



Landscape Character Areas

B1 Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland

B2 Queen Elizabeth Forest to East Dean
Wooded Estate Downland

B3 Stansted to West Dean Wooded Estate Downland

B4 Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

B:Wooded Estate Downlands

LANDSCAPE TYPE B: WOODED ESTATE DOWNLAND

- B.1 A distinctive ridge of chalk dominated by large woodland blocks and estates in the central part of the South Downs extending from the Hampshire/West Sussex border in the west to Worthing in the east.

DESCRIPTION

Integrated Key Characteristics:

- Chalk geology forming an elevated ridge with typical folded downland topography, with isolated patches of clay-with-flints (part of a former more extensive clay cap) which has given rise to acidic soils.
- Supports extensive woodland including semi-natural ancient woodland plus beech, mixed and commercial coniferous plantation. The extensive woodland cover creates a distinctive dark horizon in views from the south.
- Woodland is interlocked with straight-sided, irregular open arable fields linked by hedgerows. A sporting landscape with woodland managed for shooting and areas of cover crops for game.
- Woodland cover creates an enclosed landscape with contained views, occasionally contrasting with dramatic long distance views from higher, more open elevations.
- Occasional areas of unimproved chalk grassland are found on the steeper slopes and ridge tops, for example at Harting Downs.
- Ancient settlement earthworks, field systems and other archaeological features are often buried beneath the woodland.
- Large number of prehistoric and later earthworks providing a strong sense of historical continuity; round barrows, cross-ridge dykes and forts situated on the ridge-line form important landmark features.
- Settlement pattern is characterised by villages and shrunken hamlets of Saxon or early medieval origin interspersed by scattered farmsteads of 18th-19th century origin. Chalk flint is the dominant building material, often edged with red brick.
- A landscape transformed in the 18th century with the establishment of great landed estates, with much of the downland bought up to create large holdings and planted up with woodland for economic and aesthetic reasons. The area remains an estate landscape with strong sporting traditions.
- Large number of designed parkland landscapes with important visual influences – estate walls, avenues, follies as at Stansted, Uppark, Goodwood, Arundel.

- A deeply rural secluded landscape with large tracts devoid of roads and settlement.

Physical Landscape

- B.2 This landscape type occurs in the central part of the South Downs, on the Upper and Middle Chalk ridge and dipslope. The chalk has been eroded to form significant undulations along the ridgeline, and the dipslope has been furrowed by dry valleys which create deep rounded coombes that appear as dramatic undulations in the surface of the downs. The surface of the chalk is capped, in places, by a capping of clay-with-flints which are the remnants of a once much larger clay capping. This has given rise to soils, varying from well drained calcareous soils to slightly acidic silty and clayey soils.
- B.3 The slightly acidic, heavier soils typically support woodland, including oak, birch and holly while the calcareous flint soils support beech. Beech and yew hanger woodland is a particularly distinctive feature of the steepest slopes. The more easily cultivated soils of the shallower dipslopes often support large arable fields which interlock with the woodland. Throughout the area plantation woodland associated with the estate landscapes is a feature.

Perceptual/Experiential Landscape

- B.4 The rolling chalk landform, extensive woodland plantations and vast fields contribute to a perception of a large scale and simple landscape. Within this landscape type there are significant contrasts between the densely wooded parts, which conveys a strong sense of enclosure and remoteness, and the open hilltops allowing expansive views. Woodland and arable land uses are interlinked along angular lines which contrast with the smoothly rolling landform. The extensive wooded ridges create distinctive dark horizons in views from the south. The colours of the beech woods and cereal crops provide seasonal change.
- B.5 Although this landscape type contains large blocks of coniferous woodland alongside intensive agricultural production, it has a strong sense of remoteness as a result of its low noise levels, sparse settlement, large areas of semi-natural woodland, and few overt built human impacts, notably few roads.
- B.6 The landscape type typically includes areas of land in public ownership, often associated with plantations, plus open access land which coincides with areas of chalk grassland. Access is enhanced by a good network of public rights of way.
- B.7 Perhaps surprisingly, the *Wooded Estate Downland* has attracted less attention than the *Open Downland* landscapes as a source of literary and artistic inspiration. William Blake's famous lines about 'England's green and pleasant land' (1804-1810) are reputed to have been inspired by views across this landscape from the *Earl of March* pub at Lavant.

Biodiversity

- B.8 This landscape type has retained significant ancient woodland cover, which together with extensive areas of broadleaved, mixed and plantation woodland create a strongly wooded character of the landscape. Arable fields occur within the wooded

matrix and occasional areas of unimproved chalk grassland are found on the steeper slopes and ridge tops.

- B.9 The woodland resource includes a number of ecologically important hanger woodlands dominated by beech, ash and yew, as well as mixed beech woodland associated with the deeper calcareous flint soils and mixed oak woodland on the poorly draining clay soils. The ecological importance of these woodlands is recognised through designation of many as county wildlife sites and/or SSSIs.
- B.10 Local areas of unimproved chalk grassland provide important habitat diversity and the relatively intact hedgerow network around the arable fields have an important function in linking small woodlands to the larger woodland blocks.

| Key Biodiversity Features | Importance |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Extensive areas of woodland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprises a wide range of woodland types including hanger woodland, with some nationally important sites. Includes internationally important woodland types such as yew and beech woodland. |
| Calcareous grassland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small areas of open chalk grassland occur on the steeper slopes, where active management has prevented scrub and woodland encroachment. |

