

Appendix K

Landscape Character Type K: Greensand Terrace

The *Greensand Terrace* comprises a 'shelf' of Upper Greensand which outcrops at the foot of the steep chalk scarps in the western part of the South Downs. The Upper Greensand narrows and becomes almost imperceptible to the east of the Arun Valley. The landscape type therefore only occurs to the west of the Arun Valley where the Upper Greensand has the most visual influence on the landscape. East of the Arun Valley the Upper Greensand forms part of the wider *Scarp Footslopes* landscape type.

Description

Key Characteristics

- A distinct terrace formed from Upper Greensand with a locally prominent escarpment defining its outer edge.
- Cut by a series of small streams that rise from springs near the foot of the chalk escarpment, and have eroded narrow, deep valleys as they cross the Upper Greensand shelf.
- Deeply sunken lanes have eroded to reveal exposures of the Greensand geology and gnarled tree roots.
- Fertile soils supporting large fields of arable, interspersed with pasture, woodland and orchards. Road verges with botanical interest.
- Distinctive hanger woodlands, remnants of ancient woodland, cling to the steepest slopes.
- Areas of former hop gardens are marked by poplar shelter belts.
- Villages are located at regular intervals along the springline, often associated with artificially dammed mill ponds and mills. The chalk scarp often forms a dramatic backdrop.
- Buildings constructed from local 'Malmstone', with red and yellow brick detailing, and clay tile roofs.
- A strong sense of rural tranquillity resulting from the absence of overt human impact and a low density of settlement. Higher secluded areas in the north are particularly remote and provide an experience of dark skies.
- Dominated by the adjacent steep chalk escarpment, from which there are panoramic views over the *Greensand Terrace*. There are also views over the adjacent lowlands from the edge of the type.

Physical Landscape

K.1 The *Greensand Terrace* landscape is formed from the calcareous sandstone and siltstone of the Upper Greensand Formation which lies between the rising slopes of the chalk scarp and the gently undulating lowland of Gault Clays. The

Upper Greensand (known locally as Malmstone) is exposed as a distinctive 'shelf' or 'terrace' at the foot of the chalk. This sandy rock is more resistant to erosion than the neighbouring Gault Clays and this has resulted in a locally prominent escarpment at its junction with the Gault Clay.

K.2 The *Greensand Terrace* is cut by a number of streams. These streams rise from springs at the foot of the chalk escarpment and have eroded narrow, deep valleys as they cross the Greensand shelf resulting in an undulating landform. Drift deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel occur in association with the streams.

K.3 The underlying sandstone gives rise to generally well drained slightly acid grey loamy soils, with lower lying areas having loamy and clayey soils and some areas of stoney or shallow soils. The soils are generally classified as Grade 3 in the agricultural landscape classification, indicating land with moderate limitations to cultivation. This gives rise to a mixed land cover of woodland and farmland. The woodland (oak, ash and hazel with some beech/ash) includes distinctive hangers, remnants of ancient woodland that cling to the steepest slopes. Amongst the woodland, a pattern of irregular geometric fields occurs with arable and pasture, as well as rough grazing on the steeper slopes. Fields are often bound by tall hedgerows.

K.4 The sandstone geology has been eroded down resulting in deeply sunken lanes, with steep banks revealing tree roots and exposures of the bedrock geology.

Perceptual/Experiential Landscape

K.5 This is an intimate small-scale landscape with enclosure provided by the woodland cover and sunken lanes contrasting with more open arable areas. The character area is unified by its ‘terrace’ landform and woodland hangers.

K.6 A rural landscape with a strong sense of tranquillity as a result of its low noise levels, presence of semi-natural woodland, thick hedgerows and grassland, absence of overt human impact, and low density of settlement. This sense of remoteness is particularly associated with the higher and more secluded landscape in the north.

K.7 Views are restricted and often confined along sunken lanes. Where woodland is absent there are dramatic views to the chalk escarpment and, at the edges of the Greensand Terrace, there are views across the adjacent lower lying farmland.

K.8 Although there is typically no open access land or common land on the *Greensand Terrace*, it is well served by rights of way linking into the adjacent chalk scarp as well as the surrounding lowlands.

K.9 The *Greensand Terrace* landscape has inspired many writers and painters. Gilbert White lived in Selborne, a village nestled at the foot of the chalk scarp. The landscape around him inspired him to write ‘The Natural History of Selborne’, published in 1789. William Cobbett, writing in 1830, found

Selborne just as Gilbert White had described, writing ‘*Nothing can surpass the beauty in these dells and hillocks and hangers, which last are so steep that it is impossible to ascend them except by means of a serpentine path*’.

