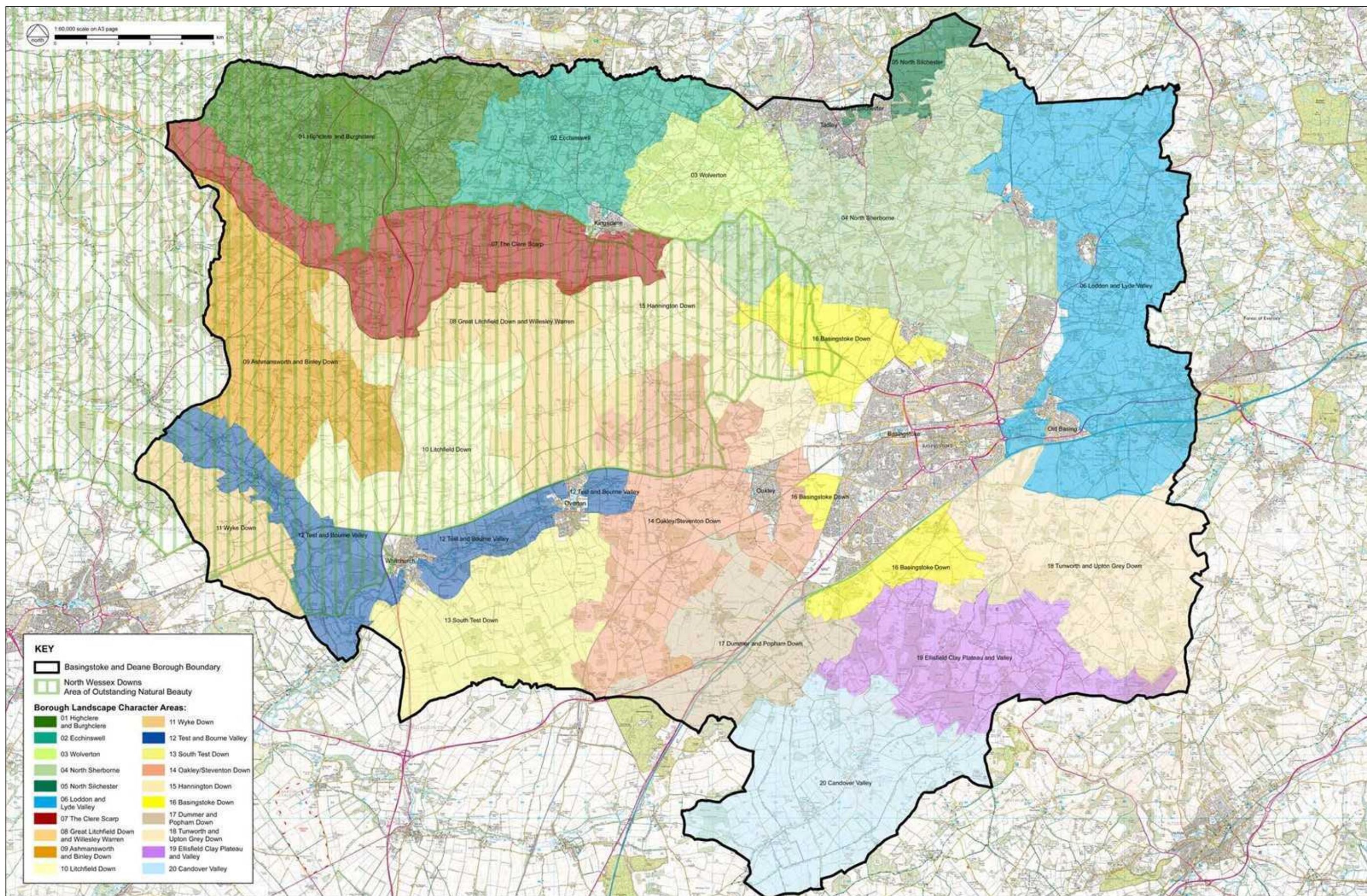
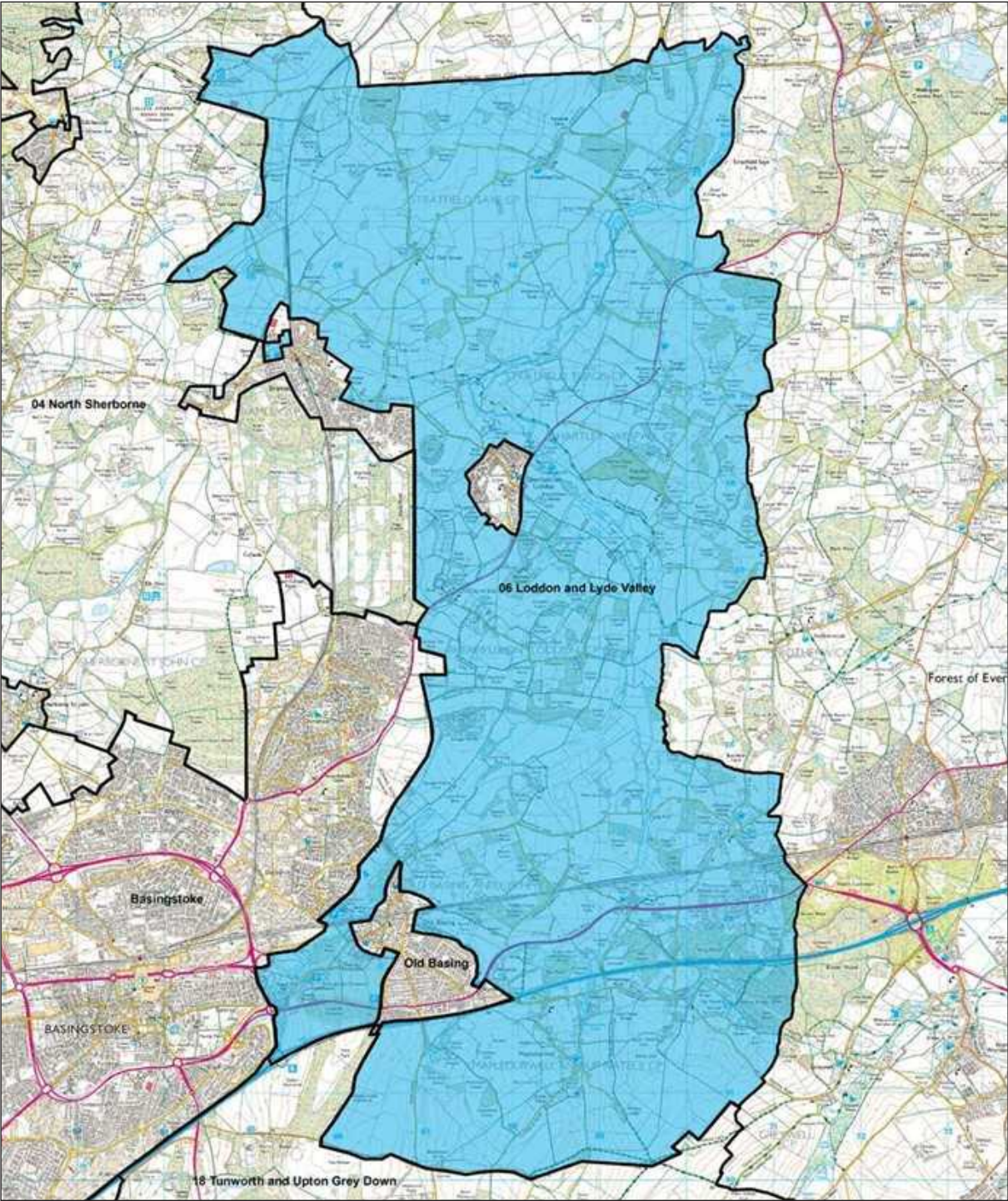


Figure 7 Landscape Character Areas

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CHARACTER AREA 6: LODDON AND LYDE VALLEY



Location and Boundaries

This Character Area lies in the north-east of the Borough with its northern and eastern edge defined by the Borough boundary. Its southern boundary defines the extent of the Loddon and Lyde valley system. The western boundary is formed partly by Old Basing, Chineham and Basingstoke and partly by changes in relief and vegetation characteristics.

Formative Influences

This area is underlain predominantly by clays which have been dissected by the River Loddon and River Lyde, giving rise to the broad, shallow slopes characteristic of this area. The heavy soils are prone to

waterlogging, as evidenced by the network of drainage ditches which characterise the flat valley floor landscape and areas further afield. The southern extremity of the Character Area encompasses the north-facing chalkland slopes, from which the rivers rise before flowing northwards. The distinct change of geology to chalk south of the M3 is reflected in a larger-scale, more open, arable landscape. Much of the Loddon and Lyde Valley was probably incorporated into the medieval Royal Forests of Pamber and of Eversley. Despite the royal protection, patches of woodland were cleared for agriculture and settlements in the medieval and post-medieval periods although some woodland patches have survived. More areas were cleared for agriculture and grazing, as parts of the medieval open fields systems were changed by enclosure, achieved mainly by informal means during the 17th-18th centuries, although some areas, particularly in the south, were formally enclosed by act of parliament in the 18th-19th centuries. The area is particularly notable for the relatively large number of medieval moated sites, deer parks and other sites (such as hunting lodges) which have been preserved, or are known from documentary evidence.