Historic Character

- B.11 The *Wooded Estate Downland* landscape has been favoured for settlement 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. Agricultural communities continued to clear the tree cover and farm the downland on an increasing scale until the Romano-British period, leaving extensive traces of their field systems and settlements across the landscape, although the tree clearance was probably less thorough than further east. The land was also valued as a ritual landscape, with a number of different monuments constructed, including round barrows, cross-ridge dykes. Many of these sites were prominently located on, or just below, the ridge-line and are still visible in the modern landscape, often in clearings within the modern woodland. Many of them have been used since the early medieval period as significant markers on parish boundaries. There is some evidence to suggest that further tree clearance of the woodland on the heavier clay soils was undertaken by Romano-British farmers who had the benefit of improved ploughing technology to tackle the heavy soils.
- B.12 Subsequently, centuries of arable cultivation exhausted the downland soils on the ridges, and the landscape was given over to pasture. It is likely that woodland regenerated on the heavier clay soils.
- B.13 A sheep-corn husbandry system developed throughout the medieval period, with huge communal sheep flocks pastured on the downland 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 eastern downs. The pasture was less extensive due to the increased woodland cover, and sheep were often required to graze common wood pastures, together with cattle and pigs, producing a pastoral

system reminiscent of the Weald. The woodland was exploited for a wide range of craft industries.

- B.14 The downs were also used to a great extent for hunting, with a number of medieval deer parks recorded. Much of this land was not available for agriculture, although areas of commonland were accessible.
- B.15 The greatest transformation of the landscape took place from the 18th century with the establishment of large landed estates, which remain the dominant influence on the character of the landscape today. The new landowners were extremely wealthy and bought up much of the downland to create vast holdings across the dipslope and ridge. Extensive blocks of new woodland were planted around the existing core of pre-1600 ancient woodland, for both economic reasons as sources of timber but also as an aesthetic improvement of the landscape. The downland around the woodland was enclosed at this time, and much of these regular enclosures survive, together with isolated farmsteads, often built to a common plan and painted in estate liveries.
- B.16 The character of the *Wooded Estate Downland* today is still that of a well-ordered 18th-19th century estate landscape. The downs are dominated by the extensive beechwoods, both the original pre-1800 woodland core (much of it of medieval origin) and the post-1800 plantations. The open areas between are largely filled with recent enclosures of 18th-19th century date, typified by regular blocks of fields set around isolated farmsteads. Some areas were further transformed from the 1950s onwards when modern farming techniques allowed the downland to be ploughed up for arable crops.

| Key Features of the Historic Environment | Importance |
|---|---|
| Recent enclosure | Forms part of post-1800 gentrification of the landscape |
| Absence of large-scale settlement | Indicates marginal nature of landscape |
| Scattered post-medieval farmsteads | Indicates the changing nature of farming practice following decline of traditional manorial system |
| Medieval deer parks | Historic importance of the area for hunting – fore runner to the 18 th century estates |
| Survival of significant blocks of pre-1800 woodland | Provides evidence of medieval and early post-medieval woodland exploitation, e.g. coppicing and charcoal burning |
| Extensive areas of post-1800 woodland plantations | Forms part of post-1800 gentrification of the landscape |
| Post 1900 plantation woodland | Provides evidence for the post-war planting of woodlands e.g. by the Forestry Commission |
| Presence of designed landscapes | Provide evidence of gentry houses and landscape parks of the wealthy population of the past – many are listed on the English Heritage register of Historic Parks and Gardens. |
| 18 th century landed estates | Provides evidence of the great transformation of the landscape in the 18th century which remains the dominant influence on the character of the landscape today |

Settlement Form and Built Character

- B.17 The settlement pattern in the *Wooded Estate Downland* is characterised by a low density of dispersed settlement, with a scatter of nucleated settlement in sheltered areas. This conforms to English Heritage's rural settlement designation of East Wessex Sub-Province within the South-eastern Province, where the dominant

settlement form comprises nucleated villages (mostly situated beyond the boundaries of the *Wooded Estate Downland*).

- B.18 The dominant 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, as well as grand 18th century houses set within parkland landscapes. Villages are Saxon or early medieval in origin and some of the farmsteads represent former medieval hamlets which have subsequently shrunk. The grand country houses are set within parkland landscapes that display the 18th century picturesque landscape style. Repton, who designed the parklands of Uppark, adopted the principle that the horizon should be wooded and was responsible for some of the woodland planting at this time. More information in relation to the evolution of the area around Chalton can be found in *Cunliffe B (1973) Chalton, Hants: the evolution of a landscape, The Antiquaries Journal, 53 Part 2, 173-190*.
- B.19 Building materials are typically flint, red brick and clay tiles – flint is the most important and distinctive building material in this landscape type.

EVALUATION

Sensitivity

- B.20 This landscape type has a number of sensitive natural, cultural and aesthetic/perceptual features that are vulnerable to change. Key landscape sensitivities include:
- The large areas of ancient woodland which have a rich ground flora and contribute to the distinctly wooded and deeply rural character.
 - Rare yew forests, chalk heath and juniper scrub which require careful management to ensure their survival.
 - The large scale of the landscape created by the landform, extensive commercial forestry plantations, and vast fields bounded by hedgerows.
 - Areas of chalk grassland which are of great biodiversity interest and which are vulnerable to changes in management and require consistent grazing regimes.
 - The strong sense of remoteness arising from the extensive woodlands, relatively limited access by car, and low density of dispersed settlement.
 - Intact hedgerow network with hedgerow trees which are of biodiversity interest and create a strong landscape pattern as well as seclusion and enclosure – these could be vulnerable to field re-organisation.
 - The 18th-19th farms, including traditional flint and brick barns, which could be vulnerable to insensitive changes.
 - The grand country houses set within parkland landscapes that display the 18th century picturesque landscape style.
 - Prehistoric and later earthworks and monuments, including round barrows and cross-ridge dykes, which provide a strong sense of ‘time-depth’. Some are

enshrouded by woodland and others are vulnerable to erosion of setting through intensive agricultural practices.

