

## Appendix I

### Landscape Character Type I: Major Scarps

The scarp is a visually distinct landscape type forming the northern edge of the chalk rising steeply from the lower lying land of the Greensand and the Weald<sup>1</sup>. It forms a prominent backdrop, skyline and landmark feature for a wide area beyond the South Downs. The scarp is either open or wooded along its length.

#### Description

##### Key Characteristics

- A prominent winding ridgeline with a steep scarp face forming the northern and eastern edge of the chalk downs.
- A deeply indented linear landscape creating a strong skyline, although this is softened in areas of woodland cover.
- Occurs along the full length of the South Downs from the distinctive chalk hangers in Hampshire (Selborne) to meet the sea at the dramatic white cliffs of Beachy Head.
- Remarkably consistent in height and slope profile throughout its length as a result of the lithological uniformity of the chalk bedrock.
- From open summits there are panoramic views across the lowlands to the north. The scarp forms a distinctive backdrop ridgeline in views from this area – a symbolic feature of the South Downs.
- Precipitous upper slopes are grazed grassland, scrub or clothed in dense woodland ‘hangers’ - mixed farmland extends onto the shallower lower slopes in places.
- The scarp contains some of the most extensive areas of chalk grassland habitat within the South Downs.
- Notable for the absence of buildings and extent of dark skies, the type has a strong sense of remoteness.
- Deeply sunken lanes and tracks, known as bostal tracks, cut the escarpment and link the lower land to the chalk uplands. Some ‘gaps’ cut by river and dry valleys and also man-made road cuttings form important communication routes.
- Large number of recreational sites – frequently associated with hilltop historic monuments or panoramic viewpoints, plus areas of open access land on chalk grassland.
- Occasionally marked by chalk pits on the scarp slopes and masts along the crest which are highly prominent in views.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that there are a large number of internal scarps within the South Downs – these have been included as part of the chalk downland (LCT A: Open Downlands) landscape and have not been identified separately.

## Physical Landscape

**I.1** The striking chalk escarpments form the northern and eastern faces of the South Downs. The steep landform typical of this landscape type is a result of erosion and undercutting of the chalk mass from its northern and eastern edges which reveals bands of upper, middle and lower chalk at the scarp edge. The scarps are gradually moving southwards and westwards as erosion of the adjacent softer beds to the north and east undermine the chalk scarp. The escarpment is remarkably constant in height and slope profile throughout its length as a result of the lithological uniformity of the chalk bedrock and forms a prominent visual feature within the landscape.

**I.2** The scarps are typically indented by deep dry valleys, or 'coombes' that were mostly formed by post-glacial stream erosion and subsequent erosion from springs at the base of the chalk. The chalk bedrock has resulted in well drained shallow lime-rich soils, but the steep slopes have generally not been cultivated and extensive swathes of chalk grassland, scrub and hanger woodland characterise the scarp face.

**I.3** At the foot of the scarps where the slopes are less steep the land is often ploughed, and arable fields have encroached up the slope in places. Soil creep is evident on the steepest slopes where the surface of the scarp is wrinkled into terraces – this is particularly evident on a sunny day when shadows highlight these terraces. Abandoned chalk quarries are a feature of the scarp revealing the exploitation of chalk in the past to produce lime for fertilising the acidic soils of the farmland in the Weald.

## Perceptual/Experiential Landscape

**I.4** The dramatic scale of the landform and the large swathes of chalk grassland and woodland create a large scale exposed landscape which is dominant in views from an extensive area beyond the South Downs. The land cover elements provide a consistency across the scarps, resulting in a unified and harmonious landscape with a muted 'naturalistic' character. Scattered scrub and hanger woodland provide texture and create dramatic shadows on the scarps. The scarps are also landscapes of contrast where the exposed scarp ridge contrasts dramatically with the deep, hidden coombes.

**I.5** The steepness of the scarps means there is little human activity in these landscapes. As a consequence, they are quiet landscapes which, combined with the swathes of chalk grassland, scrub and woodland, are perceived as naturalistic and tranquil with a strong sense of remoteness and some of the darkest skies in the National Park.

**I.6** Countryside access is good despite the steepness of the slopes, with large areas of the scarps designated as open access land. There are also many rough sheep tracks and public rights of way that zig zag across the open scarps and ascend the coombes, providing good access on foot and horseback. Parascending and hang-gliding are popular recreational sports along the scarp.

**I.7** The dramatic character of the major chalk scarps have been a source of literary and artistic inspiration for centuries. Mrs Radcliffe, writing in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century admired how the scarps '*heaved up their high, blue lines as ramparts worthy of the sublimity of the ocean*'. The dramatic scarps have also featured in many postcards and paintings, their strong structural form providing an impressive composition.

## Biodiversity

**I.8** Almost unbroken tracts of unimproved chalk grassland, scrub and hanger woodland (BAP Priority Habitats) are present along the scarp slopes and these contribute to the outstanding ecological importance of the landscape type. Occasional areas of arable land or improved pasture grassland occur on shallower slopes along the scarps, extending from the intensively farmed footslopes and open downland which sandwich the major scarps.

**I.9** In places the scarps are relatively well wooded with extensive and unbroken oak, ash and beech hanger woodland. Species-rich woody scrub is also characteristic of the scarp. Of particular note is juniper, a UK priority BAP species. Occasional dew ponds and abandoned chalk quarries also occur and are characteristic and ecologically notable habitats.

**I.10** The scarps are highly valued for nature conservation and this is reflected by the large number of statutory and non-statutory nature conservations designations that extend along the length of the scarp.

**I.11** Continuous areas of BAP Priority Habitats, primarily calcareous grassland and deciduous woodland extend across the LCT and are identified as providing effective habitat networks in Natural England's National Habitat Networks Mapping Project. Adjacent areas, mostly outside the LCT, are identified as being suitable for restoration and in others work is already underway to restore these habitats. Network Enhancement zones extend down from the *Major Scarps* type and identify where land is suitable for the creation of connecting habitats.

Key Biodiversity Features	Importance
Extensive and unbroken tracts of lowland calcareous grassland (BAP Priority Habitat and many recognised as SSSIs)	Unimproved chalk grassland is a nationally scarce habitat highly valued for its wide range of characteristic plant species, breeding birds and invertebrates, including many species with a restricted national distribution.
Abundant deciduous woodland (BAP Priority Habitat), including scrub and hanger woodlands together with occasional areas of arable and pasture land	Hanger woodland is an internationally important habitat, and together with occasional areas of ecological rich woody scrub, arable and pasture land form a valuable mosaic of habitats along the escarpment.