Overall Landscape Character

This is a diverse landscape of varying landcover and degrees of enclosure, ranging from mixed farmland and woodland on clay to arable chalklands. It is nevertheless unified by the broad and shallow slopes of the Loddon and Lyde river valleys, which give a coherence to the landscape. The northern and southern parts are characterised by large, open arable fields with low, well-trimmed hedgerows containing isolated mature trees, and only a few isolated copses of oak and ash woodland interspersed across the landscape. Woodland cover increases significantly within the centre of the area, such as Wildmoor where it is associated with the valley floor, creating a more enclosed, intimate and well-treed landscape (except in the vicinity of Blacklands Farm, to the north-east of Old Basing). Fields are predominantly arable on the higher valley slopes, with pasture on the lower valley slopes and the river floodplain. Basingstoke and Chineham exert an urban influence on the immediate south-western edge of the Character Area. Outside this urban area and the village of Old Basing, settlement density is low, with occasional villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads scattered throughout the area, accessed through a network of narrow winding roads. In these parts the landscape retains a particularly peaceful, rural character, although the quietness is disturbed in those areas near to the M3, A30, A33 and the railway.

Loddon and Lyde Valley Key Characteristics

- Broad, shallow valley sides of the River Lyde and River Loddon that meander through, and unify, the varying landscape types;
- Pattern ranging from open farmland around Stratfield Saye, Blacklands Farm and Mapledurwell, to that which is smaller-scale and more enclosed in the mid-section of the area and within the valley itself. The flat, lowlying valley floor pasture has a distinctive pattern of drainage ditches, watercourses lined with willow, alder and poplar, water meadows and an often pastoral, remote character;
- Generally unspoilt, quiet and rural character, and a sense of remoteness in less accessible parts of the river valley, but with intrusion by major roads, including the A33, A30 and M3 motorway, railway lines, including the South Western Main Line, and the Reading to Basingstoke line, electricity pylons, which cross the Character Area in several locations, and by a waste management facility immediately east of Chineham;
- Relatively large-scale, open arable fields with low, well-trimmed hedgerows and infrequent woodland in the north and far south, reflecting 17th - 18th century informal enclosure and late 18th – 19th century parliamentary enclosure respectively;
- More enclosed assart fields within an intact, strong hedgerow and woodland structure (some of it assarted) between Stratfield Saye and Newnham;
- Nationally important habitat types, including the ancient semi-natural woodland, unimproved neutral grassland associated with the River Loddon alluvial floodplain (including the Stanford End Mills SSSI), areas of fen vegetation (the SSSI at Mapledurwell Fen holding one of central southern England's richest associations of fen species), and Greywell Tunnel SSSI (sheltering Britain's largest bat population);
- Localised, well-managed quality added by the Grade II Stratfield Saye Park, and 17th garden at Basing House;
- Relatively low intervisibility within the area, due to landform and vegetation minimising views, but more extensive views possible in the more open northern and southern landscapes;
- Low settlement density, with dispersed villages and hamlets, such as Stratfield Saye in the north, and Mapledurwell in the south, and isolated farmsteads, such as Hale and Deanlands Farms, to the north-west of Newnham, linked by a network of narrow winding roads. Several villages to the south are within conservation areas, with numerous listed buildings, including Mapledurwell, Up Nately and Newham;
- Several adjoining urban areas, including Bramley, Sherfield on Loddon, Basingstoke and Chineham and the village of Old Basing;
- The area is served by a network of Public Rights of Way, including part of the Brenda Parker Way, although some areas of farmland, and lengths of River Loddon and Lyde River are without formal public access. Hartley Wood Common is an area of Open Access land to the east of Sherfield on Loddon, and part of the Open Access land of Hook Common is within the south-east corner of the Character Area;
- Historic river crossings, including stone bridges, and pedestrian footbridges, forming key locations in the landscape with cultural significance;
- Many historic landscape features across the area, from medieval moated sites, deer parks, hunting lodges and castles, to scheduled ancient monuments including Bulls Down Camp Iron Age hillfort and remnant enclosed strips and furlongs in Stratfield Saye parish. Old mills, which have contributed to the Valley's development, add to the sense of place.

Key Issues

- Inappropriate management of floodplain grazing marsh;
- Lack of permanent grass field margins, including uncultivated buffer strips next to rivers, streams and other sensitive wildlife habitats;
- Identification and conservation of all water meadows, and their appropriate management to allow for shallow winter flooding;
- Poor species and structural diversity and ecological value within coniferous plantations;
- Under-management of ancient semi-natural woodlands including hazel coppice woods;
- Loss of broadleaf woodlands;
- Extensive hedgerow removal in the past, and general decline in condition of hedgerows and trees (with frequent stag-headed trees), particularly within more open arable landscapes on clay areas to the north;
- Management of hedgerows (and retention of tree saplings within them), and field patterns of historic significance;
- Management of unimproved/semi-improved neutral/acidic grasslands, to maintain or enhance biodiversity;
- Reduction in biodiversity levels through agricultural practices;
- The intrusion caused by the high number of electricity pylons/lines north, east and south-east of Bramley/Bramley Green, and also north of Old Basing, along the River Loddon;
- Some localised visual intrusion and noise from built development and roads, especially around the fringes of Basingstoke, and near the M3, A33, A30 and railways, which have an impact on the tranquility of immediate areas;
- Management of road verges and hedgebanks and damage from scrub encroachment, road improvements and legacy of agrochemical use on adjacent farmland;
- Pressure for housing development, including extensions to Basingstoke and Bramley, encroaching into the Character Area.

GUIDANCE

Loddon and Lyde Valley Landscape Aims

The strategic aim for the Loddon and Lyde Valley Character Area is to conserve the peaceful remote valley landscapes, with their drainage channels, riparian vegetation, meadows and pasture, whilst limiting adverse influence from extensions to adjoining settlements, and limit the adverse urbanising influence of urban extension into remote areas within the character area. Opportunities for enhancement are in management of the hedgerow network, and waterside vegetation and meadows.

Landscape Guidelines

Land Management

- Conserve and enhance the natural corridor and the rural setting of the River Loddon and Lyde River, particularly where the Loddon extends towards the urban area of Basingstoke;
- Conserve and enhance the waterside meadows and pastures with cattle grazing management, and resist the improvement of grasslands and drainage schemes which could disturb the characteristic landcover, vegetation or adversely affect ecological value;
- Conserve, enhance and restore riparian woodland, the stock of individual field and riverbank trees, and the blocks and bands of tree cover at the edge of the area that screen development associated with Bramley, Sherfield on Loddon and Basingstoke. Promote traditional woodland management techniques with local landowners and the farming community;
- Encourage landowners to maintain an appropriate management regime using traditional farming techniques, to conserve and enhance key landscape features throughout the Character Area, such as relatively small-scale field pattern within the valley, hedgerows and hedgerow trees, ditches and ditchline willows, meadows, and other wetlands;
- Encourage sustainable and multi-purpose woodlands and the use of locally appropriate species such as willows, alder and oak;
- Ensure consistent management and restocking of hedgerows to enhance the hedgerow network throughout the Character Area, but in particular within more open arable landscapes on clay areas to the north;
- Encourage enhancement of the landscape along the A33 and A30 roads, and promote strategies for the Loddon floodplain, while limiting the effect of increases in development;
- Seek appropriate siting of facilities and new Public Rights of Way links for leisure engagement with watercourses, in particular the Loddon and Lyde;
- Encourage conservation of historic landscape pattern of meadows and waterways, and understanding of underlying archaeology.