K.10 18th century paintings emphasised the tranquillity and simplicity of the landscape while in the early 19th century there was a demand for stately views of country houses. Gilbert White’s house at Selborne was one of those painted by Prosser. Edward Thomas, who moved to the parish of Steep in 1906, wrote many poems about the area. Two small lancet windows designed and engraved by Laurence Whistler were installed in the south wall of Steep church in 1978 to commemorate Edward Thomas’ centenary.

Biodiversity

K.11 The *Greensand Terrace* is dominated by arable land, together with significant woodland cover, including ancient hanger woodland associated with the Upper Greensand, scattered copses of ancient origin and more recent plantation woodland. Much of the deciduous woodland across the landscape is a BAP Priority Habitat. Other characteristic habitats of ecological note within the wider landscape include orchards, road verges and hedgerows.

K.12 Of greatest ecological value are the ancient hanger woodlands, a habitat of international importance, and comprising a range of nationally uncommon woodland types such as those dominated by yew, beech, and ash/wych elm. The significance of these woodland habitats is reflected in their designation as SSSI, SAC or LWS.

K.13 The hanger woods are important for their assemblages of vascular plants, bryophytes, birds, and invertebrates, as well as supporting many ground flora species indicative of ancient woodland. Small streams often occur as features within these woodlands and add to their overall diversity.

K.14 Occasional areas of semi-natural grassland also occur, including lowland meadow and floodplain grazing marsh along the stream valleys, purple moor grass and rush pasture, small pockets of calcareous grassland extending from the edge of the chalk scarp and more extensive areas of good quality semi-improved grassland (all BAP Priority Habitats). These open grasslands are also important sites for invertebrates, particularly where found in association with other habitats such as scrub and woodland.

Key Biodiversity Features	Importance
Extensive deciduous woodlands (a BAP Priority Habitat) including significant areas of hanger woodlands with yew, beech and ash/wych.	Internationally important hanger woodlands, support a varied ground flora, including many ancient woodland indicator plant species, and are notable

Key Biodiversity Features	Importance
Many sites carry statutory or non-statutory nature conservation designation.	for their rich bryophyte assemblages. The woodlands also support a diverse invertebrate and breeding bird populations.
Small areas of unimproved grassland, including many with non-statutory designation, such as lowland calcareous grassland, lowland meadow and coastal and floodplain grazing marsh as well as good quality semi-improved grassland (all BAP Priority Habitats).	Chalk grassland is a nationally scarce habitat highly valued for its very rich flora and rare butterflies. Floodplain grazing marsh is particularly important for breeding and wintering birds. Unimproved lowland meadows are valued for their herb-rich neutral grasslands. Semi-improved grassland is moderately species-rich but valued for its potential for habitat enhancement.
Network of hedgerows and mature trees and species-rich road verges.	These interconnecting habitats provide important ecological features at the local level.

K.15 Areas of BAP Priority Habitat grassland, primarily purple moor grass and rush pasture and lowland meadow along the stream valleys as well as pockets of lowland calcareous grassland extending into the area from the chalk scarp, are identified as providing effective habitat networks in Natural England's National Habitat Networks Mapping Project. Adjacent to some of these, are associated habitats or areas identified as being suitable for restoration (including semi-improved grassland near Selbourne at Hartley Wood and along the Oakhanger stream). The mapping project also indicated that work is underway restore habitats along the Oakhanger stream valley. Network Enhancement Zones have been identified where land connecting existing patches of these habitats are likely to be suitable for grassland habitat creation in these areas.

K.16 Potential 'network joins' have also been noted between grassland habitats at Hartley Wood and Shortheath Common in the adjacent lowlands, between the habitats along the Oakhanger stream valley and Noar Hill on the chalk scarp and connecting the lowland chalk grassland at Barlavington Down LWS with the Duncton to Bignor Escarpment SSSI/SAC.

Historic Character

K.17 The soils of this area, juxtaposed against the chalk uplands and the clay vales/sandy heaths, are likely to have supported settlement for millennia. Evidence for prehistoric settlement is sparse across the character type, although this is probably the result of deposits being buried beneath several thousand years' worth of hillwash, a process exacerbated by early woodland clearance of the adjacent downland and scarp

slopes. In addition, any prehistoric landscape elements that may have escaped subsequent burial would have been vulnerable to centuries of arable cultivation.

K.18 Roman villas were established at the centre of extensive agricultural estates, the boundaries of which often formed the basis for later Saxon and medieval manorial estates. Continuity of such use is an important facet of this landscape type.

K.19 The medieval settlement pattern reflected and developed that of earlier centuries, forming a string of nucleated settlements comprising farmsteads clustered around a church and set within an area of open fields, primarily farmed communally, with parishes stretching from river valley up onto chalkland (although the overall pattern is less marked than that evident further east in Sussex). The bulk of the *Greensand Terrace* was subsequently enclosed, probably from the 15th to 17th centuries, producing blocks of irregular fields. This includes significant areas of small irregular fields created from cleared woodland indicative of assarts, as well as post-medieval fieldscapes in the form of regular or irregular piecemeal enclosure (the later mostly found in the stream valleys where topography influences their shape and pattern). In the late post-medieval period (1600-1799) there was further planned private enclosure, often consolidating earlier strip fields on open commons, generally exhibiting straight boundaries. Isolated areas of more recent (18th-19th century) enclosure, with characteristic straight boundaries, are often representative of former parkland. The diversity of early enclosure patterns contributes to the intimate scale of the landscape.

