





**D: Downland Mosaic**

## LANDSCAPE TYPE D: DOWNLAND MOSAIC

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- D.1 The *Downland Mosaic* landscape type comprises an area of chalk downland at the western end of the South Downs, forming part of a broad area of chalk downland which extends westwards beyond Winchester to the Dorset Downs and Salisbury Plain, and north to Basingstoke.
- D.2 This type of downland is composed of an intricate mosaic of different field sizes, soil types (and hence land use), and extent of tree cover, which lead to variations in the degree of enclosure across the landscape type. This has resulted in the identification of 'open' or 'enclosed' sub-types within this landscape type. These are identified at the character area level.

### DESCRIPTION

#### Integrated Key Characteristics:

- Large scale rolling landform characteristic of the chalk dipslope, dissected by dry valleys, with localised secondary escarpments marking the division between different formations of chalk.
- A prominent ridgeline follows the line of the Meon anticline with a series of upstanding hills located at Butser Hill, Old Winchester Hill and Beacon Hill from which there are panoramic views.
- Varying extents of surface clay capping resulting in varying soils, woodland cover, and sense of enclosure. Views are constantly changing from panoramas at high points e.g. Butser Hill, to enclosed views along hedged lanes.
- A mixture of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century arable fields and early post medieval pasture fields, with pockets of older medieval assarts surrounded by woodland. This mosaic of habitats supports arable weeds and farmland birds.
- A strong pattern of woodland cover, many of which are of ancient origin and some of which are of national importance, and hedgerows providing enclosure which contrasts with the open farmland.
- A sporting landscape with woodland managed for country sports resulting in the retention of small woodlands, spinneys, copses and wooded strips creating local diversity in the land cover pattern.
- Occasional areas of unimproved chalk grassland and associated woody scrub, including juniper scrub which is of particular biodiversity interest.
- A number of different monuments including long barrows, round barrows and linear boundary earthworks are evidence that the land was valued as a ritual landscape.
- Iron Age hillforts on the most prominent hills. Panoramic views from these hills have attracted the attention of visitors since the seventeenth century and inspired literary comment.

- A low density of dispersed settlement across the downland with a scattering of nucleated settlement in preferred lower lying areas. Distinctive churches are often landmarks.
- A number of minor designed landscapes which indicates the lack of major wealthy landowners and importance of agriculture in this landscape compared to the *Wooded Estate Downland* landscape.
- The downs contain a well established network of public rights of way and a strong hierarchical network of roads.
- A landscape with a generally strong rural, secluded character, although with varying levels of movement across its extent.

### **Physical Landscape**

- D.3 The underlying Upper and Middle Chalk bedrock has given rise to a gently undulating rolling dip slope landscape furrowed by dry valleys. A minor 'secondary' escarpment is clearly identifiable traversing the downs from east to west between Wick Hanger and Twyford. This represents the junction between the Culver and Seaford Chalk formations where the Newhaven Chalk formation is exposed as a locally steep scarp slope. This minor escarpment supports unimproved grassland and hanger woodland.
- D.4 Another key physical feature of the *Downland Mosaic* is the intermittent, but prominent, escarpment ridge that traverses the landscape, following the line of the Meon anticline. This is represented by a series of hills extending west from Butser Hill (270m AOD) and including Old Winchester Hill (197m AOD) and Beacon Hill (201m AOD).
- D.5 The chalk bedrock is capped in places by surface accumulations of clay and embedded flints. The deposits formerly extended as an almost continuous sheet over the down, but much of this has been eroded and the present day distribution is patchy. The presence of clay with flint capping creates considerable variation in the chalk landscape with heavier soils frequently supporting areas of woodland and pasture. As a result the landscape of these downs is a mixture of large open arable fields on well drained, calcareous earths, and smaller fields of mixed arable, pasture and woodland on the heavier clay soils. The variations in soils type, field pattern and land use form a mosaic across the landscape type.

### **Perceptual/Experiential Landscape**

- D.6 The variations in soils type, field pattern and land use result in a varying degree of enclosure across the landscape type. Deciduous woodlands and hedgerows provide a sense of seclusion and provide a rich texture, contrasting with the smooth openness of the arable fields. However the repetition of woodland and fields creates a unified landscape mosaic.
- D.7 This is a rural and tranquil landscape with low noise levels, low population density and relative absence of overt human influence. However, this is a working agricultural landscape and it therefore contains human activity. The *Downland Mosaic* landscape type is easily accessible by car and on foot with a network of minor roads and public rights of way (including parts of the Monarch's Way, Wayfarer's Way and



the South Downs Way national trail). Beacon Hill, Butser Hill and Winchester Hill and Jane Austen's House draw visitors to the landscape.

- D.8 Views are constantly changing from panoramas at high points e.g. Butser Hill, to enclosed views along hedged lanes. The views across this landscape and adjacent landscapes, afforded from the prominent hills along the ridge, have attracted the attention of visitors since the seventeenth century and inspired literary comment. One description of Beacon Hill 'like a half-clipped poodle'<sup>19</sup> is particularly evocative. Moutray Read noted the downs as '*clear, clean, wholesome, and invigorating*' with '*a perfection of curve and outline*'. The landscape of the downs also inspired Jane Austen who wrote a number of her books whilst living in Chawton.

## Biodiversity

- D.9 This landscape is of significant ecological interest, supporting a large number of woodlands, many of which are of ancient origin, together with occasional areas of unimproved chalk grassland and associated woody scrub. The woodlands vary from those associated with calcareous soils, such as beech/ash and yew woodland, to those found on the clay with flint caps and typically characterised by oak, with small areas of open acid grassland also occurring here. A number of these woodlands are of national importance, for example at Selborne Common SSSI and Peake Wood SSSI, and a great many more carry non-statutory designation. Galley Down Wood SSSI, provides an important example of a relatively recent woodland plantation that has developed significant ecological interest.
- D.10 Areas of unimproved chalk grassland also occur, and include nationally important sites such as Beacon Hill NNR/SSSI, Butser Hill NNR/SSSI, Catherington Down NNR/SSSI and Old Winchester Hill NNR/SSSI. These chalk grassland sites also support scrub and woodland communities, including the uncommon species juniper (a UK BAP priority species).
- D.11 These ecological important semi-natural habitats, together with a well developed hedgerow network, and occasional fields of permanent pasture, provide important habitat features within the predominantly arable landscape.

<b>Key Biodiversity Features</b>	<b>Importance</b>
Significant woodland cover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The area supports a number of nationally important woodlands, including uncommon types such as yew woodland and juniper scrub. Many non-statutory woodland sites, including several of ancient origin occur, and blocks of plantation woodland also provide important habitat in the local context.</li> </ul>
Areas of unimproved chalk grassland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occasional areas of nationally important chalk grassland occur on steep slopes, and are notable for their rich plant and invertebrate communities</li> </ul>
Mosaic of arable land, permanent pasture and well developed hedgerows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides habitat diversity at a landscape scale.</li> </ul>

<sup>19</sup> Beard P (1936). *English byways, from Land's End to the Wash*, Nelson.