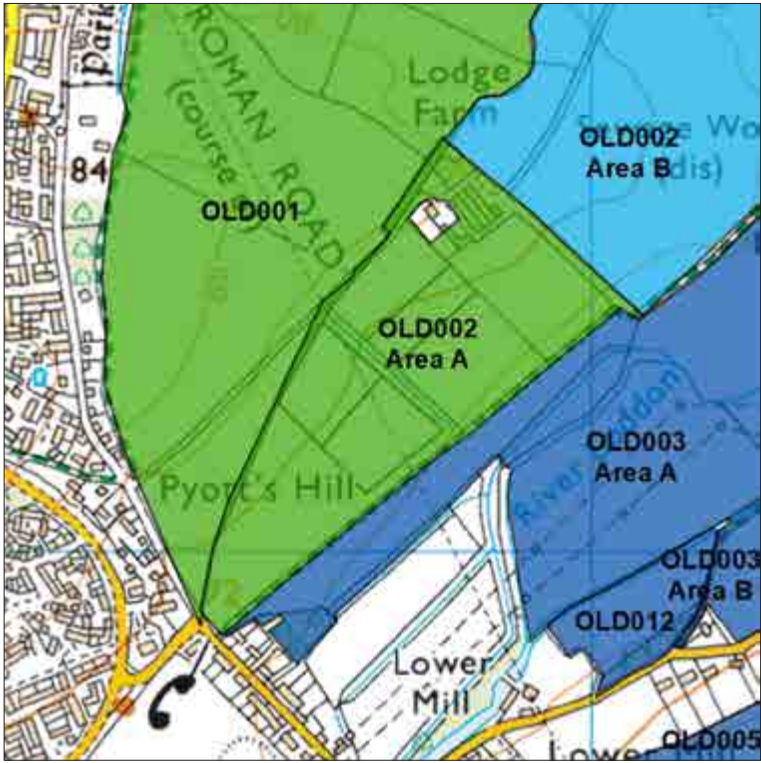
Built Development

- Retain the rural, largely undisturbed character of the Loddon and Lyde valleys, including avoiding impact from increases in development and encouraging new development to be sensitively sited and designed with appropriate scale, form and detailing, including materials.
- Any new development should be associated with existing settlement, for example Basingstoke, Bramley and Sherfield on Loddon, where appropriate, and should respond to the existing urban edges with retention of natural buffers including trees and hedges along boundaries surrounding settlement.
- Where possible limit effect of settlement expansion on the separate identities between Bramley and Sherfield on Loddon, and between Basingstoke and Old Basing, by retaining existing boundary hedges and trees in the area to help prevent visual or physical coalescence between the settlements;
- Promote appropriate species, scale and form of boundary treatment to avoid negative visual impact of inappropriate boundaries on the rural character of the floodplain, and help integrate development into the adjoining rural landscape;
- Encourage the retention of woodland planting that screens settlement and roads adjacent to the area and consider additional planting to screen existing or new development that intrudes in rural views;
- Avoid adverse impact on the landscape character from intensification of transport related development along the M3, A30 and A33 road corridors;
- Conserve the narrow winding rural lanes, and small bridges which cross the Loddon and Lyde, minimising small-scale incremental change such as signage, fencing or improvements to the road network or bridges which would change their character;
- Resist urbanisation of roads through encouraging appropriate surfacing of existing pavements, enhancing the immediate landscape setting and ensuring minimum clutter. Promote the use of traditional or rural signage features with particular regard to local style and materials;
- Avoid the location of new large or bulky structures where visually intrusive on this Character Area. Subject any development to rigorous landscape and visual impact assessment, site carefully, and design to minimise impact and integrate with the rural context;
- Ensure that lighting schemes are assessed for visual impact and encourage conservation of the existing 'dark skies' in the largely unsettled floodplain.

APPENDIX 2

Extract from Basingstoke & Deane Landscape Sensitivity Study (HDA, April 2021)

Site OLD002 Area A Location



Not to scale

OS mapping licence 100018709

Visual Susceptibility

General visibility					Skyline and other focal points					Scenic quality					Type of visual receptors to which the site is visible					Visual access				
		3				2					2							5				3		
The site is well contained to the east by vegetation, although is visible at close range from the adjacent footpath, through occasional gaps in the hedge, and forms a limited part of the visual setting to Old Basing conservation area. Currently, the site is open along its north-western edge, and visible in the middle distance from a footpath along the edge of Basingstoke, but trees along the eastern edge of Basingstoke limit views from further west. Allocated development would be visible along the western edge of the site.					Site has a limited contribution to views of undeveloped skyline. No distinctive focal points.					Unremarkable grazed fields with obvious human intervention, including views of Pylons to the east. Allocated development would be noticeable to the west, and incinerator visible to the north. AA tower visible in the distance to the south.					Where there are views, these are primarily experienced by walkers along footpaths through ordinary countryside.					Limited number of walkers, view occasional glimpse of the site from close range to the east, and slightly more extensive views of the site from further away to the west.				

Settlement Policy Boundary
along western
edge of the site

Trees along Park Pale

Lodge
Farm



Looking north-west across the site through gap in hedge, from public footpath adjacent to the eastern edge of the site.

Landscape Susceptibility

Landform and drainage					Landcover and landscape pattern					Intactness					Settlement pattern and identity					Rurality					Tranquillity				
	2						3				2					2					2					2			
The site slopes gently to the south-east towards the River Loddon and associated floodzone.					Site consists of grazed grassland, subdivided by wire fences. Area of medium scale, more enclosed fields compared to surrounding pattern of larger scale, more open fields. Site is hedged along eastern edge, but there is limited landscape structure internally. Classified as 'best and most versatile agricultural land'.					Largely intact, mature hedgerow along eastern boundary, but limited internal vegetation.					Site is adjacent to the Settlement Policy Boundary and allocated site, but descends away from Basingstoke towards the River Loddon. No significant contribution to maintaining the separate identity of Old Basing from Basingstoke, but abuts the Old Basing conservation area. Site contains, and forms the setting to, two grade II listed buildings at Lodge Farm.					Part of the continuum of countryside to the east, but the site is adjacent to allocated development, and urban influences, including allocation to the west limit rurality.					Limited noise sources, but the site is adjacent to allocated development, and obvious housing limit the sense of tranquillity.				

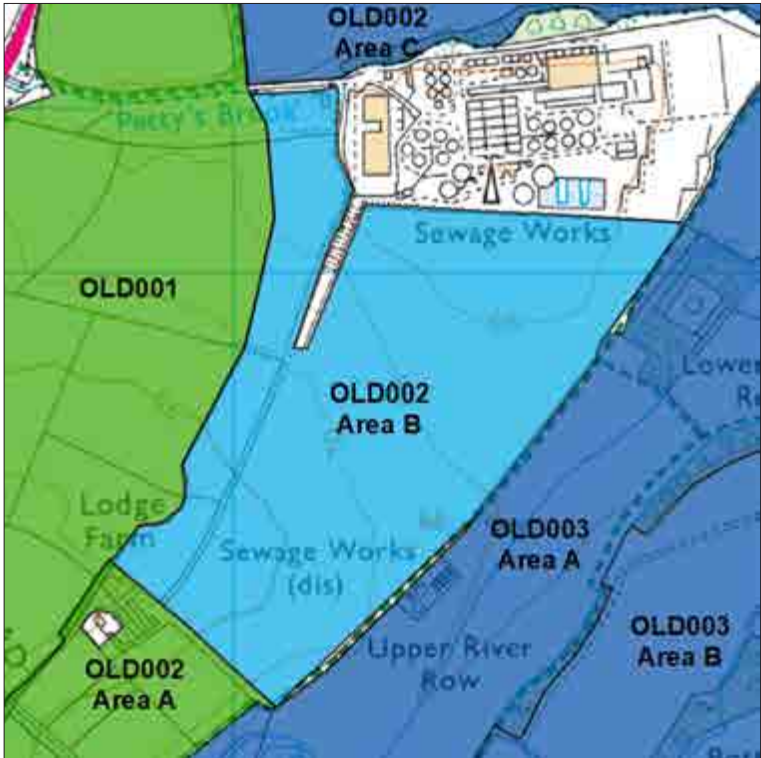
Landscape and Visual Value

Landscape designations and landscape related policy					Landscape character and sense of place					Rarity					Historic value					Nature conservation value					Recreational value					Visual value					
1						2				1							4			2					1								3		
None identified.					Obvious character of livestock grazing. Adjacent to allocation and other influences.					Frequently occurring landscape.					Course of Roman Road crosses through the site. Grade II listed buildings within the site at Lodge Farm. Abuts Old Basing conservation area to the south, and Pyotts Hill entrenchment Schedule Monument is near to the west.					Mature hedgerow with few gaps along eastern edge, although limited connectivity and low value habitats elsewhere within the site.					No public access into the site, and limited contribution to enjoyment of the area.					No iconic views, but some limited contribution to the landscape setting of Old Basing conservation area.					

OLD002 Area A Overall Sensitivity Judgement

The total guide score for this site is 42. Taking into account the guide score and a final review of the landscape and visual susceptibility and value of the site, this site is judged to have **Low/Medium** landscape sensitivity. The site is adjacent to an allocated development site and may have potential to accommodate housing development without significant character change or adverse landscape/visual effects. Effects on the setting to listed buildings and the conservation area would need to be mitigated. Any development should be supported by further detailed assessment.

Site OLD002 Area B Location



Not to scale

OS mapping licence 100018709

Visual Susceptibility

General visibility					Skyline and other focal points					Scenic quality					Type of visual receptors to which the site is visible					Visual access				
			4				3					3						5				4		
Gaps in boundary vegetation allow close range views into the site from the public right of way along the eastern edge of the site, and edge of north-west site allocation. Allocated development would be visible along the western edge of the site. There is intervisibility with the Loddon valley and hills to the east.					The scale of the site allows views of treed skyline without development. No distinctive focal points.					Pleasant arable fields, but allocated development would be noticeable to the west, and there are views of Pylons to the east. Incinerator visible to the north. AA tower visible in the distance to the south.					Where there are views of the site, these are primarily experienced by walkers along footpaths through the countryside.					Open views of the site from adjacent footpath to the east, and footpath along the park pale at the edge of Basingstoke.				

AA tower

Lodge Farm



Looking west across the site through gap in hedge, from public footpath adjacent to the eastern edge of the site.