Key Features of the Historic Environment	Importance
Unique Zig Zag path at Selborne	Part of Grade II* registered parkland.

### Settlement Form and Built Character

**I.14** There is no settlement on the steep slopes of the *Major Scarps* as a result of the steep topography. Springline settlements characterise the scarp foot and are described under landscape types J and K.

### Historic Character

**I.12** The steep scarps have always been a marginal zone. Even at the height of arable cultivation of the downland, during the Romano-British period, the scarps were too steep for ploughing and remained usable only as sheep pasture. The value of the scarps, however, is clear from the fact that the original woodland cover was completely cleared in the eastern part of the South Downs. In the west the scarps are much more wooded, reflecting the more mixed farming economy.

**I.13** The main indication of human modification of the scarps is the numerous trackways which traverse the slopes. Many of them are sunken and terraced diagonally into the hillside. These represent bostals, the routes by which sheep were herded between the high downland pastures and the arable fields lower on the downs. These trackways were crucial elements in the sheep-corn husbandry regime which prevailed in the South Downs for much of its recorded history. There are also a number of small isolated chalk pits associated with the former agricultural lime-burning industry.

Key Features of the Historic Environment	Importance
Open scarps	Woodland clearance of the scarps, provides an indication of their value for sheep grazing.
Survival of significant blocks of pre-1800 woodland	Provides evidence of medieval and early post-medieval woodland exploitation, e.g. coppicing and charcoal burning.
Small isolated chalk pits	Provide evidence of the former agricultural lime-burning industry.
Sunken terraced trackways	Integral part of former agricultural system, linking downland pasture with scarpfoot arable.

## Evaluation

### Ecosystem Services in the Major Scarps

**I.15** Ecosystem services are the benefits people and society get from the natural environment. The *Major Scarps* provides:

Provisioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Water availability – chalk aquifers underlying the scarp act a storage reservoir for drinking water and for agricultural and commercial uses in the surrounding area.</li> </ul>
Regulating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Water quality – the chalk geology which underlies the scarp acts as a natural filtering system, helping to maintain water quality.</li> <li>■ Water flow – groundwater from the underlying chalk feeds the watercourses in the area, regulating their base flow.</li> <li>■ Soil quality – due to their steep aspect, the <i>Major Scarps</i> are mostly uncultivated and more extensively managed. Soil under woodland and permanent pasture are less prone to erosion.</li> <li>■ Pollination – the unimproved semi-natural grassland habitats on the <i>Major Scarps</i> provide important nectar sources for pollinators, therefore supporting food production.</li> </ul>
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Sense of place – the elevated ridgeline with expansive views provide a strong sense of place. The dramatic character of the chalk scarps has been a source of literary and artistic inspiration for centuries.</li> <li>■ Tranquillity – away from major roads and settlements, the <i>Major Scarps</i> have a strong sense of tranquillity. They provide a sense of remoteness within close proximity of urban centres and an experience of dark night skies.</li> <li>■ Recreation -the <i>Major Scarps</i> hosts an extensive network of public rights of way, as well as open access land and promoted routes, such as the South Downs Way which runs along the crest of the scarp. The route runs to the sea at Beachy Head, where the iconic chalk sea cliffs are a major draw to the area.</li> </ul>
Supporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Biodiversity – extensive BAP Priority Habitats, including lowland calcareous grassland, and deciduous woodland, support an extensive range of important flora and fauna species. The extent and species composition of the lowland calcareous grassland makes it an internationally important resource.</li> </ul>

### Sensitivities

**I.16** This landscape has many sensitive physical and aesthetic/perceptual features that are vulnerable to change. Key landscape sensitivities include:

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	The steep scarps which are prominent in views and their open and undeveloped skylines which are most often viewed against an open sky and are particularly sensitive to any form of built development.
2.	The extensive views from the scarps, across adjacent landscape such as the Low Weald, that are vulnerable to built development (and associated lighting) located in close proximity to the scarp foot which could affect the special remote character of the scarps and its experience of dark skies.
3.	The distinctive smooth concave-convex slope profiles of the scarps which are vulnerable to further mineral extraction or soil erosion particularly in areas with no woodland cover.
4.	The large swathes of chalk grassland which are of national ecological value and are important in revealing the profile of the chalk. Without effective management strategies, undergrazing and encroachment of scrub will result in change to the texture and openness of the scarps as well as change their ecology.
5.	The scrub and hanger woodland on the scarps which provide texture, create dramatic shadows, and are of great biodiversity interest. Hanger woodland is an internationally important habitat and is particularly vulnerable to storm damage.
6.	The subtle presence of rough sheep tracks and rights of way that zig zag across the open scarps, often representing historic bostals, the routes by which sheep were herded between the downland pastures and the scarpfoot arable fields. These are vulnerable to damage by intensive recreational use, notably off-road vehicles.
7.	The sense of tranquillity, remoteness, and space that result from the overall low incidence of human activity and absence of development.
8.	The dark skies associated with the South Downs International Dark Skies Reserve which are vulnerable to light sources, particularly the 'Dark Sky Core' which is found in the west of the type.

## Change – Key Issues and Trends

### Past Change

#### I.17 Past change includes:

Past Change
1. Quarrying of chalk to produce lime to fertilise the farmland to the north of the downs.
2. Encroachment of arable fields up the footslopes of the scarps where the land is less steep.
3. Encroachment of agricultural fields onto the scarp crests from the dip-slope side of the downs.
4. Aerial fertilisation of steep chalk downland resulting in loss of biodiversity.
5. Invasion of gorse and mixed scrub communities into areas of chalk grassland due to low grazing pressure.
6. Introduction of communication masts onto the skyline.
7. Damage to tracks and rights of way across the scarps from intensive recreational use, including four wheel drive vehicles.