## Historic Character

- D.12 The *Downland Mosaic* has been settled throughout history. Finds of flint handaxes within the remnant clay-with-flint deposits indicates the presence of Palaeolithic hunters, while the downland soils not capped by clay-with-flint attracted Neolithic farmers, who farmed within clearings in the wildwood. Iron Age hillforts characterise the hill tops with massive earthworks visible, surrounding the summits. 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 type. The land was also valued as a ritual landscape, with a number of different monuments constructed, including long barrows, round barrows and linear boundary earthworks. Many of these sites 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 clay areas was undertaken by Romano-British farmers who had the benefit of improved ploughing technology to tackle the heavy soils.
- D.13 Anglo-Saxon settlers initially settled the dipslope of the downland, establishing villages. The earliest Anglo-Saxon settlers are thought to have avoided the areas of clay-with-flint. Later communities settled along the river valleys, with some of the original settlements surviving into later centuries as isolated farms. It is likely that woodland regenerated on much of the clay.
- D.14 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 *Open Downland* in the east of the South 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. During the early medieval period some of the poorer land on areas of acidic clay soils was used for pasture – these are visible today as areas of small, irregular fields, often surrounded by woodland.
- D.15 The downs were also used to a great extent for hunting, with a number of deer parks recorded. During the later medieval and early post-medieval periods (15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries), the open fields around many of the medieval settlements were enclosed, producing irregular blocks of fields - these are still evident in the landscape surrounding both the nucleated villages and medieval farmsteads. The downland between probably remained unenclosed, although some of it may have been cultivated during the high point of medieval settlement during the 13<sup>th</sup> century and subsequently abandoned.
- D.16 The remainder of the *Downland Mosaic* was enclosed during the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The regular field systems which resulted occur as pockets across the downs. Blocks of original pre-1800 woodland survive, indicating that the medieval clearance was less thorough than in eastern Sussex (reflecting poorer soils), together with smaller clumps of post-1800 plantation, many of which originated as game coverts. A number of minor designed landscapes indicate the lack of major wealthy landowners and importance of agriculture in this landscape compared to the *Wooded Estate Downland* landscape.

<b>Key Features of the Historic Environment</b>	<b>Importance</b>
Nucleated settlements	Indicative of medieval manorial system based around open fields.
Low-level of surviving settlement – earlier occupation existing as earthworks/archaeological sites	Reflects fluctuating settlement patterns through time due to changing environmental/cultural conditions
Survival of blocks of pre-1800 woodland	Provides evidence of medieval and early post-medieval woodland exploitation, e.g. coppicing and charcoal burning
Areas of medieval assarts	Indicates use of poorer land on areas of acidic clay soils for pasture during the early medieval period
Scattered post-medieval enclosures and farmsteads	Indicates the changing nature of farming practice following decline of traditional manorial system
Recent enclosure and areas of post-1800 woodland plantations	Forms part of post-1800 gentrification of the landscape
Minor designed landscapes	Indicate the lack of major wealthy landowners and importance of agriculture in this landscape compared to the Wooded Estate Downland landscape

### **Settlement Form and Built Character**

- D.17 The settlement pattern in this area is characterised by a low density of dispersed settlement, with a scatter of nucleated settlement in preferred 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 situated beyond the character area. The typical settlement form is relatively late in origin, and comprises isolated farmsteads of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century origin set within areas of recent enclosure derived from former sheepwalk. However, some of the farmsteads are of medieval origin and represent former dependent hamlets which have subsequently shrunk.
- D.18 The exceptions to this pattern comprise several small nucleated settlements of medieval origin lying within sheltered low-lying areas.
- D.19 Building materials are typically flint, red brick and clay tiles.

## **EVALUATION**

### **Sensitivity**

- D.20 This landscape has a number of sensitive natural, cultural and aesthetic/perceptual features that are vulnerable to change. Key landscape sensitivities include:
- The skyline of the prominent ridgeline that follows the line of the Meon anticline – including Butser Hill, Old Winchester Hill and Beacon Hill.
  - The localised secondary escarpment which supports chalk grassland and associated woody scrub, and hanger woodland.
  - Area of chalk grassland and associated woody scrub, including Juniper scrub which is of particular biodiversity interest.

- The pockets of older medieval assarts surrounded by woodland which provide texture and containment.
- The deciduous woodland, particularly that of ancient origin, and the well developed hedgerow network which provides unity and biodiversity value which could be vulnerable to field re-organisation.
- The historic features of the landscape such as long barrows, round barrows, linear boundary earthworks, and parkland landscapes which provide a sense of historic continuity. Some are enshrouded by woodland, but others are vulnerable to erosion through intensive agricultural practices.
- Panoramic views of this landscape and adjacent landscapes afforded from the distinct hills. Any landscape change or development in this or adjacent landscapes has the potential to be highly visible.
- The strong rural, secluded character arising from the low density of dispersed settlement.
- The churches which are distinctive visual landmarks. The consistent use of building materials typically flint, red brick and clay tiles which provide unity across the landscape type
- The mosaic of habitats, including arable land and pasture, that supports arable weeds and farmland birds and could be vulnerable to over-intensive farming methods.

D.21 The presence of trees and wood limits visual sensitivity of the landscape. The prominent open ridges and hills are the most visually sensitive part of the landscape. The higher land of the hills permits views to and from adjacent landscapes - this landscape is therefore also visually sensitive to changes beyond its boundary.

## **Change – Key Issues and Trends**

### ***Past Change***

D.22 Some of the most fundamental changes to this landscape occurred in the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> centuries with the enclosure of arable fields into the ordered pattern of today. However, more recent changes include:

- Introduction of pylons into the landscape.
- Development within adjacent urban areas which is prominent in views from parts of the *Downland Mosaic*.
- Loss of archaeology through ploughing.
- Diversification of farming, including stud farms and hobby farms and conversion of farms to equestrian holdings. Other examples include paintballing facilities and barns used for storage.
- Growth of recreational use of the landscape and the development of golf courses.

- Modernisation of farm buildings, in places built from materials not typical of the character area.
- Decline in hedgerow management and reduction in hedgerow tree regeneration.
- New development on the edges of existing settlements.

### ***Future Landscape Change***

- D.23 In the short term (5 years) it is likely that there will be continued positive change in the form of conversion of arable land back to pasture and creation and management of chalk grassland habitats as a result of ongoing policies and incentives. However global agricultural competition is likely to continue to hamper efforts to reinstate sheep grazing. There are likely to be ongoing pressures for change on the settlement edges which about this landscape type in places.
- D.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 area. Some potential changes and key vulnerabilities within the *Downland Mosaic* are outlined below.

**Climate Change:** Changes to the precipitation and temperature could impact upon the species composition of habitats, particularly chalk grasslands and ancient woodlands. Increased drought conditions could adversely affect woodland, but would also 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. On the other hand, drought could also result in withdrawal of arable land from cropping and reversion to natural grassland.

Wind damage to woodland, due to increases in severe gales, is another concern in this wooded area, although many of the woodlands are well managed and therefore less likely to suffer. The exposed hanger woodlands on the steep secondary scarps may be most at risk.

In response to climate change, the pursuit of renewable energy may result in demand for growth of biomass crops, which could alter the open character of the Downs, or demand for wind energy development, which could affect the remoteness and tranquillity of the landscape as well as intruding into open skylines.