- B.21 The high proportion of woodland cover in this landscape type limits visual sensitivity of the landscape. The prominent undeveloped ridges and hills are the most visually sensitive part of the landscape. The panoramic viewpoints from ridges and hilltops are also sensitive.

Change – Key Issues and Trends

Past Change

- B.22 Some of the most fundamental changes to this landscape occurred in the 18th/19th centuries with the establishment of estates, large scale planting of woodland and enclosure of fields. However, more recent changes include:
- Planting of fast growing trees in the 1920s to rebuilt timber reserves after the First World War – many of these were used for the paper pulp and fencing markets.
 - Gradual decline in traditional woodland management techniques (such as coppicing) as forestry has concentrated on coniferous rotations.
 - Reduction in revenue from forestry resulting in fewer numbers of forestry workers and decline in woodland management over the past 20 years.
 - Changes in the composition and structure of lowland beech and yew woodland as a result of damage by grey squirrels, deer browsing, and invasive species including sycamore, rhododendron, Turkey oak and cherry laurel.
 - Increased recreational provision associated with the opportunities in the beech and conifer plantations since the 1960s, including improved access.
 - Storm damage as a result of the 1987 storms.
 - Recent increases in traffic on the few roads that cross the central part of the South Downs.
 - Introduction of large scale development such as chalk quarries, reservoirs and pylons within the landscape.
 - Conversion of historic farm buildings to residential use.

Future Landscape Change

- B.23 In the short term (5 years) it is likely that tree cover will continue to change, particularly in relation to commercial forestry plantations. Continued positive change may occur in the form of conversion of arable land back to pasture and creation and management of chalk grassland habitats, juniper scrub, and yew woodland as a result of ongoing policies and incentives. However, global agricultural competition is likely to continue to hamper efforts to reinstate sheep grazing which is necessary for the management of chalk grassland. Patterns of crops in the arable areas are also likely to continue to change - some of these crops can have a sudden

impact e.g. oil seed rape adds bright splash of yellow to an otherwise muted landscape.

- B.24 It is difficult to be prescriptive about long term change (20 years) as this will be dependent on prevailing policies and incentives. The South Downs Management Plan will be a key tool in managing change and ensuring a positive future for the landscape. Some potential changes and key vulnerabilities within the *Wooded Estate Downland* are outlined below.

Climate Change: Potential adverse change could include changes in the species composition of habitats affecting the ancient woodlands, chalk grasslands, and juniper scrub. In terms of grassland, this could result in a greater abundance of grassland species with a continental distribution, but the impact of extreme events and the spread of more competitive grasses could cancel out these benefits. Wind damage, due to increases in severe gales is another concern - the predominance of the older age classes in much beech high forest may increase the susceptibility of the beech population to damage from droughts and storms. However, wind blow in some areas may be positive, enabling an increase in species diversity.

In the arable areas increased drought conditions could result in the potential to grow different crop types such as maize and soya which could change the visual character of the landscape. Higher temperatures could also lead to incidence of different livestock pests and possible increased use of pesticides if pests and pathogens increase.

In response to climate change, the pursuit of renewable energy may result in demand for wind energy development along the prominent ridgeline, which could alter the sense of tranquillity and remoteness associated with this landscape. There may also be demand for growth of biomass crops. Future improved management of woodlands for fuel may also be a positive benefit.

Agricultural Change and Land Management: Agricultural management will be driven by the changes in the world market and the CAP. It is possible that this area, which is dominated by extensive areas of land managed as large estates, may be less vulnerable to market forces and trends towards amalgamation or conversely subdivision of farmland. Positive landscape change could result from regimes to promote enhanced environmental management of woodland and chalk grassland habitats. For example, the South Downs Forest Design Plan proposes to restore a large proportion of plantations on ancient woodlands to native species as well as the restoration of chalk grassland habitat in specific areas which will have the benefit of revealing the hidden historic landscape that currently lies beneath the woodland.

Development: The landscape type is characterised by the absence of development and strong pressures for further built development are not envisaged. There may, however, be pressure for development of further recreational facilities.

Broad Management Objective and Landscape Guidelines

- B.25 **The overall management objective should be to conserve the large scale landscape mosaic of woodland (including distinctive yew and beech woods), chalk grassland, and farmland, and the deeply rural secluded**

character. The historic parkland and designed landscapes associated with the eighteenth century estates should also be conserved.

Landscape Management Considerations

- Conserve the large scale mosaic of distinctive beechwoods, ancient woodlands and hedgerows that enclose open arable fields, all of which create a bold, distinctive identity. Management should follow the relevant Forestry Commission guidance.
- Encourage re-planting of native broadleaved species as coniferous woodlands are felled. Encourage sensitive forestry practice. Consider the impact of forestry operations on views, avoiding harsh edges and fragmented blocks which could be at odds with this large scale rolling landscape.
- Manage woodland to ensure a diverse species and age structure to minimise risk of damage as a result of increased storms and high winds. 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 and create a strong landscape pattern linking into the woodland as well as contributing to seclusion and enclosure. Create buffer strips along hedgerows, monitor regeneration of hedgerow trees and consider re-planting where necessary.
- Maintain and increase the species diversity of areas of semi-improved grassland, which act as a reservoir for more common chalk downland species.
- Protect and continue to manage the existing chalk grassland, through appropriate grazing regimes and management of scrub. Seek to extend areas of chalk grassland, particularly around archaeological sites, and aim to link sites. This will also help to ensure prehistoric and later earthworks are visible and provide a strong sense of historical continuity.
- Consider the potential visual impact of different crop types, including biomass crops, which may become part of this landscape in the future.
- Avoid 'improvements' that would alter the rural character of the unmarked lanes.
- Conserve historic designed landscapes, and their settings, encouraging the management/ restoration of permanent pasture, parkland trees, avenues and clumps of trees.
- Maintain, or create, vistas to important landscape features such as the designed parklands, large houses, distinctive tree clumps, and archaeological features.
- Maintain the network of bridleways and public and consider further opportunities for recreation and access to this less well visited part of the South Downs.

