

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

Gloucestershire

**The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty**

**The Wye Valley Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty**

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Summary

The following is a report on two historic landscape characterisation projects. The first of these, undertaken between 1997 and 1999, covered the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty within the counties of Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, and Worcestershire. The second, undertaken between 2000 and 2002, covered the remainder of the county of Gloucestershire together with the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the counties of Herefordshire and Monmouthshire.

The objective of both projects was to characterise the present landscape in terms of the visible evidence of the human processes which have formed it through time in order to inform a wide range of planning, conservation and management-led initiatives and strategies (Hoyle 1997, 7; 1999a, 3).

The Cotswolds AONB project integrated published and unpublished information on present landuse, land cover and the visible evidence of landscape history. The Gloucestershire and Wye Valley AONB project followed the same basic principles, although there were some alterations in the data sets used.

In both projects the information was analysed, and landscape attributes identified within each area. The results of the Cotswolds AONB HLC have already been reported on (Hoyle 1999b). The work on the Gloucestershire and Wye Valley HLC resulted in developments to both the methodology and interpretative approach adopted, and some revision of the earlier HLC was, therefore, undertaken as part of this process, to ensure maximum compatibility between the two surveys.

The combined results of the two projects divide the study area into a series of 57 landscape types sharing a common combination of identified attributes. The distribution of these landscape types was mapped at a scale of 1:25,000 (utilising copies of the OS 1:25,000 scale map sheets), and supported by written descriptions of the types and the historical processes that they represent. The maps showing the HLC types were digitised onto the Gloucestershire County Council corporate Geographical Information System.

The results of the both characterisation projects are currently in the following three forms:-

- *The mapped data in digitised format stored at Shire Hall, Gloucester, as part of the Gloucestershire County Council corporate GIS.*
- *An archive of raw data, quantified, ordered and indexed in accordance with English Heritage guidelines, is held at Shire Hall, Gloucester*
- *This written report which supersedes the report on the Cotswolds AONB HLC and:-*
 - *Describes the methodology used during the Gloucestershire and Wye Valley HLC.*
 - *Identifies areas where this methodology differed from that used by the Cotswolds AONB HLC.*
 - *Describes the revisions undertaken to the Cotswolds AONB HLC to promote conformity between the two surveys.*
 - *Describes identified HLC types for the areas covered by both projects, discusses their origins and summarises their distribution.*

The copyright of the results of the Cotswolds AONB HLC project is held jointly by the County Councils of Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Wiltshire and Worcestershire. The copyright of the results of the Gloucestershire and Wye Valley HLC project is held solely by Gloucestershire County Council.

1 Introduction

1.1 Historic landscape characterisation

Within the last 25 years the historical dimension of the landscape has received increasing recognition. Both archaeology and history have been identified as important factors in assessing the value of areas of landscape (Countryside Commission 1987, 1993), and the concept of “cultural landscapes” has been recognised in a number of European and British initiatives (English Heritage 1994). The need for planning authorities to assess the value of the wider historic landscape at an early stage in development plans was recognised in Department of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 15 (DoE 1994, 2.26).

In September 1991, the Government White Paper “This Common Inheritance” invited English Heritage to prepare a list of landscapes of historical importance (English Heritage 1991b), similar to its Register of Parks and Gardens of special historical interest. The purpose of this was to define areas of landscape deemed to be more “historic” and, therefore, more worthy of preservation than the surrounding areas.

Since then English Heritage has instigated a number of pilot projects to assess appropriate methodologies for identifying “historic landscapes” (summarised in English Heritage 1994). The results of these have led to the view that a more holistic approach to historic landscape characterisation than that originally envisaged is appropriate (Fairclough *et al* 1999), and a fuller understanding that the “requirements for historic landscape conservation would not be met by a selective register” (Fairclough 1994b, 35).

The holistic approach characterises all areas within the landscape with reference to agreed criteria, rather than concentrating on the identification of key “historic landscapes”. Grading, in terms of the assessment of relative importance of different parts of the landscape, would only be undertaken in response to specific planning or conservation-led enquiries.

This approach, in which the whole of an area of landscape is assessed and characterised, is in line with methodologies for landscape assessments, the general purpose of which have been defined by the Countryside Commission (Countryside Commission 1993) as assisting local authorities, landuse and conservation agencies and the private sector to:-

- Understand how and why landscapes are important.
- Promote the appreciation of landscape issues.
- Successfully accommodate new development within the landscape.
- guide and direct landscape change.

This approach also meets the needs of Department of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 15 in which it is stated that in “...defining planning policies for the countryside, authorities should take account of the historical dimension of the landscape as a whole rather than concentrate on selected areas.” (DoE 1994, 2.26).

The Cotswolds AONB HLC was undertaken as an example of this holistic approach to the understanding of the historic landscape, and in particular the historic dimension of the present day landscape. Its methodology and general approach were also influenced by the following HLC projects which had already been completed:-

- The county of Cornwall (Landscape Design Associates 1994; Herring 1998).
- The Peak National Park, which adapted the Cornwall methodology and was linked to detailed MPP analysis of the impact of lead mining on the agricultural landscape (Barnatt 1999).
- The former county of Avon which included the southern parts of the Cotswold AONB (an area of c. 200km²).

During the course of the work on the Cotswolds AONB, the following HLC projects were also begun:-

- The County of Hampshire (Lambrick & Bramhill 1999).
- The County of Nottinghamshire (Bishop 1999).
- The County of Suffolk (Fairclough 1999a).

Since the completion of the project, further HLC work has also been undertaken in:-

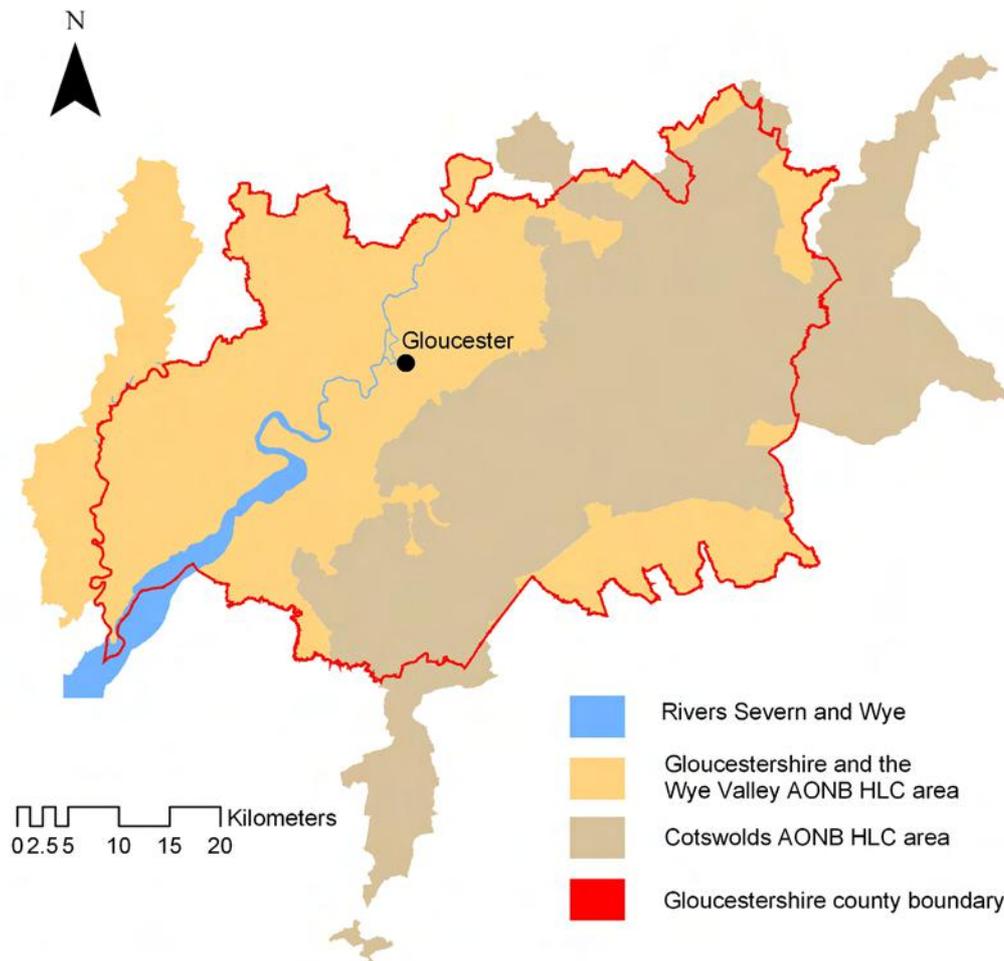
- Lancashire
- Essex
- Herefordshire
- Somerset.
- Hertfordshire
- Surrey
- Devon
- Cumbria and the Lakes
- Shropshire
- Cheshire

In 2002 HLCs were also planned for Buckinghamshire, the Isle of Wight, Northamptonshire and Dorset (Aldred & Fairclough 2003).

Although details of the methodologies used in these projects remained particular to their individual requirements, a methodological approach was developed which more clearly distinguished between characterisation based on boundary morphology and those elements which can be considered to be essentially interpretative (Aldred 2001).

A review of the methodological approaches undertaken in individual HLC projects was undertaken in 2002. This document charted the evolution of the characterisation process through four waves of HLC projects (the Cotswolds AONB and Gloucestershire and Wye Valley AONB HLCs being part of the second wave), identified the strengths and weaknesses of different methodological approaches and discussed ways in which methodology (or at least terminology) could be more uniformly applied across different HLCs (Aldred & Fairclough 2003).

1.2 The area covered by the HLC projects



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Figure 1: Areas covered by the HLC projects

1.2.1 The Cotswolds AONB

The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty covers an area of c. 2038km² (Cotswold AONB Joint Advisory Committee 1995 Drawing No. 1) extending from Bath in the south to Edge Hill, near Banbury, in the north (ADAS 1994). It is divided between the counties of Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, Worcestershire, and part of the former county of Avon, the latter now lying within the unitary authorities of South Gloucestershire and Bath and North East Somerset (Cotswold AONB Joint Advisory Committee 1995 Drawing No. 2).

The AONB largely comprises a geology of Oolitic Limestone, and its western edge is formed by a steep scarp rising, in places, to over 300m above the Severn Vale to the west. This is the highest part of the Cotswolds, and from here the ground generally slopes down to the east and southeast towards the gravels of the Thames Valley. Much of this landscape is made up of relatively level limestone plateaux cut by broad valleys of tributaries to the River Thames. In places, such as the area of the Stroud valleys (centred on map sheet SO80), narrow strips of higher ground are divided by steep valleys formed by rivers flowing westwards, through the scarp, towards the River Severn.

The landscape within the AONB supports a variety of landuses including arable, pasture, woodland and rough grazing, and contains numerous settlements, including small market towns which reflect the area's importance in the production of wool during the medieval period. Evidence of industrial activity, principally limestone quarrying, is also found within the area.

The Cotswolds AONB includes a large number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Areas of Special Scientific Interest, Nature Conservation Key Sites designated as Ancient Semi-natural Woodland, and areas of registered Common Land. The whole of the Cotswolds Hills Environmentally Sensitive Area, and part of the Upper Thames Tributaries Environmentally Sensitive Area (ADAS 1994) are also found within the AONB.

The Cotswolds AONB HLC covered the whole of the Cotswolds AONB with the exception of those areas which fell within the former county of Avon, and which had already been assessed as part of the Avon Historic Landscape Assessment (Chapman 1996). The area covered by the characterisation was c. 1852km².

1.2.2 The remainder of the county of Gloucestershire

The remainder of the county of Gloucestershire can be divided into the following three areas distinguished by their distinct topography, geology and landscape character:-

- The Vale of Gloucester.
- The Thames Valley.
- The Forest of Dean.

1.2.2.1 The Vale of Gloucester

For the purposes of this report the Vale of Gloucester is the area within Gloucestershire between the River Severn and the Cotswolds escarpment which forms the western edge of the Cotswolds AONB.

This area comprises a geology of Blue Lias clays interspersed with bands and islands of gravel, and with alluvial deposits adjacent to the River Severn.

The topography is generally level with some low rises, generally in the area of the gravel islands. Occasional Cotswold outliers, such as Robinswood and Churchdown Hill rise out of the generally level landscape as steep-sided rounded hills.

The landscape character is generally one of hedged fields with frequent farms or small settlements.

1.2.2.2 The Thames Valley

The Thames Valley in Gloucestershire is the area to the southeast of the Cotswolds, and southeast of the area covered by the Cotswolds AONB HLC.

The geology consists of Forest Marble and Limestone cornbrash underlying the gentle slopes of the decaying edge of the Cotswolds dip slope which gives way to the level gravel terrace on the northern side of the River Thames.

The landscape character of this area is generally one of small settlements of isolated farms separated by large, regularly enclosed fields.

1.2.2.3 The Forest of Dean

For the purposes of this discussion the Forest of Dean is interpreted as the whole of the area of Gloucestershire to the west of the River Severn, with the exception of those parts of the county within the Wye Valley AONB (see below). This area is geographically distinct from the rest of Gloucestershire and incorporates a dramatic range of topographies, reflecting the

variety of the underlying geology. The Forest of Dean can, itself, be divided into the following areas.

The Statutory Forest

Much of the central wooded part of the Forest of Dean (the Statutory Forest) lies above 200m AOD, reaching a maximum height of 290m AOD, and consists of a plateau incised by numerous valleys of streams flowing both west into the River Wye and east towards the River Severn.

The geology of this area is made up of layers of sandstone of the Drybrook, Trenchard, Pennant and Supra-Pennant groups of the Carboniferous Series which contain over 20 separate coal seams. These overlie limestones of the Carboniferous Limestone Series, including the iron ore-bearing Crease Limestone, which forms a "necklace" around the edge of the higher ground (BGS 1974). These strata form a basin (the Dean syncline) and coal seams outcrop or are found close to the surface throughout the area (Dreghorn 1968).

Much of this area is currently under woodland (broadleaved, coniferous and mixed) owned and managed by the Forestry Commission, and has been either wooded, or within the woodland management cycle, since at least the medieval period (Hoyle 2001a, 2001b). Settlement in this landscape consists largely of sprawling hamlets of haphazardly positioned cottages which ring and have encroached into the central wooded area of the Statutory Forest (Herbert 1996, 293), largely in response to 19th century population expansion to meet the needs of the growing industry of the area. In places, such as Cinderford, these squatter settlements have grown and become small towns.

The Northern Forest Margins

Immediately to the north and west of the Statutory Forest, the geology is a continuation of the Carboniferous Limestones which underlie the central plateau (BGS 1974), and the topography of the area is characterised by steep valleys draining into the River Wye. Although largely wooded today, much of the woodland in this zone is the result of early 19th century plantation.

Patches of enclosed farmland (generally pasture but also some arable) are found in the vicinity of the settlements, particularly to the north and west of the "Statutory Forest". The major settlements in this zone, such as Littledean, Mitcheldean, Ruardean and Coleford, are medieval in origin and tend to be sited close to the edge of the Statutory Forest.

The Southern Forest Plateau

To the south of the Statutory Forest, an undulating plateau comprises Carboniferous Limestones and Sandstones of the Old Red Sandstone Series (BGS 1974, 1981). This area maintains heights of c. 200m AOD and consists of rolling ridges and valleys draining both to the River Severn to the east and the River Wye to the west. The predominant landscape is one of enclosed farmland. This is generally under pasture, although arable is also found in some areas and this area does contain some large tracts of woodland, generally sited on higher ground. Settlement has tended to avoid the central part of this area and favour the river valleys, which drain from the plateau to west and east.

The northern part of the Severn Estuary

To the southeast of the southern plateau lies the northern shore of the Severn estuary. In the northern part of this area higher ground leads directly down to the banks of the River Severn (BGS 1974). Further south a broad level alluvial plain, approximately defined by the 50m contour, separates the Severn from the higher ground to the west (BGS 1981), although some higher ground is also found in the area of Sedbury at the southern tip of Gloucestershire.

The Leadon Valley

The Leadon Valley lies to the north of the Statutory Forest. The landscape of the area is characterised by rolling hills (maximum heights of c. 75m AOD). The small market town of Newent is the main settlement in the area, although villages are sited in the small valleys of the numerous tributaries of the River Leadon (a tributary of the Severn) whose broad, shallow valley transects the area from northwest to southeast. Landuse is mixed arable and pasture with some areas of mainly deciduous woodland (Landsatt 2001).

1.2.3 The Wye Valley AONB

The Wye Valley AONB covers an area of c. 326km² (Gwent CC 1992, Plan 6) following the southern portion of the Wye valley from c. 5km east of Hereford in the north to Chepstow, Monmouthshire, in the south. It forms a long narrow area c. 45km long and between c. 4km and c. 11km wide, and is divided between the counties of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Monmouthshire.

The landscape of the AONB comprises both the immediate valley of the River Wye and the wider terrain through which it runs.

The immediate valley of the River Wye can broadly be divided into a northern section, to the north of Goodrich, Herefordshire (SO5750019100), where it meanders through the broad meadows of the Hereford Plains, and a southern section where deeply incised meanders have cut a narrow gorge (generally less than 0.5km wide) through steep cliffs of the Lower Dolomite of the Carboniferous Limestone Series in the north, and Brownstones and Sandstones of the Old Red Sandstone Series further south (BGS 1974, BGS 1981).

2 Methodology

2.1 Historic landscape characterisation methodology, and development of the characterisation process

2.1.1 The Cotswolds AONB

The Cotswolds AONB HLC adopted a “broad brush” approach to data gathering, analysis and characterisation. This process made use of historic landscape information from a number of specified sources (Appendix A) and the whole of the landscape was characterised on the basis of an assimilation of the data collated from these sources.

This was an entirely desk-based exercise, and no fieldwork was undertaken to validate the results. Whilst detailed historic landscape characterisation would undoubtedly have benefited from an element of fieldwork it was not felt to be commensurate with the “broad brush” approach of the project and limited fieldwork to check difficult areas would have unduly compromised the degree to which data sources were standardised.

The approach to characterisation was adapted from that of the Avon Historic Landscape Project in which the current landscape was characterised on the basis of:-

- The origin of the predominant form of the present, visible landscape. This was identified principally on the basis of the existing patterns of enclosure.
- The principal historic landscape from which the present landscape was derived. This was identified from a variety of indicators, consisting of both existing patterns of enclosure and more ephemeral evidence such as place names, nature conservation designations or historical information, combined with the geophysical nature of the landscape.

A project design (Hoyle 1997) set out a proposed methodology which was tested at the beginning of the project by the characterisation of two preliminary areas each measuring c. 100km². These are discussed more fully in Appendix C and comprised an area centred on the Sherborne estate in east Gloucestershire (map sheet SP11) and an area to the north of Stroud at the western edge of the AONB (map sheet SO80). These were chosen as they were geographically and topographically different, and both contained areas which had been subjected to fairly detailed archaeological surveys, allowing for the results of the methodology to be checked against those of more intensive research.

