

## Appendix D

### Landscape Character Type D: Downland Mosaic

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.

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. This type contains some of the highest and most remote parts of the National Park.

#### Description

##### Key Characteristics

- Large scale rolling landform characteristic of the chalk dip slope, 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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. This type, alongside parts of LCT A, B and C contain some of the most remote parts of the National Park.

### Physical Landscape

**D.1** 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.2** 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.3** 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, shallow calcareous earths, and smaller fields of mixed arable, pasture and woodland on the heavier clay and loamy soils. The variations in soils type, field pattern and land use form a mosaic across the landscape type.

### Perceptual/Experiential Landscape

**D.4** 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.5** This is a rural and tranquil landscape with low noise levels, low population density and relative absence of overt human influence. Areas in the north east of the type, including the most elevated downlands and secluded dry valleys which

lack visibility of main settlements and enjoy the darkest skies provide the greatest sense of remoteness. 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.6** 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 17<sup>th</sup> century and inspired literary comment. One description of Beacon Hill 'like a half-clipped poodle' 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.7** This landscape is of significant ecological interest, supporting a large number of woodlands, many of which are of ancient origin and a BAP Priority Habitat (deciduous woodland), 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 (where small patches of BAP priority habitat lowland calcareous grassland and semi-improved grassland also occur), 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 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.8** Areas of unimproved chalk grassland also occur, and include nationally important sites such as Beacon Hill NNR/SSSI, Catherington Down NNR/SSSI and Old

Winchester Hill NNR/SSSI. These chalk grassland sites also support scrub and woodland communities, including juniper, an uncommon species in the UK (and BAP priority species).

**D.9** These semi-natural habitats, together with a well-developed hedgerow network, and occasional fields of permanent pasture, provide ecologically important features within the predominantly arable landscape.

Key Biodiversity Features	Importance
Significant deciduous woodland cover (a BAP Priority Habitat) with many of ancient origin. There are also blocks of plantation woodland.	Deciduous woodland, including uncommon types such as yew woodland and juniper scrub, contains important canopy and ground flora. Plantation woodland also provide important habitat in the local context.
Occasional areas of lowland calcareous grassland occur on the steep slopes along with areas of semi-improved grassland (both BAP Priority Habitats).	Nationally important chalk grasslands are notable for their rich plant and invertebrate communities. Semi-improved grassland is moderately species-rich but valued for its potential for habitat enhancement.
Mosaic of arable land, permanent pasture and well-developed hedgerows.	Provides habitat diversity at a local landscape scale.

**D.10** The areas of BAP Priority Habitat lowland calcareous grassland and semi-improved grassland across the *Downland Mosaic* 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 at Old Winchester Hill, Butser Hill and Blendworth Down). The mapping project also indicates that work is underway to either create or restore these habitats in these locations.

**D.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 lowland calcareous and semi-improved grassland 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 in the southern part of the *Downland Mosaic*, including at the Runny Down / Sheelds Copse LWS, on the edge of the Coombe Wood and North Wood LWS, to the north of Netherley Down LWS, at the western edge of Long Down LWS and to the south of Punch Bowl LWS, which would help link up existing clusters of these priority habitats.

## 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 deerparks 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. Modern field amalgamation (identified by 50% or more lost boundaries<sup>1</sup>) has occurred throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century across the majority of the landscape, interspersed with surviving blocks of original pre-1800 woodland, 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.

Key Features of the Historic Environment	Importance
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 <i>Wooded Estate Downland</i> 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 Historic England'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 type. 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.