Development Considerations

- Conserve the very low density of settlement and road access, and consequent strong sense of remoteness associated with the *Wooded Estate Downland*.

- Maintain clear, undeveloped ridges and skylines – particularly those that are that are visible from adjacent landscapes. Avoid siting tall structures on the sensitive skyline.
- Consider views from the ridge in association with any change in adjacent areas, for example in the scarp footslopes to the north. Pay particular attention to the panoramic views from the popular viewpoints.
- Maintain the distinctive estate livery of isolated 18th and 19th century farmhouses and traditional flint barns so as to maintain their external fabric, appearance and setting. Refer to guidance contained in the Historic Farmsteads study¹⁸.
- Seek opportunities to reduce the visual impact of existing visually intrusive elements on the downs such as prominent electricity pylons.

| Character Areas | |
|---|--|
| There are four areas of <i>Wooded Estate Downland</i> in the South Downs. These are all located in the central part of the South Downs. | |
| B1: | Goodwood To Arundel Wooded Estate Downland |
| B2: | Queen Elizabeth Forest to East Dean Wooded Estate Downland |
| B3: | Stansted to West Dean Wooded Estate Downland |
| B4: | Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland |

¹⁸ Forum Heritage Services (2005) *Historic Farmsteads & Landscape Character in Hampshire, Pilot Project*. Report by Bob Edwards for English Heritage.

BI: GOODWOOD TO ARUNDEL WOODED ESTATE DOWNLAND

Location and Boundaries

- BI.1 The character area comprises the rolling downs on the dipslope to the south of the east – west running Lavant Valley. The western and northern boundaries are defined by the convoluted edge of the Lavant Valley, the eastern boundary is defined by the Arun Valley, and the southern boundary is defined by the edge of South Downs, coincident with the transition to the coastal plain. There are some views from this area northwards across the Lavant Valley, eastwards into the Arun Valley, and southwards across the Coastal Plain.

Integrated Key Characteristics:

- Folded downland topography masked by large woodland blocks including oak, birch and holly on the thicker soils, and beech dominating on thinner soils.
- Rare yew and beech woodland at Fairmile Bottom, plus a number of chalk grassland sites contribute to biodiversity.
- A landscape transformed in the 18th century with the establishment of great landed estates of Goodwood and Arundel, with much of the downland bought up to create vast holdings and planted up with woodland for economic and aesthetic reasons.
- Woodland is interlocked with straight-sided, irregular open arable fields linked by thick hedgerows.
- Rare survival of ancient settlement, field systems and other archaeological features beneath the woodland, for example the earthworks at Rewell Wood and Bexley Bushes.
- Iron Age hill fort (The Trundle) on St Roche's Hill provides a strong sense of historical continuity and an important landmark feature with commanding views over the coastal plain to the south.
- A low density of dispersed settlement, characterised by scattered farmsteads – most of 18th-19th century origin – plus nucleated villages of Anglo-Saxon origin at Slindon and Eartham.
- Goodwood racecourse stadium is a highly visible landmark on the downs.
- Large number of designed parkland landscapes and remnant deer parks with important visual influences – estate walls, avenues, follies as at Arundel, Goodwood, West Dean, Hainaker Park, Selhurst Park, and Dale Park.
- A deeply rural secluded landscape with large tracts devoid of roads and settlement. However, parking places, signed walks, picnic sites, a good network

of public rights of way and Goodwood Country Park provide many opportunities for recreational use of the landscape.

- Panoramic views across the coastal plain from high, open ridges.

Specific Characteristics Unique to the Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland

- BI.2 This landscape character area is typical of its landscape type, comprising chalk scenery of smoothly rolling ridges and deeply rounded coombes, supporting extensive areas of broadleaved and mixed plantation woodlands as well as significant areas of ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland. Fairmile Bottom is a particularly notable site for its yew *Taxus baccata* and beech *Fagus sylvatica* woodland (a European Annex I and UK BAP habitat type), and oak *Quercus robur* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior* woodland. Its national importance is recognised through designation as a SSSI. The chalk grassland component of the landscape is represented by sites at Halnaker Chalk Pit and The Trundle. Halnaker Chalk Pit supports a range of chalk grassland communities, ranging from closed grassland swards typically of well developed soil, through to pioneer vegetation on thin chalk soils. The site is particularly notable for supporting one of the largest populations of broad-leaved cudweed *Filago pyramidata* (a nationally endangered plant species) in Britain.
- BI.3 Typical of its type, this character area contains a large number of prehistoric and later earthworks, including two large earthworks sites within the Rewell Wood complex, an Iron Age hill fort (The Trundle) and causewayed enclosure on St Roche's Hill, a prehistoric flint mine at Long Down, a causewayed enclosure on Halnaker Hill, and prehistoric earthworks at Bexley Bushes. The area has a history of hunting and the bounds of medieval deerparks at East Dean, Selhurst and Arundel are still visible in the landscape.
- BI.4 The great landed estates at Arundel, Goodwood, and West Dean, established in the 18th century are a key feature of this character area. All three are listed on English Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. Although West Dean is located in the adjacent river valley, its land ownership, and influence, extends to this character area. The smaller parklands of Halnaker Park and Dale Park, although not listed on English Heritage's Register, also make an important contribution to the character of this area.
- BI.5 This landscape character area includes very little Open Access land – the only areas are at Fairmile Bottom and on the eastern edge of Arundel Park. However, parking places, signed walks, picnic sites, a good network of public rights of way and Goodwood Country Park provide many opportunities for recreational use of the landscape.
- BI.6 Settlement in this character area is generally typical of the landscape type and, as well as dispersed farmsteads, includes nucleated villages at Slindon and Earham. The racecourse stadium at Goodwood is a prominent built element.