Landscape Susceptibility

Landform and drainage					Landcover and landscape pattern					Intactness					Settlement pattern and identity					Rurality					Tranquillity				
		3					3					3					3				2					2			
The site slopes generally towards Petty's Brook to the north, and the north-west corner of the site includes floodzone associated with the brook. The eastern edge of the site falls slightly towards the River Loddon and overlaps slightly with the floodzone along the Loddon.					Site consists of a large arable field and some smaller arable and pastoral fields along the western edge, adjacent to site OLD001. Landscape structure includes hedges and trees along the eastern boundary and along a track through the western portion of the site. The site is partially classified as 'best and most versatile agricultural land'. Fields are derived from parliamentary enclosure.					Largely intact, mature hedgerow along eastern boundary, hedge with mature Oaks and other trees to the west.					Currently the site is detached from existing settlement, but is adjacent to committed development, and therefore the future settlement edge. The site has no significant contribution to maintaining the separate identity of Old Basing from Basingstoke.					Part of the continuum of countryside to the east, but the site is adjacent to allocated development, and some urban influences, including pylons to the east, and incinerator facility to the north, limit rurality.					Limited noise sources, but the site is adjacent to allocated development, and some manmade features limit the sense of tranquillity.				

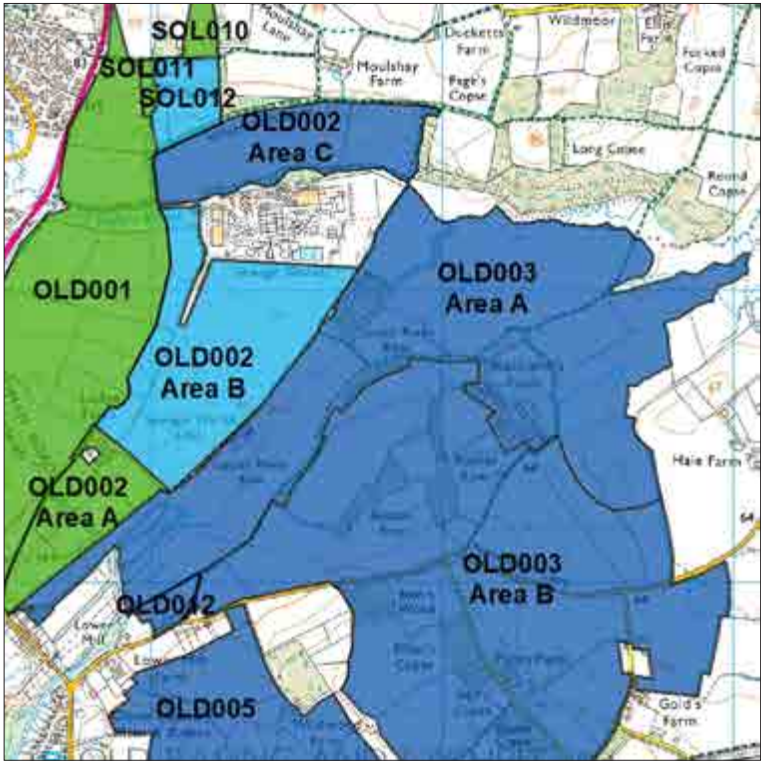
Landscape and Visual Value

Landscape designations and landscape related policy					Landscape character and sense of place					Rarity					Historic value					Nature conservation value					Recreational value					Visual value				
1							3			1							3					3				2						3		
None identified.					Typical countryside, characteristic of Loddon Valley landscape character area.					Frequently occurring landscape.					The site has a minor contribution to the landscape setting of Pyotts Hill entrenchment Schedule Monument to the west, and lies adjacent to the listed farm house. Field pattern dating from parliamentary enclosure.					Mature hedgerow along eastern edge and along track, with some matures trees and connectivity to riparian vegetation along Petty's Brook and the River Loddon.					No formal public access into the site, but the site contributes slightly to the experience along surrounding footpaths.					Views over the Loddon valley floor.				

OLD002 Area B Overall Sensitivity Judgement

The total guide score for this site is 51. Taking into account the guide score and a final review of the landscape and visual susceptibility and value of the site, this site is judged to have **Medium** landscape sensitivity. The site is adjacent to an allocated development site, but has intervisibility across the Loddon valley to the east, which would need careful consideration, if any limited development is to occur without significant character change or adverse effects. Development proposals should including a transition of open space and planting to the rural eastern edge,

Site OLD003 Area A Location



Not to scale

OS mapping licence 100018709

Visual Susceptibility

General visibility					Skyline and other focal points					Scenic quality					Type of visual receptors to which the site is visible					Visual access				
		3				2					3					5					3			
The site is relatively contained from the wider landscape, by a combination of vegetation and rising landform, however there are open close range views from public rights of way and roads through the area.					Part of the wider outlook, however sewage treatment works prominent on the skyline.					Attractive river valley landscape, but sewage treatment works, pylons and large sheds affect scenic quality.					Visual receptors include walkers along public rights of way through the site.					Well used public rights of way.				



Looking south-west across the site.

Landscape Susceptibility

Landform and drainage					Landcover and landscape pattern					Intactness					Settlement pattern and identity					Rurality					Tranquillity					
				5				4					4					5			3						3			
Low lying site almost entirely within floodzone.					The site consists of large arable fields, with wetland, riparian vegetation, small woodland areas and gappy hedges, irregular field boundaries within valley floor field pattern. Classified as 'best and most versatile agricultural land'.					Hedgelines have gaps, but there is intact riparian vegetation along the River Loddon and small areas of woodland/tree groups.					The site is detached from the Settlement Policy Boundary and inconsistent with the settlement pattern. The western end of the site contributes to maintaining the separate identity of Old Basing from Basingstoke.					A river valley landscape, but elements including filtered views of sewage treatment works, large sheds and campervan storage.					Generally quiet, large sheds and sewage treatment works reduce the sense of tranquillity.					

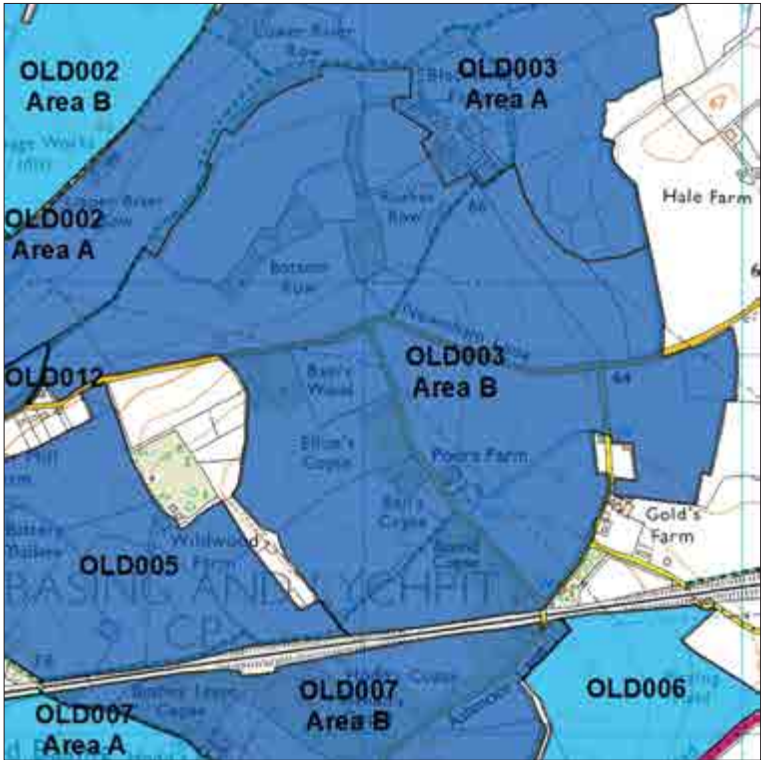
Landscape and Visual Value

Landscape designations and landscape related policy					Landscape character and sense of place					Rarity					Historic value					Nature conservation value					Recreational value					Visual Value				
	2								5				3				2						4					4				3		
Mineral safeguarding area.					River valley character of large fields and riparian woodland.					Floodplain to River Loddon					Western end of the site is part of the wider landscape setting to the Old Basing conservation area.					Riparian habitats and connectivity. Small areas designated as SINC's. The eastern end of the site is within the 7km SPA buffer and near ancient woodland.					Well used public rights of way through the site.					Likely to have local value as part of the riverside experience of the nearby large conurbation.				

OLD003 Area A Overall Sensitivity Judgement

The total guide score for this site is 63. Taking into account the guide score and a final review of the landscape and visual susceptibility and value of the site, this site is judged to have **Medium/High** landscape sensitivity. The site is almost entirely within the floodzone, has high landscape character and sense of place, and is detached from existing settlement. The site is therefore unsuitable for significant housing development from a landscape perspective.

Site OLD003 Area B Location



Not to scale OS mapping licence 100018709

Visual Susceptibility

General visibility					Skyline and other focal points					Scenic quality					Type of visual receptors to which the site is visible					Visual access				
			4				3					3						5				4		
The site is visible at close range from the public rights of way through the area. Higher ground, including prominent slopes have wider visibility.					Slopes aid views of undeveloped skyline with woodland, which appear as focal points.					Oak woodland, attractive watercourses, although scenic quality tempered by pylons, farm buildings and properties to the south.					Visual receptors include walkers along public rights of way through the site.					Visible from well used footpaths and roads through the area.				



