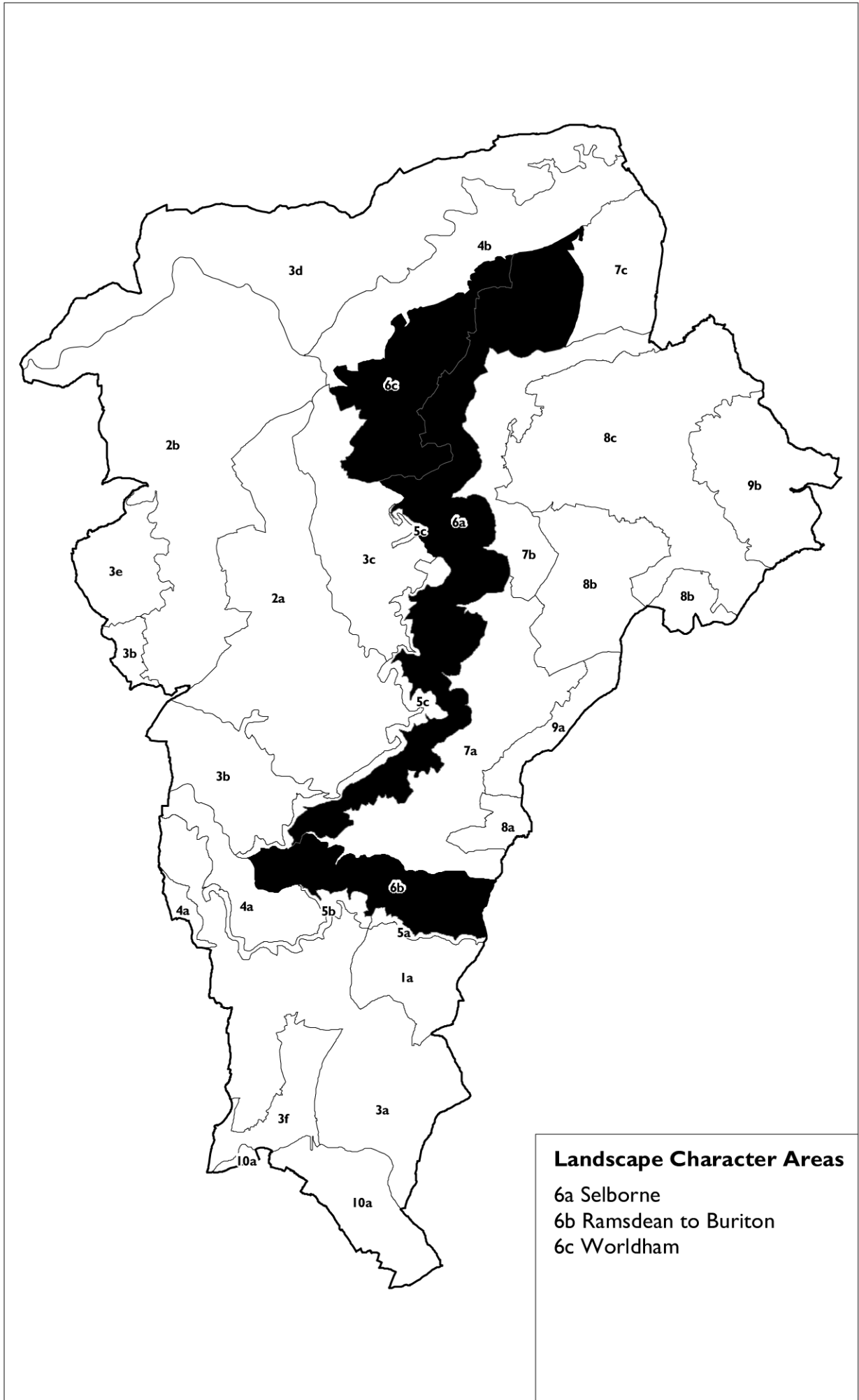
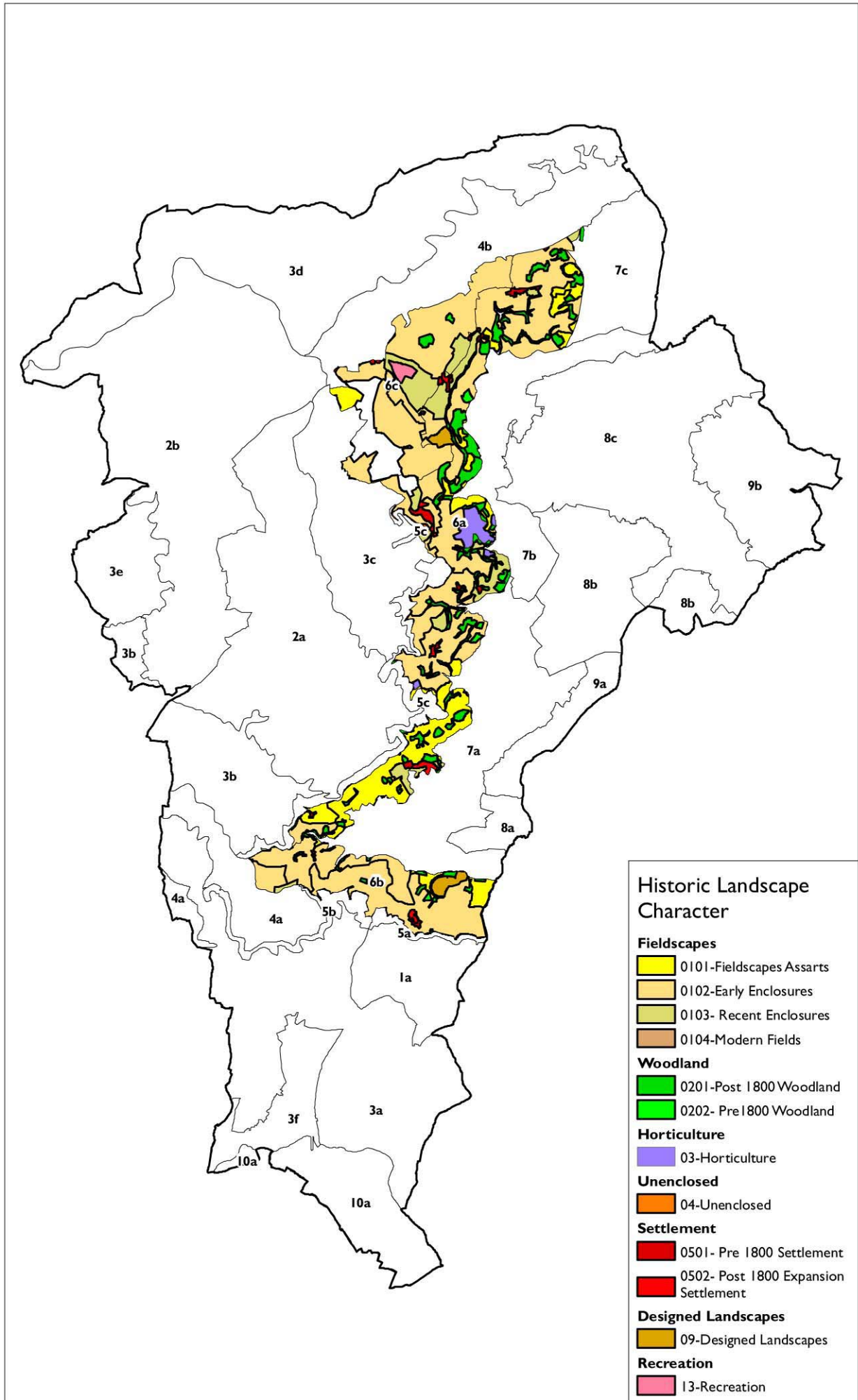


