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# APPENDICES



## Appendix A

### Descriptions of Landscape Types

The following descriptions have been taken from the Hampshire county landscape assessment *The Hampshire Landscape* (1993).

#### Open Arable

This landscape has a strong sense of place. It consists predominantly of arable farmland in a broad and open setting. The gently undulating landform and the low, trimmed thorn hedges with few hedgerow trees add to the sense of openness and space. The settlements are generally on lower ground and in the valleys, apart from isolated clusters of farms and farm buildings.

In places, long, straight mainly coniferous shelter belts break the sweeping contours and the long views. The few woodlands are mainly game spinneys or recent plantations, typically of beech and coniferous species.

The large or very large fields and the well-spaced, regular hedgerow pattern echo the network of typically straight roads, lanes and tracks. In recent decades, hedgerow removal has contributed towards an increase in field size. Hedges are occasionally thick at the base and two or three metres high, but generally they are very low, heavily trimmed and often fragmented.

This is a landscape of intensive arable production: the 'factory floor' of the agriculture industry. Although more clayey soils occur in places, generally the shallow chalky soils are characteristically white after ploughing, especially on the steeper slopes. The noticeable absence of oak in most areas demonstrates the thin calcareous nature of the soils. Occasionally, ash, beech, holly and yew occur singly or at irregular spacings in the otherwise treeless hedgerows. The nature conservation value of this landscape is very low, being confined to small pockets of ancient woodland and remnant downland, ancient drove roads and parish boundary hedgerows.

This landscape generally forms the relatively lower parts of the chalklands. The scarps, downlands and woodlands on the high chalklands, however, sometimes form a distant and extensive skyline viewed from the higher ground.

#### Chalk and Clay

This landscape of farmland, woodlands and hedgerows is characterised by its often striking landform and the variability of its enclosure.

The variety of enclosure is partly a consequence of the geology and soils: large areas of the chalk are capped by a superficial deposit of clay, often with flints. In this undulating landscape, the presence of clay on the ridges and hilltops, and its absence in the valleys, often determines the distribution of woodland and farmland, and the character of the hedgerows. Oak is the principle hedgerow tree along clay-capped ridgelines, while beech is seldom present; in many of the valleys both trees are present. Ash and field maple also occur widely, but yew, holly and whitebeam are found mainly on the thinner, chalky soils.

Throughout this landscape the numerous ancient semi-natural woodlands of oak-hazel coppice and the pockets of downland which occur on many of the steeper slopes are of significant nature conservation value. Mixed-species hedgerows are frequent, varying from dense and well trimmed to unmanaged and overgrown. Many hedgerows and woodlands have been removed in recent years as field sizes have been increased for arable crop production. This has reduced the overall 'connectivity' value of the hedgerow/woodland network for wildlife and furthered the erosion of the patchwork of the landscape. Although hedgerow trees are not scarce, mechanical hedge cutting has left few saplings. Many fields are fenced.

Grazing land is common on the higher ground and the steeper slopes but primarily this is a landscape of arable farming where the medium to large fields are absorbed into an ancient landscape setting of typically indirect roads, winding lanes and hedgerows, occasionally with steep

hedgebanks. There is no shortage of public footpaths - a typical characteristic of an ancient landscape.

Very long views are possible from the highest ground but, with the varied topography and the degree of enclosure, views are generally limited. The undulating landform also provides a setting for the ornamental landscapes of several historic parks.

With its winding network of lanes and the low density of villages and hamlets, this landscape embraces extensive tracts of secluded countryside. These remain remote from busy through-routes and are valued for their quietness.

### Clay Plateau

This landscape occurs mainly on the higher parts of the Hampshire chalk and is characterised by large tracts of gently undulating countryside. Typically a landscape of farmland and woodland, hedgerows and little-used lanes, it is generally remote from major routes through the county. Occasional very long views emphasise the sense of remoteness.

The sense of place of this landscape is partly due to its geology and soils. In these areas the chalk is capped by a shallow but virtually continuous deposit of clay, often with flints. This is not a plateau in the purest sense: the higher areas are broad and gently domed, sloping and undulating gradually towards shallow valleys. Occasionally, the edge of the clay at its junction with the underlying chalk forms a minor but sometimes steep scarp.

The strong influence of the clayey soils is demonstrated by the dominance of oak in the hedgerows and woodlands, and by the infrequent occurrence of beech. However, in places, especially on the lighter valley soils, beech is sometimes present in great numbers. In the mixed-species hedgerows numerous oaks typically line the narrow lanes which often have wide verges and ditches. The hedgerows, often with varying amounts of bracken, range from low and trimmed to high and overgrown. Ash is present throughout and, though scattered, holly is also a hedgerow tree sometimes occurring as an unusually large specimen. The range of species is generally more limited than on the more variable soils of the chalk and clay landscape, but uncharacteristically for a chalk landscape, birch, sweet chestnut, gorse and bracken occur with beech on some of the former commons. A number of the commons and surviving wood pastures, along with the many ancient semi-natural woodlands are of significant nature conservation interest, although some of the latter have been replaced by forestry plantations.