**Agricultural Change and Land Management:** Agricultural management will be driven by the changes in the world market and the CAP. The proposed decoupling of CAP support payments is likely to result in a trend towards increased farm size with land taken on from neighbouring farms. In the Downland Mosaic landscape, this landscape this could result in pressure for field expansion with consequent loss of hedgerows and historic small scale fields and an increased demand for development (buildings) associated with agriculture. Positive landscape change could result from regimes to promote enhanced environmental management of woodland and chalk grassland habitats. However, perpetuation of sustainable grazing will be critical to the success of chalk grassland management.

**Development:** Extensive built development is not envisaged in the *Downland Mosaic*. However, there is evidence of spread of development from some of the villages within the landscape and encroachment from adjacent settlements could be a future concern. As well as visual impacts, this could result in increases in artificial lighting and traffic in the landscape. There may also be associated increased recreational pressures, with demand for access and facilities.

### **Broad Management Objective and Landscape Guidelines**

- D.25 **The overall management objective should be to conserve the diverse mosaic habitats, strengthen the visual prominence of the open ridgeline and secondary escarpment, and maintain the strong rural, secluded character of the downland.**

#### ***Landscape Management Considerations***

- Maintain an open and undeveloped skyline along the prominent ridgeline that follows the line of the Meon anticline.
- Maintain a balance between wooded and open areas on the secondary escarpment. Protect and continue to manage (graze) the existing chalk grassland and sites supporting juniper scrub.
- Monitor natural regeneration and manage woodland to ensure a diverse (indigenous) species and age structure to minimise risk of damage as a result of increased storms and high winds.
- Encourage re-introduction of traditional woodland management techniques, such as coppicing, and promote interest in, and marketing of, local wood products, including wood for fuel. Reduce adverse effects of intensive game rearing through beneficial woodland management.
- Conserve the irregular medieval enclosures around the medieval nucleated settlements and isolated farmsteads which provide a sense of historic continuity and landscape texture – avoid field expansion/boundary removal in these areas.
- Conserve and manage the intact hedgerow network with hedgerow trees which are of biodiversity interest. Avoid field expansion that would lead to further hedgerow loss, create buffer strips along hedgerows and monitor regeneration of hedgerow trees, 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.
- Promote appropriate management of arable farmland to create a wildlife-rich habitat supporting farmland birds, including retaining areas of fallow land, over-wintering stubbles, maintaining an unploughed margin around arable land, and management of existing hedgerows.
- Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices to minimise fertiliser and soil run-off thereby minimising pollution of downstream watercourses.

- Conserve and manage historic features of the landscape such as long barrows, round barrows, linear boundary earthworks and parkland landscapes so that they continue to provide a strong sense of historical continuity. Conserve vistas to these sites and promote sensitive agricultural practices in their vicinity.
- Avoid road 'improvements' that would alter the rural character of the unmarked lanes.
- Consider the potential visual impact of different crop types, including biomass crops, which may become part of this landscape in the future.
- Maintain the public rights of way network and consider further opportunities for recreation and access to this less well visited part of the South Downs.

### **Development Considerations**

- Conserve the low density of dispersed settlement which gives this landscape its strong rural, secluded character. Use of a consistent palette of building materials (flint, red brick and clay tiles) will conserve a unity in built form across the landscape.
- Conserve the setting of villages, often composed of small fields of medieval origin.
- Maintain views to churches, which are distinctive visual landmarks.
- Maintain clear, undeveloped ridges and skylines. Avoid siting tall structure such as telecommunication masts or power lines on the sensitive skyline and undertake full visual appraisals of any proposals. Seek opportunities to reduce the visual impact of existing visually intrusive elements on the downs such as prominent electricity pylons
- Use existing woodland and planting to integrate any changes in the landscape.
- Manage recreational use and ensure recreational facilities and signage are well integrated into the landscape through careful siting and design, and appropriate indigenous screen planting.
- Encourage sensitive integration of fencing, tracks, hardstanding, jumps and other paraphernalia that are associated with hobby farms or private stables and that fall outside planning control.
- Seek to ensure any development does not adversely affect the deeply rural character of this area.
- Maintain the external fabric, appearance and setting of farm buildings and promote use of local building materials. Refer to guidance contained in the Historic Farmsteads study<sup>20</sup>.
- Consider effects of any development beyond this landscape and its impact on views from this landscape. In addition to being visible, development in adjacent

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<sup>20</sup> Forum Heritage Services (2005) *Historic Farmsteads & Landscape Character in Hampshire, Pilot Project*. Report by Bob Edwards for English Heritage.

landscapes may result in secondary effects such as light spill, noise and increased traffic.

### Character Areas

There are four areas of *Downland Mosaic* in the South Downs. These are all located at the western end of the South Downs.

D1:	South Winchester Downland Mosaic	Sub-type a) enclosed Sub-type b) open
D2:	Hambledon and Clanfield Downland Mosaic	Sub-type a) enclosed Sub-type b) open
D3:	Bramdean and Cheriton Downland Mosaic	Sub-type a) enclosed
D4:	Newton Valence Downland Mosaic	Sub-type a) enclosed



## DI: SOUTH WINCHESTER DOWNLAND MOSAIC

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### Location and Boundaries

- D1.1 The *South Winchester Downland Mosaic* lies in the extreme west of the South Downs, on the dipslope of the chalk between the valleys of the Itchen and Meon. The northern boundary abuts an area of *Open Downland* while the southern boundary is defined by the designated National Park boundary which represents a transition to the settled landscape of the '*South Hampshire Lowlands*' (countryside character area).
- D1.2 This character area is composed of both open and enclosed sub-types. The open subtype relates to the ridge, which runs along the northern edge of the character area to, and including, Beacon Hill. The enclosed sub-type relates to the remainder of the area which comprises older, smaller scale fields and woodland.

### Integrated Key Characteristics:

- Large scale rolling landform characteristic of the chalk dipslope, dissected by dry valleys, with a localised secondary escarpment running between Twyford and Droxford.
- Secondary escarpment supports chalk grassland and woodland e.g. Galley Down Wood SSSI.
- A prominent open ridge follows the line of the Meon anticline rising to 201m at Beacon Hill, from where there are panoramic views.
- Surface clay capping along the bottom of the dipslope results in a more enclosed landscape along the dipslope.
- A large area of early assarted enclosures with thick hedgerows and large areas of woodland creates a small scale secluded landscape across the central part of the character area.
- Predominantly arable farming with some pasture, stud and pig farms.
- A strong pattern of woodland cover, including ancient woodland of national importance, wood pasture on Kilmeston Down, and hedgerows providing a sense of enclosure.
- Occasional areas of unimproved chalk grassland and associated woody scrub, including juniper scrub which is of particular biodiversity interest.
- Iron Age hillforts on the most prominent hills. Panoramic views from these hills have attracted the attention of visitors since the seventeenth century and inspired literary comment.
- Other historic monuments include an enclosure in Preshaw Woods and round barrow cemetery on Beacon Hill.