K.20 Poplar belts are still visible in places, which were grown around former hop gardens to protect them.

K.21 A defining characteristic of this landscape type (particularly in the assart and early enclosure zones) is the presence of hangers, generally long, narrow remnants of ancient woodland clinging on to the steepest parts of the numerous small valleys that dissect this landscape. These hangers survive because the ground has always been too steep to cultivate. They are certainly of great antiquity, although likely to have been extensively exploited by past communities for woodland products such as coppice poles, particularly in the Roman and medieval periods.

K.22 There are no examples of major designed landscapes, i.e. gentry houses and landscape parks. This is probably a reflection of the agricultural value of the land – however, there are several small parks which are recognised on local registers of historic parks and gardens (including Selborne and Seaford College).

Key Features of the Historic Environment	Importance
Woodland Hangers	Surviving fragments of original woodland cover, albeit subsequently modified by exploitation.
Nucleated settlements	Indicative of the medieval manorial system based around open fields.
Early enclosures	Indicative of the relative prosperity of the area, allowing early response to changing economic and social conditions.

Settlement Form and Built Character

K.23 The settlement pattern in this area is characterised by nucleated settlement with an extremely low level of dispersed settlement. This conforms to Historic England’s rural settlement designation of East Wessex Sub-Province within the South-eastern Province. The typical settlement form comprises small nucleated villages, usually of mid-late Saxon origin but often incorporating earlier landscape elements indicating a much longer continuity of occupation. The villages form a ‘zone of preferred settlement’, situated on the best soils but with access to other resource types such as valley floor and chalk downland.

K.24 There are scattered isolated farmsteads, representing later medieval or Tudor enclosure of former open fields – new farmsteads would be established away from the old village centre to service outlying farms. Modern settlement is limited and largely unobtrusive, consisting of piecemeal infill on the margins of the nucleated villages.

K.25 Building materials are typically local ‘Malmstone’, with red and yellow brick detailing, particularly around windows and doors. Flint is sometimes seen in buildings and walls and timber boarding is frequently used on agricultural buildings. Clay tile is the most typical roofing material although thatch is also seen.

Evaluation

Ecosystem Services in the Greensand Terrace

K.26 Ecosystem services are the benefits which people and society get from the natural environment. The *Greensand Terrace* provides:

Provisioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Food provision– arable and pastoral farming with some rough sheep grazing. ■ Timber provision - coniferous plantations, which are more prevalent in the west of the character type, generally underutilised or managed for game or wildlife conservation. Steep slopes make woodland management difficult and therefore timber production is often small-scale. ■ Water availability – the chalk aquifers which underly the scarp slope, which neighbours the <i>Greensand Terrace</i>, is a principle source of water.
Regulating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Regulating water flows – vegetated land cover, particularly areas of pasture and woodland, help to slow the flow of water across the land. Hanger woodlands help to reduce soil erosion on the steep slopes ■ Regulating water quality – the sandstone geology of the <i>Greensand Terrace</i> acts as a natural filtering system and maintain a good ecological status for associated waterways. ■ Regulating soil quality and erosion – soil under permanent pasture or woodland is less susceptible to erosion, and therefore its structure, moisture and nutrient levels are retained. This makes the character type more resilient to drought. ■ Climate regulation – woodland plays an important role in carbon sequestration and this can be enhanced through improved management. ■ Air quality regulation – woodlands play an important role in regulating local air quality. ■ Pollination – semi-natural grasslands are important nectar sources for pollinating insects.
Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sense of place – a small-scale intimate landscape enclosed by woodland, including distinctive ancient hanger woodland, thick hedgerows and sunken lanes. ■ Tranquillity – The lack of obtrusive development, low settlement density and presence of dark night skies, particularly in upper reaches of this character type reinforces the sense of remoteness. ■ Recreation – served by rights of way connecting with the neighbouring chalk scarp.
Supporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Biodiversity – Diverse range of habitats including ancient woodland and grassland that support a variety of species and ecosystem services.

Sensitivities

K.27 This landscape type has many sensitive physical and aesthetic/perceptual features that are vulnerable to change. Key landscape sensitivities are set out in the table below:

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
1.	The locally prominent escarpment which defines the outer edge of the Greensand and is visible from adjacent areas.
2.	Ravine-like stream valleys that dissect the terrace.
3.	The ancient hanger woodlands which are important in providing a sense of time depth, reinforcing landform and enclosure, and contributing to a rich biodiversity, as well as providing a visual link to the woodlands on the adjacent chalk scarp.
4.	The open semi-natural grasslands, including lowland meadow, floodplain grazing marsh, purple moor grass and rush pasture and pockets of calcareous grassland, which are important sites for invertebrates, particularly where found in association with other habitats such as scrub and woodland.
5.	Road verges which have ecological interest.