<sup>1</sup> Wyvern Heritage and Landscape. 2017 *Historic Landscape Characterisation Report (Hampshire) – South Downs National Park*

## Evaluation

### Ecosystem Services in the Downland Mosaic

**D.20** Ecosystem services are the benefits people and society get from the natural environment. The *Downland Mosaic* provides:

Provisioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Food provision – mixed farming producing cereals and arable crops, and livestock grazing.</li> <li>■ Timber provision – commercial plantations.</li> <li>■ Water availability – chalk aquifers underlying the dip slope act as a storage reservoir, supplying water for drinking and for agricultural and commercial uses.</li> </ul>
Regulating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Regulating water quality - the chalk geology underling the dip slope acts as a natural filtering system and helps to maintain the chemical and ecological status of water bodies in and around the dip slope.</li> <li>■ Regulating water flows – Groundwater from the underlying chalk feeds many of the rivers and streams, and supplies base flows to many spring fed streams. Soils and underlying geology are permeable and able to absorb and store winter rainfall, helping to avoid accelerated water run-off and flooding.</li> <li>■ Regulating soil erosion – areas with permanent vegetation cover reduces risk of soil erosion from wind and surface water run-off.</li> <li>■ Climate regulation – woodland cover plays an important role through carbon sequestration and storage benefits, particularly as thin chalk soils are often under intensive arable production and as a consequence, have limited capacity to store carbon.</li> <li>■ Air quality regulation – woodlands play an important role in regulating local air quality.</li> <li>■ Pollination – chalk and other semi-natural grasslands are important nectar sources for pollinating insects.</li> </ul>
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Sense of place – the downs have a distinct sense of place with prominent views from high points and a perceived naturalness associated with semi-natural habitats and time-depth of the ancient woodland. Wide evidence of historic human occupation from ritual burial sites to Iron age hillforts and ancient routes which connect them.</li> <li>■ Tranquility – away from major settlements the area provides a sense of tranquillity and dark night skies. Elevated areas to the north east of the type which include the chalk ridge, dip slope and some secluded coombe valleys are the most remote.</li> <li>■ Recreation – extensive network of paths and promoted routes.</li> </ul>
Supporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Biodiversity - diverse range of habitats including ancient woodland and chalk grasslands support an extensive range of specialised plant and animal species.</li> </ul>

### Sensitivities

**D.21** This landscape type has a number of sensitive physical and aesthetic/perceptual features that are vulnerable to change, as set out in the table below.

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	The skyline of the prominent ridgeline that follows the line of the Meon anticline – including Butser Hill, Old Winchester Hill and Beacon Hill. The prominent open ridge and hills are a particularly visually sensitive part of the landscape.
2.	The localised secondary escarpment which supports chalk grassland and associated woody scrub, and hanger woodland.
3.	Areas of chalk grassland and associated woody scrub, including juniper scrub which is of particular biodiversity interest.
4.	The pockets of older medieval assarts surrounded by woodland which provide texture and containment.
5.	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.

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
6.	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.
7.	Panoramic views both of this landscape and view of adjacent landscapes afforded from the distinct hills. Any landscape change or development in this or adjacent landscapes has the potential to be highly visible and impact these iconic views.
8.	The strong rural, secluded character arising from the low density of dispersed settlement. Areas of greatest remoteness are generally concentrated to the north east of the type and associated with the highest reaches of the downlands and secluded coombe valleys which have no visibility of adjacent settlements and experience the darkest skies.
9.	The dark skies associated with the South Downs International Dark Skies Reserve which are vulnerable to light sources, particularly the higher reaches of the downlands in the 'Dark Sky Core' of the International Dark Sky Reserve to east of the type.
10.	The churches which are distinctive visual landmarks.
11.	The consistent use of building materials typically flint, red brick and clay tiles which provide unity across the landscape type.
12.	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.

## Change – Key Issues and Trends

### Past Change

**D.22** Past change includes:

Past Change	
1.	Enclosure of arable fields in the 18 <sup>th</sup> / 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries resulting in the ordered field pattern evident today.
2.	Introduction of pylons into the landscape resulting in visual detractors.
3.	Development within adjacent urban and peri-urban areas which is prominent in views from parts of the <i>Downland Mosaic</i> .
4.	Loss of archaeology through ploughing.
5.	Diversification of farming, including stud farms and hobby farms, conversion of farms to equestrian holdings, paintballing facilities and barns used for storage of non-agricultural items.
6.	Growth of recreational use of the landscape and the development of golf courses.
7.	Modernisation of farm buildings, in places built from materials not typical of the character type.
8.	Decline in hedgerow management and reduction in hedgerow tree regeneration.
9.	Poorly designed and integrated new development on the edges of existing settlements.