- A low density of dispersed settlement across the downland with nucleated villages on the dipslope of the downland e.g. Owlesbury and Upham, linked by a network of sinuous rural roads.
- A number of minor designed landscapes at Longwood Park, Marwell House, Belmore House, Upham House, Preshaw House, Hazel Holt, Park House and Hill Place (all on Hampshire County Council's register).
- The downs contain a well established network of public rights of way and a strong hierarchical network of roads.
- A landscape with a generally strong rural, secluded character, although notable recreational uses include Marwell Zoological Park (a former medieval deer park) and a golf course on Corhampton Down.
- Panoramic views across downland, in particular from Beacon Hill across the Meon Valley to Winchester Hill and from the dipslope towards the south coast and the Isle of Wight.

### **Specific Characteristics Unique to the South Winchester Downland Mosaic**

- D1.3 This character area is located on the chalk dipslope between the Itchen and Meon Valleys. It exhibits a locally prominent secondary escarpment which extends from Twyford in the west to Droxford in the east. This secondary escarpment supports areas of chalk grassland and woodland e.g. Galley Down Wood SSSI, which comprises a plantation beech wood, which since its creation around 60 years ago, has developed a rich ground flora, including important orchid populations.
- D1.4 The ridge, which runs along the northern edge of the character area, extends from Beacon Hill in the east to Lane End in the west. This ridge is dominated by large open arable fields on well drained, calcareous earths and is defined as an 'open' landscape sub-type. Stud farms (e.g. Bishopsdown Stud Farm) and pig farms are a feature of this area. Beacon Hill, at 201m, is the highest point in the character area with panoramic views, including a view across the Meon Valley to Old Winchester Hill. The summit is surrounded by the earthworks of an Iron Age hillfort, with Beacon Hill an example of a nationally important chalk grassland site.
- D1.5 The lower dipslope is overlain with deposits of clay-with-flint and acidic clay soils that support a mosaic of small scale, irregular fields (related to early enclosure of the landscape), bounded by thick hedgerows and a high incidence of woodland. This part of the character area is defined as an 'enclosed' landscape sub-type. A significant area of early assarted enclosures exists across the central part of the character area, representing early medieval enclosures of poorer land. The area includes significant tracts of ancient woodland e.g. Preshaw Wood and Dur Wood.
- D1.6 The settlement pattern is characteristic of the type with dispersed farmsteads across the downland. Some of these farmsteads are of medieval origin and represent former dependent hamlets which have subsequently shrunk, for example the medieval settlement at Lomer. Nucleated villages (Owlslebury and Upham) are located in more sheltered areas on the dipslope. Settlements are connected by a

network of sinuous rural roads which are often contained by high hedgerow boundaries.

- D1.7 Notable historic elements include an ancient enclosure in Preshaw Woods and round barrow cemetery and holloways on Beacon Hill. There are also a number of minor designed landscapes at Longwood Park, Marwell House, Belmore House, Upham House, Preshaw House, Hazel Holt, Park House and Hill Place (all on Hampshire County Council's register). Two medieval deer parks sites are located in this area – one is now Marwell Zoological Park.
- D1.8 This landscape character area generally has a strong rural, secluded character, although notable recreational uses include Marwell Zoological Park, a golf course on Corhampton Down and areas of open access at Stephen's Castle Gallop and at Beacon Hill.

### **Sensitivities Specific to the South Winchester Downland Mosaic**

- D1.9 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities detailed at the type level are relevant to this landscape. Specific features sensitive to change in this area are:
- The secondary escarpment running between Twyford and Droxford with its chalk grassland and hanger woodland.
  - The large area of early assarted enclosures with thick hedgerows and significant tracts of ancient woodland e.g. Preshaw Wood and Dur Wood.
  - Areas of unimproved chalk grassland at Beacon Hill.
  - The enclosure in Preshaw Woods and round barrow cemetery on Beacon Hill.
  - The rural villages of Owlesbury, Upham and Upper Swanmore.
  - The minor designed landscapes at Longwood Park, Marwell House, Belmore House, Upham House, Preshaw House, Hazel Holt, Park House and Hill Place (all on Hampshire County Council's register).
  - The strong rural, secluded character of the landscape which may be threatened by expansion of settlements which abut its southern edge.
  - The panoramic views across downland and, from Beacon Hill, across the Meon Valley to Winchester Hill.

### **Change Specific to the South Winchester Downland Mosaic**

- D1.10 In addition to the past changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific past changes that have occurred within this character area include the development of recreational facilities such as Corhampton Golf Course on Corhampton Down and the Marwell Zoological Centre.
- D1.11 There may also be associated increased recreational pressures, with demand for access and facilities in ecologically sensitive areas such as the National Nature Reserve at Beacon Hill.

## **Landscape Management/Development Considerations Specific to the South Winchester Downland Mosaic**

D1.12. 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 prominence of the secondary escarpment running between Twyford and Droxford.
- Preserve the large area of early assarted enclosures with thick hedgerows and significant tracts of ancient woodland e.g. Preshaw Wood and Dur Wood. Encourage re-introduction of traditional woodland management techniques, such as coppicing, and promote interest in, and marketing of, local wood products, including wood for fuel
- Conserve, and seek to extend, areas of unimproved chalk grassland at Beacon Hill and on the secondary scarp by continuing to manage (graze), the sites. Maintain a balance between wooded and open areas.
- Monitor the effects of recreational pressure on ecologically sensitive areas such as the National Nature Reserve at Beacon Hill.
- Conserve archaeological features, particularly the enclosure in Preshaw Woods and round barrow cemetery and holloways on Beacon Hill.
- Conserve, and continue to manage, the features of the parklands and designed landscapes at Longwood Park, Marwell House, Belmore House, Upham House, Preshaw House, Hazel Holt, Park House and Hill Place. Consider enhancing, or creating new views to, these landscape features.
- Ensure expansion of settlements in the South Hampshire lowlands (along the southern edge of the designated National Park boundary) do not threaten the rural, secluded character of the downs.
- Conserve the panoramic views across downland from ridge tops, particularly from Beacon Hill.

D1.13 The following development considerations are specific to this character area:

- Consider views from Beacon Hill in planning any change in this and adjacent landscapes.
- Conserve the small scale and rural setting to the villages of Owlesbury, Upham and Upper Swanmore. It will be necessary for development, particularly on the edges of these settlements, to be monitored so that the nucleated settlements do not expand and lose their small scale, nucleated form.





A low density of dispersed settlement with a scattering of nucleated settlements demonstrating traditional building techniques.



Lime Avenue, Longwood Estate.



Pig farming is characteristic of some areas.



The Downs contain a well established network of public rights of way.



A mosaic of arable land and woodland.



The well developed hedgerow network provides unity and bio-diversity value.

## D2: HAMBLEDON AND CLANFIELD DOWNLAND MOSAIC

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### Location and Boundaries

- D2.1 The *Hambledon and Clanfield Downland Mosaic* lies on the dipslope of the chalk in Hampshire, extending eastwards from the Meon Valley to the Hampshire border. The western and northern boundaries are defined by *Meon Valley* and the *Salt down to Butser Hill Scarp*. The eastern boundary is defined by a railway line close to the Hampshire border, which represents a transition to the *Wooded Estate Downland* landscape. The southern boundary is defined by the designated National Park boundary which represents the start of the settled landscape of the 'South Hampshire Lowlands' (countryside character area).
- D2.2 This character area is composed of both open and enclosed sub-types. The open subtype relates to the ridge, which runs along the northern edge of the character area, between Old Winchester Hill and Butser Hill, and to the area of open arable fields which run through the centre of the area. The enclosed subtype relates to the lower dipslope and the wooded areas at Hen Wood and Hyden Wood.