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
6.	The sunken lanes are rich in biodiversity, provide exposures of the underlying bedrock geology as well as a sense of antiquity.
7.	The small nucleated villages, usually of mid-late Saxon origin, with building materials reflecting local geology.
8.	Patterns of early enclosures (including assarts) which are important in providing time depth, and contribute to the intimate scale of the landscape.
9.	The strong sense of tranquillity as a result of its low noise levels, presence of semi natural woodland, thick hedgerows and grassland, absence of overt human impact, and low density of settlement, with the greatest sense of remoteness associated with the upper reaches of the type to the north.
10.	The dark skies associated with the South Downs International Dark Skies Reserve which are vulnerable to light sources., particularly in the 'Dark Sky Core' to the south east of the LCT.

Change – Key Issues and Trends

Past Change

K.28 Past change includes:

Past Change	
1.	Some of the most significant changes to occur within the landscape of the <i>Greensand Terrace</i> would have occurred when the bulk of it was enclosed between the 15 th and 17 th Centuries.
2.	Low grazing pressure resulting in reversion of grassland to scrub.
3.	Removal of orchards and hop gardens.
4.	The appearance of apparently abandoned land due to fragmented and less-intensive, mixed land uses.
5.	An increase in fields used as paddocks resulting in fields separated using white electric fencing and over-grazed grassland.
6.	Lack of management of the distinctive hanger woodland, particularly on steeper slopes. Some localised re-introduction of coppicing.

Future Landscape Change

K.29 The likely future changes are set out in the table below.

Future Change	
1.	Increased rainfall related to climate change could lead to high water flows and increased rates of soil erosion, resulting in a potential adverse change to the streams and their associated habitats which are characteristic of the area, contrasting with periods of drought and low flows.
2.	Increased temperatures may result in changes to the species composition of habitats particularly affecting the ancient hanger woodlands. Beech, a common species in these ancient hangers, is particularly sensitive to drought and the potential impact of sun-scorch leading to bark-death. Increased winter temperatures could also lead to a reduction in beech due to reductions in bud initiation.
3.	Wind damage, due to an increase in severe gales is another issue for woodlands which could be affected by loss of trees as a result of storm damage.
4.	Afforestation programmes in response to the implementation of Net Zero commitments and the promotion of timber for construction as well as improved management of woodlands may be a positive change, although the management of hangers on steep slopes is unlikely to be economic.

Future Change	
5.	Climate change could also lead to the formation of pathogens and pests which in time could result in a decline in the ability of woodland to regenerate, and the loss of mature trees. Furthermore, the introduction and thriving of invasive and non-native species could have the same negative implications.
6.	Agricultural management will be driven by the changes in the world market and agricultural policy. It is possible that there will be pressure for increases in field size and farm units where topography is favourable. In other more marginal areas, such as the valley pastures, the land may be vulnerable to a reduction in grazing land to free up land for other uses, lack of management (with scrub encroachment) or purchase as hobby farms or for horse grazing. Positive landscape change could result from regimes to promote enhanced environmental management of hedgerows and on-going work to link grassland habitat sites.
7.	Small scale change including diversification of redundant farm buildings and the gentrification of individual properties could erode the tranquil rural character of the area, which is an especially characteristic and vulnerable characteristic.
8.	Pressure for development, particularly around Petersfield and outside the National Park to the north, may result in visual impacts from the boundary edge and affect general perceptual qualities including tranquillity and dark skies.
9.	Increasing traffic pressures on the narrow rural roads and sunken lanes with ecologically rich roadside verges that characterise the area is also a key issue.

Broad Management Objective and Landscape Guidelines

K.30 The overall management objective should be to conserve the intimate scale and secluded rural and tranquil character of the landscape, derived from its ancient hanger woodlands, interconnected pattern of enclosed pastures, sunken lanes, and small rural villages.