Landscape Type 6 : Greensand Terrace



Landscape Type 6 : Greensand Terrace



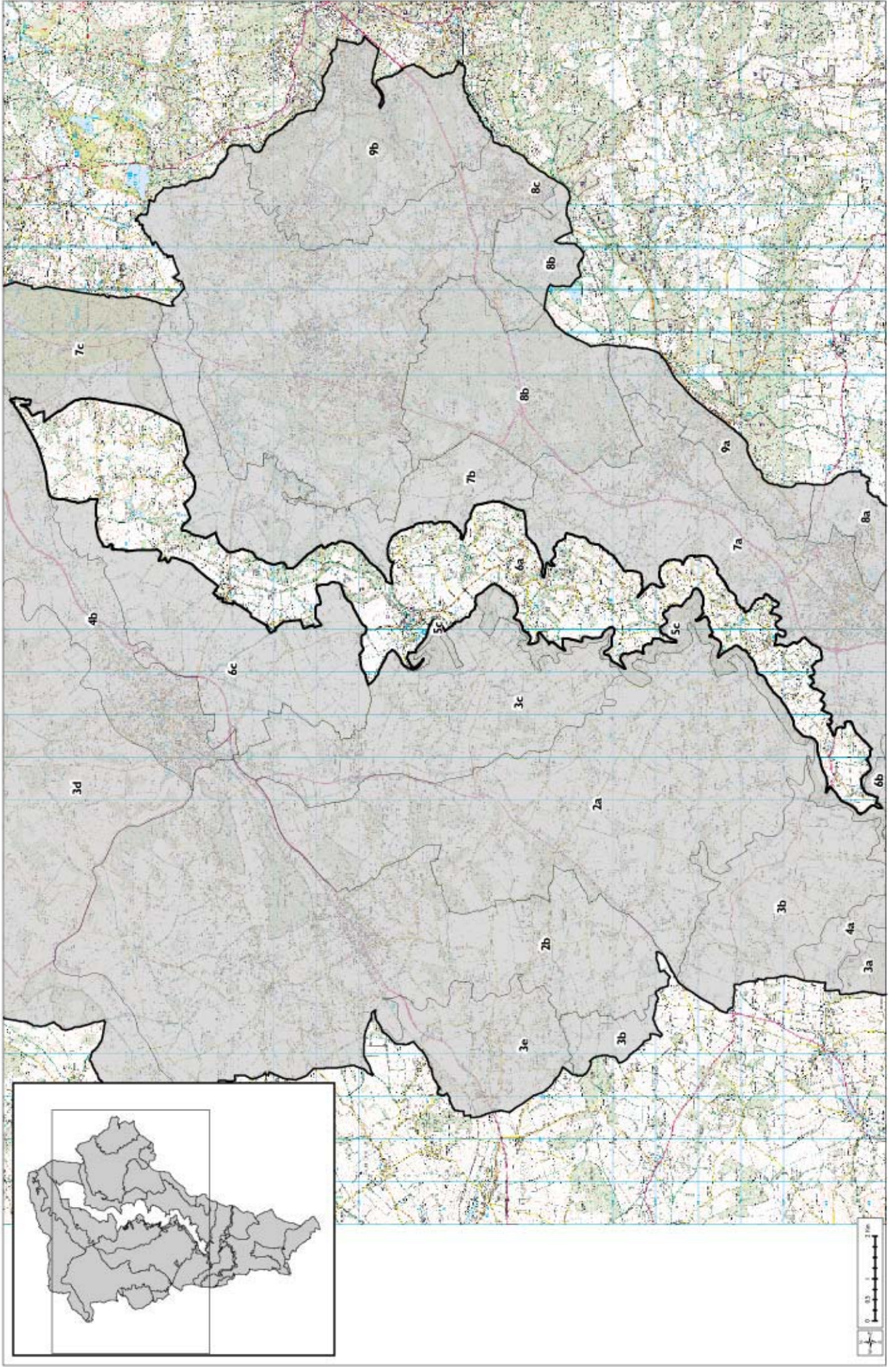
LANDSCAPE TYPE 6: GREENSAND TERRACE

- 6.1 The *Greensand Terrace* landscape comprises the bench of Upper Greensand which outcrops at the foot of the steep chalk scarps running down the spine and across the southern part of East Hampshire.
- 6.2 There are views over adjacent lowland landscapes from the edge of the *Greensand Terrace*, as well as panoramic views over the *Greensand Terrace* from the adjacent chalk scarp.

Key Characteristics

- A distinct terrace formed from Upper Greensand with a locally prominent escarpment defining its outer edge.
- Cut by a series of small streams that rise from springs near the foot of the chalk escarpment, and have eroded narrow, deep valleys as they cross the Greensand terrace.
- Deeply sunken lanes have eroded downwards to reveal exposures of the Greensand geology and gnarled tree roots.
- Fertile soils supporting large fields of arable, interspersed with pasture, woodland and orchards. Road verges with botanical interest.
- Distinctive hanger woodlands, remnants of ancient woodland, cling to the steepest slopes.
- Areas of former hop gardens are marked by poplar shelter belts.
- Villages are located at regular intervals along the springline, often associated with artificially dammed mill ponds and mills. The chalk scarp often forms a dramatic backdrop.
- Buildings constructed from local 'Malmstone', with red and yellow brick detailing, and clay tile roofs.
- A strong sense of rural tranquillity resulting from the absence of overt human impact and a low density of settlement.
- Dominated by the adjacent steep chalk escarpment, with views over the adjacent lowlands from the edge of the Greensand scarp.