### Integrated Key Characteristics:

- Comprises the prominent chalk ridge (of the Meon anticline) and dipslope with a localised secondary escarpment running between Soberton and Clanfield.
- The prominent ridge rises to 197m at Old Winchester Hill, 234m at Salt Hill, and 270m at Butser Hill, from where there are panoramic views. An Iron Age hillfort at Old Winchester Hill forms a prominent landmark.
- The secondary escarpment supports chalk grassland, assarts, and hanger woodland e.g. 'The Hangers' above Hambledon. A secondary row of hills, relating to this secondary scarp include Home Down, Broad Half Penny Down, and Windmill Down.
- Significant areas of ancient woodland at Hyden Wood and Coombe Wood form an area with a sense of enclosure.
- Old Winchester Hill supports one of the largest stands of juniper (a UK BAP priority species) in Hampshire.
- Surface clay capping along the lower dipslope results in a more enclosed landscape with extensive areas of early enclosures, woodland fragments and thick hedgerows.
- Area of open arable land runs through the centre of the character area where 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century field predominate. However a number of historic features have been preserved including the Iron Age Cross Dykes, field systems, Bronze Age Barrows and ancient farm at Butser Hill; the Hillfort and barrows at Old Winchester Hill; and the site of the Roman building at Bottom Copse.

- A number of important chalk grassland and woodland sites occur within this character area including Butser Hill and Peake Wood.
- The settlement pattern is dispersed across the downland with nucleated villages on the dipslope of the downland e.g. Hambledon, linked by a network of narrow rural roads.
- A number of minor designed landscapes at North Farm, Park House, Whitedale House, Blendworth House and Idsworth Park (all on Hampshire County Council's register).
- The downs contain a well established network of public rights of way and a strong hierarchical network of roads.
- Prominent telecommunication masts on the skyline at Wetherdown and Butser Hill.
- Panoramic views from Butser Hill and Old Winchester Hill, and from the dipslope towards the south coast and the Isle of Wight.

### **Specific Characteristics Unique to the Hambledon and Clanfield Downland Mosaic**

- D2.3 This character area is located on the chalk dipslope south and east of the Meon Valley. It comprises the prominent chalk ridge (of the Meon anticline) and dipslope, with a localised secondary escarpment running between Soberton and Clanfield. The prominent ridge rises to 197m at Old Winchester Hill, 234m at Salt Hill, and 270m at Butser Hill, from where there are panoramic views. The ridge supports the most extensive tracts of chalk grassland and is defined as an 'open' landscape sub-type. Butser Hill is particularly notable for its species-rich chalk grassland and yew woodland Old Winchester Hill supports one of the largest stands of juniper (a UK BAP priority species) in Hampshire. The ridge also exhibits Iron Age cross dykes (at Butser Hill) and an Iron Age Hill Fort (at Old Winchester Hill). Hanger woodland occurs on the steeper slopes - Peake Wood SSSI to the north of Old Winchester Hill is a good example of ash/hazel woodland on calcareous soils.
- D2.4 South of the open ridge is a significant area of woodland cover, most notably between Coombe Wood and Butser Hill, which contributes to an 'enclosed' landscape character. Coombe and Hyden Woods are ancient woodlands and of ecological interest as reflected in their designation as a SINC. Below this is an area of open arable land that is defined as an 'open' landscape sub-type.
- D2.5 The secondary escarpment, extending between Soberton and Clanfield, supports chalk grassland, assarts, and hanger woodland including the Hambledon Hangers SINC. The dipslope below the secondary escarpment is overlain with deposits of clay-with-flint and acidic clay soils that support a mosaic of small scale, irregular fields (related to early enclosure of the landscape), bounded by thick hedgerows and a high incidence of woodland. This part of the character area is defined as an 'enclosed' landscape sub-type. A secondary row of hills lying south of this secondary scarp (at Home Down, Broad Half Penny Down, and Windmill Down) form open elements within the enclosed mosaic.



- D2.6 The settlement pattern is characteristic of the type with dispersed farmsteads across the downland with nucleated villages, e.g. Hambledon, located in more sheltered areas on the dipslope. Hambledon exhibits a strong form which responds to the adjacent scarp and is surrounded by medieval enclosures.
- D2.7 The sense of tranquillity is disrupted in places by the large, modern farm buildings and pylon lines which cut across the area. The A3 also cuts through this area close to Butser Hill. The character area is well served by public rights of way including the South Downs Way national trail, Monarch's Way and Wayfarer's Walk. Areas of open access include Winchester Hill, Butser Hill, and Salt Hill as well as an area of National Trust Land on the scarp south of Hambledon.

### **Sensitivities specific to the Hambledon and Clanfield Downland Mosaic**

- D2.8 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities detailed at the type level are relevant to this landscape. Specific features sensitive to change in this area are:
- The secondary escarpment running between Soberton and Clanfield with its chalk grassland and hanger woodland e.g. Hambledon Hangers SINC.
  - The areas of early assarted enclosures with thick hedgerows and significant tracts of ancient woodland around Hyden Wood, Stoke Wood and on the steep slopes to the west of Hambledon.
  - Areas of unimproved chalk grassland at Butser Hill and species-rich chalk grassland, yew woodland and rare juniper scrub at Old Winchester Hill.
  - The Iron Age Cross Dykes, field systems and Bronze Age Barrows at Butser Hill; the Hillfort and barrows at Old Winchester Hill; and the site of the Roman building at Bottom Copse.
  - The minor designed landscapes at North Farm, Whitedale House, Park House, Burty Lodge, Blendworth House and Idsworth Park (all on Hampshire County Council's register).
  - The rural villages of Hambledon and Chalton.
  - The strong rural, secluded character of the landscape which may be threatened by expansion of settlements which abut its southern edge.
  - The panoramic views from Butser Hill and Old Winchester Hill, and the views southwards across downland from the secondary hills at Windmill Down, Broadhalfpenny Down, and Home Down.

### **Change Specific to the Hambledon and Clanfield Downland Mosaic**

- D2.9 In addition to the past changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific past changes that have occurred within this character area include the development of Mercury Park, development of a radio stations, and erection of telecommunication masts at Wetherdown and Butser Hill, and conversion of farms to equestrian holdings resulting in sub-division of fields e.g. Peake Farm, Exton Stud.



- D2.10 Due to proximity to other existing larger built up areas, Hambledon has been subject to development pressures, and there is evidence of new built form on the village edge, extending along the B2150.
- D2.11 The *Hambledon and Clanfield Downland Mosaic* is subject to all the forces for change which are outlined at the type level. However, there are also additional specific changes of note. Modernisation of farming is evident in this area with notable extensions to and modernisation of farm buildings. Diversification of land use within the farms is also evident, a specific example of this is a paintballing centre. In places degradation of landscape features has occurred with gappy and poorly managed hedgerows.
- D2.12 There may also be associated increased recreational pressures, with demand for access and facilities in ecologically sensitive areas such as the National Nature Reserves at Butser Hill and Old Winchester Hill and increasing traffic use of rural lanes. In addition, climate change may result in groundwater flooding.