Guidance for Landscape Management

- A.** Conserve ancient/hanger woodland and monitor/check the spread of introduced invasive species in ancient deciduous woodland and plan for long term woodland regeneration. Control deer and grey squirrel. As conditions change, plant suitable species and manage woodland to improve structure, health and diversity of habitats and improve connectivity of woodland.
- B.** Continue to monitor native species to assess changes in numbers and distribution. Monitor and control the spread of invasive species which are a cause of decline in native habitats, such as Rhododendrons *Rhododendron ponticum* in the hanger woodlands. Refer to the SDNP INNS Strategy.
- C.** Encourage re-introduction of traditional woodland management techniques such as coppicing and promote opportunities for productive woodland management. Appropriate woodland management will also help to reduce soil erosion on the steeper slopes found within the *Greensand Terrace*.
- D.** Encourage management and restoration of hedgerows and monitor regeneration of hedgerow trees, planting new, trees where necessary. Encourage management of trees and shrubs alongside sunken lanes and sensitive management of road verges for their botanical interest.
- E.** Protect existing, and seek to create grassland habitats, including unimproved and semi-improved grassland, and seek opportunities to connect habitats.
- F.** Conserve the patterns of early enclosures (including assarts) that are surviving components of the medieval landscape.
- G.** Encourage sensitive integration of fencing, tracks, hardstanding, jumps and other paraphernalia that are associated with hobby farms or private stables.
- H.** Encourage and support the development of soil management plans to reduce soil erosion and create soils more resilient to drought. Ensure good vegetative cover of agricultural land and avoid overgrazing and compaction caused by mechanisation.
- I.** Encourage the management and protection of the small valleys and streams that rise within the *Greensand Terrace*. Ensure that water abstraction does not result in loss of springs and encourage the establishment of an uncultivated strip adjacent to streams to enhance biodiversity interest and reduce diffuse pollution entering watercourses.
- J.** Discourage inappropriate use of historic lanes and tracks (including restricted byways and BOATs) by motorised vehicles.
- K.** Maintain and develop the rights of way network, particularly links to the chalk scarp.

Guidance for Integrating Development into the Landscape

- A.** Conserve the nucleated form and rural character of the villages and maintain the low level of dispersed settlement.
- B.** Ensure that any built development reflects the local vernacular – develop design guidance to help resist suburban style garden boundaries, kerbs, and lighting.
- C.** Ensure new farm buildings are sensitively integrated into the landscape through careful siting and screening of storage structures and working areas.

- D.** Conserve traditional farm buildings and maintain their external fabric, appearance and setting. Refer to guidance contained in the Historic Farmsteads studies¹.
- E.** Conserve the rural character of the landscape particularly in the more remote areas 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, 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>
- F.** Conserve the character of the sunken lanes – seek to reduce traffic pressures and resist pressure for road improvements which would alter the character of these ancient lanes
- G.** Consider impacts on views of the chalk scarp from the foot of the downs and elevated views over the adjacent low-lying farmland in relation to any proposed change, including those representative views identified in the View Characterisation and Analysis report².

Woodland strategy and suitable species

K.31 The LCT is predominantly arable farmland interspersed with some pasture and woodland. Woodland, mostly broadleaved, covers 9.90km², approximately 12% of the LCT and occurs as distinctive hanger woodlands which cling to the steeper slopes, including beech woodland and other uncommon woodland types such as yew, lime, and ash/wych elm. There is an opportunity to increase woodland cover in this LCT by creating small copses and links between these remnant areas of ancient woodland to augment the wooded character of the area.

K.32 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.

K.33 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 two distinct areas of Greensand Terrace in the South Downs – both are located west of the Arun Valley. They outcrop at the base of the steep chalk scarps where they form a distinctive 'bench' of Upper Greensand.	
K1:	East Hampshire Greensand Terrace
K2:	East Meon to Bury Greensand Terrace

¹ Historic Farmsteads and Landscape Character in Hampshire (2005) Historic Farmsteads and Landscape Character in West Sussex (2006)
² LUC. 2015 South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis

K1: East Hampshire Greensand Terrace

Location and Boundaries

The *East Hampshire Greensand Terrace* character area is a distinctive broad Upper Greensand 'terrace' occurring at the western edge of the Greensand and the Weald. Its western boundary is marked by the steeply rising chalk 'structural' escarpment of the *Selborne Hangers to East Meon Scarp* and its eastern edge is defined by the *Mixed Farmland and Woodland* landscapes on clay. This Greensand shelf and its escarpment are most clearly defined in the north – to the north of Selborne the greensand scarp becomes more dominant in the landscape than the chalk scarp. Towards the south (around Petersfield) the topography becomes more undulating, the greensand scarp merges with the chalk scarp, and the boundary between the *Greensand Terrace* and the *Mixed Farmland and Woodland* on the band of Gault clay becomes less distinct.