As a result of the work on the preliminary areas the methodology was further refined, and the project was undertaken as follows.

2.1.1.1 Sources used for the Cotswolds AONB project

The sources of information on which the characterisation was based were chosen to provide broadly uniform levels of information across the whole of the characterisation area.

The following sources were used:-

- Modern Ordnance Survey maps at scale 1:25,000.
- Selected Third Series Ordnance Survey maps at 1:10560 scale dating to the early 20th century.
- First Series Ordnance Survey maps at scale 1” to 1 mile dating to the early to mid-19th century.
- Selected large-scale parish maps dating to the 18th and 19th centuries.
- Late 18th century county maps at approximately 1” to 1 mile scale.

- Early county maps (from the 16th century onwards) at scales of approximately 1" to 4 miles.
- Nature conservation designation maps at various scales.
- County Sites and Monuments Record areas mapped at various scales and in a variety of formats.
- Geology maps at scale 1" to 1 mile or 1:50,000.
- The Victoria County History.
- English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens.
- Place name dictionaries.
- Some mapped AP data held as part of Sites and Monuments Records.
- Common land maps in the register of common land held by relevant local authorities, at various scales.
- Colour prints of ADAS vertical aerial photographs of the Cotswold AONB, dated 1992-3 and curated by Gloucestershire County Council, Environment Department.
- RAF vertical aerial photographs (1945-1949) at scale 1:10560 and covering Gloucestershire only.
- Published works of relevance to the general aims of the characterisation.
- Gloucestershire Historic Towns Survey information.
- Unpublished desk-based archaeological assessments and landscape surveys.
- List of parliamentary enclosure awards (Tate 1978).
- The Buildings of England (Pevsner).
- Midlands Open Field Project data.

Towards the end of the characterisation process, the following sources became readily available at Shire Hall, Gloucester, and selected examples were used to check the characterisation results derived from other sources:-

- Third Series Ordnance Survey maps at 1:10560 scale dating to the early 20th century.
- Rectified copies (at 1:10560 scale) of large scale parish maps dating to the 18th and 19th centuries.

2.1.2 Gloucestershire and the Wye Valley AONB

Both during and since the completion of the Cotswolds AONB HLC, there had been a number of developments to the methodological approach to Historic Landscape Characterisation (see 1.1 above).

The need for a county wide compatibility was, however, seen as a major factor in determining a suitable methodology for the Gloucestershire and Wye Valley HLC, and the decision was made to closely follow the Cotswolds AONB methodology when undertaking the later HLC (Hoyle 1999a).

Although the essential philosophy of the Gloucestershire and Wye Valley HLC was, therefore, that of the Cotswolds AONB, there were, nevertheless, some differences in the way in which the two projects were undertaken.

2.1.2.1 Sources used for the Gloucestershire and Wye valley AONB project

The principal difference between the two projects was in the sources consulted, and (to a lesser extent) the way in which they were used as part of the characterisation process.

The value of each source used during the Cotswolds AONB HLC was discussed in the report on that project (Hoyle 1999b, Appendix 2), and, as a result of that assessment process, the following sources were not consulted during the later project:-

- Aerial photographs
- Tithe/estate and early large-scale OS maps.

- Common land designation maps.
- Early, small scale county maps.
- Unpublished or published surveys/desk-based assessments.
- Midlands Open Field Project data.

The reasons why these sources were not consulted in the later project are discussed in Appendix C.

The following additional sources were used for the Gloucestershire and Wye Valley HLC:-

- 3rd Series (early 1920s) 1:10560 scale Ordnance Survey maps of the area.
- 1:10560 scale rectified copies of parish maps of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire (generally derived from early to mid 19th century tithe and estate maps).

Throughout both projects, all sources were assessed in terms of their accessibility and their value in providing useful information for the characterisation process. The value of individual sources, and the information derived from each source are discussed more fully in Appendix C.

2.1.2.2 Other methodological differences

Although the principal methodological difference between the two surveys was the sources used (see above), there were also some differences in the way these sources were used, and the impact that had on the Historic Landscape Characterisation process. These differences were slight and only affected the designation of suffixes to Primary Types. Details of these differences are explained in the description of different primary historic landscape types and suffixes (see 3.2 below).

2.1.3 Conformity between the two surveys

As a result of the Gloucestershire and Wye Valley AONB HLC it was realised that:-

- The designation of some characterisation types in the Cotswolds HLC should be re-assessed in the light of a wider appreciation of the landscape beyond the topographical and geological confines of the Cotswolds AONB
- The interpretation of some historic landscape types from the Cotswolds AONB survey was likely to be incorrect when viewed as part of the wider landscape.

Given the above, and the fact that consistency between the two surveys was felt to be of paramount importance, the final stage of the Gloucestershire and Wye Valley AONB characterisation process was to rapidly review selected parts of the Cotswolds AONB HLC to ensure a level of conformity between the two surveys.

Details of the differences between the two surveys can be found in Appendix C. The principal adjustments were as follows:-

- The majority of areas designated A1 in the Cotswolds AONB HLC were re-assessed as category A2 as a result of the Gloucestershire and Wye valley AONB HLC.
- Many of the types designated A3 and A4 in the Cotswolds AONB HLC were reviewed in the light of the decision to base differences between these types in the Gloucestershire and Wye valley AONB HLC on the degree to which boundary patterns appeared to reflect former unenclosed cultivation patterns.
- A number of enclosed valley sides within the Cotswolds AONB, which had been designated as B types were re-assessed and re-designated as L types.
- The areas designated as A6 or A7 as part of the Cotswolds AONB HLC were re-designated as type C2 or C4 in recognition of their likely status as cleared early woodland.

- Many of the areas designated B3A (Regular enclosure of former unenclosed long-term pasture containing evidence of previous use as unenclosed cultivation) as part of the Cotswolds AONB HLC were suffixed w to indicate a level of uncertainty in the identification of the precise boundaries of former unenclosed cultivation.

2.2 Historic landscape characterisation structure

The basic building block of the historic landscape characterisation consists of the Primary Type, each of which is identified by a letter, followed by a single figure number.

The letter denotes the landscape category within which the primary historic landscape type is found. There are 19 landscape categories (A-L, N, P, R, S, T, W and Y) and these indicate either:-

- The predominant earlier landuse or landscape from which the present landscape was derived. This was recognised either from information inherent within the present landscape or from any of the other identified sources.
- The predominant present landscape form. This mainly applies to landscapes or large-scale landscape features dating to the post-medieval period.

The numbers, which follow the letter, are used in the following ways:-

- Where the letter indicates the predominant earlier landuse from which the present landscape was derived, the number denotes the form of the present landscape, generally derived from the present enclosure pattern. Thus:-
 - An area in which the present landscape was derived from former unenclosed cultivation was identified with the letter A.
 - Where evidence suggested that the enclosure of these former unenclosed areas was undertaken in an irregular way which reflected the former open field divisions, this was recognised with the addition of the number 1.
 - The Primary Type indicating irregular enclosure reflecting former unenclosed cultivation patterns was, therefore, designated A1.
- Where the letter represents the present form of the landscape, the number indicates whether the Primary Type is still active, or the extent to which its earlier form is still recognisable as a visible landscape feature. Thus:-
 - An area in which the present landscape consists of a large limestone quarry was identified with the letter H.
 - Where this quarry was no longer in use, this was recognised by the addition of the number 1.
 - The Primary Type indicating a disused quarry was, therefore, designated H1.

57 Primary Types were identified during the project, 36 of which were mapped as polygons, three as lines and a further six as symbols.

Table 1: Historic landscape Primary Types

Type	Tag	Description
Area	A1	Irregular enclosure reflecting former unenclosed cultivation patterns
Area	A2	Less irregular enclosure partly reflecting former unenclosed cultivation patterns
Area	A3	Regular organised enclosure ignoring former unenclosed cultivation patterns
Area	A4	Less regular organised enclosure partly reflecting former unenclosed cultivation patterns
Area	A5	Irregular enclosure reflecting former unenclosed cultivation patterns; regularised as large fields
Area	A6	Regular enclosure largely ignoring former unenclosed cultivation patterns - long narrow fields
Area	B1	Largely unenclosed pasture

Type	Tag	Description
Area	B2	Regular organised enclosure of former unenclosed pasture - boundaries constrained by topography
Area	B3	Regular organised enclosure of former unenclosed pasture
Area	B4	Less regular organised enclosure of former unenclosed pasture
Area	B5	Large scale irregular enclosure of former unenclosed pasture
Area	C1	Surviving early woodland
Area	C2	Early woodland cleared in the post-medieval period
Area/Line	C3	Early woodland boundary
Area	C4	Probable assarting of early woodland
Area	C5	Large modern woodland plantation
Line	C6	Post-medieval Crown woodland enclosure boundaries
Area	D1	Riverine pasture, probably meadows now largely enclosed
Area/Point	D2	Meadow placename not in area of riverine pasture
Area	D3	Floated watermeadow system
Area	D4	Valley side meadow below spring line
Area/Line	E2	Medieval deer park boundary
Area/Point	E3	Former medieval deer park: Site known from documentary sources
Area/Point	E4	Former medieval deer park: Site suggested by Park name
Area	F1	Surviving post-medieval designed ornamental landscape
Area	F2	Former post-medieval designed ornamental landscape
Area/Point	G1	Deserted medieval or later settlement
Area/Point	G2	Existing settlement of medieval or earlier origin
Area	G3	Existing settlement - extent by mid 19th century
Area	G4	Existing settlement - present extent
Area	G5	Existing settlement - 19th century linear settlement infilled in 20th century
Area	H1	Disused industrial site
Area	H2	Active industrial site
Area	I1	Disused 20th century military site
Area	I2	Active 20th century military site
Area	J1	Active recreational site
Area	K1	Artificial area of standing water
Area	K2	Tidal river and estuary
Area	L1	Irregular enclosure. Former landuse not identified
Area	L2	Less irregular enclosure. Former landuse not identified
Area	L3	Regular segmentation of less regular parallel boundaries; former landuse not identified
Area	N1	Large modern fields created from former organised enclosure
Area	N2	Large modern fields created from former piecemeal enclosure
Area	P1	Modern settlement - irregular, dispersed squatter type settlement
Area	P2	Modern settlement - organised urban patterns derived from former irregular dispersed squatter type settlement
Area	P3	Modern settlement - less irregular dispersed squatter type settlement.
Area	R3	Regular organised enclosure of former unenclosed heath
Area	S1	Modern horticultural buildings
Area	S2	Extensive orchard or vineyard
Area	T1	Modern landfill site
Area	W1	Regular organised enclosure of former unenclosed waste
Area	W2	Largely unenclosed estuarine waste

Type	Tag	Description
Area	W3	Partly enclosed former waste - irregular enclosure patterns
Area	W4	Cliff
Line	Y1	Boundary of post-medieval Forest lodge
Point	Y2	Site of post-medieval Forest lodge

2.3 Limited time depth and discrete archaeological features

It is clear that the present landscape is the result of many influences, including human impact on the environment. In the case of both areas covered by the two HLC projects, this is usually considered to have begun during the mesolithic period, from c. 12,000 BP. It is recognised that many areas of landscape contain features from a number of different periods, and that any characterisation based on the adopted system was likely to be heavily biased in favour of identifying visible medieval and post-medieval landscape features.

This was considered to be acceptable for the following reasons:-

- The present form of the landscape within the area covered by the two HLC projects is actually largely made up of features and enclosure patterns which are the result of medieval and post-medieval landuse influences.
- Earlier features, such as prehistoric funerary mounds, relict field boundaries or hillforts, whilst clearly a part of the present landscape, rarely influence its current character at the scale at which the landscape was characterised in this project. These are likely to survive as discrete features within a landscape, the broad structure of which has resulted from medieval and post-medieval processes. Consequently no attempt was made to separately categorise these features, although the methodology is flexible enough to have included any which were found to have had a significant impact on the present landscape.

Some medieval and post-medieval landscape features, such as rabbit warrens, small areas of piecemeal quarrying or moated sites, were also not separately designated. Although these features may have been indicative of the historic processes which had formed the present landscape (e.g. rabbit warrens and piecemeal quarrying were most common in areas of former long-term open pasture), it was felt that, individually, they were at too small a scale to warrant separate designation within this project. They were often recognised as attributes of the Primary Types in which they were found.

2.4 Use of suffixes

Even within this relatively limited timescale, the complexity of the landscape within the two areas covered by the HLC is such that representing only two principal landuses or enclosure patterns was frequently too simplistic. Consequently a system was devised by which an additional time depth could be recognised by suffixing Primary Types with one or more letters. This generally denoted an identified earlier landuse and was derived from the letter of the relevant landscape category. Thus:-

- An area of very regular, organised enclosure where the most recent documentary or place name evidence suggests that the area was long-term unenclosed pasture prior to enclosure, was designated B3.
- An area of very regular, organised enclosure, of former long-term unenclosed pasture where other evidence indicates that this pasture had been converted from former unenclosed cultivation (a former landuse indicated by category A) was designated B3A.

Where the validity of historic landscape type identification was in doubt and alternative designations had been considered, the decision-making process and details of any alternatives were recorded on a pro-forma retained as part of the project archive. In some instances where no alternative designation was considered,

the historic landscape type was suffixed with a question mark (?) to indicate its unclear status.

Sixteen suffixes, all of which were lower case letters, were also used to recognise other factors, such as landuse potential, which did not necessarily indicate identified former landuse. The detailed meaning of these is discussed in 3.19 below, and they are summarised here:-

Table 2: Suffixes used in historic landscape characterisation

Suffix	Meaning
a	Status of post-medieval ornamental landscape unclear
d	Larger enclosures than the norm
e	Reorganised enclosure patterns
f	Enclosures reorganised by boundary removal
g	Enclosed "Doles"
h	Enclosures reorganised by both boundary removal and addition
i	Enclosure patterns less regular than the norm
k	Enclosure patterns smaller than the norm
m	Rich wet grassland
n	Chartist land company settlements
p	Presence of parliamentary enclosure award within selected parishes
q	Dispersed settlement
r	Enclosure patterns more regular than the norm
s	Marginal slopes
w	Former pasture or heath containing evidence of former unenclosed cultivation where the precise boundaries of this are unclear
x	Absence of parliamentary enclosure award within selected parishes

These suffixes were used in the following way:-

- An area of irregular enclosure reflecting former unenclosed cultivation patterns was designated A1.
- An area of irregular enclosure reflecting former unenclosed cultivation patterns where the distribution of springs, streams, conservation designations, place names or underlying geology suggested that this was found in an area with the potential for rich wet grassland (represented by the m suffix) was designated A1m.

In general up to two suffixes were added to each to each Primary Type resulting in every polygon, line or symbol being assigned up to four identification characters. In three instances, however, polygons were assigned three suffixes (i.e. five separate characters).

As suffixes were only assigned where additional information was recognised from the sources used, many polygons, lines or points were only designated a Primary Type (e.g. A1, C3, or D2), as this reflected all the historic landscape information available from the sources. Thus an historic landscape character type can consist of either a two digit Primary Type, or a two digit Primary Type with the addition of one, two or three suffixes.

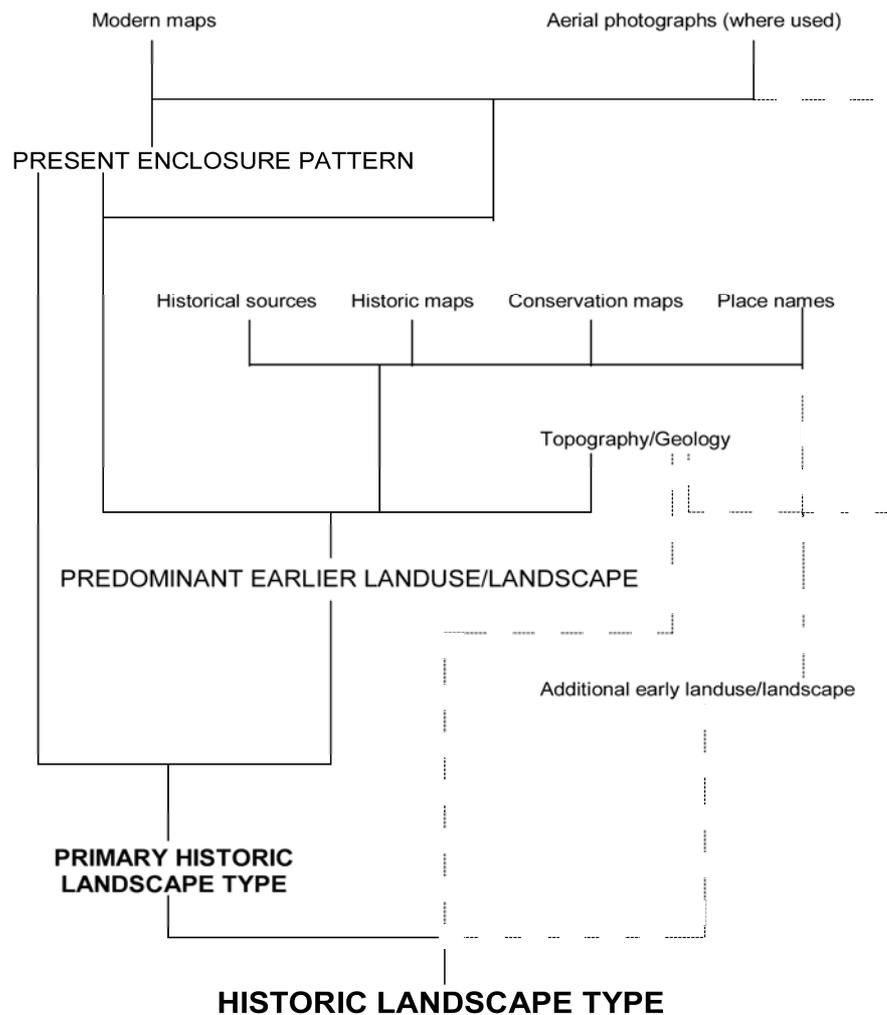
This system allowed for approximately 85,000 different historic landscape types, although even with the entire possible suffix combinations only 301 different historic landscape types were identified in the study area and many of these were simply minor variations of Primary Types (e.g. the difference between A1 and A1m or A1s).

Any problems caused by the potential complexity of the system were also counteracted by the use of a GIS in which it was possible to search on the basis of individual characters or any combinations of characters which made up a type.

2.5 The process of historic landscape characterisation

2.5.1 Historic landscape characterisation processes used for both HLC projects

The sources and decision-making processes of historic landscape characterisation used during the project have already been discussed (see above), and the following flow chart demonstrates (in simplified form) the process by which information was assimilated to identify historic landscape types.