### Future Landscape Change

**D.23** The likely future changes are set out in the table below.

Future Change	
1.	Increased temperatures and droughts may result in changes to the species composition of woodland habitats. 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. Positive landscape change could result from agricultural incentives to enhance environmental management of woodland.

Future Change	
2.	Wind damage, due to increases in severe gales, is another possible issue for the wooded areas - the predominance of the older age classes may increase the susceptibility of woodland to damage from droughts and storms. The exposed hanger woodlands on the steep secondary scarps may be most at risk. Future improved management of woodlands for fuel or timber for construction may be a positive benefit.
3.	Rising temperatures may also result in changes to chalk grassland habitats. Sustainable grazing will be critical to the success of chalk grassland management. However, global agricultural competition and land changes due to the implementation of Net Zero commitment is likely to continue to hamper efforts to reinstate sheep grazing, particularly on more marginal areas, notably the steeper slopes and dry valleys.
4.	The risk of wildfires will increase with climate change as summers become hotter and drier. This is of particular concern on open access sites that are at higher risk at times of dry weather due to recreational use.
5.	Higher temperatures could also lead to incidence of different livestock pests and possible increased use of pesticides if pests and pathogens increase.
6.	Increased and more intense rainfall events could lead to higher rates of soil erosion of the shallow lime-rich soils over chalk and the freely draining loamy soils, particularly in areas that lack permanent landcover.
7.	Higher temperatures could result in the potential to grow different crop types such as maize, soya and viticulture which could change the visual quality and character of the landscape. On the other hand, drought could also result in withdrawal of arable land from cropping and reversion to grassland.
8.	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 crops (and low-grade biomass production) or woodland (related to afforestation initiatives) which could alter the open character of the Downs. No-tillage systems could also alter the visual character of the arable landscape.
9.	Demand for wind energy development, which could intrude into open skylines.
10.	Agricultural management will be driven by the changes in the world market and agricultural policy. The <i>Downland Mosaic</i> landscape could be under pressure for diversification of land use resulting in field expansion with consequent loss of hedgerows and historic small-scale fields and an increased demand for development (buildings) associated with agriculture.
11.	Extensive built development is not envisaged in the <i>Downland Mosaic</i> , however encroachment into the landscape from villages within the National Park and from adjacent settlements and infrastructure proposals outside of the National Park could be a concern. As well as visual impacts, this could result in increases in artificial lighting and traffic in the landscape, affecting general perceptual qualities including tranquillity / dark skies. There may also be associated increased recreational pressures, with demand for access and facilities, resulting in possible disturbance to habitats.
12.	Nutrient neutrality offsetting related to new development, leading to changes in land use from arable to pasture, woodland and biomass crops which may have an effect on landscape character.
13.	There is a potential for increased traffic to lead to urbanising highway solutions within the National Park which would affect the rural character of narrow lanes, verges, signage and other historic features.

## Broad Management Objective and Landscape Guidelines

**D.24** The overall management objective should be to conserve the diverse mosaic habitats, strengthen the visual prominence of the secondary escarpment, and maintain the strong rural character of the downland and its dark skies.