Key Characteristics

- A terrace formed from Upper Greensand with a locally prominent escarpment clothed in woodland defining its eastern edge.
- Cut by a series of small streams that rise from springs at the foot of the chalk escarpment, and have eroded narrow, deep valleys as they cross the Greensand shelf.
- The sandstone geology gives rise to sunken lanes where steep banks reveal tree roots and exposures of the bedrock geology and which have a high biodiversity.
- Fertile and well drained grey loamy soils which have supported a long history of settlement and cultivation, including orchards which are of biodiversity interest.
- Ancient hanger woodlands, a habitat of international importance, and comprising a range of nationally uncommon woodland types such as those dominated by yew, beech, lime, and ash/wych elm, cling to the steepest slopes forming a wooded silhouette.
- Meadow grasslands which are important sites for invertebrates, particularly where found in association with other habitats such as scrub and woodland.
- A strong sense of rural tranquillity resulting from the absence of overt human impact and a low density of settlement. The area contains some of the most remote parts of the National Park.
- The area is well served by public rights of way including Hangers Way, the long-distance footpath which runs the length of the character area and is accessible from Petersfield, Selborne and East Worldham.
- A diversity of field patterns and enclosure including, to the south, small irregular fields carved from woodland indicative of medieval assarts.
- Low density of settlement characterised by small nucleated medieval settlements comprising farmsteads clustered around a church.
- Building materials are typically local 'Malmstone', with red and yellow brick detailing, and clay tile roofs.
- There are dramatic views to and from the chalk escarpment where woodland permits.

Specific Characteristics Unique to the East Hampshire Greensand Terrace

K.34 The Upper Greensand (known locally as Malmstone) of the *East Hampshire Greensand Terrace* is thickest at the northern end of the character area where it is exposed as a distinctive 'shelf' or 'terrace' at the foot of the chalk. Towards the southern end of the character area the Greensand

narrows. Here the character area includes an area of distinctive undulating ground on the north-western edge of Petersfield which is underlain by Gault and Lower Greensand as well as a narrow belt of Upper Greensand. This undulating area also has a different history, being comprised largely of assarts, small irregular fields of medieval origin carved piecemeal out of the woodland, reflecting the more convoluted and irregular nature of the topography in this area. The land

has a poorer agricultural capability in this area and supports small scale pastures with paddocks a common feature. Dispersed settlement within this area may be of greater antiquity, as this area may never have seen open fields.

K.35 Much of the deciduous woodland across the landscape is BAP Priority Habitat and often carries statutory and/or non-statutory wildlife designations. Of particular note in this character area is the extent of ancient hanger woodland, a habitat of international importance (e.g. East Hampshire Hangers SAC), comprising a range of nationally uncommon woodland types such as yew, beech, lime, and ash/wych elm woodland. These hanger woods are particularly important for the assemblages of vascular plants, bryophytes, birds, and invertebrates that they support, as well as many ground flora species indicative of ancient woodland. The biodiversity interest of the sunken lanes is also an important aspect of the ecological character of this area.

K.36 Small streams typically cut through these steep woodlands, adding to the ecological diversity of the landscape. Alongside streams are areas of species rich pasture (often Priority Habitat lowland meadow or coastal and floodplain grazing marsh), for example along the upper reaches of Oakhanger and Kingsley Streams, and along the upper reaches of tributaries of the Rother. These open grasslands are also important sites for invertebrates, particularly where found in association with other habitat such as scrub and woodland. One particularly notable site is Bentley Station Meadow SSSI, on the northern boundary of the area, which supports areas of damp neutral and dry acidic grassland including many plant species that are indicative of unimproved grassland. Areas of good quality semi-improved grassland (also a BAP Priority Habitat), are also characteristic of the area.

K.37 Although the majority of the landscape is classified as grade 3 or 4 in Defra's agricultural land classification, an area of well drained grey loamy soils around Binsted supports some more fertile agricultural land which is classified as Grade 2. Here the landscape is dominated by large arable fields with a range of summer crops including oil seed rape and lavender. Another notable land cover feature of this character area is the area of traditional orchards (BAP Priority Habitat) around Selborne.

K.38 Roman settlement within the character area is indicated by the presence of a villa at Wyck, a place-name of Saxon origin often indicative of Roman settlement. This site (a Scheduled Monument) is located along the major Roman road between Chichester and Silchester towards the northern end of the character area. Other similar sites may well have existed to the south – the name Wick Farm to the south near Selborne may hint at such.

K.39 Although the settlement pattern in this area is characterised by nucleated settlement with an extremely low level of dispersed settlement, there are a number of low density housing estates in the area around Steep, associated with the settlement of Petersfield.

K.40 Thatch is typical of the cottages in Selborne and on some buildings the mortar between the stones shows galleting, i.e. small stones inserted in the mortar for decorative effect. Although there are no examples of major designed landscapes, i.e. gentry houses and landscape parks, there are several small parks, of which 'The Wakes' is the most well known - this was the home of the naturalist Gilbert White and is listed on the Historic England register. Other parks were enclosed in the 18th-19th centuries, for example at Hawkley Hurst and Stonerwood Park.

K.41 Typical of its landscape type, this area does not have any open access or Registered Common land. However, the area is well served by public rights of way including the long distance footpath, the Hangers Way, which runs the length of the character area and is accessible from Petersfield, Selborne and East Worldham. In addition, a small area of National Trust land on the edge of Selborne (Long Lythe) provides public access.