Character Area 6a: Selborne





6A: Selborne Greensand Terrace

Location and Boundaries

- 6A.1 The *Selborne Greensand Terrace* character area is defined by its geology forming a distinctive broad Upper Greensand 'terrace', stretching north to south through the district, with a locally prominent greensand escarpment on the eastern edge. To the west, the boundary is marked by the steeply rising chalk escarpment of the *Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp*, with the eastern edge is defined by the lower lying claylands of the Rother valley. The Greensand terrace and its associated escarpment are most clearly defined in the north – to the north of Selborne the greensand scarp becomes more dominant in the landscape than the chalk scarp. Towards the south (around Petersfield) the topography becomes more undulating, the greensand scarp merges with the chalk scarp, and the boundary between the *Greensand Terrace* and the *Mixed Farmland and Woodland* on the band of Gault clay becomes less distinct.

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

Key Characteristics

- A terrace formed from Upper Greensand with a locally prominent escarpment clothed in woodland defining its eastern edge.
- Cut by a series of small streams (e.g. Oakshott Stream) that rise from springs at the foot of the chalk escarpment, and have eroded narrow, deep valleys as they cross the Greensand terrace.
- The sandstone geology gives rise to sunken lanes where steep banks reveal tree roots and exposures of the bedrock geology and which have a high biodiversity value.
- Fertile and well drained grey loamy soils which have supported a long history of settlement and cultivation, including orchards.
- Ancient hanger woodlands (e.g. Milking Hanger), a habitat of international importance, and comprising a range of nationally uncommon woodland types such as those dominated by yew, beech, lime, and ash/wych elm, cling to the steepest slopes forming a wooded silhouette.
- Meadow grasslands (Bentley Meadow SSSI) which are important sites for invertebrates, particularly where found in association with other habitats such as scrub and woodland.
- An area of orchards around Selborne is a distinctive land cover feature.
- The area is well served by public rights of way including the Hangers Way, which runs the length of the character area and is accessible from Petersfield, Selborne and East Worldham.

- A diversity of field patterns and enclosure including, to the south, small irregular fields carved from woodland indicative of medieval assarts.
- Low density of settlement characterised by small nucleated medieval settlements. There are a number of low density housing estates in the area around Steep, associated with the settlement of Petersfield.
- A strong sense of rural tranquility resulting from the absence of overt human impact and a low density of settlement.
- Building materials are typically local 'Malmstone', with red and yellow brick detailing, and clay tile roofs.
- Where woodland permits there are dramatic views of the chalk escarpment.

Physical Landscape

- 6A.2 The Upper Greensand (known locally as Malmstone) of the *East Hampshire Greensand Terrace* is thickest at the northern end of the character area where it is exposed as a distinctive 'shelf' or 'terrace' at the foot of the chalk. Towards the southern end of the character area the Greensand narrows. Here it includes an area of distinctive undulating ground on the north-western edge of Petersfield which is underlain by Gault and Lower Greensand as well a narrow belt of Upper Greensand. This undulating area also has a different history, being comprised largely of assarts, small irregular fields of medieval origin carved piecemeal out of the woodland, reflecting the more convoluted and irregular nature of the topography in this area.
- 6A.3 The terrace supports a mixed land cover of woodland and farmland of small pasture fields and paddocks. The woodland (oak, ash and hazel with some beech/ash) includes distinctive hangers (e.g. Milking Hanger, Wick Hill Hanger and Warner's Hanger), remnants of ancient woodland that cling to the steepest slopes. Small streams typically cut through these steep woodlands, adding to the ecological diversity of the landscape and creating an undulating landform. Drift deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel occur in association with the streams.
- 6A.4 Although the majority of the landscape is classified as grade 3 or 4 in the agricultural land classification, an area of well drained grey loamy soils around Binsted supports some more fertile agricultural land which is classified as Grade 2 in Defra's agricultural land classification. Here the landscape is dominated by large arable fields with a range of colourful summer crops including oil seed rape and lavender. A further notable land cover feature of this character area is the area of orchards around Selborne.

Perceptual/Experiential Landscape

- 6A.5 This is a small-scale landscape of intimacy and enclosure provided by the woodland cover and sunken lanes contrasting with more open arable areas. The character area is unified by its 'terrace' landform and woodland hangers. Views are restricted and often confined along sunken lanes, where woodland permits there are dramatic views of the chalk escarpment.

- 6A.6 A strong sense of rural tranquility results from the absence of overt human impact, low density of settlement, presence of semi natural and grassland, absence of overt human impact, and low density of settlement. However, local intrusion results from the B3006 and A272.
- 6A.7 Although there is little Open Access or Registered Common land, the area is well served by public rights of way including the long distance footpath, the Hangers Way, which runs the length of the character area and is accessible from Petersfield, Selborne and East Worldham. In addition, a small area of National Trust land on the edge of Selborne (Long Lythe) provides public access. There are several small parks, of which 'The Wakes' is the most well known - the home of the naturalist Gilbert White - and is listed on the English Heritage Register. Other parks were enclosed in the 18th-19th centuries, for example at Hawkley Hurst and Stonerwood Park.
- 6A.8 The *Selborne Terrace* landscape has inspired many writers and painters. Gilbert White lived in Selborne, a village nestled at the foot of the chalk scarp. The landscape around him inspired him to write '*The Natural History of Selborne*', published in 1789.
- 6A.9 18th century paintings emphasised the tranquility and simplicity of the landscape while in the early 19th century there was a demand for stately views of country houses. Gilbert White's house at Selborne was one of those painted by Prosser. Edward Thomas, who moved to the parish of Steep in 1906, wrote many poems about the area. Two small lancet windows designed and engraved by Laurence Whistler were installed in the south wall of Steep church in 1978 to commemorate Edward Thomas' centenary.

Biodiversity

- 6A.10 Of particular note in this character area is the extent of ancient hanger woodland, a habitat of international importance, comprising a range of nationally uncommon woodland types such as yew, beech, lime, and ash/wych elm woodland. These hanger woods are particularly important for the assemblages of vascular plants, bryophytes, birds, and invertebrates that they support, as well as many ground flora species indicative of ancient woodland. The biodiversity interest of the sunken lanes is also an important aspect of the ecological character of this area.
- 6A.11 Small streams typically cut through these steep woodlands, adding to the ecological diversity of the landscape. Alongside streams are areas of species rich pasture, for example along the upper reaches of Oakhanger and Kingsley Streams, and along the upper reaches of tributaries of the Rother. These open grasslands are also important sites for invertebrates, particularly where found in association with other habitat such as scrub and woodland. One particularly notable site Bentley Station Meadow SSSI, on the northern boundary of the area, supports areas of damp neutral and dry acidic grassland including many plant species that are indicative of unimproved grassland.