This is predominantly a landscape of arable farmland with variable enclosure and gently undulating medium to large fields defined by woodland edges and hedgerows. Some of the higher areas are more open and exposed, often grazing land with large fenced fields and very long views. Occasional hamlets and villages, often with village greens, are widely dispersed throughout a complex network of narrow and indirect lanes, which typically have ditches and wide verges, occasionally with remnants of wood pasture.

Within this landscape large tracts of secluded countryside remain remote from major routes and are valued for their quietness.

### Scarps: Downland and Hangers

The high ground of both Hampshire and the south of England is formed primarily by chalk. This landscape of open downland and panoramic views, ancient hill forts, rolling hills and steep scarp hillsides, is attractive to visitors and high in nature conservation value.

The distinctive East Hampshire Hangers create a prominent skyline where the hanger woodlands clothe the tortuously winding chalk escarpment. The Hangers form a steep and dramatic boundary with the Western Weald.

The geology and soils largely account for the striking landscape character of the hangers and the downs. The steep 'scarp' faces of the chalk occur both at the junction with other geological strata and also within the rolling landscape of the chalklands. Typically, a scarp forms a linear, winding belt

with a high and prominent ridgeline, which creates a strong skyline and backcloth when viewed from lower lying areas. Occasionally the scarp virtually encircles an area of high ground, isolating a large, characteristically domed hill or promontory, and creating an elevated vantage point with panoramic views. Many of these are the sites of ancient hill forts and settlements.

From these exposed hilltops and from many other high points on the crest of the chalk scarps, exceptionally long views within and outside Hampshire are possible: from Butser Hill near Petersfield all six adjacent counties are visible, including the Isle of Wight, the distant chalk hills of Dorset, Wiltshire and Berkshire, and the English Channel.

The rich habitat value of chalk grassland is exceptional: the land is unsuitably steep for arable cultivation and the low fertility of the shallow, well-drained, calcareous soils, if appropriately managed by grazing, maintains the diversity of the species-rich grassland. Without management chalk grassland is invariably colonised by the encroaching scrub of many species, often hawthorn, though some areas are eventually dominated by yew.

Throughout the scarps, the species-rich grassland is accompanied by varying amounts of scrub and woodland, including many hangers, often of beech. Forestry plantations are frequent but oak is noticeably uncommon on the shallow, calcareous soils.

Where the rolling hills and slopes are not prohibitively steep, ploughing of the downs for cereal crops has been widespread. Grassland habitats have been lost throughout the numerous minor scarps which occur particularly in the steeper parts of the **chalk** and **clay** areas.

The dramatic landscape of the East Hampshire Hangers is characterised by precipitous scarp slopes clad in 'hanging' woodlands. There is a striking contrast between the long and spectacular views from the higher parts of the Hangers and the shelter and enclosure at the foot of the steep and wooded scarp. To the south and south east the rolling South Downs escarpment extends into West Sussex.

The distinctive character of this landscape is emphasised in spring and autumn when the beech trees in particular provide strong contrast with the dark yew foliage. Ash, field maple and holly also occur with the beech and yew but oak is scarce on the shallow calcareous soils. The ancient semi-natural woodlands and numerous plantations are accessible from ancient sunken roads and trackways which climb the steep scarp, exposing the sometimes vertical chalk banks. These are of significant nature conservation value. A few steep, open slopes of grazed chalk grassland occur between the woodlands.

The hangers and downlands have a strong sense of place, and considerable ecological and archaeological interest.

### **Hangers on Greensand**

This is an intricate and very distinctive landscape of small enclosed fields and narrow, secluded valleys, enclosed by steep hanger woodlands which clad the winding Upper Greensand escarpment.

The Upper Greensand belt is part of the Western Weald: the escarpment occurs where the eroding edge of the Upper Greensand meets the underlying belt of Gault Clay.

Under the hanger woodland canopy, ancient, deeply-eroded, sunken lanes and tracks climb the steep scarp exposing vertical walls of sandstone, often split and cracked by projecting tree roots. These shady road and trackway cuttings are habitats of significant nature conservation interest. Oak, ash and beech occur throughout the ancient semi-natural hanger woodlands.

In places, where the woodland has been cleared for grazing land, the characteristically steep and rounded hillsides allow views over the adjacent farmland to the higher, wooded parts of Western Weald.

The Upper Greensand belt narrows towards the south west and follows the foot of the much higher chalk hangers for several miles. Together they form one of the steepest and most dramatic areas of

landscape in the county. The chalk escarpment and hangers visually dominate the landscape and strongly influence the soils of the Upper Greensand. There are a number of small settlements and large houses in this locality. Here, and south east to the county boundary, the wooded Greensand hangers are more fragmented by areas of steep grazing land.

### **Open Arable on Greensand**

This is a very open landscape of gently sloping or almost flat arable farmland with broad views, occasionally interrupted by hedgerow trees and shelter belts. It lies on the Upper Greensand belt, part of the Western Weald in eastern Hampshire. Towards the south west the belt narrows, losing its open character in the complex landform near Petersfield, and widens again to open arable land between Ramsdean and the county boundary. A small, steeper area occurs near Kingsclere in north Hampshire.