Sensitivities Specific to the Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland

- BI.7 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Specific features sensitive to change in this area are:
- The remnants of historic deerparks at East Dean, Selhurst and Arundel.
 - The historic parkland landscapes Arundel, Goodwood, West Dean, Halnaker Park, Selhurst Park, and Dale Park.
 - The panoramic views across the coastal plain e.g. from The Trundle.

Change Specific to the Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland

- BI.8 In addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area include the introduction of horse racing on the downs at Goodwood from 1800 (including building of the current Sussex Stadium), the opening of the Goodwood Country Park in 1971 to provide recreational opportunities, and the introduction of telecommunication masts onto St Roche's Hill.
- BI.9 It is possible that pressure for future agricultural change will be mitigated by the fact that a large proportion of the area is already managed as part of large estates. The absence of modern development/settlements may also mean pressures for further built development are constrained.

Landscape Management/Development Considerations Specific to the Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland

- BI.10 In addition to the generic landscape management and development considerations for this landscape type, the following development considerations are specific to this character area:
- Seek opportunities to reduce the visual impact of existing visually intrusive elements such as the telecommunication masts on St Roche's Hill. And Goodwood stadium.
 - Pay particular attention to panoramic views, for example from the popular viewpoint at The Trundle, in planning any change in this or adjacent areas, including areas outside the designated National Park boundary.
 - Conserve historic deer parks and designed landscapes, and their settings, encouraging the management/ restoration of permanent pasture, parkland trees, avenues and clumps of trees.



Low density, dispersed settlement characterised by scattered farmsteads.



Woodland is interlocked with straight sided, irregular, arable fields linked by hedgerows.



Quiet rural lanes are typical, with other areas inaccessible by road.



A deeply rural landscape with large areas devoid of roads and settlement.



Features such as stone walls around estate parkland create an important visual focus.



Areas of open pasture and arable land contrast with the more enclosed wooded areas.

B2: QUEEN ELIZABETH FOREST TO EAST DEAN WOODED ESTATE DOWNLAND

DESCRIPTION

Location and Boundaries

- B2.1 The character area comprises the wooded ridge between Queen Elizabeth Country Park in the west and Crown Tegleaze in the east. The northern boundary is defined by the crest of the north facing scarp slope, while the southern boundary is defined by the southern limit of dense woodland cover and the Lavant Valley. There are views from this area northwards across the Rother Valley to the *Greensand Hills*.

Integrated Key Characteristics:

- Vast rolling upland chalk ridge, reaching 248m at Linch Ball, furrowed by dry valley systems.
- Large scale mosaic of commercial forestry plantations and broadleaved woodland interlocked with straight-sided, irregular open arable fields linked by hedgerows.
- Ecologically important beechwoods, including large ancient woodlands at West Dean Woods, East Dean Park Woods, and Tegleaze Woods, and hanger woodlands dominated by beech, ash and yew.
- Important areas of unimproved chalk grassland, for example at Harting Down, are a valuable biodiversity resource as well as providing open access.
- Strong sense of remoteness within the wooded core. At the same time an accessible landscape with high levels of public access on foot and horseback, containing the South Downs Way national trail and Queen Elizabeth Country Park.
- A low density of dispersed settlement, characterised by scattered farmsteads – most of 18th-19th century origin and associated with estates, with some of medieval origin representing shrunken hamlets.
- Parkland landscapes at Uppark and Ditcham Park provide evidence of the great transformation of the landscape in the 18th century and evoke a strong sense of history.
- Large number of prehistoric and later earthworks providing a strong sense of historical continuity; round barrows, cross-ridge dykes and forts situated on the ridge-line form important landmark features.
- Panoramic views across adjacent landscapes – particularly notable are the views across the scarp footslopes from Harting Down and Beacon Hill (east of Harting Down).

Specific Characteristics Unique to the Queen Elizabeth Forest to East Dean Wooded Estate Downland

