

Appendix B

Landscape Character Type B: Wooded Estate Downland

A distinctive ridge of chalk dominated by large woodland blocks and estates in the central part of the South Downs extending from War Down in the west to Worthing in the east. This LCT contains some of the highest and most remote parts of the South Downs National Park.

Description

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.
- 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 with woodland for economic and aesthetic reasons.
- The area remains an estate landscape with strong sporting traditions, including woodland managed for shooting and areas of cover crops for game.
- Supports extensive woodland including semi-natural ancient woodland plus beech, mixed and commercial coniferous plantation, which creates a distinctive dark horizon in views from the south.
- Woodland is interlocked with straight-sided, irregular open arable fields linked by hedgerows.
- 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.
- Large number of designed parkland landscapes with important visual influences – estate walls, avenues, follies as at Stansted, Uppark, Goodwood and Arundel.
- A deeply rural secluded landscape with large tracts devoid of roads and settlement. This type, alongside parts of LCTs A, C and D, contains some of the highest and most remote parts of the National Park.

Physical Landscape

B.1 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 shallow calcareous soils to slightly acid loamy soils.

B.2 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.3 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.4 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. The most elevated downlands to the north of the type (mostly located in LCA B2), which lack visibility of settlements and enjoy the darkest skies, provide the greatest sense of remoteness.

B.5 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.6 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.7 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. Many of the woodlands throughout the landscape are BAP Priority Habitat deciduous woodlands. Arable fields occur within the wooded matrix and occasional areas of unimproved chalk grassland (BAP Priority Habitat lowland calcareous grassland) are found on the steeper slopes and ridge tops.

B.8 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 LWS and/or SSSI.

B.9 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. There are also occasional areas of BAP Priority Habitat good quality semi-improved grassland scattered throughout this landscape.

Key Biodiversity Features	Importance
Extensive areas of deciduous woodland (a BAP Priority Habitat) including hanger woodland, some of which are nationally important habitats (SSSI).	Comprises a wide range of woodland types including hanger woodland, with some internationally important woodland types such as yew and beech woodland. These woodlands provide important habitats for woodland plant species, lichens, fungi, breeding birds and invertebrates.
Small areas of lowland calcareous grassland with areas of chalk heath and scrub (notably yew and juniper) occur on the steeper slopes (both BAP Priority Habitats).	Chalk grassland is a nationally scarce habitat highly valued for its rich flora, communities of breeding birds and diverse invertebrates, notably moths and butterflies. Chalk heath is a particularly rare habitat and of considerable biodiversity importance but vulnerable to rapid loss and degradation. Scrub is an important component of chalk grassland but needs active management to prevent encroachment.
Good quality semi-improved grassland (a BAP Priority Habitat)	Semi-improved grassland is moderately species-rich but valued for its potential for habitat enhancement.
Intact hedgerows network with mature hedgerow trees.	Hedgerows provide vital resources for mammals, birds, and insect species and act as wildlife corridors allowing dispersal between isolated habitats.

B.10 Some of the areas of BAP Priority Habitat deciduous woodland, good quality semi-improved grassland and lowland calcareous grassland across the *Wooded Estate Downland* are identified as providing effective habitat networks in Natural England's National Habitat Networks Mapping Project. Adjacent to some of these habitats are areas identified as being suitable for restoration where they exist in a degraded or fragmented form (including within and to the south-east of Queen Elizabeth Country Park, at Ladyholt Park LWS, adjacent to both the Harting Downs and Treyford to Bepton Down SSSI and within The Goodwood Estate Country Park). The mapping project also indicates that work is underway to either create or restore some of these habitats in small patches across the *Wooded Estate Downland*.

B.11 Network Enhancement Zones have also been identified across the landscape, where land connecting existing patches of these habitats are likely to be suitable for the creation of new habitats. This will result in the joining up of existing habitats and subsequently improving the connections between them. A number of potential 'network joins' have been identified across the landscape, including on the eastern edge of the Queen Elizabeth Country Park, between Chalton Down LWS and both Hucksholt Chalk Pit LWS and Idsworth Down LWS on the western edge of the landscape type, to the south of Sutton Down and Burton Down and on the western edge of The Trundle (St. Roche's Hill) & Chalkpit Lane LWS.