### Guidance for Landscape Management

- A.** Maintain an open and undeveloped skyline along the prominent ridgeline that follows the line of the Meon anticline.
- B.** Conserve pre-1800 woodland, monitor/ check the spread of introduced invasive species in ancient deciduous woodland, and plan for long term woodland regeneration. As conditions change, plant suitable species and manage woodlands to improve structure, health and diversity of habitat, improving the connectivity of woodland across the *Downland Mosaic*.
- C.** 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.
- D.** 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 or construction. Reduce adverse effects of intensive game rearing through beneficial woodland management including the removal of exotic species.
- E.** Maintain a balance between wooded and open areas on the secondary escarpment. Protect and continue to manage the existing chalk grassland and sites supporting juniper scrub through grazing regimes.
- F.** Maintain and increase the species diversity of areas of semi-improved grassland, which act as a reservoir for chalk downland species.
- G.** Ensure planning for wildfires is incorporated into grassland management plans. Promote responsible recreation behaviours, particularly during heatwaves, when there is an increased risk of fire in areas of open grassland.
- H.** 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.
- I.** 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.
- J.** 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.
- K.** Consider the potential landscape and visual effects of different land uses and crop types, conserving the visual unity of the *Downland Mosaic*.
- L.** Encourage environmentally and economically sustainable agricultural practices to minimise fertiliser and soil run-off thereby minimising pollution of downstream watercourses.
- M.** Monitor and control the spread of invasive species which are a cause of decline in native habitats, such as Cotoneasters *Cotoneaster spp.* in chalk grassland and Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum* in woodlands. Refer to the SDNP INNS Strategy.
- N.** 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.
- O.** Avoid road ‘improvements’ that would alter the rural character of the unmarked lanes and seek to reduce highway clutter on the wider network.
- P.** Consider the potential visual impact of different crop types, including viticulture or biomass crops, which may become part of this landscape in the future. Protect mature boundary trees which overhang fields which are changing from pasture to other crops.



- Q.** 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.
- R.** Promote responsible recreation behaviour. This is particularly important during periods of heat wave, where there is increased risk to health as well as risks of fire in areas of open grassland and woodland.

### Guidance for Integrating Development into the Landscape

- A.** Conserve the low density of dispersed settlement and seek to ensure that any development does not affect its deeply rural character and dark skies.
- B.** Conserve the setting of villages, often composed of small fields of medieval origin.
- C.** Maintain views to churches, which are distinctive visual landmarks.
- D.** Maintain clear, undeveloped ridges and skylines. Avoid siting tall structures such as telecommunication masts, wind turbines 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.
- E.** Use existing woodland and planting to integrate any changes in the landscape.
- F.** 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.
- G.** 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.
- H.** 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>2</sup>. Where development is considered to be appropriate use of a consistent palette of building materials (flint, red brick and clay tiles) will conserve a unity in built form across the landscape.
- I.** Consider views across the landscape and towards adjacent landscapes, afforded from the prominent hills along the ridge – taking note of representative views identified in the View Characterisation and Analysis report.<sup>3</sup>
- J.** Consider effects of any development beyond this landscape and its impact on views from this landscape. In addition to being visible, development in adjacent landscapes may result in secondary effects such as light spill, noise and increased traffic leading to disturbance and highway improvement schemes which erode rural character.

### Woodland strategy and suitable species

**D.25** This type contains 35.75km<sup>2</sup> of woodland, majority broadleaved, approximately 15% woodland cover. The woodlands are predominantly broadleaved, and much is of ancient origin. The woodland strategy is to create new areas of woodland cover by planting blocks, copses and strips echoing the existing diversity in land cover pattern, while maintaining a balance between wooded and open areas, maintaining panoramic views from the open ridge. Areas of woodland planting are appropriate where they do not conflict with grassland conservation and enhancement. Woodland species should be appropriate to local soils, such as beech/ash or yew woodlands associated with calcareous soils and oak woodland with clay with flint soils.

**D.26** Avoid the introduction of non-native plant and animal species and monitor occurrence and abundance of new pests and diseases. 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.

**D.27** 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.

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

<sup>3</sup> LUC. 2015 *South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis*

Character Areas	
There are four character areas representing the <i>Downland Mosaic</i> landscape type within the South Downs National Park (with a total 6 sub-types representing the enclosed or open character of the type resulting from variations in tree cover). These are all located at the western end of the South Downs.	
<b>D1:</b>	South Winchester Downland Mosaic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Enclosed</li> <li>b. Open</li> </ul>
<b>D2:</b>	Hambledon and Clanfield Downland Mosaic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Enclosed</li> <li>b. Open</li> </ul>
<b>D3:</b>	Bramdean and Cheriton Downland Mosaic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Enclosed</li> </ul>
<b>D4:</b>	Newton Valence Downland Mosaic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Enclosed</li> </ul>

## D1: South Winchester Downland Mosaic

### Location and Boundaries

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 edge of the National Park which represents a transition to the settled landscape of the ‘*South Hampshire Lowlands*’ (National Character Area).