### Future Landscape Change

#### I.18 The likely future changes are set out in the table below:

Future Change
1. Climate change could impact the species composition and condition of semi-natural habitats, particularly the chalk grasslands of the scarps, particularly species more sensitive to drought and heat stress, leading to a decline in overall species diversity.
2. Heavier winter rainfall could lead to increased soil erosion, particularly where land is cultivated for cropping on the thin soils and steep slopes of the scarps.
3. Increases in temperature and drought conditions could put stress on the hanger woodlands and result in changes in species composition (including decline of beech which is susceptible to water stress) and increased storms could result in damage to the woodlands.
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 high recreational use.
5. Agricultural management will be driven by the changes in the world market and agricultural policy. This may include positive landscape change in this landscape, arising from enhanced environmental management of chalk grassland habitats. However, global agricultural competition and a general reduction in grazing land may increase scrub and woodland cover.
6. Diffuse pollution from agriculture can raise the levels of pesticides in groundwater as well as accelerating soil erosion causing excess sediment.
7. The pursuit of renewable energy could result in pressure for wind turbines on the scarp tops or solar panels/ energy crops on less steep lower slopes.
8. The prominent position of the escarpment means that it is likely that there will be continued pressure for the development of communication masts on the scarp tops.
9. Demand for recreational facilities associated with the South Downs Way National Trail and recreational pressure on the track ways that cross the scarps could result in further erosion and reduce the sense of tranquillity.

## Broad Management Objective and Landscape Guidelines

**I.19** The overall management objective should be to conserve the dramatic landform and open skyline, with extensive areas of chalk grassland exposing the scarp profile, mixed with an irregular mosaic of hanger woodland and scrub.

### Guidance for Landscape Management

- A.** Protect and promote enhanced environmental management of chalk grassland habitats to maintain species diversity. Extend and link chalk grassland habitats to create unified swathes of open grazed grassland which enhance the dramatic profile of the scarp.
- B.** Manage hanger woodland to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change. Ensure a diverse species and age structure by light thinning, clearance of some of the scrub, re-coppicing (especially hazel) and replanting as necessary. This will also minimise risk of damage as a result of increased storms and high winds. Consider opening up paths/rides for access.
- C.** Maintain a balance between the extent of open grassland and woodland. Where possible transitional habitats should be created between woodland and grasslands to increase the diversity of microclimates and habitats for species, an important feature for climate adaptation.
- D.** Be alert to new pests and diseases and plan for their management.
- E.** Continue to monitor native species to assess changes in numbers and distribution. Monitor and control the spread of key invasive species which are a cause of decline in native habitats in the National Park, such as *Cotoneaster spp* Cotoneasters on the chalk grasslands or *Rhododendron ponticum* Rhododendron in the hanger woodlands. Refer to the SDNP INNS Strategy.
- F.** Woodland rides should be angled across the scarp slope and harsh woodland edges avoided to minimise visual impact. Replace conifers with broadleaved species where possible.
- G.** Maintain vegetative cover, with permanent pasture and woodland cover to help prevent soil erosion and improve soil moisture and nutrient levels.
- H.** Seek to minimise pollution of the groundwater and chalk aquifers from agriculture through sensitive land management practices.
- I.** Where boundaries are necessary, promote the use of visually permeable boundaries such as post and wire fencing to maintain a smooth and continuous scarp profile.
- J.** Manage recreational use, particularly intensive uses, to respect the special character of the scarp and key features of chalk grassland, ancient trackways, sense of remoteness and tranquillity.
- K.** Ensure planning for wildfires is incorporated into downland management plans. Promote responsible recreation behaviour, particularly during heatwaves, when there is an increased risk of fire in areas of open grassland.
- L.** Encourage the creative restoration of redundant chalk quarries, exploiting the potential for geological interest, nature conservation and recreation, ensuring they blend with their surroundings.
- M.** Maintain the contrast between the grassland scarp and arable lowland - aim to revert arable fields back to pasture where they are encroaching on the scarp.
- N.** Avoid encroachment of agricultural fields onto the scarp crest from the dip-slope side of the downs. Encourage restoration of arable and improved pasture to chalk grassland to eliminate the harsh lines on the scarp crest.
- O.** Conserve the tranquillity and dark skies of the scarp, which contrasts with the human influences on the surrounding lowlands.
- P.** Resist road widening on the historic tracks and lanes that traverse the scarp – manage the verges to avoid erosion and encourage species diversity.

### Guidance for Integrating Development into the Landscape

- A. Conserve the open, undeveloped character of the scarp.
- B. Maintain the open and undeveloped skyline of the dramatic steep north-facing chalk escarpment – avoid siting of buildings, telecommunication masts, power lines and wind turbines on the sensitive skyline and maintain the backdrop of open skyline.
- C. Consider opportunities to enhance skylines that are already affected by visually intrusive development by moving structures (for example the communication masts at Devil’s Dyke and Truleigh Hill) to less visually sensitive locations away from the skyline.
- D. Conserve the unique remote character of the *Open Downs* and associated dark skies. Pay particular attention to the introduction of any new lighting into this landscape, particularly in the 'Dark Sky Core' of the International Dark Sky Reserve in the west of the type, taking account of the technical guidance advice note: <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/TLL-10-SDNPA-Dark-Skies-Technical-Advice-Note-2018.pdf>.
- E. Consider the impact of any landscape or development change in views from the scarp. Refer to guidance in the View Characterisation and Analysis report<sup>2</sup>.

### Woodland strategy and suitable species

**I.20** The LCT contains 23.56km<sup>2</sup> of woodland, approximately 51% woodland cover, representing one of the most wooded parts of the National Park. Woodland predominantly occurs on the upper slopes of the scarp along with grazed grassland and scrub and is characterised by dense woodland 'hangers' of oak, ash and beech hanger woodland. The woodland strategy for this area is to maintain the balance between woodland and open grasslands. Areas of woodland planting to extend and reconnect ancient woodland hangers are appropriate where they do not conflict with existing areas of species-rich chalk grassland or grassland conservation and enhancement schemes. New woodlands should perpetuate existing woodland patterns avoiding harsh woodland edges which are visually intrusive on the scarp slope.

**I.21** Appropriate plant species may be informed by the National Biodiversity Network Gateway, relevant biodiversity Actions Plans and biological records from the relevant Biological Records Centre.