Traditionally an area where hops were grown, this is essentially a landscape of medium to very large fields, well-drained loamy soils and intensive arable farming. The characteristic whitish sandstone is often exposed on the surface after ploughing. As the belt narrows south of Selborne, grazing land, horticulture and arable farming occur on the loamy soils.

The intensive nature of arable crop production in recent decades has led to hedgerow removal and an increase in field size, leaving open grass banks by the roadside in some areas. Closely trimmed hedgerows also occur with oak and ash as the principal hedgerow trees, but few saplings are retained as replacements. Plantations and shelter belts of poplar and pine, often associated with the hop and horticultural areas, are common but there are few woodlands throughout this landscape. The nature conservation value is very low.

A small number of characteristically winding but quite direct roads and lanes cross the broad, open farmland, linking the farms and the small villages. The sandstone (malmstone) which underlies the area is common in the villages as a building material. Lanes and roads associated with steeper slopes occasionally have sunken carriageways and steep hedgebanks with hedgerow trees.

Despite its predominantly arable character, this landscape has a variety of interest and contrast which is inherently related to its geological setting in this part of Hampshire. The enclosure of the sunken lanes contrasts strongly with the openness and views from the arable farmland.

### **Pasture: Hangers Associated**

This small but distinctive area of ridges and valleys merges on its north west boundary with the complex and dramatic landform of the Upper Greensand and chalk escarpments. Towards the south east the undulations become less steep.

Geologically, two parallel belts underlie the area: Gault Clay to the north west and the sands of the Folkestone Beds to the south east.

Numerous streams and watercourses flow south east from springs close to the junction with the Upper Greensand belt.

Winding lanes link the farms and small settlements throughout the area which is predominantly grazing land comprising small or medium-sized fields.

Despite numerous small woodlands, hedgerows and the undulating topography, which together create a high degree of enclosure, the prominent skyline of the chalk hangers to the north west and the rolling South Downs to the south are visible from areas of higher ground.

### **Pasture on Clay**

This is a landscape of distinctive identity and unity, characterised by a patchwork of small, grazed fields in a setting of low trimmed hedgerows with numerous oak trees. It lies on part of the broad belt of low-lying London Clay which fringes the lower slopes of the chalk in southern Hampshire. Its character derives from its generally flat or gently undulating landform, the seasonally waterlogged clayey soils, and from the many watercourses which feed the tributaries of the major south Hampshire rivers. The heavy soils are unsuitable for arable cultivation and as a result there has been minimal hedgerow removal.

This landscape is characterised by the small field pattern, the regular and largely intact hedgerow network, and the numerous hedgerow oak trees which create a strong sense of place. Many of the ageing oaks are of similar age and the hedgerow management has allowed very few sapling trees to remain as eventual replacements.

There is nature conservation interest in the few ancient semi-natural woodlands occurring within this farmland landscape. Formerly, wood pasture covered many parts of the area. Oak is the dominant tree throughout, although ash and field maple occur on the higher ground.

Farms are scattered throughout the area, and a limited number of small settlements are associated with the generally straight roads and lanes. The low hedgerows allow views across the grazed, well-treed landscape. From areas of higher ground, views over the clay are possible to the large arable fields of the chalk landscape to the north.

Many parts of this distinctive landscape are vulnerable to the pressures associated with nearby urban areas, including the increasing impact of traffic and the demand for recreational uses.

### **Open Arable on Clay**

This is an open, gently sloping or almost flat landscape of large arable fields with low hedgerows and occasional oak trees. This unique and low-lying area is associated with the Loddon Valley in north Hampshire.

Despite seasonally waterlogged soils which overlie London Clay, this is an area of intensively-farmed arable land. Within the large fields which have been increased in size by hedgerow removal, remnants of the irregular ancient field pattern are still apparent in some of the internal field boundaries. The alignment of former hedgerows is indicated by deep, open-banked ditches, or isolated oak trees within the large fields.

Along the narrow, winding lanes which often have deep ditches and wide verges, the low, mixed-species hedges contain occasional hedgerow trees. These are mainly oak with some ash. Occasional saplings have been retained as future replacements but generally the roadside hedgerows are fragmented or, in places, absent.

In this open landscape, the occasional clusters of cottages, the low density of farms and the scatter of small, isolated, ancient, semi-natural copses are features. Because of its low-lying nature, long views are generally restricted by a skyline of hedgerow trees and woodland, mainly in the surrounding areas. The broad, open character of this arable farmland has a degree of remoteness which is emphasised by the general absence of major roads and by the indirectness of the winding lanes.

### **Heathland and Forest**

This landscape consists of a varied mosaic of extensive woodlands and open heathlands, with a complex pattern of scrub, grasslands, streams and bogs.

Hampshire has more lowland heath than any other county in Britain. The majority of this is in the New Forest, with smaller areas concentrated mainly in the east and north east of the county. The New Forest, with its continuity of traditional management by grazing, provides a link with the past: heathland is a relic of both prehistoric and historic farming practices. With its large scale and its rich and diverse range of species and habitats, it is a unique reserve and a wildlife resource of international importance. Its facilities, space and ease of access attract large numbers of visitors for recreation. Although the smaller heathland areas in Hampshire are relatively fragmented and have limited management, they are also of significant nature conservation value.