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.

### 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.
- A prominent open ridge follows the line of the Meon anticline rising to 201m at Beacon Hill, from where there are panoramic views.
- Secondary escarpment supports chalk grassland and woodland, including a nationally important site at Galley Down Wood SSSI.
- 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 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

**D.28** 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.

**D.29** 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. The land is good for livestock and 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, recognised by its SSSI and NNR designations.

**D.30** The lower dip slope 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. There is also a small cluster of traditional orchards (BAP Priority Habitat) close to the village of Swanmore.

**D.31** 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 (Owlsbury and Upham) are located in more sheltered areas on the dip slope. Settlements are connected by a network of sinuous rural roads which are often contained by high hedgerow boundaries.

**D.32** 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 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 park sites are located in this area – one is now Marwell Zoological Park.

**D.33** A notable biodiversity element is The Moors LNR, along the south-eastern edge of Bishop’s Waltham. Springs and streams feed a mill pond surrounded by a mosaic of semi-natural woodland, fen and meadows. The Moors is also a SSSI and is a wetland of national importance for its

wildflowers such as Water Avens, King Cups and Bistort. Two other LNR’s (Dundridge Meadows and Claylands) are situated within this character area and are also located in proximity to Bishop’s Waltham.

**D.34** 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

**D.35** All of the landscape and visual sensitivities detailed at the type level are relevant to this area. Specific sensitivities relevant to this character area are included in the table below.

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	The secondary escarpment running between Twyford and Droxford with its chalk grassland and hanger woodland.
2.	The large area of early assarted enclosures with thick hedgerows and significant tracts of ancient woodland e.g. Preshaw Wood and Dur Wood.
3.	Areas of unimproved chalk grassland at Beacon Hill.
4.	Area of semi-natural woodland, fen grassland, open water and wetland at The Moors LNR and SSSI, recognised for its importance of wildflowers.
5.	The enclosure in Preshaw Woods and round barrow cemetery on Beacon Hill.
6.	The rural villages of Owlesbury, Upham and Upper Swanmore.
7.	The 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).
8.	The strong rural, secluded character of the landscape which may be threatened by expansion of settlements which abut its southern edge.
9.	The panoramic views across downland from Beacon Hill, across the Meon Valley to Winchester Hill or from the ridgeline walks such as Monarch’s Way and Wayfarer’s Way identified in the View Characterisation and Analysis report <sup>4</sup>
10.	The network of sinuous rural lanes contained by high hedgerow boundaries.

<sup>4</sup> LUC. 2015 *South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis*. Views 47 and 54.

### Change Specific to the South Winchester Downland Mosaic

**D.36** 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.	Increased recreational pressures, with demand for access and facilities in ecologically sensitive areas such as the NNR at Beacon Hill.
2.	Increased and faster traffic on narrow rural lanes eroding tranquillity within the settlements and affecting the experiential qualities of the wider landscape.

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

**D.37** 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 prominence of the secondary escarpment running between Twyford and Droxford.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. Monitor the effects of recreational pressure on ecologically sensitive areas such as the NNR at Beacon Hill.
- e. Conserve archaeological features, particularly the enclosure in Preshaw Woods and round barrow cemetery and holloways on Beacon Hill.
- f. Conserve and continue to manage areas of semi-natural woodland, fen grassland, open water and wetland at The Moors LNR and SSSI.
- g. 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.

- h. Ensure expansion of settlements in the South Hampshire Lowlands and along the B2177 Winchester Road (along the southern edge of the National Park boundary) do not threaten the rural, secluded character of the downs.
- i. Conserve the panoramic views across downland from ridge tops, particularly from Beacon Hill.

**D.38** The following development considerations are specific to this character area:

- a. Consider views from Beacon Hill and from the paths that extends along the ridge tops in planning any change in this and adjacent landscapes, taking note of representative views identified in the View Characterisation and Analysis report.
- b. 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.

## D2: Hambledon and Clanfield Downland Mosaic

### Location and Boundaries

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 *Saltdown to Butser Hill Scarp*. The eastern boundary is mainly 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 edge of the National Park which represents the approximate start of the settled landscape of the 'South Hampshire Lowlands' (National Character Area).