Historic Character

- 6A.12 The fertile soils of the Upper Greensand located between the chalk uplands and the Rother Valley are likely to have supported settlement for millennia. Evidence for

prehistoric settlement within the character area is sparse due both to burial by hillwash from the adjacent scarps and being subject to extensive cultivation.

- 6A.13 Roman settlement within the character area is indicated by the presence of a villa at Wyck, a place-name of Saxon origin often indicative of Roman settlement. This site (a Scheduled Ancient Monument) is located along the major Roman road between Chichester and Silchester towards the northern end of the character area. Other similar sites may well have existed to the south. Roman villas such as Wyck lay at the centre of extensive agricultural estates, the boundaries of which often formed the basis for later Saxon and medieval manorial estates. Continuity of such use is an important facet of this landscape type.
- 6A.14 The medieval settlement pattern reflected and developed that of earlier centuries, forming a string of nucleated settlements comprising farmsteads clustered around a church and set within an area of open fields, primarily farmed communally. The bulk of the character area was subsequently enclosed, probably between the 15th-17th centuries, producing blocks of irregular fields. Isolated areas of recent (18th-19th century) enclosure, with characteristic straight boundaries, are representative of former parkland. The southern part of the character area between Langrish and Hawkley, has a different history being largely composed of assarts, small irregular fields of medieval origin carved piecemeal from woodland. This probably reflects the more convoluted and irregular topography.
- 6A.15 A defining characteristic of this landscape type (particularly in the assart and early enclosure zones) is the presence of hangers, generally long, narrow remnants of ancient woodland clinging on to the steepest parts of the numerous small valleys that dissect this landscape. These hangers survive because the ground has always been too steep to cultivate. They are certainly of great antiquity, although likely to have been extensively exploited by past communities for woodland products such as coppice poles, particularly in the Roman and medieval periods.
- 6A.16 There are no examples of major designed landscapes, i.e. gentry houses and landscape parks. This is probably a reflection of the agricultural value of the land – however, there are several small parks which are recognised on the local register of historic parks and gardens.

Key Historic Characteristics

- Hangers which are surviving fragments of original woodland cover.
- Zone of assarts in the south representing a surviving medieval landscape.
- Nucleated settlements indicative of medieval manorial systems based around open fields.
- Early enclosures indicative of relative prosperity of the character area allowing early response to changing economic and social conditions.

Settlement and Built Character

- 6A.17 The settlement pattern in this area is characterised by nucleated settlement with an extremely low level of dispersed settlement. The typical settlement form comprises

small nucleated villages, usually of mid-late Saxon origin but often incorporating earlier landscape elements indicating a continuity of occupation. Langrish, Hawkley and Selborne are typical example, often extending from their nucleated form to form more linear settlements along roads. The scattered isolated farmsteads represent later medieval or Tudor enclosure of former open fields, although the dispersed settlement within the assarted area to the south may be of greater antiquity.

6A.18 Modern settlement is limited, consisting of piecemeal infill on the margins of villages. Several low density housing estates are apparent in the area around Steep, associated with the development of Petersfield.

6A.19 Building materials are typically the local 'Malmstone', flint and red and yellow brick, with clay tiles and thatch for roofing. In some buildings, notably in Selborne, the mortar between the stones shows galleting, i.e. small stones inserted in the mortar for decorative effect.

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities

6A.20 Key sensitivities include:

- The woodland hangers on Greensand that form part of the East Hampshire Hangers SAC. These are important in providing a sense of time depth, reinforcing landform and enclosure, and contributing to a rich biodiversity, as well as providing a visual link to the woodlands on the adjacent chalk scarp.
- The meadow grasslands (e.g. Bentley Station Meadow SSSI) including damp neutral and dry acidic grassland, which are important sites for invertebrates, particularly where found in association with other habitats such as scrub and woodland.
- The large area of assarts between Langrish and Hawkley to the north-west of Petersfield. These are important in providing time depth, and contributing to the intimate scale of the landscape.
- Stream valleys (e.g. Oakhanger and Kingsley Streams) that dissect the terrace and enhance ecological diversity.
- The locally prominent greensand escarpment which defines the outer edge of the Greensand, and is visible from adjacent areas.
- The rich biodiversity of the sunken lanes which also provide a sense of antiquity and provide exposures of the underlying bedrock geology.
- The distinctive area of orchards around Selborne.
- The small landscape parks such as 'The Wakes' (on the English Heritage Register), and others (including Hawkley Hurst, Stonerwood Park) recognised on Hampshire register of local historic parks and gardens.
- Occasional views through woodland to the lowland landscape beyond.

- Heightened visual sensitivity of the whole area in relation to views from the adjacent chalk scarp, plus views to this prominent backdrop.
- Small nucleated villages, usually of mid-late Saxon origin, with building materials reflecting local geology.
- A generally strong sense of tranquillity as a result of its low noise levels, presence of semi natural woodland, thick hedgerows and grassland, absence of overt human impact, and low density of settlement.

6A.21 The gently undulating landform, hidden valleys and presence of woodland limits visual sensitivity of the landscape as changes could be screened by these existing elements. There is also some opportunity to mitigate potential visual impacts through appropriate new planting which would not significantly alter the character of the area. However, the terrace is clearly visible from the adjacent chalk scarps which enhances their visual sensitivity. The Greensand scarp edges, which are visible from adjacent areas, are also visually sensitive.

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

6A.22 **The overall management objective should be to conserve the intimate scale and secluded rural and tranquil character of the landscape, derived from its ancient hanger woodlands, interconnected pattern of enclosed pastures, sunken lanes, and small nucleated villages.**

Landscape Management Considerations

- Conserve and manage the distinctive hanger woodlands to maintain their visual link with the adjacent scarp and maintain and enhance their high biodiversity. Monitor/check the spread of introduced invasive species in ancient deciduous woodland.
- Continue to manage woodland and plan for long term woodland regeneration. Consider re-introducing traditional management techniques such as coppicing where these have been lost and promote opportunities for productive woodland management.
- Conserve the field and woodland patterns associated with the extensive area of assarts between Langrish and Hawkley to the north-west of Petersfield - conserve and manage field boundaries that define the pattern.
- Encourage management of trees and shrubs alongside sunken lanes and sensitive management of road verges to maintain and enhance their botanical interest.
- Conserve the distinctive area of orchards around Selborne as a feature of the landscape.
- Conserve the landscape and setting of the many small parks such as 'The Wakes', Hawkley Hurst, Stonerwood Park and others recognised on Hampshire register of local historic parks and gardens.