Cleared of the 'wildwood' in prehistoric times for grazing or cultivation, the light soils, assisted by the slight natural acidity and permeability of the underlying sands and gravels, were leached of nutrients and became more acidic, and suitable only for acid-tolerant species such as gorse and heather. Continued grazing is necessary to prevent encroachment upon the open heathland by acid-tolerant shrub and tree species.

The landform generally consists of flat or gently undulating plains, or flat to gently sloping plateaux with broad, occasionally steep-sided valleys. In the Western Weald the undulating landform of the sands of the Lower Greensand formation is variable, but becomes particularly steep and dramatic in the deeply eroded valleys of the higher ground near the county boundary with Surrey and West Sussex.

The Heathland and Forest landscape is essentially unenclosed. Most of its roads and tracks are unfenced, particularly in the New Forest, where commoners' livestock have the freedom to roam and graze. The ancient woodlands often have no definite edge, with areas of natural regeneration extending gradually into the adjacent heathland. This advance is generally dependent on the numbers of grazing livestock. Regenerating birch, pine and often oak tend to lead the encroachment of the woodland fringe upon the open heath and grasslands. This advance and retreat is mainly dependent on the numbers of grazing stock. Controlled burning is also used to limit woodland encroachment, and to stimulate fresh growth of grasses and heather for grazing. In the Hampshire heathlands outside the New Forest woodland encroachment, when unmanaged, threatens the continued existence of the heathland.

The diversity of habitats is unique consisting of open heathland and acid grassland, lawns, bogs and mires, rivers and ponds, and ancient unenclosed pasture woodlands. These areas gently merge and are continually changing. Coniferous and mixed-species plantations occur throughout. In the New Forest the ancient unenclosed pasture woodlands, of oak and beech, often with an understorey of holly, differ from the ancient semi-natural woodlands elsewhere in Hampshire. There is a more varied age structure in the New Forest, with over-mature and decaying trees, and many glades and clearings, although grazing deer and stock limit the understorey and ground flora. The distinctive and unusual character of these habitats is the essence of their significant nature conservation value.

In the heathland areas outside the New Forest a variety of different species and habitats of great nature conservation interest also occur. Extensive forestry plantations are widespread, sometimes accompanied by mineral extraction and landfill sites. MoD ranges occur in east and north east Hampshire.

Recreation, nature conservation, forestry and other interests are brought together in these extensive tracts of uncultivated land. The seasonally colourful heaths, heathers, gorse, beech and birch, and the contrast between the open heathland and the secluded enclosure of the ancient woodlands, contribute towards the distinctiveness of the Heathland and Forest landscape.

**Pasture and Woodland:  
Heath Associated**

This is an enclosed and often undulating landscape of unintensively grazed pasture in a well-wooded setting. Much of the landscape is closely linked to, or has been created from, former heathland. In the New Forest area, it is traditionally associated with commoning.

The landscape generally has a 'heathy' character, with oak, birch, bracken and pine reflecting its heathland links and origins. However, this varies with the geology, soils and land-use history.

This landscape occurs on a varying geological formation of sands, sandy clays and gravels, occasionally with narrow valleys underlain by clay. The 'heathy' character of the valleys is often minimal as in north west Hampshire. In the east of the county, the Lower Greensand of the Western Weald consists mainly of sands.

The generally undulating landform is highly variable. It is steep at Blissford in the New Forest and at Bramshott in the Western Weald, but almost flat on the gravels of the former heathland at Netley Marsh.

This is primarily a landscape of unintensively-farmed pasture with widespread horse grazing and very little productive arable land. The acidic former heathland soils and a range of mainly poor, light or slowly permeable soils are a major factor in the land uses. Small areas of more fertile loamy soils occur in association with the arable land.

This is largely an ancient landscape with small well-hedged, irregularly shaped fields set in winding, occasionally sunken lanes with hedgebanks, hedgerows and numerous oak trees. Small farms, cottages and occasional straggling roadside settlements are dispersed along the winding lanes. A more regular field pattern also occurs, with a network of typically straight roads and lanes with small, hedged fields, or small to medium-sized fields which are often internally fenced. Gorse and bracken are common in the field boundaries and the landscape has a more 'heathy' character than the ancient landscape. Roadside settlements, smallholdings, market gardening and garden centres are also associated with this regular and more recently enclosed landscape. Roadside verges within the New Forest are grazed by commoners' livestock.

On many areas of former heathland, woodland has developed creating a mature and enclosed setting for scattered large houses, often associated with a network of small fields, usually used as paddocks. The strong identity of these areas is often characterised by a wide species range including oak, beech, pine and birch with a bracken, holly and occasionally rhododendron understorey.

A diverse range of habitats occurs in association with the open heathland of the New Forest, including ancient woodlands, species-rich meadows, former commons, species-rich verges and ancient field systems. In the Western Weald, the steep sandstone banks of narrow sunken lanes are of nature conservation interest.