(dashed lines indicate data used to identify suffixes)

Chart 1: Schematic chart of historic landscape characterisation processes

2.5.2 Data collection

For organisational purposes the survey area of the Cotswolds AONB HLC was divided into 10km² sectors based on individual OS map sheets, and where appropriate the collection of data to inform the characterisation process was undertaken as a single action for each of these. For the Gloucestershire and Wye Valley AONB, changes in OS map production meant that it was more efficient to use 1:25,000 scale Explorer sheets as the base mapping. Given the variable size of these sheets, the basic mapping unit was changed from an arbitrary 10km² to a civil parish within a map sheet, although where parishes spanned map sheets, the whole OS sheet was completed before the remainder of the parish was characterised on adjacent sheets.

A variety of data handling techniques was used to ensure all relevant information was readily available when required. Ideally information was photocopied although manual transcription of information, often by annotating paper copies of the relevant 1:25,000 OS map sheet (these working sheets are now held as part of the project archive), was undertaken where this was not possible. Some parish specific data was recorded on a pro-forma which now forms part of the project archive (Appendix E.ii).

A record of data sources accessed for each sector (Appendix E.i) was maintained to ensure that no relevant information was missed.

2.5.3 Mapping process

The results of the characterisation were mapped in ink onto drawing film overlays of the most recent 1:25,000 scale Ordnance Survey maps. Where possible the mapping of each 10km² sector, or OS Explorer sheet, was completed before the next was started.

The most easily recognisable types were mapped first. These typically consisted of areas of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland, areas of settlement or post-medieval and modern features which were visible on the OS base map. Subsequent to this the remaining areas, which generally consisted of farmland, were subdivided into appropriate types. At the end of this process each sector was checked and minor adjustments made if appropriate.

A pro-forma was kept for each sector (Appendix E.iii) which recorded where subjective “professional judgement” had been used to decide between two possible landscape types for the same area. This form set out the decision making process and identified possible alternative landscape types.

2.5.4 Refinement of data collection and mapping strategies for the Gloucestershire and Wye valley AONB HLC

Following the Cotswolds AONB HLC, data collection and mapping strategies were refined. These were undertaken in the following order during the Gloucestershire and Wye Valley AONB HLC:-

- Set up map overlay and estimate time allowance for each sector.
- Data derived from written sources e.g. Victoria County History, Enclosure Award information, was collected.
- Data derived from mapped sources e.g. Ancient Semi-natural Woodland, Sites and Monuments Record information, mapped aerial photographic information, parish boundary information was collected. This information was added to paper copies of 1:25,000 map sheets for each sector.
- Ancient Semi-natural Woodland was mapped on the film overlays for each sector.
- SMR information e.g. deserted medieval settlements, military sites, industrial sites, medieval deer parks was mapped on the film overlays for each sector.
- Extent of 19th century settlement derived from 1” First Edition OS maps was mapped on the film overlays for each sector. Relevant place names were added to the paper copies of 1:25,000 map sheets
- Information was taken from the late 18th century 1” scale map of Gloucestershire and added to the paper copies of 1:25,000 map sheets or the film overlays for each sector as appropriate. The extent of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland was checked from this source.
- Information from early 20th century 6” scale OS maps (principally the location of post-medieval ornamental landscapes) was mapped onto the film overlays for each sector.
- Information from the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens was checked against the data from the early 20th century 6” scale OS maps and mapped onto the film overlays for each sector.

- Information derived from the modern OS 1:25,000 scale maps (modern settlement, modern military or industrial sites, the extent of modern woodland and place names indicating the site of former parks) was mapped onto the film overlays for each sector.
- The remainder of the landscape was mapped onto the film overlays for each sector taking account of the information already collected from the Victoria County History, mapped aerial photographic information, and also information derived from rectified 6" scale early 19th century parish maps. The polygons generated from this information were mapped in the following order:-
 - Meadows
 - Pasture
 - Arable land
- Mapped polygons were checked for suffixes using information derived from enclosure award information, rectified copies of early 19th century parish maps and also data from geology maps.
- An overview of results was undertaken. This included the checking of map sheet boundaries to ensure consistency with adjacent map sheets.
- The information recorded in the project archive was checked to ensure that this had been recorded in a consistent way.
- The time taken for the characterisation for each sector was checked.

Each sector was worked from northwest to southeast, and a tick list was maintained (Appendix E) to ensure conformity between sectors.

2.5.5 Digitising the results

The finished hand-drawn overlays consisted of a series of contiguous polygons, with some symbols and lines, which covered the whole of the characterisation area. Each of these was tagged with between two and five characters (see 2.4 above), identifying the historic landscape character type. As the hand drawn maps were to be digitised, enabling them to be reproduced in a variety of forms, it was not necessary to shade the mapped polygons. The two primary historic landscape character types which were represented by lines (Primary Types C3 - early woodland boundary, and E2 - medieval deer park boundary) were coloured on the drawing film overlays to enable them to be recognised by the digitiser.

The maps (both film overlays and paper originals of the 1:25,000 scale OS map), and written instructions were sent to an external company for digitising. For logistical reasons the maps were digitised in two batches, and as they were digitised from originals at scale 1:25,000, this is the largest scale at which any degree of accuracy can be guaranteed.

Although both surveys made use of a combination of polygons, point features and line features, the way in which this information was digitised differed between the two surveys.

Due to the functionality of the GIS used by Gloucestershire County Council (Genamap) at the time of the survey, the Cotswolds AONB HLC was, in fact, digitised entirely as polygons. Point features were digitised as circles c. 120m in diameter, whilst line features were digitised as long thin polygons typically c. 0.5m in width.

Although the same GIS was used for the Gloucestershire and Wye Valley AONB HLC, the decision was made to digitise point features as points, and line features as lines. At the time of writing (November 2005) this disparity between the two surveys remains.

2.5.6 GIS applications

As the results of the characterisation are held as a GIS layer, they can be presented in a variety of formats, and at virtually any required scale.

Since the Cotswold AONB project began in September 1996, the use of GIS for the management and manipulation of information, and for comparison with other data sets, has become so much an accepted and a normal part of any map based data collection project that it is unnecessary to point out its general benefits and possible end uses. The following, however, lists some of the possible ways in which the HLC GIS information can be manipulated:-

- Maps showing HLC information can be produced at a variety of sizes or scales (subject to the limitations of the scale at which the information was digitised).
- Shading of polygons can be customised to produce maps for particular purposes.
- It is possible to produce maps showing a variety of different combinations of data.
- The overall results of the characterisation can be simplified by combining a number of historic landscape types to form larger areas of more generalised historic landscape zones. One possible combination of types, forming main historic landscape zones, is described in Hoyle 1999 Appendix 6, Drawing No. 4.
- Historic landscape types can be combined to allow the results to be compared with those of other HLC projects.
- All types derived from former unenclosed cultivation (all A Primary Types and those types suffixed A) can be mapped to show the maximum extent of former unenclosed cultivation.
- Similarly all B Primary Types and all types suffixed B can be amalgamated to show the extent of present and former long-term unenclosed pasture.
- All C Primary Types and those types suffixed C can be amalgamated to show the extent of existing and former woodland.
- All D Primary Types and those types suffixed D can be amalgamated to show the full extent of meadowland, and also mapped in combination with those types suffixed m indicating their potential as rich wet grassland.
- Alternatively, types representing historic landscapes of similar social origin (e.g. all E Primary Types (medieval deer parks), F Primary Types (Post-medieval ornamental landscapes) and types suffixed E or F can be combined.
- Types thought to be indicative of landuse of a similar date can be combined on a single map, to enable the HLC to be used to illustrate changes in landscape and landuse over time.
- It is also possible to use the results with other digitised GIS data sets, such as OS map sheet information or Sites and Monuments Record data.

2.6 Problems identified in the methodology and type characterisation process

2.6.1 General differentiation of historic landscape types

In a number of instances, where enclosure pattern was a significant factor in Primary Type identification, it was difficult to precisely define the difference between some primary historic landscape character types. Accordingly, some areas with very similar enclosure patterns may have been categorised as different primary historic landscape types.

This was particularly true of :-

- Some A1 Primary Types and areas designated A2, or A5
- Some A3 and A4 , and B3 and B4 Primary Types.
- Some A4 and A2 Primary Types which were differentiated primarily on the basis of general field size.

This kind of difficulty is inherent in the “broad brush” approach used in this kind of project, and, in general, these “grey areas” are between Primary Types which have tended to be interpreted as the result of similar historic processes. Consequently this

is unlikely to cause significant problems in interpreting the results of the historic landscape characterisation.

Concomitant with the above is the possibility that some areas characterised as different historic landscape types represent the result of identical historical processes, and should have been characterised as the same Primary Type. The principal examples of this are those listed in 2.6.1 above, and, like the problems discussed in 2.6.1, this should not create any serious difficulties as these types can be easily amalgamated by use of the GIS.

2.6.2 Precise boundaries of types A3, A4, B3, B4 and R3

Another difficulty which was identified in the course of the characterisation was where large-scale organised enclosure (Primary Types A3, A4, B3, B4 and R3) was recognised. The following problems were identified in these areas:-

- It was not possible, within the scope of this project, to differentiate between regular enclosure of open fields and areas in which earlier, piecemeal enclosure, may have been swept away by later more regular enclosure. Rectified copies of mid 19th century maps were consulted during the Gloucestershire and Wye Valley AONB HLC, and suffixes added to reflect recorded changes in the enclosure pattern. This, however, could only be recognised where boundary change had been recorded on these maps.
- It was not generally possible to separate those areas which had been open fields or long-term open pasture immediately before enclosure, particularly where enclosure of both landuses had occurred as a single operation. The suffix w was used to denote areas in which this level of uncertainty was found.
- Similarly it was not possible to differentiate areas of organised enclosure of former open pasture and former unenclosed cultivation on the basis of enclosure pattern alone. Some areas of former open pasture may have been characterised as enclosure of former unenclosed cultivation, especially if some open field indicators, such as surviving areas of ridge and furrow, were present, but open pasture indicators, such as place names, were absent. The suffix w was used to denote areas in which this level of uncertainty was found. Conversely some areas of former unenclosed cultivation may not have been identified if they fell within areas characterised by long-term open pasture indicators.
- It was not always possible to identify accurately areas of organised enclosure of former long-term open pasture which were derived from earlier unenclosed cultivation, but where visible indicators, such as areas of ridge and furrow, had not been identified. This was particularly true in the case of the Gloucestershire and Wye Valley AONB HLC, where aerial photographic data (the principal source of information on the presence of relict ridge and furrow within the Cotswolds AONB) were not used as a source.

Problems of this kind are likely to be inherent in the “broad brush” approach thought to be appropriate to this kind of project, although they could be reduced by greater use of early map sources than that used for this survey.

Within the context of the Cotswolds AONB and Gloucestershire and Wye Valley AONB Historic Landscape Characterisation, it would be expedient to regard the edges of these categories as schematic.

3 Historic landscape character types

The following section consists of full descriptions and identification criteria for each HLC Primary Type. A summary list of these is found in 2.2 above, whilst a list of all identified types is found in Appendix G.

3.1 Category A: Former un-enclosed cultivation - now enclosed

This category comprises areas in which former un-enclosed cultivation has been enclosed.

Category A areas can be identified from a variety of sources, including enclosure patterns (e.g. boundaries echoing former un-enclosed cultivation divisions), evidence of surviving ridge and furrow, place names suggesting former open fields or cropmark, map or documentary evidence for earlier open fields.

It is not necessary for every field within an area to display such evidence, although those which do not will be within a clearly recognisable section of an area of enclosure in which these characteristics are displayed.

Category A is divided into six different Primary Types reflecting the range of visible enclosure patterns of former un-enclosed cultivation from different periods, at different scales, and for a variety of reasons.

Use as a suffix

A is used as a suffix to denote areas where the survival of ridge and furrow, boundaries conforming to relict open field patterns, or place name and historical evidence suggest that the historic landscapes represented in the Primary Type designations were derived from earlier un-enclosed cultivation, but where other evidence indicates that the area had not been utilised in this way immediately prior to enclosure. In these instances the predominant enclosure pattern will not be indicative of enclosure of former open fields.

The A suffix does not necessarily indicate that the whole of a designated area had been un-enclosed cultivation at some time, but that indicators of this (usually evidence of earlier ridge and furrow) are found within the area of another primary historic landscape type. This is particularly true of B categories (former un-enclosed long term pasture) where the precise area of former open fields is not always possible to define on the basis of the sources used. It is not possible to differentiate areas which had previously been part of a generally used open field system and those areas which were intermittently incorporated within the open field system as the need arose.

Where used in conjunction with category C (woodland), this suffix indicates areas of early woodland which may have been temporarily felled to extend open fields and which has since reverted back to woodland.

Where used in conjunction with category D (riverine pasture and meadows), the A suffix indicates areas where rich grassland had been incorporated into un-enclosed cultivation systems. It was not possible, on the basis of the sources used, to differentiate areas which were generally used in this way and those areas which were intermittently cultivated as the need arose.

3.1.1 A1 Irregular enclosure reflecting former un-enclosed cultivation patterns

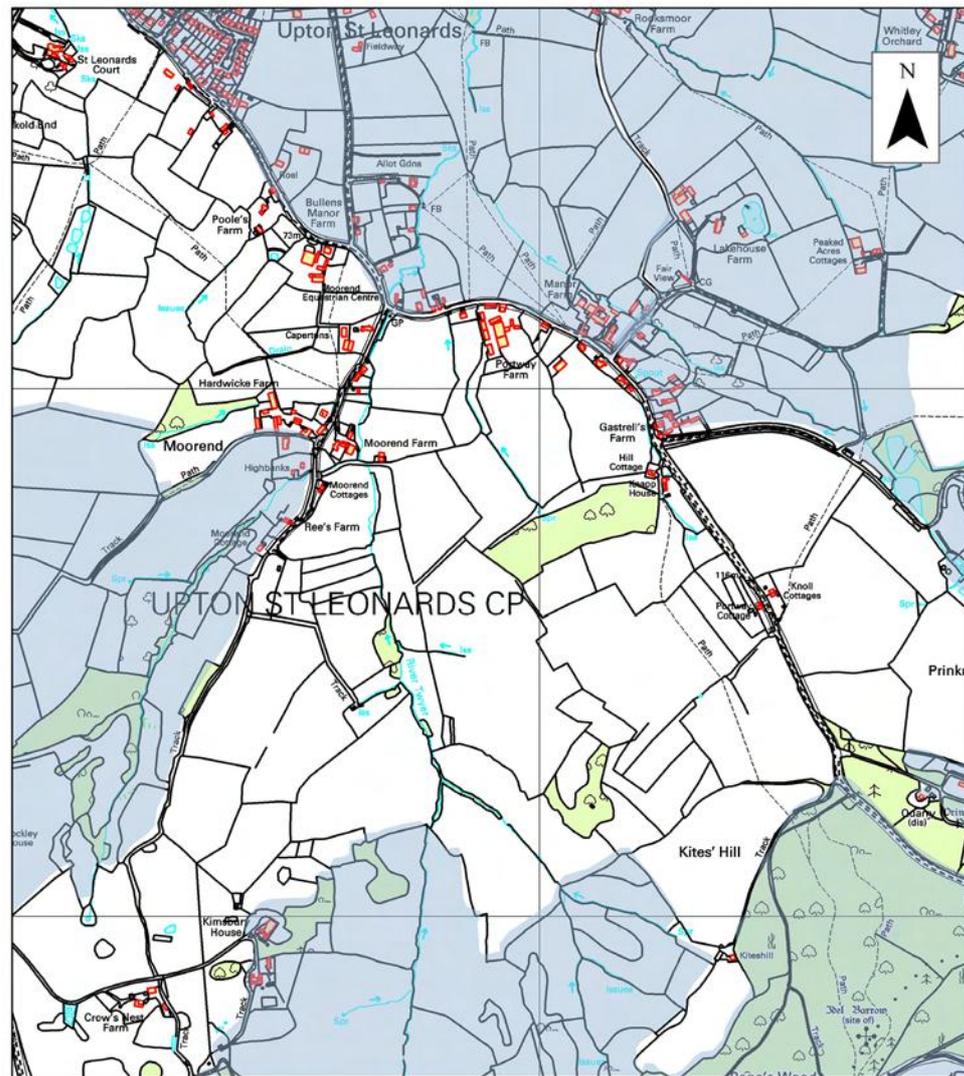
Identification characteristics

In general this Primary Type consists of small (generally between c. 1 and 7ha) irregular fields whose boundaries echo preceding open field divisions forming curved, reversed S or "dog leg" shapes. These fields are often longer along one axis, reflecting enclosure of a number of open

field strips, although this is not always the case, and enclosures in this category tend to lack long co-axial boundaries

This category represents the same process as category A2, the principal differences between the two types are:-

- A1 Types to appear as a number of irregular fields apparently enclosed without reference to other enclosures in the area, perhaps indicating a genuine “piecemeal” enclosure pattern.
- A2 Types, whilst consisting of “small” irregular fields with clear former open field indicators, have a number of co-axial boundaries, and in particular will share boundaries along long former headlands. This gives the impression that the enclosure, although clearly following former open field divisions, was undertaken on a larger scale than A1.



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Kilometers

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Figure 2: Primary Type A1 at Upton St Leonards, Gloucestershire (SO8690813708)

Interpretation

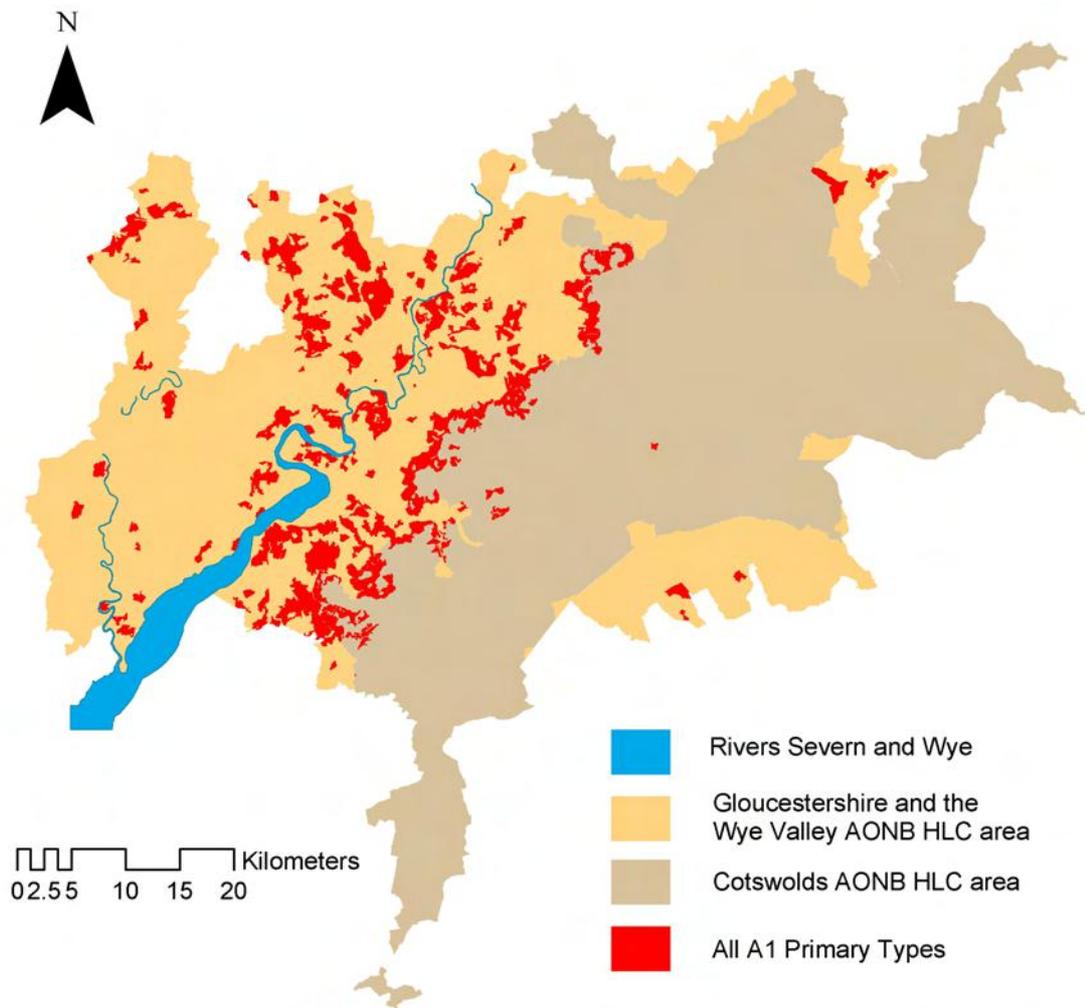
Enclosures in this Primary Type are interpreted as piecemeal enclosure of earlier open fields. They are likely to owe their origin to gradual enclosure by local arrangement, generally from the 16th century and later (although this form of enclosure is known from at least the 13th century and as late as the 19th century).

