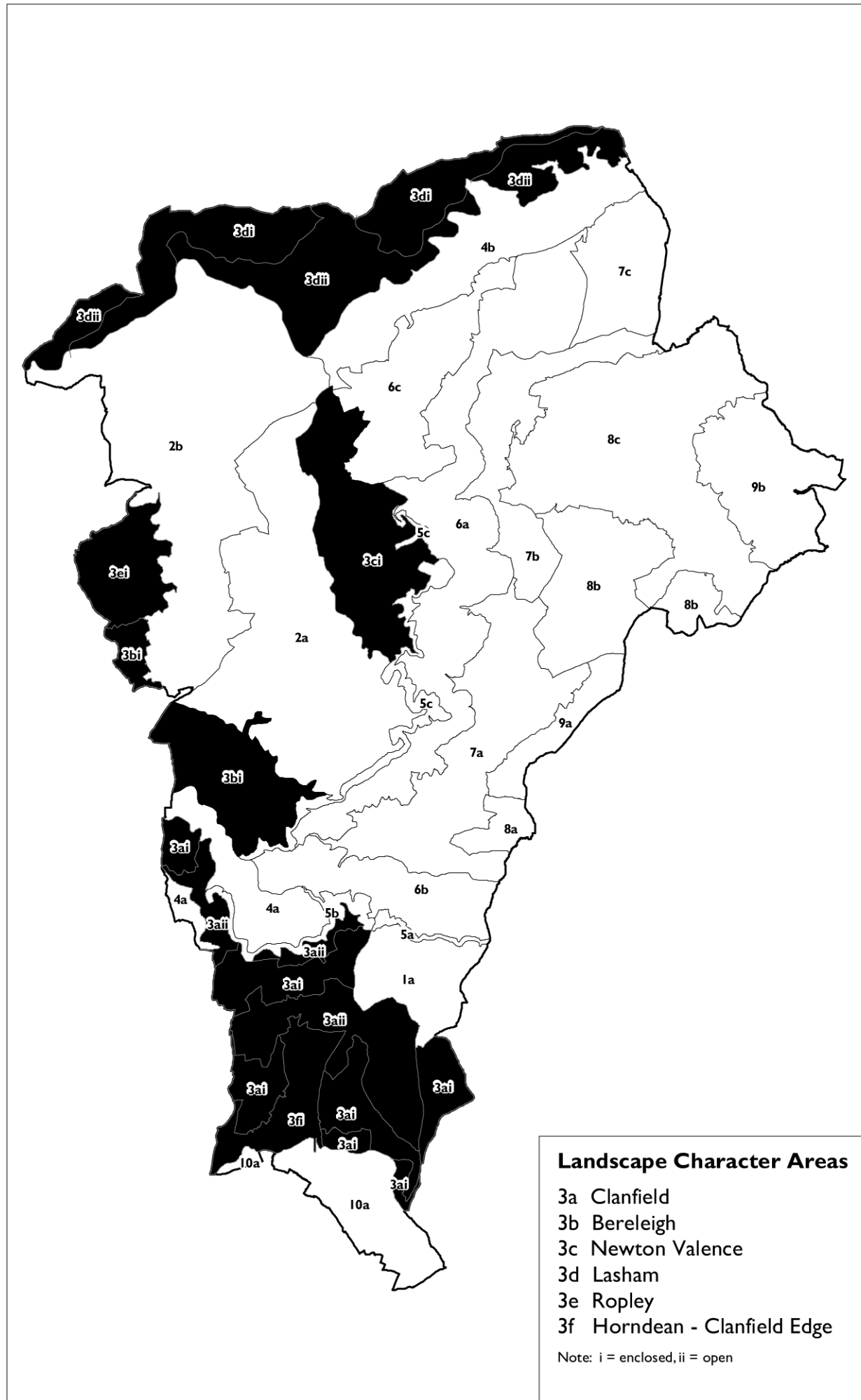
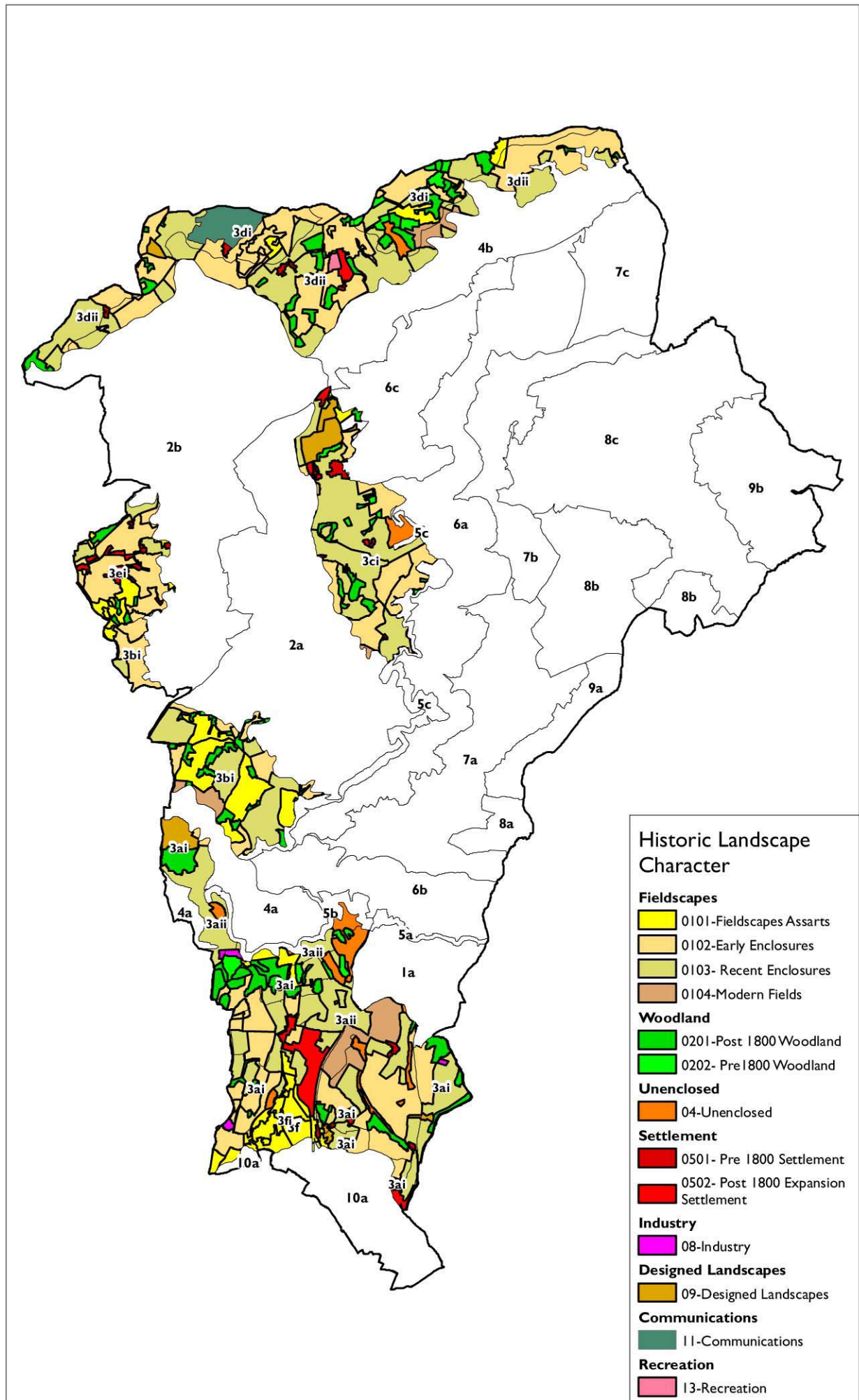


Landscape Type 3 : Downland Mosaic



Landscape Type 3: Downland Mosaic



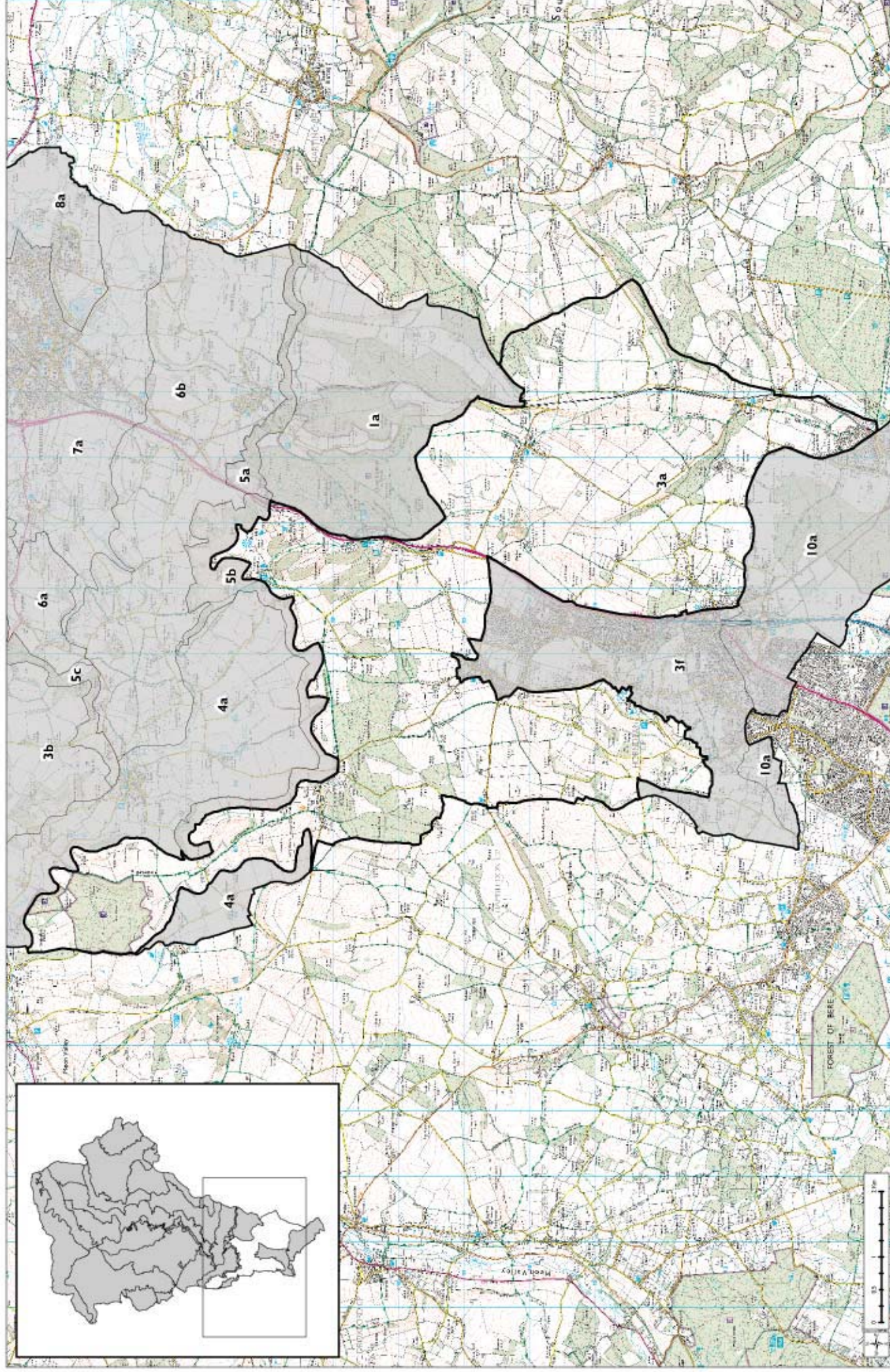
LANDSCAPE TYPE 3: DOWNLAND MOSAIC

- 3.1 The *Downland Mosaic* landscape type comprises an area of chalk downland which spans the western half of East Hampshire District. The downland is composed of an intricate mosaic of different field sizes, soil types (and hence land use), and extent of tree cover, which lead to variations in the degree of enclosure across the landscape type. This has resulted in the identification of 'open' or 'enclosed' sub-types within this landscape type. These are identified at the character area level.