**I.22** 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 six <i>Major Scarps</i> in the South Downs – these run the length of the South Downs, from Eastbourne in the east to Selborne in the west. Some are wooded and some are open.	
I1:	Ouse to Eastbourne Downs Scarp
I2:	Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp
I3:	Arun to Adur Downs Scarp
I4:	Buriton to Arun Scarp
I5:	Saltdown to Butser Hill Scarp
I6:	Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp

<sup>2</sup> LUC. 2015 South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis

## I1: Ouse to Eastbourne Downs Scarp

### Location and Boundaries

The *Ouse to Eastbourne Downs Scarp* wraps around the northern and eastern edges of the *Ouse to Eastbourne Open Downs*. It extends from Itford Hill in the west to Beachy Head, broken by the Cuckmere Valley in the middle. The boundaries of the *Ouse to Eastbourne Downs Scarp* are defined predominantly by topography. The southern (top) boundary has been drawn along the crest of the scarp which is clearly defined by a change in density of contours. The northern (lower) boundary is less well defined and has generally been drawn along the top edge of arable fields on the scarp footslopes. The scarp overlooks the Low Weald to the north and Eastbourne to the east.

### Key Characteristics

- A dramatic steep north and east-facing chalk escarpment marking the eastern extent of the South Downs and overlooking Eastbourne to the east.
- Exhibits a distinctive concave-convex slope profile, deeply indented by 'coombes' with a large number of barrows as well as some ancient field systems, for example at Windover Hill.
- Remarkably consistent in height and slope profile throughout its length as a result of the lithological uniformity of the chalk bedrock.
- The eastern edge above Eastbourne is well wooded with dense woodland cover, some associated with landscape parks such as Compton Park. Built development on the edge of Eastbourne encroaches onto the scarp in places.
- The scarp contains some extensive areas of chalk grassland habitat e.g. Firle Escarpment SSSI, Willingdon Down SSSI and Wilmington Downs SSSI.
- Deeply sunken lanes and tracks, known as bostal tracks, cut the escarpment and link the lower land to the chalk uplands.
- 'Gaps' cut by valleys form important communication routes, for example above Firle, at Filching Manor, Butts Lane and on the outskirts of Eastbourne where the A259 climbs the scarp.
- Large number of recreational sites – frequently associated with hilltop locations and iconic viewpoints, such as Firle Beacon, Beachy Head, and the Long Man of Wilmington.
- At the foot of the scarp the slopes are less steep the land is ploughed for crops – here colours contrast with the muted grey-green colours of the scarp face.
- A number of small isolated chalk pits associated with the former agricultural lime-burning industry appear as white scars on the scarp e.g. at Bopeep Farm and Chalk Farm.
- The Long Man of Wilmington, a chalk-cut hill figure of possible 16th century date, is a visual landmark as well as being of historic importance.

### Specific Characteristics Unique to the Ouse to Eastbourne Downs Scarp

**I.23** The *Ouse to Eastbourne Downs Scarp* exhibits physical characteristics typical of its type. One of the features most unique to this scarp is its proximity to Eastbourne. Built development lies at the foot of the scarp and, in places, encroaches up onto the lower scarp slopes. A communication mast is located on the skyline at Beddingham Hill. The eastern scarp overlooking Eastbourne has been colonised by post-1800 woodland. Some of this may be exotic and ornamental in nature, associated with landscape parks such as Compton

Park, but most is encroachment due to neglect in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Patches of gorse and mixed shrub communities occur throughout which provide an important component of the habitat mosaic, providing important habitat for a range of breeding birds and invertebrate species.

**I.24** This character area supports extensive tracts of unimproved chalk grassland, together with areas of hanger woodland, scrub, arable and improved grassland. The majority of the escarpment carries SSSI designation, including the Firle Escarpment SSSI, Willingdon Down SSSI, Wilmington Downs SSSI and part of Seaford to Beachy Head SSSI. The chalk



grassland supports a wide range of characteristic plant species, including many that have a restricted national distribution. There are also a number of small isolated chalk pits associated with the former agricultural lime-burning industry on this scarp.

**I.25** The scarp at Wilmington is notable for the Long Man, a chalk-cut hill figure of possible 16<sup>th</sup> century date.

**I.26** The scarp provides iconic panoramic views over adjacent landscapes including iconic views north over the scarp footslopes to the Low Weald and along the scarp.

**I.27** Countryside access is good in this character area with the majority of the scarp designated as open access land. There are also many rough sheep tracks and public rights of way that zig zag across the open scarp and ascend the coombes, providing good access on foot and horseback. There is particularly good access onto the scarp and adjacent downs from the urban edge of Eastbourne.

### Sensitivities Specific to the Ouse to Eastbourne Downs Scarp

**I.28** All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Specific to this character area are:

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	The Long Man of Wilmington, a chalk-cut hill figure of possible 16 <sup>th</sup> century date.
2.	Panoramic views over the surrounding lowlands, particularly from the popular viewpoints at Firle Beacon, Beachy Head, and the Long Man of Wilmington which are identified as representative views in the View Characterisation and Analysis <sup>3</sup> ,
3.	High recreational value, particularly at honey pot sites on the scarp and on the coast at Beachy Head.

### Change Specific to the Ouse to Eastbourne Downs Scarp

**I.29** 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 built development on the edge of Eastbourne which can affect general perceptual qualities, including tranquillity and dark skies.

Forces for Change	
2.	Recreational pressure due to the proximity of Eastbourne, particularly honey pot sites at viewpoints on the scarp and along the coast.
3.	Traffic pressure and car parks which facilitate driving to the top of the scarp. Car park infrastructure and traffic management measures are urbanising and interrupt the landscape continuity.

### Landscape Management/Development Considerations Specific to the Ouse to Eastbourne Downs Scarp

**I.30** 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 Long Man of Wilmington as a visual landmark on the scarp.
- b. Maintain panoramic views over the surrounding lowlands, particularly from the popular viewpoints at Firle Beacon, Beachy Head and the Long Man of Wilmington.
- c. Monitor and control presence of exotic species in woodland on the scarp above Eastbourne, particularly in view of Ash die back and the changes this will bring to the character of the scarp woodland.
- d. Consider the effect of any change in adjacent urban areas of Eastbourne and out to the weald on views to and from the scarp.
- e. Manage recreational use, making recreational infrastructure more resilient, particularly in areas of high pressure, such as Beachy Head.
- f. Ensure car park design and traffic management measures are sympathetic to the natural character of the landscape.

<sup>3</sup> LUC. 2015 South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis – Views 1 and 7

## I2: Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp

### Location and Boundaries

The *Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp* wraps around the northern edge of the *Adur to Ouse Open Downs*, to the north of Brighton. It extends from Beeding Hill in the west to Offham Hill, on the outskirts of Lewes, in the east. The boundaries of the *Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp* are defined predominantly by topography. The southern (top) boundary has been drawn along the crest of the scarp which is clearly defined by a change in density of contours. The northern (lower) boundary is less well defined has been drawn along field boundaries.