Sources

Modern OS maps, 18th century county maps, rectified late 18th-19th century parish maps, aerial photographs or mapped AP data, place names, Victoria County History, parish histories.

Incidence

Type A1 is most common outside the area of the Cotswolds AONB, particularly in the area of the Severn Vale. Where found within the of the Cotswolds AONB, this type tends to be found on relatively steep ground, such as valley sides or the edges of the Cotswolds escarpment at the western edge of the Cotswolds AONB.



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Figure 3: All A1 Primary Types

Discussion

Although individual areas of A1 enclosure were not dated as part of the characterisation, boundaries in these areas are likely to be medieval or early post-medieval in date, and in many areas will be amongst the earliest surviving boundaries within the landscape. The irregular pattern of boundaries, the generally smaller enclosure size and the interrelationship of individual fields in these areas are what defines this Primary Type and gives it its special landscape character.

Many of the fields in these areas, particularly those on marginal, steep land (suffixed s), were enclosed to create pasture fields held in severalty, and have largely remained uncultivated since that time. Accordingly, this Primary Type may contain well-preserved earthworks, principally evidence of the pre-enclosure open field system, or medieval and post-medieval quarrying.

3.1.2 A2 Less irregular enclosure partly reflecting former un-enclosed cultivation patterns

Identification characteristics

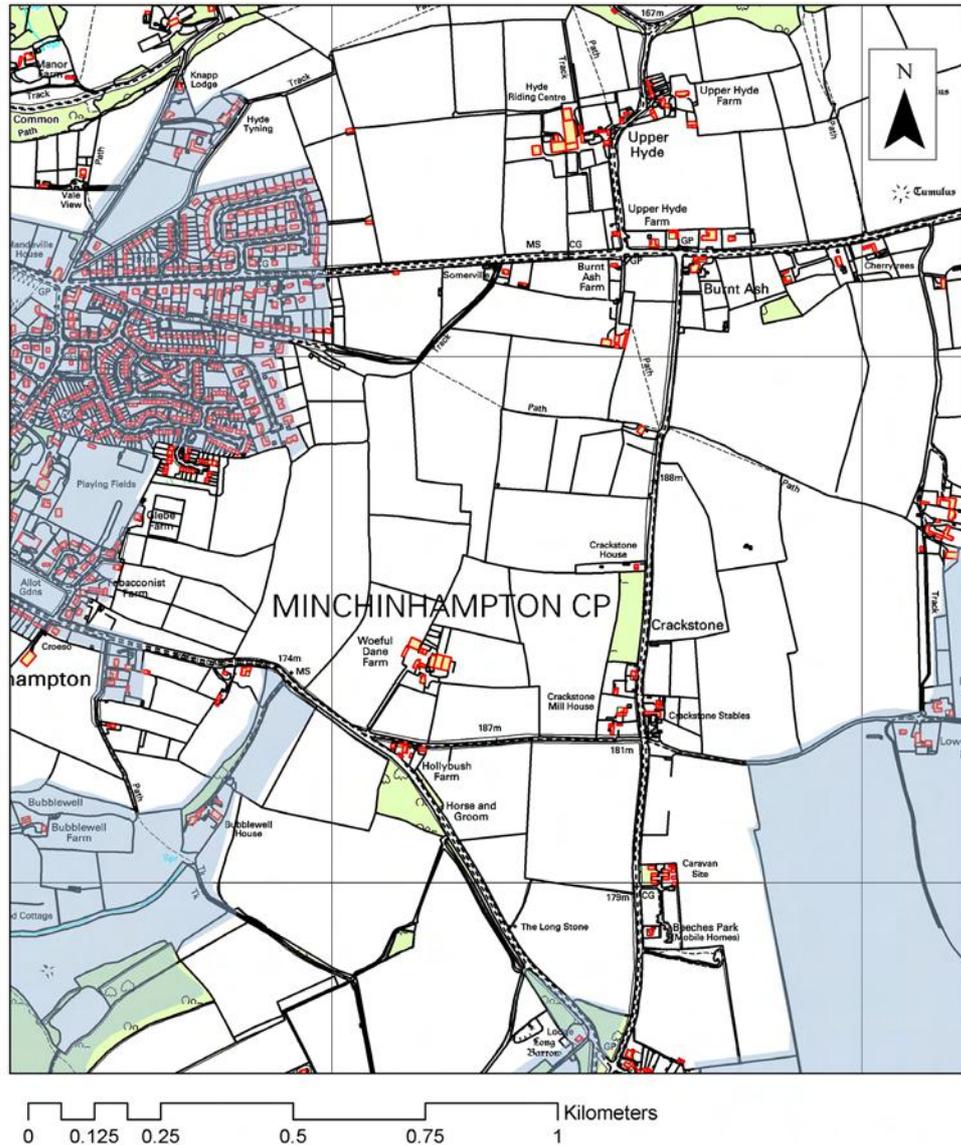
This Primary Type consists of small (generally between c. 1 and 7ha) fields with some of the characteristics of A1, as some boundaries appear to echo former open field divisions. However it differs from A1 in the following ways:-

Many of the boundaries appear to be more regular than those categorised as A1.

This enclosure pattern contains numerous co-axial boundaries, and in particular shares boundaries along long former headlands. These long common boundaries clearly derive from former open field divisions, but the areas between them are often sub-divided into regularly sized fields, often with very straight boundaries.

On occasion long, and generally common, boundaries within this type pay no apparent heed to the preceding open field pattern. These more regular boundaries form an integral part of the overall enclosure pattern and cannot be separately categorised.

This Primary Type was differentiated from similar areas of A4 mainly on the basis of smaller field size. Where an enclosure pattern contains a mix of smaller (A2 size) and larger (A4 size) fields, which cannot be separated into discrete types, the areas has been designated A2.



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Figure 4: Primary Type A2 at Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire (SO8829500653)

Interpretation

This type is interpreted as enclosure of former un-enclosed cultivation. Although this may have been undertaken by local arrangement and exchange, the internal cohesion of the morphology of this type would suggest that enclosure was undertaken in a less piecemeal way than for A1. Thus, although this type is not interpreted as a form of large scale organised enclosure, it may have occurred on a larger scale than A1, and some areas of this type are known to be parliamentary in origin. Some boundaries within A2 enclosure types may represent later additions to the enclosure pattern, although these will not have significantly altered the overall field morphology.

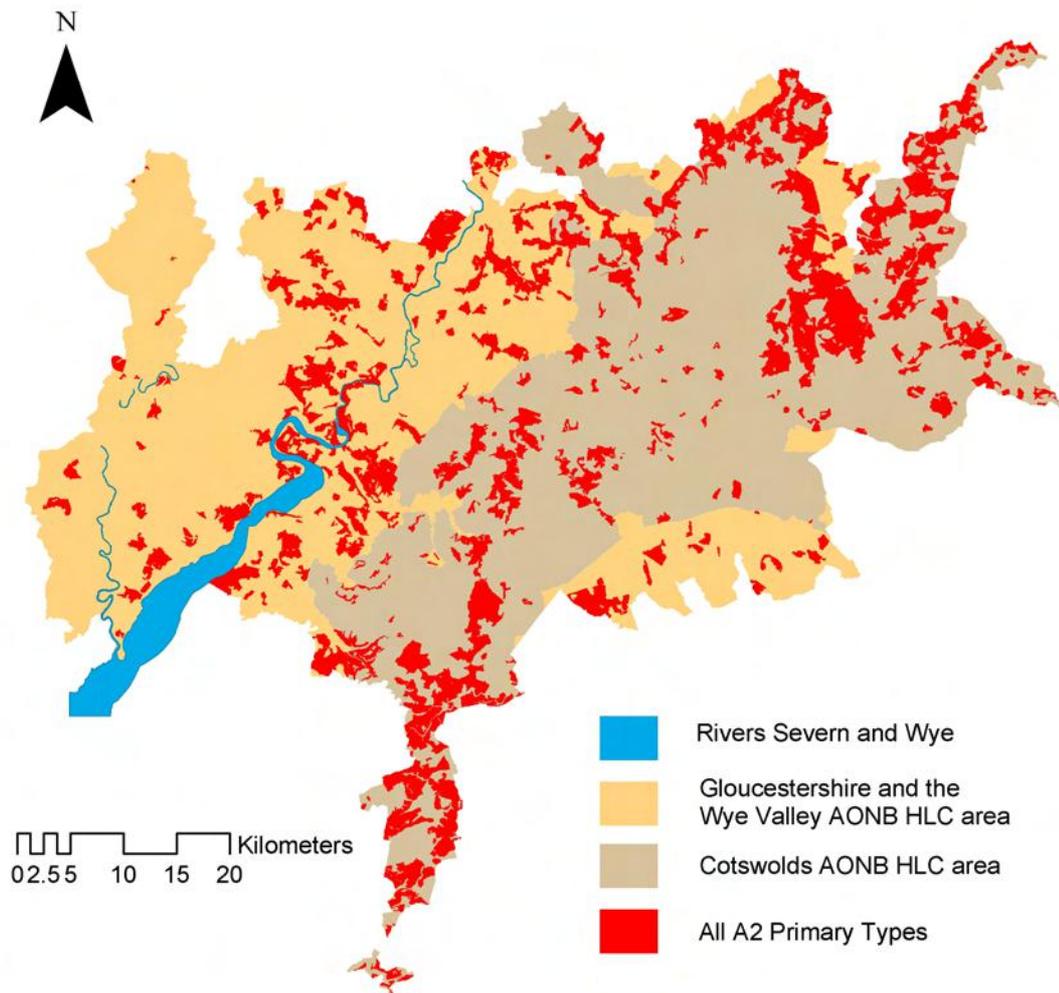
Sources

Modern OS maps, 18th century county maps, rectified late 18th-19th century parish maps, aerial photographs or mapped AP data, place names, Victoria County History, parish histories.

Incidence

A2 enclosure patterns are found throughout the area of both surveys. Within the area of the Cotswolds AONB, this type tends to be found on the edges of the characterisation area, outside the main Cotswolds plateau in the central part of the AONB, in areas characterised by:-

- A generally more broken topography, consisting of broad, but steep valleys. This is particularly true of the western part of the AONB in the area of the Cotswolds escarpment, the western part of Wiltshire where the AONB follows the By Brook Valley, and the AONB in Warwickshire.
- A predominantly Lias clay or Inferior Oolite limestone subsoil. These included the vale at the foot of the Cotswolds scarp to the west of the survey area, the Coln Valley to the north of Sherborne (Gloucestershire), and the southeastern edge of the Cotswolds dipslope.



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Figure 5: All A2 Primary Types

Discussion

Although individual areas of A2 enclosure were not dated as part of the characterisation, in some areas, the enclosure may be medieval or early post-medieval in date, and, therefore may be amongst the earliest surviving boundaries within the landscape. The irregular pattern of boundaries, the generally smaller enclosure size and the interrelationship of individual fields in these areas are what defines this Primary Type and gives it its special landscape character.

In places, these areas may have been enclosed to create pasture fields held in severalty, and might have largely remained uncultivated since that time. Accordingly, this Primary Type could contain well-preserved earthworks, principally evidence of the pre-enclosure open field system.

3.1.3 A3 Regular organised enclosure ignoring former open–cultivation patterns

Identification characteristics

Enclosures in this Primary Type consist of fairly large (generally between c. 6 and 14ha, although some were as small as 4ha) enclosures. These enclosures have extensive co-axial boundaries. These are generally straight and ignore former open-cultivation divisions. This pattern of enclosure displays clear internal cohesion demonstrated by similar boundary type.

Enclosures in this category are generally laid out in a grid pattern although no attempt was made to differentiate intersecting and non-intersecting grid patterns. Less commonly A3 enclosure patterns are not based on a grid pattern (e.g. at SO9562211365).

The principal determining factors in the designation of A3 are:-

- Regular and internally coherent enclosure morphology which largely supersedes former un-enclosed cultivation patterns and is therefore lacking in the boundary types which are indicators of this (reversed S or extensive irregular “dog leg” boundaries). Some boundaries within areas of A3 may still echo former strip field land or furlong boundaries, although this tends to be where they follow earlier, fixed boundaries (e.g. parish boundaries or pre-enclosure communication systems such as roads and trackways). Some boundaries within areas designated A3 may also be less regular on account of topographical considerations. Where former un-enclosed cultivation indicators, such as evidence of ridge and furrow (surviving either as earthworks or as cropmark evidence) are found, these underlie the later enclosure pattern.
- Recognition of an area as former un-enclosed cultivation. For A3 categories this is determined on the basis of historic sources such as place names and early map/documentary information or mapped AP data.

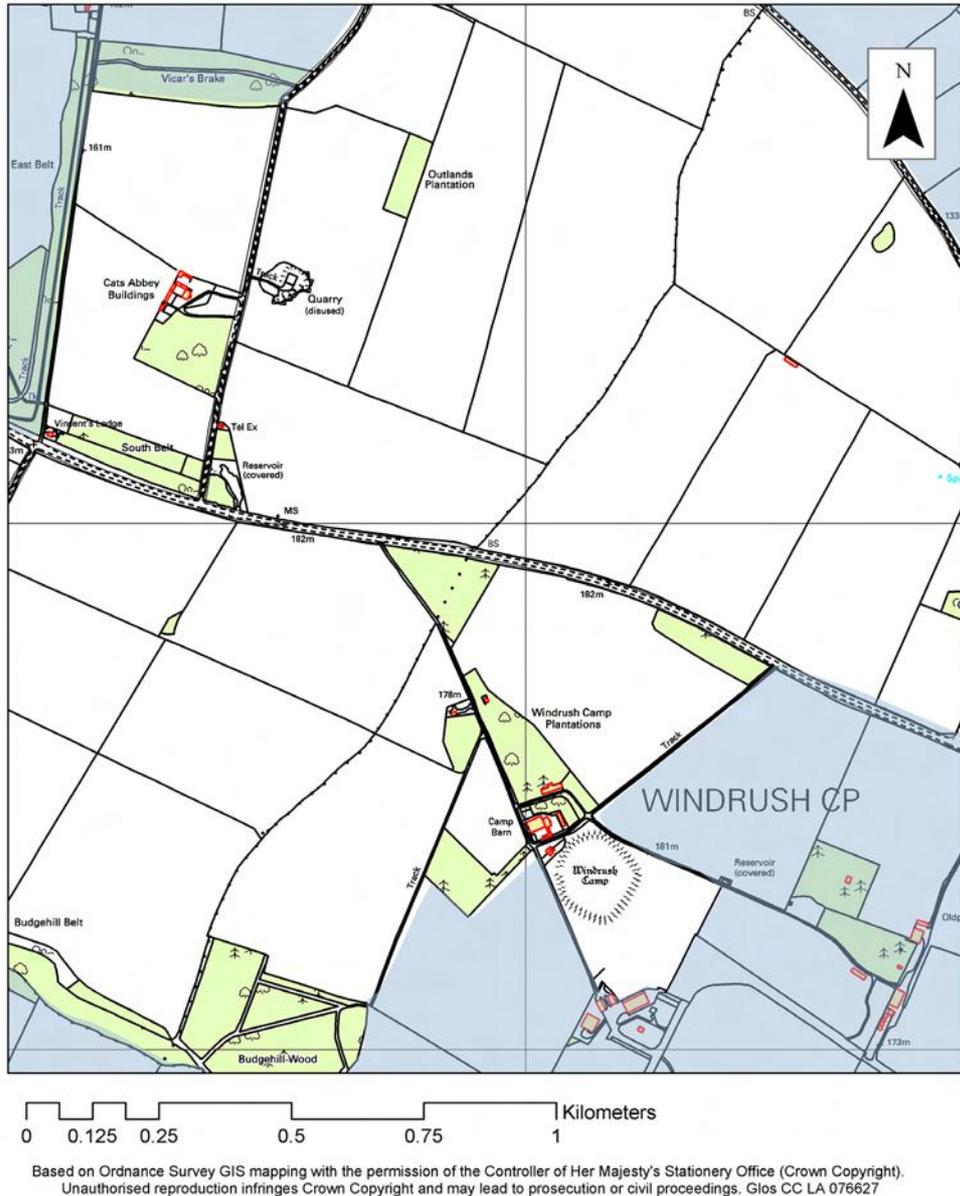


Figure 6: Primary Type A3 at Windrush, Gloucestershire (SP1792712971)

Interpretation

Post-medieval very regular organised enclosure of former un-enclosed cultivation where enclosure patterns largely ignore former land divisions.