Key Characteristics

- Large scale rolling landform characteristic of the chalk dipslope, dissected by dry valleys, with localised secondary escarpments marking the division between different formations of chalk.
- A prominent ridgeline follows the line of the Meon anticline with a series of upstanding hills e.g. Butser Hill from which there are panoramic views.
- Varying extents of surface clay capping resulting in varying soils, woodland cover, and sense of enclosure. Views are constantly changing from panoramas at high points e.g. Butser Hill, to enclosed views along hedged lanes.
- A mixture of 18th and 19th century arable fields and early post medieval pasture fields, with pockets of older medieval assarts surrounded by woodland. This mosaic of habitats supports arable weeds and farmland birds.
- A strong pattern of woodland cover, many of which are of ancient origin and some of which are of national importance, and hedgerows providing enclosure which contrasts with the open farmland.
- A sporting landscape with woodland managed for country sports resulting in the retention of small woodlands, spinneys, copses and wooded strips creating local diversity in the land cover pattern.
- Occasional areas of unimproved chalk grassland and associated woody scrub, including juniper scrub which is of particular biodiversity interest.
- A number of different monuments including long barrows, round barrows and linear boundary earthworks are evidence that the land was valued as a ritual landscape.
- Iron Age hillforts on the most prominent hills. Panoramic views from these hills have attracted the attention of visitors since the seventeenth century and inspired literary comment.
- A low density of dispersed settlement across the downland with a scattering of nucleated settlement in preferred lower lying areas. Distinctive churches are often landmarks.
- A number of minor designed landscapes which indicates the lack of major wealthy landowners and importance of agriculture in this landscape.
- The downs contain a well established network of public rights of way and a strong hierarchical network of roads.
- A landscape with a generally strong rural, secluded character, although with varying levels of movement across its extent.

Character Area 3a: Clanfield





3A: Clanfield Downland Mosaic

Location and Boundaries

- 3A.1 The *Clanfield Downland Mosaic* lies in the south of East Hampshire district on the southern chalk dip slope as it descends towards the coastal plain. The Meon Valley and the Saltdown to Butser Hill Scarp define the western and northern boundaries. This character area continues to the west beyond the district boundary (as part of the South Downs National Park). The southern boundary is defined by the urban edge of Horndean and edge of the chalk forming a transition to the flatter *Wooded Clay Land*.
- 3A.2 The character area includes two distinct sub types: 3ai is an enclosed subtype relating to the lower dip slope, including the land south of the secondary escarpment of Windmill Hill and Wick Hanger characterised by its generally lower elevation and greater proportion of tree cover. There is a further enclosed sub type corresponding to the areas of the wooded areas at Hen Wood and Hyden Wood. The open sub type (3a ii) relates to the ridge, which runs along the northern edge of the character area, between Drayton Down/Salt Hill and Butser Hill, and to the area of open arable fields which runs through the centre of the area.

The majority of the character area is within the South Downs National Park. It also includes the area around Rowlands Castle which is beyond the South Downs National Park boundary.

Key Characteristics

- Large scale rolling landform comprising the prominent chalk ridge (of the Meon anticline) and dip slope with a localised secondary escarpment (incorporating Catherington Down, Windmill Down and Wick Hanger) marking the division between different formations of chalk.
- The prominent open ridge rises to 234m at Salt Hill, and 270m at Butser Hill, from where there are panoramic views across the lower lying Greensand and Wealden landscapes. Views from Butser Hill and from secondary hills on the dip slope, such as Windmill Hill towards the south coast and the Isle of Wight. Enclosed views along hedged lanes.
- Areas of unimproved chalk grassland are retained on steeper slopes and include nationally important sites such as Butser Hill SSSI and Catherington Down SSSI.
- A predominantly farmed area in arable cropping with large field bordered by fences or low hedgerows, increasing the sense of scale. On the lower dip slope heavier clay soils create a more enclosed landscape with greater woodland cover and areas of pasture.
- Significant areas of ancient woodland retained to the north at Hyden Wood, Coombe Wood and Hen Wood form a more enclosed area. Ancient hanger woodland is found in association with the secondary escarpment, e.g. at Wick Hanger.

- An area of open arable land runs through the centre of the character area (north of Horndean) where 18th and 19th century fields predominate.
- Historic features include the Iron Age Cross Dykes, field systems, Bronze Age Barrows and ancient farm at Butser Hill.
- Distinctive area of medieval assarted fields remains in Catherington Down/Horndean area.
- The settlement pattern is dispersed across the downland with small nucleated villages on the dipslope of the downland as at Chalton and Blendworth, linked by a network of narrow rural roads.
- A number of minor designed landscapes at North Farm, Blendworth House and Idsworth Park (all on Hampshire County Council's register).
- A well established network of public rights of way including the South Downs Way.
- Prominent telecommunication masts on the skyline at Butser Hill.
- The area is cut by the A3(T) which forms a prominent engineered feature where it climbs the scarp in a deep cutting at Butser Hill, and has a strong local visual and audible influence, effectively severing the area.
- A landscape with a generally strong rural character, although with varying levels of movement across its extent.

Physical Landscape

- 3A.3 This character area is located on the chalk dipslope south and east of the Meon Valley. It comprises the prominent chalk ridge (of the Meon anticline) and dipslope, with a localised secondary escarpment at Clanfield incorporating Catherington Down, Windmill Down and Wick Hanger. The prominent ridge rises to 234m at Salt Hill, and to 270m at Butser Hill, from where there are panoramic views. The ridge supports the most extensive tracts of chalk grassland and is defined as an 'open' landscape sub-type. The dipslope is cut by dry valleys, which typically contain 'lavants' - ephemeral water courses.
- 3A.4 South of the open ridge is a significant area of woodland cover between Coombe Wood and Butser Hill, which contributes to an 'enclosed' landscape character. Coombe and Hyden Woods are ancient woodlands and of ecological interest as reflected in their designation as a SINC. This is followed by an area of open arable land that is defined as an 'open' landscape sub-type.
- 3A.5 The secondary escarpment supports calcareous grassland (Catherington Down SSSI) and hanger woodland (Ludmore Hanger and Wick Hanger). The dipslope below the secondary escarpment is overlain with deposits of clay-with-flint and acidic clay soils that support a mosaic of small scale, irregular fields (related to early enclosure of the landscape), bounded by thick hedgerows and a high incidence of woodland. This part of the character area is defined as an 'enclosed' landscape sub-type. A secondary

row of hills lying south of this secondary scarp (at Windmill Down) form open elements within the enclosed mosaic.

- 3A.6 The presence of clay with flint capping on the lower slopes creates considerable variation in the chalk landscape with heavier soils frequently supporting areas of woodland and pasture. As a result the landscape of this character area is a mixture of large open arable fields on well drained, calcareous earths, and smaller fields of mixed arable, pasture and woodland on the heavier clay soils.

Perceptual/Experiential Landscape

- 3A.7 The variations in soils type, field pattern and land use result in a varying degree of enclosure across the landscape type. Deciduous woodlands and hedgerows provide a sense of seclusion and provide a rich texture, contrasting with the smooth openness of the arable fields. The repetition of woodland and fields creates a unified landscape mosaic.
- 3A.8 There are panoramic views from Salt Hill and Butser Hill across this and adjacent landscapes, with other important view from prominent hills such as Windmill Hill.
- 3A.9 The sense of tranquillity is disrupted in places by the large, modern farm buildings and pylon lines which cut across the area. The A3(T) also cuts through this area close to Butser Hill with visible and audible influence. The area retains dark night skies typical of remote downland but these are diffused by night time glow of development along the south coast. Proximity to more developed areas is also evidenced by features including horse paddocks, heavy use of the rural lanes by commuters and lorries, and pressures for conversion of farm buildings all of which effect the tranquil character. The character area is well served by public rights of way including the South Downs Way National Trail, Monarch's Way and the Sussex Border Path/Staunton Way. Small areas of open access are associated pockets of downland and include Butser Hill, and Salt Hill, Catherington Down, part of Windmill Down and Chalton Down.

Biodiversity

- 3A.10 Predominantly in arable cropping, the area retains a number of nationally important areas of unimproved chalk grassland on the steeper escarpment slopes as at Butser Hill (SSSI and SAC) and Catherington Down. Butser Hill is the second largest area of chalk grassland in Hampshire and is also notable for its chalk heath and yew woodland. Catherington Down SSSI comprises calcareous grassland with patches of scrub and fringing woodland
- 3A.11 This area supports a number of woodlands with large blocks of ancient woodland found in the north of the area at Hen Wood, Coombe Wood and Hyden Wood. Ancient hanger woodland is found in the south of the area in association with the secondary escarpment, e.g. Prew's Hanger, Ludmore Hanger and Wick Hanger. Much of the woodland is considered to be of county importance and identified as a SINC.

Historic Character

- 3A.12 The area has been settled throughout history. Finds of flint handaxes within the remnant clay-with-flint deposits indicates the presence of Palaeolithic hunters, while the downland soils not capped by clay-with-flint attracted Neolithic farmers, who farmed within clearings in the wildwood. Iron Age hillforts characterise the hilltops with massive earthworks visible, surrounding the summits. Butser Hill is a good example; the hill top is enclosed by Iron Age cross dykes, an associated field system and Bronze Age Barrows (SAM). There are a number of other SAMs indicating the value of the land as a ritual landscape, with monuments located in commanding positions including a Long Barrow on Salt Hill and Bowl Barrows on Chalton Down and Ramsdean Down. Agricultural communities continued to clear the tree cover and farm the downland on an increasing scale until the Romano-British period, leaving traces of their field systems and settlements across the landscape. Many of these sites have been used since the early medieval period as significant markers on parish boundaries.
- 3A.13 Anglo-Saxon settlers initially settled the dipslope of the downland, establishing villages. A sheep-corn husbandry system developed throughout the medieval period, with huge communal sheep flocks pastured on the downs during the day, and brought down onto the arable lands at night to provide valuable manure. This system was far less efficient than that practised on the more open downland in the eastern part of the South Downs. The downs were also used to a great extent for hunting.
- 3A.14 During the later medieval and early post-medieval periods (15th-17th centuries), the open fields around many of the medieval settlements were enclosed, producing irregular blocks of fields some of which are still evident, although many have been re ordered into larger fields. The downland between probably remained unenclosed, although some of it may have been cultivated during the high point of medieval settlement during the 13th century and subsequently abandoned. Medieval lynchet banks are also evident on some of the steeper scarp slopes, for example at Catherington Down.
- 3A.15 The remainder of the landscape was enclosed during the 18th-19th centuries. The regular field systems occur as pockets across the downs. Blocks of original pre-1800 woodland survive, indicating that the medieval clearance was less thorough than in eastern Sussex (reflecting poorer soils), together with smaller clumps of post-1800 plantation, many of which originated as game coverts. A number of minor designed landscapes (such as Westbury Park, Idsworth Park) indicate the lack of major wealthy landowners and importance of agriculture in this landscape.

Key Historic Characteristics

- Small nucleated settlements indicative of medieval manorial system based around open fields.
- Low-level of surviving settlement - earlier occupation existing as earthworks/archaeological sites - reflects fluctuating settlement patterns through time due to changing environmental/cultural conditions.

- Survival of blocks of pre-1800 woodland provides evidence of medieval and early post-medieval woodland exploitation, e.g. coppicing and charcoal burning.
- Scattered post-medieval enclosures and farmsteads indicate the changing nature of farming practice following decline of traditional manorial system.
- Recent enclosure and areas of post-1800 woodland plantations forms part of post-1800 gentrification of the landscape.
- Minor designed landscapes indicate the lack of major wealthy landowners and importance of agriculture in this landscape.