#### Key Characteristics

- A dramatic steep north-facing chalk escarpment with a distinctive concave-convex slope profile which provide opportunities for hang-gliding and para-gliding.
- Deeply indented by 'coombes', including the complex and well known coombe of Devil's Dyke, to form a locally sinuous scarp.
- Well drained calcareous soils covering the precipitous slopes support unbroken tracts of chalk grassland, scrub and hanger woodland of outstanding ecological importance which provide texture and create dramatic shadows on the scarp.
- Sunken terraced tracks and rights of way that zig zag across the open scarp, some representing historic bostals, the routes by which sheep were herded between the downland pastures and the scarpfoot arable fields.
- At the foot of the scarp where the slopes are less steep the land is ploughed for crops – here colours contrast with the muted grey-green colours of the scarp face.
- Abandoned chalk quarries, resulting from the exploitation of chalk in the past to produce lime, appear as white scars on the scarp and are now ecologically notable habitats.
- The elevated landform provides panoramic views both along the scarp and north to the surrounding lowlands, from many locations including popular viewpoints at Devil's Dyke, Ditchling Beacon and Edburton Hill. Features on the scarp, such as the V at Streat, provide local landmarks which are visible from afar.

### Specific Characteristics Unique to the Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp

**I.31** The *Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp* exhibits physical characteristics typical of its type. However, a unique physical characteristic is Devil's Dyke, a particularly complex landform and distinctive landmark that is formed from the intersection of a dip-slope valley and scarp-face coombe.

**I.32** A further feature of this character area are the abandoned chalk quarries, for example at Offham and Pyecombe, which reveal the exploitation of chalk in the past to produce lime for fertilising the acidic soils of the farmland of the Low Weald to the north. These quarries contain ecologically notable habitats.

**I.33** Almost unbroken tracts of unimproved chalk grassland, hanger woodland (both BAP Priority Habitats) and scrub are present along the scarp slope and contribute to the outstanding ecology of the character area. Occasional areas of arable land, improved pasture grassland and semi-natural

woodland occur on more shallow slopes along the scarp, extending from the intensively farmed footslopes and open downland which sandwich the escarpment. At Truleigh Hill agricultural fields have encroached onto the scarp crest.

**I.34** A range of woodland and scrub types occur, including ash and beech woodland hangers, species-rich woody scrub which includes juniper, a UK priority BAP species. The majority of the scarp carries national nature conservation designation, including a total of four SSSIs that fall wholly or partly within the character area, as well as several individual chalk grassland and woodland sites with LWS designation.

**I.35** Countryside access is good in this character area with the majority of the scarp designated as open access land and an area of registered common on the scarp above Fulking. Many rough sheep tracks, rights of way, cattle tracks (marking the route of stock movement to the coast for export) and tank/military tracks zig zag across the open scarp and ascend the coombes, providing good access on foot and horseback.

There are also a number of waymarked walks at Ditchling Beacon and public access to both Ditchling Beacon and Devil's Dyke by bus from Brighton. The precipitous slopes are more difficult to access; two rural roads wind their way up the scarp – one at Devil's Dyke and the other at Ditchling Beacon. The A273 takes advantage of the slightly less steep scarp above Clayton where it ascends directly onto the downs, linking Hassocks with Brighton. Although this scarp is perceived as naturalistic and tranquil, there are pockets of activity, particularly around Devil's Dyke where hang-gliding and paragliding are popular sports. The communication masts on the skyline at Devil's Dyke and Truleigh Hill are intrusive vertical features.

### Sensitivities Specific to the Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp

**I.36** All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Specific to this character area are:

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	The complex landform and distinctive landmark of Devil's Dyke.
2.	Species-rich woodland and woody scrub which includes juniper, a UK priority BAP species.
3.	Panoramic views over the surrounding lowlands, particularly from the popular viewpoints at Ditchling Beacon, Devil's Dyke, and Edburton Hill which are identified as representative views in the View Characterisation and Analysis <sup>4</sup> ,

### Change Specific to the Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp

**I.37** 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.	Recreational pressure at honey pot sites on the scarp, particularly around Devil's Dyke.

### Landscape Management / Development Considerations Specific to the Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp

**I.38** In addition to the generic landscape management and development considerations for this landscape type, the following development considerations are specific to this character area:

- a. Conserve the distinctive coombe formation at Devil's Dyke – avoid activities that could affect the natural landform and maintain grazed grassland which exposes its dramatic valley form.
- b. Conserve species-rich woodland and scrub and seek opportunities to extend such habitats, particularly the occurrence of juniper which is a UK priority BAP species, particularly in view of Ash die back and the changes this will bring to the character of the scape woodland.
- c. Maintain panoramic views over the surrounding lowlands, particularly from the popular viewpoints at Ditchling Beacon, Devil's Dyke, and Edburton Hill.
- d. Manage recreational use, design recreational infrastructure to be more resilient and reflect local character, particularly in areas of high pressure, such as Devil's Dyke.

<sup>4</sup> LUC. 2015 South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis – Views 2, 4 and 22

## I3: Arun to Adur Downs Scarp

### Location and Boundaries

The *Arun to Adur Downs Scarp* wraps around the northern edge of the *Arun to Adur Open Downs*. It extends from Amberley in the west to Steyning in the east. The boundaries of the *Adur to Ouse Downs Scarp* are defined predominantly by topography. The southern (top) boundary has been drawn along the crest of the scarp which is clearly defined by a change in density of contours. The northern (lower) boundary is less well defined has been drawn along field boundaries. There are panoramic views over the Low Weald to the north, particularly from the viewpoint at Chanctonbury Ring.

#### Key Characteristics

- A dramatic steep north-facing chalk escarpment exhibiting a distinctive concave-convex slope profile, indented by 'coombes'.
- Remarkably consistent in height and slope profile throughout its length as a result of the lithological uniformity of the chalk bedrock.
- Relatively well wooded, some of which comprises ornamental planting.
- The scarp contains some extensive areas of chalk grassland habitat, for example the nationally important Amberley Mount to Sullington Hill SSSI.
- Deeply sunken lanes and tracks, known as bostal tracks, cut the escarpment and link the lower land to the chalk uplands e.g. Wiston bostal.
- 'Gaps' cut by valleys form important communication routes, for example the gap between Chantry Hill and Sullington Hill, and the gap south of Washington where the A24 ascends the scarp in cutting.
- At the foot of the scarp where the slopes are less steep the land is ploughed for crops – here colours contrast with the muted grey-green colours of the scarp face.
- A number of small isolated chalk pits associated with the former agricultural lime-burning industry are visible on the scarp, although many are now vegetated.
- Elevated landform provides panoramic views over the scarp footslopes to the north and, in the distance, the Low Weald.