- B2.2 This landscape character area occupies the prominent northern ridge of Upper and Middle Chalk where slightly acidic heavy soils support an extensive area of woodland, including oak, birch and holly on the less well drained clayey soils, and beech dominating on deeper calcareous flint soils. Hanger woodland is a particularly distinctive feature of this character area and includes a number of ecologically important sites dominated by beech, ash and yew. A number of these woodlands are designated as county wildlife sites, and two, namely Pads Wood SSSI and West Dean Woods SSSI, are of national importance. Within this area the changing colours in the beech woods are especially notable; the extensive woodland cover creates a distinctive dark horizon in views from the south.
- B2.3 The extent of woodland in this character area means that many of the historic sites are hidden within plantation woodland. These include a Neolithic causewayed enclosure on Court Hill, a round barrow cemetery (the Devil's Jumps) at Philliswood Down, a deserted Medieval village at Monkton Farm, a hilltop enclosure at Harting Beacon, Romano-British and Iron Age buildings, field systems and hollow ways at Holt Down, and an ancient field system at Lamb Lea.
- B2.4 Chalk grassland habitats are represented by a number of sites, the most notable and extensive being Harting Downs SSSI, a site which comprises a mix of open grassland, scrub and mature woodland. This, and other sites such as West Harting Down, North Marden, and Levin Down, provide open countryside access. The presence of the Queen Elizabeth Country Park also contributes to a landscape that is highly accessible on foot, bicycle and horse with good opportunities for recreation.
- B2.5 In this area the great landed estates at Uppark and West Dean, established in the 18th century, have a continuing influence on the present day landscape. Uppark is located within the character area and is listed Grade II* on English Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. West Dean located in the Lavant Valley, also extends into and influences the character area. Ditcham Park, although not listed on English Heritage's Register, also makes an important contribution to local character.
- B2.6 Unique to this character area is Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC, a site of international importance for its populations of hibernating bats, representing the most important bat hibernation site in south-east England and supporting what is considered to be the only British population of the mouse-eared bat *Myotis myotis*.

Sensitivities Specific to the Queen Elizabeth Forest to East Dean Wooded Estate Downland

- B2.7 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. However, of particular sensitivity in this character area are the distinctive beechwoods and large ancient woodlands at West Dean Woods, East Dean Park Woods, and Tegleaze Woods, which have rich ground floras, and the extensive chalk grassland sites. In addition, the archaeological sites hidden within plantation woodland are sensitive features, and Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC is sensitive for its important populations of hibernating bats and is sensitive to disturbance of any kind.

- B2.8 The historic parkland landscapes at Uppark and Ditcham Park and the panoramic viewpoints at Harting Down and Beacon Hill are specific features that are sensitive to change in this area.

Change Specific to the Queen Elizabeth Forest to East Dean Wooded Estate Downland

- B2.9 In addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area include:

- Purchase of Holt and War Down by the Forestry Commission in 1928 and planting timber for use as a commercial enterprise - producing timber for the paper pulp and fencing markets.
- The formal opening of the Queen Elizabeth Country Park in 1976 to provide recreational opportunities in the beech and conifer plantations.

- B2.10 Future change is likely to relate to the extent and type of woodland - the South Downs Forest Design Plan proposes to restore a large proportion of plantations on ancient woodlands to native species as well as the restoration of chalk grassland habitat in specific areas.

Landscape Management/Development Considerations Specific to the Queen Elizabeth Forest to East Dean Wooded Estate Downland

- B2.11 In addition to the generic landscape management and development considerations for this landscape type, the following landscape management considerations are specific to this character area:

- Consider the investigating the potential for enhancing the immediate landscape of the Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC for bat foraging.
- Conserve the historic designed landscapes at Uppark, West Dean and Ditcham Park and consider maintaining or creating vistas to these landscapes.
- Pay particular attention to the panoramic views from the popular viewpoints at Harting Down and Beacon Hill in considering any future landscape change.
- Conserve important archaeological sites, including those hidden within plantation woodland, such as the Neolithic causewayed enclosure on Court Hill, the Devil's Jumps at Philliswood Down, the deserted Medieval village at Monkton Farm, the hilltop enclosure at Harting Beacon.
- Conserve the historic field systems such as the Romano-British and Iron Age field systems and hollow ways at Holt Down, and the ancient field system at Lamb Lea.



Large scale mosaic of commercial forestry and broadleaved woodland interlocked with straight-sided, irregular open arable fields linked by hedgerows.



Grazed parkland at Compton Park.



A strong sense of remoteness within the wooded core.



Cowdray Estate houses with distinctive yellow paintwork.



Narrow lanes cut through dense woodland blocks.



Views to woodland at Queen Elizabeth Park.

B3: STANSTED TO WEST DEAN WOODED ESTATE DOWNLAND

Location and Boundaries

- B3.1 This area of downland is located on a chalk dip slope in the central part of the South Downs, between the County boundary between Hampshire and West Sussex) and the Lavant Valley. A railway line forms a convenient boundary to the west, marking the transition to the more open *Downland Mosaic* landscape type. The eastern boundary is defined by the deeply convoluted edge of the Lavant Valley. To the north a marked increase in woodland cover marks the transition to the *Queen Elizabeth Forest to East Dean Wooded Estate Downland*. To the south the designated National Park boundary defines the edge of the area, although in reality the landscape character area continues south to include The Holt.

Integrated Key Characteristics:

- Chalk dip slope exhibiting a strong and distinctive topography of rolling hills and extensive branching valleys and coombes.
- Slightly acidic heavy soils support many types of woodland including yew, beech, and oak/ash semi-natural woodland, and areas of broadleaved, mixed and coniferous plantation e.g. at Stansted Forest, Grevitts Copse, Inholmes Wood, Wildhams Wood, Bow Hill and Kingley Vale.
- Thinner calcareous soils support a working agricultural landscape of large straight-sided fields, enclosed during the 18th-19th centuries.
- Pasture and arable fields are bounded by thick hedgerows and hedgerow trees creating a large scale organised landscape with a secluded and deeply rural character.
- A low density of dispersed settlement, characterised by scattered farmsteads, most of 18th-19th century origin, with some of medieval origin representing shrunken hamlets. Traditional flint barns are key visual features.
- Presence of historic parks and large landed estates.
- Large number of prehistoric and later earthworks and monuments, including round barrows and cross-ridge dykes, provide a strong sense of 'time-depth'.
- A network of minor hedged lanes, bridleways and public rights of way (including part of the Monarch's Way) provide access through the tranquil landscape.
- Constantly changing views with glimpsed views to the wooded ridges of to the north and an open panorama from Bow Hill across the coastal plain to the south.