Settlement Form and Built Character

- 3A.16 The typical settlement form is relatively late in origin, and comprises isolated dispersed farmsteads of 18th-19th century origin set within areas of recent enclosure derived from former sheepwalk. However, some of the farmsteads are of medieval origin and represent former dependent hamlets which have subsequently shrunk.
- 3A.17 The exceptions to this pattern comprise several small nucleated settlements of medieval origin lying within sheltered folds in the chalk, such as at Blendworth and Chalton. Chalton is a typical downland village comprising a loose collection of houses around a small village green and church. The windmill at Windmill Hill is a landmark feature visible from a wide area. Finchdean is a further small settlement located within a dry valley on the county boundary with West Sussex. To the north on the slopes above the Meon Valley, the buildings of Mercury Park a former MoD base are now a focus for 'The Sustainability Centre' and redevelopment.
- 3A.18 Building materials throughout are typically flint, red brick and clay tiles. The area includes some fine example of flint barns and farm buildings, although a number of these have been converted and now have a residential character.

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities

- 3A.19 Key sensitivities include:
- The skyline of the prominent ridgeline that follows the line of the Meon anticline - including Butser Hill and Salt Hill, which is visible as a backdrop from a wide area to the north.
 - The steep escarpments which retain unimproved chalk grassland as at Butser Hill and the secondary escarpment with its chalk grassland at Catherington Down (SSSI) and hanger woodland, e.g. Wick Hanger.
 - The areas of early assarted enclosures with thick hedgerows and significant tracts of ancient woodland around Hyden Wood.
 - The Iron Age Cross Dykes, field systems and Bronze Age Barrows at Butser Hill.
 - The minor designed landscapes at North Farm, Hinton Manor, Blendworth House and Idsworth Park (all on Hampshire County Council's register).

- The small nucleated downland villages which shelter in folds in the chalk as at Chalton, Finchdean and Blendworth.
- The strong rural, secluded 'remote' character of the landscape, which is threatened by expansion of settlements which abut its southern edge and effects of night glow on dark skies.
- The panoramic views from Butser Hill and the views southwards across downland from the secondary hills at Windmill Down.

3A.20 The presence of trees and wood limits visual sensitivity of the landscape. The prominent open ridges and hills are the most visually sensitive part of the landscape (including the scarp top Butser Hill and Salt Hill and the secondary escarpment Windmill Hill and Catherington Down). The higher land of the hills permits views to and from adjacent landscapes - this landscape is therefore also especially visually sensitive to changes beyond its boundary.

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

3A.21 **The overall management objective should be to conserve the diverse downland landscapes of the ridge and dipslope, enhance the visual prominence of the open ridgeline and secondary escarpment, and maintain the strong rural, secluded character of the downland.**

Landscape Management Considerations

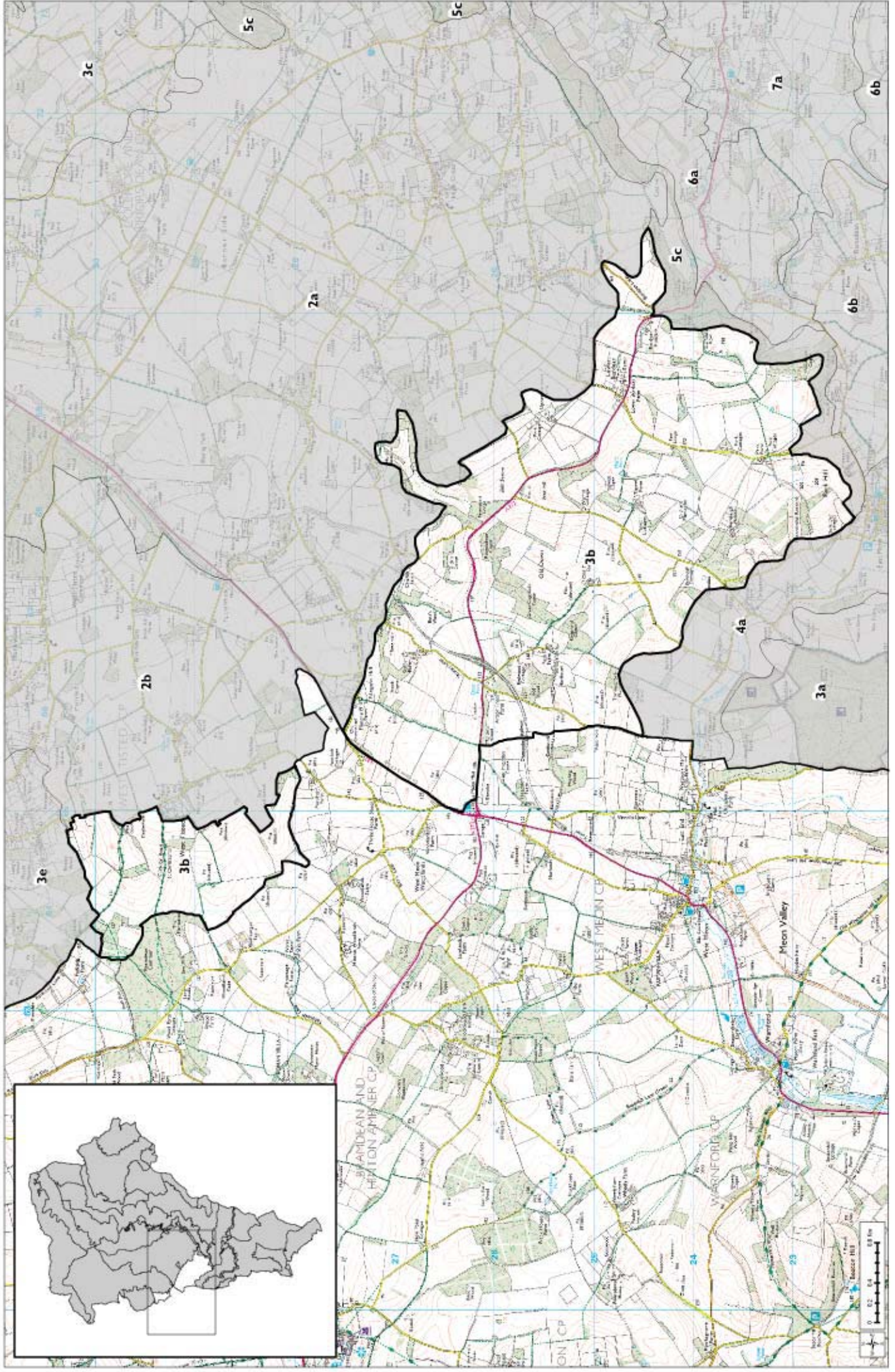
- Maintain an open and undeveloped skyline along the prominent ridgeline that follows the line of the Meon anticline.
- Conserve the areas of early assarted enclosures and ancient woodland around Hyden Wood.
- Conserve, manage and seek to extend areas of unimproved chalk grassland at Butser Hill and Catherington Down extend chalk grassland along the ridge and scarps to create a linked network of sites.
- Monitor the effects of recreational pressure on ecologically sensitive areas such as the National Nature Reserve at Butser Hill.
- Conserve and manage historic features of the landscape such as long barrows, round barrows, linear boundary earthworks and parkland landscapes so that they continue to provide a strong sense of historical continuity. Conserve vistas to these sites and promote sensitive agricultural practices in their vicinity.
- Conserve, and continue to manage, the features of the historic parkland and designed landscapes at North Farm, Hinton Manor, Blendworth House and Idsworth Park, all of which are of county importance.
- Conserve the panoramic views from Butser Hill. Discourage planting of small, isolated, rectangular game coverts on prominent ridges and summits.
- Conserve and improve the existing hedgerow network, particularly within the enclosed sub-type and encourage retention and promotion of hedgerow trees.

- Monitor natural regeneration and manage woodland to ensure a diverse (indigenous) species and age structure to minimise risk of damage as a result of increased storms and high winds.
- Promote appropriate management of arable farmland to create a wildlife-rich habitat supporting farmland birds, including retaining areas of fallow land, over-wintering stubbles, maintaining an unploughed margin around arable land, and management of existing hedgerows.

Development Considerations

- Conserve the low density of dispersed settlement which gives this landscape its strong rural, secluded character.
- Monitor incremental change on the edge of Horndean, consider opportunities to enhance integration of the urban edge to maintain the tranquil, rural character of the downs.
- Consider key views such as from Butser Hill, Salt Hill, Windmill Down and Catherington Down in planning any change in this and adjacent landscapes.
- Use of a consistent palette of building materials (flint, red brick and clay tiles) will conserve a unity in built form across the landscape.
- Maintain clear, undeveloped ridges and skylines. Avoid siting tall structure such as telecommunication masts or power lines on the sensitive skyline and undertake full visual appraisals of any proposals. Seek opportunities to reduce the visual impact of existing visually intrusive elements on the downs such as prominent electricity pylon
- Encourage sympathetic re-use of traditional farm buildings so as to maintain their external fabric, appearance and setting.
- Consider effects of any development beyond this landscape and its impact on views from this landscape. In addition to being visible, development in adjacent landscapes may result in secondary effects such as light spill, noise and increased traffic.

Character Area 3b: Bereleigh





3B: Bereleigh Downland Mosaic

Location and Boundaries

- 3B.1 The character area comprises a small area on the western edge of East Hampshire District, extending westwards beyond the district as part of the South Downs. A reduction in the extent of clay which caps the chalk distinguishes this area from the adjacent *Clay Plateau* landscape. To the south this area joins the steep scarp of the *Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp* and defines the upper edge of the Meon Valley.
- 3B.2 The surface clay capping in this character area results in a high proportion of woodland cover which contributes to an enclosed character – the whole area is therefore defined as an ‘enclosed’ sub-type

The character area is wholly within the South Downs National Park. It forms part of a much larger character area extending to the west beyond the district boundary.

Key Characteristics

- A gently undulating chalk downland landscape.
- Rises to 207m at its eastern edge where it meets the east facing *Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp* at Park Hill.
- A number of ancient woodlands (Red Wood and Great Copyhold Copse) have been retained and provide pattern and enclosure within the landscape.
- A small area of unimproved chalk grassland survives at Mascoombe Bottom - a coombe extending from the Meon valley.
- Extensive areas of early enclosures survive including medieval assarts around Tigwell Farm and Peak Farm.
- More recent 18th and 19th century enclosure at Old Down and north of Park Hill represent later enclosure of open common down.
- The settlement pattern is characterised by farmsteads and small hamlets dispersed across the downland, linked by a network of rural lanes.
- Cut by the A272, otherwise a highly tranquil landscape due to the extent of woodland, low density of settlement and general lack of overt human influences.
- A number of small locally important parklands and designed landscapes as at Bereleigh House and Bordean House.
- Some key views across the Meon Valley, as at Mascoombe/Park Hill.

Physical Landscape

- 3B.3 This character area comprises a gently undulating chalk downland landscape, reaching 207m at its eastern edge where it meets the east facing *Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp* at Park Hill.

- 3B.4 The chalk bedrock is capped in places by surface accumulations of clay and embedded flints which gives rise to heavier soils. The presence of woodland (and ancient woodland at Red Wood and Great Copyhold Copse) reflects the less extensive clearance of this downland due to the heavy clay soils.
- 3B.5 As a result the landscape of these downs is a mixture of large open arable fields on well drained, calcareous earths, and smaller fields of mixed arable, pasture and woodland on the heavier clay soils. The variations in soils, field pattern and land use form a mosaic across the landscape type.