- Conserve and enhance species rich meadows and pasture (damp neutral and dry acidic grassland) and seek opportunities to recreate and extend these habitats.
- Encourage management and restoration of hedgerows and monitor regeneration of hedgerow trees, planting new trees where necessary.
- Encourage sensitive integration of fencing, tracks, hardstanding, jumps and other paraphernalia that are associated with horse keeping.
- Encourage the management and protection of the small valleys and streams. Ensure that water abstraction does not result in loss of springs and encourage the establishment of an uncultivated strip adjacent to streams to enhance biodiversity interest.
- Discourage inappropriate use of historic lanes and tracks by motorised vehicles.

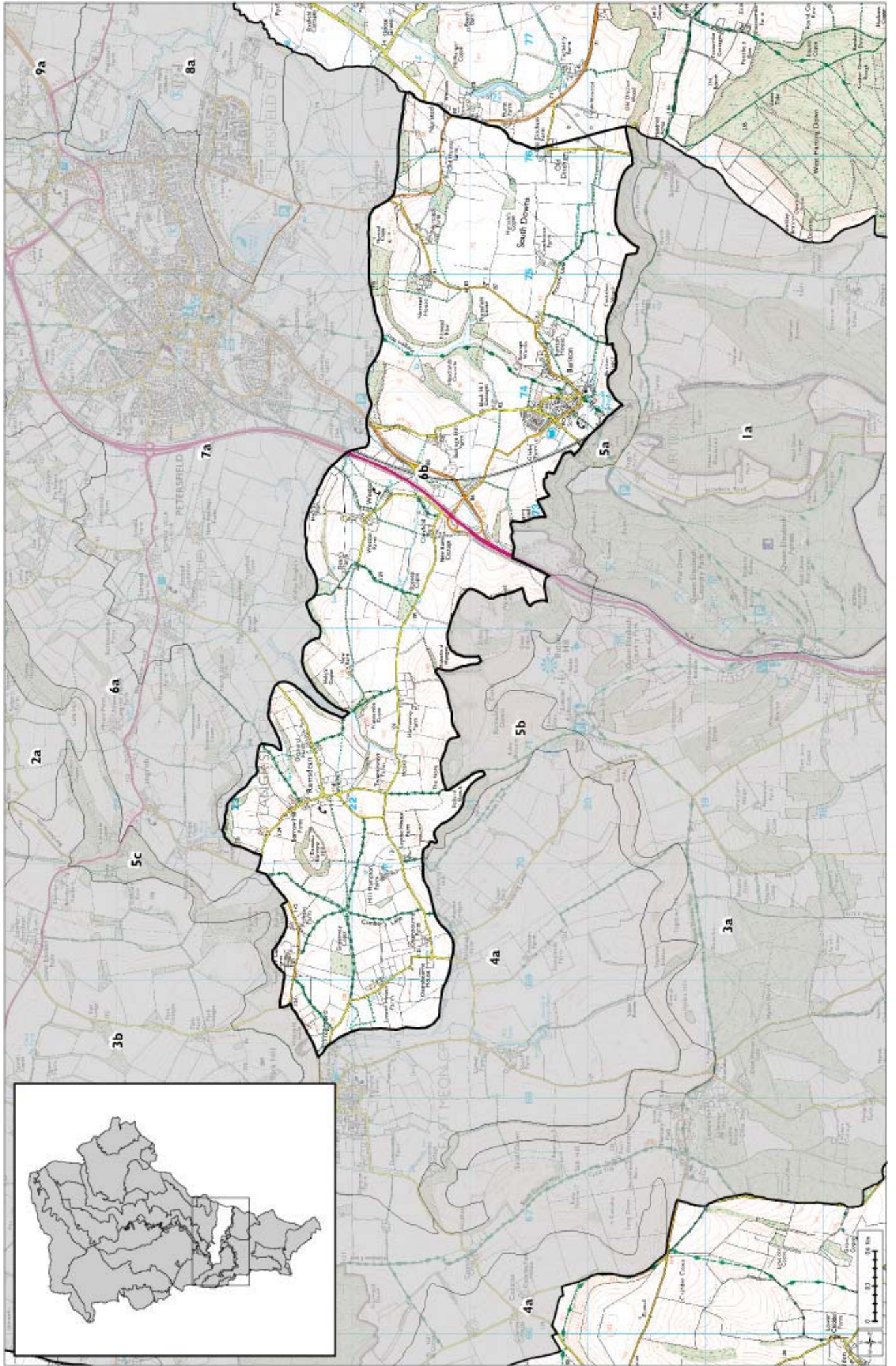
Development Considerations

- Conserve the nucleated form and rural character of the villages and maintain the low level of dispersed settlement.
- Ensure that any built development reflects the local vernacular - develop design guidance to help resist suburban style garden boundaries, kerbs, and lighting.

Consider opportunities for more sensitive methods of traffic calming within the rural area, particularly at the approaches to villages.

- Ensure new farm buildings are sensitively integrated into the landscape through careful siting and screening of storage structures and working areas.
- Conserve traditional farm buildings and maintain their external fabric, appearance and setting.
- Conserve the character of the sunken lanes – seek to reduce traffic pressures and avoid road improvements which would alter the character of these ancient lanes.

Character Area 6b: Ramsdean to Buriton





6B: Ramsdean to Buriton Greensand Terrace

Location and Boundaries

- 6B.1 The *Ramsdean to Buriton Greensand Terrace* character area is a distinctive broad Upper Greensand ‘terrace’ extending as a shelf from the adjacent chalk scarp and extending northwards to the Rother Valley. The southern boundary is marked by the steeply rising escarpment, with the northern boundary defined by a minor scarp slope which represents the edge of the Greensand terrace. The character area forms the widest part of the Greensand terrace which extends eastwards across the district boundary.

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

Key Characteristics

- A terrace formed from Upper Greensand with a locally prominent northern escarpment above the Rother Valley.
- Fertile and well drained grey loamy soils support a consistent landuse of predominantly arable farming. Occasional remnants of former hop growing in the form of kilns/oasts.
- Cut by a number of narrow, steep sided valleys formed by small streams that rise from springs at the foot of the chalk escarpment and flow northwards towards the River Rother.
- The sandstone geology gives rise to sunken lanes which link the scattered farms and villages. These lanes are noticeably marked where they descend the local Greensand scarp down to the Rother Valley.
- A diversity of field patterns and enclosure including small irregular fields carved from woodland indicative of medieval assarts at Nursted Copse.
- Contrast provided between the more open arable fields and intimacy and enclosure created by the sinuous bands of woodland and narrow stream valleys.
- Occasional woodlands (e.g Nurstead Copse and Bopeep Copse) and a well developed hedgerow network provide valuable ecological features.
- A strong sense of rural tranquillity resulting from the absence of overt human impact and a low density of settlement.
- Low density of settlement is characterised by small nucleated medieval settlements as at Ramsdean and Buriton.
- Cut by the A3 (T) which fragments the terrace and has a strong visual and audible influence in the central part of the area.
- Building materials are typically local ‘Malmstone’, with red and yellow brick detailing, and clay tile roofs.