### **Landscape Management/Development Considerations Specific to the Hambledon and Clanfield Downland Mosaic**

- D2.13 All of the general landscape management considerations relevant at the type level apply to the *Hambledon and Clanfield Downland Mosaic*. In addition to this, and in response to the specific sensitivities of the character area, there are the following additional landscape management considerations.
- Conserve the chalk grassland and hanger woodland e.g. Hambledon Hangers SINC on the secondary escarpment running between Soberton and Clanfield. This also has benefits for protection of archaeological sites.
  - Conserve the areas of early assarted enclosures and ancient woodland around Hyden Wood, Stoke Wood and on the steep slopes to the west of Hambledon.
  - Conserve, and seek to extend areas of unimproved chalk grassland at Butser Hill and species-rich chalk grassland, yew woodland and rare juniper scrub at Old Winchester Hill. Maintain a balance between species rich grassland and important areas of scrub, such as juniper scrub, a UK BAP priority species.
  - Support the conversion of arable land to grassland, particularly on the ridge, around Butser Hill and Old Winchester Hill. This also has benefits for protection of archaeological sites.
  - Monitor the effects of recreational pressure on ecologically sensitive areas such as the National Nature Reserves at Butser Hill and Old Winchester Hill.
  - Conserve historic features of the landscape such as the Iron Age Cross Dykes, field systems, Bronze Age Barrows and ancient farm at Butser Hill; the Hillfort and barrows at Old Winchester Hill; and the site of the Roman building at Bottom Copse. Continue to manage these sites through grazing.
  - Conserve, and continue to manage, the features of the parklands and designed landscapes at North Farm, Park House, Whitedale House, Blendworth House

and Idsworth Park, all of which are of county importance. Consider enhancing, or creating new views to, these landscape features.

- Conserve the panoramic views from Butser Hill and Old Winchester Hill. Discourage planting of small, isolated, rectangular game coverts on prominent ridges and summits.
- Conserve and improve the existing hedgerow and reinstate hedgerows which have been removed. Prevent fragmentation of the landscape caused by differential levels of management and intensity of farming.

D2.14 The following development considerations are specific to this character area:

- Encourage sympathetic re-use of traditional farm buildings and sympathetic extensions so as to maintain their external fabric, appearance and setting. Refer to guidance contained in the Historic Farmsteads study<sup>21</sup>.
- Seek to screen existing buildings, such as development at Mercury Park, to reduce their impact on the landscape and aim to restore the landscape in these areas.
- Conserve the strong form and pattern of Hambledon which responds to the adjacent scarp.
- Monitor incremental change on the edge of Horndean, consider improved integration and prevent urban overspill into this character area to maintain the tranquil, rural character of the downs.
- Consider views from Butser Hill, Old Winchester Hill, Windmill Down, Broadhalfpenny Down, and Home Down in planning any change in this and adjacent landscapes.

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<sup>21</sup> Forum Heritage Services (2005) *Historic Farmsteads & Landscape Character in Hampshire, Pilot Project*. Report by Bob Edwards for English Heritage.



Large scale, rolling landform dissected by dry valleys.



Modern farm buildings are prominent.



A prominent chalk ridgeline rises at Old Winchester Hill to form a prominent landmark.



Long, open views from higher elevations.



Blocks of unimproved grassland remain on steeper slopes.



The secondary escarpment supports chalk grassland, assarts and hanging woodland.

## D3: BRAMDEAN AND CHERITON DOWNLAND MOSAIC

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### Location and Boundaries

- D3.1 The *Bramdean and Cheriton Downland Mosaic* encloses the valley of the River Itchen, including its source and upper dry valley. It has a greater extent of clay capping than the *South Winchester Downland Mosaic* (D1) which lies to the south – its southern boundary is therefore defined by the extent of clay-with-flints drift geology. Its western boundary represents a transition to the open arable landscape of the *East Winchester Open Downs* and the eastern boundary meets the steep scarp of the *Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp*. The northern boundary is defined by the designated National Park boundary.
- D3.2 The surface clay capping in this character area results in a high proportion of tree and woodland cover which contribute to an enclosed character – the whole area is therefore defined as an ‘enclosed’ sub-type.

### Integrated Key Characteristics

- Comprises a gently undulating chalk downland landscape incorporating the upper dry valley of the River Itchen.
- Reaches 207m at its eastern edge where it meets the east facing *Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp* at Park Hill.
- A number of ancient woodlands, the most extensive of which is Cheriton Wood, which reflects the less extensive clearance of these downs compared to the eastern South Downs, and provides a sense of enclosure.
- Many game coverts indicating the historic importance of the area for shooting sports. The remnant of a medieval deer park to the north of East Meon on Park Hill indicates the importance of the area for hunting.
- Woodland and unimproved grassland at Mascoombe Bottom.
- Surface clay capping results in extensive areas of early enclosures, including medieval assarts around Tigwell Farm and Peak Farm, and woodland resulting in an enclosed character.
- Areas of more recent 18th and 19th century enclosure west of Cheriton Wood, at Old Down and north of Park Hill representing later enclosure of open common down. The battle of Cheriton, fought in 1644, occurred on open downland west of Cheriton Wood and the site remains as a registered battlefield.
- The settlement pattern is characterised by farmsteads and hamlets (e.g. Kilmeston) dispersed across the downland, linked by a network of rural lanes.
- Nucleated villages are located in the shelter of the Itchen Valley, e.g. Bramdean. The A272 utilises the valley as a communication route.



- The downs contain a well established network of public rights of way, including the King's Way, Wayfarer's Walk, and the Itchen Way.
- Areas of Registered Common Land at Cheriton and Bramdean provide open public access as well as providing evidence of the former practice of grazing common wood pastures.
- A number of minor parklands and designed landscapes at Hockley House, Brockwood Park, Hinton Ampner Park, Woodcote Park, Bereleigh House, and Bordean House with designed landscape features.
- Views across the Itchen and Meon Valleys.

### **Specific Characteristics Unique to the Bramdean and Cheriton Downland Mosaic**

- D3.3 This character area comprises a gently undulating chalk downland landscape incorporating the upper dry valley of the River Itchen, reaching 207m at its eastern edge where it meets the east facing *Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp* at Park Hill.
- D3.4 It has a greater extent of clay-with-flints covering the chalk than the *South Winchester Downland Mosaic* (D1) which lies to the south and this results in a landscape of early enclosures, bounded by hedgerows, and a high proportion of woodland which contribute to an enclosed character. Of particular note are the surviving medieval assarts around Tigwell Farm and Peak Farm. This character area is therefore of the 'enclosed' rather than an 'open' landscape sub-type.
- D3.5 Many of the woodlands are ancient woodland, the most extensive of which is Cheriton Wood. The presence of woodland reflects the less extensive clearance of this downland due to the heavy clay soils. Game coverts are also characteristic, indicating the historic importance of the area for shooting sports.
- D3.6 This character area once supported large areas of open downland – for example the battle of Cheriton, fought in 1644, occurred on open downland west of Cheriton Wood. However, these areas of open downland were enclosed in the 18th and 19th century and as a result there are no surviving chalk grassland sites in this area.
- D3.7 The settlement pattern is characterised by scattered farmsteads and hamlets, including the village of Kilmeston. These are linked by a network of rural lanes. Nucleated villages are located in the shelter of the Itchen Valley, e.g. Bramdean (located close to the site of a Roman villa). The A272 utilises the valley as a communication route. The downs contain a sparse network of public rights of way which include the King's Way, Wayfarer's Walk, and the Itchen Way. These public rights of way, and the two large areas of Registered Common Land at Cheriton and Bramdean, provide opportunities for countryside access.
- D3.8 A number of minor parklands and designed landscapes are located at Hockley House, Brockwood Park, Hinton Ampner Park, Woodcote Park, Bereleigh House, and Bordean House. Although not listed on English Heritage's Register, these are recognised by Hampshire County Council on a local register. The presence of these small parks indicates the lack of major wealthy landowners and importance of agriculture in this area compared to the central wooded South Downs. There are