Perceptual/Experiential Landscape

- 3B.6 The variations in soil type, field pattern and land use result in a varying degree of enclosure across the landscape type. Deciduous woodlands and hedgerows provide a sense of seclusion and provide a rich texture, contrasting with the smooth openness of the arable fields. The repetition of woodland and fields creates a unified landscape mosaic.
- 3B.7 Views are constantly changing from panoramas at high points, such as Park Hill to enclosed views along hedged lanes. Extensive views are possible from the south western edge of the area, across the Meon Valley, for example from Mascoombe.
- 3B.8 This is a highly tranquil landscape due to the extent of woodland, low density of settlement and general lack of overt human influences.
- 3B.9 The settlement pattern is characterised by scattered farmsteads and small hamlets. These are linked by a network of rural lanes. The A272 cuts through the area and forms a corridor of movement and activity. Public rights of way are relatively limited and there are no areas of open access. A number of locally important parks/gardens are found in the area, as at Bereleigh House and Bordean House.

Biodiversity

- 3B.10 Within the overall arable farmland landscape, the character area includes a number of ancient woodland sites such as at Kingsland Copse and Rookham Copse (SINC). The woodlands vary from those associated with calcareous soils, such as beech/ash and yew woodland, to those found on the clay with flint caps and typically characterised by oak.
- 3B.11 A small area of unimproved grassland occurs on the steep slopes at Mascoombe Bottom.
- 3B.12 These habitats along with a well developed hedgerow network are important ecological features within the predominantly arable landscape.

Historic Character

- 3B.13 The Bereleigh area lacks the distinctive hill forts characteristic of other part of the Downland Mosaic landscape type. Nevertheless the land was valued as a ritual landscape, with a number of Late Neolithic and Bronze Age earthworks surviving (bowl barrows) now designated as SAM. Evidence of hunting is provided by the medieval deer park at East Meon, which extended into the character area at Park Hill.

- 3B.14 The field pattern today, comprises a mix of medieval assarts with associated pre-1800 woodland and blocks of medium - large parliamentary enclosure fields, creating corresponding patterns of openness and enclosure in the landscape. A number of minor nineteenth century designed landscapes (Bordean House and Bereleigh Park) indicate the lack of major wealthy landowners and importance of agriculture in this landscape.

Key Historic Characteristics

- Low-level of surviving settlement, earlier occupation existing as earthworks/archaeological sites - reflects fluctuating settlement patterns through time due to changing environmental/cultural conditions.
- Survival of blocks of pre-1800 woodland - provides evidence of medieval and early post-medieval woodland exploitation, e.g. coppicing and charcoal burning.
- Areas of medieval assarts - indicates use of poorer land for pasture during the early medieval period.
- Scattered post-medieval enclosures and farmsteads - indicates the changing nature of farming practice following decline of traditional manorial system.
- Recent enclosure and areas of post-1800 woodland plantations - forms part of post-1800 gentrification of the landscape.
- Minor designed landscapes - indicate the lack of major wealthy landowners and importance of agriculture in this landscape.

Settlement Form and Built Character

- 3B.15 The settlement pattern in this area is characterised by a low density of dispersed settlement with occasional cottages and farm buildings. A number of buildings are associated with the small parklands such as the cottages and lodges at Bereleigh. There are no hamlets or villages other than the loose collection of buildings along the A272 at Lower Bordean.
- 3B.16 The typical settlement form is relatively late in origin, and comprises isolated farmsteads of 18th-19th century origin set within areas of recent enclosure derived from former sheepwalk. However, some of the farmsteads are of medieval origin and represent former dependent hamlets which have subsequently shrunk.
- 3B.17 Building materials are typically flint, red brick and clay tiles.

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities

- The areas of ancient woodland, e.g. Red Wood and Great Copyhold Copse.
- Woodland and unimproved grassland at Mascoombe Bottom.
- The areas of early assarted enclosures with thick hedgerows and significant tracts of ancient woodland

- The strong rural, secluded character arising from the low density of dispersed settlement.
- The views across the Meon Valley, notably from high points such as Park Hill and Mascoombe.
- The deciduous woodland, particularly that of ancient origin, and the well developed hedgerow network which provides unity and biodiversity value which could be vulnerable to field re-organisation.

3B.18 The presence of trees and wood limits visual sensitivity of the landscape. The prominent open ridges and hills are the most visually sensitive part of the landscape. The higher land of the hills permits views to and from adjacent landscapes - this landscape is therefore also visually sensitive to changes beyond its boundary.

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

3B.19 **The overall management objective should be to maintain the strong rural, secluded character of this area and conserve the mosaic of farmland and ancient woodland.**

Landscape Management Considerations

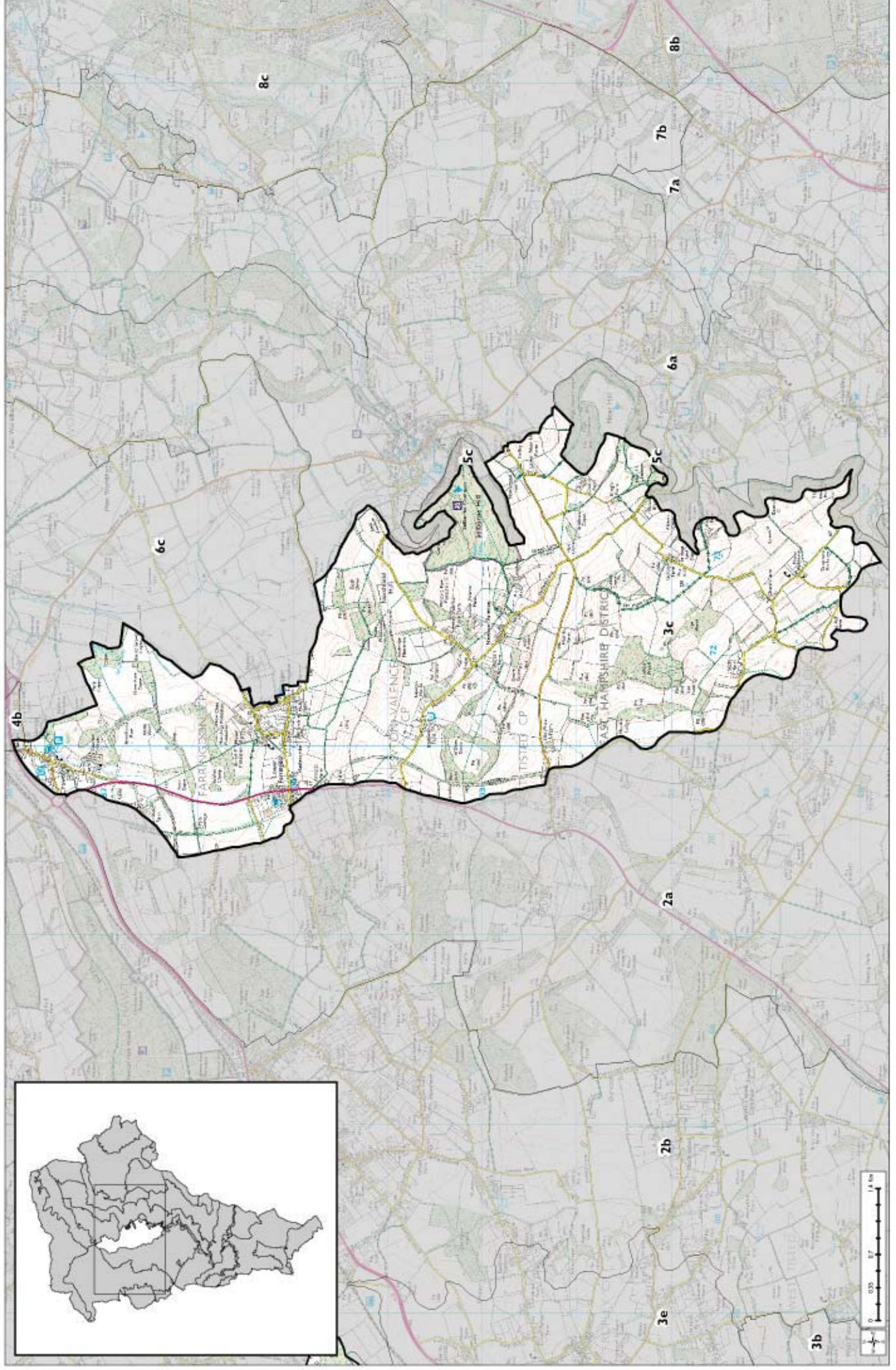
- Conserve the areas of early assarted enclosures and ancient woodland that are an important component of the historic landscape.
- Monitor natural regeneration and manage woodland to ensure a diverse (indigenous) species and age structure to minimise risk of damage as a result of increased storms and high winds.
- Support the conversion of arable land to species rich chalk grassland, particularly on the areas of former open downland e.g. at Park Hill and as extensions to existing sites, e.g. Mascoombe Bottom.
- Maintain and increase the species diversity of areas of semi-improved grassland, which act as a reservoir for more common chalk downland species.
- Encourage re-introduction of traditional woodland management techniques, such as coppicing, and promote interest in, and marketing of, local wood products, including wood for fuel.
- Conserve and manage the intact hedgerow network with hedgerow trees which are of biodiversity interest. Create buffer strips along hedgerows and monitor regeneration of hedgerow trees, re-planting where necessary.
- Promote appropriate management of arable farmland to create a wildlife-rich habitat supporting farmland birds, including retaining areas of fallow land, over-wintering stubbles, maintaining an unploughed margin around arable land, and management of existing hedgerows.
- Conserve and manage historic features of the landscape such as round barrows, linear boundary earthworks and parkland landscapes so that they continue to provide a strong sense of historical continuity.

- Avoid road ‘improvements’ that would alter the rural character of the unmarked lanes.

Development Considerations

- Seek to ensure any development does not adversely affect the deeply rural character of this area.
- Encourage sympathetic re-use of traditional farm buildings so as to maintain their external fabric, appearance and setting.
- Consider views across the Meon Valley in relation to any change in this and adjacent landscapes.
- Conserve the low density of settlement consisting of dispersed farms and houses, which gives this landscape its strong rural, secluded character. Use of a consistent palette of building materials (flint, red brick and clay tiles) will conserve a unity in built form across the landscape.
- Maintain clear, undeveloped ridges and skylines. Seek opportunities to reduce the visual impact of existing visually intrusive elements on the downs such as prominent electricity pylons.
- Use existing woodland and planting to integrate any changes in the landscape.
- Conserve the rural setting and views along the A272.

Character Area 3c: Newton Valence





3C: Newton Valence Downland Mosaic

Location and Boundaries

- 3C.1 The *Newton Valence Downland Mosaic* comprises a small block of undulating chalk downland in the centre of East Hampshire District. Its south-eastern and southern boundaries are formed by the crest of the steep *Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp* and follow contours resulting in an irregular boundary. The western boundary represents a transition to the clay plateau where an extensive layer of clay-with-flints caps the chalk, resulting in subtle differences in land use and land cover. To the immediate north of this character area is the town of Alton, in the Wey Valley.
- 3C.2 The discontinuous clay capping of the chalk results in a high proportion of tree and woodland cover which create an enclosed character. These are linked with areas of more open arable fields, plus a small area of open chalk grassland on the scarp ridge. There is not enough variation to classify as separate sub types; the whole character area is therefore defined as an 'enclosed' sub type.

The character area is wholly within the South Downs National Park. The boundaries are contiguous with the South Downs LCA.