This Primary Type is likely to owe its origins to post-medieval parliamentary enclosure, although it is clear that:-

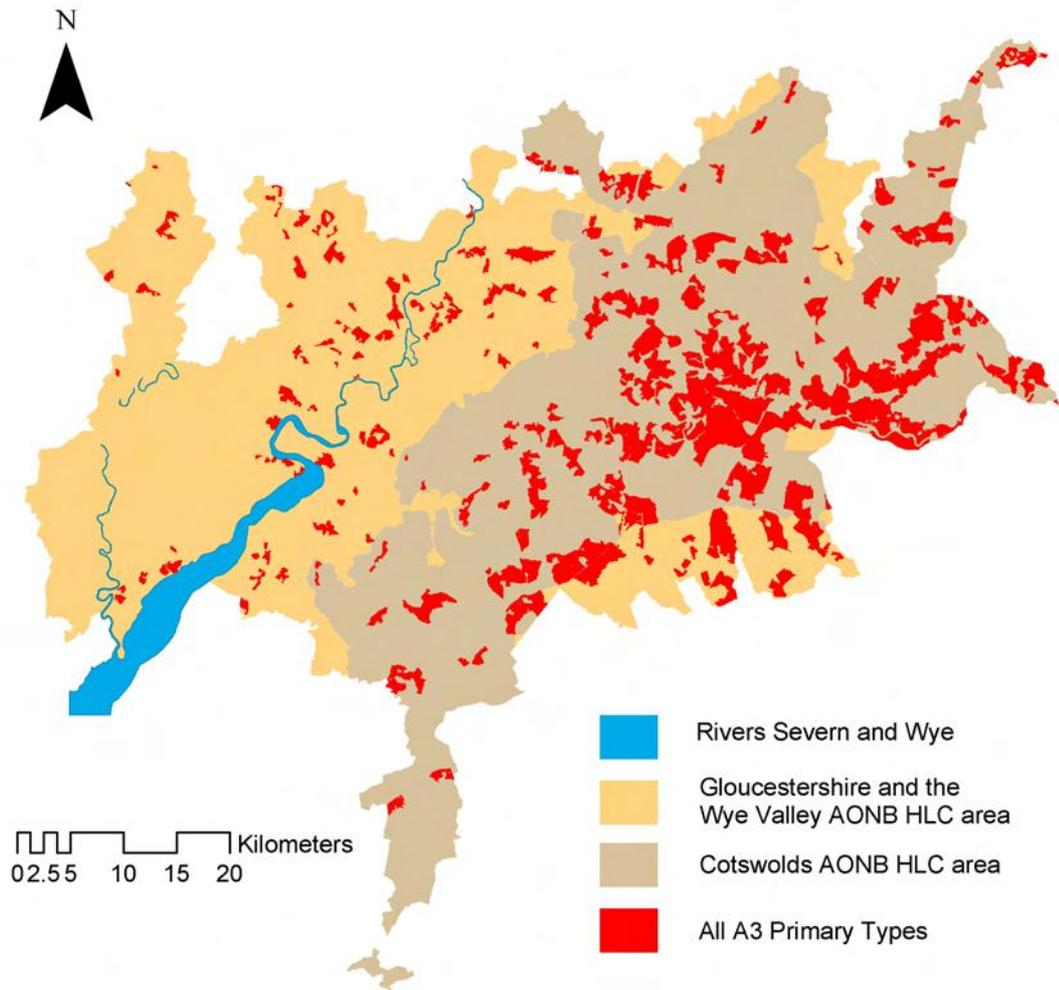
- It is not always the result of parliamentary enclosure (see suffix x).
- Not all parliamentary enclosure demonstrates the same degree of regularity as Primary Type A3.

Sources

Modern OS maps, 18th century county maps, rectified late 18th-19th century parish maps, aerial photographs or mapped AP data, place names, Victoria County History, parish histories.

Incidence

Although found throughout the area of both surveys, it is rare in Wiltshire and in Herefordshire and Monmouthshire to the west of the River Wye. A3 enclosures are most common within the area of the Cotswolds AONB in the central and eastern part of the characterisation area where the topography tends to consist of relatively level, high ground overlying a geology of Great Oolite limestone. This Primary Type is also often found in association with other categories representing organised large-scale enclosure of either former open fields or long-term open pasture.



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Figure 7: All A3 Primary Types

Discussion

Although boundaries within this Primary Type are likely to be relatively late, i.e. dating to the eighteenth century or later, they are now a defining element of the character of the landscape in which they are found.

Most of the fields in this Primary Type have been extensively ploughed since enclosure, but some archaeologically significant earthworks, including evidence of earlier open field systems, do survive in some areas.

3.1.4 A4 Less regular organised enclosure partly reflecting former un-enclosed cultivation patterns

Identification characteristics

Enclosures in this Primary Type are typically fairly large (between c. 6 and 14ha, although some are as small as 4ha). The enclosure pattern is generally regular and displays clear internal cohesion demonstrated by similar boundary type and numerous co-axial boundaries.

Enclosure patterns in this type appear to echo former open-cultivation divisions and contain the following elements:-

- Long, sinuous, co-axial boundaries apparently following former open-cultivation headlands.
- Some shorter boundaries within this Primary Type may also follow a reversed S lines or have irregular “dog legs” echoing former land or furlong boundaries, although these boundaries are often generally sinuous rather than clearly indicative of former divisions between individual open-cultivation lands or furlongs
- Relatively straight boundaries, ignoring former open field divisions, may also be a feature of this enclosure type, particularly transecting the area between long sinuous common boundaries.

In many respects A4 can be interpreted as a version of A2, although with larger individual enclosures. Despite this, it may be the result of different historical processes (see below).

Evidence of former open-cultivation systems (surviving either as earthworks or as cropmark evidence) is evident in some land parcels, and place names and early map/documentary information also indicate these areas.

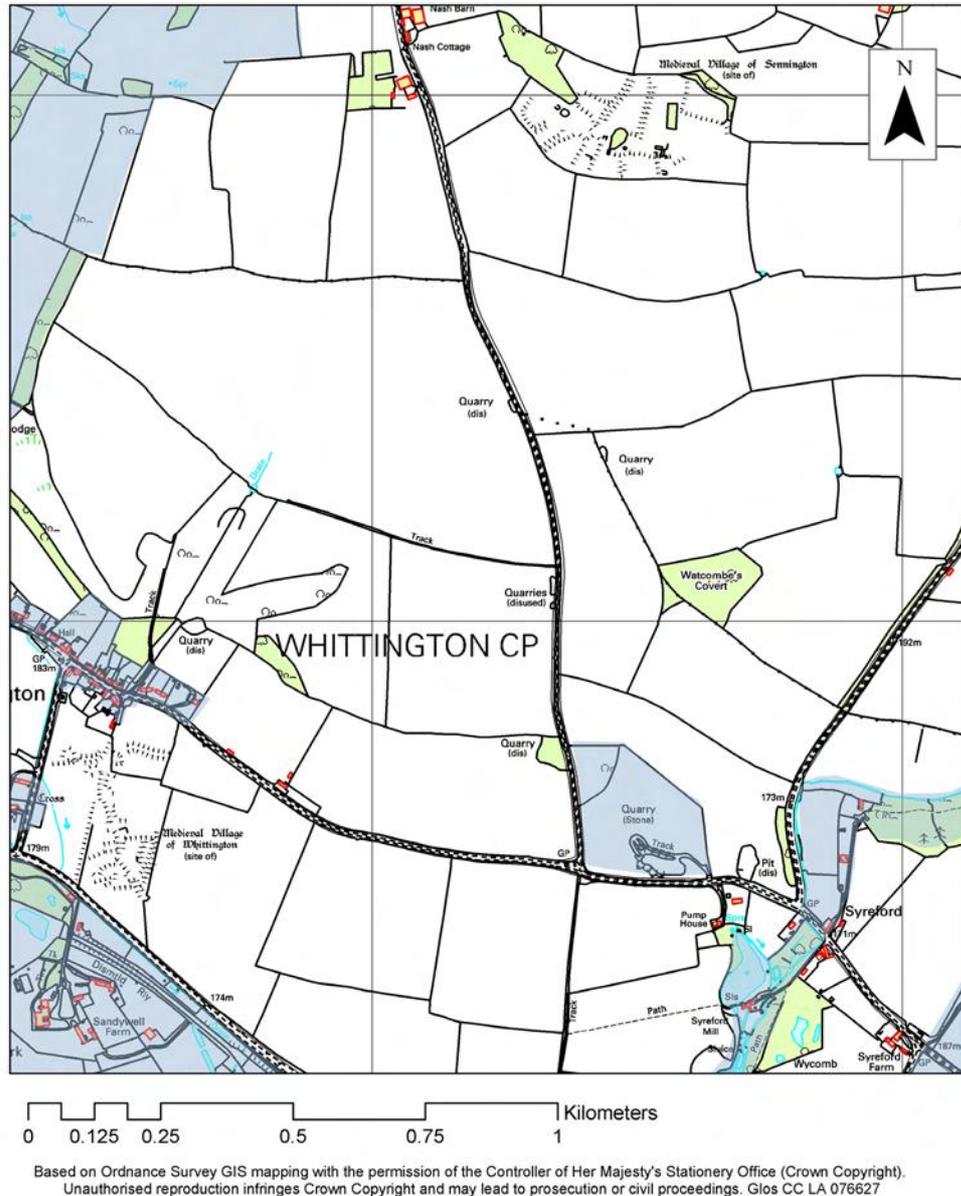


Figure 8: Primary Type A4 at Whittington, Gloucestershire (SP0221921156)

Interpretation

This enclosure pattern is likely to owe its origins to the following factors:-

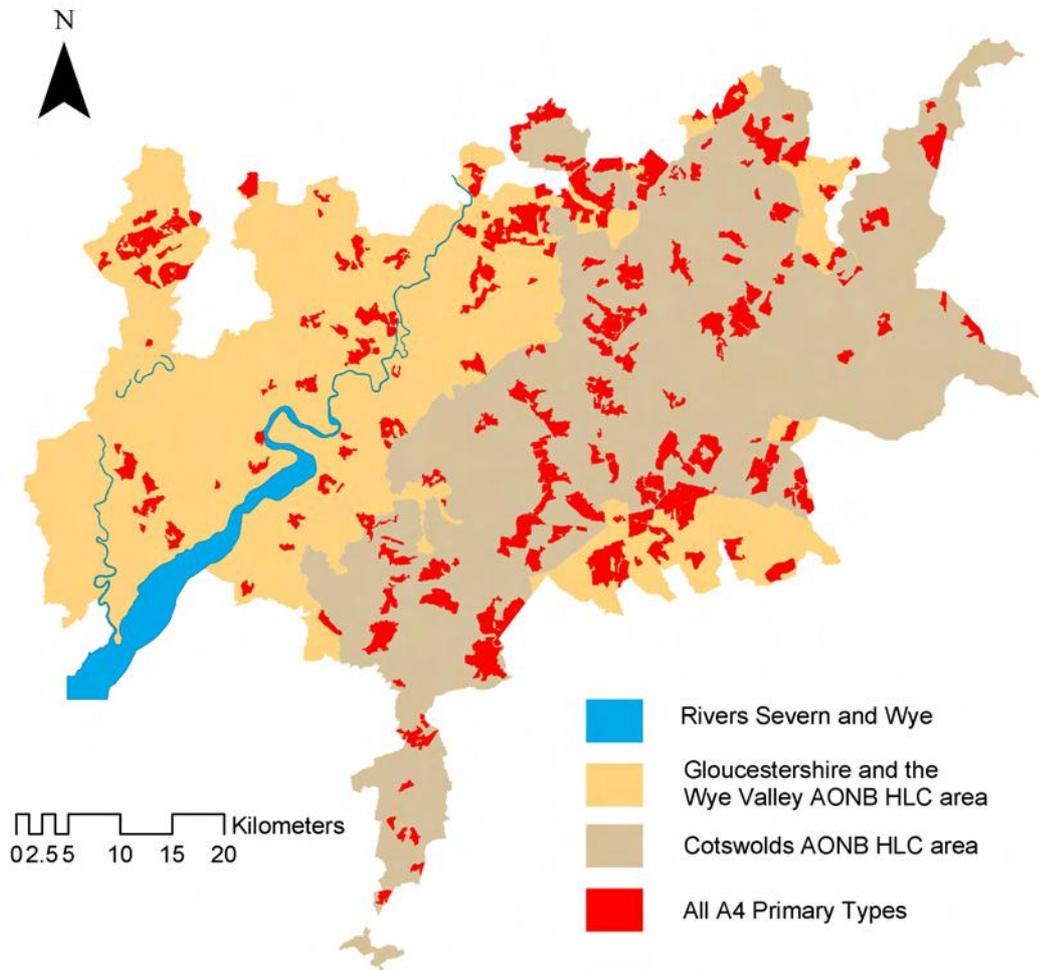
- Non-parliamentary large-scale organised enclosure dating to the 18th and 19th centuries, which may have taken more account of former open-cultivation boundaries than parliamentary enclosure.
- Parliamentary large-scale organised enclosure, which, for reasons too detailed for this survey to investigate, conform more fully to former open-cultivation divisions than A3 (see above).
- Some areas categorised as A4 may represent regularisation of earlier, more piecemeal enclosure patterns (regularisation of A2) although the extent to which this is the case was not possible to determine within the scope of this project

Sources

Modern OS maps, 18th century county maps, rectified late 18th-19th century parish maps, aerial photographs or mapped AP data, place names, Victoria County History, parish histories.

Incidence

This Primary Type is found throughout the area of both surveys, although no examples were recorded in Monmouthshire to the west of the River Wye.



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Figure 9: All A4 Primary Types

Discussion

Boundaries within this Primary Type are likely to be relatively late, i.e. dating to the eighteenth century or later, although they are now a defining element of the character of the landscape in which they are found. It is also possible that some of the less regular boundaries within these areas are survivals of earlier enclosure patterns, or represent major former open field boundaries.

Most of the fields in this Primary Type have been extensively ploughed since enclosure, but some archaeologically significant earthworks, including evidence of earlier open field systems do survive in some areas.

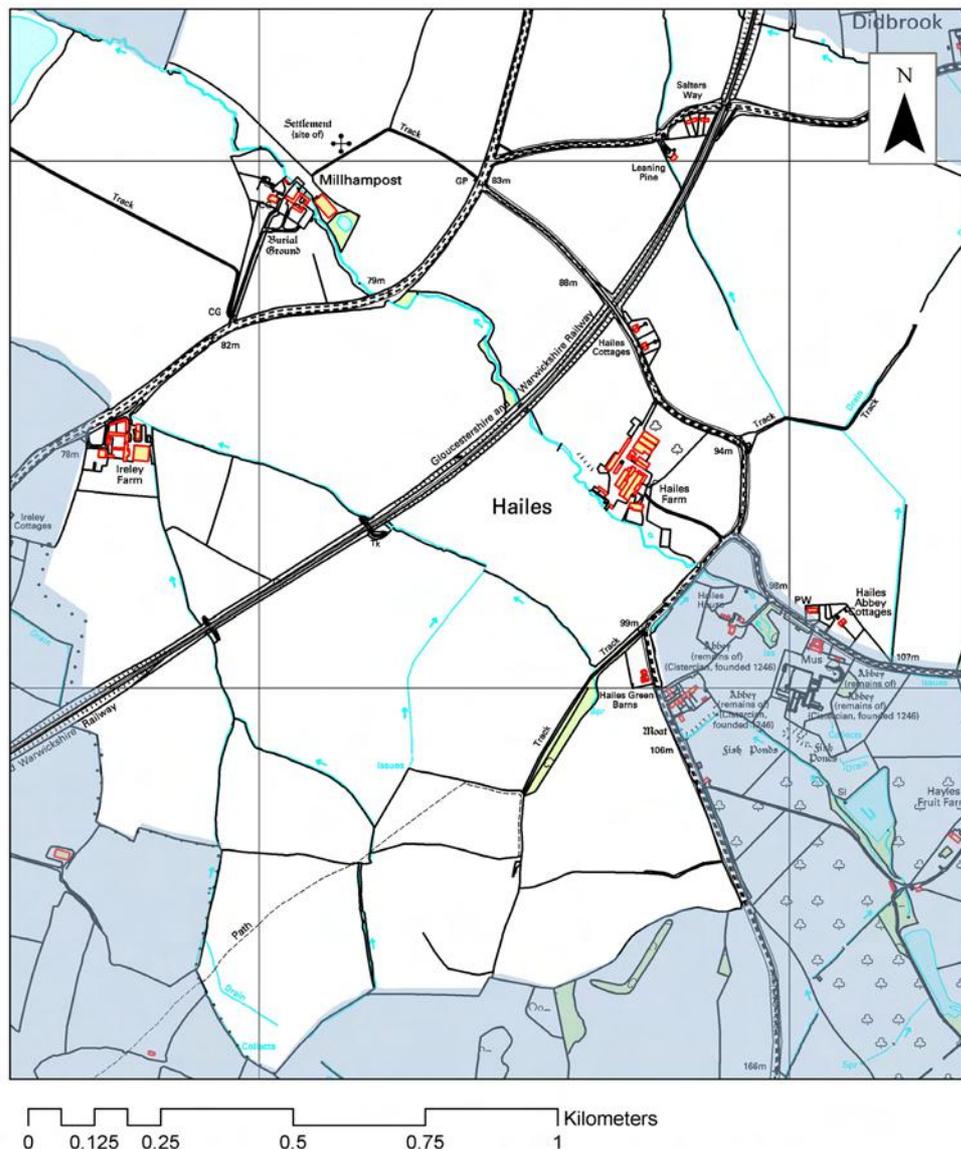
3.1.4.1 A5 Irregular enclosure reflecting former un-enclosed cultivation patterns, regularised as large fields

Identification characteristics

Enclosures in this Primary Type consist of fairly large (generally between c. 8 and 14ha) amorphous fields. These generally lack long common co-axial boundaries and, like A1, lack internal cohesion, perhaps indicating a genuine “piecemeal” enclosure pattern.

The pattern of enclosure echoes some elements of former open-cultivation systems, in the form of old strip field land or furlong boundaries (reversed S or irregular “dog leg” boundaries). These tend to be less common in this type of enclosure than in A1, and are often generally sinuous rather than clearly indicative of former divisions between individual open-cultivation lands or furlongs

Former open-cultivation is identified by evidence of ridge and furrow (surviving either as earthworks or as cropmark evidence) which may be found in some land parcels, and on the basis of historic sources such as place names and early map/documentary information.



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Figure 10: Primary Type A5 at Hailes, Gloucestershire (SP0443230273)

Interpretation

Enclosures in this Primary Type are interpreted as a variant of A1 and are likely to owe their origin to gradual enclosure by local arrangement, generally from the 16th century and later and represent enclosure of former un-enclosed cultivation.

They differ from A1 in that they tend to be larger and may have fewer clear open-cultivation indicators (see above).

They may represent A1 enclosure, which has been modified by the removal of some boundaries.

Some areas characterised as A1 did contain large irregular enclosures and may have been characterised as A5 had they not been contiguous with more "typical" areas of A1 enclosure.

Sources

Modern OS maps, 18th century county maps, rectified late 18th-19th century parish maps, aerial photographs or mapped AP data, place names, Victoria County History, parish histories.

Incidence

This Primary Type is found only in Gloucestershire, and largely to the east of the River Severn, in association with other categories representing organised large-scale enclosure of either former open fields or long-term open pasture. It tends to consist of relatively large, discrete areas, suggesting localised re-organisation of former A1 enclosure, presumably influenced by the adjacent large-scale enclosure patterns.