Throughout the whole of this landscape, horse grazing is widespread. Riding schools and stud farms are common. The range of field sizes varies from small paddocks to medium-sized fields, often subdivided by various types of ranch fencing. Hedgerow management is often minimal. The condition of many of the poorer hedgerows varies from lines of established hedgerow trees accompanied by a few thin and leggy remnant hedge species, to tall, untrimmed hedges, very thin and heavily browsed near the base but often with continuous lines of saplings. This is a reverse situation to areas of intensive farming where mechanical hedge trimming is unselective and hedgerow saplings are few.

A few open areas occur, but generally the patchwork of small fields, winding lanes, hedgerows and woodlands, creates the enclosure and seclusion characteristic of much of this complex and varied landscape.

### Mixed Farmland and Woodland

This is a variable landscape of both arable and grazing land with numerous woodlands, hedges and hedgerow trees and a generally undulating landform.

This variability is the result of the wide range of clays, sands, clayey sands and gravels which underlie a variety of loamy, or clayey, seasonally waterlogged soils. These have influenced the land uses along with the drainage pattern of numerous watercourses.

In the main, this is the landscape which abuts Hampshire's chalk landscapes. At this junction, water from the chalk produces many spring lines which are often associated with habitats of significant ecological interest.

There is great variety in the landform. Outcrops of sand and gravel are usually associated with higher and more strongly undulating ground, for example at the former Roman town near Silchester. Valleys associated with frequent outcrops are often steep-sided and well-wooded, such as the River Hamble north of Botley. On broader belts of the lower-lying clay the landscape is more gently undulating or almost flat, as seen between Bramley and Sherborne St John. Another typically flat landscape is formed by the deposits of older river gravels adjoining the valleys of the River Test and River Avon. These small plateaux are up to 50 metres above present river levels. The pattern of the landform generally dictates the nature and intensity of the land use although exceptions do occur. The heavier, lower-lying ground associated with clays, watercourses and streams is predominantly used as grazing land. The higher and generally drier ridges and slopes are often suitable for arable crops and more intensive farming. In south Hampshire, the proportion of arable land is lower than in other parts of the county.

Woodland and hedgerow removal has increased field sizes in some of the arable areas. Fields which were once separate have been connected often by narrow links between woodlands to maximise the

productive area. This has left many woodlands isolated, and reduced the overall 'connectivity' value of the woodland/hedgerow network for wildlife. It has also furthered the erosion of the patchwork of the landscape. Throughout this generally enclosed landscape the numerous ancient semi-natural woodlands, and some areas of wood pasture are of significant nature conservation value. There is also ecological interest in a diverse range of habitats including streams, meadows, commons and some ancient field systems.

This is largely an ancient landscape of generally small to medium-sized irregularly shaped fields and woodlands, and hedgerows with hedgebanks and large oak trees. Oak is the predominant tree but ash is also widespread. On the more acid soils of the higher ground a wider range of species occurs: bracken is frequent in many hedgerows, beech occurs occasionally, and shelter belts of fast growing trees, such as pine or poplar, are often planted. Forestry plantations of mixed and coniferous species also occur throughout this landscape.

Throughout the network of winding roads and lanes, villages and scattered farming settlements are generally at a low density, although overall, this is higher than in Hampshire's chalk landscapes. The villages are sometimes straggling but occasionally there is a clear nucleus, often associated with a village green.

Views are limited by the numerous woodlands and hedgerows, but Hampshire's chalk landscapes are visible from areas of higher ground. Within this generally low-lying, intimately enclosed landscape there is a great variety and contrast. The richly-wooded valleys, remote farmland and little-used lanes in parts of north Hampshire contrast strongly with the busy roads and lanes in fundamentally similar tracts of landscape near the urban areas of south Hampshire. Many large areas of secluded countryside remain remote from busy through-routes and are valued for their quietness.

### Horticulture and Smallholdings

This is a landscape of horticultural uses and a varying degree of urbanisation.

The geology and soils partly account for the distribution of these areas in south Hampshire. Light well-drained sands and sandy clays are overlaid by productive loamy soils. Good drainage is also provided by the undulating landform. Where the soils are less productive, horticultural uses are accompanied by garden centres, nurseries and smallholdings with a range of uses. Historically, the development of railways in the nineteenth century created new markets, particularly in London. These assisted the expansion of the horticultural industry and its associated settlements.

This landscape is characterised by a variable pattern of settlements and productive land. The medium-sized open fields, in places unfenced and unhedged, are typically of plots and linear strips growing a wide variety of crops. In places, randomly distributed houses and bungalows, storage buildings and structures, glasshouses and polythene tunnels provide the landscape setting. Although main roads pass through this landscape, the road network consists mainly of minor roads and narrow lanes with straight sections and more winding alignments.

This is generally a small-scale landscape, partly contained by the undulating landform, although some longer views are possible from the higher ground. The landscape structure has been neglected or removed. Oak and ash still occur in the fragmented hedgerows along with occasional shelter belts of pine, cypress, poplar and alder, and ornamental species around the settlements. There is little nature conservation interest in this intensively used and productive landscape.