View north-east across the site.

Landscape Susceptibility

Landform and drainage					Landcover and landscape pattern					Intactness					Settlement pattern and identity					Rurality					Tranquillity				
		3					3						4					5					4				3		
Undulating landform, falling noticeably to the north and north-east towards the Loddon flood plain.					The site consists of small arable fields with blocks of woodland. Large arable fields becoming smaller to the south of Newham Lane. The site is partially classified as 'best and most versatile agricultural land'. The site is within an area identified by the Historic Landscape Characterisation as having an assarted field pattern.					The site contains several areas of ancient woodland, and is within an area recorded as assarts. Generally large open fields, but a number of boundaries have mature hedgerows and trees.					The site is remote from existing settlement.					Woodland and some open rural vistas, although rurality is tempered by pylons, and influence from roads and views of the edge of Old Basing.					Some traffic noise from nearby roads and views of modern farm sheds within the area reduce the sense of tranquillity.				

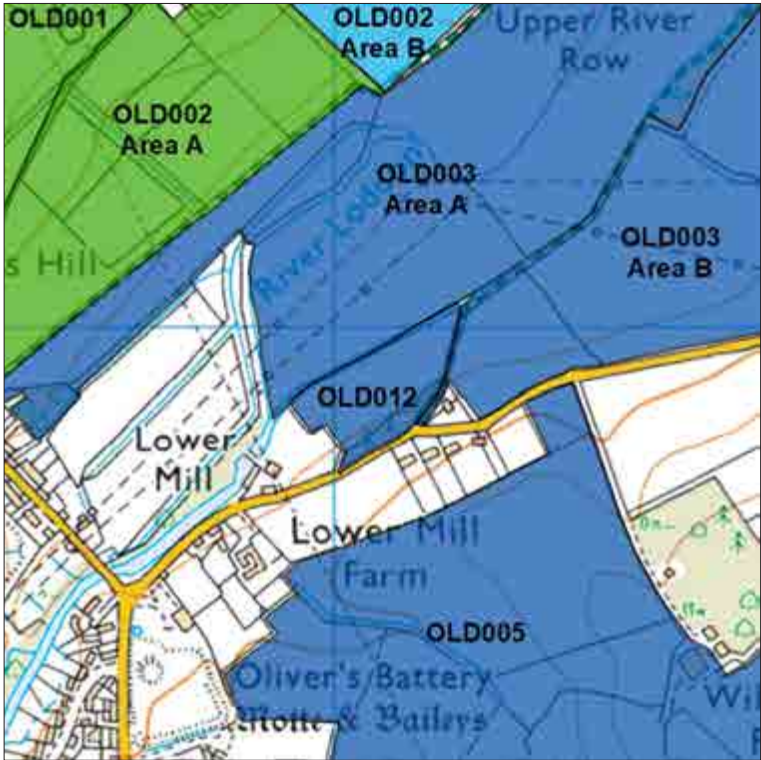
Landscape and Visual Value

Landscape designations and landscape related policy					Landscape character and sense of place					Rarity					Historic value					Nature conservation value					Recreational value					Visual Value				
1									4			2					3						4					4					4	
None Identified.					Identifiable as part of the Loddon valley, with chalk stream, woodland and open views.					In keeping with the Loddon valley, although less common within the Borough as a whole.					The site is within an area identified as assarts, and includes listed buildings at Poors Farm.					The site has large scale fields, and includes ancient woodland and a number of areas designated as SINCs. There is habitat connectivity where there are hedgerows along field boundaries, and chalk stream habitat.					Public rights of way through the site, including route from Old Basing alongside stream.					Skyline views from well used public rights of way connecting to nearby large conurbation. The Neighbourhood Plan identifies a number of important 'iconic views' across the site.				

OLD003 Area B Overall Sensitivity Judgement

The total guide score for this site is 63. Taking into account the guide score and a final review of the landscape and visual susceptibility and value of the site, this site is judged to have **Medium/High** landscape sensitivity. The site is an intact rural landscape, has well defined landscape character and sense of place, and is detached from existing settlement. The site is therefore unsuitable for significant housing development from a landscape perspective.

Site OLD012 Location



Not to scale

OS mapping licence 100018709

Visual Susceptibility

General visibility					Skyline and other focal points					Scenic quality					Type of visual receptors to which the site is visible					Visual access				
	2					2						4				5					2			
The site is enclosed by woodland, although there are views from the adjacent public right of way.					Part of local approach towards Old Basing.					Enclosed, small scale woodland and meadow.					Visual receptors include walkers along the adjacent public right of way.					Limited visual envelope and number of receptors.				



View into the site through gap in boundary vegetation.

Landscape Susceptibility

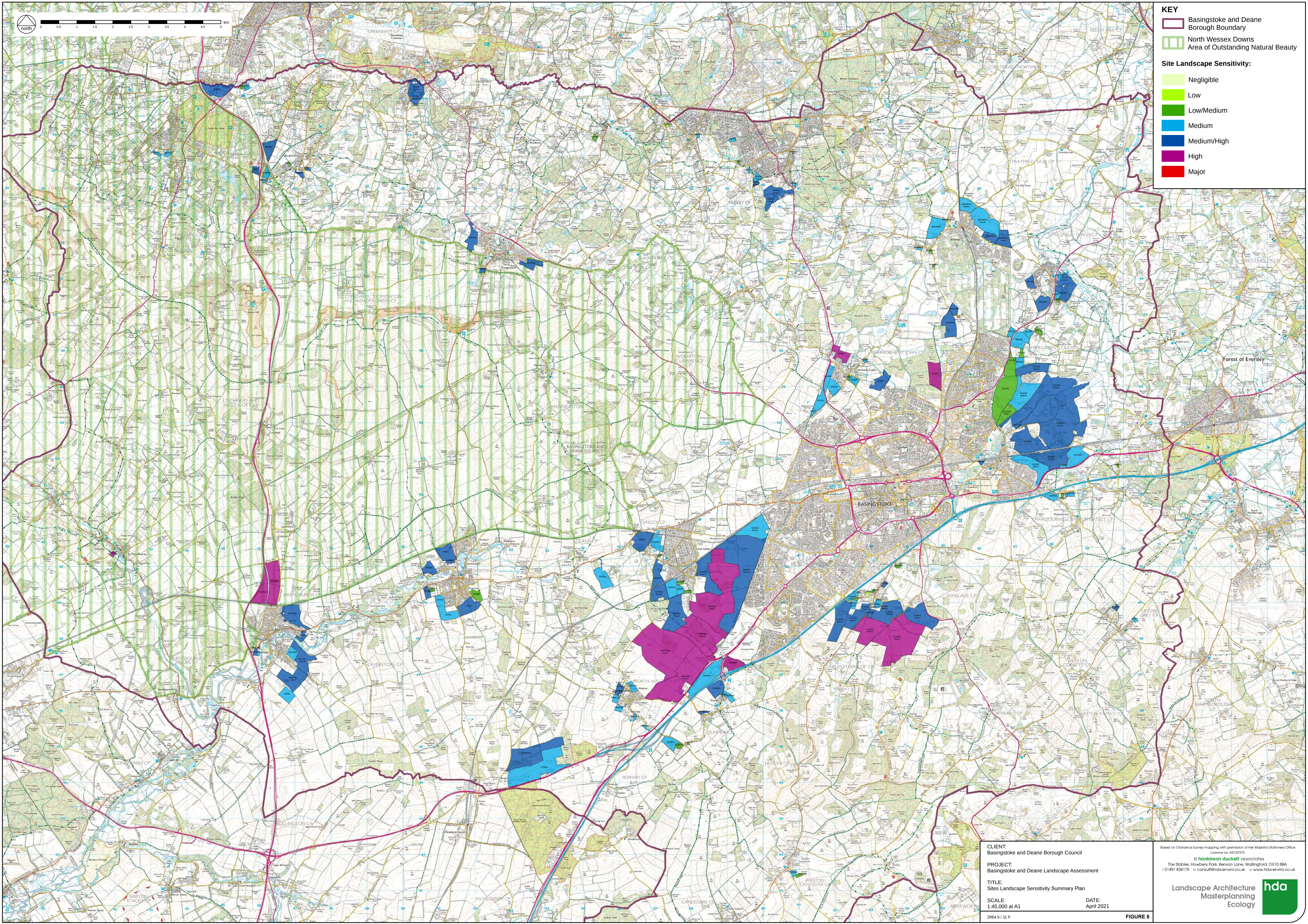
Landform and drainage	Landcover and landscape pattern	Intactness	Settlement pattern and identity	Rurality	Tranquillity
3	4	4	4	3	3
Subtle landform, but partially within floodzone.	The site consists of small field/meadow and small area of woodland. Valley floor landscape identified as best and most versatile agricultural land.	Substantial tree cover to boundaries.	Not part of main settlement pattern.	Existing edge of development, however the site is enclosed and rural.	No major roads, moderately quiet.