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 sub-type relates to the lower dipslope and the wooded areas at Hen Wood and Hyden Wood.

### Key Characteristics

- 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, Coombe Wood and The Holt 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 patterns predominate. However, a number of historic features have been preserved including the Iron Age Cross Dykes, Bronze Age Barrows and ancient farm at Butser Hill; the Hillfort and barrows at Old Winchester Hill; the site of the Roman building at Bottom Copse; and Ring work and Bailey at Motley's 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 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

**D.39** 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, and 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.

**D.40** South of the open ridge is a significant area of woodland cover, most notably at Coombe Wood and Hyden Wood, 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 LWS. Below this is an area of open arable land that is defined as an ‘open’ landscape sub-type. Another significant area of ancient woodland is The Holt, located in the south of the character area and managed by the Forestry Commission. It is recognised as a LWS, and represents remnants of the Forest of Bere.

**D.41** The secondary escarpment, extending between Soberton and Clanfield, supports chalk grassland, assarts, and hanger woodland including the Hambledon Hangers LWS. 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.

**D.42** 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.

**D.43** The sense of tranquillity is disrupted in places by the pylon lines which cut across the area. The A3(M) also runs through the chalk ridge in a cutting below 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

**D.44** All of the landscape and visual sensitivities detailed at the type level are relevant to this character area. Specific sensitivities to this character area are included in the table below.

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	The secondary escarpment running between Soberton and Clanfield with its chalk grassland and hanger woodland e.g. Hambledon Hangers LWS.
2.	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.
3.	Areas of unimproved chalk grassland at Butser Hill and species-rich chalk grassland, yew woodland and rare juniper scrub at Old Winchester Hill.
4.	Areas of ancient woodland, such as Coombe, Hyden Woods and The Holt, which provide a sense of enclosure, time depth and rich biodiversity.
5.	The Iron Age Cross Dykes, and Bronze Age Barrows at Butser Hill; the Hillfort and barrows at Old Winchester Hill; the site of the Roman building at Bottom Copse; and Ring work and Bailey at Motley’s Copse.
6.	The designed landscapes at North Farm, Whitedale House, Park House, Bury Lodge, Blendworth House and Idsworth Park (all on Hampshire County Council’s register).
7.	The rural villages of Hambledon and Chalton.
8.	The strong rural, secluded character of the landscape which may be threatened in the vicinity of the National Park boundary.
9.	The panoramic views from Butser Hill and Old Winchester Hill, and the views along the ridgeline and southwards across downland from the secondary hills at Windmill Hill, Broadhalfpenny Down, Home Down and Salt Hill, and representative views identified in the View Characterisation and Analysis report. <sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> LUC. 2015 *South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis* Views including 5, 8,35, 55, 56, 67 and 73

Key Landscape Sensitivities
10. The sense of tranquillity and remoteness particularly associated with the most elevated downland slopes to the north of the area such as Henwood Down or Chidden Down.

### Change Specific to the Hambledown and Clanfield Downland Mosaic

**D.45** In addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area include:

Forces for Change
1. Continued development pressures around Hambledon, on the village edge and along the B2150.
2. Conversion of farms to equestrian holdings resulting in sub-division of fields, such as at Peake Farm and Exton Stud.
3. Continued modernisation of farming with notable extensions to and modernisation of farm buildings
4. Continued diversification of land use within farms is particularly apparent in the area (e.g. paintballing centre) and consequent loss of or degradation of landscape features (e.g. poorly managed hedgerows).
5. Increased recreational pressures, with demand for access and facilities in ecologically sensitive areas such as the NNRs at Butser Hill and Old Winchester Hill.
6. Increasing traffic on rural lanes eroding tranquillity within the settlements and affecting the experiential qualities of the wider landscape.
7. Groundwater flooding as a result of climate change.

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

**D.46** 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 chalk grassland and hanger woodland e.g. Hambledon Hangers LWS on the secondary escarpment running between Soberton and Clanfield. This also has benefits for protection of archaeological sites.
- b. 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.