K.42 The area includes some of the most remote parts of the National Park, including the elevated slopes around Binsted, and secluded areas, extending from Oakshott and Selbourne, sheltered by the surrounding landforms of the chalk scarp to the west and the greensand scarp to the east.

Sensitivities Specific to the East Hampshire Greensand Terrace

K.43 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 large number of assarts between Langrish and Hawkley to the north-west of Petersfield.
2.	The woodland hangers on greensand that form part of the East Hampshire Hangers SAC.
3.	The distinctive area of orchards around Selborne.
4.	The small landscape parks such as 'The Wakes' (on Historic England's register), and others (including Hawkley Hurst, Stonerwood Park) recognised on Hampshire register of local historic parks and gardens.
5.	Occasional views through woodland to the lowland landscape beyond.

Key Landscape Sensitivities	
6.	Heightened visual sensitivity of the whole area in relation to the adjacent chalk scarp, including those representative views identified in the View Characterisation and Analysis ³ such as the view over the <i>Greensand Terrace</i> north to Hawkley from the Hangers Way, south to the downs from the Shoulder of Mutton near Steep, or views east from Selborne Hill and Noar Hill.
7.	The strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness, with areas of deep remoteness associated with secluded parts of the <i>East Hampshire Greensand Terrace</i> which lack visibility of main settlements and enjoy dark skies.

Change Specific to the East Hampshire Greensand Terrace

K.44 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.	Pressures for built development, particularly associated with Petersfield, or the A3.
2.	Pressure for incremental infill and expansion of villages that could change the settlement pattern that is characterised by nucleated villages with an extremely low levels of dispersed development.
3.	Demand for horse paddocks in proximity to Petersfield, which could disrupt the historic field pattern and affect the rural character.

Landscape Management/Development Considerations Specific to the East Hampshire Greensand Terrace

K.45 In addition to the generic landscape management and development considerations for this landscape type, the following landscape management considerations are specific to this character area:

a.	Conserve the field and woodland patterns associated with the extensive area of assarts between Langrish and Hawkley to the north-west of Petersfield – conserve and manage field boundaries that define the pattern.
b.	Conserve the distinctive area of orchards around Selborne as a feature of the landscape.
c.	Conserve the setting of the many small parks such as ‘The Wakes’, Hawkley Hurst, Stonerwood Park

and others recognised on Hampshire register of local historic parks and gardens.

- d. Conserve and manage the distinctive hanger woodlands to maintain their visual link with the adjacent scarp and maintain and enhance their high biodiversity.

K.46 The following development considerations are specific to this character area:

- a. Ensure any proposals for development, respect the existing settlement pattern that is characterised by nucleated villages with low levels of dispersed development.
- b. Encourage sympathetic integration of horse paddocks on the edge of Petersfield through maintenance of existing field boundaries and avoid overgrazing of pastures.
- c. Consider impacts on views over the *Greensand Terrace* from the surrounding chalk scarp, including views from the Hangers Way long distance footpath and other local viewpoints.
- d. Conserve the remote character of the *East Hampshire Greensand Terrace*, particularly the most secluded landscapes that have no visibility of main settlements.

³ LUC. 2015 South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis. Views 24, 27 and 68.

K2: East Meon to Bury Greensand Terrace

Location and Boundaries

The *East Meon to Bury Greensand Terrace* character area is a distinctive broad Upper Greensand ‘terrace’ occurring at the southern edge of the Greensand and the Weald. Its southern boundary is marked by the steeply rising chalk escarpment of the *Buriton to Arun Scarp* and its northern boundary is defined by a minor scarp slope which represents the edge of the Greensand terrace. This Greensand terrace is widest in the west.

Key Characteristics

- A terrace formed from Upper Greensand with a locally prominent northern escarpment clothed in woodland along part of its length.
- Cut by a number of narrow, steep sided valleys formed by small streams that rise from springs at the foot of the chalk escarpment and flow northwards towards the River Rother.
- Dammed mill ponds and ornamental ponds are features of the ravine like valleys.
- The sandstone geology gives rise to sunken lanes which link the scattered farms and villages.
- Fertile and well drained grey loamy soils which have supported a long history of settlement and cultivation.
- A diversity of field patterns and enclosure including small irregular fields carved from woodland indicative of medieval assarts at Nursted Copse.
- Contrast provided between the more open arable fields and intimacy and enclosure created by the sinuous bands of woodland and narrow stream valleys.
- Occasional woodlands and a well-developed hedgerow network provide valuable ecological features.
- A strong sense of rural tranquillity resulting from the absence of overt human impact and a low density of settlement.
- Low density of settlement is characterised by small nucleated medieval settlements comprising farmsteads clustered around a church.
- Building materials are typically local ‘Malmstone’, with red and yellow brick detailing, and clay tile roofs.
- Roman settlement and remains of a major Roman villa at Bignor indicates the continuity of use of the landscape for agriculture through history.
- Dramatic views of the chalk escarpment and from the edge of the terrace over the Rother valley to the north.