Landscape and Visual Value

Landscape designations and landscape related policy	Landscape character and sense of place	Rarity	Historic value	Nature conservation value	Recreational value	Visual Value
2	4	2	4	4	2	2
Best and most versatile agricultural land.	Meadow/woodland associated with stream.	Small area of enclosed meadow/woodland, relatively common to area.	Adjacent to conservation area and listed buildings.	Areas of woodland and meadow. Adjacent to watercourse with connectivity to River Loddon & Lower Mill Fen SINC.	No formal public access into the site, but the site forms part of the enclosed, treed, visual amenity experienced along the adjacent public right of way.	Contributes to experience along approach to adjacent conservation area.

OLD012 Overall Sensitivity Judgement

The total guide score for this site is 56. Taking into account the guide score and a final review of the landscape and visual susceptibility and value of the site, this site is judged to have **Medium/High** landscape sensitivity. Any development should be on a small scale where it can be demonstrated that the proposals would not have an adverse effect on the landscape, and are supported by further detailed assessment.



KEY

- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Boundary
- North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Site Landscape Sensitivity:

- Negligible
- Low
- Low/Medium
- Medium
- Medium/High
- High
- Major

CLIENT:
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

PROJECT:
Basingstoke and Deane Landscape Assessment

TITLE:
Sites Landscape Sensitivity Summary Plan

SCALE:
1:45,000 at A1

DATE:
April 2021

2064.5 / 11 F

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101491 838175 © consult@hdaenviro.co.uk www.hdaenviro.co.uk

Landscape Architecture Masterplanning Ecology

hda

FIGURE 8

APPENDIX 3

Extract from Basingstoke & Deane Valued Landscape Study (HDA, February 2023)



PARCEL L1: LODDON FLOODPLAIN

Extent

Parcel L1 is defined primarily by flood zones 2 and 3 along the River Loddon, with boundaries taken where possible to identifiable features on the ground. The parcel incorporates the river itself, along with adjoining watercourses, ponds and riverside fields within the floodplain. The character of the riparian corridor evolves along its length. Between Basingstoke and Old Basing the river is enclosed by substantial tree cover as it flows from Upper Mill Farm, under the South West Main Line Railway, past Barton's Mill and onto Lower Mill. Downstream of Lower Mill the floodplain broadens and includes more open larger scale arable fields in addition

to the meadows. To the east of Round Copse, south of Wildmoor Farm, the River Loddon floodplain merges with the floodplain of the Lyde River. Down stream from here, tree cover increases within the floodplain, and fields are predominantly pastoral, including hay meadows and grazing. Tree groups and dispersed woodland blocks within and beyond the floodplain semi-enclose the river corridor as it continues north past Mill Farm and the confluence with the Lyde. Further north the Loddon continues under the A33 and past Sherfield on Loddon, with views of housing development and noise from the A33 having an adverse effect on the perceptual qualities of the floodplain. Lines of pylons are a notable feature crossing the Loddon in a number of locations, but particularly so within the vicinity of Sherfield on Loddon where a series of power lines cross and run alongside the river, further adding to the urban influence on this stretch of the Loddon. North of The Fishery, the river corridor becomes more private and manicured, abutting large gardens with mown lawns, then private fishing lakes and associated facilities. The final stretch of the Loddon floodplain within the borough, passes through the parkland of Stratfield Saye.

Parcel L1 Landscape Value Factors

	Exemplary	Good	Average	Limited	None identified	
NATURAL HERITAGE						
Is there clear evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contribute positively to the landscape?	*					The upper reaches of the Loddon and its tributaries, including the Lyde, are chalk streams supporting a unique mix of flora and fauna. The river corridor has numerous SINCs and Ecological Network Opportunities along its length, and a Local Nature Reserve at The Mill Field, north-west of Old Basing. Flood zone along the Loddon (plus adjoining area north of M3) is a Hampshire Biodiversity Priority Area (BPA), which along with the Test, is only one of only two BPAs in the Borough. The Old Basing and Lychpit Neighbourhood Plan notes that the chalk streams from Lower Mill are 'highly valued'.

	Exemplary	Good	Average	Limited	None identified	
CULTURAL HERITAGE						
Is there clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contribute positively to the landscape?		*				A history of water associated industry such as milling, has contributed to the valley's development and identity, and includes records of milling taking place near Sherfield on Loddon in 1274. Historic river crossings, including stone bridges, and pedestrian footbridges, have formed key locations in the landscape with cultural significance. There are occasional listed buildings along the watercourse, including historic old mills. The Sherfield on Loddon conservation area stretches east into the flood zone, and there is an historic moated site at Turgis Court.
LANDSCAPE CONDITION						
Is the landscape in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure?		*				Edges of the River Loddon are generally well vegetated with marginal plants, and water bodies themselves contain aquatic species. River banks are frequently lined with mature willow, alder and poplar. These features create winding linear landscape structure along the course of the Loddon, and connect with occasional adjacent riparian woodland. Land use of the waterside meadows varies in intensity, but the landscape is well maintained. Water quality of the Loddon between Basingstoke and the confluence with the River Lyde is recorded as 'Poor'. Down stream of the confluence with River Lyde, water quality is recorded as 'Moderate'.
ASSOCIATIONS						
Is the landscape connected with notable people, events and the arts?		*				The upper reaches of the Loddon are associated with clergyman Thomas Warton, who grew up in the area and was appointed Poet Laureate to George III between 1785 and 1790. Warton was the son of the Vicar of Basingstoke and wrote 'To the River Lodon' in 1777. 'The Loddon, near Basing, Hants' was painted by important Victorian artist Henry H Parker between 1858 and 1930. Stratfield Saye is the home to the Dukes of Wellington since 1817.

	Exemplary	Good	Average	Limited	None identified	
DISTINCTIVENESS						
Does the landscape have a strong sense of identity?		*				Identifiable watercourse within the valley floor, particularly as the river widens downstream. Mill ponds, mill races and weirs, backwaters and adjoining tributaries, along with the riparian vegetation and waterside meadows give a keen sense of place. Subtle landform of the broad wider valley reduces the prominence of the river corridor as a distinctive feature in the wider landscape.
RECREATIONAL						
Does the landscape offer recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important?		*				There are public rights of way, including part of the Brenda Parker Way, along or near the majority of the Loddon within the Borough, providing potential for walking and experience of the river for large nearby populations. Although some stretches of the Loddon have no public access, including in particular through Stratfield Park. Paddling in the water takes place in more accessible areas such as where Mill Lane adjoins the River Lyde, to the south of its confluence with the Loddon. There are opportunities for fly fishing and coarse fishing along the river, including trout, chub and pike. Fishing rights upstream of Sherfield on Loddon are held by the Gresham Angling Society, and downstream there are private fishing lakes and associated facilities beside the river.
FUNCTIONAL						
Does the landscape perform a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape?	*					The Loddon drains a large area across the north-east of the borough and beyond, as part of a hydrological system continuing north to the Thames. Riparian vegetation and areas of woodland within the floodplain form an important part of the green infrastructure and linkages through this part of the borough. The treed river corridor in between Basingstoke and Old Basing forms physical and visual separation, preventing coalescence between the two settlements.

	Exemplary	Good	Average	Limited	None identified	
PERCEPTUAL						
Does the landscape appeal to the senses, primarily the visual sense?		*				Significant stretches of the river corridor are picturesque and unspoilt, although views of development have an adverse influence within the vicinity of Basingstoke and Sherfield on Loddon, and pylons are a frequent noticeable detraction at varying distance. The Old Basing and Lychpit Neighbourhood Plan notes that the 'rural landscape' of the Loddon Valley is highly valued by residents. Sounds of running water, in particular through weirs, and the leaves of tall poplars rustling in the wind.
Does the landscape have a strong sense of wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies?			*			Away from urban areas and road noise (such as Sherfield on Loddon and the A33), the river corridor is generally rural and quiet. Secluded stretches of the river only accessible on foot have a sense of remoteness.

Indicative Weight of Evidence Histogram for Parcel L1:

Exemplary									
Good									
Average									
Limited									
None identified									
	Natural Heritage	Cultural Heritage	Landscape Condition	Associations	Distinctiveness	Recreation	Functional	Perceptual (senses)	Perceptual (wildness & tranquility)

Parcel L1 Suitability for Designation

The Loddon Floodplain as identified on plan HDA 1 has exemplary natural heritage, and function, and the majority other factors are good. There are variations in the character of the river corridor along its length, but adverse influences are primarily within the vicinity of Basingstoke and Sherfield on Loddon. Given the overall weight of evidence, Parcel L1 'Loddon Floodplain' is judged to be **suitable for designation as a Valued Landscape**.



PARCEL L2: LODDON RIVER TERRACES

Extent

Parcel L2 consists of the main river terraces on either side of the Loddon, within Landscape Character Area 06 'Loddon and Lyde Valley'. The assessment parcel excludes the river floodplain itself and areas to the north and south which are identified as separate parcels due to variations within the wider landscape character area.