Historic Character

B.12 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 and cross-ridge dykes. Many of these sites were prominently located on, or just below, the ridgeline 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.13 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.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 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.15 The downs were also used to a great extent for hunting, with a number of medieval deerparks recorded. Much of this land was not available for agriculture, although areas of commonland were accessible.

B.16 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 (planned private enclosure), and much of these regular enclosures survive, together with isolated farmsteads, often built to a common plan and painted in estate liveries.

B.17 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, characterised today by modern field amalgamation (identified by 50% or more lost boundaries). There are several parklands (post-medieval designed) associated with large country mansions and grand houses; some of which once originated as medieval deerparks like at Angmering Park, Inlande Park and Stanstead Park.

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

Key Features of the Historic Environment	Importance
Scattered post-medieval farmsteads	Indicates the changing nature of farming practice following decline of traditional manorial system
Medieval deerparks	Historic importance of the area for hunting – forerunner to the 18 th century estates. Now exist typically as post-medieval designed parklands.
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 Historic England register of Historic Parks and Gardens
18 th century landed estates	Provides evidence of the great transformation of the landscape in the 18 th century which remains the dominant influence on the character of the landscape today

B.20 Building materials are typically flint, red brick and clay tiles – flint is the most important and distinctive building material in this landscape type.

Settlement Form and Built Character

B.18 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.19 The dominant settlement form is relatively late in origin, and comprises isolated 18th-19th century farmsteads 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.

Evaluation

Ecosystem Services in the Wooded Estate Downland

B.21 Ecosystem services are the benefits people and society get from the natural environment. The *Wooded Estate Downland* provides:

Provisioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Food provision – mixed farming producing cereals and arable crops, and livestock grazing. ■ Timber provision – many large areas of estate woodland are managed for commercial forestry. ■ Water availability – the chalk aquifer maintains springs and base flows into rivers and streams. The well drained calcareous silty soils are important as often winter rainfall is readily absorbed, recharging aquifers and making an important contribution to water supplies.
Regulating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Regulating water flows – soils and underlying geology are permeable and able to absorb and store winter rainfall, helping to avoid accelerated water run-off and flooding. ■ Regulating soil erosion – vegetative cover, particularly woodland and permanent grassland, helps to prevent erosion. ■ Climate regulation - carbon sequestration and storage benefits in woodland. ■ Air quality regulation – woodlands play an important role in regulating local air quality. ■ Pollination – unimproved or semi-improved grasslands are important nectar sources for pollinating insects.
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sense of place – this landscape has a distinct sense of place due to its estate character, dispersed sparse settlement and strong presence of woodland. ■ Tranquillity – the remote nature of the high downs, lack of intervisibility with settlement and enclosure provided by the woodland results in high levels of tranquillity and dark skies. ■ Recreation – served by public rights of way connecting places of interest and some open access land.
Supporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Biodiversity – significant woodland cover providing important habitats for woodland plant species, lichens, fungi, breeding birds and invertebrates, as well as grasslands and hedgerows with biodiversity interest.

Sensitivities

B.22 This landscape type has many sensitive physical and aesthetic/perceptual features that are vulnerable to change, as set out in the table below.

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	The large areas of ancient woodland which have a rich ground flora and contribute to the distinctly wooded and deeply rural character.
2.	Rare yew forests, chalk grassland, chalk heath and mixed scrub including juniper and yew which require careful management to ensure their survival.
3.	The large scale of the landscape created by the landform, extensive forestry plantations, and large fields bounded by hedgerows.
4.	Areas of chalk grassland which are of great biodiversity interest and which are vulnerable to changes in management and require consistent grazing regimes.
5.	The sense of tranquillity arising from the relatively limited access by car, low density of dispersed settlement and enclosure provided by woodlands. especially the areas of deep remoteness associated with the higher wooded downlands to the north which have no visibility of adjacent settlements and experience the darkest skies.
6.	The dark skies associated with the South Downs South Downs International Dark Skies Reserve which are vulnerable to light sources, particularly in the 'Dark Sky Core' associated with the higher wooded downlands to the north.