also remnants of a medieval deer park to the north of East Meon, on Park Hill, which indicates the historic importance of the area for hunting.

- D3.9 This is a highly tranquil landscape due to the extent of woodland, low density of settlement and general lack of overt human influences.

### **Sensitivities Specific to the Bramdean and Cheriton Downland Mosaic**

- D3.10 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities detailed at the type level are relevant to this landscape. Specific features sensitive to change in this area are:
- The areas of ancient woodland, e.g. Cheriton Wood.
  - The remnants of the medieval deer park to the north of East Meon, and the minor parklands and designed landscapes at Hockley House, Brockwood Park, Hinton Ampner Park, Woodcote Park, Bereleigh House, and Bordean House, all of which are of county importance.
  - Woodland and unimproved grassland at Mascoombe Bottom.
  - The areas of early assarted enclosures with thick hedgerows and significant tracts of ancient woodland around Tigwell Farm and Peak Farm.
  - The site of the battle of Cheriton, fought in 1644, on downland to the west of Cheriton Wood.
  - The rural character of the villages e.g. Bramdean and Kilmeston.
  - The areas of common land at Cheriton and Bramdean which provide evidence of the former practice of grazing common wood pastures.
  - The views across the Itchen and Meon Valleys.

### **Change Specific to the Bramdean and Cheriton Downland Mosaic**

- D3.11 In addition to the past changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific past changes that have occurred within this character area include the upgrading of the A272 and A3 which cross the landscape, the development and dismantling of the railway between East Meon and Alton, and the introduction of electricity pylons which cross the landscape in two places.

### **Landscape Management/Development Considerations Specific to the Bramdean and Cheriton Downland**

- D3.12 All of the general landscape management considerations relevant at the type level apply to the *Bramdean and Cheriton Downland Mosaic*. In addition to this, and in response to the specific sensitivities of the character area, there are the following additional landscape management considerations.
- Conserve the areas of early assarted enclosures around around Tigwell Farm and Peak Farm, and ancient woodland e.g. at Cheriton Wood.
  - Support the conversion of arable land and species-poor grassland to species rich chalk grassland, particularly on the areas of former open downland e.g. at Park Hill and as extensions to existing sites e.g. Mascoombe Bottom.

- Conserve the remnants of the medieval deer park to the north of East Meon.
- Conserve, and continue to manage, the features of the parklands and designed landscapes at Hockley House, Brockwood Park, Hinton Ampner Park, Woodcote Park, Bereleigh House, and Bordean House, all of which are of county importance. Consider enhancing, or creating new views to, these landscape features.
- Conserve the site of the battle of Cheriton, fought in 1644, on downland to the west of Cheriton Wood. Consider converting this, and other historic sites, to grazed grassland as the most sympathetic form of management.
- Conserve the areas of common land at Cheriton and Bramdean and consider reintroducing traditional management techniques such as grazing common wood pastures.
- Consider further opportunities for recreation and access to this less well visited part of the South Downs.

D3.13 The following development considerations are specific to this character area:

- Encourage sympathetic re-use of traditional farm buildings and sympathetic extensions so as to maintain their external fabric, appearance and setting. Refer to guidance contained in the Historic Farmsteads study<sup>22</sup>.
- Consider views across the Itchen and Meon Valleys in planning any change in this and adjacent landscapes. Consider creating new opportunities for views and viewpoints within the area.
- Maintain the rural character of the villages e.g. Bramdean and Kilместon.

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<sup>22</sup> Forum Heritage Services (2005) *Historic Farmsteads & Landscape Character in Hampshire, Pilot Project*. Report by Bob Edwards for English Heritage.



Village landscape, Bramdean.



A number of minor parklands and designed landscapes.



Woodland and unimproved grassland.



An actively managed arable landscape.



The area contains a well established network of public rights of way.



Hinton Ampner parkland landscape, Bramdean.



## D4: NEWTON VALENCE DOWNLAND MOSAIC

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### Location and Boundaries

- D4.1 The *Newton Valence Downland Mosaic* comprises a small block of undulating chalk downland in the far north of the South Downs, on the edge of the Wey Valley. Its south-eastern and southern boundaries are formed by the crest of the steep of the *Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp*. The western boundary represents a transition to the clay plateau where a more extensive clay-with-flints cap covers the chalk. The north-eastern and northern boundary of the character area is defined by the designated National Park boundary beyond which lies the town of Alton, in the Wey Valley. There is a gradual transition between this area of downland mosaic and the chalk valley of the Wey.
- D4.2 The surface clay capping in this character area results in a high proportion of tree and woodland cover which contribute to an enclosed character. Although there is a small area of open chalk grassland at Noar Hill this is not extensive enough to classify as a separate sub-type - the whole character area is therefore defined as an 'enclosed' sub-type.

### Integrated Key Characteristics:

- A gently rolling chalk landscape, eroded by dry valleys that form tributaries of the River Wey, with a series of hills defining the eastern edge e.g. Selborne Hill and Noar Hill.
- Drift deposits of clay-with-flints cap the highest ridges and hills overlies giving rise to heavy clay soils that supports woodland, including ancient woodland e.g. Ina Down Copse and Goleigh Wood, and game coverts.
- The majority of the landscape was enclosed during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries giving rise to the planned landscape of fields of arable and pasture.
- Selborne Common, located on an area of clay-with-flints, is a nationally important ecological site (SSSI) and registered common which provides opportunities for countryside access.
- Areas of chalk grassland, for example at Noar Hill SSSI.
- Springs and streams arising at the foot of the chalk flow into the Wey Valley.
- An area of small scale medieval assarts on the edge of Chawton represents late medieval enclosure of open fields.
- The settlement pattern is characterised by scattered farmsteads and hamlets, including the village of Newton Valence and the deserted medieval settlement on the edge of East Tisted.
- Nucleated villages are located in the shelter of lower lying areas, e.g. Lower Farringdon, Upper Farringdon and Chawton.

- A number of designed landscapes including Chawton House (listed on English Heritage's register), Newton Valence Place, Newton Valence Manor House, and Goleigh Manor (all on Hampshire County Council's register).
- Remnants of three medieval deer parks (at Chawton, Newton Valence, and Farringdon) indicate the historic importance of the area for hunting.
- The former house of Jane Austen, located in Chawton, is now a museum and is a significant draw for tourists.