### Specific Characteristics Unique to the Arun to Adur Downs Scarp

**I.39** The extent of post-1800 woodland (much of which is semi-natural ancient woodland) is relatively large in this character area. In between are some extensive tracts of species-rich unimproved chalk grassland (a BAP Priority Habitat), for example at Amberley Mount to Sullington Hill SSSI and Chanctonbury Hill SSSI (Chanctonbury hillfort is located on the adjacent *Arun to Adur Open Downland* character area). As well as supporting diverse plant assemblages, these chalk grasslands also support ecologically notable woody scrub communities, including juniper scrub (a UK BAP priority species), and important populations of invertebrates.

**I.40** Typical of the landscape type is the collection of abandoned chalk quarries on the scarp face, which reveal the exploitation of chalk in the past to produce lime for fertilising the acidic soils of the farmland of the Low Weald to the north.

**I.41** This section of scarp is particularly tranquil due to the relatively low density of public rights of way. However, open access land at Amberley Mount and Chantry Hill, and Sullington Hill, allow public access. There are panoramic views from these areas across the scarp footslopes to the Low Weald to the north.

### Sensitivities Specific to the Arun to Adur Downs Scarp

**I.42** All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Specific to this character area are:

#### Key Landscape Sensitivities

1. Panoramic views over the Low Weald to the north, particularly from open access land at Amberley Mount, Chantry Hill and Sullington Hill which are identified as representative views in the View Characterisation and Analysis.<sup>5</sup>

#### Change Specific to the Arun to Adur Downs Scarp

**I.43** There is no change specific to this area in addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation.

#### Landscape Management / Development Considerations Specific to the Arun to Adur Downs Scarp

**I.44** In addition to the generic landscape management and development considerations for this landscape type, the following development considerations are specific to this character area:

- a. Conserve the character of views over the surrounding lowlands, particularly from open access land at Amberley Mount and Chantry Hill, and Sullington Hill.

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<sup>5</sup> LUC. 2015 South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis - Views 32, 33 and 34

## I4: Buriton to Arun Scarp

### Location and Boundaries

The *Buriton to Arun Scarp* is a length of continuous scarp that wraps around the northern edge of the *Wooded Estate Downland* in the central part of the South Downs. It extends from the A3 in the west to the Arun Valley in the east. The boundaries of *Buriton to Arun Scarp* are defined predominantly by topography. The southern (top) boundary has been drawn along the crest of the scarp which is clearly defined by a change in density of contours. The northern (lower) boundary is less well defined has been drawn along field boundaries. There are panoramic views over the Rother Valley to the north, and to the *Greensand Hills* beyond.

#### Key Characteristics

- A dramatic steep north-facing chalk escarpment, much of it clothed by woodland to produce a soft, irregular texture and masking the slope profile.
- Remarkably consistent in height throughout its length as a result of the lithological uniformity of the chalk bedrock.
- A well wooded scarp, much of it of pre-1800 date, notably the unbroken pre-1600 ancient woodland clothing Duncton, Graffham and Heyshott Downs. The ancient beech and yew hangers e.g. Duncton to Bignor Escarpment SAC, are of particular visual, historic, and ecological interest.
- The scarp contains some extensive areas of chalk grassland habitat e.g. at Harting Downs SSSI and Heyshott Down SSSI.
- Deeply sunken lanes and tracks, known as bostal tracks, cut the escarpment and link the lower land to the chalk uplands e.g. between Linch Farm and Linch Down.
- Communication routes climb the scarp at Cocking and Duncton (the A286 and A285 respectively) where the scarp is lower.
- At the foot of the scarp where the slopes are less steep the land is ploughed for crops – here the open field contrast with the well wooded scarp face.
- A number of small isolated chalk pits associated with the former agricultural lime-burning industry are visible on the scarp, although many are masked by vegetation e.g. Buriton Chalk Pit LNR
- Torberry Hillfort is an important Iron Age fort and distinctive landmark, forming an outlier to the main downland block.
- Elevated landform provides panoramic views over the Rother Valley to the north, and beyond to the Greensand Hills – the climb through dense woodland builds a sense of anticipation for the views from the open summits.

### Specific Characteristics Unique to the Buriton to Arun Scarp

**I.45** This is a well wooded scarp, much of it of pre-1800 date, notably the pre-1600 unbroken ancient woodland clothing Duncton, Graffham and Heyshott Downs. The extensive woodland cover contrasts sharply with the largely open scarps east of the Arun, reflecting the generally more wooded nature of the central wooded downs and the more mixed farming economy. Gaps between the pre-1600 woodland blocks have been infilled by post-1600 woodland growth. Of particular note are the internationally significant ancient beech and yew hangers, for example at Duncton to Bignor Escarpment SAC, and the large-leaved lime dominated woodland at Rook Cliff SAC, which is the largest known stand of its type in the south

of England. Exotic and ornamental species, particularly sycamore, have invaded the ancient hanger woodland at Duncton, Graffham and Heyshott Downs.

**I.46** Extensive areas of unimproved chalk grassland are found along the escarpment, for example at Harting Downs SSSI. These grasslands support a diverse range of characteristic plant species, as well as providing important habitat for invertebrates and breeding birds.

**I.47** Typical of the landscape type is the collection of abandoned chalk quarries on the scarp face, which reveal the exploitation of chalk in the past to produce lime for fertilising the acidic soils of the farmland of the Low Weald to the north. These quarries are also ecologically notable habitats, for

example Buriton Chalk Pit LNR which is managed by the community.

**I.48** Hillforts and other defensive structures are located on the ridgeline, typically in the adjacent downland landscape type. However, this section of scarp includes a prominent hill fort at Torberry Hill, forming an outlier to the main downland block.

**I.49** This section of scarp is particularly tranquil due to the relatively low density of rights of way and high density of woodland. However, the presence of open access land at Harting Down and Heyshott Down provides good access in these areas.