Parcel L2 Landscape Value Factors

	Exemplary	Good	Average	Limited	None identified	
NATURAL HERITAGE						
Is there clear evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contribute positively to the landscape?			*			Broad terraces forming the subtle valley sides to the river Loddon. The area incorporates part of the Lyde River, occasional more minor tributaries of the Loddon, such as Bow Brook north of Sherfield on Loddon, and a network of ditches draining the low lying landscape towards the Loddon. The river terraces include scattered blocks of woodland, some of which are ancient woodland and SINCs.
CULTURAL HERITAGE						
Is there clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contribute positively to the landscape?		*				Large parts of the field pattern are derived from assarting. The area includes parts of the Sherfield on Loddon, Old Basing and Newnham conservation areas and their landscape settings. There are a number of listed buildings, including grade I listed St Mary's Church south of Turgis Green, and several medieval moated sites. A short stretch of the route of the Chichester to Silchester Roman road passes through the area. Bulls Down Camp Iron Age hillfort scheduled monument and its landscape setting are north-west of Sherfield on Loddon, and the south-western corner of the assessment parcel includes the remains of Oliver's Battery scheduled monument. The northern extent of the river terrace within the borough includes grade I listed Stratfield Saye House and the western portion of grade II listed Stratfield Saye Park. The grounds include mid to late C18 gardens, laid out from 1745 by George Pitt, Lord Rivers, comprising walled and formal compartments and informal, tree-planted pleasure grounds which are set within a landscape park of the same period; the estate was further developed and planted throughout the C19 and C20 by the dukes of Wellington, whose home it became from 1815.

	Exemplary	Good	Average	Limited	None identified	
LANDSCAPE CONDITION						
Is the landscape in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure?			*			In places there are networks of thick tree belts and boundary vegetation, likely derived from assarting, connecting to blocks of ancient woodland, such as to the south of Wildmoor. However, in other areas landscape structure is less intact, such as south-west of Sherfield on Loddon where boundary vegetation is more limited.
ASSOCIATIONS						
Is the landscape connected with notable people, events and the arts?			*			Stratfield Saye House and its grounds at the northern edge of the borough, are home to the dukes of Wellington, including the current 9th Duke of Wellington and his spouse, Princess Antonia of Prussia, Duchess of Wellington. George Puttenham, author of The Arte of English Poesie in 1589, grew up at Sherfield Court.
DISTINCTIVENESS						
Does the landscape have a strong sense of identity?			*			The area is well treed, but areas of medium/ large scale fields have a looser containing effect than other parts of the borough. The low lying relatively flat landscape has an identifiable character, but overall is moderately distinctive.
RECREATIONAL						
Does the landscape offer recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important?			*			There is a moderate public rights of way network, but with some areas of reduced density. Cricket grounds include the ground at Turgis Green which is home to the Stratfield Turgis & Hartley Wespall Cricket Club, and Sherfield Oaks golf course is located to the south-east of Sherfield on Loddon.
FUNCTIONAL						
Does the landscape perform a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape?			*			Tree cover and watercourses aid the healthy functioning of the landscape. There is a network of drainage ditches, but the clay soil is prone to waterlogging. The landscape around Sherfield Court and Church End separates Sherfield on Loddon from nearby Bramley to the west and Chineham to the south-west, thereby helping to maintain their separate identities.

	Exemplary	Good	Average	Limited	None identified	
PERCEPTUAL						
Does the landscape appeal to the senses, primarily the visual sense?			*			Relatively low intervisibility within the area, due to tree cover minimising or framing views, but more extensive views possible in the more open areas towards the north and south. A mostly pleasant rural landscape, but pylons, sewage works, settlement and roads frequently detract from the quality of views. The Old Basing and Lychpit Neighbourhood Plan notes two areas with 'protected iconic views' within the southern portion of the parcel, and the Sherfield on Loddon Neighbourhood Plan identifies a number of 'parish views' south of the village within the central portion of the parcel.
Does the landscape have a strong sense of wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies?			*			Roads, particularly the busy A33, settlement, including the edges of Chineham, Old Basing, Sherfield on Loddon and Bramley, pylons and other detracting features limits the sense of tranquillity and wildness across significant parts of the area.

Indicative Weight of Evidence Histogram for Parcel H1:

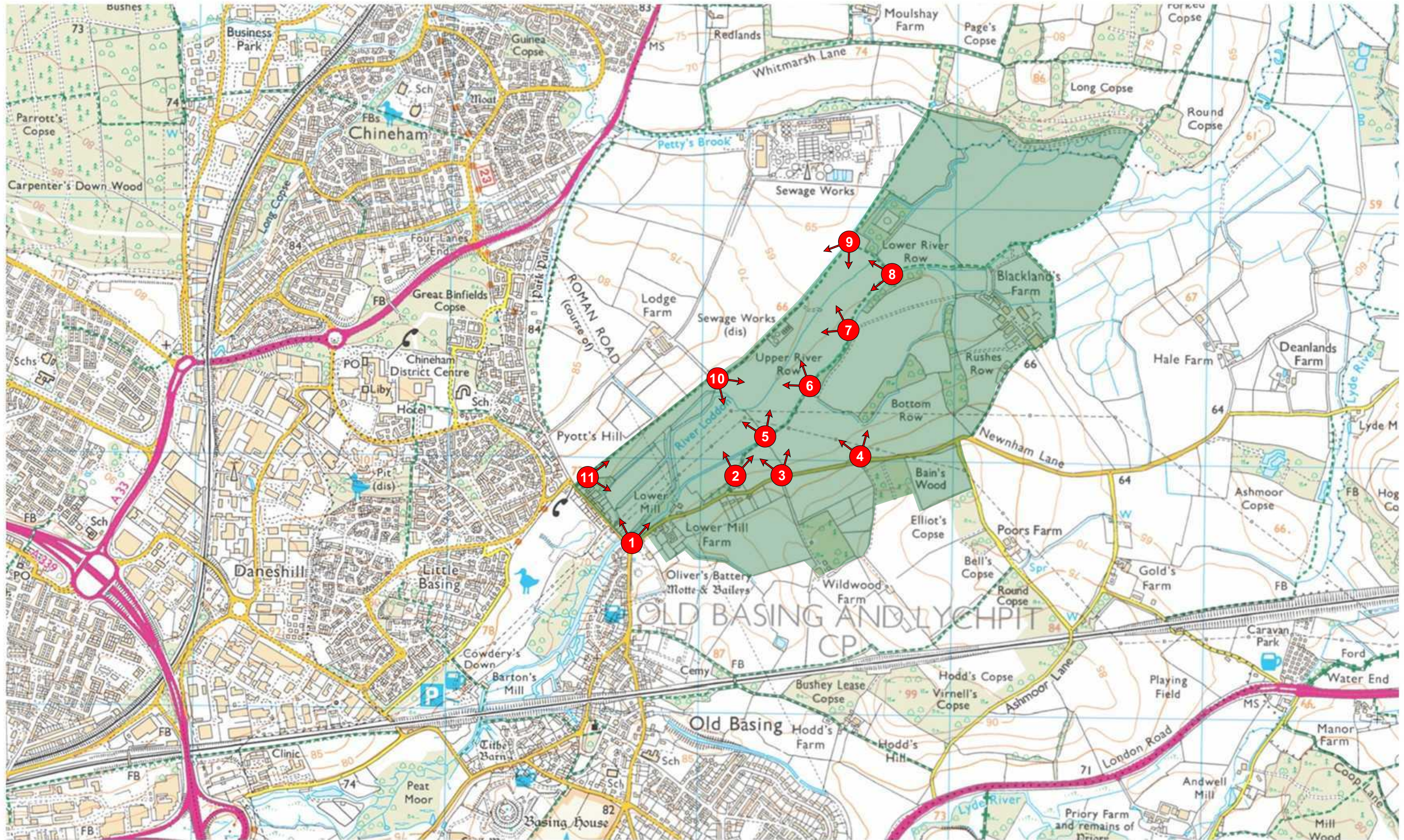
Exemplary									
Good									
Average									
Limited									
None identified									
	Natural Heritage	Cultural Heritage	Landscape Condition	Associations	Distinctiveness	Recreation	Functional	Perceptual (senses)	Perceptual (wildness & tranquility)

Parcel L2 Suitability for Designation

The Loddon River Terraces as identified on plan HDA 1 is notable for its cultural heritage, which is assessed as good. However, all other factors are considered to be average compared to other parts of the borough and Parcel L2 'Loddon River Terraces' is judged to be **unsuitable for designation as a Valued Landscape**.