Key Characteristics

- A gently rolling chalk landscape, eroded by dry valleys, with a series of hills e.g. Selborne Hill and Noar Hill along the eastern edge, forming the summit of the steep scarp to the east.
- Drift deposits of clay-with-flints caps the highest ridges and hills (unlike the area to the west where the clay cover is more continuous).
- The areas with heavy clay soils support woodland, including ancient woodland as at Ina Down Copse and Goleigh Wood. There are numerous game coverts,
- The majority of the landscape was enclosed during the 18th and 19th centuries giving rise to the planned landscape of fields of arable and pasture.
- An area of small scale medieval assarts on the edge of Chawton represents late medieval enclosure of open fields.
- Selborne Common, located on an area of clay-with-flints, is a nationally important ecological site (SSSI) supporting mixed woodland and relict areas of open chalk and acid grassland. It is also a registered common which provides opportunities for countryside access and is internationally known through the writings of Gilbert White.
- Small areas of chalk grassland survive on the steepest hills and ridges, for example at Noar Hill SSSI.
- The settlement pattern is characterised by scattered farmsteads and hamlets, including the village of Newton Valence and a deserted medieval settlement on the edge of East Tilsted.

- Villages are located in the shelter of lower lying areas, towards the Wey Valley at. Lower Farringdon, Upper Farringdon and Chawton.
- Three medieval deer parks (at Chawton, Newton Valence, and Farringdon) indicate the historic importance of the area for hunting.
- A number of designed landscapes including Chawton House (Grade II listed on the English Heritage register), Newton Valence Place, Newton Valence Manor House, and Goleigh Manor (all on Hampshire County Council's register).
- The former house of Jane Austen, located in Chawton, is now a museum and is a significant draw for tourists.

Physical Landscape

- 3C.3 The *Newton Valence Downland Mosaic* is formed from a solid geology of middle and lower chalk. The highest ridges are located along the edge of the scarp in the south and east of the area - at Goleigh Farm (220m AOD), Northfield Hill (180m AOD), Selborne Hill and Noar Hill (both 210m AOD). Here the landform is more typical of open rolling downland. Discontinuous drift deposits of clay-with-flints overlie the chalk giving rise to heavy clay soils that support considerable areas of woodland, with ancient woodland represented by Ina Down Copse and Goleigh Wood, as well as numerous field copses and game coverts.
- 3C.4 Lower chalk is exposed in the valleys between these hills and to the north of Farringdon where the middle chalk has been eroded by a series of dry valleys. Deposits of 'head' cover the surface of the chalk giving rise to well drained calcareous fine silty soils in the valleys.
- 3C.5 The majority of the area was enclosed during the 18th and 19th centuries giving rise to the planned landscape of fields of arable and pasture that are the dominant influence on character today. Hedgerows and woodland provide enclosure. To the north of Farringdon the landscape is dominated by the designed landscape associated with Chawton House as well as an area of small scale medieval assarts on the edge of Chawton, which represents late medieval enclosure of open fields.
- 3C.6 Areas of chalk grassland (Noar Hill) and common land (Selborne Common) are distinctive features within the farmland and woodland mosaic.

Perceptual/Experiential Landscape

- 3C.7 The variations in soils, field pattern and land use result in a varying degree of enclosure across the landscape type. The seclusion and texture provided by the deciduous woodlands and hedgerows contrast with the smooth openness of arable fields. The repetition of woodland, hedgerow and fields creates a unified landscape mosaic. Along the scarp there is a sense of elevation with panoramic views from some areas across to lower lying landscapes to the east.
- 3C.8 This is a rural and tranquil landscape with low noise levels and a relatively low population density, although this is locally interrupted by noise, including traffic on the A31. Settlement is generally contained within the landscape, within sheltered lower lying areas or enclosed by tree and woodland cover. The area of Registered

Common Land at Selborne Common is a popular site and provides opportunities for recreation. A sparse network of public rights of way allows some further countryside access and rights of way are well used, locally, by walkers and horse riders. Jane Austen lived in Chawton, where she wrote *Mansfield Park* - her house draws visitors to this part of the district. There is otherwise little evidence for recreational use of the area.

- 3C.9 A number of minor parklands and designed landscapes are located at Newton Valence Place, Newton Valence Manor House, and Goleigh Manor. These are recognised by Hampshire County Council on the local register.

Historic Character

- 3C.10 The *Downland Mosaic* has been settled throughout history, although compared to other areas of this landscape type, the Newton Valence area does not retain evidence of historic monuments associated with a Bronze Age ritual landscape or the distinctive Iron Age hill forts so characteristic of other scarp top areas.
- 3C.11 Anglo-Saxon settlers initially settled the dipslope of the downland, establishing villages as for example at Farrington. A sheep-corn husbandry system developed throughout the medieval period, with communal sheep flocks pastured on the downs during the day, and brought down onto the arable lands at night to provide valuable manure. These downs were also used to a great extent for hunting with evidence of medieval deer parks at Chawton, Newton Valence, and Farrington indicating the historic importance of the area for hunting.
- 3C.12 During the later medieval and early post-medieval periods (15th-17th centuries), the open fields around many of the medieval settlements were enclosed, producing irregular blocks of fields some of which are still evident, although many have been re ordered into larger fields. The downland between probably remained unenclosed at this time, although some of it may have been cultivated during the high point of medieval settlement during the 13th century and subsequently abandoned. On the edge of the area part of the deserted medieval village of East Tilsted (SAM) indicates the abandonment of land and settlement. Blocks of original pre-1800 woodland survive, indicating that the medieval clearance was less thorough than in the downs of eastern Sussex (reflecting poorer soils), together with smaller clumps of post-1800 plantation, many of which originated as game coverts. A number of minor designed landscapes indicate the lack of major wealthy landowners and importance of agriculture in this landscape.
- 3C.13 The majority of the area was enclosed during the 18th-19th centuries giving rise to the planned landscape of arable fields and pasture which dominates the character today.

Key Historic Characteristics

- Small nucleated settlements indicative of medieval manorial system based around open fields.
- Part of the deserted medieval village on the edge of East Tilsted.
- Survival of blocks of pre-1800 woodland provides evidence of medieval and early post-medieval woodland exploitation, e.g. coppicing and charcoal burning.

- Scattered post-medieval enclosures and farmsteads indicates the changing nature of farming practice following decline of traditional manorial system.
- Recent enclosure and areas of post-1800 woodland plantations forms part of post-1800 gentrification of the landscape.
- Minor designed landscapes indicate the lack of major wealthy landowners and importance of agriculture in this landscape.

Settlement Form and Built Character

- 3C.14 The settlement pattern is characterised by scattered farmsteads and hamlets. The village of Newton Valence comprises a loose collection of houses centred around a pond with a church set away from the settlement. There are a number of larger villages in the lower lying north of the area, towards the Wey Valley. Here the villages of Lower Farringdon and Chawton are set within folds in the chalk. Lower Farringdon is a more recent settlement, which has developed along the A32. The relatively close proximity of these villages and their more recent expansion gives the sense that this is a more settled landscape than some other areas of downland mosaic.
- 3C.15 There is a wide variety of building materials including Malmstone, flint and red brick, with roofs of clay tile, slate and thatch. Distinctive buildings include the nineteenth century Massey's Folly in Farringdon. In Chawton, Jane Austen's house is an important tourist attraction.

Biodiversity

- 3C.16 The area is dominated by the regular layout of arable and pasture fields. The network of hedgerows and scattered ancient woodlands, field copses and game coverts together create an important resource, with a number of woodland identified with SINC status. Selborne Common, located on an area of clay-with-flints, is a nationally important ecological site (SSSI) supporting mixed woodland, chalk downland turf and relict areas of open acid grassland - an important feature is the presence of huge beech pollards which developed when the common was grazed as wood pasture. Steep summits and ridges, where the clay cap is absent retain small areas of chalk grassland, for example at Noar Hill (SSSI).

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities

- 3C.17 Key sensitivities include:
- The deciduous woodland, particularly that of ancient origin (e.g. Ina Down Copse and Goleigh Wood) and the well developed hedgerow network which provides unity and biodiversity value.
 - The remnants of three medieval deer parks (at Chawton, Newton Valence, and Farringdon) and the designed landscapes including Chawton House (listed on English Heritage's register), Newton Valence Place, Newton Valence Manor House, and Goleigh Manor (all on Hampshire County Council's register).

- Areas of chalk grassland, for example at Noar Hill and associated woody scrub, including juniper scrub which is of particular biodiversity interest.
- The area of small scale medieval assarts on the edge of Chawton.
- The individual identity and rural setting to villages such as Newton Valence, Lower Farringdon, Upper Farringdon and Chawton.
- The deserted medieval settlement on the edge of East Tisted.
- The areas of common land at Selborne Common and High Common (Noar Hill) which are nationally important ecological sites and provide evidence of the former practice of grazing common wood pastures.
- The views from Noar Hill and Selborne Hill over the *East Hampshire Greensand Terrace*. Any landscape change or development in this or adjacent landscapes has the potential to be highly visible.

3C.18 The presence of trees and wood limits visual sensitivity of the landscape. The prominent open ridges and hills are the most visually sensitive part of the landscape. The higher land of the hills permits views to and from adjacent landscapes - this landscape is therefore also visually sensitive to changes beyond its boundary.

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

3C.19 **The overall management objective should be to conserve the diverse landscape mosaic of farmland and woodland, and maintain the rural, secluded character, and distinctive identity and individual character of settlements.**

Landscape Management Considerations

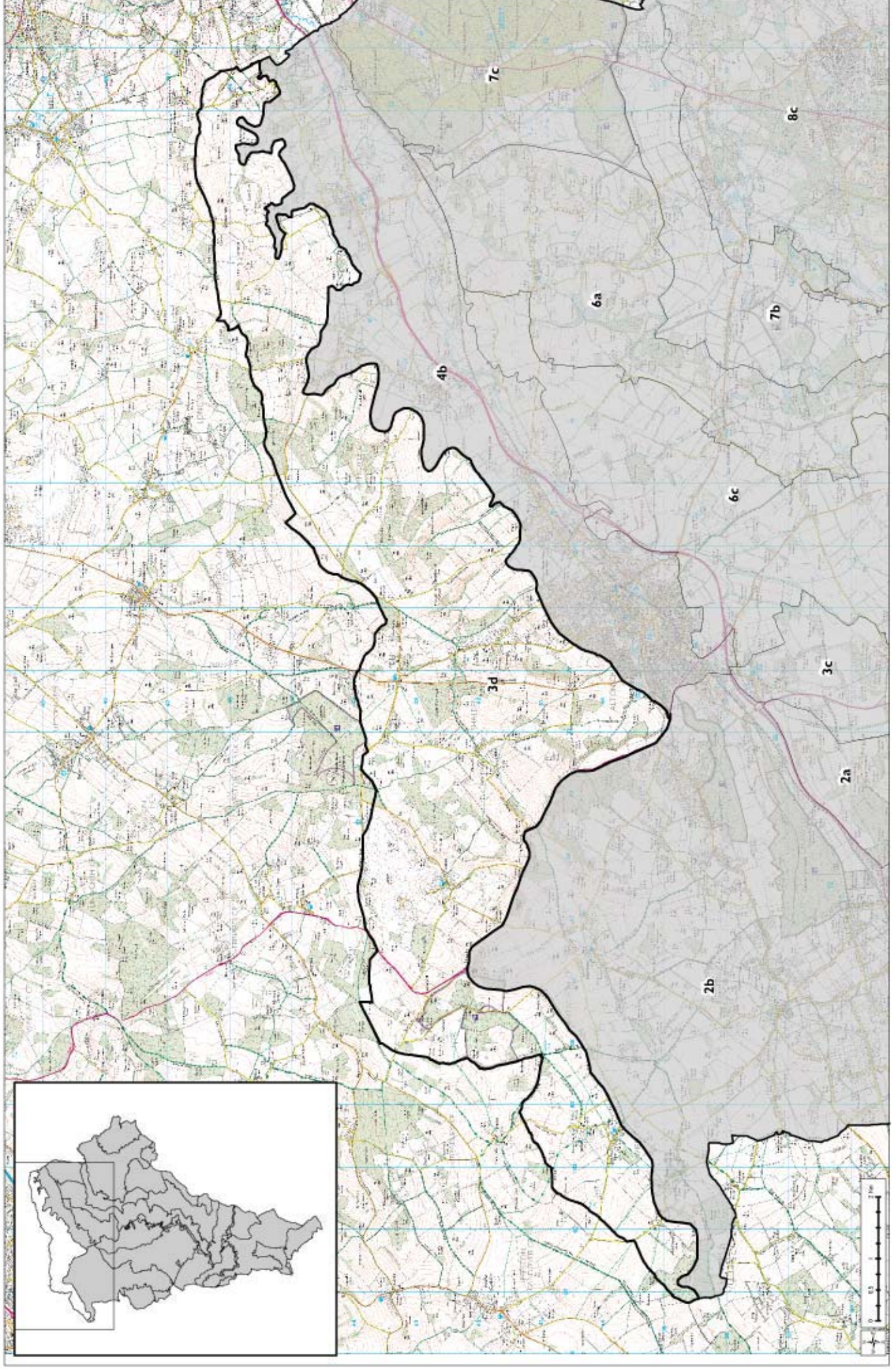
- Conserve and manage areas of ancient woodland, e.g. Ina Down Copse and Goleigh Wood.
- Monitor natural regeneration and manage woodland to ensure a diverse (indigenous) species and age structure to minimise risk of damage as a result of increased storms and high winds.
- Encourage re-introduction of traditional woodland management techniques, such as coppicing, and promote interest in, and marketing of, local wood products, including wood for fuel.
- Conserve and manage the intact hedgerow network with hedgerow trees which are of biodiversity interest. Create buffer strips along hedgerows and monitor regeneration of hedgerow trees, re-planting where necessary.
- Promote appropriate management of arable farmland to create a wildlife-rich habitat supporting farmland birds.
- Conserve the area of early assarted enclosures on the edge of Chawton which provide a sense of historic continuity and landscape texture – avoid field expansion/boundary removal in these areas.