Discussion

A5 enclosure has been interpreted as a variant of A1, irregular enclosure reflecting former un-enclosed cultivation patterns. As such, boundaries in these areas are likely to be medieval or early post-medieval in origin, and in many areas will be amongst the earliest surviving boundaries within the landscape.

Although most of the fields in this Primary Type have been extensively ploughed since enclosure, some archaeologically significant earthworks, including evidence of earlier open field systems did survive in some areas.

3.1.4.2 A6 Regular fields partly echoing former open field boundaries

Identification characteristics

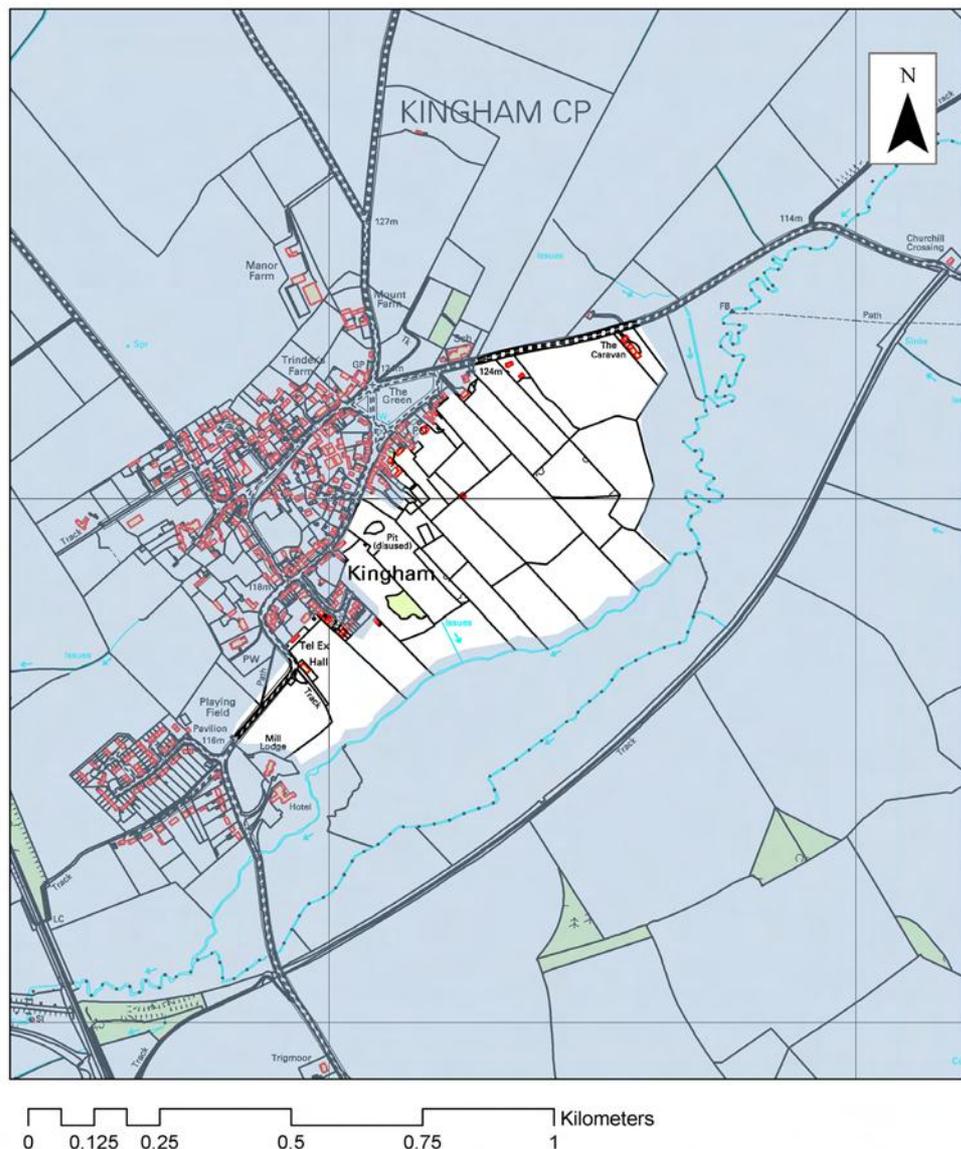
This Primary Type consists of long thin fields (generally between c. 1 and 7ha) with straight, parallel co-axial boundaries, subdivided by shorter straight boundaries, giving the enclosure pattern a “ladder-like” appearance. In some areas these had the appearance of small square fields (e.g. at SO72780224786).

In places (e.g. at SP2322028730), this type is slightly less regular and is superficially similar to a regular version of A2 in which boundaries generally appear to echo former open field divisions. In this area, however, it differs from A2 in the following way:-

- Although fields are often long and thin and superficially appear to echo furlong boundaries of former open fields, close comparison with evidence of earlier ridge and furrow (from APs) indicates that this correspondence is general and many present boundaries do not closely follow the boundaries of former furlongs. It was differentiated from A2 here on the basis of good evidence of former open field divisions in the form of ridge and furrow, which were not followed by the present boundary pattern.

This type also appears similar to type D1r which represents the enclosure of straight “doles” within meadows.

As this Primary Type is assumed to represent a form of parliamentary enclosure, it is suffixed x if found in parishes with no parliamentary enclosure award.



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Figure 11: Primary Type A6 at Kingham, Gloucestershire (SP2630223914)

Interpretation

This enclosure pattern is likely to owe its origins to the following factors:-

- Parliamentary organised enclosure dating to the 18th and 19th centuries, which may have taken more account of former open field boundaries, or the concept of long thin land parcels, than some more large scale forms of enclosure. As such it represents virtually the same processes as are represented by some type A2p.
- Non-parliamentary organised enclosure dating to the 18th and 19th centuries, in which enclosure generally, but not closely, followed former open field divisions.
- Some areas categorised as A6 may represent regularisation of earlier, more piecemeal enclosure patterns (i.e. regularisation of A1 or A2) although the extent to which this is the case was not possible to determine within the scope of this project (see discussion of A3 above).

Sources

Modern OS maps, 19th and early 20th century OS maps, early maps, APs, place names, published/unpublished sources.

Incidence

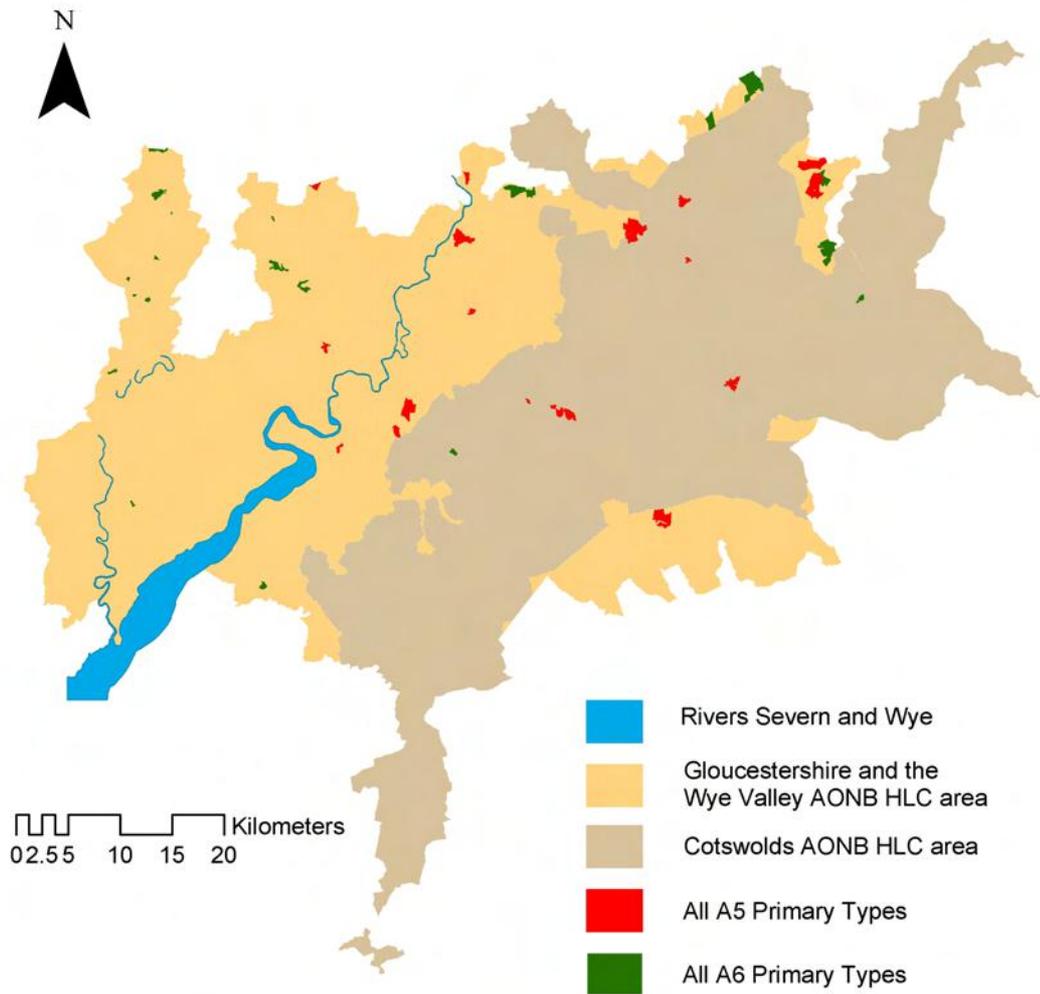
This type is most common at the northern fringes of the Gloucestershire and Wye valley AONB HLC, particularly in northern Gloucestershire.

Discussion

Although boundaries within this Primary Type are likely to be relatively late, i.e. dating to the eighteenth century or later, they are now a defining element of the character of the landscape in which they are found.

Most of the fields in this Primary Type have been extensively ploughed since enclosure, but some archaeologically significant earthworks, including evidence of earlier open field systems do survive in some areas.

Many of the fields in these areas were originally enclosed to create pasture fields held in severalty, and may have largely remained uncultivated since that time. Accordingly, this Primary Type may contain well preserved earthworks, principally evidence of the pre-enclosure open field system.



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Figure 12: All A5 and A6 Primary Types

3.2 Category B: Open common land used as long-term pasture – now mainly enclosed

This category represents areas of former open pasture, generally in the form of downland sheep or cattle runs.

B categories were most common within the area of the Cotswolds AONB, or the edge of the Cotswold dip slope in the Thames valley, where they were generally derived from downland pasture, overlying a limestone geology, or on the sides of associated valleys.

This category was only assigned where evidence of long-term open pasture (e.g. place name or nature conservation designation) was present, and was not the same as seasonal pasturage or fallow within an open field rotation. B categories were identified by place names suggesting open pasture (most commonly found within the area of the AONB were the names “Down” or “Common”) and early map or documentary sources indicating former long-term open pasture. Modern common land designations and nature conservation designations indicating the survival of established grassland were also used to support this identification.

Prehistoric field monuments and later earthwork features or names indicating piecemeal quarrying or rabbit warrens were often associated with category B Primary Types. These were not, however, used as indicators from which category B Primary Types could be identified.

Where B categories are most common (principally the Cotswolds AONB), the pattern of communications tends to consist of straight enclosure roads or gently sinuous roads/tracks, deviating to account for topography, and derived from pre-enclosure communication systems.

Where used as a suffix, this designation denotes areas which nature conservation designations, historical sources or place name evidence indicate are derived from earlier areas of open pasture. Where used in conjunction with C categories it may indicate areas where woodland was temporarily cleared to create open grazing grounds, and which have since reverted back to woodland. Where used in conjunction with J categories it indicates recreational landscapes (mainly golf courses) within areas of existing open pasture (Primary Type B1).

3.2.1 B1 Largely unenclosed pasture

Identification characteristics

This Primary Type consists of areas of common with no internal enclosures, although occasional long boundaries, subdividing the areas of open pasture into large areas, or isolated discrete enclosures, are found within some areas categorised as B1. This Primary Type generally survives as open grassland with some invasive scrub or isolated tree clumps.

Interpretation

Unenclosed long-term open downland pasture.

Sources

Modern OS maps, 19th and early 20th century OS maps, APs, place names, published/unpublished sources, common land maps, nature conservation designations.

Incidence

This Primary Type is found almost exclusively in the western part of the area of the Cotswolds AONB on areas of high ground, overlying a geology of Great Oolite limestone, at the top of the Cotswolds scarp.

These open commons are generally in the vicinity of former open fields which had been enclosed on a piecemeal rather than an organised basis and this lack of large-scale re-organisation of the countryside may have contributed to their preservation.

Discussion

Many of these areas are surviving portions of more extensive areas of long-term open pasture, although not all are known to have been open pasture throughout their more recent history.

Because of their landuse history, especially the absence of intensive modern arable cultivation, areas of B1 contain exceptionally well preserved archaeological features ranging from discrete prehistoric funerary monuments, through evidence of medieval and post-medieval quarrying, to 19th century golf courses and Second World War defences.

Features of this kind are found in many other areas but Primary Type B1 is unusual in:-

- The number, range and high levels of survival of field monuments of different periods found within them.
- The opportunities for interpretation of the historic landscape provided by their open aspect and extensive public access.

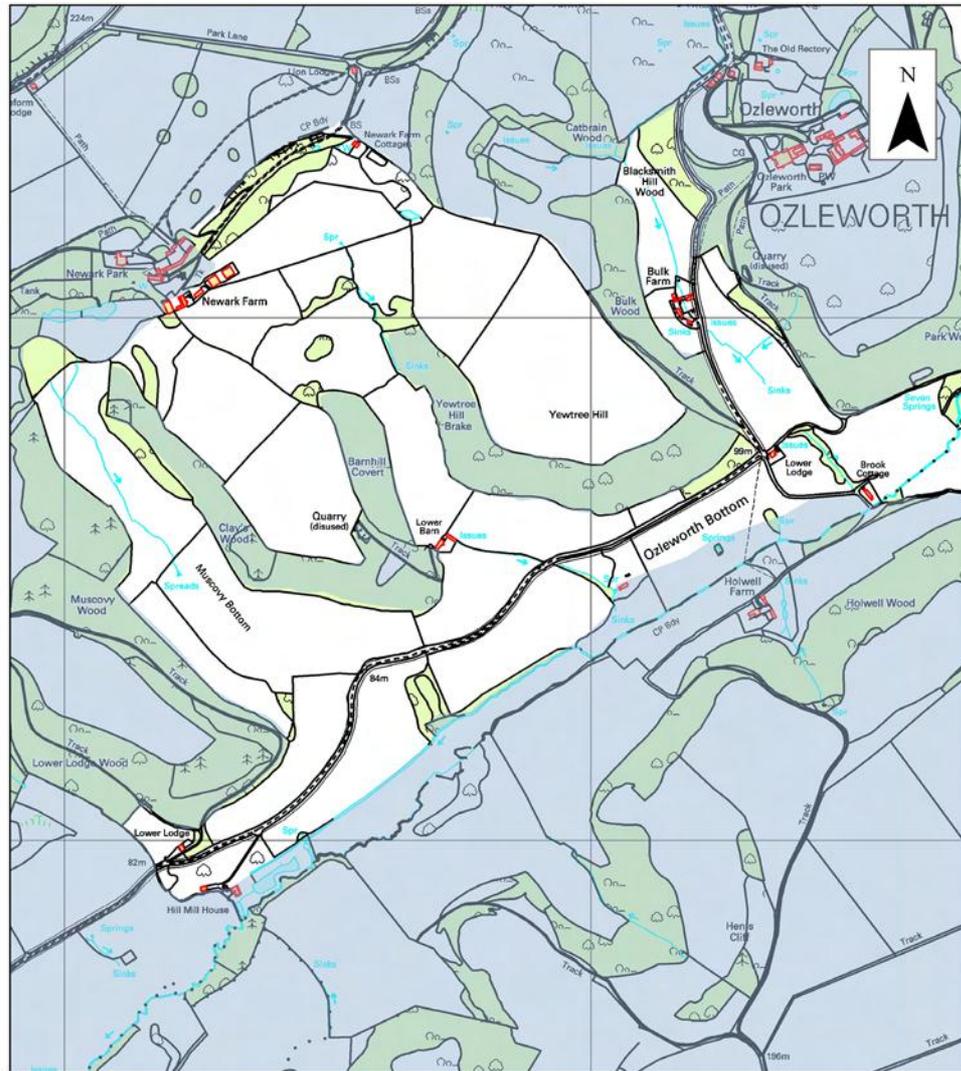
Many of these areas are already protected by a number of archaeological and other conservation designations, although the extent to which these cover the historic landscape as a whole varies from site to site.

In addition to protective designations these areas would benefit from pro-active management to ensure the preservation of their open, grassland state. This would consist of ensuring optimum grazing levels, adequate to prevent scrub incursion, but light enough to avoid livestock damage to archaeological features.

3.2.2 B2 Regular organised enclosure of former unenclosed pasture – boundaries constrained by topography

Identification characteristics

B2 consist of relatively small areas of fairly regular enclosure (generally between 3 and 6ha) with a number of common boundaries, although some less regular boundaries may be a feature of B2 types in some areas. This type tends to be found in areas such as on narrow valley sides. In this respect it is very similar to Type L3 (see 3.12.3) although B2 was designated where evidence from the sources consulted, or association with other designated types, suggested that this area had been used as unenclosed pasture prior to enclosure.



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Kilometers

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Figure 13: Primary Type B2 at Ozleworth, Gloucestershire (ST7880592576)

Interpretation

This Primary Type is interpreted as enclosure of earlier long-term open pasture. The date of the enclosure is unknown, but is likely to owe its origins to processes similar to those which created B3 and B4 enclosure, and Primary Type B2 is generally found in association with these Primary Types. It is likely to have occurred as part the large-scale landscape reorganisations of the 18th and 19th centuries, of which parliamentary enclosure was a part. Where B2 is the result of parliamentary enclosure, the relatively irregular enclosure pattern can be explained as a local variation determined by topography.

Where found on the steep sides of river valleys, in association with areas of surviving early woodland (Primary Type C1), some of these areas may represent early woodland which has been cleared to create open pasture.

Sources

Modern OS maps, 19th and early 20th century OS maps, APs, place names, published/unpublished sources, common land maps.