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
7.	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/ enlargement.
8.	The 18 th -19 th century farms, including traditional flint and brick barns, which could be vulnerable to insensitive changes.
9.	The grand country houses set within parkland landscapes that display the 18 th century picturesque landscape style.
10.	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.
11.	Prominent undeveloped ridges and skylines that are visible from adjacent landscapes are visually highly sensitive.
12.	Panoramic viewpoints from ridges and hilltops.

Change – Key Issues and Trends

Past Change

B.23 Past change includes:

Past Change	
1.	Changes to the landscape pattern resulting from the planting of fast growing trees in the 1920s to rebuild timber reserves after the First World War – many of these were used for the paper pulp and fencing markets.
2.	Gradual decline in traditional woodland management techniques (such as coppicing) as forestry has concentrated on coniferous rotations.
3.	Reduction in revenue from forestry following the scrapping of tax relief schemes in the late 1980s resulting in a decline in woodland management.
4.	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.
5.	Increased recreational provision in the beech and conifer plantations since the 1960s, including improved access.
6.	Damage as a result of storm events.
7.	An increase in traffic on the few roads that cross the central part of the South Downs.
8.	Introduction of large scale development such as chalk quarries, reservoirs and pylons within the landscape.
9.	Conversion of historic farm buildings to residential use.

Future Landscape Change

B.24 The likely future changes are set out in the table below:

Future Change	
1.	Increased temperatures may result in changes to the species composition of woodland habitats, particularly affecting the ancient woodlands. This could also lead to the formation of pathogens which in time could result in the decline in ability of woodland to regenerate and the loss of mature/significant landscape trees.

Future Change	
2.	Wind damage, due to increases in severe gales, is another possible issue for woodlands - the predominance of the older age classes in much beech high forest may increase the susceptibility of the beech population from droughts and storms. However, wind blow in some areas may be positive, enabling an increase in species diversity due to planting or natural regeneration.
3.	Increased temperatures could affect the species composition of chalk grasslands, chalk heath and juniper/yew scrub. This could result in a greater abundance of grassland species with a continental distribution, but the spread of more competitive grasses could cancel out this benefit.
4.	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. Global agricultural competition is also likely to continue to hamper efforts to reinstate sheep grazing which is necessary for the management of chalk grassland.
5.	If Net Zero commitments are implemented, it is likely that there will be key changes to land use, including a reduction in grazing land to free up land for other uses such as bioenergy crop planting (and low-grade biomass production), arable crops and woodlands (related to afforestation initiatives).
6.	Agricultural management will be driven by the changes in the world market and the agricultural policy. 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.
7.	Increased drought conditions could result in the potential to grow different arable crop types such as oil seed rape, 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.
8.	The risk of wildfires will increase with climate change as summers become hotter and drier. This is of particular concern on open access land which coincide with areas of chalk grassland, that are at higher risk at times of dry weather due to high recreational use.
9.	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.

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, the deeply rural secluded character and dark skies. The historic parkland and designed landscapes associated with the 18th century estates should also be conserved.

Guidance for Landscape Management

- A.** Conserve the large scale mosaic of distinctive beechwoods, ancient woodlands and hedgerows that enclose fields, all of which create a bold, distinctive identity. Management of woodlands should follow the relevant Forestry Commission guidance.
- B.** Encourage re-planting of native broadleaved species as coniferous woodlands are felled. 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.
- C.** Manage woodland to ensure a diverse species and age structure to minimise risk of damage as a result of storms and high winds. Promote interest in, and marketing of, local wood products.
- D.** Conserve and manage the intact hedgerow network with hedgerow trees which are of biodiversity interest and create a strong landscape pattern. Monitor regeneration of hedgerow trees and consider re-planting where necessary.
- E.** Create buffer strips along hedgerows in arable areas, which will assist in reducing rates of erosion of the shallow soils over chalk.
- F.** Maintain and increase the species diversity of areas of semi-improved grassland, which act as a reservoir for more common chalk downland species.
- G.** Protect and continue to manage the existing chalk grassland, through appropriate grazing regimes and management of scrub. Seek to extend areas of chalk grassland, 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.
- H.** Ensure planning for wildfires is incorporated into open grassland management plans. Promote responsible recreation behaviour, particularly during heatwaves, when there is an increased risk of fire in these areas.
- I.** Be alert to potential new pests and diseases and plan for their management.
- J.** Continue to monitor native species to assess changes in numbers and distribution. Monitor and control the spread of invasive species which are a cause of decline in native habitats, such as American skunk cabbage *Lysichiton americanus* and Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* in the woodlands. Refer to the SDNP INNS Strategy.
- K.** Monitor the potential visual impact of different crop types, including biomass crops, which may become part of this landscape in the future.
- L.** Avoid road upgrades and 'improvements' that would alter the rural character of the unmarked lanes.
- M.** Conserve historic designed landscapes, and their settings, encouraging the management/ restoration of permanent pasture, parkland trees, avenues and clumps of trees.
- N.** Maintain, or create, vistas to important landscape features such as the designed parklands, large houses, distinctive tree clumps, and archaeological features.
- O.** Maintain the network of bridleways and public rights of way and consider further opportunities for recreation and access to this less well visited part of the South Downs, while promoting responsible recreation behaviour.