- Conserve areas of chalk grassland, for example at Noar Hill. Support the conversion of arable land and species-poor grassland to species rich chalk grassland, particularly on the areas of former open downland, for example along the scarp top.
- Conserve the remnants of the three medieval deer parks at Chawton, Newton Valence, and Farringdon.
- Conserve historic parkland, encouraging the management/ restoration of permanent pasture, parkland trees, avenues and clumps of trees.
- Conserve and continue to manage the areas of common land at Selborne and Noar Hill.

Development Considerations

- Encourage sympathetic re-use of traditional farm buildings so as to maintain their external fabric, appearance and setting.
- Avoid road 'improvements' that would alter the rural character of the unmarked lanes.
- Consider views from hills, especially Selborne Hill and Noar Hill, when planning any change in this and adjacent landscapes. Consider creating new opportunities for views and viewpoints within the area.
- Maintain the rural character and setting of the small villages.
- Maintain the open gap between Chawton and Alton and the character of Chawton as a downland village and not an extension of settlement of the Wey Valley.
- Maintain the distinctive individual character of Lower Farringdon and Upper Farringdon. Seek to avoid further expansion in relation to the A32 (Lower Farringdon) and conserve the character of the undeveloped tree lined rural lane linking the two settlements. The distinctive form of Upper Farringdon with the village set along roads enclosing an area of open farmland should also be conserved.
- Conserve views to key land mark buildings and features including the churches and key rural views out from the settlements.

Character Area 3d: Lasham





3D: Lasham Downland Mosaic

Location and Boundaries

- 3D.1 *Lasham Downland Mosaic* comprises a band of chalk downland in the northern part of East Hampshire; its northern extent defined by the district boundary. The undulating landform slopes in a south-westerly direction towards the River Wey. To the south west the character area is bordered by the more continuously clay capped plateau (character area 2b). There are some long views from the downland slopes across the wide floodplain of the Wey Valley to the rising land to the south.
- 3D.2 The area comprises a mosaic of both open and enclosed sub types. With the more enclosed area (3di) corresponding with the clay capped wooded areas, and the more open subtype (3dii) relating to the open downland landform.

The character area is not in the South Downs National Park.

Key Characteristics

- Large-scale rolling landform characteristic of chalk, incised by linear dry valleys and forming strong bluffs above, and a dramatic contrast with, the Wey valley.
- Varying extents of clay capping resulting in varying soils and land cover, including areas of open arable fields revealing the distinctive curves and undulations of the chalk landform, as well as more enclosed wooded areas on the clay capped summits.
- A mosaic of arable fields interlocked with woodland to create a unified landscape of both openness and enclosure.
- Long views are across open fields to a wooded or open skyline, with some important views across the Wey valley. In more enclosed areas views are short and contained by woodland.
- Ancient woodland corresponds to areas of clay capping (Lasham Wood) and steeper slopes (Row Wood).
- Sparsely populated with a small number of villages nucleated around rural lane crossroads as at Shalden and Lasham. Some settlements have extended along roads and have a more linear form, notably extension of Alton along the lane towards Golden Pot. Dispersed farmsteads occur throughout the area.
- Several post 1810 parkland are recorded on the Hampshire Register at Burkham Park, Shalden Park Farm, Lasham Hill Farm, and Shalden Manor representing large landed estates.
- Church spires are key landmarks. Transmitters and telecommunication masts are more recent additions - often prominent in long views.
- Occasional spring fed ponds occur and form important landscape and ecological features.

- A number of recreational facilities including Alton golf course, plus a limited footpath network.
- Lasham Airfield established during the Second World War occupies part of the downland in the north of the area. The airfield is the base for Lasham gliding centre
- A peaceful and rural landscape.

Physical Landscape

- 3D.3 The underlying chalk geology creates a rolling landscape which is characteristic of the *Downland Mosaic* landscape type. The area is characterised by typical downland features such as coombe valleys and internal dry valleys and the chalk forms strong bold bluffs, rising above the Wey Valley.
- 3D.4 Clay capping is concentrated on the higher areas, extending down slopes. Where the clay capping is absent soils are well drained fine silty soils over chalk. The land within the *Lasham Mosaic Downland*, is categorised as Grade 3, (Moderate) by Defra's Agricultural Land Capability Index. Fields are varied in size and shape but predominantly arable edged by well trimmed but often gappy hedgerows. Frequently, there are no boundaries between field and road accentuating the openness of the landscape. On steeper slopes some rough grazing is apparent and fields of set aside occur.
- 3D.5 Woodland interlocks with fields creating a mosaic landscape with woodland sometimes creating sinuous field edges. Ancient woodland is retained, in place corresponding to the clay capping e.g. Lasham Wood but also on the steeper slopes of the coombe valleys at Amery Wood and Spollycombe Copse Wood. There is also some hanging woodland, for example to the west of Brockham Hill Lane. Woodland is complemented by occasional hedgerow trees and trees along lanes, as well as small filed copses and game coverts.
- 3D.6 Each of the hamlets within the area has a village pond, fed from local springs.

Perceptual/Experiential Landscape

- 3D.7 This is essentially a large-scale landscape with varying degrees of openness and enclosure. Overall it is an open expansive rolling landform, with local variation provided by the extent of woodland cover. The smooth open arable fields are sometimes amplified in size by gappy field boundaries. In contrast to this woodland blocks which are dispersed through the landscape provide texture and enclosure. Interlocking and repetition of farmland and woodland creates unity across the character area. Views are across open fields often to a wooded or open skyline or contained by woodland.
- 3D.8 No major roads cross the area with quiet rural lanes winding up the slope from the Wey Valley. The density of settlement is very low with few villages (Lower Wield, Lasham and Golden Pot) and dispersed farmsteads. Despite the presence of Lasham airfield and associated transmitters, there is little overt human impact. Pylons, overhead lines and masts are present, partially concealed at close quarters by

woodland cover - but forming prominent features in long views. This is essentially a still, quiet landscape with a strong rural and tranquil qualities.

- 3D.9 The airfield at Lasham established during the Second World War in 1942 provides a historic reference. Although the runways are still in place, the airfield now serves as a museum and gliding centre; the gliding club has an active interest in the natural history of the area. Other recreational opportunities are found at Alton Golf Club and a limited rights of way network.

Biodiversity

- 3D.10 Although arable agriculture is the dominant land use, a number of woodland sites occur and represent the main ecological component of the character area. Many woodland sites have been designated as Sites of Interest for Nature Conservation (SINC), including numerous small sites and more extensive areas such as Lasham Wood.
- 3D.11 Woodlands of ancient origin are particularly associated with sloping and elevated ground. These sites have a history of coppice with standards management, although this traditional management has often ceased for economic reasons. Small woodlands such as Shalden Park Wood and Gregory's Wood support ancient woodland flora and are locally valued for their displays of bluebells in spring. A relatively intact network of hedgerows provides additional wildlife habitat, and also enhances habitat connectivity within the wider landscape. The network of filed copses and game coverts complements the woodland cover.
- 3D.12 Occasional spring fed ponds also occur throughout the character area and form important ecological features, often supporting a range of wetland and emergent plant species and providing habitat for a range of common water fowl.

Historic Character

- 3D.13 A landscape of mixed arable and pasture fields, some of late medieval origin representing early enclosure of the open fields around medieval settlements during late medieval and post-medieval periods, e.g. Lower Wield and Lasham. Other downland parts of character area are distinguished by recent planned enclosure of 18th-19th century date. Small isolated blocks of medieval assarts survive around Lasham Wood, Ham Wood and High Wood.

Key Historic Characteristics

- Significant blocks of ancient woodland concentrated in central part of character area. Post-1800 woodland rarer, including plantations and wind-breaks.
- Occasional archaeological monuments – unclassified earthwork north-west of Bentley (SAM).
- Absence of major historic parkland reflecting the agricultural emphasis of the landscape. Several post 1810 parkland are recorded on the Hampshire Register at Burkhams Park, Shalden Park Farm, Lasham Hill Farm, and Shalden Manor.
- Lasham Airfield – RAF fighter base 1942-48, civilian airfield 1948-present (most of distinctive wartime buildings demolished).

Settlement Form and Built Character

- 3D.14 The area is characterised by a low settlement density with isolated farmsteads of 18th-19th century origin set within areas of recent enclosure, and small villages of medieval origin as at Lasham and Shalden surrounded by earlier enclosures. Some of the isolated farmsteads may represent shrunken medieval hamlets. The large estate farms often include a large number of buildings including distinctive flint barns. A number of barns have been converted for residential use.
- 3D.15 Lasham and Shalden are both small villages that have developed along the rural lanes. Each with a distinctive dispersed informal character. More recent linear settlement has extended the rural lanes north of Alton towards Goldon Pot - creating the impression of a more continuously developed area along this route. Red brick, flint and white render, with clay tiles and thatch are the dominant building materials.

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities

3D.16 Key sensitivities include:

- The mosaic of woodland and arable farmland.
- The ancient woodlands – and associated flora and fauna and need to protect from intensive recreational use (e.g. paintball games).
- The peaceful rural character arising from the low density, dispersed settlement and lack of major roads.
- The hedgerow network which provides visual unity and a wildlife corridor, linking woodlands.
- Open views within the area and from the area across the Wey Valley. Views within and to the areas of clear, uninterrupted ridges and skylines which are especially sensitive to large scale vertical structures.
- The function of the chalk slopes and bluffs as the backdrop to the Wey Valley and particularly sensitivities given that any change has the potential to be highly visible, including development and woodland felling.
- The small scale dispersed character of settlement – and vulnerabilities to further linear expansion along lanes (especially in relation to development pressures from Alton).