Specific Characteristics Unique to Stansted to West Dean Wooded Estate Downland

- B3.2 This character area exhibits chalk scenery typical of the dipslope of the *Wooded Estate Downland* landscape type comprising chalk, that has been eroded to form rounded coombes, supporting slightly heavy acidic soils which are well suited to woodland. In this character area remnant clay-with-flint caps occur on the downs west of West Marden, at Locksash Farm, Up Marden/Inholmes Wood, Bow Hill, and Walderton Down. These areas support the majority of the mixed deciduous woodland in this area and include the notable woodlands at Stansted Forest, Grevitts Copse, Inholmes Wood, Wildhams Wood, Bow Hill and Kingley Vale – many of these are Ancient Woodlands and designated as sites of county importance. There are also a number of chalk grassland sites, the most notable of which is the Kingley Vale SSSI and SAC. This internationally important site also contains one of the finest yew forests in Western Europe, as well as possessing a range of other important habitats such as chalk heath, juniper scrub and a recently constructed dewpond. It is of particular note for its diverse range of breeding birds and invertebrates, including 39 of the 58 breeding butterfly species in England.
- B3.3 The landed estate at Stansted, established in the 18th century, is a key influence on the present day landscape. Stansted is listed Grade II* on English Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens and retains its character as a designed landscape, incorporating open parkland and extensive plantations, and retains formal elements from the earlier phases of the landscape park. Ladyholt and Watergate Parks, although not listed on English Heritage's Register, also make an important contribution to local character. West Dean is located in the adjacent Emms Valley although the wider estate landscape continues into the area.
- B3.4 There are a number of notable historic sites unique to this character area – including a Romano-British Villa at Pitlands Farm, a fort and flint mines on Bow Hill, and a number of barrows, hilltop enclosures, cross dykes at Kingley Vale. These are all scheduled ancient monuments.
- B3.5 The area is typical of the landscape type in that it has good access on foot. Countryside access opportunities include open access to Netherley Downs and Kingley Vale, the presence of three accessible Forestry Commission woodlands plus Stansted Forest, and a network of minor roads, bridleways and public rights of way (including part of the Monarch's Way).
- B3.6 Settlement in this character area is typical of the landscape type, being at a low density and characterised by scattered farmsteads. The character area also contains the small nucleated villages of Anglo Saxon origin at The Mardens, at the head of the Emms Valley.

Sensitivities Specific to Stansted to West Dean Wooded Estate Downland

- B3.7 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Of particular sensitivity in this character area are the distinctive rare yew forests, chalk heath and juniper scrub at Kingley Vale.

- B3.8 The historic parkland landscapes at Stansted, Ladyholt and Watergate, and the panoramic viewpoints at Bow Hill and Stoke Clump are further specific features that are sensitive to change in this area.

Change Specific to Stansted to West Dean Wooded Estate Downland

- B3.9 In addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area include:
- Planting of conifers in Stansted Forest and decline in traditional woodland management techniques (such as coppicing) as forestry has concentrated on coniferous rotations.
 - Positive changes at Kingley Vale including improved access and habitat management.
- B3.10 In the future there are likely to be ongoing positive changes in terms of habitat creation and enhancement as well as changes described at the landscape type level.

Landscape Management/Development Considerations Specific to Stansted to West Dean Wooded Estate Downland

- B3.11 In addition to the generic landscape management and development considerations for this landscape type, the following landscape management considerations are specific to this character area:
- Restore damaged or former yew woodland and seek to establish new yew woodland by colonisation or planting on unwooded sites or by conversion of non-native plantations, aiming to connect sites.
 - Conserve and restore historic designed landscapes at Stansted, Ladyholt and Watergate and consider opportunities for creating vistas to these features.
 - Pay particular attention to the panoramic views from the popular viewpoints at Bow Hill and Stoke Clump in planning any change.



Open views glimpsed through the woodland.



A network of minor hedged lanes, bridleways and public rights of way, provide access through the tranquil landscape.



Estate parkland is a feature of the area.



A working agricultural landscape of large, straight sided fields enclosed during the 18th and 19th century.



Arable fields bounded by woodland blocks.



Chalk dipslope exhibiting a strong and distinctive topography of rolling hills and extensive branching valleys and coombes.

B4: ANGMERING AND CLAPHAM WOODED ESTATE DOWNLAND

Location and Boundaries

- B4.1 This area of downland is located on the lower chalk dipslope between the Arun and Adur valleys. The northern boundary of the area is clearly defined by a north-facing minor scarp slope, relating to a fault in the chalk, which marks the transition to *Open Downland* to the north. The western boundary represents a transition to the Arun Valley – the boundary has been drawn along the skyline of the valley side. The southern and eastern boundaries are defined by the designated National Park boundary. The southern boundary follows the A27 along most of its length, but diverts south to include Highdown Hill. This boundary represents a change in character to the *Upper Coastal Plain*. The eastern boundary abuts the urban edge of Worthing. There are views across this wooded downland from the A27.