- Dramatic views of the chalk escarpment to the south.

Physical Landscape

- 6B.2 The *Ramsdean to Buriton Greensand Terrace* is formed from the Upper Greensand Formation which lies between the rising slopes of the chalk scarp (Buriton Scarp) and the gently undulating clay lowland of the Rother Valley. The Upper Greensand (known locally as Malmstone) is exposed as a distinctive 'shelf' or 'terrace' at the foot of the chalk. This sandy rock is more resistant to erosion than the neighbouring Gault Clays and this has resulted in a locally prominent escarpment at its junction with the Gault Clay.
- 6B.3 This character area is more consistent in character along its length than the *Selborne Greensand Terrace (6A)* as a result of the fertile, generally well drained loamy soils which are classified as Grade 3 in the agricultural classification and which support a consistent land use of predominantly arable farming. The presence of former hop growing areas is evidenced by hop kilns/oasts. The character area contains few hanger woodlands, although narrow strips of woodland occur alongside streams. The occasional ancient woodlands are important visual and biodiversity features, for example at Nursted Copse and Bopeep Copse.
- 6B.4 The terrace is cut by a number of narrow, steep sided valleys formed by small streams (e.g. Criddell Stream) that rise from springs at the foot of the chalk escarpment and flow northwards towards the River Rother. These streams contribute to the undulations in the landform. Drift deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel occur in association with the streams. Locally the landscape is more undulating to the west of the A3.

Perceptual/Experiential Landscape

- 6B.5 A landscape of open arable fields contrasting with the more intimate and enclosing sinuous bands of woodland within the narrow stream valleys. Within the open areas there are dramatic views to the chalk escarpment and, at the edges of the *Terrace*, there are views across the adjacent lower lying farmland of the Rother Valley. The area has strong historic links with the adjacent downs.
- 6B.6 Despite being cut by the A3 (T) and the railway line, this character area has a strong sense of rural tranquillity resulting from the general absence of overt human impact and a low density of settlement. The A3 does, however sever the terrace into two separate parts and locally has a high visual and aural impact.
- 6B.7 Although there is no open access land or common land, a network of rights of way including part of the Hangers Way serves the area. There are also distinctive ancient lanes sunk deeply into the sandstone.
- 6B.8 The area contains a number of locally listed parks and gardens including Maple Durham, Buriton Manor, Buriton House and Nursted House.

Biodiversity

- 6B.9 The character area is dominated by arable land with some woodland cover. Scattered copses occur with some ancient woodland (Nursted Copse SINC and

Bopeep Copse SINC), including occasional narrow sinuous woodland on the slopes of the narrow stream valleys. These hanger woodland are not as frequent or extensive as those on the Selborne Greensand Terrace (6A).

- 6B.10 A well developed hedgerow network, plus the small stream corridors contribute to the area's biodiversity.

Historic Character

- 6B.11 The character area lies on the generally fertile Upper Greensand, located between the Rother Valley (to the north) and the chalk uplands (to the south). It is likely to have supported settlement for millennia. Evidence for prehistoric settlement is sparse across the character area, although this is probably the result of deposits being buried beneath several thousand years' worth of hillwash, a process exacerbated by early woodland clearance of the adjacent downland and scarp slopes. In addition, any prehistoric landscape elements that may have escaped subsequent burial would have been vulnerable to centuries of arable cultivation. Barrow Hill is a locally prominent tumulus, near Ramsdean.
- 6B.12 Roman villas were established at the centre of extensive agricultural estates, the boundaries of which often formed the basis for later Saxon and medieval manorial estates. Although there are no examples of Roman Villa within the character area, although their influence is likely to have extended to the area.
- 6B.13 The medieval settlement pattern reflected and developed that of earlier centuries, forming a string of nucleated settlements comprising farmsteads clustered around a church and set within an area of open fields, primarily farmed communally, with parishes stretching from river valley up onto chalkland. The settlement at Buriton at the foot of the scarp is a good example. The bulk of the terrace was enclosed, probably between the 15th-17th centuries. A small area of early enclosures and assets survives in the north east part of the area associated with Nursted House.
- 6B.14 Woodland survives as small field copses and some linear woodland on steeper slopes, although this is not extensive indicative of earlier clearance of the land for agriculture. There are no examples of major designed landscapes, i.e. gentry houses and landscape parks. This is probably a reflection of the agricultural value of the land – however, there are several small parks, such as Nursted House, recognised on the Hampshire local register of historic parks and gardens.

Settlement Form and Built Character

- 6B.15 The typical settlement form comprises small nucleated villages, usually of mid-late Saxon origin but often incorporating earlier landscape elements indicating a much longer continuity of occupation. The villages form a 'zone of preferred settlement', situated on the best soils but with access to other resource types such as valley floor and chalk downland.
- 6B.16 The nucleated village of Buriton, clustered around a church, lies at the foot of the scarp foot. Other settlement clusters occur at Ramsdean and Weston. Otherwise there is an extremely low level of dispersed settlement of farmsteads linked by a rural lane network.

6B.17 Building materials are typically local ‘Malmstone’, with red and yellow brick detailing, and clay tile roofs.

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities

6B.18 Key sensitivities include:

- The large area of assarts around Nursted Copse which are important in providing time depth, and contributing to the intimate scale of the landscape.
- Copses and hanger woodland hangers, for example Nursted Copse and Bopeep Copse.
- Locally listed parks and gardens including, Buriton Manor, Buriton House and Nursted House.
- Dramatic views of the chalk escarpment and views across the Rother Valley.
- Stream valleys that dissect the terrace.
- The sunken lanes which provide a sense of antiquity and provide exposures of the underlying bedrock geology.
- The small nucleated villages, usually of mid-late Saxon origin, with building materials reflecting local geology.
- The strong sense of tranquillity in parts of the area and a low density of settlement.