### **Specific Characteristics Unique to the Newton Valence Downland Mosaic**

- D4.3 The *Newton Valence Downland Mosaic* is formed from a solid geology of middle and lower chalk. The highest ridges are located in the south and east of the area - at Goleigh Farm (220m AOD), Northfield Hill (180m AOD), Selborne Hill and Noar Hill (both 210m AOD). Here, drift deposits of clay-with-flints overlie the chalk giving rise to heavy clay soils that support considerable areas of woodland, including ancient woodland e.g. Ina Down Copse and Goleigh Wood, and game coverts. Selborne Common, located on an area of clay-with-flints, is a nationally important ecological site (SSSI) supporting mixed woodland and relict areas of open acid grassland – an important feature is the presence of huge beech pollards which developed when the common was grazed as wood pasture. It is also a registered common and provides opportunities for countryside access. Areas without the clay cap support some important areas of chalk grassland, for example at Noar Hill.
- D4.4 Lower chalk is exposed in the valleys between these hills and to the north of Farringdon where the middle chalk has been eroded by the systems of dry valleys that form tributaries of the Wey. Here deposits of 'head' cover the surface of the chalk giving rise to well drained calcareous fine silty soils. To the north of Farringdon the landscape is dominated by the designed landscape associated with Chawton House as well as an area of small scale medieval assarts on the edge of Chawton, which represents late medieval enclosure of open fields. In this lower lying area there are springs and streams arising at the foot of the chalk hills that flow northwards into the Wey Valley.
- D4.5 The majority of the landscape was enclosed during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries giving rise to the planned landscape of fields of arable and pasture that dominate the landscape today. The presence of round barrows suggests the landscape was valued at least for ritual purposes during the Bronze Age.
- D4.6 The settlement pattern is characterised by scattered farmsteads and hamlets, including the village of Newton Valence and the deserted medieval settlement on the edge of East Tisted. These are linked by a network of rural lanes. This character area contains a number of nucleated villages, located in the shelter of lower lying areas, e.g. Lower Farringdon, Upper Farringdon and Chawton. The relatively close proximity of these villages gives the sense that this is a more settled landscape than other areas of downland mosaic. The settlement is contained within the landscape by woodland and linked by winding rural lanes resulting in an intimate and enclosed landscape.

- D4.7 A number of minor parklands and designed landscapes are located at Newton Valence Place, Newton Valence Manor House, and Goleigh Manor. Although not listed on English Heritage's Register, these are recognised by Hampshire County Council on a local register. The presence of these small parks indicates the lack of major wealthy landowners and importance of agriculture in this area compared to the central wooded South Downs. There are also remnants of medieval deer parks at Chawton, Newton Valence, and Farringdon which indicate the historic importance of the area for hunting.
- D4.8 The areas of Registered Common Land at Selborne Common and a sparse network of public rights of way provide some opportunities for countryside access. Jane Austen lived in Chawton, where she wrote Mansfield Park - her house draws visitors to this part of the South Downs. However, there is otherwise little evident recreational use of the area.

### **Sensitivities Specific to the Newton Valence Downland Mosaic**

- D4.9 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities detailed at the type level are relevant to this landscape. Specific features sensitive to change in this area are:
- The areas of ancient woodland, e.g. Ina Down Copse and Goleigh Wood.
  - The remnants of three medieval deer parks (at Chawton, Newton Valence, and Farringdon) and the designed landscapes including Chawton House (listed on English Heritage's register), Newton Valence Place, Newton Valence Manor House, and Goleigh Manor (all on Hampshire County Council's register).
  - Areas of chalk grassland, for example at Noar Hill.
  - Springs and streams and associated wetland habitats.
  - The area of small scale medieval assarts on the edge of Chawton.
  - The rural and secluded setting to villages such as Newton Valence, Lower Farringdon, Upper Farringdon and Chawton
  - The deserted medieval settlement on the edge of East Tisted.
  - The areas of common land at Selborne Common and High Common (Noar Hill) which are nationally important ecological sites and provide evidence of the former practice of grazing common wood pastures.
  - The views from Noar Hill and Selborne Hill over the *East Hampshire Greensand Terrace*.

### **Change Specific to the Newton Valence Downland Mosaic**

- D4.10 In addition to the past changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific past changes that have occurred within this character area in the 20<sup>th</sup> century include the expansion of built development on the edges of Lower and Upper Farringdon, and around Newton Valence, the development and dismantling of the railway between East Meon and Alton, and the introduction of electricity pylons into the landscape.

## **Landscape Management/Development Considerations Specific to the Newton Valence Downland Mosaic**

D4.11 All of the general landscape management considerations relevant at the type level apply to the *Newton Valence Downland Mosaic*. In addition to this, and in response to the specific sensitivities of the character area, there are the following additional landscape management considerations.

- Conserve and manage areas of ancient woodland, e.g. Ina Down Copse and Goleigh Wood.
- Conserve the area of early assarted enclosures on the edge of Chawton.
- Conserve wetland habitats, including wet woodland, associated with the streams and springs on the edge of the Wey Valley.
- Conserve areas of chalk grassland, for example at Noar Hill. Support the conversion of arable land and species-poor grassland to species rich chalk grassland, particularly on the areas of former open downland.
- Conserve the remnants of the three medieval deer parks at Chawton, Newton Valence, and Farringdon.
- Conserve historic parkland at Chawton, encouraging the management/restoration of permanent pasture, parkland trees, avenues and clumps of trees.
- Conserve, and continue to manage, the features of the parklands and designed landscapes at Chawton House (listed on English Heritage's register), Newton Valence Place, Newton Valence Manor House, and Goleigh Manor (all on Hampshire County Council's register). Consider enhancing, or creating new views to, these landscape features.
- Conserve the areas of common land at Selborne and Noar Hill and consider reintroducing traditional management techniques such as grazing common wood pastures.
- Consider further opportunities for recreation and access to this less well visited part of the South Downs.

D4.12 The following development considerations are specific to this character area:

- Encourage sympathetic re-use of traditional farm buildings and sympathetic extensions so as to maintain their external fabric, appearance and setting. Refer to guidance contained in the Historic Farmsteads study<sup>23</sup>.
- Consider views from hills, especially Selborne Hill and Noar Hill, when planning any change in this and adjacent landscapes. Consider creating new opportunities for views and viewpoints within the area.

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<sup>23</sup> Forum Heritage Services (2005) *Historic Farmsteads & Landscape Character in Hampshire, Pilot Project*. Report by Bob Edwards for English Heritage.

- Maintain the rural character and intimate character of the villages e.g. Newton Valence, Lower Farringdon, Upper Farringdon and Chawton and conserve the location and setting of the deserted medieval settlement on the edge of East Tisted.





Ancient woodland borders a sunken lane at Inadown.



A network of arable and pastoral fields.



A distinctive church spire at Newton Valence.



Housing at Farrington showing traditional building materials of brick and tiles.



A network of rural lanes connects the characteristic scattered farmsteads and hamlets.



The surface clay capping in this character area results in a high proportion of tree and woodland cover which contributes to the enclosed character.