Guidance for Integrating Development into the Landscape

- A.** Conserve the very low density of settlement and road access, and consequent strong sense of remoteness, and tranquillity, particularly the most remote upper reaches of the wooded downlands which have no visibility of main settlement and darkest skies.

- B.** Pay particular attention to the introduction of any new lighting into the landscape, particularly the 'Dark Sky Core' of the International Dark Sky Reserve associated with the most remote downland, taking account of the dark skies technical guidance advice note: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/TLL-10-SDNPA-Dark-Skies-Technical-Advice-Note-2018.pdf>
- C.** Maintain undeveloped ridges and skylines – particularly those that are that are visible from adjacent landscapes. Assess the impact of any tall structures on the sensitive skyline.
- D.** Seek opportunities to reduce the visual impact of existing visually intrusive elements on the downs such as prominent electricity pylons.
- E.** 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 and representative views identified in the View Characterisation and Analysis report¹.
- F.** 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 study².

Woodland strategy and suitable species

B.26 The LCT contains 83km² of woodland, with approximately 42% woodland cover, representing one of the most wooded part of the National Park. The woodland includes significant ancient woodland cover, which together with extensive areas of broadleaved, mixed and plantation woodland create a strongly wooded character of the landscape, often associated with the parkland estates. The woodland strategy is to seek to conserve existing landscape patterns through augmentation, create new areas of indigenous deciduous woodland, including perpetuation of parkland planting patterns and specimen trees, and thickening of hedgerow boundaries. Any new afforestation schemes should follow principles of good design and species should be appropriate to local soils, such as beechwoods associated with calcareous flint soils and oak, birch and holly woodlands with heavier soils.

B.27 Appropriate plant species may be informed by the National Biodiversity Network Gateway, relevant Biodiversity Action Plans and biological records from the relevant Biological Records Centre.

B.28 Ensure any purchased plant stock is through reputable nurseries, operating the Plant Health Assurance Scheme (once it has been trialled) to protect against the risk of *Xylella fastidiosa* and other plant health risks.

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

¹ LUC. 2015 *South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis*

² Forum Heritage Services (2005) *Historic Farmsteads & Landscape Character in Hampshire, Pilot Project*. Report by Bob Edwards for English Heritage.

B1: Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland

Location and Boundaries

This character area comprises the rolling downs 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 adjoins the *Upper Coastal Plain*.

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 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, Halnaker 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, as well as northwards across the Lavant Valley, and eastwards into the Arun Valley.

Specific Characteristics Unique to the Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland

B.29 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 1 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 SSSI and The Trundle LWS. 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 in Britain of broad-leaved cudweed (*Filago pyramidata*), which is a nationally endangered plant species.

B.30 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 deer parks at East Dean, Selhurst and Arundel are still visible in the landscape.

B.31 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 Historic England’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 Historic England’s Register, also make an important contribution to the character of this area.

B.32 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.

B.33 Settlement in this character area is generally typical of the landscape type and, as well as dispersed farmsteads, includes nucleated villages at Slindon and Eartham. The racecourse stadium at Goodwood is a prominent built element. However, the overall limited amount of built development and the high proportion of woodland results in this character area having a sense of tranquillity. Areas that are particularly remote include to the north and west of Houghton Forest, and along the southern fringes of the *Lavant Valley* with some of the darkest skies across the park and without visibility of main settlements.