6B.19 The gently undulating landform, hidden valleys and presence of woodland limits visual sensitivity of the landscape as changes could be screened by these existing elements. There is also some opportunity to mitigate potential visual impacts through appropriate new planting which would not significantly alter the character of the area. However, the terrace is clearly visible from the adjacent chalk scarps which enhances their visual sensitivity. The Greensand scarp edges, which are visible from adjacent areas, are also visually sensitive.

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

6B.20 **The overall management objective should be to conserve the Terrace as distinct rural landscape between the chalk scarp and Rother Valley, with its pattern of farmland and woodland and contrast between the openness of the arable fields and intimacy/enclosure created by the woodland copses and narrow stream valleys.**

Landscape Management Considerations

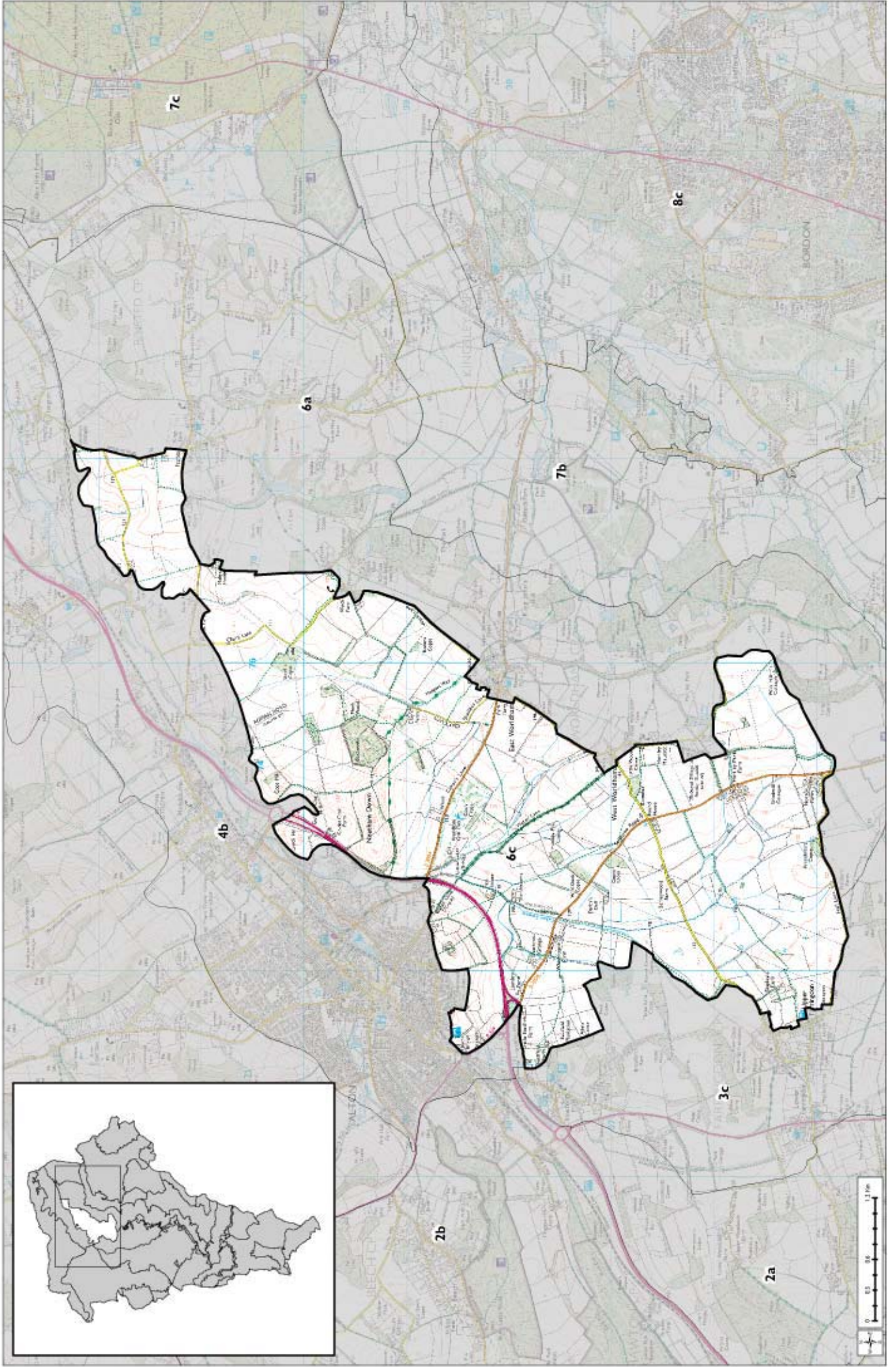
- Conserve the field and woodland patterns associated with the area of assarts around Nursted Copse – conserve and manage field boundaries that define the field pattern.

- Continue to manage woodland and plan for long term woodland regeneration. Consider re-introducing traditional management techniques such as coppicing where these have been lost and promote opportunities for productive woodland management.
- Conserve and restore characteristic landscape features such as unimproved grassland, traditional orchards, hedgerows and small woodlands and built features such as hop kilns.
- Encourage management and restoration of hedgerows and monitor regeneration of hedgerow trees, planting new trees where necessary. Encourage management of trees and shrubs alongside sunken lanes and sensitive management of road verges for their botanical interest.
- Encourage the management and protection of the small valleys and streams. Ensure that water abstraction does not result in loss of springs and encourage the establishment of an uncultivated strip adjacent to streams to enhance biodiversity interest.
- Conserve the setting of the many small parks such as, Buriton Manor, Buriton House and Nursted House recognised on East Hampshire's register of local historic parks and gardens.
- Conserve the dramatic views of the chalk escarpment and views across the Rother Valley.
- Discourage inappropriate use of historic lanes and tracks by motorised vehicles.

Development Considerations

- Conserve the nucleated form and rural character of the villages and maintain the low level of dispersed settlement.
- Ensure that any built development reflects the local vernacular – develop design guidance to help resist suburban style garden boundaries, kerbs, and lighting.
- Ensure new farm buildings are sensitively integrated into the landscape through careful siting and screening of storage structures and working areas.
- Conserve traditional farm buildings and maintain their external fabric, appearance and setting.
- Conserve the character of the sunken lanes – seek to reduce traffic pressures and road improvements which would alter the character of these ancient lanes.

Character Area 6c: Worldham





6C: Worldham Greensand Terrace

Location and Boundaries

- 6C.1 The Worldham character area lies in the north of the district on the flatter land of the Upper Greensand belt to the south of the Wey Valley. It is defined to the west by the 110 m contour line representing the transition to chalk. The eastern edge is defined by the boundary of the South Downs National Park, which marks a change to the more wooded and undulating Selborne Greensand Terrace (6a). To the north the terrace borders the Wey Valley. The area includes a small chalk outlier at Neatham Down.