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

- 3D.17 **The overall management strategy for the Lasham Downland Mosaic is to conserve the mosaic of arable farmland and ancient woodland and maintain the overall rural, tranquil character of the downland.**

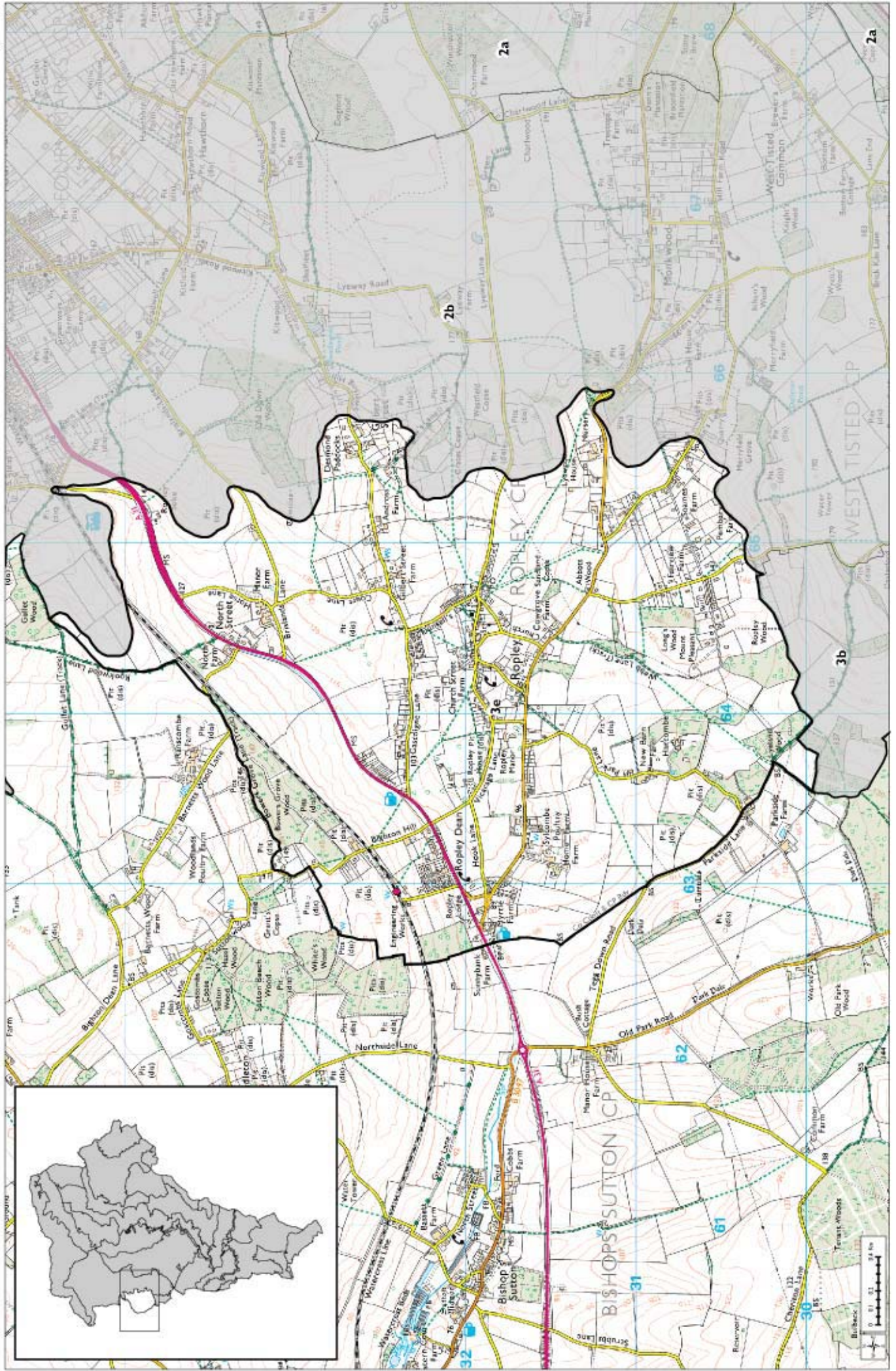
Landscape Management Considerations

- Monitor natural regeneration and manage woodland to ensure a diverse (indigenous) species and age structure to minimise risk of damage as a result of increased storms and high winds.
- Encourage re-introduction of traditional woodland management techniques, such as coppicing, and promote interest in, and marketing of, local wood products, including wood for fuel.
- Conserve and manage the intact hedgerow network with hedgerow trees which are of biodiversity interest. Create buffer strips along hedgerows and monitor regeneration of hedgerow trees, re-planting where necessary.
- Promote appropriate management of arable farmland to create a wildlife-rich habitat supporting farmland birds.

Development Considerations

- Conserve the low density of dispersed settlement, which gives this landscape its strong rural character.
- Conserve the character, fabric and appearance of traditional farm buildings.
- Conserve the informal character of the villages of Lasham and Shalden and seek to avoid infilling which would create a more consolidated settlement form.
- Monitor edge of Alton and prevent further development encroaching up into the downland.
- Monitor redevelopment of former small properties (e.g. south of Golden Pot) the consider effects of greater size and suburban style on rural character and on views to the area.
- Maintain open skylines, especially along the hilltops to the south of the area e.g. Saintbury Hill. Monitor the effects of incremental additions of masts/telecomm infrastructure and consider effects on views within and to the area.
- Conserve tree and woodland cover, particular in relation to individual properties where felling can reveal development in long views e.g. from the Wey Valley.

Character Area 3e: Ropley





3E: Ropley Downland Mosaic

Location and Boundaries

- 3E.1 *Ropley Downland Mosaic* is a small, and unusually a relatively low lying downland character area, located in the west of East Hampshire. Defined by the district boundary to the west, the eastern boundary of the character area has been drawn along the 150m contour distinguishing it from the adjacent more elevated clay capped plateau. The area is approached from the clay plateau by steeply sloping wooded lanes.
- 3E.2 The area is defined as an 'enclosed' sub type due to the proportion of tree cover which contributes to an enclosed character.

The character area is not in the South Downs National Park.

Key Characteristics

- Undulating, low lying landscape gently sloping to the west.
- Shallow well drained calcareous silty soils support mainly arable cropping mixed with some areas of pasture and horse paddocks.
- Small to medium sized fields of early enclosure are bound by beech and elm sucker hedgerows. There are in addition areas of large more open fields, particularly to the north of Ropley.
- Assorted fields carved from woodland form a mosaic with ancient woodland in the south of the area.
- Ancient woodland blocks survive on the higher land e.g. Ropley Wood and Lyeland Wood.
- Small scale enclosed character is accentuated by the wooded lanes which dip down into the character area from the adjacent clay plateau.
- Relatively densely settled with a linear dispersed pattern of settlement along the rural lanes. This forms a very different pattern to the small, nucleated settlements of other character areas of this type.
- Woodland and hedgerows form strong edges along the rural lanes and settlement is not evident when travelling across the area.
- Narrow rural roads cut through the landscape and form the structure of the linear settlements.

Physical Landscape

- 3E.3 The undulating *Ropley Downland Mosaic* landscape is informed by its chalk bedrock geology. The east of the character area is marked by a mini scarp which represents the edge of the clay capping at its junction with the underlying chalk of this landscape. Linear deposits of head cross contours, following the westerly incline of the land,

these represent former winterbournes and small streams which help shape this landform.

- 3E.4 The chalk bedrock geology creates shallow well drained calcareous soils which support predominantly pastoral fields with some arable and areas of horse paddocks. Fields are of early enclosure with some assorted fields form a mosaic with small blocks of ancient woodland in the south of the area. Fields are generally small with some larger fields in the north and bound by hedgerows. Hedgerow trees are also a feature.
- 3E.5 Ancient woodland blocks survive on the higher land e.g. Ropley Wood, Lyeland Wood and Long's Wood and Bowers Grove Wood.

Perceptual/Experiential Landscape

- 3E.6 The *Ropley Downland Mosaic* is a small-scale landscape, lower lying than other downland mosaic areas, with an enclosed and contained character. This is exemplified when approaching the character area from the east along wooded lanes which dip down the mini scarp from the clay plateau towards Ropley. Tree cover, hedgerows and the linked rural lane network provide continuity and unity. This landscape, contained by landform and tree cover, has limited views.
- 3E.7 The village of Ropley and Ropley Dean has a dispersed character, along the rural roads. Residential development is set within large garden plots and contained by trees and is frequently not visible from rural roads so that the area retains a strong rural quality. The A31 and the Watercress Line cross the north of the area.
- 3E.8 An extensive network of rural roads connects the settlement of Ropley with dispersed scattered farmsteads. Footpaths provide linkages between settlements in the area, with the route of St. Swithun's Way (representing the former line of the Pilgrim's Way linking Winchester to Canterbury) passing through the area. There is little other evidence of the area being used for recreational purposes, much of it having a largely settled, domestic character. The ancient woodland with their displays of bluebells in spring are a highly valued local feature.
- 3E.9 Ropley is home of the Hampshire Hunt and according to tradition Ropley supplied the honey for William the Conqueror's Mead. Ropley Lodge, Ropley Manor and Ropley House are of local importance.

Biodiversity

- 3E.10 This predominantly agricultural landscape comprises a mix of improved pasture grassland, together with arable agriculture and occasional woodlands. Ancient woodland is largely confined to the south of the character area where a cluster of small woodlands, which also carry non-statutory (SINC) designation, occur to the south of Ropley. These woodlands including Ropley Wood, Park Wood and Lyeland Wood, together with the hedgerow network provide an important ecological resource.

Historic Character

- 3E.11 This is a landscape of mixed arable and pasture fields, mainly of late medieval origin representing early enclosure of the open fields around medieval settlements during late medieval and post-medieval periods, e.g. Ropley. Small isolated blocks of recent 18th-19th century enclosure occur around edges of character area. There is, in addition, a considerable area of medieval assarts south of Ropley. Interestingly, within this relatively small character area there are three post 1810 parks listed on the Hampshire Register at Ropley House, Ropley Grove and Ropley Manor.

Key Historic Characteristics

- Ancient woodland, as at Bowers Grove Wood at northern end of character area plus a cluster of ancient woodlands south of Ropley.
- Three post 1810 parks listed on the Hampshire Register.

Settlement Form and Built Character

- 3E.12 The area is characterised by the low settlement density with isolated farmsteads of 18th-19th century origin set within areas of recent enclosure, and the small villages of medieval origin (e.g. Ropley) surrounded by earlier enclosures. Some of the isolated farmsteads may represent shrunken medieval hamlets.
- 3E.13 The original part of Ropley developed around the church in the 12th century, with a number of outlying hamlets. Subsequent development along the interconnecting lanes has resulted in a larger village characterised by a dispersed informal pattern of development along the roadside. Boundary hedges, walls and mature trees create a strong sense of enclosure and in many cases development is not evident. Between the roads are areas of open agricultural land and paddocks.
- 3E.14 Buildings are predominantly brick, with some flint, tile hanging and weatherboarding. Roofs include thatch, tile and slate.