### Sensitivities Specific to the Buriton to Arun Scarp

**I.50** All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Specific to this character area are:

Key Landscape Sensitivity	
1.	Torberry Hillfort, an important Iron Age fort and distinctive landmark forming an outlier to the downland block adjacent to South Harting.
2.	The unbroken ancient beech and yew woodland clothing Duncton, Graffham and Heyshott Downs which is of international ecological value.
3.	The extensive area of large-leaved lime dominated woodland at Rook Clift SAC.
4.	Unimproved chalk grassland, for example at Harting Downs SSSI, which supports a diverse range of characteristic plant species, as well as providing important habitat for invertebrates and breeding birds.
5.	The panoramic views over the Rother Valley to the north, and beyond to the <i>Greensand Hills</i> , particularly from key viewpoints at Harting Hill, Beacon Hill, and the viewpoint on the A285 above Duncton, which are identified as representative views in the View Characterisation and Analysis report <sup>6</sup> .

### Change Specific to the Buriton to Arun Scarp

**I.51** There is no change specific to this area in addition to addition to the generic changes listed in the landscape type evaluation.

### Landscape Management / Development Considerations Specific to the Buriton to Arun Scarp

**I.52** 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 Torberry Hillfort as a prominent landmark.
- b. Monitor and control presence of exotic species in ancient woodland clothing Duncton, Graffham and Heyshott Downs.
- c. Avoid straight, harsh woodland edges, especially directly up and down the slope and maintain woodland blocks in proportion to the scale of the landform.
- d. Support conservation programmes for ancient beech and yew hangers and lime woodland.
- e. Maintain the character of panoramic views over the surrounding lowlands, particularly from the key viewpoints at Harting Hill, Beacon Hill, and the viewpoint on the A285 above Duncton.
- f. Consider the impacts of any change in views from the scarp, particularly development in and around the spring line villages at the scarp foot such as South Harting.

<sup>6</sup> LUC. 2015 South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis – Views 10, 12 and 36

## I5: Saltdown to Butser Hill Scarp

### Location and Boundaries

The *Saltdown to Butser Hill Scarp* is a short length of open scarp that wraps around the northern edge of the *Hambledon and Clanfield Downland Mosaic*, between Saltdown in the west and Butser Hill in the east. The boundaries of the *Saltdown to Butser Hill Scarp* are defined predominantly by topography. The southern (top) boundary has been drawn along the crest of the scarp which is clearly defined by a change in density of contours. The northern (lower) boundary is less well defined has been drawn along field boundaries.

#### Key Characteristics

- A dramatic steep north-facing chalk escarpment exhibiting a distinctive concave-convex slope profile, indented by coombes, and enclosing the head of the Meon Valley.
- The scarp is particularly prominent around Butser Hill where the crest of the scarp reaches 250m AOD.
- The scarp supports little woodland, revealing its open smoothly eroded form and supporting extensive areas of chalk grassland habitat and some chalk heath e.g. Butser Hill SAC.
- The open character of the scarp indicates its value as sheep pasture – the chalk grassland now coincides with areas of open access land.
- The steep slopes at Ramsdean Down contain numerous earthworks, including cross-dykes, and the shallower slopes reveal prehistoric field systems.
- Deeply sunken lanes and tracks cut the escarpment and link the lower land to the chalk uplands e.g. linking Tegdown Bottom and Tegdown Hill. These now form public rights of way up the scarp and onto the downs.
- Coombes form important communication routes between the top and bottom of the scarp containing minor roads and lanes, for example Harvesting Lane.
- At the foot of the scarp where the slopes are less steep the land is ploughed for crops – here colours contrast with the muted grey-green colours of the scarp face.
- One of the highest and most remote parts of the National Park due to its lack of intervisibility with adjacent settlements and associated dark skies.
- Elevated landform provides panoramic views over the Meon Valley and Rother Valley to the north - the *Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp* forms a backdrop to the view.

### Specific Characteristics Unique to the Saltdown to Butser Hill Scarp

**I.53** This is a short section of open scarp enclosing the head of the Meon Valley - the scarp is particularly prominent around Butser Hill where the crest of the scarp reaches 250m AOD. This character area is notable for its open character and extensive chalk grassland habitats, particularly on the slopes of Butser Hill where some rare chalk heath is found. The scarp is locally designated for its ecological value and Butser Hill SAC and NNR is of international importance for both its yew woodland, and its terricolous lichen flora, which is thought to be the richest of any chalk grassland site in England.

**I.54** The open character indicates its value in the past as sheep pasture. The slopes of Ramsdean Down exhibit cross-

dykes and historic field systems which have been preserved by the grazing land use.

**I.55** Typical of its type, this character area supports a large area of open access land which coincides with the areas of chalk grassland. This section of scarp away from the A3(M) is particularly tranquil due to the relatively low density of public rights of way, high proportion of natural habitat and few roads. However, close to the A3(M) traffic noise is present. Chalk quarries are largely absent in this character area except for one off the Buriton slip road onto the A3(M).



**Sensitivities Specific to the Saltdown to Butser Hill Scarp**

**I.56** All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Specific to this character area are:

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	Cross-dykes and historic field systems on the slopes of Ramsdean Down which have been preserved by the grazing land use.
2.	Chalk grassland habitat at Butser Hill is of international ecological importance.
3.	The tranquillity of the scarp, which is impinged upon in places by the A3(M).
4.	A strong sense of remoteness associated with the high scarp which has no visibility of adjacent settlements and experiences the darkest skies.
5.	The panoramic views over the Meon Valley and Rother Valley to the north.

**Change Specific to the Saltdown to Butser Hill Scarp**

**I.57** 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.	The extent and type of woodland on the scarp below Butser Hill which in the past has included the planting of coniferous woodland.
2.	Pressure for development on the edge of Petersfield, particularly along the A3, which may affect views from Butser Hill.
3.	Increased traffic on the A3(M).

**Landscape Management / Development Considerations Specific to the Saltdown to Butser Hill Scarp**

**I.58** 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 cross-dykes and prehistoric field systems on the slopes of Ramsdean Down by continuing to graze the sites.
- b. Support proposals to restore chalk grassland habitat in specific areas affected by coniferous plantations.