Integrated Key Characteristics:

- Comprises a chalk dipslope, exhibiting a strong and distinctive topography of rolling hills, and an outlying chalk ridge at Highdown Hill, separated by a narrow clay vale.
- Slightly acidic heavy soils support large expanses of ancient woodland, much of which may have originated before the medieval period. The extensive woodland cover creates a distinctive dark horizon in views from the A27.
- Woodland, including ornamental plantations associated with landscape parks at Michelgrove and Angmering together with game coverts, is interlocked with straight-sided, open arable fields linked by hedgerows – much of this land has been rationalised since the Second World War.
- The clay vale between the chalk dipslope and the outlying chalk ridge at Highdown Hill was probably assarted from the late Saxon period onwards, producing the irregular patchwork of early enclosures still visible around Ecclesden Farm (east of Angmering).
- Bronze Age and Iron Age earthworks at Highdown Hill provide a strong sense of historical continuity.
- A low density of dispersed settlement, characterised by scattered farmsteads – most of 18th-19th century origin, with some of medieval origin representing shrunken hamlets. Chalk flint is the dominant building material, often edged with red brick.
- Medieval villages located in the dry valleys at Patching and Clapham are surrounded by groups of early enclosures.
- A deeply rural secluded landscape with large tracts devoid of roads and settlement.

- Constantly changing views with some views across to Arundel Castle to the west and other views across the open downland to the north and the coastal plain to the south.

Specific Characteristics Unique to Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

- B4.2 This character area exhibits chalk scenery typical of the dipslope of the *Wooded Estate Downland* landscape type comprising chalk, that has been eroded to form rounded coombes, supporting slightly heavy acidic soils which are well suited to woodland. However, this character area is unique in that it encompasses a chalk outlier, Highdown Hill, and the clay vale that separates Highdown Hill from the main chalk dipslope. While the main chalk dipslope is characterised by woodland interlocked by a patchwork of 18th century and later regular enclosures, the clay vale and chalk outlier of Highdown Hill are characterised by early enclosures of later medieval date interspersed with smaller clumps of pre-1800 woodland.
- B4.3 The main areas of woodland are Clapham Wood SNCI, Poling Copse SNCI and Titnore and Goring Woods complex SNCI. These woodlands support a range of woodland types, with the most frequent tree species including oak, birch, elm, beech, and field maple, often with a characteristic carpet of bluebells occurring beneath the tree canopy. Occasional areas of species-rich chalk grassland occur at Highdown Hill and the Miller's Tomb SNCI and Warningcamp Hill and New Down, Wepham SNCI.
- B4.4 The landed estate of Arundel, established in the 18th century, is a key influence on the present day landscape - Angmering and Michelgrove Parks formed part of the Duke of Norfolk's Arundel Estate until 1973. Although they are not listed on English Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, they retain some of their character as designed landscapes, although much of their land has been rationalised to form large modern fields for arable cultivation.
- B4.5 Typical of its type, this character area contains some prehistoric and later earthworks, including the Bronze Age and Iron Age earthworks at Highdown Hill, and a series of flint mines at Patching Hill. These features provide a strong sense of historical continuity.
- B4.6 This landscape character area does not include any areas of open access land, reflecting the absence of chalk downland. However, a network of public rights of way (including part of the Monarch's Way) provides access on foot and National Trust managed land at Highdown Hill provides parking, visitor facilities and interpretation. There are some notable views across to Arundel Castle to the west, as well as views across the open downland to the north and views across the coastal plain to the south.
- B4.7 Settlement in this character area is of typical of the landscape type and, as well as scattered farmsteads, includes the small nucleated villages of Patching and Clapham.

Sensitivities Specific to Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

- B4.8 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Of particular sensitivity in this character area are:

- Ancient woodland, for example at Clapham Wood and species-rich chalk grassland, for example at Highdown Hill.
- The historic parkland landscapes at Angmering and Michelgrove Parks.
- The flint mines at Patching Hill and the Bronze Age and Iron Age earthworks at Highdown Hill which provide a strong sense of historical continuity.
- The irregular patchwork of assarts south of the A27, e.g. around Ecclesden Farm (east of Angmering).
- The views across to Arundel Castle to the west, views across the open downland to the north and across the coastal plain to the south.

Change Specific to Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

B4.9 In addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area include:

- Planting of conifers in Michelgrove/Angmering Parks and decline in traditional woodland management techniques (such as coppicing) as forestry has concentrated on coniferous rotations.
- Rationalisation of historic parkland to form large modern fields for arable cultivation.

B4.10 In the future there are likely to be ongoing positive changes in terms of habitat creation and enhancement as well as changes described at the landscape type level.

Landscape Management/Development Considerations Specific to Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

B4.11 In addition to the generic landscape management and development considerations for this landscape type, the following landscape management considerations are specific to this character area:

- Conserve the woodland cover, particularly areas of ancient woodland for example at Clapham Wood, and continue to manage areas species-rich chalk grassland, for example at Highdown Hill.
- Conserve and restore historic designed landscapes at Michelgrove/Angmering Parks, for example by restoring parkland pasture and planting new parkland trees.
- Conserve the flint mines at Patching Hill and the Bronze Age and Iron Age earthworks at Highdown Hill which provide a strong sense of historical continuity.
- Conserve the irregular patchwork of assarts south of the A27, e.g. around Ecclesden Farm (east of Angmering) – maintain hedgerows and ancient woodland copses that surround, and define, these ancient fields.

- Maintain views across to Arundel Castle to the west, panoramic views across the open downland to the north and views across the coastal plain to the south. Consider creating new vistas to designed parkland features.



A landscape of contrasts with a more open character.



Areas of unimproved grassland used for pasture.



A deeply rural, secluded landscape with a sense of enclosure provided by wooded lanes.



Slightly acidic heavy soils support large expanses of woodland.



Woodland is interlocked with straight sided, irregular open arable fields linked by hedgerow.



A low density of dispersed settlement, characterised by traditional building materials of brick, flint and hatch.