#### Note

*Small, fragmented areas of similar land uses occur in many landscapes, particularly in the 'enclosed coastal plain' south of the New Forest. Larger-scale horticulture occurs on the 'open coastal plain' in the Titchfield/Warsash area.*

### Open Coastal Plain

Much of the coastal plain consists of a wide expanse of open, arable farmland with broad and extensive views. The urban areas between Southampton and Hayling Island interrupt and

occasionally limit the open views. Elsewhere, the gently sloping plain, The Solent and the high and sweeping profile of the Isle of Wight, emphasise the sense of openness and exposure.

Geologically, this landscape is part of a broad plain of gravel extending several miles inland and sloping gently down towards the coast. Towards the east of the county the slope becomes imperceptible, and at Hayling Island the landscape is flat. The continuity of the coastal plain is interrupted by many streams and rivers which flow to the sea through partly wooded valleys.

Generally, this is large-scale, intensive, arable farmland. The loamy, well-drained, productive soils are also suitable for horticulture and market gardening which is particularly common east of Southampton. The medium to very large fields are often fenced or have open banks and ditches. Hedgerows, typically of hawthorn, blackthorn and gorse occur less frequently. Characteristically windswept trees, principally oak, which are often stunted near the coastline, occur within the hedgerows or along the fencelines of remnant or former hedgerows. Shelter belts, in some cases immediately behind the coastline, consist of a variety of species including pine, holm oak and poplar. Small isolated woodlands occur on the open plain but are generally confined to the valleys. Otherwise, nature conservation interest is restricted to a small number of isolated coastal heathland sites. East of Southampton Water, extensive development of major and minor urban areas has occurred on the coastal plain. This has limited the openness and scale of the plain but its character is still recognisable.

The smaller settlements, typically linked by minor roads and lanes, are scattered and isolated, and include smallholdings and bungalows east of Southampton Water. To the west of Southampton Water the smaller settlements are more scattered.

Workable mineral deposits occur in the coastal plain. Extraction of these deposits has an impact on the coastal plain landscape. Restoration often involves change in landform and land use.

#### Enclosed Coastal Plain

This part of the coastal plain consists of an enclosed and gently undulating landscape, mainly of arable farmland interrupted by wooded valleys. There is a wider variety of land use near urban areas.

Geologically, this landscape is part of a broad plain of gravel extending several miles inland and sloping gently down towards the coast. The continuity of the coastal plain is interrupted by many streams and rivers which flow to the sea through partly wooded valleys.

In this partly enclosed landscape, the loamy, well-drained soils are intensively farmed. The medium to large mainly arable fields are defined by a strong framework of woodlands, which include a mixture of coniferous and mixed plantations, and ancient semi-natural woodlands. The latter are confined mainly to the valleys where some species-rich meadows are also of nature conservation value. Mixed farming, horticulture and paddocks occur near the urban areas.

The winding but fairly direct roads and lanes are characteristically hedged, often with windswept oak, pine or holly, which also occur occasionally along fencelines. Hedgebanks, ditches and verges are common by the roadside. Within the perambulation of the New Forest the verges are grazed. Verge planting of tree species, retention of hedgerow saplings and dense, thick hedgerows also occur within the areas managed by some of the large estates. Throughout the whole of the enclosed coastal plain pine shelter belts are typical.

There is strong contrast and variation in the density and style of the settlements in this landscape. Within the large estates the low density and traditional style of the farms, cottages and settlements is a reflection of long-term influence and continuity of management. Designed parks and gardens are also characteristic. Near the urban areas there is a high density of mixed housing styles, bungalows and smallholdings.

Workable mineral deposits occur in the coastal plain. Extraction of these deposits has an impact on the coastal plain landscape. Restoration often involves change in landform and land use.

Despite the degree of enclosure of much of this landscape, the presence of windswept oaks and occasional glimpses of the Isle of Wight acknowledge its coastal location.

**Coastline**

The coastline has great contrast and diversity. The mudflats, saltmarshes and shingle beaches are rich in wildlife and are habitats of national importance. With its backcloth of the Isle of Wight, The Solent and the coastline are attractive areas for recreation. This landscape includes the immediate onshore margin and the area between the high and low water marks.

Open and exposed to the elements, the coastline is subject to a continual process of erosion, deposition and change. The sheltered natural harbours to the east contrast strongly with the eroding, retreating cliffs to the west. At Milford and Barton on Sea, areas of accumulated slump debris occur at the base of the low, eroding cliffs. Next to The Solent, lower and almost vertical cliffs occur with shingle beaches. The coastal landform is variable throughout its length, including shingle spits, shingle banks, and extensive mudflats and saltmarshes in sheltered harbours, inlets and estuaries. Limited areas of undulating sand dunes also occur on the south east and south west corners of Hayling Island. Abrupt sea walls and promenades occasionally interrupt the natural continuity of the coastline and the coastal plain.

Woodland borders the coastline at Stanswood Bay and in the upper river estuaries, but is otherwise limited to occasional willow and alder carr at the river mouths and isolated pockets of windswept oak and blackthorn. The mudflats, marshes, estuaries, shingle banks and dunes provide a great diversity of habitats and species, and are protected by international, national and local environmental designations. The international importance of The Solent is recognised particularly for its value in winter to wading birds and wildfowl.