- c. Conserve, manage 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).
- d. Conserve the mosaic of woodland, including large blocks of ancient woodland, such as Coombe, Hyden Woods and The Holt.
- e. 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.
- f. Monitor the effects of recreational pressure on ecologically sensitive areas such as the NNR at Butser Hill and Old Winchester Hill.
- g. Conserve historic features of the landscape such as the Iron Age Cross Dykes, Bronze Age Barrows and ancient farm at Butser Hill; the Hillfort and barrows at Old Winchester Hill; the site of the Roman building at Bottom Copse; and Ring work and Bailey at Motley's Copse. Continue to manage these sites through grazing.
- h. 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.
- i. Conserve the panoramic views from Butser Hill and Old Winchester Hill and views over the downlands from elevated ridges.
- j. Discourage planting of small, isolated, rectangular game coverts on prominent ridges and summits.
- k. 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.

**D.47** The following development considerations are specific to this character area:

- a. 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>6</sup>.

- b.** 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.
- c.** Conserve the strong form and pattern of Hambledon which responds to the adjacent scarp.
- d.** 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.
- e.** Conserve the remote character associated with the most elevated slopes of the downs to the north of the area.
- f.** Consider views from Butser Hill, Old Winchester Hill, and from prominent ridges and hills, in planning any change in this and adjacent landscapes, taking note of representative views identified in the View Characterisation and Analysis.

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<sup>6</sup> Forum Heritage Services (2005) *Historic Farmsteads & Landscape Character in Hampshire, Pilot Project*. Report by Bob Edwards for English Heritage.

## D3: Bramdean and Cheriton Downland Mosaic

### Location and Boundaries

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 edge of the National Park.

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.

### 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 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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 dispersed across the downland, linked by a network of rural lanes e.g. Kilmeston.
- 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 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

**D.48** 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.

**D.49** 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.

**D.50** 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.

**D.51** 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 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century and as a result there are no surviving chalk grassland sites in this area.

**D.52** 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.

**D.53** A number of 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 Historic England’s Register, these are recognised locally by Hampshire County Council. 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.

**D.54** This is a highly tranquil landscape due to the extent of woodland, low density of settlement and general lack of overt human influences. The eastern half of the *Bramdean and Cheriton Downland Mosaic* is particularly remote with some of the darkest skies across the National Park and without visibility of main settlements.

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

**D.55** 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:

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	The areas of ancient woodland, e.g. Cheriton Wood.

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
2.	The remnants of the medieval deer park to the north of East Meon, and 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.
3.	Woodland and unimproved grassland at Mascoombe Bottom.
4.	The areas of early assarted enclosures with thick hedgerows and significant tracts of ancient woodland around Tigwell Farm and Peak Farm.
5.	The site of the battle of Cheriton, fought in 1644, on downland to the west of Cheriton Wood.
6.	The rural character of the villages e.g. Bramdean and Kilmeston.
7.	The areas of common land at Cheriton and Bramdean which provide evidence of the former practice of grazing common wood pastures.
8.	The views across the Itchen and Meon Valleys.
9.	The remote and tranquil character, particularly within the eastern half of the character area, between Bramdean and Langrish, afforded with some of the darkest skies across the South Downs National Park.

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

**D.56** In addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area include:

Forces for Change	
1.	Future works associated with the A272 and A3.

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

**D.57** 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 areas of early assarted enclosures around Tigwell Farm and Peak Farm, and ancient woodland e.g. at Cheriton Wood.
- b. 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.
- c. Conserve the remnants of the medieval deer park to the north of East Meon.

- d.** 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 towards these landscape features.
- e.** 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.
- f.** Conserve the areas of common land at Cheriton and Bramdean and consider reintroducing traditional management techniques such as grazing common wood pastures.
- g.** Consider further opportunities for recreation and access to this less well visited part of the South Downs.

**D.58** The following development considerations are specific to this character area:

- a.** 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>7</sup>.
- b.** 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.
- c.** Maintain the rural character of the villages e.g. Bramdean and Kilmeston, and the remote character in the east.