- c. Conserve the deeply remote character of the high scarp which has no visibility of main settlements and experiences the darkest skies.
- d. Maintain panoramic views over the Meon Valley and Rother Valley to the north, particularly from the viewpoint on the scarp crest at Butser Hill.
- e. Consider use of techniques to reduce traffic noise from the A3(M), such as use of whisper tarmac.

## I6: Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp

### Location and Boundaries

The *Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp* is comprised of two sections of densely wooded east-facing scarp. The first is a continuous scarp extending from the slopes above East Meon village in the south to Noar Hill in the north. The second is a short section of wooded scarp that wraps around the eastern edge of Selborne Hill. The boundaries of *Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp* are defined predominantly by topography. The western (top) boundary has been drawn along the crest of the scarp which is clearly defined by a change in density of contours. The eastern (lower) boundary is less well defined and has been drawn along field boundaries.

#### Key Characteristics

- A dramatic steep east-facing chalk escarpment, much of it clothed by hanger woodland to produce a soft, irregular texture that masks the slope profile.
- Remarkably consistent in height throughout its length as a result of the lithological uniformity of the chalk bedrock.
- Clothed in ancient beech and lime dominated hanger woodlands which are of particular visual, historic, and ecological interest.
- The scarp contains some small areas of nationally important chalk grassland habitat e.g. at Noar Hill (which includes juniper scrub) and Selborne Common.
- Deeply sunken lanes and tracks cut the escarpment and link the lower land to the chalk uplands e.g. Button's Lane, Warren Lane, Old Litten Lane. Many of these are now public rights of way onto the Downs.
- Communication routes climb the scarp in coombes, for example the A272 at Limekiln Copse.
- At the foot of the scarp where the slopes are less steep the land is ploughed for crops – here the open fields contrast with the well wooded scarp face.
- A number of small isolated chalk pits associated with the former agricultural lime-burning industry are visible on the scarp, although many are masked by vegetation. Vineyard Hole is a particularly prominent feature in views of the scarp.
- A tranquil 'naturalistic' landscape with pockets of deep remoteness on the scarp due to its lack of intervisibility with adjacent settlements and associated dark skies.
- The scarp forms a dramatic backdrop to the undulating lowlands to the east.
- Panoramic views over the lowlands to the east, and beyond to the Greensand Hills – the climb through dense woodland builds a sense of anticipation for the views from the open summits.
- Distinctive Zig Zag walks designed by Gilbert White which rises up to the nearby Selbourne Hanger from his former home at The Wakes.

### Specific Characteristics Unique to the Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp

**I.59** This is the only section of exclusively east-facing scarp in the South Downs. It forms the edge of the Hampshire Downs and is extremely well wooded throughout its length.

**I.60** The extensive woodland cover reflects the generally more wooded nature of the western downs and the more mixed farming economy that resulted. The East Hampshire Hangers are a major feature of this east facing scarp and are

of international value (notified as a SAC), particularly for the beech and lime dominated woodlands which have a very rich woodland ground flora. Hangers left to regenerate naturally following the 1987 storms, such as the beechwoods at Noar Hill have developed a distinctive understorey of standards growing from prone felled trees.

**I.61** The scarp also supports a large area of species-rich chalk grassland, most notably at Noar Hill and Selborne Common – these sites are of national importance and notified as SSSI. There are a number of abandoned chalk quarries on

the scarp face, which reveal the exploitation of chalk in the past to produce lime for fertilising soils of the adjacent farmland. Some of these are hidden by woodland, for example the former quarries at Limekiln Copse, while others are highly visible on the scarp, for example Vineyard Hole above Frogmore.

**I.62** The distinctive Zig Zag paths which rise up the scarp from Selbourne, were constructed by the pioneering naturalist Gilbert White and his brother in 1752 from their home at The Wakes, and now form part of the Grade II\* registered park and garden.

**I.63** This section of scarp is particularly accessible due to the good network of public rights of way, including the Hangers Way. However, it retains a remote and tranquil character due to the high incidence of semi-natural habitats and absence of built features. Land in National Trust ownership at Selborne Hanger provides further opportunities for countryside access.

#### Sensitivities Specific to the Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp

**I.64** All of the landscape and visual sensitivities listed in the landscape type evaluation apply to this character area. Specific to this character area are:

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	The hanger beech and lime woodland which is of international ecological significance and forms part of the East Hampshire Hangers SAC.
2.	The small areas of species-rich chalk grassland at Noar Hill (which includes juniper scrub) and Selborne Common.
3.	The lanes and tracks on the scarp which are vulnerable to erosion.
4.	The tranquillity of the scarp, as a result of the presence of semi-natural habitats and absence of human influences, which contrasts with the lowlands to the east. Pockets of deep remoteness are associated with the hanger woodlands, particularly between Oakshott and Empshott
5.	The panoramic views over the lowlands to the east, and beyond to the <i>Greensand Hills</i> , such as the representative views from the Hawkley and Ashford Hangers identified in the View Characterisation and Analysis <sup>7</sup> .

#### Change Specific to the Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp

**I.65** 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.	Decline in coppice management as it has become uneconomical.
2.	The presence of exotic and ornamental species particularly sycamore and conifer plantations in the ancient hanger woodlands.
3.	Recreational pressure at Selbourne, leading to development which could affect the natural character of the scarp slope.

#### Landscape Management / Development Considerations Specific to the Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp

**I.66** 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. Support conservation programmes for ancient beech and lime woodlands which is of international ecological significance and forms part of the East Hampshire Hangers SAC. Control deer and grey squirrel.
- b. Monitor and control presence of exotic species in ancient hanger woodland.
- c. Avoid straight, harsh woodland edges and rides, especially directly up and down the slope and maintain woodland blocks in proportion to the scale of the landform.
- d. Manage trees and control erosion on the narrow tracks and lanes that ascend the chalk scarp.
- e. Protect and continue to manage (graze) the existing chalk grassland, for example at Noar Hill and Selborne Common, and support the continued creation of chalk grassland between the wooded areas. Conserve and extend sites supporting juniper scrub e.g. at Noar Hill.
- f. Conserve the remote character of the landscape, particularly the remote upper reaches of the wooded scarp that have no visibility of main settlements and experience the darkest skies.
- g. Maintain spectacular views over the lowlands to the east, and beyond to the *Greensand Hills*, particularly from the Hawkley and Ashford Hangers, and consider opportunities to create additional viewpoints.

<sup>7</sup> LUC. 2015 South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis – Views 24 and 68