The Isle of Wight provides shelter for The Solent and this has encouraged the development of many recreational uses. Increasing interest in all forms of coastal recreation, and the associated demand for additional access and facilities such as car parks, moorings and marinas, has caused conflict with landscape and nature conservation interests. In the largely open coastal setting facilities and buildings associated with recreation, industry, military and urban areas are prominent in the landscape.

**River Valleys**

The river valleys of Hampshire encompass a wide variety and diversity of character. From the broad, open River Avon at Ibsley to the narrow, wooded River Wey at Bramshott, the river valleys have significant landscape and nature conservation value and attract a wide recreational interest.

Hampshire's rivers flow into either the River Thames or the English Channel. The chalk of central Hampshire is the source of the Test, Itchen and Meon and many of their tributaries. The Avon rises in Wiltshire and has tributaries in both chalk, sands and clays. The chalk is also the source of some of the rivers and tributaries of the lowland areas, the remainder rising in the sands and clays. The lowland rivers include the Hamble, Beaulieu and Lymington in the south, and the Loddon, Whitewater, Blackwater and Wey in the north and east.

The character of the valleys and their setting is variable. The broader chalk rivers have a wide flat floodplain and occasionally a similarly wide, flat, adjoining terrace only a few metres higher. The valley sides are often steep and abrupt, for example at the Avon Valley/New Forest boundary near Mockbeggar. The valleys on the clays and sands tend to match the character of the adjoining landscape. In a gently undulating landform, for example near Sherfield on Loddon, the floodplain merges gently with the surrounding open farmland. In a more steeply undulating, enclosed landscape, as seen in the River Wey valley at Bramshott, the narrow floodplain abruptly meets the steep and wooded valley sides.

The river valleys are typically a farmed landscape with grazing on the floodplain and usually arable land on the river terraces. The grazed floodplain has a looser, less-structured, hedgerow network than the more intensively-grazed landscapes outside the valley. The meandering rivers are bordered by a fringe of semi-natural vegetation of varying width, comprising reedbeds, marsh, luxuriant riverine species and alder, willow and poplar. The willows are often pollarded. Adjoining this, usually with no obvious field pattern, the rough grassland, meadows, former water meadows and grazing commons are typically interspersed with isolated single trees, usually willow, alder and poplar, but also oak, ash and hawthorn. These tend to line the numerous water channels, creating a very

irregular network of small, partly-enclosed meadows where the trees and shrubs are more continuous. Fences and heavily-browsed, remnant hedges form more definite field boundaries, and small copses, sallow and alder carr, and poplar plantations are scattered throughout. Parkland landscapes with ornamental tree species and occasionally with lakes also occur. In the upper Test and Itchen valleys, the clear, nutrient-rich alkaline water is suitable for watercress beds.

The rich variety of habitats, particularly in the floodplains of the chalk rivers, include unimproved water meadows, reedbeds, fen and grazing commons. Valuable habitats are also provided by numerous ponds and lakes usually associated with parkland and mineral workings. Many former workings in the Test, Blackwater and particularly the Avon valley, are of great importance especially for birds. In recent decades, agricultural improvements, involving land drainage systems and the use of herbicides and fertilisers, have contributed towards habitat losses. Pollution, flood control works, water abstraction, reservoirs and fish farms have also had an impact.

The valley settlements and roads echo the historic importance of river valleys as access routes and corridors of settlement. Both major and minor roads tend to follow the sides of the valley, particularly with the chalk rivers, where many linear settlements are characterised by dwellings of flint, cob and thatch. Major towns, and many minor settlements, occur at river crossings. The villages and smaller settlements are more mixed and scattered within the valleys on clay and sand.

The many resources and opportunities, including passive recreation and active water sports, mineral deposits and water supply, and the value of landscape and nature conservation interests, contribute towards the distinctive character and importance of the varied valley landscapes of Hampshire.