APPENDIX 4

Viewpoint Location Plan (VLP.004) and Photorecord

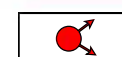


Not to Scale

Key



Study Area



Viewpoint Locations



Old Basing Local Gap Study
Viewpoint Location Plan

Old Basing and Lychpit Parish
Council

Drawing Ref: 14772L.VLP.004

Date: Jun 2026 Drawn: EB Checked: JG

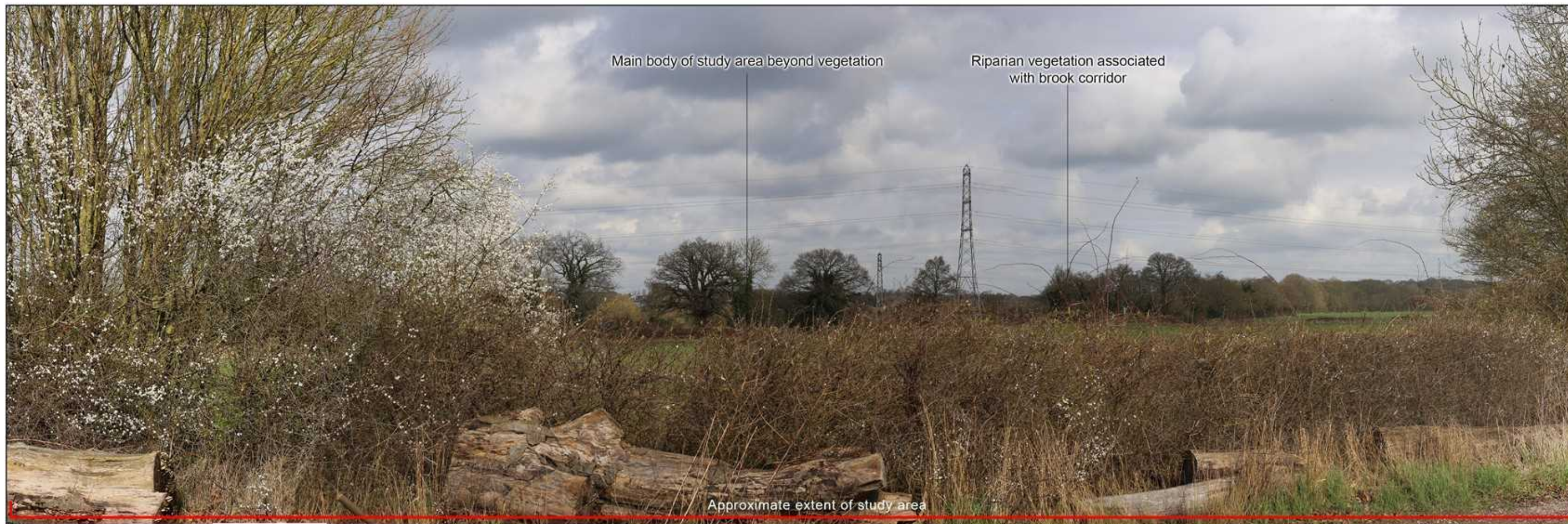


Viewpoint 1



Viewpoint 2

NOTE: PHOTOGRAPHS ILLUSTRATE THE EXISTING LANDSCAPE CONTEXT ONLY AND SHOULD NOT REPLACE VISITING THE VIEWPOINTS IN PERSON TO ENSURE AN OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT. Panoramas are created from multiple photographs which are stitched together in Adobe Photoshop. The photographs are taken using a digital equivalent of a 35mm camera in line with best practice and current guidance. The camera (Canon EOS 6D) is a full sensor DSLR model and, as such, the photographs are taken at a 50mm focal length using a fixed 50mm Canon lens. Images illustrate a horizontal field of view of 68° and, when printed at A3, should be viewed at a distance of 260mm curved through the same radius in order to most closely reflect the existing landscape context.



Viewpoint 3



Viewpoint 4

NOTE: PHOTOGRAPHS ILLUSTRATE THE EXISTING LANDSCAPE CONTEXT ONLY AND SHOULD NOT REPLACE VISITING THE VIEWPOINTS IN PERSON TO ENSURE AN OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT. Panoramas are created from multiple photographs which are stitched together in Adobe Photoshop. The photographs are taken using a digital equivalent of a 35mm camera in line with best practice and current guidance. The camera (Canon EOS 6D) is a full sensor DSLR model and, as such, the photographs are taken at a 50mm focal length using a fixed 50mm Canon lens. Images illustrate a horizontal field of view of 68° and, when printed at A3, should be viewed at a distance of 260mm curved through the same radius in order to most closely reflect the existing landscape context.

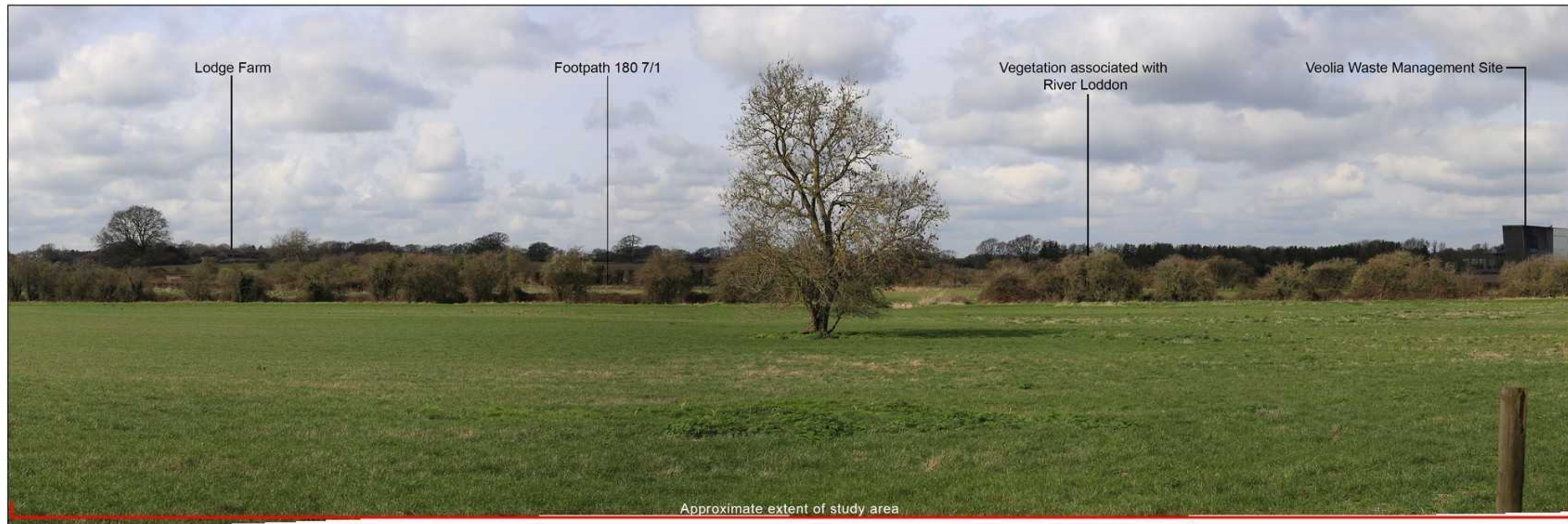


Viewpoint 5

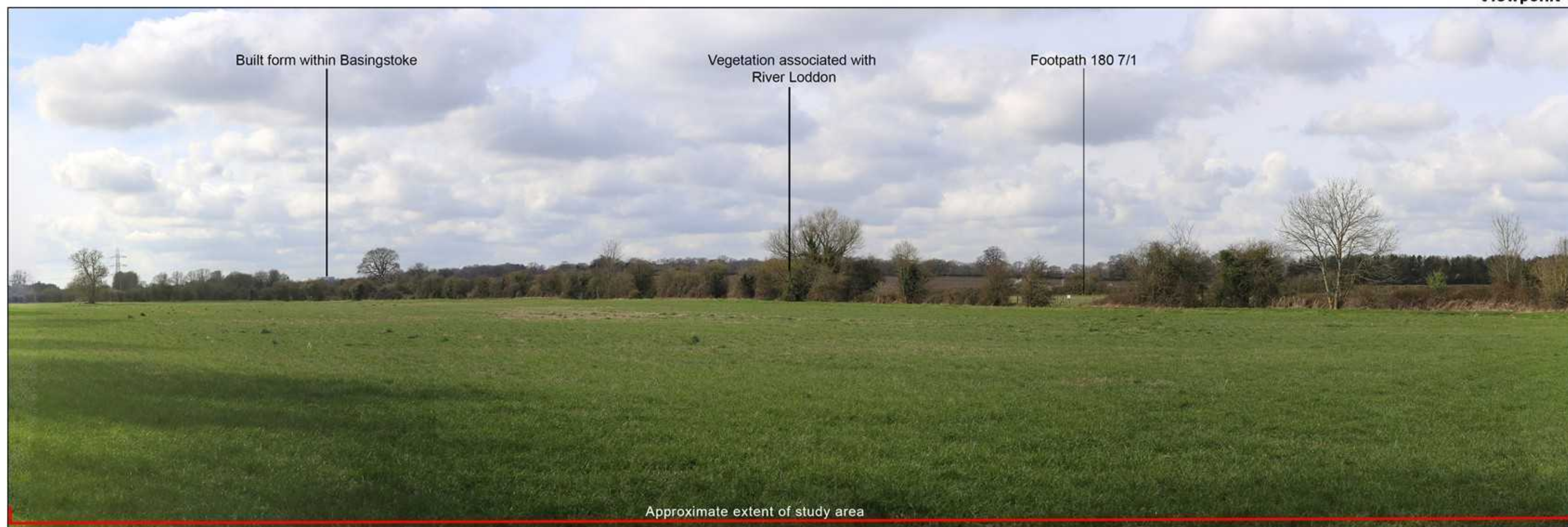


Viewpoint 6

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Viewpoint 7



Viewpoint 8

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Viewpoint 9



Viewpoint 10

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Viewpoint 11

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