Sensitivities Specific to the Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland

B.34 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:

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	The remnants of historic deerparks at East Dean, Selhurst and Arundel.
2.	The historic parkland landscapes Arundel, Goodwood, West Dean, Halnaker Park, Selhurst Park and Dale Park.
3.	The panoramic views across the coastal plain, including representative views from The Trundle and from Bignor Hill identified in the View Characterisation and Analysis ³ report.

Change Specific to the Goodwood to Arundel Wooded Estate Downland

B.35 In addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area are set out in the table below.

Forces for Change	
1.	Pressure for future agricultural change (although will be largely mitigated by the fact that a large proportion of the area is already managed as part of large estates).
2.	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

B.36 In addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape management and development considerations for this landscape type, the following landscape management considerations are specific to this character area:

- a. Pay particular attention to panoramic views, for example from the popular viewpoints at The Trundle and Bignor Hill, in planning any change in this or adjacent areas, including areas outside the National Park boundary.
- b. Conserve historic deerparks and designed landscapes, and their settings, encouraging the management/ restoration of permanent pasture, parkland trees, avenues and clumps of trees.

³ LUC. 2015 *South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis – View 11, 26*

B2: Queen Elizabeth Forest to East Dean Wooded Estate Downland

Location and Boundaries

This 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.

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 and Butser Hill, 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, including views northwards across the Rother Valley to the Greensand Hills. 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

B.37 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 LWS's, 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 while the extensive woodland cover creates a distinctive dark horizon in views from the south.

B.38 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.

B.39 Chalk grassland habitats are represented by a number of sites, the most notable and extensive being Harting Downs SSSI and Butser Hill SSSI (which extends into the area), sites which comprise a mix of open grassland, scrub and mature woodland. Buster Hill SSSI is also designated as a SAC, having the richest terricolous lichen flora of any chalk grassland site in England, and also supporting the distinctive *Scapanietum asperae* or southern hepatic mat association of leafy liverworts and mosses on north-facing chalk slopes. This association is very rare in the UK and Butser Hill supports the largest known example. These, 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.

B.40 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 listed Grade II* on Historic England’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 Historic England’s Register, also makes an important contribution to local character.

B.41 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*.

B.42 The extent of woodland and lack of visibility of main settlements, has resulted in this character area having a strong sense of remoteness with some of the darkest skies across the park.

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

B.43 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Specific sensitivities relevant to this character area are included in the table below:

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	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.
2.	The archaeological sites hidden within plantation woodland, as well as historic field systems and hollow ways.
3.	Singleton and Cocking Tunnels SAC, with its important populations of hibernating bats, is sensitive to disturbance of any kind.
4.	Butser Hill SSSI/SAC is sensitive for its terricolous lichen flora.
5.	The historic parkland landscapes at Uppark and Ditcham Park.
6.	The panoramic viewpoints along the scarp and over the Rother Valley to the north, particularly those from Harting Down and Beacon Hill, identified in the View Characterisation and Analysis report ⁴ .

⁴ LUC. 2015 South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis – View 12 and 36

Key Landscape Sensitivities

7. The strong sense of remoteness and dark skies which is particularly associated with the elevated wooded downland in this area.

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

B.44 In addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area include:

Forces for Change

1. The restoration of plantations on ancient woodlands to native species and the restoration of chalk grassland habitat in specific areas as proposed in the South Downs Forest Design Plan.
2. Continued planting of trees for timber production.

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

B.45 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:

- a. Conserve the Butser Hill SSSI / SAC to protect its valuable terricolous lichen flora.
- b. 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.
- c. Conserve the historic field systems such as the Romano-British and Iron Age field systems and hollow ways at Holt Down and ancient field system at Lamb Lea.
- d. Conserve the historic designed landscapes at Uppark, West Dean and Ditcham Park and consider maintaining or creating vistas to these landscapes.
- e. Pay particular attention to the panoramic views from the popular hilltop viewpoints along the South Downs Way e.g. at Harting Down and Beacon Hill in considering any future landscape change.

B3: Stansted to West Dean Wooded Estate Downland

Location and Boundaries

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 area is defined by the National Park boundary and LCA R1 *South Downs Upper Coastal Plain*.

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 the Stansted to West Dean Wooded Estate Downland

B.46 This character area exhibits chalk scenery typical of the dip slope 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 in origin. 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 renovated 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.