# Appendix C

## Contacts

	Address	Telephone	Fax No.	E-mail
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF)	Regional Service Centre, Block A, Government Buildings, Coley Park, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 6DT	01189 581222	01189 392120	r.bonham-official@readg-rsc.maff.gsi.gov.uk
The Farming and Rural Conservation Agency	Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR	020 7238 5432	020 7238 5588	i.section@frca.maff.gov.uk
The Forestry Authority	Alice Holt Lodge, Wrecclesham, Surrey GU10 4LH	01296 681181	01296 682130	ahl@forestry.gov.uk
English Nature	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Team, Southampton Road, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7BU	023 8028 3944	023 8028 3834	hants.iwight@english-nature.org.uk
The Countryside Agency	Dacre House, 19 Dacre Street, London SW1H 0DH	020 7340 2900	020 7340 2911	
English Heritage	23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB	020 7973 3000	020 7973 3001	
The Environment Agency	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area Office, Wessex Business Park, Wessex Way, Colden Common, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 1WP	01962 713267	01962 841573	
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH	020 7211 6200	020 7211 6210	enquiries@culture.gov.uk
Hampshire County Council	Planning Department, Ashburton Court West, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UE	01962 846802	01962 846776	plango@hants.gov.uk
Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 4AH	01256 845412	01256 844706	julian.evans@basingstoke.gov.uk
East Hampshire District Council	Penns Place, Petersfield, Hampshire GU31 4EX	01730 234200	01730 267760	
Eastleigh Borough Council	Civic Offices, Leigh Road, Eastleigh Hampshire SO50 9YN	023 8068 8000	023 8068 8079	
Fareham Borough Council	PO Box 82, Civic Offices, Civic Way, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 7TT	01329 236100	01329 822732	
Gosport Borough Council	Town Hall, High Street, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 1EB	023 9254 5409	023 9254 5395	
Hart District Council	Civic Offices, Harlington Way, Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8AE	01252 622122	01252 626886	
Havant Borough Council	Civic Offices, Civic Centre Road, Havant, Hampshire PO9 2AX	023 9247 4174	023 9248 0263	
New Forest District Council	Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7PA	023 8028 5303	023 8028 5555	
Rushmoor Borough Council	Council Offices, Farnborough Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7JU	01252 398790	01252 524017	
Test Valley Borough Council	Council Offices, Duttons Road, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8XG	01794 515117	01794 514378	
Winchester City Council	City Offices, Colebrook Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 9LJ	01962 840222	01962 849101	
Southampton City Council	Civic Centre, Southampton SO14 7LY	023 80 832727	023 8083 2607	
Portsmouth City Council	Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2AU	023 9283 4295	01705 834660	
The New Forest Committee	4 High Street, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7BD	023 8028 4144	023 8028 3983	newforestcommittee@btinternet.com
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group	Sparsholt College, Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 2NF	01962 797443	01962 776587	enquiry@sparsholt.ac.uk
Hampshire Wildlife Trust	8 Romsey Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO50 9AL	023 8061 3636	023 8061 2233	hampswt@cix.compulink.co.uk

	Address	Telephone	Fax No.	E-mail
Council for the Protection of Rural England	Warwick House, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1 0PP	020 7976 6433	020 7976 6373	info@cpre.org.uk
Council for the Protection of Rural England	c/o Community Action Hampshire, Beaconsfield House, Andover Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 6AT	01962 854971	01962 841160	director.cprehants@cwcom.net
Hampshire Gardens Trust	Jermyns House, Jermyns Lane, Ampfield, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 0QA	01794 367752	01794 368520	HGT@webtribe.net
The Tree Council	51 Catherine Place, London SW1E 6DY	020 7828 9928	020 7828 9060	www.treecouncil.org.uk
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	Conservation Centre, Micheldever Wood, Micheldever, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 3BP	01962 774714	01962 774522	Hampshire@btcv.org.uk
Community Action Hampshire	Beaconsfield House, Andover Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 6AT	01962 854971	01962 841160	christine.pattison@action.hants.org.uk
Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils	St Thomas' Centre, Southgate Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 9FF	01962 841699	01962 841647	xhpcxxsh@hants.gov.uk
East Hampshire Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee	Queen Elizabeth County Park, Gravel Hill, Horndean, Hampshire PO8 0QE	023 9259 1362		alison.tingley@hants.gov.uk

## Appendix D

### Biodiversity Action Plan for Hampshire: Habitat Action Plans

Ancient semi-natural woodland  
 Pasture woodland, parkland  
 Hedgerows  
 Arable land  
 Unimproved neutral dry grassland, hay meadows  
 Lowland calcareous grassland  
 Lowland wet grassland  
 Heathland, acid grassland and bog  
 Fen, carr, marsh, swamp, reedbeds  
 Open standing water  
     also, (Ephemeral ponds)  
 Chalk streams  
     also, (Rivers and streams)  
 Canals  
 Maritime cliffs  
 Shingle  
 Saltmarsh  
 Coastal grazing marsh  
 Sand dunes  
 Mudflats and eelgrass beds  
 Saline lagoons  
 Road verges  
 Urban  
 Marine

## Appendix E

### Hampshire County Structure Plan 1996–2011 (Review) Landscape Policies

Policy E6	To ensure that development maintains and enhances areas of distinctive landscape character local planning policies will pay particular regard to: (a) the need to respect scenic quality, sense of remoteness and historic landscapes; (b) the sense of place, including the local character of buildings and settlements; and (c) the setting of settlements; in the whole countryside.
Policy E7	In determining proposals for development within or adjacent to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape will be a major consideration whilst having regard to the economic and social well-being of the area. Any development which would have a significant adverse effect on the natural beauty, character and quality of the landscape will not be permitted. Major industrial or commercial developments will not be permitted unless: (i) there is proven national interest; (ii) it can be demonstrated that there are no other alternative sites available; and (iii) the bulk of the buildings, siting, layout, design and materials are in sympathy with the local environment.
Policy E8	Development should avoid or minimise any adverse effect that proposals would have on woodlands, trees and hedgerows. Where appropriate, proposals should include new woodland, tree and hedgerow planting, and management proposals to conserve and enhance existing features.
Policy E9	The quality of the environment along major road and rail corridors will be conserved or enhanced. Development proposals should avoid or minimise any adverse effects on the quality of the environment along major road and rail corridors.
Policy E15	Development which is likely to have an adverse impact on landscapes included in English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest and the County Council's Register of Parks and Gardens will not be permitted unless the local planning authorities are satisfied that the need for the development outweighs that impact.

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