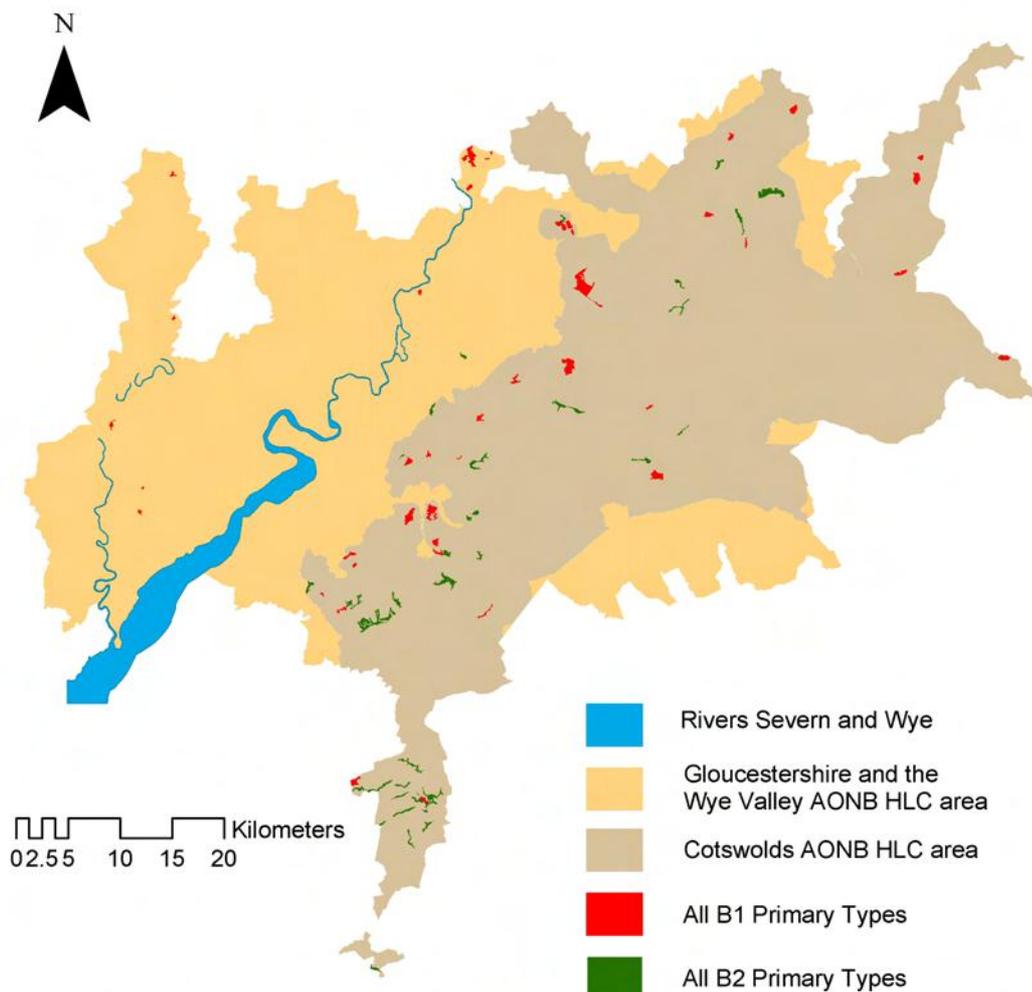
Incidence

This Primary Type was found exclusively within the Cotswolds AONB with the exception of one small area straddling the boundaries of Hucclecote and Churchdown parishes (SO8801018610). This area is on the southern slopes of Churchdown Hill, an outlier of the Cotswolds escarpment c. 3.5km to the southeast.

Discussion

The boundaries within these areas are likely to date to no earlier than the late 18th century (and may be later); they do, however, form an integral part of a wider enclosure pattern which is a defining element of the character of the landscape in which it is are found.

Many of these areas, particularly those on relatively steep slopes, were not under cultivation in 1998, and some are already partly protected by nature conservation designations because of the survival of limestone grassland. Relatively well preserved historic landscape features, such as the remains of medieval and post-medieval quarrying or evidence of former open fields, also survive in these areas.



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Figure 14: All B1 and B2 Primary Types

3.2.3 B3 Regular organised enclosure of former unenclosed pasture

Identification characteristics

Enclosures take the form of generally large (usually between c. 6 and 14ha, although some were as small as 4ha) regular fields often with straight boundaries. Boundaries may be more sinuous where they follow contours, and where permanent pasture is derived from former open fields. Occasional boundaries may echo open field divisions in the form of old strip field land or furlong boundaries (reversed S or extensive irregular “dog leg” boundaries), where they follow the line of pre-existing boundaries such as those for parishes. Where irregular boundaries are more common, this Primary Type is classed as B4.

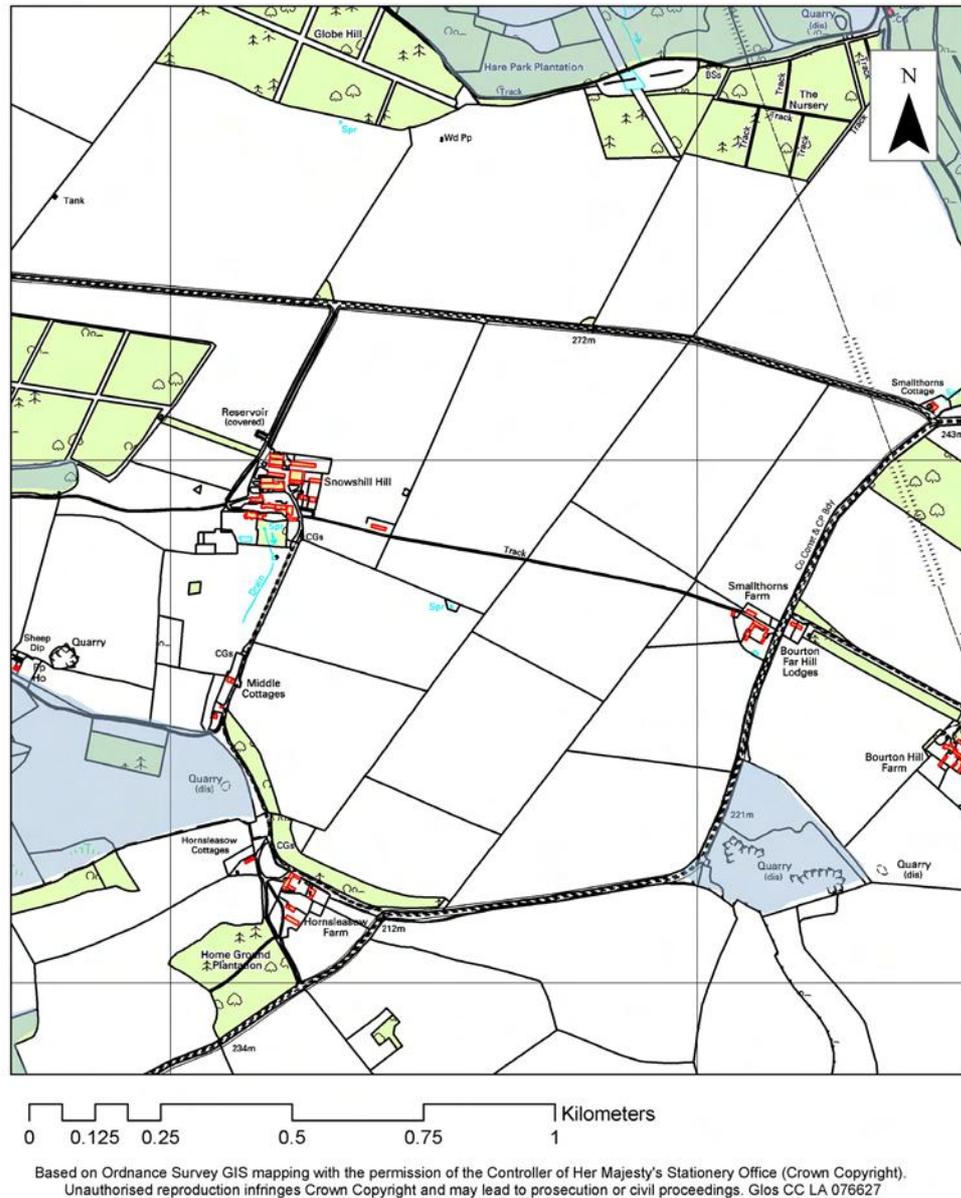


Figure 15: Primary Type B3 at Snowhill, Gloucestershire (SP1260532847)

Interpretation

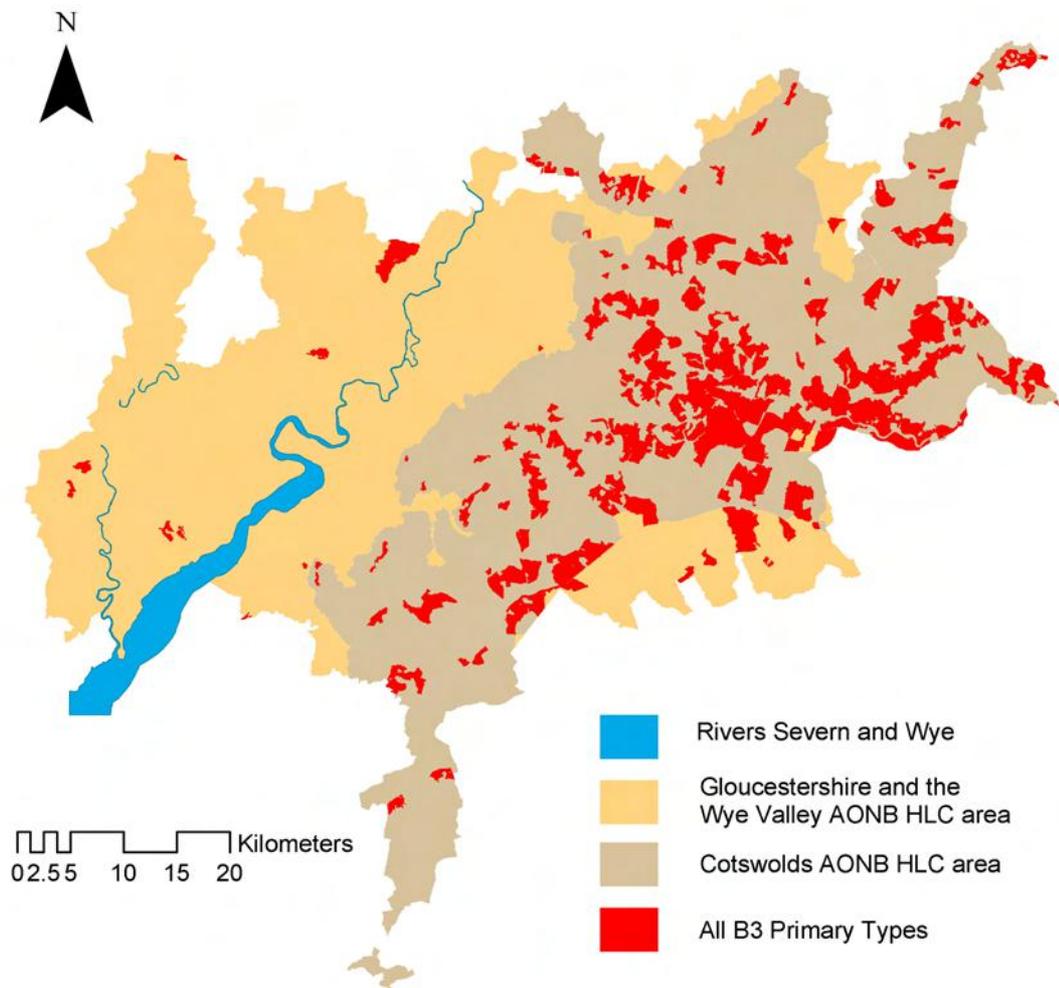
Enclosures in this Primary Type are likely to be the result of either parliamentary enclosure of open pasture or some other organised enclosure dating to the 18th or 19th centuries, and part of the large-scale landscape reorganisations which took place at that time.

Sources

Modern OS maps, 19th and early 20th century OS maps, APs, place names, published/unpublished sources, common land maps, nature conservation designations.

Incidence

This Primary Type is found mainly within the area of the Cotswolds AONB where it represented former sheep runs on thin soils overlying a limestone bedrock, although examples were also recorded in the Severn Vale in Gloucestershire at Corse Lawn (SO8027028540), Birdwood (SO7357019460) and Hewlesfield (SO5980002370). To the west of the River Wye a variant of B3, consisting of a generally smaller enclosure pattern (suffixed k) is found at Pennalt (SO5148008520) and The Narth (SO5037006440), Monmouthshire and Priors Frome (SO6021038110), Herefordshire.



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Figure 16: All B3 Primary Types

Discussion

Although boundaries within this Primary Type are likely to be relatively late, i.e. dating to the eighteenth century or later, they are now a defining element of the character of the landscape in which they are found.

Within the Cotswolds AONB, and especially where bordered by dry-stone walls, this Primary Type represents an element of what is currently regarded as a “typical” Cotswolds landscape and one of the defining characteristics of the area. Although most of the fields in this Primary Type have been extensively ploughed since enclosure, some archaeologically significant earthworks, including evidence of earlier open field systems, do survive in some areas.

3.2.4 B4 Less regular organised enclosure of former unenclosed pasture

Identification characteristics

This Primary Type consists of relatively large (generally between c. 6 and 14ha, although some were as small as 4ha) fields, clearly organised on a large scale and with a number of common boundaries and enclosures of similar size. The pattern of enclosure, however, was less regular than that categorised as B3. Fields were also larger than those categorised as B2. Occasional boundaries may echo open field divisions in the form of old strip field land or furlong boundaries (reversed S or irregular “dog leg” boundaries (see below), but this was not a determining characteristic of this type.

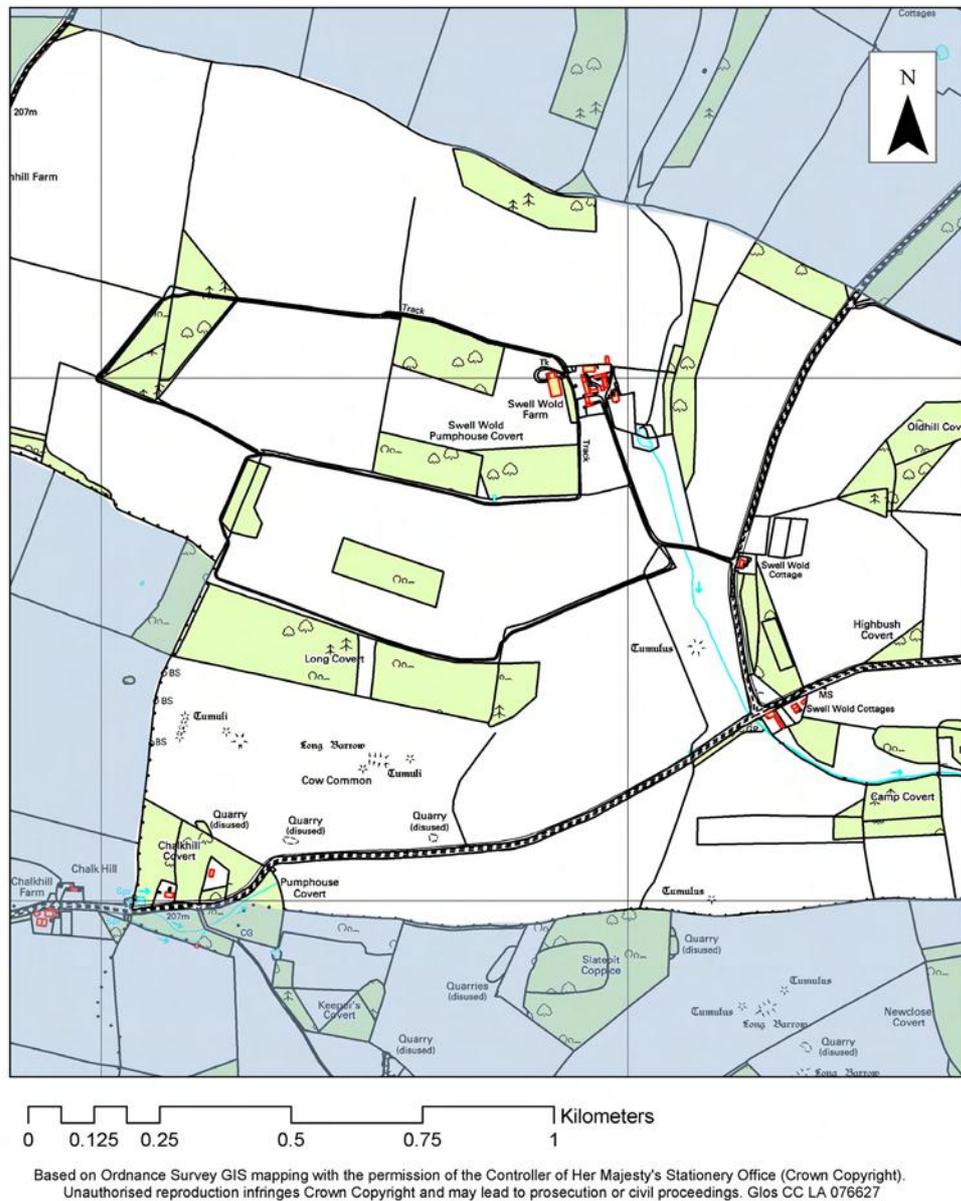


Figure 17: Primary Type B4 at Swell, Gloucestershire (SP1373526686)

Interpretation

This Primary Type is interpreted as large-scale, organised enclosure of earlier long-term open pasture. The date of the enclosure is unknown, but this Primary Type is likely to be the result of the large-scale landscape reorganisations of the 18th and 19th centuries, of which parliamentary enclosure was a part.

Some enclosures in this Primary Type may owe their origins to parliamentary enclosure. In these instances, the irregular enclosure pattern may be the result of local variations influenced by topography. Where enclosures follow former open fields divisions, this may indicate that these survived as boundaries within areas of largely unenclosed pasture, or as significant landscape features, and were utilised during later enclosure.

Sources

Modern OS maps, 19th and early 20th century OS maps, APs, place names, published/unpublished sources, common land maps, nature conservation designations.

Incidence

This Type was found almost exclusively within the area of the Cotswolds AONB where it represented enclosure of former sheep runs on thin soils overlying a limestone bedrock. Small areas of B4 are also found in the Thames valley and to the west of the River Severn, with a large area at Itton Common in Monmouthshire (ST4865095360). Topographically all areas of B4 are either on relatively high ground, or on the slopes leading up to higher ground.

Discussion

Although boundaries within this Primary Type are likely to be relatively late, i.e. dating to the eighteenth century or later, they are now a defining element of the character of the landscape in which they are found. Where bordered by dry-stone walls, this Primary Type represents an element of what is currently regarded as a “typical” Cotswolds landscape. Very little evidence of the large-scale recent removal of boundaries in these areas was identified within the Cotswolds AONB although it is likely that the full extent of this is under represented by this survey (see discussion of Primary Type N below).

Although most of the fields in this Primary Type have been extensively ploughed since enclosure, some archaeologically significant earthworks, including evidence of earlier open field systems, do survive in some areas.

3.2.5 B5 Irregular enclosure of former open pasture

Identification characteristics

Enclosures within this Primary Type generally have sinuous or irregular boundaries, often lacking in long common borders, and lacking in any evidence of former open field divisions in the form of old strip field land or furlong boundaries (reversed S or extensive irregular “dog leg” boundaries). Enclosure size is not a determining characteristic of this type, and although enclosures are generally large (c. 20-30ha), they can be up to c. 40ha in area.