Specific Characteristics Unique to the East Meon to Bury Greensand Terrace

K.47 The *East Meon to Bury Greensand Terrace* is more consistent in character along its length than the *East Hampshire Greensand Terrace* as a result of the fertile, well drained loamy soils, although lower lying areas have loamy and clayey soils with more impeded drainage. These soils are generally classified as Grade 3 in the agricultural classification and which support a consistent land use of predominantly arable farming. This landscape character area also contains fewer hanger woodlands than the *East Hampshire Greensand Terrace*. However, occasional woodlands are present, for example Nursted copse LWS and Millams Hanger LWS.

K.48 This character area is typical of its landscape type in that much of the character area retains early enclosure patterns, including medieval assarts near Nursted, West Harting and Sutton and early post-medieval enclosure (16th century) of earlier medieval strip fields east and north of Bignor and east of Cocking (extending below the scarp between Heyshott and Graffham) and . There are also some areas of more recent 17th and 18th enclosure e.g. between Buriton and Nursted and near Sutton. Small areas of chalk grassland extend into this character area from the chalk escarpment, for example Barlavington Down LWS.

K.49 Roman settlement within the character area is indicated by the presence of a major villa at Bignor. This was one of the largest in the Empire and is located along the major Roman

road between Chichester and London. Other similar sites existed to the west of Bignor. The settlement pattern today is typical of the landscape type, consisting of nucleated villages at the scarp foot, with an extremely low level of dispersed settlement in-between. This leads to a strong sense of rural tranquillity. The nucleated villages (e.g. Bignor, the Hartings and Cocking) comprise farmsteads clustered around a church and linked by a rural sunken lane which follows the base of the scarp.

K.50 Although there are no examples of major designed landscapes, i.e. gentry houses and landscape parks, there are several small parks of which East Lavington and West Burton are listed on Historic England’s register of historic parks and gardens. In addition are a number of locally listed parks and gardens including Maple Durham and Nursted House. The area is served by a network of rights of way including part of the Hangers Way and Sussex Border Path.

Sensitivities Specific to the East Meon to Bury Greensand Terrace

K.51 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 large area of assarts around Nursted Copse, West Harting and Sutton as well as 16 th century enclosure of medieval strip fields at Cocking and Bignor.
2.	Copses and woodland hangers, for example Millams Hanger, Wood Copse, Stancombe Copse LWS, Brickkiln Copse, Pondtail Plantation, Millhanger Copse LWS.
3.	Roman settlement and remains of a major Roman villa at Bignor which indicates the continuity of use of the landscape for agriculture through history.
4.	The small parks such as Lavington and West Burton and others recognised on Hampshire’s register of local historic parks and gardens.
5.	Dramatic views of the chalk escarpment, including those representative views identified in the View Characterisation and Analysis report such as the view from Heyshott Down Foot ⁴ , as well as views over the Rother valley to the north.

Change Specific to the East Meon to Bury Greensand Terrace

K.52 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 infill and expansion of the small medieval settlements such as Bignor, the Hartings and Cocking that could change the characteristic settlement pattern of nucleated villages at the scarp foot.
2.	Continued field expansion and hedgerow loss which could disrupt the historic field pattern, particularly medieval assarts near Nursted, West Harting and Sutton and 16 th century enclosure of medieval strip fields east of Cocking and Bignor.

Landscape Management / Development Considerations Specific to the East Meon to Bury Greensand Terrace

K.53 In addition to the generic landscape management and development considerations for this landscape type, the following landscape management considerations are specific to this character area:

- a. Conserve the field and woodland patterns associated with the area of assarts around Nursted Copse, West Harting and Sutton – conserve and manage field boundaries that define other historic field patterns.
- b. Conserve and manage the distinctive hanger woodlands to maintain their visual link with the adjacent scarp and enhance their high biodiversity.
- c. Maintain, restore and consider the creation of traditional orchards which are a feature of the area, such as the orchard at Duncton Mill.
- d. Conserve the setting of sites of Roman settlement.
- e. Conserve the setting of the many small parks such as Lavington and West Burton and others recognised on Hampshire’s register of local historic parks and gardens.
- f. Conserve the dramatic views of the chalk escarpment as seen from the lanes along the bottom of the scarp, such as the view from Heyshott Down Foot.

⁴ LUC. 2015 South Downs National Park: View Characterisation and Analysis. View 63

K.54 The following development considerations are specific to this character area:

- a. Ensure that any proposals for built development respect the settlement pattern that is characterised by nucleated villages with an extremely low level of dispersed development.
- b. Consider the impact of change on views of the scarp from this area, as well as from the edge of the terrace to the north over the Rother valley.