B.47 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 Historic England'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 Historic England'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.

B.48 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 mine on Bow Hill, and a number of barrows, hilltop enclosures and cross dykes at Kingley Vale. These are all Scheduled Monuments.

B.49 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).

B.50 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. However, the limited amount of built development overall and the high proportion of woodland results in this character area having a sense of tranquillity. Areas that are particularly remote mainly lie along the elevated northern edge of the character area between Ladyholt Park and Wellhager Copse and without visibility of main settlements are afforded with some of the darkest skies across the park.

Sensitivities Specific to the Stansted to West Dean Wooded Estate Downland

B.51 All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Specific sensitivities relevant to this character area are included in the table below.

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	The historic parkland landscapes at Stansted, Ladyholt and Watergate.
2.	The panoramic viewpoints which are sensitive to change, including representative views at The Devil’s Hump on Bow Hill, Stoke Clump and Uppark identified in the View Characterisation and Analysis report ⁵ .

Change Specific to the Stansted to West Dean Wooded Estate Downland

B.52 In addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area include:

Forces for Change	
1.	Planting of conifers in Stansted Forest and decline in traditional woodland management techniques (such as coppicing) as forestry has concentrated on coniferous rotations.
2.	Positive changes at Kingley Vale including improved access and habitat management, as well as habitat creation and management within other areas.

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

B.53 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:

- a. 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.
- b. Conserve and restore historic designed landscapes at Stansted, Ladyholt and Watergate and consider opportunities for creating vistas to these features.
- c. Pay particular attention to the panoramic views from the popular viewpoints, such as Bow Hill and Stoke Clump and Uppark in planning any change.

⁵ LUC. 2015 South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis – View 45, 48 and 64

B4: Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

Location and Boundaries

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 Downs* 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 boundary adjoins the *Upper Coastal Plain*. The eastern boundary abuts the urban edge of Worthing on the edge of the National Park.

Key Characteristics

- Comprises a chalk dipslope, exhibiting a strong and distinctive topography of rolling hills supporting a mosaic of parkland, woodland and mixed farmland.
- Slightly acidic heavy soils support large expanses of ancient woodland, including assart woodland, much of which may have originated before the medieval period, but also including ornamental plantations associated with landscape parks at Michelgrove and Angmering together with game coverts.
- Interwoven with the woodland is an agricultural landscape of straight-sided arable fields linked by hedgerows – fields that were largely amalgamated in the 20th century.
- 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 early planned 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 the Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

B.54 This character area exhibits the 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. The chalk dipslope is characterised by woodland interlocked by a patchwork of 18th century and later regular enclosures.

B.55 The main areas of woodland are those that surround Angmering Park and the Clapham Wood LWS. A range of woodland types exist, 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.

B.56 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 Historic England'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.

B.57 Typical of its type, this character area contains some prehistoric and later earthworks, including a series of flint mines at Patching Hill, which provide a strong sense of historical continuity.

B.58 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. 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.

B.59 Settlement in this character area is typical of the landscape type and, as well as scattered farmsteads, includes the small nucleated villages of Patching and Clapham. Field patterns immediately around the villages are of early post-medieval planned enclosures.

Sensitivities Specific to the Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

B.60 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:

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	Ancient woodland, for example at Clapham Wood.
2.	The historic parkland landscapes at Angmering and Michelgrove Parks.
3.	The flint mines at Patching Hill which provides a strong sense of historical continuity.
4.	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.

- d. 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.

Change Specific to the Angmering and Clapham Wooded Estate Downland

B.61 In addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area include:

Forces for Change	
1.	Planting of conifers in Michelgrove/Angmering Parks and decline in traditional woodland management techniques (such as coppicing) as forestry has concentrated on coniferous rotations.
2.	Rationalisation of historic parkland to form large modern fields for arable cultivation.
3.	Positive changes in terms of habitat creation and enhancement.

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

B.62 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:

- a. Conserve the woodland cover, particularly areas of ancient woodland for example at Clapham Wood.
- b. Conserve and restore historic designed landscapes at Michelgrove/Angmering Parks by restoring parkland pasture and planting new parkland trees.
- c. Conserve the flint mines at Patching Hill which provide a strong sense of historical continuity.