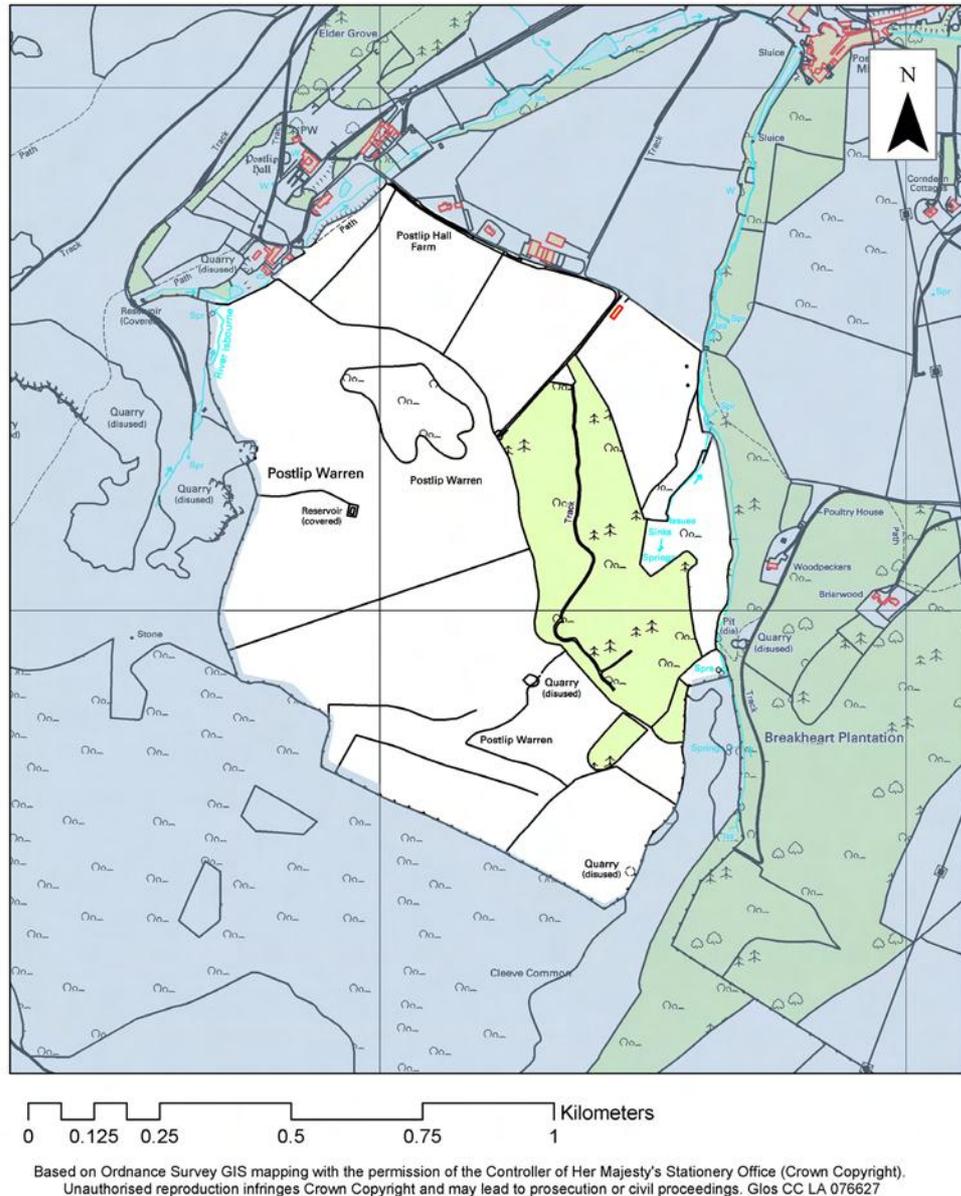


Figure 18: Primary Type B5 at Postlip, Gloucestershire (SP0020626136)

Interpretation

This Primary Type probably owes its origins to relatively irregular, but large-scale enclosure of long-term open pasture dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods. It probably pre-dates the more regular enclosure of long-term open pasture categorised as B3 or B4 which is likely to date to the 18th and 19th centuries.

Sources

Modern OS maps, 19th and early 20th century OS maps, APs, place names, published/unpublished sources, common land register, nature conservation designations.

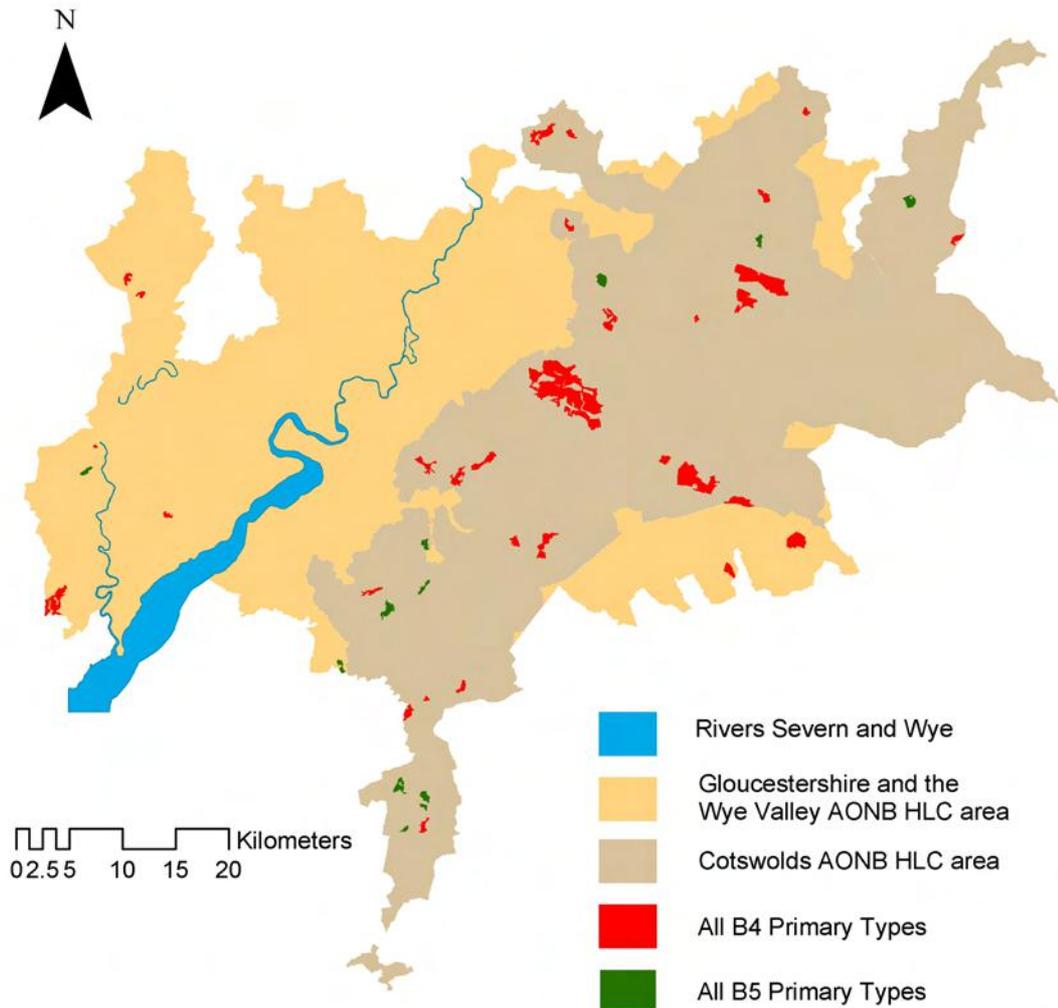
Incidence

With one exception, this type is found exclusively within the area of the Cotswolds AONB and tends to consist of relatively small discrete areas, generally overlying an Oolitic limestone geology.

Discussion

Although this Primary Type is not fully understood and the date of enclosure has not been determined, it is likely that this enclosure pre-dates the large-scale agricultural reforms of the late 18th and 19th centuries. Consequently some boundaries within these areas could be amongst the earliest surviving within the landscape. This landscape type is also relatively infrequent within the area of the Cotswolds AONB and consequently the rarity of this enclosure type gives it greater value as a distinct form of landscape.

Some of these areas contain evidence of former open fields in the form of surviving ridge and furrow, or are found on slopes and are likely, therefore, to contain evidence of medieval and post-medieval quarrying.



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Figure 19: All B4 and B5 Primary Types

3.3 Category C: Woodland

This indicates areas of surviving or former woodland. These were either under woodland at the time of the characterisation, or were recognisable from enclosure patterns, place names and proximity to surviving early woodland.

Where used as a suffix, this designation denotes areas where place name or other historical evidence indicates that the principal historic landscape represented by the Primary Type was derived from the clearance of earlier medieval woodland.

The suffix s (indicating steep slopes) was not used with this Primary Type.

3.3.1 C1 Surviving early woodland

Identification characteristics

This Primary Type consists of existing woodland bordered by sinuous boundaries, apparently pre-dating surrounding enclosure patterns, and often indented by piecemeal assarting. It has been characterised on the basis of the following criteria:-

- All areas designated as Ancient Semi-natural Woodland on nature conservation maps regardless of their present shape. These areas were designated C1 even where their boundaries conform to later enclosure patterns.
- Replanted areas of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland which retain evidence of their former boundaries.
- Areas of woodland not designated as Ancient Semi-natural Woodland on nature conservation maps but which conform to the following:-
 - They are recorded on the following sources:-
 - Gwatkin's 6" scale rectified copies of tithe or other early maps of Herefordshire and Gloucestershire.
 - Facsimile copies of 1st edition 1" scale Ordnance Survey maps. Although the facsimiles are of late 19th century editions, the general landscape information, which include woodland, was surveyed in the early 19th century.
 - Isaac Taylor's 1777 1" map of Gloucestershire.
 - Their boundaries suggest earlier woodland in that they pre-date later enclosure patterns or are indented by assarting.
- Areas of existing woodland in similar topographical locations to and in the vicinity of designated Ancient Semi-natural Woodland, particularly valley sides.
- Areas of woody scrub, whose boundaries conform to those of probable medieval woodland in accordance with the above criteria, and which could be considered to be cleared areas within the cycle of woodland.
- Areas of the above found in association with place names indicating the presence of early woodland.

Areas designated C1? consist of areas of woodland, recorded as woodland on late 18th century and early 19th Century maps, conforming to the general identification characteristics of C1 (see above) but which are not designated Ancient Semi-natural Woodland.

Interpretation

Area of early woodland of probable medieval or earlier origin.

Sources

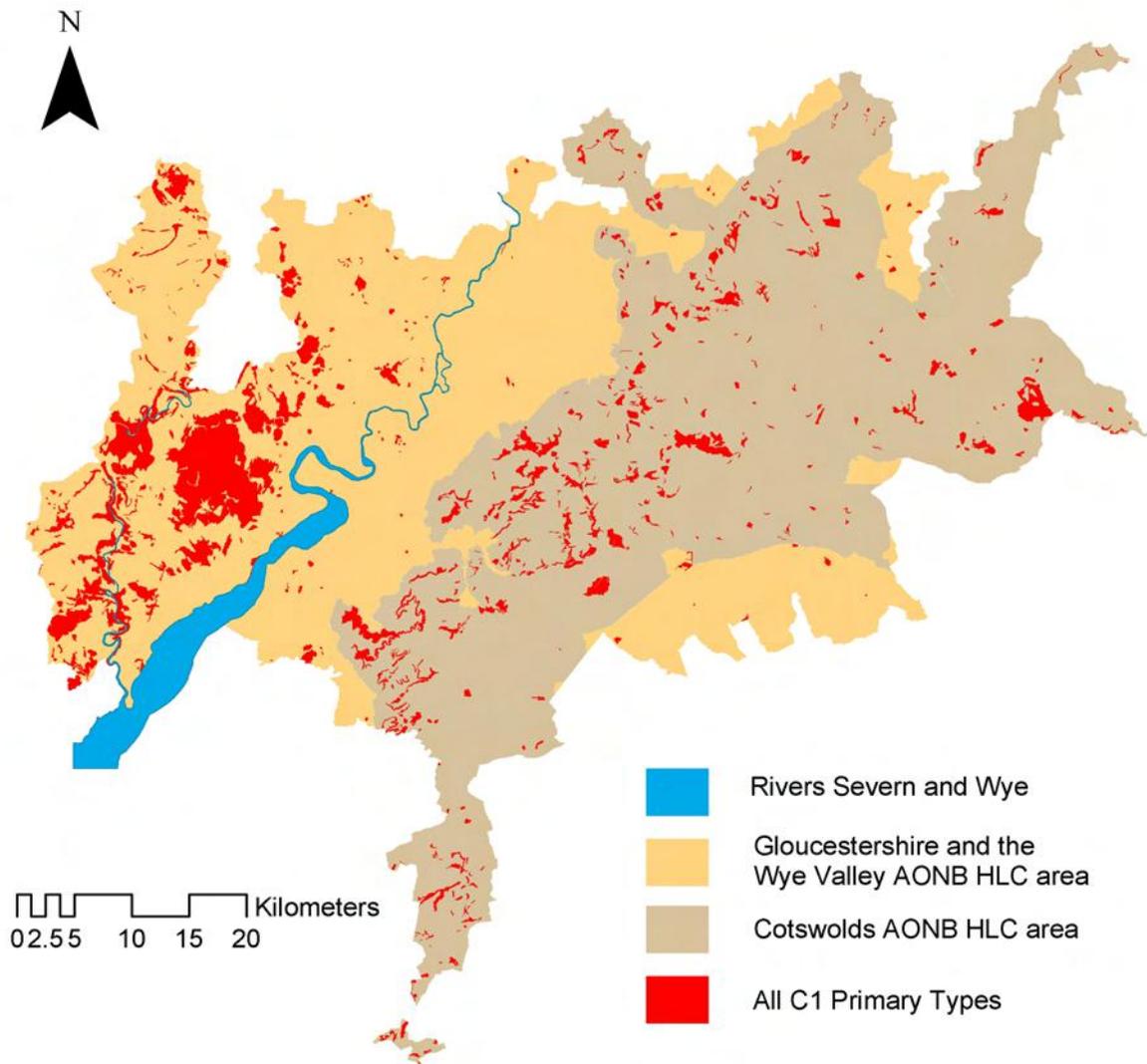
Modern OS maps, 19th and early 20th century OS maps, earlier maps, APs, Ancient Semi-natural Woodland designation, published/unpublished sources, place names.

Incidence

Although this Primary Type is found throughout the area of both HLC projects, it is most common in the area to the west of the River Severn, particularly the Forest of Dean in west Gloucestershire, and the steep sides of the Wye Valley where it forms the boundary between Gloucestershire and Monmouthshire.

Within the area of the Cotswolds AONB this type is significantly more common in the western part of the area where it survives on the steeper slopes and lip of the Cotswold scarp, the area of the Stroud valleys in Gloucestershire and along the valley of the River By Brook in Wiltshire).

Some extensive areas also survive in the area of Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire, Chedworth Woods, Gloucestershire and Wychwood in Oxfordshire.



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Figure 20: All C1 Primary Types

Discussion

Although individual trees within areas of identified early woodland need not necessarily be old (some of these areas had been re-planted with conifers in 1998), these wooded areas are a distinctive and integral part of the landscapes in which they are found. The boundaries of many of these are likely to be amongst the earliest surviving in their area, and it is these, as much as the trees within them, which characterise these distinctive landscapes.

Consequently, it is not only the preservation of woodland, but also the preservation of woodland within identifiable early woodland boundaries which is the principal management issue in these areas.

Many of these areas also contain relict earthwork features. They range from discrete prehistoric monuments, which may either pre-date the woodland or provide evidence of (possibly localised) woodland clearance during the past, to evidence of medieval and post-medieval quarrying or other features representative of activities which took place within areas of woodland during those periods. Detailed management recommendations appropriate for individual monuments within areas of woodland are beyond the scope of this report. In general, however, woodland management strategies and techniques should take account of the vulnerability of such monuments to both tree throw, and to damage from the operation of machinery.

3.3.2 C2 Early woodland cleared in the post-medieval period

Identification characteristics

This Primary Type was assigned on the basis of the following characteristics:-

- Areas designated as “Cleared Ancient Semi-natural Woodland” or “Ancient Semi-natural Woodland” which have been clear felled since the designation was made.
- Areas mapped as woodland on the following sources:-
 - Gwatkin’s 6” scale rectified copies of tithe or other early maps of Herefordshire and Gloucestershire.
 - Facsimile copies of 1st edition 1” scale Ordnance Survey maps. Although the facsimiles are of late 19th century editions, the general landscape information, which include woodland, was surveyed in the early 19th century.
 - Isaac Taylor’s 1777 1” map of Gloucestershire.

These areas of woodland, which can be interpreted as survivals of woodland of probable medieval date, had been cleared since they were originally mapped, although recognisable woodland boundaries survive.

Where the above characteristics are not present, but where discrete areas are defined by boundaries similar to those recorded as C3 (see below), or are found in association with areas characterised as surviving early woodland (C1) or cleared early woodland (C2), these areas have been suffixed ?.

Areas designated C2? could also be identified on the basis of documentary evidence. The area of C2? in Frocester, Gloucestershire (SO786000022000), for example, has been identified as such from information contained in Price 1998. It should, however, be stressed that this level of documentary information was not accessed for all areas within the area of the Historic Landscape Characterisation.

To be included in Primary Type C2 areas of earlier woodland had not only to be cleared but also to have been converted to another form of husbandry, removing them from the cycle of woodland management.

Interpretation

Early woodland known to have been cleared in the later post-medieval period.

Sources

Modern OS maps, 19th and early 20th century OS maps, earlier maps, APs, nature conservation designations, place names.

Incidence

This Primary Type is generally found in close association with surviving early woodland (Primary Type C1) and is found in similar locations throughout both HLC areas.

The most extensive area of C2 is recorded in Oxfordshire in the eastern part of the Cotswolds AONB, where large areas of Wychwood have been cleared since the 19th century.

Discussion

Although no longer surviving as woodland, these areas were identified partly on the basis of surviving early woodland boundaries. Consequently, although the pattern of enclosure within areas of C2 is likely to be relatively recent, the outer boundaries of this type of enclosure are likely to be medieval or earlier in date, and in many areas will be amongst the earliest surviving boundaries within the landscape. In addition to this they may also be the only surviving visible evidence of former woodland within those parts of the landscape in which they are found.

3.3.3 C3 Early woodland boundary (line only)

Identification characteristics

This Primary Type consists of one or more irregular boundaries, which, in general, appear to pre-date the surrounding enclosure pattern. Unlike C2 these boundaries did not enclose discrete areas and occasionally were just an irregular part of a boundary which largely conformed to another Primary Type. Topographical, documentary, place name or other historical evidence suggesting the likelihood of cleared early woodland occasionally supported identification of this Primary Type.