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<sup>7</sup> Forum Heritage Services (2005) *Historic Farmsteads & Landscape Character in Hampshire, Pilot Project*. Report by Bob Edwards for English Heritage.

## D4: Newton Valence Downland Mosaic

### Location and Boundaries

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 scarp 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 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.

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.

### 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 Historic England'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.
- Jane Austen's house in Chawton, and Chawton House, which belonged to her brother Edward, are both museums and a significant draw for tourists.

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

**D.59** 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 overlies 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.

**D.60** 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.

**D.61** 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.

**D.62** 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 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.

**D.63** A number of parklands and designed landscapes are located at Newton Valence Place, Newton Valence Manor House, and Goleigh Manor. Although not listed on Historic England's Register, these are recognised locally by Hampshire County Council. 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.

**D.64** 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 and Chawton House, which belonged to her brother Edward, are both museums and draws visitors to this part of the South

Downs. However, there is otherwise little evident recreational use of the area.

**D.65** The enclosed nature of this character area results in a sense of remoteness with dark skies contributing towards the tranquillity of the area. This is particularly apparent at the base of the dry valleys, sheltered by the surrounding landform and restricting views of main settlements.

### Sensitivities Specific to the Newton Valence Downland Mosaic

**D.66** 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:

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	The areas of ancient woodland, e.g. Ina Down Copse and Goleigh Wood.
2.	The remnants of three medieval deer parks (at Chawton, Newton Valence, and Farringdon) and the designed landscapes including Chawton House (listed on Historic England's register), Newton Valence Place, Newton Valence Manor House, and Goleigh Manor (all on Hampshire County Council's register).
3.	Areas of chalk grassland, for example at Noar Hill.
4.	Springs and streams and associated wetland habitats.
5.	The area of small scale medieval assarts on the edge of Chawton.
6.	The rural and secluded setting to villages such as Newton Valence, Lower Farringdon, Upper Farringdon and Chawton
7.	The deserted medieval settlement on the edge of East Tisted.
8.	The areas of common land at Selborne Common and High Common (Noar Hill) which are nationally important ecological sites, reflected by their SSSI designations, and provide evidence of the former practice of grazing common wood pastures.
9.	The views from Noar Hill and Selborne Hill over the East Hampshire Greensand Terrace, and other representative views identified in the View Characterisation and Analysis report. <sup>8</sup>
10.	The remote and tranquil character, particularly associated with the dry valleys, with some of the darkest skies across the National Park.

### Change Specific to the Newton Valence Downland Mosaic

**D.67** In addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation, specific changes to this area include:

<sup>8</sup> LUC. 2015 *South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis - View 27*

Forces for Change	
1.	Continued pressure of built development on the edges of Alton, Lower and Upper Farringdon, and around Newton Valence.
2.	Pressure for development along the A31.

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

**D.68** 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:

- a. Conserve and manage areas of ancient woodland, e.g. Ina Down Copse and Goleigh Wood.
- b. Conserve the area of early assarted enclosures on the edge of Chawton.
- c. Conserve wetland habitats, including wet woodland, associated with the streams and springs on the edge of the Wey Valley.
- d. 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.
- e. Conserve the remnants of the three medieval deer parks at Chawton, Newton Valence, and Farringdon.
- f. Conserve historic parkland at Chawton, encouraging the management/ restoration of permanent pasture, parkland trees, avenues and clumps of trees.
- g. Conserve, and continue to manage, the features of the designed landscapes at Chawton House (listed on Historic England'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.
- h. Conserve the areas of common land at Selborne and Noar Hill and consider reintroducing traditional management techniques such as grazing common wood pastures.

**D.69** The following development considerations are specific to this character area:

- a. Maintain the remote character of the landscape, which is particularly associated with the secluded dry valleys.
- b. Consider views from hills, especially Selborne Hill and Noar Hill, when planning any change in this and adjacent landscapes, taking note of representative views identified in the View Characterisation and Analysis report. Consider creating new opportunities for views and viewpoints within the area.
- c. 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.
- d. Conserve the character of the landscape corridor along the A31.