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities

- The mosaic of early assarted enclosures and small blocks of ancient woodland.
- The intact small early enclosed predominantly pastoral fields.
- The rural character of the area which has been retained despite the extent of settlement.
- The secluded and contained character of the landscape.
- The hedgerows and mature trees and vernacular boundaries particularly within Ropley village which provide enclosure and contribute to the rural character.
- Contained by its landform and tree cover the visual sensitivity of the landscape is limited with opportunities for planting mitigation associated with development. Views into the landscape from adjacent higher land increases sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy Guidelines

- 3E.15 The overall management objective should be to conserve the small scale, rural character of the landscape of pasture, woodland and hedgerows and in particular to conserve the rural character of Ropley village.**

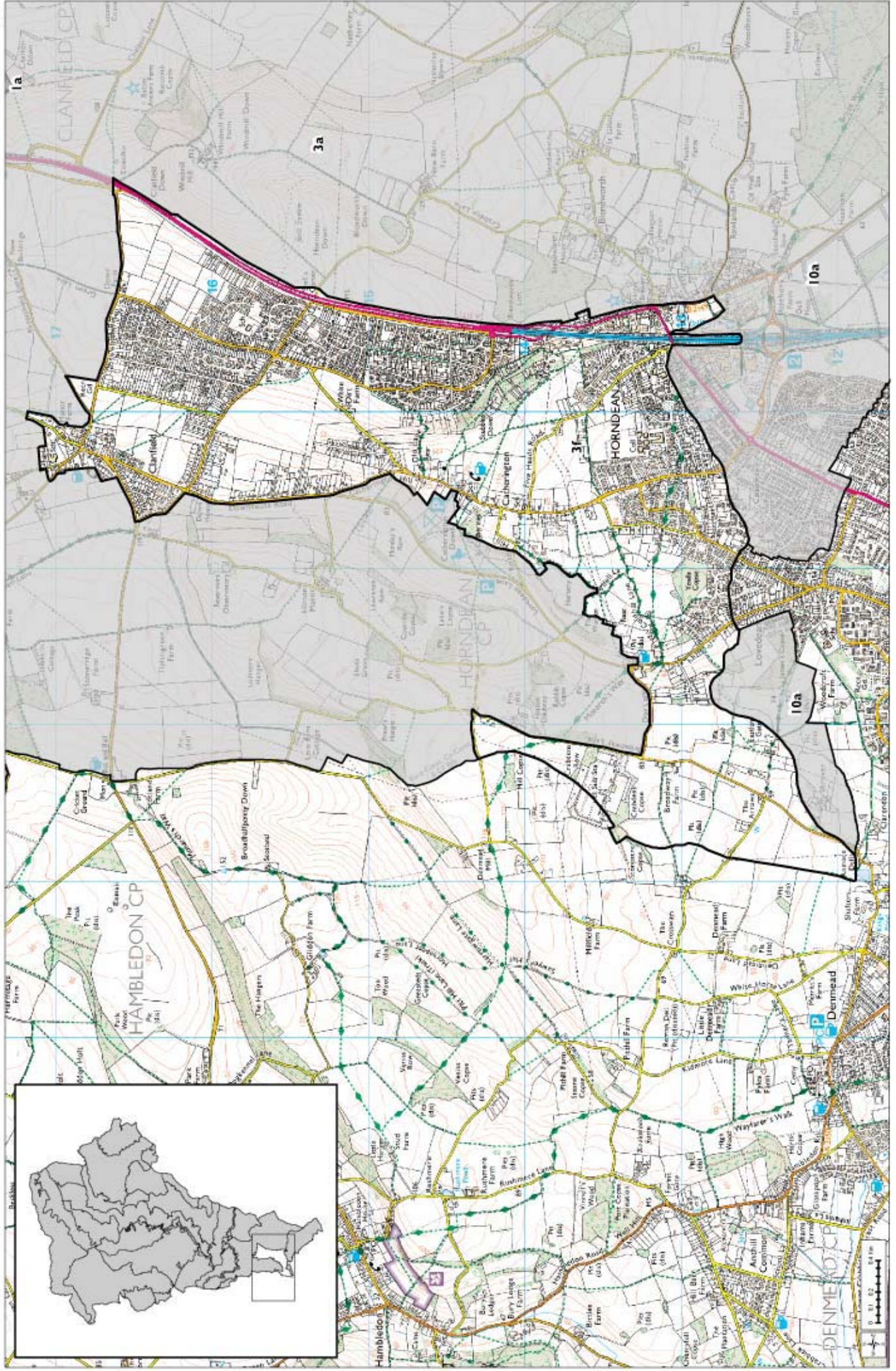
Landscape Management Considerations

- Ensure good management of paddocks avoiding proliferation of infrastructure and hard boundaries and maintaining good sward cover.
- Conserve and manage the hedgerow network and promote growth of hedgerow trees.
- Maintain the rural character of the roads and maintain the roadside hedgerows.
- Conserve the mosaic of early assarted enclosures and small blocks of ancient woodland in the southern part of the area.
- Monitor natural regeneration and manage woodland to ensure a diverse (indigenous) species and age structure to minimise risk of damage as a result of increased storms and high winds.
- Encourage re-introduction of traditional woodland management techniques, such as coppicing, and promote interest in, and marketing of, local wood products, including wood for fuel.

Development Considerations

- Conserve the distinctive pattern of development in Ropley, centred at the church but extending along the interconnecting lanes. Maintain the single plot development along lanes and avoid infilling which would create a more consolidated settlement form.
- Maintain the roadside boundaries, hedgerows and trees which conceal development and seek to discourage creation of more suburban boundaries (including, walls closeboard fencing and hardstanding) to roadside properties.
- Use existing woodland and planting to integrate any changes in the landscape.

Character Area 3f: Horndean - Clanfield Edge





3F: Horndean – Clanfield Edge

Location and Boundaries

- 3F.1 The character area comprises a small area of downland to the west of Horndean and south of Clanfield. The northern boundary coincides with the edge of the South Downs National Park. The landscape of the *Horndean - Clanfield Edge* is still informed by a chalk bedrock geology, but is characterised by urban fringe land uses and views to the development edge. The southern boundary is marked by the band of clay - a flatter more wooded landscape around Lovedean which forms part of the *Wooded Claylands* landscape type.
- 3F.2 This character area is defined as an 'enclosed' subtype relating to the lower dip slope, and the built form which contributes to an enclosed character.

The character area is not in the South Downs National Park.

Key Characteristics

- Located on the lowest elevations of the south facing chalk dip slope. A gently sloping landform with some undulations in the chalk created by dry valleys.
- Chalk bedrock geology overlain with clay with flints at higher elevations and Head deposits along the dry valleys. A greater depth of clay has also accumulated on the lower dip slope resulting in a subtle transition to the *Wooded Claylands* to the south - this area was formerly part of the Forest of Bere.
- Some fields in arable cultivation remain around the built edge of Horndean and Clanfield. Much of the land is now used as paddocks for horse/pony grazing, particularly the smaller fields in the southern part of the area.
- Relatively little woodland, but that which remains for example Yoells Copse is an important local feature.
- Views are typically to blocks of residential development superimposed on the chalk landform.
- Extensive area of medieval assarted fields west of Horndean typified by small-medium irregular enclosures, with a smaller area of recent enclosures to the north.
- Settlement has developed in a linear form along the A3 linking Horndean and Clanfield. These settlements have subsequently expanded to form larger blocks of built development.
- Electricity pylons cut across the landscape north of Horndean and are a highly visible and prominent feature.
- The A3 effectively severs the area from the downs to the east. Smaller rural roads link development. There are a number of ancient lanes through the area such as Coldhill, Ham, Crouch and Tagdell Lanes.

- The extent of development and roads fragments the landscape into a series of smaller blocks. There is a good rights of way network extending from the urban edge, for example linking to Catherington Down SSSI.

Physical Landscape

- 3F.3 The character area lies on the lowest elevations of the south facing chalk dip slope. The chalk bedrock geology informs the landform which slopes gently in a southerly direction. Dry valleys have been cut into the chalk creating an undulating character in places. The drift geology, particularly the clay and flint deposits have influenced the soils with typical Paleo-argillic brown earths of Grade 3 Agricultural Land Capability as defined by DEFRA.
- 3F.4 The land use is predominantly housing and infrastructure, although arable fields remain on the edges of the built development, with pasture (paddocks) also common. The fields are medium/large in size and are separated by thin/gappy hedgerows.

Perceptual/Experiential Landscape

- 3F.5 Although built form only accounts for just over half of the land use, the visual influence of the built edge impacts upon the character of the area more widely. Views of the movement and activity of the urban areas are visible from rural roads which cut through the surrounding arable fields and form a marked contrast with the quieter, more tranquil landscape of the adjacent Clanfield Downland Mosaic.
- 3F.6 This is a highly varied landscape. This contrast between built development and arable land creates a landscape which is lacking in unity, a feature which is accentuated by the electricity pylons and roads which transect the landscape.
- 3F.7 Within the urban areas, the sense of tranquillity is diminished by a high level of movement and noise associated by vehicles and other forms of human activity. Traffic on the A3 is a significant audible influence. From the surrounding arable fields views are frequently to a stark built edge. An exception is the elevated scarp at Catherington Down, which provides expansive and panoramic views across to the coast, the Solent and the Isles of Wight. There is very little woodland cover to provide screening or integration of built development, although that which remains such as at Yoells Copse is an important local feature.
- 3F.8 Despite the urban nature of much of the landscape, it is well served by footpaths and bridleways linking it to the wider landscape to the South Downs, and more locally to Catherington Downs SSSI. There are in addition a number of ancient lanes. The area was formerly part of the ancient Forest of Bere.

Biodiversity

- 3F.9 The main areas of ecological interest are the small scattered woodlands, of which a number have SINC status. Elsewhere the area is characterised by arable fields and horse paddocks, bound by a thin, gappy hedgerow network. The boundaries and verges of the ancient lanes that pass through the area are likely to be of biodiversity interest retaining woodland cover and unimproved grassland.

Historic Character

- 3F.10 The landscape is dominated by post-1800 settlement, representing dormitory settlements originating from a scattered core of common-edge settlement (Horndean and Clanfield). Catherington Retreat House is an example of a post 1810 park recorded on the Hampshire Register. The most distinctive feature is the extensive area of medieval assarted fields to the south and east of Horndean.

Key Historic Characteristics

- Distinct central area of medieval assarted fields typified by small-medium irregular enclosures.
- Smaller area of late medieval-post-medieval enclosures at western fringe of character area around Broadway Farm, and occupying a small block east of Clanfield village.
- Block of small enclosures of 18th-19th century date in the north-eastern corner of character area, with an area of larger enclosures between Clanfield and the Catherington Down assarts.

Settlement Form and Built Character

- 3F.11 Settlement is largely 20th century suburban development representing the growth of dormitory settlements, originating around a 19th century core of scattered settlement.
- 3F.12 Horndean developed and expanded along the Portsmouth – London Road as Portsmouth became an important naval port in the 1500s. The village expanded more rapidly in the 19th century with the establishment of a brewery – which remains a dominant landmark
- 3F.13 The historic buildings in Horndean are consistently local red brick giving a strong uniform character. Later housing is for the most part generic, modern and suburban in style and materials.

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities

- 3F.14 Key sensitivities include:
- Hedgerow field boundaries and remnant areas of woodland such as at Yoells Copse.
 - The rural roads and ancient lanes which cross the area and may be under pressure to expand and be widened due to the spread of built form.
 - Arable fields and chalkland landform surrounding the built edge.
 - The scarp at Catherington Hill with its important biodiversity value, views and local recreation/access opportunities.

- The local rights of way network linking the urban area to the downland landscape.
- Remaining elements of tranquillity and dark night skies which are affected by development both within and beyond the character area on the south coast plain.
- The absence of woodland and the relatively open views accentuates the visual sensitivity of the landscape.

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

3F.15 The overall management strategy for the Horndean – Clanfield Downland Mosaic is to conserve remaining elements of the chalk downland landscape and enhance the setting of built development.

Landscape Management Considerations

- Maintain the rights of way network, particularly the good links with Catherington Downs. Seek to limit damage to footpaths by horses.
- Conserve the integrity of the strong rolling chalk landform around Clanfield.
- Restore hedgerow boundaries to provide visual unity and intactness and increase biodiversity and link to areas of woodland. Promote growth of hedgerow trees.
- Consider opportunities for further tree and woodland planting to contain and reduce the visual impact of the built edge.
- Conserve the pattern of small assorted fields and seek to conserve/reinstate hedgerow boundaries.
- Seek to ensure good management of horse paddocks to conserve the rural setting.

Development Considerations

- Monitor the expansion of the urban edge of Horndean and Clanfield to ensure that it does not expand further onto areas of open rolling chalk downland.
- Seek opportunities for further woodland planting to soften, screen and contain built development.
- Maintain links and connections (rights of way) between the urban area and the wider downland landscapes.