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

Key Characteristics

- A flat to gently sloping landform of Upper Greensand contained to the west by chalk hills.
- An open landscape dominated by medium to large fields of pasture and arable agriculture.
- Drained by a number of small tributaries of the Wey (e.g. Caker Stream).
- Poplar shelter belts indicate where hops were formerly grown. Old hop kilns have frequently been converted to residential use.
- Oak hedgerow trees are distinctive landscape features, plus willow pollards alongside the stream and ditches.
- Generally an absence of woodland with a single block of ancient woodland occurring at Monk Wood.
- Ditches as well as hedgerows are a common boundary feature.
- A landscape of early enclosure with a small block of recent planned enclosure of 18th-19th century date between East Worldham and Alton (now partly occupied by Worldham Golf Course).
- Absence of settlement with no villages and only a scattering of isolated farmsteads set within early enclosures. The villages of East and West Worldham are located on the boundary of the character area on the edge of the Rother Valley.
- No open access land but the area is crossed by a number of footpaths including the Hangers Way. Worldham Golf Course is a prominent recreational feature.
- From the chalk hills to the north, at Neatham there are views across the Wey Valley. Otherwise there are open views across arable farmland. The wooded escarpment at Selborne is a prominent backdrop feature to the south.
- Crossed by a number of rural lanes some of which are sunken.

- A peaceful landscape, interrupted by visually prominent pylon lines.

Physical Landscape

- 6C.2 Lying predominantly on Upper Greensand, the landform appears almost flat but gently slopes westward towards the River Wey. The transition to chalk on the western edge of the character area produces some variation in landform represented by hills on the edge of Alton e.g. Neatham Down and Lynch Hill, which form small chalk outliers prominent within this otherwise flat, open landscape. The character area is drained by a number of small tributaries to the Wey, which flow within shallow valleys.
- 6C.3 The well-drained loamy soils support landscape of early-enclosed medium to large sized fields in both pasture and arable cultivation. Field boundaries are varied - sometimes defined by intact well-maintained hedgerows and sometimes no boundary exists between field and road. Ditches also divide fields and occur alongside roads. Lines of trees are characteristic with poplars acting as windbreaks, willow pollard and oak hedgerow trees are important features.
- 6C.4 Woodland is scarce with infrequent copses and one significant area of ancient woodland at Monk Wood.
- 6C.5 Along the eastern edge of the character area, deeply sunken lanes have eroded into and exposed the sandstone geology.

Perceptual/Experiential Landscape

- 6C.6 This is a smooth, simple and open landscape allowing long views across arable fields.
- 6C.7 It is a peaceful landscape with no major roads and a virtual absence of settlement. The sense of tranquillity is reduced by the pylons which are visually prominent in the open landscape and by the presence of prominent farm buildings, some of which have been converted to industrial uses. The B roads - Selborne Road and Caker's Lane are a source of noise and movement within the landscape.
- 6C.8 There are no areas of open access but a number of footpaths cross the area including the Hangers Way. Worldham Golf course is a recreational feature.
- 6C.9 Hop growing has declined in this area but the characteristic poplars indicate where the hop gardens once existed. In response to changes in the brewing industry hop growers have turned to lavender and rosemary which can be grown using the same specialist equipment. Diversification of this kind is apparent in this landscape.

Biodiversity

- 6C.10 The character area is dominated by fields in active agricultural use. The landscape is poorly wooded, with only occasional small blocks of planted woodland, that includes poplar shelterbelts. A single small block of ancient woodland, Monk Wood SINC, occurs on the slopes of Neatham Down. Remnant areas of neutral grassland occur infrequently, together with very local areas of calcareous grassland associated with the chalk.

6C.11 Hedgerows boundaries are present throughout, and are characterised by occasional mature standard oak trees. Ditches are also a common boundary feature.

Historic Character

6C.12 This landscape is dominated by early enclosure (late medieval –post-medieval) apart from small block of recent planned enclosure of 18th-19th century date on a spur of land between East Worldham and Alton (now partly occupied by Worldham Golf Course). A large area of enclosed valley floor along a tributary of the Wey (Caker Stream) is represented by small enclosures of various shapes, probably of post-medieval date. The deserted medieval settlement at Hartley Mauditt, on the boundary of the character area is an SAM.

Key Historic Characteristics

- Absence of woodland apart from localised block of pre-1800 woodland at Monk Wood.
- Few archaeological monuments - no SAMs, but a series of earthwork enclosures exist within Monk Wood.
- Absence of historic parkland reflecting the agricultural emphasis of the landscape.

Settlement Form and Built Character

6C.13 There is a very low density of settlement with no villages and only a scattering of small isolated farmsteads set within early enclosures. Farmsteads may be of medieval origin. Characteristic building materials include Malmstone, red brick and clay tiles. Farm buildings are often corrugated iron.

EVALUATION

Landscape and Visual Sensitivities

6C.14 Key sensitivities include:

- The single block of ancient woodland at Monk Wood.
- The small tributaries and ditches which drain the landscape.
- Characteristic lines of poplars (which are indicative of past land use) and oak hedgerow trees.
- Open views across farmland and the Wey Valley.
- Sunken lanes which reveal the bedrock geology.
- The unsettled and empty character of the landscape.

6C.15 This open almost flat landscape with scarce woodland cover is visually sensitive. The pylons which already exist in this character area are highly visible. There may however be opportunity to mitigate potential visual impacts through appropriate new planting that could be connected to existing small woodland copses without

significantly altering the character of the area. Views from the higher land of the adjacent Upper Greensand and chalk landscapes are also sensitive.

Landscape Strategy and Guidelines

6C.16 Conserve the open, unsettled character of the landscape which allows broad views across predominantly fields bound by hedgerows and ditches.

Landscape Management Considerations

- Encourage management and restoration of hedgerows and monitor regeneration of hedgerow trees, planting new trees where necessary. Conserve and manage ditches where these form field boundaries.
- Maintain distinctive tree lines of poplars and shelterbelts.
- Manage isolated blocks of woodland for long-term woodland regeneration. Consider linking woodland and hedgerows to improve visual unity and to create wildlife corridors.
- Consider opportunities to enhance the land use of the chalk outlier including options for chalk grassland restoration.

Development Considerations

- Maintain the unsettled character. Monitor incremental development associated with the edge of Alton.
- Ensure sympathetic conversion of farm buildings, which are often highly prominent in this open landscape.
- Conserve the character of sunken lanes and verges – seek to reduce traffic pressures and road improvements which would alter the character of these sunken lanes.